

Kevin Nadal: professor, comedian, actor, psychologist, musician, and Pinoy

By Bing Liu

Somewhere deep in the teenage wastelands of YouTube, there is a grainy video displaying a shirtless man lip-syncing. "I wish I could go back to college," he chirps. His wide-eyed enthusiasm and exaggerated facial expressions cheerily augment the Broadway-musical style song. "In college you know who you are. You sit in the quad, and think, 'Oh my God! I am totally gonna go far!'"

This man did go far. He majored in psychology and political science despite his parents' hopes of him becoming a doctor. He went on to get his Ph.D. in counseling psychology from Columbia University. "At least I'm some sort of doctor," he says. He is an assistant professor in psychology, has published an abundance of research, has been mentioned in several major news outlets, was featured in an independent film, and tours across the country performing comedy.

Dr. Kevin Nadal did all of this as a Filipino American (Pinoy). "I was lucky enough to hear the stories of the elders in my neighborhood before they passed away," referring to the Filipino immigrants who came in the 1930s. "They were like walking history books, describing what I was learning in my Asian American Studies classes." In college, he joined organizations advocating social justice and performed spoken word. He also started performing comedy. "Being involved definitely helped me be more comfortable with my identity as both a person of color and a Filipino," says Nadal.

In college Nadal also discovered psychology. He was intrigued by human behavior and why people acted or thought the way they did. "Psychology is based on Western heterosexual methods and processes," he critiques. Nadal works to promote a more multicultural psychology. "Filipinos are projected to be the largest Asian American population in the U.S., yet they have the least amount of research literature written about them," he explains. Nadal recently wrote and published his book *Filipino American Psychology*, a first of its kind.

His interests in entertainment and academia may seem contradictory, but Nadal thinks differently. He believes having a performance background makes him a better professor because he knows how to teach things in an entertaining way. Conversely, being educated about different cultural values and histories makes him more knowledgeable for his musical and comedy performances.

Less than a year after his "Kevin Nadal wishes he could go back to college," the video "Professor Nadal interview with Bill 'O Reilly'" was posted. This time, instead of singing fun songs or doing standup about his Mom, Nadal gracefully defended the Filipino American community's request for an apology by ABC for a crude remark about the quality of Filipino medical schools in *Desperate Housewives*. This activism gained great media attention and recognition for Nadal.



Nadal laments how he didn't have any Asian/Filipino American role models while growing up. Through his research, performances, and activism, he wants to be a role model and help other Asian/Filipino Americans to succeed. To learn more about his work, visit www.kevinnadal.com.

Don't miss an engaging event with one of today's rising Asian American leaders:

**Saving the World...One
Filipino/a At A Time:
Kevin Nadal
Wednesday, October 7
4:00 p.m.**

**Student Center East 613
Reception following**
Email ckodama@uic.edu or call
312-413-9653 for more info.

Also:
**"STAND UP" - A Night of
Comedy with Kevin Nadal
Thursday, October 8
7 p.m.-9p.m.
The Court
(731 S. Plymouth Ct.)
Columbia College Chicago**
Free and Open to all UIC students!
For more info, contact
lalchaar@colum.edu

"There are times when you feel you are discriminated against or feel like a minority. That's a time for you to empower yourself and advocate for voices to be heard. Being proud of who I am has helped me to be comfortable with and love myself. People being proud of their identity can lead to higher self esteem and an ability to love yourself."

-Kevin Nadal

Asian American Studies Update

I am very pleased to be taking over as the Coordinator of Asian American Studies from the two previous coordinators, Gayatri Reddy and Kevin Kumashiro. They both did a fantastic job of moving Asian American Studies forward and we are all grateful for their efforts.

As a result, we are now on the verge of becoming an official Program. The proposals to establish a Program and a Minor in Asian American Studies are making their way through the review process and we hope that they will be approved next year. The push for Asian American Studies came initially from students, staff, and a few faculty members, and after a series of efforts over the course of more than a decade, it is extremely exciting that the program is about to become a reality at UIC.

