

CROSSCURRENTS

Newsmagazine of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, Vol. 19, No. 1 (Spring/Summer 1996)

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New Report Dispels Myths about Asian Immigrants

A new report dispels common myths about Asian immigrants, especially regarding their political participation.

According to a study by the UCLA Asian American Studies Center and LEAP Asian Pacific American Public Policy Institute, Asian immigrants are as likely as immigrants of European ancestry to become citizens. Moreover, Asian immigrants' naturalization rate — 81% — is highest of all immigrants.

"Asians are not permanent aliens but are forming deep roots and a stake in the future of this country," UCLA Urban Planning Professor Paul Ong told the *Los Angeles Times*.

Ong co-authored with Professor Don Nakanishi one of the main chapters of the new report relating to naturalization rates and political participation of new Asian immigrants.

Newcomers from Asia now constitute nearly half of all legal immigrants arriving in the U.S.

The 305-page report, entitled *Reframing the Immigration Debate*, examines demographics of new Asian immigrants, immigrant entrepreneurship, education, and citizenship and civic participation. Principal investigator was Professor Bill Ong Hing of Stanford Law School. The project was funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation with the Ford Foundation and the Joyce Mertz-Gilmore Foundation also providing support.

According to the findings by Ong and Nakanishi, Asian American voter registration — along with that of Latinos and Blacks — is lower than that of Whites. However, once Asians register, their record of voting surpasses all other groups.

Among registered voters, 76% of Asian Americans cast ballots in 1994, compared to 73% of Whites, 64% of Latinos, and 63% of Blacks.

If the trend continues, Asian Americans could become a crucial "swing vote" in California and other states with significant concentrations of Asian Americans within ten years, states Nakanishi, Director of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center.

Currently, Asian American voters — unlike Blacks and Latinos who register and vote heavily Democratic — do not align with one party. Democrats slightly outnumber Republicans among Asians, with a sizable number registering as independents.

The U.S. population of Asian Americans, which was 1.5 million in 1970, reached 7.3 million by 1990, or about 3% of all Americans. Census projections estimate nearly 12 million by 2000 and 20 million by 2020.

According to Ong and Nakanishi, the number of Asian Americans holding elected and appointed office nationally increased from a few hundred in 1978 to more than 2,000 in 1996. In 1978, they were mostly Japanese Americans, but by

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The Future of Affirmative Action in Higher Education

By Jerry Kang
UCLA School of Law

On March 18, 1996, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals handed down its opinion in *Hopwood v. Texas*. That opinion struck down the admissions system of the University of Texas Law School as violating the Fourteenth Amendment's Equal Protection Clause of the federal Constitution. Most significant was the court's holding that "diversity" in higher education was no longer a "compelling" interest.

Legal Background

When an individual challenges governmental action on Equal Protection grounds, a court must decide first what type of scrutiny to apply. In last term's *Adarand Constructors Co. v. Peña*, the Supreme Court made clear that all race-based actions — whether motivated by racist or remedial purposes, whether "malign" or "benign" — warrant the exact same level of "strict scrutiny." Under this most demanding form of scrutiny, a governmental action must further a "compelling" interest and be "narrowly tailored" to further that interest.

Very few interests have been accepted as "compelling" enough to satisfy strict scrutiny. One interest which has been considered compelling since the 1978 landmark decision *Regents of the University of California v. Bakke* is educational diversity. In his opinion in *Bakke*, Justice Powell explained that bringing together diverse students with various experiences, outlooks, and ideas to learn and interact from each other in the University is an extraordinarily important part of a quality education. And considering race as one "plus" among various other factors in pulling together such a pool of diverse students is constitutionally permissible.

The Fifth Circuit in *Hopwood*, however, held that "diversity" is no longer a compelling interest. The court noted that the Supreme Court in *Bakke* was badly fractured, and only Justice Powell, writing for himself, explicitly mentioned the word "diversity." The court also noted that recent Supreme Court decisions, such as *Adarand*, signaled hostility toward viewing "diversity" as a compelling interest.

Consequence

If other circuit courts follow the lead of the Fifth Circuit or if the Supreme Court

approves that opinion, then affirmative action in higher education will effectively end. Educational diversity will no longer be enough to justify affirmative action.

The only other possible interest that could be "compelling" is remedying the "present effects of past discrimination." But courts have made clear that this does not include remedying general societal discrimination. It only includes the remedy of specific present effects explicitly caused by the particular university's own racist actions against racial minorities. Not surprisingly, very few universities are guilty of such blatant racism, at least in the recent past. Accordingly, the Fifth Circuit's recent decision may signal the death of affirmative action, even in higher education.

Comments

I vigorously disagree with the conclusion that diversity is not a compelling interest. First, I disagree as a matter of policy. The University is qualitatively different from public contracting and employment. It is a unique place where we train young minds to become citizens and leaders in an increasingly multiracial and multicultural world. A racially and ethnically diverse University allows for social interaction in an otherwise segregated world, which in turn allows us to break down our misconceptions and prejudices. It is a place where true learning takes place, not only from books but from fellow students who have lived different lives, in part because of their experience of race and racism. In my view, as an educator and citizen, racial diversity in the University is a compelling interest.

Second, I disagree as a matter of law. The Fifth Circuit acted cavalierly, with inadequate respect for precedent, in disregarding Justice Powell's opinion in *Bakke*. Most courts and commentators have properly focused on Justice Powell's opinion as the heart of that decision. And although the Supreme Court has recently shown hostility to affirmative action in the areas of public contracting, it has not done so in the context of student admissions in higher education. As one of the judges in *Hopwood* noted in a special concurrence, "I do not read the applicable Supreme Court precedent as having held squarely and unequivocally . . . that achieving diversity in the student body of a public graduate or professional school can

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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

never be a compelling governmental interest." The Fifth Circuit should not have done what was properly the Supreme Court's business.

In conclusion, it is critical to remember that affirmative action in the University benefits all Americans. While affirmative action has costs, it produces far more benefits. It moves us toward a fairer society in which each individual is treated with respect and dignity. More importantly, a properly constructed affirmative action program does not violate the constitutional rights of those who are not included in affirmative action. And Asian Americans should resist being used as a tool by politicians (who care little about the fate of Asian America) to dismantle a progressive practice that will bring us a better America.

(Professor Jerry Kang is Acting Professor of Law at the UCLA School of Law) and a member of the Center's Faculty Advisory Committee. He teaches a class on Asian American jurisprudence.)

Asian Immigrants Show High Rates of Naturalization

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1996, they were a mix of American-born and immigrants.

Examples include Congressman Jay Kim (R-Diamond Bar, California), the first Korean American in Congress; David Valderrama, the first Filipino American in the Maryland legislature; and Tony Lam, a Westminster, California, City Councilman, the first Vietnamese American elected to public office in the U.S.

Based on their examination of Census reports and voting records, Ong and Nakanishi found that a majority of adult Asian immigrants in the U.S. cannot vote because they are not yet citizens.

In 1994, 55% of adult Asians were not citizens, compared to 44% of Latinos, 5% of Blacks, and 2% of Whites.

Naturalization rates are related to length of residence in the U.S. The greatest increase occurs among those immigrants residing in the U.S. between five and 15 years.

However, the researchers emphasize that naturalization is also affected by the acculturation process: namely, learning English language and acquiring a knowledge of U.S. institutions.

"Most adult immigrants and refugees acquired their fundamental political values, attitudes, and behavioral orientations in countries that have sociopolitical systems, traditions, and expectations that are different from those in the United States," Ong and Nakanishi state.

"Indeed, many came from countries where voting was not permitted, limited to a privileged few, or was widely viewed as

Asian American Political Participation

Naturalization Rates

(for residents who have been in the U.S. more than 20 years)

	1970	1980	1990
Asians	68%	79%	81%
Whites	92%	79%	81%

U.S. Voting Patterns

	Registered to vote	Voted in '94 elections
Asian Americans	53%	76%
Latinos	53%	64%
African Americans	61%	63%
Whites	69%	73%

being inconsequential because of the dominance of a single political party.

"As a result, these immigrants must undergo a process of political acculturation beyond the rudimentary exposure to the basic structure of the U.S. government presented in adult citizenship classes."

