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Asian American Studies Program
University of Wisconsin-Madison

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BRIDGES

Asian American Studies Program Holds its Annual Film Festival

The Asian American Studies Program (AASP) held its annual film festival March 27-28, 1999. This year, award-winning filmmakers Loni Ding, Rea Tajiri, Masahiro Sugano, and Greg Pak participated in a roundtable discussion and screened their films.

Saturday afternoon, Ding, Pak, and Tajiri shared their experiences at a roundtable on, "Making it as an Independent Filmmaker." The panel was moderated by Joe Beres of the Independent Film and Video Collaborative. The directors shared their experiences on how they became filmmakers and the obstacles they faced. They offered their wisdom in many areas, ranging from the practical to the ideal. They shared the many "tricks" they had learned while making films on low budgets, such as investing in certain equipment, taking advantage of university editing facilities, and using creative camera angles and computer graphics. Their charge to students was to make films that they really cared about. Pak urged students to "be rigorous with your films, make them the best they can be."



Left to right: Loni Ding, Rea Tajiri, Greg Pak, and Joe Beres

Saturday evening, Ding screened her documentary *Ancestors in the Americas*. The first part of the film, *Coolies, Sailors, Settlers* explored the global forces that brought the first Filipinos, Chinese, and Asian Indians to America in the 18th and 19th centuries. *Part II, Chinese in the Frontier West: An American Story* chronicled the arrival of Chinese to Gold Rush California and their central economic role in building the West. Drawing upon a vast array of sources-- Ding conducted dozens of interviews and tracked down thousands of documents-- the documentary brought to life the everyday experiences

of Asian American life in the United States, even as it was structured by economic exploitation, social discrimination, and political marginalization.

After the screening, Ding discussed her "documemoir" approach in representing a history that has been largely undocumented. The approach constructed a historical record from the memories of people involved in the struggle for Asian American dignity and recognition. Ding tried to accurately represent those memories with a minimum of personal interpretation, which she said sometimes gets in the way of revealing the facts.

Sunday afternoon, various film shorts were shown, including Sugano's animation documentary *Hisao* about the life of a Japanese singer/songwriter seeking his dream in the United States. Sugano used innovative animation techniques involving photographs, moving images, and sound effects to tell a compelling tale of how Hisao left behind everything in Japan to pursue a career as a rock 'n' roll star.



Filmmaker Masahiro Sugano

Pak's two shorts *Fighting Grandpa* and *Mouse* were also shown. *Fighting Grandpa*, winner of the Student Academy Awards Documentary Gold Award, chronicled Pak's search for evidence of love between his immigrant Korean grandparents. Movingly told through Pak's uncles, aunts, and grandmother, we are forced to consider whether we romanticize our ancestors in an attempt to give us stable memories by which we understand our current lives. *Mouse* depicted the story of a man who tries to avoid a conversation about pregnancy with his girlfriend by chasing a mouse around his apartment.

Sunday evening, Tajiri screened her feature film, *Strawberry Fields*, the story of Irene, a troubled Japanese American girl who revisits the World War II internment camp where her mother and grandfather were imprisoned. We learn about the uneasy relationship she has with her mother and her thirst to know about what happened to her family in the camps. Tajiri, a Los Angeles native, wrote the film with a Canadian-Asian friend with whom she shared similar experiences growing up in predominantly white neighborhoods.

(The Asian American Film Festival was funded by the Anonymous Fund Committee and was part of the National Tour of the 21st Asian American International Film Festival organized and programmed by Asian CineVision, a not-for-profit media arts center based in New York City. It also took place as part of UW-Madison's Cinematheque series.)

