MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

DEAR ANTEATERS,

Happy New Year! I hope you have a wonderful holiday break and a great start to the 2017 winter quarter.

Fall was a whirlwind of activities for the Department of Asian American Studies. Here are just a few highlights:

- UCI AAS now offers the only 4+1 program in the country! Undergraduates can apply to spend an additional year at UCI and earn a M.A. in Asian American Studies. To learn more about the 4+1, please contact Arielle Hinojosa, School of Humanities Graduate Counselor (hinojosa@uci.edu) and Christine Balance, AAS’s Director of Graduate Studies (cbalance@uci.edu).
- UCI AAS launched our year long celebration of our 25th anniversary and the 30th anniversary of the Southeast Asian Archive called “Homescapes/Warscapes 25/30” by hosting and co-sponsoring 17 speakers throughout the quarter.
- UCI AAS organized a field trip to L.A. Chinatown. Students from the Chinese American Experience class also documented and mapped Chinese Americans in Southern California through historypin.org and contributed to the archival collections at the UCI Orange County and Southeast Asian Archive Center.
- UCI AAS has been strengthening connections with universities and colleges throughout OC and So Cal. The Southern California Regional Asian American Studies Meetings bring together leaders from Asian American and Pacific Islander community based organizations as well as
faculty, administrators, and student affairs officers from community colleges, CSUs, UCs, and private colleges twice a year. UCI’s AAS Department is coordinating these meetings for 2016–2017. In addition, our department is building ties with other Orange County–based AANAPISIs, federally recognized schools that serve the Asian American and Pacific Islander students. UCI, Irvine Valley College, and Coastline Community College are all AANAPISIs.

Winter quarter promises even more exciting opportunities as UCI AAS:

- introduces Pulitzer–Prize winning author Viet Nguyen to Asian American Studies students over lunch.
- launches our inaugural research internship for students to research, document, and exhibit the history of AAS at UCI.
- visits the Japanese American National Museum to help commemorate the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066 that authorized Japanese American internment.
- organizes a trip to attend live–theatre and a post–performance talk at the South Coast Repertory Theatre.
- sponsors an art studio visit to meet Trinh Mai and view her works in progress.
- announces our first graduate conference travel award to support students who present their research at major national and international conferences.
- hosts scholars, community leaders, creative writers, and performing artists as part of our ongoing "Homescapes/Warscapes 25/30" series.

Also, please attend and look for volunteer opportunities to support the following student conferences:

- The 32nd Asian Pacific American Awareness Conference – Organized by UCI’s Asian Pacific Student Association, Conference Theme: "Homescapes/Warscapes," Keynote Speaker: Prof. Yen Le Espiritu (UCSD), 21 January 2017, 9–5, UCI Student Center
- The 5th Annual SEA Success – A high school outreach conference organized by the Southeast Asian Students Association at UC Irvine, Conference Theme: “7 Seas: Exploring Intergenerational Connections,” 4 February 2017, 9–7, Cross–Cultural Center

I hope you will join the UCI’s AAS Department and our library and student partners as we explore issues that are of pressing importance in the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities and our broader society, too.

Judy Tzu-Chun Wu
Chair of Asian American Studies
j.wu@uci.edu
What is SEA Success?

STUDENT-INITIATED YOUTH CONFERENCE SERVES SOUTH EAST ASIAN AMERICAN STUDENTS

By Sophaline Chuong and Erica Than Khaine

SEA Success is a high school outreach event put on by the Southeast Asian Student Association at UC Irvine. Southeast Asian Americans are statistically known to have the lowest College Acceptance and Retention rates of all minorities. We believe that students need easy access to information about college but many have expressed that they are unsure where to get the information. Through a student-initiated youth conference, we were able to create a space to shine light on a underrepresented and underserved community. We aim to empower the youth and to combat against the educational inequities facing them everyday. Since the first SEA Success in 2013, we have served over 300 students total through this yearly conference. Along with connecting with community organizations such as Khmer Alumni Association from Long Beach, CA and a local mentorship organization, Project MotiVATE, for the opportunity for students to connect with more Southeast Asian leaders.

