

CROSSCURRENTS

Newsmagazine of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, Vol. 18, No. 1 (Spring/Summer 1995)

The Asian American Studies Center will hopefully enrich the experience of the entire university by contributing to an understanding of the long neglected history, rich cultural heritage, and present position of Asian Americans in our society.

- Center Steering Committee, 1969

Following in the footsteps of those who shaped the Center during the past 25 years, we expect thousands of individuals - faculty, students, staff, alumni, community leaders, and friends - to engage in and contribute to a collective agenda and venture. On the university level, this venture views the Center's scholarship, research, and teaching in the context of curricular reform, intellectual innovation, and changing the university, and of supporting student empowerment and leadership development. On the national and international level, this venture views the Asian American experience in relation to changing communities and to new immigration, to interracial relations in the Americas, and in relation to global culture and politics and to technology transfer and economic linkages.

- Don T. Nakanishi, Center Director, 1995

25
Years
of
Asian
American
Studies
at
UCLA



25 YEARS OF ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES AT UCLA

*'Twas the First Year
of the Center**By Susie Ling and Daniel Mayeda*

'Twas the first year of the Center
when all through Campbell Hall
Students began stirring
with community and all

The establishment was asleep
all smug and well fed
While visions of justice
danced in *our* heads

With Elsie in her bellbottoms
Alan and Yuji took to task
They started planning for
the first Asian American Studies class

When out in Meyerhoff Park
there arose such a clatter
Demonstrations and boycotts
for issues that mattered

Gidra, *Roots*, student activism
the Center was not mellow
Don't forget the ultimate conference
in '68, it was "Are You Yellow?"

The *Asiansuperdooperscrooper*
preceded *CrossCurrents* and *Pac Ties*
The Asian (Pacific) Coalition
became alive in '75

Curriculum, Research
and the *Amerasia Journal*
In terms of policy influence
we became "The Towering Inferno"

CM, S/CP
the Reading Room and more
The first undergrad major
in Asian American Studies in '94

So now we commemorate
a quarter century of achievement
Here's to more decades
of innovation and commitment

And to those who took part
in the struggle and fight,
Our gratitude to all
and to all a good night!



Susie Ling and Daniel Mayeda recite "'Twas the First Year of the Center" at the 25th Anniversary Reunion of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center at the James West Alumni Center on January 21, 1995.

Susie Ling served as Assistant Coordinator for the Center's Student/Community Projects from 1980 to 1983. She was also the ninth graduate of the Center's M.A. program in Asian American Studies, writing her thesis on the Asian American women's movement in Los Angeles. She currently is Associate Professor of Asian American Studies at Pasadena City College.

Daniel Mayeda was Director of Asian Coalition at UCLA in 1978. He is now an attorney with the firm of Leopold, Petrich and Smith in Century City. Dan is also a founder of Asian Pacific Alumni (APA) at UCLA and a past president. He is also active with a number of groups, serving on the board of directors of MANAA (Media Action Network for Asian Americans) and East West Players.

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CrossCurrents, the newsmagazine of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, keeps readers abreast of current Center programs, including graduate and undergraduate programs, research projects, publications, faculty activities, relevant university and community issues, and programs not sponsored by the Center but in the province of Asian American Studies.

CrossCurrents is published twice yearly and distributed in the community by Center staff. It is also mailed free to all subscribers of *Amerasia Journal*. Others who would like to receive *CrossCurrents* through the mail should subscribe to *Amerasia Journal* (see subscription information on page 15 of this newsmagazine).

For more information about activities and programs of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, contact: 3230 Campbell Hall, 405 Hilgard Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1546; phone, (310) 825-2974.

Susie Ling Drafts Historical
Timeline of Center

Susie Ling has drafted an unofficial "Historical Timeline of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center." The 14-page document covers events from 1962 (when the Japanese American Research Project was established) to 1995. Susie compiled the timeline based on recent interviews with students, staff, and faculty associated with the Center, as well as a review of various publications associated with the Center, such as *Gidra* and *CrossCurrents*.

The timeline lists accomplishments of people associated with our Center, such as the first Southern California Asian American conference, "Are You Curious Yellow?," in 1968 and the first Asian American Studies course at UCLA, "Orientals in America," taught by Yuji Ichioka in Spring 1969.

Copies of the timeline can be obtained by contacting Susie Ling at Pasadena City College, (818) 583-7335; or Meg Thornton at UCLA, (310) 825-1006.

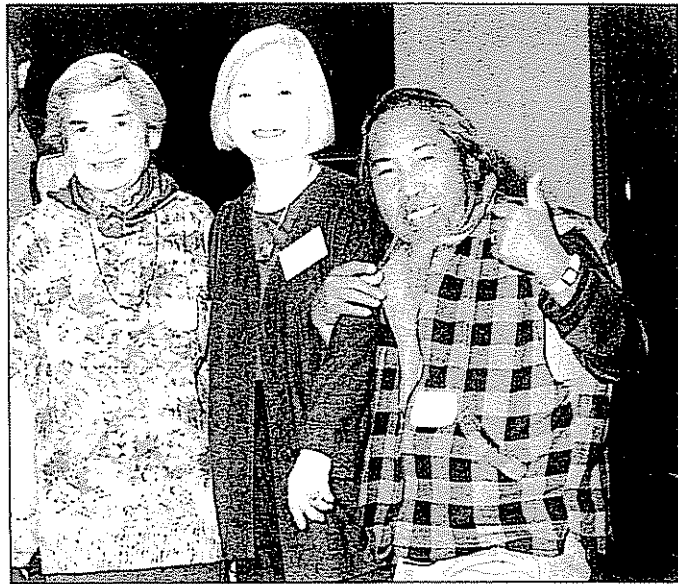
25 YEARS OF ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES AT UCLA

25th Anniversary Reunion Event, January 21, 1995

Photos by Jay Mendoza and Enrique Dela Cruz



Asian American Studies Center Director Don Nakanishi welcomes several generations of students, staff, and faculty associated with past and current accomplishments of the Center to the 25th anniversary reunion held at James West Center on UCLA campus.



Community "pioneers" associated with history of Asian Americans at UCLA (from left to right): Helen Brown, the first Filipina woman to graduate from UCLA; Elsie Osajima, the first employee hired at the Asian American Studies Center; and Royal ("Uncle Roy") Morales, who teaches the popular "Pilipino American Experience" course.



Professor Emeritus Alexander Saxton served as Center's Acting Director and Chair of its Faculty Advisory Committee.



Alan Nishio, an early Acting Director of the Center, is now a vice-president at California State University, Long Beach.



Two generations of student leaders — Aileen Almeria served as APC Director in 1990 and now works at the Asian Pacific American Legal Center; Levin Sy is current APC Community Outreach Director.



Los Angeles School Board member Warren Furutani, a former Coordinator of Student/Community Projects, sings with his wife, Lisa.



Former student leader Eddie Wong and his mother attended the reunion. Eddie now serves as special assistant to civil rights leader Jesse Jackson.

New York Activist Speaks at Museum of Tolerance

Yuri Kochiyama Stresses Need for Black-Asian Solidarity

By Jung-Eun Son

"Black/Asian Interactions through History" was the title of a talk by New York activist Yuri Kochiyama at the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles on February 26, 1995. The talk was part of 25th anniversary events of the Asian American Studies Center.

