

Amerasia Journal Publishes Special Issue on "Living History"

Issue on "Living History"

"Living History" is the title of the current special issue of *Amerasia Journal*, according to editor-in-chief Russell C. Leong. The issue focuses on new interpretations of Asian American history and is guest edited by UCLA Professor Valerie Madsen of History and Asian American Studies. The issue contains essays by pioneers in the field of Asian American history: Him Mark Lai, Yujii Ichihiko, and Alexander Saxton.

"These essays, written from a personal perspective, insightfully describe how each of these scholars became associated with the field of Asian American history," stated Leong. "Their essays also provide each historian's perspective of the task of historians."

Other essays in the special issue address the uses of oral history and intellectual history. Also included is an essay by the UCLA history graduate student Scott Kirschhage, the winner of the 1999-2000 Alexander Saxton History Award.

- Contributors to this issue are:
- Him Mark Lai, "Makings of a Chinese American Historian"
- Yujii Ichihiko, "A Historian by Happenstance"
- Eileen H. Tamura, "Using the Past to Inform the Future: An Historiography of Hawaii's Asian and Pacific Islander Americans"
- Alexander Saxton, "The Indispensable Energy and Ideological

Construction: Reminiscences of an Osteoarchaeologist"

- Alicia Yang Murray, "Oral History Research, Theory, and Asian American Studies"
- Catherine Ceniza Choy, "Asian American History: Reflections on Imperialism, Immigration, and 'The Body'"
- Henry Yu, "On a Stage Built by Others: Creating an Intellectual History of Asian Americans"
- Ruthanne Lum McCunn, "Reclaiming Chinese America: One Woman's Journey"
- Chris Friday, "Asian American Labor History: What Do You Do?"
- Scott Kirschhage, "Beyond Random Acts of Violence: Analyzing Urban Patterns of Anti-Asian Violence"

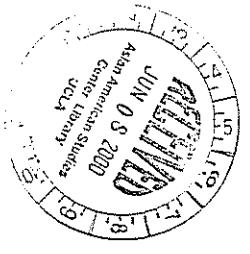
• Ronel S. De Vera, Russell Leong, and Prosy Deacruz, "N.V.M. Gonzalez from the Heart: A Celebration of His Life, Work, and Music"

To purchase *Amerasia Journal*, send \$13 plus \$4 postage to the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, 3230 Campbell Hall, Box 951516, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1516. A one-year subscription (three issues) costs \$35. For more information, contact Charles Kirschhage at (310) 825-2968.

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The Newsmagazine of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center

CROSS CURRENTS

Latest Public Policy Report: "State of Asian Pacific America"

New Book Examines Race Relations and Key Role of Asian Pacific Americans

The UCLA Asian American Studies Center and LEAP Asian Pacific American Public Policy Institute have published the nation's first report on the state of race relations for Asian Pacific Americans focusing on immigration and national race policies, residential patterns, including integration and isolation, racially motivated violence and an overview of hate-crime policy.

Transforming Race Relations is the fourth major public policy report in *The State of Asian Pacific America* series. In this 500-page report, the authors document how racial identity is created and reflected in individual attitudes and institutional practices, and argue for policies that go beyond the black-white paradigm.

"This report examines how APAs are transforming race relations and proposes a new framework for defining what the nation should be with respect to race," said Professor Paul M. Ong, editor and principal investigator of the report and director of the Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies at UCLA's School of Public Policy and Social Research.

Among the key findings are:

- The racial characterization of APAs continues, with two competing and contradictory stereotypes: the Model Minority, and an identity based on the idea of a race of permanent aliens. They are seen by other Americans as facing new barriers to success, but this leaves them in the ironic and vulnerable position of having their successes exploited for leverage against less-advanced minorities, including African Americans, and their hardships unrecognized.
- APAs have been affected by anti-hate-crime census classification. Multiracial APAs, for example, have demanded new ways to categorize racially mixed people. As such, they have played a key role in changing federal policy to allow individuals to declare more than one race on census forms.
- There is a clear but complex hierarchy to racial attitudes, with black and white opinions at the two ends of the racial order and those of APAs, along with Latino opinions, shifting with the issues. APAs have a high level of personal experience with discrimination, averaging higher than the experience of Latinos and a diversity of attitudes varying by ethnicity, region, and length of residence in the U.S.
- Race-bias crimes against APAs are severely underdocumented because many APAs, especially immigrants, are reluctant to report such crimes. However, of the 1,166 race-bias crimes reported in Los Angeles County from 1991-97, APAs were victimized equally by

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Latinos and whites (35 crimes perpetrated by each group) and less frequently by African Americans (12 reported crimes). In contrast, the racial group most victimized by APAs was African American (14 of 23 total crimes perpetrated by APAs). Nationally, the number of reported race-bias crimes against APAs averages 500 per year.

• APA segregation has increased over the past two decades at the national level, notably in several major metropolitan areas including New York, Houston, San Francisco, and San Diego. A majority of APA respondents clearly prefer living in an all-APA neighborhood, and similar to white respondents, are more likely to feel comfortable with substantial integration when their potential neighbors are either white or APA.

• APAs are divided about affirmative action. While APAs are above parity in education, they suffer from quotas. However, the discrimination and prejudice experienced by APAs is often more benign than that experienced by other minorities. For example, APAs suffer from employment discrimination, but the most commonly reported restriction is a "glass ceiling" to executive levels, as opposed to gross underrepresentation in management positions.

This project was made possible through grants provided by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Lamme Mac Foundation, and the Levi Strauss Foundation. Partners Insurance Group, AKCO Foundation, Buhaveser, and The Klinefelter Foundation also provided grants for the report's policy roundtable series.

The research team consisted of Paul Ong, Pauline Agapaynt-Sawyer, Angela Oh, and Michael Zonta, UCLA; Yen Espiritu, UCSD; Terry Fann, Queens College; Christine Inghs, University of Sydney; Facku Lee, Harvard University; Robert Lee, Brown University; Michael Ong, UC Berkeley; Edward Park, IAU; Shantam Sagar, University of London; Lehi Saito, UCSD; Karen University, University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Transforming Race Relations is available for \$20 per copy (plus \$4 shipping/handling for the first copy; \$1 each additional copy); California residents add 7.25% tax; L.A. County residents add 8.25% tax). Contact UCLA Asian American Studies Center, Press, 3230 Campbell Hall, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1516. For additional information, call Charles Kirschhage at (310) 825-2968 or 825-2974, or e-mail kirschhage@ucla.edu. Visit the Center's web site (www.asianstudies.ucla.edu/) to download the Asian American Studies Center Press current publication catalogue.

Reflections about My Ancestors and Myself

The Painting: A Work in Progress

By Michelle Banta

The painting of my great grandmother is still a work in progress. I began this project last June and though it passes as a "finished" piece, the brush work that creates her arms and mine still needs work. Her face was painted with more flesh whereas in real life people said she had a thin and frail figure. In photographs towards her death, one could outline the long bones in her body and the deep pits of sunken flesh along her clavicles, shoulders, and neck. My grandmother and my mother admired her for having long ears and long bones. To them, this symbolized a long life.

Lola Imang (my great grandmother) was born May 15, 1900 in a village called Anabu, in the Province of Cavite, sa Pilipinas. I was born 77 years later on May 16 at the Naval base in Long Beach, California. Each day, I remember her despite the fact that I never knew her. Although she died in 1992, I feel strangely drawn to her. Her photographs are striking. Her body may appear overly aged, yet her eyes express an inward strength from stories that await to be told. It was common among people of her generation to avoid taking photographs. No one at that time wanted their "essence" stolen. Yet Lola Imang trusted that technology and allowed relatives to reproduce her image. I believe she took those pictures and lived the length of life she did because she needed to speak. Her eyes that are bluish-grey, her pale skin, different from my brown skin, and her long bones are visual signs of a foreign blood mixed with Pilipino. Was she conceived through love or hate? No one would ever know.

All that is hidden and untold I want to uncover and from it learn. Almost a century of silence has passed. As the first person to go to college in my family, I realize their silence more and more, and I want to scream. An avid cartoon and TV kid growing up, I knew that I was invisible. When I was eight years old, I decided that I wanted to become a cartoonist. Then I could draw and tell my own stories. My brother and I watched Mighty Mouse and Felix the Cat, because they were animal cartoons. When we played, we could pretend to be them. In school, things were different. I did not understand how one group of people could trace their families as far as the eighteenth or nineteenth century. Where was my history? I also could not understand why George Washington was our founding father. He was a white man with white hair. I had black hair and very brown skin. At the same time I noticed that my brother often got into trouble by spurting words both Tagalog and English. Because our ways were not well received in school, my parents spoke to us only in English while everyone else spoke Tagalog. Overall, there were many uncomfortable experiences growing up.

