

A P A

PERSPECTIVES

National Association for Asian and Pacific American Education

OF RETIREMENTS, ADIEUS, AND UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN . . .

Myrna Garcia, NAAPAE President



Myrna Garcia

So it was, at Virgie Chattergy's retirement party, in Honolulu on January 28, 2005. More than 100 of Virgie's many friends and colleagues gathered for lunch at the Ala Moana Hotel to honor Virgie as she retired from long and distinguished career at the University of Hawai'i. Virgie is also a founding member of NAAPAE's Hawai'i chapter. A projector showed slides of her life—a petite young girl in a Catholic school uniform in the Philippines, then a young woman in a US bathing suit, then the self-assured Virgie Chattergy we know now. Before she became a Chattergy, as the pictures showed, she dressed for the longest time in a sari outfit, then switched to working suits as she changed her last name. At Virgie's retirement party, her sister Lida surprised everybody when she arrived from the mainland and spoke of how proud she was of her sister.

One of the pictures showed Virgie posing with NAAPAE officers. And I began to recall how much NAAPAE has meant to me. From Kay Tokunaga's gentle persuasion to become the Vice President for membership for NAAPAE's Illinois Chapter, and helping make the Chapter the largest in the Association. My son and daughter have always been my primary motivation in playing an active role in the local Asian/Pacific Educators Association. I wanted them to be proud of their heritage and to live the best of both worlds—their American and Filipino heritage. I have always enjoyed children's activities and events. No regrets, they are leaders in their own fields and are happy and always striving for excellence.



Virgie



Bob Johnson, Virgie, Myrna, Melvin Spencer

NAAPAE means all the friends and pleasant memories, like Mitzi Tanouchi who has been a confidante and roommate at some conferences... Barbara Leu who surprised me with Hawaiian flowers flown directly from Kona just to express some gesture of thanks... Gary Kamino's meek and gentle smiles and practical approach to anything... the highly-skilled and dedicated Bob Johnson who edits our newsletter... Sally Chou who opened her beautiful home for us to plan the Queen Mary conference... Joanne Yamauchi who sent us wine while we boarded a plane going home from a conference... Clara Park who shares her wisdom and tenacity to us all... the ever-warm personality of Guam as radiated through Rosa Palomo... firm and determined Conni Lee who kept us on track... Jean Dobashi the generous trouper, who surprised everybody in

Philadelphia with fresh leis from Hawai'i... Janet Lu who is always prepared with the needed facts, not to mention the crunchy nut treats from California... Melvin Spencer's warmth and sincerity, humor, chuckles and kindness... Sylvia Acierto's allegiance to the Illinois Chapter... and of course Susan Paik as a loyal companion, like a loving sister to me. All of these are associated with fond NAAPAE memories.

(Continued on Page 2)

(“Until We Meet Again,” continued from page 1)

NAAPAE means all the good times—of births and weddings. And the sad times, deaths in families, illness amongst us-

I remember the first time I met Virgie Chattergy; she was recovering from a mild stroke. At Virgie’s retirement party, her sister Lida told me that she picked up Virgie from the Philippines when she had the stroke—a sister’s display of love and caring. The display of love and care felt for another family member, another colleague, another human being! All these are shared in the NAAPAE family.

These are the never-ending good thoughts about NAAPAE, which became part of all the other people and events that helped mold the person that I am today. I have only gratitude for all of you for all the great experiences that have left such indelible moments in my heart. Just as Virgie said when delivered her curtain call to her career, I am positive that in the future I shall treasure only pleasant memories. Come and share some good moments and help create good memories. Join us in San Francisco for the 27th NAAPAE Conference, May 19-22, 2005. See ya!!!

CONFERENCE PLANNING IN FULL SWING

Conference Chair Willie Santamaria and her many assistants are planning a spectacular 27th Annual NAAPAE Conference. The conference will be held in the Marriott Hotel, San Francisco International Hotel, on the shore of scenic San Francisco Bay. For those who are interested, school visits will be held on May 18th. The conference will begin Thursday afternoon, May 19th, and extend to Saturday, the 21st.



Willie Santamaria

The theme of the conference is, “APA Educators: Rising to New Levels—Many Voices, Many Hearts, One Vision.” Breakfasts and luncheons will feature keynote speakers and entertainment. A special dinner at the hotel is set for Friday night.

Workshops will educate and inspire. Papers will cover a wealth of topics. Don’t miss this exciting conference.

You can find registration forms and other information at the conference website: <<http://www.naapae.net>>. The deadline for early registration is March 31st. Hotel rooms must be reserved by April 20th.

Come to “The City by the Bay” and join your colleagues and friends at our annual NAAPAE conference.



