AAS Announces Hire of Soo Ah Kwon

The Asian American Studies Program and the Department of Human and Community Development are pleased to announce the joint hire of Soo Ah Kwon (Ph.D., Education, University of California Berkeley). Soo Ah will be joining the UIUC campus in Fall 2006 after a year-long postdoctoral fellowship at Columbia University.

Q: How did you come to the field of Asian American Studies?
Kwon: Although I took a course as an undergraduate in Asian American studies, I think I really came into the field when I conducted my research on the Asian American youth sub-cultural phenomenon of import cars. I studied the ways young Asian American males and females used the import scene as a cultural space in which to articulate what it means to be an Asian American youth today. I discovered an affirmation of a pan-Asian American identity and how it served as a means to rework notions of Asian American male masculinities.

Q: What are your research/ teaching interests? What courses would you like to teach at Illinois?
Kwon: At Illinois I would like to teach a course on youth that approaches the study of youth as a social and cultural construction. It is a course that I have developed from my research interests of youth cultural practices and from previous courses I have taken on the topic of youth. The class will explore young people at the intersections of race, class, and gender. I am also interested in developing a course on contemporary Asian American communities and on immigrant communities. I look forward to teaching classes that can be cross-listed with Human and Community Development and bringing students from the two departments together.

Q: Can you describe your dissertation and your work with youth in California?
Kwon: My dissertation is an ethnography of youth political activism in Oakland, California. I worked as a volunteer youth organizer for Asian and Pacific Islander Youth Promoting Advocacy and Leadership (AYPAL). It is a pan-ethnic Asian and Pacific Islander group that involves second-generation and immigrant Cambodian, Chinese, Filipino, Korean, Laotian, Mien, Samoan, Tongan, and Vietnamese youth, ages 14-18. Throughout the years, these young people have engaged in many social change efforts. Some examples include organizing to institute Ethnic Studies in their high schools; a campaign to create district-wide school policy changes for student rights; the fight to stop the expansion of juvenile hall in their community; and an attempt to repeal a federal immigration law to put an end to deportations.

Asian American Cultural Center Update

The Asian American Cultural Center at the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign is nearing completion. The two-story structure (with unfinished basement) will be finished in July. There will be a large living room area, commercial-grade kitchen, work space for students, and staff offices. The Center will share a large conference room with the Asian American Studies Program. Three new offices are part of the addition and will house AAS faculty.

There will be a grand opening and joint open house for the Asian American Studies Program and the new Asian American Cultural Center on Friday, September 9, 2005. For updates visit: http://www.odos.uiuc.edu/apaa/
Dear Friends of Asian American Studies,

Springtime is always a treat for me as director of Asian American Studies. So many exciting things happen in the spring. Let me share information about some of those things with you. Martin Manalansan and Yoon Pak will be tenured as of Fall 2005. Congrats, Martin and Yoon! Soo Ah Kwon has accepted our offer and will come as an Assistant Professor in AAS and Human and Community Development after taking a year to complete a postdoctoral fellowship at Columbia University. We are very excited that she has decided to join us. Mike Matsasugu, Chris Lee, and Fiona Ngo will be our new postdoctoral fellows in the Fall. Susan Koshy’s book, Sexual Naturalization: Asian Americans and Miscegenation, was published by Stanford University Press (2005). Augusto Espiritu’s book, Five Faces of Exile: The Nation and Filipino American Intellectuals, also came out of Stanford University Press (2005). And, my two edited collections, A Companion to Asian American Studies and Asian American Studies after Critical Mass, were published by Blackwell Publishers, Inc. (2005).

Our new faculty colleagues, Junaid Rana and Lisa Cacho wasted no time in winning campus fellowships. Junaid will be an Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities fellow in Spring 2006, and Lisa will be a Center on Democracy in a Multiracial Society fellow in Spring 2006.

Our Program members were highly successful and won numerous awards and recognitions (see page nine for a list of program honors).

