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## Center Introduces AAPI NEXUS, New Journal Focusing on Policy, Practice, and Community Research

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The 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 American and Pacific Islander communities, called *AAPI Nexus: Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders*

*Policy, Practice and Community*. The new journal will draw from professional schools, applied social science scholars, and practitioners with the explicit goal of reinvigorating Asian American Studies' traditional mission of serving communities and generating practical research.

Paul Ong, Senior Editor, and Don Nakanishi, Associate Editor, state, "*AAPI Nexus* is

rooted in a long struggle to bridge the gulf between academia and community. The journal's mission is to facilitate an exchange of ideas and research findings that strengthens the efforts through policy and practice to tackle the pressing societal problems facing Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. . .

"The goal is to help those pursuing social change to become more effective through a greater understanding. The journal will publish empirically based applied research. This includes articles that analyze the structures and processes that produce and reproduce socioeconomic inequalities, identify factors that empower people to overcome barriers and adversities, assess policies and programs relevant to AAPIs, and evaluate the effectiveness of organizations, strategies and actions. We are

also interested in articles that speak directly to ways to build bridges between the university and community. Our past experience tells us that community-based organizations and advocacy groups want and need basic and timely statistics; consequently, we will have a regular "Data and Statistics" section. The journal will also include conceptual works focusing on theories of action and intervention. Each volume will focus on a single topic, where the "Practitioner's Perspective" essay, the "Data and Statistics" section, and some of the articles will focus on the common theme. We will work with guest editors who are the leading experts in each field. At the same time, each volume can contain one or more articles not related to the topic."

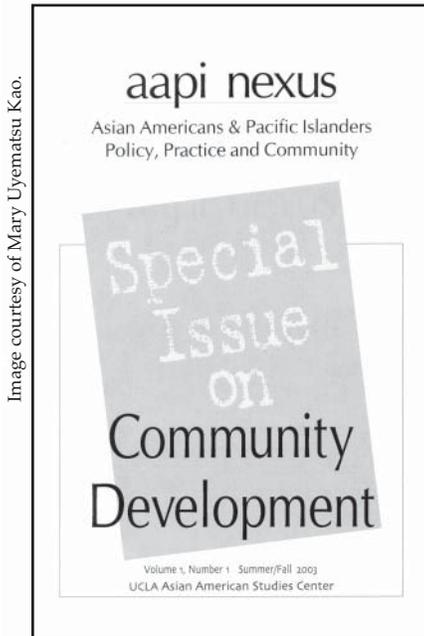
The theme of the first issue of *Nexus* is community development. This inaugural issue contains articles by: Kil Huh and Lisa Hasegawa, Dean S. Toji and Karen Umemoto, Melany dela Cruz and Loh-Sze Leung, Douglas Miller and Douglas Houston, and Grace Yoo, as well as a message from the editors, Paul Ong and Don Nakanishi.

Future issues will focus on civil rights, workforce development, youth at risk, health and public health, social welfare, and education.

The first issue of *Nexus* is complimentary to interested parties. To receive your copy of the first issue of *Nexus*, send a letter of inquiry, along with \$4 shipping and handling, to AAPI Nexus, UCLA Asian American Studies Center, 3230 Campbell Hall, Box 951546, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1546. Email inquiries for subscriptions should be directed to Thao Cha at [thaocha@ucla.edu](mailto:thaocha@ucla.edu).

One-year individual subscriptions to *Nexus* are \$25 (plus 8.25% tax for CA residents), and institutional subscriptions are \$55 (foreign residents add \$12). Send a check made payable to "UC REGENTS" to the above address. We also accept Visa, Mastercard, and Discover. For credit card orders, be sure to include the expiration date and a phone number, as well as your signature.

Please refer to page 15 for guidelines on how to submit articles to *Nexus*.



## Center Publishes New Voices of Vietnamese American Generations

*Amerasia Journal* 29:1 (2003), edited by Professor Linda Vo of UC Irvine, focuses on "Vietnamese Americans: Diaspora & Dimensions." Over twenty articles by a new generation of Vietnamese and American scholars and writers examine the Vietnamese who live in the U.S. and their complex connections to Vietnam. The writers take different approaches to looking at the Vietnamese American experience—including education, economics, ethnic studies, history, literature, political science, public health, religion, and sociology. According to Vo, "Vietnam is marked by 1,000 years of invasion by the Chinese, followed by 300 years of French

colonialism, Japanese occupation during WWII, attempts at French recolonization, and a decade of direct U.S. intervention. In the post-war years, Vietnam has been shaped by countries with socialist regimes."

Writers, activists, and artists within this special issue address such issues as women's health, gender relations, marriage, and culture. Articles go beyond the "survival and silence" of the Vietnam war years and ask important questions about changes within the Vietnamese communities in the U.S. Prof. Vo states: "Although the majority of our population is first-generation, we can now speak about 1.5, second, and even a third generation of Vietnamese Americans."

Each generation of Vietnamese is forging new diasporic, transnational connections between the U.S. and Vietnam. The concept "diasporic" as it applies to Vietnamese outside Vietnam includes many of the following features: territorial/political connections; economic and trade relationships; remittances; immigrant and labor migrations; and cultural and ethnic identification with a homeland.

For example, in her essay, Tran Ngoc

Angie explores the linkages between Vietnamese workers in the U.S. electronic industry and Vietnamese workers in the garment industry in Vietnam. Her study compares labor conditions in factories and homes of male and female workers.

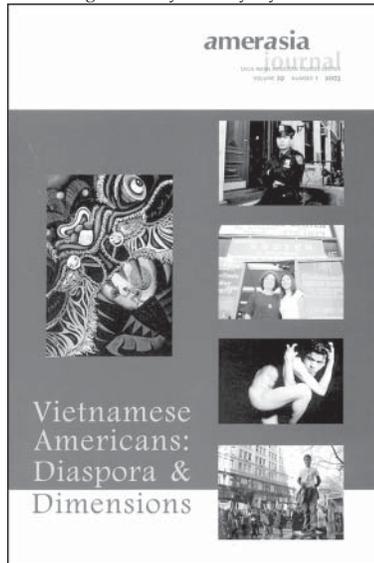
While some immigrants experience mobility, others experience similar forms of exploitation both within Vietnam and in the U.S. Other articles explore transnational linkages in the Vietnamese music industry, in literature, and in politics. In the literary section, chaplain, artist, and poet Phuc Luu writes about his pilgrimage—from the time his family left Saigon in 1974 to their arrival in Morgantown, West Virginia, to his current life in Houston, Texas. His

journey remains a constant struggle to transcend the cultural trappings imposed by others and to seek new voices in the spiritual wilderness of America.

Contributors include: Linda Vo, Mong-Lan, Tran Ngoc Angie, Kieu Linh Caroline Valverde, Hung Cam Thai, Thien Bao-Phi, Karin Aguilar-San Juan, Lan Duong, Gina Masequesmay, Vu Pham, Dorothy B. Fujita-Rony and Anne Frank, Mariam Beevi, James C. Lam and Michael Matsuda, Viet Mike Ngo, Tu-Uyen Nguyen, Marjorie Kagawa-Singer, Sora Park Tanjasiri and Mary Anne Foo, Christian Collet and Nadine Selden, Viet Le, Isabelle Thuy Pelaud, Brandy Lien Worrall, Phuc Luu, and Michele Janette.

