

# CROSSCURRENTS

Newsmagazine of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, Vol. 18, No. 2 (Fall/Winter 1995)

## Asian American Studies Center Celebrates 25th Anniversary

*More than 700 people pay tribute to a unique institution that  
has influenced the lives of many Asian Pacific Americans*

*By Julie Ha  
Rafu Shimpo, Los Angeles*

They came back. Over 700 people, mostly UCLA alumni, gathered at the Downtown Bonaventure September 14 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the university's Asian American Studies Center.

But while the night was filled with a sense of nostalgia and personal reunions, many in attendance realized they were celebrating either a Studies Center not in existence during their college days or one that has grown tremendously in the last two-and-a-half decades. And they were proud to pay tribute to an ethnic studies center that has influenced the lives of many Asian Americans who, despite their respective fields of interest, always remember to help their community.

"We're celebrating the accomplishments of literally thousands of people who over the years helped build the kind of Center we have today," said Don Nakanishi, the Asian

American Studies Center director. "The Center has never been a simple, one-dimensional program and in some ways it's hard to describe in words."

Boasting a newly established B.A. major in Asian American Studies, the UCLA program also offers as many as 60 classes a year, an M.A. program, a faculty of 16 tenure-track professors and 22 other tenure-track professors holding appointments from other UCLA schools, while specializing in Asian American Studies research.

The Center also publishes the oldest interdisciplinary journal in Asian American Studies, *Amerasia Journal*.

In addition, the Center has been increasing its ties with with civil rights organizations, community service agencies and arts groups in an effort to merge campus and community.

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Artist Darryl Mar's postmodern vision of 25 years of Asian American Studies — the completed mural is now mounted on the third floor wall of Campbell Hall adjacent to the Asian American Studies Center's main office (see story on page 7).

# UCLA's Asian American Studies Center: A Very Special Place

By Don T. Nakanishi  
Director, Asian American Studies Center

On behalf of students, staff, and faculty of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, I extend our appreciation to the literally thousands of individuals, both at the university and in the community, who have helped make our Center a very special place.

We are honored that so many people during the past quarter century have worked so hard to create something special, namely the most outstanding and comprehensive Asian American Studies program in the nation.

During the past 12 months, we have organized a series of activities and programs at UCLA and throughout Southern California to showcase our wonderful academic and creative strengths, as well as the wide array of contributions that our Center has sought to make in research, teaching, publications, library and archival collections, student leadership development, and community and public service throughout its history.

The Center, indeed, has an extraordinary and far-reaching legacy — a legacy that would not be possible without the many special individuals and remarkable organizations that the Center has had the fortune to work with in the past 25 years. I would like to offer my sincerest congratulations and heartfelt thanks to those we honored at our recent 25th anniversary banquet: *Governor Benjamin Cayetano, Lilly V. Lee, Bill Sing, Hisaye Yamamoto DeSoto, Professor Edward Chang, and the Asian Pacific American Legal Center.* As we recognize their achievements and contributions, we are renewing our own commitment to the community.

Finally, in undertaking these 25th anniversary activities, we are equally interested in beginning the process of collectively strategizing our future goals and priorities. We fully realize that the next quarter century will be filled with new challenges and dynamic changes at the university, in Asian Pacific America, and in our society and world. With the launching of the Student and Community Programs Fund, we will continue to meet these challenges with vision and innovation. We hope you will join us in building our common future.

We thank all of you for supporting the Center during the past 25 years and look forward to working with you in the years to come.

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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, student perspectives, 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 (Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter) 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, Box 951546, 405 Hilgard Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1546; phone, (310) 825-2974; World Wide Web — [www.sscnet.ucla.edu/aasc](http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/aasc)

## Center Thanks Sponsors and Hundreds of Volunteers for September 14 Fund-Raising Dinner

On behalf of the Asian American Studies Center, Student/Community Projects Coordinator Meg Malpaya Thornton gratefully acknowledged the following sponsors for tables at the September 14 dinner:

**Platinum Sponsor (\$10,000):** Blue Cross of California.

**Gold Sponsors (\$2,000):** AT & T, Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc., George & Kimiko Nozawa Endowment, Deloitte & Touche, and Michael Eng, Esq.

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**Bronze Sponsors (\$1,000):** Bank of

America, Filipino American Chamber of Commerce, Angela Oh and Friends of Asian American Studies Center, Hughes Electronics, Nikkei Bruin Committee, UCLA University Relations, George Kiriya and Warren Furutani, and Alan Nishio.

**Friends Sponsors (\$600):** GTE, Hawaiian Inter-Club Council, KCBS, Asian American Journalists Association, Chinese Historical Society of Southern California, Pamana Foundation/PARRAL, Pilipino American Bar Association, UCLA MEDTEP Center for Asian Pacific American Medical Research, and Tritia Toyota.

**VIP Reception Sponsors:** Anheuser-Busch Companies and UCLA Asian Pacific Alumni.

**Political Roster Sponsors:** Pacific Telesis/

Pacific Bell, Congressman Norman Mineta, Chinese Americans United for Self Empowerment, and Japanese American Citizens League.

**Master of Ceremonies:** George Takei.

**Performers:** UCLA Han Ool Lim and Randy Chang, Grace Chee, and Tinig ng Samahang.

Center Director Don Nakanishi also thanked the hundreds of volunteers who helped with dinner planning. He expressed appreciation to Aileen Almeria and Alan Nishio for serving as co-chairs for the dinner and to UCLA alumni Trisha Murakawa and Ron Wong of the Lang, Murakawa, and Wong public relations firm for serving as consultants for the event.

# Celebrating 25 Years of Asian American Studies

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"The Center has achieved extraordinary national and international prominence," commented Nakanishi. "And yet also, what's amazing is that a lot of people who have been part of that history have come back for this event. Tonight is going to be the first time ever all four editors of *Amerasia Journal* (Lowell Chun-Hoon, Dick Osumi, Carolyn Yee, and Russell C. Leong) are together."

The September 14 celebration, in addition to linking past and present contributors to the Center, also honored five individuals considered pioneering Asian American leaders in their respective fields. One honoree, Gov. Benjamin Cayetano of Hawaii, served as keynote speaker.

Gov. Cayetano scored one of the biggest laughs of the evening, commenting how he watches the O.J. Simpson trial from Hawaii and was happy to see UCLA alumnus Judge Lance Ito join the night's festivities. He added, "Judge, as a former criminal defense attorney, you're doing just fine," a comment met with audience applause.

The first Pilipino American governor of Hawaii echoed in his keynote the words of John F. Kennedy: "Hawaii is what other states are striving to be." With 70 percent of its population people of color, Hawaii represents the most unique state in the nation, said Cayetano, and one that promotes an atmosphere of tolerance.

Immigration and affirmative action are not issues in Hawaii, as they are heatedly debated on the mainland. "Most Hawaiians support affirmative action in concept and in practice," he noted. "There is a feeling in Hawaii that it is American to allow the government to take action to help people have an equal place in the starting line." The audience applauded his statement.

Other honorees included award-winning author Hisaye Yamamoto; UC Riverside ethnic studies professor Edward Chang; Bill Sing, deputy business editor for the *Los Angeles Times*; Lilly Lee, a prominent businesswoman in local and international real estate investment; and the Asian Pacific American Legal Center.

Yamamoto, best known for her book, *Seventeen Syllables: Five Stories of Japanese American Life*, represented probably the most unassuming honoree, commenting to the *Rafu Shimpo*, "I could've been home watching Kung-fu."

The 74-year-old author had served as a columnist and editor for the *Poston Chronicle*, a campus newspaper, while interned in Poston, Arizona, during World War II. Following the war, Yamamoto worked at the



Center Director Don Nakanishi (left) congratulates honorees at 25th anniversary banquet (from left to right) Bill Sing, Governor Benjamin Cayetano, Hisaye Yamamoto, Lilly Lee, Edward Chang, and Stewart Kwoh. Photo by Jem Lew

African-American newspaper, the *Los Angeles Tribune*, and wrote articles for the *Rafu Shimpo*, *Pacific Citizen* and other publications.

Yamamoto has been writing since she was 14 and continues to write short stories. "When I first saw my words in print, it was intoxicating," she explained.

For Yamamoto, the work done by the Center is personally important to her, especially the publication of *Amerasia Journal*. "The journal has become an elegant reference for scholars everywhere," she said. "People interested in Asian American Studies come from all over the country and even Japan to consult UCLA. A lot of people count on it (the Center) being there."

