

AARCCConnections

September 2007

Volume 3, Issue 1

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**Celebrate the beginning of school by joining us at:
AARCC's 3rd annual ICE CREAM SOCIAL!**

Thursday, September 6th

2:00 p.m.

Outdoor Circle West of Taft Hall

(rain location: Latino Cultural Center, Lecture Center B)

Get to know other students

Learn about Asian American student organizations

Meet the AARCC staff

Ice Cream Catered by Village Creamery

For more information, contact Corinne Kodama at ckodama@uic.edu or 312-413-9653.

Welcome Back!

Welcome to all new students, staff, and faculty and greetings to everyone returning to campus! We hope to see you at the Ice Cream Social or at another AARCC event during the year. AARCCConnections will bring you news about AARCC, related activities, and significant people on campus and in the community. We also encourage you to sign up for AARCC-News, our listserv, to learn more about upcoming events!

This year we have some important developments:

- UIC hired two Asian Americanist faculty, Anna Guevarra in Sociology (see p. 5), and Eric Tang in African American Studies (who will join UIC in 08-09). We hope you take advantage of the new courses that these professors will offer!
- AARCC sponsored the 3rd annual Asian American Organizations Leadership Retreat with 8 different UIC student organizations in attendance.
- Upcoming Fall speakers include Jeff Chang (*Can't Stop Won't Stop: A History of the Hip-Hop Generation*) on Oct. 10 and Minnesota State Senator Mee Moua, the first Hmong American to hold elected office in the U.S. on Oct. 24 (tentative).



Stop by and meet us sometime....best wishes for a wonderful year!

-Karen, Corinne, & Elvin

The Best Part About UIC: Getting Involved

By Phillip Ozaki, Junior



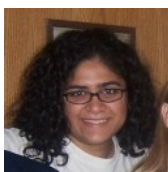
When I joined Filipinos in Alliance my freshmen year, it was pretty scary. It seemed like everybody knew each other except me. But by the 2nd meeting, I already knew lots of people. I joined the cultural dance troupe, which was fun because you got to hang out while practicing for the next big event. My favorite event was a conference at UIUC called FACT. We performed an acrobatic dance atop benches stacked 6 feet high and got the crowd roaring as if at a dancing stunt show. FACT was also fun because we got to attend workshops, meet students from other colleges, and dance the night away at a kick-butt after set.

The other way that FIA has changed my college experience is through the Ate-Kuya-Ading program, where a younger sibling (ading) is paired with an older brother (kuya) or sister (ate). When I was a freshman, my Kuya, Daryl, a senior, introduced me to other members and his friends became mine. This year, I had an ading, who gets both me and Daryl as his brothers and our "family" grows over the years. Even though Daryl has graduated, he still encourages me to fulfill my goals and is a good source of advice. (Note: for those of you not in FIA, AARCC also has a similar Peer Mentor program).

I've also had great experiences working at AARCC: from doing business with Joy Yee's and Thai Bowl to networking with the presidents of the Asian American organizations, and even meeting Asian American celebrities. George Takei (who plays Hiro's father on NBC's Heroes) spoke at last year's Asian American Awareness Month, but while the Trekkies and Asian Americans in the audience got to hear his distinct voice from afar, I met him in person. I was assigned to be his "bodyguard," so I saved him from obsessed fans, prevented the leak of Heroes' secrets, and had dinner with him. This is definitely one of the most interesting stories of my life.

This year, I'll be studying abroad in Japan. The thing I'll miss most about UIC is FIA and AARCC because these organizations gave me great friends, memories, and a sense of belonging. It is inspiring to work with other students and staff who contribute so much to the UIC Asian American community and help you make the most of your college experience. Before I leave, I would encourage everyone to get involved with a campus job or student organization because your contributions pay off through social networks, unique experiences, and most of all, lasting friendships.

Introducing AARCC's New Student Staff!