"Vietnamese Americans" is available for \$13.00, plus \$4.00 shipping and handling; California residents add 8.25% tax. Please make checks payable to "UC REGENTS" and send payment to UCLA Asian American Studies Center Press, 3230 Campbell Hall, Box 951546, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1546. We also accept Visa, Mastercard, and Discover; include expiration date and phone number on correspondence. For order inquiries or review copies for media or classroom use, email thaocha@ucla.edu or call (310) 825-2968.

Image courtesy of Mary Uyematsu Kao.



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**Editor's Note:** At 5:30 p.m. on August 29, 2003, I closed up shop in my office at the Asian American Studies Center, with one more page of *CrossCurrents* to be finished. I figured I would finish working on this issue over the weekend and have it off to the printers the following week. However, that was not to be, as I later went into labor that night, and the next evening, my partner Henry and I brought into the world a brand spanking new Asian American/Canadian girl. Needless to say, Chloe Dao-Phuong Worrall Yu required my attention much more than *CrossCurrents*, hence the belated nature of this issue. Yet, this baby was also born, and now you, our readers, hold it in your hands. Please forgive the tardiness—I trust you'll take good care of it anyway.

—Brandy Lien Worrall



Chloe "Bean" and Auntie Irene

*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*.

For information on how to submit articles, announcements, images, and so forth to *CrossCurrents*, contact the editor at brandy22@ucla.edu

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

## Ethnic Studies Centers Hold Town Hall Meeting to Introduce Faculty Diversity Initiative



The four Ethnic Studies Directors—Don Nakanishi (AASC), Hanay Geiogamah (AISC), Darnell Hunt (CAAS), and Darnell Hunt (CSRC)—publicly discuss the Faculty Diversity Initiative.

FEBRUARY 18—THE ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER, THE Chicano Studies Research Center, the American Indian Studies Center and the Center for African American Studies held a public town hall meeting to discuss a new initiative put forth that would increase the number of UCLA faculty members who conduct research, teaching, and professional service in relation to African Americans, American Indians, Asian Americans, and Chicanos. The “UCLA Faculty Diversity Initiative” was developed by the four ethnic studies centers in consultation with faculty, students, staff, community leaders, alumni, and elected officials. Community leaders, students, faculty, and many others interested in and supportive of this initiative showed up at the informational meeting, which was followed by a brief q&a session.

The following are some excerpts from the initiative. The full text, along with more information, can be found at <http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/aasc/fdi/>

The four ethnic studies research centers at UCLA propose a new initiative that will make UCLA the preeminent university in the nation with respect to ethnic studies scholarship, community-based research and public service in underserved communities, and faculty diversity. Despite the state budget crisis, there exists a unique opportunity to expand ethnic studies research capacity, diversify the university curriculum, and increase employment opportunity. These steps are crucial if UCLA is to fulfill its public mission and to keep step with the significant demographic changes taking place in California.

This proposal has been developed in response to serious concerns about the need for UCLA and the UC system to be more responsive to the state’s underserved communities. These concerns have been voiced by our

various constituencies: faculty, students, alumni, elected officials, and community leaders. This proposal is based on extensive consultation with these constituencies. It is meant to complement UCLA Chancellor Carnesale’s creation of two new Vice Chancellor positions aimed at community partnerships (UCLA in LA) and faculty diversity, and UC President Atkinson’s Faculty Recruitment Initiative.

While important efforts, goals and guidelines have been outlined over the last decade, a simple fact remains: without a critical mass of faculty whose research advances the understanding of the state’s diversity, UCLA and other UC campuses will fail to provide an intellectual environment that can attract, nurture, and prepare *all* students for the new century. Such a critical mass would be a crucial resource for undergraduate outreach and retention, and it would begin to address the current disparities in research capacity, graduate enrollments, and faculty hiring.

If UCLA is to remain competitive as a world-class research institution, it must allocate sufficient resources in order to develop its research and teaching capacity related to ethnic studies, underserved communities, and the state’s diversity. This initiative proposes augmenting support for the ethnic studies Organized Research Units (ORUs) in order to expand their campus-wide contributions to research and teaching. In this way, UCLA can ensure academic excellence across the entire campus (rather than within one unit). We also identify two additional areas requiring attention and resource allocation in order to ensure a comprehensive approach. While this proposal addresses the specific situation at UCLA, we feel that it can provide a model for the UC system during a period of combined enrollment growth and budget cuts.

### BACKGROUND

By the end of the decade, student enrollments in the University of California System will increase by 50,000 to 60,000, driven in large part by the growing diversity in the state population. This increase will require roughly 2,500 to 3,000 new faculty positions (FTE) over the same time period. UCLA is slated to increase student enrollment by 4,000 — an increase that will generate at least 200 new FTE. This increase in FTE represents a silver lining in the state budget crisis now affecting the University of California. With thoughtful allocation of these resources, both UCLA and the UC system can actually increase its ability to address the specific needs of the state population.

The increase in student enrollment reflects the changing demographics for the state, wherein minority groups now make up over 53 percent of the general population, but account for a much larger percentage

*(Continued on next page.)*

(Faculty Diversity Initiative, continued from previous page.)

of the student-age population. Latinos alone account for nearly 50 percent of children now entering the California school system (and 61 percent in Los Angeles).

The 2000 Census Data and UCOP data on faculty and student composition (June 2002) reveal not only the increasing diversity of the student body, but a growing disparity in terms of access to and employment within higher education. While minority groups combined constitute 64 percent of college-age adults, they represent 53.6 percent of the UC undergraduate enrollments (a 10.4 percent drop in levels of representation), and 37 percent of graduate enrollments (a 27 percent drop in levels of representation). This situation is starkest for Chicanos and Latinos, who comprise 43 percent of college-age adults, but just 13 percent of UC undergraduates, and 9 percent of UC graduates.

For faculty, the disparities are even more dramatic, with minority groups comprising just 19.1 percent of UC ladder-rank faculty, less than half their representation within the California workforce.

In response to these growing disparities, UC President Atkinson announced a "Faculty Recruitment Initiative" on January 3, 2001. He explained:

The University of California must meet the challenge of serving a state that is growing in ethnic diversity and struggling with disparities in economic and educational opportunity. Continued academic excellence will require increased attention to issues such as multiculturalism, economic opportunity, and educational equity to ensure that they are reflected strongly in the University's teaching, curriculum, and research.

The initiative addressed what President Atkinson called the "need for the University of California to recruit a faculty that will meet the expanding demands of the State of California in the new century." That pilot program is now in its final year. ❖

### Center Holds Release Party for *New Face*

MARCH 8—The Center held a national press conference and kick-off forum for the release of *The New Face of Asian Pacific America: Numbers Diversity and Change in the 21st Century*. Complimentary copies were given out to the hundreds who attended the event.

Co-editors Eric Lai, formerly of *Asianweek*, Dennis Arguelles, Assistant Director at the Center, and a number of contributors to the book participated. More information on the book can be found at [www.sscnet.ucla.edu/aasc](http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/aasc).

The book is available for \$35 plus \$4 shipping and handling (CA residents, add 8.25% tax). For order inquiries, email Thao Cha at [thaocha@ucla.edu](mailto:thaocha@ucla.edu).

### Center Holds First Annual Conference on Health in AAPI Communities

MAY 24—The Center sponsored "Myth or Model: Health in Asian American and Pacific Islander Communities," a conference organized by Professors Marjorie Kagawa-Singer and Ninez Ponce of UCLA School of Public Health and the Center Faculty Advisory Committee.

The health problems of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) groups have been largely unacknowledged and understudied by mainstream health studies. Consequently, a myth has circulated that AAPI groups exhibit model health status in comparison to other ethnic groups.