If it weren't for the Asian American Studies Center, honoree Bill Sing never would have met KCBS anchorwoman Tritia Toyota, both of whom helped form the Asian American Journalist Association, which offers scholarships and other programs to aid Asian Americans in their pursuit of journalism careers.

Although Sing did not attend UCLA, he refers to the university as the birthplace of AAJA and he credited the Center's early publication, *Roots: An Asian American Reader*, for exposing him to articles on the Asian American experience.

Accepting the award for the Asian Pacific American Legal Center, honored for its civil rights contributions, executive director Stewart Kwoh gave credit to the Asian American Studies Center for turning out the

"best core of activists in Los Angeles."

Entrepreneur Lilly Lee, founder of Lilly Enterprises, Inc. and recognized for her philanthropy, said while her career focuses on business, she never forgets to help her Asian American community. "This is my family," she stated. "You do not walk away from your family."

Awarded for his academic contributions, especially in his research on Korean-African American relations, Professor Edward Chang said he was flattered to receive an award from the Center, where he has lectured and from which he received his masters degree.

But he added that while the Center has grown in the last 25 years, it has a long way to go in broadening its scope of membership from its current largely second- and third-generation Japanese and Chinese American membership.

"From the inception (the Center) focused on an entirely different set of issues, but now because of class, economic and ethnic restructuring, the Center is at a crossroads and has to change to address a new set of challenges," he said.

One challenge includes bringing in the participation of the Asian immigrant and refugee community. "Otherwise," he added, "Asian American Studies will not grow."

(Julie Ha is a staff member of the English Section of the *Rafu Shimpo* newspaper in Los Angeles. A graduate of UCLA, she served as editor-in-chief of *Pacific Ties* newsmagazine in 1993.)

## HONOREES

## Public Service – Governor Benjamin Cayetano



Benjamin J. Cayetano was elected in 1994 as the State of Hawaii's fifth governor and first of Filipino ancestry. A Democrat, he has been undefeated at the polls throughout his two decades in public office, winning seven elections between 1974 and 1994. He served twelve years in the Hawaii State Legislature — two terms in the House from 1975 to 1978 and two terms in the Senate from 1979 to 1986.

For four consecutive years, the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin* recognized him as one of "The Ten Most Effective Legislators," describing him as a "standout," a "watchdog" and "key shaper" of the Legislature. Long recognized as a leader in the movement for educational reform, he received the 1993 Award of Merit from the University of Hawaii's College of Education.

A few years ago, Governor Cayetano wrote a letter to the UCLA administration in support of the Asian Pacific Languages and Cultures Committee (APLCC) campaign to institute more Asian languages courses on campus. APLCC, a student-initiated group at UCLA, subsequently succeeded in getting new courses in Tagalog, Vietnamese, Thai and Hindi.

As a politician, Governor Cayetano is well respected for his integrity. "Ben is seen as a very serious individual," says U.S. Congressman Neil Abercrombie. "He's hard to work with because he's honest, tough and smart. You can't buy him. You can't threaten him. You can't push him around. He's scary to some people because they can't fool him. Yet he has a tremendous sense of humor, which he shows if you're not a phony."

In 1963, frustrated by a lack of opportunities for Filipinos in Hawaii, he left his family and moved to Los Angeles with his wife and two children. The following year when he saved enough money, he went back to school, attending Los Angeles Harbor College in Wilmington. He transferred to UCLA two years later, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from UCLA in 1968.

"It was a wonderful time to be in college," he recalls in an interview with *UCLA Magazine*. "It was the height of the civil rights movement, and we had some great rallies with speakers like Martin Luther King and Eugene McCarthy. And I remember thinking that what happened to me in Hawaii was really small potatoes compared to what was going on over here." These tumultuous times shaped his values and motivation to dedicate his life to public service. With a newfound commitment to public service, he went on to receive his law degree from Loyola University in Los Angeles in 1971.

Twenty-five years later, his record of accomplishments as a public servant received special recognition as the UCLA Alumni Association honored him in 1993 with an Award for Excellence, a recognition given to outstanding UCLA alumni.

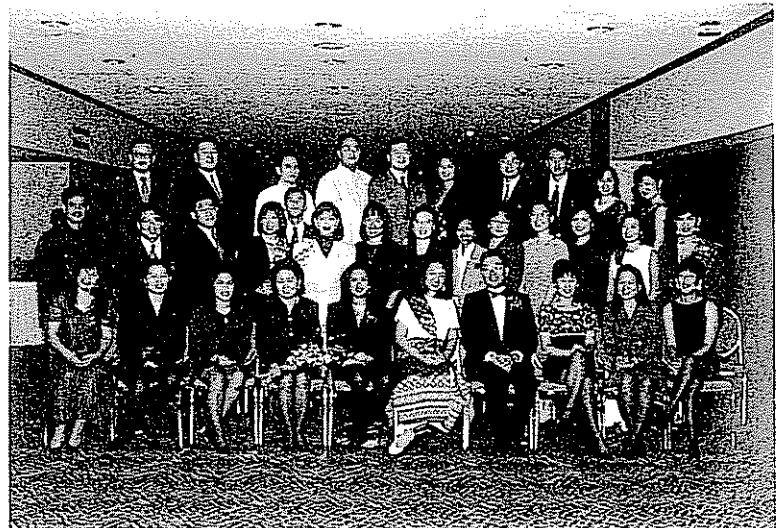
## Civil Rights – Asian Pacific American Legal Center

The Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC) is the leading organization in Southern California dedicated to providing our growing community with multilingual, culturally sensitive legal services, education, and civil rights support. It was founded in 1983 with broad community-based support. APALC's services include counseling, education and representation in the areas of family law and domestic violence, consumer law, immigration, government benefits, and housing. APALC is also involved in a wide range of civil rights issues, including hate crimes monitoring, language rights and accent discrimination, riot relief, and reapportionment. APALC's work is supported by volunteer attorneys, community members, the various Asian Pacific American bar associations, local law students and undergraduates.

Recently, it successfully lobbied the Los Angeles Police Department to actively recruit and to increase the number of Asian Pacific American officers on the force, where they have been historically underrepresented. Also, the Immigrant Advocates of APALC have consistently kept watch over and lobbied against the increasing number of legislation that both undermines the contributions of immigrants and restricts immigration.

According to *Los Angeles Times*, "In 1994, the center's 35-member staff, augmented by hundreds of volunteers, served 15,000 people and helped 3,000 become naturalized citizens. It also helped obtain settlements, ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000 for victims of the 1992 riots."

In addition, with programs like the Asian Pacific American Dispute Resolution Center and Leadership Development - Interethnic Relations (LDIR), the APALC has taken a leadership role in promoting collaboration with other ethnic groups, advocacy groups, and social service providers on a range of issues concerning the Los Angeles community at large. Along with the ACLU, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) and several other legal service organizations, APALC filed a lawsuit after the 1994 election against the implementation of the anti-immigrant Proposition 187.



## HONOREES

### Education - Edward T. Chang



Edward T. Chang is Assistant Professor in Ethnic Studies at the University of California at Riverside. He earned his B.A. (1982) in Sociology and Ph.D. (1990) in Ethnic Studies at UC Berkeley and his M.A. (1984) in Asian American Studies at UCLA.

Professor Chang's research interests include Korean American-African American relations, Asian-Latino relations, immigration, and race relations theories. He is considered one of the foremost interpreters of the 1992 Los Angeles civil unrest.

Professor Chang co-edited two volumes about the Los Angeles civil unrest: *Los Angeles: Struggles toward Multiethnic Community* (University of Washington Press, 1995) and *Building Multiethnic Coalitions* (Regina Books, 1995). He is also the author of a best-selling Korean-language book, *Who Are the African Americans?*

Professor Chang's scholarly and community work represents his commitment to build bridges between the Korean immigrant community and the diverse populations that surrounds it — a commitment that began when he decided to obtain a master's degree in Asian American Studies at UCLA. "The reason I went into the master's program was to understand more about Asian American history and its relevance to the Korean immigrant experience. I was able to do that and it laid the foundation for my doctoral work," he wrote in his master's thesis. "I was also able to better understand how the issues of the Asian American community are linked to the issues of the Korean American community."

### Business - Lilly V. Lee

Lilly V. Lee was born in the original site of Los Angeles Chinatown, at what is now Union Station. She started Lilly Enterprise, Inc. and Lilly Property Management Company in 1972. These two companies are now owned by her sons, Randal James and Craig Michael, both of whom attended UCLA. She recently formed Lilly International, Inc. to take advantage of her vast local and international networks to form strategic partnerships in new business ventures and real estate investments.

