a a s p ı r e

2016–2017 ANNUAL NORTHWESTERN ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES NEWSLETTER

ASIAN AMERICAN
STUDIES
IN THE YEAR
OF TRUMP



FROM

This has been a landmark year for our program because... our first majors graduated! This was a thrilling development for all involved, and we are so lucky to have such invested students who care deeply about Asian American Studies and support our program. More good news: we have a new colleague! We warmly welcome our new colleague! We warmly welcome our new colleague Michelle Huang as a tenure line Assistant Professor in Asian American Studies and English. We are excited to retain Douglas Ishii as a lecturer for the next three years.

This year has been trying for AASP students and faculty alike. While we emerge strong from weathering the 2016 election and the reign of #45, it has taken a toll. Draconian legislation and the repeal of basic human rights have become a source of daily worry on campus. Our students bear the brunt of ongoing incidents of discrimination and hate on campus. Our classrooms have become our sanctuaries, as has the AASP program. Along with Latin@ Studies, African American Studies, and our emerging Native and Indigenous Studies program, we stand united and

DRECER

over the next several years. Addressing these new challenges, AASP sponsored a number of thought-provoking events. In the fall, we welcomed former Secretary of Transportation Mr. Norman Mineta. Mr. Mineta gave a public lecture followed by a reception and dinner hosted by President Morton Shapiro. In spring, we acknowledged the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066 through film screenings and a museum exhibit.

My three-year term as director ends this
August. It has been my pleasure to serve
AASP. I have been very fortunate to lead
one of the most dynamic and engaged
academic units at Northwestern. We are
so glad you are part of the Northwestern
Asian American Studies community.
Please send us your alumni perspectives,
news, and updates on your life and career.
We would love to showcase them in our
next edition of this newsletter. As always,
we hope to see you at events and look
forward to staying in touch.

YOURS TRULY, SHALINI SHANKAR



Diana Fu and Hayeon Kim are the first graduating majors in Asian American Studies. Diana graduated with honors for her immersion project - an original play titled "Tears at the Margin," that shared stories of Oakland Chinatown and was based on oral history and field research in that community. She staged the play in late May to an enthusiastic campus reception. She also has a second major in Environmental Science. Diana enters CUNY's MFA program in creative writing in the fall.

Hayeon Kim graduated Phi Beta Kappa with majors in both Asian American Studies and American Studies. She graduated with honors for her thesis examining representations of North Korea in the U.S. films "Red Dawn" and "The Interview." Hayeon enters a masters program in international migration at Oxford University this fall.

AASP'S FIRST GRADUATING MAIODE

CONGRATS

Diana Fu (left)
and Hayeon Kim
(right) became
the Program's
first graduating
majors after a
quarter-century of
protests, petitions,
and a 23-day
hunger strike.
The major passed
with the support
of the Weinberg
faculty and dean in
February 2016.









(Top) AASP
majors, minors,
and work study
at Todoroki
restaurant Winter
Quarter 2017

(Bottom) Students at the Asian American Studies and Latina/o Studies Welcome Reception in Fall 2016





(Left) Professors
Umayyah Cable
and Douglas Ishii
at the AASP/
LLSP joint Winter
Quarter 2017 study
break

(Bottom) AASP students, faculty, and friends at comedy show "8 Angry Asians" at Second City in Chicago







(Top) Students at Wow Bao in downtown Chicago after seeing "King of the Yees" at the Goodman Theatre on April 30th, 2017

(Left) Arab
American Arts &
Cinema class at the
Chicago Palestine
Film Festival on
April 16th, 2017

NORMAN MINETA

On October 4th & 5th, 2016, Asian American Studies Program and Department of Political Science co-hosted former Secretary of Transportation, Norman Y. Mineta, to lecture at Northwestern about Japanese American internment, post-war redress, national security, and civil rights. Mineta, along with members of the Japanese American National Museum and relevant NU students and faculty, were invited for a closing dinner at President Morton Schapiro's residence in Evanston.







