Asian American Studies Hires New Director

After five years under the interim directorship of George T. Yu, the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign’s Asian American Studies Program (AASP) has hired a new, permanent director. Kent A. Ono, incoming Professor of Asian American Studies with the Institute of Communications Research, will be stepping into this position in Fall 2002. Ono was Associate Professor of American Studies and Asian American Studies at the University of California Davis, where he also served as the Director of the Cultural Studies M.A. and Ph.D. program.

Ono earned his Ph.D. in Rhetorical Studies from the University of Iowa in 1992. He has taught at UC Davis since 1992 in Rhetoric and Communication, American Studies, and Asian American Studies. His research and teaching interests include rhetorical studies, media and cultural studies, film studies, and Asian American history with a special focus on the critical and theoretical analysis of media, with regards to race, gender, sexuality, class, and nation. Among other courses, he has taught classes on contemporary Asian American history, Multiracial Asian Pacific Americans, the Asian American movement, and Japanese American film.

Kent A. Ono

Ono assumes the directorship of the AASP at a critical time. The program continues to expand with a newly established minor (see page 2), hosting the East of California Conference in November 2002 (see page 7), and the return to its permanent office building at 1208 W. Nevada (see facing article). The university’s commitment to Asian American Studies remains strong and future plans are being laid for future faculty searches and staff positions.

The program welcomes Kent Ono to the program, while at the same time recognizes the leadership and commitment exemplified in the past half-decade by George T. Yu. During his time, Yu laid a strong foundation for the program by building an administrative infrastructure, filling six tenure track faculty lines, hiring staff, and establishing a program budget.

Asian American Studies Program House Completed

The Asian American Studies Program house, now at its permanent address of 1208 W. Nevada, is completely renovated and open to the public. The AASP house was originally located at 1003 West Nevada. In Fall 2000, this site was selected as the new location of the Child Development Laboratory and slated for demolition. When AASP students heard of the news, they began to coordinate letter writing and petition campaigns, urging the UIUC administration to continue its commitment to Asian American Studies by finding a suitable new building. Due to these collaborative efforts, the AASP building was saved from demolition and was physically moved to its new site and renovated. The house was moved in July 2001 and renovations took place starting that Fall. These updates included a newly tiled roof, a new side deck, and a front walkway to the house.

With the loss of the basement during the move, the AASP house also has two additions—a new conference room and an office which both sit at the north end of the main floor of the house. The conference room is over twice the size of the original conference room (which will now serve as the library/reading room for the program) and will better serve the program as it expands, hosting program functions and meetings.

Since the move and renovation of the house, the AASP had been in Bevier Hall much of the 2001-2002 academic year. A grand re-opening will be planned for Fall 2002. The AASP’s new address is 1208 W. Nevada, Urbana, IL 61801.


Comments from the Outgoing Director

Since 1997, it has been my distinct privilege to serve as the founding director of the Asian American Studies Program at the University of Illinois. During this period, Asian American Studies recruited a world-class faculty, built a comprehensive academic program, established an organizational structure staffed by an outstanding staff and secured a permanent building site. Whatever the achievements, it was a collective endeavour and I wish to thank all who helped realize the vision of creating the new program. Asian American Studies at Illinois begins a new era with the appointment of Professor Kent Ono as the new director, beginning Fall 2002. I wish Professor Ono every success as he leads the UIUC Asian American Studies Program to new heights.

Few endeavours emerge out of a vacuum and the Asian American Studies Program is no exception. With the rapid growth of the Asian American population since the 1965 immigration law and the recognition of the growing racial diversity of America’s population, including campus student populations, colleges and universities were confronted with a new racial reality. Illinois, with fourteen percent of its undergraduate population Asian American, made a major statement with its decision to appoint six tenure-track faculty and begin the task of building a new Asian American Studies program in 1997, to teach and study the contributions and role of this growing, important, and long neglected minority.

To be asked to assume a leadership role in creating the new program was a challenge and opportunity that no Asian American could refuse, whether one was or was not an Asian Americanist by training.