What is most inspiring about her as a businesswoman is her unyielding commitment to community service. "You are not a human being unless you can extend your hand and your heart to another," she says. "It's in the giving that keeps you healthy." Lilly lives true to her philosophy. She lends her business expertise by serving on the advisory boards of many organizations. Last year, she founded the Asian Pacific Women's Center, Inc. to provide transitional housing for battered women and children.

Lilly's commitment goes beyond the Asian American communities. Racial prejudice has always been a great concern to her. By serving on business and community boards with different people, she believes everyone can benefit from the interaction. Especially at this time of recession and anti-immigrant sentiments, Lilly feels a sense of responsibility to build bridges to different communities.



### Arts - Hisaye Yamamoto DeSoto



Hisaye Yamamoto DeSoto was born in 1921 in Redondo Beach, California. She has been writing for publication since she was 14 when she first published in the *Kashu Mainichi*. From 1942, Hisaye was interned for three years at Poston, Arizona. During that time, she wrote for and sometimes edited the *Poston Chronicle*, a camp newspaper.

After the war, she worked for the *Los Angeles Tribune*, an African American newspaper, and also contributed to the *Rafu Shimpo*,

*Crossroads*, *Pacific Citizen* and literary magazines.

Like many post-war Japanese American writers, Hisaye's stories recount the internment experience. "It is an episode in our collective life which wounded us more painfully than we realize," she wrote once. In spite of rampant anti-Japanese sentiment even after the war, Hisaye's stories were recognized for their truth and passion, and she became one of the first Japanese American writers to gain national recognition. Her work appeared in venerable journals and anthologies, such as *Partisan Review*, *Harper's Bazaar* and *Best American Short Stories*. She is the author of *Seventeen Syllables: and Other Stories* (Kitchen Table Press) and the winner of the American Book Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Before Columbus Foundation.

Hisaye met her husband, Paul DeSoto, in 1953 when she was in New York volunteering for a *Catholic Worker* community farm. They were married two years later. After returning to Los Angeles, Hisaye became mother to their four children. Now in her seventies, Hisaye has not stopped writing.

### Media - Bill Sing

When *Los Angeles Times* business reporter Bill Sing and five other journalists formed the Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA) in 1981, times were tough. Few Asian Americans were working at the nation's mainstream newspapers, magazines and broadcast stations.

Under Bill's leadership as the organization's first national president, AAJA changed these conditions. AAJA offered scholarships and programs, encouraging hundreds of students to pursue journalism careers.

And now Bill sees the organization he co-founded grow to include more than 1,000 working journalists in about 15 chapters nationwide.

Highly regarded in his field, Bill credits much of his growth as an Asian American and journalist to programs such as the UCLA Asian American Studies Center. While earning a bachelor's degree in economics from Stanford University in 1979, Bill was inspired by *Roots: An Asian American Reader*, the Center's first anthology.

Now at 37, Bill's own career has mirrored the advancement of other Asian Americans in the field of journalism. As Deputy Business Editor at the *Los Angeles Times*, Bill oversees the daily operations of a staff of about 50 reporters and editors covering everything from worldwide financial shocks to the travails of the Southern California economy.



## Daily Breeze Newspaper Spotlights Center's Work

The spotlight was on the UCLA Asian American Studies Center in a feature story in the *Daily Breeze* newspaper, which is distributed in Southbay communities such as Gardena and Torrance in Los Angeles County. Reporter Pamela Stone wrote the lengthy article appearing October 22, 1995.

For her article, Stone interviewed several students associated with our Center, faculty such as History Professor Henry Yu, Center Director Don Nakanishi, and Assistant Director Enrique Dela Cruz.

Stone's story focused on the impact of Asian American Studies on the more than 2,000 students taking classes at UCLA each year. Among students featured in the article were senior Quynh Nguyen; and recent graduate Trang Nguyen, a former student assistant with the Center.

Stone retold Quynh's story of leaving Saigon at age six in 1979 with her parents and two sisters, Tram, age four, and Zy, two. The family escaped in a fishing boat with 16 other people. After eight days at sea they arrived in Thailand, and one year later came to America.

According to Stone, the Nguyen family

found the American myth rather than the American dream. However, Quynh, now 21, has gained insights about her life from her classes in Asian American Studies. She is also active in the campus Asian Pacific Coalition and was one of the student leaders who fought successfully to gain four new Southeast Asian language classes at UCLA — Vietnamese, Thai, Hindi, and Tagalog.

Meanwhile, Quynh's sister, Tram, now serves as editor of *Pacific Ties* newsmagazine, the oldest Asian Pacific student-run publication in the nation. The youngest sister, Zy, is also now a UCLA student.

Also interviewed by Stone was recent UCLA graduate Trang Nguyen, who is a graduate student in public health at Columbia University. A refugee from Vietnam, Trang described her appreciation of classes she has taken through our Center. "It (Asian American Studies) has given me a sense of identity and impacted me as an individual," she stated.

In June 1995, Trang was among 12 students graduating with an undergraduate major in Asian American Studies — the first graduating class at UCLA.

## Center Names New IAC Postdoctoral and Predoctoral Research Fellows

Filmmaker John Esaki is serving as the Center's 1995-96 post-doctoral fellow through the Institute of American Cultures (IAC). The fellowship will help Esaki with his latest project, an investigation of the role of organized athletics in the development of Asian Pacific American communities.

Esaki is a pioneer Asian American filmmaker. In 1980 he co-wrote with UCLA Film and Television Professor Robert Nakamura *Hito Hata: Raise the Banner*, a depiction of Japanese American history. His last production was *Maceo: Demon Drummer from East Los Angeles*, a documentary produced in 1993 about a young Chicano in a Japanese taiko drum group.

While at UCLA, Esaki will work closely with Professor Robert Nakamura, Associate Director of our Center, and Russell C. Leong, editor of *Amerasia Journal*, to help develop courses and train media fellows in community media.

"John brings to our Center a 20-year history as a documentary community filmmaker," stated Leong. "He is conversant with small format video and film techniques. But most important, through his interest in

social and political history and media, he's expanding Asian American scholarship."

Awarded IAC pre-doctoral fellowships were three women: Celine Salazar Parreñas, Sojin Kim, and Julie Cho.

Celine Salazar Parreñas holds a B.A. in Ethnic Studies from UC Berkeley and is now pursuing her MFA in Film and Television. The fellowship will be for her film project, "Super Flip: Feminizing Pilipino American History."

Sojin Kim graduated from Brown University and is now in the UCLA graduate program in Folklore and Mythology. Her project explores how conceptions of neighborhood, community, and territory are connected through signs, graffiti, and murals in Los Angeles Koreatown, Silver Lake, Highland Park, and El Sereno.

Julie Cho graduated from Bryn Mawr College and is now working on her MFA in Film/Television Production at UCLA. Her film project examines the role of early Korean American immigrant women in the Korean independence movement. She will be collaborating with the Korean American Museum here in Los Angeles.

## Prof. Yuji Ichioka Honored by Historical Society



The Japanese American Historical Society of Southern California recently honored UCLA historian Yuji Ichioka for his contributions to preserving the cultural heritage of Japanese Americans. Professor Ichioka is an Adjunct Associate Professor in the UCLA History Department and a Senior Research Associate in our Center.

He is the author of numerous articles and the book, *The Issue: The World of the First Generation Japanese Immigrants, 1885-1924*, considered the authoritative work on early Japanese American history.

## Aratani Family Gives Major Gifts to Center

George and Sakaye Aratani of Los Angeles have provided over \$175,000 to the Center to establish two endowment funds in support of Japanese American Studies at UCLA. One fund will enable a Japanese American undergraduate to intern with a Japanese American community organization, while the other will support graduate students who are undertaking research on Japanese Americans.

George Aratani is the Chairman Emeritus of Kenwood Electronics and the Mikasa Corporation. He is known for his involvement in Japanese American organizations, particularly the Keiro Nursing Home and the Japanese American National Museum. Sakaye Aratani also actively participates in a number of groups.

"George and Sakaye Aratani's commitment to the Japanese American community over the decades has been extraordinary," said Center Director Don Nakanishi. "We are thrilled that their generosity will insure that future generations of UCLA students will have opportunities to research and to be involved in the continued growth of that community."