Having taken classes in Asian American Studies, I now recognize where our little lives fit in the broader perspective. 1898, Pilipinos win independence from Spain. At the turn of the century, we are at war with the U.S. Because the U.S. feels that we are unfit to rule ourselves, they institute western ideologies and practices. But we had experience with this through Spain. The process of colonialization continues with American teachers. As in many countries, education is a class distinction. The Philippines was not different. My great grandparents were too poor to afford an education for all of their children. They sent who they could. My grandmother only went up to the second grade.

Last week as I had just finished hooking up my computer, I clicked it on to see if it worked. My grandmother had been watching me. She stood at the doorway and began reminiscing about her only two years in school. In Tagalog she told how her parents would not buy them pencil and paper. Lola Imang told her children to write on the banana leaves. The money had to be used for food, for their farm, and for their clothes. Mommy En (my grandmother) asked me, "How can one learn on banana leaves? You cannot write on it because the leaves rip." She then explained how she taught herself to read and write. Mommy En picked up one of my books and began reading the words aloud. That moment seemed so powerful to me because she laughed after each sentence she read. She said, "see, listen, I can read too." I answered in Tagalog that she could, and we laughed together.

I'm immersed in both my family history and the unfolding events of my generation. It is rare for people my age to be living with their grandparent. Oftentimes I miss the spontaneity that college life offers. But I believe that living with her is enriching my life as well as hers because I'm living past and present at the same time. When I applied to college, my entrance essay had been about my grandparents and the values that they instilled in me. I now have the privilege of spending my senior year learning from her. I want to bring this

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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 and in the special publications supplement).

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

perspective to the people I know and the communities I interact with each day.

My life plans include the desire to shape the future through the media. I want to help create culture. I'm inspired to write and illustrate children's stories. Right now I am painting and writing for my grandmother. The only avenue she has outside of her Carson home is the daytime soaps. The more work that I produce that's reflective of her experiences, then the less time she will spend watching the trash on television. I want to be a part of getting Ethnic Studies programs to teachers so that kids like myself can feel included and empowered. I also want to help shape children's TV programs. The media are powerful tools that shape what we think. Information is literally at our fingertips through the internet. However, we've become distracted and have forgotten what we are inside. I want to be a part of a movement that makes people more human. If we come to understand people's experiences from love, pain, hardship, and joy, then there is less of an excuse for mistreating another person. I also realize that I am still very young with much more to learn. I'm still a work in progress.

(Michelle Banta is graduating from UCLA this June and serves as editor-in-chief of *Pacific Ties* newsmagazine.)

Center Awarded Major Grant to Set Up Geriatric Healthcare Clearinghouse and Collaborative Network

The UCLA Asian American Studies Center together with the Asian Pacific International Health Awareness Institute have been awarded a \$315,000 grant from the California Endowment to support a new project, "Asian Pacific American Geriatric Healthcare Clearinghouse and Collaborative Network."

The funds will help forge ties between UCLA faculty and students, health sciences departments, social welfare departments and some of Southern California's largest Asian Pacific American community-based organizations serving the elderly.

The three-year grant will fund the first phase of this project, which involves paid internships for graduate and undergraduate students to gain a first-hand understanding of issues concerning the Asian American elderly at these community groups.

It will also help staff members of these community organizations enhance their professional knowledge about the latest advances in health and social services research pertaining to Asian American seniors through on-campus training and mentoring by UCLA faculty.

"It's the first attempt to bridge UCLA and community-based health service organizations, specifically organizations that provide care to elderly Asian Americans," said Professor Takashi Makinodan of the School of Medicine/Department of Veterans Affairs and member of the Asian American Studies Center Faculty Advisory Committee.

Professor Makinodan said the grant will allow interns to go into the community to do research and become aware of the health problems within the Asian American com-

munity. It will also provide training to enable staff of the community-based health organizations to take courses at UCLA, to participate in other activities, and ultimately, to improve care delivery.

The community-based organizations participating include Keiro, a Japanese American community organization in Los Angeles; Filipino American Service Group; Korean Health Education Information and Research Center in Santa Ana; and the United Cambodian Community of Long Beach.

Dr. Enrique de la Cruz, who is now the chair and a professor of the Asian American Studies Department at CSUN, played a major role in the development of the proposal for this grant.

"We are extremely grateful to the California Endowment for this major grant," said Don T. Nakanishi, director of the Asian American Studies Center. "On our Center's 30th anniversary, we greatly appreciate the opportunity to strengthen our relationships with major social services agencies that are meeting the rapidly growing elderly sector of the Asian Pacific American population. This grant will allow us to begin to train the next generation of elder care professionals from the ranks of the UCLA student body and to build the staff expertise of these organizations."

Professor Nakanishi said faculty and students in Asian American Studies and other departments at UCLA look forward to launching the program and working with community groups. "This will be a wonderful, mutually beneficial endeavor between our Center and the community," he said.

Center to Receive LEAP Leadership Award July 19

The UCLA Asian American Studies Center has been named recipient of the 2000 LEAP Leadership Award. The presentation will be made July 19 in Los Angeles at annual awards dinner of LEAP, Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics.

"As the largest and most comprehensive Asian American Studies program in the nation, the UCLA Asian American Studies Center has undeniably distinguished itself as one of the foremost leaders in the field of Asian American Studies," said J.D. Hokoyama, LEAP President. "Through its scholarly research and training, publications, community outreach and leadership development, the UCLA Asian American Studies Center has invariably made significant contributions to the current health and vitality of the Asian Pacific American community.

LEAP is a national, nonprofit organization with a mission of achieving full participation and equality for Asian Pacific Americans through leadership, empowerment, and policy.

Dr. Lisa Chin Creates Endowment for Asian American Women's Studies

Dr. Lisa Chin, who received her Ph.D. from UCLA in 1997 in Social Sciences and Comparative Education, has established an endowment to support Asian American Women's Studies at UCLA.

The endowment is in the names of her mother, Rose Eng Chin, and grandmother, Helen Wong Eng, in order to recognize their impact on her life.

It is the first endowment of its kind in all of American higher education in support of Asian American Women's Studies.

Each year, the faculty of the Asian American Studies Center will award academic prizes for the best undergraduate paper, master's thesis, and doctoral dissertation focusing on the experiences of Asian American women written by UCLA students.

The endowment also will provide grants for research and conference travel for UCLA graduate students who are doing research in Asian American Women's Studies.

"I wanted to establish this endowment," said Dr. Chin, "because it is through my parents' determination and struggle that I was able to go to college. They were second-generation Chinese Americans who had grown up poor in New York Chinatown, and they wanted us to have the best education possible and the greatest chance to succeed in the world.

"My mother, especially had many struggles to overcome to become the strong, dependable, determined woman she is. She, in turn, is where she is because of my grandmother's sacrifices (who was raised in China as an orphan by her sister-in-law and never educated beyond fourth grade)."

Dr. Chin's dissertation at UCLA was entitled "Mothering, Othering: Communicating Success Across Three Generations of Chinese American Women."

A third generation Chinese American from New York, Dr. Chin works for Amazon.com in Seattle, and does extensive volunteer work with Asian American and community groups in the city.

In 1999, she served as "Title Sponsor" for the 30th anniversary dinner of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center.

Professor Robert Nakamura and Karen Ishizuka Receive Prestigious Multimedia Award



Media makers Karen Ishizuka and Professor Robert Nakamura have been selected for Video Multimedia Producer Magazine's Fifth Annual Top 100 Award, a prestigious national list of one hundred producers to watch in the year 2000.

Professor Robert Nakamura of UCLA's Department of Film/Television serves as Associate Director of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center. He was also recently appointed to the Endowed Chair in Japanese American Studies at UCLA. With scholar and editor Russell Leong, he is co-founder of the UCLA Center for EthnoCommunications.

The award, judged by a panel of peers, is annually given to outstanding non-entertainment media professionals for their technological innovation, artistic excellence and concepts that continue to impact the American media arts and communications landscape.

The team of Ishizuka and Nakamura, considered a major force in the field of Asian American media, has created an impressive body of work chronicling the Japanese American experience. They currently oversee the multimedia work created by the Media Arts Center of the Japanese American National Museum.

Ishizuka, Director of the Museum's Media Arts Center, is currently editing an anthology called *Mining the Home Movie: Excavations into Historical and Cultural Memories*, to be published by the University of California Press.

Professor Nakamura is one of the pioneers of Asian American media. His ground-breaking film, *Manzanar*, was the first independent documentary film to address the incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II. He also co-directed *Hito Hata: Raise the Banner*, the first feature-length film about Asian Americans made by Asian Americans.

In 1998, both Ishizuka and Nakamura were honored at the Smithsonian Institute by a 25-year retrospective of their work.

