Bridges

Asian American Studies Program Newsletter, University of Wisconsin-Madison — Issue no. 2. June, 1997

Meet AASP Visiting Professor Victor Jew



Professor Victor Jew

This spring, Visiting Professor Victor Jew taught two Asian American Studies classes: (260) Introduction to Asian American History and (560) Asian American Historiography. Recently AASP Project Assistant Tom Robertson caught up with Professor Jew for a brief interview.

1) Have you enjoyed your time at the U.W.?

That one's easy. Yes — and not because of the weather. My colleagues in the Asian American Studies Program have been collegial and supportive. Amy has been a great chairperson, with one of those ideal "open door policies" that allows a visiting faculty person to just drop by and chat about anything: scholarship, teaching, or Asian American studies in general. The students have been super (that's what I expected.) The Asian American Studies 560 seminar was lively and engaging, and it gave me a chance to work with some future AA academics (in Education and English.) The undergrad class was gratifying: there are students at the U.W. who show their appreciation — that was a reward in itself!

2) Could you tell us a little about your research interests?

I'm in a hybridic situation: I try to combine my research/teaching interests in both Asian American history and U.S. legal/constitutional history. I've been trying to do this with my work on "race jurisprudence" and the U.S. Supreme Court of the 1920s. I'm also interested in the ways minority public spaces were conceived, implemented, contested, and appropriated in U.S. cities. To be specific: L.A. during the 1930s-1960s. I've found some really interesting materials about Los Angeles and its Chinatown during the Great Depression (to wit: how Asian urban space was conceived as an obstacle to future L.A. Civic Center development.)

3) Why is history important for Asian Americans and Asian American Studies?

Now I have to argue my brief for "History." History as a way of knowing (and asking) gives us a chance to ask how things could have been different. The corollary question is "Why are circumstances, situations, positionings, and institutions the way they are?" A historical sense and

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Interim Director



Professor Hemant Shah

Starting in August, 1997, Hemant Shah, Professor of Journalism and Mass Communication at UW-Madison since 1990, will be AASP's Acting Director. He will replace Amy Ling, who will be on sabbatical during the 1997-1998 academic session.

Hemant Shah earned his Ph.D. in Mass Communication from Indiana University in 1987; his M.A. in Communication Studies from Purdue University in 1982; and his B.A. in Communication and Sociology from the University of California-San Diego in 1979.
Before joining the faculty at UW in 1990, Professor Shah taught at Iowa State University and Indiana University.

Currently, Shah teaches courses on international communication; mass media in developing countries; race, ethnicity and mass media; and news writing and reporting. Shah is on the Multicultural Academic Programs and Services advisory board.

Spring Events

Brown Bag Lecture Series

by Sumie Okazaki

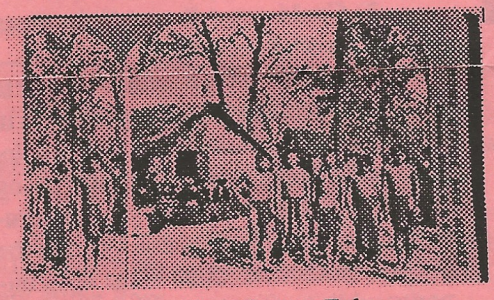
This semester, AASP hosted three Brown Bag lectures. On February 19, Visiting Assistant Professor **Victor Jew** gave a presentation entitled "The Borderlands of Public and Private in Constitutional/Asian American History: Exploring the Backchannel Influences on Race Jurisprudence in the 1920s." Victor shared some thoughts from his recent research into the famous cases of *Ozawa vs. United States* and *United States vs. Bhagat Singh Thind*, the two cases from the 1920s that denied naturalization to the first generation Japanese and Asian Indians. He talked about some unknown documents that he found in the papers of the United States Supreme Court Justices, and he explained how deliberate approaches to narrative and narrative analysis can connect these discrete primary sources into larger discussions of racial ideologies. Seemingly separate and unconnected (even trivial) letters to the Justices can be squeezed for insights when they are read as possible narratives telling larger disruptive stories about the instability of whiteness and American identity.

