

UCLA Asian American Studies Center Designated as Census Information Center

The U.S. Census Bureau has officially designated the UCLA Asian American Studies Center as one of 60 new national Census Information Centers (CICs).

The CIC program was started in 1988 to provide better access to data, research and various Census products to minority, immigrant and disadvantaged communities.

CICs receive most Census Bureau products as well as technical support and equipment. In turn, they process data, compile statistics, create maps and make relevant information available to the communities they serve.

Nationally, twelve Asian Pacific American organizations were selected as CICs, including the Asian Pacific Islander Health Forum in San Francisco, the Cambodian Association of Greater Philadelphia and the Organization of Chinese Americans in Washington, D.C. In Los Angeles, Special Services for Groups, Inc. and the Korean American Coalition were also selected as CICs.

The AASC CIC Project is a partnership between the Center and the National Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans

for Community Development (CAPACD), a national network of APA community-based organizations providing housing, employment, business and social services to low-income APA communities.

Besides providing the demographic, economic and geographic data needed by CAPACD's membership, plans for the CIC include developing regional maps and other data for use by local organizations, government agencies, advocates and researchers.

Bill Matambay, Executive Director of Little Tokyo Service Center and Board Member of CAPACD, stated: "Being a CIC will allow us to generate the data we need to be effective advocates for the Asian and Pacific Islander community. The data will help us impact policy at both the local and national level."

For more information about the AASC CIC Project, contact Center Assistant Director Dennis Arguelles at (310) 825-2971.

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CROSS CURRENTS

The Newsmagazine of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center

CROSS CURRENTS

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Newsmagazine
of the
UCLA Asian American
Studies Center

Vol. 23, No. 2
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Nation's First Korean American Studies Academic Chair

Established at UCLA

*Cornerstone Donation by Jae Min Chang
Creates The Korea Times - Hankook Ilbo
Chair in Korean American Studies*

The UCLA Asian American Studies Center will house the nation's first academic chair in Korean American Studies. A major cornerstone donation by Jae Min Chang, a UCLA alumnus, will establish The Korea Times-Hankook Ilbo Chair in Korean American Studies at UCLA.

"This academic chair will be the first one of its kind in all of American higher education to specifically recognize and support scholarly excellence in Korean American Studies," stated Asian American Studies Center Director Don T. Nakanishi.

The academic chair will be administered by the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, and occupied by the nation's preeminent scholar in the field of Korean American Studies.

According to Professor Nakanishi, Jae Min Chang has long been involved in UCLA alumni activities and has been deeply committed to the development of Asian American Studies and Korean American Studies at UCLA. He is the Chairman, Publisher, and CEO of *The Korea Times-Hankook Ilbo* newspaper, the country's largest Korean American newspaper.

This will be the second academic chair for the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, which was founded in 1969 and undertakes an extensive agenda of research, teaching, publications, library and archival collecting, and community-university collaborations in terms of Asian American Studies. Since the late 1970s, it has administered an academic chair in Japanese American Studies, which was established through the donations of Japanese American alumni and friends of UCLA. The academic chair is currently occupied by Professor Robert Nakamura of UCLA's Film and Television Department, who is a pioneer in the development of Asian American independent media and the director of the Center for Ethnic Communications.

A third academic chair named after UCLA alumnus and AASC supporter Governor Benjamin Cayetano of Hawaii, dealing with Asian American public policy is also underway.



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Center's Website

Nears 100,000 Visitors

The award-winning UCLA Asian American Studies Center website has attracted nearly 100,000 visitors, according to webmasters Tam Nguyen and Steven Mims-Kopp.

The website contains information on latest Center projects, publications, classes, fellowships and scholarships, and other activities. In addition, it provides links to important web resources in the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.

The website has been named one of the "Top 500" sites by Lycos for content and design.

WWW.ASIASTUDIES.UCLA.EDU/AASC

Wen Ho Lee: A Personal View of 150 Years of Injustice

By Russell C. Leong

Little did I know several years ago when I was working with a student named Alberta Lee, a promising writer and student at UCLA, that I would be writing about her father, Wen Ho Lee, today.

I would always remember Alberta because she told me she grew up in Los Alamos, New Mexico, and that she was especially interested in Asian American writers such as Frank Chin and Maxine Hong Kingston. I would remember telling her to write about her childhood and of growing up in Los Alamos, and, a half-dozen years later, suggesting that she keep a good journal of all that was happening to her family and to her father, Wen Ho Lee, after his seizure by the FBI. She couldn't promise, she said, because she was so distraught and angry at the injustice of the case. What she did tell me was that: "My father is a good man. They are persecuting him for no reason at all." As it turned out, Alberta did keep that journal — but the FBI later confiscated it when they were searching her apartment.

Now I ask myself: Was the Wen Ho Lee case an isolated, aberrant case of racial profiling, of singling out a Chinese American for persecution and prosecution? The answer is No, in my view. Onerous discrimination based on skin color and the notion of "foreignness," has been part and parcel of the "American" way since the inception of the nation.

Since the arrival of the Chinese to the United States during the Gold Rush 150 years ago, Asian immigrants and refugees have been used by both Democrats and Republicans to incite nativism and racism and to garner populist votes, according to Prof. L. Ling-chi Wang of U.C. Berkeley. Though Wang wrote this in an essay for UCLA's *Amerasia Journal* analyzing the 1996 Campaign Finance scandal, his point can be applied to Wen Ho Lee case.

In Lee's case, we see clearly how the combined elite forces of mass media such as the *New York Times*, institutions of the state such as the FBI and the Energy Department, and members of the U.S. Congress — together with the Democrats and the Republicans — angled to bolster votes during a presidential election year, to restore credibility to a disorganized nuclear lab, and to score partisan political points against the People's Republic of China by accusing a Chinese American scientist of espionage.

The extreme hostility, the denial of individual rights, and the dogged persecution of Dr. Lee has an uncanny, familiar ring. From the Hearst baiting of the Chinese "yellow peril" in the late 1800s to the forced World War II internment of 120,000 Japanese Americans in concentration camps behind barbed wire, to the racial killing of Joseph Illetto, a Filipino American postal worker, Asian Americans continue to be perceived as perpetual racial "foreigners." As a consequence, we have been maimed, incarcerated, and killed. It doesn't matter if Asians are American-born, naturalized, immigrant or refugee.

But as students, scholars, staff members, and workers at UCLA, what can we do? Speaking from the perspective of the editor of *Amerasia Journal* and as a professor of English, let me offer the following suggestions:

1. As citizens, write President Bush for a presidential pardon. It should be faxed to either (202) 456-2461 or (202) 456-1121, and addressed to: The Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States, The White House, Washington, D.C. 20500.

2. As educators, begin to integrate the Wen Ho Lee case in your classes on the law, on racial injustice, on civil rights, on Asian and minority relations, and on American politics and culture. On its part, the UCLA Asian American Studies Center Reading Room is collecting all printed and media materials connected to the case for the utilization of students and scholars.

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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, 405 Hilgard Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1546; phone, (310) 825-2974; World Wide Web — www.sscnet.ucla.edu/aasc

3. As activists, work to establish more interdisciplinary courses on critical race theory, and on the relationship between the state, race, law and politics. UCLA's new law program in Critical Race Studies can teach a new generation of law students about the Wen Ho Lee case and the miscarriage of justice.

And finally, from the personal perspective of a writer, I'd like to suggest that each of you keep a journal on the kinds of personal and political issues that affect you today, be they small or large. To set your thoughts in writing can be a powerful tool for justice and a powerful testimony for others. The act of writing in itself — be it in a neatly-bound diary or on a prisoner's defiant scrap of paper — can change the future in unexpected ways.

(Prof. Russell C. Leong, an Adjunct Professor of English at UCLA, is editor of *Amerasia Journal* and head of UCLA Asian American Studies Center Press.)

Professor Marjorie Kagawa-Singer Leads Research Team

New Study Examines Cancer Screening Rates for Asian & Pacific Islander Women

Cancer ranks as the number one cause of death among Asian American and Pacific Islander (API) women, yet a range of health care access barriers have left them with the lowest screening and early detection rates for breast and cervical cancer of all ethnic groups, a UCLA study shows.