For those who have not visited campus this year, you will want to know that a new building has been built behind Asian American Studies: The Asian American Cultural Center. We are looking forward to working with Center staff and students and establishing stronger connections over time. As a result of the construction of this building, AAS will have three new offices which should be available for use by mid-summer.

For those who can be on campus June 17-18, 2005, the Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies and the Asian American Studies Program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign are hosting a conference, “The Asian Diaspora.” The following speakers will present papers at the conference: Pei-te Lien, Peter Kiang, Jane Naomi Iwamura, Rajeshwari Pandharipande, Wang Gungwu, Pallassana Balgopal, Brinsley Samaroo, Takeyuki Tsuda, Yen Le Espiritu, Caroline Kieu Linh Valverde, Gregory Diethrich, Stephen Sumida, Brian Ascalon Roley, and Vivienne Poy. [Previously in February, together with the College of Law, we held an international conference “Asian Americans and the Law,” which was a tremendous success.]

Thanks go out to our new permanent Chancellor, Dr. Richard Herman and to Interim Provost Jesse Delia for their continuing support of AAS.

Beyond campus, the Asian American Institute, based in Chicago, gave our program a Milestone award. This recognition means a lot, since so many in the Asian American community in and around Chicago came out to show their support of the work we are doing here downstate.

We have much to celebrate and much to look forward to next year. Sadly, however, we must say goodbye to a dear friend and colleague, Sharon Lee, who has been with the program for over five years and is now moving on to a new phase in her life. We all owe her a lot of thanks and wish her well in her graduate work in Educational Policy Studies.

Sincerely,
Kent A. Ono
Asian American Studies 2004-2005 Post-doctoral Fellows

The Asian American Studies Program’s 2004-2005 post-doctoral fellows were John Streamas and Taro Iwata.

John Streamas is Assistant Professor in the Department of Comparative Ethnic Studies at Washington State University. John earned his Ph.D. in American Culture Studies with a graduate certificate in Ethnic Studies from Bowling Green State University in 2001. John’s research interests include the Japanese American relocation and incarceration as depicted in children’s literature and film, and his dissertation was titled, “Japanese Americans and Cultures of Relocation.” In the Spring 2005 semester, he taught AAS 286: Introduction to Asian American Literature.

Taro Iwata earned his Ph.D. in history from the University of Oregon in 2003 and was a research scholar affiliated with the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign’s units of History, East Asian Language and Cultures, and Asian American Studies in 2003-04. Taro’s major field is Asian American history with a research focus on comparative race/ethnic history and transnational history. His research focus is on comparative ethnic histories in the context of geopolitical dimensions of race and citizenship in America. His dissertation was titled, “Race and Citizenship as American Geopolitics: Japanese and Native Hawaiians in Hawai’i, 1900-1941.” In the Spring 2005 semester, he taught AAS 100: Introduction to Asian American Studies.

The Asian Diaspora: An International Conference, June 17-18, 2005

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign’s Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies (CEAPS) and Asian American Studies Program are pleased to announce an international conference on “The Asian Diaspora,” June 17-18, 2005 on the Urbana-Champaign campus. All panels will take place in 160 English building. The conference is free and open to the public. For more information, contact CEAPS at 217-333-7273, eaps@uiuc.edu.

Friday, June 17

9:30 – 11:45 AM  Panel I: Asian American Political Participation
Chair: Kent Ono, UIUC
- “Transnationalism and Political Participation: The Case of Chinese Americans,” Pei-te Lien, University of Utah
- “Local/Global Political Dynamics in the Development of Boston’s Vietnamese and Cambodian American Communities,” Peter Kiang, University of Massachusetts, Boston