The two researchers propose a number of policy recommendations related to their findings:

- The political incorporation of Asian Americans into the U.S. electoral system must be accelerated. The responsibility should be shared by the two major political parties who must sponsor voter registration and education campaigns.

- Unfair redistricting of Asian communities, lack of bilingual voter registration application forms and ballots, and opposition to the implementation of legislation like the National Voter Register Act of 1993 (aka "the Motor Voter Act") perpetuate political structural barriers and must be challenged and replaced by fair and inclusive political practices and policies.

- Asian Americans should be encouraged to participate in all aspects of American political life — as voters, campaign workers, financial donors, policy experts, and elected officials.

- Asian American community groups should devote greater organizational re-

sources toward augmenting their access to and influence in local government and other policy arenas, as well as to increase their communities' representation in voter registration rolls.

Also included in *Reframing the Immigration Debate* are several other chapters written by researchers and faculty affiliated with the UCLA Asian American Studies Center.

Gen Leigh Lee of our Center's masters program examined Cambodian-owned donut shops in Southern California, an ethnic niche dominated by Cambodian refugees.

Craig Trinh-Phat Huynh, also of our M.A. program, analyzed Vietnamese-owned manicure businesses, finding that 20% of the nation's nail salons and 80% of the salons in Los Angeles are owned by Vietnamese.

Professor Paul Ong of UCLA also co-authored with Harvard lecturer Linda Wing another chapter of the report examining trends in the education of new immigrant children.

Other researchers with chapters in the report are Robert Jiobu of Ohio State University, Larry Hajime Shinagawa of Sonoma State University, Shubka Ghosh of Oklahoma City University School of Law, Edward Jang-Woo Park of University of Southern California, Melanie Erasmus of Stanford University Law School, and Irene Chang of Stanford University Law School.

How to Order a Copy of the New Report

Reframing the Immigration Debate costs \$17 plus \$3.75 shipping/handling per book. California residents should also add 8.25% sales tax to their order.

Send orders to: UCLA Asian American Studies Center, 3230 Campbell Hall, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1546. Make checks payable to "UC Regents." For more information, call (310) 825-2974.

Copies of a 12-page "Executive Summary" are also available upon request.

Royal Morales Retirement Party at UCLA



Honoring "Uncle Roy"

Long-time community scholar and activist Royal ("Uncle Roy") Morales was honored by the UCLA Asian American Studies Center on Saturday, May 18, at the James West Alumni Center.

Uncle Roy recently retired from his post as a lecturer at the Asian American Studies Center. For the past two decades, he taught the popular "Pilipino American Experience" course, which reached nearly two thousand students.

"By 1996, I will be completely out of teaching," stated Uncle Roy. "That's part of my attempt to have the younger generations teach the course."

Uncle's Roy retirement party was sponsored by Center, along with the Pilipino Alumni Association of UCLA and the UCLA Alumni Association.

Proceeds from the May 18 event were used to establish the "Royal Morales Prize in Pilipino American Studies at UCLA," which will be given annually to the outstanding undergraduate paper or thesis at UCLA on the Pilipino American experience).

Also at the May 18 event, renowned poet Al Robles, author of *Rappin' with Ten Thousand Carabaos in the Dark*, read from his newly published book.

For more information about the "Royal Morales Fund," call Meg Malpaya Thornton at UCLA, (310) 825-1006.

Uncle Roy's 3-C's — The "Campus-Community Connection"

By Meg Malpaya Thornton

I came to Los Angeles in 1985 from San Diego. I was working with the Asian American Drug Abuse Program then. I mentioned to my boss, Mike Watanabe, that I wanted to get in touch with folks in the Pilipino community. He immediately responded, "Don't you know Royal Morales and SIPA. Royal is a long-time community activist. Search to Involve Pilipino Americans is a community youth group. You have to hook up with them."

So I called SIPA and spoke with then Executive Director Liza Javier. She invited me to visit SIPA. Liza and Royal were very kind and explained to me SIPA's work. Royal encouraged me to come again and help out with some activities. So I did and the next thing I knew, I had been recruited as a volunteer for SIPA.

Uncle Roy's warmth touched me immediately. His acceptance of me, an L.A. newcomer, really meant a lot. What struck me most was his willingness to share stories and, in the process, teach me Pilipino community history and dynamics. He always made it a point to introduce me to other folks and share their backgrounds. Uncle Roy also created vehicles, formal and most often informal, for folks to meet and discuss issues intergenerationally. I will always remember the Bagoong Connection lunches at various Pilipino or Asian community restaurants. Over lunch we would talk about issues, tell jokes, laugh and, of course, *chismis* (Pinoy gossiping). I learned a great deal during these sessions that helped sustain me in my work.

Uncle Roy has an uncanny ability to connect politics and social issues in a simple "down home" way, usually in three-word phrases. In the 1980s, he said we were in a period of "Reaganism-Reactionary Politics-Retrenchment of Social Services" — the three R's. He also spoke of the 3 T's for your lifestyle — "Give of Your Time, Talent or Treasure" — as a way to get people to give something of themselves to the community. He also spoke of the 3 C's, urging us to maintain and strengthen the "Campus and Community Connection."

In coming to UCLA, I looked forward to working with Uncle Roy in a new setting. In previous years, he invited me on his Pilipino Town tours and I enjoyed meeting with the students and accompanying them on the tour. I seemed to have internalized Uncle Roy's message about keeping a campus and community connection and was eager to

understand more about what this new generation of students was learning and how they viewed the community.

Uncle Roy's legacy at UCLA has been instilling in students, staff and faculty the importance of strengthening the Asian American and Pacific Islander campus and community connection. On his annual Pilipino Town tours, he shared his personal photos from the 1930s and 40s when he grew up in the old Pilipino neighborhood at Bunker Hill. Today, Bunker Hill is now the L.A. Music Center and is a vivid reminder of the racist laws that prevented the Pilipinos from owning land and the ravages of redevelopment displacing working class people of color. Going down Temple Street, Beverly Blvd., Vermont Ave., Virgil and Beaudry, his students visit the current Pilipino Town sites: Search to Involve Pilipino Americans (which he co-founded in 1972), Pilipino American Reading Room and Library (founded by the first UCLA Pinay graduate, Helen Brown), Filipino American Community of Los Angeles, Filipino Christian Church (founded by Uncle Roy's father), Goldilock's and Tatak Pilipino.

During these tours, Uncle Roy would talk about the issues facing the Pilipino community. He would talk about new immigrants, the undocumented, youth, families, the *manong* old-timers, and World War II veterans seeking benefits. In teaching about Pilipino American history, he also shared the current experience of people's daily lives. He spoke about current social policy and politics. He also encouraged students to get involved with current community issues. His tours have proven so popular that instructors and students at other campuses have done similar tours.

As a community scholar and activist, Uncle Roy has especially served as inspiration for many of us to continue to build Pilipino American Studies at UCLA and in the L.A. area. For many years, he taught not only at UCLA, but also at Glendale City College and Cerritos Community College.

In wishing Uncle Roy much love and enjoyment of his retirement years, I know that all of us will maintain his commitment to "UC3LA" — Uniting the Campus and Community Connection in Los Angeles.

(Meg Malpaya Thornton is Coordinator of Student/Community Projects at the UCLA Asian American Studies Center.)

Pres. Clinton Appoints Don Nakanishi to Redress Educational Fund

Center Director Don Nakanishi has been appointed by President Bill Clinton to the Civil Liberties Public Education Board of Directors, where he will help administer a fund of five million dollars created as part of federal legislation providing redress and reparations to Japanese Americans for the wartime internment.

Professor Nakanishi recently convened a meeting in Los Angeles to share information with the Japanese American community about the first meeting of the Public Education Board that was held recently in Washington, D.C.

"At the next meeting of the Board, it will decide on the criteria and guidelines for awarding grants and sponsoring research and public educational activities," he said. "I wanted to receive input, views, and opinions from the community on what those criteria and guidelines ought to be in fulfilling the mission of our Board."

John Esaki Teaching Documentary Class



"Video Ethnography & Documentary Workshop" is the title of a class being taught this Spring Quarter at UCLA by Asian American pioneer film-maker John Esaki.

Esaki, the Center's post-doctoral fellow through the Institute of American Cultures for the 1995-96 academic year, is known for his efforts to develop community media. Among his works is the 1993 documentary *Maceo: Demon Drummer from East Los Angeles*.