Lead author for the study is Professor Marjorie Kagawa-Singer of the UCLA School of Public Health's Department of Community Health Sciences and the Asian American Studies Center.

The study, the first to break down national data for breast and cervical carcinoma screening among API subgroups, also shows that the practice of merging API health data into a single category hides significant rate variations. In fact, the groups at highest risk for late cancer detection and treatment become invisible.

For example, federal Healthy People 2000 guidelines recommend that 95 percent of women age 18 or older should receive a Pap test to detect cervical cancer. The study showed that 21 percent of API women have never had a Pap test, compared with 5 percent of white women. Among individual API populations, Japanese women (8 percent) do not differ significantly from white women, but significantly more Filipino (15 percent), Vietnamese (36 percent), Chinese (28 percent), Asian Indian (26 percent) and Korean (25 percent) women have never had a Pap test.

Demographic characteristics that affect healthcare access — education, income, age — all had a significantly greater negative impact on cancer screening rates among APIs than on white women, the study showed. Language and cultural differences also played a role.

"APIs themselves, as well as policy-makers, labor under the myth that APIs are a healthy population and at low risk for breast and cervical cancer," said Professor Marjorie Kagawa-Singer.

"In addition, the practice of aggregating more than 60 nationalities into one API category masks marked demographic differences associated with low rates of cancer screening," she said. "Targeted efforts to increase screening among API women could increase their cancer survival rates dramatically."

The study showed major variations among API subgroups in demographic risk factors for low rates of cancer screening, including low education and income levels and age:

- The average college education rate for Chinese Americans is 42 percent, compared with the U.S. average of 21 percent. However, the number of women with less than four years of education was 2 percent nationally and 6 percent for APIs.
- The Japanese American poverty rate is 6.6 percent, or the same as whites, whereas the rate for all Southeast Asian groups is more than 66 percent.
- The API median age of less than 31.2 years compared with a U.S. median age of 33.4 years, yet the Vietnamese and Hmong median ages are 25.2 years and 12.5 years, respectively.

Nearly one-third of APIs are isolated linguistically, the study showed, with significant variations among the subgroups: Hmong, 55.8 percent; Chinese, 40.8 percent; Filipino, 17 percent; and Samoan,

14.2 percent.

Non-English-speaking APIs usually are excluded from national surveys, including the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) since it is administered in English and Spanish only, and they tend to have the lowest screening rates.

Breast and cervical cancer rates in native Asian and Pacific Islander countries are 25 percent to 50 percent of those of U.S. women. The study showed, however, that among APIs those rates begin to mirror that of their host country within 10 years of immigration.

For example, the cancer rate for Japanese Americans (74 per 100,000), the most acculturated API subgroup with the oldest population, is more than three times higher than the rate for Korean Americans (23.3 per 100,000), a more recent and younger immigrant group.

The study, published in the August 2000 edition of the American Cancer Society's peer-review journal *Cancer*, received funding from the Oncology Nursing Foundation.

Researchers used the most recent National Health Interview Survey (1993 and 1994) to study screening rates for APIs as one group and for six distinct subgroups: Chinese, Filipino, Korean, Vietnamese, Japanese and Asian Indians. The sample included 2,756 non-Hispanic API and 64,196 non-Hispanic white women age 18 years or older.

Profs. Chu and Yu Gain Grants to Study Asians in the Americas

UCLA Professors Clara Chu of Information Studies and Henry Yu of History — both members of the Asian American Studies Center Faculty Advisory Committee — have received two grants to enhance the work they are doing with the Asians in the Americas Working Group at UCLA.

The Working Group brings together scholars from diverse disciplines who have an interest in studying Asians in the Americas.

The first grant was funded by the Chancellor's Initiative on Academic Border Crossing to support the project, "Counting and Discounting Asians in the Americas: National and Local Constructions of Race and Ethnicity." The focus of this study is on migrants from Asia as a test case for understanding how migration and the subsequent contacts between peoples have been categorized.

According to Professor Chu, "We bring together the expertise of an information scientist and historian to explore the historical development of counting Asians in the census of the countries in the Americas, understand the social and legal context of such development, and document the resources used in prior research and the resources available to count Asians in the Americas."

Professors Chu and Yu also received a Canadian Studies Program Enhancement Grant from Canada. The grant will enable them to develop a searchable digital database/bibliography of Asian Canadian research and create a network of U.S. and Canadian scholars studying Asian Canadians. They hope to collaborate with others to produce an Asians in the Americas bibliography.

Historians Probe "Future of History" at Conference

The Asian American Studies Center and *Amerasia Journal* along with other Southern California AAS programs held a November 4 conference, "The Future of Asian American History: A Dialogue on Learning and Teaching Asian American History for the 21st Century." Conference organizers were Professors Russell C. Leong, Valerie Matsumoto, and Don T. Nakanishi.

The conference attracted over 400 participants and coincided with publication of a special issue of *Amerasia Journal* (Vol. 26, No. 1) on "Histories and Historians in the Making," edited by Professors Leong and Matsumoto. Conference panels included the following:

Asian American Women: (En)Gendering History—What are the implications of women's and gender studies on interpreting, teaching, and writing Asian American history? Conversely, has AAS influenced feminist and women's studies?

Valerie Matsumoto (History, UCLA)
Cathy Ceniza Choy (American Studies / History, University of Minnesota)
Judy Yung (AAS, UC Santa Cruz)
Karen Leonard (Anthropology, UC Irvine)
Alice Yang Murray (History, UC Santa Cruz)
Arleen de Vera (History, UCLA)

History, Politics and Community: How do historians look at the Wen Ho Lee case? What historical questions does it raise for interpreting the Asian American experience today?

Tritia Toyota (AAS, UCLA)
Yuji Ichioka (History, UCLA)
Alexander Saxton (History, UCLA)
Him Mark Lai (History, SF State University)
K.W. Lee (Pulitzer Journalist, UCLA)

Amerasia Journal 2000-2004: Presentation of Special Issues by guest editors

Edward Chang: What Does It Mean to Be Korean in the 21st Century? (Ethnic Studies, UC Riverside)
Linda Vo: New Identities, New Issues for the Vietnamese American Community (Sociology, UC Irvine)
Warren/Rosa Furumoto: Education Toward Decolonization and Social Change (Biology, CSU Northridge)
Cindy Fan: Geography, Place, and People (Geography, UCLA)
Henry Yu: History and Memory (History, UCLA)

Video Screening by Robert Nakamura (Film and TV, and AAS, UCLA),
Once Upon A Camp and
Eye To Eye: Spotlight on Nobuko Miyamoto
Evan Leong (EthnoCommunications, UCLA), Him Mark Lai

New Approaches to Teaching and Learning Asian American History: How can we teach history of old and new communities in new ways (through oral history, media, historical fiction, cultural studies archival work, etc.)?

Scott Kurashige (History, Univ. of Michigan)
Chris Friday (History, Western Washington University)
Ruthanne McCunn (Writer, San Francisco)
Dorothy Cordova and Fred Cordova (University of Washington)
Vinay Lal (History, UCLA)
Govind Bhakta (Writer, Los Angeles)

New Approaches to Teaching and Learning Asian American History: How can we teach history to undergraduates?

Henry Yu (History, UCLA)
Leslie Kawaguchi (AAS, Santa Monica City College)
Doug Pham and Vu Pham (Asian American Studies, UCLA and Cornell)
Susie Ling (AAS, Pasadena City College)
Enrique dela Cruz (AAS, CSU Northridge)

Cosponsors of the conference were Asian American Studies Department, CSU Northridge; Asian American Studies Program, CSU Fullerton; Asian American Studies Program, Pasadena City College; Asian American Studies Program, Santa Monica College; Asian American Studies Program, UC Irvine; Asian American Studies Program, University of Southern California; Asian and Asian American Studies Program, CSU Los Angeles; Asian-Pacific Studies Program, CSU Dominguez Hills; Asian Pacific American Studies Program, Loyola-Marymount University; Association of Asian American Studies, Southern California Region; Center for Asian Pacific America, UC Riverside; Department of Asian American Studies, UC Santa Barbara; Department of Asian and Asian American Studies, CSU Long Beach; Department of Ethnic Studies, UC San Diego; and Intercollegiate Department of Asian American Studies at the Claremont Colleges.