Asian American Studies Program Fall 1999 Courses

101 Introduction to Asian American Studies

Instructor: Jan Miyasaki
11:00-12:15 TR

220 Ethnic Movements in the United States

Instructor: Pam Oliver
11:00-12:15 TR
Cross-listed with Sociology

260 Topics in Asian American Culture: Asian American Movement

Instructor: Peggy Choy
12:40-2:00 TR
Meets with Dance 560

270 Survey of Asian American Literature

Instructor: TBA
2:25-3:40 TR
Cross-listed with English

540 Topics in Asian American Studies: Mutual Perceptions of Racial Minorities

Instructor: Michael Thornton
2:25-4:55 M
Meets with Afro-American Studies 443

562 Mass Media and Minorities

Instructor: Hemant Shah
1:00-2:15 TR
Cross-listed with Journalism

595 Asian American Women Writers

Instructor: TBA
11:00-12:15 TR
Cross-listed with English

Asian Americans and Affirmative Action: Frank Wu Visits UW

Frank Wu, associate professor of Law at Howard University, challenged people to question racial assumptions of who belongs in certain institutions and to think about the ways in which racial discrimination can be remedied. Wu spoke on, "Beyond Black and White: Asian Americans and Affirmative Action" on April 16, 1999 to over 100 students, faculty, and staff.

Wu made three main points. First, he described the overt and subtle institutional forms of racial discrimination that persist today and are revealed in various statistics including educational attainment and infant mortality. He then emphasized the importance of meeting societal obligations and considering the key principles upon which this society is based. Lastly, Wu described the various pragmatic solutions to dealing with racial discrimination, arguing that current legislation insufficiently addresses the current racial reality in America.

Throughout his lecture, Wu described the racial experience of Asian Americans, giving note to how Asian Americans are portrayed as models of success. He exposed the "model minority myth" for its inherent dangers, for its factual inaccuracies and hurtful message it sends to

other racial minorities who are blamed for "not making it," in light of Asian American "success." Further, Wu described how for every "positive" aspect of the model minority myth, there is a negative reverse. For example, "hardworking" Asian Americans are also seen as "unfair economic competitors," and what is praised as "strong Asian family values" is also used to paint a picture of Asian Americans as being "clannish."

Affirmative action has been successfully implemented in various institutions, and Wu lauded the U.S. army for how it has achieved minority representation that reflects current demographics. Wu also emphasized that merit cannot be determined solely by a rigid, single measure such as grade point averages and standardized test scores. For example, Wu discussed the various ways that professors serve the university-- through teaching, research, and administration. While some professors may excel in one area, they may struggle in another. Still, any university community depends on all three aspects, and in the same vein, universities should consider the various strengths that applicants offer.

Following the lecture, the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (APALSA) hosted a reception at the Multicultural Student Center, and later that evening the Wisconsin Organization of Asian Americans held a potluck dinner for Wu. In

conjunction with his visit to Madison, Wu also spoke on several radio programs, including interviews with Jean Feraca on WHA, Steve Paulson on National Public Radio's "To the Best of our Knowledge," Matthew Rothschild on WORT's "Second Opinion," and Jan Miyasaki on WORT's "Eight O'clock Buzz."



Frank Wu, Associate Professor of Law, Howard University

AASP invited Wu to speak on campus because of his important voice in the affirmative action debate. Last semester, anti-affirmative action leaders Ward Connerly and Dinesh D'Souza spoke on campus. In October 1997, Wu attracted national attention from his debate on affirmative action with Dinesh D'Souza that was televised on C-SPAN's "American Perspectives." Frank Wu's visit was funded by the University Lectures Committee and AASP.

News from Ingraham Hall

From the Director

Spring semester is always a busy time because of Asian American month in April. The Asian American Film Festival kicked off the month of activities that included films, lectures, performances, and a brown-bag lecture series. The Asian American Student Union and the Association of Asian American Graduate Students, with help from Program Assistant Sharon Lee and Project Assistant Janet Tom, took on the bulk of the responsibility for organizing the month's events.

Most people familiar with the history of AASP know that we've had difficulties hiring faculty and growing as a program. But there is reason to be optimistic on the hiring front. We've made an offer to Rhacel Parrenas, who would take a joint appointment with the Asian American Studies program and Women's Studies beginning in Fall 2000. During the 1999-2000 academic year, Rhacel will take a postdoctoral fellowship at UCLA's anthropology department.

Rhacel has a Ph.D. in Ethnic Studies from Berkeley, where she studied with Evelyn Nakano Glenn. She wrote her dissertation on the migration of Filipina domestic workers to Rome and Los Angeles, how they are incorporated into the labor market, and how they negotiate class, gender, and

racial identities in these cities. Rhacel's study is one of the first to investigate the roles of Filipina immigrant workers, their role in the global economy, and their family and economic strategies. By framing the study in the context of global economic transformation, her dissertation examines the connections between Asian immigration and Asian American (and Asian-Italian) identity through the formation of diasporic networks. Rhacel will be revising the dissertation into a book, which will be published by Stanford University Press.