On April 2, **Sumie Okazaki**, Assistant Professor of Asian American Studies and Psychology, gave a presentation titled "Culture's Role in the Communication of Affective Distress." Her presentation focused on why Asian Americans may appear to be emotionally disturbed on standard measures of depression and anxiety that are widely used in this country and how psychological research can help answer that question.

Finally, on May 7, **Victor Jew and Jan Miyasaki**, a lecturer in the AASP, gave a joint presentation titled "The Development of Asian American Studies at UW-Madison: Roots in Community/Student Activism," which included a showing of a videotape titled "Racism at the UW-Madison: A Video Collage" on local news coverage of the events in 1987 that led to the establishment of our AASP as well as other ethnic studies programs and the "Madison Plan." Both Jew, then a graduate student in History, and Miyasaki, participated in these demonstrations and helped to write the proposal that initiated the AASP.The video sparked much nostalgia and reflection of our program's roots as well as hopes for future expansion of the program.

Thanks to all who presented and attended the Brown Bag series.

5th Annual Film Festival



Scene from Bontoc Eulogy

This year's film festival took place on three consecutive Thursdays in March, drawing crowds averaging approximately 70 people each screening. Two documentaries focusing on Filipino experience were the highlights of the festival. "Spirits Rising" directed by Ramona Diaz showed the role of women in the Philippines and specifically how women's courage and activism in the face of hoses and strafing helicopters led to the overthrow of the Marcos dictatorship and the election of Corazon Aquino. "Bontoc Eulogy" poignantly explored the film maker Marlon E. Fuentes' search for his grandfather, one of the anthropological "specimens" displayed at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis.

Asian American Scholars Visit: Lisa Lowe and Kamala Visweswaran



Lisa Lowe and Amy Ling

The weekend of March 7, UW's Institute for Research in the Humanities hosted an exciting conference "Contact and Power: Transgressions in the Borderlands of Intercultural and Interdisciplinary Encounter." The conference was the brain child of Susan Friedman (English and Women's Studies), who was assisted by Richard Flores (Anthropology and Chicano Studies), and Neil Whitehead (Anthropology). Among the five plenary speakers were two Asian American scholars: Kamala Visweswaran of the Anthropology Department at the University of Texas, Austin, author of *Fictions of Feminist Ethnography;* and Lisa Lowe, well known for her extension of Said's ideas in *Critical Terrains: French and British Orientalisms.* Lowe teaches Comparative Literature at the University of California, San Diego and presented material from her new book: *Immigrant Acts: On Asian American Cutural Politics.* Amy Ling, Kirin Narayan, and Thongchai Winichakul also presented papers:

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Issue no. 2. June, 1997

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Second Annual Asian American Contest Winners

For the second year in a row the Asian American Studies Program conducted a contest for work in Asian American Studies. This year we expanded the categories to include art, sculpture, dance, research papers and personal narratives. Members of the AASP Advisory Committee served as judges, and cash prizes were awarded on the basis of merit. After careful deliberation, the judges made the following decisions:

Personal Narrative or Oral History--Seanna Oakley $100
"Gontong Oakley: Loud and Clear"

Poetry--Blenda Yun, $50
"Taking Care of Grandmother"
"My Mother's Trunk"

Dance or Performance Art—Sonali Singh $50
"Bhasmaasura"

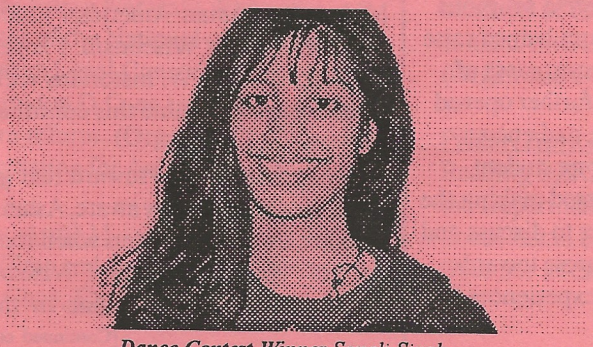
Research or Academic Paper--Kevin Kumashiro, $25
"Theorizing a Midwestern Asian American History: Contradictions of Identity, Possibilities for Redirection and Empowerment"

Research or Academic Paper--Sharon Lee, $25
"Asian Americans and the Affirmative Action Controversy in Higher Education: Individual Meritocracy or Group Rights Policies?"

