Faculty Interview

How did you become interested in Asian American Studies?

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What projects are you working on?

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What are your research/teaching interests? What courses would you like to teach at Illinois?

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Exploring Adoption through Children’s Novels

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From the Director

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Sincerely,

Kent A. Ono
Exploring Adoption through Children’s Novels

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AAS & EAPS to Host Workshop for 8-12 Teachers

The Center for East Asian & Pacific Studies (EAPS) and Asian American Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign will offer an exciting week from June 19-23, 2006 in Chicago. This workshop is geared toward practicing secondary educators teaching in grades 8-12 who plan to incorporate the study of Asian Americans in their classrooms. Yvonne Lau, Director of Asian and Asian American Opportunities programs and Supplemental Instruction and DePaul University, is coordinating this workshop.

The program will include sessions on the history of Asian immigration and changing immigration policies; the differing histories of particular Asian immigrant groups; the social, cultural, economic, and religious diversity within Asian American communities; educational, social, legal and political issues facing Asian Americans; and sketches of specific groups such as Chinese, Koreans, Filipinos, Hmong, and others.

Thanks to support from a Title VI National Resource Center grant and the UIUC Asian American Studies program, participant’s room and materials are covered. For those participants who commute to the workshop, parking costs will be covered. Participants from out of town will be lodged at the Congress Plaza Hotel in the Chicago loop area. A $28 per diem stipend will be provided for meals as well. This course may be taken for 30 CPDUs or 2 University of Illinois graduate credits. Participants taking the workshop for graduate credits are responsible for paying UIUC tuition.

Preference will be given to full-time teachers who plan to incorporate the study of Asian Americans into their curriculum. A maximum of 20 will be selected to attend.

The application deadline is May 08, 2006.

For a copy of the program brochure in PDF, e-mail Rachel Endo at: rendo2@uiuc.edu. A copy of the application is available on p. 10.

APAGSO Conference a Success!

“The most gratifying part of the conference was to see students from different disciplines and backgrounds sharing their work. The conference allowed people to connect and see whose doing what work.”

» Genevieve Clatario, Conference Co-Chair and UIUC Ph.D. Student of History

“The conference was successful on many levels, but I was most happy to hear many participants say how much they appreciated that the conference brought so many graduate students together and provided an opportunity for us to get feedback on our work. For APAGSO, planning the conference was the vehicle we needed to build community and camaraderie.”

» Sarah Park, Conference Co-Chair and UIUC Ph.D. Student of Library and Information Science

The UIUC Asian Pacific American Graduate Student Organization (APAGSO) hosted its first conference: “Emerging Critical Scholarship on Asian Pacific American Issues” on March 03-March 04. Over 50 presenters representing over 20 colleges and universities were a part of this event. This interdisciplinary conference highlighted emerging scholarship examining critical issues pertaining to Asian Pacific American communities.

Shirley Hune, Associate Dean for Graduate Programs, Professor of Urban Planning, and Faculty Affiliate of Asian American Studies and Center for the Study of Women at the University of California at Los Angeles, was the keynote speaker for Friday, March 03. Her talk “No Longer ‘Strangers in the Academy?’: The Future of Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education” assessed the state of Asian Pacific Americans in higher education today. She discussed the opportunities and challenges facing this diverse community of scholars including the professionalization of Asian American Studies research, the negotiation of community and academic responsibilities, and personal strategies for succeeding in the academy.

Kent A. Ono, Director of Asian American Studies and Professor Asian American Studies, Institute of Communications Research, and Cinema Studies, was the keynote speaker for Saturday, March 04. His talk “New Locations: The Always Emerging - Never Fixed Center of Asian American Studies” highlighted the unexpected, chance, and exciting possibilities for Asian American Studies that emerges as a result of always changing social and cultural contexts.

For more information about APAGSO, visit: www.apagso.com.
An Interview with...