In disaggregating the data of AAPI health to the various subgroups, researchers have recently been able to determine various health problems that have had significant bearing in the AAPI communities. The conference explored the major health problems affecting AAPI communities, spread awareness of AAPI health issues, and highlighted the efforts of community groups to meet those needs as well as indicate areas for further research and advocacy.

After an introduction by Professors Kagawa-Singer and Ponce, as well as Professor Paul Ong, various discussions on AAPI health followed. Conference participants included Kazue Shibata, Executive Director of the Asian Pacific Health Care Venture; Keh-Ming Lin, MD, MPH, Professor of Psychiatry for UCLA Harbor County Hospital; Timothy Pan, MD, Clinical Instructor, UCLA Department of Medicine: Center for East-West Medicine; Sora Park Tanjasiri, Dr.P.H., Associate Researcher, School of Social Ecology, UC Irvine; Steven Han, M.D. UCLA School of Medicine, Liver Transplant Service; Keynote Speaker David Takeuchi, Ph.D., Associate Dean for Research, University of Washington, School of Social Work; Mona Roy, MD, USC Keck School of Medicine; APHC, Lotus Loo; APAMSA, Mymy Buu; PATH, Mary Anne Foo, MPH; HAPAS, David Yim, MPH, AANCART LA, Koy Parada; Ford Kuramoto, DSW, Executive Director, National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse; and Jeff Dang, MPH and Koy Parada, MPH, PhD UCLA-School of Public Health.



Center Director Don Nakanishi presents Professor Jim Lubben with a plaque for his years of service as Faculty Advisory Committee Chair.

## Center Co-Sponsors Asian Pacific American Community Research Roundtable

FEBRUARY 28—The Center co-sponsored the Asian Pacific American Community Research Roundtable (APACRR), which was initiated in 1989 by the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council, a consortium of more than forty Asian and Pacific Islander social service and advocacy organizations in greater Los Angeles, and the UCLA Asian American Studies Center. Since the roundtable's beginnings, several other campuses and community organizations have joined the partnership between community service organizations and local institutions of higher learning. Other community and public agencies like the U.S. Census Bureau and the L.A. County Human Relations Commission have also actively contributed to past APACRR conferences.

After a welcome by Center Assistant Director Dennis Arguelles, Associate Vice Chancellor of Community Partnerships Frank Gilliam, and Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council President Ford Kuramoto, the day's events included a presentation on Census 2000, a health and welfare roundtable, and numerous concurrent workshops such as "Redistricting 2000-2003: Asian Pacific Americans in California and New York," "Sharing Federal Initiatives with Limited English Proficient Asian and Pacific Islander Communities," and "Immigrants and Smoking: Revealing the Hidden Heterogeneity in Smoking Prevalence Rates."

The main purpose of the APACRR is to encourage campus and community collaboration for research and resources. Many community organizations have difficulty conducting research themselves or accessing university resources. Likewise, this collaboration is critical to helping universities fulfill their public mission. The APACRR brings together researchers, students, and community-based organizations to identify research needs, share research findings, and generate interest in community-based research.

## Center Continues Pacific Islander Colloquium Series

MARCH 17—Prof. Kehaulani Kauanui of Wesleyan University gave a talk about "Asian American Studies and the 'Pacific Question'" as part of the Center's Pacific Islander Colloquium Series. Prof. Kauanui is one of the most articulate voices questioning the uncritical use of the term "Pacific" in designations of "Asian Pacific American Studies," and her talk continued a conversation initiated in the Fall quarter with the visit of Prof. Amy Ku'uleialoha Stillman, who opened the workshop's series theme about the question of "Putting the 'Pacific' in Asian American Studies."

## Prof. Min Zhou Gives Talk on Contemporary Female Immigration

APRIL 22—Min Zhou, Professor of Sociology and Asian American Studies, and chair of the Center's Interdepartmental Degree Program (IDP), presented "Contemporary Female Immigration to the United States: A Demographic Profile" at the UCLA Center for the Study of Women. The talk was part of the Feminist Research Seminar, and co-sponsored by the Sociology department. Prof. Zhou is the author of *Chinatown: The Socioeconomic Potential of an Urban Enclave* (Honorable Mention, 1993 Robert E. Park Award, Community of Urban Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association); co-author of *Growing up American: How Vietnamese Children Adapt to Life in the United States* (winner, 1999 Thomas and Znaniecki Award, International Migration Section of the ASA); and co-editor of *Contemporary Asian America: A Multidisciplinary Reader*.

## Center Co-Sponsors National Conference on AAPI Cancer Awareness

OCTOBER 24-25—The Center co-sponsored "Confluence of Culture and Science: Cancer in America's Asian Communities," the 4th Annual AANCART (The Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness Research and Training) Academy, in Los Angeles. Conference highlights included:

- ❖ A special focus on cancer-related lifestyle and survivorship issues in South Asian and Filipino American communities
- ❖ Cancer survivorship and community-based support groups
- ❖ Language access and health care services

AANCART is the first-ever national cancer prevention and control research initiative funded by the National Cancer Institute specifically targeting Asian Americans. Los Angeles AANCART, housed at UCLA, is led by Professors Roshan Bastani, Regional Principal Investigator, and Marjorie Kagawa-Singer, Co-Investigator, both of the Center Faculty Advisory Committee. The UCLA project is in its third year and collaborates with 11 community-based organizations in Los Angeles and Orange Counties.

## Center Co-Hosts 5th Annual National Leadership Academy for Elected Officials

MAY 8-11—The Center co-sponsored the National Leadership Academy for Elected Officials with the Asian Pacific Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS) in Washington, D.C. The leadership academy provides professional training to a group of Asian Pacific Americans from across the nation who have been elected to local or state offices, with the hope that they will someday seek Congressional or other elected positions. This fifth annual academy was funded by Verizon and Freddie Mac.

Some of the program sessions included management, fundraising, media relations, online campaigning, coalition building, and meeting with the Democratic and Republican National Committees. The participants met with the Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) David Wu and CAPAC Vice Chair Mike Honda, Congressman Bob Matsui, former Congressman Robert Underwood, and Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta.

The Leadership Academy participants include Democrats and Republicans of Korean, Japanese, Chinese, Vietnamese, Hmong, and South Asian descent from California, Hawaii, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, and New York. Four out of the ten participants were under the age of thirty-two years old.

The ten participants for 2003 were: Alice Lai-Bitker, Member, Alameda County Board of Supervisors, California; Vinh Cam, Representative, Town Meeting, District 10, Greenwich, Connecticut; Franklin J. Chu, Councilmember, City of Rye, New York; Allen Co, Councilmember, So. El Monte, California; Hoon-Yung Hopgood, Representative, State House of Representatives, Michigan; George K. James, Councilmember, Borough of Westwood, New Jersey; Barbara Marumoto, Representative, State House of Representatives, Hawaii; Scott Nishimoto, Representative, State House of Representatives, Hawaii; Andy Quach, Councilmember, City of Westminster, California; and Cy Thao (DFL), Representative, State House of Representatives, Minnesota.

Center Director Don T. Nakanishi stated, "Asian Pacific Americans are striving to become more organized, more visible, and more effective as participants and leaders in order to advance—as well as to protect—their individual and group interests, and to contribute to our nation's democratic processes and institutions. We are pleased to be partnering with APAICS on this most worthwhile endeavor."

## Professor Mitch Chang Receives Tenure

The Center is very proud to announce that Prof. Mitchell Chang has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure at UCLA's Graduate School of Education and Information Studies. An active member of the Center's Faculty Advisory Committee and former Book Review Editor of *Amerasia Journal*, Prof. Chang is one of the nation's leading experts on issues dealing with diversity in higher education.

