

University of California, Irvine

GRADUATION RECEPTION

*Department of
Asian American Studies*

DATE & TIME

*Thursday, June 8, 2017
5:00PM to 7:00PM*

ADDRESS

*University of California, Irvine
Humanities Gateway 1030*

EVENT PROGRAM

5:00 PM

Dinner Reception and
Book Exhibit

5:20 PM

Welcome by Professor
Judy Tzu-Chun Wu

5:25 PM

Honoring AAS Staff

5:30 PM

Congratulations to
Graduate Students by Professor
Christine Bacareza Balance and
Ms. Arielle Hinojosa-Garcia

5:35 PM

Featuring AAS Undergraduate
Research

Thuy Mai, "The Viet Nam War
on Canvas"

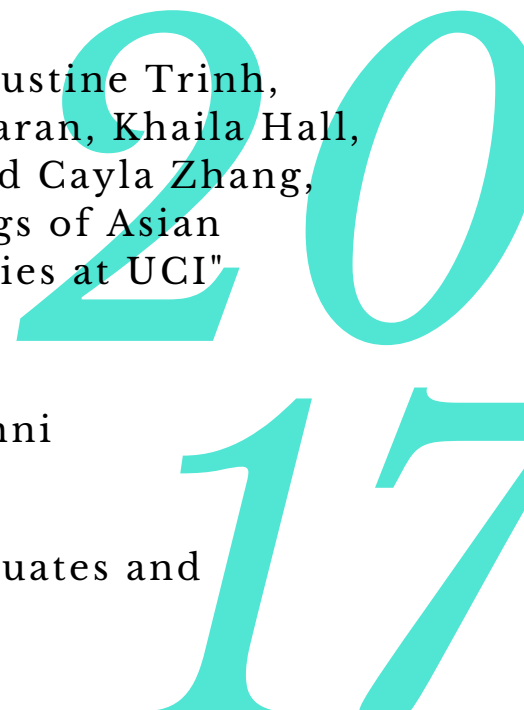
Alex Nguyen, Justine Trinh,
Maribel Comparan, Khaila Hall,
Vivian Luu, and Cayla Zhang,
"The Beginnings of Asian
American Studies at UCI"

6:00 PM

Honoring Alumni

6:10 PM

Honoring Graduates and
Families



University of California, Irvine

GRADUATING STUDENTS

MAJORS

Julie Huynh
Thuy Tien Ngoc Mai
Alex Nguyen
Justine Thuy Tien Trinh

MINORS

Ann Huyhn
Erica Than Khaine
Emily Chan La
Brian Lam
Malinda Ranny Pang
Jasmine Thuy Pham
Tina Tran
Jennifer Truong
Johnny Thong Yang
Tori Sue Yip

20
17

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS & UPDATES

2017 SOH UNDERGRADUATE AWARD IN ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES

THE 2017 UCI UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

INAUGURAL AAS 4+1 M.A. STUDENTS

**JONATHAN AGENA
MARIBEL COMPARAN**

BOONYARIT DARAPHANT
"Bow Tie and Friends:
Stories of Undocumented AAPIs"

**MARIBEL COMPARAN, KHAILA M. HALL,
JUSTINE T. TRINH, AND CAYLA ZHANG**
"'World Class My Ass':
Student Activism and the Founding of
Asian American Studies at UCI"

ERICA THAN KHAINE
"SEA College Clearly: Opportunities and
Barriers to Southeast Asian Americans
Pursuing Higher Education"

GABRIELA AQUINO LAVADIA
"Filipino Folk & Art Songs: The Idiom of
Filipino History & Experience"

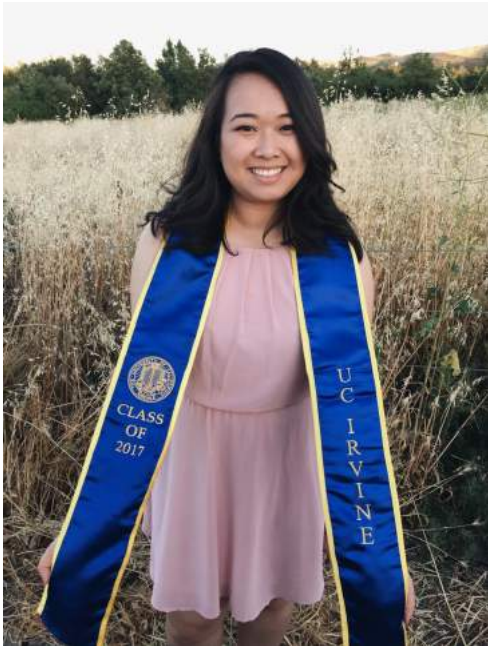
PAULINE NGUYEN
"Nguyen Thi Ve, The First Female Judge of
Vietnam: How Education, War, and Law
Shaped Her Life"

**MEGAN PELT, CENÉ TAMASHIRO,
AND RICHARD LEE**
"Anime and the Apocalypse"

**EMILY CHAN LA
JUSTINE THUY TIEN TRINH**

2017

OUR GRADUATES SAY...