This year’s SEA Success Youth Conference will take place on Saturday, February 4, 2017 and will revolve around the theme of intergenerational issues. Although the event has traditionally been a half-day event, this year the event will run for a full day which gives time to include a greater variety of activities. This year, students will be mixed into smaller families, led by students from UC Irvine. Our aim is to create a safe but new space. Additionally, this year we have the opportunity to invite a UC Berkeley admissions reader who will be specifically addressing what should go into a strong college application. With the new changes this year, we are hoping that the students will get more out of this program and learn more about their own identities.

For more information about SASA and SEA Success visit http://sasauclx.wixsite.com/sasauclx.

Sophaline Chuong and Erica Than Khaine are undergraduate students at UCI.

SUPPORT ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES AT UCI

Our winter newsletter reflects the tireless efforts of our faculty, students, alumni and broader community in creating a vibrant intellectual community for the study and appreciation of Asian American studies. As we celebrate 25 years, we encourage you to show your support for the department with an unrestricted gift. While unrestricted donations can be the most difficult to raise, they are arguably the most important type of funding we can hope to receive as they allow the department to meet its most pressing needs. To make a gift online, visit http://bit.ly/UCIAAS and type Asian American Studies in the note section. For additional information on giving to the UCI Department of Asian American Studies, please contact Nicole Balsamo, executive director of advancement, at nbalsamo@uci.edu or 949.824.2923.

Thank you for your continued support, and here’s to the next 25 years of Asian American Studies at UCI!
APAAC ADDRESSES, INSPIRES, & EDUCATES
THE ASIAN PACIFIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION HOSTS THEIR ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON JAN 21

By Khue Bui

The Asian Pacific Student Association at UC Irvine (APSA) is hosting their annual Asian Pacific American Awareness Conference (APAAC) on Saturday, January 21, 2017, from 9am–5pm in the Student Center. As the name implies, APAAC aims to bring awareness about Asian and Pacific Islander cultures, histories, and ongoing issues to UCI and beyond. Through workshops and keynote speakers, the conference aims to inspire members of API communities, educate those willing to learn, and start important discussions. APAAC has been a venue to address many issues in our community, such as the generation gap, mass incarceration, colonialism, and LGBTQ issues. It has also been host to folks such as Deepa Iyer, Glenn Omatsu, Eddy Zheng, Sumun Pendakur, Beau Sia, and many others.

The theme for APAAC this year is Homescapes/Warscapes, inspired by the Asian American Studies department’s event series of the same name. “Homescapes” and “warscapes” have a unique and painful relationship for Asian and Pacific Islander communities. This relationship may manifest through colonization and militarization of one’s land, through war and resulting immigration, or through the ongoing conflict of creating a home in an oppressive society. This year, APAAC aims to address the various interpretations of the terms “homescapes” and “warscapes.”

The conference aims to discuss and dissect the institutional violence and generational trauma that continue to complicate the relationships that APIs have with the spaces they inhabit. Engaging the community in difficult discussions will hopefully inspire others to set on a path to find solutions for the warscapes that have been created, and ultimately to begin to live in homescapes again.

Please visit apaac2017.weebly.com to learn more about this event, or apsauci.weebly.com to learn more about APSA at UCI.

If you are interested in attending or hosting a workshop, please visit apaac2017.weebly.com/register.html or email Siddharth Baranwal at apsa.programming@gmail.com.

Khue Bui is publicist for APAC at UCI.
“BO THAI A.K.A BO DARAPHANT IS A FIRST GENERATION THAI IMMIGRANT WHO CONVERTS HIS LIFE EXPERIENCES AND THOUGHTS INTO PICTURES THAT SOMETIMES WORDS CAN NOT EXPLAIN.”