His rigorous, empirically based writings have appeared in the most influential scholarly and policy journals in the field of higher educational research, and have had a substantial impact on the national debate and legal deliberations dealing with affirmative action. His most recent book (with Witt, D., Jones, J., & Hakuta, K.) *COMPELLING INTEREST: Examining the Evidence on Racial Dynamics in Colleges and Universities* (Stanford University Press, 2002) was cited in the majority opinion written by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra D. O'Connor in the recent *Grutter v. Bollinger* (University of Michigan Law School) decision. Prof. Chang has also received numerous academic accolades, including the Outstanding Outcomes Assessment Research Award by the American College Personnel Association (2000) and National Academy of Education/Spencer Fellowship (2001).



Professor Mitchell Chang.

Prior to coming to UCLA in 1999, Prof. Chang held positions at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, Stanford University, and Loyola Marymount University. He received his

Ph.D. from UCLA, M.A. from Harvard University, and B.A. from UC Santa Barbara.

For more information about Prof. Chang's research interests and professional career, please see: <http://www.gseis.ucla.edu/faculty/chang/default.html>

## Other Faculty News

Paul Ong of Urban Planning has agreed to become the Chair of the Center's Faculty Advisory Committee. Bob Nakamura of Film and Television continues as the Associate Director of the Center, and Don Nakanishi has also been reappointed as the Center's Director.

Min Zhou of Sociology continues as Chair of the IDP, with new Vice Chair Jinqi Ling of English and new Undergraduate Advisor Thu-Huong Nguyen-Vo of East Asian Languages and Cultures.

## Center Co-Sponsors Conference on Indian Diaspora

MAY 2-3—The Center, along with the Asian American Studies Graduate Student Association (AASGSA) and the ASUCLA Waiver Pool, co-sponsored "The Indian Diaspora and Its Cultural Politics," a two-day conference organized by Professor Vinay Lal of the UCLA History Department and the Center Faculty Advisory Committee.



Prof. Vinay Lal, conference organizer.

The conference announcement stated, "The Indian population in the United States has witnessed a tremendous growth since 1965, and the global Indian diaspora has now become an important part of world culture. There are now 1.8 million Indians residing in the United States, and in countries as diverse as Fiji, Mauritius, Trinidad, South Africa, and Malaysia, Indians account for a significant portion of the population, even, in some cases, constituting the majority of the population. Though many commentators have spoken of the globalization of India, others prefer to call attention to the Indianization of the globe, pointing to India's export of its samosas, gurus, sitar music, even beauty queens. Bollywood, always popular in the Middle East, North and East Africa, Russia, and elsewhere, is now becoming globally known. This conference is dedicated, in particular, to the exploration of the cultural politics of the Indian diaspora, and though the bulk of the papers will be riveted on the Indian diaspora in the U.S., it is hoped that some of the insights might be instructive in understanding the complexity of the diaspora worldwide. How are questions of race and color negotiated? How are the animosities of the Indian sub-continent reflected in the diaspora, and what are the anxieties of a largely middle-class, professional Indian diaspora in the U.S.? Do notions of Indian 'culture' get reified, contested, transmuted, and in what ways? Does the Indian nation-state live in its diaspora as well, does it indeed receive succor from the diaspora, or can the diaspora become a site from where the politics of the nation-state can be productively challenged? These are some of the many questions that will be explored in this two-day conference. There will also be poetry and fiction readings on both evenings."

Conference participants included Susan Koshy (UC-Santa Barbara), Inderpal Grewal (UC-Irvine), R. Radhakrishnan (University of Massachusetts-Amherst), Sudesh Mishra (Deakin University, Melbourne), Kirin Narayan (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Amitava Kumar (Penn State), Ravi Rajan (UC-Santa Cruz), and Ketu Katrak (UC-Irvine).

## Center Post-Doc Eliza Noh Shares Research on Suicide in AA Communities at Two Events

On April 24, Dr. Eliza Noh, the 2002-2003 Institute of American Cultures (IAC) Post Doctoral Fellow with the Center, presented "Asian American Women and Suicide: Influences of Racism and Sexism in Subjectification." Dr. Noh's research takes a politicized approach to the study of suicide by investigating how racism and sexism within U.S. society and culture intimately influence the ostensibly personal realms of family, school, work and community. She argues that suicides represent a collective psychic experience of racialization and gender among Asian American women. Dr. Noh calls for a new understanding of Asian American women's suicides that moves beyond the level of individual pathology and toward framing suicides as consequences of a social psychopathology of daily racism and sexism.

On May 30, Dr. Noh also organized, along with Nandini Gunewardena of the UCLA Department of Anthropology and International Development Studies, a conference entitled, "Suicide, Gender, Race, & Ethnicity in Contemporary Society." This conference was co-sponsored by the Center, the American Indian Studies Center, Department of Social Welfare, Women's Studies Program, Center for the Study of Women, and Department of Anthropology.

The conference examined the incidence of suicide in the Native American, African American, Asian American and Latino communities, the underlying motivations, socio-structural, socio-economic, and contextual factors that may precipitate suicide among given populations, and explored the efficacy of interventions that are in place to arrest the tide of suicide.

In addition to the conference organizers, conference participants included Sean Joe (School of Social Work, University of Pennsylvania), Teresa LaFromboise (School of Education, Stanford University), Antonio Polo (Psychology, UCLA), and Annalisa Enrile (Social Welfare, UCLA).

Dr. Noh received her Ph.D. in Ethnic Studies from the University of California, Berkeley and B.A. from Columbia University. She did her dissertation on influences of racism and sexism on suicide among Asian American women. Her publications include "Amazing Grace, Come Sit on My Face: Or, Ecumenical Representations of the Asian Sex Tour Industry" and the forthcoming "Problematics of Transnational Feminism for Asian American Women." Dr. Noh joined the faculty at California State University, Fullerton in Fall 2004.

Visit <http://www.bol.ucla.edu/~lonakwan>, a website featuring Asian American labor activists in Los Angeles, developed by students in a labor class taught by Professor Kent Wong in Spring Quarter 2003.

## **“Enemy Alien Files” Exhibit Documents Immigrant Treatment During WWII**

MAY 18—The Center and the UCLA Powell Library, in conjunction with numerous other community organizations, presented, “The Enemy Alien Files: Hidden Stories of World War II,” a photo and artifact exhibit documenting treatment by the U.S. Government toward Japanese, German and Italian immigrants in the U.S. and in Latin America during World War II. The opening ceremony’s keynote speaker was Hon. George Nakano of the California State Assembly. The exhibit was produced by the Enemy Alien Files Consortium (National Japanese American Historical Society, Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project, American Italian Historical Association-Western Regional Chapter, German American Education Fund, and American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee-San Francisco).

The Introduction to the groundbreaking exhibit stated: “An attack on America—fear, fury and calls for retaliation run rampant. The time is not September 11, 2001, but December 7, 1941, when the United States entered World War II. The exhibit ‘The Enemy Alien Files’ illuminates disturbing parallels with post 9/11 experiences in Arab, Moslem and South Asian communities all over the U.S. The exhibit examines the treatment of “enemy alien” immigrants during World War II.

“Today, American citizens, residents and visitors of Middle Eastern and South Asian ancestry are targets of suspicion and harassment solely because of their ethnic origin. Sixty years ago, thousands of Japanese, German and Italian immigrants in the U.S. and Latin America experienced arrest, forced relocation, internment and even deportation to war zones solely because of their nationality. The exhibit combines rare photographs, oral history excerpts, documents and artifacts to explore how wartime fears, anti-immigrant attitudes and racism affected men, women and children against whom no charges of wrong-doing were ever brought.”