According to Kochiyama, Africans and Asians share the similar historical experience of racism and need to emphasize this commonality in order to create interracial movements of solidarity. She asserted that the problem of racism against Asians and Africans needs to be seen as not simply an American problem, but as a global and historical phenomenon.

Kochiyama has long been associated with the struggles of African Americans for civil rights and black liberation as well as the Asian American movement.

In her talk, Kochiyama recounted the similar experiences of Africans and Asians of kidnapping and enslavement by Europeans. She also described early examples of Black-Asian solidarity in America, such as the courageous stand of an African American Senator in Mississippi against the Chinese Exclusion bill in the late 19th century.

In more recent history, Kochiyama noted that the Bandung Conference of Third World

leaders in the 1950s was attended by large numbers of Africans and Asians who came together to discuss similar problems associated with the end of European colonialism and the dawning of independence.

Similarly, in the 1960s, Africans, Asians, African Americans, and Asian Americans often supported each others' struggles for civil rights, justice, and liberation. For example, Malcolm X acclaimed Mao Tse-tung of China for his revolution which sought to eliminate feudalism, corruption, and foreign domination. In turn, Mao expressed solidarity for the struggles of African Americans, seeing their courageous efforts as part of a worldwide struggle for the attainment of human dignity.

Throughout her 40-minute talk, Kochiyama shared other lessons of history — history told from the perspective of the Third World.

Yuri Kochiyama is a Nisei woman who has devoted her entire life to the fight for justice. She is truly a role model for me and other Asian American youth.

(Jung-Eun Son is a third-year UCLA student. She wrote this article for the "Asian Pacific American Leadership Development" class taught by Eric Wat.)

New Book on Interethnic Relations in L.A.

Los Angeles—Struggles toward Multiethnic Community is the title of a new book published by University of Washington Press focusing on issues of interethnic relations involving Asian Americans. The book is edited by Russell C. Leong and Edward T. Chang and reprints research articles, essays, poems, and commentaries from the 1993 issue of *Amerasia Journal* analyzing the aftermath of the Los Angeles riots/uprisings.

Chang is Assistant Professor of Ethnic Studies at University of California, Riverside, and a graduate of the Asian American Studies M.A. program at UCLA. Leong is a poet and scholar and serves as editor of *Amerasia Journal*, research publication in Asian American Studies.

UCLA Student Group Honored for Activism

Concerned Asian Pacific Students for Action (CAPSA) was honored recently at the Third Anniversary Dinner of Korean Immigrant Workers Advocates in Los Angeles.

KIWA cited the UCLA student group for its activism relating to immigrant rights, worker concerns, and interethnic solidarity.

During the past two years, CAPSA has supported Chicano Studies at UCLA, mobilized against California's anti-immigrant ballot initiative, defended affirmative action on campus, and supported the efforts of Chinese immigrant seamstresses to gain backwages from clothing manufacturer Jessica McClintock.

Interethnic Bridge-Builders in Our City

Los Angeles Times Profiles Activities of Family of Center Assistant Director Enrique Dela Cruz

The *Los Angeles Times* recently profiled the family of Enrique Dela Cruz, Assistant Director of our Center.

Describing the family as "cultural ambassadors" bridging Los Angeles' cultural diversity, reporter K. Connie Kang focused on the experiences of Enrique; his wife, Prosy; and their children, Corina and Carlo.

"Coming to America from the Philippines as educated adults, Enrique and Prosy Dela Cruz never found identity to be an issue," wrote Kang. "But in raising their two Los Angeles born children, they have come to realize how fragile the youngsters' Filipino American identity can be because of their interactions outside their home."

To meet these challenges, the Dela Cruz family has devoted time and energy to building interethnic understanding in Los Angeles.

For example, Prosy, an administrator with the state Department of Health Services, is one of the first graduates of a special interethnic leadership training program in Los Angeles that has been hailed as one of the nation's best.

Each March, 30 people from various backgrounds are chosen for the nine-month leadership training program. The goal for each graduate is to reach out to 50 people in an endeavor to improve race relations.

The project, Leadership Development in Interethnic Relations (LDIR), was the brainchild of Stewart Kwoh, president of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center. The project is now jointly run by the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Alumni of the project recently sponsored a conference to educate educators about the importance of interethnic relations in Los Angeles, especially concerning relations between immigrant and non-immigrant children.

In the aftermath of Proposition 187 and the prevailing anti-immigrant mood nationwide, immigrant students are too often viewed as liabilities, said Kathleen Hiyake, LDIR Coordinator. "We don't realize the resources these children have," she said. "They're the ones who know how to cross cultures."

Students Begin to Sign Up for New Major in Asian American Studies

When graduating senior Robb Paulsen dropped by our Center's main office early Fall Quarter 1994 to declare his major in Asian American Studies, he did not know he was making history. Robb became the first undergraduate to sign up for the new major in Asian American Studies at UCLA.

Born in Dubuque, Iowa, Robb originally came to Los Angeles to pursue a sports interest in tennis but almost immediately became interested in the city's racial diversity — a sharp contrast to his hometown population which he describes as being more than 95 percent white. After graduating from community college, he transferred to UCLA where he began to take courses in ethnic studies and race relations. He is now fluent in Tagalog and active with several organizations promoting issues of importance to Asian Americans.

This fall, Robb will be attending graduate school at the University

of the Philippines, College of Social Work and Community Development.

Robb is among 60 UCLA students who have thus far declared for the new major in Asian American Studies during its first two quarters of existence, according to Center Assistant Director Enrique Dela Cruz. "We expect to have more than 500 new majors in the next few years," he stated.

Most of those signing up for the new major are "double-majoring," linking their interest in Asian American Studies with related majors in Sociology, English, and History. However, others are linking Asian American Studies with majors in Math, Chemistry, and Biology — giving a new definition to the interdisciplinary mission of ethnic studies.



Robb Paulsen makes history by becoming the first student to sign up for the new major in Asian American Studies.

New Classes Address Issues of Public Policy, Affirmative Action, and Environment

New classes relating to public policy, environmental issues, sexuality and gender, and the current affirmative action controversy are among 22 course listings for Spring Quarter offered by the UCLA Asian American Studies Center.

Among special course offerings are "The Redress & Reparations Movement" by Mitchell Maki; "Asian Americans, Race and Public Policy" by Karen Umemoto; "Filipino American Community Issues" by Enrique Dela Cruz; "Filipino American Family" by Pauline Agbayani-Siewert; "Cambodian American Experience" by Gen Lee; "Asian Americans and the Environment" by Dean Toji; "Asian American Autobiography & Literature" by David Wong Louie; "Thai American Experience" by Chancee Martorell; "Indo American Experience" by Snehendru Kar; "Orientalist Typologies: Kristeva, Kingston, Kogawa" by Tomo Hattori; "Asian American Theater" by Nobu McCarthy; and "Thinking about Orientals" by Henry Yu.

Also offered is "The Retreat from Race: Asian/Pacific Islanders in Affirmative Action & Admissions," taught by Jeff Chang. The course examines controversial issues relating to admissions in higher education, especially the debate over affirmative action and diversity as these relate to the concerns of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Five Asian American Studies Classes Scheduled for UCLA Summer Session

For the fourth consecutive summer, our Center will offer Asian American Studies classes through UCLA Summer Sessions.

Five courses have been scheduled: "Introduction to Asian American Studies: Historical Issues," "Introduction to Asian American Studies: Contemporary Issues," "Filipino American Experience," "Investigative Journalism and Communities of Color," and "Overseas Asian American Studies Program in Hawaii."