## Los Angeles Times Highlights Work of Chancee Martorell

The *Los Angeles Times* recently profiled the work of Chanchanit (Chancee) Martorell, executive director of the Thai Community Development Center in Los Angeles, who is "speaking for the silent" in the Thai community.

During the past several months, Chancee has helped Thai immigrants who were found by California labor investigators living and working in conditions of slavery in garment sweatshops in El Monte in Los Angeles County.

According to an August 23 story written by *Times* reporter Peter Y. Hong, Chancee has helped the group of several dozen Thai women to find lawyers, gain backwages from garment makers, and secure new housing and jobs.

Chancee holds an M.A. from UCLA in Urban Planning and teaches the Asian American Studies Center's "Thai American Experience" class, the only class of its kind in the U.S.

## Seven New M.A. Theses Produced by Center Grads

Seven new pathbreaking research theses have been completed by graduates of our Center's M.A. program:

*Arthur Ago*, "Filipino Amerasian Politics in the United States and Olongapo, Philippines."

*Jeffrey Kin Wah Chang*, "Lessons of Tolerance: Ethnicity, the Local and Affirmative Action in Hawai'i."

*Mariquita Athena Davison*, "Filipina Nurses — Voices of Struggle and Determination."

*Yasuko Kawarasaki*, "Negative Stereotypes of Japanese War Brides: An Outburst of Japanese Frustration."

*James Siu-Fong Lai*, "At the Threshold of the Golden Door — Ethnic Politics and Pan-Asian Pacific American Coalition Building: A Case Study of the Special 1991 California 46th Assembly District Primary Election."

*James Kyung-Jin Lee*, "'What Was Given, Given Over?' Competing Subjectivities in Myung Mi Kim's 'Into Such Assembly.'"

*Hirohiko Nakafuji*, "A Study of Overseas Japanese Nationals' Voting Rights Movements: The Case of the Japanese Overseas Voters Association (JOVA) in Los Angeles."

According to librarian Marji Lee, our master's program in Asian American Studies has thus far produced 48 theses, most of which are housed in the Reading Room.

## Artist Darryl Mar Finishes Fifth Mural in Two Years

# Students Unveil Mural Marking 25 Years of Asian American Studies



Graduate student Darryl Mar (right) applies finishing touches to mural now mounted on third-floor wall of Campbell Hall.  
Photo by Andy Cho

A mural marking 25 years of Asian American Studies was unveiled recently in the third floor hallway of Campbell Hall, home of the Asian American Studies Center.

Artist Darryl Mar, a graduate student in the Center's M.A. program, headed the project, which mobilized UCLA students during the past six months to work on all facets of mural production — from design to fund-raising to painting.

Members of a UCLA student group, Concerned Asian Pacific Students for Action (CAPSA), spearheaded the project, which also involved Center staff and community supporters. The mural was funded by the Center as well as from individual donations collected by students.

The mural shows scenes of Civil Rights struggles from the Battle of Wounded Knee to the more recent 1994 UC Riverside student fight for an Asian American Studies department. According to CAPSA member Andy Cho who worked on the project from start to finish, the mural shows that members of the Asian American community have taken part in the struggle for the rights of communities of color, standing side by side with groups like American Indians.

"Through doing this project, it gave me a firm ground again in dealing with the community," Darryl told *Rafu Shimpo* reporter Julie Ha. "The Center nurtures this inclination to pursue community work and projects outside the university."

To create the mural, Darryl supervised

an Asian American Studies independent study course during Spring Quarter 1995 to introduce students to the process of conceptualizing public art, fund-raising, purchasing materials, and actually painting the mural.

Along with fellow graduate student Tony Osumi, Darryl also created the mural "Remember Our Roots" on the wall of Si Yeon Restaurant in Los Angeles Koreatown and a mural commemorating the struggle for ethnic studies for Asian American student groups at UC Riverside. Darryl also designed an Asian American historical mural for the UC Irvine Asian Pacific Student Association that is on display in the campus Student Union.

Darryl's most recent project was a three-story mural in San Francisco Chinatown at the Ping Yuen housing project, corner of Stockton Street and Pacific Avenue. The mural was funded by the Mural Resource Center in San Francisco and involved the input of immigrant residents at the housing project.

In recognition of his accomplishments, Darryl was also recently awarded one of a limited number of grants from the Multicultural Entry Program through the California Arts Council. The grant is for one year but is renewable for three years.

Under the terms of the grant, Darryl will be helping nonprofit community groups with arts projects and providing workshops for students and community residents.

## Have Asian American Students Benefited from Affirmative Action?

By Ayako Hagihara, UCLA Asian Pacific Coalition

Many Asian Pacific Islander students, particularly those of East Asian ancestry, perceive affirmative action as a program that hurts them or as a "black-and-white issue" that does not affect them. But how many students know the importance of having an Asian American history professor who in addition to teaching mainstream American history also helps them get in touch with their own history? How many students can truly say that their experiences in high school and college have not been enriched by the presence and knowledge of Black, Latino, American Indian, and other Asian Pacific American students in class? How many students know that of the \$4 billion of government contracts California gives out, a mere 12% goes to women and minority contractors?

In July 1995, the Regents of the University of California — overriding the opinions of all the UC Chancellors and UC President and many faculty and university staff — voted to discontinue the use of race, ethnicity, and gender as additional criteria in admissions and hiring. Currently, the Adarand Proposal in the U.S. Senate proposes to cut affirmative action in all federal institutions and programs. In November 1996, California voters will be faced with the California "Civil Rights" Initiative, which will eliminate affirmative action in all state-run programs. These systematic attacks are part of a conservative, right-wing agenda in which laws and propositions such as Proposition 187, the Personal Responsibilities Act, and H.R. 2202 target women, children, people of color, and immigrants as scapegoats for the economic problems that beset American society today.

The UCLA Asian Pacific Coalition realizes that in the midst of this political climate and specifically the affirmative action debate, Asian Pacific Islander students must not allow other forces to shape our issue or ignore our needs altogether. We must define and articulate for ourselves the role of Asian Pacific Islanders in this debate and the effects of affirmative action policies on our particular communities.

The Asian Pacific Coalition supports the retention of affirmative action in university admissions and in the work force. We also support the considerations of race/ethnicity, gender, and socioeconomic status because racism still exists in our society. We recognize, however, that there is a need for improvement and revision in affirmative action where we are often excluded. The Asian Pacific Islander community is diverse, with distinct needs and issues. The lumping of our communities ignores and disregards this diversity and our respective concerns. In addition, numerical "parity" does not necessarily translate into equality. The "model minority" myth contributes to this misconception by ignoring the problems which persist in our communities. Although Asian Pacific Islanders have been comprising 40% of the incoming freshman class for the past several years at UCLA, we are largely underrepresented in the curriculum. Only last year did we get an undergraduate major in Asian American Studies.

Asian Pacific Coalition at UCLA is part of the Affirmative Action Coalition, made up of student organizations, student government, and labor unions. We seek equality and justice for the underrepresented groups in society and particularly on the UCLA campus.



Staff members of UCLA Asian Pacific Coalition (left to right): front row, Community Outreach Director Shingly Lee, Financial Supports Director Kimberly Giep, Women's Programmer Jung-Eun Son; back row, APC Director Levin Sy, and External Director Ayako Hagihara.

## Center Launches Educational Campaign on Affirmative Action

Due to the current controversy surrounding affirmative action, the Asian American Studies Center has set as a priority community education about the impact of the controversy on Asian Americans. According to Center Assistant Director Enrique Dela Cruz, the Center is offering two special courses this academic year: one on the impact of affirmative action on Asian Americans in higher education, to be taught by researcher and graduate student Raul Ebio; and an Asian American Social Movements course about the impact of the controversy on the community, to be taught by Center staff Glenn Omatsu.

In addition to the above courses, Dela Cruz noted that several lecturers have added projects relating to the affirmative action controversy to their course syllabi. For example, Eric Wat's two-quarter Asian American leadership development course examined UCLA admissions procedures in the wake of the Regents' decision abolishing affirmative action. Similarly, the Asian Americans and Law course taught by Stewart Kwoh and Kent Wong examined the impact of affirmative action on Asian Americans in employment and college admissions.

Faculty and senior staff have also actively defended affirmative action. Faculty in the Academic Senate have protested the Regents' vote and called for reconsideration of the matter. Meanwhile, Center Assistant Director Dela Cruz, who is also a vice-president of Asian Pacific Americans for Higher Education, has testified at several state hearings.

