

# Asian American Psychological Association 2009 Banquet & Awards Presentation

AAPA 2009

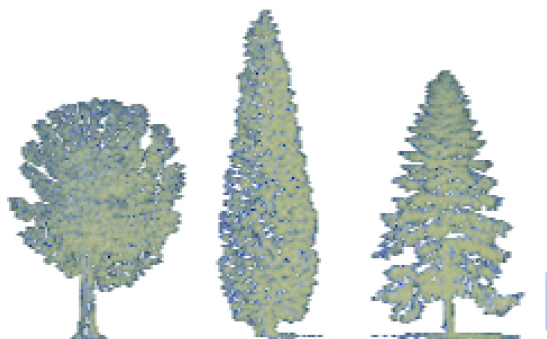
Strengthening Our Diverse Families and Communities in Times of Change

8.5.2009.  
Toronto, Canada

### *Banquet Menu*

*Vegetarian Dim Sum Combination Platter (Spring Roll, Pan Fried Turnip Cake, Bean Curd Roll)  
Vegetarian Hot and Sour Soup  
Lemon Chicken  
Sweet and Sour Fish Fillet in Phoenix Nest  
Stir Fried Noodles with Bean Sprout  
Sauteed Baby Bok Choi  
Vegetarian Fried Rice  
Shrimp with Mixed Vegetables  
Filet Mignon Cantonese Style  
Almond and Fortune Cookies  
Green Tea and Oranges*

Separate vegetarian entrees available for individuals who registered as vegetarians.  
Please notify your server.



## BANQUET PROGRAM

- I. Welcome and Introduction of Special Guests - *Karen L. Suyemoto, AAPA President*
- II. Acknowledgement of AAPA Early Career Leadership Fellows – *Karen L. Suyemoto*
- III. Acknowledgement of outgoing Conference Co-Chair and Newsletter Editor - *Karen L. Suyemoto*
- IV. Best Poster Award Presentation - *Jocelyn Buhain & Richard Q. Shin, Program Committee Co-chairs*
- V. Awards Presentation - *Alvin Alvarez, AAPA Past President and Chair, Awards Committee*
  - ✓ Patrick Okura Award: Asuncion Austra, Ph.D.
  - ✓ Early Career Award: Wei-Chin Hwang, Ph.D. & Meifen Wei, Ph.D.
  - ✓ Dissertation Award: Noriel Lim, M.A. (Winner); Oanh Meyer, M.A. & Natasha Olmos, M.A. (Honorable mentions)
- VI. Presentation of AAPA Fellows – *Christine Iijima Hall, AAPA Past President and Chair, Fellows Selection Committee*
  - ✓ Arpana Inman, Ph.D.
  - ✓ Donna Nagata, Ph.D.

## VII. Presidential Award Presentation - *Karen L. Suyemoto*

- ✓ Peter Nien-chu Kiang, Ed.D.
- ✓ Committee on Racial and Ethnic Diversity of the Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues (APA Div. 44)

## VIII. Announcement of AAPA-APF Okura Mental Health Leadership Foundation Fellowship, *Karen L. Suyemoto*

## IX. Recognition of Outgoing AAPA Officers

- ✓ Muninder Ahluwalia, Board Member
- ✓ Alvin Alvarez, Past President, Awards Chair
- ✓ Doris Chang, Communications Officer
- ✓ Amy Cheng, Treasurer
- ✓ Matthew Miller, Board Member
- ✓ Mikaru Shichi Lasher, Membership Officer
- ✓ Nita Tewari, Vice President

## X. Presidential Inauguration Ceremony: Karen L. Suyemoto (AAPA President 2008-2009) and Gordon Nagayama Hall (AAPA President 2009-2011)

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to express our gratitude for the time and effort that the following individuals volunteered to this year's convention.