For registration information, call Office of Summer Sessions, (310) 794-8333. For information about the Hawaii program, which is offered in cooperation with the University of Hawaii, call Dr. John Accomando, (310) 794-8307.

The UCLA-Yale Connection: 25 Years Old

The Asian American Studies Center has enjoyed a number of mutually beneficial relationships with other campus and community groups during its 25 year history, particularly those in California and the West.

However, the Center has also had a unique connection with Yale University, and its Asian American Students Association (AASA), which is also celebrating its 25th anniversary. In April, Center Director Don Nakanishi delivered the keynote address at the special anniversary ceremony for Yale AASA in New Haven, CT. He was one of the founders of the group.

The Center's premier academic journal, *Amerasia Journal*, was founded by undergraduates of Yale AASA in 1970. They included Lowell Chun-Hoon, the first editor, who is now a labor attorney in Honolulu, and Billie Tsien, graphics designer, an acclaimed architect in New York. Don Nakanishi served as the founding publisher. After publishing its first two issues, the journal moved, along with editor Chun-Hoon, to the Asian American Studies Center in 1971.

According to Nakanishi, "There has been an important movement of individuals between Yale and the Center over the years." Thomas Fujita and Alice Hom, both active in Yale AASA, received their M.A.s in Asian American Studies from UCLA, and Professor David Yoo of Claremont-McKenna College, who received his Ph.D. in American Studies from Yale, was one of the Center's past Rockefeller Fellows. Also, current *Amerasia Journal* associate editor Glenn Omatsu was one of the founders of Yale AASA.

On the other hand, Professor Brian Hayashi, who was active in Center activities while pursuing his Ph.D. in history at UCLA, became the first-ever Asian American Studies specialist at Yale when he was appointed to the Yale American Studies and History departments in 1993-94. Also, in teaching his first Asian American history class at the university, his teaching assistant was Sung Cho, a doctoral student in sociology at Yale who previously received her M.A. in Asian American Studies from UCLA.

Captain Bruce Yamashita Now Filing Class Action Lawsuit

Work of Profs. Sue and Takeuchi Hailed in Landmark U.S. Marines Discrimination Case

By Takeshi Nakayama, Rafu Shimpo Newspaper

Captain Bruce Yamashita, who waged a five-year battle against the Navy to win his officer's commission in the U.S. Marine Reserves, credited the success of his discrimination complaint to a pair of UCLA psychologists.

The Hawaii-born Marine reserve and lawyer said Dr. David Takeuchi and Dr. Stanley Sue played key roles during the appeals process after he was kicked out of the U.S. Marines Officers Candidate School in 1989. Now he is working with the two UCLA professors again to challenge the system through a lawsuit.

Yamashita recently filed a class-action lawsuit against both the Navy and Marines on behalf of 459 prospective officers allegedly victimized because of their race, as he was. The suit is based on research conducted by Dr. Sue and Dr. Takeuchi that showed racial discrimination by the Marines. The only difference between those who were disenrolled and the white majority is race, they asserted.

Dr. Sue is Professor of Psychology and Director of the National Research Center on Asian American Mental Health at UCLA. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Oregon and his Ph.D. from UCLA.

Dr. Takeuchi is Professor in Social Psychology in the School of Medicine at UCLA. A native of Hawaii, he earned his Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Hawaii.

Both professors are part of the Asian American Studies Center Faculty Advisory Committee.

Yamashita's struggle began in 1989 when he was kicked out — "disenrolled" — from Marine Officers Candidate School at Quantico, Virginia, just two days before graduation.

Charging that his superiors called him racial slurs and physically abused him, he appealed the decision. His case garnered widespread support from Asian American organizations and community leaders. In March 1994, he was finally commissioned a Marine Corps reserve captain.

Dissatisfied with the appeals process

during which the Navy claimed it could do nothing because it had no jurisdiction or authority, Yamashita called for systematic changes within the military in dealing with discrimination.

"After carrying on a battle that has lasted over five years, I realized that the present system of Naval appeals board doesn't work," he stated. "The only person to benefit from the old system is someone like me who is a lawyer, has the whole community behind him, and also has support from people in Congress. They need to change the system so that anyone is able to get justice."

To support his arguments, Yamashita has relied on the research of Dr. David Takeuchi, James Dannemiller, and Dr. Stanley Sue.

Dr. Takeuchi and Dannemiller reviewed statistics from the U.S. Marine Corps, especially statistics from Officers Candidate School. Dannemiller is president of a firm that conducts political polls in Hawaii.

"We were able to get statistics through the Freedom of Information Act, and found minorities were more likely to be disenrolled," explained Dr. Takeuchi. "The harassment was particularly severe in Bruce's class, especially under one colonel."

Complementing the work of Dr. Takeuchi was Dr. Sue, who is credited by Yamashita with providing empirical evidence that "racial remarks and derogatory remarks taint the evaluation of minority candidates" in the officer candidate program.

Dr. Sue testified in November 1992 at the Navy Discharge Review Board hearings on why Yamashita got very low ratings on performance and how racial slurs and stereotyping could negatively influence persons evaluating the Japanese American candidate.

"The rating of an officer candidate is done by officers, drill instructors and fellow candidates, and when an entire company of candidates is exposed to a sergeant berating Bruce, they have to be influenced by the stereotypes and slurs. Research has shown that when an authority figure comes down on someone and you have to make an evaluation of that person, it is biased,

influenced by stereotypes. It is not something to be shocked about. When a drill instructor called Bruce 'the enemy,' called him 'Jap' and other racial slurs, it has to affect others. That's only common sense," stated Dr. Sue.

Captain Yamashita filed his class action lawsuit on January 11, 1995. The suit covers all minorities disenrolled from 1982 to 1990.

(This article is edited and condensed from a version appearing in the Rafu Shimpo newspaper of Los Angeles.)

Dr. Alice Chang Wins 1995 UCLA Alumni Award



Dr. Alice Chang, a psychologist who has actively promoted Asian American issues in the American Psychological Association, recently was named recipient of the 1995 UCLA Alumni Award for Excellence in the category of Professional Achievement.

A 1968 alumna of UCLA, Dr. Chang is the only Asian American woman on the Board of Directors of the American Psychological Association, the world's largest mental health organization. She is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Asian American Psychological Association.

Dr. Chang was nominated for the prestigious award by Professor Stanley Sue of the UCLA Psychology Department.

Hoshide Family Donates Major Gift to Center

Tosh and Doris Hoshide of Rockville, Maryland recently donated over \$100,000 in cash and property to establish scholarships for Japanese American undergraduate and graduate students at UCLA. It represented the largest single gift ever made to the Asian American Studies Center and to its current Japanese American Remembrance Fund campaign.

The gift will establish two major endowments: the Chidori Aiso (UCLA '33) Memorial Scholarship, named after Doris Hoshide's late sister; and the Tosh and Doris Hoshide (UCLA '34) Scholarship.

"We are extremely grateful to the Hoshides for their extraordinary gift, which will benefit UCLA students for years and years to come," said Center Director Don Nakanishi. "They are extremely interested in and supportive of the Center's faculty and students, and I am glad their names will be forever associated with our Center."

