



## Sahar Khan 2011 CUNY Thomas Tam Scholarship Recipient

A recent graduate in Media Communications and Arts from City College of New York, Sahar Khan is the recipient AAARI's 2011 CUNY Thomas Tam Scholarship for her project *Islamic Studies Program*. Named after AAARI's first Executive Director and first Asian member of the CUNY Board of Trustees, the Tam Scholarship awards a CUNY undergraduate student \$1,000 for their leadership and work in the communication of the issues and concerns of the Asian American community.

Sahar's project began in 2010 with student petitions and meetings with faculty, students and administration at City College. The *Islamic Studies Program* aims to develop a general introduction to the culture, language, literature, religion, history and philosophy of Muslim people worldwide. This would be the only academic program at CUNY whose focus is on Islam and its expression in Muslim society. The *Program* is currently pending approval by the City College Student Faculty Senate, and then by the CUNY Board of Trustees.

An Honorable Mention award will also be given to Seimi Kim, an undergraduate student in Film Production at Brooklyn College, for her project *HOME*, a short fiction film illustrating struggles faced by international students.

**URL:** [www.aaari.info/tomtamscholar.htm](http://www.aaari.info/tomtamscholar.htm)



## Peter Kwong Appointed Distinguished Professor by CUNY Board of Trustees

At their June 2011 meeting, the CUNY Board of Trustees voted to appoint Dr. Peter Kwong, Distinguished Professor of Urban Affairs and Planning, at Hunter College. Best known for his work on Chinese Americans and modern Chinese politics, Dr. Kwong teaches courses on Asian American Studies and Urban Affairs and Planning at Hunter College; and Sociology at the CUNY Graduate Center.

Dr. Kwong is the author of eight books including *Chinese America: The Untold Story of America's Oldest New Community*; *Forbidden Workers: Chinese Illegal Immigrants and American Labor*; *The New Chinatown*; and *Chinatown, New York: Labor and Politics 1930-1950*.

Dr. Kwong has also been involved in the production of twenty-one documentary films, including *China's Unnatural Disaster: The Tears of Sichuan Province*, about the Chinese government's mishandling of the 2009 earthquake, which was nominated for Best Short Documentary at the 2010 Academy Awards.



## Unheard Voices of 9/11

**8/20/11** - AAARI and the Sikh Coalition hosted a community hearing attended by 90+ attendees for those affected by 9/11 to share their stories with panelists including Smita Narula (Center for Human Rights and Global Justice), Eric Treene (US Dept of Justice), and NYC Councilmember Daniel Dromm (25th District - Queens). Speakers including James Yee, a former US Army Chaplain, testified before the hearing committee regarding their experiences of discrimination at home, work, and school due to their race and religion, which greatly intensified after 9/11.

**URL:** [www.aaari.info/11-08-20Unheard.htm](http://www.aaari.info/11-08-20Unheard.htm)



## Asian Americans After 9/11

**9/9/11** - AAARI held a screening/panel discussion at the CUNY Graduate Center for *Tribute & Remembrance: Asian Americans After 9/11*, commissioned by the Asian American Federation in 2004. The film examines the impact of 9/11 on Chinatown, taxi drivers, Muslim families, and families who lost lives that tragic day. Moderated by Shazia Khan (NY1), panelists including Mohammad Razvi (Council of Peoples Origins) and Wellington Chen (Chinatown Partnership) spoke on the still lingering impacts of 9/11 on Asian American communities ten years later.

**URL:** [www.aaari.info/11-09-09Tribute.htm](http://www.aaari.info/11-09-09Tribute.htm)



## AAARI Hosts Foreign Minister of Bangladesh

**9/23/11** - AAARI hosted a reception for the Hon. Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, Dr. Dipu Moni, who spoke about US-Bangladesh trade policy. The event was co-hosted by Aziz Amad, Chair of US Bangladesh Partners, a CUNY alumnus and recipient of AAARI's First CUNY Distinguished Asian American Alumni Award. Mr. Ahmad spoke about business opportunities, investment incentives in Bangladesh, and introduced several US companies who are currently entering the Bangladesh market.

**URL:** [www.aaari.info/11-09-23Bangladesh.htm](http://www.aaari.info/11-09-23Bangladesh.htm)

# AAARI 10th Annual Gala

November 17, 2011  
6PM to 10PM

General: \$150  
AAARI Member/Senior: \$80  
Student: \$50

## Honorees

### Leadership Award

*Dr. Judy Chu, Congressmember,  
32nd District - California*

### CUNY Asian American Distinguished Alumni Award

*Robert Wann, Senior Exec VP & COO,  
New York Community Bancorp, Inc.*

### Golden Scholar Award

*Dr. Betty Lee Sung, Co-Founder, AAARI &  
Prof. Emerita, City College of New York*

### Community Service Award

*Adhikaar*

URL: [www.aaari.info/2011banquet.htm](http://www.aaari.info/2011banquet.htm)

Asian American / Asian Research Institute  
City University of New York  
25 West 43rd Street, Room 1000  
New York, NY 10036

“Building the bridge between CUNY  
and the Asian American community.”

## Friday Evening Lecture Series

10/28/11

### National Education Policy Priorities and Asian American and Pacific Islander Commu- nities

Speaker: *Robert T. Teranishi (NYU)*

11/4/11

### Song of the Silk Road

Speaker: *Mingmei Yip*

11/11/11

### Race

Speaker: *Falguni Sheth (Hampshire College)*

12/2/12

### Immigration Law 101 for the Layperson

Speaker: *Linda T. Chin (St. John's University)*

12/9/11

### The Google Standoff

Speaker: *Ying Zhu (College of Staten Island)*

URL: [www.aaari.info/lectures.htm](http://www.aaari.info/lectures.htm)

## Snapshot of Flushing: An Assessment of Service Needs of Asian American Aging Population

8/24/11 - Asian Americans for Equality, AAARI and members of the Flushing Leadership Collaborative released its report on the needs of Asian seniors residing in Flushing, Queens. Key findings include seniors having positive attitudes towards their neighborhood, difficulty in receiving services due to language access, the need for affordable housing, and the need for more physical and mental health care.

Full Report: <http://is.gd/8llwcO>



## Reception for 9/11 Memorial Installation

9/6/11 - AAARI and the Manhattan Borough President's Office hosted an opening reception for artist Chee Wang Ng's 9/11 Memorial Installation. The installation is on display during the month of September at the Borough Office, Pace University, and NJ City University.



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