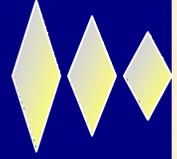


Asian American Studies Department

University of California, Irvine



E-Newsletter

Winter Quarter 2006

Happy Lunar New Year!

From January 29 through 31, many Asian Americans celebrated the Lunar New Year, one of the most festive holidays in Asian America. This year is the Year of the Dog in the Lunar Calendar. Diverse Asian American communities throughout the United States welcomed the New Year according to their own traditions and customs.

Newsletter Spotlights

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Photo by Quan Tran

Built in 1988 by the Taiwanese Buddhist Organization of Fo Guang Shan, the Hsi Lai Temple in Hacienda Heights hangs red lanterns across its entrance gate to welcome the Year of the Dog. Thousands of visitors visit the temple to pray and celebrate the arrival of Spring.



Photo courtesy of Ben Hamatake

Asian Am major Ben Hamatake (middle) on stage in traditional Vietnamese groom attire at the Tet Festival in Garden Grove. Organized by the Union of Vietnamese Student Associations, the Tet Festival attracts visitors with traditional Vietnamese games, food, and performances.

Past Events Highlights

On **November 8, 2005** filmmaker **Grace Lee** presented a talk in Professor Linda Vo's "Asian American Women" class and later screened her newest documentary **The Grace Lee Project** in Dr. John Liu's class. Grace Lee is the quintessential Asian American woman's name, the Asian American Jane Smith. The film humorously explores what it means to be an Asian woman in America by looking at the stories of several women named Grace Lee and pursuing the Asian American female identity, revealing a surprising complexity and diversity of experiences. Lee received her MFA from UCLA Film School in 2002. Her thesis film, **Barrier Device**, starring Sandra Oh, won a 2002 Student Academy Award, a Directors Guild of America Student Award, LA Asian/Pacific Film Festival's Golden Reel Award and Urbanworld's Grand Jury Prize, and was broadcast on the Sundance Channel. She also directed **Best of the Worst**, a documentary essay about Berlin today.



Photo by Quan Tran

Past Events Highlight (cont.)

On **November 15, 2005** author and humanitarian Le Ly Hayslip visited the Department of Asian American Studies to present several talks in Professor Linda Vo's "Asian American Women" class and at the Cross-Cultural Center. Hayslip is the author of *When Heaven and Earth Changed Places* (Doubleday) and *Child of War, Woman of Peace* (Penguin Books). Le Ly's books about her life growing up in war torn Vietnam were adapted for the silver screen by Academy Award winning director Oliver Stone. The film *Heaven and Earth*, as well as her books are currently in use as curriculum at numerous universities across the country. Hayslip is also the founder of East Meets West Foundation, a humanitarian relief organization, which physically and emotionally helps rebuild lives on both sides of the world, and Global Village Foundation, an NGO organization that helps rebuild Vietnam and establishes world peace. Hayslip's visit was co-sponsored by the Department of Asian American Studies, the International Center for Writing and Translation, the UCI Libraries, the UCI Southeast Asian Archive, the UCI Center for Asian Studies, the UCI Vietnamese American Coalition, and the Cross-Cultural Center.



Photo by Linda T. Vo

THE DEPARTMENT OF ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES
WINTER 2006 FEATURED EVENT SERIES
PRESENTS
"SUBVERSIVE ART AND ACTIVISM"



Kristina Sheryl Wong

Kristina Sheryl Wong is a solo performer, writer, actor, activist, filmmaker and teacher. She will share and talk about video archives from some of her silly, outrageous and obnoxious performance interventions that upstage the strangeness of daily life.

On **Tuesday, February 7, 2006** Kristina Sheryl Wong, a solo performer, writer, actor, activist, filmmaker and teacher, visited Professor Glen Mimura's "Asian American Popular Culture" class in **Steinhaus Hall 128**. She shared and talked about video archives from some of her silly, outrageous and obnoxious performance interventions that upstage the strangeness of daily life. Her talk, "Subversive Art and Activism", provided delightful insights into alternative forms of activism and protests. This event was co-sponsored by the Departments of Asian American Studies and Film and Media Studies.

