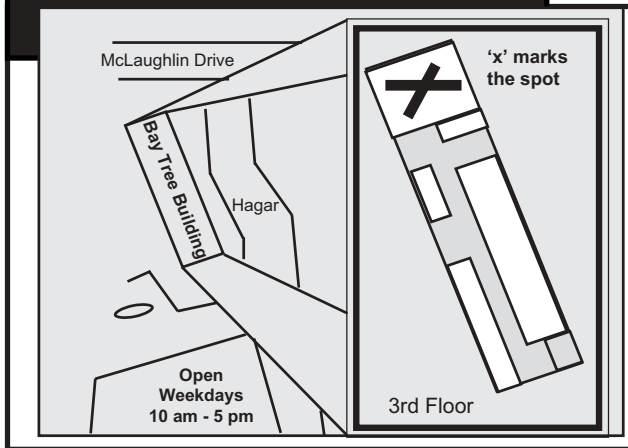


Visit AA/PIRC at the Bay Tree Building.



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ASIAN AMERICAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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Drive for Higher Education

By Amanda Wake

For the past decade, the Asian Pacific Islander Student Alliance (APISA) has brought high school students from around California to a free two-day conference at UCSC, called Motivation Conference. College is a privilege, and less privileged high school students do not always believe that college is an option in their future. The purpose of the conference is to motivate high school students who are not necessarily thinking about college to seek higher learning after they graduate. Motivation Conference is designed to



prove that college can be achieved by anyone despite their grades, family situation, or finances. We do this through workshops, activities, building

friendships and bonds with the high school students, and exposing them to what college is really like. Every year it is a great experience for everyone involved. The coordinators and volunteers are given a chance to reach back to their communities and high schools to students find their path to higher education. Organizers meet and work with people who are passionate about outreach programs. They

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Enrolled Students Fall 2003

Ethnicity	Undergrad.	Grad.	Total
Chinese	869	110	979
East Indian/Pakistani	147	49	196
Filipino	556	13	569
Japanese	237	16	253
Korean	195	17	212
Pacific Islander	36	6	42
Vietnamese	240	13	253
Other Asian	157	31	188
Total AA/PI Students	2,437	255	2,692
Total Campus	13,627	1,355	14,982

AA/PI's are:
 17.9% of all undergraduate students
 18.8% of all graduate students

Asian American/Pacific Islander Year End Ceremony Planning Committee

Help with entertainment, food, programming, publicity, MC, and much more!

Meetings every
 Tuesdays 12:00 - 1:00 pm
 Thursdays 4:00 - 5:00 pm

Invites & info. are available on the
 AA/PIRC website:
www2.ucsc.edu/aapirc

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are also involved in planning a huge event, which can be a great learning experience for current and future student organizers. High school students have a great time at the conference meeting other high school and college students that they can relate and identify with. Exposing them to aspects of college life, we hope to make college a place where they can see themselves in the next couple years. The Motivation Conference is not promoting just UC Santa Cruz as a place to go after high school but higher educations in general, whether it is at a community college, a UC or an Ivy League university.

So come out and be a part of the 10th annual Motivation Conference! Every one is welcome including all student organizations. This year, Motivation Conference is working together with e2 (engaging education), which is now supporting all retention and outreach programs at UCSC. We will have a very diverse group of students need a diverse group of organizers. The MC Kick off Meeting is on Wednesday, January 21, starting at 7:30pm at the Ethnic Resource Center Lounge (3rd floor of the Bay Tree building at the end of the hall). We will be meeting every Wednesday after that, same time, same place. See you there. □

A Journey of Interests Faculty Spotlight: Neferti Tadiar

By Linda Pham

Professor Neferti Tadiar works on interdisciplinary studies in the department of History of Consciousness.

Born in Manila, Philippines, Tadiar received her B.A. in English from the University of the Philippines. She then earned a M.A. in Comparative Literature at the University of Minnesota and a Ph.D. in Literature at Duke University.



Photo courtesy of Neferti Tadiar

So why did she get into History of Consciousness at UC Santa Cruz rather than focusing on teaching Literature? Tadiar is more passionate at mixing and looking at approaches, rather than looking at just novels. She likes to broaden possible things and believes History of Consciousness is an important department to express her academic passions on

world feminism, postcolonial theory, critical theories of race and subjectivity, social theory, and cultural studies of the Asia Pacific region.

When she was younger in the Philippines, she had not planned her career path in academics. For awhile, she wanted to pursue a career as a writer. She eventually majored in Imaginative Writing, which is the same as Creative Writing. While she was teaching English, she felt ambivalent about writing and decided to take a break as an English teacher. Tadiar wanted to read, think and learn more—she wanted to continue being a student and further her education. Her journey and exploration in learning began by studying abroad to graduate schools in the United States.