I accepted a three-year campus appointment as program director, which in reality lasted five years. Meanwhile, I continued as director of the campus’ Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies. Looking back I now realize how I vastly underestimated the complexity and enormity of the task – from hiring faculty and staff, to battling campus academic and individual entrenched biases and interests, to building a new academic structure and arranging for the physical relocation (yes, relocation) of a building! Now that I am stepping down as director, I think with the experience behind me, I am ready to take on most any assignment! (Not really.)

I now return to fully devoting my attention and energies to the administration of the Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies. But I shall always treasure the experience with Asian American Studies and regard myself as a new Asian Americanist.

George T. Yu

Comments from the Incoming Director

I am very excited to be joining the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign’s Asian American Studies Program as its new director. I am honored to follow in the footsteps of George Yu, who has done an incredible job of administering the Program and laying a strong foundation as its interim director, when Asian American Studies is not even his field of research! Indeed, the AASP at Illinois is already the strongest Asian American Studies program in the Midwest, if not East of California. He has overseen the hiring of program faculty, some of whom have international reputations as Asian American Studies scholars. Along with the other directors of Ethnic Studies and Women’s Studies units at UIUC, he has successfully lobbied the university administration for resources and for respect. With sufficient resources, institutional and administrative support, a renovated building, and now a permanent director, Asian American Studies is well poised to be recognized at the national and international levels as a center for the study and teaching of Asian American Studies and activism for various Asian American communities.

Over the next five years, I look forward as director to hiring six new faculty members, all of whom will have dual appointments in Asian American Studies and in other academic fields. Additionally, I will be working to create a new Assistant Director position in the Asian American Studies Program. Finally, significant curricular changes will take place. Along with new faculty will come many new courses.

It is a privilege to be able to work in the capacity of Director of Asian American Studies at UIUC. I greatly look forward to establishing strong connections across the Ethnic Studies and Women’s Studies units and the disciplines, as well as between students and faculty, among Asian American Studies programs nationally and internationally, and between the larger Urbana-Champaign Asian American community and the program. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity. I look forward to working with every person invested in developing and strengthening the program.

Sincerely,

Kent A. Ono

Asian American Studies Minor Approved

The Asian American Studies minor has been approved, effective Fall 2002. The minor will provide an excellent opportunity for students to acquire a multicultural understanding of the United States and provide a context for students who want to continue their studies in a professional school or graduate program, work in the fields of education, politics, or community relations, or broaden their horizons beyond a specific discipline for personal development. The minor will offer students an opportunity to study a coherent multidisciplinary program in Asian American Studies. Components of the proposed minor include a gateway introductory course, distributed courses at the 200 and 300 level in the Social Sciences and Humanities, and a comparative Ethnic Studies element. Asian American Studies Program courses are now officially in the university timetable. (For Spring 2002 and Fall 2002 courses, see page 5). For minor requirements, visit the AASP web site at: http://www.uiuc.edu/unit/aasc/academic/index.htm or contact Sharon Lee, program academic advisor. She can be reached at 244-9530.
Fall 2001 AASP Council Meeting:
The Outsiders: Racial Profiling and Asian Americans

The Fall 2001 Asian American Studies Program (AASP) Council meeting, *The Outsiders: Racial Profiling and Asian Americans*, took place on October 4, 2001. Council meetings provide a forum to discuss important Asian American issues. The Fall meeting focused on racial profiling and definitions of who is an “American”—issues that have special relevance in light of the backlash that has occurred post-September 11. Council meeting panelists included James Anderson, Educational Policy Studies; Pallassana Balgopal, Social Work; Yuki Llewellyn, Assistant Dean of Students; and Min Song, AASP Post-Doctoral Fellow. They discussed the historical construction of Asian Americans as “foreigners” and targets of blame in times of anxiety and stress in America.

Yuki Llewellyn began the panel, addressing the internment of Japanese Americans in World War II. Llewellyn was among the 110,000 Japanese Americans who were incarcerated in the camps, after the passage of Executive Order 9066. She spoke of racial prejudice, war hysteria, and widespread ignorance that gave rise to the injustices committed towards Japanese Americans, adding that such tendencies reverberate today.