UCLA's *Daily Bruin* Highlights Stellar AASC Milestones

The *UCLA Daily Bruin* newspaper highlighted accomplishments of the Asian American Studies Center in a lengthy article appearing December 1, 2000.

According to the *Bruin*, "In 1969, UCLA became the first university in the nation to open an Asian American Studies Center, which eventually allowed for the establishment of the first ever graduate degree program in Asian American Studies [in 1976]."

"Today," the *Bruin* continued, "Asian Americans make up 34.3 percent of UCLA's total enrollment, and 38.2 percent of UCLA's undergraduate enrollment, making them the largest ethnic group among undergraduates, and the second-to-largest ethnic group among the combined undergraduate and graduate population."

According to the *Bruin*, UCLA's Asian American Studies program is "the leader in the nation in regards to its research, faculty and graduate training" and "UCLA annually produces more doctoral dissertations and masters theses on Asian American Studies topics than any other university in the world."

"With almost 40 professors from more than 20 departments and professional schools, the Center is supported by the largest faculty in Asian American Studies in the nation," stated the *Bruin*.

"These interdepartmental ties have allowed for the development of a joint master's degree with Asian American Studies in either Public Health or Social Welfare, similar to a double major for undergraduates."

The article quoted long-time Center leaders Professors Don T. Nakanishi and Russell C. Leong as well as Librarian Marji Lee, the only person in the world with graduate degrees in both Asian American Studies and Library and Information Science.

According to Lee, "continued collaboration between the faculty, the staff at the Center and the local Asian American community help with the progression of the AAS program."

Also quoted in the article were the Center's new Assistant Director Dennis Arguelles and second-year graduate students Sang Chi and Jeannie Shinozuka.

Photos accompanying the article featured Professor Henry Yu of Asian American Studies and History and first-year graduate students Phil Hutchison and Shuwana Farmer. Both were in Professor Yu's "Critical Issues in Asian American Studies" graduate class during Fall Quarter 2000.



Laura Kuo Named IAC Postdoctoral Fellow for 2000-01

The UCLA Asian American Studies Center announced that Dr. Laura J. Kuo, who received her Ph.D. in the History of Consciousness Department at UC Santa Cruz, has been selected to be its IAC Postdoctoral Fellow in Asian American Studies for 2000-2001. She was selected from one of the largest and most outstanding pools of applicants to ever seek this fellowship.

Dr. Kuo has an exciting and important research agenda. She stated, "My research involves postmodern representations of hybridity and multiculturalism in relation to U.S. feminist politics in print advertising, feminist activist art, feminist theory, and grassroots organizing. My work treats advertising, art, academe, and activism each as specific cultural apparatuses that influence, inform and delineate women of color cultural production and representation in relation to postmodern transnationalism."

"As an IAC Fellow," she continued, "my research will concentrate specifically on Asian/American gendered identity in relation to contemporary visual culture, in order to promote Asian/American transnational feminist social activism within the context of these media apparatuses. My objective is to mobilize hybridity and multiculturalism in order to conceptualize new and creative possibilities for Asian/American feminist coalitional practices within a postmodern/transnational context."

Dr. Kuo completed her dissertation while serving as a Gaius Charles Bolin Fellow in the Women's and Gender Studies Program at Williams College. Previously, she was a Helena Rubinstein Fellow in the Critical Studies Component of the Whitney Museum of American Art's Independent Study Program. She received her B.A. with Highest Honors and with distinction in Women's Studies and Art History from UC Davis.

UCLA Graduate Students Receive IAC Grants to Support Research

Dennis Arguelles, Assistant Director of the Asian American Studies Center, announced the following IAC research grants for UCLA graduate students for 2000-2001.

UCLA's Institute of American Cultures, in cooperation with the four Ethnic Studies Centers, offers grants to faculty and graduate students in support of research on Asian Americans, African Americans, American Indians, and Chicanas/os.

Postdoctoral Fellowship

Laura Kuo
History of Consciousness
UC Santa Cruz

Pre-doctoral Fellowships

Stacey Hirose
History

Rebecca Kim
Sociology

Andrew Yan
Urban Planning

Research Grants

Angie Chung, Sociology, "Evolution of Ethnic Organizational Structures in Koreatown"

Young Kim, Public Health, "Korean American Women's Perspective on Breast Cancer Screening"

Maria Kong, Asian American Studies, "Asian Americans in Environmental Justice: A Case Study of Laotians Organizing in Richmond, CA"

Grace Lee, Film & Television, *Barrier Device* (30-minute fiction film)

Caroline Libresco, Film & Television, *The Grace Lee Project* (60-minute documentary)

Johanna Shih, Sociology, "What Is the Meaning of Race in a Local-Global Economy?"

Brandy Worrall, Asian American Studies, "Mixed-Up: Mapping Out Biracial Narratives on a Body of Competing Tongues"

Andrew Yan, Urban Planning, "Revitalizing Chinatown: A Comparative Analysis of Vancouver, B.C. and Los Angeles"

Irene Suico Soriano Receives Prestigious PEN Writing Award

PEN Center USA West recently named Asian American Studies Center staff member Irene Suico Soriano one of seven recipients of the \$1,000 Rosenthal Fellowships available to emerging writers from minority, immigrant and under-served communities in the 2000-2001 cycle of its Emerging Voices, a program of literary mentorship. Soriano will be working on her poetry manuscript, *A Second Sky*, and has chosen Chicana poet Marisela Norte to be her mentor.

Soriano works as Curriculum Assistant and Special Events Coordinator in the Center's main office. She is also studying to become a filmmaker.

The Center's Reading Room Assistant Coordinator, Judy Soo Hoo, was a PEN recipient last year and worked on her manuscript, *The History of George*, a novel-in-progress. Her mentor was novelist Karen Tei Yamashita.

The fellowships are made possible by the Richard and Hinda Rosenthal Foundation which supports outstanding work from not-yet-established writers and artists. Designed to serve writers working on a specific project who are ready to be published, Emerging Voices is an intensive, eight-month program that includes a one-on-one mentoring relationship with an established writer, master classes with established novelists, classes in the Writer's Program at UCLA Extension, informal visits with writers, and literary readings.

PEN Center USA West, founded in 1952, is part of an international organization of professional writers created in 1921 to defend freedom of expression and foster a vital literary community worldwide. With more than 1,000 members, PEN West is the third largest of 120 international PEN centers and one of two centers in the United States.

Asian American Studies Center's Faculty Advisory Committee for 2000-2001

Don Nakanishi Director, AASC <i>Education</i>	Vinay Lal <i>History</i>
Robert Nakamura Associate Director, AASC <i>Film & Television</i>	Rachel Lee <i>English</i>
James Lubben Chair, Faculty Advisory Committee <i>Social Welfare</i>	Russell C. Leong <i>English</i>
Cindy Fan IDP Chair <i>Geography</i>	Jinqi Ling <i>English</i>
Valerie Matsumoto IDP Vice Chair <i>History</i>	David Wong Louie <i>English</i>
Pauline Agbayani-Siewert <i>Social Welfare</i>	Mitchell Maki <i>Social Welfare</i>
Roshan Bastani <i>Public Health</i>	Takashi Makinodan <i>Medicine-GRECC</i>
Emil Berkanovic <i>Public Health</i>	Ailee Moon <i>Social Welfare</i>
Mitchell Chang <i>Education</i>	Kazuo Nihira <i>Psychiatry & Biobehavioral Sciences</i>
Lucie Cheng <i>Sociology</i>	Paul Ong <i>Urban Planning</i>
King-Kok Cheung <i>English</i>	William Ouchi <i>Business</i>
Clara Chu <i>Library & Information Science</i>	Kyeyoung Park <i>Anthropology</i>
Gaurang Mitu Gulati <i>Law</i>	Ninez Ponce <i>Public Health</i>
Nancy Harada <i>Medicine-GRECC</i>	Hiromi Lorraine Sakata <i>Arts and Architecture</i>
Yuji Ichioka <i>Asian American Studies/History</i>	Michael Salman <i>History</i>
Marjorie Kagawa-Singer <i>Public Health</i>	Shu-mei Shih <i>East Asian Languages & Cultures</i>
Jerry Kang <i>Law</i>	James Tong <i>Political Science</i>
Snehendu Kar <i>Public Health</i>	Cindy Yee-Bradbury <i>Psychology</i>
Harry Kitano, Emeritus <i>Social Welfare</i>	Henry Yu <i>History</i>
	Min Zhou <i>Sociology</i>

Professor James Lubben Receives Major Geriatric Social Work Grant

UCLA Social Welfare and Urban Planning Professor James Lubben, the long-time chair of the Asian American Studies Center's Faculty Advisory Committee, was recently named principal investigator of a new five-year, \$2.4 million grant from the John A. Hartford Foundation of New York City to initiate a Geriatric Social Work Doctoral Fellows Program.