FIONA NGÔ

Fiona Ngô will be Assistant Professor of Asian American Studies and Gender and Women’s Studies. She is currently Postdoctoral Fellow with Asian American Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Ngô earned her Ph.D. in History from the University of California, Irvine in 2003. Her 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.

How did you become interested in AAS?
My formal training had been in African American history, but when doing research for Imperial Blues: Travel and Transnationality in the Age of Jazz, the manuscript on which I am currently working, I came across many documents that imagined Asian Americans, Cubans, Puerto Ricans, and Pacific Islanders in New York of the 1920s and 1930s. Because of these sources, my work moved towards comparative ethnic studies work, which included Asian American Studies.

What projects are you working on?
I am currently working on two projects: the one mentioned above and another on diasporic Southeast Asian identities. From the second project, I have recently published an article titled “A Chameleon’s Fate: Transnational Mixed-Race Vietnamese Identities” in Amerasia Journal, and am working on another article titled “Transitional Identities: Deconstructing Histories in the Queer Vietnamese Diaspora.”

What future courses would you like to teach?
I am currently teaching “Asian American Gender and Sexuality.” In Fall 2006, I will be teaching an upper-division seminar entitled “Transnational Sexualities,” which is crosslisted with Gender and Women’s Studies. This course will interrogate the ways in which sexualities are constructed variously as national borders are crossed, re-crossed, negotiated, and re-defined. The course will be particularly interested in queer diasporas, and topics will include militarization, globalization, immigration, and travel.

MIMI NGUYEN

Mimi Nguyen will be Assistant Professor of Asian American Studies and Gender and Women’s Studies. She is currently Mellon Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Rackham School of Graduate Studies and Visiting Assistant Professor in Women’s Studies at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Nguyen earned her Ph.D. in Ethnic Studies at the University of California, Berkeley in 2004 with a designated emphasis on women, gender, and sexuality. She is the author of multiple essays on Asian American, queer, and punk subcultures, digital technologies, and Vietnamese diasporic culture.

How did you become interested in AAS?
I became interested in Asian American Studies as an undergraduate through Women’s Studies, which had been my major. In particular, it was in working through the scholarship of feminist theorists of gender, race, nation and sexuality, and particularly Asian diasporic and Asian American feminists such as Elaine Kim, Sau-ling Wong, Rey Chow, and Trinh Minh-ha.

What projects are you working on?
Drawing on the insights of feminist post-structuralist theories and the interdisciplinary methodologies of cultural studies, my book-in-progress examines the generation and transmission of the refugee as an affective figure through and over which demands for different kinds of historical justice are negotiated, realized, or deferred. I develop this argument by focusing on Vietnamese in the United States because of the rich and resonant histories of bodies, images, and political discourses found here that highlight the continuities and discontinuities of American empire from the Cold War era to the contemporary moment.

What future courses would you like to teach?
I’d like to teach the Asian American popular culture course since I just co-edited a collection about it! I’d like to teach a course on Asian and Asian American visual culture as well. I’m also interested in cross-listing courses with Gender and Women’s Studies on Asian and Asian American women, on transnational feminist cultural studies (and human rights discourses and practices in particular), and on images of bodies at risk (which would include images of wars, refugees, HIV/AIDS, violence, etc.). I’ll be teaching a cross-listed course this fall on “The Politics of Fashion” with an emphasis on Asia and also the Middle East and South Asia.
Asian American Studies
Program Accomplishments

Christin DePouw, Teaching Assistant of Asian American Studies and Ph.D. Candidate with the Department of Educational Policy Studies, will join the University of Notre Dame’s Education, School, and Society as a postdoctoral fellow for 2006-2007.

Maniaha Desai, Associate Professor of Sociology and Women and Gender in Global Perspectives, Associate Director Program in South Asia and Middle Eastern Studies has been elected President-Elect of Sociologists for Women in Society for 2006. Further, her chapter entitled “From Autonomy to Solidarities: Transnational Feminist Practices” appears in Kathy Davis, Mary Evans, and Judith Lorber (Editors) Handbook of Gender and Women’s Studies (Sage) to be available in May 2006.