Min Song spoke about his experiences growing up in Detroit and recounted the events that led to the 1982 death of Vincent Chin. Chin’s murderers, two white autoworkers, accused him of taking away jobs in the automotive industry. Chin, a Chinese American, was targeted as the “enemy” during an economically stressful time, where Japan and its automotive imports were seen as causing US economic woes. Song re-stated the fact that some Americans, in the name of patriotism, still take misguided, symbolic action through physical means.

James Anderson’s talk centered around how certain Americans are viewed as the “other,” based on race, giving rise to the problem of contested citizenship for visible minorities. He shared a Gallup Poll that found one in three Americans favored special surveillance of citizens fitting the description of the terrorists responsible for the September 11 attacks. These attitudes reflect the long-standing debates about citizenship and which racial groups remain outside America.

Pallassana Balgopal spoke about the history of perceptions of South Asians in the US and the racial discrimination they have faced. He quoted Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who condemned violence as a self-perpetuating cycle that would only move us further from solutions.

Following the presentations, audience members engaged the panelists in questions about racial profiling and the need for unity and education. For more information about this event, contact the AASP at aasc@uiuc.edu.

Asian American Studies in Illinois, an All-State Conference

On November 2 and 3, students, staff, faculty, and community leaders attended the first All-State conference on Asian American Studies in Illinois, held at the Illini Center in Chicago. The conference was sponsored by UIUC’s Asian American Studies Program and the Office of Governor George H. Ryan. During the conference, participants shared the advancements of academic and student programming at their institutions and began to discuss future collaborative work.

Jimmy Lee, Assistant to the Governor on Asian American Affairs, and George T. Yu, AASP Director, greeted participants on November 2 at a welcoming banquet. They were joined by Dr. Hazel Loucks, Deputy Governor of Education and Workforce Training, and UIUC Provost Richard Herman who both endorsed and supported the deliberations that were to follow.

Sessions took place all day on November 3. At the opening plenary, Ngoan Le, former member of President Clinton’s Commission on Asian Americans, identified the social and economic needs of Asian American and Pacific Islander communities and discussed ways of providing federal services. The morning plenary also discussed the development and current state of Asian American Studies programs at UIUC, Northwestern, Loyola, and Columbia College. A noon plenary focused on the struggles and strategies involved in developing Asian American Studies at the University of Illinois Chicago, the University of Chicago, Northern Illinois University, and DePaul.

Breakout sessions followed. Breakout Session I focused on the development of curriculum and shared challenges in establishing AAS courses and minors. Breakout Session II discussed student affairs, sharing resources and services provided to Asian American students at various schools. Breakout Session III discussed the relationship between community organizations and Asian American Studies, including strategies that would bolster this growing relationship.

The conference generated interest in future collaboration. Despite the wide range of development at each institution, the consensus was that the future of Asian American issues in Illinois was bright. For more information about the conference, contact the AASP at 217-244-9530 or aasc@uiuc.edu.
UIUC Asian American Awareness Month March 2002
Rediscovering Roots: Reflections on Asian America

Tuesday, February 19, 6pm, TBA
Indian Students Association Yoga Workshop. Come learn basic breathing, posture, and relaxation. For more information, contact the ISA at 244-0775, i-s-a@uiuc.edu.

Tuesday, February 26, 6pm, TBA
Indian Students Association Lecture, Dating and Marriage Decisions, by Neeraja Aravamudan. Explore themes to understand how Indian Americans make sense of their dating and marital decisions. For more information, contact the ISA at 244-0775, i-s-a@uiuc.edu.

Month of March, Mueller Case, Main Library
Asian American Studies Program Library Display, Asian American Experiences. The annual display will show in the Marshall Gallery at the east entrance of the Main Library. For more information, contact the AASP at 244-9530.

Friday, March 1, 7pm, Illini Union A, B, C
Indian Students Association Dance Workshop, Garba/ Raas/ Bhangra II. Learn to dance Indian style.

Saturday, March 2
3pm, Foellinger Auditorium
Philippine Student Association 17th Annual Fashion Show: Legacy2002. Tickets are $6 presale through Union’s Ticket Central and $8 at the door.