1:30 – 3:00 PM  Panel II: Religious Experiences
Chair: Clark Cunningham, UIUC
- “Spirit in Motion: Religion and the Asian Diaspora in the United States,” Jane Naomi Iwamura, University of Southern California; Center for Religion & Media, New York University
- “In-between Temporalities: Issues in the Authentication of the Hindu Diaspora in the United States,” Rajeshwari Pandharipande, UIUC

3:15 – 5:00 PM  Round Table: Reflections on Diaspora Studies
Chair: George T. Yu, UIUC
- Wang Gungwu, National University of Singapore
- Pallassana Balgopal, UIUC

Saturday, June 18

9:00 – 11:30 AM  Panel III: Transnational Sites
Chair: Nancy Abelmann, UIUC
- “Asian Migrations to the Circum-Caribbean Region During the 19th and 20th Centuries,” Brinsley Samaroo, University of the West Indies
- “When Minorities Migrate: The Radicalization of the Japanese Brazilians in Brazil and Japan,” Takeyuki Tsuda, University of California, San Diego

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Asian American Studies Courses--Fall 2005

AAS 100 Introduction to Asian American Studies
3 hours. Satisfies General Education Criteria for a UIUC Social Sciences, and US Minority Culture(s)
29646 Lecture-discussion A 3:00PM-4:20PM TR 112 Gregory Hall Espiritu, A

AAS 184 Asian American Cultures
Also ANTH 184 and SOC 124
3 hours. Satisfies General Education Criteria for a UIUC Social Sciences, and US Minority Culture(s)
37061 Lecture-discussion 1 1:00PM-2:20PM TR 100 Gregory Hall Manalansan, M.

AAS 224 Asian American Historical Sociology
Also SOC 224
3 hours. Satisfies General Education Criteria for a US Minority Culture(s).
41092 Lecture 1 3:00PM-4:20PM TR 302 Lincoln Hall Jung, M.

ENGL 280 Women Writers: Asian American Women Writers
3 hours.
39514 Lecture-discussion M 9:30AM-10:45AM TR 108 English Bldg. Koshy, S.

AAS 284 Advanced Topics in Asian America-Asian American Social Movements
Also ANTH 284
3 hours. Satisfies General Education Criteria for a UIUC Social Sciences, and US Minority Culture(s).
45239 Lecture-discussion 1 4:00PM-5:20PM TR 211 Davenport Rana, J.

AAS 286 Asian American Literature
Also ENGL 286
3 hours. Satisfies General Education Criteria for a UIUC Literature and Arts, and US Minority Culture(s).
41932 Lecture-discussion E 11:00AM-12:20PM MW TBA Lee, C.

AAS 310 Race and Cultural Diversity
Also AFRO 210, EPS 210, LLS 210
4 hours. Satisfies General Education Criteria for a Advanced Composition, and US Minority Culture(s).
33770 Discussion-recitation A 2:00PM-3:50PM R 166 Education Anderson, J.
Lecture A 2:00PM-3:50PM T 166 Education Anderson, J.
33764 Discussion-recitation B 2:00PM-3:50PM R 176 Education Anderson, J.
Lecture B 2:00PM-3:50PM T 166 Education Anderson, J.

AAS 365 Asian American Media and Film
ALSO CINE 365 and COMM 365
3 hours.
42862 Laboratory A 5:00PM-6:50PM T G46 FLB Ono, K.
Lecture-discussion A 10:00AM-11:20AM TR G24 FLB Ono, K.

AAS 397 Asian Families in America
ALSO SOCW 397
3 hours. Satisfies General Education Criteria for a UIUC Social Sciences, and US Minority Culture(s)
33282 Lecture-discussion A 10:00AM-11:20AM TR 1203 W. Oregon Room 102 Balgopal, P.

AAS 402 Asian American Education
ALSO EPS 402
4 hours. Satisfies General Education Criteria for a Advanced Composition, and US Minority Culture(s).
45567 Lecture-discussion 2:00PM-3:50PM W 162 Education Pak, Y.
AAS 450 Asian American Ethnic Groups
Filipino Americans
3 undergraduate hours, 4 graduate hours.
45238 Lecture MMG 3:00PM- 5:50PM W 113 Davenport Manalansan, M.
45240 Lecture MMU 3:00PM- 5:50PM W 113 Davenport Manalansan, M.

