AAS Announces Hire of Adrienne Lo

AAS is pleased to announce the hire of Adrienne Lo (A.B.D, University of California at Los Angeles). Lo is currently a lecturer with the Department of Educational Psychology. Upon completing her dissertation, she plans to join the department as an assistant professor.

Q: What is your background?
Lo: My background is in linguistics, applied linguistics and linguistic anthropology. I was actually born in Urbana, but grew up in upstate New York. I have also spent brief periods of my life living in Korea, Hong Kong, and China. My parents, who grew up in Hong Kong and Taiwan, met as students here in the 60s. My mom actually lived here for 12 years, from college through graduate school, and then taught at University High School. My mom’s siblings and their spouses all have degrees from the University of Illinois and my father’s uncle and cousin taught in the engineering department. Even my grandmother spent a summer attending a program for math teachers here. I guess I am continuing the family tradition.

Q: How did you come to the field of AAS?
Lo: As an undergraduate, I found it puzzling that the classes I took in sociolinguistics had extensive literatures on the language practices of African Americans, women, and speakers of regional/class dialects, but that Asian Americans were curiously absent. When I entered graduate school at the University of California at Los Angeles, I knew I wanted to do my research on some aspect of Asian American language practices. My research interests in the Korean American community arose serendipitously, out of a class project I did in my first semester there on a conversation between a second-generation Chinese American man and his 1.5-generation Korean American friend. In that project, I looked at how the speakers positioned themselves and others as particular racial/ethnic types through practices of code-switching between languages.

Q: What are your research/teaching interests? What courses would you like to teach at Illinois?
Lo: I would like to teach courses on linguistic anthropology, discourse analysis, language socialization, the ethnography of education, Korean functional grammar, and narrative. In terms of research, I am interested in how Korean American children navigate the different cultural expectations of school, family, and community settings and the role that moral socialization, in particular, plays in mediating their participation in the Korean American community.

Angela Reyes of Hunter College and I are currently co-editing a volume on the linguistic anthropology of APAs. In the volume, we hope to move research on the language practices of Asian Americans beyond the traditional concerns of heritage language maintenance, bilingualism, and English language acquisition and to draw researchers’ attention to understudied groups. For example, we still have almost no work on the language practices of third-plus-generation APAs, and the work we do have is concentrated overwhelmingly on urban communities in California and the East Coast.

Q: Describe your dissertation and your work.
Lo: My dissertation is a study of language socialization in four Korean American educational institutions. I look at the ways in which Korean American caregivers in a multiethnic, middle-class community in California socialize children to culturally specific frameworks of morality and emotion. The dissertation examines morality at two levels: 1) a relatively explicit level, in terms of beliefs that different caregivers have about what kinds of speech acts are good/bad for children to hear and make and narratives that teachers tell that attempt to instill certain cultural values, and 2) a grammatical level, in terms of the use of certain grammatical particles or epistemic frameworks which position children as morally responsible for the acts they commit. My next project, in collaboration with Elaine Chun of the University of Texas at Austin and Janet Oh of the California State University at Northridge, will look at whether people can tell when someone who is a native English speaker is Asian American by the way they speak.
Comments from the Director

Dear Friends of Asian American Studies:

Much has happened since the spring 2005 issue of Nexus was published. Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast. Our thoughts are with those still reeling from the aftermath of this devastating hurricane. Here in Asian American studies at UIUC, we continue to make headway on building Asian American studies in the Midwest. Welcome to Adrienne Lo, a new program member, and Chris Lee, Fiona Ngô, and Mike Masatsugu, our new postdoctoral fellows. Also, welcome to Rachel Endo, our new graduate research assistant this year and to Michelle Wang and Sarah Okner, our undergraduate student assistants.

On campus, the big news is that the Asian American Cultural Center (AACC) is now built, operational, and busy. We are enjoying (and looking forward to more) stimulating collaborations with our new neighbors. The AACC promises many exciting collaborative possibilities across academic and student affairs. As an example of that, our joint open house was a huge success. Congratulations go out to AACC director David Chih, his staff, and APAC for putting on such a great event. Thanks to Betty Jang for her remarks at the open house celebration and for heading the new Asian American Alumni Association. And, thanks to our friends at the University of Illinois, Chicago—Karen Su, Corinne Kodama, and Elvin Chan—for coming down to support us and to help us celebrate. After the open house and alumni dinner, the atmosphere at Asiantation was, as always, jubilant; the event was chock full of new faces and new possibilities. Alumnus Jeremy Bautista’s keynote speech was particularly inspiring and fittingly drew attention to the need for both student support services and curricular and educational opportunities for Asian American students on campus.

