

# CrossCurrents

Newsmagazine of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center

## Center Releases First Book on Asian American Responses to 9/11

AS THE ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 APPROACHES, the United States continues to grapple with the ramifications of that event. The U.S. "War Against Terror" remains at the forefront of domestic and international concern. Threats of nuclear attack, the escalation of military force, and the violation of civil liberties continue to change and challenge communities throughout the world. For Asian and South Asian Americans in the U. S., the current state of affairs is a familiar, ironic reminder of their individual experiences and collective history.

*Asian Americans on War & Peace*, edited by Russell C. Leong and Don T. Nakanishi, is a new book that addresses the parallels between recent world events and the legacy of war, xenophobia, and resistance in Asian American history. Featured in the collection are 24 scholars, writers, and activists who offer their personal reflections on September 11 and its aftermath.

"Each morning, the war begins anew; each evening, the war takes on a new face," states editor Leong. "*Asian Americans on War & Peace* is the first book to respond to the event of September 11, 2001 from Asian American perspectives, from the vantage points of those whose lives and communities in America have been forged both by war and by peace."

Divided into four main sections, the book begins with "Worlds of Crisis," which documents the range of national and global reactions immediately following the terrorist attacks. In her essay "Oh, Say, Can you See," journalist Helen Zia links patterns of racial profiling of Asian Americans as cautionary examples of the need to challenge the xenophobic frenzy against Arab and South Asian Americans. Jessica Hagedorn, Roshi Rustomji-Kerns, Vijay Prashad, Amitava Kumar, and Russell Leong offer their thoughts as well.

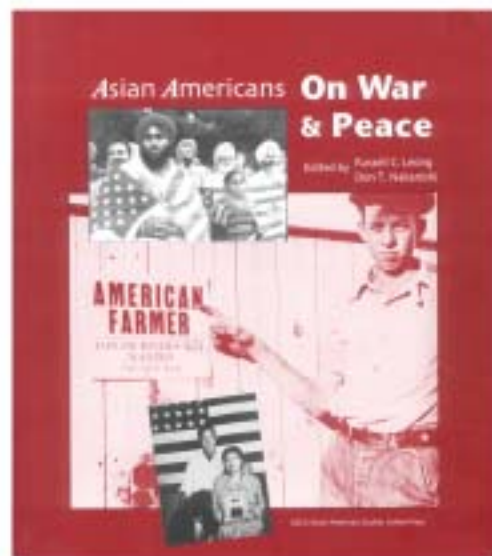
Part Two deals with the issue of "Civil Liberties and Internment." Authors examine the media-dubbing of September 11 as "Another Pearl Harbor," along with the consequent detention of Arabs and South Asians, invoking the memory of Japanese American internment. Utilizing the legal history of the decision to send 120,000 Japanese Americans into federally-imposed isolation during WWII, UCLA law professor Jerry Kang problematizes the claims of "necessity" and "national security" which operate in a racist fashion during periods of war. The section also includes pieces by Frank Chin, Moustafa Bayoumi, Stephen Lee, Ifiti Nasim, and San Francisco poet laureate Janice Mirikitani.

The third section, "Geopolitics," engages the reader in an overview of the cultural, economic, and political implications of the "War Against Terror." In his essay "Colonialism, Globalization and Culture: Reflections on September 11th," Arif Dirlik, Professor of History at Duke University, urges readers to keep in mind the horror of Taliban-supported crimes as well as to investigate the U.S.-backed ventures that exploit and brutalize the peoples of that region. "Let us hope that...we can see our way more clearly out of the tragedies of our making," he concludes. Works by Grace Lee Boggs, Vinay Lal, and David Palumbo-Liu contribute to this message.

"Peace" is the fourth section. The writings of James Yamazaki, Jeff Chang, Angela Oh, Michael Yamamoto, and Mari Matsuda close the book with calls for compassion and vigilance in moving toward peace. In his personal account, James Yamazaki, author and Professor of Pediatrics at UCLA, answers the question, "Why does a pediatrician worry about nuclear weapons?" He remembers witnessing the ravages of the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. With the increasing speculation over nuclear buildup, he emphasizes the importance of a policy of deterrence.

The volume ends with a chronology of domestic hate crimes and worldwide mobilizations in the crisis thus far. Throughout the book photo montages of Asian American history and images of post-September 11 by Corky Lee, Eric Chang, and Mary Uyematsu Kao visually bridge the realities of past and present and suggest hope in the midst of warfare.

To order *Asian Americans on War & Peace* (ISBN# 093405236-0), contact: Thao Cha (ThaoCha@ucla.edu), UCLA Asian American Studies Center, 3230 Campbell Hall, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1546; Phone: 310.825.2974; Fax: 310.206.9844. It is available at \$16.95 plus \$5.00 shipping and handling.



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## Community Building, Consciousness Raising Today

By Jessica Kim

I don't pretend to know anything about Jacques Derrida or deconstruction—but by chance I picked up a book entitled *Deconstruction in a Nutshell* at a friend's house a few weeks ago. Glancing at the table of contents, the chapter entitled "Community without Community" piqued my interest. I found Derrida's comments on the concept of community intriguing. He argues that community by definition is exclusive—we build a community of similarity, communities that define "us" against the "other." He asserts: "Communities always have to have an inside and an outside." While I understand the historical context of white American racism that created the Asian American community—after all, our community is a defensive mechanism for self-protection—I also fear that our community has become exclusionary. So, while built because of white exclusion, we have now become the excluders.

For example, when I hear the word "community" within the academic setting, namely my classes in Asian American Studies here at UCLA, too often we seem to be referring to a very exclusive and select populace. We refer to the "Community" as an ethnically, racially, and culturally specific entity. When we talk about community, we refer to specific cultural organizations, religious institutions, health associations, youth groups, sports teams, neighborhoods, etc., where Asian Americans are the predominant ethnic group.

While recognizing the ethnic exclusivity of contemporary definitions of community, perhaps the most important lesson to be drawn from the Asian American movement of the 1960s is the idea of solidarity across racial and ethnic lines. While I missed the Movement by several decades, *Asian Americans: The Movement and the Moment* revealed a strong identification between Asian American activists and other struggling and militant communities of color. Similarly, contemporary Asian Americans need to develop a solidarity with other communities of color that transcends differences of race, ethnicity, and national origin.

When we emphasize ethnic or racial identities over economic or class struggles, we ignore the most disenfranchised within our own ethnic community and bypass opportunities to build strong pan-ethnic class alliances with other groups of color. We must stop defining community along strictly ethnic or cultural lines, and instead begin to define ourselves as the exploited, the disenfranchised, as workers, as laborers, as immigrants, as people of color, as brothers and sisters in a struggle against the dual oppression of race and class. Ultimately, we must define ourselves as fighters willing to transcend ethnic divisions in an economic struggle.

According to Peter Kwong, Asian American Studies needs a class analysis. While I agree with his assessment, I argue that we also need more than an analysis, we need a revolutionary political movement and struggle . . . while *studying* issues of class within our own ethnic community, we must also build pan-ethnic alliances in a fight against economic exploitation.

Within Asian American Studies, class is often used as a tool for analysis, but not as a tool for action or organizing. We admit that class and race are intimately related, but fail to translate this understanding into political action.

Perhaps, intellectually, we do consider ourselves a part of the domestic third world and link our struggle to the struggles of international third world movements, but this academic assessment does not render a political consciousness that leads to action.

What can we glean from the legacy of the Movement? An understanding that intellectual or academic pursuits are useless *unless* they yield action. More specifically, an understanding that an intellectual analysis of race and class *must* lead to action. *The Movement and the Moment* is filled with the narratives of people who were not afraid to turn their academic ideals into political action. Their stories are filled with acts of defiance, actions that challenged privilege and oppression.

While I certainly understand the need for maintaining an ethnic community, we must expand and broaden our contemporary definition of community.

What we need to envision is an Asian American community and movement that plays an integral role in a much larger movement that includes people of color and the economically disadvantaged. The Asian American movement is not an end in and of itself, but part of a much larger movement for social and economic justice. We need to inherit a legacy of alliances between different ethnic groups in a common fight against racism and economic exploitation.

JESSICA KIM is a second-year M.A. student in the UCLA Asian American Studies Program.

### Mrs. Lily Chin, 1920-2002

(The following are excerpts from the death notice prepared by the family and friends of Mrs. Lily Chin.)