His class at UCLA is training undergraduates in the development of community media through film and video ethnography.

In the 1988 Civil Liberties Act, the Public Education Board was charged with "making disbursements from the Fund only to sponsor research and public educational activities, and to publish and distribute the hearings, findings, and recommendations of the Commission (on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Citizens), so that the events surrounding the evacuation, relocation, and internment of United States citizens and permanent resident aliens of Japanese ancestry will be remembered, and so that the causes and circumstances of this and similar events may be illuminated and understood."

Nakanishi is the only member of the Public Education Board of Directors from Los Angeles. Others include Dale Minami from San Francisco; Susan Hayase, San Jose; Elsa Kudo, Honolulu; Leo Goto, Denver; Peggy Nagae, Eugene, Oregon; and Father Robert Drinan and Yeiichi Kuwayama, both from Washington, D.C.

UCLA Alumnus Traci Endo Receives Internship in Washington, D.C.

UCLA alumnus Traci Endo is serving as the fourth Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship Fund congressional intern for the 1995-96 term.

Endo is now serving an internship of three-and-a-half months in Washington, D.C., in the office of Rep. Patsy Mink (D-Hawaii) and receiving a stipend of \$6,000.

The fellowship honors the late Mike M. Masaoka and encourages public service by granting awards to youth for internships promoting justice, civil rights, and human rights in the nation's capital.

Endo, a resident of Los Angeles who grew up in Sunnyvale, California, is a 1993 *cum laude* UCLA graduate and received her B.A. in Communication Studies with a specialization in Asian American Studies. She was a member of Golden Key National Honor Society from 1989 to 1993.

She was active with several campus groups, including Nikkei Student Union and Asian Pacific Coalition. As a student, she also worked with a number of community groups, including Japanese American National Museum, JACL, the Young Buddhists Association, and Mountain View Buddhist Temple.

Center Welcomes Four Scholars as Japanese American Studies Fellows

Four scholars, artists, and community leaders — Professor Lane Hirabayashi, filmmaker Spencer Nakasako, Professor Eileen Tamura, and attorney Bruce Yamashita — are serving as Visiting Fellows at the UCLA Asian American Studies Center under the Japanese American Studies endowed academic chair for the 1995-96 academic year.

The chair was established in the 1970s by UCLA Japanese American alumni and friends to promote research and teaching in Japanese American Studies.

Until his retirement in 1994, UCLA Professor Harry Kitano, a renowned pioneer in the field of Japanese American and Asian American Studies, held this chair.

"In the future, we will undertake a national search to identify a successor to Professor Kitano for this academic chair. Until then, the faculty committee that is overseeing the available funds from the chair has decided to invite scholars, major public figures, creative artists, and others to the UCLA Asian American Studies Center for short-term visits," said Center Director Don Nakanishi.

Anthropologist Lane Hirabayashi (*see story on page 6*) of the University of Colorado at Boulder has joined the Center during the Winter and Spring quarters as a Visiting Professor.

Along with Professor Hirabayashi, the Center has invited three extraordinary individuals as Visiting Fellows. They are attorney Bruce Yamashita, who recently won a major race discrimination law suit against the U.S. Navy and Marines; renowned filmmaker Spencer Nakasako, who made the award-winning video documentation film, *AKA Don Bonus*; and University of Hawaii at Manoa Professor Eileen Tamura, who recently published a fascinating book about how Nisei in Hawaii grappled with the issues of Americanism, acculturation, and ethnic identity before World War II. Each Visiting Fellow met with students and professors at UCLA, as well as delivered talks on campus and in the Japanese American community.

The off-campus presentations were co-sponsored by various community groups, including the National Coalition for Redress and Reparations, Visual Communications, Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, Gardena Pioneer Project, and Japanese American Historical Society of Southern California.

Linking the Academy and the Community: Prof. Lane Hirabayashi's Mission in L.A.

By Julie Ha
Rafu Shimpō Newspaper

One could trace anthropologist Lane Hirabayashi's vocational calling to what he refers to as "family culture." After all, both his parents are anthropologists. "Either that, or it's a genetic flaw," he suggested jokingly.

An associate professor of anthropology at the University of Colorado at Boulder, Hirabayashi is serving as a visiting professor at the UCLA Asian American Studies Center under the auspices of the endowed chair in Japanese American Studies. This spring, he is teaching a graduate course on race theory and working on a book about one of the first Asian American anthropologists.

Joining him at UCLA is his wife, Professor Marilyn Alquizola, who is teaching "Filipino American Literature" this quarter.

The Japanese American Studies Chair was established over 15 years ago by Japanese American alumni and friends of UCLA who raised about \$350,000 to endow the first and only chair in this field in all of U.S. higher education.

The purpose of the chair, according to Asian American Studies Center Director Don Nakanishi, is to support research and teaching and "legitimize the study of Japanese Americans within the context of American higher education."

Professor Harry Kitano had served as the chair until he retired in 1994. Hirabayashi is one of the many scholars in Japanese American Studies that the Center plans to invite until a permanent chair is chosen, said Nakanishi.

Born in Seattle in 1952, Lane Ryo Hirabayashi, of biracial descent, grew up mostly in San Francisco. Calling himself a "terrible high school student," he believes he would not have pursued a college education had it not been for the Vietnam War. "I turned draft age and I knew I really didn't want to participate in the war," he said. "I was against the war. In all honesty, that is one reason why I went to college."

He attended California State University at Sonoma. At 19, Hirabayashi had an opportunity to visit his uncle who was living and working in Brazil. The trip proved to be very influential on his interest in anthropology and studying people's cultures and customs from a broad comparative view. He decided to pursue his masters and doctorate degrees in anthropology from the University of California, Berkeley.

He did his doctoral field work in Mexico City. Since that time, Hirabayashi, who is fluent in Spanish, has been very active in Latin American Studies, authoring *Cultural Capital: Mountain Zapotec Migrant Associations in Mexico City* and co-editing the anthology, *Migrants, Regional Identities and Latin American Cities*.

Although initially interested in Latin American Studies, his focus turned to Asian American Studies after his exposure to historian Ronald Takaki, an Ethnic Studies professor at Berkeley.

Hirabayashi was impressed with Takaki's perspective. "He made a clear linkage between Asian American history and issues of politics and identity — both personal and collective," said Hirabayashi. "That really

resonated with the students, and that really resonated with me."

This lesson made Hirabayashi realize the limits of some of his academic pursuits at the time. "I can go out and teach sociocultural anthropology, I can teach Latin American Studies, but it is very removed," he explained. "I'm not a Mexican. I told myself you can spend the rest of your life teaching things that are distant, (but that) limits your insights and ability to participate."

With Asian American Studies, however, he realized he was no outsider. "I could do research and learn and, in some things, I may be a guest, but in different ways. I'm also a participant," he concluded.

In 1981, Hirabayashi came to UCLA as a postdoctoral scholar. He recalled the time as a period of tremendous growth. The staff of the Asian American Studies Center's Student/Community Projects office encouraged him to link up with community-based organizations like LTPRO (Little Tokyo People's Rights Organization) and the National Coalition for Redress and Reparations (NCRR).

Prof. Lane Hirabayashi is serving as the Center's visiting professor in Japanese American Studies

The experience taught him that "Asian American Studies involves linkage between theory and practice." And that is a principle he wants to help develop as he returns to UCLA over a decade later. As a visiting scholar, Hirabayashi sees one of his foremost duties as "contributing to the (Asian American Studies) Center's mission to link academy with the community."

On that note, he will be working with the Gardena Pioneer Project, an organization providing services to senior citizens in Gardena. The Center's goal is to seek ways to expand community-based programs in the area.

While at UCLA, Hirabayashi will also produce a book on Dr. Tamie Tsuchiyama, a Nisei from Hawaii who became the first person of Asian descent to get her doctorate degree in anthropology from UC Berkeley. The biography will serve as the second volume following his 1995 book, *Inside an American Concentration Camp: Japanese American Resistance at Poston, Arizona*, which he edited.

Additionally, Hirabayashi is teaching a graduate seminar titled "Comparative Perspectives on Race and Ethnicity" this spring at UCLA. Having taught at the University of Colorado at Boulder since 1991 and helped it develop its Ethnic Studies program, Hirabayashi noted the difference between teaching at UCLA and Boulder.