(Top) AASP faculty and Christine Munteanu from Multicultural Student Affairs with President Morton Schapiro at Mineta's closing dinner

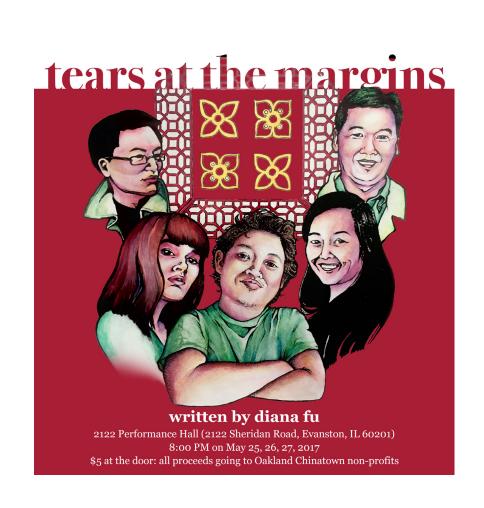
(Left) Asian
American Studies
students with
Norman Mineta at
the closing dinner

2017 MARKS A BREAKTHROUGH YEAR FOR THE ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM

as it not only graduates its first class of majors, but awarded its first ever honors to Diana B. Fu for her research and play, Tears at the Margins. Based on oral histories she collected in Oakland, California's Chinatown in December 2016 for the Asian American Studies major immersion project requirement, she addresses themes of Chinese American identity, home, gentrification, community, and belonging. Tears at the Margins premiered with an all Asian American cast and crew May 25-27th, 2017, and received 3rd place at the annual Creative Arts Festival hosted by The Office of Undergraduate Research. All proceeds were donated to affordable housing and healthcare non-profits serving Oakland Chinatown.

(Right) Flyer for Tears at the Margins, written by Asian American Studies major Diana Fu

(Bottom) Tears
at the Margins
cast with director
Grace Dolezal-Ng
(2nd from left)
and playnright
Diana Fu (3rd
from left) opening
night





ASIAN

AMERICAN

STUDIES

TRUMP ERA



ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES IN THE TRUMP ERA





(Top left) On
May 16th, 2017,
AASP and
Multicultural
Student Affairs
(MSA) co-hosted
a panel discussion
for APIDA
Heritage month on
APIDA identity,
community, and
activism in the
Trump era

(Left) In January
2017 both Cheryl
Jue (Coordinator)
and Diana Fu
(Asian American
Studies Major
'17) went to
Washington D.C.
to protest Trump's
inauguration
and attend the
Women's March
on Washington

(Top right)
Audience turnout
for the panel





(Bottom) Panelists from
left to right: Justin Tse
(Visiting Assistant
Professor, AASP),
Tahera Ahmad
(Associate Chaplain),
Diana Fu (student
moderator), Nitasha
Sharma (Associate
Professor, AASP and
Department of African
American Studies), Julie
Lee Merseth (Assistant
Professor, Department
of Political Science)

#NOMUSLIMBAN WALKOUT



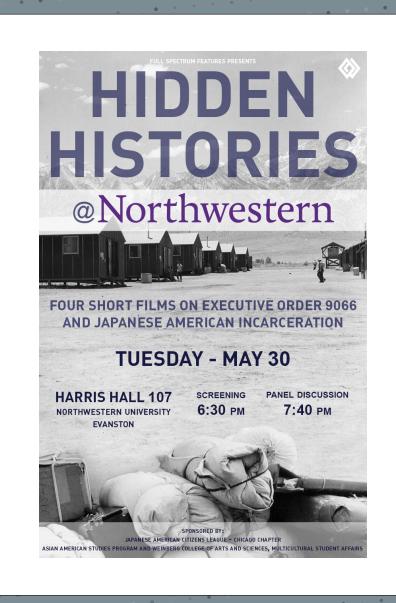


Hundreds of students and faculty gathered outside the Multicultural Center on February 1 to protest President Trump's "travel ban," after an orchestrated walkout from classes in opposition of Executive Order 13769. The "#NoMuslimBan Walkout" was organized by the Immigrant Justice Project and other campus groups in response to Trump's order, a 90-day ban which prohibited citizens from seven Muslim-majority countries — Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen — from entering the United States, and blocked refugees from entering the country for 120 days. Walkout organizers collected more than \$1,000 in donations to the National Immigrant Justice Center and the Council on American Islamic Relations in Chicago.