Working at a November planning meeting (left to right): Willie Santamaria, Myrna Garcia, Sally Chou, Gwen Chan, Helen Joe Lew, and Pilar Mejia.

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Please send submissions for the next newsletter by

April 15, 2005

DR. ROSE TSENG HONORED BY GIRL SCOUTS

On December 1, 2004, in recognition of her long and distinguish career in education, Dr. Rose Tseng was one of four women selected by the Girl Scouts of Hawai'i to honor as "A Woman of Distinction in Education." Dr. Tseng is the Chancellor of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. Nearly 1,000 persons from Hawai'i attended the dinner and ceremony at Honolulu's Hilton Hawaiian Village.



Dr. Tseng was appointed Chancellor of the UH-Hilo campus in 1998. Tseng, who was born and raised in China, had been System Chancellor of the West Valley/Mission College District in California (1993-1998). Before that, she



served at California State University, San Jose, for 23 years. During those 23 years, she was, at various times, a professor, a department chair, and a dean. She holds a BS from Kansas State University and National Cheng Kung University (1964), and a MS (1966) and Ph.D. (1968) from the University of California, Berkeley..

**MA PROGRAM IN CHINA-US RELATIONS
 SUMMER EDUCATION TOUR OF CHINA**

One of the premier programs at UH-Hilo is a MA Program in China-US Relations. As described in the university's website, "The Master of Arts in China-US Relations is a 30 credit hour program designed to provide students with an interdisciplinary, liberal arts background in Chinese culture and its relation to America's role in Pacific affairs. It will prepare the student for a broad spectrum of professions such as international education, business and tourism, government, cultural exchange, and foreign service in China and the Pacific region."

For the 17th consecutive year, UH-Hilo and Peking University will co-sponsor the "Summer Institute in Chinese Thought and Chinese Culture." The program and tour will include lectures on Chinese culture at Peking University (Beida) as well as field trips to various historical sites and cultural centers in China. You can find more information about the MA program and the summer tour of China at the following website: <<http://hilo.hawaii.edu/academics/chus/>>.

REMINDER	REMINDER	REMINDER
<p>Moving???? Be sure to send NAAPAE your change of address so you continue receiving the newsletter and other information about the Association.</p>		
<p>Changing your E-mail Address???? Send your new e-mail address to Annie Liu at <annie.liu@csun.edu>. Stay connected to NAAPAE.</p>		

AUTHOR IRIS CHANG DEAD FROM SELF-INFLICTED GUNSHOT

Associated Press, November 10, 2004 (via Clara Park)

Iris Chang, a best-selling author who chronicled the Japanese occupation of China and the history of Chinese immigrants in the United States, has died of a self-inflicted gunshot at age 36.

Chang, who won critical acclaim for her books “The Rape of Nanking” and “The Chinese in America,” was found dead in her car just south of Los Gatos [California], Santa Clara County authorities said Wednesday. On Tuesday morning, a motorist driving on Highway 17 noticed her car parked on a side road, checked the vehicle and called police.

The official cause of death has not been released, but investigators concluded that Chang shot herself in the head, officials said. She lived in San Jose with her husband, Brett Douglas, and their 2-year-old son, Christopher.

Born in Princeton, N.J., in 1968 and raised in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, Chang earned a bachelor's degree in journalism at the University of Illinois and a master's degree in science writing at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

Chang worked briefly as a reporter at The Associated Press and the Chicago Tribune before leaving daily journalism to pursue her own writing. At age 25, she published her first book, “Threat of the Silk-worm,” which tells the story of Tien Hsue-shen, the Chinese-born physicist who pioneered China's missile program after being driven away from the United States during the Cold War.

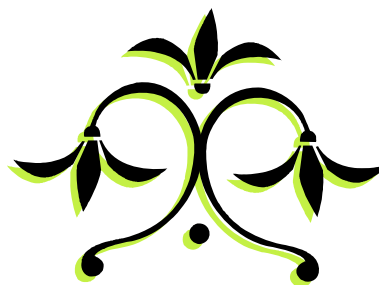
In 1997, Chang published the international bestseller “The Rape of Nanking,” which described the rape, torture, and killing of hundreds of thousands of Chinese civilians by Japanese soldiers in the former Chinese capital during the 1930s. “The Chinese in America,” published last year, is a history of Chinese immigrants and their descendants in the United States.

The late historian Stephen Ambrose described Chang as “maybe the best young historian we've got, because she understands that to communicate history, you've got to tell the story in an interesting way.”

Chang suffered a breakdown and was hospitalized during a recent trip researching her fourth book about U.S. soldiers who fought the Japanese in the Philippines during World War II, according to her former editor and agent Susan Rabiner.