In a letter to Nakanishi, the Hoshides wrote, "Our gifts are intended to lend whatever impetus we can to the oncoming generations of students on whom we will be dependent to be our community leaders, scholars and teachers, government officials, cultural aficionados, and other contributors



Tosh and Doris Hoshide of Rockville, Maryland

to the Japanese American Community and to American Society."

Along with the scholarship gifts, Doris Hoshide has donated her personal collection of rare photos, newspaper clippings, and other documents on the early years of the Chi Alpha Delta sorority at UCLA, the oldest Asian American sorority in the nation, which is celebrating its 66th anniversary. Doris and her sister, Chidori, were among the pioneering members of the sorority, which was founded in 1929.

Major Archive for Asian American Literature

UCLA Library Acquires Akira Fujita Papers

On behalf of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, Professor Yuji Ichioka gratefully acknowledged receipt of the personal papers of Akira Fujita, the preeminent Kibei-Nisei writer.

A native of Brawley, California, Fujita was born in 1920. His father was a long-time tenant farmer in the Imperial Valley. In 1922, Fujita was taken to Japan where he was raised in Miho by his maternal grandparents. In 1937 he attended Waseda University, but in 1940 he withdrew in order to return to the Imperial Valley.

Fujita was interned successively at Poston, Tule Lake, and Crystal City. While interned at Tule Lake, he edited a literary journal called *Doto* ("Raging Waters"). He also contributed to the *Tessaku* ("Barbed Wire Fence"), another literary journal at Tule Lake.

In 1945, he renounced his U.S. citizenship under duress, and was soon transferred to Crystal City. After his release from Crystal City, he settled down in Southern California where he worked as a gardener. In 1955 he married Grace Yaeno Hironaka, a Kibei. In

1957 he regained his U.S. citizenship.

In the postwar era, Fujita was the central figure in a Southern California literary society called the Nanka Bungei. From 1965 to 1985, this society published the *Nanka Bungei*, a literary journal named after the society. In 1981, Fujita edited an anthology of selected writings from the *Nanka Bungei* under the title *Nanka Bungei Senshu, 1965-1980*.

In succeeding years, he published his own fictional works, beginning with *Nochi no Kokei* ("An Agricultural Landscape") in 1982, followed by *Tachinoki no Kisetsu* ("An Evacuation Season") in 1984—two novels in a projected trilogy spanning the prewar, wartime, and postwar periods. Unfortunately, he did not complete the third volume.

The Akira Fujita Papers consists of diaries, 1946, 1978-1989; manuscripts and galley proofs; incoming correspondence files, 1972-1989; personal memorabilia; copies of Fujita's publications; and books by Nanka Bungei writers and others, all in Japanese language.

According to historian Yuji Ichioka, in the literature on the wartime internment of

Chi Alpha Delta Sorority Donates 66 Years of Archives to UCLA

In 1929, when there were only three buildings at UCLA—Royce Hall, Powell Library, and the Chemistry building—the Chi Alpha Delta sorority was founded by a group of Japanese American undergraduates, who could not join white sororities on campus because of racial discrimination. Sixty-six years later, alumni and current members of the nation's oldest Asian American sorority are celebrating their unique legacy by donating the group's archives to the UCLA Research Library's Special Collections Department.

The archival collection reflects over a year of work by a number of current members of the sorority, who not only collected documents and photos, but also conducted oral history interviews with former members of the group across the country. Center Director Don Nakanishi and Charlotte Brown of the University Research Library assisted in the project.

The ceremony will be held on May 13 from 1:00 p.m. at the Special Collections Department as part of the Center's 25th anniversary activities, as well as those of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

Japanese Americans, the Kibei generally have been depicted, wrongfully in the majority of cases, as having been the single most dangerous and disloyal element in the community before and during the war. "The rich primary sources in the Akira Fujita Papers provide researchers with the opportunity to study the Kibei sympathetically in a much more balanced and nuanced way," states Ichioka.

Mrs. Grace Yaeno Fujita generously donated the Akira Fujita Papers to UCLA. According to Professor Ichioka, these papers further enhance the scope and depth of the Japanese American Research Project Collection, already recognized as the finest collection of primary sources on Japanese immigration history.

In recent years, the Asian American Studies Center has acquired the Edison Uno Papers, Charles Kikuchi Papers, Yoneo Sakai Papers, Karl Yoneda Papers, Abiko Family Papers, and Togawa Akira Papers—all of which have been added to the Japanese American Research Project Collection.

Introducing Our First-Year M.A. Students

New Graduate Students Bring Backgrounds in Community Service, Activism, and Scholarship to Our Center's M.A. Program

Reflecting the diverse ethnic and geographical roots of today's Asian Pacific American population, the first-year class in our Masters Degree program in Asian American Studies represents a new generation of community and diasporic scholars. Our new M.A. students hail from Cambodia, Hong Kong, and the Philippines — as well as New Jersey, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. They enter our program with past backgrounds in community service, campus activism, and Asian American scholarship. They come to UCLA with an appreciation of the unique resources of our Asian American Studies Center. They bring to our Center a passion for knowledge and a desire to expand the field of Asian American Studies through research and community service. Above all, they believe our graduate program will provide them tools to "give back to the community." As one student explains, the Center's M.A. program will "provide me with a foundation from which I can continue to contribute to the cycle of learning, teaching, and working for positive change in society."

What follows is a short biographical sketch of each of our new graduate students, their research interests, and their special talents — academic or otherwise:

* * *

Soyon (Sue) E. Cho, who is of Korean ancestry, was born in Vietnam. She came to the United States at age seven with her parents and grew up in the San Fernando Valley. She holds a B.A. from UCLA, where she participated in student groups such as Korean American United Students for Education and Service (KAUSES) and Concerned Asian Pacific Students for Action (CAPSA) and student/community committees such as the Justice for Garment Workers Support Committee. She is interested in studying housing, labor, and gender issues as they relate to Asian Americans. Soyon explains why she entered our graduate program: "I wanted to work in the Asian Pacific Islander community after graduation, and I wanted to have a full understanding of community issues. The M.A. program, I think, will give me an analytical understanding of issues to help me better serve the community." She is currently working as a tenant organizer in Los Angeles County federally subsidized housing projects.

Manhao Chhor was born in Pnomh Penh, Cambodia, but grew up in areas around Los Angeles. He received a B.A. in Asian American Studies from UC Santa Barbara, where he was active in various Asian Pacific American student groups. He entered our graduate program to explore "freedom — the experience and knowledge to recreate my position in this country." For his M.A. thesis, he will analyze the educational aspirations of Cambodian teenagers. Manhao's acting talents were recently featured in an all-Asian American male performance at Highways in Santa Monica.

Jason James Collom attended Maryknoll Sisters School in Hong Kong before moving to South San Francisco at age 12. He earned a B.A. in Geography from San Francisco State University, where he also created cartographic quality thematic maps for the Department of Asian American Studies. He is interested in researching bilingual education issues in the San Francisco Unified School District in the post-*Lau v. Nichols* period. "I believe this M.A. program will enhance my understanding of the human environment and provide me with the training and resources that will allow me to better serve my community," states Jason.