The work of the Asian American Studies Program from last spring continued into the summer and now the fall. The curriculum committee met at the end of spring 2005, again in summer 2005, and then the program members met at our annual retreat to hone the Asian American Studies undergraduate B.A. major proposal. Revisions of the major proposal are continuing; submission of the final proposal is planned for the end of this fall 2005 semester.

We continue to work on the collaborative doctoral program to serve Asian American Studies, African American Studies, American Indian Studies, Gender and Women’s Studies, and Latina/o Studies on campus. We also hope to have a proposal completed by the end of this semester.

The two-and-one-half-year study of library resources has now been completed, and a report and letter requesting library resources and support have been sent to the head of the library, Paula Kaufman, and to Provost Jesse Delia. A meeting with Paula and additional library administrators was convened, and currently, following the report, work to strengthen collections, support, and resources is underway.

Professors Junaid Rana, Nancy Abelmann, and Rajeshwari Pandharipande have submitted proposals for Ford Foundation and NEH grants focusing on the issues of race and religion in the Asian American community on campus. With a diverse set of partner units from on campus—Asian American Studies Program, Asian American Cultural Center, Center on Democracy in a Multiracial Society, Ethnography of the University Cross-Campus Initiative, Program for the Study of Religion, and University Housing—the pre-proposal successfully cleared the first two hurdles: getting off campus and being one of approximately 136 proposals out of more than 675 proposals to compete to be one of the approximately 25 projects ultimately funded by the Ford Foundation.

This year we are also fortunate to be searching for two new faculty members. For a second time, Susan Koshy has graciously and thankfully agreed to chair the search for a Southeast Asian Americanist. And, Siobhan Somerville will chair the joint search between our unit and Gender and Women’s Studies for an Asian American gender and women’s studies specialist.

We have plans to host an end-of-the-year banquet to honor recent and soon-to-be retirees—Pallassana Balgopal, Charles Capwell, Clark Cunningham, Susan Maul, Yuki Llewellyn, and George Yu. In addition to their students and colleagues from on and off campus, the Asian American studies community will come out to celebrate their many and varied contributions to the building of what—in
part because of their hard work—is now, but was not always, a thriving program.

Congratulations to the newly formed American Graduate Students Organization (APAGSO), with our own past Assistant Director, Sharon Lee, at the helm. APAGSO had a wonderful beginning of the year meeting at the AACC, at which approximately a dozen active and involved graduate students attended. APAGSO already has an ambitious schedule planned, which includes their first conference on March 3th-March 4th, 2006.

As usual, our Program members have earned a fair share of awards and accolades, speaking at international sites, contributing scholarship, and serving communities broadly (see page 10 for a list of accomplishments). In addition to our regular slate of courses, we also have exciting new courses that will be taught for the first time in spring 2006: Asian American Popular Culture, Southeast Asian Americans, Asian American Children’s Literature, Buddhism in America, and Asian American Gender and Sexuality.

To conclude, we are pleased to announce the births of Avery Ratsavong Grindley to Pia Sengsavanh (our Program Coordinator) and her husband Joe Grindley, and Daniel Ono Projansky to Sarah Projansky and me!

Sincerely,

Kent A. Ono

Hyon Joo Kim’s beautiful artwork is displayed throughout the newly opened Cultural Center. She has generously allowed us to share her work in this edition of The Nexus. Hyon Joo was born in Korea in 1962, the year of the tiger, and came to the United States with her family in 1979. She studied at Western Illinois University earning a B.F.A. and received an M.F.A. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1987. Hyon Joo has lived in several metropolitan areas and has been a resident of Urbana since 1988 with her husband Barrie and son Rudi. Here is what she has to say:

Part of the reason I became an artist was due to sheer serendipity. When my family emigrated from Korea, I was placed in a school where I could not effectively communicate due to the language barrier. Taking an art class allowed me freedom of expression and an alternative method to speak my mind.