Friday, March 8, 7pm, YMCA Latzer Hall
Philippine Student Association Film Fakin’ Da Funk. A film that examines the story of a young Chinese man adopted into an African American family in Atlanta.

Saturday, March 9, 6pm, Foellinger Auditorium
Asian American Association Fashion Show: Euphoria. Tickets are $8-$10.

Tuesday March 12, 6pm, TBA
Indian Students Association Lecture, Indian American Identity, by Eboo Patel, a 1996 UIUC graduate and Rhodes Scholar. For more information, contact the ISA at 244-0775, i-s-a@uiuc.edu.

Wednesday, March 13, 6pm, YMCA
Asian American Association’s Taste of Asia. Come experience an array of Asian ethnic food and culture.

Tuesday, March 26, 6pm, TBA
Indian Students Association Lecture, Social Problems in Modern India, by Pallassana Balgopal, Professor Emeritus of Social Work. A lecture on pressing issues facing India. For more information, contact the ISA at 244-0775, i-s-a@uiuc.edu.

Thursday, March 28, 1:30pm, 66 Main Library
Performance Artist Dan Kwong will deliver a lecture, “The Personal is Political: Storytelling as a Liberation Tool.” In this lecture, Kwong will show brief video clips, discuss his work, and answer questions about his creative process and philosophy of live performance. This lecture is supported by the Lorado Taft Lectureship on Art Fund/College of Fine and Applied Arts.

Friday, March 29, Noon, 209 Illini Union
Asian American Studies Program Film Out in Silence. A film that examines HIV/AIDS and issues of sexuality in the APA community.

Thursday, April 4-Sunday, April 7, Illini Union, Noyes Lab, Greg Hall
Intercollegiate Taiwanese American Students Association Conference Flash Forward: Taiwan Beyond Boundaries. Includes keynote address by Alberta Lee, workshops, performances, and much more. For more information, go to: www.uiuc.edu/ro/itasa.

Friday, April 5 and Saturday, April 6
7pm, Foellinger Auditorium
Indian Students Association’s India Night. A celebration of Indian heritage and diversity. Tickets are $10.

All events are free unless otherwise noted.

This calendar was developed by the Asian American Awareness Month Committee of the Student Affairs Program Coordinating Council. For further information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students- Asian Pacific American Affairs at 333-0050 or at apa@uiuc.edu.

www.odos.uiuc.edu/apaa/aaam02.htm.

Sponsors of these events include: Afro-American Studies and Research Program, Asian American Studies, Asian Pacific American Affairs, Asian Pacific American Resource Committee, Anthropology, Campus Recreation, Cinema Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Counseling Center, History, Housing Division, Illini Union, Illinois Disciples Foundation, Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities, Latina/ Latino Studies, McKinley Health Center, Minority Student Affairs, School of Music, Office of the Dean of Students, Social Work, Sociology, Political Science, Theatre, Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Program, Women’s Studies.
AASP Commemorates 10th Anniversary of the Los Angeles Civil Unrest

In honor of the tenth anniversary of the Los Angeles Civil Unrest, the AASP hosted or co-hosted a series of events in March, in conjunction with Asian American Awareness Month (see page 4).

Friday March 1, noon-1pm, Room 209 Illini Union Film showing of Sa-I-gu: From Korean Women’s Perspectives. This film explores the experiences of Korean American women shopkeepers after the LA unrest.

Wednesday March 6, noon-1pm, Room 209 Illini Union Film showing of Another America. This film explores the Black/Korean conflict in the inner city as illuminated by the Los Angeles uprisings of 1992.

Friday March 8, 1-3pm, Room 210 Illini Union “Black Revolt: Asian American Newspapers and the LA Riots.” A lecture by Michael Thornton, Professor of Afro-American Studies, University of Wisconsin Madison. This talk will address how mainstream and ethnic minority newspapers covered the Los Angeles Riots.

Monday, March 11, 1-3pm, Lucy Ellis Lounge, Foreign Language Building “Mourning Los Angeles,” a workshop by Min Song, post doctoral fellow, AASP. This workshop will examine the cultural meaning of the loss portrayed in the documentary Sa-I-Gu.