Bo Daraphant

UCI's Department of Asian American Studies is currently displaying Bo Daraphant's artwork in 3000 Humanities Gateway. Bo Daraphant is an artist, activist, and a student studying International Studies at UCI. He immigrated to the US at the age of 13 in 2009 and has lived in his newfound home since then. Outside of school, Bo spent his college years advocating for immigrant rights, writing poetry, and creating art work. Bo uses his art as his healing process by expressing his emotion, ideology, and story within his art.

Bo's artwork may be purchased on his website: http://www.bothai.bigcartel.com/
FALL 2016 IN PHOTOS

CAPTIONS

1) Professor Kim Park Nelson (Minnesota State University at Moorhead) discussed the history of Korean adoption studies in the context of a Korean adoptee scholar and researcher in Professor James Kyung–Jin Lee’s undergraduate class.

2) Professor Christine Bacareza Balance welcomed LA–based electronic music artist Mark Redito to lecture in her Asian Americans and the Media class. Redito spoke about his work, his experiences as an Asian American and Filipino American artist, and greeted excited students and fans.

3) Professor Sharon Luk (University of Oregon) spoke about the power and poetics of letters and mass incarceration for the "Young Scholar Lecture Series" sponsored by Professor Nahum Chandler (UCI, African American Studies).

4) Eugene Moy of the Chinese American Society of Southern California and UCI Planning, Policy, and Design Ph.D. student Laureen Hom shared their knowledge of the L.A. Chinatown area and community during a tour of L.A. Chinatown.

5) Professor Linda Trinh Vo, Tram Le, Professor Tu–Uyen Nguyen (CSU Fullerton), Karen Ishizuka, and Dr. Thuy Vo Dang kick off "Homescapes/Warscapes 25/30" and the 2016–2017 academic year.

6) UCI students Jenny Tseng and Michelle Yang enjoying the L.A. Chinatown tour.

7) Professor Gordon Chang (Stanford University) shares most recent book, Fateful Ties: A History of America’s Preoccupation with China (Harvard University Press) for the "Homescapes/Warscapes 25/30" series.

8) Professor Theo Gonzalez (University of Maryland, Baltimore County) shared his recent work on Paredon Records and the song "Filipino Baby" in Professor Christine Bacareza Balance’s Asian Americans and the Media class.
UPCOMING EVENTS

HOMESCAPES/WARSCAPES²¹⁄₂

January 12: Post-Election OC Community Forum

January 18: Patricia Nguyen (Northwestern University)

January 20: Alternative Inauguration

January 25: Patricia Nguyen (Northwestern University)

&

Chancellor’s Distinguished Fellows Series presents Viet Thanh Nguyen

January 26: Lunch with Viet Nguyen

February 01: Eric Tang (University of Texas, Austin)

February 16: Karin Wang & Sylvia Kim

February 23: Alvin Lau

February 25: JANM Guided Tour

March 03: Trinh Mai Studio Visit

March 09: Michael Jin (University of Illinois, Chicago)

&

Aditi Bernnan Kapil, Pia Shah, Karthik Srinivasan, and Anjali Bhimani

March 14: South Coast Repertory, "Orange"

Visit our website for more details.
FEATURED STUDENTS
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Jonathan David Agena
3rd year / Asian American Studies Major / Film & Media Studies Minor

Jonathan is currently studying the #AAIronFist controversy and how it ties into the lack of Asian American representation in U.S. television and film. In early 2015, the comic book company, Marvel, announced a new Netflix series on its lesser-known, martial arts superhero, Iron Fist. This news led many to hope that Marvel would cast an Asian American actor to take on the role as a way to update the character and lend an opportunity for Asian Americans to shine in media. However, Marvel chose instead to cast a white actor, resulting in backlash from the Asian American community. Critics called the decision racially-biased and ignorant of the lack of Asian American representation in media, while defendants claimed that it is important for Iron Fist to be white and for Marvel to proceed with whatever artistic choices it desires. Jonathan’s research will focus on addressing these defendants’ claims, as well as investigate as to why there is resistance towards having Asian actors take on lead roles, especially in superhero-related media.