I have been working on forms, shapes, and colors for the past two decades, and the purpose of my art has changed over the years. Rather than focusing exclusively on political art, I have learned that the way I see, think, and feel about my surroundings is constantly evolving. I enjoy taking on challenging subject matters and am not shy in visually expressing my opinions, no matter how controversial. I am particularly interested in images that convey the socio-political aspects of being a woman, mother, daughter, wife, lover, and rebel at heart.

Visit Hyon Joo’s webpage at:  
http://www.soltec.net/glasslakestudio/

Artwork of Hyon Joo Kim

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**Asian American Studies Program Staff**

*Director*
Kent A. Ono, Professor and Director, Asian American Studies, Professor, Institute of Communications Research, and Interim Director, Center for Democracy in a Multiracial Society

*Program Coordinator*
Pia Sengsavanh

*Secretary*
Mary Ellerbe

*Graduate Assistants*
Rachel Endo
Yunchul Yoo

*Undergraduate Assistants*
Sarah Okner
Michelle Wang
Chris Lee, Ph.D.
(Brown University, English)
Lee’s dissertation “The Asian American Object: Aesthetic Mediation and the Ethics of Writing” examines the centrality of “the aesthetic” as a mode of cognition in texts by Eileen Chang, Maxine Hong Kingston, Chang-rae Lee, and Michael Ondaatje. By reading their works in relation to themes such as ethnography, historical memory, and the role of the artist, he shows how the aesthetic functions as a means through which these writers articulate political desires and imaginations. Lee’s research interests include Asian Canadian and American literature, theories of diaspora and transnationalism, aesthetic philosophy (especially the Frankfurt School tradition), and the relationship between music and literature. He is currently teaching “Asian American Literature.”

Michael Masatsugu, Ph.D.
(University of California at Irvine, History)
Masatsugu has a manuscript in progress entitled, “Reorienting the Pure Land,” which is a history of Japanese American and Beat Buddhists during the Cold War years. This study critically examines how Orientalism shaped understandings of Buddhism in U.S. culture.

Masatsugu’s research interests include Asian American history and culture, American studies in a transnational context, Cold War culture, critical race theory, popular culture, postcolonial theory, and youth culture. In the spring, he will offer a course on “Buddhism in America.”

Fiona I.B. Ngô, Ph.D.
(University of California at Irvine, History)
Ngô is working on a manuscript entitled “Imperial Blues: Travel and Transnationality in Jazz Age New York” which is based on her dissertation. Ngô’s research interests include comparative ethnic studies, mixed-race and transnational identity, imperialism and U.S. culture, Vietnamese/American and Southeast Asian/American studies, gender studies, queer studies, U.S. cultural and intellectual history, modernisms, musical cultures, performance studies, and critical and cultural theory. In the spring, she will teach a course on “Asian/American Gender and Sexuality.”

Diem-My Bui

Bui is a Ph.D. Candidate (A.B.D) with the Institute of Communications Research. She is currently working on her dissertation tentatively entitled “Bodies of War: Representations of Vietnamese Women in the U.S. Cultural Imaginary.” Bui is currently teaching “Asian American Media and Film” and will teach American Popular Culture” and “Southeast Asian Americans” in the spring. She earned an M.A. in Sociology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Rachel Endo

Endo is a Ph.D. student with the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. Her primary research interests are identity articulation among Asian American adolescents, familial roles in Asian American secondary education, and ideology-power dynamics in instructional practices. Endo earned an M.A. in Secondary Education/Instructional Technology and an M.P.A. (Public Administration/Management) from the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Kevin Lam

Lam is a Ph.D. student with the Department of Educational Policy Studies. His primary research interests are critical pedagogy, Asian/American migration, and identity and class. Lam is a teaching assistant this semester for “Introduction to Asian American Studies” taught by Augusto Espiritu. Lam earned an M.A. in Education from the California State University at Los Angeles.