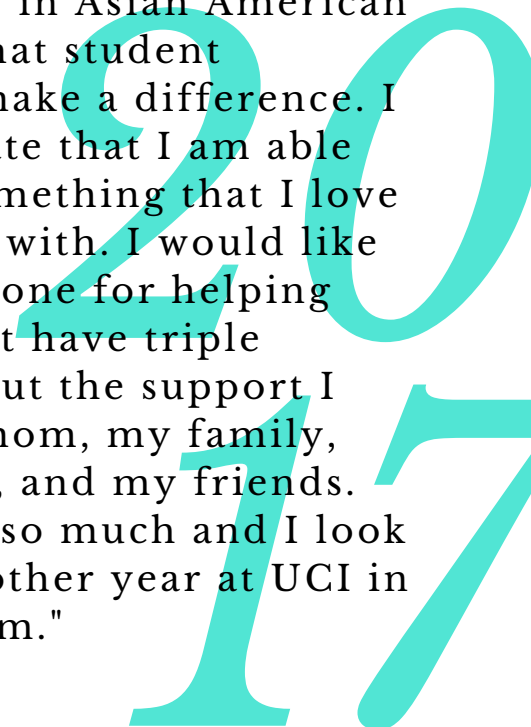
ERICA THAN KHAINE

"Thank you Asian American Studies, for showing me that there is so much more in the world than working 9-5 to make a living. Thanks to the professors, TA's, and faculty who taught me a lesson or two about my identity as an Asian American woman. Thanks SASA and Crosslife for being my support at UCI and most of all, thanks Mom, Dad, and Will for supporting every crazy idea I have!"



JUSTINE THUY TIEN TRINH

"I learned more about myself from majoring in Asian American Studies, and that student activism can make a difference. I feel so fortunate that I am able to major in something that I love and can relate with. I would like to thank everyone for helping me. I could not have triple majored without the support I get from my mom, my family, my professors, and my friends. Thank you all so much and I look forward to another year at UCI in the 4+1 program."



GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS & UPDATES

Elaine Kathryn Andres

- Presented at the Association of Asian American Studies (AAAS) Conference and the MoPop Pop Conference
- Authored forthcoming publications in *Sex and Colonies* and for *PBS American Experience*
- 2017 AAS Conference Travel Award & the DECADE Travel Grant

Erica Maria Cheung

- Graduate Student Research Assistant for AAS
- Presented at the AAAS Conference
- Authored an article in *In Media Res*
- 2017 AAS Conference Travel Award & the DECADE Travel Grant

Liz Clark Rubio

- 2017 Tom Angell Fellowship for Excellence In Mentoring
- UCI Initiative to End Family Violence Graduate Fellowship
- California Immigration Research Initiative Fellowship

Laureen Hom

- Graduate Dean's Dissertation Fellowship, the Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship - Honorable Mention
- Presented at the Association of College Schools of Planning Annual Conference & the AAAS Conference
- Researching and co-authoring with Prof. Linda Vo on "Orange County AA & NHPI Assets & Needs Report" for Asian Americans Advancing Justice-OC

Tavleen Kaur

- Fall fellowship in Lahore, Pakistan to advance proficiency in Urdu
- Advanced to doctoral candidacy
- Presented at three academic conferences, served as respondent, organized events on campus, submitted paper for publication
- Humanities Out There summer fellow with the Santa Ana Public Library, working on the "Memories of Migration" project

Ray San Diego

- Authored forthcoming publication in *Sex and Colonies*
- 2017 AAS Conference Travel Award & the DECADE Travel Grant
- Presented at the UCLA QGrad Conference, Palimpsests Conference at UCSD, the American Studies Association Conference, the AAAS Conference, and Queer Practices, Places, and Lives Conference at Ohio State University
- Humanities Commons Research Grant to attend the Adult Video News Convention and Sex Toy Expo in Las Vegas

