

Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association

Newsletter

Vol. 23 No. 3 (March 2003) ISSN: 1040-8517

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



"Tregoteisatthead"

It is a pleasure once again to communicate with you all as your president. I have just returned from the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia, filled with positive energy and renewed affirmation that our work is vital to the different communities we serve as librarians and information specialists. So coming back from Philadelphia where the temperature was 10 or below (!), I wish you all warm greetings and peace from my home in sunny Southern California.

With the report of the APALA Midwinter meeting appearing elsewhere in this issue, I would like to highlight a few important action items discussed and approved by the Executive Board as well as current projects.

First I am pleased to announce that Dr. Ling Hwey Jeng has agreed to serve a second term as APALA's Executive Director. This means that APALA will continue to benefit from her positive energy and strong commitment to the development of the association. Thank you, Ling Hwey!

Ganga Dakshinamurti and Dr. Kenneth Yamashita, our representatives to the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color, reported on the progress and decisions that have been made. The Site Selection Committee will recommend several central tier-state locations for the conference that will be geographically accessible for our colleagues living on the East and West Coasts. The Steering Committee determined that the conference will occur during the first half of October or first half of November of 2005. [Editor's Note: Please see the JCLC update in the Editorial!]

The APALA Web Committee has done an excellent redesign of the website, adding structure, coherence, and providing a new look which gives it a much stronger presence in the World Wide Web. The Committee will now be looking for volunteers to help with the development of the links from the Homepage; e.g., APA resources, job postings, to name a few.

Yvonne Chen, our incoming President and the Chair of the Program Committee, reported that her committee is putting together an insightful and interesting program for the Toronto conference that looks at librarianship in community building. The presenters will examine libraries as civic institutions that engage with communities through civic and political activism.

In addition, I am encouraged to report that collaborations with other organizations continue to occur as evinced by our co-sponsorships of programs with other library associations. We will be co-sponsoring a program in Toronto that is being coordinated by the ALA Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange

Message from the President (cont.)

Round Table (EMIERT) on library services to refugees and immigrant communities. Perhaps this is a good place to encourage you all to suggest to the Program Committee other programs for possible cosponsorships which give APALA visibility at ALA and often increase attendance at the co-sponsored programs as well as our own.

While I remain positive and if I may candidly say, vibrantly optimistic about the future of APALA and its mission to support Asian Pacific American librarians and APA communities, I am also somewhat disturbed by what libraries across our nation are currently experiencing in these troubled times. Specifically, I am referring to the declining conditions of libraries due to budget cuts and abandonment of civic responsibilities by our elected officials. In my state of California, for example, the governor has proposed draconian budget cuts for education and social services that would have drastic effects on our public, school, and university libraries as well as educational institutions.

At the Save our Libraries Forum during Midwinter, organized by ALA President Mitch Freedman, I found out that other states are facing similar budgetary problems as I listened with incredulity to the testimonies of our colleagues about the economic hardships that have forced many of them to reduce hours, cancel services, and cut jobs. These are indeed one of the "worst of times" for our libraries. However, anyone who attended the forum would have detected a impressive level of positive energy emanating from the room: it came from the resolve of each librarian, concerned parent, and ordinary citizen to stand firm and fight the threat to their libraries. One could even discern that a collective will of resistance was evolving at the forum to struggle for the well-being of libraries, which for all of us are THE places of intellectual discovery and institutions that signify a vibrant civil democratic society.

In hearing colleagues tell their stories, one is also compelled to probe for solutions specific to our association and the communities we serve as well as to libraries and librarianship in general. How can we stop the further degradation of our libraries and cultural institutions? How can we support our colleagues, especially APA librarians affected by these recent trends? How can we as a professional association provide assistance and direction to the larger APA communities that rely on libraries and information? When do we begin to take concrete steps toward addressing these problems facing our libraries, our places of work? What is to be done?

I would like to suggest that we are taking the appropriate steps in a direction through which we can experience positive results. Our collaborative efforts with other library associations, particularly with other ethnic librarian/library associations as well as other progressively-minded librarians, are essential in forming a cohesive and powerful response to the threats to our libraries. The APALA annual conference programs that we have regularly organized that address social, cultural, and sometimes political issues are insightful and encourage attendees to view the world from different perspectives. While these are important beginnings, I think that as individuals and as a collective organization we need to forge links with other individuals and professional organizations involved in similar fields and interests, e.g., educational and non-profit organizations.

