

Findings of AAARI & CUNY's Report on Lack of Asian American Leadership at CUNY and Higher Education Announced at Leadership Conference



(Left) CUNY Vice Chancellor of Office of Human Resources Management Gloriana B. Waters delivering opening remarks; and (Right) CUNY University Dean for Recruitment and Diversity Dr. Arlene Torres delivering the luncheon address at the AAARI Leadership Conference.

5/6/16 - AAARI released findings of the CUNY Asian American Leadership Initiative (CAALI) report at its Asian American Leadership at CUNY and in Higher Education Conference. The report revealed a remarkable absence of Asian Americans in the upper ranks of leadership at CUNY, and in higher education nationwide. The findings were the result of a collaboration between AAARI and CUNY University Office of Human Resources Management, Office of Recruitment and Diversity.

In spite of a large Asian American presence at CUNY, CAALI reported that there is no APA representation at the highest levels of leadership at the CUNY Chancellery; at the University level (university deans, associate deans and assistant deans); at the executive levels (college presidents and professional school deans); nor at the chief academic officer/Provost (CAO) positions of any of CUNY's 24 senior colleges, community colleges, graduate or professional schools. In addition, there are two APAs with

titles of Vice President and four Assistant Vice Presidents out of 166.

The report proposed recommendations to develop a leadership pipeline with built-in mechanisms for accountability. Some recommendations of the report included, but were not limited to strengthening and supporting Asian American and Asian Studies at CUNY; engaging and developing APA student leadership; developing faculty through training and mentorship programs; forging and strengthening APA alumni, scholarly and external networks; and creating a database of potential internal and external candidates for the leadership pipeline.

Nearly two dozen speakers gathered to address the report, presented at the CUNY Graduate Center. CUNY leadership such as CUNY Trustee Wellington Z. Chen, Vice Chancellor of Office of Human Resources Management Gloriana B. Waters representing CUNY at the morning opening remarks, and CUNY University Dean for Recruitment and Diversity

Dr. Arlene Torres who delivered the luncheon address, were there to lend support.

“What I’m hoping that we can get out of this conference today is... really, some leadership insights that can be applied on a more national basis,” said Waters, whose office provided data for the report. She would like to see CUNY play a leadership role in addressing the broader issue within higher education by taking the necessary steps to create a leadership development model that can serve as a prototype for similar underrepresented groups covered by the university’s diversity initiatives.

Torres and Waters both stressed the importance of identifying allies in order to succeed. Torres shared many recommendations on how to develop a long- and short-term strategic plan, and advised those seeking representation to demand a seat at the table.

Everett Lo, chair of the regional network for the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders; Taylor Ramsey, U.S. Department of Education and national lead on AAPI issues; Nelson Louis, executive officer of The Ong Family Foundation; and Adam Chen, a representative of Public Advocate Leticia James’ office were among the

many eminent guests outside of the University who also attended the conference.

University of Cincinnati President Dr. Santa Ono delivered the keynote address. He advised those in the audience to be more extroverted. “Don’t be afraid to stick out,” he said. “In this culture, it’s a good thing.” He also stressed the importance of mentors, stating that some of his best mentors were non-Asian. President and CEO of Leadership Education for Asian American Pacifics, Inc. Linda Akutagawa also encouraged the audience to be risk takers and to have courage to introduce themselves when they are in a place where top people are present.

The conference was sponsored by the CUNY Diversity Projects Development Fund with support from the CUNY Office of Diversity and Recruitment and the Ong Family Foundation.

Video: www.aaari.info/2016leadership.htm

Report on Asian American Leadership in CUNY and Higher Education: Findings, Recommendations & Accountability:

www.aaari.info/notes/16-05-09CAALIRreport.pdf



Photo courtesy of CCID

Meeting the Challenges of a Changing Workforce through Business and Industry Partnerships

2/20 - 2/22/16 – AAARI Executive Director Joyce Moy conducted a workshop called “Leveraging Business and Industry Partnerships: An Ecosystem Approach” at the Community Colleges for International Development, Inc. (CCID) 40th Anniversary Conference in Orlando, Florida. The CCID event was attended by over 300 people from 15 countries who are leaders in community and technical colleges, and higher education institutions and organizations from around the world. CCID members and partners participated in networking, peer learning communities, and breakout sessions throughout the three-day conference with the purpose of finding solutions to meeting the demands of a changing workforce in a globalized economy.