The exhibit ran from May 16-June 27, 2003.

## **Center Co-Hosts Event on Korematsu Case**

MAY 22—The Center, Asian Pacific American Bar Association, and the Asian Pacific American Legal Center co-sponsored “Lessons Learned? From the Japanese American Internment to Today,” a special program featuring UCLA Law Professor Jerry Kang of the Center Faculty Advisory Committee and journalist/alumna Tritia Toyota, who moderated the event, which was held at the Japanese American National Museum. The program included a screening of *Of Civil Rights & Wrongs—the Fred Korematsu Story*, followed by a panel discussion with Dale Minami (Partner, Minami, Lew & Tamaki, LLP and Attorney for Fred Korematsu on the Coram Nobis petition), Bill Lann Lee (Partner, Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein and former Assistant U.S. Attorney for Civil Rights), Jerry Kang, and Ban Al-Wardi (Chapter President, Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee).

## **Asian American Studies Center Student Organization Sponsorships, 2003-2004**

### **Asian American Multimedia Productions**

info@asianfetishonline.com,

<http://www.asianfetishonline.com>

### **Asian American Studies Graduate Students Association**

aasgsa@ucla.edu

### **Asian Pacific Coalition**

apc@ucla.edu, <http://www.studentgroups.ucla.edu/apc>

### **Association of Chinese Americans**

aca@ucla.edu, <http://www.acabruins.com>

### **Association of Hmong Students**

hmong@ucla.edu

### **Bhangra Team**

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### **Concerned Asian Pacific Students for Action**

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<http://www.studentgroups.ucla.edu/capsa>

### **Han Ool Lim/Korean Cultural Awareness Group**

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### **Hindi Film Dance Team**

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### **Sikh Student Association**

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### **Taiwanese American Union**

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### **Thai Smakom**

thaismak@ucla.edu, <http://www.bol.ucla.edu/~thaismak>

### **United Cambodian Students**

ucs@ucla.edu, <http://www.studentgroups.ucla.edu/ucs>

## EthnoCom Holds 7th Annual Film Festival

MARCH 20—The Center for Ethnocommunications held its annual film festival, featuring eleven student documentaries created in the EthnoCommunications II class. The documentaries raised current issues and conditions within Asian Pacific Islander communities, such as “the current youth movement against the war on Iraq, two pioneer Asian American women DJ’s in New York, a South Asian family-run motel in South Central Los Angeles, and an un-authentic Chinese restaurant run by an authentic Chinese family in Eugene, Oregon.” The screening was held in Royce Hall.

## United Cambodian Students Group Presents 6th Annual Culture Show

APRIL 26—UCLA’s United Cambodian Students celebrated its sixth annual culture show, “Dok Champa: Flower of Hope,” in the Northwest Auditorium. “Set around the Golden Age of Khmer civilization, the show is about a free-spirited young prince of Cambodia and a Cham girl, whose love for one another is undermined by the ensuing war between their kingdoms. In the end these two characters will discover that the key to their own survival is hope.” The show also featured a mixture of music, martial arts, and cultural dances. For more information about United Cambodian Students, visit <http://www.studentgroups.ucla.edu/ucs>

## CAPSA Opens Verbal “Eyes”

MAY 19—UCLA’s Concerned Asian Pacific-Islander Students for Action (CAPSA) presented *Verbal “Eyes”: asian pacific islander voices of resistance*, a night of spoken word, hip hop, and performances by conscious API artists, featuring D-Lo, Balagtasan Collective, Jupitersciples, Zero 3, JonEric Concordia, Miwa Lyric, Aesthetics, and others. Verbal “Eyes,” held in Ackerman Union, was the opening event for A.P. “EYES”: The Art of War, a multimedia art exhibit examining the Asian and Pacific Islander experience in relation to war. The exhibit was held in the Kerckhoff Art Gallery.

## AASGSA Gets Subversed

MAY 20—The Asian American Studies Graduate Students Association (AASGSA) continued its annual reading series, *Subverses*, with “Letters to M.E.,” a night of Middle Eastern American performance, passion, and personal narratives. The event consisted of performances and a discussion with a group of talented artists who confront issues facing our communities at large and challenge our notions of Middle Eastern/American identity. The event was held in Royce Hall.

## Center Bids Farewell to Workstudy Students



Graduating workstudy students (from left to right): Sharon Park, Jennifer Her, Joyce Cho, and Ju Cho. Missing from picture are Sang Trinh and Tad Nakamura.

The Center could not operate without its trusty workstudy students, many of whom remain with us throughout their entire undergraduate careers. This summer, we sadly said goodbye to six of those students, who passed through our doors to walk boldly into their bright futures!

JU CHO, who has been with the Center’s Publications unit for two years, graduated with a B.A. in history, as did JOYCE CHO, who greeted guests at the front desk.

JENNIFER HER, a workstudy student for two years with Student and Community Projects, graduated with a B.A. in Asian American Studies. She has provided great leadership for the UCLA Association of Hmong Students.

TAD NAKAMURA offered his help in EthnoCom and graduated with a degree in Asian American Studies.

SHARON PARK toiled away under the wing of webmaster Tam Nguyen while earning her bachelor’s in economics. Finally, SANG TRINH, who worked in the Reading Room for four years, graduated with a bachelor’s in business and economics.

The Center wishes the graduating workstudy students the best of luck in all their careers and thanks them for their invaluable time and smiling faces!



Authors Glenn Omatsu, Merilynne Hamano Quon, Ryan Yokota, and Prosy dela Cruz greeted customers and signed copies of *Asian Americans: The Movement and the Moment* (UCLA Asian American Studies Center Press, 2001) at the first annual “Meet & Greet the Authors Book Sale” held at the Center on May 28, 2003.

## APIG Celebrates 21 Years of Community Achievements

On June 15, 2003, the 21st annual Asian and Pacific Islander Graduation ceremony was held on Dickson Court. Hundreds came out to celebrate the accomplishments of Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, as the ceremony's theme was "Deep Roots: Standing United, Growing Together." The program consisted of various cultural performances, as well as messages from faculty speakers Vinay Lal and Henry Yu and keynote speaker, activist Yuri Kochiyama. Here are some photo highlights from the program, courtesy of Meg Malpaya Thornton.



Kyodo Taiko performs for the opening of the ceremony.



Mee Xiong performs a traditional Hmong dance.



Activist Yuri Kochiyama gives an inspiring keynote address.

The Center would like to congratulate the Asian American Studies M.A. Class of 2003 on all their fine achievements. The commencement ceremony was held on June 14, 2003 in Korn Hall. Professor Min Zhou welcomed the attendees and graduates, Glenn Omatsu was a special guest speaker, and Professor Valerie Matsumoto was the faculty speaker. Good luck to all the graduates!