Through three waves of national competition, this program will award 24 two-year \$40,000 fellowships to social work doctoral students whose dissertation research examines how to improve the lives of older persons and their families.

This grant has been awarded to the Gerontological Society of America with a subcontract to UCLA for program development and leadership. UCLA will receive \$631,000.

Prof. Valerie Matsumoto Appointed IDP Vice Chair

Professor Valerie Matsumoto of the Department of History and Asian American Studies has been named Vice Chair and Graduate Advisor of the Asian American Studies Inter-Departmental Program.

"Professor Matsumoto is an extremely popular professor among undergraduate and graduate students," said Professor Cindy Fan, IDP Chair. "She has taught many of our core classes, has chaired or been a member of many of our MA thesis committees, and has mentored a number of doctoral students in history and other departments.

"Her scholarship has significantly advanced the frontiers of research in Asian American history, women's history, and U.S. history, and she was the special guest editor of a recent issue of *Amerasia Journal*, exploring the making of Asian American history and historians at the start of the 21st century."

Professor Matsumoto previously served as Associate Director of the Asian American Studies Center, and has been an active member of the Center's Faculty Advisory Committee.

Professor Fan also thanked Professor Min Zhou of the Department of Sociology and Asian American Studies for her leadership during her tenure as Vice Chair of the IDP during the past two years, describing her work with the graduate program, the IDP review and departmentalization as "indispensable during this recent period of transition both in terms of structural changes of the IDP and personnel changes at the Center."

"I would like to congratulate Professor Zhou for receiving a prestigious fellowship from the U.S. Department of Education, which has led to her appointment as an OERI Scholar at Washington D.C. during the 2000-2001 academic year," stated Professor Fan.

Los Angeles Times Names Prof. Russell Leong's Book Among Best Works of Fiction

The *Los Angeles Times* recently named *Phoenix Eyes and Other Stories* by UCLA Professor Russell C. Leong of English and Asian American Studies as one of the best works of fiction for 2000.

Professor Leong's collection of short stories was published recently by University of Washington Press.

According to the *Los Angeles Times*:

Russell Charles Leong, the poet and filmmaker who serves as editor of *Amerasia Journal* and the publications of the Asian American Studies Center at UCLA, offers his own take on the Asian experience in America in *Phoenix Eyes and Other Stories*, a collection of startling and unsettling short stories that are mostly set in the landscape of contemporary California. Some of Leong's rich and evocative stories confront us with the horror of what might be played for cheap exoticism in less skillful hands. "Daughters," for example, introduces us to a woman at work in a suburban brothel in the San Gabriel Valley and shows us how she was forced into a life of

prostitution at 14 by her own father, a fate that followed her from Asia to America. Abruptly, the tale shifts from the mundane details of a prostitute's life — the Norplant implants, the can of Lysol spray in the bathroom, the Tic Tacs that are chewed three at a time to conceal a recent meal of "fish paste and garlic and sweet oyster sauce and ginger and black beans and chili" — to an almost mythic scene of crisis and redemption. "To see life as it happened, and to imagine other possibilities" is how Leong describes his own mission as a writer. Both of these qualities — his acute powers of observation and his poet's gift for capturing the experience of transcendence — are given full expression in the pages of *Phoenix Eyes*.

The *Los Angeles Times* earlier in 2000 published a review of Professor Leong's book by book review editor Jonathan Kirsch. According to Kirsch, "Leong always shows us how memory and identity persist even in the melting pot of America."

UCLA English Department Appoints Professor Leong to Faculty Post

UCLA's English Department recently appointed scholar and writer Russell C. Leong as Adjunct Full Professor. The departmental vote was unanimous.

In the English Department, he will be teaching several classes in the creative writing program this academic year while also remaining on the staff of the Asian American Studies Center where he edits *Amerasia Journal*, the nation's foremost research publication in Asian American Studies, and heads UCLA Asian American Studies Center Press.

Professor Leong is the author of two books: an award-winning collection of poetry, *The Country of Dust and Dreams*, and a new book of short stories, *Phoenix Eyes and Other Stories*.

He is also an acclaimed scholar in Asian American Studies. Two of his edited volumes — *Moving the Image: Asian Pacific American Independent Film and Media* and *Asian American Sexualities* — are considered classic

works and bestsellers in the fields of Asian American Studies and Ethnic Studies.

In addition, he serves as General Editor for the University of Hawaii Press series "Intersections: Asian and Pacific American Transcultural Studies." According to Professor Leong, the series "links history and culture to the articulation of self and to the diversity of community in the twenty-first century" and "crosses scholarly disciplines and generates inquiries that are transcultural and transnational." Six books have been published under his guidance.

Aside from his own writing and scholarship, he has taught classes in poetry and creative writing at UCLA and other universities, including Antioch and the University of Oklahoma.

In 2000, *A* magazine listed him as one of the 100 most influential Asian Americans in the nation during the decade of the 1990s for his scholarship and writing.



Prof. Mitchell Chang Named Amerasia's Book Review Editor

Professor Mitchell Chang, who is an Assistant Professor in the UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies and a member of the Faculty Advisory Committee of the Asian American Studies Center, has been selected to serve as the new book review editor for social sciences and professional school disciplines for *Amerasia Journal*.

Professor Chang, who is one of the nation's leading scholars who focuses on the impact and educational efficacy of racial diversity and racial dynamics in higher educational institutions, received his Ph.D. from UCLA in 1996, and held faculty, administrative, and research positions at Loyola-Marymount University, Stanford University, and University of Massachusetts, Boston, before returning to UCLA in Fall 1999.

The American College Personnel Association recently awarded him the "Outstanding Outcomes Assessment Research Award, 1999-2000," for his study entitled, "Does Racial Diversity Matter?: The Educational Impact of a Racially Diverse Undergraduate Population," which appeared in the *Journal of College Student Development*. He is the lead editor for a forthcoming book, "Compelling Interest: Weighing the Evidence on Racial Dynamics in Higher Education," which emerged from his role as Executive Director of an American Educational Research (AERA) project on the state of research on race relations and diversity-related initiatives in U.S. higher education.

Professor Chang, who is a very popular instructor and a mentor to many UCLA graduate students, teaches courses about systems and organization of American higher education, issues and research perspectives on diversity, and Asian American experiences in education.

Professor Chang highly welcomes volunteers for book reviews for *Amerasia* (e-mail: mjchang@gseis.ucla.edu).

Chronicle of Higher Education Highlights *Amerasia Journal* Issue on Historians

The *Chronicle of Higher Education* in September 2000 highlighted *Amerasia Journal* and its special issue devoted to "Histories and Historians in the Making," edited by Professors Valerie Matsumoto and Russell C. Leong of UCLA.

The *Chronicle* quotes extensively from the article by Professor Chris Friday of Western Washington University on the importance of redefining labor history, showing the value of the article for labor historians, immigration researchers, and scholars in Asian American Studies.

According to Professor Friday, "(In labor studies) Asian Americans remain faceless hordes and outside the realm of heroic union struggles." He adds that academics have done too little to paint a more faithful picture. He argues that labor historians have blamed Asian immigrants "for degrading 'American' labor."

Similarly, Professor Friday contends that researchers in Asian American Studies have emphasized communities, and community politics, as well as the dynamics of race and class struggle, over labor history.

Meanwhile, immigration historians have largely left Asian Americans out of their idea of the United States as a "nation of immigrants" because they have been perceived as sojourners, or "perpetual foreigners." Professor Friday writes that the nation-of-immigrants narrative holds little room for those who "question the rise of the American nation by . . . standing in opposition to the unfettered growth of capitalism."