(continued on page 3)

APALA Newsletter (ISSN: 1040-8517) is published quarterly (March, June, September, and December) by the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association. All inquires and comments should be sent to Dr. Kenneth Yamashita (Ken. Yamashita@ci.stockton.ca.us). This newsletter is distributed free to our members.

Message from the President (cont.)

And it is from these beginnings that great things can happen and change can take shape. As the cultural critic and intellectual activist Edward Said succinctly stated, "Beginning is not only a kind of action, it is also a frame of mind, a kind of work, an attitude, a CONSCIOUSNESS." In some important ways, the exchange of ideas and views taking place on the APALA Listserv speaks to this level of action as we discuss and try to comprehend the deeper effects of racism and discrimination affecting primarily people of color and Asian and Pacific Americans in particular. We have come to understand that racism can lead to its internalized acceptance—thus resulting in a second-class citizenship mentality or normalized beliefs of inferiority and mediocrity. From our conversations it is apparent that we reject this mode of thinking. And, in the very rejection of this notion we begin to engage in a different mode of thinking; a transgressive way to work towards a different view of ourselves apart from the views imposed upon us. In the words of the brilliant lyricist and musician Bob Marley:

"[We reed to] Emercipate ourselves of mental slavery."

Sincerely,

Gerardo (Gary) Colmerar

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Editorial

Ganga Dakshinamurti and I, as the APALA appointees to the Steering Committee of the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color (JCLC), wish to inform the membership about an important decision that was made by the Steering Committee on February 19, 2003. This editorial shares the decision and the rationale for its making.

The Steering Committee decided to change the date of the JCLC from 2005 to 2006. The vote was unanimous; all ten members were in favor of the change. To quote the press release: In changing the date of the JCLC from 2005 to 2006, Gladys Smiley Bell (BCALA) and Ken Yamashita (APALA), Steering Committee Co-chairs, stated that it was made out of respect for the ethnic caucus association and ALA members who might wish to attend one of the two ALA division national conferences (already) scheduled for 2005 and/or the 2005 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago and have limited financial resources. There was also a concern for the ALA divisions holding national conferences in 2005 and the potential attendance impact on their events and the JCLC's, as well as a consideration for the exhibitors and vendors who would have to plan for multiple large shows in 2005.

All contingencies considered, Ganga and I believe that 2006 will be a better year to hold the JCLC than 2005. There are three ALA division institutes scheduled for 2006 but none have exhibits and institute attendance is considerably less than a national conference's. The JCLC Site Selection Committee still intends to bring its recommendations of central-tier state cities to the Steering Committee in the Fall 2003. The added year of lead time before the conference should enable all of APALA's volunteers on the JCLC committees to build good working relationships with their committee colleagues to plan for a bigger, even more successful conference. I hope you will start working soon on your personal and institutional budget planning for the JCLC which is now expected to be held on four days during the first half of October 2006.

Ken Yanashita

Keep Yourself Updated on APALA News: Join the APALA Listserv

The APALA Listserv (Address: APALA-L@LSV.UKY.EDU), available to all members, is an information sharing resource and communications link for committee work, time-sensitive bulletins, etc.

Job announcements are also posted on the Listserv. To join the listserv:

- Be a current member of APALA
- Contact May Chang, Listserv Owner or Ling Hwey Jeng, Listserv Owner at the following
 e-mail addresses: May Chang <may_chang@ncsu.edu>
 Ling Hwey Jeng Ihjeng00@uky.edu>
- Request a subscription to the listsery.

FEATURE ARTICLE

APALA Members Obtain Pre-Doctoral Training in PRAXIS Program

Since last November the lives of eight ethnic librarians, among them three APALA members, began to take a new professional turn when they learned they were accepted into the PRAXIS program at UCLA. PRAXIS (*Practice, Reflection, Advocacy, eXcellence, Inquiry, Solutions*) is a pre-doctoral and recruitment program for tomorrow's culturally diverse information studies faculty and leaders that is mainly funded by a \$196,055 grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) https://www.imls.gov. The name underscores the work of critical pedagogist Paulo Freire who defined *praxis* as "...reflection and action upon the world in order to transform it" (cited from Hendriks, Sarah. Review of Freire, Paulo (1998/1970). Pedagogy of the Oppressed, translated by Myra Bergman. New York: Continuum. http://fcis.oise.utoronto.ca/~daniel_schugurensky/freire/sh2.html, viewed 1/28/02). The PRAXIS program is designed to enable professional librarians to come from *practice*, *reflect* on critical issues in LIS and their community, create a research agenda with a focus on *advocacy*, engage in an environment that will assist them to *eXcel* as professionals and develop skills in critical *inquiry* in order to develop *solutions* to transform information services and education in a multicultural society. This January APALA members Gary Colmenar, Heawon Paick and Vang Vang joined 5 other librarians who received scholarships and began a nine-month journey to:

- (a) engage in an intellectually-rich and challenging advanced graduate environment;
- (b) obtain a post-MLIS Certificate;
- (c) be paired and have regular contact with a departmental faculty advisor, a peer doctoral advisor and a national LIS faculty mentor of color;
- (d) be engaged in recruitment efforts with ethnic librarian/library associations;
- (e) produce a publishable research paper and book review in addition to their coursework;
- (f) participate in weekly seminars to have exposure to research and policy issues from nationally renowned researchers from the Department as well as other UCLA faculty whose work addresses the information needs of and services to culturally diverse communities;
- (g) present their research, the PRAXIS program and doctoral studies at the 2003 ALA Annual Conference (travel stipend provided); and
- (h) submit an application for doctoral studies, as appropriate.

Program PRAXIS has **two main goals**: (1) to increase the number of librarians of culturally diverse backgrounds with advanced professional training, and (2) to increase the number of librarians of culturally diverse backgrounds with readiness to undertake doctoral studies. PRAXIS addresses five professional needs which were ascertained from an examination of current library issues:

- o Shortage of library and information studies (LIS) faculty from culturally diverse backgrounds
- o Graying of the LIS faculty and unfilled positions
- o Lack of continuing education opportunities in such areas as research, and information policy and technologies
- o Call for leaders to shape information policy
- o Lack of empirical, critical and theoretical inquiry in multicultural library and information practice

PRAXIS students and APALA members Colmenar, Paick and Vang bring a diversity and richness of professional experience and are undertaking research that will make significant contributions to multicultural librarianship, and especially APA librarianship. Some highlights of their experiences and interests are:



Gerardo (Gary) Colmenar was born and spent his early childhood in the Philippines. He came to the United States along with his siblings to join his parents in California in the late 1970s, where they have since settled. He earned his B.A. Degree in Ethnic Studies at U.C., San Diego with a focus on Asian Pacific American experiences and Cultural Studies. He earned his M.L.I.S. Degree at UCLA in 1996. He was the Library Fellow at U.C., Santa Barbara from 1998 - 2000 where he has since obtained a permanent position as the Asian American Studies Librarian. He is a member of the following library professional associations: the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association, the ALA Alternatives-in-Print Task Force, and the ALA Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table. Some of his research and personal interest in the field of Library and Information Studies revolve around library education, theory and practice of information, and history of Philippine libraries.

"I consider myself lucky and privileged to be accepted in this program with its unique goals towards addressing a variety of significant issues in our profession, among which are class and gender equity, and representation, in different aspects of librarianship," states Gary about PRAXIS.



Heawon Paick was born and grew up in Seoul, Korea. Upon receiving her B.A. majoring in Japanese, she went to Maryville College in Tennessee on an International Student Scholarship to learn "real" American English for a year. She decided to stay for two more years in pursuit of an advanced degree.

Heawon's career direction has been heavily influenced by her aunt, who is a librarian at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Her librarian career started out with a brief stint at a local book distributing company. Her professional librarian career began as a Children's Librarian at the Washington Irving Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL). During 7 years with LAPL, she has worked as a Children's Librarian, Young Adult Librarian and a Cataloger. Continuous growth through education is a life-long endeavor for Heawon. Thus, her pursuit of a post-MLIS certificate through the PRAXIS program came naturally and she is very excited and feels privileged to participate in this pioneer program. Upon completing the PRAXIS program, her goal is to pursue a doctoral degree. Heawon is interested in conducting research on the cultural information needs of Korean Americans.



Vang Vang was born in Laos. Her family immigrated to the U.S. in 1978 when she was four years old. Vang has a B.A. in history from UC Santa Cruz. She received her M.A. in Library Science from Simmons College in Boston in 1997.

After graduation, Vang spent a year working as a reference librarian at the Rodney A. Briggs Library (University of MN, Morris). Since then she has been a reference librarian at Henry Madden Library (CSU Fresno). Vang has also done some classroom teaching at Fresno State and Fresno City College. She enjoys teaching as much as being a reference librarian, and finds the two roles very challenging, exciting and rewarding. Her career plan includes pursuing a doctorate degree in either Library Science or Education. Vang is interested in research on multicultural library management, especially issues of retention and promotion of ethnic librarians.