## 2003-2004 Center Fellowship, Prize, & Scholarship Awardees

*The Center again thanks its many generous and committed donors and supporters who have endowed and funded these Center awards for UCLA students.*

### GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

- Dr. Paul and Hisako Terasaki Fellowship (\$ 5,000)  
*Elena S. Bovetti*
- Rose Eng Chin & Helen Wong Eng Fellowship (\$1,500)  
*Roger Chung*
- Union Bank Fellowship (\$2,500)  
*Kia Cha*
- Tritia Toyota Graduate Fellowship (\$1,500)  
*Sandra Y. Chen*
- 21st Century Graduate Fellowships (\$2,000 each)  
*Phuong N. Tang and Jennifer Wang*
- George and Sakaye Aratani Fellowship (\$5,000 each)  
*Todd Honma, Christen T. Sasaki, and Takao Suzuki*

### ACADEMIC PRIZES FOR GRADUATES

- Rose Eng Chin & Helen Wong Eng Prize (\$250)  
*Phuong N. Tang*
- Philip Vera Cruz Memorial Prize (\$250)  
*Jennifer Wang*

### ACADEMIC PRIZES FOR UNDERGRADUATES

- Rose Eng Chin & Helen Wong Eng Prize (\$250)  
*Tina Ann Nguyen*
- Tsugio & Miyoko Nakanishi Prize in Asian American Literature & Culture (\$250)  
*Annie M. Ishihara*
- Wei-Lim Lee Memorial Prize (\$250)  
*Wendy YC Wang*
- Philip Vera Cruz Memorial Prize (\$250)  
*Darryl Z. Molina*
- Ben & Alice Hirano Academic Prize (\$250)  
*Nicole K. Yamada*
- Royal Morales Prize in Pilipino American Studies (\$250)  
*Jennifer R. Javier*

### UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS, INTERNSHIPS AND RESEARCH GRANTS

- Morgan & Helen Chu Outstanding Scholar Awards (\$1,000)  
*Tina Y. Kao*
- Angie Kwon Memorial Scholarships (\$1,000)  
*Sun Y. Park, Sengfow Saelee, Lina Taing, John T. Vu*
- 21st Century Undergraduate Scholarships (\$2,000)  
*Susan Park, Ursulaann Siataga*
- Union Bank Scholarship (\$2,500)  
*Kenta Nakamura*
- Toshio & Chiyoko Hoshide Scholarships (\$2,000 each)  
*Annie M. Ishihara and Lauren Watanabe*
- Reiko Uyeshima & Family Scholarships (\$2,000 each)  
*Angela M. Sung, Alexander C. Wen, and Stacy Yamaoka*
- Chidori Aiso Memorial Scholarships (\$2,000 each)  
*Karyn R. Okada and Monica Seya*

## Center Welcomes Aboard Two New Smiling Faces



Jaya Vaswani and Sheila Davis make sure the Center's operations run smoothly and effectively.

The Center is pleased to introduce two new faces: SHEILA DAVIS and JAYA VASWANI. Sheila and Jaya joined our team only a few months ago.

Our new Management Services Officer (MSO), Sheila Davis, was born in Los Angeles and was raised in Inglewood. Her main responsibilities are the Financial and Administrative operations at the Center. Sheila is a veteran to the UCLA campus, as she has been employed at UCLA in various departments over thirteen years. So far, she has really enjoyed her time at the Center, as she states, "I find the staff and faculty to be nurturing and appreciative, and that means a lot to me."

Sheila's hobbies include "learning and experiencing other cultures, i.e., the food, the people, and the customs. I also love Reggae music and other music from the Caribbean. I have promoted many events related to this passion of mine. This falls right in line with my love of various cultures." As far as career goals, "I have given some thought to going back to school to become a cultural anthropologist."

Sheila feels good about her role at the Center: "I feel very positive about my association with Asian American Studies, and I know that it is going to have a positive effect on my personal and professional growth."

Jaya Vaswani, the Center's new Office Manager, was born in India, in Jaipur (also called the Pink City of India), and she grew up in Bombay. Her main duties are taking care of Purchasing and Accounts Payable, Payroll and Personal Services, making sure everyone receives a paycheck on time, and supervising the front desk and customer service. Jaya has enjoyed her first three months at the Center: "I heard a lot of good things about the Center before I came here, such as that it is the biggest Asian American Studies Center. I really like the people and the mission behind the Center, where it

reaches out to Asian Americans and teaches students their values and cultures."

Jaya likes to travel, as she has family members living in different parts of the world, such as Hong Kong, Saudi Arabia, U.A.E., West Africa, the Caribbean, Canada, and back home in India. She says, "I enjoy reading, and I would like to have my own business in import/export which will involve travel." Her other personal goals involve her children: "I have two kids, ages 15 and 11, and both of them were born here. As parents, my husband and I would like to impart the best of the values, culture, and the religion that we were given by our parents in India so that not only they grow up to be good U.S. citizens but great Asian American citizens too."

Here at the Center, Jaya's goals are: "To be a good Office Manager, and have operations and customer services run smoothly; be a good team player, so that people here are not only happy with my work, but proud to have me in their office."

Photograph courtesy of Meg Malpaya Thornton.



The Asian Pacific Coalition (APC) is pleased to announce their newly elected officers for 2003-2004. These dedicated students will be serving the numerous Asian American and Pacific Islander student organizations for the upcoming school year. First Row: Director Lizzie Cajayon. Second Row (from left to right): Financial Support Coordinator Starsky Cheng, Community Outreach Coordinator Sharon Hing, Assistant Director of Internal Relations Julie Chang, and Outreach & Publicity Coordinator Tatiana Kwok. Back Row (from left to right): Assistant Director of External Relations Satomi Ziegler and Programmer Yui Yamamoto.

## A Virtual Interview with JENNIFER TSENG, M.A. Class of 1997

*Jennifer Tseng, a graduate of the UCLA Asian American Studies M.A. Program, is the recipient of a prestigious \$50,000 literary award given by A Room of Her Own Foundation. Ms. Tseng, a Los Angeles-based writer who was selected from a field of 441 women applicants to be the first recipient of this new "Gift of Freedom" award, will use the grant to finish her second book of poetry.*

*When were you a student in the M.A. program? What kind of work did you do during your time at the Center? With whom did you work?*

I came to the program in 1995 to do multiracial theory, but that claim evaporated as soon as I discovered that I had the freedom to do what I really wanted to do—write. With the support of my committee members David Wong Louie, Valerie Matsumoto and Paula Gunn Allen, I wrote a collection of poetry, fragments and stories for my thesis—the first creative thesis in the then twenty-five year history of the program.

Photograph by Erica Lee.



The Center's stance on theses was if you can find faculty support for your project, go to it. That was great for me. David was instrumental both as a creative inspiration and a whip cracker. He chatted for hours with me about my characters, we gossiped about them as if they were as real as you or me. Valerie, who is both a respected historian and a creative writer, argued my case to the public policy

folks who tended to want me to write two theses—a creative thesis as well as a quantitative description of it, complete with charts, graphs, statistics, demographic data, etc. Valerie did the work of legitimizing my project, which I myself was not equipped nor qualified to do. I was also fortunate to work with writer Paula Gunn Allen. Often there were things I thought I was experimenting with, things that hadn't yet been done in Asian American literature, and she would show me that they had already been done in Native American literature. Paula was acutely aware of her literature's history and was quite generous in sharing what she knew. She was very innovative; she was a visionary.

*What were some of the milestones in terms of your development as a writer after completing your M.A.? How did the program help in those achievements?*

Some milestones for me since graduation have been finish-

ing my first collection of poetry *The Man With My Face*, finishing a draft of my first novel *Woo*, being a fellow at the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, and becoming a teacher. My M.A. thesis was the first long project I had ever worked on. For almost two years, I wrote from 9-12 five days a week, sometimes on the weekends, and then one day I was finished. That experience of daily writing taught me about my own work habits, my own capacity to work. The sense it gave me of myself as a serious, working writer was crucial in writing the books I went on to write; it made my stay at the Fine Arts Work Center more productive than it may have been otherwise. It put me in the habit of focus, in the habit of managing my time, placing my work first.

The program has also given me teaching experience and for that I will always be grateful. I taught "Imagining History: Chinese American History from a Literary Perspective" the summer after I graduated and again four years later. These teaching experiences helped clarify my own desires and concerns as a teacher, and they made it possible for me to teach at other universities.