According to the *Chronicle*, Professor Friday states that influential ideas in the historiography of American labor — for example, skepticism about how meaningful workers' resistance really has been, and a belief that consumer capitalism assimilated immigrant cultures — have further obscured Asian Americans' place in labor history.

He challenges those ideas, and recommends focusing on the struggle for control of workplaces, where he believes scholars will find Asian American participation in worker movements "that are not subservient to capitalism or the state."

He also recommends exploring modern-day globalization, because while "the world capitalist system is oppressive and coercive, it potentially connects workers and their struggles to each other."

Professor Friday writes that scholars who view Asian American labor history "as a systematic endeavor and not as some byproduct of Asian American Studies or as the story of yet one more group of 'others' in labor history" can "build mutually productive bridges between those heretofore separate fields."

Amerasia Journal Publishes Three Thought-Provoking Issues to Mark New Millennium

To mark the new millennium, *Amerasia Journal* has published three new issues that expand the boundaries of Asian American Studies.

According to Professor Russell C. Leong, long-time editor of *Amerasia*, the new issues push scholars to think about questions of race and ethnicity in different ways from the past and to redefine the role of Asian American Studies according to the new questions raised.

History and Historians in the Making (Volume 26, Number 1) was edited by Professors Valerie Matsumoto and Russell C. Leong and explores new directions in Asian American historical research as well as the perspectives of three pioneers in the field: Him Mark Lai, Yuji Ichioka, and Alexander Saxton.

"We hope this special issue will serve to encourage others to explore their own histories, to imagine alternative futures, and to develop new languages that ask new, braver questions of social reality," write the editors in their introductory essay.

Whose Vision? Asian Settler Colonialism in Hawai'i (Volume 26, Number 2) was guest edited by Professors Candace Fujikane and Jonathan Okamura of University of Hawai'i and challenges the familiar framework of seeing Asian Americans in terms of immigration and assimilation by examining the relationship of colonialism in Hawai'i between Asian settlers and the indigenous population.

According to Professor Leong in his introduction to this issue, "Asians in Hawai'i do have a choice: to support, or not to support Hawaiian sovereignty claims and the struggle for national rights, and to serve as political allies for the movement. These points both serve to exemplify and complicate our understanding of Native peoples' struggles from an Asian American perspective — not only from the vantage point of who and what we publish, but more important, from the perspective of the future relationship of Asian American students, scholars, and communities to struggles around Native self-determination and national struggles in the Pacific."

Across the Color Line (Volume 26, Number 3) analyzes the status of Asian Americans in the coming century in relation to the assertion by W.E.B. DuBois that "the problem of the twentieth century was the problem of the color line."

According to Professor Leong, "In putting this issue together, we soon began to realize that examining race today was no longer just a domestic racial issue, confined to the interrelationship of Blacks, Whites, Asians, and Latinos within the borders of the U.S. Nor was race confined to civil rights, entitlement, or affirmative action issues alone. The ground we were treading was both community and globally-based, involving the 'crossing' of national, political, class, gender, religious, technological, cultural and bloodlines, that many of the articles suggest.

"I believe that it is the responsibility of those connected with educational institutions and disciplines such as Ethnic Studies to nurture philosophers of politics, architects of social change, and artists of dissent to create a culture and build a society in which race serves as a liberating, rather than as an oppressive force. New forms of electronic language and media also can aid in the formation of community and the imagining of racial diversity across virtual worlds.

"As we challenge your ideas, we also encourage your participation within the pages of *Amerasia Journal* and within your communities in this unfinished dialogue around hope, humanism, and change."

Subscriptions to *Amerasia Journal* are \$35 for individuals (three issues) and \$55 for institutions. Single issues are \$13 plus postage. For more information, call (310) 825-2974 or see the website of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center (www.sscnet.ucla.edu/aasc).

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Order copies of *Amerasia Journal* and other publications of UCLA Asian American Studies Center Press by calling (310) 825-2974, or by visiting the website of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center (www.sscnet.ucla.edu/aasc).

2000-2001
ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER
SCHOLARSHIPS/ENDOWMENTS

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Hae-Ry-Ariel Kim

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John Kubota Grants in Japanese American Studies

CHAMPS/Ann Makiko Shioji
Larry Katata
Kyodo Taikol/Lynn Harada

Tad Nakamura Honored by National Society of Collegiate Scholars

UCLA undergraduate Tadashi Nakamura was recently inducted into the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

The organization is a highly selective national academic honors program established to promote the ideal of combining scholarship and social responsibility.

Nakamura, who is majoring in Asian American Studies, is currently an officer of Concerned Asian Pacific Islander Students for Action (CAPSA) and serves as the Affirmative Action Coalition representative. He also serves as a teaching assistant for the Asian and Pacific Islander Leadership and Development Project class taught by Sefa Aina.

Seven New M.A. Theses in Asian American Studies Completed

Seven new graduate theses have been completed in the UCLA Asian American Studies M.A. program, according to Librarian Marjorie Lee of the Asian American Studies Reading Room. The theses are housed in the Reading Room at 2230 Campbell Hall, (310) 825-5043.

Anna Maria Alves, "In Search of 'Meaning': Collective Memory and Identity in Filipino Cultural Night at UCLA," 1999.

Katheryne Jean Cho, "The Korean Brazilians: A People in Transition," 1999.

Jocelyn Annenera Gonzales, "Issues of Social Class and Curriculum in Zamora Linmark's Novel *Rolling the R's*," 2000.

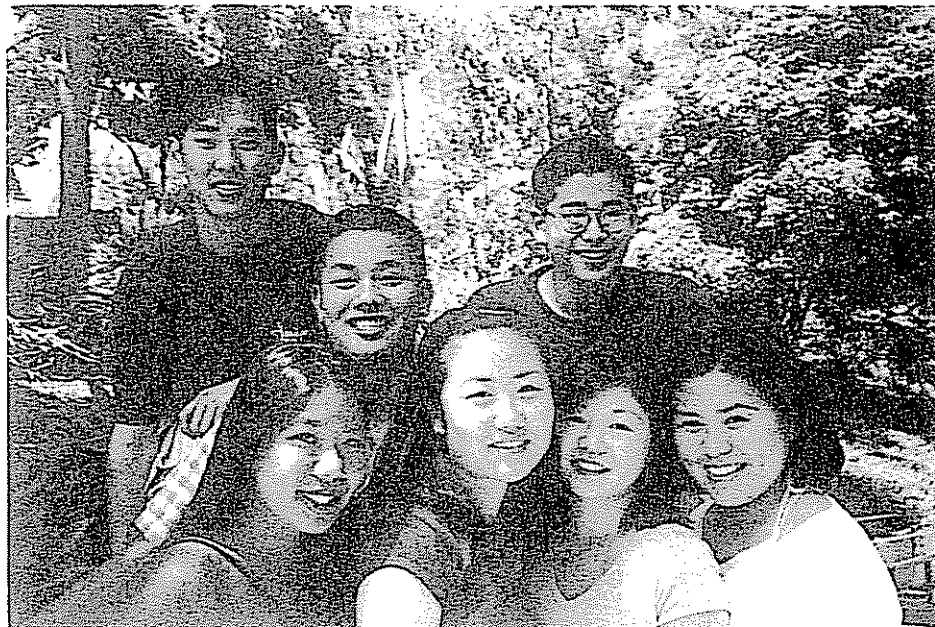
Nina Ha, "Giving Voice: Le Ly Hayslip's *When the Heaven and Earth Changed Places*," 1999.

Gina T. Inocencio, "Immigration and Life Satisfaction of Filipino American World War II Veterans in Los Angeles City," 1999.

Lynn Mie Itagaki, "Narrating the Absence of Race and Responsibility in Cynthia Kadohata's *In the Heart of the Valley of Love*," 2000.

Anthony David Osumi, "The UC Riverside Mural: Art for People's Sake," 2000.

For more information and application forms for Center scholarships/endowments for the 2001-2002 academic year, contact Meg Malpaya Thornton, head of Student/Community Projects, 2239 Campbell Hall, (310) 825-1006 or by e-mail (meg@ucla.edu), or see AASC website (www.sscnet.ucla.edu/aasc).