Augusto Espiritu, Associate Professor of History, was awarded a Mellon Fellowship for 2006-2007.

Christopher Lee, Postdoctoral Fellow of Asian American Studies, will be a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada postdoctoral fellow at the Department of English at the University of British Columbia and will be an assistant professor there starting July 2007.

Esther Kim Lee, Assistant Professor of Theatre, presented a paper at the Mid-America Theatre Conference in March in Chicago entitled “Ethiopian Concert and Sumo Wrestling: A Study of Theatre and Performance During Commodore Perry’s Japan Expedition.”

Susan Koshy, Assistant Professor of English, received the Center of Democracy in a multiracial Society faculty fellowship for 2006-2007.

Martin F. Manalansan IV, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Asian American Studies, Gender & Women’s Studies, and Criticism and Interpretive Theory, was appointed as the Social Science Review Editor in one of the country’s premier journals, GLQ: A Journal of Gay and Lesbian Studies. He presented lectures on neoliberalism and queer cultural productions at Northwestern University, Tufts University, University of Illinois-Chicago, Dartmouth College, and SUNY-Binghamton. He also presented on “Asian American Identity and Fusion Cuisine” at the Chicago Humanities Festival. His essay, “Race, Violence and Neoliberal Spatial Politics in the Global City” was published in a special issue of Social Text entitled “What’s Queer about Queer Studies Now?” His recent publications also include an essay in the Journal of Anthropology and Humanism. He is co-editing a special forthcoming issue on gender and migration in the International Migration Review.

Michael Masatsugu, Postdoctoral Fellow of Asian American Studies, has accepted a Faculty Fellow Position with American Studies with Colby College in Waterville, Maine.

Sarah Park, Teaching Assistant of Asian American Studies and Ph.D. student with the Graduate School of Library and Information Sciences, will be presenting at the following conferences: “Colonialism and War in Children’s Literature: Remembering Korea 1935-1953” at The Child and the Book Conference, at the University of Newcastle, UK on April 07-09, 2006, “Diversity in Children’s Literature” to be presented at a special symposium at the Pratt Institute School of Information and Library Science, New York, New York, April 18, 2006, and “Whiteout: the Transformation of Korean Adoptees in Children’s Fiction” at

(continued on next page)
AASM Organization’s Update

Asian American Studies Minors (AASM) is a University of Illinois affiliate Registered Organization. It was founded in the fall of 2005 in response to the demand of all the minors in the field who wanted to get together and be part of a group that shared similar interests. With the full support of AAS Director, Kent Ono, President Michelle Wang started the organization in late December of last year, with Treasurer Jeanette Lee and Vice President Stephanie Huang.

In order to jumpstart AASM’s agenda and to attract as many students interested in Asian American Studies, Michelle and Jeanette decided to bring in well known independent film director Quentin Lee (films included Ethan Mao, Shopping For Fangs, Drift) to the university to showcase his newest film Ethan Mao which explores various issues such as sexuality, identity, family relations, and love.

AASM is in its second semester and is an extremely new organization but with tremendous potential. Those who have expressed interest in becoming a minor or currently are one has totaled 20 students. AASM plans to switch gears to become a more academic-oriented organization and hopes to collaborate with the Asian American Studies Program, the Asian Pacific American Graduate Student Organization, the Asian American Cultural Center, and other student groups in the future to bring Asian American awareness to the students on our campus.

Membership is open to anyone interested in Asian American Studies and members do not have to be a minor to join. For more information, e-mail AASM Vice President Stephanie Huang at: syhuang1@uiuc.edu.

AAS would like to congratulate all of our students graduating in May and August 2006.