On **Thursday, February 16, 2006**, the Department of Asian American Studies hosted a graduate students panel as a part of the Winter 2006 Featured Event Series. The panel, entitled "Political Narratives and Imagined Identities", featured Ph.D. candidates: Arnold Pan (Dept. of English), Linh Hua (Dept. of English), and John Williams (Dept. of Comparative Literature). Pan talked



about "Collective Links: The Intersections of Asian American and African American Autobiographical Practices"; Hua presented "Love Seen/Scene: Intimacy as Nonverbal Space in Chang-rae Lee's *Native Speaker*"; and William discussed "Plastic Americans: Coalition Politics and the Model Minority in John Okada's *No No Boy*". Professor Glen Mimura moderated the panel. This event was co-sponsored by the Cross-Cultural Center.

Upcoming Asian Am Co-sponsored Events

Friday, February 24, 2006, 6:00-9:00pm @ Professor R. Radhakrishnan's house. The Department of Asian American Studies cordially invites all past, present, and future Asian American Studies graduate emphasis students to a dinner gathering at Professor R. Radhakrishnan's house. Dinner will be provided, and partners and children are welcome. Graduate students, faculty, affiliated faculty and lecturers are encouraged to share this invitation with other graduate students who might be interested in Asian American Studies. To R.S.V.P. or to inquire further details, please contact (949) 824-4523.



Photo from APAd.i.p.

http://www.asiaarts.ucla.edu/041803/dip_transcript_giantrobot.html

Thursday, March 2, 2006, 11:00-12:20pm @ Steinhaus Hall 128. Martin Wong and Eric Nakamura will visit Professor Glen Mimura's "Asian American Popular Culture" class to share their experiences as creators of Giant Robot Magazine, which was launched in 1994 with "no budget, no bureaucratic meetings, and no excuses to anyone." Giant Robot now tackles magazine racks around the world, gaining accolades as the best zines according to the L.A. Weekly, L.A. New Times, Wired, and Zine Guide. More information about Giant Robot can be found at: <http://www.giantrobot.com/> Martin Wong's and Eric Nakamura's visit is co-sponsored by the Departments of Asian American Studies and Film and Media Studies. This event is free and open to all. For more information, please contact (949) 824-4523.

Thursday, March 2, 2006, 5:00pm inside the UCI Bookstore. Journalist and author Andrew Lam will read and sign his book *Perfume Dreams*. Published by Heyday Books in 2005, Lam's book explores his lifelong struggle for identity as a Viet Kieu, or a Vietnamese national living abroad. Reflecting on the meaning of the Vietnam War to the Vietnamese people themselves—particularly to those in exile—Lam picks with searing honesty at the roots of his double-ness and his parents' longing for a homeland that no longer exists.

Lam is an award-winning syndicated writer, an editor with the Pacific News Service, a frequent commentator on National Public Radio's "All Things Considered," and co-founder of New California Media. This event is co-sponsored by the UCI Bookstore, the Department of Asian American Studies, the International Center for Writing and Translation, the Literary Journalism Program, the Southeast Asian Archive at Langson Library, the Vietnamese American Coalition, and the Vietnamese American Arts and Letters Association.

For more information about Lam's book, or to read reviews, visit: <http://www.heydaybooks.com/public/books/pd.html> The event is free and open to all. For more information, or special accommodation, please contact (949) 824-2665.

A promotional poster for Andrew Lam's book signing event. The poster features a black and white photograph of Andrew Lam. Text on the poster includes: "the uci bookstore proudly presents AUTHOR SERIES ANDREW LAM", "THURSDAY, MARCH 2 5:00 P.M. INSIDE the uci bookstore", "In 'Perfume Dreams', Lam explores his lifelong struggle for identity as a Viet Kieu, or a Vietnamese national living abroad. At age eleven, Lam, the son of a South Vietnamese general, came to California on the eve of the fall of Saigon to communist forces. He traded his Vietnamese name for a more American one and immersed himself in the allure of the American dream: something not clearly defined for him or his family.", "Reflecting on the meanings of the Vietnam War to the Vietnamese people themselves—particularly to those in exile—Lam picks with searing honesty at the roots of his double-ness and his parents' longing for a homeland that no longer exists.", "Lam is an award-winning syndicated writer, an editor with the Pacific News Service, a frequent commentator on National Public Radio's All Things Considered, and co-founder of New California Media.—Heyday Books", "Andrew Lam is co-sponsored by the Department of Asian American Studies, International Center for Writing and Translation, Literary Journalism Program, Southeast Asian Archive at Langson Library, Vietnamese American Coalition, and Vietnamese American Arts and Letters Association.", and a quote from Elaine Ma: "Andrew Lam's description of what he faced as an eleven-year-old in a refugee camp is so powerful that I vividly pictured people trapped on the street and waiting for and reading that they read these pages." Elaine Ma, author of Paper Daughters. The poster also shows a copy of the book "Perfume Dreams" and a starburst graphic.