## Pacific Ties Newsmagazine Begins 18th Year of Publication

*Pacific Ties*, UCLA's Asian Pacific Islander newsmagazine, has entered its 18th year of publication, making it the oldest Asian American campus newspaper. *Pacific Ties* is published six times yearly. The current issue includes a special section on the impact of the immigration debate on Asian American communities. Also featured are essays by two past editors: Abe Ferrer, now with Visual Communications, who edited *Pacific Ties* in 1981; and Julie Ha, now a reporter with the *Rafu Shimpo*, who was editor in 1993.

Editor-in-chief Tram Nguyen is a senior with extensive background in journalism. Last year she served as news editor for the campus *Daily Bruin*. According to Tram, *Pacific Ties* is continuing its mission: "to speak the many voices of Asian Americans with insight, honesty and thoughtfulness." For more information, contact *Pacific Ties* at (310) 825-1004.



# Defending Affirmative Action Requires Vision and Action

By Glenn Omatsu

In the early 1960s, the late Martin Luther King, Jr., dreamed of a world where people would be judged by the content of their character, not the color of their skin.

Significantly today, neo-conservatives attack affirmative action by quoting Rev. King's words — but carefully avoiding the context of their meanings. According to neo-conservatives, affirmative action means racial preferences for minorities, thus emphasizing skin color and not qualifications. Ending affirmative action, they contend, will promote the colorblind society that Rev. King dreamed about.

The Right's manipulation of Rev. King's words to attack affirmative action is part of a strategic battle plan. The focus is not really affirmative action but a much broader assault on all the reforms stemming from the Civil Rights Movement. However, the Right is not powerful enough to wage a frontal attack on Civil Rights as a whole. That's why it targets only one reform — affirmative action — while distorting the language of Civil Rights to spread confusion and promote divisiveness.

Understanding the Right's battle plan enables us to devise a counterstrategy to defend affirmative action. Our strategy today cannot simply focus on affirmative action. Our strategy needs to emphasize the original vision behind all the reforms emerging from the Civil Rights Movement. This vision inspired millions of people to courageously confront powerful oppressors. This vision is embodied in the words and actions of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Rev. King's vision was powerful not because he dreamed of a world free of racism and oppression but because he acted to achieve his dream. Through militant nonviolence, he mobilized people of all races to repudiate racism, poverty, and exploitation.

Racism in America, Rev. King realized, did not exist merely as beliefs and attitudes in people's heads. American racism was primarily institutional. Due to America's peculiar history of genocide and slavery, racism permeated this nation's social structures through laws, policies, and practices. Thus, to end racism, Rev. King called upon people to dismantle institutional barriers facing minorities in housing, education, employment, health care, and voting and politics.

By the mid-1960s, Rev. King expanded his analysis of the historical and institutional roots of racism in America. He linked racial

oppression to economic exploitation and poverty, and began to speak of the struggle against racism as not only involving civil rights but human rights.

During the last year of his life, Rev. King's analysis broadened even more to encompass questions of worldwide war and peace. He placed the issues of racism and poverty in a global context, connecting them to the legacy of western colonialism.

Thus, the vision advanced by Rev. King defined the Civil Rights Movement as part of a worldwide movement: the uprisings of the poor and the powerless, the excluded and the oppressed, to gain equality, freedom, and dignity.

Rev. King's words and actions provide us the framework for understanding both the accomplishments of the Civil Rights Movement as well as its unfinished agenda. Reforms such as affirmative action expanded democracy in America, creating new opportunities for minorities and women. But the reforms were only the first steps in dismantling institutional racism and sexism. Moreover, reforms like affirmative action were not ends in themselves but means to reach greater concerns: the basic demands for human rights such as decent housing, health care, jobs, and education. These concerns remain the unfinished agenda of the Civil Rights Movement.

Today, defending affirmative action provides us the opportunity to rearticulate these broader demands. Our struggle is not merely a defense of programs for minorities

— it is part of a larger effort to win human rights for all.

Understanding affirmative action in this way also enables us to once again ask fundamental questions about the structure of power and oppression in America. Back in the 1960s, the rationalization constantly used by those in power to deny demands for human rights was the lack of funds and resources due to the Cold War and the need to maintain high levels of military spending in America.

Today, the Cold War is over. But the so-called peace dividend never materialized for human needs. Instead, funds were rapidly redirected to help increase profits of corporations, thus widening the gap between the rich and the rest of us.

Were Rev. King alive today, he would understand this time period very well. He would link the attack on affirmative action by the Right to the growth of corporate power and the overall assault on living standards. He would remind us that the only way to defeat this attack is through mass mobilization — not only in defense of specific reforms but for the unfinished agenda of the Civil Rights Movement.

This is our challenge today. How we respond will hinge on our understanding of the legacy of the Civil Rights Movement: namely, our capacity to link vision with action, and our ability to connect defense of specific reforms to the fight for human rights. Ultimately, this is what Rev. King meant by the "content of character."



Graphic by Tony Osumi

## Darlene Rodrigues Hired by Cal State Fullerton

By Eric C. Wat

Darlene Rodrigues is not a novice when it comes to teaching. Even as a second-year M.A. student in our Asian American Studies program last year, Darlene was a teaching assistant for Asian American Studies 100A. This summer, she directed and co-taught in our collaborative summer program at University of Hawaii. But her new job as the first instructor of Asian American Studies at California State University Fullerton (CSUF) has given her a new challenge as a teacher.

"Because it's the first Asian American Studies class, the students are very hungry for anything Asian American," said Darlene. "It's fulfilling a great void in curriculum and in their lives as well. This makes it more rewarding. But it also challenges me when students are this ready to engage. There is this Filipina student who was so blown away because I am the first Filipina teacher that she ever had."

CSUF already has an Afro-American Studies and a Chicano Studies Program. And the establishment of an Asian American Studies minor seems only logical, considering the increasing population of Asian Americans in Orange County. Yet, the new minor, housed under the American Studies Department, represents more than two years of hard work by Asian American faculty, students and staff at CSUF. According to Ellen Junn, a Child Development faculty and one of the key members of the Asian Faculty and Staff Association at CSUF who "nursed" the minor along, much work still needs to be done — including the formation of an Asian American Studies Council, development of stronger links with community groups, increasing student awareness of the minor, and working with faculty to develop more Asian American Studies courses.

With all this work ahead, the hiring committee realized that they needed someone with more than just teaching experiences. But the selection process proved easier than they anticipated.

"Darlene demonstrated a strong mixture of academic interests, community concerns, and experience in program-building and fieldwork, all of which should prove extremely helpful in establishing our new minor," said Leila Zenderland, American Studies professor and chair of the hiring committee. "We are very pleased to be able to add her to our faculty."

Darlene recognizes that she has more than just her knowledge of Asian American Studies to contribute to the program. "People are looking at UCLA for curriculum development and resources. My connections with the Center will help me with this work," she said. "It is important that our Center remains accessible to other campuses. Units like the Reading Room are assets for other people to draw upon."

This semester, Darlene teaches American Studies 320: Introduction to Asian American Studies. With an enrollment of about 30 students, it is already one of the more popular upper-division courses in the department. Next semester, she will offer another course, this time on Asian American Cultural Expression — a subject very close to her heart, both as a writer and a literary critic.

The minor at CSUF also has a positive effect on the Asian American student population. "The class is very refreshing," said student Helen Chon, a member of Korean Student Association at CSUF. "I think it fosters a sense of unity among my peers. We get to learn what is common in our history and it enables us to work together on current issues that affect all of us, for example, establishing an Asian American Studies Department."

(Eric C. Wat serves as Assistant Coordinator of Student/Community Projects in the UCLA Asian American Studies Center and teaches a two-quarter student leadership development course. He is also a second-year graduate student in American Studies at California State University, Fullerton.)



## College of Letters & Science Provides Counseling for Students Interested in Asian American Studies

Dawn Mabalon, a first-year graduate student in our Center's M.A. program, has been hired by the College of Letters & Science as a Counselor's Assistant. She can assist undergraduates majoring or specializing in Asian American Studies and field inquiries about our Center's M.A. program.

Dawn works at the Letters & Science Counseling Office: Mondays, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Wednesdays, 9 to 11 a.m.; and Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Students are instructed to make appointments with her at Window #1, A-316 Murphy Hall.

Dawn can assist students to plan their degree progress in Asian American Studies, help them choose classes, provide information about the B.A. and specialization programs, assist with graduate school planning, provide preference enrollment for qualified students, and provide general Letters & Science advising.