YunChul Yoo

Yoo is a Ph.D. Candidate (A.B.D.) with the Department of Linguistics. His primary research involves theoretical syntax and non-canonical case phenomena in Korean and other languages. Yoo earned an M.A. in Linguistics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
As part of its program offerings, AAS is proposing an interdisciplinary major which has received substantial campus-wide faculty and student support. The proposed B.A. in Asian American Studies will provide students with an interdisciplinary education and will require 36 hours of major coursework. AAS is also participating in a proposal to create an interdisciplinary Ph.D. program in conjunction with other ethnic studies departments. The tentative plan is that each ethnic studies unit will create its own specialization track. The final proposal should be completed in early December after a meeting with all ethnic studies unit directors.

Program News

**AAS Announces Plans for Interdisciplinary Major and Ph.D.**

As part of its program offerings, AAS is proposing an interdisciplinary major which has received substantial campus-wide faculty and student support. The proposed B.A. in Asian American Studies will provide students with an interdisciplinary education and will require 36 hours of major coursework. AAS is also participating in a proposal to create an interdisciplinary Ph.D. program in conjunction with other ethnic studies departments. The tentative plan is that each ethnic studies unit will create its own specialization track. The final proposal should be completed in early December after a meeting with all ethnic studies unit directors.

**Ford Foundation Project**

Asian American Studies faculty Junaid Rana, Nancy Abelmann, and Rajeshwari Pandharipande have initiated a project addressing the vexed intersection of race and religion, a challenging issue on campus and in the nation. This project initiates new, exciting, and sustainable collaboration between academic affairs and student affairs at UIUC, relying on a cross-campus partnership involving UIUC’s Asian American Studies Program, the Program for the Study of Religion, the Center on Democracy in a Multiracial Society, the Ethnography of the University (EOTU) initiative, the Asian American Cultural Center, and Student Housing.

“This is a very exciting project. It’s a wonderful opportunity for AAS to come together with our new AACC. Most importantly, it is a collaboration between academic affairs and student affairs in a shared research agenda. We’re hoping to see not only changes in how people think, but in how the University operates.” - Junaid Rana

Currently a finalist for the Ford Foundation’s “Difficult Dialogues” grant, the project, “An Action Ethnography of Asian American Religious Divides,” engages undergraduate students as both researchers and as sponsors of stimulating programming that will reveal and enhance the products of their research. Student research produced by this project ultimately will be stored and displayed on the EOTU website. As a larger outcome, project organizers believe that this project will seed a series of grass-roots campus programs addressing similar difficult problems of difference in the years to come.

**Library Proposal for Asian American Studies Materials and Resources**

AAS Director Kent A. Ono recently sent a proposal to the University Library and the Acting Provost/Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs asking for improved library resources for Asian American Studies. AAS led an intensive two-year study that analyzed the Library’s current holdings on Asian American materials. The results indicated that there are significant disparities between the University’s current holdings and similar institutions with strong Asian American Studies programs. Kent presented three requests as follows: (1) improve the library’s Asian American Studies book, journal, and video collection, (2) provide resources to build a physical and virtual Asian American Studies space through a dynamic search engine and a reading room, and (3) create a position for a librarian specializing in Asian American Studies.
Fall 2005 Semester Calendar of Events

**October**
Augusto Espiritu. Wednesday, October 5th, 12:00 p.m. in the AAS/AACC Conference Room. Co-sponsored by the Latino/Latina Studies Program. Prof. Espiritu’s talk is entitled “A ‘Chino’ Visits Boricua: Intersections of Asian American and Latino Studies.”

Vicente Diaz. Tuesday, October 18th, 4:30 p.m. in GSLIS 126. Co-sponsored by the Migration Studies group. Vicente Diaz is an Assistant Professor of American Culture, Asia/Pacific American Studies Program at the University of Michigan. He is well-known for his work on Guam and Pacific Islander issues, and his recent article in JAAS (October 2004) called “To ‘P’ or not to ‘P’: Marking the Territory between Pacific Islander and Asian American Studies” addresses the relation of these issues to Asian American Studies. His research interests include Pacific Island History, Colonial Discourse and Postcolonial Critique, Native Pacific Cultural Studies, Pacific Film and Video, Sports and Empire, Traditional Seafaring, Indigeneity. Prof. Diaz will be presenting “Imua! Tamuning Eagles: Football, Masculinity and the Making of a New ‘Multicultural Local’ in the American Pacific,” a film in progress that follows the making of new form of gendered identities through the indigenous appropriation of football in a heavily militarized and colonized setting. Reception to follow.