This would not have happened, though, without the support of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and especially its Dean, Dwight McBride. Dean McBride has been a strong advocate of the program since his appointment in LAS in 2007, and he has already provided us with offices on the eighth floor of University Hall, alongside Asian Studies. Our new staff person, Bill Gallaga, is handling administrative and advising work for both programs. His office is in 809 UH and you can contact him at gallaga@uic.edu, or at (312) 355-3448.

In addition to the proposals and our offices, the most exciting announcement is that we are conducting two new faculty searches this year in the social sciences. We are anticipating a large number of applicants for both positions, so we are very optimistic that we will be able to recruit two outstanding colleagues to help us build the program. We will be bringing candidates to campus for talks early in the spring semester so keep an eye out for announcements.

I have always felt that Asian American Studies was essential to UIC's mission as a public university and that it can make an important contribution not just to the school and the campus community but to the city of Chicago as well. Now we have an opportunity to fulfill some of that promise. I am thrilled to be part of this endeavor.

-- Mark Chiang, Associate Professor of English and Coordinator of Asian American Studies

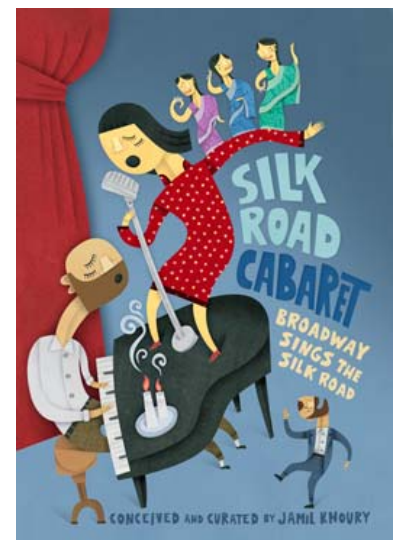
Join AARCC to See the Silk Road Cabaret: Broadway Sings the Silk Road

"A lot of our images of the East came from these musicals, whether based in fact, fantasy, or stereotype. This is a chance to poke a little fun at the material while also learning from it..."

*-Jamil Khoury,
Artistic Director of the
Silk Road Theatre*

Since its founding in 2003, the Silk Road Theatre Project has specialized in work by playwrights of Asian and Middle Eastern descent. But its fall opener will consist almost entirely of songs by writers with a European pedigree. Curated by SRTP artistic director Jamil Khoury and directed by Rick Dildine, *Silk Road Cabaret* consists of selections from Asia-centric musicals such as *The King and I*, *South Pacific*, *Pacific Overtures*, *Miss Saigon*, *Bombay Dreams*, and more. Rather than perform the songs in their original dramatic context, the six-person Asian-American cast will put their own spin on them.

AARCC will be sponsoring a limited number of discounted tickets (only \$10!) for UIC students to see the show on October 22. Stop by Taft Hall 101 for more information.



A Few Asian American Leaders

Quick—can you name an Asian American leader? Someone who has done something significant for this country, in either government, business, or other non-entertainment field? It turns out that most people can't do this, including the 13 students who enrolled in the "Asian Americans and Leadership" seminar class last fall. Students learned about the challenges that Asian Americans have in being perceived as leaders and researched an Asian American leader of their choice, including:

Gary Locke, governor of Washington state from 1996-2004, the first Asian American governor in the continental U.S. (excluding Hawaii). He came from a modest background, having lived in public housing and worked at his family's grocery store. He worked his way through college, earned a law degree, and served in both city and state government before becoming governor. *By Haajira Cheema.* Note: in 2009 Gary Locke was named U.S. Secretary of Commerce.