If hiring Rhacel Parrenas was a highlight, then losing Sumie Okazaki from our ranks was surely one of the "lowlights." Sumie and her husband Allen Poteshman have taken jobs at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. Allen recently finished his Ph.D. in Business and was hoping to join the Department of Finance at UW. Unfortunately, things didn't work out, and Sumie, Allen, and Abigail will be leaving Madison this summer. Sumie played a key role in the program, teaching courses on Asian American mental health and Introduction to Asian American Studies. She also is a leading researcher in the area of Asian American mental health issues and received a major research grant from the National Institute of Mental Health. We will miss Sumie's contributions to the program. Good luck Sumie, Allen, and Abigail.

We also are losing another person vital to the success of the program over the past two years. Janet Tom has finished her MA in library and information studies and hopes to take a job in the New York City area. Janet has been the key figure in organizing some of our recent programming highlights. Her contacts in the Asian American arts community proved to be essential in putting together two of the best Asian American Film Festivals at UW. Janet also was the driving force behind bringing "A Slice of Rice," the national stage performance about multiethnic identities, to Madison. We're not likely to find someone else next year who can call up nationally prominent filmmakers Loni Ding and Rea Tajiri and convince them to come to Madison. Anyway, good luck with your new job Janet, and thanks for all your work on behalf of AASP.

Unfortunately, we also must say goodbye and good luck to two other FAC members. Joy Lei and Kevin Kumashiro have both taken dissertation fellowships and will be leaving Madison this summer. Joy and Kevin have been on the front lines of making things happen for AASP. They were heavily involved in writing the important proposal for the expansion of AASP. They are also among the founding members of the Association for Asian American Graduate Students. We will miss their leadership and enthusiastic support of the program.

Spring Events

AAAGS Brown Bag Series

As part of Asian American month, the Association of Asian American Graduate Students (AAAGS) sponsored a series of member-led brown bags on various research topics.

April 1: Vayong Moua, graduate student in the LaFollette Institute of Public Affairs, launched the series with the first brown bag titled, *"Hmong Christianity: Conversion, Consequences, and Conflict."* Vayong discussed his research on the reasons many Hmong convert to Christianity and the cultural changes that have resulted. Focusing on the tensions between traditional animists and Christians, he proposed paradigm changes that can help restore a sense of community in the Hmong culture.

April 5: Joyce F. Liu, graduate student in clinical psychology, discussed her research on the model minority myth in her talk titled, *"The Model Minority Stereotype: What Does it Mean, Where Does it Come From, and What Will it Do for the Future of Asian Americans?"* Joyce discussed the history of the model minority stereotype, its role in race relations, and its impact on psychological perspectives. She challenged participants to contest the stereotype in different ways and shared various community

and campus resources available to students.

April 8: Sharon Lee, Asian American Studies Program Assistant, shared background information about AASP in a presentation titled, *"UW-Madison's Asian American Studies Program: History and Future."* She showed the documentary video, *"Racism at UW: A Video Collage,"* which detailed the series of events that led up to the Holley Report and the Madison Plan and then described how these events led to the creation of AASP.

April 13: Joy Lei, graduate student in Educational Policy Studies, discussed her Ph.D. research in, *"Learning the Three R's-- Racism, Representation, and Resistance: the Constructed and Lived Realities of Asian American Students."* She shared her experiences studying race relations at a multi-racial, multi-ethnic high school where she examined how identity construction affected race relations and analyzed the effectiveness of two classes and a non-profit program in addressing issues of race and ethnicity. In particular, she discussed the identity constructions of Southeast Asian and African American teens at the school.

April 16: Kevin Kumashiro, graduate student in Educational Policy Studies, led a workshop titled, *"Exploring the Sexualization and Sexualities of Asian Americans,"* that critically examined the contradictory nature of sexualized and racialized forms of oppression

facing bisexual, gay, and lesbian Asian Americans. Kevin emphasized that bisexual, gay, and lesbian Asian Americans confront multiple and often paradoxical forms of oppression such as gendered racism (i.e. "Orientalism") in mainstream society and a racialized form of homophobia in Asian American communities.