Asian American Studies at UCLA and other West Coast schools is characterized by classes composed predominantly of Asian American students, while at Boulder, classes are 30 to 60 percent non-Asian.

The anthropologist said he realized he must use different methods in communicating different messages to his Asian American versus his non-Asian students. "That's been a challenge," he commented. "It's something I continually work on. I think it's an important mission."

(This article is condensed from the *Rafu Shimpō* newspaper of Los Angeles. Reporter Julie Ha is a UCLA alumnus and former editor-in-chief of *Pacific Ties* newsmagazine.)



Prof. Marilyn Alquizola is teaching a special class on "Filipino American Literature"



Teaching Team Spirit in Asian American Studies

UCLA History Professor Henry Yu Applies His Interest in Ice Hockey to Teaching and Mentoring Graduate Students

By Michelle Cheng

In preparation for writing this article about Professor Henry Yu, I actively sought information that would reveal something about his interests outside of UCLA and Asian American Studies. After seeing him every week for three months in the classroom, I found that I knew nothing other than his teaching style, so I took to putting my ear to the walls of the Asian American Studies Center, which seem to hold nothing sacred. After some coaxing, the walls divulged his interest in ice hockey. Unfortunately, I know less about ice hockey than about Professor Henry Yu.

After a brief lesson in the rules of the game, I began to see parallels in strategy to Henry's teaching style. Perhaps in a somewhat Procrustean manner, I imagined him the "center" of our Fall Quarter Asian American Studies 200A graduate class ice hockey team. We were an unconventional team, with Henry as our "center" and the rest of us acting as "wings" and "defense." His purpose was to maneuver the puck into position; ours, to defend and score. As a team, he played to point us in the right direction, and we played to follow through with the goal. Similarly, as our academic coach, Henry acted as a facilitator and mentor.

At the start of the academic quarter, we were all new to the team and to each other. We took some time to adjust to and negotiate the boundaries of our roles. How was this game different from our previous experiences? I, for one, was still trying to figure out the responsibilities of my new position.

As in beginning any new endeavor, we questioned our abilities to perform. What was expected of us and what could we expect?

Many of us still felt that we were in training, and we asked Henry for more guidance. He was reluctant to comply, perhaps for fear that we would become overly dependent upon him and ultimately jeopardize our own abilities to guide teams of our own. He made clear his position as a member of our team rather than as a leader.

At a team meeting, we settled on a compromise that obligated us to come to each practice session with questions and comments. We were to resolve issues amongst ourselves, rather than look to Henry for answers. He told us that the answers were within ourselves, and as though skating on untried ice, we adopted our new strategy.

We completed the first quarter of our six-quarter game somewhat worn, but more familiar with the graduate school arena. After ten weeks of practice, the physical and mental toll we endured was mirrored in the dark circles under our eyes.

Our condition at the end of this game remains unclear, but our training as team-oriented Asian Americans demands that we set goals in order to reach them.

* * *

In light of his interest in ice hockey, it comes as no surprise that Henry Yu was born in Vancouver, British Columbia. He grew up in a small town called Hope, near Victoria. After graduating from the University of British Columbia in 1989 with a B.A. in History,



he went on to Princeton University, where he received his Ph.D. in History in 1994.

His dissertation, titled "Thinking about 'Orientals': A History of Race, Migration, and Modernity in 20th Century America," is an intellectual history of Chinese and Japanese American social scientists and Orientalism in the United States.

Upon arrival at UCLA in 1994, Henry expanded his research interests in modern American intellectual history. On the graduate level, he teaches Asian American Studies 200A, the first course in the three-quarter masters degree core. Materials covered in the course focus on topics and issues in Asian American Studies, but Henry stresses that he is concerned mainly with developing critical thinking skills in his students.

On the field of Asian American Studies, Henry states that "America has never been homogenous. Intellectual pursuits such as Asian American Studies reflect the diversity of this country."

(Michelle Cheng, a first-year graduate student in Asian American Studies, holds a B.A. in American Studies from Stanford University. Similar to the approach of her mentor, Professor Henry Yu, Michelle is adapting her intellectual interest in the martial arts style of Wing Chun to her research work on AIDS, history, ideology, and Asian Americans.)

First-Year Graduate Students Bring New Kind of Diversity to Center's M.A. Program

Diversity is the distinguishing feature of the nine students constituting the new first-year students in our Center's masters degree program in Asian American Studies. But the diversity distinguishing this year's class is not ethnic diversity or a diversity of research interests — but diversity in past occupations.

"This year's class of incoming graduate students has people from the most diverse occupational backgrounds in the history of our graduate program," said Graduate Advisor Enrique Dela Cruz. "In addition to those who have primarily student backgrounds, we have a published writer, an artist, a journalist, a museum curator, a martial arts expert, and a church minister/theologian."

"A third of the class is already delivering papers based on their research at various Asian American Studies conferences this year," Dela Cruz added.

During their first year of work in our M.A. program, students are taking a number of required courses, including the three-quarter graduate core sequence relating to Asian American history, contemporary issues, and research strategies taught by Professors Henry Yu, Kyeyoung Park, and Don Nakanishi, respectively.

A profile of each of our first-year graduate students follows:

Theresa B. Ceñidoza was born in Portsmouth, Virginia, grew up on Naval bases on the East Coast, and lived for the past 13 years in the San Francisco Bay Area. She is a graduate of the University of California, Santa Cruz. "I've worked on Asian Ameri-

can issues through student organizing, teaching, and conducting community-based research with community organizations and unions," she explains. Theresa started the first Filipina support group at UCSC, taught a course on Filipina oral history, and has conducted research involving Filipinos for Affirmative Action, Filipino Civil Rights Advocates, and Service Employees International Union Local 250 — all in Oakland. At UCLA, she hopes "to utilize the wealth of resources at the Asian American Studies Center to reaffirm the links between academic research and community-based struggles." Her research explores the intersections of international migration, gender, family, and community formation among Filipinos in the U.S.

Michelle Cheng was born in Van Nuys and grew up in Canoga Park — cities in the San Fernando Valley of Southern California. She earned a B.A. in American Studies with a specialization in Race & Ethnicity from Stanford University. This past summer, Michelle interned with the Organization of Chinese Americans where she tracked affirmative action legislation and proposed a national voter registration program. Her research interests focus on Asian Americans and HIV/AIDS. She came to UCLA "to get a solid background in Asian American Studies in order to apply it to my interest in legal advocacy in the future," she states. In the meantime, she is applying her interest in martial arts films to developing strategies for research in Asian American Studies.

Dawn Bohulano Mabalon is a self-described "third-generation Pinay from Stock-

ton raised on free cheese and asparagus." She attended Delta Community College in Stockton and transferred to UCLA, where she received her B.A. and was active in several Pilipino organizations. Aside from her graduate studies, she works as a counseling assistant at UCLA, helping undergraduates majoring or specializing in Asian American Studies; with the Foundation Funkollective, a network of activists, rappers, artists, poets, writers, dj's, academics, breakers and musicians that works at politicizing L.A. youth of color through hip-hop; and with a UCLA recruitment project aimed at helping Pilipino community college students transfer to four-year institutions. For her masters thesis, she is examining Pilipino American women's history prior to World War II, with an emphasis on community organizing and survival strategies.

James Gatewood was born in Concord, California, and did his undergraduate work at UCLA, where he graduated with a B.A. in Asian American Studies. As an undergraduate, he did community internships with the *Rafu Shimpo* English section and the Japanese American National Museum and mediation training with the Asian Pacific American Dispute Resolution Center. He also taught ESL classes to Mexican immigrant workers. He is currently doing research on the Kibei, second generation Japanese Americans who were sent to Japan for educational purposes by their parents but who later returned to the U.S. to reside permanently. "All research in Asian American Studies must be predicated upon continual interaction with the community and its needs," he stresses. "I believe that com-



First-year graduate students (from left to right): Erica Lee, Thomas Tsutsumoto, James Gatewood, Nina Ha, Jennifer Tseng, Dawn Mabalon, Theresa Ceñidoza, and Michelle Cheng.



Hard-working first-year graduate students diligently prepare for upcoming class session with Professor Kyeyoung Park.

mitment to meeting the needs of the community prefaces any academic work we may pursue."