75TH ANNIVERSARY OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 9066



2017 marks the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066, which was signed and issued on February 19th, 1942 during WWII. Executive Order 9066 incarcerated 120,000 Japanese Americans in concentration because they were deemed "threats to national security", and was eerily replicated with the issuing of Executive Order 13769, or the "Muslim Ban."

On February
18th, 2017, the
Block Museum
invited elders who
had experienced
Japanese
American
internment to
share their stories
at Kristine Aono's
exhibit: The Nail
That Sticks Up
the Farthest...
as part of the
Chicago-wide Day
of Remembrance





2017 ASSOCIATION OF ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CONFERENCE



Northwestern continues have a presence at the annual Association for Asian American Studies. Faculty, students, and numerous alumni presented at this year's conference, held in the beautiful Northwest

city of Portland, Oregon. This year's theme on "Care" included presentations on activism, the environment, as well as the directions of our field at large and our role on university campuses.

(Top) Present and former colleagues of Northwestern Asian American Studies. Front: Patricia Nguyen (NU, Performance Studies); Phonshia Nie (UT Austin); Kareem Khubchandani (Tufts University); Nitasha Sharma (NU) & son, Jaya; Jinah Kim (California State University, Northridge) , James Zarsadiaz (U of S.F.); Lew Williams (Princeton University)

END-OF-YEAR CELEBRATION





(Top) At the annual End of the Year Celebration, AASP celebrates the achievements of our students with food, friends, and music while sending off its graduating class of majors and minors.

(Middle)
Treblemakers,
an East
Asian interest
acapella group,
performs

(Bottom)
Members from
our graduating
class (from left to
right): Caroline
Olsen, Bethany
Ao, Samu Park,
Diana Fu,
Marina Min,
Jiyoon Song



AWARDS IN ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES

These awards honor and recognize outstanding students in Asian American Studies. Undergraduate students are formally nominated by faculty in the spring quarter and then approved by the Committee on Asian American Awards.

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES is presented to graduating seniors who excel in AAS coursework and foster initiatives and demonstrate leadership, both within the classroom and in co-curricular activities sponsored by the Asian American Studies Program.

to students who have written the best essays on any topic related to Asian American studies.

GOOD CITIZENSHIP IN ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES is presented to students who actively and regularly participate in activities sponsored by the Asian American studies program and honors their meaningful contribution towards community building.

ASIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY SUMMER FELLOWSHIP awards one Asian American Studies Minor a \$3,000 grant to pursue an internship at a non-profit community organization that serves the Asian American community.

HAYEON KIM
OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT



DIANA FU
OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT



STACY TSAI DISTINGUISHED ESSAY "Carrier Bag Theory of Asian American History"



JESSICA WANG
GOOD CITIZENSHIP



JOON-SUNG CHOE
GOOD CITIZENSHIP



JAILENE OCHOA ASIAN AMERICAN SUMMER COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP



COLLOQUIUM FOR ETHNICITY AND DIASPORA

Coordinated by graduate students with the assistance of faculty, the Colloquium on Ethnicity and Diaspora provides an enriching interdisciplinary space for faculty, students, and community members to interrogate issues in transnational history, comparative race and ethnic studies, forms of violence, critical race theory, and questions of citizenship. This year's coordinators were Patricia Nguyen (Performance Studies) and LaCharles Ward (Rhetoric and Public Culture).