Jet Li Coming to UCLA in Fall of 2000

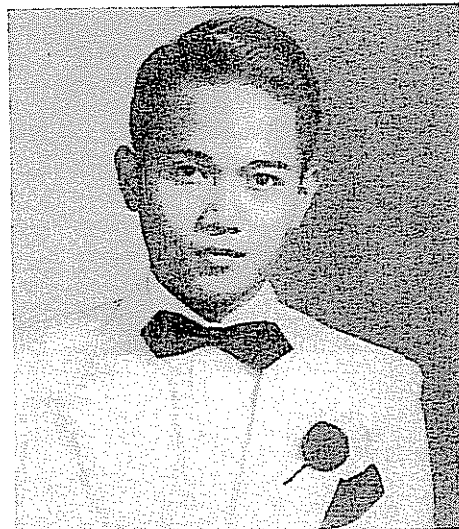
International superstar Jet Li will be making an appearance at UCLA this fall at an event sponsored by the Asian American Studies Center, according to staff member Irene Soriano who is handling arrangements.

"We are very excited to bring Jet to UCLA," Irene stated. "We will use the event to reach out to many Asian Americans on campus who are not familiar with Asian American Studies."

Originally from the People's Republic of China, Jet Li is well-known to young Asian Americans, especially immigrants, for films such as *Once Upon a Time in China* and *Fist of Legend*. He recently starred in the U.S.-made action film *Romeo Must Die*.

Irene stated that she can use help in organizing the event. Please contact her at (310) 825-2974 or by e-mail (isoriano@ucla.edu).

Irene Soriano Screens First Film in Los Angeles and the Philippines



A still from Irene Soriano's *A Second Sky* — "My father was always a sharp dresser. Clodoveo Valdez Soriano was born in 1930 in Cebu City, Philippines."

UCLA Asian American Studies curriculum assistant Irene Suico Soriano recently screened her first film, entitled *A Second Sky*, in Los Angeles.

The six-minute film, produced in Los Angeles City College Cinema's Division, was also recently shown in the Philippines.

The film uses dramatic and documentary forms (interviews, family photographs, poetry, and personal narration) to explore cultural displacement through a young woman's observations of her elderly father's struggles to make a new life as an immigrant in the United States.

Irene is completing her MFA at Loyola Marymount University.

She is also a poet and recently published her chapbook, *Safehouses*.

Irene has curated literary readings for the Japanese American National Museum and Asian Pacific American AIDS Intervention Team.

20 Educational Videos in Post-Production

Center for EthnoCommunications Documents Life in Asian Pacific Communities

The UCLA Center for EthnoCommunications has produced more than 20 videos documenting life in Asian Pacific American communities.

Staff members in partnership with the Japanese American National Museum, the Alhambra School District, and the UCLA Asian American Studies Center are working in post-production (editing, curriculum guides, packaging) on several video projects.

The "Once Upon a Camp" series funded by the California Civil Liberties Public Education Project will be completed by June 30, 2000.

Intended for grades K-12, "Once Upon a Camp" will depict the life experiences of Japanese American youth inside America's concentration camps during World War II. There are three titles in the series: "The Bracelet," an illustrated video adaptation of the classic camp story by Yoshiko Uchida (for elementary grades); "Dear Miss Breed," based on correspondence written by incarcerated teenagers to San Diego children's librarian Clara Breed (for middle school grades); and "Interactions," an MTV-style documentary adventure inspired by the Manzanar High School Yearbook of 1943-1944 (for high school levels).

Also in post-production is "Eye to Eye: Asian Pacific American Arts and Artists Series" funded by the National Endowment for the Arts.

"Eye to Eye" is a pioneering video documentary project committed to the visual documentation of established and emerging Asian and Pacific American artists, writers, and cultural workers. Profiled in the series this year are: painters Vi Ly and Long Nguyen; performance artist Nobuko Miyamoto; Actor/Writer Amy Hill; writer, poet, filmmaker and scholar Russell Leong; comic book artist Phil Yeh; multimedia artists Yong Soon Min and Allan DeSouza; weaver Momo Nagano; playwright/actors Dom and Saachiko Magwili; poet Albert Saijo; writer Frank Chin; and muralist Tony Osumi.

"Eye to Eye" will be completed by December 31, 2000.

Undergraduate students in documentary filmmaker John Esaki's Winter 2000 class "EthnoCommunications II - Video Workshop" explored such subjects as the daily life of a Pilipino American community health advocate living with HIV, the redevelopment of Little Tokyo, the life history of



High school students participate in voice-over of video under the direction of Veronica Ko.

a South Asian restaurant owner, and the struggles of newly arrived Pilipino immigrant laborers in Los Angeles.

Spring 2000 will bring more documentaries as students study advanced documentary techniques with Professor Robert A. Nakamura in "EthnoCommunications III."

The mission of EthnoCommunications is to develop programs that allow diverse peoples and communities to reclaim and promote their histories, experiences, and contributions through the study, analysis and vigorous usage of new media technologies.

EthnoCommunication's production team includes: John Esaki, Jennifer Kim, Veronica Ko, Charles Ku, Diana S. Lee, Russell Leong, Robert A. Nakamura and Vivian Wong.

The UCLA Center for EthnoCommunications is housed at the UCLA Asian American Studies Center and may be reached by phone at (310) 206-8889.

Distribution for all the videos is still being planned, and continuation funding is being sought to develop more titles. For more information, contact Vivian Wong, Teaching Assistant, at vivwong@ucla.edu. For information on the video series, contact Jennifer Kim, Assistant Director, at jmjkim@ucla.edu.

Yolk Magazine Profiles UCLA Center for EthnoCommunications

The newly-established UCLA Center for EthnoCommunications is profiled in the current issue of *Yolk* magazine in an article by Shuwana Farmer.

The article focuses on the perspectives of Professor Robert Nakamura, head of the Center, and his efforts to use media to serve the community.

Professor Nakamura is a faculty member of the UCLA Film and Theater Department and serves as associate director of the Asian American Studies Center. He is also academic chair of the Japanese American Studies program.

Yolk staff writer Shuwana Farmer will enter the M.A. program in Asian American Studies at UCLA this fall.

Yolk is a magazine for young Asian Americans published from Los Angeles. Among writers contributing to *Yolk* are Ellen Wu, graduate of the M.A. program in Asian American Studies at UCLA; second-year master's student Victoria Namkung; and UCLA undergraduate Malcolm Kao.

Helen and Morgan Chu Establish Scholarship Fund

Morgan and Helen Chu — who are among the founders and early supporters of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center — have established a scholarship that will be awarded annually by the Center.

The Morgan and Helen Chu Scholarship will be awarded annually to outstanding Asian American undergraduates at UCLA with demonstrated financial need and exemplary academic performance in any field of study or major.

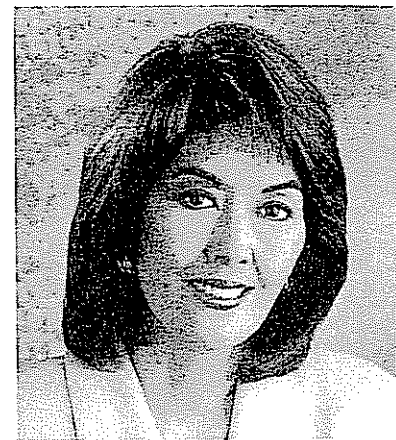
Morgan and Helen Chu were honored in late 1999 at the 30th anniversary dinner of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center.

Morgan Chu is a partner in the law firm of Irell & Manella where he specializes in a range of areas of the law: litigation; intellectual property, patents, copyrights, trademarks and trade secrets; antitrust; and the first amendment.

Morgan is married to educator Helen Wong, a UCLA alumnus who worked with other students and community members to establish the first adult education English classes for Cantonese-speaking immigrants in Los Angeles Chinatown in the late 1960s.



Morgan holds three degrees from UCLA: A.B. (1971), M.A. (1972), and Ph.D. (1973), in addition to his M.S.L. (1974) from Yale and J.D. magna cum laude (1976) from Harvard. He was Adjunct Professor Law at UCLA from 1979 to 1982.



Tritia Toyota to Teach Class at UCLA during Fall Quarter

Long-time journalist Tritia Toyota will teach a class for the Asian American Studies Center entitled "Politics, Race, and the Media." The undergraduate seminar will be offered in Fall Quarter 2000 and focus on contemporary issues such as the 1996 fundraising case involving Democratic party politicians John Huang and Maria Hsia; the arrest of Los Alamos physicist Wen Ho Lee; and the status of political empowerment among Asian Pacific American communities primarily in Southern California.

Toyota has more than 20 years of experience in the Los Angeles news media. Along with her former duties as KCBS-TV Channel 2 news anchor, she continues to report on special political and investigative news stories.