Conference Co-Chairs: Grace S. Kim & Anneliese A. Singh  
 Program Co-Chairs: Jocelyn L. Buhain & Richard Q. Shin  
 Session Co-Chairs: Joyce Chu & Anjuli Amin  
 Poster Co-Chairs: Shihoko Hijioka & Kimberly Langrehr  
 Banquet Co-Chairs: Sue Lambe & Jacki Mac  
 Volunteer Co-Chairs: Matthew Lee & Nellie Tran  
 Bookdrive Co-Chairs: Minsun Lee, Rebekah Grome & Cathy Lee  
 Mentor-Mentee Reception Coordinator: Stephanie Pituc  
 Registration Co-Chairs: Vali Kahn & Agnes Kwong  
 Vice-President: Nita Tewari  
 Fellows Chair & Committee: Christine Iijima Hall (Chair), Y. Barry Chung, Richard Lee

### 2008-2009 Awards Committee:

Alvin Alvarez (Chair), Gayle Iwamasa, Richard Lee, Larry Yang, Manveen Dhindsa, Avisha Chugani

### Convention Volunteers:

Lauren Berger, Ryan Cheperka, Simon Chung, Angela Craig, Arpita Ghosh, Kimberly Gross, Ren Hong, Sujin (Suzie) Jeon, Anju Kaduvettoor, Dianne Lam, Suellen Lee, Stephanie Lee, Cherry Lee, Kelly Liao, Graciete Lo, Maggie Chen, Yoko Mori, Zainab Nael, Jianghe Niu, Natasha Olmos, Sarah Parks, Alisia Tran, Gloria Wong, Yi-Chen (Jenny) Wu, Ivan Wu

## BIOGRAPHIES FOR AWARD WINNERS (CONTINUED)

Ms. Natasha Olmos, MA. University of California, Los Angeles. Natasha's dissertation research is on the role of culture in influencing perceived stigma of psychiatric disorders in South Asians. The results of this study have significant implications because of the well-established link between stigma of mental illness and delay or avoidance in seeking professional mental health services. This study is also significant in its focus on South Asians, one of fastest growing immigrant populations in the US for which there is very little information about their mental health needs. She is a very intelligent, disciplined and dedicated young South Asian scholar with strong interest in cultural issues in mental health, especially in South Asians.

-Dr. Hector Myers, Nominator

MORE AWARDS!  
(Presented Elsewhere)

Student Travel Award Winners -presented at the Poster Session: Anjuli Amin, Lauren Berger, Anju Kaduvetoor, Kyung Hyun Kwon, Natasha Olmos, William Tsai, Ivan Wu

Division on Women (DoW) Awards - Presented at the DoW Luncheon:

Alice F. Chang Student Scholar Award: Arpana Annie Gupta & Dawn Szymanski for their work: "Examining the Relationships between Multiple Oppressions and Asian American Sexual Minority Person's Psychological Distress"

Division on Women Award was also presented at the DoW Luncheon.

Division of Students (DoS) Awards - Presented at the DoS Luncheon:

DoS Service Award: Alisia (Giac-Thao) T. Tran

DoS Leadership Award: Lauren K. Berger

DoS Research Award: Paul Youngbin Kim

DoS Undergraduate Research Award: William Tsai

*AAPA Fellows*

Dr. Arpana Inman, PhD is an Associate Professor in the Department of Education and Human Services at Lehigh University. Dr. Inman's primary research interest has been in South Asian American and Asian American psychology. Dr. Inman co-edited the groundbreaking publication Handbook of Asian American

Psychology (2007), and has received numerous awards for her scholarship. Dr. Inman has held numerous leadership positions including Co-Chair for the Division on Women, AAPA (2002-2003), Vice President for the Asian American Psychological Association (AAPA, 2003-2005) and most recently, Vice President for the Association of Multicultural Counseling and Development, Asian American Pacific Islander Special Interest Group (2003-2007). She was the first South Asian Vice President of AAPA.

Dr. Donna Nagata, PhD is a Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Michigan. Dr. Nagata's writings reflect a range of topics related to Asian American women, Asian American acculturation, Japanese American children and adolescents, and Asian American grandparenting, and Asian American family dynamics. For over 2 decades she has investigated the lingering impacts of this historical trauma among second and third generation Japanese Americans resulting in a single-authored book, Legacy of Injustice: Exploring the Cross-Generational Impact of the Japanese American Internment. Dr. Nagata serves on several editorial boards and has received numerous awards for her scholarship.