## 1996 Research Roundtable to Focus on Asian Pacific Youth

Issues relating to youth will be the focus of the 1996 Asian Pacific American Community Research Roundtable which will be held Friday, April 12, 1996, at California State University, Los Angeles.

The eighth annual event will bring together researchers, students, and community-based organizations to identify research needs, share research findings, and generate student interest in community-oriented projects.

The planning committee is currently seeking proposals for presentations. For more information, contact the following members of the planning committee:

Meg Thornton at the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, (310) 825-1006, meg@ucla.edu; Gena Lew of LEAP, (213) 485-1422, genalew@aol.com; Jeff Murakami at USC, (213) 740-4999, jeff@stuaff.usc.edu; or George Umezawa at California State University, Los Angeles, (213) 343-3380, gumezawa@calstatela.edu

## Hawaii Summer Program to Be Held June 27 to August 5, 1996

The Asian American Studies Center and UCLA Summer Sessions are now recruiting for the Hawaii summer program to be held June 27 to August 5, 1996. Offered in cooperation with the University of Hawaii, the program provides eight units of credit for students to study the multicultural Asian Pacific community in Hawaii. The two-course curriculum with an optional independent study involves field trips, lectures, and interships.

The summer program is directed by Darlene Rodrigues, a recent graduate of our Center's M.A. program.

For more information, call Dr. John Accomando of UCLA Summer Sessions, (310) 794-8307. Financial aid is available to qualified students.

## A Letter to My Parents

# Why I'm Majoring in Asian American Studies

By Gee Lim

*Dear Mother and Father:*

I know that you are very unhappy with my decision to make Asian American Studies my major at UCLA. I remember your reaction when I first told you. "What is Asian American Studies?" you asked. "Why can't you pick something useful like dentistry or engineering? How will you support yourself?" I know you are concerned, and I am writing this letter to help you understand why Asian American Studies is so important to my life. Let me try to explain.

I am hot dog fried rice — a misbegotten item on the menu of race in America. From a short distance away, others can see that I am characteristically Chinese with my foundation of rice. But when they look closer, they will see the putty red bits of the "All-American" hot dog interlaced within my dish in a confusing combination of two cultures. In either case, I am considered by Chinese to be an American entree and by Americans to be a Chinese dish — neither one of them accepting me truly as a member of their own. With the likes of chop suey, almond jello, and the fortune cookie, I stand within the peculiar classification known as "Asian American."

Born here in America, the first thing I realized about myself was that I was different from others. I noticed that few people outside of our family looked like I did, spoke like me, or related to the experiences I had. As I grew older, I became embarrassed about my Chinese heritage. Due to my desire for acceptance from my friends, I dodged anything that was related to our culture outside of our home. I wanted so much to be accepted as a "normal" white American boy that I did anything to accomplish this dream — even denying my Chinese self. I only wanted to be seen eating "typical" American lunches like sandwiches made of Wonder bread, Kraft American cheese, Oscar Mayer baloney, and Miracle Whip.

I also began to ridicule my own culture. At the time I thought it was one way that I could become an accepted member of American society. In the end — at the cost of denying my true identity and contributing to the propagation of negative stereotypes — I thought I was "normal."

My first introduction to a realistic conception about myself came from the two

**Asian American Studies has opened my eyes to my family and to ways that I can help my community.**

of you. In our arguments about my negative views of Chinese culture, both of you would say: "Why don't you look in the mirror, YOU are not one of them . . . YOU are not white. YOU are Chinese." At the time, I just thought that the two of you did not understand what it was like to be growing up in America. How could you compare your experiences as children in Hong Kong to my life in America? I dismissed your arguments as part of your "traditional" Chinese thinking that was not applicable here in the United States.

However, as I grew older, I finally awakened to the reality that I am an individual of Chinese descent living in a majority white America. With the help of classes in Asian American Studies — first introduced to me by my sister — I began to understand what was behind the term "chink," the hateful stares, and the racist stereotypes. More important, your words of wisdom and my education in Asian American Studies have revealed to me that my distinct heritage is not something to be ashamed of. On the contrary, it is a deep source of pride. It was at this momentous point in my existence that I "looked in the mirror" and liked what I saw. For the first time in my life, I felt whole.

I know that when I recently announced my decision to major in Asian American Studies, the two of you were not happy. I was disappointed by your reaction. I could not understand how the two of you could oppose something so fundamentally important to the life of your son. As I talked to you, I did not expect that your main concern would center on money. From your reasoning, you believe that with a major in Asian American Studies, I will not be able to find a good job to support my future family. I also understand that as parents, you desire for your children more than you ever had.

However, I believe that there is another unspoken reason behind your hope for my financial success. I have come to understand that you see my accomplishments as your accomplishments. In other words, at the time when I reach that level of income that you consider to be prosperous, all your sacrifices, love, and struggles will have true meaning.

I can tell you now that all the efforts that you put into raising me were not done in vain. In fact, as parents, the two of you already have reason to be proud and to celebrate. If you look at my life from a slightly different angle, both of you will see that I have already succeeded. Not only am I fortunate to have your love, I have acquired the most important gift of all from the two of you: the gift of becoming a "successful" human being.

It does not take money to succeed — to find true success, you must look inside the person. To me, success means compassion, sharing, living freely, learning to smile, to cry, to touch, and to learn. I now know that I was not born with these qualities. In fact, it was the two of you who instilled them within me. They were nurtured through your love.

I am beginning to understand that as parents your worries are eternal. But please don't look at my major in Asian American Studies as only a scholarly category of study or the choice of confused students seeking their identity. Asian American Studies gives me a sense of self-esteem and cultural pride. But it also gives me the opportunity to form many lifelong friendships with others who share my interests. And most important, it has opened my eyes to my family and to ways that I can help my community.

Be happy. There is much to be satisfied about. Then, at the same time, there is yet still much to be accomplished. All this is not to say that I will become rich. It is only saying that there is more to life than simply money — there is life itself. Combined with the guidance and love from the two of you and the education offered to me through Asian American Studies, my life is destined for greatness. See you at my graduation.

Your Son

(Gee Lim is a UCLA undergraduate majoring in Asian American Studies.)

# Domestic Violence and Pilipino Americans:

## A Problem Requiring a Solution

By Annalisa Enrile

She is 21 and a UCLA student, but to look at her you would guess she was only 14 or 15. With her long, black hair unbound and hiding an un-made up face, she has the look of a child. But when she looked at me, the intensity in her dark eyes reminded me that she was a woman, and one who had survived insurmountable odds.

Her voice is soft, so soft that I know my tape recorder cannot possibly catch it. But it is the strong and clear voice of a Pilipina woman.

*"My name is Lyn. I'm in college now, but it wasn't always like that. I was living in San Francisco at the time, still in high school. He was the only one I ever loved and I wanted so much for it to work. And at first, it did. I mean he was everything that I wanted but then things changed when I left for school. We started to fight and then he started to hurt me. The first time he hit me, I blamed it on the circumstances. I thought, 'he's just stressed because he started school.' I knew he didn't mean it."*

Lyn is one of the millions of women battered every year in the U.S. While there are no statistics on how many Pilipina women are abused by their partners, it is an urgent problem that the community must face. Litigator Jacqueline Agtuca conducted a study in San Francisco from 1991 to 1992 and found that all the Pilipinas murdered in those two years were killed by their husbands or boyfriends. The fact is that domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women, causing more injuries than muggings, stranger rapes, and car accidents combined.

Lyn thought it couldn't happen to her. When it did, she thought that it was a once in a lifetime occurrence. She was wrong.

*"He hit me again. I blamed it on myself, that I was pushing things too far. I began to keep away from my friends and even my family. I didn't want to tell anyone because it was nakakahiya*

***"He hit me again. I blamed it on myself, that I was pushing things too far. I began to keep away from my friends and even my family. I didn't want to tell anyone because it was nakakahiya (shameful) . . ."***

*(shameful), and I thought I had to make the best of things. If I loved him, I would make it work, right?"*

Pilipino cultural values such *hiya* (shame), *pakikisama* (getting along), and *utang ng loob* (debt of gratitude) make domestic violence invisible in the Pilipino American community. Family matters are private matters, and that is all there is to it. Thus, there is a severe lack of discussion on the subject of domestic violence in the community. If it is not addressed soon enough, the community is in danger of more deaths and continuing cycles of abuse. What we must remember is that even if it is a cycle, there are ways to break it. It doesn't have to continue.