Nina Ha is a graduate of Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, where she majored in English and Government. At Smith, she was a member of the Asian Students Association. Her research focuses on Vietnamese American women writers and their experiences. "I came to UCLA to learn more about Asian American Studies," she states. "Getting a different perspective is important since I'm from the East Coast."

Erica Lee was born and raised in Sydney, Australia. She attended Scripps College, a women's college in Claremont, California, where she helped establish the Asian/Asian American Student Union (AAASU) as well as a mentor program for incoming Asian American women. "I came to UCLA to be intellectually challenged," Erica says. "I'm not interested in being comforted or comfortable in the classroom. I believe tension is a good thing and can be utilized to really push people and expand their minds." Erica is interested in researching contemporary Asian American art history, particularly works by women artists. She is also "pondering Asian American feminism, body politics, and museology." Meanwhile, she is also serving as photographer for *CrossCurrents*, taking candid and personal photos of those who venture into the hallways of our Center.

Grace Park was born in Santa Monica, California, and grew up in Los Angeles. She is a graduate of UC Berkeley and has worked in a Korean American church. She is the first graduate student in the history of our program to take maternity leave, giving birth to a son, Elijah Jeremy, in March 1996. Grace's research interests focus on the Korean American community with an empha-

sis on culture, folklore, gender, and child-bearing.

Jennifer Tseng was born in Hammond, Indiana, and grew up in San Luis Obispo, California. She graduated from Colorado College. Her main connection with Asian American issues is through creative writing — poetry, short fiction, and criticism. For her masters thesis, she plans to write a collection of poetry. At UCLA, she hopes "to further contextualize my writing by uncovering and acknowledging historical frameworks." "So far," she says, "I have received a lot of faculty and student support — one of the most crucial things that this program provides."

Thomas Sakai Tsutsumoto was born and raised in Seattle. Before coming to UCLA for our M.A. program, he completed his undergraduate work at the University of Hawai'i. "I entered the M.A. program to raise my awareness of issues concerning Asian Americans and strengthen my knowledge of Asian American history," Thomas stresses. His research interests concern Pacific Islanders in higher education.

In addition to the nine new entering students, *Soyon (Sue) Cho* is returning to the Center's M.A. program following a one-year leave of absence. Sue spent the last year working and collecting research as a tenant organizer for the Coalition for Economic Survival in Los Angeles. Sue worked with elderly Korean immigrants living in federally subsidized housing projects, helping them to join with Latino immigrants to form tenant unions to protect their rights. She plans to use her work experience as the basis for her masters thesis. Currently, Sue is also working as Coordinator for API-FIRE (Asian Pacific Islanders for Immigrant Rights and Empowerment), a Los Angeles community organization.

Jeff Ow Creates "Fool's Gold" on the Web

Jeffrey Ow, a graduate student in the Asian American Studies masters degree program, is the first student associated with our Center to create a home page on the internet.

The web page is titled "(fool's) Gold Mountain," and the address is: <http://www.ucla.edu/campus/computing/bruinonline/imagem>

Jeff's attractively designed page contains information about his research interests in Asian American health, Angel Island, Chinese American resources, Asian American popular culture, Asian American literature, Asian American activism, and "the stuff I watch and play."

"I am a fifth generation Chinese American, and I have traced my genealogy back as early as 1862, when my great-great grandfather came over and worked as a drayer in the Midwest," Jeff states.

"Currently, I am doing research for my thesis on Cameron House in San Francisco, examining how multi-generational Chinese Americans exist and co-exist in a heterogeneous Chinese American community. I could go to greater lengths, but if I did here, who would read my thesis?"

Popular culture links on Jeff's home page relate to *A. Magazine*, *Giant Robot* magazine, *Yolk Magazine*, *Adventures of Tintin*, the *Dragon Lady* (from the comic strip "Terry and the Pirates"), the *Spark-Jubilee Fan Club*, *Bruce Lee*, *Charlie Chan*, *David Carradine*, novelist *Amy Tan*, *Soy Bean Milk Chick*, *Mah Jongg* home page, *Nancy Kwan's "Oriental Beauty Collection," Flower Drum Song* articles, *Valerie Soe's* artist statement, and actresses *Ming-Na Wen*, *Tia Carrere*, *Tamlyn Tomita*, *Rosalind Chao*, *Phoebe Cates*, *Gong Li*, and *Anna May Wong*.

Two New Pathbreaking M.A. Theses Completed

The Asian American Studies Reading Room has announced the completion of two new pathbreaking theses from our Center's masters program. New theses include:

Makoto Arakaki, "Uchinanchu at Heart: The Persistence of Okinawan Identity in Hawaii," 1995.

Kyung Won Hong, "Interethnic and Interracial Relations in the Short Stories of Hisaye Yamamoto," 1995.

According to *Marji Lee*, head librarian of the Reading Room, our Center's M.A. program has produced 50 theses, all pioneering research in Asian American Studies. The first thesis was completed in 1980.

Collections of Hei Sop Chin and Hyung-ju Ahn Are Major Historical Resources

UCLA Acquires Two Important Archives Relating to Korean American History

The UCLA Asian American Studies Center and the Special Collections Department of the UCLA University Research Library held a reception April 14, 1996, in honor of the donation of the magnificent Hei Sop Chin Archival Collection and the Hyung-ju Ahn Archival Collection on Korean and Korean American History.

For nearly 40 years, Hei Sop Chin and Hyung-ju Ahn have been collecting original, primary documents and other materials that capture the most important periods in Korean and Korean American history.

Hei Sop Chin's collection has been described as the "most historically important and extensive collection in America" on the Korean independence movement and the pre-World War II Korean American community.

It features practically all of the major correspondence between the Korean Provisional Government in China and the Korean National Association in Honolulu and San Francisco, including original cablegrams, from 1919 to 1945. Of particular historical importance are the financial records that document the substantial donations which Korean immigrant organizations in America gave in support of the Korean independence movement from 1919 to 1945.

Hyung-ju Ahn, the Coordinator of the UCLA Korean American Research Project, has been a pioneering scholar in developing the field of Korean American historiogra-



Hyung-ju Ahn donated his collection of primary documents to the Asian American Studies Center and Special Collections of the University Research Library.

phy.

His extraordinary collection features his great uncle's 1902 passport, a \$100 savings bond of the Korean Provisional Government, a history of Luther written in Korean and published in 1908, school text books printed in Korea prior to 1910, and the 1905 Korean Imperial Government's criminal law. It also contains a 30-minute documentary film on the Korean American community in Hawaii,

which was directed by Mr. Ahn's father in 1947.

Assisting Hyung-ju Ahn in cataloging the collection was Eiichiro Azuma, a graduate of our Center's M.A. program in Asian American Studies. Historian Yuji Ichioka also served as advisor for this project.

"Together, the archival collections of Hei Sop Chin and Hyung-ju Ahn will provide present and future generations of scholars, students, and writers in the United States, Korea, and around the world with original documentation and new vantage points from which to understand the thoughts, actions, and dreams of Korean Americans during many of the most compelling periods in the historical experiences of Korea, the United States, and Korean Americans," said Center Director Don Nakanishi.

These two major collections will serve as the founding archival collections for the UCLA Korean American Research Project (KARP) Collection of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center and the Special Collections Department of the UCLA University Research Library.

"In the years to come, we hope to develop the KARP Collection into the most important and largest one of its kind in the world, and to establish a UCLA Institute for Korean American Studies, which will focus on both historical and contemporary dimensions of the Korean American experience," Nakanishi added.

Center Developing CD-ROM on "Asian American Experience"

The Asian American Studies Center is developing a CD-ROM on the "Asian American Experience" in conjunction with Primary Source, a Connecticut-based company that has developed six other CD-ROMs dealing with topics ranging from the Civil War to the African American experience.

Coordinator for the CD-ROM project is Judy Soohoo, a graduate of the Center's M.A. program. She will be working with senior staff and faculty from the Center, including Librarian Marji Lee and *Amerasia Journal* editor Russell Leong.

The CD-ROM will be geared toward high school seniors and lower-division college students and is expected to be com-

pleted by October 1996. It will contain over 200 photographic images, audio recordings of music and literary readings, and primary documents that are intended to capture the Asian American experience.