April 21: Camille Mata presented her research on Filipina prostitutes in Japan and the Philippines in her paper, *"Adopting Haraway's Cyborg: the Filipina Capitalist Machine."* Incorporating theories from Gerda Lerner and Donna Haraway, Camille discussed how the meaning of women's sexuality has transgressed from sacredness to commodity, especially in the spaces created by military personnel in the Philippines.

April 26: Sue Pak, graduate student in Sociology, and Jenny Wang, graduate student in chemical engineering, shared their experiences working in their fields in a talk about, *"Internship Experiences for a Chemical Engineer and a Development Worker."* Sue shared in detail her past involvement with labor unions and offered advice on how students can become active in the union movement. Jenny discussed the advantages and disadvantages of internships for engineering graduate students and compared the employment seeking process for undergraduate and graduate students.

10th Annual Asian American Month-- April 1999

All events organized by the Asian American Student Union unless otherwise noted.

AAAGS Brown Bag: "Hmong Christianity: Conversion, Consequences, and Conflict"

Vayong Moua, graduate student in the LaFollette Institute of Public Affairs. Thursday, April 1, 12-1pm. MSC Conference Room, Red Gym.

AAAGS Brown Bag: "The Model Minority: What Does it Mean, Where Does it Come From, What Will it Do for the Future of Asian Americans?"

Joyce Liu, graduate student in clinical psychology. Monday, April 5, 12-1pm. MSC Conference Room, Red Gym.

Film: "Picture Bride" with director Kayo Hatta

The story of a young "picture bride" who travels from Japan to America. Tuesday, April 6, 5pm. On Wisconsin Room, Red Gym.

AAAGS Brown Bag: "Asian American Studies Program: History and Future"

Sharon Lee, AASP Program Assistant. Thursday, April 8, 12-1pm. 340 Ingraham Hall.

Kip Fulbeck: "Speakin' Up the Yin/Yang"

Humorous, honest performance based on experiences of a biracial Asian American man. Thursday, April 8, 7pm. Starlight Room, Civic Center.

Asian American Folk Fair

Asian American crafts, games, and dances. Sunday, April 11, 1-5pm. MSC, Red Gym.

Dance by Maura Donahue/ In Mixed Company: "Skinning the Surface"

Dance performance exploring and exposing the injustices faced by the "mixed race," children born to American troops and Vietnamese women during the Vietnam War. Monday, April 12, 6pm. Starlight Room, Civic Room.

Dance Workshop with Peggy Myo-Young Choy. "Shattering Hell: Moving as an Asian American Woman Warrior"

"Stories for the Belly" expressed through Asian American movement. Monday, April 12, 6:30pm. 302 B/C, Union South.

AAAGS Brown Bag: "Learning the Three R's-- Racism, Representation, and Resistance: The Constructed and Lived Realities of Asian American Students"

Joy Lei, graduate student in Educational Policy Studies. Tuesday, April 13, 12-1pm. MSC Conference Room, Red Gym.

AAAGS Brown Bag: "Exploring the Sexualization and Sexualities of Asian America(ns)"

Kevin Kumashiro, graduate student in Educational Policy Studies. Friday, April 16, 12-1pm. MSC Lounge, Red Gym.

Law Professor Frank Wu, Howard University: "Beyond Black and White: Asian Americans and Affirmative Action"

Lecture by leading proponent of affirmative action. Organized by AASP. Friday April 16, 1:00-2:30pm. 5246 Law School.

Film: "Miss India Georgia" with directors Daniel Friedman and Sharon Grimberg

Follow four Indian-American teenage girls in their struggles to establish their identities. Sunday, April 18, 3pm. Morgridge Auditorium, Grainger Hall.

Panel Discussion: Japanese Internment Camp Survivors. "Japanese Internment: 50 years of Reflection"

Organized by AASU and AASP. Monday, April 19, 6:30pm. On Wisconsin Room, Red Gym.

Southeast Asian Cultural Showcase

Traditional dances and music performed by Hmong, Vietnamese, Cambodian, and Laotian organizations. Organized by Southeast Asian Council. Tuesday, April 20, 7pm. Great Hall, Memorial Union.