The five other PRAXIS students, along with Gary, Heawon, Vang, have created an exciting and dynamic cohort that are exchanging ideas and conducting empirical research on multicultural librarianship. They include:

Renate Chancellor <u>Renate@successNet.net</u> is a law librarian whose research interests are in information policy, with an emphasis on the equity of access to information in the African American community.

Billie Frierson Bf96Delrio@aol.com is a former regional director at the County of Los Angeles Public Library who

is interested in the history of African American librarianship in California and multicultural librarianship.

Sylva Natalie Manoogian hysearch@hotmail.com has previously worked as head of the International Languages Department and a regional director of the Los Angeles Public Library, and is conducting research on the global Armenian information network, and international and multicultural librarianship.

Pedro Reynoso pedro.reynoso@libraries.claremont.edu is a Chicano Studies librarian whose research interests

include the cultural production and publishing in Chicano Studies.

* Romelia Salinas <u>Rsalina@exchange.clastatela.edu</u> is interested in conducting research on information technology policy and technology access in the Latino community.

The success of PRAXIS is in large part due to the support being received by locally and nationally, from faculty, doctoral students, staff and university administrators to national mentors and the professional community, respectively, and the IMLIS grant. The PRAXIS community wouldn't be complete without the contributions of Elizabeth Martinez as Project Director, Tony Dunbar as Graduate Student Researcher, and myself as Principal Investigator. More information about PRAXIS is located at http://skipper.gseis.ucla.edu/faculty/cchu/praxis/praxis.htm or by linking to the department's webpage http://is.gseis.ucla.edu.

PRAXIS has long-range and far-reaching impact for the profession's capacity for diversifying the faculty, research and leadership in information studies. The involvement of culturally diverse and non-ethnic IS and non-IS faculty locally and nationally, practicing professionals, and doctoral students in the implementation of Program PRAXIS will serve as a model of diverse stakeholders in recruiting, teaching, mentoring, and retaining post-MLIS students of culturally diverse backgrounds who will continue into doctoral studies or will engage in praxis as professionals. Eighteen other advanced certificate programs have been identified across the country that would be able to replicate this Program. Program PRAXIS graduates will be leaders and/or faculty engaged in conducting research and providing information access in a culturally diverse, technologically-complex, and information-intensive 21st Century world as well as recruiters for tomorrow's culturally diverse faculty.

Clara M. Chu

PRAXIS Principal Investigator

MEMBER NEWS

Hwa-Wei Lee Tapped by the Library of Congress

Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee, dean of Ohio University Libraries for 21 years, now dean emeritus, has been appointed as the Chief of the Asian Division by the Library of Congress and will begin his position on February 10, 2003.

In his new position, Dr. Lee will be in charge of one of the richest and most comprehensive collections in the world covering the cultures and history of Asia and will have the opportunity to chart a new course for the collections and services.

The mission of the Library of Congress is to make its resources available and useful to the Congress, the scholarly research community, and the American people and to sustain and preserve a universal collection of knowledge and creativity for future generations. In essence, it serves both as the Library of the Congress and as the National Library of the U.S.

"Even though I do have mixed feelings about returning to full-time employment after my retirement from Ohio University, the opportunity to work for the Library of Congress in such a key position is irresistible. I am most grateful that the Library of Congress has offered me this challenging position and will do my best to meet the challenges," said Dr. Lee.

At the time of his retirement, Dr. Lee received many awards and honors in recognition of his contributions to both Ohio University and the library profession. The Board of Trustees of Ohio University named a new library building as the "Hwa-Wei Lee Library Annex" and the Library named the first floor of Vernon R. Alden Library as the "Hwa-Wei Lee Center for International Collections." He was also inducted into the 1999 Ohio Librarians Hall of Fame by the Ohio Library Council. The OCLC Online Computer Library Center invited him to serve as a Visiting Distinguished Scholar immediately after his brief retirement.

Editor's Note: At the June 2001 "Shared Visions" Joint APALA/CALA National Conference on Asian Pacific American Librarians in San Francisco, Dr. Lee was honored as a Legacy Leader and the conference was dedicated to him and seven other honorees.

Cognotes Reporter Scores for APALA

Frederick J. Augustyn, Jr., The Library of Congress, was one of five *Cognotes* reporters who provided news coverage during the 2003 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia in January. The final issue of *Cognotes*, which highlights the major noteworthy events that took place at Midwinter, is mailed to all 64,000+ members of ALA after Midwinter. An article about the APALA Executive Board meeting, bylined by Frederick, appears on page 10. Kudos to Frederick for providing the entire ALA membership the opportunity to learn about APALA through his *Cognotes* article.