Among topics to be included are: "Early Asian Explorers and Immigrants," "Gold Fever, Building the Transcontinental Railroads and Beyond," "Hana-Hana: Sugar Making and the Pacific Migration to Hawaii," "Enemy Aliens: The Japanese American Internment," "Hearts of Sorrow: Vietnam War and Its Aftermath," and "Voices Rising: The Arts."

For more information, contact Judy Soohoo at (310) 825-5043 (e-mail: judysh@ucla.edu).

1997 Conference Observing 5th Anniversary of L.A. Uprisings Being Planned

Plans are underway for a national conference in April 1997 marking the fifth year anniversary of the Los Angeles Riots/Uprisings. The event will be cosponsored by the Center and Korean American community groups, and explore the impact of the civil unrest on the Korean American community and strategize on future directions. UCLA professors Kyeyoung Park, Jerry Kang, Shu-mei Shih, Ailee Moon, and Henry Em are on the planning committee.

The 1992 upheaval was the largest civil disturbance in U.S. history. In the four years following the uprising, Korean American community and student groups have initiated a number of projects for victim relief and interethnic understanding.

Traveling the Information Superhighway

A \$120,000 Grant from Southern California Edison Will Help APNet Expand Its Work to Link Asian Pacific American Communities to the Latest Electronic Communications Technology

APNet (Asian Pacific Network) — a consortium of eight Los Angeles groups, including the UCLA Asian American Studies Center — has received a \$120,000 grant from Southern California Edison.

The grant will help APNet move closer toward its goal of creating a technological infrastructure for the Asian Pacific American community to access the information superhighway.

"APNet is of critical importance to all Asian Pacific American organizations," Wes Tanaka, public affairs deputy director for Edison told the *Rafu Shimpo* newspaper.

"APNet is a major step toward making sure the Asian Pacific American community not only has the tools, but the capacity . . . to face the challenges that lie ahead."

The \$120,000 grant from Edison will fund the establishment of the Capacity Building Training program, a multilingual training program for using electronic tools and the latest applications. The training will be offered in English, Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese.

The grant will also allow the group to expand its network. Originally formed in 1994, APNet was founded by Chinatown Service Center, Korean Youth and Community Center, Search to Involve Filipino Americans, Visual Communications, and the UCLA Asian American Studies Center.

In 1994, the partnership received a major grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Agency to develop an electronic infrastructure among Asian Pacific American community organizations.

The network also received funding from the California Research and Education Network which provided access lines.

APNet now also includes the Little Tokyo Service Center, the Asian Pacific American Legal Center, and the Vietnamese Community of Orange County.

"APNet is a concept and project that has enormous potential," said Debbie Chung, executive director of the Chinatown Service Center. "Specific to our center internally, APNet provides us with ways to operate more effectively . . . and to provide better services because we can track client services and not duplicate our-

selves."

Groups in the network also believe that building electronic communications capacity will aid them in the arena of shaping public policy.

"A few weeks ago, when there was the big debate about immigration legislation in Washington, D.C., and its impact on the Asian Pacific American community, there would be daily reports coming from Asian American lobby organizations, like the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium," explained Don Nakanishi, Director of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center.

"That information was communicated on the network almost instantaneously."

For the UCLA Asian American Studies program, Nakanishi said that such a network will help "link our students to community organizations that have needs and issues that need to be addressed, either through internships or research."

In the long run, APNet will allow students, researchers, and others to access information held by the Asian American Studies Center, such as census figures and voting data, so that they may increase their understanding about Asian American issues.

As a long-term goal, network members hope one day to make such information technology publicly available, giving access to those who do not have computers and modems by setting up public sites.

For now, the groups are focusing on training their staffs on how to use the network.

The social service agencies in the network like KYCC now have technological equipment, which they hope to operate more efficiently and improve access to their services.

"The realization is that training has to be the priority," said Linda Mabalot, executive director of Visual Communications, the nation's oldest Asian Pacific media arts group. "It's not just about content information. We have to train people how to utilize the information."

(This article is based on a news story written by Julie Ha for the Rafu Shimpo newspaper of Los Angeles.)

World Wide Web Sites

**UCLA Asian American
Studies Center**

www.sscnet.ucla.edu/aasc

APNet

<http://www.netasia.com/jlau>

UCLA Students Played Key Role in Campaign

Students Celebrate End of Boycott against Garment Manufacturer McClintock

UCLA Asian American students celebrated the end of the boycott campaign against garment manufacturer Jessica McClintock — a campaign involving justice for immigrant garment workers that students helped to lead.

The three-and-a-half year campaign by Chinese immigrant garment workers in the San Francisco Bay Area ended recently with an agreement negotiated by Asian Immigrant Women Advocates (AIWA) of Oakland and the Jessica McClintock corporation.

The campaign generated strong support from UCLA Asian American students who regularly picketed the McClintock boutique in Beverly Hills for the past two years, causing it to lose 40% of its business.

The agreement formally ends a national boycott of McClintock clothing organized by AIWA. The agreement provides plans to insure workers' rights in the garment industry and promote awareness of fair labor practices. Cooperative efforts include scholarships for students and garment workers and the establishment of toll-free numbers in which garment workers can report work violations. Additionally, McClintock will donate money to the workers and establish a garment workers' educational fund.

The campaign began in 1992 when 12 immigrant seamstresses in Oakland approached AIWA to collect back wages from a sewing contractor for McClintock who went bankrupt. AIWA took up the case to publicize widespread abuses in the garment industry, especially the contracting system which allows manufacturers and retailers to disclaim responsibility for violations of workers' rights.

UCLA students involved with the campaign's local activities included groups associated with the Asian American Studies Center — Concerned Asian Pacific Students for Action (CAPSA), Korean American United Students for Education and Service (KAUSES), Asian Pacific Coalition (APC) — as well as Asian sororities.

In addition, Eric Wat, assistant coordinator of the Center's Student/Community Projects, joined with graduate student John Delloro of our M.A. program to create a special class in 1995 centering on the McClintock campaign and broader abuses in the garment industry against immigrant workers.

"The success of the campaign was dependent on community organizing," said Levin Sy, APC Director. "The students energized the campaign, brought in new blood, and more people with them."

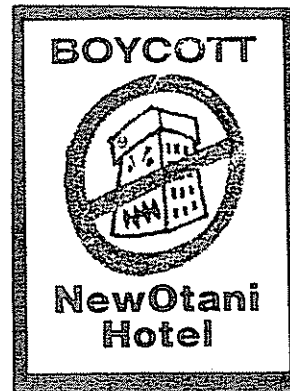
"The first issue for the workers is survival — they need to get paid, they need to support their family," said Tracy Kann, a fourth-year political science student and leader of CAPSA.

Former UCLA student Paul Lee, now a staff member of Korean Immigrant Workers Advocates (KIWA) in Los Angeles, said that retailers and manufacturers need to be held accountable for workplace violations. KIWA had worked with students to spearhead the boycott efforts in Los Angeles.

"Each level of the garment industry needs a lot of changes," he stated. "Jessica McClintock is only one of the thousands of manufacturers out there . . . hopefully her decision will set a precedent for other manufacturers."

With the completion of the Jessica McClintock boycott, UCLA Asian American student activists are now shifting energies to help Thai immigrant garment workers and their campaign for justice in Los Angeles. In the fall of 1995, a group of some 70 Thai immigrants were found working in slavery in a sweatshop in El Monte. The case has generated nationwide attention as another example of widespread abuses occurring in the garment industry.

UCLA Student Groups Join Civil Rights Organizations in Boycott of New Otani Hotel



A number of UCLA students groups — including the undergraduate student council — have joined with civil rights groups to announce support for a boycott of the New Otani Hotel in Los Angeles Little Tokyo.

For the past two-and-a-half years, the Japanese-owned hotel has been embroiled in a union organizing dispute that has resulted in firings, community fact-finding reports, pickets and rallies. The boycott was initiated by workers and their community supporters in February 1996 to protest management's unwillingness to deal with worker grievances and community concerns.

The hotel was originally built in the 1970s by the Kajima corporation amidst community protests over redevelopment and the destruction of low-rent housing and the eviction of residents, small businesses, and community groups from Little Tokyo.