AAS 450 Asian American Ethnic Groups
South Asian Americans
3 undergraduate hours, 4 graduate hours.
45235 Lecture-discussion JRG 1:00PM- 2:20PM TR 27 Psychology Rana, J.
45236 Lecture-discussion JRU 100PM- 2:20PM TR 27 Psychology Rana, J.

AAS 490 Advanced Topics in Asian American Studies
TOPIC: American Ethnic Theatre
Meets with THEA 199 AET and THEA 591 AET
3 undergraduate hours, 4 graduate hours.
31301 Conference AET 3:00PM- 4:20PM MW Krannert Center Lee, E.
Room 4503
45440 Lecture-discussion AEU 3:00PM- 4:20PM MW Krannert Center Lee, E.
Room 4503

AAS 490 Advanced Topics in Asian American Studies
TOPIC: Race, Sex, Deviance
Meets with LLS 496 GR, LLS 496 UG, and GWS 490
3 undergraduate hours, 4 graduate hours.
41524 Lecture LCG 3:00PM- 5:20PM W Foreign Lang Bldg Cacho, L.
Room G30
41759 Lecture-discussion LCU 3:00PM- 5:20PM W Foreign Lang Bldg Cacho, L.
Room G30

AAS 490 Advanced Topics in Asian American Studies
TOPIC: Pan-Chinese Cinemas in Search of Modernity and Globalization
Meets with HIST 300 and CINE 300
3 hours.
31313 Lecture-discussion PF 1:00PM- 2:50PM MW Foreign Lang Bldg. Fu, P.
Room G48

AAS 490 Advanced Topics in Asian American Studies
TOPIC: Danced Politics in a Global Context
Meets with DANC 510 Section ST
4 hours.
31311 Lecture-discussion AA 11:00AM- 12:20PM TR 907 ½ W. Nevada Wong, Y.
Room 109

AAS 490 Advanced Topics in Asian American Studies
TOPIC: Gender and Sexuality in Asian American Fiction
Meets with ENGL 460, sections 1G and 1U.
3 undergraduate hours, 4 graduate hours.
45334 Lecture-discussion KIG 12:30PM- 1:45PM TR 115 English Bldg. Koshy, S.
45335 Lecture-discussion KIU 12:30PM- 1:45PM TR 115 English Bldg. Koshy, S.
Friday, Feb. 25
Art Gallery Opening: China: Celebration of Life and Land
by Illini Union Board, 4pm-6pm @ Illini Union Art Gallery.

Saturday, Feb. 26
Filipino-American Voices, film showing followed by lecture and discussion by Professor Martin Manalansan, 10am-11:20am @ 101 Armory.

Kim Bop Night, by Korean American Student Association, 6pm-8pm @ CUCC (Sixth and Daniel).

Monday, Feb. 28
Afternoon Tea by Asian American Faculty & Staff Alliance, 3pm-4pm @ University YMCA. Light appetizer and pastries from Chinatown will be served. Contact Kuanwu Lin, kWlin@uiuc.edu.

March
Asian Pacific American Children’s Book Display @ The Center for Children’s Books, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, 501 E. Daniel St., Champaign. Over 20 books on display that runs through March.

Tuesday, March 1
Korean Student Association Panel by Korean Student Association, Noon-1pm @ University YMCA. As part of the International Student Awareness Week, the panel will discuss the Korean student population, which makes up the largest population of international students on campus.

Wednesday, March 2
Poetry Reading by Suji Kwock Kim by UIUC Creative Writing Program, 4:30pm @ Illini Union Bookstore Author’s Corner. Notes From the Divided Country confronts issues of colonialism, the Korean War, racism, and love.

