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Center's Web Site Named Top 5% by Lycos

The UCLA Asian American Studies Center web site has been named one of the "Top 5%" web sites by Lycos for content and design. According to the Lycos review: "Come here to get an in-depth look at the programs and resources in Asian American Studies available at UCLA, along with other related Web resources."

The Center's web site, which is updated regularly, includes information on undergraduate and graduate classes in Asian American Studies, undergraduate and graduate degree programs, scholarship information, Center-sponsored events, publications and resources, and information for contacting faculty and staff. Also included on the site is an extensive list of links relating to Asian Americans.

The Center's web site was designed by Gene Kloy, who also currently serves as coordinator of Asian Community Online Network (<http://www.jag.apc.org/acorn/>), the nation's premiere web site for news about Asian American community issues. The Center's site is maintained by Tam Nguyen, a recent UCLA graduate who is now studying for his teacher's credential at California State University, Fullerton.

New Asian Pacific American Community Directory Now Available from UCLA

The new edition of the *Asian Pacific Islander Community Directory*—listing more than 750 organizations in Los Angeles and Orange counties—is now available for \$15.

The directory includes a comprehensive listing of social service agencies and community organizations, ethnic media, Asian American Studies college programs, Asian Pacific American college student services, gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender organizations, websites and email addresses. Organizations are also cross-referenced by ethnic groups and service categories.

The directory is a project of the Student/Community Projects unit headed by Meg Malpaya Thornton of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center. Coordinator for the project was Nancy Kim, a graduate student in Asian American Studies.

"We hope the directory will be a valuable resource and assist people and their organizations in supporting Asian Pacific Islander communities," said Nancy Kim.

To order the directory, call Darrel Mar, (310) 825-2968 or contact him by e-mail (dmar@ucla.edu). Mailing labels generated from the *Community Directory* database can also be ordered for \$50.

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CROSS CURRENTS

The Newsmagazine of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center

CROSS CURRENTS

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Newsmagazine
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Center Joins President Clinton's Race Relations Initiative

New Videos and Workbook Will Expand National Discussions to Include Understanding of Multiracial Relations in Los Angeles

The UCLA Asian American Studies Center is joining with attorney Angela Oh and the Multicultural Collaborative (MCC) in Los Angeles to expand President Clinton's Initiative on Race Relations.

The Center is assisting Oh, who is a member of the President's panel on Race Relations in America, to develop a workbook to accompany a two-part video on multiracial relations in Los Angeles. The video project is being coordinated by Oh and newsmen Warren Olney of KCRW, the public radio station. Russell C. Leong, editor of *American Journal* and head of UCLA Asian American Studies Press, and Gary Phillips, Director of the Multicultural Collaborative, will be serving as editors of the workbook.

"The videos and the workbook will help expand national discussions of race relations beyond the common White-black paradigm," explains Leong. "Through the video and accompanying workbook, people across the U.S. will learn about the intriguing dimensions of possibilities occurring within L.A.'s multiracial communities."

Topics to be covered in the workbook include changing demographics in Los Angeles, problems affecting new immigrant communities, issues in public education, gangs and youth violence, gender issues and race, the impact of media on race relations, issues concerning transportation equity, and community-based dispute mediation services relating to race relations.

Among those contributing essays to the workbook are Linda Burnham, Denise Fairchild, Hal Fairchild, Regina Freer, Robert Garcia, Franklin Gilliam, Isabelle Gunning, Bill Ong Hing, Kenneth Hinze, Shanto Iyengar, Christine Littleton, Ali Modarres, Don Nakamitsu, Henry Pachon, Janine Regalado, Franklin Wu, and others.

In 1997, Angela Oh, an attorney in Los Angeles for the law firm of Beck, De Corso, Daly, Barrera & Oh, was appointed to

President Clinton's seven-member commission to lead the national dialogue on race. She is the only Asian American on the panel.

A long-time leader in the Asian American community, Oh is past president of the Korean American Bar Association and a leader of Women's Organization Reaching Koreans here in Los Angeles. She rose to national prominence following her appearance on *Nightline* as an advocate for Korean immigrant concerns and multiracial understanding during the Los Angeles Riots/Uprising. Before embarking on a career in law, she received her bachelor's degree from UCLA. She is a founding member of Asian Pacific Alumni at UCLA. A long-time supporter of our Center, she will be honored at the Center's 1998 Awards Dinner (see pages 4-5).

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Hmong Means "Free," or Does It? Memoirs of the Hmong Dead

By Pa Xiong

"Late Nite with David Letterman." I'm laughing. Really hard.

My younger sister calls from Fresno. She sounds sad. Soft-spoken. I'm lying comfortably on an old couch my roommates and I had found earlier this Fall. She asks me if I've heard.

Heard what?

The suicide. The suicide, Pa. There's been another suicide.

A few days later. A single envelope arrives for me. I recognize her writing. I know what is inside. Two roommates are there in the apartment with me. So I hide. I go inside the bathroom and I lock the door. I carefully tear open the sealed flap. I look inside. And quietly. Very quietly. I cry. Tragic news. On white paper, English words replace the faces of the Hmong dead. Exploited are my people, hidden behind the faded Xeroxes of token compassion.

On September 13, 1997, twelve days after I turned 21, twelve days after I received the legal right to drink, Hmong refugee Ye Vang, 59, strapped a black nylon stocking around her neck, tightly fastened it to the bed post of a wooden bed frame that had been turned on its side, and readily escaped to another world. All the while, she is in a sitting position. Lost.

While it had only been a few days since I had begun to enjoy my newfound rights as an adult, Vang had been fearing the loss of hers for the whole past year, as an illiterate and elderly refugee, dependent upon Supplemental Security Income benefits for her disabilities.

The Welfare Reform Act of 1996 has devastated Hmong communities across the U.S. Initially, this law cut government benefits such as SSI, AFDC, and food stamps from all non-citizens, children and elderly included. However, it excluded U.S. veterans and those who could prove that they had worked in this country for more than ten years.

Little did the U.S. government consider how drastically it would affect Hmong elderly. This law has created fear as they contemplate how they are going to survive in a capitalistic world. Upon their arrival into the U.S. in the 1970s, the government gladly handed over welfare checks to these refugees. Instead of receiving language skills, job training programs, and educational tools, they were put on a system of receiving welfare. Now after 20 years, the same government tells them that they are no longer eligible for such aid.

The Hmong, now barely becoming visible in America's land of opportunity, have been long connected to this country. During the 1960s, the Hmong were recruited by the CIA to fight the communist troops of North Vietnam. By that time, Laos, too, had become home to its own communist troops, the Pathet Lao. About 10% of the Hmong population, or around 45,000 men, joined the CIA operations, 70% of whom were between the ages of ten and sixteen. Known for their strength and knowledge of the mountains, these boys were not given education, but rather machine guns and taught to kill. My father was nearly one of these recruits. He tells me now, "I was lucky. I was one of the very few that was able to go to school. Working for the government saved me from serving in the war."

About half of the 400,000 Hmong population in Laos were killed by September of 1970. By 1975, when the U.S. decided to withdraw from Vietnam's War, the Hmong had already suffered the highest casualty rates of any ethnic group. An estimated 50% of the Hmong population of Laos was wiped out.

As allies of the U.S., the Hmong desperately sought shelter amidst the postwar period of rampant persecution in Indochina. The unwritten contract with the CIA was now in question. Suddenly, America had forgotten its original promise — to protect the Hmong in case the war was lost.

Today, there are over 150,000 Hmong refugees in America. These refugees came unprepared and psychologically scarred from a war-torn Laos. The shift from a primitive lifestyle to a First World nation has been a difficult one. Located mostly in central California, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, Hmong refugees have overwhelmingly high welfare dependency rates. In

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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 information on page 15). For more information about activities and programs of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, contact: 3230 Campbell Hall, Box 951546, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1546; phone, (310) 825-2974; World Wide Web — www.sscnet.ucla.edu/aasc

counties such as Fresno, Merced, and Tulare, where over 65,000 Hmong reside, the welfare rate is 70%, higher than that of any immigrant group. Officials estimate that 62% of Hmong families in the U.S. rely on government aid.

Because dependency rates are so high within Hmong communities, the Welfare Reform Act has stirred up much controversy. Especially for elderly Hmong, who are illiterate and unable to take the citizenship test, this law has created a fear large enough that many have committed suicide. In Dane County, Wisconsin last spring, two older Hmong killed themselves, one by hanging.

However, what sets Ye Vang's suicide in Fresno apart from these prior suicides is that the law was amended this past summer, two months before its Oct. 1 effective date, to restore benefits to legal residents. Yet, even after receiving news that her SSI would not be cut, she still took her life.