www.ccidinc.org/annual_conference.php

Resurgent Realities: Symposium on East Coast Asian American Studies and Initiatives



(Left) Keynote speaker Phil T. Nash (Lecturer, Asian American Studies, University of Maryland; and (Right) afternoon panel, on Political Strategies for Advancing Asian American Studies, with Russell C. Leong (Editor, CUNY FORUM), Shirley Tang (Assoc. Prof., Asian American Studies, UMASS-Boston), Peter Kwong (Distinguished Prof., Urban Affairs & Planning, Hunter College/CUNY), and Phil T. Nash

5/13/16 - The topic of Asian American Studies is one that is revisited often among Asian American Studies proponents at colleges and universities across the nation, but this time it resurfaced along with some new perspectives and initiatives at AAARI's symposium on "Resurgent Realities: East Coast Asian American Studies."

AAARI's Asian American Studies conference was held a week after its inaugural leadership conference, both of which were held at the CUNY Graduate Center. The two conferences complemented each other to highlight the importance of educating the next generation of leaders as it pertains to Asian American Studies during a time of changing realities and challenges. The symposium, organized by AAARI CUNY FORUM founding editor and former CUNY Thomas Tam Visiting Professor Russell C. Leong, included scholars, students, and activists involved in Asian American and Asian Studies both within the CUNY system and across the nation. Students from Hunter, Fordham, Columbia, Cornell, Yale, and elsewhere came to learn about the past, present, and future of Asian American Studies as they themselves become the next generation of leaders.

In addition to the usual competition for funding in a struggling university system, the speakers discussed other challenges that affect the status and viability of Asian American Studies on the East Coast today such as changing demographics in an increasingly global society and a rising awareness of the social, political, and cultural dynamics related to the ethnic diversity of the Asian community in a post 9/11 era. The conference proposed new models, strategies and initiatives for East Coast Asian American Studies today.

AAARI executive director Joyce Moy spoke about the role of Asian Americans in civil rights with many Japanese Americans taking part because of the experience of Japanese internment during WWII. She also spoke about the increased diversity after 1965. Since 9/11, defining Asian American Studies and leadership development has taken on new meaning to ensure that Asian American voices are represented when policy decisions are made and impact their communities.

A morning panel to discuss the inclusion of South Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East to Asian American Studies as has happened at other universities was of special interest to some attendees who

specifically came for that part of the program.

“This panel represents or speaks for the groups that are usually left out of Asian American Studies,” said Professor Prema Kurien, founding director of Asian/Asian American Studies, Professor of Sociology at Syracuse University’s Maxwell School, and past CUNY Thomas Tam Visiting Professor.

During the luncheon keynote speech, Phil T. Nash, who has taught law, urban studies, and APA history, art, oral history, and public policy classes at UMCP, Yale, NYU, City College of New York, CUNY, and Georgetown law schools, spoke about the importance of inclusion in Asian American Studies. “A point I wanted to make about our panels this morning—it was raised about how we include South Asians, Muslims, people who are Arab—you just have to do it,” he said as he recounted how he had recognized the

importance of including these groups for decades in his work.

The roles of gender, new media, alumni, political strategy, and community organizing were also among the many topics discussed at the symposium. AAARI has also taken the lead in Asian American Studies through the release of its new Asian American Studies commons website, introduced at the conference and made available to attendees on USB and online.

Video: <http://aaari.info/2016resurgent.htm>

Asian American Studies Online:

<http://asianamericanstudiesonline.com>



2016 CUNY Asian Faculty & Staff Spring Festival Reception

2/26/16 - For over a decade, AAARI has hosted the annual CUNY Asian Faculty and Staff Spring Festival Reception as a way to bring community together to share an interest in Asian American and Asian Studies scholarship and activities. It is also a way to welcome new Asian American faculty and staff to CUNY.

The annual event provides valuable information about research interests and experiences campus-wide, as well as networking opportunities for all. Faculty and staff introduced themselves and shared their stories. Korean dance entertainment was provided by the Korean Community Service of Metropolitan New York’s Senior Dance Team.