She began her career on TV news in 1972 as a general assignment reporter for KNBC-TV in Los Angeles. She was named weekend anchor in 1975.

Her long-time interest and involvement in Southern California's ethnic diversity has resulted in numerous special series and reports.

She is cofounder of the National Asian American Journalists Association. She also serves on the Chancellor's Community Advisory Commission at UCLA and is a frequent moderator at numerous community, educational, and professional events.

In late 1999, Toyota served as co-masters-of-ceremonies for a fundraising dinner marking 30 years of Asian American Studies at UCLA.

She holds a B.S. from Oregon State University and received her M.A. in journalism from UCLA.

Founders of Center Honored at Dinner Marking 30 Years of AAS at UCLA



The UCLA Asian American Studies Center honored founders and early supporters of the Center at a dinner marking the 30th anniversary of Asian American Studies at UCLA in late 1999.

Leadership Training Program to Be Held in Washington, D.C., May 25-27

Center Co-Sponsors Leadership Academy for Asian Pacific American Elected Officials

The Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS) and the UCLA Asian American Studies Center announced that they have selected 16 outstanding elected officials to participate in the second annual Leadership Academy for Asian Pacific American Elected Officials.

The Leadership Academy, a nonpartisan leadership training program, will be held in Washington, DC on May 25-27, 2000.

The training will include sessions with current and former elected officials, Congressional staffers, political and public relations consultants, fundraisers, print and broadcast journalists, and other political experts.

The Leadership Academy participants include Democrats, Republicans, and Independents of many different ethnic backgrounds and will come from all across the country: Massachusetts, Wisconsin, California, Washington, Alaska, and Hawaii.

"APAICS is pleased to bring such a diverse group of elected officials to Washington. These officials represent the fastest-

growing minority group in the country, and the training they receive will help them improve their service to their communities as well as advance their careers," said APAICS Executive Director Rodney Jay C. Salinas.

"There are still only seven Asian Pacific American members of Congress, and we would like to see that number increase. The Leadership Academy can help provide our elected officials with the skills they need to run successful campaigns for higher office," Salinas added.

"This group of participants includes a number of trailblazers," said Professor Don T. Nakanishi, Director of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center. "Tony Lam (Vietnamese American), Chanrithy Uong (Cambodian American), and Joe Bee Xiong (Hmong American) are the first of their ethnic backgrounds to be elected to office in the United States. These officials are part of an encouraging trend of increased political representation for Asian Pacific Americans, including those who are immigrants and refugees."

Patrick Gaston, Assistant Vice Presi-

dent of Strategic Alliances at Bell Atlantic, sponsor of the Leadership Academy, stated, "Bell Atlantic is proud to be a continuing sponsor of the Leadership Academy for Asian Pacific American Elected Officials. We are committed to supporting an expanded role for Asian Pacific Americans in public office, policymaking, and the political process."

The Leadership Academy participants are:

- James Arakaki (D), Chairman, Hawai'i County Council
- J. Kalani English (D), Maui (HI) County Council
- Jose Esteves (R), Milpitas (CA) City Council
- Michael Guingona (D), Daly City (CA) City Council
- Dain Kane (D), Maui (HI) County Council
- Tony Lam (R), Westminster (CA) City Council
- Cheryl Lee (I), Shoreline (WA) City Council
- Carol Liu (D), Mayor, La Cañada Flintridge (CA)
- Rene Mansho (D), Honolulu (HI) City Council
- Sharon Tomiko Santos (D), Washington House of Representatives
- Paul Tanaka (R), Gardena (CA) City Council
- Kip Tokuda (D), Washington House of Representatives
- Chanrithy Uong (D), Lowell (MA) City Council
- Jesse Vizcocho (I), Kodiak (AK) City Council
- Joe Bee Xiong (D), Eau Claire (WI) City Council
- Brian Yamane (D), Hawaii House of Representatives

UCLA Hawai'i Summer Program to Be Held from July 3 to August 11

The UCLA Asian American Studies Center, in conjunction with the American Studies Department of the University of Hawai'i, Manoa, will once again offer its Multicultural Summer Program in Honolulu for graduate, undergraduate, and high school students.

The award-winning program, which was inaugurated nearly a decade ago, provides an intensive, six-week immersion in Asian American and Pacific Islander communities in Hawai'i through a multi-disciplinary survey of their histories, cultures, and community issues.

Through classroom presentations, field trips, field studies community internships, and independent research projects, students will gain an understanding and appreciation for Hawai'i's distinct nature as a di-

verse and dynamic Asian American and Pacific Islander population.

Students earn 8 quarter credits for the two required classes they must take, and have the option of earning 4 additional quarter credits through independent study.

Directed by Erin Wright and Roderick LaBradour of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, the program runs from Monday, July 3 to Friday, August 11, 2000.

For more information, please call UCLA Summer Session at (310) 792-8340 or email (travel@summer.ucla.edu), as well as view the website (www.summer.ucla.edu/travel).

Financial aid is available to qualified UCLA students. All other students should inquire about financial aid at their home institutions.

Janie Fong Appointed to Post as Trade Director

UCLA alumnus Janie Fong was recently appointed as Trade Director of the California Office of International Trade and Investment in Hong Kong by California Governor Gray Davis.

First-Year Graduate Students Bring Literary and Artistic Talents, Research Interests, and Activist Backgrounds into Asian American Studies

Research interests in health, religion and education; artistic talents in writing and poetry; and backgrounds in student and community activism are the characteristics defining the first-year class in the Asian American Studies master's program.

Members of the first-year class come to UCLA from Seattle, Honolulu, Philadelphia, the San Francisco Bay Area, and the bustling cities of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Mifflintown, Pennsylvania.

Profiles of the first-year students follow:

Jamie Ardeña was born and raised in Seattle. He is co-founder of the isangmahal arts kollektive and his poetry is included in the group's first CD, *muling pagkabuhay ng kaluluwa* (rebirth of soul), issued last year. Jamie entered our graduate program "to learn to write academically and to be in a scholarly atmosphere." He is interested in researching Asian American arts and visual imagery and "the creation and representation of a Filipino American community, culture, and identity." He is also interested in pedagogy and eventually wants to teach.

Hazel Collao was born and raised in Los Angeles and graduated from University of California, Irvine, with majors in Spanish and Comparative Literature. She entered our graduate program to further her knowledge about Asian Americans which was sparked when she took classes at UCI. "I believe the M.A. program offers immense resources for its students," she states. "I hope to contribute to the community by working in educational administration." Her research interests center on Filipino American participation in independent Protestant churches. She is interested in culture and religion and how the two are related.

Ann Chao was born in Cleveland, Ohio, but grew up in Taipei, Taiwan. She completed her undergraduate work at University of Hawaii at Manoa. In Honolulu, she worked with the Chinese immigrant population for three years and also has been a U.S. citizenship tutor. Ann entered our M.A. program to further understanding of contemporary Asian American issues and wants to work in the community after finishing this program. "Currently, my thesis topic is



First-year Asian American Studies graduate students (from left to right): front row — Brandy Worrall, Maria Kong, Hazel Collao; back row — Ann Chao, Jeannie Shinozuka, Hazel Hill, Sang Chi, Teresa Chow, Stephen Lee, and Jamie Ardeña.

geared toward language schools in the U.S. and how the schools affect first and second generations' ethnic identities," she states.

Sang Chi was born in Seoul, Korea, and immigrated to Philadelphia at age four. He graduated from Penn State University, where he was active with the Asian American Student Coalition. He entered our graduate program due to personal interest and his desire "to expand the boundaries of scholarly knowledge." "I believe the program will provide a strong foundation for me in my career goals to become an Asian American scholar," he says. "I would like to pursue a Ph.D. either in Sociology or History." For his M.A. thesis, Sang is focusing on the Asian American Movement in Asian American Studies and the "creation of a collective history."

Hazel Hill was born in San Francisco and raised in Daly City. She completed her

undergraduate work at UCSD and received a B.A. in Ethnic Studies, minoring in Urban Studies and Planning. At UCSD, she was active in the San Diego Student Coalition — No Retreat and the African American Student Union and their campaigns to defend affirmative action. Hazel has already selected an M.A. thesis topic: "Blacks and Filipinos: An Intersection of Race, Class, Gender, Color, and Nationality." "I am trying to answer why after the black soldiers' terms of military service in the Philippine American War that out of 6,000 soldiers sent, that approximately 500 to 1,000 remained in the Philippines," states Hazel. "This project also includes interviewing the descendants of the veterans. I hope to expand this project into a video and slide presentation."