This feeling of unwantedness has impacted families across America. Many have con-

(continued on page 14)

Famous Activist at UCLA for Spring Quarter as Visiting Fellow

Center Acquires Yuri Kochiyama Collection

By Malcolm Kao

For the Asian American Studies Center and the entire UCLA campus, this Spring Quarter will be a special one for two different reasons. Number one: Yuri Kochiyama, one of the most influential civil rights activists in the history of America, has donated most of her collection of works and personal items to the Asian American Studies Center Reading Room and UCLA Special Collections. Number two: Kochiyama is also a Visiting Fellow at UCLA, working on her autobiography under the auspices of the Japanese American Endowed Chair.

During her lifetime, Kochiyama has been involved with many events in Asian American history and has made quite a name for herself. Working on everything from the Redress movement for Japanese Americans to the releasing of political prisoners, to the protest against the Vietnam War, she has become somewhat of an icon in the activist community. Many people have studied her work, and one person even made a documentary film about her entitled "Yuri Kochiyama: A Passion for Justice." This has made the availability of her collection, not to mention her autobiography, some of the most highly anticipated materials documenting Asian American history.

The Yuri Kochiyama Collection, which consists of various periodicals, organization documents, speeches, pictures, etc., will serve as a window into this woman's life for students interested in her work. These materi-

Malcolm Kao Wins Book Collection Award

Malcolm Uyematsu Kao won first prize in the undergraduate division in the University Research Library for the Robert B. and Blanche Campbell Student Book Collection.

Malcolm won \$600 for his collection, "The X-Files: A Malcolm X Book Collection." According to Malcolm, it's not so much a collection as it is a way for him to get to know who Malcolm X was. "I was named after him, and for the longest time I wanted to change my name because I wasn't really into the name Malcolm," he told the *Daily Bruin*. "When I read his autobiography in high school, I got really interested in him and felt really proud to have his name."



Visiting Fellow Yuri Kochiyama (center) with Asian American Studies Reading Room Coordinator Marji Lee (left) and Assistant Coordinator Raul Ebio (right).

als, which are being organized for micro-filming and preservation at the moment, document everything from her early days in internment camp, to her participation in the redress movement, to her special friendship with Malcolm X. The woman's history is a long and diverse one, and her collection is a direct reflection of that. With her collection being at UCLA, the university now has its hands on one of the most highly sought-after pieces of Asian American history.

"With UCLA Special Collections already having the foremost Japanese American history collection with JARP (Japanese American Research Project), the Yuri Kochiyama collection was an important one to obtain because of her significance in JA history," said Marji Lee, coordinator of the Asian American Studies Center Reading Room. "For the AASC Reading Room, Kochiyama's collection will help strengthen our Asian American Movement collections, which we started with the Steve Louie Collection."

But something almost as important as the gift of this special collection is the fact that Kochiyama will actually take time out of her busy schedule to visit the UCLA campus. Although the purpose is mainly to finish her long-awaited autobiography, Kochiyama will be available for appointments and will even have "brown-bag" lunches once a week to give students an opportunity to meet and have conversations with her. While some

may question how special of an opportunity this really is, consider the fact that Kochiyama rarely strays from her New York City home and usually only does so to visit her family.

"I'm really excited about having the opportunity to meet and talk with Yuri," said Ellen Wu, an Asian American Studies graduate student. "I've read and heard so much about her, I see her visit as a great opportunity to converse with not only a prominent person in Japanese American history, but in Asian American history as well."

(Malcolm Kao is a third-year undergraduate at UCLA who is helping to catalog the Yuri Kochiyama Collection for the Asian American Studies Center Reading Room.)

UCLA Summer Session to Offers Classes in Asian American Studies

Four classes in Asian American Studies will be offered during First Summer Session at UCLA from June 29 to August 7. Classes include Asian American Studies 100A and 100B, covering history and contemporary issues, respectively; and Asian American Literature since 1980. Each class carries four units of credit. Also offered is our eight-unit Asian Pacific Communities in Hawaii with University of Hawaii at Manoa.

For more information, call UCLA Summer Sessions, (310) 794-8333.

UCLA Asian American Studies Center 1998 Awards Dinner

May 19, 7 p.m.

Regal Biltmore Hotel
Downtown Los Angeles

with a special tribute to
Thien Minh Ly (1971-1996)

Proceeds benefit scholarships
and fellowships for Asian
American Studies

Dinner Committee

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Chiyoko Doris Hoshide

Dinner Co-Chairs

John E. Kobara

Lilly V. Lee

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1998 Awards Dinner Speakers



Bill Lann Lee

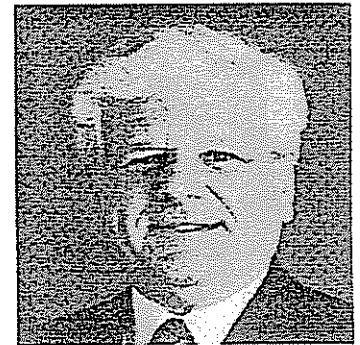
Acting U.S. Assistant Attorney General
for Civil Rights

Bill Lann Lee is Acting Assistant General for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Justice. Prior to this appointment, he served as Western Regional Council for the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the civil rights law firm founded by the late Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. He also served as an adjunct professor of Political Science at Fordham University and as counsel to the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund. He was born and raised in New York City, where his parents owned a small laundry. He credits his late father, who experienced bigotry despite his military service to his country, with providing the inspiration for a career in civil rights law. He received his BA from Yale and his JD from Columbia.

Albert Carnesale

UCLA Chancellor

UCLA Chancellor Albert Carnesale became the eighth chief executive in the university's history on July 1, 1997. Before joining UCLA, he was provost of Harvard University. He grew up in a tenement in the Bronx, New York, and earned B.S. and M.S. degrees in mechanical engineering at Cooper Union and Drexel University and a Ph.D. in nuclear engineering at North Carolina State University.



1998 Awards Dinner Co-Chairs



Lilly V. Lee

Lilly V. Lee, chairperson of Lilly International, is an entrepreneur who was elected as the first woman chair of the World Trade Center Association for Los Angeles-Long Beach. She formed her first real estate investment partnership in the 1970s with Hong Kong investors and now has partnerships and strategic business alliances in many countries. She serves on the Executive Board of Directors of Bank Plus Corporation, Fidelity Federal Bank and Gateway Investment Services, Inc. She is a cofounder of Asian Pacific Women's Center and an honorary chair of Asian Big Sisters. She is the recipient of the 1996 UCLA Asian American Studies Center Business Award.

John E. Kobara

John E. Kobara is President and CEO of The Home Education Network (THEN), a global provider of distance learning for the continuing higher education market. THEN has the exclusive worldwide electronic rights to more than 4,500 courses offered by UCLA Extension, the nation's largest single-campus-based continuing higher education provider. Previously, he served as Vice Chancellor of UCLA, Executive Director of the UCLA Alumni Association, and Vice President and General Manager of Falcon Cable TV. He graduated from UCLA with a B.A. in Political Science and Sociology.



1998 UCLA Asian American Studies Center Dinner Awardees

Angela Oh *Social Vision*



A native of Los Angeles, Angela E. Oh currently serves on the Advisory Board of President Clinton's Initiative on Race. An attorney, she is a law partner of Beck, De Corso, Daly, Barrera & Oh and has been a leader in the organized bar and civic organizations, including Korean American Bar Association and Women's Organization Reaching Koreans. She has also served

on the Los Angeles City Human Relations Commission and California Women's Law Center. She holds a B.A. and master's in Public Health from UCLA and is a cofounder of the UCLA Asian Pacific Alumni.

Sumi Sevilla Haru *Distinguished Arts & Media*



Sumi Sevilla Haru is a vice president of the AFL-CIO and is a producer, actor, electronic and print journalist, writer and poet. She is national recording secretary of the Screen Actors Guild and cofounder and national chair of SAG's Ethnic Employment Opportunities Committee and a co-drafter and negotiator of the affirmative action clauses of the national Theatrical and Commercials contracts.

She is also producer for the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department. She is one of 12 nationally selected Asian and Pacific Islander "Women of Hope" featured in an educational study guide by the Bread and Roses Cultural Project.