AAAGS Brown Bag: "Adopting Haraway's Cyborg: The Filipina Capitalist Machine"

Camille Mata

Wednesday, April 21, 12-1pm. MSC Conference Room, Red Gym.

Performance: SEAM

Chicago-based Asian American Band: Sooyoung Park, William Chin, Reg Schader, Chris Manfrin. Friday, April 23, 7:30pm. Club 770, Union South.

Counselor Teresa Mok, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. "Making Faces: The Asian American Women"

Lecture/workshop discussing the origins and effects of stereotypes of Asian American women. Sunday, April 25, 6pm. On Wisconsin Room, Red Gym.

AAAGS Brown Bag: "Internship Experiences for a Chemical Engineer and a Developmental Worker"

Sue Pak, graduate student in Sociology, and Jenny Wang, graduate student in Chemical Engineering. Monday, April 26, 12-1pm. MSC Conference Room, Red Gym.

Ping Chong: "Vampires, Doppelgangers, and Aliens, Resident and Otherwise"

Artist Ping Chong transports his audience to hauntingly beautiful worlds of history and culture of contemporary Asia America.

Organized by the Art Department.

Monday, April 26, 5:30pm. Margaret H'Doubler Performance space, Lathrop Hall.

World War II Veteran Louis S. Crisostomo

Crisostomo, a spy for the Allied Forces in the Philippines, speaks of his experiences during the war. Tuesday, April 27, 7pm. MSC Lounge, Red Gym.

Korean American Adoptee Film: "Crossing Chasms" with director Jennifer Arndt

This poignant film captures the experiences of several Korean American adoptees. Thursday, April 29, 7pm. MSC Lounge, Red Gym.

First Korean/Korean-American Studies Conference, "Tearing Down Boundaries"

Professors from UCLA, Princeton University, Indiana University, and St. Norbert College discuss Korean and Korean American studies, including economics, history, politics, and feminism. Organized by Tiger 2000: Committee for Korean Studies. Friday, April 30, 9am-5pm. Roundtable, Memorial Union.

"Tastes of Asia America" & "Lantern Festival: Honoring the Past, Living the Present, Building the Future"

Lantern festival on Lake Mendota and a traditional Korean performance. Friday, April 30, 6pm. On Wisconsin Room, Red Gym.

Indian Culture Night

Annual event to celebrate Indian tradition and culture. Organized by Indian Student Association. Saturday, May 1, 6pm-9pm. Great Hall, Memorial Union.

"A Language of Their Own," a play by Chay Yew

Interconnecting stories between three Asian men and one white man in a dramatic meditation on the nature of desire and sexuality. Sponsored by the Ten Percent Society, LGBT Center, AAAGS, AASP.

Saturday-Monday, May 1-3, 7:30pm. Play Circle Theater, Memorial Union.

Great Leap Performance: "A Slice of Rice, Frijoles, and Greens"

Humorous insights into Asian, Latino/a, African-American, and deaf experiences through theater and dance.

Organized by AASP. Tuesday, May 4, 8pm. Memorial Union Theater.

A Slice of Rice, Frijoles, and Greens

AASP and AAAGS sponsored Great Leap's production of "A Slice of Rice, Frijoles, and Greens" at UW-Madison on May 4, as one of the last events of a very busy Asian American month. A humorous and poignant mix of stories presented by four performers, the production provided insights into the Asian American, Latino American, African American, and deaf experiences through dance, music, and theater. Though each slice may be different, "Rice, Frijoles, and Greens" joined to make a statement, taking audiences beyond cultural borders. Pieces performed included:

- ♦ "My Hair Can't Swim," a story of a young African American girl who comes to terms with her highly textured hair in a society that doesn't acknowledge its uniqueness. Performed by Sybil Desta.
- ♦ "What does the Sun Sound Like?" an autobiographical story of a hearing daughter growing up with deaf parents. The piece revolved around the rites of passage of a 12 year old girl, her deaf parents, and the healing power of the sun. Performed by Arlene Malinowski.
- ♦ "Grandpa Story," an excerpt from a full-length work titled, "Monkhood in Three Easy Lessons," which shared the tale of a "Model Minority family failure" and the surprising lessons of an eccentric grandfather. Performed by Dan Kwong.