Maria Kong was born in San Francisco and grew up in the Bay Area. She went to Oberlin College where she was active in the

struggle to establish Ethnic Studies and worked in various organizations in communities of color. Prior to coming to UCLA, she worked for Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN) in the Bay Area, mentoring young Southeast Asian women. "I hope the M.A. program will give me the opportunity to connect my academic and community interests and to do intensive research grounded in working-class Asian American communities," she states. "I want to do research that is effective, accountable and principled." Her thesis topic examines the significance of environmental justice organizing in low-income communities of color and is a case study of the Laotian community in Richmond, California, and their grassroots campaign against toxic exposure from a Chevron refinery.

Stephen Lee was born in rural Michigan but at the age of five his family moved to "bustling" Albuquerque, New Mexico. "The Korean American population there is less dynamic than its L.A. counterpart, although the New Mexico Korean American Association was able to sponsor the clean-up and maintenance of a one-mile strip of highway just north of Albuquerque," he states. After receiving a "highly marketable" degree in Anthropology from Stanford, Stephen spent a year in Korea on a Fulbright Scholarship. He entered our M.A. program because in whatever he does he wants to be able to see the effects of his work and do work that has relevance for his life. "The M.A. program fulfills both criteria," he says. He is interested in researching the "construction of Asian American manhood." "I want to move beyond the rhetorically boring 'emasculated man/woman warrior' debate and create a new paradigm, one that is viable, dynamic and outside of 'the box,'" he states.

Jeannie Shinozuka has lived in Southern California all her life. She attended La Sierra University in Riverside, California, a small Seventh-Day Adventist institution. She entered our graduate program to research Asian American women's health issues. Jeannie hopes to obtain a Ph.D. in history and teach, with an emphasis on Asian American women's history. "I would like to give back to my Seventh-Day Adventist community as a professor," she states. "None of the Seventh-Day Adventist educational institutions have an Asian American Studies program. Furthermore, a disproportionate number of Adventists become health professionals, but do not know a lot about serving poor and/or minority communities. I hope to take the skills and knowledge I gain from the M.A. program to help educate the Adventist community."

Brandy Worrall was born and grew up in Mifflintown, Pennsylvania — which she

describes as "the middle of nowhere" — and graduated from Reis College in Weston, Massachusetts, where she studied women writers, especially Vietnamese writers who wrote in French. "For four years, I was interested in Asian American and Asian diaspora literature and trying madly to do something with it on the East Coast," she says. "I came to UCLA after admitting that there are little Asian American resources out there. Besides, this is the best program in

the world. I plan to bring my Asian American knowledge to the world of English, which, in fact, is a very humbling world." Brandy is doing a theoretical and creative thesis project regarding biracial literature. "After engaging in literary theoretical debate over three biracial artists' work in three different genres (drama, prose, poetry), I will include my own work modeled stylistically and thematically on those analyzed," she states.

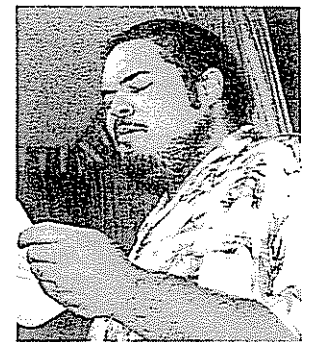
First-Year Graduate Students Participate in Literary Reading



Brandy Worrall



Hazel Hill



Jamie Ardeña

First-year graduate students from the Asian American Studies master's program recently participated in "Mixed Up, a Gathering of Biracial APA Writers," a poetry reading presented by *dis*orient journalzine*, in Los Angeles Little Tokyo.

The event — curated by first-year Asian American Studies graduate students Jamie Ardeña and Brandy Worrall — featured poets Cheryl Deptowicz, M. Rico Fabionar, Sesshu Foster, Hazel Hill, Dorian Merina, Victoria Namkung, Erin O'Brien, Tony Osumi, and Mika Tanner.

Hazel Hill is a first-year graduate student in Asian American Studies at UCLA, while Victoria Namkung and Mika Tanner are second-year graduate students in our program. Tony Osumi is a graduate of the M.A. program in Asian American Studies and currently teaches third grade in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Brandy Worrall is also serving as co-editor of the chapbook, entitled *Mixed Up*.

"Childhood dreams turn to defiance of expectations," states Brandy. "But the road is not easy, not linear. We are a jumbled Amerasian map — East Coast, West Coast, Midwest, Far East, Down South, Across the Border and Back Again. We were born from afar and have traveled quite wide. The languages each of us speaks — within ourselves and outside of ourselves — are foreign to each other, but somehow, they understand

just perfectly what's being said to and within one another. Yet this chapbook is not a dictionary, but rather a photo album, because pictures are worth a gazillion words — and that's how many words it takes just to show you how Mixed Up we really are."

The reading was co-sponsored by isangmahal arts collective, SPMGroup and AISAREMA with the support of the California Arts Council (CAC), a state agency.

This program was part of the Coffee, Tea & Writers Reading Series coordinated by Irene Suico Soriano.

The 66-page chapbook contains writings by the following poets: Cheryl Deptowicz, M. Rico Fabionar, Sesshu Foster, Hazel Hill, Dorian Merina, Victoria Namkung, Erin O'Brien, Tony Osumi, Mika Tanner, Ethelyn Abellanosa, Valorie Slaughter Bejarno, Leilani Chan, Alison De La Cruz, Lance Dougherty, and Angela Carmina Martinez Dy.

"Over 15 writers of vastly different backgrounds offered their creative takes on issues such as sexuality, body image, the L.A. Uprising of 1992, and family history," said Irene Soriano. "I was definitely impressed by the quality of poetry and their performances of their works. The crowd was visibly moved by many of the works read."

The chapbook is \$7, plus \$2 for shipping and handling. To purchase the chapbook, contact Irene Soriano, (310) 825-2974.

Professor David Wong Louie Writes New Novel

UCLA Professor David Wong Louie of English and Asian American Studies has published his new novel, *The Barbarians Are Coming*, through Putnam.

The novel is a depiction of the Chinese-American experience and focuses on the relationship of fathers and sons.

According to *Publishers Weekly*, "Louie's coruscating novel is full of astonishing writing, but the real delight is his wit and humor as he keeps plucking away the prickly petals of his characters' desires until he finds their hearts."

The *Los Angeles Times Book Review* stated: "Louie is elegant, funny, a touch spooky, and he has as fine a hair-trigger control of alienation and absurdity as any of the best of his generation."

Professor David Wong Louie is also the author of *Pangs of Love*, winner of the *Los Angeles Times* First Fiction Award and the Ploughshares First Book Award.

He teaches creative writing classes in both the English Department and Asian American Studies at UCLA.

Los Angeles Times Salutes David Wong Louie and Russell Leong

The *Los Angeles Times* in its April 16 edition named UCLA Professor David Wong Louie and editor-scholar Russell C. Leong among its list of one hundred writers who are part of "Literary Los Angeles." The *Times* identified Professor Louie as living in Venice, and editor-scholar Leong as living in Silverlake. Professor Louie was also featured in a March issue of *Time* magazine.

Russell Leong Publishes *Phoenix Eyes*, a Collection of Short Stories

Phoenix Eyes and Other Stories is the title of a new book of short stories by Russell C. Leong, editor of *Amerasia Journal* and head of UCLA Asian American Studies Center Press.

Published by the University of Washington Press, the book is part of its Scott and Laurie Oki Series in Asian American Studies.

According to the publishers, Leong's short stories range "from naturalism to high-camp parody. Displacement and marginalization — and the search for love and liberation — are persistent themes. He goes beneath stereotypes of immigrant and American-born Chinese, hustlers and academics, Buddhist priests and street people."

Professor Lisa Lowe of UC San Diego describes the book as "an important collection, not only for readers of Asian American work, but of world literature generally. . . . These stories cover a geography that spans hemispheres and an emotional landscape that is wider: life and death, desire and repulsion, freedom and humiliation, the body and the spirit."

Acclaimed writer Ishmael Reed also applauds the book. "Migration may be the prominent theme in American literature; from place to place, from class to class, from race to race, and from gender to gender. Few have treated this theme as artistically as Russell Leong. His remarkable prose/poetry challenges media stereotypes so powerfully that many readers will conclude that his characters exist in a parallel universe. Yes, the Asian American Lexus drivers are here, but SSI recipients are included as well," Reed writes.

Aside from his editorial and scholarly work at UCLA, Leong is also an award-winning poet and documentary filmmaker.

Three New Titles Announced for "Intersections" Series on Asian Pacific Americans

The University of Hawaii Press — in conjunction with UCLA Asian American Studies Center Press — announces publication of three new titles in its series "Intersections: Asian and Pacific American Transcultural Studies." Russell Leong of UCLA serves as general editor for the series.

Music through the Dark: A Tale of Survival in Cambodia by Bree Lafreniere tells the story of Daran Kravanh's experience of Cambodia's holocaust during the 1970s. The tragedy claimed the lives of his parents and seven siblings and three million other Cambodians. The author shows how Kravanh's love of music — in the unlikely form of an accordion — enabled him to survive.

