



BRIDGES

Asian American Studies Program Newsletter, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Issue no. 2. October, 1994



AASP Director and Prof. Amy Ling

BACK IN THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

The Asian American Studies Program welcomes back Director and Professor Amy Ling, who officially resumed her duties as Program Director this July following a year's sabbatical leave.

Although Ling continued to participate in Program and community events during the past two semesters, the leave allowed her to advance a number of research and professional projects ranging from the compilation of a new anthology of Asian American artists to giving invited lectures at universities across the world.

Many of Ling's activities related to work on a new book which is a cultural history of Madame Butterfly as the domi-

nant representation of Asian women in the west. She spoke on this subject at two universities in Sydney, Australia, and undertook a lecture tour of universities across Japan.

At Kobe Women's University, Dr. Ling met with Professor Teruyo Ueki, who recently organized an Asian American Literature Discussion Group and plans to edit a new journal devoted to Asian American Literature in English.

Though eager to resume her official duties at AASP, Ling admits, "It's hard to get back into harness after a year's leave."

Unofficially, however, Ling performed many services for the Program in the 1993-94 school year, including introducing activist Helen Zia, a speaker in the Distinguished Lecture Series.

In addition to hosting Asian Ameri-

can invitees Julie Dutka, Jack Tchen, Garrett Hongo and Dan Kwong at the October, 1993, Ethnic Studies Conference organized by Craig Werner of the Department of Afro-American Studies, Ling participated less publicly in events held by the Wisconsin Organization for Asian Americans and Wisconsin's Asian American Student Union.

"Come to think of it," Ling admits, "except for teaching classes, I've very much remained in the harness all year."

With a prestigious Vilas Associates Award and recent promotion to full professor in the English Department under her belt, Ling is looking forward to the year. She will teach, host the third University of Wisconsin-Madison Asian American film festival and oversee AASP's faculty search.

ASIAN AMERICAN FILM FEST

Oct. 22, 28, 29 and Nov. 4 herald the Asian American Studies Program's third Asian American Film Festival.

Screenings on each of the four dates above will start at 7 p.m. in 4070 Vilas Communications Hall. Admission is free.

SATURDAY, OCT. 22

ASIAN IMMIGRANTS IN NORTH AMERICA

Last Week of Summer '92

USA/Hong Kong, 1993.

Written, produced and directed by Ching-Ching Ip. Narrative; color; 16mm; 12 mins. Starring Emi Matsushita.

A Japanese student in the U.S. reaches a turning point in her life as she ponders her recent abortion and confronts the differences in cultural attitudes and norms in traditional Asian societies and in mainstream America.

Arn Chorn Pond

USA, 1993.

Produced and directed by Tsuyoshi Kimoto. Documentary; color; 16mm; 18 mins.

After his parents are killed, Arn Chorn saves his life by playing music for the Khmer Rouge leaders in Cambodia, escapes to a Thai refugee camp, and is today a social worker with Cambodian American youth in Providence, Rhode Island.

Small Pleasures

Canada, 1993.

Produced by Keith Lock and John Sutton, written and directed by Keith Lock. Color; 35mm; 86 mins. Starring Lily Zhang, Remonna Sheng, Andy X. Xu.

In this tender and humorous drama, Sally and Zhao come to Toronto from China in the fateful spring of 1989 with contrasting attitudes about life in the West.

Sally embraces with enthusiasm every-

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thing about her while Zhao is less sure about Western values, although she also does not want to return to an arranged marriage.

FRIDAY, OCT. 28

CROSSING CULTURES: ASIAN AMERICANS AND AFRICAN AMERICANS

Foreign Talk

USA, 1993.

Written, produced and directed by Joyce Lee. Black & white; 16mm; 11 mins. Starring Trevor Lawrence, David Cartwright, Joyce Lee.

Soon after the 1992 Los Angeles riots, a Chinese American woman is confronted by two African American men while riding the BART train in San Francisco. Misunderstanding between the characters reveal attitudes of bigotry and hatred.

Mama Blues

USA, 1993.

Produced by Nina Blake, written by Nina Blake and Jae Soh, directed by Jae Soh. Color; 16mm; 30 mins. Starring Debbie Ha, Adam Thompson, Eric Dickey, Stacy Chun.

A young Korean American woman searches for her long-lost mother and a place to call home in post-riot Koreatown, Los Angeles. Hitchhiking from Alaska, her birthplace, she encounters two young African American men.

Corner Store Blues

USA, 1993.

Produced by Michaelene Milne, directed and written by Kaizad Gustad. Color; 16mm; 48 mins. Starring Rahul Chatterji, Charlean Hines, Sakina Jaffrey.

Trapped in his uncle's corner store in Little India, Queens, Rahul dreams of making it as a real African American blues musician, if only he can overcome his Bombay accent, his

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relatively pale skin, interfering relatives and immigration officials, and hold a tune.

SATURDAY, OCT. 29

BOUNDARY CROSSINGS

Across A Paper Ocean

USA, 1993.