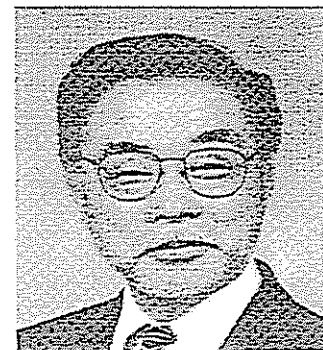
Charles Woo *Distinguished Public Service*

Charles Woo is the co-owner and CEO of Megatoys, a toy manufacturing and import/export company in downtown Los Angeles, which recently was honored by the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce as one of seven outstanding businesses. He was also instrumental in creating the "Los Angeles Toy District" in a downtown industrial area. Aside from his business activities, he serves on the boards of over a dozen organizations, including Asian Rehabilitation Services, Inc., Chinese Americans United for Self Empowerment, and YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles. Woo came to Los Angeles from Hong Kong at age 17 to attend UCLA, where he majored in Physics and graduated in 1972 Summa Cum Laude, the school's highest honor. He also holds an M.S. degree from UCLA.



Minoru Tonai *Lifetime Achievement*

Minoru Tonai is a community and business leader who has also provided strong leadership to UCLA for the past four decades including the Nisei Bruins Club, Japanese American Studies Chair Committee, and UCLA Foundation Board of Trustees. Born in San Pedro, he grew up in the Japanese community of Terminal Island. During World War II, he was interned at Amache. A veteran of the Korean War, he graduated from UCLA in 1955 with a BS in Business Administration and embarked on a successful business career. He has also served the community as a leader of many groups, including the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center and Japanese American National Museum. He has been retired since 1987 although continues to work as a part-time management consultant to high technology start-up companies.



Chiyoko Doris Hoshide, Class of 1934 *1998 Awards Dinner Sponsor*



Chiyoko Doris Hoshide of Rockville, Maryland, is a long-time supporter of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center. Along with her late husband, Tosh, she endowed two scholarships for undergraduates: the Chidori Aiso Memorial Scholarship, named after her late sister; and the Tosh and Doris Hoshide Scholarship. A graduate of the UCLA class of 1934, Mrs. Hoshide was a pioneering member of the Chi Alpha Delta sorority at UCLA, the oldest Asian American sorority in the nation, founded in 1929. In 1995, she donated to the UCLA Research Library's Special Collections Department her personal collection of rare photos, newspaper clippings, and other documents on the early years of the sorority. "We are deeply honored that Doris remains so fully committed to the goals and mission of our Center and has done so much to insure that students will have the resources to gain a UCLA education," said Don Nakanishi, Director of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center.

First of Its Kind in the Nation

UCLA Launches New Center for EthnoCommunications

With the goal of "crossing ethnic boundaries and disciplinary frontiers through new media technologies," the Center for EthnoCommunications has been founded at UCLA under the leadership of Professor Robert Nakamura of Asian American Studies and Film and Television.

The project is the first of its kind in the nation and will be linked to the UCLA Asian American Studies Center. Currently, Professor Nakamura is Associate Director of the Asian American Studies Center.

"The mission of EthnoCommunications is to develop programs which allow diverse peoples and cultures to reclaim and promote their histories, experiences, and contributions through the study, analysis, and vigorous usage of media technologies," states Professor Nakamura. "Research, theory, and application are collaborative, cross-disciplinary, and interactive."

According to *Amerasia Journal* editor Russell C. Leong, who has also played a leading role in the project, EthnoCommunications links Ethnic Studies and ethnographic research with emerging media technologies to create interdisciplinary opportunities for scholars, students, and community-based individuals and groups.

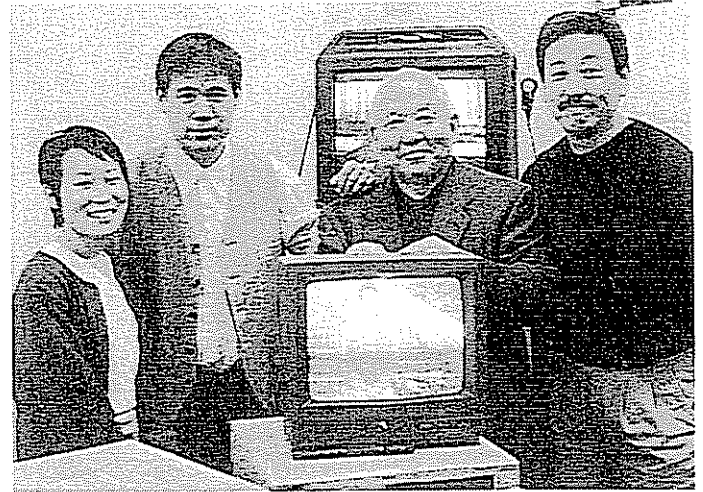
"Rapid developments in video and digital technologies," states Leong, "have made it possible for previously neglected or submerged communities to visually document issues around their migration and settlement, and their cultural imagery and artistic expressions."

Thus far, the project has received a grant from the National Endowment of Arts (NEA). In addition, UCLA's Office of Instructional Development (OID) and the Institute of American Cultures (IAC) have provided academic support.

EthnoCommunications will build on the pioneering work of community filmmaker John Esaki who for the past two years has taught the Video Ethnography & Documentary Workshop through the UCLA Asian American Studies Center. Esaki's work has been cited by UCLA's Office of Instructional Development as a model program for curriculum integration projects throughout the university.

Proposed programs of EthnoCommunications include the following:

- **Degree Programs:** A proposed EthnoCommunications Interdepartmental Degree Program at UCLA will draw upon faculty and courses in Ethnic Studies, Urban Planning, Anthropology, Film and Television, Public Policy, Social Welfare, Literature, Women's Studies, and Public health.
- **Media Initiatives:** A proposed Community Arts Preservation Demonstration Project will integrate resources of artists, scholars, and community groups to develop models for documenting artistic expression; the Communities in Transition program will chronicle through video new and emerging communities; a Life Lines Video History Project will document present-day lives of people from communities.
- **Campus and Community Partnerships:** These partnerships will



Leaders of the UCLA Center for EthnoCommunications (from left to right): Leslie Ito, graduate student in Asian American Studies; Russell C. Leong, editor of *Amerasia Journal*; Professor Robert Nakamura; and community filmmaker John Esaki.

include programmatic linkages with departments on the UCLA campus, an intercampus consortium with UC departments and programs, and linkages with long-time community media institutions across the nation.

For more information about the UCLA Center for EthnoCommunications, contact Professor Robert Nakamura, (310) 206-8889, e-mail (RNAKMUR@ucla.edu).

Amerasia Journal Publishes Cumulative Index of Articles from 1971-1997

Amerasia Journal, the nation's oldest scholarly publication in Asian American Studies, recently published a cumulative index of all articles and reviews it has carried in its 26-year history: from 1971 to 1997.

The updated and expanded cumulative index was compiled by Ellen Wu, a graduate student in Asian American Studies at UCLA, and builds on a similar compilation by Yen Espiritu, now a professor at UC San Diego, that was produced in 1988. Between 1988 and 1997, over 330 scholarly articles and essays, 100 literary writings, and over 250 reviews of books were published in *Amerasia*, reflecting a doubling of materials over the 1971-1987 period.

"Within Asian American Studies, the *Amerasia Journal* occupies a unique position as the interdisciplinary journal that has helped to strategize the intellectual discourse on Asian Americans for 26 years, reflecting the evolution and spaces of the field itself — political, discursive, designated, and transnational," stated editor Russell C. Leong.

For information about obtaining the cumulative index, contact Darryl Mar, (310) 825-2968 or e-mail (dmar@ucla.edu).

New Minor in Asian American Studies Also Offered

UCLA Establishes Joint Master's Degree Program in Public Health and Asian American Studies

By Diana de Cardenas

UCLA has established a joint master's degree program in Asian American Studies and Public Health. The three-year program allows students to obtain two degrees, an M.A. in Asian American Studies and an M.P.H. in the School of Public Health.

The program, which began this winter quarter, is designed for students interested in combining a strong social science and humanities background with a professional career path in public health. It will be jointly administered by faculty from the School of Public Health and the Asian American Studies Center.

"Asian Pacific Islanders are the fastest growing population in the United States," said Geography Professor C. Cindy Fan, chair of the Asian American Studies Interdepartmental Program. "Yet the paucity of academic knowledge about these communities, socially and medically, restricts the ability of community health leaders to develop and define programs to meet the increasing health needs of this heterogeneous population. This degree program will enable students to understand the cultural and social influences of

health conceptualizations and behavior, thus allowing them to develop more relevant and effective programs for the well-being of members of these communities."

The master's program formalizes the existing links between the Center and the School of Public Health. Both have a long-standing history of providing health and social services to Asian American communities locally and nationally.