Vicente Diaz. Wednesday, October 19th, 10:00 a.m. in the AAS/AACC Conference Room. Prof. Diaz will offer “Moving Islands of Sovereignty,” a multimedia presentation on traditional Pacific Island voyaging praxis as indigenous aesthetic and political critique of imperialist and nationalist discourse. Discussion/workshop to follow. Papers to accompany each presentation will be available through AASP prior to the events.

**November**
Tenure and Promotion Workshop. Wednesday, November 2nd, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. in the AAS/AACC Conference Room.

Yutian Wong. Thursday, November 3rd, 3:00 p.m. in the AAS/AACC Conference Room. Co-sponsored by the Performance Studies Reading Group. Topic TBA.

Fiona Ngô. Tuesday, November 8th, 12:00 p.m. in AAS/AACC Conference Room. Ngô is a postdoctoral fellow with the Asian American Studies Program. She will present “Erotic Doubles: Wallace Thurman’s Queering through Sites of Gender and Race.”

Multicultural Youth Conference. Friday, November 18th, All-Day Conference. AAS is a co-sponsor for the Office of Minority Affairs’ annual Multicultural Youth Conference. The conference is geared toward students of color in grades 7-12 who are interested in pursuing a post-secondary education. A group of graduate students with APAGSO will present a brief lecture on the history of Asian Americans in K-16 education in one of the conference’s sessions entitled “Historical Oppression and its Aftermath.” Topics will include intra-racial diversity, historically anti-Asian educational policies, current immigrant/refugee issues, and reconstructing Asian American-ness beyond the Model Minority.

Diem-My Bui. Wednesday, November 30th, 2:00 p.m. in the AAS/AACC Conference Room. Bui is a Ph.D. candidate with the Institute for Communications Research. She will present “Aesthetic Strategies: Vietnamese American Interventions in Cultural Production” based on her dissertation research.

**December**
Esther Kim Lee. Thursday, December 1st, 3:00 p.m. in the AAS/AACC Conference Room. Co-sponsored by the Performance Studies Group. Topic TBA.

Sharmila Rudrappa, Tuesday and Wednesday December 6th and December 7th, location and time TBA. Prof. Rudrappa is an Assistant Professor of Asian American Studies and Sociology at University of Texas at Austin. She is attracting attention with her outstanding work on Gender and Political Sociology. Her research interests are race, feminist theory, and the globalization of labor markets. Her book, *Ethnic Routes to Becoming American: Indian Immigrants and the Cultures of Citizenship* (Rutgers University Press, 2004), is an ethnography of a shelter for battered South Asian American women, and a cultural organization in Chicago. She will present some of her work in progress and conduct a workshop on issues of transnationalism in South Asian American experiences.

Looking Ahead
The UIUC Asian Pacific American Graduate Student Organization (APAGSO) will be hosting its annual graduate student conference from March 3rd-March 4th. The coming year’s conference is entitled “Emerging Critical Scholarship on Asian Pacific American Issues” and is open to graduate students at any stage of their research from any discipline. For additional information, visit APAGSO’s website at [www.apasco.com](http://www.apasco.com) or send an e-mail to [apasgo@uiuc.edu](mailto:apasgo@uiuc.edu).
Faculty Reading Groups

*This year, the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities (IPRH) has generously funded several reading groups organized by faculty in the Asian American Studies Program.*

**Nancy Abelmann’s Korea Workshop** is an interdisciplinary group of university constituents with interests in the Koreas. 2005-06 is their fifth year; previously devoted workshops to examination of Korean colonialism, the politics of contemporary culture, transnational Korea, and Korea-Japan comparison. For 2005-2006 they are focusing on the Koreas in Asia: Structural and Geopolitical Transformations. They will also welcome off-campus visitors: Laura Nelson (October 14th), Hyun Ok Park (November 4th), Bruce Cuming, Samuel Kim, and Katherine Moon.

**Yoon Pak’s History of Education** group brings together scholars from various disciplinary backgrounds to critically engage in the meaning of the history of education, broadly conceived. As such, traditional modes of historical inquiry (through the examination of primary and secondary sources) as well as literature and film are explored. The goal is to broaden and deepen the understandings of the range of scholarship in the history of education, but with a disciplinary focus in history.