Indra Nooyi, CEO of PepsiCo, was ranked the 3rd most Powerful Woman in Business by Forbes magazine, and is among Time's 100 Most Influential People. Nooyi grew up in Madras, India and has undergraduate degrees in chemistry/physics/math and an MBA. She worked at a variety of consulting firms and corporations before ending up at PepsiCo and is known for having a strong multicultural vision in her work. *By Shireen Khan.*

Angela Oh is a lawyer, activist, and Buddhist priest. She was president of the Los Angeles Korean American Bar Association during the L.A. riots in 1992 and helped to negotiate tensions between Korean American storeowners and African American residents. She was the only Asian American to serve on President Clinton's Initiative on Race to promote racial harmony. *By Sharon Hong.*



General Eric Shinseki was the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army from 1999-2003. He was the first Asian American to obtain the rank of a four-star Army general, and served 38 years in the U.S. Army. He was born and raised in Hawaii and attended West Point Military Academy and Duke University (with a M.A. in English literature!). *By Tagumpay Robles.* Note: in 2009 General Shinseki was named U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

There are many, many more prominent Asian Americans who have made great contributions to our country. Learn more about Asian American leaders by taking an Asian American Studies course :

Asian American Studies Courses for Spring

ASAM/ENGL/SOC 125 Introduction to Asian American Studies Su MW 3-3:50, F 2:00 or 3:00

Overview of Asian American experiences and perspectives; introduction to major concepts, issues, and debates in the field of Asian American Studies. *Individual and Society*, and *US Society* course

ASAM/ASST/SOC 228 Sociology of Asia and Asian Americans Guevarra TR 12:30 - 1:45

Asian and Asian American culture, institutions, and organization; immigration, settlement patterns; family and ethnic identification; inequality and politics; values, prejudice, discrimination. *Individual and Society*, and *US Society* course

ENGL 114 Intro to Colonial and Postcolonial Literature Mohanraj, TR 9:30-10:45 or TR 2:00-3:15

An introduction to literature representative of the colonialism and decolonization that have shaped the modern world. *Creative Arts* and *World Cultures* course.

ENGL 328 Asian American Literature Jun TR 3:30-4:45

Historical development of Asian American literature. It will identify specific cultural and political issues that have shaped the broad range and diverse ethnic interests of that writing. Recommended background: ASAM 123.

ENGL 358 Colonial and Postcolonial Literature Mohanraj, TR 12:30-1:45

Studies a range of works in the context of 19th- and 20th-century colonialism, as well as the postcolonial period.

ENGL 359 Ethnic American Literature Chiang, TR 11:00 - 12:15

Representative selections from a number of ethnic and minority literatures. Prerequisite(s): Grade of C or better in ENGL 240 and ENGL 243. Recommended background: ENGL 113.

HIST 497 Women in South Asian History Mantena TR 2:00 - 3:15

OCTOBER 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6 FIA Mtg.	7 Kevin Nadal NightVision	8 Graduate/ Professional School Fair	9	10 Korean American Health Fair
11	12	13	14 AASIA Open Mic; KPiB Pie Throwing for Diabetes	15	16	17
18	19	20 FIA Mtg.	21	22 Silk Road Cabaret	23 FACT	24 FACT
25 FACT	26	27	28 AASIA Film Festival	29	30	31

Schedule of Events (AARCC events in BOLD)