Students interested in the joint program must apply separately to the master's program in Asian American Studies and the M.P.H. program. Acceptance to one program does not guarantee admittance in the other. Students in the program will have access on a competitive basis to the grants and fellowships that are offered in both divisions.

Professor Fan said the concurrent program is the first of several the Asian American Studies Center is submitting to the university for approval. Other proposals include joint degrees with social welfare, law and urban planning. "Students graduating with an Asian American Studies M.A. degree and a master's degree in the professional schools

will be uniquely equipped with expertise and skills that will enable them to serve an increasingly diverse population and/or to pursue rigorously a doctoral field in a related field," she said.

This year, UCLA also approved the establishment of a minor in Asian American Studies, which replaces the specialization that had been in place for more than 10 years. The minor complements the existing bachelor's and master's programs.

"The minor was established in order to satisfy the growing demand of non-Asian American Studies majors for a systematic education in the field," said Professor Fan, who expects between 350-450 students to enroll in the minor. "This marks yet another development of Asian-American studies at UCLA that even more solidly secures its leading position in the nation."

UCLA has the largest program in Asian American Studies in the country — with more than 2,000 students enrolled in classes and 70 courses taught each year. A total of 37 faculty and more than a dozen visiting professors teach courses each year.

The M.A. in Asian American Studies was established more than 20 years ago and remains the nation's only master's program in that field. The bachelor's degree was established in 1994 and is currently one of only five B.A. programs in the country.

"We have an extremely diverse curriculum with courses in perhaps a broader cross-section of disciplinary areas than any other program in the country," said Center Director Don Nakanishi. "There really is no program in the country that can rival the array of disciplinary approaches through which we can examine and share the Asian-American experience."

UCLA's geographic location, which lies in the midst of the largest Asian American community in the U.S., is an important factor in the overall growth and interest in Asian American Studies. Asian Americans make up more than one-third of the overall student population and close to 41% of the freshman class.

(Diana de Cardenas is a Public Information Officer for UCLA.)

Amerasia Journal Names Professor Margorie Kagawa-Singer as New Book Review Editor

Professor Margorie Kagawa-Singer of the UCLA School of Public Health and Social Welfare has been named new Book Review Editor in the field of Social Sciences for *Amerasia Journal*.

At UCLA, Professor Kagawa-Singer holds a joint appointment in Asian American Studies and Public Health and spearheaded recent efforts to create the joint master's degree program involving the two disciplines.

"I am very pleased to have the opportunity to work with Professor Kagawa-Singer, especially because she is a fellow alumnus of San Francisco State University," said *Amerasia Journal* editor Russell Leong.

As the new Social Science Book Review Editor for *Amerasia Journal*, Professor Kagawa-Singer succeeds UCLA Anthropology and Asian American Studies Professor Kyeyoung Park, who served in the



post for the past two years.

Professor Park is currently on one-year leave from UCLA under a fellowship from the Russell Sage Foundation in New York City, where she is working on her second book.

Introducing Our First-Year M.A. Students

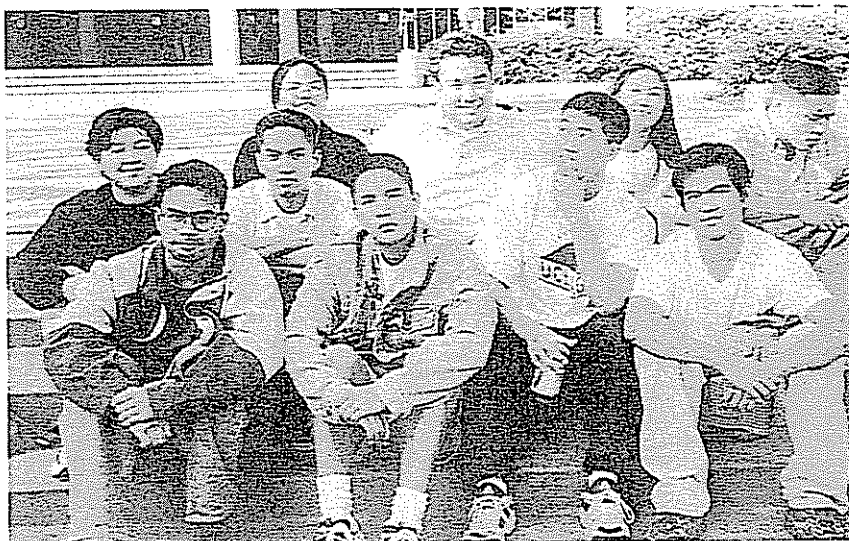
Center's New Graduate Students Bring Diverse Backgrounds and Academic Interests to Field of Asian American Studies

Reflecting diverse backgrounds and equally diverse academic interests, the 10 students comprising the new first-year class in our Center's master's degree program bring new intellectual vitality to the field of Asian American Studies. Students in this first-year class hold research interests ranging from literature and literary criticism to public policy, from drama and creative writing to community studies. Members of the first-year class hail from sites in the Asian American diaspora: Honolulu, Philadelphia, Texas, Alabama, the Philippines, Saigon, France, and "beautiful downtown Burbank."

Students during their first year of graduate work are taking advanced courses in Asian American Studies, including core courses taught by Professors Valerie Matsumoto, Jinqi Ling, and Don Nakanishi.

Jeffrey Arellano Cabusao was born in Honolulu, but grew up most of his life in San Diego. He did his undergraduate work at Oberlin College in Ohio, where he double-majored in English and Cross-Cultural Ethnic Studies. He participated in Oberlin's Asian American Alliance and coordinated courses on Asian American Literature in the Experimental College. "I entered the M.A. program to gain a greater appreciation of the history of the Asian American Movement and the responsibility of Asian American Studies to promote progressive collective social transformation," he states. His research interests focus on social theory, Asian American literary studies and pedagogy, and Third World liberation movements of the late 1960s and early 1970s and their relationship to the current Asian American Movement.

Edgar Dormitorio was born in Torrance and raised in Carson in Southern California. He completed his undergraduate work at UC Irvine where he was president of Kababayan, the Pilipino American student organization, and worked with the UCI Cross-Cultural Center. "My Asian American Studies classes at UCI had a major impact on me along with organizational and community work," he says. "My professors and advisors pushed me to enter the UCLA M.A. program, and it seemed like a natural course to take in order



Presenting the first-year class (from left to right), back row — Joanne Gonzales, Edgar Dormitorio, May Ly Moua, Randall Park; middle row — Dee Dee Nguyen, Lacan de Leon, David Lee; front row — Jeff Cabusao, Paul Tran, R. Bong Vergara.

to better understand my community. The classes I took at UCI and the classes I am taking here offer me a chance to tell my own history." Currently, Edgar is interested in researching the Anti-Martial Law movement in the U.S. against the Marcos dictatorship.

Joanne Gonzales was born in San Diego and attended UCLA as an undergraduate specializing in Asian American Studies. She is interested in pursuing research about Pilipino American literature, especially grappling with the issues of labor and sexuality. "I entered the M.A. program to gain an interdisciplinary background in the field of Asian American Studies," Joanne states. "It's impossible to focus on literature without knowing the historical, social, and political contexts which affect its production and interpretation."

David Lee was born in Philadelphia and, according to him, "grew up everywhere else." He attended UCLA as an undergraduate, where he help found an Asian American and pan-ethnic theater group called "Lapu, the Coyote That Cares" with fellow students Randall Park and Derek Mateo. The group performed a number of plays that were attended by standing-room-only audiences of UCLA students. In the M.A. program, David

is focusing his thesis on Asian Americans and comic books.

Lakandiwa M. de Leon was born in west Los Angeles and raised in "beautiful downtown Burbank." "I come from a musical family in the Philippines and have been involved in Pilipino cultural production since I was six or seven," he states. He received his B.A. from UCLA in Sociology and Asian American Studies and entered our M.A. program to do research on the Pilipino American community. His research interests focus on Pilipino American youth culture, specifically hip hop and the development of the Pilipino American DJ scene. He aspires to teach in a university or community college setting.

May Ly Moua was born in France and lived there for eight years before moving to the U.S. in 1984, where her family settled in Texas. "Having been apart from the Hmong for such a long period of time, my parents decided to settle in Fresno, which is home to one of the largest Hmong communities in America," she states. "After trying various businesses, my parents were able to open up a retail shop selling traditional Hmong costumes as well as fabric, shoes, and clothes." A 1997 graduate of UCLA, May Ly entered our M.A. program to examine broader is-

"I entered the M.A. program to gain a greater appreciation of the history of the Asian American Movement and the responsibility of Asian American Studies to promote progressive collective social transformation."