Mrs. Lily Chin passed away at the age of 82 on June 9, 2002 after a long illness. A beloved figure in the Asian American community of metropolitan Detroit, she was the mother of Vincent Chin, who was killed by two autoworkers in 1982. To many people she represented tremendous moral courage in the face of injustice.

Born in Heping, China in Guangdong Province, Mrs. Chin came to the U.S. after World War II to marry David Bing Hing Chin, a Chinese American World War II veteran and a resident of Highland Park, Michigan. Mrs. Chin became an active member of Detroit's Chinese American community, and in the early 1960s, she and her husband adopted Vincent, their only child. On the eve of her son's bachelor party on June 19, 1982, he was brutally attacked and killed.

Mrs. Chin had courageously persevered in the fight for justice in her son's murder and the subsequent trials of her son's killers, Chrysler plant superintendent Ronald Ebens, and his stepson, Michael Nitz. She never gave up in her quest for justice and her hope that no other mother would lose a child from hate and prejudice.

June 19, 2002 marked 20 years since the fatal assault on Vincent Chin, and numerous commemoration events took place around the country. Mrs. Chin had established a scholarship in Vincent's memory, to be administered by American Citizens for Justice; donations may be sent to ACJ at P.O. Box 2735, Southfield, MI 48037.

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—Brandy Liên Worrall

*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, as well as 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*.

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

## Glenn and his Masses: A Photo Tribute to Activist and Mentor Glenn Omatsu

Students and mentees of GLENN OMATSU organized a farewell celebration on May 13, 2002. Glenn, who served as Associate Editor of *Amerasia Journal* for 17 years, was a very popular instructor, who inspired and taught countless students in the fight for social justice.



## Asian Americans: The Movement and the Moment Contributors Talk to Students about Activism

By Mari Nakano

ON MAY 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2002, CONTRIBUTORS OF THE RECENTLY PUBLISHED BOOK, *ASIAN AMERICANS: THE MOVEMENT AND THE MOMENT*, joined UCLA students at Kerckhoff Grand Salon for a night of history, personal experiences, criticism, frustration, inspiration, reflection and laughter. Among the contributors were Merylynne Hamano Quon, Warren Mar, Ryan Masaaki Yokota, Nick Nagatani and Daniel Tsang. Mary Kao and Russell Leong emceed the night up until the program moderator kicked everyone out of the Salon, but conversations between students and guests were carried on for about an hour outside in Kerckhoff Patio.

We were addressed as brothers and sisters that night. Those very simple words were a sign of kinship, of ties and of legacies. To have established a brother and sisterhood between the youth and the "old timers"—as they jokingly addressed themselves—was a gesture in itself that was a way of defining part of this Movement we were all curious about. The Movement, an ongoing process which was started by our predecessors and carried on into the present, holds a definition which is subjective yet fluid among the many that fight for social justice. Within the comments and questions that were expressed that night, there was a common call to connect and make sense of our struggles, mistakes, accomplishments and purposes as Asians and Asian Americans in a still unequal and inequitable society.

As the night progressed, we began chipping away at each other, making constructive criticisms of the past and present. Students were called to strengthen interethnic relations and also to step up and fight for more difficult and challenging issues. The older movers and shakers were asked to reevaluate their current positions in and out of the community and to understand what kind of influences their current or past positions have on the youth that look up to them for guidance. Though these issues were raised that night, there were a plethora of other questions wishing to be answered. After the program's nine o'clock end, individuals continued to dialogue outside, shaking hands and exchanging e-mails, smiling as they learned about each other on a more personal note.

The *Asian Americans: The Movement and the Moment* program gave some of us the chance to collectively make sense of our fluid and connected role as Asians and Asian Americans, despite generations, time, and place within the whole struggle for social justice. The book itself can have the same effect if one takes the time to reflect and connect the different stories to one's own life and environment.

MARI NAKANO is a fourth-year undergraduate student in Asian American Studies.

To order *Asian Americans: The Movement and the Moment*, contact: Thao Cha (ThaoCha@ucla.edu), UCLA Asian American Studies Center, 3230 Campbell Hall, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1546; Phone: 310.825.2974; Fax: 310.206.9844. The price of the book is \$20.00, plus \$5.00 shipping and handling.

## Center Announces New Second National Journal

### *APA Policy, Practice and Community: A Journal on Asian Pacific Americans*

THE UCLA ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER is pleased to announce the launching of a new journal focused on applied social science research for and on the diverse and growing Asian Pacific American community. The new journal will draw from professional schools, applied social science scholars, and practitioners with the explicit goal of reinvestigating Asian American Studies' traditional mission of serving communities and generating practical research.

The first issue is scheduled for release in early 2003 and will focus on community development. Future issues will deal with Health, Welfare Reform, Civil Rights, Mental Health, Workforce issues and more.

*APA Policy, Practice, and Community* is the second national journal of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center. *Amerasia Journal*, founded in 1970, will continue to pursue its original goal of "publishing the best and most provocative material" on Asian Pacific Americans.

For more information about article submissions and journal subscriptions for *APA Policy, Practice, and Community*, please contact:

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#### **Professor Marjorie Kagawa-Singer Receives Herbert Nickens Memorial Lectureship**

PROFESSOR MARJORIE KAGAWA-SINGER, who holds a joint position in the School of Public Health and Asian American Studies, has been granted the Herbert Nickens Memorial Lectureship at the 8th Biennial Symposium of the Intercultural Cancer Council. The lectureship is awarded in recognition of outstanding national service to improve the health status of ethnic minority and medically under-served in cancer. Dr. Nickens was the first director of the Office of Minority Health and the first Vice President of the American Academy of Medical Colleges Community and Minority Programs.

The ICC is a non-profit national organization dedicated to "speaking with one voice" to address the disproportionate cancer incidence, morbidity and mortality in minority and medically under-served populations in the United States and its associated territories. The purpose is to engage in a dialogue between federal, state, and local agencies, and academia and the public to eliminate the unequal burden of cancer born by ethnic minorities and the medically under-served.

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### Center Hosts Informational Session on "The Toxic Legacy of Globalization"



Liang Keping of The Self-Help Association answers questions about the campaign.

RCA WORKERS FROM TAIWAN VISITED THE UCLA ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER on May 28, 2002, to talk about their campaign for justice to bring accountability to RCA, who exposed unknowing workers to a cocktail of toxic chemicals that caused cancer and other disabling conditions. This talk was co-sponsored by UCLA Center for Labor Research and Education, UCLA Asian American Studies Center, and Taiwanese Environmental Action Network (TEAN).

Representatives of The Self-Help Association of Former RCA Employees began organizing in 1998 a campaign for justice for the thousands of former workers who have developed cancer after working with chemicals at the RCA factory. RCA was one of the first U.S. companies to establish electronics manufacturing in Taiwan more than thirty years ago, but they then shut down their plant and moved away without taking responsibility for their actions, leaving a legacy of serious pollution and a huge cancer cluster. RCA continues to refuse to accept responsibility for their actions. This is one of the worst cases of global corporate irresponsibility that has been uncovered around the world.

The Self-Help Association of Former RCA Employees is starting a campaign to reach out to people in the U.S. to develop strategies to win justice for their members and to bring accountability to RCA.

In addition to the extremely informative talks given by four members of the Association, they showed two videos that illustrated the ordeal of the workers, as a result of the tragic irresponsibility of RCA.

For more information about the Association and their global campaign, see <http://tean.formosa.org/campaign/hightech/rca/index.html>.



Luis Francia shares his poetry in Royce Hall.

### MA Students Sponsor Queer API Reading

THE ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION hosted "SUBVerses: A Queer Asian Pacific Islander Literary Performance." A packed room in Royce Hall enjoyed listening to the engaging and thought-provoking works of featured artists Chi-Wai Au, Justin Chin, Alison De La Cruz, Bene Ferrao, and Diep Tran, on February 19, 2002. The artists presented material that addressed a variety of experiences and an existence that have been submerged under popular calls for war in the name of patriotism. Their storytelling brought to light issues and concerns that remain urgent and important in API communities today.