Michelle Yueming Wang will graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Psychology and minor in Asian American Studies in May 2006. In September 2006, she will join Stanford University’s five-year Ph.D. Clinical Psychology program with a focus on Asian American Mental Health. Michelle is one of AAS’s office assistants and has been actively involved in multiple on-campus activities including serving as the Undergraduate Student Representative for Asian American Studies, Asian American Undergraduate Advisory Committee member, lab manager and research assistant at the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology, research assistant with the Psychology Department, Resident Advisor at Lincoln Avenue Residence Hall, and president of Asian American Studies Minors (AASM).

AAS Announces 2006-2007 Postdoctoral Fellow

Shelley Lee will join AAS as 2006-2007’s postdoctoral fellow. She is currently Lecturer with the Department of Asian American Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Lee earned her Ph.D. in History at Stanford University in 2005 with a major field in U.S. History and supporting fields in race and culture.

Her upcoming project is based on her dissertation “Cosmopolitan Identities: Japanese Americans in Seattle and the Pacific Rim, 1900-1942” which broadly seeks to uncover the ways that racial and ethnic minorities drew upon their environments to negotiate a measure of self-determination against barriers that circumscribed their everyday lives. She examines on the role of Japanese Americans in Seattle’s rise as a commercial and cultural nexus in the Pacific region in the early twentieth century and argues that urbanization, the development of transpacific ties with Japan, and the emergence of a multiethnic population within the city limits were intertwined processes in Seattle, manifesting in a civic culture and discourse known as “cosmopolitanism.”
Spring 2006 Events

JANUARY

January 26
Yvonne Lau, Director of Asian and Asian American Opportunities programs and Supplemental Instruction and DePaul University.

» 12:00 p.m. at the AAS/AACC Conference Room: “Asian American ELLs in K-12: At the Top or Left Behind?”

» 2:30 p.m. at 126 GLIS: “Chicago’s Chinese Americans: From Chinatown and Beyond.”

January 27
Lisa Nakamura, Assistant Professor of Communication Arts and Visual Culture Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

» Talk “All looks same? Mediating Visual Cultures of Race on the Web.” 4:00 p.m., Music Room, 2nd Floor in the Levis Faculty Center.

MARCH

March 02
Screening of Ethan Mao and Q&A with director, Quentin Lee.

» 6:30 p.m., Allen Hall Main Lounge. Hosted by the Asian American Studies Minors (AASM) and co-sponsored in part by the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, & Transgender Concerns, and the Center for Advanced Study.

March 03-04
UIUC’s Asian Pacific American Graduate Student Organization


To view the full conference schedule, visit http://leep.lis.uiuc.edu/publish/sypark2/APAGSO/index.html.

March 27
Keith Osajima, Professor of Race and Ethnic Studies at University of Redlands.

» Talk “Building Critical Consciousness among Asian American College Students: Challenges and Possibilities.” 1:30 p.m. in Education Building Room 242. Co-sponsored with AACC and APAGSO.

March 29
John Blanco, Assistant Professor of Literature, University of California, San Diego.

» Talk “What is a Tropical Gothic? Colonial Modernity and Revolution in Nineteenth-Century Philippines.” 10:00 a.m. in the AAS/AACC Conference Room. Co-sponsored with the Filipino and Filipino American Interests Group.

APRIL

April 07
Kandice Chuh, Associate Professor of English, University of Maryland and Karen Shimakawa, Associate Professor of Performance Studies at New York University

» Workshop “to be an immigrant is to be marked by the border”: racialization in contemporary U.S. law.” 12:00 p.m., AAS/AACC Conference Room.

» Lecture “Translating Asians.” 4:00 p.m., Levis Faculty Center Reading Room (1st Floor). Reception to follow.

April 10
Michael Masatsugu, Postdoctoral Fellow of Asian American Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

» Lecture “Japanese American Buddhism, Dharma Bums and the Politics of Authenticity during the Early Cold War Years.” 3:00 p.m., AAS/AACC Conference Room.