♦ "Nahuatl-- Now What?" a moving excerpt relating the identity formation of a Mexican American from the mercado in Guadalajara up to her days in Los Angeles. Performed by Paulina Sahagun.

Founded in 1978 by artistic director Nobuko Miyamoto, Great Leap's mission is to create and present works that give expression to the Asian American and multicultural experience through performances and workshops. For more information about Great Leap, call (310) 264-6696 or go to: www.greatleap.org.

Tiger 2000: New Student Group Forms for Korean/ Korean American Studies

Tiger 2000, the Committee for Korean Studies formed this past spring because of students' frustration with the dearth of courses relating to Korea at UW. Currently, there are no Korean courses offered at UW-Madison, except for one language course which is consistently over-enrolled and taught by lecturers.

Tiger 2000 is the culmination of a growing frustration with this lack of Korean studies courses. Peggy Choy, faculty advisor of the student group and AASP Faculty Advisory Committee member, stated that the real push for Korean studies stemmed from her October 24, 1998 dance concert with traditional dancers and musicians from Korea, performed in

conjunction with the AASP's October symposium. (See Bridges, no. 10). Prior to this event, there had been no cohesive, organized effort to establish Korean or Korean American studies on campus. Choy garnered support for the concert by explaining how a cultural performance would highlight something positive about Korea, amidst the Fall financial crisis that adversely affected many countries in East Asia. "What better ambassadors would Korean performers be, instead of political or economic advisors? The Korean community and the University embraced the idea, as it highlighted something about Korean culture to take pride in during a difficult time," she explained. Following the concert, Choy collected over 100 signatures from audience members to support the establishment of Korean studies at UW.

At the end of that semester, students joined Choy in her efforts to form Tiger 2000, whose mission is to, "educate people in this university community of the important and dynamic aspects of Korea and Korean America, their history, culture, and their vital roles in today's global community." The name of the group stems from the tiger, a cultural and spiritual symbol of Korea and represents the goal of establishing a Korean/ Korean American Studies Program by the year 2000.

Tiger 2000 members have organized events to raise awareness of Korean/ Korean American issues on campus.

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A spring lecture series showcased research on a variety of Korean topics. The first lecturer in the series was Youkyung Son (Department of Korean Linguistics and Literature, Seoul University), who spoke on "Korean women's Identity and the Question of 'Yeosun-Sung' in Chunghee Oh's Short Stories" on February 9. On February 16, Sharon Lee (Asian American Studies Program Assistant) presented her Master's research in a talk titled, "Onward Christian Soldiers: the Role of Korean Churches in the Independence Movement in Korea and America, 1876-1919." And on March 2, Junhyoung Shin (Department of Art History, UW Madison) presented, "5000 Years of Korean Art: Art at the Cultural Crossing." The lecture series will continue in the fall.

Tiger 2000 also held the first conference on Korean and Korean American Studies in the history of UW-Madison on April 29-30, 1999. The conference, titled, "Tearing Down Boundaries," featured panels with noted scholars in Korean and Korean American studies from across the country. Panelists included: Robert Buswell (Director, Center for Korean Studies, UCLA); Michael Robinson (History, Indiana University); Gi-Wook Shin (Sociology, UCLA); Kyeyoung Park (Anthropology, Princeton University); Wayne Patterson (History, St. Norbert College); and filmmaker Jennifer Arndt.

Panelists discussed the modern Korean crisis, new perspectives in Korean/

Korean American Studies, and ways to establish Korean Studies at a university. There was also a screening of Arndt's film on Korean adoptees titled, "Crossing Chasms." The conference ended with a performance of traditional Korean music and a lantern festival.

Tiger 2000 found much support from across campus, from faculty such as Chemistry Professor Hyuk Yu, to students in all disciplines. And though there are obstacles, Tiger 2000 members remain optimistic. Mike Jin, Chair of the Committee, said: "I am sure there will be Korean Studies here at UW-Madison, though it may be after I graduate. Right now we are laying the foundation in this effort to establish Korean courses at UW." Choy also argued that UW has the potential to be the premier program in the Midwest for Korean/ Korean American Studies. "Our proposal is unique in that it focuses on establishing a program that studies both Korean and Korean American issues, something that is crucial in our increasingly culturally-connected world. Korean language courses are a good start but should not stand at the core of a strong Korean/ Korean American studies program. Instead, the core should be a deep understanding of Korean history and culture."