The organizers described the event:

"Sublime, subversive, submissive, subscribe, subculture, subordination. In the wake of September 11th, the nation has been consumed with narratives of war and violence...The goal of SUBVerses is to foreground issues that were pressing prior to September 11th, have been lost in the shuffle, yet continue to be urgent today. Our intent is not to shift attention from events that are affecting lives on a global scale, but rather use September 11th as a reference point to address concerns before they mount and take on catastrophic form. Queer Asian Pacific Islander literary performances serve as sub-narratives that focus tensions in the aim of resolving struggles that were left undone, giving hope to those left uninspired, and to critically assess those tensions in order to preempt future violence."

The event was made possible by generous funding from the UCLA Campus Programs Committee of the Program Activities Board and co-sponsorship with the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, *Amerasia Journal* and Professor Russell Leong, with community support from UCLA Mahu, UCLA Asian Pacific Coalition, and Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team.

## Luis Francia Speaks at UCLA

By Jih-Fei Cheng

ON MAY 2, 2002, AS A GUEST OF UCLA'S ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION (AASGSA) and *Disorient Journalzine*, author, poet, journalist and lecturer, Luis Francia spoke on issues pertaining to the state of post-colonial Philippines and Filipino Americans today.

Los Angeles Filipino American poet and community organizer Napoleon Lustre moderated and framed the talk within the context of Philippine independence, martial law, and 9/11. Francia read excerpts from his recently published collection of essays *Eye of the Fish: A Personal Archipelago*, conjuring for the audience an image of post-colonial Philippines through his childhood and travels as an adult from northern to southern Philippines, from the city to the rural. Filmic images from the U.S., Spanish Catholic iconography, and reflections of his own heritage as the descendant of Spanish blood and an American soldier overlay the traveled terrain as a way to trace the historical legacy of colonization and connect it to the present-day involvement of the U.S. in the Philippines.

According to Lustre, "I think it's really important that we listen to people who have been writing longer than some of us. This is a chance for us...to get to have a connection with the author and to continually ask what it means to be Filipino in America."

For Asian American Studies graduate student Gladys Nubla, Francia's presence at UCLA provided a role model for Filipino American students. "Post-9/11, Filipinos have been implicated," stated Nubla. "The Philippines is being used strategically by the U.S. to secure a stronghold to enter into and dominate Asia Pacific. Francia's work is really important right now because he understands national as well as international politics and can help Filipino Americans understand their own positionality, particularly in relation to the Muslim South of the Philippines. His writing gives us the opportunity to reflect upon our relationship to the U.S.'s colonialist impulses, and also allows us to imagine ourselves beyond the colony."

After his reading, Francia and Lustre engaged the audience in a question-and-answer session, in which Francia commented on the challenges of publishing as a writer of color, and the significance of publishing with the independent, non-profit company, Kaya.

The event was co-curated by Gladys Nubla (AASGSA) and Irene Soriano (Asian American Studies Center and *Disorient Journalzine*), and was presented as part of the Asian American Studies 2002 Spring Colloquium Series. Pauline Agbayani-Siewert's Spring 2002 AAS 130A Pilipino American Experience class, the UCLA Center for Southeast Asian Studies, the Pilipino Artist Network-Literary Arts, the Filipino American National Historical Society-LA Chapter, and PEN Center USA also co-sponsored the event.

Francia's previous works include *The Arctic Archipelago and Other Poems*, *Memories of Overdevelopment* and *Flippin': Filipinos on America* (co-editor). He recently won the PEN Center Open Book Award and writes for *The Village Voice*.

Lustre is also an AIDS activist and has had his poems published in *de[k]onstru[k]*, *Amerasia Journal*, *Disorient Journalzine* and *LA Enkanto: In Our Blood CD/Filipino American Poetry and Spoken Word Artists from Los Angeles*.

JIH-FEI CHENG is a second-year M.A. student in the Asian American Studies Program.

## Center Hosts Wen Ho Lee and Journalist Helen Zia to Discuss New Book

**W**EN HO LEE, THE LOS ALAMOS SCIENTIST who was falsely accused of being a spy, and award-winning journalist Helen Zia kicked off their Southern California book tour at UCLA's James West Alumni Center on January 20, 2002. Hosted by UCLA's Asian American Studies Center and many Asian American Studies programs, community organizations, and professional groups, Lee and Zia discussed and signed their new book, *My Country Versus Me*. The book is Lee's firsthand account of his work at Los Alamos National Laboratory, his experiences with the FBI, and his arrest and imprisonment. A brief question-and-answer session followed Lee and Zia's talk. The event was free and open to the public.

In January 1999, the arrest of Lee, who was falsely accused under a cloud of suspicion of espionage by the United States government and imprisoned without trial, sparked controversy throughout the country. "Our Center is very pleased to join with a number of Asian American Studies programs, community organizations, and professional groups in organizing this forum and reception for Dr. Lee and Helen Zia to celebrate the release of their book," said Professor Don Nakanishi, director of UCLA's Asian American Studies Center. "There is no question that Dr. Lee's case had a profound impact on large segments of the Asian Pacific American population across the nation, and was followed closely by not only civil rights advocates but also scientists, engineers, students and community leaders."

Nakanishi said the case was a major milestone in Asian Pacific American history as well as U.S. history generally. "We must learn lessons from one of the harshest examples of government abuse of power," he said. "The case

also raised the most troubling questions about the nation's media, particularly some of its most respected newspapers like the *New York Times*, and the role they played in this tragedy."

A thirty-minute panel about the significance of the case in the Asian Pacific American community was held prior to Lee and Zia's discussion. The panel included: Honorable Judy Chu, California state assemblywoman, D-Monterey Park; Charlie Sie, vice chair of Committee of 100, a Chinese-American leadership group; Brian Sun, lead attorney on Lee's civil suit and for Lee's wife, Sylvia and other family members in the criminal case; and Henry Yu, UCLA professor of History and Asian American Studies.

Lee's case triggered concern for national security, debate about racial profiling and media distortion, and outrage over a return to McCarthy-era paranoia. The book takes readers inside Los Alamos, revealing how violations of national security were ubiquitous throughout the weapons lab.

Lee describes how the FBI spied on him for nearly two decades and how he even assisted the FBI, protecting nuclear secrets. He also details his brutal treatment in jail and explains why he downloaded codes, demonstrating that he is innocent of the charges

against him except for one simple procedure common throughout the lab.

Zia, the book's co-author, is also the author of *Asian American Dreams: The Emergence of an American People*, and a contributing editor to *Ms. Magazine*, where she was formerly executive editor. For more than two decades, Zia has been a magazine writer and editor and is known for her investigative reporting.



Professor Henry Yu, Helen Zia, and Wen Ho Lee talk before the press conference.

## EthnoCom Holds Conference on Documenting Communities

ON MAY 18, 2002, THE CENTER FOR ETHNOCOMMUNICATIONS OF THE UCLA ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER held a day-long conference entitled "Creating Community Media," followed by a "Generation Next" Student Film Festival. The conference, organized by Professor Robert Nakamura, Vivian Wong, and M.A. student Anthony Yuen, served as an introduction to the field of EthnoCommunications—the linking of Ethnic Studies with emerging media technologies to document and serve communities neglected by mainstream media. The conference brought together students, scholars, filmmakers, community representatives, and others to showcase the emerging and growing body of work in EthnoCommunications and offer insight into the experience of community media-making.

Emmy award-winning, independent filmmaker and community worker Spencer Nakasako (Director of *a.k.a Don Bonus*, *Kelly Loves Tony*, *Monterey's Boat People*) gave the keynote address, in which he shared his ten-year production experience as a filmmaker working with youth in Asian immigrant communities. He also provided a sneak preview of his upcoming documentary about a young man's return to Cambodia.

Other highlights included a practicum on EthnoCommunications and new media technology, led by John Esaki, Director of Japanese American National Museum, Media Arts Center, and Masaki Miyagawa, Associate of Japanese American National Museum, Media Arts Center; a panel entitled "Documenting Ourselves: Past, Present and Futures," consisting of UCLA Film and Television Professor Robert Nakamura, *Amerasia Journal* Editor and Adjunct English Professor Russell Leong, and Dwayne Washington, Manager of UCLA Instructional Multimedia Production Lab; a presentation by student filmmakers Jih-Fei Cheng, Marcie De La Cruz, Tadashi Nakamura, and Jason Nierras; and the closing panel, "EthnoCommunications: Tool for Social Change," in which Karen Ishizuka, UCLA professor Valerie Matsumoto, Linda Mabalot, Glenn Omatsu, and Aquilina Soriano discussed the importance of community-based media in shaping contemporary dialogue on campus and in the community, particularly in light of the aftermath of September 11, 2001.