Winfred John Delloro was born in Bellville, New Jersey, but grew up in the San

Fernando Valley in Southern California. He received his B.A. in Psychology from UCLA, where he was active with Concerned Asian Pacific Students for Action (CAPSA) and the efforts to save Tagalog language classes. John is a former street-corner and coffeeshop poet and has published poems and short stories in various journals. On several occasions, he has dressed up as poet Percy Shelley. For his M.A. thesis, John is studying problems facing Asian immigrant garment workers, especially the two-year campaign of Chinese immigrant seamstresses to gain backwages from clothing manufacturer Jessica McClintock in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Annalissa Arangcon Herbert was born in San Francisco. After graduating from Lowell High School, she attended San Francisco State University where she majored in Radio/Television and minored in Asian American Studies. While at San Francisco State, she also learned about the campus strike of 1968 through contact with original participants. She also worked on issues related to the Filipino American community. Annalissa wants to focus her research on ethnic identity issues related to the activities of the Filipino-Mangco Athletic Association, a club that existed from 1938 to 1955. "I came to the M.A. program as this is one of the very few places where research in ethnic studies can be done in a supportive atmosphere. Like San Francisco State, UCLA has had a long history of student-initiated activism," she notes.

Richard Jong was born in Los Angeles and grew up in Monterey Park. He completed his B.A. in Media Studies at California State University, Los Angeles. Richard entered our M.A. program to further his studies in Asian American film and television. He is particularly interested in studying Asian American percussionists in the San Gabriel Valley. "In addition to analytical writing, I plan to include in my exit option project both photography and field recordings," he explains. "I believe the program will provide me access to resources I could not previously attain."

Gene Moy was born in Hong Kong but grew up in and around Chicago. He did his undergraduate work at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and at the University of Melbourne, Australia, where he

The program is an opportunity to be involved in a seminal field and will allow me to conduct research in areas not usually supported by other programs.

**Rosemarie
Resurrección**

I entered this program for a number of reasons, but the bottom line is my passion for Asian American Studies and my strong belief in its importance for individuals, for the Asian American community, and for society as a whole.

Wendy Siu



Our Center's first-year M.A. class: (from left to right) Manhao Chhor, Jason Collum, Richard Jong, Gene Moy, Wendy Siu, Tuan Tran, Rosemarie Resurrección, Annalisa Herbert, W. John Delloro, and Jeff Ow.

worked on Asian Australian issues. His research interests are cultural studies, public policy, and interactive multimedia development. He would eventually like to do work serving the Asian American community of Chicago. Aside from his talents in *karaoke*, Gene has a background in acting. When he was ten, he starred in an educational filmstrip about Chinese New Year.

Jeff Ow, a fifth-generation "Long-time Californ'," was born in Oakland, raised in Hayward, and educated at UC Berkeley. He previously worked with the Asian and Pacific American Health Forum in San Francisco and volunteered at Angel Island, the historic entry point for past generations of Asian immigrants. Jeff wants to research identity formation of later generation Chinese Americans in the San Francisco Bay Area. "I entered the M.A. program to test and prepare myself for a career in Asian American issues — whether it be in academics, community organizations, or media culture," he states.

Rosemarie A. Resurrección was born in Manila, Philippines, but grew up in Huntingdan Valley, Pennsylvania. She completed her undergraduate studies at Barnard College/Columbia University, where she was co-founder of a group that sought to integrate Asian American Studies into the curriculum. Rosemarie's research interests center on Asian American women, especially Pinays. "I am interested in looking at the integration of female leadership roles in Asian American social and political organizations," she states. "The program is an opportunity to be involved in a seminal field and will allow me to conduct research in areas not usually supported by other programs."

Wendy Etsuko Siu was born in Oakland and grew up in Orinda, a small suburb near San Francisco. She completed her undergraduate work at UC Davis, where she was active in Asian Pacific American Coalition. "I entered the M.A. program for a number of reasons, but the bottom line is my passion for Asian American Studies and my strong belief in its importance for individuals, for the Asian American community, and for society as a whole. I believe the program will provide me with a foundation from which I can continue to contribute to



First-year graduate students Manhao Chhor (left) and W. John Delloro (right) engage in intellectual discourse about critical issues facing Asian Pacific Americans in academia.

the cycle of learning, teaching, and working for positive change in society," she says. Wendy has done volunteer work for community organizations such as East West Players. She also did program evaluation research for two projects, one dealing with substance abuse prevention in high-risk Asian youth, and the other involving substance abuse treatment and HIV/AIDS education and prevention in Asian American adult substance abusers. Wendy's research interests focus on the characterization of Asians Americans as the "silent minority" and the implications for identity, education, gender, and other issues.

Tuan Duc Tran was born in Vung Tau, Vietnam and came to the United States at age four in 1974. He grew up in Orange County and received a B.S. in Biology with a minor in Ethnic Studies at the University of California, Riverside, where he was active with the Asian Pacific Student Program. He also worked with Vietnamese Community of Orange County. He is currently working at the Asian Pacific American Legal Center in Los Angeles, where he is helping with community outreach in the area of consumer advocacy, and Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team, where he is doing HIV education. Tuan's main research interest centers on public policy and how it affects recent immigrants, particularly Southeast Asians. "I am also interested in gender issues and such theories as Orientalism and how these apply to men, and gay men in particular, since most of the theories have concentrated on women," explains Tuan.



Memorial Fund and Scholarships Honor Accomplishments of Philip Vera Cruz

The Philip Vera Cruz Memorial Fund — commemorating the accomplishments of the late Filipino immigrant labor leader — has been established in Los Angeles. The fund will provide annual scholarships of \$500 each to college students in the greater Los Angeles area. Students will be selected based on their scholarship as well as their volunteer activities on campus, in the community, or with labor organizations.

Vera Cruz passed away June 11, 1994, at the age of 89 in Bakersfield, California. A former vice president of the United Farmworkers Union, he dedicated his life to organize workers for social justice and to encourage new generations of Asian American youth to serve their communities through education and organizing.

His life was the subject of a 1989 book by Craig Scharlin and Lilia V. Villanueva published by the UCLA Asian American Studies and Labor Center. A "memorial edition" of the book is now available.

Also, in honor of Manong Philip, muralist Darryl Mar of the Asian American Studies graduate program created a special portrait celebrating his memory (*see photo of mural above*).

For more information about the Memorial Fund, contact Joe Virata at Loyola Marymount University, (310) 338-2892, or Meg Thornton at UCLA, (310) 825-1006.

BRIDGING THE GENERATION

Recognizing Our True Heroes and Heroines

By Alyssa Kang

It's been a year since Pilipino immigrant labor leader Philip Vera Cruz passed away at age 89 in Bakersfield, California. Philip Vera Cruz was a worker. An activist. A labor organizer. A co-founder and vice-president of the United Farm Workers Union. And he is still a role model for many young people of this generation and future generations.

The first time I heard about Philip Vera Cruz was in a class in Asian American Studies. I never knew about the exploitation of Asian immigrants in industries such as agriculture, mining, domestic service, laundry and garment manufacturing. I also never learned in high school about the acts of resistance organized by Asian Americans on the Hawaiian sugar plantations and the Oxnard sugarbeet fields. In my college classes, I discovered how Pilipino immigrants organized the sit-in that began the famous Delano Grape Strike of 1965 and eventually led to the formation of the farm workers' movement and the United Farm Workers Union. Asian Americans have a history of labor, activism and resistance that is epitomized in people like Philip Vera Cruz.

Philip Vera Cruz was not a glamorous man. He didn't have much money, power, or celebrity status. But it is "common" people like him who have challenged society's racism, sexism, classism, and homophobia. It is people like him who have organized to challenge the power imbalance and inequality between the haves and have-nots. It is also people like him who have helped me to reevaluate who I consider my heroes and heroines, my role models.