Film or Video--Phuong Luu $25
"Untitled" and "Monologue"

On Thursday, May 1, the contest winners and numerous AASP faculty and Advisory Committee members gathered in the IMCC lounge for an awards ceremony. AASP Director Amy Ling presented the awards, after which the winners discussed and shared their work. The reception ended with small repast of lo mein and potstickers.

Thanks again to all participants. We hope that you will continue to do good work in Asian American studies.



Dance Contest Winner *Sonali Singh*



Contest Winners: *(from L to R) Phuong Luu, Sharon Lee, Blenda Yun, and Seanna Oakley.*

Taking Care of Grandmother
By Blenda Yun

I remember airport terminals
where my grandmother would disappear
for years.

I'd rejoice when she'd return,
smelling of a land I'd never seen.

This woman once fed me steamed rice
wrapped in cabbage blankets,
bought me pens so I could write in tongues.
On tongues.

Our family portrait lies hidden
in a closet. Her image cut out,
her self lost, long before senility.

Where is the mother of my son's son?
She asks my mother. *You are not she.*

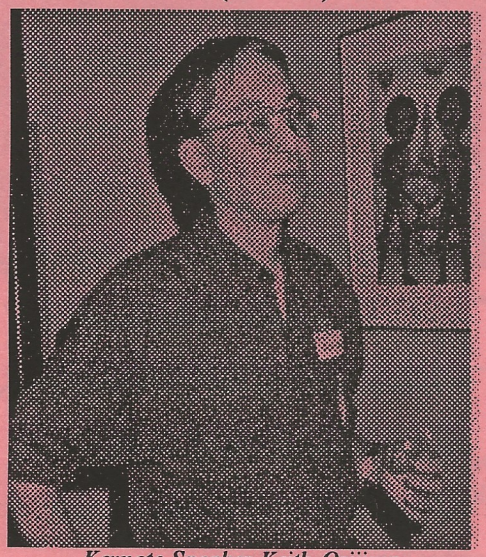
Where is the daughter of my son
who I loved and who loved me?
She asks.

That child is no longer here,
I answer. *We are all*
that remain.

AAAGS Report: "Margins as Mainstream" Symposium

By Sharon Lee

As the University of Wisconsin-Madison celebrated Asian American month this April, members of the Association of Asian American Graduate Students (AAAGS) were



Keynote Speaker Keith Osijima

actively involved in the festivities. Weeks of preparation and planning culminated on April 5th at the AAAGS-sponsored educational symposium entitled, "Margins as Mainstream: Improving the Experiences of Graduate Students of Color at UW- Madison."

With the financial assistance of the College of Letters and Sciences, the School of Education, and the Graduate School, AAAGS was able to invite Dr. Keith Osajima, Associate Professor of Education and the Director of the Race and Ethnic Studies Program at the University of Redlands, to Madison as the symposium's keynote speaker. On the evening of April 4th, students from AAAGS and the Asian American Students Union (AASU) and faculty and staff of the Asian American Studies Program hosted a pot-luck dinner in Union South to welcome Dr. Osajima to Madison and to enjoy an evening of good food and conversation.

The day of the symposium began with Dr. Osajima's thought-provoking talk entitled, "Positioning the subject(s): Asian Americans and Racial Politics in Higher Education," which discussed the role of student activism in the development of Asian American Studies Programs across the country, the rich diversity within Asian American communities on university campuses, and the academic pressures placed on professors and graduate students. Osijima's talk was followed by a town-hall meeting moderated by Jan Miyasaki, lecturer in Asian American Studies, in which graduate students shared with faculty and administrators their experiences as students of color. Many students described how their precarious positions within the university made them feel powerless to aggressively combat racial insensitivity. At the end of the day, participants enjoyed a reception where remarks were given by Associate Vice Chancellor Paul Barrows, Dean of the Graduate School Virginia Hinshaw, Assistant Dean in the College of Letters and Sciences Consuelo Lopez Springfield, and interim director of AASP for 1997-98 Hemant Shah.