The hotel is the largest workplace in Little Tokyo, currently employing about 280 workers, most of them Latino and Asian immigrants. The workers' campaign for rights has drawn widespread support from Asian American community groups and student organizations.

Among community supporters of the boycott are Asian Pacific American Legal Center, Asian Pacific Planning Council, Asian American Drug Abuse Program, Japanese American Bar Association, and National Coalition for Redress and Reparations. Among UCLA student groups supporting the boycott are Asian Pacific Coalition, Korean American United Students for Education and Service, African Student Union, MEChA, and undergraduate student government.

The Kajima corporation, which maintains majority stock ownership of the hotel, has also recently come under scrutiny in Japan for its role in the massacre of Chinese slave laborers at the Hanaoka Mines in northern Japan during the final months of World War II.

Kajima brought nearly a thousand Chinese to Japan to work in a military construction project in 1945. By the end of the war, nearly half had died of malnutrition, mistreatment, and torture. Following the war, Kajima officials were tried and convicted of war crimes and sentenced to be executed. However, the executions were never carried out, and the officials were later released.

In 1990, a group of 11 surviving Chinese laborers — with the help of attorneys and supporters in Japan — began negotiations with Kajima to obtain redress and reparations. When negotiations broke down, the survivors initiated a lawsuit that is now before a district court in Tokyo.

In recent months, the former Chinese slave laborers and their supporters in Japan have expressed solidarity with the union organizing campaign of immigrant workers at the New Otani Hotel in Los Angeles and their Asian American community supporters.

Similarly, in Little Tokyo, several rallies against Kajima have been organized by Japanese American and Chinese American organizations and Latino immigrant workers from the New Otani Hotel linking the demand for redress for surviving Chinese laborers to the demand for justice for workers at the hotel.

Recently, UCLA student leaders Ayako Hagihara, Li'i Furumoto, Jung-Eun Son, and Gene Moy spoke at campus and community events relating to the boycott and the demands against Kajima. In addition, Tony Osumi, a graduate student in our Center's M.A. program, designed a "Boycott New Otani Hotel" button for this campaign.

Center Continues to Expand Course Offerings in Asian American Studies

The Center is offering 25 classes this Spring Quarter as part of its continuing effort to build its new undergraduate major and masters degree program. Over 60 classes are now offered annually.

According to Assistant Director Enrique Dela Cruz, several courses are being offered for the first time by the Center. These include:

"Asians in the Americas: Latin America & the Caribbean," taught by Steven Masami Ropp.

"Women & Nations: Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam, India," taught by Esha De.

"Representing Race: Ethnography & History in Film in the Visual Arts," taught by Fatimah Rony.

"Video Ethnography & Documentary Workshop," taught by John Esaki.

"Asian American Gender & Sexuality," taught by Alice Hom.

"Asian American Women & Migration," taught by Rahpee Thongthiraj.

"Filipino American Literature," taught by Marilyn Alquizola.

"Asian American Theatre: Finding Your Voice," taught by Nobuko Miyamoto.

"Asian American Poetry Workshop," taught by Russell C. Leong.

"Race and Racism," taught by Enrique Dela Cruz.

5 Classes to Be Offered This Summer

Five classes in Asian American Studies will be offered during First Summer Session at UCLA from June 24 to August 2. According to Assistant Director Enrique Dela Cruz, the classes are offered to help UCLA students complete their major and specialization in the field as well as to attract students from across the nation who are in Los Angeles during the summer.

"UCLA is one of the few places offering summer classes in Asian American Studies," he said, "so our classes always have students from other colleges who would not otherwise have an opportunity to take these classes."

Summer offerings include: Asian American Studies 100A and 100B, Asian American history and contemporary experience, respectively; Pilipino American Experience; Asian Americans and the Law; and Investigative Journalism and Communities of Color, which is cross-listed with African American Studies.

In addition, UCLA students may enroll in the eight-unit Hawaii Summer Program, which is coordinated with the University of Hawaii.

For more information on summer classes, call Dr. Dela Cruz at (310) 825-2974.

Omega Fraternity Holds Benefit Dance for Reading Room

Omega Sigma Tau, an Asian American fraternity at UCLA, held a Casino Nite and benefit dance on May 10, with part of the proceeds from the event benefiting the Asian American Studies Reading Room. The fraternity in recent years has held several fundraisers for Reading Room activities.

1996 Community Directory Due in July

The 1996 edition of the *Asian Pacific American Community Directory*, listing some 750 organizations in Los Angeles and Orange counties will be available in July 1996, according to Meg Thornton, head of the project. The previous directory was published in 1994.

For ordering information, call Meg Thornton, Coordinator of Student/Community Projects, (310) 825-1006.



Rappin' with Ten Thousand Carabaos in the Dark Poems by Al Robles

Rappin' with Ten Thousand Carabaos in the Dark collects the poems of artist and master storyteller Al Robles, co-founder of the Kearny Street Writers' Workshop in San Francisco. His poetry is inhabited by farm laborers, factory workers, Zen monks, pool sharks, cooks, children, lovers, preachers, pimps, prostitutes, young bloods, musicians, barbers, and Buddhas.

Orders: \$10.00 plus \$3.00 shipping and California tax where applicable. *Credit cards:* VISA/Mastercard/Discovery, give number and expiration date, add .02% credit card charge. *Checks:* payable to Regents, University of California, *Address:* PUBLICATIONS, UCLA ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER, 3230 Campbell Hall, 405 Hilgard Avenue, Los Angeles CA 90095-1546. Telephone and bookstore orders: (310) 825-2968; FAX (310) 206-9844. email your order to dmar@ucla.edu

I would like to order _____ copies of *Rappin' with Ten Thousand Carabaos in the Dark* @ \$10.00/copy.

Name _____

Address _____

State _____

Zip _____

Signature _____ VISA/MASTERCARD/Discovery/Diners/JCB accepted: (add 2% credit card charge)

Card Number _____

Phone # _____

Expiration Date _____

Total _____

Sisterhood and the Asian American Sorority

By Shawn Sumida

I pledged Theta Kappa Phi, an Asian American sorority, during my second year at UCLA. I was a member of the Crystal pledge class in the fall of 1991 and remained active until fall of 1993. I declared "inactive" status then because I felt torn between different facets of Bruin life, primarily community involvement and Theta sisterhood. It was a difficult decision because of the importance of Theta in my life. For me, leaving Theta involved a tough choice between such things as academics, campus and community involvement, and finances.

Making this choice should be unnecessary. It all boils down to justifying time and/or money allotment. If we look at the roots of Theta, we see a history of academic support and campus and community involvement. It is a sorority that sought to empower the Asian American woman.

I feel that the Asian Greek Council (AGC) has gotten too large and powerful and imposes unrealistic demands on its members, especially with the rigorous academics and rising registration fees at UCLA. AGC, with all of its rules and etiquette, has created obligations which threaten the financial status, growth and individuality of Theta Kappa Phi. I fear that the life of a Theta is revolving around these obligations and AGC rules of conduct. We need to remember our roots and the goals of the founding members. We must re-envision our role in the future of UCLA and our community.

Theta Kappa Phi was founded by nine women in 1959 and was modeled after sororities on "the Row." Margaret Ohara-Inouye, our founder and advisor, was awarded a panhellenic scholarship based on her last name, which was mistaken for Irish instead of Japanese. She accepted the scholarship from a group from which she was excluded at the time. However, at the ceremony, she met Mrs. Rex P. Enochs, who helped her to found a new Asian Greek Letter organization. Robert S. Kinsman agreed to be the faculty sponsor, and the founders drafted a constitution to be registered as a sorority for fall 1959.

Margaret started Theta because she "wanted to give Asian American women a choice of sororities, like there was on the Row." According to Margaret, "back then you didn't have any choices, your life was pretty prescribed. Go to school, get married . . . all you could be was a secretary, nurse, or teacher." She emphasized the importance of the sorority providing a choice for Asian American women. Whether or not she realized it at the time, Theta began a tradition of

"I implore every sorority member to make our unique voices heard. We are women of color who have something to say."

empowerment, advocacy, and most importantly, independence, which I see as being largely lost today.

We need to remember our unique roots. One aspect of Theta which is largely untapped today is the commitment to multiculturalism. The sorority provides an arena for cooperation between different groups that can serve as a grounds for improving race relations. Theta is also an arena where women's and children's issues can be addressed. I believe that recovering our focus to become more community-minded and more involved as Bruins on campus will ultimately be beneficial to our sorority.