*Patrick Okura Community Leadership Award*

Dr. Asuncion (Siony) Austria, PhD is currently Chair and Director of Training in the Clinical Psychology Program at Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee. Dr. Austria has held many leadership positions in organized psychology and have used those positions to advance the welfare of Asian Americans and the careers of Asian American psychologists. Dr. Austria served on the APA Board of Educational Affairs (BEA), Council Rep for Division 35 and a member of the Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs (CEMA)(1998-1999) and the Policy and Planning Board (2001-2003). Dr. Austria has already received numerous awards such as the 2007 Distinguished Elder /Senior Psychologist Award (APA National Multicultural Conference and Summit Seattle, Washington, January 24-26) and the 2006 Award for Distinguished Leadership for Women in Psychology, APA Committee on Women in Psychology (CWP). - Dr. Fred Leong, Nominator

*Early Career Award for Distinguished Contributions*

Dr. Wei-Chin Hwang, PhD is an Associate Professor at Claremont McKenna College. His work focuses on reducing health disparities and improving mental health services for ethnic minorities and Asian Americans. He has published approximately 30 articles and book chapters in this arena, authored a clinical-family-cultural assessment measure (parent and child versions), and also authored therapist and client culturally adapted cognitive-behavioral treatment manuals aimed at treating depressed Chinese Americans. Dr. Hwang is a licensed clinical psychologist. He currently has an independent practice where he treats many Asian American clients and approximately a dozen clients a week. He has also trained and supervised over fourteen Asian American therapists in conducting evidence-based treatments with Asian Americans. Currently, very few Asian American professionals embody the role of scientist-practitioner and can bridge the gap between the academic research and clinical-community practice. Dr. Hwang is one such individual.

-Dr. Jeff Wood, Nominator

Dr. Meifen Wei, PhD is an Associate Professor at Iowa State University. Dr. Wei is the most frequently published author in *Journal of Counseling Psychology* in a decade and 4<sup>th</sup> in two decades. In addition, such a publication record would have been exceptional even for veteran professors, but Dr. Wei just began her academic position in 2002. Dr. Wei contributes to the welfare of Asian Americans on two fronts: focusing on acculturative stress and minority stress among Asian Americans and elucidating the process of coping with discrimination on Asian Americans. Dr. Wei has been a distinguished exemplar of a Scientist-Practitioner. Her practice spans 8 years of counseling Taiwanese students in Taiwan and 3 years of specialty service to Asian Americans in USA. She has served as a member in the Editorial Board of *Journal of Counseling Psychology*, *The Counseling Psychologist*, and *Chinese Journal of Guidance and Counseling* (an Asian international journal).

-Dr. Ruth Chao, Nominator

*Student Grant for Dissertation Research***Winner**

Mr. Noriel Lim, MA. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Nori came to our doctoral program in clinical-community psychology with an impressive record of academic achievement and extensive research experience in quantitative and qualitative research. He has held a sustained interest in understanding family factors that may contribute to the mental health of Filipino American adolescents. Nori's dissertation proposal takes up the question of the relationship between emotional distance in immigrant Filipino American families and the young adults' emotional distress. By testing specific hypotheses about the links between how Filipino American students perceived their family relationships and their depressive symptoms, his research will likely have significant implications for prevention and intervention of emotional distress among Filipino American children of immigrant parents.

-Dr. Sumie Okazaki, Nominator

**Honorable Mentions**

Ms. Oanh Meyer, MA. University of California, Davis. Oanh is fast developing into a productive and outstanding researcher. Oanh's proposed dissertation examines whether or not client counselor ethnic match is important for Chinese Americans and African Americans, two groups that have been clearly underrepresented in mental health service utilization. Oanh's dissertation research has important clinical implications – if it is important to accentuate similar aspects between clients and counselors and/or address issues of prejudice and stereotyping at the initial stages of treatment, this may improve treatment outcomes among ethnic minority clients. As a bilingual Vietnamese American, Oanh will be one of the very few Southeast Asians who have focused their doctoral work in psychology and diversity issues in mental health. She is an exceptional talent and has the personal qualities to develop into a productive and outstanding social scientist, as well as someone who has already shown a strong commitment to centering her academic career on cultural diversity issues.

-Dr. Nolan Zane, Nominator