2017

FACULTY UPDATES

Christine Bacareza Balance

- Launched *Tropical Renditions: Making Musical Scenes In Filipino America* at Asian American Writers' Workshop (AAWW) in New York (December 2016)
- Presented at Washington University in St. Louis (WUSTL), part of "Race and Popular Music (RPM) Faculty Initiative" series (March 2017)
- Center for Asian Studies (CAS) Travel Grant to attend and present at upcoming "Remains of a Dictatorship: an International Conference on the Philippines Under Marcos" (Ateneo de Manila University (August 2017)
- UCHRI Engaging Humanities Grant to collaborate with Visual Communications on "Afterlives of Martial Law," (2017-2018 academic year)

Dorothy Fujita-Rony

- Finishing project on Filipina/o American farmworkers
- Developing project on Indonesian American history, personal narratives, and gender
- Authored essay on labor for the National Park Service's *Finding a Path Forward: Asian American/ Pacific Islander National Historic Landmarks Theme Study*

James Kyung-Jin Lee

- Elected as Southern California Representative to board of the Association for Asian American Studies
- Serving on the Executive Committee of the Asian American Literature Forum of the Modern Language Association
- Keynote speaker at the Polish Association for American Studies in Warsaw, Poland (October 2016)
- Lectured at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, the University of Gdansk, and the University of Warsaw

Julia H. Lee

- Authored forthcoming book called *Understanding Maxine Hong Kingston*, from the University of South Carolina Press (December 2017). *Understanding Maxine Hong Kingston* surveys the writings of one of the most important American authors of the last century. Starting with *The Woman Warrior* (1976) and concluding with *I Love a Broad Margin to My Life* (2011), this book provides for researchers, students, and readers a critical analysis of the issues that recur throughout Kingston's works



FACULTY & STAFF UPDATES

Beheroze Shroff

- Authored “Indians of African Descent: Sidis, Bava Gor and Spiritual Practices” in *African Theatre 15: China, India and the Eastern World* (December 2016)
- Co-edited scholarly anthology entitled *Africans in South Asia*, forthcoming (December 2017)
- Presented "Film: Voices of the Sidis: The Tradition of Fakirs" at International Conference The Sea and Knowledge in Bharuch, India December 10, 2016 and at the India International Center, in New Delhi (February 2017)

Linda Trinh Vo

- Authored “Reflections on the Formation and Future of Asian American Studies” in *AAPI Nexus Journal*
- Presented at the Association for Asian American Studies in Portland, Loyola Marymount University, Dartmouth College, and the UCI Medical Humanities Initiative
- Serves as Co-Chair of the Community Advisory Council for Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Orange County, Director of the Vietnamese American Oral History Project, and Member of the Advisory Board for the Chinese American Oral History Project of Los Angeles and San Gabriel Valley at CSU Los Angeles

Judy Tzu-Chun Wu

- Co-edited with Catherine Ceniza Choy, *Gendering the Trans-Pacific World* Anthology (Brill Press, 2017)
- Co-edited *Frontiers: A Journal of Women's Studies*
- Co-founded the Asian American Feminisms Section in the Association for Asian American Studies
- Research Residency Fellowship, “Waterways and Worldviews: Rethinking Regions Defined by Oceans and Seas,” Humanities Research Commons

Rina Carvalho, Arielle Hinojosa-Garcia, and Jasmine Robledo

- Departmental Staff Appreciation and Recognition (STAR) awards

Amy Fujitani

- UCI University-Wide STAR Award



MEET UCI AAS ALUMNI

Rachelle Ang

- Women's Studies and Social Ecology double major (1989-1993)
- Co-chaired Asian Heritage Week and served as secretary for Kababayan
- Helped with the ESCAPE movement and APSA to advocate for Ethnic Studies including Asian American Studies
- MSW from UC Berkeley, graduated 1998
- Currently a case manager at CSU Long Beach in the counseling center and Disabled Student services

Kim Chu

- Majored in Biology and AAS (2015)
- Member of Vietnamese Student Association and Retention and High School Outreach Coordinator for the Southeast Asian Student Association
- Working towards a Masters in Library Information Sciences

"AAS has been a tool to help me navigate my current work experiences, especially in the way that I think about community involvement and the tangible ways that takes form. It reminds me of the real people that help shape academia and who study and document the voices and everyday experiences of the diaspora."