**Augusto Espiritu’s Resistance and Empire** Reading Group has been concerned with questions of empire, globalization, and transnationalism, especially from the vantage points of post-colonial and ethnic studies, the views of the Other that have been largely left out of these larger discourses. This year they are interested in reading Eric T. Love’s *Race Over Empire* (2004), Patrick Wolfe’s *Settler Colonialism* (1999), and Jeremy Suri, *Power & Protest: Global Revolution and the Rise of Detente* (2003). They are involved in bringing renowned Yale Law professor Amy Chua to campus in spring 2006, and plan to show several new films.

**Junaid Rana’s Asian American Ethnography** group explores recent scholarship on ethnography and Asian Americans in terms of theoretical and methodological considerations. Ethnography as a method is extended beyond anthropological conventions to understand how Ethnic Studies approaches elaborate traditional disciplinary frameworks such as history, literature, politics, and sociology. Their guiding questions focus on how these works inform understandings of concepts such as race/racism, religion, sexuality, class, ethnicity, diaspora, community, empire, militarism, etc.
The Asian American Cultural Center, located at 1210 W. Nevada, St., Urbana, celebrated its grand opening on September 9th-10th with a weekend of festivities that attracted hundreds of students, university officials, alumni, and visitors from across the Midwest. Guests attended various events including a ribbon cutting ceremony, “Asiantation,” a new student welcoming event, and a football pre-game party.

The celebration kicked off on Friday with a joint open house with the Asian American Studies Program. The new facility is physically connected with the Asian American Studies Program Building to facilitate collaboration between academic affairs and student affairs. The two units plan to work closely to provide Asian American students with a rich experience inside and outside the classroom.

A variety of prominent campus and community leaders spoke at the ribbon cutting ceremony including Chancellor Richard Herman, Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs William Riley, Asian Pacific American Coalition Director Young-A Jo, Asian American Cultural Center Director David Chih, Asian American Studies Program Director Kent Ono, and Asian American Alumni Network President Betty Jang. In her speech, Jang cited a 1974 student newsletter that documented the struggle for an Asian American Cultural Center. Jang is one of the many alumni that returned to campus for the festivities.

Numerous alumni participated in the grand opening and attended an alumni dinner hosted by the Asian American Cultural Center and the University of Illinois Alumni Association. The speakers for the dinner were Asian American Cultural Center Assistant Director Jeffrey Sichaleune, Associate Chancellor of Alumni Relations Barbara Hundley, current student leader Jonathan Chu, and Asian American Alumni Network board member Patricia Lin.

The new Asian American Cultural Center is now open every weekday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The cultural center now offers numerous resources for Asian American students and for the campus. The two-story, 6,800 square foot facility also offers space for meetings and events. New programs such as “Food for Thought,” a weekly lunch series, and a bi-weekly Asian American coffeehouse offer innovative educational and social experiences for students to learn about themselves and Asian American cultures. The cultural center is equipped with a commercial grade kitchen, lounge, study area, activities office, resource room, and computers. The entire facility meets ADA standards for accessibility and has wireless internet connection. More information about the Asian American Cultural Center is available online at: [http://www.odos.uiuc.edu/aacc/](http://www.odos.uiuc.edu/aacc/).

The 12th annual “Asiantation” brought together various Asian American student organizations and campus units to welcome new Asian American students. Jeremy Bautista, former student leader and a 1996 alumnus inspired current Asian American students to appreciate accomplishments.

On Saturday, the Asian American Cultural Center hosted a football pre-game party with the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics. Students grilled burgers and hot dogs and mingled with Asian American athletes. Speakers included Sujay Lama, head coach of women’s tennis and Yoshi Hayasaki, head coach of men’s gymnastics. Complimentary tickets to the football game between Illinois and San Jose State were provided to attendees.

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Article courtesy of Linda Luk.
Catching Up with David Chih, Cultural Center Director

The Asian American Cultural Center recently celebrated its grand opening on September 9th after many months of construction and final touches. We had the chance to sit down with David Chih, director of the newly opened Cultural Center, to reflect on this journey.

“I look forward to nurturing a strong relationship with the Asian American Studies Program with our conjoined facilities.”