## Center Hosts Two-Day Conference about Gender in Contemporary Vietnam

ON APRIL 12-13, 2002, THE UCLA ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER, in conjunction with the UCLA Center for Southeast Asian Studies, UCLA Interdisciplinary Program in Southeast Asian Studies, and California Lutheran University, hosted a free two-day conference entitled "Reproducing Gender in Contemporary Vietnam and Diasporic Spaces."

The workshop, organized by Professor Thu-huong Nguyen-vo, brought together interdisciplinary work by established and emerging researchers from the U.S., Europe, and Vietnam. The economic and political reforms under *Doi Moi* in Vietnam have propelled the country into the global economy, which in turn has brought together spaces of gender practices in contemporary Vietnam and among Vietnamese immigrants in First World countries. This examination of gender in Vietnam and the diaspora provided insights into the ways that gender is embodied and (re)produced in state policies, global production, biological reproduction, and cultural productions including literature, film, and the visual arts.

Panels on April 12 included "Gendered Representations in National and Diasporic Narratives"; "Femininity and Masculinity Embodied"; and "Visualizing Beauty and Sexuality in Vietnam and Vietnamese America." On April 13, a closing panel discussed "(Re)Modeling Femininity in Medicine, State, and the Economy."



Authors of *Race, Rights and Reparations*, with Keynote Speaker, from left to right: Margaret Chon, Jerry Kang, Eric Yamamoto, Dale Minami, Frank Wu, and Carol Izumi.

## UCLA Sponsors a Symposium on JA Internment and 9/11

THE ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER AND THE SCHOOL OF LAW'S CONCENTRATION IN CRITICAL RACE STUDIES co-sponsored a conference on "Learning from the Internment in a Post 9-11 World" on Saturday, February 16, 2002. The keynote speaker was Dale Minami, Esq., celebrated civil rights lawyer and attorney in Fred Korematsu's successful *coram nobis* petition. Other highlights of the conference, organized by Professor Jerry Kang, included an authors panel with Professors Eric Yamamoto, Margaret Chon, Carol Izumi, Jerry Kang, and Frank Wu, who were on hand to discuss their book *Race, Rights and Reparation: Law and the Japanese American Internment* (Aspen Law & Business, 2001); and a 9/11 panel consisting of Professor Khaled Abou El Fadl of UCLA, Joe Hicks from the Center for Study of Popular Culture, Professor Ketu Katrack of UC-Irvine, Thomas Saenz of MALDEF, and Professor Leti Volpp of American University discussed the implications of the JA internment in the context of a post-9/11 world.

## The United Cambodian Students of UCLA Present "Heart of Cambodia: Journey to the Past"

By Sam Oum

THE UNITED CAMBODIAN STUDENTS (UCS) OF UCLA presented its fifth annual culture show, this year entitled "Heart of Cambodia: Journey to the Past," on May 4, 2002. This year's theme spoke of a young man's journey to find the desires of his heart, centering on Cambodia's most influential and recognizable treasure, the Angkor Wat. Some of the highlights included traditional dances, hilarious brothel and fighting scenes, the unveiling of the Angkor Wat at the end of the show, and the moment at which the audience realized what really was the heart of Cambodia. The audience turnout was larger than in previous years, as approximately 175-200 people were in attendance.

For the past five years, members of UCS have collaborated to put on an educational and entertaining production for the rest of UCLA community. This is our way of sharing with everyone else a part of Cambodia: its culture, traditions, history, trials and tribulations.

SAM OUM is a fourth-year undergraduate student double majoring in Computer Science and Economics.

# 11 New Graduate Students Promise to Push Asian American Studies Community Involvement to Greater Heights

Coming from all over the country and around the world, the eleven first-year students in the M.A. program in Asian American Studies build upon their research interests and community involvement, including religion, media and “visual culture,” international migration, organizing and resistance, history, and literature.

During their first year in the M.A. program, the students have taken classes with Professors Valerie Matsumoto, Don Nakanishi, and Kyeyoung Park. Profiles of the graduate students follow:

**TINA BHAGA** spent her childhood in Hebbbronville, Texas (a small town in the south of Texas) and later moved to San Antonio. She was an undergraduate student at University of Texas at Austin with a major in History and pre-med. Tina decided to join our program because it has a history of community activism and community/academia coalition. Tina will be researching and examining “the intersections between visual culture, religious culture, and political culture in defining South Asian American identity among youth.” She is a member of the South Asian Studies Task Force, which is trying to establish area studies and foster a dialogue between ethnic and area studies. Tina would like to become a “controversial and eccentric public intellectual and activist.”

**WILL GOW** grew up in San Francisco’s Sunset district. He graduated from Lowell High School in 1996, after which he attended NYU to study Cinema Studies and History. He became interested in the M.A. program because of its interdisciplinary aspect. For his thesis, Will is “looking at the relationship between visual media such as photography and film, and the development of racial categories.” He plans to go on to become a public high school History teacher in New York City.

**CHIAKI INUTAKE** grew up in Yokohama, Japan—an international port city, close to Tokyo. She has lived in the U.S. for almost eight years and received her B.A. in American Culture (Minority Studies) at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. In her M.A. thesis, tentatively entitled “Japanese Women in Southern California: Migration for Personal Liberation,” Chiaki wants to “uncover the unique characteristics of a smaller but steady flow of new Japanese immigrants.” Chiaki came to the M.A. program to specialize in the study of international migration. “What I like about the program is its flexibility of allowing me to take courses from various disciplines and the warmth of faculty and staff at the Center.”



First-year graduate students in Asian American Studies, from left to right: front row—Will Gow; middle row—Francine Redada and Chiaki Inutake; back row—Rosie Baldonado, Jennifer Breyer, and Tina Bhaga. Not pictured: Jenny Cho, Rodney Ferrao, Sharon Lee, Dean Saranillio, and Gina Singh.

She would like to get involved in citizenship workshops for immigrants offered by the Asian Pacific American Legal Center. Professor Gail Nomura at University of Washington (and formerly at University of Michigan) has been a source of inspiration for Chiaki, who would like to continue on to get a Ph.D. in sociology in order to pursue her study of immigrants in the U.S.

**SHARON LEE** was raised in Placentia, California. “Shaz” received her bachelor’s degree in Ethnic Studies and Spanish from Berkeley. She will be researching coalition building between African American and Korean American church organizations since the 1992 uprisings. “I joined the M.A. program to further my knowledge of the issues and concerns of the API community. It’s been great—my cohort has taught me so much.” Sharon is currently an intern at State Senator Kevin Murray’s office. After the M.A. program, she plans on auditioning for music videos and becoming a “mega pop star.”

**FRANCINE REDADA** was born in Montreal, Quebec, Canada but immigrated to San Francisco with her parents at the age of 3 months. A dual American/Canadian citizen, Francine grew up in Daly City. She received her B.A. in Asian American Studies from UC Irvine in 1999. Her thesis, tentatively entitled “The Tie That Binds: Exploring the Formation of Filipino/Filipino American Social/Fraternal Organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area,” will examine how such transnational factors as religion, economy, and politics contribute to the binding and formation of relationships among the members of the organizations, mainly post-1965/1975. “The AAS M.A. program houses the most prominent professors in AAS academia today, like Professors Nakanishi, Agbayani-Siewart, Matsumoto, Yu, Park, etc. My career will benefit from the M.A. program, whether I decide to obtain a Ph.D. or to work in the community.” Formerly an AmeriCorps VISTA with the Raza Community Service Learning Program



I have a terrific, radical cohort, and the flexibility of the program allows me to work with various professors in Asian American Studies as well as professors in American Indian Studies.

—Dean Saranillio

(RSCSL) at San Francisco State University, Francine is considering continuing her work in Asian American Studies in a Ph.D. program in either History or Ethnic Studies.