AASP Lecturer and Lawyer Jan Miyasaki

Although few concrete solutions were reached, the symposium helped raise faculty and administration awareness of graduate student concerns, further opened the lines of communication, and encouraged coalition building among student groups. AAAGS has discussed making the symposium an annual forum to discuss and assess the University's progress towards improving the educational experiences for all its students.

[Victor Jew, Continued from page 1]

sensitivity leads us to inquire about contingent moments: what alternatives were available to past actors? What structural factors led to outcomes that affect our lives today? Just recognizing alternatives opens up one's imagination and supplies a wise perspective on agency, action, and oppositionality.

Historical work is important for Asian Americans, Asian American identit(ies) formation, and Asian American Studies because it shows us that current struggles have their roots (and prior incarnations) in previous contests. It's always helpful to realize that analogous situations might have "rehearsed" our present concerns and predicaments.

4) What do you think is the most interesting new work being done in Asian American Studies?

Perhaps the most challenging work for present and future Asian American Studies is to deal with the deconstruction of the concept, "Asian Pacific American." (Sorry to use the overused Derridean "d" word, but it seems to fit here, partially.) In many ways, this is a welcome development; any intellectual and political movement that questions unitary subjectivities has to confront the numerous identities subsumed by "Asian Pacific American." History provides a basis for some coherence: being coded with the "Oriental" racialization is a long term continuity.

5) Is there anything else you would like to add?

The Asian American Studies Program at the U.W. was the first in the Midwest and the Big Ten. This is a landmark for Midwestern Asian American Studies and the University of Wisconsin. I hope that in the year, 2057, U.W. historians will reflect on our times and value this contribution.

A small step toward that goal: As many of us are painfully aware, Asian Americans are usually forgotten when the imaginary of "The University of Wisconsin" is invoked. This is often done in the most

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AASU Report: The 8th Annual Asian American Month

This spring, the Asian American Student Union (AASU) did a fabulous job organizing a plethora of diverse events for the eighth annual celebration of Asian American Month. Below is a list of the events they organized, all of which were well attended.

Thursday, April 3
"When Bruce Lee Meets Snoop Doggy Dogg: Addressing Race Issues Through Comedy, Folktale, Rap" performance by Hmong Storyteller Tou Ger Xiong.

Friday, April 4.
Dance.

Saturday, April 5.
Symposium: Margins as Mainstream: Improving the Experiences of Graduate Students of Color at the University of Wisconsin-Madison with Keynote Speaker Keith Osajima. (Organized by Association of Asian American Graduate Students.)

Wednesday, April 9.
In Black and White, a lecture on South Asians in the United States, by Sharmila Rudrappa, a Sociology graduate student at UW-Madison. (Co-Sponsored by Chingari Forum and AASU.)

Thursday, April 10.
"Undertow" and "Living in Half Tones." Two experimental films by Me-K Ahn, an independent filmmaker and Program Manager of Asian American Renaissance in Minneapolis.

Friday, April 11.
Talk by Karen Narasaki, Executive Director of the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium in Washington D.C. on immigration and welfare reform. (Organized by Wisconsin Organization for Asian Americans.)

Friday, April 11.
Two Films and discussion with Filmmaker Chris Choy, Chair of the Graduate Film Department at NYU and director of the Oscar nominated film "Who Killed Vincent Chin?"

April 14.
"Virtual Equality: The Mainstreaming of Gay and Lesbian Liberation." Urvashi Vaid. Author of *Virtual Equality*, Urvashi Vaid turned a critical eye on racism, sexism and homophobia, and how these oppressions overlap one another. (Organized by Lesbian Gay Bisexual Campus Center.)

April 16.
Lecture and slides by Yong Soon Min, a nationally and internationally recognized Korean American artist, on Politics of Representation and Identities.

April 17
M. Evelina Galang, an award-winning Filipina American writer and UW-Madison alumna, read from her book *Her Wild American Self*, and on May 18th, paid a visit to Ling's Asian American Women Writers class.