Q: What do you look forward to the most for the coming year? Chih: After several months of delayed construction, we were finally able to open our doors to the University community. It is wonderful that the Cultural Center and AAS share physical spaces such as the conference room and are in such close proximity to each other. One of my main goals for this year is to facilitate an even stronger partnership between our academic and student affairs so that we can take advantage of as many opportunities together as possible. We also hosted our grand opening on September 9th, with a phenomenal turnout. I was pleased to see so many familiar as well as new faces.

Q: As director, is there a message you’d like to send to AAS and its affiliates? Chih: I’d first like to welcome back all new and returning students. I invite all of you to visit the Cultural Center and make the most of the vast resources and support available here. I’d also like to encourage all faculty, postdoctoral fellows, staff, and students to take part in the center and its many activities for the coming months. You can visit our webpage for updates at: http://www.odos.uiuc.edu/aacc.

Cultural Center e-Newsletter Information

The Asian American Cultural Center (AACC) e-Newsletter is a weekly service created to provide information and updates on the Asian American community and the general campus community. The AACC listserv will send the e-newsletter every week on Monday afternoon. Campus departments and student organizations that would like to submit any events or announcements to the e-Newsletter must submit detailed information including contact information. We reserve the right to edit messages. The deadline for submission is Friday before 5:00 p.m. If you have any questions about the e-Newsletter or want to submit an article, please contact Linda Luk at lluk2@uiuc.edu. To subscribe to the e-Newsletter, e-mail lluk2@uiuc.edu with "subscribe to AACC-L" in the subject; to unsubscribe, type "unsubscribe toAACC-L" in the subject.
Spring 2006 Course Offerings

AAS 100: Introduction to Asian American Studies
Credit: 3 hours. Instructor: Esther Kim Lee.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for a UIUC Social Sciences, and U.S. Minority Culture(s) course.
Surveys the various dimensions of Asian American experiences including history, social organization, literature, arts, and politics.

AAS 199, Sec B: Asian/American Gender & Sexuality
Credit: 3 hours. Instructor: Fiona Ngô.
“Asian/American Gender and Sexuality” will explore the intersections of race, gender, class, sexuality, dis/ability, and nation. The goal of the course is to introduce students to the subject, debates in the field, and to the critical language that surrounds those debates. We will draw from a wide range of sources including operas, plays, film, anthropological texts, music, fiction, and pornography.

AAS 199, Sec C: Buddhism in America
Credit: 3 hours. Instructor: Michael Masatsugu.
This course surveys the history of Asian American Buddhists within the broader scope of the history of Buddhism in the United States. The course examines the role that Buddhist practice and teaching has played in shaping Asian American identity and community formation. At the same time, the course will consider how racialization, as it intersects with gender, class, and sexuality, shaped processes of identity and community formation.

AAS 199, Sec D: Asian American Children’s Literature
Credit: 3 hours. Instructor: Sarah Park.
This course takes an interdisciplinary approach to examine how children’s literature constructs Asian Americans through the lenses of race, gender and class in both illustration and text. By examining literature portraying Asians and Asian Americans in their historical, political, social and cultural contexts, we will discuss the ways in which authenticity and accuracy matter in writing fiction, retelling folktales, and creating illustrations.

AAS 199, Sec E: Introduction to Asian American Popular Culture
Credit: 3 hours. Instructor: Diem-My Bui.
This course situates its examination of Asian Americans and popular culture within a historical context beginning with early media images of Asian Americans in the United States associated with immigration, fears of miscegenation, and war. By making connections with global consumerism, we also will examine the invisibility of Asian Americans in an Asian inflected culture. Finally, we will interrogate the idea of an authentic Asian/Asian American popular culture.

AAS 260: Intro Asian American Theatre
Credit: 3 hours. Instructor: Esther Kim Lee.
Introduction to Asian American theatre, with emphasis on theatre companies, actors, playwrights, and audiences, through the reading of major dramatic works, examining production histories, and viewing Asian American performances and film.

AAS 281: Constructing Race in America
Credit: 3 hours. Instructor: Augusto Espiritu.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for a History and Philosophy Perspective, and US Minority Culture(s) course. Interdisciplinary examination of the historical, cultural, and social dimensions of race and ethnicity in the United States. Explores the complex and intricate pursuit of multiracial and multicultural democracy.