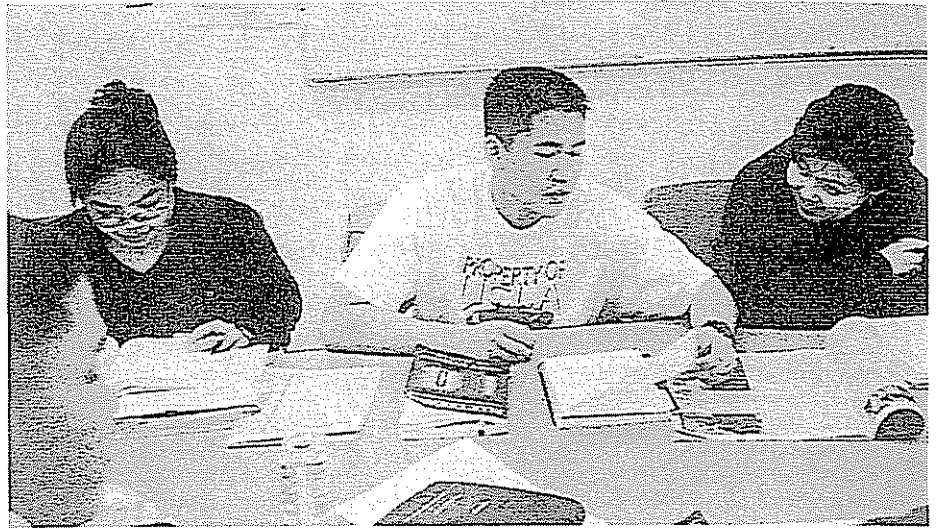
Jeffrey Cabusao

sues in the Asian American community and how these relate to the Hmong. She wants to contribute to the growing literature on the Hmong in America from a Hmong perspective.

Dee Dee Nguyen was born in Saigon but grew up in Santa Ana and San Diego. She graduated from UC San Diego and worked with an anti-tobacco education program in San Diego's Asian Pacific community. She came into our M.A. program "to find myself and answer questions about Asian American Studies," as well as to gain insight into Asian American history and network with community organizations. Dee Dee is interested in a number of research topics: the current Nike boycott involving the Vietnamese American community, Vietnamese American transnational identity, and Asian American youth violence.

Randall Park was born and raised in Los Angeles and attended UCLA as an undergraduate, specializing in Asian American Studies, and cofounding the theater group, "Lapu: The Coyote That Cares." "I entered the M.A. program to get a better understanding of the issues surrounding Asian Pacific people," he states. "Hopefully, the program will shape my consciousness in positive ways." Randall's main research interests center on television and film. He aspires to make a movie.

Paul Tran was born in Huntsville, Alabama, but grew up in north Long Beach. As an undergraduate, he studied 20th century history at Stanford. He came to our M.A. program to expand his knowledge of Asian American history and current issues. For this M.A. thesis, he wants to focus on the Vietnamese community. "I am planning on doing an oral history project on second-generation Vietnamese Americans, who are vastly neglected due to their refugee and



Graduate students (from left to right) Joanne Gonzales, Paul Tran, and Dee Dee Nguyen rigorously debate research issues in Professor Don Nakanishi's class.

newcomer status in this transnational, postmodern, poststructural, anti-egalitarian, heterogenic society," he states.

R. Bong Vergara was born and raised in San Esteban, Ilokos Sur, Republic of the Philippines. He did his undergraduate work at

Grad Students Complete Eight New M.A. Theses

Eight new theses were completed in 1996-97 by students in the Center's M.A. program, according to Asian American Studies Librarians Marji Lee and Raul Ebio. Completing theses were:

Theresa Bartolome Cenidoza, "Asian Pacific American Entrepreneurship and Community Economic Development," 1997.

Annalissa Arangcon Herbert, "Growing Up Brown in America: The Filipino-Mango Athletic Club of San Francisco, 1938-1955," 1996.

Richard Kenneth Jong, "An Urgency in Our Insurgency: Perspectives on the Formation and Maintenance of an Asian American Music Collective," 1996.

Dawn Bohulano Mabalon, "Filipina Pioneers: The Pinay in Stockton, California, 1926-1946," 1997.

Darryl Mar, "Cultural Production and Public Art: The Destruction and Impending Decline of a Political Project," 1996.

Lisa Michelle Mortimer, "Caught in the Cross-Fire: The Nisei Week Eurasian Queen," 1996.

Sharon Shin Park, "Generational Transition within Korean Churches in Los Angeles," 1996.

Kariann Akemi Yokota, "From Little Tokyo to Bronzeville and Back: Ethnic Communities in Transition," 1996.

UCLA, where he worked on the curricular reform campaign for Filipino Studies and Tagalog classes. For his M.A. thesis, Bong is focusing on Filipino American poverty, especially the pathway to poverty and the role of the state and the influence of Philippine-U.S. relations in the creation of poverty.

Asian American Activism Conference to Be Held at UCLA May 15-16

"Serve the People" — a conference on Asian American community activism — will be held at UCLA's Kerckhoff Grand Salon on May 15-16 under sponsorship of Asian Pacific Coalition and Asian Pacific American Graduate Students Association. The free conference is funded by Campus Programs Committee of the Program Activities Board.

"This conference is designed to bring progressive Asian Americans together from different parts of the country to develop an analysis of the crucial issues facing Asian American communities and a progressive strategy for work around these issues," stated Scott Kurashige, a History graduate student.

Topics to be addressed include: Interracial Unity and the Struggle for Liberation, the Legacy of the Asian American Movement, Contemporary Working-class Struggles, Fighting Sexism, Electoral Work, Inner-City Poverty, Economic Justice and Welfare "Reform," Police Brutality, Cultural Work, Teaching Asian American Studies, Organizing Asian Workers, Environmental Justice, International Solidarity, Service Providing vs. Community Organizing, Global Restructuring and Student Activism.

For more information, contact Scott Kurashige at (310) 206-4438 or e-mail skurashi@ucla.edu

Freedom and Justice for All?

Filipino American Veterans "Served but Don't Deserve"

By Roderick Sasis

When the radio blurted a plea from President Roosevelt for all Filipinos to join the fight against fascism and Japanese aggression, he felt the need to uphold the American values of freedom and democracy instilled in him while growing up in the Philippines. He wanted to be a soldier. Just like other Americans, he put his life on hold and joined the U.S. Army to protect his nation.

After relentless bombing by the Japanese, Bataan surrendered on April 9, 1942. He became a Prisoner of War and along with others was detained in make-shift barbed wire confines while forced to march during the day. The prisoners suffered from food and water deprivation, as well as the torturing effects of the heat and humidity of the tropical summer. Consumed with fright, the 22-year-old soldier witnessed comrades die of thirst or from the piercing metal of bayonets when some attempted to flee. Fear of death alone motivated him to continue his plight as more and more corpses littered the 90-mile trek from Bataan to Pampanga.

As the soldier and his comrades reached Pampanga, more atrocities awaited as the Japanese herded them like animals into concentration camps. Hunger and thirst gnawed his stomach as his will to survive grew weaker and weaker as each day passed. His daily rations consisted of rice sprinkled with water and a cup of water. The soldier wore the same clothes for months and was not allowed to wash. Swarms of mosquitoes attacked with impunity at night to continue the torture. The horrendous conditions caused malaria, dysentery, and other ailments. The soldier became disillusioned with life as one by one his comrades in battle became ill from malnourishment and disease. Tens, then hundreds, died each day.

The soldier suffered for six months along with thousands of others. One would assume that these men would be highly decorated by America at the end of the war. This is a wrong assumption. He was but one of the many invisible Filipinos in World War II whose accomplishments went unnoticed. The soldier received nothing for his services. He wasn't honored like other veterans, despite the blood he shed, despite the courage he displayed in such extraordinary circumstances, despite his attempt to protect the democratic goals of America. Even though he fought side by side with Americans, he

was no longer their equal after the war. He was no longer judged by his military valor, but by the color of his skin.

On July 26, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued a military order which mobilized the Philippine Commonwealth Army and Old Philippine Scouts under the U.S. Armed Forces. This order stemmed from U.S. sovereignty over the Philippines, even after the passage of the Philippine Independence Act of 1934. The Act provided a ten-year transitional period for the Philippines to acquire full independence from the U.S. Meanwhile, the U.S. maintained authority over the Commonwealth, such as stationing armed forces in the Philippines and upon order of the President, to call to the service of the U.S. Armed Forces all military forces organized by the Philippines government. Roosevelt used this authority to call into service 200,000 to 300,000 Filipino men.