Monday, April 21.
"Hello (Sex) Kitty: Mad Asian Bitch on Wheels." Denise Uyehara, performance artist and playwright.

Wednesday, April 23.
Daphne Kwok, a civil rights activist from Washington D.C., gave a talk entitled Asian Pacific Americans: "The Beauty and the Beast".

Thursday, April 24.
Kwowing Her Place. A film that explores conflicts of identities of an Indian American woman. (Organized by Chingari Forum.)

Friday, April 25.
Reading by Kirin Narayan, a professor at the Department of Anthropology and South Asian Studies at UW-Madison, from her latest work of fiction.

AAS Summer Courses

240 *Refugees of the "Cold War": Southeast Asians in America*

Instructor: Michael Cullinane
AASP 184:240
Lecture One 1:10-2:40 TWR

The course will be divided into two parts. Part I will concentrate on the modern history and changing societies of Indochina (Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos). Part 2 will be devoted to the refugees of these conflicts, in particular to those who have escaped from Indochina and settled in the United States since 1975: Hmong, Lao, Khmer, Vietnamese, and "Amerasians."

AAS Fall Courses

101 *An Introduction to Asian American Studies*

Instructor: Jan Miyasaki
AAS 184: 101
Lecture 1: 11:00-12:15 TR

An introduction to the various Asian groups in the U.S. and the issues affecting them: immigration, civil rights, race relations, ethnic identity, gender and family relations, history, literature, psychology, class and community.

270 *Survey of Asian American Literature*

Instructor: Trudi Witonsky
AAS 184: 270
Lecture 1 9:30-10:45 TR

A survey of Asian American literature of different genres (novel, memoirs, short stories, and drama) from the 1890s to 1990s, written by Americans of diverse Asian ancestries (Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, South Asian, and Amerasian), noting historical, biographical and cultural contexts as well as their aesthetic and literary aspects.

AASP Faculty Advisory Committee News

On Friday, February 21st, Director ***Amy Ling*** gave a slide lecture, "Ethnic Chameleons: the Amerasian Eaton Sisters" at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. Ling met with faculty and student groups on campus and spoke informally about our program at Wisconsin and how it was established. She also took the opportunity to visit the Wexler Museum to see the striking exhibit of crushed glass swells by Maya Lin, designer of the Vietnam War Memorial.

On Saturday, April 5 Ling was invited to participate in a symposium at Harvard University entitled, "The Impact of Post-1965 Immigration Laws on Asian American Studies" sponsored by the Committee on Ethnic Studies. She spoke generally on the importance of inclusiveness in Asian American Studies Programs, and specifically on how Southeast Asian American students at UW recently lobbied successfully for a Southeast Asian counselor and a new course on the Southeast Asian American experience.

In April, Amy Ling was invited to be the Lecturer for a UW Alumni tour called "China's Cultural Triangle." She lectured on the Chinese language, the Yangtze River in Chinese Literature and Chinese American History and Literature during the two-week tour of Beijing, Xian, Chongqing, the Yangtze River, Shanghai and Hong Kong.

Ling will be on sabbatical for 1997-8 devoting her energies to her next book, a cultural history and deconstruction of Madame Butterfly as the dominant representation of East Asian women in Western literature, film, opera and theater. She is pleased that Hemant Shah will be taking over the directorship of the AASP in her absence.

Sumie Okazaki's research article titled "Sources of ethnic differences between Asian American and White American college students on measures of depression and social anxiety" was published in the February issue of the *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*. Her article "Teaching gender issues in Asian American Psychology: A pedagogical framework" has been accepted for publication in the special issue of *Psychology of Women Quarterly* on "Teaching Gender and Ethnicity," and her article "Psychological assessment of Asian Americans: Research agenda for cultural competency" will be published later this year in the *Journal of Personality Assessment*. Sumie also gave an invited paper titled "Are Asian Americans emotionally distressed? Methodological and conceptual issues in ethnic comparisons of distress" at the Midwestern Psychological Association meeting in Chicago on May 9th.