Tuesday March 26, 3-5pm, Levis Music Room “Ethnic Peace in the American City: Building Community in Los Angeles Ten Years after the Unrest.” A lecture by Edward Chang, Associate Professor of Ethnic Studies, University of California Riverside. This talk will address economic, historical, and social conditions that led up to the LA Civil Unrest.

Tuesday March 26, 8-10pm, 100 Lincoln “Smash Hits and Pop Flies: An Evening of Performance with Dan Kwong.” Performance Artist Dan Kwong addresses identity politics. Part of this medley will be the piece, “New Season,” Kwong’s response in the aftermath of the LA riots. Sponsored by the Asian Pacific American Coalition.

Monday, April 1, 7pm, Drama Rehearsal Room, Krannert The Department of Theatre’s staged reading of Anna Deavere Smith’s drama Twilight. Twilight uses verbatim the words of people who experienced the LA riots to explore the devastating human impact of that event.

Asian American Studies Program Film Series Fighting the Tide: Asian American Resistance

The Asian American Studies Program’s film series for the 2001-2002 year has the theme of “Fighting the Tide: Asian American Resistance.” Conventional wisdom may imagine Asian Americans silently enduring injustice and avoiding confrontation; however, there exists a long legacy of protest and resistance within the Asian American community. This year’s series will portray these acts of legal, political, and cultural resistance, revealing a reaffirmation of Asian American culture and ethnicity.

Each showing of the film series will take place from noon-1pm and will be followed by discussion in the Union. For more information, contact the AASP at 244-9530.

February 8, 217 Illini Union Unfinished Business

This film tells the story of Fred Korematsu, Gordon Hirabayashi, and Minoru Yasui, three men who courageously defied the government and were separately convicted and imprisoned for violating Executive Order 9066, which led to the unjust internment of Japanese Americans.

March 1, 209 Illini Union Sa-I-gu: From Korean Women’s Perspectives

The April 29, 1992, Los Angeles crisis underscored the voiceless-ness and invisibility of Korean Americans in US society. Sa-I-Gu brings these faces back, exploring the perspectives of the immigrant women who comprise more than half of Korean American shopkeepers.

March 29, 209 Illini Union Out in Silence

Vince Crisostomo recalls the feelings of isolation that made him leave his close-knit, conservative family. Shocked to learn that he was HIV positive, Vince realized how little he, as an Asian American, knew about HIV/AIDS.

April 12, 405 Illini Union The Bhangra Wrap AND Gimme Somethin’ To Dance To! What is Bhangra?

Both of these documentaries reveal a vibrant youth subculture that fuses hip hop, rap, and Bhangra music. “Bhangra House” is propagated through alternative radio, party DJs, and hip urban clubs where South Asian youth have carved out their own unique sense of style, identity, and voice that is an uncompromised mix of old and new, South Asian and American.

Cosponsors of these events include: Afro-American Studies and Research Program, Anthropology, College of Communications, History, Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities, Latina/Latino Studies, Minority Student Affairs, School of Music, Social Work, Sociology, Political Science, Theatre, Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Program, Women’s Studies. Paid for by the Asian Pacific American Resource Committee.
2001-2002 AASP Workshop Series, New Frontiers: AAS in the Midwest

The AASP is pleased to announce a 2001-2002 Workshop series, “New Frontiers: Asian American Studies in the Midwest.” This is an interdisciplinary workshop that focuses on a work in progress. The series is designed to provide a setting for academic discussion: a short presentation will be followed by open dialogue and conversation. This year’s themes highlight the most recent work being done on Asian Americans in the Midwest. This new work signals a movement in the field towards establishing new paradigms that depart from and revise the California/West coast-centric foundations of Asian American Studies.

Friday February 15, 2002, 1-3pm 385 Education
“A Historical and Cultural Comparison of the Schooling of Japanese American and Hmong Children in the Midwest.” Susan Matoba Adler, Assistant Professor, Curriculum and Instruction, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign. This paper will focus on the historical, political, and cultural contexts of Post-internment Japanese Americans and Post-Vietnam Hmong refugees in the Midwest.