Members of 2000-2001 UCLA Asian Pacific staff (from left to right) first row: Monica Lee, Diana Yi Kei Nagao, and Cheryl Yip, ; back row: Brian Nagami, Bryant Tan, and Chris Uejio.

(Photo by Meg Malpaya Thornton)

UCLA's Asian Pacific Coalition Celebrates 25 Years of Advocacy and Empowerment

UCLA's undergraduate Asian Pacific Coalition is celebrating its 25th year anniversary during the 2000-2001 school year.

The coalition, consisting of 19 student organizations, describes itself as "a political, cultural, community service, and social network." APC unites various Asian and Pacific Islander student organizations to advocate for the needs and concerns of Asian Pacific Islander communities.

"In all our endeavors, APC strives to promote education and empowerment as well as develop leadership skills that will benefit students, the UCLA community, and the larger API community," stated one coalition leader.

Established in the fall of 1975, APC has worked on issues such as access to education, affirmative action, labor, globalization, juvenile justice, women's health, lesbian-gay-bisexual-transsexual issues, and hate crimes.

Current committees in APC are Hate Crimes, Access & Outreach (for higher education), Asian Pacific Islander Graduation, and API Heritage Month.

Member organizations of APC for 2000-2001 are: Asian American Tutorial Project, Asian Pacific Health Corps, Association of Chinese Americans, Chinese Student Association, Concerned Asian Pacific Islander Students for Action, Han

Ool Lim (Korean Cultural Awareness Group), Hui O I'miloa (Hawai'i Club), Indian Student Union, Korean American Students Association, Koreatown Tutorial Project, Mahu (API LGBT Awareness Group), Nikkei Student Union, Pacific Islands Student Association, Pakistani Student Association, Samahang Pilipino, Sangam, Thai Smakom, United Cambodian Students, and Vietnamese Student Union.

For more information, contact APC at (310)825-7184 or by e-mail (apc@ucla.edu).

UCLA Asian Pacific Coalition 2000-2001 Staff

Director: Kei Nagao
Internal Assistant Dir.: Brian Nagami
External Assistant Dir.: Bryant Tan
Community Outreach Coord.: Diana Yi
Publicity & Outreach Coord.: Cheryl Yip
Programmer: Chris Uejio
Programmer: Monica Lee

Advisors

Meg Malpaya Thornton and Sefa Aina
of the Asian American Studies Center
and
Melissa Veluz-Abraham
of Center for Student Programming

Pacific Ties Looks at Impact of World Issues on Students

Pacific Ties, the UCLA Asian Pacific Islander student newsmagazine, began its 24th year of publication with an issue focusing on international issues as they affect young Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

According to editor Kim To, "There was a saying that if a people do not have knowledge of themselves and their position in society and the world, then they have little chance to relate to anything. And so, where else to start learning about yourself then at the roots? More specifically, through ties, (ahem) pacific ties, to countries in Asia and the Pacific Islands. When we did a little search around the world today, we found a world of conflict, with wars, floods, military occupation. But we also found hope."

She stated that the issue includes stories on "shady politicians, greedy developers, sex slaves, flood victims, militarized countrysides, families separated for 50 years, people oppressed by their governments, and ethnic genocide."

Pacific Ties is the nation's oldest Asian American and Pacific Islander student-produced newsmagazine. For subscription information, call (310) 825-1004 or e-mail (pacificties@media.ucla.edu).

A Magazine Recognizes Ingrid Gonzales for Campus Activism

A magazine in its August/September 2000 issue named UCLA student activist Ingrid Gonzales one of the "top ten Asian Pacific American student leaders of 2000."

According to the write-up in *A* magazine, "Ingrid has worked to create programming for historically under-represented students, tutored and mentored children of immigrant parents and served as an undergraduate teacher's assistant in an activism course in Asian American Studies. She has also worked with student and community organizations on issues like anti-globalization, environmental justice and justice for Filipino veterans."

Ingrid graduated in June 2000 with a double major in Psychology and Asian American Studies.

Currently, Ingrid is employed at UCLA as director of SPEAR (Samahang Pilipino Education and Retention project).

New Book by Professor Henry Yu Explores Race in America

Thinking Orientals Is First Intellectual History of Asian Americans

What is the difference between an "Oriental" and an "Asian American?" A new book by UCLA Professor Henry Yu answers this question by explaining how Chinese Americans and Japanese Americans came to be lumped together as "Orientals" in the U.S., and how this eventually led to their understanding of themselves as Asian Americans.

In *Thinking Orientals: Migration, Context, and Exoticism in Modern America*, Professor Yu tells the story of how white American intellectuals from the University of Chicago sought out Americans of Chinese and Japanese ancestry and how they constructed theories about an "exotic Orient" completely opposite from American culture.

According to the publisher — Oxford University Press — *Thinking Orientals* is the first intellectual history of Asian Americans, a new field of study largely created through Professor Yu's scholarship. His book describes the history of American Orientalism and how it produced modern notions of race and culture. According to Professor Yu, the ideas that arose from first studying Orientals were connected by social scientists to theories about African Americans and white European immigrants, and these beliefs remain the way by which Americans still see themselves today.

"Rich in its lyrical use of imagery, in particular metaphors of migration, mapping, and theatrical life, this wonderfully written study uses clear language to make complex ideas accessible," states the publisher. "Professor Yu extends Edward Said's famous study of Orientalism, which described how knowledge about a mythical Orient helped justify and implement European and American colonialism, by describing its effects upon Americans defined as Oriental. Using poi-

Japan National TV Presents Cathy Castor

Asian American Studies staff member Cathy Castor recently appeared on NHK, Japan's national television station, to teach aerobics during her vacation in Japan.

Cathy, who also teaches aerobics at UCLA, provided instruction in aerobics on Japanese television for three days. "They (the station staff) subtitled everything I said," said Cathy.

gnant vignettes to illustrate the difficult and often ironic positions of intellectuals of color, his book provides a glimpse into what W.E.B. DuBois called the 'double consciousness' of racial minorities in the United States.

"This book is necessary reading to understand the history of race in the United States. Without understanding the long history of intellectual fascination with Orientals in America, we cannot understand the genesis of social theories about the place of race and culture in U.S. society. Professor Yu's book is one of the first to describe how crucial Asian Americans have been in theories of race and culture, helping move us away from the black/white dichotomy that has missed so much of American social life. He also shows how cultural theory has become confused with anti-racism, and how a color-blind denial of race has failed to free us from racism. This book moves beyond a distorted view of U.S. history that only looks at black/white race relations, showing that over 75 years ago, American social theorists were already thinking beyond the black/white paradigm of race relations."

AAS Graduate Student Jamie Ardeña Featured in *Oriental Whatever*

Jamie Ardeña, *CrossCurrents* photographer and second-year student in the Asian American Studies M.A. program, became the first AAS graduate student to be featured on the cover of a magazine.

Jamie's visage appears in the Fall 2000 issue *Oriental Whatever*, a 60-page 'zine produced from the San Francisco Bay Area. Jamie's photo appears next to that of hip hop performer Foxy Brown.

Jamie, along with fellow second-year graduate student Brandy Worrall, are also mentioned in an article, "Hapa Road Trip," by Wei Ming Dariotis about the June 2-4 "Words Matter" Asian American writers conference held at UCLA under the coordination of Professor Russell C. Leong.

The issue of *Oriental Whatever* focuses on Hapa issues relating to multiracial people of Asian-descent.

9 Center Faculty Gain Tenure at UCLA

During 1999 and 2000, an unprecedented number of Center affiliated faculty were promoted to permanent tenured positions at UCLA based on their research or creative achievements, teaching records, and professional service. All have participated actively in Asian American Studies Center programs, and have established themselves as major scholarly contributors to Asian American Studies and their respective academic disciplines. They are as follows:

Clara Chu, who examines literacy practices of linguistic minority communities and Asians in the Americas, was promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of Library and Information Studies.

Nancy Harada, who specializes on medical health outcomes research on Asian Pacific American elderly and other groups, was promoted to Adjunct Associate Professor of Medicine.

Jerry Kang, who has written on "Cyber-Race" (*Harvard Law Review*, 2000), Asian American Jurisprudence, cyberspace, and the law, was promoted to Professor of Law.