*What are you working on with your A Room of Her Own Foundation award? Can you talk specifically about what themes you tackle in your writing?*

The AROHO award is funding the writing of my second book of poems, tentatively titled "Dark Logic." Dark Logic refers to and legitimizes the "other" logic of the colored or dark person's mind. It insinuates a world that contains absurdity, a kind a twisted or dreaded logic, a world that is flawed but can be made sense of. Every poem in the book will try to reckon with such a world. The title invokes a logic that has been darkened or obscured, a kind of invisible justice that exists, transcending all the visible justice of the visible world. The book as a whole will attempt to access this invisible justice system, this other logic, darkened as it is from view.

More generally speaking, to create a poem is to create a world. I do so in order to engineer a logic of my own making, an arena in which records are set straight, confusions clarified, lost things found, strange doors opened. I like a poem to occupy that mysterious place between what is, and what can be, between present day world confinement and timeless world possibility.

*How do you use your experiences in the Asian American community in your writing? How do these inform your poetry?*

(Continued on next page.)

(Jennifer Tseng, continued from previous page.)

Being an Asian American woman and especially the daughter of a Chinese immigrant impacts my work immensely. The experience of growing up in a multiracial, immigrant household has prompted my interest in language, translation, race, culture, exile, immigration and nostalgia. Many of my poems explore these issues.

*Do you ever plan to do any more work at the Center, such as teaching or mentoring students?*

It has always been one of my dreams to teach a creative writing class at the Center. I have a class called "Life Writing: Reading and Writing Asian American Memoir" that I'd love to teach, in which students read memoirs by Asian Americans and then write about their own lives. I'd love to teach poetry; I love to mentor young poets—that's something I had the opportunity to this past spring as the Writer-in-Residence at Hampshire College. I'd love the chance to do something like that with Asian American students at UCLA.

*What are some of the issues facing Asian American poets and writers? Where do you fall in with the scope of Asian American poetry or where do you deviate from it?*

I hesitate to speak for other Asian American writers—we all come from such vastly different places and families. But I imagine most Asian American writers, especially those who are immigrants and/or those who retain ties with their immigrant relatives, all grapple with issues of language. The words we use to say something to one ear are often different than the words we use to say a similar thing to a different ear. Then too, what we whisper to one ear, we might never utter to another. How will this poem translate? Will it translate? If so, what will be lost? All these are concerns.

For some of us, there is still the task of rehabilitation. There is the age-old issue of the impracticality of being an artist, something that may or may not weigh more heavily on Asian American poets and writers. Whose Asian American parents dream their children as poets? Not mine. Typically, art is not what our parents and their parents before them crossed the ocean in search of. Though what a worthwhile journey that would be!

Your question about the scope of Asian American poetry and where I deviate from it is difficult to answer. I'm no Mei-Mei Berssenbrugge, but then few of us are. I deeply admire the work of Li-Young Lee, Lee Ann Roripaugh, and Marilyn Chin. I love the work of fiction writers David Wong Louie, Sigrid Nunez, Chang Rae Lee, Fay Myenne Ng and Louis Chu. I recently heard Monique Truong read from her novel *The Book of Salt* and it sounds fantastic—smart, funny, beautifully written.

*Have any Asian American organizations or workshops helped you in any way in developing your writing?*

The Snazzy Writer's Workshop (a group of queer API writers) was a great help to me in the mid-90s. I found important

readers there, readers whom I still work with today. The Asian American Writer's Workshop sponsored a reading of mine in the late 90s. That was the first time I'd ever flown somewhere for the sole purpose of giving a reading—very exciting—and the AAWW-affiliated APA journal will be publishing some of my work soon.

*The Center is celebrating its 35th anniversary in 2004. . . Do you have any thoughts on Asian American writing during the past 35 years and where it could go in the next 35 years?*

Thinking back to 1969, one can see why the program began as a very public policy-oriented one, growing as it did out of the civil rights movement. By 1969, very few literary works had been published by Asian Americans. Surely, for the first twenty-five years of the program, part of the concern about creative projects must have been where to place them in a larger context. Now that more and more Asian Americans are publishing, I hope that creative projects will have more legitimacy. At this point, no one can deny the larger literary context. As for the future of Asian American writing, especially at the Center, one can only hope that as the quantity of writers increases so will the quality of the work.

### Linda Mabalot, 1953-2003

In late May, Visual Communications lost someone very dear to us to lung cancer, former executive director Linda Mabalot. A close friend, mentor, and community leader, Linda devoted her life to Visual Communications' mission and supporting Asian Pacific American artists in every aspect. She believed wholeheartedly that through media, we could help relieve social ills and correct gross injustices by educating and sharing different points of view. And because of her worldly view of media, Visual Communications is today a full-service media arts center with programs in Education, Preservation, Production and Presentation.

To help keep her vision alive, Visual Communications has established the Linda Mabalot Legacy Fund, which will support VC programs and operations with the long-term goal of an endowment fund.

—Leslie Ito, Visual Communications

LINDA MABALOT  
LEGACY FUND  
Please make checks payable to the Linda Mabalot Legacy Fund  
Visual Communications  
120 Judge John Aiso Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012



## The Makings of the Rose Hum Lee Special Collection

by Katherine Ng

The possibility of writing an honors thesis never occurred to me until I finished my term in UCLA's Student Research Program (SRP). When I enrolled in SRP, I had no idea what I wanted to research; I was just hoping to get some experience conducting research with primary resources. The results exceeded all that I could have ever imagined.

Prof. Henry Yu, my SRP mentor, gave me copies of Rose Hum Lee's materials that he had saved from his own dissertation research nearly ten years ago. Lee was a prolific and prominent sociologist famous for her hyper-assimilationist views in the 1950s. I quickly became absorbed with Lee's papers, and after spending weeks reading the material it became obvious that I had the perfect primary source for a thesis project.

Rose Hum Lee, the first woman and Chinese American to head a department at an American university, published one of the first important research studies on the Chinese in America, *The Chinese in the USA*, in 1960. However, Lee's clash with Chinatown organizations is unknown to most scholars who write about her or to those who cite her work on the Chinese in America. From 1957 until her death in 1964, Lee was embroiled in a hostile conflict with Chinatown organizations mainly in Chicago and Tucson, and at one point, Lee even feared her life was in danger. During this period, Lee wrote approximately 250 letters chronicling her ordeal with Chinatowns. Contained in the letters were also Lee's vehement criticism of the Chinatown Chinese for their failure to assimilate into American society and the extensive documentation of what Lee believed were criminal and communist activities in Chinatown. Using Lee's correspondence and research, my thesis demonstrates that aside from the anti-communist atmosphere in the United States, Lee's anxiety also stemmed from her lifelong experience with racism and sexism and her desire to belong in America.

I tracked down the original correspondence and research materials that dated back to her first writings in the 1920s and up until her death in 1964. I then decided to archive the materials and arranged for the donation of the collection to the Department of Special Collections at the UCLA. The original materials consist of Lee's letters, articles, and research, and when I received them, the condition of the materials were far from an archivist's dream. The collection was unorganized, and since it had not been kept in an acid-free environment, the paper had the fragility of onion skins and were etched with

brown stains from rusty staples and paper clips.

Under the guidance of Genie Guerard, Lilace Hatayama, Anne Caiger, Caroline Cube, Jain Fletcher, and Chuck Wilson at the Department of Special Collections, I learned the basic principles of archival arrangement and preservation of materials and how to develop a finding aid for the collection. Special Collections gave me all the necessary materials to properly stabilize Rose Hum Lee's papers, and Genie Guerard, Jain Fletcher, Caroline Cube also showed me the conver-



sion process the finding aid would go through in order to make it accessible on the internet through the Online Archive of California (OAC).