DEAN SARANILLO, who was born and raised in Kahului, Maui, did his undergraduate work in Ethnic Studies at the University of Hawai'i, Manoa. For his thesis, Dean is studying the relationship between two marginalized communities—Native Hawaiians and Filipino "Americans." "I'm interested in the ways colonialism and its history is obscured by prominent representations or 'necessary illusions' of multiculturalism, tropical paradise, or the fiftieth star of the U.S. While Filipinos in Hawai'i have a long history of resistance to colonialism in the Philippines and continually celebrate its independence, we haven't connected this history to Hawai'i." Dean expresses much appreciation for our M.A. program: "I have a terrific, radical cohort and, the flexibility of the program allows me to work with various professors in Asian American Studies as well as professors in American Indian Studies." Some of his main academic influences include Haunani-Kay Trask, Candace Fujikane, Dean Alegado, Davianna McGregor, and Glenn Omatsu. Dean plans on becoming an educator, who can "both study race relations as well as educate."

GINA SINGH grew up in India, North Carolina, Oregon, and Chicago before being transplanted to Los Angeles at the age of twenty. She majored in Urban Studies at Loyola Marymount University. "I joined the M.A. program to continue integrating community issues with academia." For her thesis, Gina plans on researching Desi-American women, organizing, resistance, and patriarchy. Her main influences for her Asian American Studies consciousness include her mother—"a radical, Third World feminist"—a few Desi women organizers, and some "cool" Ethnic Studies professors. After receiving her M.A., Gina plans on organizing and/or teaching at a community college.

Also in the UCLA Asian American Studies M.A. Class of 2003 are ROSIE BALDONADO, JENNIFER BREYER, JENNY CHO, and RODNEY FERRAO.

This year's Association for Asian American Studies Conference, entitled "Intersections: Asian American Studies in the 21st Century," was sponsored by the University of Utah and held in Salt Lake City on April 24-28, 2002. The conference attracted hundreds of Asian American Studies scholars, including many of the Center's faculty, staff, and M.A. students, who presented and shared the following papers with the Asian American Studies community.

TINA BHAGA: "ABCD/American Born Confused Desis: Indian American Youths' Search for Religious Identity"

JENNIFER BREYER: "Korean Adoptees and Attachment Disorder"

JIH-FEI CHENG: "Nationalism's Defense: Whiteness and Queer Orientalism"

JIH-FEI CHENG, MARCIE DE LA CRUZ and ANTHONY YUEN: "Los Angeles Filipinos of Mixed Heritage" (Video Documentary)

CHIAKI INUTAKE: "Japanese Women in Southern California: Migration for Personal Freedom"

DAEHWAN DENNIS LEE: "Introduction to Korean American Gang Culture of Los Angeles"

CAMILLIA LUI: "Between Black and White: The Development of a Chinese Community in Atlanta, GA"

GLADYS NUBLA: "Deploying Transnational Space: The Cultural and Political Economies of Taglish in Jessica Hagedorn's *Dogeaters*"

FRANCINE REDADA: "Exploring the Formation of Filipino Social Organizations and Associations post-65 in San Francisco"

SUSIE WOO: "RaceReembodied.com"



M.A. students Camillia Lui and Jih-Fei Cheng check out Salt Lake City's public transit system.



M.A. students Tina Bhaga, Masako Nakamura, Chiaki Inutake, and Francine Redada enjoy a beautiful day outside in the heart of the city.



Augusto Espiritu, Gary Okihiro, Henry Yu, and Gordon Chang stop to smile after a lively plenary, organized by Ling-chi Wang, on Professor Yu's *Thinking Orientals*.



Brandy Worrall, Irene Soriano, and Don Nakanishi greet customers at the *Amerasia* table in the book exhibit.

## Highlights from 2002 Association of Asian American Studies Conference Held in Salt Lake City, Utah

# Center Congratulates M.A. Class of 2002

## Photo Highlights from June 16, 2002



Phil Hutchinson and Prof. Min Zhou share a moment before the ceremony commences.



Camillia Lui and Prof. Nguyen-vo enjoy breakfast and conversation early Sunday morning.



Jih-Fei Cheng, Gladys Nubla, Anthony Yuen, Francine Redada, and Sharon Lee instruct M.A. student Jennifer Breyer's son about Asian American Studies.

### What Does an M.A. in Asian American Studies Mean Anyway?

What can a master of arts degree in Asian American Studies buy you nowadays? Well, Phil Hutchinson will be attending George Mason University to commence his studies in its Cultural Studies Ph.D. program, while fellow graduate Susie Woo will be entering the American Studies Ph.D. program at Yale. Susie states about her experience in the M.A. program, "In addition to an incredible faculty who were invaluable resources, the entire AASC staff and my cohort were like family. The program was academically and personally enriching."

As for Jih-Fei Cheng, his two years with the Asian American Studies M.A. program has shown him the connection between academia and community issues, as Jih-Fei will work full-time as the Mental Health Support Coordinator at the Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team, providing counseling services to HIV-infected APIs in Los Angeles. He says, "I am grateful for the opportunities presented to me by Asian American Studies and the Asian American Studies Center, and I intend to stay involved in its activities and events."

M.A. graduate Daehwan Dennis Lee will regroup for a year before continuing his education in American Cultures. He wishes to either teach Asian American Studies in a community college or go abroad to Korea to teach English. Dennis explains, "State percentages show that 70-80% of California college students are attending or going through community colleges. I believe [the community college circuit] will be a great venue to spread interest in Asian American Studies as well as instruct future community leaders, activists, entertainers and educators in the Asian American community."

Gladys Nubla also plans to take a year off before moving onto graduate school in either American Studies or English literature, in order to continue the work she began while in the M.A. program. "If I learned one thing from the program, it is that the work we need to do—for the battles we have picked—never ends," Gladys offers.

Last year's M.A. graduates also illustrate how completing a Master's with the UCLA Asian American Studies Center can lead to a rich, rewarding, and challenging career in academia and/or in the API community. Sang Chi, for example, has just finished his first year in the doctoral program in History at Berkeley. "I am specializing in...surprise! Asian American history!" This summer, Sang will also be teaching "Asian American Studies 99: History of Asians in America" at UCLA.

Fellow 2001 graduate student Jamie Ardeña is now working at the Seattle Central Community College (recently voted as the "College of the Year" by *Time* magazine) as Student Programs Coordinator. In addition, he is continuing his work with *isangmahal* arts collective and has helped organize the first-ever Asian Pacific Islander Spoken Word and Poetry Summit in Seattle.

Hazel Collao is a client service coordinator for at-risk youth at UCLA's Community Based Learning Program. Since she is based in the Chinatown Service Center, she works with many API youth.

Maria Kong is currently working as the program coordinator for Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy, a social justice philanthropy organization in San Francisco that works with funders to more effectively serve Asian Pacific Islander communities. In her spare time, Maria volunteers as a domestic violence counselor at the Asian Women's Shelter and enjoys "being back home in the Bay and not having to write any late-night papers."

The UCLA Asian American Studies Center congratulates the M.A. Class of 2002 on all their achievements and is very proud of all those who have passed through its doors on their way to make important contributions to the API community and Asian American Studies.



The new graduates huddle together in a group hug, as they've done so many times during their two years in the program.



First-year M.A. student Jennifer Breyer emcees the graduation ceremony.



First-year M.A. students Jenny Cho and Francine Redada, along with second-year M.A. student Camillia Lui, congratulate the Men of 2002, Jih-Fei Cheng and Phil Hutchinson.



## 2002-2003 AASC SCHOLARSHIPS/ENDOWMENTS

**Tritia Toyota Graduate Fellowship (\$1,000)**

*Sharon Lee*

**George and Sakaye Aratani Graduate Fellowships (\$3,000 each)**

*Todd Honma  
Chiaki Inutake  
Jun Okada*

**21st Century Graduate Fellowships (\$1,500 each)**

*Rodney Ferrao  
William Gow*

**Institute of American Cultures Post-Doctoral Fellowship**

*Eliza Noh*

**Institute of American Cultures Research Grants**

*Tina Bhaga  
Hye Seung Chung  
Rodney Ferrao  
Soonim Huh  
Camillia Lui  
Janet Oh  
Jun Okada  
Danielle Rose  
Dean Saranillio  
Gina Singh  
Judith Tejero*

