



L to R: Wellington Chen (CUNY Trustee), Young Cheong (AAARI Board - Brooklyn College), Joyce Moy (AAARI Executive Director), Vinit Parmar (AAARI Board Vice Chair - Brooklyn College), Naz Khandaker (AAARI Board - York College), Kiyoka Koizumi (AAARI Board - Brooklyn College), James Milliken (CUNY Chancellor), Ron Woo (AAARI Board Chair - CUNY), Kyoko Toyama (AAARI Board Treasurer - LaGuardia CC), Sambhavi Lakshminarayanan (AAARI Board - Medgar Evers College) & Rose Kim (AAARI Board - BMCC)



Lily Hui

## AAARI 13th Annual Gala

**11/20/14** - AAARI welcomed the new Chancellor of The City University of New York, James B. Milliken at a VIP reception before our 13th Annual Gala at Jing Fong Restaurant in Manhattan's Chinatown. Chancellor Milliken was welcomed by AAARI board members, CUNY faculty and students, and CUNY alumni. Chancellor Milliken received gifts including a copy of *Mountain of Gold*, written by Betty Lee Sung, AAARI's co-founder and Honorary Board Member, and AAARI's scholarly publication, CUNY FORUM.

Receiving the CUNY Distinguished Asian Alumni Award was Ms. Lily Hui, CPA and Partner, at Baker Tilly. Ms. Hui is a graduate of Baruch College. She shared her story of coming to New York City at age ten from Hong Kong, and helping her mother at the garment factory in Chinatown while growing up. CUNY provided her the background to pursue a career in accounting. She ended her speech by telling students that, "Hard work pays off, find the passion that you like, and don't let anyone tell you otherwise."



Hon. Grace Meng

U.S. Congresswoman Grace Meng received AAARI's Leadership Award. Congresswoman Meng thanked AAARI and CUNY for providing data and the tools to fight for resources on behalf of the Asian American community. She's currently working on legislation to further disaggregate data on Asians. "It's hard to detect and provide solutions for problems when they're just listed under the category of "Others," Meng said.

Video: [www.aaari.info/2014banquet.htm](http://www.aaari.info/2014banquet.htm)



Herman Lew (Left) during Q&A session of 2004 CUNY Asian American Film Festival.

## Remembering Herman Lew

In September 2014, Prof. Herman Lew, age 59, director of the undergrad film program at City College of New York/CUNY, passed away unexpectedly from a fatal heart attack. "Known for his gentle yet firm demeanor while on film sets, Lew was an unmistakable fixture in the Media & Communications Arts department."

Prof. Lew served as a judge for AAARI's CUNY Asian American Film Festival from 2004 to 2014, as well as Festival Chair in 2004 and 2005. AAARI is eternally grateful to Prof. Lew for lending his knowledge and experience to our Film Festival, and for promoting the visual talent of students at CCNY, which produced 19 festival awardees over 10 years.

CCNY Campus: <http://is.gd/XUfnIM>



## CUNY School of Journalism's First Technologist-in-Residence

Jue Yang will work with faculty and students on class projects that lie at the intersection of journalism and technology, helping them to develop new digital products and services. Before she came to CUNY, Jue was designing and building websites and tools — many of them data-powered maps — with her cohort at Development Seed, in Washington DC.



## Between Mao and McCarthy

Charlotte Brooks, Chair of Program in Asian American Studies, at Baruch College/CUNY, recently released a new book, *Between Mao and McCarthy: Chinese American Politics in the Cold War Years*. Drawing on extensive research in both Chinese- and English-language sources, Charlotte Brooks uncovers the complex, diverse, and surprisingly vibrant politics of an ethnic group trying to find its voice and flex its political muscle in Cold War America.

URL: <http://is.gd/RKeyyv>



## Dean of City Tech's School of Technology & Design Is Recipient of Two Architecture Awards

Kevin Hom, Dean of the School of Technology & Design, at NYC College of Technology/CUNY, received an award of merit for his Tidewater Community College Student Center in Virginia Beach by the Engineering News Record MidAtlantic. Tidewater Community College, which has been developed over the last 50 years, surrounds a large body of water in the center of the campus. To address critical planning needs, Hom placed the building in the middle of a lake to act as focal point for the circulation of the campus. Dean Hom was also presented with a commendation by the American Institute of Architects, Long Island Chapter, for his design of the SUNY at Farmingdale Student Union Building.