Words Matter: Conversations with Asian American Writers is edited by Professor King-Kok Cheung of UCLA and contains interviews with 20 Asian American writers. They address, among other things, the expectations attached to the label "Asian American," the burden of representation shouldered by ethnic artists, and the different demands of mainstream and ethnic audiences.

Blues and Greens: A Produce Worker's Journal by Alan Chong Lau is a poetic memoir of his days as a produce worker in Seattle's Chinatown. The book will be published in July 2000.

The three new titles join three other previously published works in the "Intersections" series: *New Spiritual Homes: Religion and Asian Americans*, edited by David K. Yoo; *A Ricepaper Airplane: A Novel*, by Gary Pak; and *Bulletproof Buddhists and Other Essays*, by Frank Chin.

For more information, call University of Hawaii Press at (888) 847-7377; e-mail: uhpbooks@hawaii.edu; or visit the website (www.uhpress.hawaii.edu).

New Anthology on Asian Americans Edited by Professor Min Zhou

Contemporary Asian America: A Multidisciplinary Reader is the title of a new anthology edited by Professor Min Zhou of Sociology and Asian American Studies at UCLA and James Gatewood, a graduate student in the M.A. Program in Asian American Studies at UCLA. The book was recently published by New York University Press.

Contemporary Asian America focuses on the ways in which the intersection of Asian immigration, community development, and socialization affect Asian American communities. It exposes its readers to developments within the discipline, from its inception as part of the ethnic consciousness movement of the 1960s to the more contemporary theoretical and practical issues facing Asian America at the century's end.

According to the publisher, *Contemporary Asian America* provides an "expansive introduction to the central readings in Asian America and Asian American Studies. Presenting a grounded theoretical orientation to the discipline and framing key historical, cultural, economic, and social themes within a social science context."

This volume includes 13 sections, and covers such topics as the Asian American movement, immigration, economic life, family and community, spiritual practices, gender, sexuality, racism, anti-Asian violence, identity, interracial marriages, visual culture, and theory.

Conversations with Asian American Writers

Professor King-Kok Cheung Edits Collection of Interviews of Asian American Writers

Words Matter: Conversations with Asian American Writers is the title of a new anthology edited by Professor King-Kok Cheung and published by University of Hawaii Press in conjunction with UCLA Asian American Studies Center Press.

Professor Cheung, an authority on Asian American literature, is with the English Department and Asian American Studies at UCLA.

The anthology is a collection of interviews with Asian American writers and explores the "burden of representation shouldered by ethnic artists and the different demands of mainstream and ethnic audiences," according to the publishers.

Writers interviewed include Jessica Hagedorn, Paul Stephen Lim, S. P. Somtow, Meena Alexander, Myung Mi Kim, Le Ly Hayship, Janice Mirikitani, Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni, Al Robles, Philip Kan Gotanda, David Wong Louie, Gish Jen, Russell C. Leong, Amy Uyematsu, Li-Young Lee, Wendy Law-Yone, Gary Pak, Karen Tei

Yamashita, Hisaye Yamamoto, and Wakako Yamauchi.

The book is part of the University of Hawaii Press "Intersections: Asian and Pacific American Transcultural Studies" series under the direction of general editor Russell C. Leong.

Professor Cheung Named Fulbright Scholar

UCLA Professor King-Kok Cheung, who holds a joint appointment in English and Asian American Studies has been named a Fulbright Scholar.

She will be at the University of Hong Kong (UHK), and will teach and do research in Asian American literature, African American literature, Latino American literature, women's literature — as well as Renaissance literature — during the 2000-2001 academic year.

Book by Professor Rachel Lee Explores Gendered Fictions of Nation and Transnation

UCLA Professor Rachel Lee has published a new book, *The Americas of Asian American Literature: Gendered Fictions of Nation and Transnation* through Princeton University Press.

Professor Lee is in English and Women's Studies and is also a member of the Faculty Advisory Committee of the Asian American Studies Center.

According to the publisher, the book "draws on a wide array of literary, historical, and theoretical sources, and addresses current debates on the relationship among Asian American ethnic identity, national belonging, globalization, and gender. Lee argues that scholars have traditionally placed undue emphasis on ethnic-based political commitments — whether these are construed as national or global — in their readings of Asian American texts. This has constrained analysis of stories that are focused less on ethnicity than on kinship, family dynamics,

eroticism, and gender roles. In response, Professor Lee makes a case for a reconceptualized Asian American criticism that centrally features gender and sexuality."

According to Professor Elaine Kim of UC Berkeley, *The Americas of Asian American Literature* is "a critique of ideology and an interrogation of political power arrangements as they shift in different historical contexts. Rachel Lee looks at the ideological implications of various ways of reading literature that foreground some issues and suppress others. With its richly nuanced readings of how various kinds of racialized gendering shape both writing and reading across space and time, Rachel Lee's breakthrough book enriches both Asian American cultural critique and feminist inquiry, suggesting to us how much can be gained if we more clearly understand the inseparability of representations of race, gender, class, and sexuality."

Asian American Writers and Critics to Gather at UCLA June 3

Bringing together nationally-renowned Asian American writers, scholars, and critics from New York, Honolulu, San Francisco, and Los Angeles, the UCLA Asian American Studies Center hosts the millennium's first Asian American Writers' Symposium, "Words Matter," at the UCLA Faculty Center on Saturday, June 3, 2000. Writers will discuss their work, dialogue with critics, and sign their books. The event is free and open to students and the public.

Among the highlights of this national symposium are a reception recognizing the establishment of the first Asian American Writers Archive in the United States to be housed in the university's special collections. The founding writers of the archive who will be honored include: San Francisco poet-laureate Janice Mirikitani (*We, the Dangerous*); American Book Lifetime Achievement fiction writer Hisaye Yamamoto (*Seventeen Syllables*); national playwright Wakako Yamauchi (*And the Soul Shall Dance*), and the dean of Filipino American poets, Al Robles (*Rappin' with Ten Thousand Carabaos in the Dark*).

The program also includes discussion by writers Jessica Hagedorn (*Dogeaters*), Gary Pak (*The Ricepaper Airplane*), Myung Mi Kim (*Dura*), Amy Uyematsu (*30 Miles from J Town*), David Wong Louie (*The Barbarians Are Coming*), Karen Tei Yamashita (*Tropic of Orange*), Paul Stephen Lim (*Report to the River*), S.P. Somtow (*Jasmine Nights*), Russell Leong (*Phoenix Eyes*), and others. Scholars and critics Rachel Lee, Shumei Shih, Jinqi Ling, David Palumbo Liu, Steven Sumida, Ketu Ketrak, Grace Hong have been invited to participate.

Writers, critics, and the public will discuss how homeland, country, and community "place" their writing today; how language can create new meaning in Asian American literature; and how gender, sexuality, and spirituality emerge in literature.

"Words Matter" also marks the publication of a collection of interviews with 20 Asian American writers, edited by Prof. King-Kok Cheung and published by the University of Hawaii Press. The writers featured above are included in the book.

For more information about the conference or the new book of interviews, contact UCLA Asian American Studies Center at (310) 825-2974.

"Most Comprehensive Guide to the Politics of Asian America"

New Edition of *National Asian Pacific American Political Almanac* Published

Praised as the "most comprehensive national guide to the politics of Asian America," the new edition of the *National Asian Pacific American Political Almanac* has just been released by the UCLA Asian American Studies Center Press. It was sponsored by a major grant from Pacific Bell/SBC.

The 2000 edition of the political almanac lists over 2,200 Asian Pacific American elected and major appointed officials for 31 different states, the federal government, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands.

It also contains exit poll data on Asian Pacific American voters, current population information, projections of Congressional districts with high concentrations of Asian Pacific Americans, and a directory of national and state Asian Pacific American political and civil rights groups.

Co-edited by Don Nakanishi, Asian American Studies Center Director, and James Lai, who was just appointed as an Assistant Professor in Political Science at Santa Clara University, the 250-page almanac spotlights two Asian Pacific Americans who have gained national prominence in American politics: Angela Oh, a Los Angeles attorney who was a member of President Clinton's Advisory Board on his Initiative on Race Relations, and Congressman David Wu from Oregon, the first Chinese American elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Both share their views on the nation's most pressing social needs.

The ninth edition of the almanac, which was launched in 1978, also features commentaries on the future of Asian Pacific American political participation and influence in the new century from a cross-section of na-

tional recognized leaders and writers: Abe Bautista, Catalina Camia, J.D. Hokoyama, Phil Tajitsu Nash, William Wong, Michael Woo, and Helen Zia. Essays by Nakanishi and Lai are also included.