**Institute of American Cultures Graduate Fellowships**

*Jennifer Breyer  
Jenny Cho  
Rodney Ferrao*

**Angie Kwon Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000 each)**

*Michele Gutierrez  
Betty Thao  
Anouh Vang*

**Ben & Alice Hirano Academic Prize (\$250)**

*Thao Tran*

**Morgan & Helen Chu Outstanding Scholar Award (\$1,000 each)**

*Alan Chin  
Brian Tang*

**Asian Business Association Scholarship (\$1,000)**

*Gabriel Leung*

**21st Century Undergraduate Scholarship (\$1,500 each)**

*Michele Gutierrez  
Jennifer Her*

**Philip Vera Cruz Memorial Scholarship (\$250 each)**

*Michele Gutierrez  
Michelle Magalong*

**Hoshide Scholarship (\$2,000 each)**

*Tadashi Nakamura  
James Shinbori*

**Royal Morales Prize (\$250)**

*Marlowe Paraiso*

**Uyeshima & Family Scholarship (\$2,000 each)**

*Sandra Sakai  
Christopher Uejio*

**Aiso Memorial Scholarships (\$2,000)**

*Kacie Yamada*

**Aratani Community Fellowship (\$3,000)**

*Eri Tsujii*

**John Kubota Grant in Japanese American Studies (\$1,000 each)**

*Tadashi Nakamura  
James Shinbori*

**Union Bank Scholarship (\$2,500 each)**

*Nancy Kim  
Lily Lam*

For more information and application forms for Center scholarships/endowments for the 2003-2004 academic year, contact Meg Malpaya Thornton, head of Student/Community Projects, (310) 825-1006 or by e-mail ([meg@ucla.edu](mailto:meg@ucla.edu)). Information is also available on the AASC website: [www.sscnet.ucla.edu/aasc](http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/aasc).

### **Professor Emeritus Paul Terasaki Donates \$100,000 for Graduate Fellowships**

UCLA MEDICAL PROFESSOR EMERITUS PAUL TERASAKI AND HIS WIFE, HISAKO, have generously donated \$100,000 to UCLA's Asian American Studies Center to create an endowment for fellowships for UCLA graduate students from Japan, who are pursuing research on the historical and contemporary experiences and issues of the Japanese American population.

Professor Terasaki is a pioneer in tissue transfer research, and Hisako is a renowned painter. The Terasakis have enthusiastically supported the Asian American Studies Centers' activities and mission over the years, and have a strong interest in U.S.-Japan relations, as well as the affairs of the Japanese American community.

### **Thu-huong Nguyen-vo Presents Research on Garment Workers in Ho Chi Minh City**

ON FEBRUARY 27, 2002, THE UCLA CENTER FOR SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES COLLOQUIUM SERIES hosted a talk by Professor Thu-huong Nguyen-vo, entitled, "Class Geographies: Vietnamese Garment Workers' Consumption of Body Products." The paper presented interviews with garment workers in Ho Chi Minh City and its outskirts to explore the workers' consumption of globally and locally produced products to be used on the body.

### **Professor Clara Chu Receives ALA Award**

PROFESSOR CLARA CHU, an active member of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center's Faculty Advisory Committee, has been selected as the recipient of the American Library Association's 2002 Equality Award. Professor Chu is being recognized for her leadership and outstanding contributions in promoting equality in the library profession.

### **Professor Vinay Lal of History Department Gains Tenure**

PROFESSOR VINAY LAL, an active member of the Faculty Advisory Committee of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in UCLA's History Department. Professor Lal, who received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, is a prolific scholar and a highly popular instructor. A specialist in modern Indian history and philosophy, the Indian diaspora, and other topics, he has written over a hundred scholarly works—among them articles in *Amerasia Journal*—and has several major forthcoming books, including *The Dialectic of Civilization and Nation* (Seagull Press) and *The History of History* (Oxford University Press). A recipient of numerous academic accolades, he has provided stellar leadership for South Asian Studies and South Asian American Studies at UCLA.

## KOREAN AMERICAN CONFERENCE: "10 Years After the 1992 Civil Unrest"

UCLA'S ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER, in co-sponsorship with various student, academic, and community organizations, hosted the National Korean American Studies Conference, this year entitled "10 Years After the 1992 Civil Unrest." This May 11, 2002 conference, organized by Anthropology and Asian American Studies Professor Kyeyoung Park, along with Social Welfare Professor Ailee Moon and M.A. student Susie Woo, brought together community leaders/activists, writers, and scholars who have conducted research on the post-1992 L.A. Civil Unrest and the Korean American community.

Ten years have passed since the 1992 Los Angeles Civil Unrest. Called *Sa-I-Gu* (or "4.29") among Korean Americans, it had a devastating effect on the city as a whole, and especially on the Korean American community. On April 29, 1992, four White police officers were acquitted in the beating of African American motorist Rodney King. That verdict sparked the Los Angeles civil disturbances that left fifty-five persons dead and over 2,000 injured. Over 1,000 buildings were damaged or destroyed at a loss of nearly \$1 billion. Half of all the arrests were of Latinos, while one-in-three were Black residents. At least 2,200 Korean-owned businesses suffered a partial or total loss of their properties with damage estimated to be nearly 50 percent of the total damage for the city of Los Angeles.

There is an urgency to assess how Korean Americans were able or unable to deal with post-4.29, the most important turning point in contemporary Korean American history. The conference panelists and audience examined various aspects of the Korean American community in terms of the impact of 4.29, ten years later. In addition, participants discussed how new generations of Americans who did not experience 4.29 and therefore know little about what happened are in danger of "historical amnesia." This conference served as an open forum to discuss how to talk about these pressing issues.

The conference addressed these concerns through a major keynote address by award-winning journalist K.W. Lee, panels, video screenings, literary readings, and cultural performances. One panel, for example, showcased various programs and activities that sprang up as a result of 4.29, like the Korean Youth and Community Center's Multiethnic Youth Leadership Collaborative, Korean American Coalition's 4.29 mediation center, funded by both the Korean and African American communities, and Korean Immigrant Workers Advocates' Restaurant and Market Workers Justice Campaigns. There was also a roundtable discussion among writers/researchers who

have published major books on 4.29 and Black-Korean tensions: Professors John Lie (University of Michigan), co-author of *Blue Dreams: Korean Americans and the Los Angeles Riots*, Pyong Gap Min (Queens College), author of *Caught in the Middle: Korean Communities in New York and Los Angeles*, and Edward Chang (UC Riverside), author of *Ethnic Peace in the American City: Building Community in Los Angeles and Beyond*. To round out the conference, there was a panel featuring a cohort of 4.29-generation Korean



Journalist K.W. Lee.

American youth and young adults, which examined the various ways in which they were impacted by the unrest. Several young Korean American audience members came forward in order to share their tearful post-4.29 experiences. In brief, this conference contributed to a much-needed critical dialogue on aspects of interethnic conflict and cooperation in South Central Los Angeles and Koreatown.

The conference also examined the Korean American experience beyond issues raised by 4.29, in foregrounding the wider processes of ethno-racialization that mediate constructions of nationally specific, interethnic, and pan-ethnic Korean/Asian identities in the U.S.

Other conference activities included a screening of *Sa-I-Gu*; panels entitled "Legacies of 4.29," "Literary Depictions," and "Post-4.29 and the Korean American Community"; a welcome by Don Nakanishi; and two guest speakers during lunch from the African and Salvadoran communities—Larry Aubry, Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission Consultant and Roberto Lovato, Director of Central American Studies Program, CSUN. The event wrapped up with performances by Hanoolim's Poongmul (Korean Traditional Drumming) and poet and performance artist, Kublai Kwon.



"Ingredients to Brew," by Arvin Lambinico. This artwork was one of several pieces displayed at the UCLA student-organized commemoration of 4.29.

## Asian Pacific Coalition Collaborates with Other Student Groups to Commemorate 1992 Los Angeles Uprising

By David Chung

For the tenth-year commemoration of the 1992 Los Angeles uprising, students from several organizations, including the African Student Union, Asian Pacific Coalition, MECHA, the Muslim Student Association, Center for African American Studies, Chicano Studies Research Center, Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies, Center for the Study of Urban Poverty, in collaboration with the Asian American Studies Center, organized a three-day outdoor art exhibit, entitled "A Glance Backward, A View Forward: Reflections on Los Angeles Ten Years After the 1992 Uprising." The purpose of the event was to educate the UCLA campus about the complexities of



Readers Russell Leong, Wanda Coleman, Nadia Kim, and Pat Payne.

the 1992 civil unrest. Featuring submissions from several student and community artists, the three-day event also included spoken word and musical performances from Stereotype and Paul Kim, among other performance artists, and a poetry reading with several renowned writers including Wanda Coleman and Russell Leong.