La Guardia Alumna and Faculty Member’s Photography Featured at Exhibit

1/22 – 3/12/16 - The photography of Nozomi “Rose” Kato LaGuardia Community college alumna ‘02 and adjunct assistant professor was recently shown at the Landscape Photo Show at 269 Bleecker Street in Manhattan. All Things Project (ATP) organized the exhibition of nature, wildlife and scenery photography in contemporary landscape by twenty-one artists. Kato received her foundation in the LaGuardia Arts program and then transferred to Cornell University where she received her Bachelors in Fine Arts. She then earned her master’s degree in photography from the Art Institute of Chicago.

Making a Global Immigrant Neighborhood: Brooklyn's Sunset Park

3/4/16 - Brooklyn's Sunset Park is undergoing a rapid transformation that is capturing the imagination and is often mentioned in the media. Tarry Hum, Professor of Urban Studies at Queens College talked about the evolution and changes happening in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, many of which are also in her book, *Making a Global Immigrant Neighborhood: Brooklyn's Sunset Park*.

"As an urban planner I tell the story of Sunset Park, which is a predominantly Latino/Chinese working class, immigrant neighborhood with an extensive industrial waterfront from the perspective of trying to understand the local impacts of broader trends and forces of economic globalization, international migration, and the role of urban planning in neo-liberal urban governance," Hum said.

Hum displayed newspaper articles demonstrating the rebranding and media hype surrounding the gentrification of the Sunset Park neighborhood, which is now garnering a reputation as "New York's next hot spot" and as a place for art galleries, parties and musical events. Hum said that the transformation of the industrial infrastructure along Sunset Park's waterfront in convergence with gentrification is also driven by Chinese transnational capital.

Video: www.aqari.info/16-03-04Hum.htm

Hunter College Asian American Studies Program Receives Gift from Alumnus

1/29/16 - Hunter College's Asian American Studies Program (AASP) received a \$50,000 gift from Hunter alumnus Dr. Robert Lee '65, of San Francisco. The announcement came from Director of the Asian American Studies Program, Jennifer Hayashida. "We received the first installment during the holidays, and will be receiving the second, and final, installment in early February," she said. "Additionally, Dr. Lee intends to give smaller sums to AASP on an annual basis."

According to Hayashida, the generous gift is to support three important initiatives:

- An undergraduate scholarship for a Hunter student who is an AASP minor doing advocacy work for APA communities at Hunter College and/or in NYC communities;
- An undergraduate research grant to be divided between an AASP minor and AASP adjunct faculty member working together on a semester-long research project (similar to an Independent Study, but with remuneration for student and faculty alike);
- A curriculum development grant for AASP adjunct faculty who identify a need in the curriculum, have the relevant expertise to develop a course, and can see that course through the entire committee process for final inclusion in the Hunter Core.

"Dr. Lee has been terrific to work with, and he is clearly a believer in the mission of our program, and the work our students and faculty are doing to educate themselves and others about the Asian American experience," Hayashida said. She added that when he was a student at Hunter, Dr. Lee was active in the Chinese Students' Association, and he has very fond memories of that time. As a result, he sought to have his gift support the kind of work he knows is still necessary to support and sustain Asian American Studies at Hunter.

Hunter College Asian American Studies Lecturer and CACF Program Manager Honored at PASE Annual Awards Benefit Gala



Mitchel Wu, CACF program manager; CUNY Hunter Asian American Studies Lecturer (Left) is presented the PASEsetter Award by PASE board member Wayne Ho

2/25/16 - Mitchel Wu, program manager at the Coalition for Asian American Children and Families (CACF) and lecturer at CUNY Hunter College, proudly received the Partnership for Afterschool Education (PASE) PASEtter Award at an event held at Cipriani at 42nd Street, New York. PASE is a child-focused organization that promotes and supports quality afterschool programs. Wu was recognized and honored for his work in the development and management of the CACF youth leadership program and The Asian American Student Advocacy Project, a youth leadership program that trains a diverse group of economically disadvantaged, immigrant Asian Pacific American youth from all five boroughs that attend NYC public high schools to become leaders in their community by training them to organize advocacy campaigns to improve education policies.

Wu has been teaching in the Asian American Studies Program at Hunter College/CUNY for the past eight years. In his role as an educator, he also brings his approach of critical race theory to practice and action into the classroom where he has utilized many forms of interdisciplinary media and scholarship, including AAARI's scholarly journal, CUNY FORUM, which contains articles on the Asian American movement in NYC.