Before she left the U.S. to return to the Philippines, she had a job interview for a teaching position at UCSC. Tadiar likes the reputation of History of Consciousness at UCSC, and feels compatible with the people in the department. She said that the department is the only unique research program offered in the U.S. Tadiar feels that History of Consciousness covers all of her interests and that she has the opportunity to share her research interests to others. After the interview, she had to go back to the Philippines because her student visa had expired. A month later, UCSC called her and told her she got accepted for the research position. Currently, Tadiar is a professor, and has been teaching for the past eight years. However, she was required to stay at the Philippines for two years according to her fellowship contract before leaving and working in the U.S. UCSC ended up waiting patiently for her to come and work. She appreciates UCSC for being very kind and supportive, Tadiar commenting with a smile.

Tadiar continued on page 3

Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage Month Planning Committee

"Echoes of the past,
Empowering future voices"



Get involved and give back to the AA/PI community!

- learn about AA/PI history & culture,
- meet lots of new people,
- perform, plan events, design and create,

Every Thursday
@ Ethnic Resource Centers Lounge
(3rd Floor Bay Tree Building)
2-3:30pm

For more information or disability needs, contact AA/PIRC at 459.5349 or email aapirc@ucsc.edu

Tadiar continued from page 2

When Tadiar arrived to Santa Cruz, she was country shocked. "Manila is a cosmopolitan city with 12 million people and I come to live in little Santa Cruz," said Tadiar. That is why when she goes on vacations she likes to relax in cities before returning to Santa Cruz and work in the "country."

Tadiar likes to organize significant educational events at UCSC. On April 6, 2002, she organized "Culture Against War" to protest U.S. military presence in the Philippines. This event was also intended to educate people about the long history of U.S. Imperialism in the Philippines. The program included ranges of multimedia such as hip-hop, an acting troupe called Juice, musical bands, and Filipino student performances. In May 2003, she hosted "Translocal Forum on Feminisms and the Global War on Terror". This forum concentrates on the implications of the current U.S. led "global war on terror" for third world nations and marginalized social groups and challenges the issues war presents to progressive social movements. She invited

feminist scholars and activists involved in local social struggles in various regional contexts, including South and Southeast Asia (India, Philippines), West Asia (Iraq, Palestine) and the Americas (Colombia, U.S.-Mexico Border, the U.S. in general and the California Bay Area in particular) to exchange ideas, issues and strategies of intervention in the current global crisis. Tadiar said, "I like to bring communities to come down here [to Santa Cruz] instead of up [to San Francisco and San Jose]."

In her spare time, Tadiar plays the piano, takes Aikido with her family, travels to different places, experiences different ways of life, and cooks international food. Tadiar said, "There is no cuisine I won't do...well, try to do."

Her advice to students is to take active interest in learning and defining where your passions lie. Tadiar said, "Find what really interests you, what makes you more passionate and then change the world. Otherwise, you become passive [learners] and feel like you have to overcome hurdles." □

Winter Calendar of Events

January

- 13 CUSN (Community Unified Student Network) Winter Reception 7:30pm @ Ethnic Resource Centers Lounge
- 14 AA/PI Leadership Mixer 5:00-7:00pm @ Ethnic Resource Centers Lounge
- 14 APISA (Asian/Pacific Islander Student Alliance) Winter Reception 7:30pm @ Namaste Lounge, College 9
- 15 MESH (Mixed Ethnicities Student Headquarters), TAG (Thai American Group), & VSA (Vietnamese Student Association) Winter Reception Time TBA @ Conference Rm D
- 21 AA/PI Winter Community Reception 5:00-7:00pm @ Ethnic Resource Centers Lounge
- 21 APISA Motivation Conference Kickoff Meeting 7:30pm @ Ethnic Resource Centers Lounge
- 22 CUSN General Meeting Time & Location TBA
- 29 APISA General Meeting 7:30-9:30pm Location TBA
- 30 CSA (Chinese Student Association) Winter Reception 6-10pm @ Classroom Unit 1
- 31 Multicultural Career Conference 11:00am-5:30pm @ Stevenson Dining Hall

February

- 4 AA/PI Graduate School Panel 5:00-7:00pm @ Conference Room D
- 12 APISA in Art 7:30-9:30pm, Location TBA
- 18 CSA Lunar New Year Banquet 6:00pm @ Porter Dining Hall
- 26 SF International Asian American Film Festival Films 5:00-7:00pm Location TBA

March

- 3 Visual Communications Film 6:00-8:00pm Location TBA
- 6 APIC Retreat 10:00am-5:00pm @ Conference Room D

Keep an eye out for these events:

- KSA (Khmer Student Association) Winter Reception
- LAO (Lao American Organization) Winter Reception
- CSA Badminton
- AA/PI Health Issues
- Comedy Night & Workshop



Top row from left: Monique Truong, le thi diem thuy*, Lan Tran, and Minh Tran. Bottom Row from left: Andrew Lam, Erin O'Brien, Jenni Trang from Mai Piece, and Tony Bui.

Shining Vietnamese American Artists

By Linda Pham

Vietnamese American choreographers, writers and performers across the United States expressed their talents on stage in McKenna Theatre at San Francisco State University on November 1, 2003.