Erica Than Khaine
4th year / Quantitative Economics Major

Erica’s research project explores current educational policies and their effect on Southeast Asian American youth and how to better improve college access. She works with students who were selected because of their participation in one or more of the 2013–2016 SEA Success Youth Conferences or Southeast Asian Leaders Program. They will be asked to participate in an interview regarding their experience as high school students perusing a college education. The purpose of this research project is to challenge the current policies regarding minorities in higher education and to find the greatest challenges that Southeast Asian American youth face in terms of college access. This research specifically looks into the effects of college preparedness conferences and programs.
FEATURED STUDENTS
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Pauline Nguyen
Third year / Comparative Literature Major

Pauline is conducting research on her grandmother, Nguyen Thi Ve, the first female judge of Vietnam. She is examining her grandmother's life and career against the backdrop of the political changes happening in Vietnam during the 20th century. She aims to study her grandmother's path to higher education, her career, and the repercussions of her career, in order to understand what it meant to be a Vietnamese career woman during war time. Pauline hopes to add to the near nonexistent conversation about Vietnamese career women during this time period. This project is also incredibly personal to her because it allows her to become closer to her grandmother whom she has been separated from within the Vietnamese diaspora. It also allows her to better understand her family history and preserve her grandmother's story for years to come.

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Elaine Kathryn Andres

Elaine is a third-year doctoral student in the program in Culture & Theory at UC Irvine. Her research examines the nexus of race, gender, and place in popular music and its attending visual culture. Her current work focuses on the performance of racial, ethnic, and economic encounter embodied in the work of popular Asian American “cross-over” artists from Los Angeles and the Bay Area.

She is a founding member and organizer of the Critical Visual Geographies Collective, an interdisciplinary graduate student organization and lecture series funded by the UCI Humanities Commons. She has recently contributed to a forthcoming Sex & Colonies catalog and has published writing in the “Journal for Asian American Studies.”

She will be presenting at the conferences for the Association for Asian American Studies and MoPop Music later this spring.
Ray San Diego

Ray is a Ph.D. candidate in the program of Culture & Theory with emphases in Asian American Studies, Gender & Sexuality Studies, and Critical Theory. He earned a B.A. in Asian American Studies from UCLA and an M.A. in Asian American Studies from San Francisco State University. His dissertation, “The Sexual Ecologies of Asian America,” diagrams how technologically mediated performances of racialized sexualities reinstate the Asian American sexual body through inter/multisensorial engagements and entanglements in spaces organized by or around cinema, musical performance, public health, museum exhibitions, pornography, and inhuman objects.

In the past year, he recently completed a two-year term as the Student Representative for the Association for Asian American Studies, where he also presented. He also presented at the Palimpsests 2 Conference on Filipino Studies in San Diego, the UCLA Queer Graduate Student Conference, and the American Studies Association Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado. With support from the Humanities Commons graduate student research grant, in January 2017 he will be attending the AVN (Adult Video News) Adult Entertainment Expo and Awards Show in Las Vegas, Nevada, to conduct ethnographic work on the affective circuits activated by and animating Asian American porn performers and sex toys. While there, he hopes to hang out with the inspiration for this project, Japanese American porn star Asa Akira.

ANNOUNCING

THE AAS CONFERENCE TRAVEL AWARD

Due Date: 1 February 2017

Funding available: 3 awards of $250 each

Eligibility:

- Graduate students (M.A. or Ph.D. programs) working with Asian American Studies faculty on Asian American Studies related research. Students who completed or are completing the graduate emphasis are prioritized.
- Applicants must be current students presenting a conference paper on their own original research.
- The conference must take place during the 2016-2017 academic year, including summer 2017.