For more information, visit the Tiger 2000 website at: www.sit.wisc.edu/~tiger2000 or email Mike Jin at bkjin@students.wisc.edu.

MAPS Terrific Tuesdays Series

Several members on AASP's Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC) took part in the Multicultural Academic Programs and Services (MAPS) "Terrific Tuesdays" this past year. Terrific Tuesdays is a series of panel discussions on important issues concerning communities of color, whether on campus or in the community. The following is a listing of the panel discussions to which FAC members contributed.

- ♦ "Sisters of Color: Working Across Cultural Boundaries." November 17, 1998. Panel included project assistant Janet Tom.
- ♦ "Crossing the Racial Divide: Panel on Interracial Dating Relations." December 1, 1998. Panel included director Hemant Shah and his wife Jo Ellen Fair, director of African Studies. Also included program assistant Sharon Lee.
- ♦ "Sisters of Color II: Working Across Cultural Boundaries." February 23, 1999. Panel included FAC member Joy Lei.
- ♦ "Brothers of Color: working Across Cultural Boundaries." March 23, 1999. Panel moderated by FAC member Kevin Kumashiro.

MAPS welcomes suggestions for future Terrific Tuesdays. For more info, contact Gilbert Park at: gcparks@lssaa.wisc.edu.

AASU Students Attend Harvard Conference

With partial financial support of AASP, thirteen members of the Asian American Student Union (AASU) attended the 10th Annual Harvard Inter-collegiate Asian American Conference, "Visions: Asian America at the Dawn of the New Millennium," on February 12-14, 1999.

The conference included a talk by Benjamin Sun (CEO, AsianAvenue.com) on the media representations of Asian Americans; a reading by author Lan Samantha Chang from her new book *Hunger*; a discussion led by Gary Okihiro on the challenges to define and establish Asian American Studies; and an address by Judge Susan Mollway on her struggle to become one of the first Asian American woman District Court judges. Students also attended workshops on community activism.

AASU members felt their attendance greatly benefited the group by cultivating leadership skills and establishing networks with other organizations. "The conference will benefit, and is benefiting our campus tremendously," Louis Crisostomo said. "We have already begun to (build) coalitions with other Asian/Asian Pacific American organizations from around the state and Midwest in order to make our impact more effective on our respective campuses."

Most importantly, the experience established ties within the group. My Yang stated, "We learned about each other not only in name but in different ways under many various circumstances." Fu Chung Wong agreed. "We came away from the conference ready to challenge the issues facing us not because of leadership, communication, or organization skills we gained ... but because we held a newfound trust and confidence in our peers."

AASU students who attended the conference were: Lai Thao, Fu Chong Wong, My Yang, Pech Yim, Paul Yang, Meegan Voskuil, Mike Jin, Louis Crisostomo, Pheng Vang, Akiko Ikeno, Hanako Ikeno, Tim Hong, and Khampian Vang.

AAAS Conference

by Sharon Lee

The Association for Asian American Studies (AAAS) held its 16th National Conference in Philadelphia on March 31-April 3, 1999. As a representative of AASP, I attended panels discussing the future of Asian American Studies and the state of AAS in the Midwest.

The Roundtable on Teaching Asian American Studies in the Midwest: Urban and Rural Perspectives was facilitated by Josephine Lee (University of Minnesota), Yvonne Lau (Loyola University), Erika Lee (University of Minnesota), Victor Jew (Michigan State),

and Judy Tzu-Chun Wu (Ohio State University). We shared experiences of isolation and concerns of the west and east coast emphasis in AAS. Although traditionally the Midwest has not been seen as cultivating a watershed of Asian American research, we discussed the fact that the Midwest provides unique resources for Asian American Studies. For instance, the Midwest was seen as a "haven" for re-settled interned Japanese Americans, and is also a point of entry for Southeast Asian immigrants. We agreed on the need for a greater Midwestern voice in AAAS and discussed sharing resources, possibly through funds from the Committee on Institutional Cooperation.