URL: <http://is.gd/xloFtn>



L to R: Stephanie Rodriguez Chrispin (Director of Fundraising, UniPro), Antony Wong (AAARI) & Iris Zalun (President, Unipro)

### AAARI Receives Progress Pioneer Award

**1/16/15** - Pilipino American Unity for Progress (UniPro) presented AAARI with the first-ever Progress Pioneer Award, at a reception held at the Sixth Street Community Center. The reception honored individuals and organizations whose impactful work continues to inspire and motivate UniPro. Accepting the award on AAARI's behalf was Antony Wong, the Institute's Program Coordinator. Also honored was Ayesha Vera Yu of Advancement for Rural Kids.

Founded in 2009, UniPro's mission is to engage Filipino Americans through collaboration, advocacy, and leadership development. It seeks to transform Filipino students and young professionals into community leaders through its various programs, which incorporate professional development, history, and policy through the lens of the Filipino experience. Ultimately, UniPro asks Filipino Americans to critically answer, "How do you define *Progress?*"



### The Political Activism of Sikhs in Canada and the U.S.

**2/4/15** - Dr. Prema Kurien, the 2014-2015 CUNY Distinguished Dr. Thomas Tam Visiting Professor at the CUNY Graduate Center, gave a talk about her current research project on Sikhs. Dr. Kurien examined how differences in the social, political, and religious opportunity structures of Canada and the United States, as well as the characteristics of groups, shape the political incorporation of religious minorities. South Asians comprise the largest "visible minority group" in Canada.



### AAARI Welcomes Ozu Bruno Gedes-Hayashida

**4/8/15** - Prof. Jennifer Hayashida, AAARI board member and Director of the Asian American Studies Program at Hunter College/CUNY, gave birth to a healthy baby girl, Ozu Bruno Gerdes-Hayashida. AAARI extends best wishes to Prof. Hayashida and her entire family on the new addition to their family.

## Bringing Diversity to CUNY's Leadership

AAARI and the CUNY University Office of Human Resources Management (OHRM), Office of Recruitment and Diversity (ORD) recently launched the CUNY Asian American Leadership Initiative (CAALI) to address the lack of representation of Asian Americans in senior leadership positions at CUNY.

There has never been an Asian American in the position of President, Provost or Associate Provost on any of the 24 CUNY campuses, and very few Asian Americans in other senior positions. Among CAALI's objectives are to: 1) insure that candidate pools are more diverse by identifying, and assisting in the recruitment of Asian American external candidates, 2) provide professional development of potential internal candidates already in leadership positions, 3) remove obstacles or barriers to the pathways to senior leadership, and 4) feed the pipeline for future candidates by raising awareness of career options that would include leadership positions in higher education.

According to data provided by OHRM/ORD, as of Fall 2013, 11.6 % of the total CUNY faculty are Asian American. Of the 11.6 % more than half of the full-time faculty are at the colleges of Baruch, City, Hunter, and Queens. They are overrepresented in math and science, and underrepresented in the humanities and social sciences. Forty percent are untenured assistant professors. New York City's Asian American population is currently 15% and growing. The growth in population is represented in the student body, where Asian American students number over 46,000 out of nearly 240,000 enrolled students. The reflection of New York City's diversity within the ranks of CUNY at all levels will provide not only the role models that our young people need, but exposure to cultures, languages, and issues that will better prepare our students to serve New York City and globally.

## Diverse Voices Explore and Explode Model Minority Stereotypes

**3/27/15** - Dr. Nicholas D. Hartlep, editor of *Modern Societal Impacts of the Model Minority Stereotype* presented current research on the model minority stereotype at AAARI's Friday Evening Lecture Series, but may have learned as much from his audience as they learned from him during a lively discussion that took place after the lecture. During the lecture, Dr. Hartlep gave readings of various chapter contributors and explained how the use of social media and discussions about race from counter-hegemonic voices contribute to or challenge current thinking about model minority stereotypes. He emphasized the importance of Asian Americans to tell and share their stories in order to offer alternatives to the mainstream narrative in the media that socializes and enforces certain images.

Dr. Hartlep was interested in learning about what his audience was doing to advocate for Asian American issues and spent about an hour in conversation with diverse audience members interested in sharing their perspectives and stories. Some of the conversation ranged from racial dynamics such as binaries, and triangulation with other groups and their stereotypes, to wedge issues that create conflicts and confusion for some as they consider whether it is better to be politically plural or if they should just fight for their own groups, to the missing discourse of the role of white supremacy.