In Lyn's case, she was lucky. She left her boyfriend. The last time he hit her almost landed her in the hospital. The only reason she didn't go was because she was too scared.

*"I knew then that I had to get out. But I didn't know where to go. But even if there was a shelter, I don't know if I would go. I don't know how I could have talked about it. So I went back to school in Los Angeles and tried to rebuild my life.*

*"But you know what? It isn't as easy as I've made it look. But because I've made it seem so easy, no one wants to bring up my past. I've never really talked about it. There are some times that I think everything I've managed to attain here at UCLA will disappear and I'll be this little*

*girl begging to be loved all over again. I guess it really is one day at a time. But some days still feel like forever, and I still feel alone."*

Even though Lyn is no longer in an abusive relationship, she lives in constant confusion. There was never anyone for her to talk to. She simply picked up the pieces of her life because that was what she was expected to do. This doesn't mean that she was healed. It only means that she was able to leave the situation. Lyn and other women like her deserve more than that.

If the Pilipino American community could learn to see domestic violence as a problem, then it would be able to take the first step to solving it. Women would cease having to suffer in silence or without feeling that there are others who could help.

In the discussion of women's issues, writers Margaretta Lin and Cheng Imm Tan state, "We can never reach the potential that is our birthright unless we stop denying the impact of domestic violence on our lives and start dealing with its effects. It is futile to hope and work for a better society when we pass on a legacy of violence and dysfunction."

Women need to stop the violence and begin new lives as survivors. Pilipinas are descended from a line of warriors. It is time that we rediscover our identity.

*(Annalisa Enrile, who hails from San Diego, is in her fourth-year of undergraduate studies at UCLA. She is active in a number of campus groups.)*

## *UCLA Health Research Center on Asians and Pacific Islanders Renewed for Funding*

The UCLA/VA/RAND MEDTEP Center for Asians and Pacific Islanders recently received continuation funding from the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research. The Center was initiated in 1992 with four goals: 1) becoming a center of excellence in multidisciplinary health outcomes research, 2) developing training programs for undergraduate and graduate students, 3) developing technical assistance programs and outreach to community organizations, and 4) disseminating information on Center activities.

The UCLA Asian American Studies Center participates in MEDTEP, and Professor Takashi Makinodan of the Center's Faculty Advisory Committee serves as MEDTEP director.

MEDTEP promotes research, which is conducted by Center investigators. Research projects include topics such as physical activity promotion among Asian elderly, medical decision making on end-

of-life outcomes, cultural adaptation of self-report instruments, and birth outcomes among Asian and Pacific Islander groups. Research projects enable undergraduate and graduate students to augment coursework and receive experience conducting outcomes research in Asian Pacific communities. Research is supported by a strong Technical Assistance Core that provides expertise and training to Center researchers and community practitioners. Finally, research findings are disseminated through the Information Dissemination Core using such routes as the media and workshops.

To ensure continuation of the MEDTEP Center when the two-year funding terminates, the Center has initiated a Development Core. This Core will develop community linkages to provide resources to ensure continued effectiveness of the Center. For more information, call Maria Duarte at (310) 794-0695.

## *Researchers to Undertake Largest Survey of Filipino American Community*

Professor David T. Takeuchi of the UCLA Department of Psychiatry and the Center's Faculty Advisory Committee has received a \$1.3 million grant for a four-year study of alcohol-related problems among Filipino Americans. The study is sponsored by the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

According to Professor Takeuchi, the study will be the first of its kind and will represent an extensive collaborative effort between community organizations and academia.

Expected to play major roles in the

project are Social Welfare Professor Pauline Agbayani-Siewert and Psychology Professor Stanley Sue. Both are part of the Center's Faculty Advisory Committee.

The target population for the study includes Filipino immigrants and native-born residents of the U.S. The study focuses on adults (eighteen years and older) who reside in the San Francisco Bay Area and in the state of Hawai'i. Researchers will complete 1,600 interviews in each geographic area, making this the largest survey of Filipino Americans ever undertaken.

## *UCLA Launches Study of Mid-life Women from Different Ethnic Communities*

UCLA is one of the participants in the Study of Women's Health Across the Nation (SWAN), the nation's first comprehensive, long-term health survey of mid-life women of different ethnic groups between the ages of 40 and 55. The study began this fall and is sponsored by the National Institutes of Health.

The UCLA-SWAN project is focusing on Japanese, Japanese American, and white women who are residing in Gardena,

Torrance, and other Southbay communities in Los Angeles.

SWAN is a national program involving seven universities and institutions. Other sites are surveying African American, Latina, Chinese, and Chinese American women. Study results will be used to educate women and health care providers.

For more information about UCLA-SWAN, contact assistant project director Lyra Ng, (310) 794-8584.

## **First Internet Guide for Asian American Cyberonauts Now Available**

UCLA's Asian American Studies Center and the APNet consortium have published *An Internet Guide for Asian American Cyberonauts*, compiled, annotated and introduced by Wataru Ebihara.

The first publication of its kind, the guide is an assortment of electronic mailing lists, Usenet newsgroups, Gopher servers, World-Wide Web sites, and organizations with Internet electronic mail addresses.

According to compiler/editor Ebihara, a self-identified "cyberonaut" living in Ohio, "A cyberonaut is like an astronaut—an explorer, a dreamer pushing the envelope of "cyberspace" into the new world of information. They are voyagers like our immigrant Asian parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, and boat people who came to America without knowing what to expect.... Often isolated in fragmented communities across the nation, Asian Americans can now transcend the barriers of space and time to participate in conversations and to discover a new sense of fellowship."

Wataru Ebihara has been using the Internet to exchange electronic information since 1990. He is co-founder of the Asian American Graduate and Professional Student Organization (AAGPSO) at Ohio State University. With members of AAGPSO in 1992, he initiated a national electronic network for Asian American graduate and professional students. He is a recent Ph.D. graduate in electrical engineering and resides in his hometown of Strongsville, Ohio.

The APNet consortium includes the Chinatown Service Center, Korean Youth and Community Center, Search to Involve Filipino Americans, UCLA Asian American Studies Center, and Visual Communications, all in Los Angeles. The consortium was the only Asian American group to receive a grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to develop an electronic communications network.

To order the Internet Guide, send a check payable to "UC Regents" for \$10 dollars (includes mailing and handling) to the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, 3230 Campbell Hall, Box 951546, Los Angeles 90095-1546, or order by credit card by calling, (310) 825-2974, 9:00 to 2:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time.

# Center Welcomes New Faculty to UCLA

## Professor Min Zhou Sociology & Asian American Studies



Professor Min Zhou, who spent the 1994-95 academic year as a Visiting Scholar at the Russell Sage Foundation, has joined the Center with a joint appointment as an assistant professor in Sociology and Asian American Studies. Previously, she was on the faculty at Louisiana State University from 1990-94. She received her Ph.D. from State University of New York at Albany.

Dr. Zhou has focused her research on Asian immigrant children, families, and communities. She has authored

*Chinatown: The Socioeconomic Potential of an Urban Enclave* published by Temple University Press, as well as a number of journal articles. She is currently completing another book, which examines the adaptation of Vietnamese American youth to American society.

Professor Zhou will be teaching courses in both the Sociology department and in the interdepartmental program in Asian American Studies, including AAS 100B, "Contemporary Issues in Asian American Communities" in Winter Quarter 1996.

## Professor Jerry Kang UCLA Law School



Professor Jerry Kang has been appointed to a faculty position in the UCLA Law School.

Born in Korea and raised in Skokie, Illinois, Professor Kang attended Harvard, where he received his undergraduate degree in Physics (Phi Beta Kapp) and his law degree.

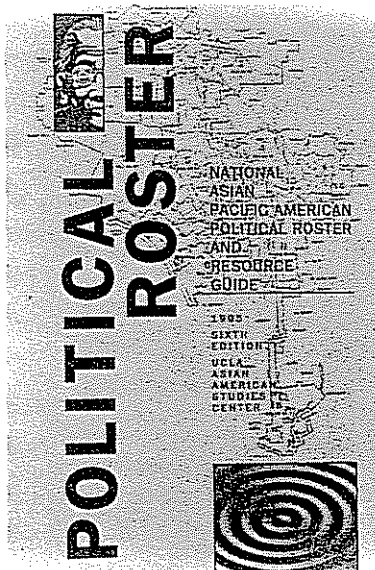
At Harvard Law School, he served as the Supervising Editor of the *Harvard Law Review*.