Chang continued to suffer from depression after she was released from the hospital. In a note to her family, she asked to be remembered as the person she was before she became ill—“engaged with life, committed to her causes, her writing and her family,” Rabiner said.

Chang is survived by her mother, father, brother, husband, and son.



HISTORIC PARTNERSHIP OF NEWLY ELECTED LATINO AND APA OFFICIALS

Washington, DC—The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) invited the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS) to participate in an historic partnership at NALEO's Fifth Biennial NALEO National Institute for Newly Elected Officials. Three Asian Pacific American (APA) newly elected officials joined 57 Latino newly elected officials in Washington, DC on November 18-21, 2004.

The APAICS participants were: The Hon. Robert A. Hasegawa, Washington State Representative-elect; The Hon. Gary Yamauchi, Alhambra, CA City Councilman-elect; The Hon. KimOanh Nguyen-Lam - Garden Grove, CA Unified School District Board Member-elect.

APAICS Executive Director Daphne Kwok commented, "With each APA and Latino candidate winning office, this nation moves forward. With APIAs and Latino elected officials learning together how to get started as an elected official sets the stage for future collaborations. With APIAs and Latino elected officials training together, we are most certainly bettering this nation by building the Latino and APA family."

"This partnership between NALEO and APAICS is the start of something good for the future of both organizations," stated The Hon. John Bueno, NALEO President and Mayor Pro Tem, Pontiac, MI. "NALEO is always willing to reach out to include more people into the election and training process because it is better for all of us. As the APIA community is growing, it is no use to reinvent the wheel when we can share the bumps and bruises so that APIAs can take the short cut and avoid the obstacles. NALEO is more than willing to help to do this."

Robert A. Hasegawa – In his first run for public office, Hasegawa is filling the seat of Rep. Velma Veloria of District 11, Position 2 which includes most of Tukwila and parts of Renton, Burien and South Seattle. The district has a population of 150,000 of which about 10% are APIA. As head of the Teamsters Local 174 and a truck driver for Boeing, Hasegawa has over 30 years of community organizing and grassroots experience including with the Asian Pacific Islander Coalition, the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO, and Raising Our Asian Representation. Tax reform is a primary issue of interest.

"From the Institute, I was able to better understand where my state of Washington falls in relation to the rest of the nation giving me a national context to perceive my role. Invaluable was also the practical applications for the tasks I will be carrying out. And just as important this Institute provided a tremendous networking opportunity with my Latino colleagues," remarked Representative-elect Hasegawa.

Gary S. Yamauchi – Yamauchi becomes the first APA ever to serve on the Alhambra City Council of California. Representing the 3rd District with a population of about 92,000, Yamauchi has a district with 47% of the constituents being APIA. He has served as the Past President of the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce, President of the Alhambra Rotary Club, President of the YMCA, and Vice President of the Alhambra Planning Council. A businessman, Yamauchi's priorities are to work for the completion of the 710 Freeway, assure the highest levels of educational opportunities and provide citizens the safest community possible.

KimOanh Nguyen-Lam – An educator by background, Nguyen-Lam is currently a Professor and Interim Executive Director of the Center for Language Minority Education and Research at California State University Long Beach. Her extensive education credentials include serving on the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing Advisory Panels and Curriculum Review Committees; President of the National Association for the Education and Advancement of Southeast Asian Americans; and Board Member of the National Task Force on Recruitment, Preparation and Retention of Highly Qualified Teachers and Teachers of Color. Nguyen-Lam's top priorities are to improve the rate of graduating seniors eligible to attend California State Universities or University of California schools; raise the academic achievement of students who are underperforming; and build two-way partnerships between schools-families-communities.

(Continued on Page 6)

News from the NEA

“PRIVATE SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNTS WOULD SLASH BENEFITS, WEAKEN PROGRAM”

“Social Security has been called the most successful poverty prevention program ever developed, yet the Administration here in Washington has announced plans to privatize the Social Security system?” *NEA President Reg Weaver*

Hours after making a sales pitch in the State of the Union for privatizing Social Security, President Bush launched a two-day, five-state tour to promote his plan to take money from Social Security to create private stock market accounts. While the Administration talks up the “advantages” of private accounts, two harsh facts remain: private accounts would result in cuts of as much as 40 percent in guaranteed retirement income for everyone; and they would harm the program’s financial future.

NEA opposes privatization because it puts at great risk the 70-year-old safety net for America’s hard-working families. Teachers and education support professionals are especially vulnerable. Their pension plans are under increasing attack and their salaries are comparatively low. They and the tens of millions of children, women and men who rely on Social Security should not have to trade guaranteed retirement benefits for the unpredictability of the stock market.