Dr. Hartlep thought that it was important to broaden the categories of the Asian American experience and to document Asian American histories and issues so that these experiences could be shared in a multitude of venues such as in the media, politics, schools and community.

Video: <http://aaari.info/15-03-27Hartlep.htm>



## Everyone “Likes” CUNY FORUM Volume II

CUNY FORUM has now joined the social media universe with its own Facebook and Twitter pages. Since the debut of AAARI’s Fall 2014-Winter 2015 issue of CUNY FORUM Volume II at a CUNY Mapping Seminar Book Panel in October 2014, the page has been growing in popularity. Visitors to the CUNY FORUM Facebook page can learn about the latest research, issues, and perspectives concerning Asian and Asian American Studies, and keep up with upcoming news and events.

The scholarly journal has four sections that focus on local and global perspectives: Asian American Studies, community, culture, and word and image. CUNY FORUM has received wide acceptance wherever it goes. Whether at a recent screening of the new hit series featuring Asian Americans on *Fresh Off the Boat* at the Time/Life Building, New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer’s Lunar New Year Celebration, the APA Community Fair held at Hunter College, the CUNY Asian Faculty & Staff Spring Festival Reception or when it was welcomed by CUNY Chancellor James. B. Milliken at the AAARI annual Gala event, CUNY FORUM was able to generate interest from a wide audience who is interested in Asia and Asian American topics. Dr. Betty Lee Sung and Prof. Tarry Hum, who are both prominently displayed at the New-York Historical Society exhibit, “Chinese American: Exclusion/Inclusion” are both authors in the inaugural issue of the CUNY FORUM publication.

AAARI invites you to “like” and follow their CUNY FORUM Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/cunyforum](http://www.facebook.com/cunyforum). Copies are available through the CUNY FORUM website at [www.aaari.info/cunyforum](http://www.aaari.info/cunyforum). CUNY FORUM can also be purchased at the bookstore in the Museum of Chinese in America.

Video: <http://aaari.info/14-10-10mapping.htm> and <http://is.gd/Gse6Nv> for presentations about CUNY FORUM.

## Training Bilingual Financial Coaches for the New York Public Library

**3/26/15** - At a ceremony at the New York Public Library, AAARI’s Executive Director Joyce Moy presented certifications from the NYC Department of Consumer Affairs, Office of Financial Empowerment, to over a dozen bilingual New York Public Library volunteers who will be providing financial coaching in Cantonese, Mandarin and Spanish to library patrons.

All of the volunteers participated in a rigorous 45-hour financial literacy training designed and conducted by Moy, which included the topics of money management, budgeting, credit, home ownership and student loans among others. The volunteers successfully passed two exams to qualify for the certification. The free financial coaching services in Cantonese and Mandarin will be provided at the Seward Park, Chatham Square and mid-town branch locations in Manhattan.



Joyce Moy (left) presents certificate to Cora Fung, a Cantonese and Mandarin speaking NYPL volunteer

## CUNY Scholars and Alumni Featured at New-York Historical Society Exhibit



L to R: Portraits of Betty Lee Sung, Councilwoman Margaret Chin, and Tarry Hum at the exhibit

Founding Chair of the AAARI board, Professor Emerita Betty Lee Sung; Queens College Professor Tarry Hum; and City College of New York/CUNY alumna, Councilwoman Margaret S. Chin, were three of nine distinguished Chinese Americans featured at a groundbreaking exhibit entitled, "Chinese American Exclusion/Inclusion" at the New-York Historical Society, from September 26, 2014 - April 19, 2015.

It is the first exhibit of its kind in a mainstream museum devoted to over 200 years of history of Chinese Americans in America. The "Nine New Yorkers" wall of prominent Chinese Americans features life-size photos and bios of those who have offered a vision, made an impact, or broken barriers. Dr. Sung was recognized as a scholar, author and founder of the first Asian American Studies Program at the City College of New York where she was both professor and chairperson of the program; Councilwoman Chin was recognized as the first Chinese American in city government to represent the area of Chinatown; and Professor Tarry Hum was recognized for her work on Asian immigrant communities.