Immigrant women like my mom struggle all their lives so that we, their children, can have a better life and experience things that they will never be able to in this so-called land of opportunities. They leave their homes to come to a foreign land with hopes and high expectations, only to be faced by barrier after barrier. But even with all this adversity, they manage to raise a new generation, instilling culture and community in their children and at the same time managing to keep food on the table and clothes on our backs.

My mother and many of our immigrant parents may not realize all this but they are an important part of history — of making history. It is this spirit of sacrifice and love that makes it possible for us to be here today. It is the fighting spirit of individuals like Philip Vera Cruz and our parents that makes it possible for us to pursue higher education, which today, unfortunately, has become a privilege for a few and not a right for all.

It is not enough for us to mourn the loss of a leader and role model. We must continue Philip Vera Cruz's spirit of leadership and activism by taking on the struggles of workers of people of color, of other oppressed communities. We should celebrate his life by continuing the fight for social justice and equality. Through this we can truly pay our respects to him and our immigrant predecessors.

(Alyssa Kang is a fifth-year student majoring in Asian American Studies at UCLA.)

GAP

Through Classes in Asian American Studies, Students Learn to Understand the Lives and Aspirations of Their Immigrant Parents

“I Didn’t Know the Life of My Father”

By Matthew Pontratig

I grew up very poor. Though I lived in a fairly good neighborhood in Orange County, my family’s income was always a sensitive issue. In high school, it was difficult for me to compromise my pride and admit to my friends that I didn’t have the money to go out and eat or join them for movies. My mother, a single parent, worked tirelessly for me, but I never seemed to appreciate her efforts at the time. Instead, I felt shame about my poverty. I was ignorant about my life history.

I spent a summer with my father in Thailand last year after seeing him sporadically all my life. I found out for the first time the difficulties he faced living as an Asian immigrant in America. He arrived in the mid-sixties on a student visa when he was just 19. He went through junior college and decided to stay and find work. My father belonged to the first wave of Thai immigrants in America, so there was no example for him to follow.

As a kid, I remember my father as a man who came to our house only on holidays. He always spoiled me, bringing food, clothes, and toys. I figured my dad was doing pretty well selling auto parts and restoring European cars. He always had money for me. I didn’t know that my father was giving me everything he had. I didn’t know that my father was evading immigration officers to stay in America for economic opportunities. I didn’t know that he was helping support my aunt who came to America some years after him. I didn’t know that the place where he worked was not his auto

parts store — that he was just a worker there. I didn’t know that each time I, an eight-year-old, said goodbye to my father, that man walked away penniless. I didn’t know the life of my father.

Nearly five years ago, my dad returned to Thailand and resettled in his hometown of Petchabum, about 80 miles south of Bangkok. He has remarried since, and he and his wife live on savings. But he cannot erase the struggles from his memories.

My dad did not give up. He only wanted to be treated as an equal — as a human being. He didn’t know how to achieve this goal in America. . . . In all his struggles, he loved me more than he loved himself.

My dad moved from job to job in the Los Angeles/Hollywood area, always meeting employer’s reluctance to hire an immigrant, especially an immigrant whose country they didn’t know. My father’s English was quite good, but apparently not good enough. He was denied jobs because of his race, though he was often outstanding in his work. My father often endured droughts of joblessness. But he suffered the adversity and never complained — because he

couldn’t. After 26 years in America, he finally returned to Thailand — to his small town by the sea that welcomed him with smiles and tears. He left a country that never cared.

My father has developed an amazing humility that allowed him to pursue his goals without falling with pride. Like many Asian immigrant poor in the U.S., my father took a role that accepted his turns for the worse as fate. Many Thai live according to the phrase, “*mai pen rai*,” which means “no problem” or “it’s all right.” My father lived by this phrase. His life in America was a struggle. His daily life was a victory in itself. However, his grievances were never made public. His voice — and the voices of many other Thai immigrants — were never known outside the ethnic enclave. The same is true of other Asian immigrants trying to find a new life in America. In some cases, they put their heart and soul into sacrifice to “make it” here but then realize after years of hard work the betrayal of their dreams. Some return to their former homelands. But others can never return.

My dad did not give up. He only wanted to be treated as an equal — as a human being. He didn’t know how to achieve this goal in America. I do not know another person who has worked harder and endured more than my dad (though I am sure there are many). In all his struggles, he loved me more than he loved himself. He gave to me when he had nothing to give to himself. From him, I have learned what real love is.

(Matthew Pontratig is a junior at UCLA majoring in English and taking classes in Asian American Studies.)

Students Bring Asian American

Los Angeles Times Highlights Student Work in Center's "Social Movements" Class

The significance of students "bringing Asian American Studies into the community" was the subject of a recent *Los Angeles Times* article by K. Connie Kang.

Kang focused on the work of students in this past Winter Quarter's "Asian American Social Movements" class, offered by our Center as part of 25th anniversary observances.

According to Kang's article, students learned how to "link theory and practice" by helping immigrant workers in an ongoing campaign to form a union at the Japanese-owned New Otani Hotel in Little Tokyo.

"In the process, they [students] have learned about the hotel industry and conditions of immigrant workers in the nation's second-biggest and most diverse city; the often-exasperating task of reaching public officials, community leaders and the news media; and linking lessons for today's reality," Kang wrote.

For midterm and final class projects, students organized two educational forums about the immigrant workers struggles, one held on the UCLA campus and the second in Little Tokyo at Centenary United Methodist Church. Students took responsibility for all aspects of forum program planning — from mobilization to publicity, from research to fundraising. In the process, the students also developed leadership skills, such as public speaking, writing, and community outreach strategies.

Themes of the class dealt with the importance of interethnic unity in Los Angeles, in this case between Asian Americans and Latino Americans; defense of immigrant workers rights, especially the rights to decent jobs and working conditions; corporate accountability, both to the workers corporations employ and the local communities that host them; and student/community/labor alliances as a critical force in the struggle for social justice.

The class was taught by Glenn Omatsu of the Asian American Studies Center staff.

Immigrant Voices Are Voices for Human Dignity

By Julia Song

"I think it is my time and turn as an immigrant who went through the hardships to help the other immigrants voice themselves."

Ten years ago, I came to America from Korea. I am now a UCLA student, but my road to UCLA was not easy. I had to learn English as a second language.

There were many incidents where I could not voice myself. For instance, I remember my fifth-grade open house. It had been only about a year since we came to America. Because my parents did not speak any English, and I was the oldest child, I was the translator for my parents.

That night, in the middle of translating the conversation between my parents and my teacher, we were interrupted by a parent behind us. That parent walked up to my teacher and started shaking hands with her in the middle of translation. I felt so insulted and I got really mad. But I know it hurt my parents more, because being in America made them feel helpless since they could not do anything about the situation.

Fifteen years ago, another immigrant, Adriana Strada, came to America from El Salvador. Adriana has been working as a cook at the New Otani Hotel in Little Tokyo ever since it opened 15 years ago. A few weeks ago, in preparation for a banquet, she was told to make a new salad dressing she had never made before. Adriana told her supervisor that she could not do it because she was not fluent enough in English to read the recipe. Her supervisor then ridiculed her, and Adriana got so upset and angry she cried at work because she could not speak up for her dignity.

My experience and Adriana's experience in America are connected. Even though some think these two stories have no relationship whatsoever, they are related in the immigrant experience, which is filled with hardship.