Friday April 19, 2002, 1-3pm, Lucy Ellis Lounge, FLB
“Between White and Black: Class, Race, Gender, and National Culture among Chicago’s Filipinos before 1965,” Barbara Posadas, Professor of History, Northern Illinois University. This paper examines the experiences of the Filipinos who settled in Chicago prior to immigration restriction.

AASP Courses-- Spring 2002

ANTHROPOLOGY 184
Asian American Cultures
Instructor: Professor Martin Manalansan
00422 LECD 1 1:30-2:50 TUTH 103 MUMFORD

EDUCATIONAL POLICY STUDIES 399
TOPIC: Comparative Research on Race and Asian American Education
Instructor: Professor Yoon Pak
02531 LECD B 1-3:50 W 209 DKH

ENGLISH 286
Asian American Literature
Instructor: Professor Min Song
03290 LECD P 11-12:15 TUTH 137 HENRY BLDG

SOCIOLOGY 396
TOPIC: Asian Americans and Social Inequalities
Instructor: Professor Moon-Kie Jung
07307 LECD MKJ 3-5:20 W 302 LINCOLN

THEATRE 128
Introduction to Asian American Theater
Instructor: Professor Esther Kim
07932 LECD A 1:30-2:50 TUTH 329 DAVENPORT

Asian American Studies Courses
Fall 2002

Asian American Studies classes are now in the timetable! These classes also fulfill the newly approved AAS minor. For more information about the minor and advising questions contact the AASP at 244-9530, aase@uiuc.edu.

AAS 100
INTRODUCTION TO ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES
3 hours. Meets Gen Ed requirement
Instructor: Professor Martin Manalansan
00039 LECDA 1-220 TUTH 124 BURRILL

AAS 290
INDIVIDUAL STUDY/ AAS INTERNSHIP
CONF ARR Ind Study 3 hours
For registration, contact the department office.

AAS 286
ASIANAMERICAN LITERATURE
Same as ENGL 286. 3 hours. Meets GEN ED: US LA
Instructor: Professor So Myonhia
09067 LECD P 11-1215 TUTH 150 ENGLISH

AAS 297
ASIAN FAMILIES IN AMERICA
Same as SOC W 297. 3 hours. Meets GEN ED: US SS
Instructor: Professor Pallassana Balgopal
00040 LECDA 3-420 TUTH 102 1203W OREGON

AAS 300
ASIANAMERICAN EDUCATION IN HISTORICAL AND CONTEMPORARY CONTEXTS
Same as EPS 300. 4 hours. Meets GEN ED: ACP NW US
Instructor: Professor Yoon Pak
00041 LECD AA 4-550 TU 138 WOHLERS

AAS 324
ASIANAMERICANPOLITICS
Same as POL S 324. 3 hours.
Instructor: Professor Wendy Tam Cho
08957 LECD X 12-120 MW 314 LINCOLN

AAS 390
ADVANCED TOPICS IN ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES: ASIAN AMERICANS & SOCIAL INEQUALITY
Same as SOC 396, Section MKJ. 3 hours.
Instructor: Professor Moon Kie Jung
00042 LECD MKJ 3-520 W 300 LINCOLN
East of California Call for Papers, UIUC Fall 2002

NATIONAL IDENTITY AND THE “HOMELAND”

The events of September 11th and the subsequent U.S. government’s response with a global “war on terrorism” have revealed how religious, racial, and ethnic tensions persist both in American society and in the global arena. These tensions intersect with issues of race, gender, sexuality, class, religion, ability, and other differences to reflect the struggle between America and its “others.” This year’s conference seeks to continue the critical investigation of how Asian Americans complicate definitions of citizenship, belonging, and the nation.

The 9/11 terrorist attacks have propelled us into a discourse of patriotism and national identity, which includes a tacit understanding of core “national values” and an emphasis on unity as Americans. Patriotism also has its counterpart—involving an increased fear of what is “foreign” and a sense of urgency in protecting national “boundaries,” real and imagined, through increased investments in homeland security. How has this discourse played out and what does it reveal about the definitions of citizenship and belonging? Have these definitions changed or remained constant over time? What exactly is the American “homeland,” what values are associated with it, and how are they represented and circulated? How should we critically address the concept of “homeland” in the larger framework of citizenship, belonging, and race?