Hello! My name's Aaditi, and I'm a senior majoring in sociology. I spent last semester in Santiago, Chile through UIC's Student Exchange Program, and I highly recommend studying abroad: it's amazing! I will be the Community Outreach Coordinator, helping to develop community service programs, neighborhood tours, and other programs to connect UIC and Asian American communities in Chicago.



Hello, I'm David, the new Publications Coordinator for AARCC, and will be working on AARCCConnections (this newsletter), the Resource Book, and other publications. This my 2nd year at UIC, and I'm an Electronic Visualizations major. I hope to become an active member of the AARCC and in the Asian community.



Hi, I'm Melissa! I'm a 4th year Biological Sciences major with the hopes of going to pharmacy school. I'll be the Campus Outreach Coordinator, working with student organizations and publicity for AARCC events. This year aside from AARCC, I'm also involved with Filipinos in Alliance. I'm really happy to be working with AARCC and excited to meet all of you this year!



Hi everyone! My name is Winnie Chan and I am the AARCC Graduate Assistant. I'll be working with the Asian American Mentor Program, coordinating speakers, and helping out with Asian American Awareness Month. I am a graduate student in the Community & Prevention Research division of the Psychology Department. When I am not thinking about psychology, I enjoy going to theaters/festivals, jogging, traveling, and most importantly eating.

Attention Incoming Students: Join the Asian American Mentor Program!



This is the 2nd year of the Asian American Peer Mentor Program for incoming undergraduates. AAMP is designed to help ease the transition to UIC by introducing students to campus resources, providing workshops on relevant topics, and connecting students with each other.

This year we have 16 Peer Mentors who will be leading small groups of new students. Peer Mentors and new students meet weekly to discuss issues, build community, and learn about campus. In addition, students attend social, academic, and educational programs sponsored by AARCC. For more info, visit <http://www.uic.edu/depts/oa/AARCC/peerinfo.html>.

At this time of this publication there was still room in the program, but space is limited so if you are interested in joining, contact Corinne Kodama ASAP at 312-413-9653 or ckodama@uic.edu.

Summer Whirlwind at the Organization of Chinese Americans in Washington D.C. By Jennifer Tsang, Senior



It feels odd to be writing about my experiences with my internship at the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) in Washington D.C. while I'm unpacking from my trip. However, sitting here, wondering what I've done in the span of a summer has been mind-blowing. What struck me most was how much effort was put into the internship in exposing me to so many aspects of Asian American activism. It was fast and furious, no pun intended. For me, the highlight was the national convention and how it came together to serve the greater OCA community. I participated in activism workshops and hung out with fellow activists from around the country. I enjoyed seeing and meeting Asian American figures such as former U.S. Asst. Attorney General for Civil Rights Bill Lann Lee, Congressman Mike Honda, and especially, author and activist Helen Zia (pictured with me here). These people are developing the Asian American community through leadership, activism and participation. The outreach into the community has been phenomenal and being surrounded by fellow Asian American activists has been very inspiring. Coming home has been rough because D.C. now seems like home to me; however, I know that the experiences and work that I've gone through at OCA have been worthwhile and will be valuable in my future work, especially in the Asian American community. If you are interested in learning more, you can contact me through AARCC or visit the OCA website!

Asian American Courses for Fall 2007

Need another class for your fall schedule? Consider taking a class to learn more about Asian Americans! The following is a list of courses scheduled for fall...and there will be more in the spring so stay tuned! Look for the "ASAM" prefix and also subscribe to AARCC-News for the latest information.