David Wong Louie, author of *Pangs of Love* (Knopf, 1991) and *The Barbarians Are Coming* (G.P. Putnam, 2000), was promoted to Associate Professor of English and Asian American Studies.

Kyeyoung Park, author of *The Korean American Dream: Immigrants and Small Business in New York* (Cornell, 1997), was promoted to Associate Professor of Anthropology and Asian American Studies.

Michael Salman, author of the forthcoming "The Embarrassment of Slavery: Controversies Over Bondage and Nationalism in the American Colonial Philippines" (UC Press) was promoted to Associate Professor of History.

Pauline Agbayani-Siewert, a specialist in cross-cultural mental health and practices, was promoted to Associate Professor of Social Welfare and Asian Americans.

Shu-mei Shih, author of the forthcoming "The Lure of the Modern: Writing Modernism in Semicolonial China, 1917-1937" (UC Press) was promoted to Associate Professor of East Asian Languages and Cultures, Comparative Literature, and Asian American Studies.

Cindy Yee-Bradbury, an authority on neuro-cognitive abnormalities, emotion, and stress in schizophrenia and depression, was promoted to Associate Professor of Psychology.

Two other members of the Center's faculty were promoted from Associate to Full Professor during the past year. They are Professor Min Zhou of Sociology and Asian American Studies and Professor King-Kok Cheung of English and Asian American Studies.

Filmmaker Curtis Choy Donates Archive of *Fall of the I-Hotel* to Asian American Studies Center

By Russell C. Leong

Curtis Choy recently added to his donation of three dozen boxes of outtakes, editing notes, audiotapes, scripts, and workprints to the UCLA Asian American Studies Center a 16mm print of *Fall of the I-Hotel*, his pioneering 1983 documentary film.

Fall of I-Hotel, produced and directed by Choy, with cinematography by Emiko Omori and narration by poet Al Robles, helped to define Asian American filmmaking of the era. The film works on several levels, not only bringing to life the battle for low-cost housing in San Francisco's Manilatown, but giving an overview of Filipino American history.

The film, with a poetic narration by Al Robles, the dean of Filipino American poets, also contains interviews with elderly tenants and the multiethnic community of San Francisco Manilatown/Chinatown.

The following lines are excerpted from Al Robles' (film narrator) poem, "International Hotel Night Watch," on the I-Hotel anti-eviction struggle and the elderly Filipino *Manongs* who lived there:

Carabao

I ride your thick hide

It smells of northern luzon fleas

The manilatown-kearny street wind
cuts thru thin blankets of the Manongs
Chilled ifugao bones crack the lucky M cue
ball...

Manong-carabao

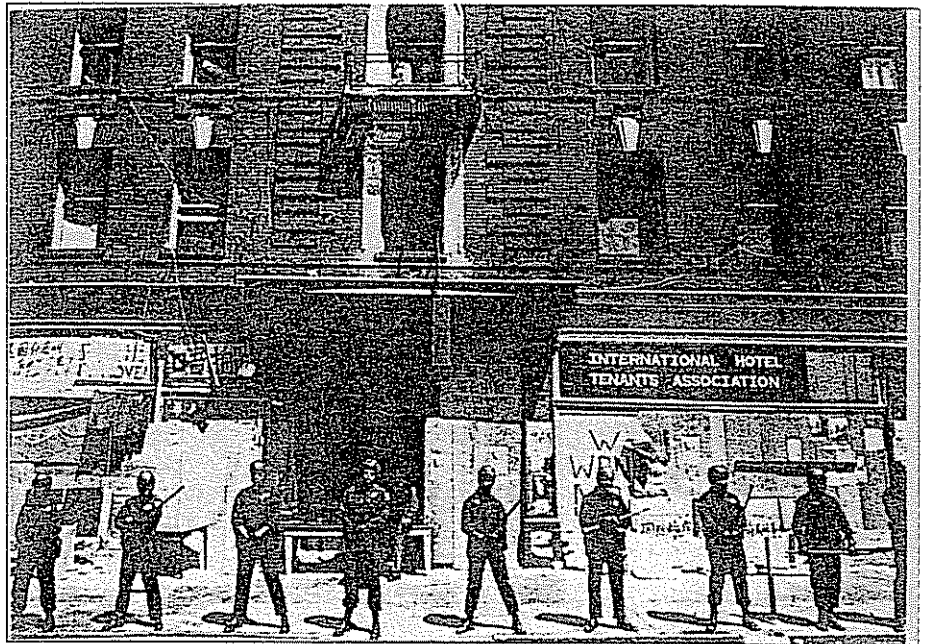
I ride you thru the I-Hotel ricefields

One by one the carabao plows deep.

I listen to the long Manong tales....

— from Al Robles, *Rappin' with Ten Thousand Carabos in the Dark*, Poems by Al Robles (available through the UCLA Asian American Studies Center Press)

In teaching Asian American history and filmmaking, I put *Fall of the I-Hotel* at the top of my list of films that I show my students, especially for its climactic San Francisco riot cops-versus-the people scene. It is an example of committed art that serves the people, in the tradition of



In a scene reminiscent of Curtis Choy's classic documentary, *Fall of the I-Hotel*, San Francisco sheriffs stand guard at the hotel after eviction of elderly tenants. Photo by Chris Huie from *Moving the Image: Independent Asian Pacific American Media Arts*, edited by Russell C. Leong (Los Angeles: UCLA Asian American Studies Center and Visual Communications, 1991).

the arts and political organizations housed on the street level of the I-Hotel at the time including the Kearny Street Workshop. The Workshop itself sponsored poetry readings and produced chapbooks to raise money and to bring the issue to people in the community and in the colleges.

Little did I know, as a classmate of Curtis in the late 1960s at San Francisco State College, that he would, from a dissident poet, emerge as one of the most important filmmakers of his generation, contributing to many independent and PBS documentaries, commercials and feature films as a production sound mixer, as a camera and editing technician, and boom operator. From the frozen Arctic (*The Infinite Voyage*) to the blistering Gobi (*The Silk Road*) to young gun punks in Guatemala (*The Gospel and Guatemala*), Curtis has covered the world. His projects include many Asian American-themed films, such as four of Wayne Wang's earlier films including *The Joy Luck Club*, *Dim Sum*, *Chan is Missing*, *Eat a Bowl of Tea*, to the production sound for Jessica Yu's 1996 academy award winning documentary, *Breathing Lessons*, and Tony Bui's

Sundance favorite, *Three Seasons*.

While most of the Curtis Choy *Fall of the I-Hotel* archives donated to UCLA are in temperature controlled storage, the production notes and scripts are available to researchers in the Asian American Studies Reading Room. Also, Curtis' own independent films are housed in the Reading Room. *The Year of the Ox: The 1973 Chinatown Livestock Show* documents actual Miss Chinatown U.S.A. contestants. *Dupont Guy: The Schiz of Grant Avenue* is a sound and image collage into Black Power politics and Kearny Street Workshop poetry. Then there is *Wendy—Uhh—What's Her Name* about Wendy Yoshimura, who was captured, along with Patty Hearst, by the cops in their pursuit of the Symbionese Liberation Army.

Filmmaker Curtis Choy is available for talks and screenings through his company, Chonk Moonhunter, at curtischoy@hotmail.com or contact Russell C. Leong (rleong@ucla.edu) at the Asian American Studies Center.

(Prof. Russell C. Leong, an Adjunct Professor of English at UCLA, is editor of *Amerasia Journal* and head of UCLA Asian American Studies Center Press.)

Guyo Tajiri Comments on New Book by Professor David Yoo

A Former Japanese American Journalist Looks Back on Growing Up as a Nisei

(Guyo Tajiri of Berkeley, California, provided the following remarks about History Professor David Yoo's new book, *Growing Up Nisei: Race, Generation, and Culture Among Japanese Americans of California, 1924-49* at a luncheon sponsored by the UCLA Asian American Studies Center during June 2000. Guyo Tajiri is a former journalist who edited the *Pacific Citizen* newspaper with her late husband, Larry Tajiri, during the wartime and immediate postwar years. Professor Yoo of Claremont-McKenna College was the Institute of America Culture postdoctoral fellow in the AASC in 1999-2000.)