My collaboration with Special Collections was transferred to the Asian American Studies Center so I could get a better idea on how to arrange Lee's materials within the context of Asian American Studies. Marjorie Lee in the Asian American Studies Reading Room gave me invaluable advice on the finding aid, and since her specialty was in dealing with Asian American manuscript collections, her expertise helped me understand how Lee's collection should be arranged. Marji was also crucial in helping me put the finishing touches to the finding aid, digitally formatting the finding aid to fit UCLA Library standards, and finalizing the legal paperwork to secure the donation.

The most difficult part in arranging Lee's collection was deciding the level of detail in the finding aid. The container list is the section in the finding aid where researchers would go to locate the materials they need. It took me 100 hours to read everything in the collection. Researchers usually don't have that much time to spend on one collection, and I felt that it would be more useful if the container list had more detailed descriptions of each item. So I created a container list that itemized all 250 letters, and each had a brief synopsis to quickly give the researcher an idea of what they could expect. However, container lists are usually brief and give only the physical description of the items and their location within the collection (e.g., Rose Hum Lee Correspondence, 1957 - 1964. Box 1, Folder 1). Detailed descriptions are time-consuming, and archive protocol requires finding aids to be content neutral to avoid influencing the researcher. Taking these factors into consideration, I developed a more concise container list that went into the official finding aid. The detailed container list was appended to my honors thesis.

It was truly an eye-opening experience to learn how to arrange Lee's collection and create a finding aid that would satisfy both the archivist and researcher. Through the process of arranging and writing the finding aid for Lee's collection, I learned the intricacies of an archivist's job and experienced the kind of intense analysis and negotiations that go into organizing historical materials.

Processing Lee's materials also greatly benefited the analysis in my thesis because it gave me the opportunity to reexamine Lee's materials. Lee's letters and research express more than just her wish for Chinese assimilation; her ideas represent an experience created by the time and place in which she existed. Unpopular hyper-assimilationist voices like Lee's have largely been left out of the "victim" or "contribution" histories of Asians in America, and Lee's ideas were especially unpopular with activists in the 1970s. Yet, these activists and intellectuals shaped their anti-assimilation stance and formed their challenge against American society by using Lee's ideas as a target of their attacks. Therefore, Lee's collection is important because her ideas contributed to the Asian American process of intellectual maturity, and her voice should be recognized as part of the historical experience of Asian Americans.

(Continued on next page.)

## Center Publishes New Research on Education

by Russell C. Leong

The Center announces the publication of new research on "Pedagogy, Social Justice, and the State of Asian American Studies" in *Amerasia Journal* 29:2 (2003). The 275-page volume is divided into two sections: I. "Reconnecting Education to Social Justice," with contributing editor Prof. Warren Furumoto of California State University, Northridge; and II. "Asian American Studies: Origins, Identities and Crises," with contributing editor Prof. Arif Dirlik of the University of Oregon.

Essays in the first section reconceptualize both the educational process for K-12 students and offer alternative forms of teaching and pedagogy. Furumoto states that education must be connected to social justice—"equity in the social, cultural, racial, and economic realms"—while at the same disconnecting education "from the reproduction of social inequities."

As Furumoto notes, the fact that over 60 percent of black, brown, and Native American students "do not graduate from high school attests to the current pathology of the American educational system." A key premise of Furumoto's approach is that new brain-based cognitive learning techniques can be utilized to retrain both students and teachers to "disconnect" from old patterns of thinking and to discover new forms of learning.

Authors for this section include Glenn K. Omatsu, Alice J. Kawakami, Tony Osumi, Rosa Furumoto, and Manulani Aluli Meyer, together with Furumoto. The authors use their own classroom material in Hawaii and on the U.S. Mainland as examples of alternative means to humanize K-12 education and to empower students to become agents of social change. Students, for example, are encouraged to write letters, develop booklets, gather signatures for petitions, and more, within a comprehensive

learning context that challenges their cognitive and social skills.

Section Two's contributing editor Prof. Arif Dirlik reexamines the 35-year-old field of Asian American Studies in relation to the changing demographics and

needs of the current Asian American population. Dirlik suggests that institutionally, Asian American Studies is at a critical juncture. It can continue within the context of Ethnic Studies; be absorbed into Asian or American Studies departments; move toward Diasporic Studies; or break down Asian American Studies into such fields as Chinese American or Filipino American Studies. Dirlik invited Jonathan Okamura, Yen Le

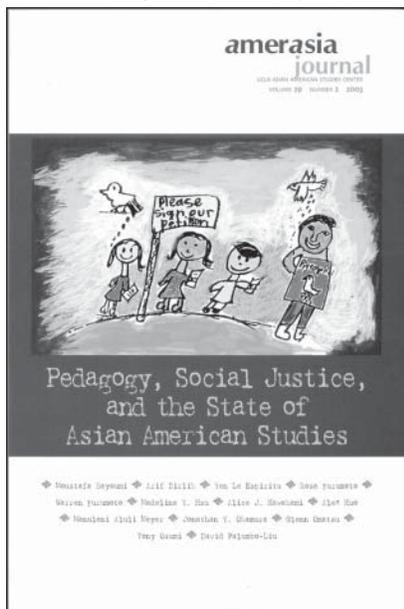
Espiritu, David Palumbo-Liu, and Moustafa Bayoumi to submit their responses.

According to *Amerasia* Senior Editor Russell Leong: "The linkage is that all the essays stress the importance of community beyond the university as key to understanding education today; the separation is that teachers and ideas from the K-12 curriculum and the college curriculum, including Asian American Studies, remain rooted in their separate worlds. The challenge of this volume was to bring these two worlds together for our readership."

Rounding out the issue are an essay by Madeline Y. Hsu on Chinese American history and a short story by Alex Kuo.

The issue is available for \$13.00, plus \$4.00 shipping and handling; CA residents add 8.25% tax. Please make checks payable to "UC REGENTS" and send payment to UCLA Asian American Studies Center, Box 951546, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1546. We also accept Visa, Mastercard, and Discover; include expiration date and phone number on correspondence. Order inquiries: email thaocha@ucla.edu or call (310) 825-2968.

Image courtesy of Mary Uyematsu Kao.



(Lee, continued from previous page.)

The whole research process was very stimulating, and archival work was a constant learning experience. Upon finishing my thesis, many doors opened up, and one of the first was a job as Marjorie Lee's archives assistant. At the Reading Room I helped finish the arrangement of the Fred Korematsu v. US Coram Nobis Litigation Collection and get it ready for public access. My experience from working on this bigger collection gave me more familiarity with handling special collections and furthered my interest in graduate studies in History, Asian American Studies, and Information Studies. I greatly appreciate the work and resources that have been devoted to preserving Asian American and Pacific Islander history, and knowing that a lot of work still needs to be done, I hope students like me will also have the opportunity to contribute to and expand the understanding of our history.

*Katharine Ng graduated from UCLA in 2002. Her honors thesis, "Fear and Loathing of Chinatown: The 1950s and Rose Hum Lee's Desire for Assimilation" (appended to the Rose Hum Lee Collection available at UCLA Library) won the Carey McWilliams Award for Outstanding Honors Thesis in the Department of History and the Mary Ritter Beard Award for Best Essay in Women's History. Thanks to Marji Lee for her input on this piece.*

### Submission Guidelines for *Nexus*

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