Kirin Narayan receieved a H.I. Romnes Faculty Fellowship, and a Vilas Faculty Fellowship to support her research. She also received a Faculty Development Grant to develop two new courses -- one on the South Asian Diaspora worldwide, the other on South ASian Americans. In addition, her new book, *Mondays on the Dark Night of the Moon: Himalayan Foothill Folktales*, has just been published by Oxford University Press. It was written in collaboration with the storyteller, Urmila Devi Sood.

April 6, ***Peggy Choy*** performed her new work, "Stories from the Belly," with music by Fred Ho and Royal Hartigan, in collaboration with painter Chris Grussendorf at the Porter Butts Gallery in the Memorial Union. She produced and directed the event, "Landscapes from the Belly," that included a talk by Karen Narasaki, Executive Director of the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium in Washington D.C., on Friday, April 11, in the Memorial Union. The event was funded by the Asian American Studies Program and the Wisconsin Humanities Council. In New York City, June 19-22, 1997, Peggy Choy will premiere her work, "Kiache: Stories from the Belly," a collaborative work with Fred Ho, Royal Hartigan, Sam Furnace, musicians; Dyane Harvey, dancer; and Janet Higgins, artist. The work is commissioned by the Danspace Project and will be presented at St. Mark's Church.

Ella Mae Matsumura received the Mabel W. Chipman Excellence in Teaching Award (School of Business award) in May 1997. She was elected as Secretary-Treasurer of the Management Accounting Section of the American Accounting Association (AAA) for 1997-99. She was also appointed to the American Accounting Association's (AAA) Education Advisory Committee for 1997-98 as well as to the AAA's New Faculty Consortium Committee for 1997-98. Ella Mae also received the Best Paper Award for a coauthored paper presented at the AAA's Annual Midwest Region Meeting in April 1997. The paper is entitled "Going Concern Judgments: The effect of the Self-Fulfilling Prophecy and Forecast Accuracy."

Stewart Ikeda's novel, *What the Scarecrow Said*, was released in paperback by HarperCollins this May, after being named finalist for the Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers Award and receiving a pubisher's nomination for the Pulitzer Prize. Following a national book tour last year, Ikeda spent the spring term in Israel, researching an article on terrorism and working on his second novel. He has also continued to lecture widely on Asian American writing topics as featured speaker before a variety of academic and community organizations, including the Japanese American Citizen League, the Japanese American National Museum, and the Heartland Literary Society. Stewart's new address is 517 Fairview Rd., Penn Valley, PA 19072 and his new phone number is 610-668-8610. For academic year 1997-8, Stewart will be Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

Southeast Asian American Student Services Coordinator Victor Yang

Victor Yang is the coordinator of the Southeast Asian American Student Academic Services Program. He arrived on the U.W. campus in March to head this newly-created office within the College of Letters and Sciences. Before coming to Madison, he worked as a counselor at Fresno State University in California. Recently Jan Miyasaki, lecturer in Asian American Studies, interviewed Victor.

JM: You've been on campus for three months. Can you describe some of your activities?

VY: I have met many students. I have held three or four student discussion groups to find out what the students think about the services available and about what they need from this program. These have been successful meetings and I have gathered a lot of information.

JM: What kinds of issues did the students raise?

VY: The new students wished they had known about services available to them and how to get tho these services. Some students mentioned they didn't know how to get to know their professors. They didn't realize how important this relationship was until they needed a letter of recommendation for an internship or graduate study program. The students wanted to know more about student organizations and clubs. They said they would see other students on campus but wouldn't say hi because they were not sure that the student was Southeast Asian. Other students were concerned that high school students needed to be better prepared for college life. The students wanted assistance with writing and study skills. They also said that they had difficulty making connections with advisors-even if they had been assigned an advisor, they had difficulty connecting with that person.

JM: Is networking with the community an important part of your job?

VY: Community support is very important to the success of the program. We need to have a good link or network with the community in order for the students to be successful. I have met with a number of community people at local agencies including the Bayview Center and United Refugee Services. Community organizations are important for networking and referral of students to the university. Parents are important because their children attend school here. They are protective of their children. They should have basic information about the university and what they can do to help their children. They want to know more about the academic programs and services and college life. We can make sure that they understand more about their children's education here and how their schedules work. So I need to connect with parents.