CED showcased a plethora of intellectually stimulating events throughout the year. This year included a series of lectures, faculty panel discussions, book discussion at Block Museum, and professional development discussion with visiting scholars and NU graduate students. All of the events were organized around nation state sovereignty and its relationship to state power, complicated questions



around archives of violence, the role of memory, and the limits of our conceptions of what freedom looks and feels like. Our culminating lecture was delivered by Christina Sharpe (Tufts University) who pressed us to grapple with the continued violence against racialized, gendered, and queered subjects and how we might begin imagining a different alternative.

Contact: northwesternced@gmail.com

(Top) CED
Graduate
Students from
Performance
Studies,
African
American
Studies, and
Rhetoric &
Public Culture
with guest
speakers

WORDS FROM OUR ALUMNI

Pavan S. Krishnamurthy is currently a Sidley Austin Fellow at the Sugar Law Center for Economic and Social Justice where he works on civil rights and employment law. In the fall, he will be joining Sidley Austin LLP as an Associate Attorney in the International Trade and Dispute Resolution Practice in Washington, DC.

Pavan received his JD from Georgetown University laude in 2017. He received an MSc in International Relations (Research) from the London School of Economics with distinction in 2014 and a BA in Political Science and Legal Studies with minors in Business Institutions and Asian American Studies from Northwestern University in 2012. After graduating from Northwestern, Pavan spent over a year working in cross-border contractor management.



As an alumnus of the AASP, Pavan was able to incorporate his multicultural studies into his work, diversity programs, as well as his pro bono practice. In fact, his interest in Diaspora Studies led him to an international law practice. Moreover, Prof. Diana Lin's Asian American Civil Rights course at Northwestern encouraged Pavan to accept his current fellowship with its focus on civil rights law. Pavan hopes to maintain an active civil rights probono practice.

TRANSITIONS

WELCOME TO THE NEW DIRECTOR, NITASHA SHARMA



Dear AASP community,

I am excited to serve as Director for the Program in 2017-2018! I look forward to maintaining our excellent undergraduate program, continue our work with graduate students, and collaborating with our colleagues from across the University. We have a number of exciting events planned for the new year and look forward to your participation!

Until September, Nitasha Sharma

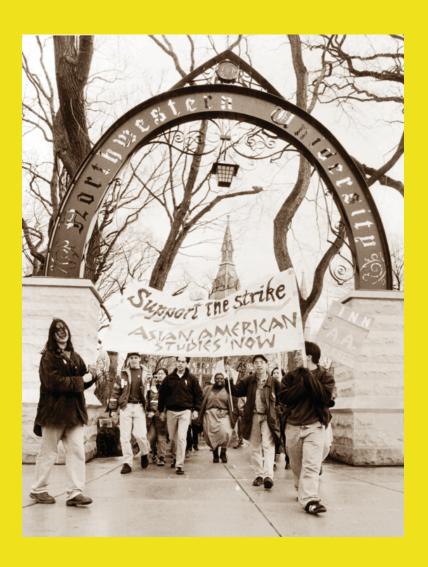
WELCOME TO OUR NEW FACULTY, MICHELLE HUANG



Michelle N. Huang received her Ph.D. in English and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies from the Pennsylvania State University in 2017. Her research interests include Asian American literature, feminist science and technology studies, and posthumanism. Her work has appeared in Journal of Asian American Studies, Amerasia, and Twentieth-Century Literature, among other venues. During the Fall 2017 quarter, she will be teaching a seminar on "Techno-Orientalism."

SUPPORT

ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES



WE NEED YOU!

Your donations allow us to create community-based learning and enrichment opportunities for our students and host events that enlighten the broader Northwestern community.

Please give what you can — your contribution matters!

Click here to support the Program with a donation or visit our website at asianamerican.northwestern.

edu.

Northwestern



Asian American Studies Program

Check out our website: www.asianamerican.northwestern.edu

Reach out to us through email: asianamerican@northwestern.edu

And LIKE us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/AsianAmericanNorthwestern