This discourse of nationhood is also played out on a global scale, with enemies projected both from within the nation and abroad. Although US foreign policy has always been informed by notions of American-ness and its (oftentimes Asian) “enemy others,” does this new war on terrorism (aimed at perceived individual threats and not one nation-state) complicate these definitions and understandings? How can Asian American Studies begin to critique this current war, using examples from history in citing similarities and differences?

This conference invites the exploration of these issues from various disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches, and through the perspectives of research, pedagogy, and activism. We invite critical examinations of the national, “homeland” values being defended in the pervasive displays of patriotism and how these displays address differences, domestically and globally. We especially welcome proposals that address how the events and issues raised by 9/11 have manifested themselves on university and college campuses. How have student groups, student affairs offices, Asian American Studies programs, and community groups addressed these events and how have they expanded the understanding of this new war on terrorism, and of issues of citizenship and belonging, of what is “American” and what is “other”? Paper or panel proposals by undergraduate students touching on these issues are encouraged.

East of California is a caucus within the Association for Asian American Studies, the national professional organization for the field. EOC meets twice annually, in the Fall at the network conference held at a member campus and in the Spring at the annual meeting of the Association for Asian American Studies. The network is open to interested students, faculty, and staff, and encourages the involvement of allied community institutions like museums and service organizations.

Please send your 2-3 page panel or paper proposal by June 10, 2002 to: EOC Coordinating Committee, Asian American Studies Program, University of Illinois, 1208 W. Nevada, Urbana IL 61801.

The annual East of California (EOC) conference will take place at the University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign November 7-9, 2002. There will be a Junior Faculty Retreat and a separate Senior Faculty retreat on Thursday, November 7. The Annual Meeting and panel sessions will take place on Friday, November 8 through Saturday November 9. For updated information, please visit: http://chnm.gmu.edu/eoc/menu.html. Updates will also be posted regularly on the EOC list serv. (to be added to the list serv, go to the above website).

Asian American Studies Program Staff

Director
George T. Yu, Professor of Political Science

Staff Associate
Sharon S. Lee

Secretary
Mary Ellerbe

Graduate Assistant
Kapila Sankaran

Work Study Student
Jocelyn Yin

1208 West Nevada, MC 142
Urbana, IL 61801
(217) 244-9530, fax: (217) 265-6235
aasc@uiuc.edu
http://www.uiuc.edu/unit/aasc

Nexus Staff

Editors, Layout, Articles: Sharon Lee, Kapila Sankaran

Please direct questions and submissions to the Nexus editors at (217) 244-9530.
Nancy Abelmann, Associate Professor of Anthropology, and her husband Andrew Gewirth welcomed the arrival of their son Isaac Walter Abelmann Gewirth, on November 9, 2001. He weighed 8 lbs 13 ozs and was 21.5 inches at birth.


Wendy Tam Cho, Associate Professor of Political Science, was promoted to Associate Professor, with indefinite tenure, in the departments of Political Science and Statistics. She also has the following forthcoming publications: “Tapping Motives and Dynamics Behind Campaign Contributions: Insights from the Asian American Case,” in American Politics Research; “Demythicizing the Asian American Campaign Contributor,” in Chi, L. L. and Lye, C. (Eds.) Money and Racial Politics: Asian Americans in the 1996 Campaign Finance Scandal; and “Book Review: Political Participation and Ethnic Minorities, by Amy Freedman,” in Journal of Social Issues in Southeast Asia.

Clark Cunningham, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology, presented a talk on “Asians in the Americas During the Past Two Centuries,” as part of the Seminar Series hosted by the UIUC Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies.


Sieglinde Lim de Sanchez, Graduate student in Educational Policy Studies, presented a paper for the History of Education Society Annual Meeting in New Haven, CT titled, “Chinese and Jewish Intersections: Segregation and Conflict in the Mississippi Delta, 1920-1940.”


George T. Yu, AASP Director, was elected as the interim secretariat for the Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education (APAHE) association for two years. He spoke at the University of Illinois Chicago on March 5, 2002 on, “The Development of Asian American Studies Programs: Bridging Academic and Engaged Scholarship.”