Instead of honoring the services of those Filipinos who survived torture and others who died to ensure the freedom of both the U.S. and the Philippines, on February 18, 1946, the 79th Congress of the U.S. passed the Rescission Act of 1945 which denied rights and benefits to members of the Philippines Commonwealth Army because their activities were not considered active service under the U.S. Armed Forces.

"Filipinos were promised benefits, and the Rescission Act took away those rights. I feel stabbed in the back. It's like saying that my experiences in the concentration camps were not worth a damn," said 74-year-old Peping Baclid, a former Filipino prisoner-of-war and survivor of the Bataan Death March.

The Rescission Act did award disability and death benefits on the basis of one Filipino peso for each dollar authorized, yet denied benefits for those who were lucky to survive torture and extraordinary conditions.

Today, most of the 70,000 surviving veterans are forced to live on SSI (Supplemental Security Income), Food Stamps, and Medicaid and die without VA burial benefits. For 51 years, these veterans have waited, asked, and demanded eligibility for full veterans' benefits, but have been denied. Many left their families and immigrated to the U.S. and became naturalized citizens to fight for their rights. Some have become disillusioned with not only the situation but also with America.

Many years to go back to the Philippines to escape such blatant discrimination.

"I am alone in San Diego. My family here consists of my fellow Filipino veterans who I live with. I am getting too old. I just want to get my benefits and return to the Philippines, for the last few years of my life," said 79-year-old Evaristo Edgudo, a Filipino former prisoner-of-war who also survived the Bataan Death March.

Filipino veterans, though, have refused to be complacent. Their voices needed to be heard. Challenges to the constitutionality of the Rescission Act of 1946 have reached all the way to the Supreme Court in the cases of *Harris v. Rosario* and *Califano v. Torres*. The Court affirmed the constitutionality of the Rescission Act due to three factors: the U.S. never imposed taxes on the Philippines, annual benefits to Filipino veterans are too costly and would reach two billion dollars per year, and the full payment of benefits to Filipino veterans could disrupt the Philippines economy due to the exchange rate from dollars to Filipino pesos.

Today, the Filipino Veterans Equity Bill (H.R. 836), cosponsored and introduced by Representative Bob Filner from San Diego, is waiting for a hearing in the House Veterans Affairs Committee. It would provide the veterans and their families compensation for their services, but most importantly, it would restore the respect and justice taken away from them 50 years ago.

"It's not about the money. It's about justice, about human dignity, about human rights," said 80-year-old Germinio Delalana, former prisoner-of-war and survivor of the Bataan Death March.

Currently, there are 11 cosponsors in the Senate and 186 in the House, including some of Congress' most notable members such as Senator Alfonse D'Amato (R-NY). Forty more Senators and 42 more Congressmen need to cosponsor the legislation. However, House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Bob Stump and other Republicans are blocking the Equity Bill from a vote.

Demonstrations by Filipino veterans supporters have been held from Los Angeles to Maryland. In L.A., veterans staged a hunger strike and a round-the-clock vigil at "Equity Village" in MacArthur Park, named after

"It's not about the money. It's about justice, about human dignity, about human rights."

**- Germinio Delalana
Filipino American Veteran
80-years-old**

their World War II military leader. This past Veteran's Day, a march and rally were held that culminated on the steps of L.A. City Hall, while in Maryland a dozen Filipino veterans, as pallbearers, carried the black coffin of their "fallen comrades" to the gates of Arlington National Cemetery to catch President Clinton's attention.

Why should this issue be so important to Filipino Americans today, especially the youth? Why is it important to me? The 22-year-old soldier I described in the beginning of this article is Gregorio E'janda, my "lolo," my grandfather, a personal hero — but just another pawn in the eyes of the U.S. government. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in his native town of Masinloc in the province of Zambales, knowing full well that he might never return. He fought to ensure that his family and his descendants would enjoy freedom, as did the rest of the Filipino veterans. They sacrificed their blood and their lives, and now the U.S. government is refusing to acknowledge them and deems them to have been "inactive" participants in the war.

We owe these veterans — men we can all consider our "lolos" — *utang ng loob*, a debt of gratitude. Five Filipino veterans die each day out of the 70,000 still alive while waiting to receive recognition for their services. We, especially the youth, cannot forget their achievements to ensure the freedom that their children (our mothers and fathers) enjoy. The veterans are in the twilight of their lives, while we have just begun. It is our responsibility to join in their struggle because their issues are our own. Unless we take action, we are always going to be considered "second-class" citizens, or hyphenated Americans. It is up to us to fight for equality, not just for our elders but for ourselves and our future generations as well.

It is time to take back what we rightly deserve.

(Roderick Sasis is a sophomore at UCLA.)

Asian American Studies Center and University of Hawaii Presses Launch New Book Series

Books by writers Frank Chin and Gary Pak and scholar David Yoo are the first three offerings in a new series from the UCLA Asian American Studies Center Press and University of Hawaii Press. Editor for the series — titled "Intersections: Asian and Pacific American Transcultural Studies" — is Russell C. Leong of UCLA.

Bulletproof Buddhists and Other Essays by Frank Chin, the first in the new series, contains six essays spanning the past 40 years, including a piece from the early 1990s covering Southeast Asian gangs in San Diego. According to Leong, Chin's writings are "thought-provoking, furious, hilarious, tough, outrageous, erudite, and compassionate all at once. Frank Chin is perhaps the most instantly recognizable voice in Chinese American writing today."

Chin is the author of two novels, *Donald Duk* and *Gunga Din Highway*, and a collection of stories, *The Chinaman Pacific and Frisco R.R. Co.*, for which he won the American Book Award.

Gary Pak's *A Ricepaper Airplane*, the second book in the new series, is set on the fringes of a Hawaii sugar plantation in the 1920s where a dying immigrant envisions building an airplane — from ricepaper, bamboo, and the scrap parts of a broken-down bicycle — to carry him back to his Korean homeland and to his wife and children. Pak has created "a heroic story of loss, of deep love, and of rebirth," according to Leong.

Pak is on the writing faculty at Kapi'olani Community College, Honolulu. His collection of short stories, *The Watcher of Waipuna*, won the Association for Asian American Studies 1993 National Book Award for Literature.

The final book in the new series — *New Spiritual Homes: Religion and Asian Americans*, edited by History Professor David K. Yoo of Claremont McKenna College — is scheduled for publication in December 1998. According to Leong, this book "investigates how religious traditions, movements, and institutions have been vital for Asian Americans, past and present. Through essays, expressive works, and resource materials, it reframes the religious landscape and brings into view the experiences of Asian Americans." Covered in the book are a range of topics: Chinese American Protestant nationalism, the development of Filipino American folk religion, law and religion among American Sikhs, and Taiwanese Buddhism in southern California.

For more information on this new series, contact Russell Leong — phone, (310) 206-2892; e-mail (rleong@ucla.edu).

Intersections: Asian and Pacific American Transcultural Studies

UCLA Asian American Studies Center Press &
University of Hawaii Press

Series Editor: Russell C. Leong

Bulletproof Buddhists and Other Essays

By Frank Chin

Available in April 1998 in cloth and paper

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Available in December 1998 in paper

From the Estate of UCLA Alumnus Reiko Uyeshima

Center Receives Gift of \$150,000 to Set Up Undergraduate Scholarships

The UCLA Asian American Studies Center has received a gift of \$150,000 to establish an endowment in the names of Ms. Reiko Uyeshima, Reverend Taigaku Uyeshima, and Mrs. Yo Uyeshima to provide scholarships for undergraduates studying in a field relating to Japan or the Japanese American experience.

According to Center Director Don Nakanishi, the gift represents the total estate of the late Ms. Reiko Uyeshima, a UCLA alumnus, who had an extremely difficult and yet remarkable life. She was born in Waipahu, Hawaii on April 19, 1924, and was sent to Tokyo, Japan, at the age of five to live with her uncle's family. At the age of 11, she came to Los Angeles, where she joined her parents, Reverend Taigaku (of Zenshujin Buddhist Temple) and Ms. Yo Uyeshima. She was interned during World War II, and graduated from

high school at Manzanar in 1942. She was then sent to Crystal City internment camp in Texas for the duration of the war, and then repatriated to Yamagata, Japan along with her family after the war.

In 1947, she returned to Los Angeles by herself and began her studies at UCLA. It took her 13 years to graduate from UCLA because she lived in poverty during most of that time (with no family support and only part-time work, largely in the Japanese American community) and also was hospitalized with tuberculosis for three years. At age 35, she finally received her BA in Japanese Studies.