Produced, directed and written by Jean Cheng. Documentary; black & white; 16mm; 11 mins.

Using still photographs, metaphorical images, and a first-person narration, this moving short is a portrait of the filmmaker's maternal grandmother, who lived in Taiwan and whom she never met.

Visiting Aunt Sue

USA, 1993.

Written and directed by Greg Pak. Black & white; 16mm; 5 mins. Starring Hyunsoo Lee, Gabe Man.

A misunderstanding over the relationship between food and love reveals cross-generational communication problems between a Korean American woman and her Eurasian nephew.

The Last of Alpha

USA, 1993.

Produced by Joshua Rosefsky, written and directed by Quan Lelan. Narrative; color; 16mm; 19 mins. Starring Bill Welden, Ken Abraham, Delix Penae.

An intense drama by Vietnam-born filmmaker following the path of five American soldiers trapped by a Viet Cong sniper.

Moving the Mountain

Canada, 1993.

Produced by Malcolm Guy, directed by William Ging Wee Dere and Malcolm Guy, written by William Ging Wee Dere. Documentary; color; 16mm; 85 mins.

Untold story of late 19th century Chinese laborers in Canada.

FRIDAY, NOV. 4

SHORT TAKES ON RACE, SEX AND SELF

Great Girl

USA, 1993.

Produced and directed by Kim Su Theiler. Experimental; color; 16mm; 16 mins.

The filmmaker, a Korean American adoptee, returns to Seoul to search for her birth mother. The film has been called "an illuminat-

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ing and painful trek through memory and the inventions of past history."

Heavy Blow

USA, 1993.

Produced by Richard Miller, written and directed by H. A. Duong. Narrative; black & white; 16mm; 23 mins. Starring Rick Schulz, Nancy Bell, Kerry Logan.

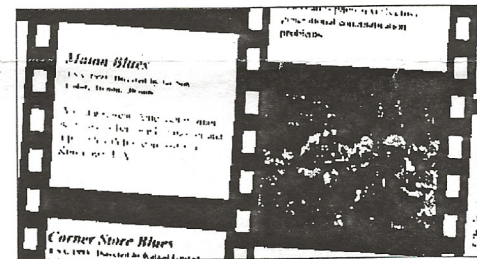
An intelligently delivered and vivid drama about the close reality of gay bashing, the film presents a curious twist to the traditional love triangle.

White Christmas

Philippines/USA, 1993.

Written, produced and directed by Michael Magnaye. Documentary; color; 16mm; 28 mins.

With tongue-in-cheek and from a gay Filipino American viewpoint, this film explores a Philippine childhood with the remnants of Spanish and American colonial influences.



Red, White, Blue & Yellow

USA, 1993.

Written, produced and directed by Angela D. Chou. Documentary. Color and black & white; 16mm; 13 mins. Starring Janis Chow, Kelsee Ju.

In this biting satirical meditation, a young Asian American woman voices her opinions on everyday experiences from anti-Asian sentiment to the sexual politics of dating.



Corner Store Blues, showing Oct. 28

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Bridges is the newsletter of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Asian American Studies Program. Correspondence should be directed to: *Bridges*; UW-Madison Asian American Studies Program; Room 7184 Helen C. White Hall; 600 North Park Street; Madison, WI 53706.

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PROFILE: ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM LECTURERS JAN MIYASAKI AND STEWART IKEDA



Jan Miyasaki

Jan Miyasaki, AASP's "Introduction to Asian American Studies" instructor, is not used to fielding questions for an interview. Either in the court on behalf of her clients or over at WORT community radio profiling grass roots struggles, she is usually the one asking the questions.

"Anything I do involves working for the empowerment of our communities," she says.

A long-time Madison resident, activist and civil rights lawyer, Miyasaki began organizing around Asian American and women's issues in 1987 with the ten-year-old Pacific and Asian Women's Alliance (PAWA), a group that eventually launched AASP. The Asian Coalition and PAWA wrote the successful proposal in 1988 for UW's AASP.

"It's your basic grass roots story," Miyasaki says of the struggle for AASP. "I am among a small number of women who

have been working for a long time. PAWA is something that's really rooted. By the time PAWA made the proposal [for AASP], we were an established community group with strong support. The proposal was then harder to turn down."

These days, in addition to her teaching position, Miyasaki heads the Dane County RESPECT Project, which assists women in prisons and jails.

"Before the RESPECT Project, I was with the Fair Housing Council. There I could solve people's immediate problems, but no long-term support was provided. It was frustrating," Miyasaki says. "Here, I can work the two-way street. I can solve immediate problems like getting the women out of jail. But I also help them get their kids back, or get into programs."

Miyasaki was recently elected co-chair of the Wisconsin Organization of Asian Americans.

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For the third consecutive semester, a creative writing workshop focusing on the creative process and issues of Asian American literature is being taught by instructor Stewart David Ikeda.

This term, the class meets with a section of English 301, Intermediate Creative Writing Workshop.