Selection criteria:

- Significance of presentation for the field of Asian American Studies
- Demonstration of ongoing mentoring relationship with Asian American studies core faculty
- Proof of acceptance to a national/international professional meeting (i.e. Association for Asian American Studies, American Studies Association, Modern Languages Association, etc.);

To apply visit https://scout.eee.uci.edu/s/pnfqhyim-2017. If you have questions about the proposal guidelines or difficulties with electronic submission (through EEE Scout), please contact Prof. Christine Balance (AAS Director of Graduate Studies) at cbalance@uci.edu.
Sunny Lee

Sunny is a UCI alumna (1996) and majored in Criminology, Law, & Society. She finished her major early and then took almost every Asian American Studies class that was available during that time. The selection wasn’t as abundant as it is now, but she appreciated each course and how it helped shape her undergraduate experience, research interests, and career choice. As a student, Sunny joined the Asian Pacific Student Association (APSA) which was the perfect place for to her to put into practice what she was learning in AAS. They organized around affirmative action, racial profiling of Asian American men students, and built coalitions with the other umbrella organizations in the Cross-Cultural Center. She also wrote for the Asian American newspaper which was called Rice Paper at the time. AAS courses nurtured her critical consciousness in ways she could not have imagined otherwise possible. It gave her the self-confidence to be a leader, the courage to express herself, a sense of purpose and mission, and the tools to understand her own life experiences as an immigrant woman of color.

The combination of AAS and Sunny’s involvement in student activism propelled her into a career in student affairs. She wanted to support student development in a social justice framework and make a difference in the lives of underrepresented students. Sunny went on to the University of Maryland, College Park to earn a master’s degree in College Student Personnel where she held the first graduate assistantship to advise Asian American student leaders. She published some of the first works on Asian American student development with her advisor and classmates. They co-edited the first monograph about Asian American college students that is still used today in student affairs masters degree programs. Her background in Asian American Studies at UCI served as a strong foundation for much of this work.

Sunny’s first full-time job out of graduate school was working in the Asian American Resource Center at Pomona College. She then returned to UC Irvine to work as a staff member at the Cross-Cultural Center before she moved on to Cal Poly Pomona to become the director of Student Life & Cultural Centers. AAS and her involvement at UCI planted a seed for social change and justice that has been growing ever since. Sunny went on to earn a Ph.D. in Higher Education from Claremont Graduate University and currently works in the Ombuds Office for Students & Postdocs at UC Berkeley where they provide conflict resolution services. She credits her education in AAS for providing her the grounding to understand phenomena from multiple perspectives that continues to aid her work today.

Sunny is truly grateful for the influential role that AAS has had on her life in the personal, professional, and political realms!
Professor James Kyung-Jin Lee

Jim Lee recently returned from a trip to Poland, where he delivered a keynote lecture at the Polish Association of American Studies conference, held in late November at the American Studies Center at the University of Warsaw. He presented on his current research project on Asian Americans, illness, and narrative; more specifically, he lectured on the contemporary emergence of Asian American physician memoirs. In addition, Jim gave lectures at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow and the University of Gdańsk in Gdańsk, Poland, as well as leading a workshop with graduate students at the University of Warsaw. This trip was sponsored in part by the U.S. Embassy in Poland. Jim will be teaching a class related to this research project in Winter Quarter 2017, titled "Illness and Medical Narratives of Asian America." The class will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 12:30 until 1:50 pm.