Vietnamese American men gracefully pointed their toes and gallantly leapt across the stage from modern and contemporary dancing; a Vietnamese American woman passionately sang a song with a Texan accent; writers soothingly read stories from their novels and short stories; and performers humorously acted out monologues from their personal experiences. It was a creative night of contemporary Vietnamese American talent.

The Vietnamese American Studies Center at SFSU, presented the second East Coast/West Coast celebrating event of the "Arts of Vietnamese America." The event was to "celebrate the creativity" of the Vietnamese American community by combining elements of the American mainstream culture with Vietnamese art and humanity. Diverse voices, genres and perspectives on the stage expressed consciousness on contemporary life of Vietnamese Americans in the United States.

Erin O'Brien is a queer Vietnamese-Irish American filmmaker and activist. Her performance "Sometimes I Feel," expressed her feelings on racial and stereotypical name-calling. Wearing eight bulky layers of t-shirts, O'Brien gradually took off each stereotypical labeled t-shirt. Layers after layers, O'Brien's t-shirts symbolized hate, ignorance, and pride towards people of Asian descent and queer people in society. She showed that stereotypical name callings have negative effects toward victims of discrimination.

O'Brien climaxed her performance and stunned audiences by walking on styrofoam eggs, analogically walking on real eggs, confronting a delicate and sensi-

tive subject. O'Brien wittingly and optimistically ended with a punch-line, "Well, at least I'm not a chicken!" Portraying herself as not hiding from discriminations but facing and speaking about them in public.

Andrew Lam is a journalist and a short story commentator who read a piece of his writing, "Pho Goes Global Thanks To Vietnamese Diaspora." Pho is a Vietnamese trademark cuisine that is "beef broth soup with noodles, brewed in star anise and burnt onion, with bones, tendons and tripe, sprinkled with green onion and basil on top."

Lam continued his story. He typed "Pho Soup" into the AltaVista search engine one day and the number of links that came back was incredible. His family's favorite topic is "who ate the best pho at what most exotic locale." His family members talked about their stories about eating Pho at Hong Kong, Tokyo, Jakarta, and even Rio de Janeiro and the Ivory Coast. If Lam had the chance, he would go to the scientist's colony in Antarctica owned by a Vietnamese woman selling pho soup. Lam imagined that he would have the best story in his family about his voyage to the South Pole, consuming a global bowl of Pho.

The emergence of the Vietnamese American culture and identity showcase was educational and entertaining to the Bay Area community. The show brought laughter and sympathetic tears to audiences' eyes. The performance pulse questions about Vietnamese American identity and also reminded people about maintaining and inheriting traditional Vietnamese customs in America. □

...combining elements of the American mainstream culture with Vietnamese art and humanity.

Historical Biographical Story of an Asian American

By Eden Jequinto

Blessings. Hope you enjoy this portion of my response to an oral history assignment for Introduction to Asian American Studies taught by Professor Judy Yung. I developed a piece illustrating a fictitious life-story of Fred Cordova, a Filipino immigrant born 1905 who survives in the United States as a migrant farm worker. This section of my piece focuses on the very real efforts of immigrants to foster and engage in community. Please note that details such as cock fighting and upward mobility ("becomes a big boss") exist to interrogate the stereotypes and struggles of folks like Fred Cordova experienced and still experience today and tomorrow...thank you...enjoy. Peace.

while in the united states thinking 'bout papa Freddie

*...I heard he was the best singing man in the Chinatowns and farms
the Filipinos gathered and he'd sing them good united states songs like
"home on the range"
and he'd have homes at every single Chinatown and Filipino town he entered
people there welcomed him to their food their games their fun
he'd come with his own cock to fight and show those other Filipinos just how much he knows about fighting cocks
they loved him
he was
such a good boy
he stayed working on farms and canneries
my mother said he was humble
didn't want to leave his compadres
my mother said he probably could have become a big boss
he was sooo united states
but he wanted to play with his cock, dance and stay with his Chinatown Filipino town
peole. family. home.
yes,
such a good boy...□*

Interested in Vietnamese traditional dance?

Participate in VSA (Vietnamese Student Association) traditional dance group. Female participants are needed for performances in Spring quarter. No experiences required. Practices in Winter quarter. Performances in Spring quarter. Contact Linda at AA/PIRC.

Discriminating Rhyme

By David Luong



"Chinks" is a photo project that deals with the subject of Asian stereotypes of having very slanty, small eyes. In elementary school, there was a rhyme that my friends and I heard and it went like this, "Chinese, Japanese, dirty knees, look at these (referring to nipples)."

The project consists of 24 photos of 6 different people including myself. Each photo of every person gestures the words from the chant. For example, Chinese indicate eyes slant upwards and Japanese indicate eyes slant downwards and so forth. The 4 photos that I have selected is a student model, Joanne Sun. The photo project takes on a different look on the approach of the serious and sensitive subject about the mockery of Asian features. This rhyme with demeaning stereotypes targeting Chinese and Japanese is no joke. □

"Chinese, Japanese, dirty knees, look at these."