New Position

Audrey Ho has been the Technical Training Coordinator for Yale University libraries since she graduated from UT Austin library school. She supports all training efforts that are ongoing in the university libraries. Audrey wants to become more active in APALA committee work now that she has settled in to her job.

APALA NEWS

Executive Board Actions

The following actions were taken by the Executive Board at its January 26, 2003 meeting during the ALA Midwinter conference in Philadelphia. The EB:

- Approved an Awards Committee request to extend the application deadline for the APALA Sheila S. Lai Research Grant Award to February 28.
- 2. Approved a motion from the Constitution and Bylaws Committee to merge the APALA Constitution and APALA Bylaws into one document to be called the APALA Constitution and Bylaws."
- 3. Approved payment to Mr. Raminik Shah, CPA, for filing the APALA tax reports for 2000 and 2001.
- 4. Voted to contribute \$2,500 for seed money to the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color (JCLC), pending the Executive Board's review and approval of the Memorandum of Understanding when it is developed.
- 5. Voted to authorize the Executive Director to purchase staggered Certificates of Deposit for APALA Non-Operating funds.
- 6. Approved the President's recommendation to reappoint Ling Hwey Jeng as APALA Executive Director for a three-year term starting at the 2003 ALA Annual Conference in Toronto.

The full minutes of the January 26, 2003 Executive Board meeting will be printed in the June issue of the *Newsletter*.

LingHweyJerg
Executive Director

Other APALAs

In searching for a domain name for our website, May Chang found the following other APALAs:

Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance
Advertising Production Association of Los Angeles
Atlantic Provinces Association of Landscape Architects
Anthropology, Physical Anthropology, Linguistics and Archeology
Students Association

Definition: Apala — an outgrowth of a primarily traditional genre of music from the Ijebu region of Yorubaland in Nigeria.

ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCH LIBRARIES/MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Association of Research Libraries is pleased to announce the fourth offering of the Leadership and Career Development (LCD) Program. The LCD Program is focused on preparing emerging leaders in academic and research libraries for increasingly demanding and visible roles.

The one-year Program design is multi-faceted: two in-person Leadership Institutes, an opening and closing event held in conjunction with national meetings; a Participant/Mentor relationship with a director of an ARL or MLA library (for medical librarian participants); and three Web-based Courses on issues related to effective library leadership and management.

Program Goal and Objectives

The goal of the Program is to prepare participants to become more competitive in the promotion process. To achieve this goal, the LCD Program pursues the following objectives:

- Strengthening management, leadership, and decision-making skills through a series of practical, experientially-based training activities;
- Increasing knowledge of current trends and issues in librarianship, higher education, and scholarly communication;
- Developing a network of mentors who will guide and nurture the career development of the participants; and
- Strengthen professional writing skills and increase access to scholarly publication venues.

Two intensive in-person Institutes will be combined with three Web-based courses conducted under the tutelage of highly committed and knowledgeable mentors drawn from leaders in the academic and research library profession. These components are designed to balance instruction with personal interactions and practical research and writing experience.

Application Criteria

- 1. Over five years of post-MLS library experience
- 2. Member of an underrepresented racial or ethnic group (Note: Racial and ethnic group member ship is based on the categories outlined in the U.S. Census. Racially and ethnically underrepresented groups include: American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, Hispanic or Latino.)
- 3. Demonstrated and potential leadership ability
- 4. Interest in pursuing leadership opportunities and positions in academic and research libraries
- 5. Letter from director of home institution supporting participation in the Program
- 6. One page professional writing project description U.S. and Canadian citizens are eligible for the Program. Applications are welcomed from professionals in any library setting, but applicants should have strong interest in pursuing a leadership position in academic and research libraries.

Details and application at: http://www.arl.org/diversity/lcdp/lcdp app 03.pdf

ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

DATE	Please check one	:_NEW MEM	BER	RENEWAL
	(APALA Membership Year	r is from January 1	to Decembe	r 31)
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WELCOME TO NEW APALA MEMBERS!

Vang Vang
Elina P. Valmores
Beverly L. Bass
Florante P. Ibanez
Thu-Phuong H. Nguyen
Kate Pourshariati
Anna Liza Posas
Peggy D. Tran-Le
Department of Library Science,
Clarion University

APALA Members:

Please keep us up-to-date. Send us your news to share with your colleagues. I would like to report the following:

Name:

Address:

Email your news to: Kenneth Yamashita, Chair, Publications Committee Stockton-San Joaquin County Public Library Ken.Yamashita@ci.stockton.ca.us APALA 3735 Palomar Centre, Ste. 150 PMB 26 Lexington, KY 40513