Professor Christine Bacareza Balance

Christine Bacareza Balance recently celebrated her book, Tropical Renditions: Making Muscial Scenes in Filipino America (Duke University Press, 2016), at the Asian American Writers’ Workshop (AAWW) in New York City. The December 2016 book launch featured readings by Balance, poet Patrick Rosal, and a discussion moderated by Jessica Hagedorn. Prof. Balance also began her work this year, as a humanities consultant with Visual Communications’ Digital Histories (DH) program. A community storytelling and digital video program for seniors, the DH films will again be featured at this year’s VC Los Angeles Asian Pacific American Film Festival (festival.vconline.org). Prof. Balance continues to ready for publication, California Dreaming: Production & Aesthetics in Asian American Culture (forthcoming, University of Hawai‘i Press), an anthology project co-edited with Prof. Lucy San Pablo Burns (UCLA), and to serve as Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) for UCI’s AAS department.
Learn more about Asian American Studies at UCI

Interested in majoring, minoring, or joining the Friends of Asian American Studies listserv? Contact Assistant Department Administrator Jasmine Robledo at jasmine.robledo@uci.edu.

Want to pitch a story to this newsletter? Email Graduate Student Assistant Researcher and newsletter editor Erica Maria Cheung at ericamc1@uci.edu.

Professor Christine Bacareza Balance (AAS Director of Graduate Studies) and Arielle Hinojosa (School of Humanities Graduate Counselor).

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HOME SCAPES/WARS SCAPES

25th Anniversary of the UCI Department of Asian American Studies and the 30th Anniversary of UCI Southeast Asian Archive.

WINTER LECTURE SERIES

JANUARY

12
Post-Election Orange County Community Forum
Sponsored by Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Orange County
3:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Whittier Law School
3333 S. Harbor Blvd., Costa Mesa

26
Lunch with Viet Nguyen for Asian American Studies Students
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
OC and Southeast Asian American Center
RSVP: viet.n.nguyen@uci.edu

FEBRUARY

01
salt\water: Vietnamese Refugee Passages, Memory, and Statelessness at Sea
Patricia Nguyen (Northwestern University)
2:00 - 3:20 p.m.
Humanities Hall 143
Seating is limited

09
Film screening & discussion of “Eating Welfare”: talk, “Unsettled: Cambodian Refugees in the NYC Hyperghetto”
Prof. Eric Tang (University of Texas, Austin)
Film screening, 9:00 - 10:20 a.m.
Humanities Interim Classroom Facility 100K
Talk, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Humanities Hall 143
Seating is limited

16
Advancing Justice as Asian Americans
Karin Wang (Vice President, Asian Americans Advancing Justice, Los Angeles), Sylvia Kim (Regional Director, AAJ, Orange County)
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
1100 Donald Bren Hall - Seating is limited

23
Performance of “F-Yeahl and Other Adventures”
Alvin Lau (Poetry Slam Artist)
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
1100 Donald Bren Hall - Seating is limited

MARCH

03
Artist Trinh Mai Studio Visit
1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
Grand Central Art Center
125 N. Broadway Ave., Santa Ana
RSVP to the Cross-Cultural Center Office at 951-824-2660

09
From Tehran to Seoul to Los Angeles: How Iranian and Korean Diasporas Converged
Prof. Michael Jin (University of Illinois, Chicago)
Research talk, 12 p.m.
Humanities Gateway 1010 - Seating is limited
Public lecture, 6:30 p.m.
Humanities Gateway 1030 - Seating is limited

14
Full production of “Orange”
7:45 - 10:00 p.m.
South Coast Repertory - 655 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92626
Meet at Adams Hall Foyer at 7:00 p.m., door tickets to play are $5 for UCI students by RSVP to http://bit.ly/orangeday

25
Common Ground: The Heart of Community, Guided Tour
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Japanese American National Museum, 100 North Central Ave
RSVP: japa@jamanmuseum.org

Supporters include: Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Orange County, the Cross-Cultural Center, the Center for Black Culture, Research, and Resources, the Center for Critical American Studies, the Center for the Study of Resilience, the Center for Cultural Curation, and the Center for Cultural Studies.

UCI School of Humanities
OC&SEAA Orange County & Southeast Asian Archive Center
UCI Department of Asian American Studies