AAS 286: Asian American Literature
Credit: 3 hours. Instructor: Susan Koshy.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for a Literature and the Arts, and U.S. Minority Culture(s) course.
Introduction to Asian American literary studies and culture through the reading of major works of literature selected from but not limited to the following American ethnic subgroups: Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Indian, Pakistani, and Vietnamese.

AAS 450: Southeast Asian Americans
Credit: 3 hours. Instructor: Diem-My Bui.
This course examines the experiences and community issues of various ethnic groups under the collective term Southeast Asian Americans. United States international policies with, military involvement in, and labor needs from Southeast Asia helped create immigrant populations from Southeast Asia to the U.S. We will focus on how immigration policies, including deportation, dispersion, and assimilation policies, have shaped community development and socioeconomic characteristics.

AAS 470: Asian American Psychology
Credit: 3 or 4 hours. Instructor: TBA.
Examines central themes in the psychological study of Asian Americans such as race, ethnicity and culture, family issues, gender and sexuality, stereotype and discrimination, mental health and counseling, and public policy; analysis of historical, sociological, political, cultural, local, and global backdrops for the individual psychological experiences.
Asian American Studies Program Accomplishments

Nancy Abelmann, Associate Professor of Anthropology, is the new director for the Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies. Her book *The Melodrama of Mobility: Women, Talk, and Class in Contemporary South Korea*, has just been selected by the Society for Urban/National/Transnational Anthropology as the winner of the 2004 Leeds Prize and hence as an outstanding contribution to urban anthropology.

Clark Cunningham, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology, was co-organizer of “The Asian Diaspora” conference held at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign from June 17-18, 2005. The conference was sponsored by the Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies & Asian American Studies Program. He is also co-curator of a special exhibit at The Spurlock Museum on “Visions of the Unseen: Picturing Balinese Ceremony and Myth” on display from September 13, 2005-February 6, 2006.

Manisha Desai, Associate Professor of Sociology and Women and Gender in Global Perspectives and Associate Director of Program in South Asia and Middle Eastern Studies, has participated in two conferences. One was at the Global Women’s Conference at Sarah Lawrence College on Women of Color in the U.S. learning from transnational women’s movements and the other took place at Syracuse University and examined Women’s Organizing Post Beijing.

Rachel Endo, Graduate Research Assistant for Asian American Studies and Ph.D. Student of Curriculum and Instruction, was awarded a University of Illinois graduate fellowship for the spring 2006 term.


Rajeshwari Pandharipande, Professor, Religious Studies, Linguistics, Sanskrit, and Comparative Literature, will be working as an associate at the for the Center for Advanced Study in the spring of 2006 on a research project entitled, “Transformation and Authentication of Hinduism: Language of Religion in U.S. Diaspora.”

Yutian Wong, Assistant Professor of Dance, has been elected to the Society of Dance History Scholar’s Board of Directors for a three-year term.

Michelle Wang, Undergraduate Student Assistant for Asian American Studies, is working on forming a registered student organization for Asian American Studies minors. Wang plans to serve as president. The purpose of this group is to create a space for people with an interest in Asian American Studies.
The Asian American Studies Program (AAS) at UIUC is primarily funded by public funds provided by the State of Illinois and tuition revenue. AAS relies on alumni, friends, and supporters to maintain its strong and expansive educational mission to work toward future growth. AAS is committed to expanding the traditions of knowledge within academia to address Asian American epistemologies, activities, and experiences.

Financial contributions to AAS support our efforts to fulfill our mission and to complete projects that would otherwise be beyond the means of a public university budget. Two funds in particular help support student work. These are The Jeffrey S. Tanaka Award, an award supporting graduate student research in Asian American Studies and The Clark Cunningham Undergraduate Essay Award, an award recognizing undergraduate research in Asian American Studies.

We welcome your support and consider any and every contribution an act of generosity helping us to build an enriching environment for students on the UIUC campus. In addition to supporting AAS, each contribution is also counted as a donation to the University of Illinois. Your company may have a matching gift program that could double or even triple the amount of your contribution. Your own generous contribution can have an even greater impact on the Asian American Studies Program at the University of Illinois. Please make all checks payable to: UIF/Asian American Studies Program. Mail checks to: University of Illinois Foundation, P.O. Box 3429, Champaign, IL 61826-9916. Thank you for your support!