April 11
Christopher Lee, Postdoctoral Fellow of Asian American Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

» Lecture “Cultural Nationalism and the Temporality of Asian American Literature.” 12:00 p.m., AAS/AACC Conference Room.

April 12
Walden Bello, Professor of Sociology, University of the Philippines and Executive Director, Focus on the Global South, Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand.

» Lecture “Empire, Crisis, and Resistance: A View from the South.” 5:00 p.m. Gregory Hall 100. Co-sponsored by the Filipino and Filipino American Interests Group & Resistance and Empire Reading Group.

April 12
Biju Matthew, member of the organizing committee of the New York Taxi Workers Alliance.

» Lecture “Cabs and Capitalism.” 6:00 p.m., Location 190 Lincoln Hall. Co-sponsored by the South Asian Collective.

April 19
Yoon Pak, Associate Professor of Educational Policy Studies.

» Workshop “Framing the "Oriental" Citizen in Education for Interculturalism in the 1930s.” 12:00 p.m., AAS/AACC Conference Room.

April 25
Asian American Leadership Awards.

» 7:00 p.m., 314 Illini Union.

April 30
Appreciation Banquet.

» 6:00 p.m., Kennedy’s at Stone Creek. This banquet will honor Pallassana Bulgopal, Clark Cunningham, Yuki Llewellyn and George Yu for their contributions to Asian American Studies.
**Summer 2006 - Fall 2006**

**SUMMER 2006**

*AAS 100: Introduction to Asian American Studies (3 credits)*

- CRN 32896 discussion-recitation: TWR 10:00 AM – 11:50 AM, 215 Davenport Hall, Pak, Y (meets Summer Session I from 05/16/2006 - 06/09/2006)
- CRN 30560 discussion-recitation: TWR 01:00 PM – 02:50 PM, 214 Davenport Hall, Chung, J (meets Summer Session II from 05/16/2006 - 06/09/2006)

*AAS 290: Individual Study (2-3 hours)*

Prerequisite: AAS 100

- CRN: 10027, independent study: dates/times/locations TBA

**FALL 2006**

*AAS 100: Introduction Asian American Studies (3 credits)*

All students enroll in the lecture-discussion section:

- CRN 29646, lecture-discussion: TR 03:00 PM - 03:50, Room 124 Burdell Hall, Jung, M

All students must enroll for one discussion section:

- CRN 47100 discussion-recitation: F 11:00 AM - 11:50 AM, Room 113 Davenport Hall, Instructor TBA
- CRN 47102 discussion-recitation: F 12:00 PM - 12:50 PM, Room 113 Davenport Hall, Instructor TBA

*AAS 120: Introduction to Asian American Popular Culture (3 hours)*

- CRN 47170 lecture: TR 10:00 AM - 11:20 AM, Room 229 Natural History Bldg, Ono, K.

*AAS 184: Asian American Cultures (3 hours)*

- CRN 37061 lecture-discussion: TR 02:30 PM - 03:50 PM, Room 228 Natural History Bldg, Kim, H.

*AAS 199: Undergraduate Open Seminar (1 to 5 hours)*

**Topic: Asian American Youth**

- CRN 47524 lecture-discussion: MW 10:00 AM - 11:20 AM, Room 429 Armory, Kwon, S

*AAS 310: Race and Cultural Diversity (4 hours)*

All students enroll in the lecture-discussion section:

- (CRN TBA) lecture: T 02:00 PM - 03:50 PM Room 166 Education Bldg, Anderson, J
- (CRN TBA) lecture: T 02:00 PM - 03:50 PM Room 166 Education Bldg, Anderson, J

All students must enroll for one discussion section:

- CRN 33770 discussion-recitation: R 02:00 PM - 03:50 PM Room 140-A Education Bldg
- CRN 33764 discussion-recitation: R 02:00 PM - 03:50 PM Room 22 Education Bldg