NEA believes we should not pass on to our children the trillions of dollars in debt it would take to fund private accounts. Instead, our elected leaders should pursue common-sense changes to secure and strengthen the Social Security trust fund, such as raising the income cap on contributions and requiring Congress to repay the money it borrowed from the trust fund.

Action Needed

Sign **NEA**’s petition [<http://capwiz.com/nea/issues/alert/?alertid=6913036>] to urge Congress to

- ◆ Protect Social Security benefits and oppose any effort to privatize Social Security
- ◆ Ensure that public employees who are enrolled in and have paid into other retirement security plans are not mandated to participate in Social Security, and
- ◆ Repeal unfair offsets—the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision—that deny earned Social Security benefits to many public employees.

(Via Betty Jeung, NAAPAE Representative to the National Education Association)



(Latino and APA, Continued from Page 5)

“The opportunity to network with other minority elected officials who are committed to serve all their constituents while paying special attention to the traditionally undeserved groups was to me invaluable. As the an elected school board member in a district of 50,000 students that includes 51% Latino students, I am committed to learn as much as I can and to network closely with other Latino school board members and elected officials to improve the quality of education for this very large minority language group. Together, our collective effort and united voice can achieve far more than any one group can. By working together to improve the quality of education of the underserved groups, we improve the educational system for all Americans,” commented School Board Member-elect KimOanh Lam-Nguyen.

The Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies <<http://www.apaics.org/>> is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, educational organization based in Washington, D.C. The Institute seeks to build a politically empowered APA community, to fill the political pipeline for Asian Pacific Americans to enter and advance into elected office, and to be a resource to Congress about the APA community.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCES AND CRITICAL THINKING: A CONNECTION

Yukiko Inoue, University of Guam

One of the aims of education, especially at the college level, is to foster students' ability to think critically, to reason, and to use judgment effectively in decision-making. Guiding students toward becoming critical thinkers has always been a primary goal of the university experience (Gwartney, 2003). Critical thinking is, therefore, an important learning outcome for college students, even though it seems that they are being encouraged to learn or memorize only what is written in textbooks.

To understand students' points of view of academic experiences and critical thinking, I conducted a focus group discussion at the University of Guam. Twenty undergraduate students participated in the session. The following is part of the discussion summary.

- General education courses that help students develop and enhance critical thinking, include: Fundamentals of Communication, Political Science, Philosophy, and Sociology.
- Curricula should focus on putting theory into practice, and “minds-on” as well as “hands-on” exercises.
- Culturally pluralistic curricula help individuals become confident with their own self-identity among students whose racial, ethnic, or language heritage differs from that of the Anglo-European population.
- Textbooks that include case studies, applications, exercises, and discussion questions are useful.
- Educational materials such as videos, films, biographies, and newspapers, in addition to library resources and the Internet, are good for thinking critically and creatively.
- Research based assignments, such as focused essays, case studies, assessment and evaluation, or analysis papers are types of homework that enhance critical thinking.
- The quality of group projects depends on the individuals involved. Group projects give students opportunities to become team players. It is best not to always work with the same members because sharing different perspectives is helpful in enhancing critical thinking.
- Good lectures get students involved in the topic, and good teaching helps students think critically, providing knowledge useful in real-world situations.
- Group projects or collaborative learning activities promote critical thinking because, in addition to discussing the topic, students learn how to engage in discussion with a variety of people.

Davis (1993) recommends providing students with opportunities for group assignments in which three to five students complete collaborative research efforts or two to three students in class work together to solve a particular problem or answer a specific question. The participants also said that the advance in technology on campus puts an increased emphasis on group work and the need to be able to think critically, solve problems, and make decisions as a group. As Halpern (1999) put it, “The changing nature of technology has not only provided us with more and better ways to teach in general but has also increased the need for the skills of critical thinking” (p.71).

Taking the above discussion into account, in order to understand in what areas they have been beneficial, I should focus my future investigation on the courses (e.g., Fundamentals of Communication, and Political Science) that the participants named as those that have helped them develop critical thinking skills.

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ABOUT NAAPAE

The **National Association for Asian and Pacific American Education** is a network of educators and community leaders sharing information about the education of Asian and Pacific American students. NAAPAE has chapters in California, Hawai'i, Illinois, New York, and Canada. Membership in the national association includes membership in a regional chapter of your choice. You also receive the national and local newsletters and a discount on NAAPAE publications and on the registration fee for the national conference. We invite you to become a member today. Memberships expire on April 1st. One-year memberships extend for at least 12 months; two-year memberships for at least 24 months. Members will find the expiration date of your membership on the address label.

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MEMBERSHIP DUES	One Year	Two Years	Ten Years	Lifetime
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