When Professor Yuji Ichioka invited me to this luncheon honoring Professor David Yoo, I was delighted. Then he said I had to speak, and I tried explaining to him that I am unable to speak in public, but Yuji carries a big stick, and here I am.

I am really the kind of person who goes to meetings and sits in the back row. I taught school for twelve years, and it would help if all of you were eight years old, but you are not.

First of all, I was bowled over by Dr. Yoo's book — it is about Nisei growing up, but the information was so new and fascinating and revelatory that I found myself wishing that I had known this when I was young. And then I came upon my name, and then again, that was a shock. It was hard for me to read about myself — I am just not used to it. And at this point I have to add that Dr. Yoo must have gotten the information from very good and kind friends of mine.

The subject that I have some familiarity is, of course, the *Pacific Citizen*, the weekly newspaper of the Japanese American Citizens League, which my husband Larry edited during those crucial years 1942 to 1952.

In his treatment of the *Pacific Citizen*, Dr. Yoo is extraordinarily fair and perceptive. I am also very appreciative of his generous use of quotations from Larry's writings, which still ring true.

Dr. Yoo's book tells how, after the start of the war, Larry was approached by the JACL and asked to take the newspaper to Salt Lake City, which was in the "free zone" (from wartime incarceration).

He was delighted, of course. Larry envisioned it as a way to keep Japanese Americans informed on matters of importance to them and to provide a sense of continuity and community to a group of people whose lives were in disarray. He also had a strong sense of the role of the newspaper in keeping a record of events as they occur.

We went to Salt Lake City with Teiko Ishida, an extremely capable young woman who was to be in charge of setting up the JACL office. JACL members in the Salt Lake area helped us find housing, a suite of offices in the old Beason Building, and a print shop just two blocks away. And thus we started publication of the new *Pacific Citizen*.

The *Pacific Citizen* was never what you would call a "fun" read. One friend said that he would never read it before dinner. At the height of the war in Europe we often had two consistent top stories on the front page — the first a story on Nisei war dead and injured; the second on some racist attack on a Japanese American.

When we first started at the new print shop, the two

linotypists were somewhat suspicious of us. But as the weeks wore on and our columns revealed the true nature of the Japanese American situation, their attitudes changed and they became staunch supporters. One of the men told how on one occasion, working late at night in the cavernous room where the linotypes were located, he sat at the linotype with tears running down his face as he typed some poignant story.

We did try to be the paper of record for our generation. We carried births, deaths and marriages — all the vital statistics of daily life. We reported on meetings, panel discussions, assemblies and riots; we noted the mad mouthings of certain politicians and the wise words of good friends; we reported on the doings of the courts and the government; and we tried to keep abreast of the literature on Japanese Americans. There were heartwarming stories and some that sickened the heart.

Someone, I think it was Al Wirin of the ACLU, said that of all the groups his organization worked with, the Japanese Americans were the best informed. He said that whenever an act of racism occurred, every Nisei throughout the country knew of it almost instantly.

I want to point out here that the JACL and the *Pacific Citizen* were separate entities. It can be said to the credit of the JACL that it did not try to control or influence the editorial content of the paper.

We subscribed to major newspapers in every area where there might be news relevant to our readers — the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *Denver Post*, and others. The papers piled up on our desks, tables and the floor — till one day a representative from the city fire department poked his head into Larry's office and suggested we get rid of the flammable material.

People in the office swore that Larry could put his hand into a towering pile of paper and delicately draw out the single item he needed. It was a story that became legend in Denver when he worked at the *Post* and had a desk and office just as messy.

I might add that in Denver he held the other job which he was born to do — drama editor of the *Denver Post*.

Some years ago a dear friend said to me, "You're my link with the past." Of course, that added another 20 years to my life.

But reading David Yoo's book, I realize that it is my link to the past — but not to just my own past. It is my link to every other Nisei. It is our link to each other.

Growing Up Nisei shows us that "the Nisei experience" must be multiplied by the number of every Nisei who ever lived. The range of experience was more vast and varied than we could ever have imagined. There was no Nisei prototype. Dr. Yoo has painted an amazing picture of the complexity and range of Nisei life — in religion, in political bias, in social attitudes, indeed in every conceivable way. And yet we were affected by many of the same shattering forces — immigration, racism, the evacuation and relocation.

This is a book about us — what we were and how we got that way.

It is a marvelous achievement, and David Yoo must be thanked for writing it for all of us.

Designed for Use in K-12 Classrooms

Three New Videos on Japanese American WW II Camp Life Now Available

Three educational videos for use in K-12 classrooms focusing on the wartime internment experience of Japanese Americans are now available from the UCLA Center for EthnoCommunications.

The "Once Upon a Camp" series was funded by the California Civil Liberties Public Education Project and depicts the life experiences of Japanese American youth inside America's concentration camps during World War II. There are three videos in the series. The videos are about 12 minutes to a half hour in length and accompanied by a teacher's workbook containing suggestions for lesson plans, classroom discussions, and student activities as well as other resource materials.

The Bracelet, an illustrated video adaptation of the classic camp story by Yoshiko Uchida, is designed for elementary school. *The Bracelet* won the Crystal Award of Excellence in the category of Videos for sale/Children's Programming.

Dear Miss Breed, for middle school grades, is based on correspondence written by incarcerated teenagers to San Diego children's librarian Clara Breed.

Interactions, for high school level, is an MTV-style documentary adventure inspired by the Manzanar High School Yearbook of 1943-1944

Historic WW II Draft Resisters Symposium To Be Held June 21-23

"Protest and Resistance to Injustice: An American Tradition" is the theme of a symposium focusing on WW II Japanese American draft resisters. The event will be held on June 21-23, 2001 in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

The symposium tells the story of 315 resisters from 10 U.S. concentration camps who refused to serve in the armed forces while their families were imprisoned behind barbed wire. The most organized group, the Fair Play Committee, was at Heart Mountain Internment Center, Wyoming. In the largest mass draft trial in U.S. history, 63 FPC resisters were found guilty.

The draft resisters' political movement directly affected the lives of every resister and their families and caused a rift in the Japanese American community that has ramifications to this day.

The symposium is sponsored by the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation and other organizations. For information, see the website (<http://hosts.tctwest.net/www.heartmountain.org/hmwfcal.htm>) or contact Pat Wolfe, pwolfe@wavecom.net, (307) 754-2689

and features students from Alhambra High School.

The videos are about 12 minutes to a half hour in length and accompanied by a teacher's workbook containing suggestions for lesson plans, classroom discussions, and student activities as well as other resource materials.

The videos and accompanying materials were produced by staff members of the Center for Ethno-Communications in conjunction with the Japanese American National Museum and UCLA Asian American Studies Center.

For information on purchasing these videos, contact the Center for EthnoCom-munications at the UCLA Asian American Studies Center at (310) 206-8889.

Lodestone Theatre Ensemble Presents New Play by Judy Soo Hoo

Playwright Judy Soo Hoo, Assistant Coordinator of the UCLA Asian American Studies Reading Room and Library, recently presented *Beastly Beauties* as part of a three-play premiere of "American Monsters" in Los Angeles by Lodestone Theatre Ensemble Society of Heritage Performers.

Soo Hoo's play was directed by Frances Hearn and under the artistic direction of Lodestone's Bokyu Chun, Philip Chung, Chi Kong, and Tim Lounbos.

UCLA Alumnus Dawn Mabalon Helps Win Recognition for Stockton's Historic Little Manila

UCLA alumnus Dawn Mabalon helped to spearhead an effort to gain an historical marker to be placed in downtown Stockton to recognize the neighborhood known as Little Manila (Lafayette and El Dorado streets).

Mabalon holds both a BA and MA from UCLA. Her M.A. thesis in Asian American Studies in 1997 was titled "Filipina Pioneers: The Pinay in Stockton, California, 1929-1946." She is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in History at Stanford University.

According to a leader of the Stockton Chapter of the Filipino American National History Society, "Dawn Mabalon gave an excellent presentation to the Stockton City Council in October 2000 about the need for recognizing the historical significance of Little Manila. Several others spoke in support of the proposal. Some people were brought to tears recalling their childhood memories of the area.

"The Council members commented on the great job Dawn and the rest of us did, going through all the necessary political steps, and in having a strong support group at the meeting. They felt the presentation was very educational and were glad to support such an historic effort."

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