- } Oct. 6 & 20: Filipinos in Alliance General Meeting. 4 p.m. Student Center East 605. Contact ccalip2@uic.edu.
- } **Oct 7: Kevin Nadal: Filipino American Psychology (see p.1).** 4 p.m. Student Center East 613. Contact ckodama@uic.edu or 312-413-9653.
- } Oct. 7: Asian American Coalition Committee's NightVision. NightVision is an event hosted by AACC to showcase UIC Asian American organizations through performances. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Student Center East, Illinois Room.
- } Oct. 8: 5th annual Chicago Graduate & Professional School Fair: learn about grad programs from over 200 schools around Chicagoland and across the country! 3 p.m.-7 p.m., UIC Forum. Contact 312-996-2300 or <http://chicagogradfair.ocs.uic.edu>.
- } **Oct. 10: AARCC Service Day with Korean American Community Services' health fair.** English as well as bilingual opportunities available, as well as a free dinner afterwards. Contact Dany at dcchea2@uic.edu or 312-413-9569 by Oct. 2.
- } Oct. 14: Asian American Students in Alliance Open Mic: Join us for poetry, dancing, singing, and more! 4-6 p.m., SCE 605. Contact Edmar at evilor2@uic.edu.
- } Oct. 14: Kappa Pi Beta Pie Throwing for Diabetes: throw a pie for a cause! 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Quad East Campus. Contact Matt at kpib.karma@gmail.com.
- } **Oct. 22. AARCC outing to "Silk Road Cabaret"** Discounted tickets available. Contact dcchea@uic.edu, 312-413-9569 (see p.2).
- } Oct. 23-25: FACT: Filipino Americans Coming Together, a UIUC conference about Filipino history and culture. Contact mark.ezpeleta@gmail.com.
- } Oct. 28: Asian American Students In Alliance Film Festival. Submit your films and watch on the big screen! 4 p.m.-6 p.m. JST Event Center. Contact Alyson at akung5@uic.edu.

Choosing A College Major



What majors and careers best fit the kinds of things you like and are good at?

How do you assess if your current major is the right one for you?

How do you balance family expectations with your personal interests and talents?

Selecting a major is an important decision you need to make in college, but also can be confusing, challenging, and stressful.

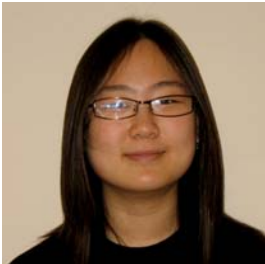
Join us for an interactive workshop in a non-judgmental environment to discuss your own major and career concerns. Bring your questions!

**Tuesday, Nov. 3
3:30 p.m.
Burnham Hall 121
(Honors College
Library)**

Presented by Corinne Kodama, AARCC Associate Director and former Assistant Director in the Office of Career Services.

Person On The Street:

What was something interesting or surprising you learned in your Asian American Studies course?



“I’m surprised by how far back Asian American history goes. I didn’t know Asian Americans played such a large role in American history.”

Rachel K, senior, Biology, took ASAM 125, SOC 228



“The most interesting thing was seeing how spread out Asian Americans were all over the country and the reasoning behind it.”

Vinh N., sophomore, Information and Decision Sciences, took SOC 228



“I was surprised by how much discrimination was going on in society today and how it’s still apparent.”

Edmar V., senior, Education, took ENGL 123, ASAM 125, SOC 228



“I was surprised that Asian Americans played such a large role in the American government.”

Stefan M, sophomore Engineering, took ASAM 125



“It was interesting to learn more about other Asian ethnic community issues other than my own.”

David M., senior, Electronic Visualization, took SOC 228

UIC Asian American Resource and Cultural Center

Taft Hall, Rm. 101 (MC 203)

826 S. Halsted St.

Chicago, IL 60607-7029

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Fax: 312-413-9732

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aarcc.uic.edu

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
TO JOIN OUR E-MAIL
LIST, FACEBOOK
GROUP, OR E-
SUBSCRIBERS TO
AARCCONNECTIONS

AARCC 5th Anniversary Trivia Contest:

In celebration of AARCC's upcoming 5th anniversary celebration, we are sponsoring a trivia contest. Send your answers to ckodama@uic.edu by Monday, Oct. 5 at 5:00 p.m. Anyone who answers all 3 questions correctly will be entered to win a prize, to be drawn at the Kevin Nadal event on October 7. Current and former AARCC Staff are ineligible (sorry, guys). Here goes:

- 1. Where was AARCC's first home (location) on campus?**
- 2. What business supplies the ice cream for AARCC's annual Ice Cream Social?**
- 3. Who are these people?**
(partial answers accepted)



Send your answers to ckodama@uic.edu by Monday, October 5th at 5:00 p.m.

Prize drawing will be held at the Kevin Nadal event on Oct. 7, 4 p.m. in Student Center East 613.