*AAS 397: Asian Families in America (3 hours)*

- CRN 33282 lecture-discussion: TR 10:00 AM - 11:20 AM Room 127 1207 W Oregon Street (Urbana), Balgopal, P

*AAS 402: Asian American Education (4 hours)*

- CRN 45567 lecture-discussion W 12:00 PM - 01:50 PM Room 42-A Education Bldg, Pak, Y

*AAS 450: Asian American Ethnic Groups (3 undergraduate hours or 4 graduate hours)*

**Prerequisites:** Any AAS course at the 100 or 200 level, or consent of instructor

**Topic: Filipino American History**

- CRN 45235 lecture-discussion: TR 10:00 AM - 11:20 AM Room 137 Armory, Espiritu, A
- CRN 45236 lecture-discussion: TR 10:00 AM - 11:20 AM Room 137 Armory, Espiritu, A

**Topic: Chinese Americans**

- CRN 47519 lecture-discussion: MW 10:00 AM - 11:20 AM Room 37 Education Bldg, Lan, S
- CRN 47520 lecture-discussion: MW 10:00 AM - 11:20 AM Room 37 Education Bldg, Lan, S

*AAS 490: Advanced Topics in Asian American Studies (3 undergraduate hours or 4 graduate hours)*

**Prerequisite:** AAS 100 or any Asian American Studies course, or consent of instructor

**Topic: Theatre in a Global Context**

Meets with THEA 199, section TGC (CRN 46533) and THEA 591, section TGC (CRN 46660).

Open to undergraduate students only.

- CRN 46685 Conference: TR 10:30 AM - 11:50 AM Room 106-B3 Engineering Hall, Lee, E

**Topic: Transnational Sexualities**

Meets with GWS 490, sections FN (CRN 47820) and FNU (CRN 47844).

Open to graduate and undergraduate students.

- CRN 47824 lecture-discussion: T 03:00 PM - 05:50 PM Room 145 Armory, Ngo, F
- CRN 47849 lecture-discussion: T 03:00 PM - 05:50 PM Room 145 Armory, Ngo, F

**Topic: The Politics of Fashion**

Meets with GWS 490, sections MN (47816) and MNU (47843)

- 47822 lecture-discussion MN 01:00 PM - 03:50 PM T' room 137 Armory
- 47848 lecture-discussion MNU 01:00 PM - 03:50 PM T' room 137 Armory

Open to graduate and undergraduate students.

- CRN 47848 lecture-discussion: T 01:00 PM - 03:50 PM T Room 137 Armory, Nguyen, M.

*Course offerings are subject to change. Be sure to visit the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign’s “Class Schedule” for updates: [http://courses.uiuc.edu/cis/schedule/urbana/2006/Fall/](http://courses.uiuc.edu/cis/schedule/urbana/2006/Fall/).*

*Indicates that course satisfies the General Education Criteria for a U.S. Minority Culture(s) course.*
Asian American Experience: Workshop for Grades 8-12 Teachers

APPLICATION FORM

Name ____________________________________________

Please give both addresses and circle the mailing address to be used till the time of the workshop

Home address  Work address: (include name of school)
________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Phone: _______________________________   Phone: _______________________________
ed-mail: _______________________________   e-mail: _______________________________

Do you want to register for graduate credit? Yes _____ No _____

1. Educational background—degrees, dates, majors, in-service / graduate study, etc.
________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

2. Current teaching assignments. Include subjects, grade levels & number of classes per subject
________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

3. List courses you have taken on any of the following subjects: Asian American; Asia; specific countries/regions in Asia; specific Asian American populations.
________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

4. I teach about Asian Americans to _________ students / year for ________ days / years.

5. Are you the only one teaching about Asian Americans in your school? _____ In your school district? ___

6. Indicate languages studied and travel abroad
________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Return completed application to:
Asian American Experience
Center for East Asian & Pacific Studies
University of Illinois
910 S Fifth St., ISB 230
Champaign, IL 61820
Contribute to Excellence

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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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