In 1962, she moved to New York City where she worked as a clerk at *Time* magazine, and during a 22-year career there advanced to the position of writer/editor. She also received an MA in Japanese Studies from Columbia during that period. In 1984, at the age



of 60, she retired from Time Warner, Inc. and lived her retirement years in Manhattan.

The Center will be paying tribute to Ms. Reiko Uyeshima at its Awards Dinner on May 19.

Professor Min Zhou Co-Authors Book on Vietnamese Youth

UCLA Professor Min Zhou of Asian American Studies and Sociology has co-authored a new book, *Growing Up American: How Vietnamese Children Adapt to Life in the United States*. Published by the Russell Sage Foundation in New York, the book is co-authored with Carl L. Bankston III.

The book recounts the troubled, but ultimately successful passage of second-generation Vietnamese youths. The authors show that the key to success involves the family and the ethnic community, integrating children into a dense set of social relations.

UCLA to Offer New Cluster Class on Interracial Dynamics

Four UCLA professors, including two from Asian American Studies, will teach a cluster class on interracial dynamics in American literature, culture, and society during the 1998-99 academic year. The cluster will have an enrollment of 125 to 150 students.

Combining talents for this cluster will be Professors King-Kok Cheung and Richard Yarborough of the English Department, Henry Yu of History, and Kimberle Crenshaw of the Law School. Professors Cheung and Yu hold joint appointments with the Asian American Studies Center.

LA Weekly Lists Russell Leong among L.A.'s Top 84 Writers

Poet and *Amerasia Journal* editor Russell C. Leong was listed as one of the top 84 writers in Los Angeles in a recent issue of the *LA Weekly*.

Leong, the winner of PEN's Josephine Miles Literature Award for his 1993 collection of poetry, *The Country of Dreams and Dust*, has lived in Los Angeles since 1977. For the past 21 years, he has served as editor of *Amerasia Journal*, the nation's oldest scholarly publication in Asian American Studies.

According to the *LA Weekly*, "Leong's work merges the personal and the political, exploring issues of Asian experience and identity from a decidedly individual point of view."

"Not all poems are political," he told the *LA Weekly*, "but a lot are allegories for larger things. For me, Los Angeles is a place where you can see the possibilities for coexistence. Despite the media's portrayal of the city as Balkanized, we can't isolate ourselves, and as a writer, I want to explore that, and see what it means."

Among the 84 other writers listed by the *LA Weekly* are several others with past affiliations to the UCLA Asian American Studies Center: poet Amy Uyematsu and novelist Frank Chin.

1998 Asian Pacific American Political Almanac Now Available

The 1998 *Asian Pacific American Political Almanac*—the most comprehensive guide to Asian Pacific American politics—is now available from the UCLA Asian American Studies Center. The price for the 300-plus page almanac is \$15 plus tax and postage.

The almanac was compiled by James Lai, a graduate of the master's program in Asian American Studies at UCLA. The almanac contains analytic essays on Asian Pacific American political participation as

well as a directory listing nearly 2,000 office-holders across the nation. Funding for the almanac was provided by Pacific Bell.

Publication of the almanac launched our Center's Asian Pacific American heritage month activities. The almanac will also be distributed at the dinner of the Asian Pacific Institute for Congressional Studies in Washington, D.C.

For ordering information, call Darryl Mar, (310) 825-2968 (e-mail: dmar@ucla.edu).

Updated Bibliography on WW II Internment Now Available

The Asian American Studies Center has published a new edition of its bibliography, *Japanese Americans during World War II: A Selected, Annotated Bibliography of Materials Available at UCLA*.

Listing over 300 fictional and non-fictional books, articles, and other works, the annotated bibliography focuses on the wartime internment of 120,000 Japanese Americans and the subsequent redress and reparations movement.

The first edition of the work was compiled by Brian Niiya in 1992. The second edition features 50 new citations published between 1992 through 1997. This updated bibliography was expanded by Leslie A. Ito, graduate student in the M.A. program in Asian American Studies at UCLA.

Moreover, a section, "Supplemental Readings for K-12 Curriculum Integration," has been added for those instructors who would like to incorporate the Japanese American Internment experience in their classrooms. Ito hopes that this updated bibliography will be a valuable resource for researchers, educators and community members, allowing for a heightened awareness and growth in the field of Japanese American studies.

Center Director Don Nakanishi praises the bibliography as "a valuable reference tool that will increase your understanding of a disastrous and unjust episode in our nation's history that should not have happened once — and that we should not allow to ever happen again."

Copies of the bibliography are \$10 plus \$3 for mailing. For ordering information, contact Darryl Mar at dmar@ucla.edu or (310) 825-2968.

Professor Valerie Matsumoto Receives Research Grant

UCLA Professor Valerie Matsumoto of the History Department and the Asian American Studies Center recently received a major research grant from the John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation to undertake her project, "Japanese American Women and the Creation of Urban Nisei Culture in the 1930s."

Professor Matsumoto is the author of *Farming the Home Place: A Japanese American Community in California, 1919-1982*.

Center Hosts Japanese American Community Leader Bill Watanabe as Visiting Fellow

By Diana de Cardenas

Japanese American community leader Y. Bill Watanabe was recently appointed visiting fellow at UCLA's Asian American Studies Center, under the auspices of the chair in Japanese American studies. The academic chair, the only one of its kind in all of American higher education, was established by Japanese American alumni and friends of UCLA who were committed to supporting and developing Japanese American studies at the university.

Since 1980, Watanabe has been executive director of the Little Tokyo Service Center (LTSC), one of the largest social service agencies serving the Asian Pacific American population of Los Angeles. In 1993, he started the Little Tokyo Community Development Corporation, a housing and economic development agency based in Los Angeles Little Tokyo.

Together, both organizations provide counseling, transportation, emergency assistance, peer support groups, housing and community development projects.

"We are enthused that Bill has accepted our invitation to be a visiting fellow with us," said Don Nakanishi, Center Director. "He has provided far-reaching leadership and vision for the Japanese American community in Los Angeles and nationally, and his organization has been recognized nationally for its innovative projects in housing, community development, newcomer services and policy advocacy. Our professors and

graduate students are looking forward to gaining his insights on his extraordinary accomplishments, as well as learning about his views on the future of Japanese Americans in the United States."

Watanabe earned his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from California State University, Northridge in 1966. After graduation, he completed a year-abroad study program at Waseda University in Tokyo. He received his master's in social welfare from UCLA in 1972 and is a former Alumnus of the Year of the Department of Social Welfare.

An active member of the Asian American community, Watanabe is chair of the statewide Nonprofit Policy Council of California and a member of the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy Board of Directors. Moreover, he chairs the Little Tokyo Business Improvement District, the Little Tokyo Gymnasium Project and the Pacific Asian Resource Coordination Program.

Watanabe is cofounder of the Asian Pacific American Community Research Roundtable, an annual conference aimed at community-based research which attracts more than 200 students, faculty and community representatives from throughout the state. He also has served on the National Board of Directors of Amnesty International USA and is the current Board Chairman of Evergreen Baptist Church in Rosemead.

(Diana de Cardenas is a Public Information officer for UCLA.)

Center Welcomes Scholar, Emilia Kasamatsu, from Paraguay

The UCLA Asian American Studies Center recently hosted Emilia Yumi Kasamatsu, an expert on Japanese in Paraguay, as a Visiting Fellow under the Japanese American Studies Endowed Chair.

Kasamatsu is the author of a recent book, *La Presencia Japonesa en el Paraguay*, as well as the president of Oisca International Paraguay, a Japanese non-governmental organization.

She received her degree of Licenciada en Letras from the National University of Asuncion in 1997. Previously, she served

as the principal organizer for the VI Panamerican Nikkei Association convention which was held in Paraguay in 1991, as well as the wife of the Ambassador of Paraguay to Japan. She is a renowned writer, painter, and expert in Japanese flower arranging.

During her visit to Los Angeles, Kasamatsu gave two talks: one on the UCLA campus, cosponsored with the Latin American Studies Center; and a second in Little Tokyo, cosponsored with the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL).

Memoirs of the Hmong Dead

(continued from page 2)

templated suicide as their only solution. In Fresno, Alinda Vang noted that many elders in her English class were talking about suicide due to feelings of hopelessness and their inability to learn English.

What the government needs to keep in mind is the special circumstances of the Hmong. First and foremost, these refugees did not ask to come to America and arrived here unprepared for this industrial nation. Many were physically disabled from the war, as well as mentally and psychologically scarred. The government must remember that these refugees are here because of the U.S. war — not by choice. With this in mind, the government must take responsibility for their welfare, at least until the Hmong are able to survive in this country.