After graduating, he clerked for a year with the Hon. William A. Norris, Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in Los Angeles, and then last year with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

Professor Kang has written an article on racial violence against Asian Americans for the *Harvard Law Review*, and will be teaching a graduate seminar on Asian American Jurisprudence in Winter Quarter 1996.

He also specializes in telecommunications law and public policy.

## Roster of Asian Americans in Politics Now Available; Lists 1,200 Officeholders



The *National Asian Pacific American Political Roster and Resource Guide* provides the most comprehensive and up-to-date listing of Asian Americans in political positions ever compiled.

The Asian American Studies Center has released a new 175-page political roster and resource guide listing Asian Americans in political positions.

The roster lists more than 1,200 Asian Americans who hold political positions from the federal to the municipal levels for 31 states, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands. Members of the U.S. Congress, 22 city mayors, 204 judges, 66 city council members, 154 federal appointees and more than 500 major appointees to state and regional commissions and offices were identified during a year-long research project.

"There is no question that there has been a substantial growth in the representation of Asian Americans at all levels of American electoral politics," said Center Director Don Nakanishi, who supervised the project. "When I compiled the first Asian American political roster in 1978, there were only a handful of politicians outside of Hawaii."

The resource guide also contains relevant political data about Asian American political participation from exit polls and the U.S. Census; a directory of major Asian American political, civil rights, business, and lobbying groups; national demographics by region and state, including national totals for Asian and Pacific Islander groups; and a voting rights timeline covering major legislation and Supreme Court cases from the enactment of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to the present.

According to James Lai, co-director of the study and research associate at the Center, the roster will prove to be an invaluable tool for undertaking more research on Asian American politics.

The report was sponsored by the Asian American Studies Center, Chinese Americans United for Self-Empowerment, National Japanese American Citizens League, Congressman Norman Mineta, and the Pacific Telesis Group/Pacific Bell.

The roster is available for \$12 (includes postage and handling) from the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, 3230 Campbell Hall, Box 951546, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1546. Credit card orders are accepted. For more information, call (310) 825-2974.

## Profs Lubben and Ong Named Department Chairs in New School of Public Policy and Social Research

Professor James Lubben, the chair of the Faculty Advisory Committee of the Center, and Professor Paul Ong, a former chair of the Interdepartmental program in Asian American Studies, have become department chairs in the newly-created School of Public Policy and Social Research.

Professor Lubben is the chair of Social Welfare, while Professor Ong is the chair of Urban Planning.

"It is a tremendous professional honor to be chosen as chair of one's department by your colleagues," said Center Director Don Nakanishi. "I am sure they will provide the same level of exemplary leadership to their departments as they have to Asian American Studies at UCLA."

The new professional school has three departments: Social Welfare, Urban Planning, and Policy studies. Aside from Lubben and Ong, the new school has other faculty members who are actively involved in the Center's research and teaching programs: Professors Julie Roque and Shirley Hune in Urban Planning; and Professors Harry Kitano, Pauline Agbayani-Siewert, Ailee Moon, and Mitchell Maki in Social Welfare.

"We are looking forward to developing viable, long-range linkages between the new school and the Center because of our interests in public policy research, teaching, and public educational programs," said Dr. Nakanishi.

## Professor John Horton Publishes New Book about Monterey Park

*The Politics of Diversity: Immigration, Resistance, and Change in Monterey Park, California* is the title of a new book by UCLA Sociology Professor Emeritus John Horton.

The book explores interethnic relations in Monterey Park, which in 1990 had a population of 56 percent Asian, 31 percent Latino, and 12 percent Anglo.

A former member of the Center's Faculty Advisory Committee, Professor Horton began his study of Monterey Park in 1988. His research was supported by several grants, including the Center's Rockefeller Foundation "American Generations Program" in 1991.

## Maria V. Ventura Hired as Center's Curriculum Assistant

Recent UCLA graduate Maria V. Ventura is the Center's new Curriculum Assistant, replacing Patricia Stocking. In her new staff post, Maria will be assisting Center Director Don Nakanishi and Assistant Director Enrique Dela Cruz.

Maria was born in Manila, Philippines, and grew up in Oahu, Hawaii, and later San Diego. This past June she graduated from UCLA, majoring in Sociology and Asian American Studies.

As a senior, she served as director of the campus Asian Pacific Coalition. Maria describes herself as a "people person" — "I

love working with kids and with people in general," she states. "What I also hope to contribute to the Center is a sense of welcome — a feeling that the Center is for anyone and everyone. I want students and community people to feel welcome when they visit us."

"I chose to work at the Center," she adds, "because it allows me to still be in an academic atmosphere while also allowing me access to information about graduate schools. Plus, the people here are great! I feel a great sense of empowerment, particularly with regards to women's issues."



## Two New Amerasia Journal Issues Examine Theory and Community Linkages

"Thinking Theory in Asian American Studies" and "Linkages and Boundaries: 25 Years of Community Research in Asian American Studies" are the two most recent special issues of *Amerasia Journal*.

"Thinking Theory," a special double issue, discusses new humanities and social science approaches to studying Asian Americans. The issue is edited by Professor Dana Takagi of UC Santa Cruz and Professor Michael Omi of UC Berkeley, and features essays by some of the leading theoreticians in the field of Asian American Studies.

"Linkages and Boundaries" focuses on current community research and includes a special retrospective essay by Center Director Don Nakanishi, co-founder of *Amerasia Journal* in 1971 while he was an undergraduate at Yale University. Also included in the issue are essays by the three former editors of *Amerasia Journal* (attorneys Lowell Chun-hoon, Dick Osumi, and Carolyn Yee) and the current editor, Russell Leong.

Single copies of each issue are available for \$10 plus \$2 postage and handling. Subscriptions to *Amerasia Journal* are \$24 annually (three issues) — see subscription box below. According to Russell Leong, several hundred extra copies of the "Thinking Theory" issue were printed for use in classes. For more information, call (310) 825-2974.

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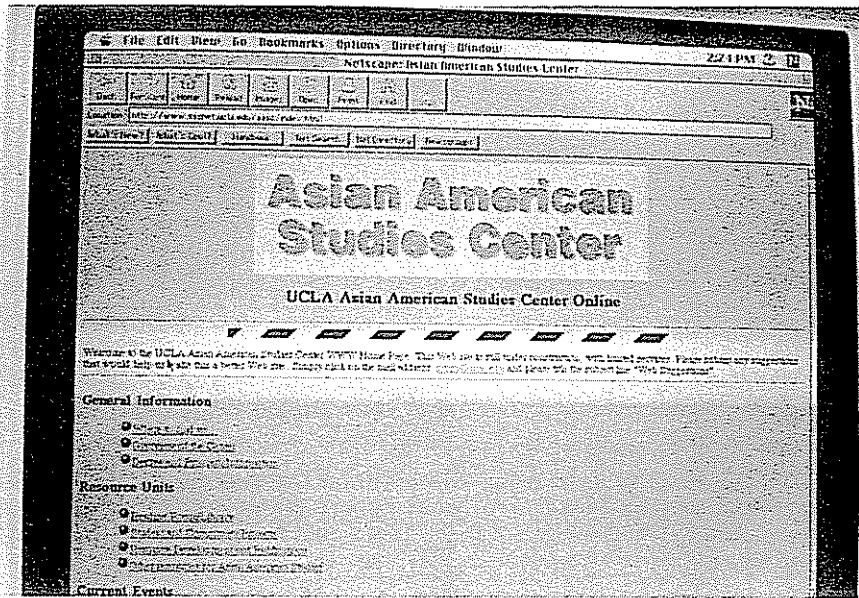
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# Asian American Studies Center Is Now On-line!

[www.sscnet.ucla.edu/aasc](http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/aasc)



The UCLA Asian American Studies Center is now on-line with a World Wide Web Home Page created by Steven Masami Ropp, assistant coordinator of our Reading Room.

The Center's online address is: [www.sscnet.ucla.edu/aasc](http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/aasc)

The new Home Page contains information about the Center's undergraduate and graduate degrees in Asian American Studies, a description of Center publications, the Reading Room, and Student/Community Projects, and announcements of current activities and projects, such as publication of the new political roster and the new internet guide.

Also on the Home Page are links to other Asian American resources around the nation.

The Center's Home Page will be maintained by Steven Masami Ropp. He welcomes comments; contact him by e-mail—[sropp@ucla.edu](mailto:sropp@ucla.edu)—with suggestions for additional links and categories.

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