Eileen Chun-Fruto

- Majored in Social Sciences at UCI (1990-1994)
- Chair of APSA (1993-1994), Secretary of APSA (1992-1993), Co-Chair of APAC (1992-1993), Cross Cultural Center Fellow (1993-1994), Member of Search Committee for Director of Asian American Studies Program (1993-1994)
- Currently an Immigration Attorney

Cynya Michelle Ko, Ed.D. (aka C. Michelle Ko)

- Majored in Social Ecology and Minored in Comparative Cultures (1991-1994)
 - Co-Chair of APSA and President of CAUCI, CCC Fellow, Cultural Chair for Alpha Chi Omega, SPOP Staffer, *Rice Paper*, ESCAPE Movement participant
 - Spent the past two decades in higher education and non-profit leadership
 - Full-time parent to two year old twins and engaging in volunteer service: Chair, National Board of Directors - for Project by Project (PbP); Director, Board for the Asian Pacific Community Fund (APCF)
- <https://www.linkedin.com/in/michelleko/>

"I was deeply involved in the struggle for Asian American Studies and student services during my time at UCI. I believed firmly in the need to fill the void I experienced in the classroom at UCI as well as the vital need of AAPI students on campus outside of the classroom. My experiences in the movement impacted everything I have done since."

MEET UCI AAS ALUMNI

May May Lee

- Majored in Economics and a minored in Management (1987 - 1991)
- Co-chair of APSA and At-Large position for ASB
- Attended Claremont Graduate University and received teaching credential and Masters in Education (1995)
- Coordinated the Asian American Resource Center at Pomona College for 3 years
- Currently teaches 6th grade in Monterey Park, CA

"I felt it was important to have classes where students could learn about their ethnic heritage and also that of other ethnic groups. I remember many late night meetings with the groups in the CCC, meetings with the vice chancellors and sit-ins as we came up with ESCAPE in our attempts to lobby for ethnic studies classes. The most memorable part was when we marched through Aldrich Park holding our signs in protest during the Wayzgoose Festival. I still recall the picture in the school paper."

Sunny Lee

- Majored in Criminology, Law, & Society (1996)
- Organized for the Asian Pacific Student Association (APSA) around affirmative action, racial profiling of Asian American men students, and built coalitions with the other umbrella organizations in the Cross-Cultural Center
- Wrote for *Rice Paper*
- Earned a Master's degree in College Student Personnel at the University of Maryland, College Park and a Ph.D. in Higher Education from Claremont Graduate University
- Worked in the Asian American Resource Center at Pomona College and at the UCI Cross-Cultural Center
- Served as Director of Student Life & Cultural Centers at Cal Poly Pomona
- Currently works in the Ombuds Office for Students & Postdocs at UC Berkeley

"AAS courses nurtured my critical consciousness in ways I could not have imagined otherwise possible. It gave me the self-confidence to be a leader, the courage to express myself, a sense of purpose and mission, and the tools to understand my own life experiences as an immigrant woman of color. I am truly grateful for the influential role that AAS has had on my life in the personal, professional, and political realms!"

MEET UCI AAS ALUMNI & FORMER STAFF

Jean Lyu

- Double majored in AAS and Social Science (2001 to 2005)
- Member of Chinese Association
- Served as Campus Representative and provided UCI campus tours
- Studied abroad in Cambridge, England
- Currently works at private, small liberal arts college as a Career Counselor helping students figure out how to write resumes and to navigate their career development

"UCI's AAS program provided me with knowledge and awareness about social justice, the history of Asian Americans in the US, and how to be an advocate in my own community. I truly appreciate the faculty members who worked tirelessly to share their passion of Asian American issues with students."

Man-Lung "Matthew" Si

- Majored in Political Science
- Served as Advocacy Chair for APSA
- Currently works as Principal of Matthew Si, Independent

"Advocating for AAS at UCI taught me a great deal about myself and the community - in both respects, the journey continues."

Mary Ann Takemoto

- Former staff member in UCI Counseling Center (1987 - 2005)
- Licensed psychologist and served as Associate Director of the Counseling Center and Training Director of the internship program for Ph.D. level psychologists in training
- Served as lecturer in Asian American Studies, teaching courses in Asian American Psychology, Asian American Women, and Japanese American Experience as one of the founding faculty members
- Advised Asian Pacific Student Association and Co-chaired the Asian Faculty and Staff Association

"Advocating for Asian American Studies was about meeting the needs of the students. The student population was over 40% AAPI and growing. Students were very interested in courses that were reflective of their backgrounds. The few Asian American Studies courses at the time were over-subscribed with huge waiting lists. There were no AAPI senior administrators or even directors at that time. It was difficult to get the attention of administration, but students were vocal and took action. We were there to support them. It is great to see where the department is today and the growth that has taken place over the last 25 years!"

University of California, Irvine

**THANK YOU FOR A
WONDERFUL YEAR!**



CLASS OF 2017

CONGRATS!

LEARN MORE
ABOUT AAS
@UCI

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