As students, we felt that it was important to commemorate the uprising in order to expose the root causes of what actually happened. One of the purposes of the event was to understand that the Los Angeles uprising was much more than just a reaction to the Rodney King verdict or the result of Black/Korean tension.

Contrary to flawed media portrayals and popular opinion, the uprising reflected the role of institutional racism to deny poor communities of color equitable access to resources, quality education, and socio-economic justice. The uprising vocalized the despair and hopelessness of the deprived and exploited working class, the anger from victims of police brutality and corruption, as it exposed the unjust nature of our justice system. What happened in 1992 was truly the result of deep-seated frustration from larger societal problems and injustices.

Through art and education, we hope that those who attended the exhibit were able to learn and reflect on what happened ten years ago. We also hope that the event encouraged students to take action and join community efforts in seeking social justice for all marginalized communities.

DAVID CHUNG is a fifth-year student majoring in Political Science at UCLA.

## Asians in the Americas Working Group Advances Research on Asian Canadians, Americans and Latinos

By Clara M. Chu

THE SYMPOSIUM ON ASIANS IN LATIN AMERICA: HISTORY AND COMMUNITY (April 30, 2002) marked the third year of events since the establishment of the Asians in the Americas Working Group (AiA) at UCLA in Fall 1999. Composed of faculty and students from various disciplines at UCLA and in Southern California, the Asians in the Americas (AiA) Working Group has been developing a new way of understanding Asian migration to the Americas and the communities that have been constructed. AiA's goal is to create a scholarly research program that connects in an interdisciplinary and comparative manner future research on Asian migrants to Canada, the United States, and Latin America.

Although exciting work has been done on Japanese and Chinese migration to South American nations such as Peru, Brazil, Cuba, and Mexico, it has never been systematically tied to research on parallel and connected migration to the United States and Canada. AiA seeks to include not just migration from East Asian nations such as China and Japan and Korea, but also examinations of migration from Southeast and South Asia. An essential part of our research is to understand the importance of the movement of missionaries, entrepreneurs, diplomats, scholars, and other migrants in the other direction, from the Americas to Asia, particularly because such people had a formative impact upon those who migrated from Asia, the paths they took, and how they were received.

The Symposium, co-sponsored and funded by the Asian American Studies Center, reflected the type of research activities we want to include in our research program: advanced, student, community, and published research.

Humberto Rodríguez Pastor (Professor of Anthropology, Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos; Director of Social Science Research, CONCYTEC, Peru, hrodriguez@concytec.gob.pe)

presented an ethnohistory of Chinese labor and community in Peru, 1880-1940. He has dedicated his professional life to studying marginalized communities in Peru, including those of Japanese and African descent, or as Cuban historian Juan Pérez de la Riva calls "historia de la gente sin historia."

Robert Chao Romero (Doctoral Candidate, Latin American History, UCLA; J.D., UC Berkeley 1998, rcromero@ucla.edu) is employing a unique "diasporic-transnational" approach in his dissertation research to understand Chinese immigration to Mexico between the years of 1882, the year of the passage of the U.S. Chinese Exclusion Act, and 1931, the year of the Chinese expulsion from the state of Sonora, within the context of the global Chinese diaspora of the mid-19th through early 20th centuries. His dissertation presents some of the many transnational socioeconomic and political connections that Chinese immigrants in Mexico shared with their home villages and the Chinese communities of the United States and Cuba, and his paper highlighted one specific example of these transnational socioeconomic ties, a discussion of Chinese immigrant smuggling during the late 19th century.

The Nikkei Cuba Committee (NCC, Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress) is made up of members and supporters of the first Japanese American delegation to Cuba in 2001. NCC is studying the history of Japanese Cubans and hosting them in Los Angeles to build ties between the two communities. Tony Osumi (tosumi@lausd.k12.ca.us), Jenni Kuida (jenni@greatleap.org), and Kathy Nishimoto Masaoka (yokan@aol.com) presented their experiences and the history they learned of the Japanese in Cuba during their trip last August. The presentation was dedicated to Judy Ota, who inspired the U.S.-Cuban exchange after her 1999 Cuba trip, and recently lost her battle with cancer.

A reception and book launch of *New Worlds, New Lives: Globalization and People of Japanese Descent in the Americas and from Latin America in Japan* (Stanford University Press, 2002) concluded the Symposium. Co-Editor Akemi Kikumura-Yano (Vice President for Programs and Director of Research at the Japanese American National Museum, akikumura@janm.org) and contributor Steven Masami Ropp (Assistant Professor in the Asian American Studies Department at California State University, Northridge, steve.m.ropp@csun.edu) presented and signed their book. *New Worlds, New Lives and Encyclopedia Of Japanese Descendants In The Americas: An Illustrated History Of The Nikkei* (AltaMira Press, forthcoming 2002) are products of the International Nikkei Research Project (INRP), a three-year collaborative project funded by the Japan Foundation.

For further information, please contact AiA coordinators Clara M. Chu (cchu@ucla.edu), (310) 206-9368 and Henry Yu (henryyu@ucla.edu), (310) 825-0029. Information may also be obtained from our website: <http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/aia> or to keep updated on related events, subscribe to our discussion list: [AiA@lists.gseis.ucla.edu](mailto:AiA@lists.gseis.ucla.edu).

To subscribe to the list, please send a message to: [requests@lists.gseis.ucla.edu](mailto:requests@lists.gseis.ucla.edu).

In the text of your message, type: subscribe AiA yourname.

A couple of resources you may wish to check out are:

"Counting and Discounting Asians in the Americas: National and Local Constructions of Race and Ethnicity" Project funded by the Chancellor's Fund for Academic Border Crossing, 2000-2001. <http://www.gseis.ucla.edu/faculty/chu/count-aia/>

*Chinese in Latin America Website*. The site serves as an information resource for people who want to learn about and conduct research on the Chinese in/from Latin America. <http://www.gseis.ucla.edu/faculty/chu/chinos>

### Postdoc Lili Kim Gives Talk on JA Internment and Korean Americans

On May 8, 2002, Lili Kim, Ph.D., an Institute of American Cultures Postdoctoral Fellow, gave a talk sponsored by the UCLA Asian American Studies Center and Institute for American Cultures. Her talk, entitled "Fanning the Flames of Fear on the Homefront: Japanese American Internment and Moral Imagination of Korean Americans," explored the conspicuously ignored historical topic of the experience of non-Japanese Asian Americans on the homefront during World War II. Dr. Kim's presentation addressed the Korean American responses to the internment of Japanese Americans and the limits of their moral imagination in framing their strategies to escape unscathed from racism on the homefront.

Lili Kim received her Ph.D. in American History from the University of Rochester in New York, and has taught at the State University of New York at Buffalo, the University of Pennsylvania, and Hampshire College. Her article, "Redefining the Boundaries of Traditional Gender Roles: Korean Picture Brides, Pioneer Korean Immigrant Women, and Their Benevolent Nationalism in Hawai'i," will appear in *Asian Pacific American Women's History Anthology*, edited by Shirley Hune and Gail Nomura.



CLARA M. CHU is Associate Professor in the Department of Information Studies at UCLA.

# Center Welcomes Fabulous Five



New Center staff, from left to right: front row—Stacey Hirose, Brandy Worrall, Vivian Wong; back row—Thao Cha and Pablo Dominguez.

FIVE NEW STAFF MEMBERS have been hired to add to the good times at the UCLA Asian American's Studies Center.

THAO CHA, the Asian American Studies Center's new publications distribution manager, was born in Laos and came to the U.S. age the age of twelve. He grew up in Fresno, CA. In Thao's capacity as publications distribution manager, he handles questions and incoming orders regarding the Center's publications. This entails making certain that the publications are distributed as smoothly and hassle-free as possible.

Thao really enjoys working at the Center, as he comments, "The staff here are great! They are very supportive, and they really care. I am thrilled to work with such professional people who are caring and inspiring, as well as who give me the opportunity to learn and gain new experience."

In his spare time, Thao plays volleyball and soccer, as well as goes fishing, hunting, snowboarding, and jetskiing.