Visibility 2005 by Asian Pacific American Coalition, 7pm @ Illini Union Courtyard Cafe. Showcasing Asian American student artists. Contact Young Jo, youngjo@uiuc.edu.

Thursday, March 3
Isn’t It Queer? [Food for Thought Lunch Series] by the Counseling Center, Noon-1pm @ University YMCA Basement. Find out how Asian heritage intersects with queer identity and explore the latitude of this intersection. Contact Linda Luk, lluk2@uiuc.edu.

Friday, March 4
Miss Asian UIUC Pageant by Taiwanese Intercultural Association, 7pm @ Foellinger Auditorium. Cost: TBA A competition of elegance and grace among women from various Asian Americans organizations. Contact TIA, tia-uiuc@insightbb.com.

Saturday, March 5
Kamayan Night by Philippine Student Association, 6-10pm @ University YMCA. Kamayan means, “eat with your hands” in Tagalog. Following the Filipino dinner, there will be line dancing where one can learn Filipino dances.

Charity Date Auction by Chinese Undergraduate Student Association, 7-9pm @ Everitt 151. Fundraising event to raise money towards Tsunami Relief & the American Cancer Society.

Bowl-a-Thon by Korean American Student Association, 6pm-8pm @ Illini Union Bowling Lanes. Contact Andrew Han, ahan@uiuc.edu.

Illinites featuring Performer Rich Kiamco by Asian American Cultural Center, Illini Union Board, Office of LGBT Concerns, and Philippine Student Association, 9pm @ Illini Union Courtyard Café. Solo artist addresses issues of being queer and Asian American. Contact Linda Luk, lluk2@uiuc.edu.

Tuesday, March 8
Asian Food Night by Housing Division, 4:45pm-6:30pm @ Residence Hall Dining.

Taste of Asia by Asian American Association, 6-9pm @ University YMCA. Showcasing the culture of distinct ethnic groups through the presentation of food. Contact Jennifer Lo, jylo@uiuc.edu.

Wednesday, March 9

Thursday, March 10
Knowing Yourself [Food for Thought Lunch Series] by Counseling Center, Noon-1pm @ University YMCA Basement. Exploration into Asian American identity and well-being. Contact Linda Luk, lluk2@uiuc.edu.

March 11-12
Bone Marrow and Blood Drive by Asian American Association and Lambda Phi Epsilon, Location: Time & TBA. Contact Arthur Wu, arthurwu@uiuc.edu.

Friday, March 11
19th Annual Fashion Show by Asian American Association, 7:30pm @ Foellinger Auditorium. $8 presale, $10 at the door. An event where fashion and dance not only display clothing and choreography, but to bring a vision to life.

Saturday, March 12
Unseen Unheard Conference 2005 by Asian Pacific American Coalition, 10am-5pm @ Illini Union 4th Floor. Educating the campus community about Asian Pacific Americans and providing a forum to discuss and problem-solve current issues. Contact Richard Hsiao, rshsiao@uiuc.edu or Jenny Ho, jennyho@uiuc.edu.
Saturday, March 12  
**Family Day** by Vietnamese Student Association, 7-10pm @ Illini Union Room A, B & C. Showcasing the Vietnamese culture and heritage through performances and food. Contact Dang Thuy Tran, tdang@uiuc.edu.  
**Asian American Idol** by Korean American Student Association and Illini Union Board, 7-10pm @ Illini Union Ballroom, Cost: TBA. Contact Andrew Han, ahan@uiuc.edu.

Wednesday, March 16  
**Racial and Ethnic Exceptionalisms Among Asian Americans, 1910s and 1920s** by Asian American Studies Noon-1pm @ Illini Union Room 209. Presented by Taro Iwata, post-doctoral fellow. Contact Sharon Lee, lee1@uiuc.edu.  
**Tsunami Pasta Dinner** by Asian American Association & Association of Food Technologists, Time & Location: TBA.