Corky Lee (pictured left), who attended Queens College delivered weekly tours at the museum. He had many photographs on display chronicling the history of Chinatown that are featured in a video presentation and on display at the exhibit. One of Lee's photos from 1971 (pictured right) featured the work of Dr. Thomas Tam, the late founding executive director of AAARI. Dr. Tam helped to organize the first Chinatown Health Street Fair in 1971, and then founded the Chinatown Health Clinic, the predecessor to the Charles B. Wang Community Health Center.

The exhibit will be going on tour throughout the US after its inaugural New York City debut.

**URL:** <http://chineseamerican.nyhistory.org>

## 2015 CUNY Asian Faculty & Staff: Spring Festival Reception



Joyce Moy receives \$60,000 check from Nelson Louis, Executive Officer of the Ong Family Foundation.

**2/20/15** - Asian faculty and staff, as well as those interested in Asian and Asian American issues and culture, gathered for the annual AAARI Asian faculty and staff spring reception, which has for over a decade helped introduce faculty and staff from CUNY's 24 campuses to each other, and to AAARI and CUNY.

Executive Director Joyce Moy introduced several CUNY faculty and administration members: Ron Woo, Chair of the AAARI board; Jennifer S. Rubain, Esq., University Dean of the Office of Recruitment and Diversity; Dr. Sylvia Miranda, Special Assistant to CUNY Vice Chancellor for Human Resources Management, Gloriana B. Waters; Prof. Prema Kurien, CUNY Distinguished Dr. Thomas Tam Visiting Professor and Professor of Sociology, Syracuse University; Loretta Chin, Founding

Board Member and former AAARI board Secretary; and AAARI board members Prof. Carol Huang of City College of New York and Prof. Diana Pan of Brooklyn College were just some of the many CUNY faculty and staff present.

Moy then invited the numerous members of the audience to introduce themselves, their campus affiliations, and to talk about their research or projects that they are working on. She encouraged them to ask for help if they need it because the reception also serves as an opportunity to network and learn new information. "Let's be a resource for one another because that's what AAARI is all about," said Moy. "We are about doing the kinds of things that support our community — whether it be research, whether it be networking, or whether it be personal or professional support of one another."

Moy was also pleased to announce that the Ong Family Foundation awarded a \$60,000 grant to AAARI to support community research and programming. Areas the Foundation supports include "Social Services, Education, Medicine & Health Care and Arts & Culture." The Foundation previously provided AAARI with a grant for \$40,000.

Loretta Chin spoke about AAARI's CUNY FORUM publication and Prof. Carla Lewis-Irizarry of Brooklyn College spoke about how she incorporated CUNY Forum readings into her classroom instruction. Everyone came away with new knowledge, connections, and friendships that foster a welcoming environment at CUNY.

Video: [www.aari.info/15-02-20reception.htm](http://www.aari.info/15-02-20reception.htm)

## Asian Immigrant Seniors Face Extreme Financial Hardships

**4/2/15** - At a meeting of the Queens Coalition on Immigrant Aging, AAARI's Executive Director, Joyce Moy presented data that highlights the financial difficulties faced by the immigrant senior (age 65+) population. Health care and other service providers present at the meeting noted that this had a significant impact on policy, their work, the services offered, and the need to evaluate safety nets. Poverty among Asian seniors is disproportionately high, with poverty levels higher than 6% above all other groups in New York City. Other startling statistics included the fact that the average annual social security income for a native born New Yorker was \$11,059, while it was \$4,708 for Chinese New Yorkers.

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 / Asian community.”



#### Brooklyn Student Wins CUNY Thomas Tam Scholarship

**11/20/14** - Baozhen Xie, an undergrad student at Brooklyn College, received the 2014 CUNY Thomas Tam Scholarship for her project, *Health and Nutrition Tracing Project*. As a health nutritionist intern, Baozhen has observed a significant number of Chinese immigrants who experience health difficulties due to language barriers, cultural differences, and lack of education. Baozhen will collect data from two senior centers in Brooklyn to create strategies for further projects and facility improvements.



#### Hunter Student Wins CUNY Ethics & Morality Essay Contest

**11/20/14** - Maria Manhin (Center), an undergrad student at Hunter College, won the top prize of \$1,000 in the Chynn CUNY Ethics and Morality Essay Contest. Her essay, “Love Dumplings”, about her regrets of not spending more time with her late aunt and making dumplings on Sunday afternoons, which was her aunt’s way of showing love and a close relationship. Maria was presented her award at AAARI’s gala by U.S. Congresswoman Grace Meng (Left) and Dr. K.Y. Chynn (Right), funder of the essay contest.



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