Meet the Center's new Office Manager, PABLO DOMINGUEZ. Pablo hails from the Central Coast of California, Guadalupe—"farm country." Although Pablo is unable to utilize his agricultural knowledge here at the Center, he continues to hone his skills in payroll, reimbursements, parking, office management, and benefits. He says, "I'm honestly fascinated with the various forms of interaction with the system; by 'system,' I'm referring to the Payroll and Accounting system. But this also includes the federal and state government systems and at times foreign governments." Aside from his fascination of systems, Pablo also enjoys networking, computer technology, and finding good restaurants.

STACEY HIROSE has been hired as the Center's Student Affairs Officer. In her new capacity, Stacey, who is currently finishing her Ph.D. in UCLA's History Department UCLA, advises students on coursework, provides information about graduate and professional schools, runs workshops for students, assists with curriculum, and works on admissions.

Stacey, who was an undergraduate at Santa Clara University with a major in History and who received her M.A. in Asian American Studies from UCLA, came to the position with much experience in student advising. "I worked as a counseling assistant for the History Department [at UCLA] and Letters and Science counseling for three years and found myself really enjoying Student Affairs work. There are many hoops to jump through and requirements to meet for undergraduate and graduate students, and it's nice to help them get through it and finish their degrees," Stacey explained.

Stacey first became interested in Asian American Studies while an undergraduate student researching Japanese American draft resisters during WWII. She says, "Asian American Studies is more institutionalized since I was an undergraduate. There are more classes offered on a wide array of API subjects and more faculty to work with."

Stacey has been enjoying her new position at the Center, as she has had a long and rewarding history with the students, staff, and faculty. "It seems like things have come full-circle with the Center being so supportive of me in the past, and now I'm able to help undergraduate and graduate students in the program."

Assistant Director of EthnoCommunications VIVIAN WONG was born and raised in Maryland. After she came to Los Angeles to do graduate work in the UCLA School of Theater, Film, and Television, she was hired to assist Professor Robert Nakamura in the Center for EthnoCommunications. "I enjoy interacting with the faculty, staff, and students at the Center. Everyone is committed to their work, and it's more than a job to them," Vivian states.

## Asian American Studies Alumnus Eric Wat Talks about New Book on the Queer API Community in Los Angeles

ON MAY 28, 2002 THE UCLA ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER SPRING 2002 COLLOQUIUM SERIES, in co-sponsorship with UCLA Mahu, Kabalikat, Asian Pacific Coalition, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Resource Office, and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Studies Center, presented "Are You Sticky?", a panel discussion based on Eric Wat's new book *The Making of a Gay Asian Community: An Oral History of Pre-AIDS Los Angeles*. In this unique book, gay Asian Americans talk frankly about their struggle for self-determination and independence. Pioneers in the Los Angeles movement discuss the gay scene in Southern California and the development of a distinctly gay Asian American community. Guest speakers included:

Rashmi Choksey, current president of TrikoneLA, an organization for queer South Asians serving Southern California;

Napoleon Lustre (moderator), a queer organizer, HIV/AIDS activist and artist born in the Philippines;

Diep K. Tran, a staff member of Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team during the mid-nineties and a co-founder of O Moi, an organization for Vietnamese lesbians, FTMs and bisexual women;

Stan Yogi, who was active in the National Coalition for Redress and Reparations and who has held positions with the ACLU Foundation of Northern California and the California Council for the Humanities; and

Author Eric Wat, who received his M.A. in Asian American Studies at California State University, Fullerton and his B.A. in English from UCLA.

Eric and his guest speakers discussed among themselves and with the audience the struggles of queer API community in the 1990s, a period beyond the time frame of the book.



Author Eric Wat poses with long-time fan, Irene Suico Soriano.



Jih-Fei Cheng is really excited about the release of Eric Wat's new book.

## Nobu McCarthy 1934-2002

RENOWNED JAPANESE AMERICAN ACTOR AND PIONEER NOBU MCCARTHY PASSED AWAY ON APRIL 6, 2002 while filming a movie in Brazil. Many remember Nobu as a dedicated and passionate performer, as well as a devoted instructor in the Asian American Studies Program at UCLA, where she taught her Asian American Theater class for the past ten years. As a former artistic director of the East-West Players theater group, Nobu had a tremendous impact not only on students who aspired for careers in the performing arts, but also on the majority of her students who sought to become engineers, teachers, doctors, social workers, and business people.

In recognition of Nobu's dedication to sharing her enthusiasm for and experiences in Asian American theater with her students at UCLA, the Asian American Studies Center will be establishing a Nobu McCarthy endowment to support and recognize theater and performing arts activities focusing on the Asian American experience by UCLA students. Contributions can be made to the "UCLA Foundation/Nobu McCarthy Fund" and sent to UCLA Asian American Studies Center, 3230 Campbell Hall, P.O. Box 951546, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1546.

The East-West Players will be establishing the Nobu McCarthy Foundation to support Asian American theater activities and the training of Asian American actors. Contributions can be made to the "Nobu McCarthy Foundation" and sent to the East West Players, 120 Judge John Aiso Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

A Celebration of Life Memorial Tribute was held for Nobu McCarthy on Friday, April 19, at 8 p.m. at the George and Sakaye Aratani Theater at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center. Don Nakanishi offered his remarks about Nobu at the memorial: "Nobu had an abundance of enviable talents, but what I would like to share with you is what made her a truly

exceptional instructor. For over ten years, Nobu annually taught a class on Asian American theater in UCLA's Asian American Studies Center. And for over ten years, it was one of the—if not the—most highly rated courses in not only Asian American Studies, but the entire university.

"Each year, Nobu would tell us that she just had to limit the number of students in the class, and asked us to enroll no more than 15 students. And yet each year, after the first class session, Nobu would tell us that 25 or 30 or 40 students showed up, and she just couldn't turn them away. She would somehow manage again to teach all the students. In total, she taught over 350 students during her UCLA career. Some aspired for careers in acting, but the vast majority sought to become doctors, teachers, social workers, business people and engineers. Most had never done theater in their entire lives.

"In preparing for my remarks tonight, I looked over the comments that students wrote in their evaluations of Nobu's class. Here are some of the comments: 'Nobu is very passionate about her teaching,' and 'Thank you, Nobu, for the greatest experience of my college years.'

"One student wrote, 'First of all, I want to thank Nobu for making the long drive to share her knowledge and passion for writing and theater with us. She is a woman who is so talented, so highly skilled in the craft. She stepped back to allow us to learn and discover ourselves. Other professors that I have had see class as a way of showing off how much they know, but she encourages us to do our own learning and immersion into the Asian American experience.'

"Nobu was an extraordinary instructor, who has left an incredible legacy at UCLA."

*These poems were written and presented by two of Nobu's students, LadyAnn Ballecer and Larry Katata, at the memorial service.*

What can I possibly say to relay to you  
the way she's affected—not only me,  
but a generation IN ITS ENTIRETY.  
IT IS MY PART TO REMEMBER.  
that I have seen beauty, sincerity, integrity,  
and such grace—  
all in the face of a woman.  
A woman, who shined not only on the stage  
or on the screen,  
but in our lives and  
in our hearts...  
IT IS MY PART TO REMEMBER.  
Hard, it's not—to remember her un-ending  
style...  
her driving smiles,  
and her driving miles just to encourage,  
support, and believe in us...  
—in me.  
IT IS MY PART TO REMEMBER.  
You see, life's lessons are never brought.  
They're taught to us by those who surround  
us  
those who touch us,  
those who are admired by us,  
missed by us,  
and those who will ALWAYS remind us of  
what we strive to be  
to greatly appreciate all that is inside, our  
heritage, our pride, our talent, our cries, our  
art,  
our humility—  
To me, who she is, has been, and always will  
be.

—LadyAnn Ballecer



What Nobu taught  
Was beyond lecture, course, or class  
Or something you'd take just to pass  
With a grade such as these  
A's, B's, or C's.

What Nobu taught  
Wasn't just class, but *with* class.  
A style and grace  
Along with the struggles we as Asian Americans  
have to face.

What Nobu taught  
Wasn't with A's, B's, or C's  
But what she taught us was really *how to see*  
Really *how to be*  
With a play known as *12-1-A*.

What Nobu taught  
Wasn't how to be actors but how to act.  
Not of Hollywood design  
Or how to remember line after endless line  
But our history, our heritage, our time.

What Nobu taught  
Was simply *Nobu*.  
In your presence, you left every bit of your  
essence  
And for that reason, you will be with us  
every season.  
So Nobu, *thank you*  
Because there will always be you  
In everything that we do.

—Larry Katata

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