Evelyn Hu-Dehart (University of Colorado, Boulder) chaired the *Roundtable on the Future of Asian American Studies in Ethnic Studies and/or American Studies: New Directions, Critical Discussions* with Ling-chi Wang (UC Berkeley), Antoinette Charfauros McDaniel (Oberlin College), and three graduate students from Cornell University. Issues discussed including the challenges of incorporating ethnic studies into the traditionally European driven American studies; the resistance among ethnic studies programs to form into one department due to concerns with loss of autonomy; and a new institutional model of Asian/Asian American Studies.

AASP FAC Members Leave Madison

Three members of the AASP Faculty Advisory committee (FAC) will be moving from Madison this summer to take teaching and research positions at new institutions. Sumie Okazaki, assistant professor in Psychology and Asian American Studies since 1996, has taught Introduction to Asian American Studies and Asian American Personality and Mental Health. Joy Lei and Kevin Kumashiro, both Ph.D. students in Educational Policy Studies, formed the Association of Asian American Graduate Students (AAAGS) and Students for the Expansion of Asian American Studies. Through the latter, they petitioned and met with UW administrators and successfully established the AASP certificate and secured visiting professors for the program.

Sumie Okazaki and her husband Allen Poteshman have both accepted job offers at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Sumie will be an assistant professor in the Psychology department and will continue to teach and conduct research on Asian American and ethnic minority mental health issues.

Joy Lei will be the Minority Scholar-in-Residence at Vassar College for the 1999-2000 academic year in the Education Department. Joy will teach one course and advise students. Joy will also be finishing her dissertation on

identity construction and race relations among students at a Midwestern high school.

Kevin Kumashiro will be the Minority Scholar-in-Residence for the 1999-2000 academic year in the Education Department at Swarthmore College. There, he will teach one class in the fall, supervise student teachers in the spring, and work on his dissertation which analyzes the effects of multiple forms of oppression (such as heterosexism and racism) in education.

Our three departing FAC members all expressed sadness about leaving. Sumie said this was not an easy decision to make. Her time in Madison has been both personally and professionally enriched by supportive colleagues and students and the birth of her daughter Abby. Kevin and Joy see Madison as a place where they have grown as students, scholars, and activists. Joy shared that she has found mentors in Hemant Shah, Jan Miyasaki, and Amy Ling, who have nurtured her to continue working in Asian American Studies. Looking back at their time spent in AASP and on the FAC, there was also a strong appreciation and admiration for what Sumie described as the "tireless devotion of students, staff, community leaders, and faculty to the mission of AASP."

AASP thanks Sumie, Joy, and Kevin for all their hard work, wishes them the best, and hopes they know they will be sorely missed!

Project Assistant Janet Tom Graduates

AASP is also losing its project assistant of two years, Janet Tom. Janet is earning her Master's degree in library and information studies this May. She hopes to work in the New York Public library.

Janet has worked tirelessly to increase the visibility of AASP on campus and in the community through the film festival and speakers. She invigorated the annual film festival by inviting filmmakers to discuss their films. Her former work as a publicist at the National Asian American Telecommunications Association (NAATA) helped her select outstanding independent films to show and locate film directors who were articulate, available, and affordable. With these resources, AASP had full-house attendance at the majority of screenings in March.

Janet expressed her appreciation for AASU students who put together the Asian American month activities and to others in AASP. "Although my family is in San Francisco, I feel that I have found a home here in Madison. Doing work I love and believe in, with people who have the same dedication, has been one of the best things about being here. Thanks to all of you who took the time to meet with me, encourage me, and cheer me on in all my efforts! I won't forget it."

May 1999

Bridges

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University of Wisconsin- Madison
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Announcements:

- ♦ The proceedings from the October 23-24 symposium, "Re-Searching Asian American Studies: Critical Issues for the 21st Century," along with the papers presented are now available. If you are interested in a copy, email Sharon at sslee1@facstaff.wisc.edu.
- ♦ Sharon is working on documenting the history of the Asian American Studies Program at UW. If you have any documents, archives, or information about the efforts to establish, create, or expand AASP, or know of someone who does, please let Sharon know.
- ♦ Korean children's book author and illustrator Yumi Heo will be giving a lecture at UW Madison in November, 1999. Her lecture is co-sponsored by AASP and the Cooperative Children's Book Cooperative.