One of the toughest battles for an immigrant cross-culturally and across time periods is the language barrier. Most immigrants come to the United States not knowing English. Thus, they run into barriers when they are not able to speak up at times when self-expression is needed.

Today in Los Angeles at the New Otani Hotel, workers like Adriana are struggling to unionize their workplace. The New Otani, located in Little Tokyo, is owned by Kajima Corporation of Japan, the fourth largest construction firm in the world. They employ 280 workers here who are mostly immigrants — 70 percent Latina/o and 25 percent Asian and Pacific Islander.

The workers, along with Local 11 of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union, are trying to form a union to fight for better wages, better benefits like health care, and better working conditions. But most of all, they are fighting to protect the workers' voice in the workplace so that workers may gain dignity and respect. Through unionization, these workers — many of whom are not fluent in English — would have a way to voice themselves without the fear of losing their jobs.

A union is a way to empower workers. And not only are the workers fighting for their rights at the workplace — in a larger sense, they are also fighting for people like me.

Although I am now in a position to speak English and express myself, I cannot forget the times when I needed someone to be my voice. I was very fortunate to be able to go to school and learn English.

However, people like my parents and the workers at New Otani Hotel were never given that chance to learn English. "Issei," the first generation parents, had to work to make a living and they made sacrifices for their children.

I think it is my time and turn as an immigrant who went through the hardships to help the other immigrants voice themselves. I can help the New Otani workers by supporting their movement, by writing to the hotel management and going out to their rallies to gain public support.

It is not only their struggle. It is also mine.

(Julia Song is a second-year student majoring in Asian American Studies.)

Studies to the Community

Demanding Corporate Accountability for Workers and Our Communities

By James V. Gatewood

At a glance, Nelson Canales, a former housekeeper at the New Otani Hotel in Little Tokyo, is a kind, thought-provoking individual who does a great deal more listening than he does speaking.

As a guest speaker for our "Asian American Social Movements" class, Canales related his personal experiences as an immigrant worker, and the varying degrees of adversity he faces from an American society that is all too willing to dismiss him as an "unwanted element." Recently, Canales was confronted with the need to adjust his immigration papers in his native El Salvador so that he could become a permanent U.S. resident. He requested a leave from his job at the New Otani Hotel, a request that management granted. However, while in El Salvador Canales became mired in an immigration bureaucracy that left him stranded for two months. He immediately notified the hotel of his predicament.

When Canales returned to the U.S., he found out that management had terminated him, citing his extended leave as the reason. Despite the fact that he had informed managers of his problems, they disclaimed any knowledge of his correspondence with their office. They also disclaimed awareness of his role as a leader during the past year in worker efforts to unionize the hotel — most likely the real reason behind his termination.

Nelson Canales is not alone in this seemingly one-sided battle. He is part of a growing movement by immigrant workers to win their rights at the hotel and throughout Los Angeles. In his singular effort to stand up to management, Canales is a hero. He is, in a sense, an iconoclast challenging the notions embodied within America's past about the role of immigrant workers in our country. His struggle is ours, and his story must be told.

The workers' struggle in Little Tokyo is part of a continuing legacy of injustice that immigrants have faced throughout the course of American history. The workers are attempting to rise out of the poverty level associated with work in the hotel industry. While there are more than 50,000 workers who support Los Angeles' \$8 billion dollar tourist industry, the vast majority earn salaries between \$5 and \$8 per hour. What this amounts to is an annual salary between \$8,500 and \$12,000—some \$5,000 less what is needed to keep a family of four from slipping into poverty. Their low earnings mean that they are forced to live in substandard housing within the poorest sectors of our city. In contrast to the situation in Los Angeles, hotel workers in Honolulu, Las Vegas, New York, and San Francisco earn on

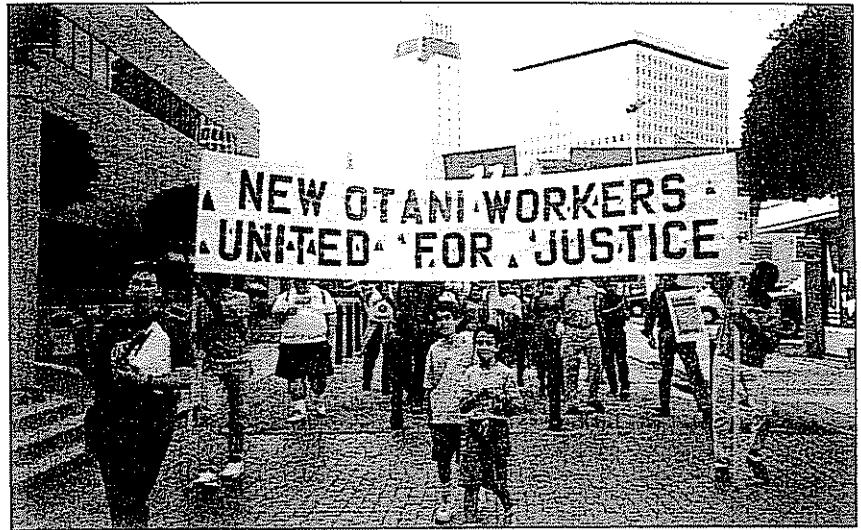


Photo by Tony Osumi

"We as student leaders stand with our brothers and sisters at the New Otani Hotel and in the larger working community. Their struggle for justice is ours as well."

average 50 percent more than non-union employees here.

Recently, I and three other UCLA students visited the New Otani Hotel to speak with management about the plight of immigrant workers like Nelson Canales. Initially, we were told that no one was available to meet with us and hear our concerns. Finally, due to our persistence, we met with Mr. K. Nakano, vice-president of New Otani America. We expressed our support for the immigrant workers and called for an end to management harassment. Mr. Nakano told us that the employees' happiness is the ultimate priority at the hotel. However, his words do not match management's practices.

In recent months, management has fired five long-time workers. While each was given various unfounded reasons for their dismissal, the only link that each shared was their involvement in the campaign to form a union. This harassment must not continue. New Otani is responsible for respecting its workers' rights, providing adequate pay, and ensuring dignity within the workplace.

The Kajima Corporation built the New Otani Hotel in Little Tokyo in the 1970s amidst heated debate about the destruction of low-income housing in Little Tokyo. It promised to respond to the concerns of the local community. These promises have not been kept. Today, community groups such as the National Coalition for Redress and Reparations and the New Otani Workers Support Committee have demanded that Kajima and New Otani management respect the rights of immigrant workers.

We as student leaders stand with our brothers and sisters at the New Otani Hotel and in the larger working community. Their struggle for justice is ours as well. No one deserves to be mistreated by the corporate sector, and Kajima and New Otani management will have to answer our challenges. Student power uniting with workers and community groups will reshape our Los Angeles and make it a better place for immigrant workers and all residents.

(James V. Gatewood is a UCLA senior majoring in Asian American Studies. He will enter the Center's M.A. program this fall.)

Profile of Vivian Tseng and Shingly Lee

Student Assistants Bring Initiative, Energy, and Leadership to Center Programs

Vivian Tseng (left) and Shingly Lee (right) — two UCLA student leaders — are serving as assistants for Center projects this year. Shingly is Student Assistant for Student/Community Projects, while Vivian is Coordinator for the Center's full calendar of 25th anniversary events. Both student leaders are working closely with Center staff members Meg Malpaya Thornton and Eric Wat.