The 2000 edition of the *National Asian Pacific American Political Almanac* is available by mail for \$15 plus shipping, and handling of \$4.00 for the first copy, and \$1 for each additional copy) plus sales tax (8.25% Los Angeles County residents; 7.75% for California residents). Special bulk order prices also available. Make checks payable to "U.C. Regents," and mail to the UCLA Asian American Studies Center Press, 3230 Campbell Hall, Box 951546, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1546. For more information, please call (310) 825-2968 or 825-2974, or e-mail (ku@ucla.edu).

Six Graduates of M.A. Program Gain Faculty Posts

Six graduates of the M.A. Program in Asian American Studies at UCLA recently have been hired to tenure track Assistant Professor positions at universities across the nation, according to Don Nakanishi, Director of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center. They are as follows:

- Eiichiro Azuma (who will receive his Ph.D. in history from UCLA) as Assistant Professor in the Department of History (with affiliation with the Asian American Studies Program) at the University of Pennsylvania. Eiichiro wrote his M.A. thesis in 1992 on "Walnut Grove: Japanese Farm Community in the Sacramento River Delta, 1892-1942."

- Augusto Espiritu (who will receive his Ph.D. in history from UCLA) as Assistant Professor in the Department of History (with affiliation with the Asian American Studies Program) at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Augusto wrote his M.A. thesis in 1992 on "The Rise and Fall of the Filipino Town Campaign in Los Angeles: A Study in Filipino American Leadership."

- Scott Kurashige (who will receive his Ph.D. in history from UCLA) as Assistant Professor in the Department of History (with affiliation with the American Cultures Program) at the University of Michigan. Scott wrote his M.A. thesis in 1996 on "Locating

Oppression and Resistance: Asian Americans and Racist Violence."

- James Lai (who will receive his Ph.D. in political science from USC) as Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science (with affiliation with the Ethnic Studies Program) at Santa Clara University. James wrote his M.A. thesis in 1994 on "At the Threshold of the Golden Door — Ethnic Politics and Pan-Asian Pacific American Coalition Building: A Case Study of the Special 1991 California 46th Assembly District Primary Election."

- James K.J. Lee (who will receive his Ph.D. in English from UCLA) as Assistant Professor in the Department of English (with affiliation with the Asian American Studies Program) at the University of Texas at Austin. James wrote his M.A. thesis in 1995 on "What Was Given, Given Over?: Competing Subjectivities in Myung Mi Kim's 'Into Such Assembly.'"

- Kariann Yokoto (who will receive her Ph.D. in history from UCLA) as Assistant Professor in the Department of American Studies, Yale University. Kariann wrote her M.A. thesis in 1996 on "From Little Tokyo to Bronzeville and Back: Ethnic Communities in Transition."

Anna Alves Featured in Filipino American Film

Anna Alves, a graduate of our M.A. program in Asian American Studies, is one of the "stars" in *Much Adobo About Nothing*, a new 80-minute film by Dom Magwili and Stann Nakazono.

The film is described as a Pilipino-American farce and romantic comedy, and like the Pilipino chicken delicacy referred to in its title it is "sweet, sour, spicy, and unmistakably true to Pilipino culture."

The film recently had its premiere showings in Los Angeles.

Mika Tanner Wins UCLA Writing Award

Mika Tanner, a second-year graduate student in the Asian American Studies master's program, has won first place in this year's Ruth Brill Scholarship Award creative writing competition sponsored by UCLA.

Mika won the award for her story entitled "Mrs. Sasaki."

Professor Ailee Moon Receives Award

UCLA Social Welfare Professor Ailee Moon was recently honored by the Coastal Asian Pacific Community Mental Health Center for her contributions. Professor Moon is a member of the Asian American Studies Center Faculty Advisory Committee.

A Tribute to N.V.M. Gonzalez

By Sand and Wave: Thoughts on NVM from His Student

By Russell C. Leong

As I cling to the good paper upon which NVM's books of essays, *The Novel of Justice*, is printed, I feel both alone and greedy. Alone, in the knowledge that I shall never again hear NVM's voice, tinged with drollness and irony. I also will miss a generous teacher and a friend in life, and that loss leaves my heart aching. Greedy, in that I must glean, once again, what I can from his words, filled with eternal life, between pages of this book and of so many others.

NVM, who considered himself very much a Filipino in the world, is now a Filipino—a transmigrant in the universe. His words outlive him, and that fact I am sure he predicted a long time ago. This is why he persisted and wrote until the end. Like colored stones shaped by sand and wave, images would reveal to him yet another story, waiting to be shaped by his hand and pen.

In his 1983 essay, "Whistling Up the Wind: Myth and Creativity," NVM speaks of the connection between the Indian concept of time as in *yuga* and *laya* "that are not unfamiliar sounds in both Tagalog and Bisayan." After explaining the Indian cosmic cycles comprised of 12,000 years, NVM states that "Given life-through-time, one could either be brought in the cycle or set free." He concludes that the ancestors of today's Filipinos could "well be the descendants of those who rejected the cycle...and struck out for freedom." For me, as a student of NVM's, the point is profound, because it leads to a concept of self-determination, of the writing of a New History and Literature not based on elite, fixed, religious concepts of time and space, but of the writing of a History and Literature based on humanism, freedom, and liberation.

I believe that NVM's thrust has always been to strike out for freedom. His stories, which sought allegories between elemental Nature and Human Nature, moved towards this notion of freedom through understanding the various roles of the Filipino in history. Yet, NVM recognized his connection with other writers in the Third World struggling towards national liberation; he was one of the first Filipinos, early on, to recognize and to write about Lu Hsun, the Chinese revolutionary writer who helped to galvanize Chinese intellectuals and artists in the 1930s.

These are but two examples of the riches that one can glean from re-reading NVM's work, perhaps now with a different eye in the knowledge that one must hear them through the printed word, and not through his voice or cadence anymore.

That will be my job, to re-read, with diligence, what NVM has offered to the world-at-large. A student, after all, must guard against a facile understanding of his teacher. I, as well, would like to reject the cycle of docility and ignorance, and strike out for freedom—of the imagination, and of the nation of the future.

*I salute you, NVM,
For you have broken the cycle of time
Instead preferring freedom of the Word
Wherever it may take you.*



UCLA Asian American Studies Center Reading Room and Library displays the works of the late writer N.V.M. Gonzalez who passed away in late 1999. Professor Gonzalez was at the UCLA Asian American Studies Center in Fall Quarter 1998 as the Regent's Professor.

Ben and Alice Hirano Prize for Asian American History Announced

Dr. Marsha Hirano-Nakanishi and Kathryn Hirano have established the "Ben and Alice Hirano Academic Prize in Asian American History." The prize is established in the name of their parents and will be awarded to the best undergraduate paper or thesis written on a topic in Asian American history by a UCLA undergraduate.

Kathryn Hirano, a UCLA alumna, is an attorney with the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office, while Dr. Marsha Hirano-Nakanishi, is the Senior Director of the Office of Analytical Studies for the Chancellor's Office of the California State University system.

Ben and Alice Hirano were long-time residents of East Los Angeles. Both were interned in American concentration camps during World War II. Ben was active in Japanese American youth athletics, veterans, and gardeners groups, while Alice was a volunteer in church and school activities.

In establishing the academic prize, the two sisters wanted to pay special tribute to their parents' unflinching optimism and commitment to education and community affairs. They hope the prize will serve to encourage UCLA undergraduate students to learn invaluable lessons from the Asian American past to guide their individual and collective actions in the present and future.

The award will be administered by the Asian American Studies Center. The Center now offers more than a dozen scholarships to undergraduates and graduate students ranging from \$250 to \$3,000.

K.W. Lee Calls Upon Youth to Emphasize Community Values and Coalition Building

By Michelle Banta

(Editor's Note: Pacific Ties newsmagazine editor-in-chief Michelle Banta published the following article about pioneer Asian American journalist K.W. Lee in the February 2000 issue of the student-run newsmagazine. Her article is reprinted here in condensed form. During Fall Quarter 1999, Lee taught a course on investigative journalism for Asian American Studies and African American Studies at UCLA. In 1994 he became the first Asian immigrant journalist to receive the Free Spirit Award from the Freedom Forum, and in 1987 he received the first Life Time Achievement Award from the Asian American Journalist Association.)

K.W. Lee fell. In one fatal step, his entire body hit the concrete at the doorway of a Korean cafe. The papers that detail over 50 years of his distinguished journalism career remained inside the plastic bag that he carried. Although the bag cushioned the impact between his hands and the cement, the fall was still hard and it alarmed everyone.

"I'm fine," Lee assured us and he shot up as quickly as he had fallen — fast enough to not even notice our flustered offers of help. "I'm 71. This body's still strong!" With his straightened posture and eyes concentrating forward, we followed the man as he resumed his powerful gait into the cafe.