Thursday, March 17  
**Staying Young At Heart [Food for Thought Lunch Series]** by McKinley Health Center Noon-1pm @ University YMCA Basement. Asian Americans are at high risk for high cholesterol and other heart disease. Learn ways to keep your heart young and healthy. Contact Linda Luk, lluk2@uiuc.edu.  
**Korean Movie Night** by Korean Student Association · 7pm, Location: TBA. A showing of Korean blockbuster and internationally well known Korean movies.

Tuesday, March 29  
**Intergenerational Consequences of the World War II Japanese American Incarceration** by Asian American Cultural Center, Asian American Studies, Intersections Living Learning Community and the Department of Psychology, 2-3pm Illini @ Union Room 404. Presented by Dr. Donna Nagata, professor of clinical psychology from the University of Michigan.

Wednesday, March 30  
**Inter-Minority Cooperation and Conflict: The Case of Chicanos and Filipinos in the United Farm Workers of America** by Asian American Studies, Noon-1pm @ Illini Union Room 210. Presented by Adrian Cruz, doctoral candidate, sociology. Contact Sharon Lee, at lee1@uiuc.edu.

Thursday, March 31  
**Sexual Health [Food for Thought Lunch Series]** by McKinley Health Center · Noon-1pm @ University YMCA Basement. Discuss aspects of healthy sexuality, communication, and factors that influence our sexual values. Contact Linda Luk, lluk2@uiuc.edu.

Saturday, April 2  
**Ghungroo Dance Company Annual Show** by Ghungroo Dance Company, 7pm @ Lincoln Hall Theatre. $5 for non-UIUC students. A vibrant and fun show combining both Indian and American dance styles.  
**Ambience Fashion Show** by Philippine Student Association, Foellinger Auditorium, Time and Cost: TBA. Showcasing a variety of PSA members’ talents, from musical and vocal performances to dancing.

Thursday, April 7  
**The Future of the Asian American Cultural Center** by Asian American Cultural Center Noon-1pm @ University YMCA Basement. Contact Linda Luk, lluk2@uiuc.edu.

Friday, April 8 and Saturday, March 9  
**India Night 2005** by Indian Student Association, 7pm on Friday, 6pm on Saturday @ Foellinger Auditorium, Cost: TBA. A fusion of traditional and mainstream culture in various forms including dance groups, singing groups, skits, MCs, fashion shows and a short movie. Contact: Sandip Shah, ssshah2@uiuc.edu.

Saturday, April 9  
**Formal** by Philippine Student Association, Kennedy’s at Stone Creek, Time and Cost: TBA. An annual get-together with present and past members of PSA and their friends. Includes a night full of dancing, bonding, and just having a great time with friends.

Wednesday, April 27  
**Asian American Leadership Awards** by Asian American Awareness Month Committee 7pm @ Illini Union Room 210. Annual award ceremony recognizing students, student organizations, programs, and faculty and staff.

This calendar was developed by the Asian American Awareness Month Committee of the Student Affairs Program Coordinating Council. All events free unless otherwise noted.
Asian American Studies Program Receives Milestone Award

The Asian American Studies Program at the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign was awarded a 2005 Milestone Award by the Asian American Institute this past April. This annual award recognizes and highlights the achievements of community members who have excelled in their fields. This year’s awardees also included Grace Hou of the Illinois Department of Human Services and Monica Eng of the Chicago Tribune.

The Asian American Institute was established in 1992 as a pan-Asian 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Its mission is to empower the Asian American community through advocacy, by utilizing research, education and coalition building. Specifically, the Institute works to improve cooperation and mutual understanding by bringing ethnic Asian American communities together; raise the visibility of the Asian American community and spotlight its concerns; and gather and disseminate data about Asian American communities.