JM: How is the U.W. Madison like, or unlike, Fresno State University?

VY: Here, the students are concerned about their success in the university and have worked to make sure they received direct and personalized support services. The school administrators also see the need. The students and the university are able to work together. At Fresno, the students are more to themselves. They feel they have special needs but they cannot approach the school administrators and so the school doesn't do anything for them. They believe everything is okay.

JM: What is your philosophy on life?

VY: My philosophy on life is to be happy, have fun, be able to do the things you want to do, and to become what you want to be.

JM: What would you say to a student who needs academic support services but is afraid to ask for help?

VY: I would need to talk to the person individually. I would encourage the student by saying that they have a right to use campus services. I would encourage them to ask for help rather than to be sorry they didn't. I would encourage them to overcome their fears. Even though you might not get what you want, at least you did what you felt is important for yourself.

JM: What are your plans for the program?

VY: I want to make sure that we work closely with students to make sure that they are successful here. I want to make it easier for students to have access to services and programs. I also have a plan to host workshops that will help undecided students explore academic programs on campus and make decisions regarding majors. I also want to have student discussion groups so that I can link students to other students-- A senior student to help the newcomer student. I also have a plan to bring parents to the university for an orientation so that they have some idea what the university is about. I also will work with high school and middle school students to have a pre-college orientation. And I would like to connect seniors and juniors with the appropriate people on campus who can help them with their job search activities. I would also like to help them get internships. I have many more ideas.

Victor Yang can be reached at 2 Ingraham Hall, 1155 Observatory Drive, Madison, WI 53706. Phone: 265-3203. Fax: 262-5915. *E-mail: vyang@facstaff.wisc.edu.*

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[**Victor Jew**, Continued from page 5]

mundane of situations, but being so quotidian, it only shows the extent of our marginalization.

I read an example of this in 1994 when the Wisconsin Alumni magazine celebrated the Badger victory at the Rose Bowl (being an U.C.L.A. alum, I won't mention the score.) The author of the piece described the Red and White invasion of Southern California, and said something to the effect that very pale Wisconsinites visited the Pacific Ocean for the first time. Talk about levels of unmarking and erasure! I know there were Wisconsinites-of-color in Pasadena that December/January, but somehow they were effaced in this uniform characterization of Badger supporters as being pale neophytes to the Pacific shore. (The *Alumni Magazine* can't hedge on this by saying that even people-of-color get light in a Wisconsin winter. I don't think so.)

Perhaps one way the UW will appreciate the AA Program is to make the University "community" aware of the long lineage of Asian American presences in the history of this institution. In 1999 the University will celebrate the sesquicentennial of the state. Could Asian American faculty, staff, grads, undergrads, and the community intervene and show that there were more complexions coloring this school and contributing to its university life than those worn by Frederick Jackson Turner, E.A. Ross, and Helen C. White?

This historical recovery does not necessarily re-inscribe "success" myths nor does it only provide grist for smooth, assimilative and self-congratulatory consensus narratives. In at least one case, the Asian American connection at Wisconsin is quite disturbing, yet it also testifies to a larger Asian American history. That case involves a man who was both famous and unknown; indeed his death is his legacy. Most histories only identify him by his plight: an "old man" who walked too close to the wire fence at Topaz Relocation Camp and was killed by a sentry on April 11, 1943. That often unnamed "old man" did have a name; he was James Hatsuki Wakasa, and he migrated to the United States in 1903. James Wakasa was a sixty three year old bachelor when he was shot in April, 1943, but earlier in his life, when he was in his twenties, James Wakasa decided to attend an American university. He came to the Midwest, where he spent two years at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Mr. Wakasa is also a part of the Wisconsin legacy, and I hope he gets noticed — and named — in 1998.

What better way to end than with some words from Langston Hughes? One of his poems ends with the simple admonition: "Keep on. Keep On." I'd affirm this to all the Asian American faculty, staff, grad students, and undergrads. From someone who fought the good fight in '87 and returned to the site in '97, keep on.