Special Announcement

Asian Am Honors Students Receive UROP Grants!



Three Asian American Studies Honors students have received grants from the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program. During Fall Quarter 2005, UROP has awarded more than \$130,000 in grants to more than 230 UCI undergraduates, mentored by more than 270 faculty members, in support of their research and creative projects. The awards were given to students from all schools and disciplines and were allocated based on recommendations by the UROP Faculty Advisory Board.

Diana Jou, Asian American Studies and Studio Art double major, receives a \$650 grant from UROP to work on her Asian American Studies Honors Thesis. Diana is currently working with Professor Glen Mimura on "Post-Political Ethnic Media: Cultural and Identity Politics in Contemporary Asian American Magazines." Congratulations, Diana!

Nhi Thao Nguyen, Asian American Studies and Multicultural Studies double major, also receives a \$750 grant from UROP to work on her Asian American Studies Honors Thesis. She is currently working with Professor Linda Trinh Vo on "Shaping the Ethnic Identity of Second-Generation Vietnamese Americans: The Role of the Family and Ethnic Community in Preserving Cultural Awareness." Congratulations, Nhi Thao!

Eileen Rosete, Asian American Studies and Film and Media Studies double major, receives a \$700 grant from UROP to work on her Asian American Studies Honors Thesis. Eileen is currently working under the guidance of Asian American Studies affiliated faculty Professor Laura Kang on "Construction and Performance of Identity in Filipino/a America: Debuts and Debutantes in California." In March, Eileen will present part of her thesis at the Association for Asian American Studies Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. Congratulations, Eileen!

For more information about the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program and grant proposal deadlines, please visit their website at: <http://www.urop.uci.edu/>

For more information about the Honors Program in Asian American Studies, please visit the Department's website: <http://www.humanities.uci.edu/aas/undergrad/honors.php>

Scholarships and Internships

As March approaches, so too the deadlines for many scholarships and internships. The Department of Asian American Studies encourages eligible students to apply. There are many wonderful internships ranging from the private sectors to non-profit organizations and to governmental agency for students with Asian American Studies background. Not only will students gain working experiences while applying the knowledge that they have learned in the classrooms, but some internships would pay and provide stipends!

Students can visit the Department's website to find out about possible internship and scholarship opportunities specific to students with education backgrounds in Asian American Studies. The UCI Office of Financial Aid also has an extensive list of available scholarships and internships for students of all backgrounds (<http://www.ofas.uci.edu/content/>)

If you know of any other internships and scholarships that are relevant to our students, please forward the information to the Department of Asian American Studies and we will update our resource list.



Faculty Updates

Core Faculty:

Professor Dorothy Fujita-Rony will present her paper on "Region and Asian American Studies" at the "Culture, Community, Space" panel at the AAAS Conference in Atlanta, Georgia on Saturday, March 25, 2006. Professor Fujita-Rony will also be the discussant of this panel.

Professor Ketu H. Katrak is currently in India on a Fulbright Research Grant to conduct research on adaptations of classical Bharata Natyam Dance and contemporary Indian dance in India and the U.S. Her book *Politics of the Female Body: Postcolonial Women Writers of the Third World* has recently been published by Rutgers University Press. Congratulations, Professor Katrak!

Professor Karen B. Leonard is currently on sabbatical leave. Her recent publications include: "Finding Places in the Nation: Immigrant and Indigenous Muslims in America," Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo, ed. *Religion and Social Justice for Immigrants* (Lanham, MD: AltaMira: forthcoming) and a book *Locating Home: India's Hyderabadi Abroad* (Stanford University Press, 2006) on personal and national identities in the diaspora of Hyderabadi emigrants from India after 1948, a cross-national comparative project being carried out in Hyderabad, Pakistan, the United Kingdom, Canada, the United States, Australia, and the Gulf States of the Middle East. Professor Leonard recently presented "Religion and Society in Comparative Perspective: Punjabis and Hyderabadi 'Translated' in the U.S." at the Punjabi Culture Conference, UCB, November 12, 2005; and "Indians and Pakistanis in Uneasy Contact in the Gulf: the Power of States," American Anthropological Association, Washington D.C., Dec. 3, 2005.