Vivian was born in Taiwan, immigrated to the U.S. at age four, and grew up in Alabama. She attended high school in Fresno. At UCLA, she is a graduating senior with a major in Psychology and a minor in Asian American Studies. In the fall, she will be attending a Ph.D. program in Community Psychology. She is interested in doing research about Asian American adolescents, as well as studying interethnic relations in schools. She also wants to do intervention research, especially around interethnic conflicts at the community level. "I am interested in using research in Psychology for social change and to help the Asian Pacific Islander community," Vivian stresses.

Vivian is active with a number of campus and community groups. She is a past president of Association of Chinese Americans at UCLA and currently serves as Internal Director for Asian Pacific Coalition. She has worked as an intern with the Museum of Chinese American History in Los Angeles and is now a member of the group's board of directors. In her community activities, she is particularly concerned about finding ways to create bridges between the long-time Chinese American community and more recent communities of new Chinese immigrants.

Student/Community Projects Coordinator Meg Thornton describes Vivian as a "ball of energy." "She's so petite, but so strong and poised and very articulate. She always takes the initiative."

Shingly Lee is of Hmong ancestry. She was born in Thailand and came to the United States at age four. She grew up in Fresno, where she served as Associated Student Body Vice-President at her high school. Shingly is in her first year of studies at UCLA and is interested in majoring in political science to build a foundation for a possible career in law.

As a first-year student, Shingly finds UCLA "very big" and "impersonal in some ways." "You have to be aggressive to get what you want," she states. "But you can also find friendliness, especially here at the Asian American Studies Center."

According to Shingly, there are only a handful of Hmong students at UCLA. "I know at least eight, and half of them are from Fresno," she says. Fresno is the home community for a large settlement of Hmong refugees who came to the United States following the war in Indochina.

As a first-year student at UCLA, Shingly also participates in



campus activities. She is now an active member of Nikkei Student Union, the Japanese American group, and recently took part in the group's annual cultural night performance. She also hopes someday that there will be enough Hmong students to create a new organization addressing cultural and social issues.

Meg Thornton describes Shingly as very outgoing, efficient and effective. "When we interviewed her for the Student Assistant position, we were really impressed by the work she had done in high school. She was part of the leadership of the Hmong youth group, which was an offshoot of community groups. We're happy that she's working with us. She can help educate us about the Hmong community, and she has a lot to offer our Center due to her strong leadership talents."

First-Year UCLA Law Student Lauren M. Seng Wins Scholarship from Chinese American Lawyers

Lauren M. Seng of Alhambra, a first-year student in the UCLA Law School, was recently awarded a scholarship from the Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association.

As an undergraduate at UCLA, Lauren worked as a student assistant with our Center, serving as a receptionist. She was also a leader with the campus Asian Pacific Coalition, serving as General Staff and Women's Programmer. During her senior year, she was a leader of Concerned Asian Pacific Students for Action (CAPSA).

Lauren is interested in a career in public interest law and hopes to serve the Asian Pacific Islander community, especially on issues related to immigration, civil rights, and workers' rights. Lauren was born in Cambodia and came to the U.S. as a young child.

Asian American Studies Center To Be Honored in Los Angeles during Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

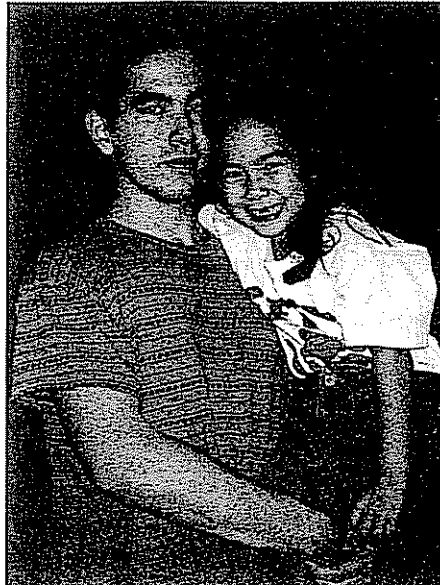
The UCLA Asian American Studies Center is being honored May 23 at the 17th Annual Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Dinner here in Los Angeles. Theme of this year's dinner is "A Tapestry of Cultures Weaving Our Future."

Steven Masami Ropp Joins Center Staff as Assistant Coordinator of Reading Room

Steve Masami Ropp joins the staff of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center as the new Assistant Coordinator of the Reading Room. He is also serving as the Center's part-time computer coordinator, assisting the Center as it moves on to the "information superhighway."

Steve is a graduate student in the UCLA Anthropology Department, where he is doing research on Chinese in Belize and other Asian immigrant communities in the diaspora. He was born in Sacramento and holds a B.A. from UC Berkeley, where he majored in Anthropology and minored in Asian American Studies.

Steve is an avid reader of books about anthropology, new Asian American fiction, and detective novels. Reflecting his research interest in popular culture, his favorite films are *Blade Runner* and *Toxic Avenger*.



Steven Masami Ropp and his daughter, Stephanie.

New Video by Robert Nakamura Explores Wartime Internment

Professor Robert A. Nakamura, Associate Director of the Asian American Studies Center, has directed and edited a new video, *Something Strong Within*, containing never-before-seen home movies of the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II.

The 40-minute video was produced by Karen L. Ishizuka and features an original music score composed and performed by Dan Kuramoto. The video can be purchased for \$19.95 from the Japanese American National Museum, (213) 625-0414. All proceeds will be used to help preserve home movies relating to the Japanese American experience.

Nakamura is Associate Professor of Film & Television at UCLA and has been active for many years promoting the importance of community-based media.

Experiences of "Multiracial Asians" Explored in New Bibliography

"Prism Lives/Emerging Voices of Multiracial Asians" is the title of a new bibliography dealing with the experiences of people of Asian descent who are multiracial.

The selective, partially annotated bibliography was compiled by Steven Masami Ropp, Teresa Kay Williams, and Curtiss Takada Rooks, and edited by Marji Lee.

The bibliography provides an overview of the various areas of research which relate to the mixed race-experience and is intended to facilitate theoretical development, expansion of research and the application of that research to the questions of race relations, ethnic identity, and diversity.

The bibliography is one in a series of topical bibliographies compiled by the Asian American Studies Reading Room/Library.

To order the bibliography, send \$11.00 to UCLA Asian American Studies Center Reading Room/Library, 3230 Campbell Hall, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1546. Checks should be made payable to UC Regents.

New Book Examines Asian American Sexualities

"Asian American Sexualities: Dimensions of the Gay and Lesbian Experience" is the title of a new book edited by Russell C. Leong and scheduled for publication by Routledge Press.

The new book is an expanded version of the recent, best-selling issue on Asian American sexuality in *Amerasia Journal*. According to Leong, the expanded volume will be the first book to examine Asian racial identities and sexual differences from an interdisciplinary perspective.

"In the United States, the myth of Asian Americans as a homogenous, heterosexual

'model minority' . . . has worked against exploration into the varied nature of our sexual drives and gendered diversity," Leong writes in his newly-crafted introduction. "Our mythical successful assimilation is used to pit us against other minority groups such as African Americans and Latinos. In terms of sexuality, the model minority view simply denies diversity as an issue. . . . As part of the Racial/Ethnic Other within the sexual 'Other,' Asian and Pacific Americans who are 'gender non-conformists' have been met with silence or token inclusion at best."

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