APA Month Display Case in Champaign

In May 2005, the Asian American Studies Spring interns created a display case in the city of Champaign, in honor of Asian American Awareness month. The display was showcased on the first floor of the city of Champaign office building at 102 North Neil Street. Interns Roger Lin, Jonathan Lee, Alex Rabanal, and Christina Tribbia created the case which included information on Asian Pacific American politicians, military leaders, actors/actresses, and athletes; key moments in contemporary Asian American history; media images and stereotypes; and a timeline. The display was coordinated with the City of Champaign’s Office for Community Relations.

The display case and Spring 2005 AAS interns from left to right: Roger Lin, Alex Rabanal, Christina Tribbia, Jonathan Lee
Asian American Studies Program Accomplishments

Nancy Abelmann, Associate Professor of Anthropology, gave a talk, “Close-Knit Kin, Korean America, and the U.S. University” on February 11 as part of the Sociology-Geography-Urban and Regional Planning- Global studies group. She was also appointed as incoming Director of the University of Illinois’ Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies.


Lisa Cacho, Assistant Professor of Latina/o Studies and Asian American Studies, was appointed as a fellow for the Center on Democracy in a Multiracial Society for 2005-06.


Danny Kim, Undergraduate Advisory Committee Student Representative, was named one of the “Most promising minority students of 2005” from the American Advertising Federation.


Sharon S. Lee, Assistant Director of Asian American Studies, delivered the keynote address for the annual Women of Color luncheon at Miami University, Oxford Ohio on March 2, 2005. She was also awarded the “Outstanding APA faculty/staff” Award at the 2005 UIUC APA Leadership awards. In support of her future graduate work, she was awarded the Letitia Walsh fellowship from the UIUC College of Education.

Martin Manalansan, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, was awarded an Honorable Mention in the Cultural Studies category by the Association for Asian American Studies for his book Global Divas: Filipino Gay Men in the Diaspora. He also delivered invited lectures on neo-liberalism and queer politics at U.C. Santa Barbara, the University of Maryland, the University of New Hampshire, and Oberlin College in Spring 2005. He earned tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor.

Yoon Pak, Assistant Professor of Educational Policy Studies, earned tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor.

Junaid Rana, Assistant Professor of Asian American Studies, was appointed as a fellow for the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities for 2005-2006 for his project, “Islamophobia and Racism: An Ethnographic Study of Muslims in Chicago.”
Leaving the Asian American Studies Program...

It comes with a heavy heart that I leave my position of Assistant Director with the UIUC Asian American Studies program. I have been with the program since March 2000 and have witnessed and been part of phenomenal growth in the past five years. During this time, the program has hired 10 faculty through national searches, instituted 22 courses in the course catalogue, created an interdisciplinary minor (which as of May 2005, 13 students will have completed), sponsored 7 conferences, and had its physical structure relocated and renovated. Each passing year, I reflect on the accomplishments of the program and am simultaneously proud and exhausted.

The UIUC Asian American Studies Program has gained a strong national reputation. With “enhanced rights” to hire, promote, and tenure our faculty, with a program membership of 12 core faculty and 9 affiliate faculty, with an average of no less than 12 courses offered every semester, with three full time staff members and many student assistants, and with considerable support by the administration, the program is on solid ground. I take great pride in the work that has been accomplished, which has been done so as a group effort.

While I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with the program, I also am acutely aware that it is time to move on. I have spent the past eight years as an administrator for Asian American Studies Programs (first at the University of Wisconsin Madison and then here). I have grown in my career path and have been fortunate to have been able to help build a discipline which has meant so much to me politically, intellectually, and personally. Still, I know that I have outgrown the position and desire to do more policy work, teaching, and student advocacy.

With this realization, I am entering the doctorate program in Educational Policy Studies at UIUC in the Fall and am excited to be working with Yoon Pak, Associate Professor of E.P.S. and a core AAS faculty member. I plan to research higher education policy and the racialization of Asian Americans in higher education. While I am uncertain where my future path will take me, I am strongly grounded in my desire to teach and advocate for students.