Hunter College's Asian American Student Activism is on the Rise!



Members of CRAASH raised their fists in solidarity at their first town hall meeting to push for an Asian American Studies major and department at Hunter College/CUNY

3/11/16 - Members of The Coalition for the Revitalization of Asian American Studies at Hunter (CRAASH) organized a town hall meeting to advocate for an Asian American Studies major and department at Hunter College/CUNY. This was the first of a series of planned programs and collaborations to advocate for Asian American Studies at Hunter College to move from a program to a major and full department in the coming year. CRAASH members talked about why Asian American studies is important in light of the fact that about one third of the Hunter student population is Asian American with many interested alumni; in addition, there are a number of active clubs on campus and at other colleges who support the movement.

"What do we want?" CRAASH members asked in unison. "An Asian American Studies Major!" the audience shouted back in reply. "When do we want it," they asked? "Now!" came the second reply.



Photo Credit: Brian E. Hack

Art Gallery at Kingsborough Community College Exhibit: Sui Park: Garden of Humans

3/9/16 – 4/8/16 - Artist Sui Park exhibited an art installation using an anticipated 365,000 plastic cable ties of various lengths for the Art Gallery at Kingsborough Community College in Brooklyn, New York. Her work has been described as art that combines natural, cellular forms from mass-produced, industrial materials to convey the potential underlying meaning and inter-play between the two in an industrialized world.

According to gallery director Brian Hack, over 1,000 people came to see Park's exhibit. An article about her exhibit was written by Vice at <http://thecreatorsproject.vice.com/blog/industrial-materials-organic-forms>

New Opportunity to Expand Teaching of Asian American Studies in CUNY Community College Classrooms

4/14/16 - The Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC/CUNY) announced that they received a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) award of nearly \$100,000 to fund a year-long project, "Building Asian American Studies across the Community College Classroom" to expand the teaching of Asian American Studies in CUNY community college classrooms. Applications were available to all CUNY community college faculty. Fifteen selected faculty will receive a stipend to attend a Faculty Development Summer Institute on August 15-20, attend workshops at the end of the fall 2016 and spring 2017 semesters, and have the option to attend a monthly colloquium on Asian American Studies at BMCC.

The project is headed by director Soniya Munshi, BMCC/CUNY and will be hosted by the BMCC Center for Ethnic Studies. Project team members include Jennifer Hayashida, Asian American Studies Program Director, Hunter College/CUNY; Caroline Hong, Assistant Professor of English, Queens College/CUNY; Patricia Mathews-Salazar, Director, Center for Ethnic Studies, BMCC/CUNY; Nita Noveno, Lecturer in English, BMCC/CUNY, and Lita Varghese, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Asian American Studies, Hunter College/CUNY.

<http://buildingaas.commonsgc.cuny.edu>

May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

A great way to learn more about Asian American history is to check out a blog by Baruch College's Charlotte Brooks at <http://blogs.baruch.cuny.edu/asianamericanhistorynyc/>. Brooks has written extensively in both books and articles on Asian American history with a current focus on Chinese American history. She is currently working on her third book, tentatively titled "Immigrants from America: The Chinese American Second Generation in China, 1900 - 1949.

Brooks recently presented on her second book released in January 2015, *Between Mao and McCarthy: Chinese American Politics in the Cold War*, at AAARI.

Video: www.aaari.info/15-11-13Brooks.htm

**Asian American / Asian Research Institute
City University of New York
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**“Building the bridge between CUNY,
and the Asian American / Asian community.”**

Upcoming Events

7/27/16

CUNY Asian Film Showcase
*Part of 39th Asian American International
Film Festival*

8/14/16

NYS Assembly District 65 Candidates' Forum
Co-Sponsored Event

9/23/16

Unfamiliar Harbors: A Jamaican Chinese Archive of
Intimacies from Kingston to Kowloon
Tao Leigh Goffe (New York University)

10/7/16

Reunification - A Documentary
Alvin Tsang

10/14/16

Incensed - A Novel
Ed Lin

11/11/16

Paris, Ni Hao - A Documentary
Sharon Deng

11/18/16

Qin and Calligraphy
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