In our pilgrimage to Koreatown, we shared expectations of learning from a man who has spent decades bringing the stories of America's invisible people into the public eye. Partly too, we were fascinated with his passion and energy for telling the truth. We came knowing it would be an inspirational day. There is also something unique about Lee that made us more inclined to meet him. We also wanted to hear the prominent leader, elder, reporter, and educator, curse like a sailor.

Among friends, colleagues, and students, and in the less formal settings, the grandfather figure disappears. In impassioned conversations, some of us have seen his middle finger shoot out when triggered by his resistance to the unjust things. He'll violate the open space above any table — lean forward, jump from his chair, and clench his fist in a fury to emphasize a point. As he speaks, he carries the aura and energy of an uninhibited twenty-something youth, while strangely still expressing the wisdom and perspective of an old man. He shared with us his "forest" perspective of today's young generation, our place in history, our role today, and what he hopes for us tomorrow.

Humbly, Lee noted, "I represent the tail end of the print age. I have no wisdom to give you, because my wisdom is obsolete. The only wisdom that I give you is the perspective of an aging Asian, who has been a daily observer and participant of Asia America. I can give you a larger picture. As I said, as an aging Asian, I see the emerging forest that you have a critical role to play."

Lee began by placing the state of today's generation in the context of Asian American history through past and present day stories of immigration and labor. He described experiences of Asian American discrimination, and like our Chicano, Native American, and African American counterparts, he described how Asians also have been excluded from the main market of ideas and goods. On the state of Asia America today, he emphasized how easily people forget the histories of struggle that opened the doors of opportunity from which new waves of immigrants have benefited.

"There is a great chasm between the English-speaking and

non-English-speaking immigrants and between the 'downtown' and 'uptown' Asians. I see a dark cloud hanging over the urban Asian-scape of America. They are the new generation of what I call made-in-America Mandarins, who are the privileged children of diaspora Asians. And that is chilling and unsettling. They are the children of East Asian immigrants who came to America with Confucian baggage. Highly educated professionals, they have merely adapted their Confucian ethos — family unity, hard work ethics, pursuit of higher education — to the demand of hyper-capitalism in America. Unfortunately, because they have succeeded with the booming economy now, they are in denial that they also brought with them the darker side of Confucianism — patriarchy and authority, disdain of physical labor, and status and prestige. There is a vacuum. These are the elites who have failed to provide leadership and role models to the isolated Asian enclaves.

"But not all is gloom and doom. I see across the urban centers a small band of activists who are trying to bring a sense of community. They are mostly of the working class class background, mostly the children of hole-in-the-wall merchants and working poor who occupy the very bleak urban-scape of America.

"Biologically, you are young — you are almost my grandchildren — but socially and politically, you are our parents. You are the fish ready to swim — very functional, very sophisticated. Your generation must fill the vacuum of leadership created by the neo-Mandarins. That vacuum has to be filled by the children and grandchildren of the struggling immigrants who must live and work with underclass Blacks and Latinos."

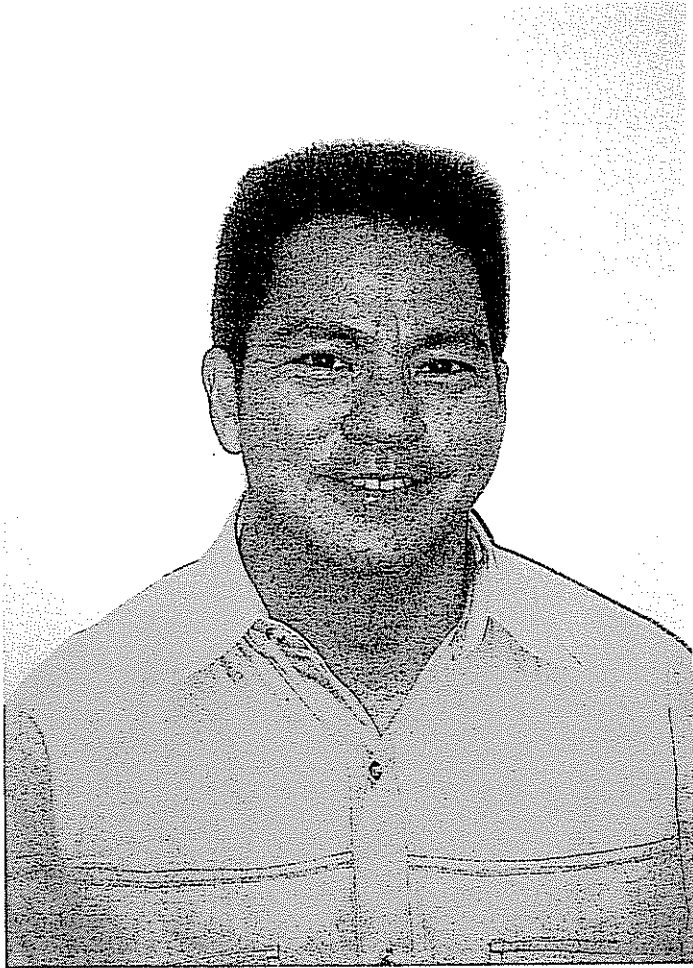
Outside on the streets of Koreatown, the multiethnic community of Koreans, Chicanos, and African Americans is just as vibrant as any other day. However, only eight years ago, those streets had become the scene of the L.A. uprisings. After recovering from a liver transplant in 1992, Lee walked the streets to assess the aftermath of the riots. What remained were visual signs of a society malnourished in learning from its multiculturalism.

It is perhaps from these memories and his lifetime commitment to covering the poor and the disenfranchised that Lee said, "We have to push, build, inject a sense of community to each ethnic-specific community. It is for our own survival. Your generation has to build the bridges with your counterparts — the Blacks, Latinos, and the poor whites. The first priority is this: open up coalitions with Black and Latino neighbors. Otherwise, you know what will happen — we will be scapegoated again and then comes the next fire."

Lee's vision of achieving social harmony and human rights is not as quixotic as it seems. According to Lee's "forest" vision, after the 1965 Immigration Act opened the doors for Asian immigration, "Asian Americans have reached a critical mass. Without this coalition effort, no significant things could happen."

"The value system of community is not for one night or one generation," Lee said. "It takes generations of defeat, failures, and betrayals. What each generation can do is give it their best and hope that they can be remembered kindly. That's all I wish. So what I'm saying is that the sun must rise on each generation. It's up to your generation to learn from our mistakes, so that you don't repeat the mistakes. We have made many mistakes, not because we are bad, but because we have not dared to come out of our own Confucian shell."

Dennis Arguelles Named New Assistant Director of Asian American Studies Center



Dennis G. Arguelles has been hired as the new Assistant Director of the Center, replacing Dr. Enrique Dela Cruz who was recently named professor and chair of the Asian American Studies Department at California State University, Northridge.

Dennis, who received both his B.A. (Political Science) and M.A. (Urban Planning) from UCLA, is the former Executive Director of the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council (APPPCON), a coalition of over 55 Asian and Pacific Islander community-based organizations and social services agencies in Los Angeles County.

Dennis has held leadership positions at the Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment (PACE) and the Los Angeles County Community Development Commission. He has also served on the boards of a number of community groups, and is an active member of the UCLA Asian Pacific Alumni Association.

When he was a student at UCLA, he took a number of Asian American Studies classes, participated actively in student activities, and did pioneering research under Professor Paul Ong of Urban Planning and Asian American Studies. He also served as a student government leader.

Dennis has undertaken research, authored publications, and taught classes on contemporary Asian Pacific American topics. He is the co-author, along with Professor Paul Ong, Erich Nakano, Chanchanit Hirunpidak, and others, of the path-breaking study, *Beyond Asian American Poverty*, which received national attention, as well as other articles on urban revitalization.

Along with his interest in policy issues, Dennis has a deep appreciation and enthusiasm for the wide range of disciplines that contribute to the field of Asian American Studies. He is anxiously looking forward to working closely with our faculty, staff, students, administrators, alumni, and others in further building Asian American Studies at UCLA and nationwide; as well as enhancing relationships between our Center and Asian and Pacific Islander community groups and leaders.

Community Directory Available Soon

The new edition of the *Asian Pacific Islander Community Directory of Southern California* is in production and will be available soon, according to Meg Thornton, head of the Center's Student/Community Projects and coordinator of the project.

The directory is available for \$15 plus shipping of \$4 for the first copy, and \$1 for each additional copy, and sales tax (8.25% L.A. County residents; 7.75% for CA residents). Make checks payable to "U.C. Regents," and mail to the UCLA Asian American Studies Center Press, 3230 Campbell Hall, Box 951546, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1546. For more information, please call (310) 825-2968 or 825-2974, or e-mail (ku@ucla.edu).

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