I wish the program all the best as it moves forward--in the plans for a future major and graduate degree, in future programming and future hiring. Thanks to everyone in the program who have made my past 5 years an enjoyable one-- I will miss most the stellar program staff Mary and Pia and all the students I have worked with. I do not see this as a “good-bye” because I will still be on campus and engaged in APA student issues, if in a different way. You all know my email, so I expect to stay in touch.

Best wishes, Sharon

The Asian Diaspora, continued...

from page 3...

Saturday, June 18, continued

- “A Critical Transnational Perspective to Filipino Migration/Return to the United States,” Yen Le Espiritu, University of California, San Diego

1:30 – 3:00 PM Panel IV: Musical Mixtures

3:30 – 5:00 PM Panel V: Dramatic and Literary Landscape
Chair: Lisa Cacho, UIUC
- “Diaspora and Its Implications in Some Asian American Drama,” Stephen Sumida, University of Washington
- “Some Problems of Writing from Multicultural Experience in a Racially and Ethnically Segmented Literary Landscape: Observations from a Filipino Hapa Novelist,” Brian Roley, Miami University, Oxford

6:00 – 9:00 PM Reception/Dinner, Colonial Room, Illini Union- by invitation only
Keynote Address: The Honourable Vivienne Poy, The Senate of Canada, Ottawa
Position Announcement: Associate Director of Asian American Studies

Associate Director
The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign seeks an Associate Director for the Asian American Studies Program, an interdisciplinary academic program that coordinates a wide range of research, teaching, and public service activities centered in the humanities and social sciences.

Position:
The Associate Director works closely with the Director to develop and implement programs, policies, procedures, and objectives of the Program and to advance research, teaching, and service in Asian American Studies. The Associate Director supervises other program staff and student employees of the unit and oversees daily operations. S/he also represents the Program and its needs on campus, locally, and in the national community. The Associate Director provides primary support to the Director and assumes full direction in the absence of the director.

The Associate Director’s duties include (but are not limited to): developing and coordinating the curricular developments of the program (advising of students and helping build future undergraduate and graduate degrees); implementing conferences, symposia, speaker series, and other public events on topics of political, social, and cultural importance for Asian American communities; fostering student development in the Program through collaboration with Student Affairs; identifying and obtaining support for the Program through grants, alumni networks, and development; assisting with hiring and personnel issues including faculty searches, post-doctoral fellowships, graduate assistantships, and student employment; overseeing the publishing of Program public relations materials such as the newsletter, brochure, and website.

Position Requirements:
Minimum education: Ph.D. or equivalent, terminal degree, with preference given to candidates with research/work in Asian American studies.

Required work experience: Interest and/or experience in the field of Asian American Studies; strong writing and communication skills; an ability to multitask; interest in and ability to work with faculty, staff, students, and administrators; and an ability to work with people of diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds. Work for this job often extends beyond regular working hours, including weekends and evenings.

Preferred Qualifications: Two to three years of administrative experience at university/college level. Managerial/supervisory experience.

This position is a full-time, 12-month Academic Professional administrative position. Proposed starting date: July 16, 2005. Salary commensurate with experience. Generous vacation/sick leave/paid holidays. State retirement system. State sponsored group health, dental, vision and life insurance.

Application:
Applicants should submit a detailed letter of application explaining qualifications for the job; a resume or curriculum vitae that includes work history; names and addresses of three references; and any additional relevant information. To ensure full consideration, applications should be received by June 10, 2005.

Applicants may be interviewed before the closing date; however, no hiring decision will be made until after that date.

Send application to:
Search Committee, Asian American Studies
1208 W. Nevada, MC-142
Urbana, IL 61801
217-244-9530; fax: 217-265-6235

For more information, contact the Director, Kent A. Ono, at kaono@uiuc.edu

The University of Illinois is an Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity Employer
Would you like to help support AAS?

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.

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