ASAM/ENGL 123	Introduction to Asian American Literature	10-10:50	MWF	Chiang
ASAM/ENGL 328	Asian American Literature	12-12:50	MWF	Chiang
ASAM/ASST/SOC 228	Sociology of Asia and Asian Americans	12:30-1:45	TTh	Barrett
SOC 426	Asian/Asian American Women in the Global Economy	3:30-6:15	Tu	Guevarra
HON 201	Debunking the Model Minority Myth	3-3:50	W	Su

September 2007

Schedule of Events

- **Sept. 4: Vietnamese Student Association's 1st Meeting.** 4 p.m. in Rathskellar. Contact John at jnguye8@uic.edu or 630-339-6251.
- **Sept. 5: Fun Fair!** Learn about UIC student organizations and campus offices! 11-3 p.m, UIC Quad.
- **Sept. 5: Asian American Students in Alliance 1st meeting!** 4-5:30 p.m., Ft. Dearborn Rm. B, SCE. Contact Bernadette at bcasac2@uic.edu.
- **Sept. 6 AARCC's 3rd Annual Ice Cream Social!** See page 1 for info! 2 p.m, Outside near Taft Hall. Contact ckodama@uic.edu or 312-413-9653.
- **Sept. 13. Filipinos in Alliance 1st meeting, FREE food!** 4 p.m., SCE #605. Contact Majella Ciruelas at mcirue2@uic.edu or <http://fia.pages.uic.edu>
- **Sept. 17. Asian American Coalition Committee's NIGHTVISION Showcase.** This Pan-Asian variety show includes folk and modern dances and headliner GABE BONDOC. 6 p.m., Illinois Room, SCE. Contact, rlaylo2@uic.edu or 708.214.2035 for more info.
- **Sept. 17: FIA's Modern Tryouts** Come and have fun dancing! 4 p.m. Dance Studio. Contact adeguz2@uic.edu or sheras2@uic.edu
- **Sept. 20: Diversity Career Day.** Jobs and internships in all fields: dress professionally and bring resumes! 10 am-2:30 pm, UIC Pavilion. Office of Career Services, 312-996-2300 or www.uic.edu.depts/OCS.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 VSA's 1st Meeting	5 Fun Fair AASIA's 1st meeting	6 AARCC's Ice Cream Social!	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 FIA's 1st Meeting	14	15
16	17 NightVision FIA Modern Tryouts	18	19	20 Diversity Career Day	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Student Organization Meetings:

Asian American Students in Alliance Alternate Weds. at 4, Ft. Dearborn/#613 SCE bcasac2@uic.edu
 Filipinos in Alliance Occasional Weds. At 4 mcirue2@uic.edu
 Vietnamese Student Association Tuesdays at 4 in Rathskellar jnguye8@uic.edu, 630.339.6251

For information on other organizations, check out our 2007-08 Resource Book or website!

New Asian American Faculty: Anna Guevarra

Dr. Anna Guevarra is a new Assistant Professor in the Sociology Department. We took a few minutes to get to know her:



Why did you decide to come to UIC?

I came UIC for an opportunity to help continue the momentum of building an Asian American studies program that I believe is already underway. I support the urgency for building such a program, especially given the student demographics on campus and the strong campuswide demand for it. I also wanted to join a vibrant intellectual community of scholars and teachers in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, which I envision can provide exciting possibilities for doing interdisciplinary collaborative work.

What does your work focus on?

I focus on gender/race, globalization, migration, and social justice and examine issues like transnationalism, the racialization and feminization of global labor markets, and contemporary Philippine politics and culture. As a qualitative sociologist, I focus on ethnographic research methods.

What courses will you be teaching at UIC this year?

In the Fall 2007, I am teaching a new special topics course: Soc 426: Asian and Asian American Women in the Global Economy and in the Spring 2008, I will teach Soc 228: Sociology of Asia and Asia America.

How did you become involved in the fields of Sociology, Gender and Women's Studies, and Ethnic Studies? And why did you decide to become a professor?

I became a professor because I saw this profession as an important tool for promoting social change through teaching and research. I enjoy participating and contributing to the intellectual community and the unique opportunities for sharing this knowledge in the classroom and the community-at-large.

My involvement in the fields of Sociology, Gender and Women's Studies, and Ethnic Studies stems from my interdisciplinary background. Although my PhD is in Sociology, I have a Bachelors degree in Women's Studies, where I also served as editor of a campus feminist newspaper, the *Womyn's Quarterly*. In graduate school, I was part of a program that valued interdisciplinary work and bridging sociology with other disciplines in the social sciences and the humanities. As a faculty at Arizona State University, I helped in the establishment of the B.A. degree program in Ethnicity, Race, and First Nations Studies.