When I look at the African American sorority, the National Panhellenic, I see very similar roots. However, I see a greater investment into the community and cultural pride and heritage. I see them mobilizing behind issues which affect their community, stressing advocacy and community service. Meanwhile, they are maintaining their bonds of sisterhood. I also see a strong alumni contribution to the sorority.

I don't feel that current Theta members make a conscious effort to remain apolitical or apathetic. I think that as AGC has grown, the origins of Theta and its mission to "serve the university and community . . ." have become obscured. However, with the changing times and the issues currently facing the Asian Pacific Islander population, I feel that it is essential to reaffirm our roots.

I once spoke with Maria Ventura, past Director of UCLA's Asian Pacific Coalition (APC), to discuss the potential for Theta community involvement. I met Maria at a sorority rush event when we both entered UCLA in fall 1991, and we continued to keep in touch throughout our time at UCLA. While I joined Theta, Maria declined the Asian Greek scene for several reasons, among which were involvement in other campus groups, the monetary expense, and the sorority's lack of community commitment. We discussed the different paths we chose. We both ended up as campus activists, yet to do so I felt I had to give up my activities in Theta. We both felt that in the future this forced

choice should be eliminated.

Now part of the staff of the Asian American Studies Center, Maria feels that the Asian Greeks could add a great deal to the work of Asian Pacific Coalition. "The (Asian) sororities could do so much as women and people of color," she stated.

Maria notes that many Asian Greeks are students taking Asian American Studies classes at UCLA. "The Center and our classes are considered 'political,' so I see a desire, at least individually, among Asian Greeks to be involved," she added.

Theta Kappa Phi was founded by nine women around important principles in their lives. The nine founders felt that they were not competing with Chi Alpha Delta, the other Asian sorority, or with other student groups. They were empowering Asian American women. They looked beyond their college lives and thought about the future. Yes, they became sisters, and, yes, they had fun. But they did so while striving to contribute to the university and the communities from which they came.

I feel that Theta must focus once again on campus activities and community concerns. Recent issues like Proposition 187 are playing on people's fears and tough economic conditions are leading to the scapegoating of immigrants. These are issues of concern to Asian Americans because our population has a high percentage of foreign-born. Furthermore, the increase in the number of racially motivated hate crimes as well as violence against women and children are issues which affect our lives. With the current attacks on affirmative action, much of what our communities fought for in the late Sixties is now threatened.

So you see, there is so much that needs to be done, and so many ways that we as Theta can contribute. We need to refocus and look toward the future. There are little things that we can do immediately such as holding educational forums to educate other Asian Greeks about issues. At the next dance, we can take a few minutes to explain how affirmative action affects us and other communities of color. We can also collaborate with Asian Greeks from other campuses to take a stand supporting Ethnic Studies.

Whatever we decide, I implore every sorority member to make our unique voices heard. We are women of color who have something to say.

(Shawn Sumida graduated from UCLA in June 1995. She plans to attend graduate school in Social Welfare, and is now working for the Asian Health Project, THE Clinic, in Los Angeles.)



Poet Russell Leong and Artist Darryl Mar Win City's "Bookmark" Contest

Turn, Burn, Learn

*As it turns,
Every page composes
A book of night and day
By turns.*

*As it burns,
Each building arches
Its steely back
Before it falls to flames.*

*As it learns,
Each book, each building
Each one of us, reclaims
Our Flight of Angels.*

*As it turns,
Every part has night
And day by turns.*

"Turn, Burn, Learn" was the title of the winning entry by poet Russell Leong and artist Darryl Mar in a bookmark contest sponsored by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to celebrate National Library Week (April 14-20, 1996).

The contest recognized ten collaborations between poets and artists on bookmarks depicting themes in Los Angeles today.

The contest was created to promote reading and encourage people to use Metro Bus or Metro Rail when traveling to their public library.

Artist Darryl Mar is a graduate student in the Asian American Studies masters degree program at UCLA.

Poet Russell Leong is a scholar in Asian American Studies and editor of the research publication, *Amerasia Journal*.

The MTA is distributing 50,000 copies of the Leong-Mar bookmark to libraries throughout the city.

Amerasia Journal Examines Religion and "Racial Spirits"

"Racial Spirits: Religion & Race in Asian American Communities" is the theme of the current issue of *Amerasia Journal*. According to *Amerasia* editor Russell Leong of UCLA and guest editor David Yoo of Claremont McKenna College, the special issue examines the role of religion and spirituality in Asian American life, a neglected area of research.

Among featured articles are an analysis of the Filipino Federation of America in the 1920s by Steffi San Buenaventura of UC Riverside, an exploration of the controversy surrounding Sikh *kirpans* in California schools by Vinay Lal of UCLA, an examination of evangelism among Asian American college students by Rudy V. Busto of Stanford University, an investigation of women's roles in Korean American churches by Jung Ha Kim of Georgia State University, and an interview with Japanese Canadian writer Joy Kogawa by Ruth Y. Hsu of University of Hawaii.

Copies can be purchased for \$10 plus \$2 for postage (California residents should add 8.25% sales tax). Send checks payable to "UC Regents" to: UCLA Asian American Studies Center, 3230 Campbell Hall, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1546. For more information, call (310) 825-2968.

Public Policy Reports Now Available from UCLA

Three joint reports from the UCLA Asian American Studies Center and LEAP Asian Pacific American Public Policy Institute are now available through mail-order.

Two reports — *The State of Asian Pacific America: Policy Issues to the Year 2020*, published in 1993; and *The State of Asian Pacific America: Economic Diversity, Issues & Policies*, published in 1994 — are priced at \$15.

The third report — the recently published *The State of Asian Pacific America: Reframing the Immigration Debate* — costs \$17.

Postage for each book is \$3. California residents should add 8.25% sales tax.

Send orders to: UCLA Asian American Studies Center, 3230 Campbell Hall, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1546. Make checks payable to "UC Regents." For more information, call (310) 825-2968.

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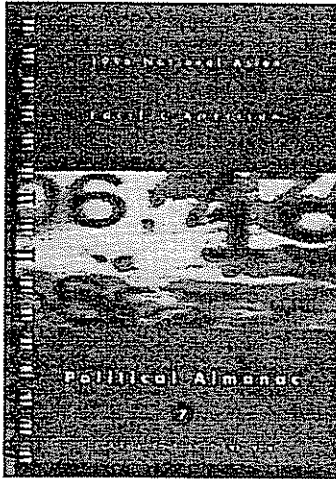
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1996 National Asian Pacific American Political Almanac Now Available

New From UCLA!



Cover design by Darryl Mar

The UCLA Asian American Studies Center announces publication of the 1996 *National Asian Pacific American Political Almanac*. The new almanac is an expanded and updated version of the previous political rosters published by the Center and includes research articles about voting patterns and redistricting as well as statistical information about Asian Pacific Americans.

The almanac is dedicated to former Congressman Norman Mineta and includes the text of his speech at a community tribute held in San Jose on December 1, 1995.

The almanac also includes an updated roster of over 2,000 Asian Pacific American public officials from 31 states, the federal government, and U.S. territories. The roster lists elected and appointed officials, civil servant executives, and judicial officials.

"This publication represents the most comprehensive collection of elected and appointed political officials and political data on Asian Pacific Americans in American electoral politics," states James Lai, project

director. Lai worked with Asian American Studies Center Director Don T. Nakanishi and graphic designer Darryl Mar to produce the almanac.

According to Nakanishi, the almanac is dedicated to former Congressman Mineta in recognition of "his decades of extraordinary public service and leadership."

"From his mayoral achievements in San Jose, California, to his indispensable role in the passage of the 1988 Civil Liberties Act, Mineta has been a remarkably effective, committed, and compassionate leader. He is a very special role model not only for Asian Pacific Americans, but for all Americans," added Nakanishi.

Funding for the project came from Pacific Telesis Group and Pacific Bell.

The almanac is priced at \$10 plus \$3 shipping and 8.25% sales tax for L.A. County Residents. Send orders to UCLA Asian American Studies Center, 3230 Campbell Hall, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1546. Checks should be made payable to "UC Regents."

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