The government argues that it should not be responsible for the Hmong anymore since two decades have past since the war. But is 20 years enough time for the Hmong to adapt from a slash-and-burn lifestyle to a new one in an industrial nation? The Department of Social Services spokesperson, Corinne Chee, states, "I feel for these people; they fought and died for us. But in the era of welfare reform, the new mantra is 'work.' It's not 'what the government owes me.'"

Working would be nice for these families. But where are these well-paying jobs? They are nowhere to be found for these uneducated, unskilled immigrants, many with families as large as nine in a household.

Adaptation is a long process, and unlike other immigrant groups who came here to provide better education for their children, the Hmong knew nothing about education before coming to the U.S. Thus, terms like competition and capitalism have to be learned. College educational attainment rates are as low as 2.9%, putting the Hmong at the very bottom of America's success rate.

Not only has Welfare Reform affected many Hmong families, but it has also affected those who served in the war. Thousands of the Hmong elderly here in America are veterans of this nation's secret war. Yet, although the new law specifically excludes veterans from its provisions, it has failed to exclude Hmong soldiers. It is blatantly racist, contending that the Hmong who fought in the war are not considered veterans.

Efforts at the national level have focused on two measures: passing the Hmong Veteran's Naturalization Act of 1997 (H.R. 371), and amending the Welfare Reform Act to reclas-

sify Hmong soldiers as U.S. veterans. These efforts would allow them to take the citizenship test with the assistance of an interpreter and it would waive the five-year residency requirement. The first measure has failed twice already in two other forms. According to Philip Smith, who has been coordinating the Washington lobby effort for the Lao Veterans of America, "The Hmong community has limited resources. The obstacle they face is that they are just becoming politically aware, and the battle is tremendous."

After two decades in America, the Hmong are discovering that the war is not yet over.

Two months ago, my father attended a funeral in Sacramento. My mother told me that Chia Yang had hung herself in her garage. "She didn't want to become a burden on her children if her SSI was cut. She didn't want them to have to support her," my mother says. The 54-year-old mother of seven was a distant aunt of mine, receiving SSI for her many disabilities: high blood pressure, panic attacks, diabetes, kidney stones, bladder infections, arthritis, night sweats, and even a stroke. Her husband was one of the thousands of men who served in the CIA's secret army. "She had a very good heart," my mother tells me.

It's getting closer to home everyday. As I am writing this, I'm remembering all those times I overheard my grandmother talking about how difficult it is to survive here in America. I'm remembering how easily she is able to talk about taking her own life. I'm remembering all those times she told me to work hard in school. "Study hard, Pa. We're so old. We know nothing. Don't be like us." It was too late for her. She knows that. She just hopes that I will not be swallowed by "America's big monsters." I am afraid, so afraid that maybe she has been.

My mother always taught me to help others. Throughout my life, I remember her telling me that when someone you know is suffering, you help them. You needn't be asked. You needn't be told. You just help, because it's the right thing to do. The stronger helps the weak, and the richer helps the poor. The wiser helps the ignorant, and the liberated helps the lost. It's all really simple. Really.

I remember as a child that I never had many things. I knew we were poor. But then, I'd see my parents helping others, giving money and buying gifts for other children. I was hurt. So I asked my mother, once, why she was giving to people what we could not afford for ourselves. She simply said, "It is because we're Hmong, Pa."

What my mother taught me is that helping each other is merely the act of having respect, as well as taking responsibility, for all life, as human beings. Both of which, as history has revealed to us time and time again, America has shamelessly forgotten. Even my mother knows this — my unwesternized, illiterate mother. She, who falls into America's headlines and is labeled as "the most ill-prepared immigrant group ever to land in America." Yes, even my mother knows these simple things in life.

As for the suicides, one website reads, "I think the only realistic course is to watch the obituaries and maybe to send flowers."

"Tonight Show" with Jay Leno.

My younger sister calls from Fresno. She is not quiet or soft-spoken. She is eager to share what she has learned. I think that the U.S. government is right, she says. Blood spilt in America's foreign wars should not entitle Hmong refugees to claim benefits, or leaking roofs that will shelter their families, or food for their children and medicine for their elders. No, she says. No, because I know that we deserve more than that. We deserve so much more than what little they have given. We deserve time to adapt. We deserve time to become educated. We deserve time to empower our people.

Suddenly, Jay Leno becomes ugly to me. I can no longer laugh. So I turn off the T.V.

And pride. And anger. And doubt. And sadness. They all asked me to reflect. So I do. So I will.

I learned. I learned from a late night caller, that there is hope yet...

There was hope in hearing my sister, even younger than I, so deeply moved by the tragedies of our people. In her voice, I heard the sounds of a bittersweet hope, whispering to my people. We are tired. We have been used and abandoned. We are tired, and can run no more. We can no longer continue to carry such senseless casualties upon our backs. We can no longer endure the sounds of traditional Hmong drums beating at funerals, beating so loudly so the souls of our mothers and our fathers can find peace in a less painful world. We have no more limbs to lose, and no more blood to spill...

This hope loudly whispered to my people. We must never forget, or give up, what we are — and that is a "free people"...

(Pa Xiong is a junior majoring in Asian American Studies.)

Defending Immigrants' Educational Rights: UCLA Students Mobilize Against Attacks on Bilingual Education

By Ellen Wu

When I signed up to take Don Nakanishi's "Asian Americans and Education" course at UCLA, I had visions of graduate students buzzing around the seminar table engaged in angry debates over college admissions. The first week of class, however, he offered us an alternative to his regular syllabus—an in-depth investigation of Asian Pacific Americans and the Unz Initiative.

Also known as Proposition 227 on the California June 1998 ballot, the initiative proposes a one-year English language immersion program for all Limited English Proficiency (LEP) students in schools. If voters approve it, these children will be left vulnerable to this untested, one-size-fits-all formula. Since Asian immigrant children will be particularly at risk—40% of all Asian Pacific American (APA) students enrolled in California schools are designated LEP—we quickly elected to undertake this project.

"It's important that we realize that this is not just a Latino issue, that it is going to affect our community," explained Kay Dumlao, a second-year student in the Asian American Studies MA program. "As grad students, it's one of our responsibilities to get that information disseminated out into the community. It's putting theory to practice."

Our first challenge was to define the purpose, goals, scope and methods of our inquiry. After several weeks of probing materials on the pros and cons of Prop 227 and talking with community members well-versed in the areas of bilingual education and language instruction, we decided to submit an op-ed piece to the *Los Angeles Times*. In addition, we began constructing a web page addressing issues relevant to APAs and the Unz Initiative, including the history of bilingual education, an annotated bibliography of materials on APAs and bilingual education, a case study of two Koreatown elementary schools offering bilingual programs and a biography/color commentary on Ron Unz, the orchestrator of Prop 227.

"We were looking to have mass dissemination of information in regards to this topic because it was quickly apparent that this was an issue that very few people seemed aware of," said Elaine Kuo, a doctoral student in Higher Education and Organizational Change. "We wanted to give people the opportunity to have a broader based knowledge about the topic and certainly take our viewpoints into account before making their final decision."



Graduate students from Professor Don Nakanishi's class (from left to right), back row — Elaine Kuo, Victoria Lee-Jerrens, Ellen Wu; front row — Kay Dumlao, Leslie Ito, Jo-Ann Adefuin.

UCLA undergrads have also been working feverishly to educate the APA community on the issues surrounding Prop. 227. After Jeannie Pak, a third-year student majoring in English and Asian American Studies, first learned of the Unz Initiative in the Asian Pacific American Leadership Development class, she decided to pursue an internship with the Los Angeles Unified School District working with Richard Katsuda, director of the Asian Pacific American Education Commission. While interning, Pak visited a number of area elementary schools which offer bilingual education programs for APAs and witnessed the positive aspects of dual language instruction. "I feel very strongly about it," said Pak. Her experiences have led her to work with UCLA's Asian Pacific Coalition to coordinate an educational forum.

In addition, APC is also planning a debate.

Like the students in our class, the emphasis is on informing the electorate. "We really want to get people thinking," stated Cory Jong, a third-year student majoring in American Literature and one of the debate's organizers. "There's so many myths [about bilingual education], and I think Prop 227 really feeds into those kinds of myths."

Whatever their approach, everyone involved in this campaign recognizes the necessity of quality education for all, especially recent immigrants. "Education is a vehicle for social mobility and has been for many many generations of immigrants," said Victoria Lee-Jerrens, a graduate student in education at California State University, Northridge, who also took our class. "We want the dream to continue."

(Ellen Wu is a graduate student in Asian American Studies at UCLA.)

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