Why do you think there is a lack of Gender and Women's Studies' professors who are women of color, especially Asian American women?

I think that this is reflective of their historical marginalization from the U.S. feminist movement, which has traditionally been mobilized by and served the interests of white middle-class women and has not sufficiently addressed the ethnic diversity and heterogeneity among women of color. However, I think that over the past two decades, women of color have greatly redressed this issue through scholarship and activism that addresses their unique experiences from the intersections of race, class, sexuality, and gender.

Tell us about your upcoming book, *Marketing Dreams, Manufacturing Heroes: The Transnational Labor Brokering of Filipino Workers*.

My book is an ethnographic exploration of the Philippines' labor export economy and the commodification of Filipino workers for global labor markets. I critique the notion of the Philippines as "the home of the great Filipino worker" and focus on the racial, gender, class, and cultural dynamics of how Filipinos became socially constructed to be "ideal" workers for the world. It is based on fieldwork that began in the Philippines, where I examined the perspective of employment agencies and the state and then ended in the U.S. where I studied the immigrant identity formation of Filipino nurses who were the "products" of this labor export/brokering process.

What else would you like us to know about you?

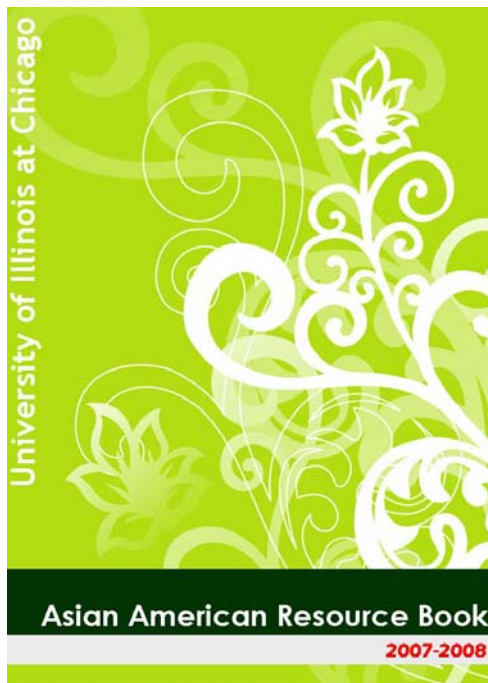
I am a "halfie," a 1.5 generation Filipina American—born in the Philippines and grew up in the U.S. since the age of 12. I am proud to finally utter complete sentences in Tagalog, which happened as a result of returning to and living in the Philippines for one year doing research and where everyday shopping, eating, and watching Filipino soap operas allowed me to reconnect with the language (and my accent). I have lived mostly in California—I grew up in the San Fernando Valley, went to college in Irvine then to graduate school in San Francisco, and then Los Angeles for post-doctoral work. My first move out of California was for a job at Arizona State University, where I enjoyed the desert scene for the past three years. I now look forward to experiencing a different kind of winter, although this is more than I can say for my pet tortoise, Mr. Mingus.

**Asian American Resource
and Cultural Center**

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LEARN ABOUT
AARCC EVENTS
THROUGH OUR
LISTSERV, JOIN BY
CONTACTING
AARCC@UIC.EDU.



Do YOU have a copy of the 2007-08 UIC Asian American Resource Book?

The 2007-08 edition of the Asian American Resource Book will be available Sept. 6th! This 60-page book contains a wealth of useful information about Asian American resources on campus, including AARCC, Asian and Asian American Studies courses, Asian American student organizations, as well as local community organizations. This book was generously co-sponsored by the Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Asian Americans.

Pick up your copy at the AARCC (Taft Hall 101) or view it online at aarcc.vcaa.uic.edu. For more information, contact Corinne Kodama at 312-413-9653 or ckodama@uic.edu.