"English and AASP have always kept close ties," Ikeda says. "AAS 240 non-writing majors produced terrific writing and some publications, in the past. At the same time, some English majors who managed to sniff out the new course have appreciated it. So I consider this a horizontal move, a natural expansion."

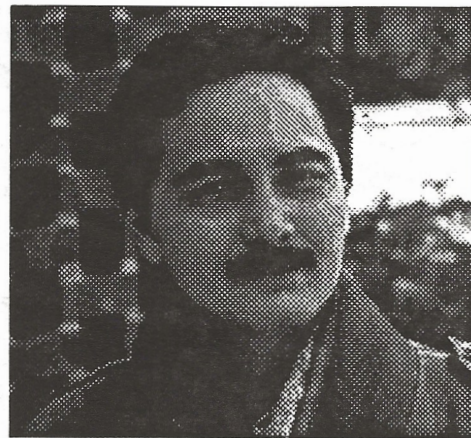
Ikeda has also kept busy over the past year with other projects, both national and local. At April's Association for Asian American Studies conference in Michigan, he presented a paper, "No-Name writers: Creation and Ethnicity Beyond the Mosaic," exploring aspects of teaching, supporting, and funding new Asian American writers.

While devoting most writing energies to a novel-in-progress, Ikeda has continued to publish book reviews, articles and short fiction. His story, "Roughie," appeared in the *Voices of the Xiled* anthology released by Doubleday in September.

August's *Isthmus* included an Ikeda contribution describing his grandfather's WWII internment and release.

"These outside activities are all integral to my teaching mission," he says, "It's all compost, fertilizer for the workshop."

Ikeda was recently appointed an honorary advisor to the Asian Pacific American Journal.



Stewart David Ikeda

UPDATES ON: AASP FACULTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Peggy Choy will receive the 1994 Woman of Achievement Award from the Wisconsin Minority Women's Network, and perform her work, "Seung Hwa" at the Korean American Arts Festival in Oakland on October 7. Her article, "Korean Dance and Music in America" is forthcoming in the *Encyclopedia of Asian Americans*.

Stacey Lee is finishing a book tentatively titled, *Unraveling the Model Minority Stereotype: Emerging Voices of Asian American High School Students*.

Jim Moy is currently working on a proposal for a new book and preparing a paper for a conference next year in Greece on Sexuality and Nationalism.

Michael Thornton has a book contract coming up. A collaborative effort with Hemant Shah, the book is tentatively titled, *Racial Ideology and Race Relations Among Groups of Color: Mass Media Coverage 1982-1993*. It focuses on how the media describes racial relations and how such descriptions differ from perceptions among groups of color.

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LOCAL

- ◆ **The University of Wisconsin-Madison Asian American Studies Program desires to fill one or more tenure-track joint appointments at the Assistant Professor level beginning fall, 1995.**

We are seeking persons with Ph.D.s in such disciplines as anthropology, communication, literature, political science, psychology, sociology and studio art. Duties will include teaching in Asian American Studies and the tenure-home department.

Application deadline: November 15, 1994. Send writing sample [approximately 30 pages], curriculum vitae and three letters of reference *with letters of application* to Amy Ling; University of Wisconsin-Madison; Asian American Studies Program; Rm 7184 Helen White Hall; Madison, WI 53706. **Applicants cannot be fully evaluated without all requested materials.**

The UW-Madison is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer. Unless confidentiality is requested in writing, information regarding applicants must be released on request. Finalists cannot be guaranteed confidentiality.

- ◆ **The United Refugees Services of Wisconsin, Inc., seeks a program director for the Southeast Asian Elderly Program and ESL and after-school tutors for Cambodian and Hmong children.** Contact Katheleen Sajdak, 256-6400.

BULLETIN BOARD

LOCAL

- ◆ **Project HOPE (Helping Our People's Education) seeks after-school tutors** for children of color at Bayview Community Center. Contact Rita Grover, 284-8969.
- ◆ **The Multicultural Mural Committee of UW-Madison needs muralists.** Contact Margaret Tennessen, 262-5969.

NATIONAL

- ◆ **The 1995 Chicago Asian American Film Festival is accepting commercially undistributed work** in any genre: short, documentary, animation, dealing with Asian American experiences and issues. All entries must be received by Jan. 31, 1995. Contact Asian American Institute at (312) 553-6170.
- ◆ **The Association for Asian American Studies is accepting paper proposals** for its 12th annual conference at UC-Berkeley in June, 1995. Deadline: Dec. 1, 1994. Theme: "Identities, Politics and Policies: Asian Americans in National and Transnational Contexts." Contact Ling-chi Wang, Asian American Studies Program, 3407 Dwinelle Hall, UC-Berkeley, Berkeley, CA 94720.
- ◆ **The Asian Pacific American Journal is accepting submissions** from new and established writers. *Travel* issue deadline: Nov. 1, 1994; *Borders*: May 1, 1995. Contact APA Journal, 296 Elizabeth St., Suite 2R, NY, NY 10012-3590; (212) 228-6718.