Professor Glen Mimura has received tenure and has been Associate Professor since Summer 2005. Congratulations, Professor Mimura! He is currently working on a journal article titled "Cultural Politics in the Age of Three Worlds: Media Criticism between Liberal and Radical Antiracisms" that has been submitted to the journal *Works and Days*.

Professor R. Radhakrishnan will present his paper on "Beyond Binarity: Double-Consciousness at the Political Trope of Race" as a part of the "Asian American Cultural Criticism and African American Cultural Criticism: Critical Intersections" panel at the AAAS Conference in Atlanta, Georgia on Thursday, March 23. His forthcoming publications include: "Diaspora, Hybridity, Pedagogy," in *Anglophone Literature: Centers and Peripheries, Eds.*, Martina Gosh and Vera Alexander, Germany; "Worldliness is not Globalization," in a special issue of *GAMMA* on "Global English"; "Edward Said and the Politics of Humanism," in *Edward Said and the Possibilities of Freedom*, University of California Press; and "Revisionism and the Subject of History" in *Postcoloniality in an Age of Globalization*, Eds. Krishnaswamy et al, University of Minnesota Press.

Professor Linda Trinh Vo co-chairs the 2006 Association for Asian American Studies Conference with University of Washington's Professor Rick Bonus. Her recent publications include: "What a Difference a Generation Makes: Negotiating Vietnamese American Womanhood in the Diaspora" in *Le Vietnam au Feminin/Vietnam: Women's Realities*, edited by Gisèle Bousquet and Nora Taylor. Paris: Les Indes Savantes Publisher, 2005, 323-336. This book has both French and English language essays.

Affiliated Faculty:

Professor Yong Soon Min will present her paper on "Transnationalism from Below" at the "Mediating Korea: Ethnographies of Transnational Culture" panel at the Association of Asian American Studies Conference in Atlanta, Georgia on Thursday, March 23, 2006.

Professor Duncan Williams' newest book is forthcoming in 2006, *Camp Dharma: Buddhism and the World War Two Incarceration of Japanese Americans* (University of California Press).

Professor Charles Wheeler's article "One History, Two Regions: Cham Precedents in the History of the Hoi An Region" is forthcoming in *Viet Nam: Borderless Histories*, ed. Nhung Tran & Anthony Reid (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press).

Spring 2006 Courses

Wondering which Asian American Studies classes to take? Check out the course descriptions for Spring Quarter! A complete list is also available at the Department of Asian American Studies' office.

Complete description available at:

<http://www.humanities.uci.edu/undergrad/courses/courses.php>

Introduction to Asian American Studies III (AsianAm 60CSocSci 78C)

Instructor: Professor Claire Kim

Globalization, Diaspora, and Racialization (AsianAm 101/SocSci 177A)

Instructor: Dr. John Liu

Sexuality in Asian & Asian American Film and Video (AsianAm 114/SocSci 189A/WS 155A)

Instructor: Beheroze Shroff

Asian American Literature & Film Adaptations (AsianAm 114/ComLit 103/HA 101)

Instructor: Beheroze Shroff

Asian American Community Public Health (AsianAm 135/SocSci 179)

Instructor: Dr. Tu-Uyen Nguyen

Asian American Psychology (AsianAm 141/Psych 174A)

Instructor: Y. Tsong

Muslim Identities in North America (AsianAm 142/Anthro 125Z)

Instructor: Professor Karen Leonard

Ethnic Food & Identity II (AsianAm 150/Hist 190)

Instructor: Professor Yong Chen

History of Japanese American Buddhism (AsianAm 150/EA 120)

Instructor: Professor Duncan Williams

Korean American Experience (AsianAm 151C/SocSci 178C)

Instructor: Dr. Cheong Huh

Queer ID, Race, Representation (AsianAm 164/WS 155/CL 103)

Instructor: Professor Glen Mimura

Asian Am Honors, Seminar C (AsianAm H190C)

Instructor: Professor R. Radhakrishnan

Graduate Seminar: Multiculturalism and Its Critics (AsianAm 201/PoliSci)

Instructor: Professor Claire Kim

Graduate Seminar: Comparative International Migration (AsianAm 201/Sociol 259)

Instructor: Dr. John Liu

Graduate Seminar: Political Economy in a Transnational Context (AsianAm 201/Sociol 259)

Instructor: Dr. Walden Bello



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