



A.R.C. 2010! — Attention, Reflection, Connection Promoting Cultural Inclusiveness on Campus

By Jason Nguyen

When certain words are allowed to roam freely in the public consciousness, they take on new meanings and find new contexts. “Diversity” is one such word. In the public sphere, it can be both the vision of a new world order and a clever marketing ploy. In some sectors, the idea of diversity has become part of an all-encompassing mandate to effectively interact with a changing global dynamic. In others, it has come to represent a threat—a loss of jobs, of rights, of privileges, etc.—from people different from ourselves.

The “ARC 2010!” Campus Diversity Series came to life at this particular juncture to address these and related issues as they manifest in the university and in the world.

Spearheaded by a trio of IU professors—Joan Linton, Arlene Diaz, and Valerie Grim—the series has found its footing as a unifying thread for dialogue about diversity issues already happening on campus.

The series’ name, which stands for “Attention, Reflection, Connection: Steps toward an Inclusive Campus,” represents a desire for a different

approach in the dialogue on diversity issues. Too often, a “silos mentality” causes some people to associate diversity-building initiatives with only a particular group: that race, that gender, that religious group, etc. Thus, the organizers of ARC 2010! have chosen to emphasize this mental shift, thinking about “inclusiveness” over “diversity” and the “underserved”

rather than the “minority,” with the hope that the more fluid terminology sparks a more flexible approach to the needs of the university.

Each of the three letters in A.R.C.—Attention, Reflection, Connection—represents a different part of the series, each corresponding roughly to the months February, March, and April, respectively. In each month,



ARC 2010, a campus-wide diversity series, set out to engage IU Bloomington faculty, students, staff, administrators, and alumni in building a culturally diverse and literate campus.

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Lynch: Communication, commitment and accountability crucial to team building

By Kevin Wang

Tackling the issue of diversity with an emphasis on team spirit building was the topic of discussion at the Union's Georgian room on Thursday, Mar 25.

As part of the warm-up for the APA Heritage Month program, the panel featured Melanie Castillo-Cullather, director of the Asian Culture Center, along with the directors of Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Student Support Services, Helene G. Simon Hillel Center, La Casa, Leo R. Dowling International Center, Neal-Marshall Black Cultural Center, IU Athletics department, and IU Football Coach Bill Lynch.

Coach Lynch set the tone for the discussion by stating his philosophy on team building and encouraging diversity. For him, team-building was the foundation of success, to which every bit of contribution counts.

"During our morning practices," he said, "we have 93 guys on the team working out at the stadium while 61 others were helping." Lynch said he really appreciated the support provided by those 61 who were students and people from the community. "They all helped to build a strong team for us, which is critical to our success."

Lynch said three factors were central to building a strong team:

"One is communication," he said. "In order to communicate well among team members, both verbal and non-verbal skills are necessary. Speakers and listeners cooperate with each other and they can make great things happen."

The second thing Lynch said is commitment.

"We have different recruits coming to our program every year and they are making the same commitment to accomplish their goals as a team," he said. Lynch said commitment not just applied to the world of sports.

"Same thing with students like you," Lynch said to students at the discussion. "Here at Indiana University, you are all making the same commitment as a college student to thrive for success."

Lynch used an analogy to illustrate his point

"It's like owners and renters. If you are making a commitment to yourself, you feel like you are an owner and you have a sense of responsibility and ownership."

The last factor in Lynch's team-building plan was per-

sonal accountability. He said that one has to be accountable in order to succeed no matter he is a student or student athlete.

"On the football team, you have to be reliable by your teammates and you earn the trust when your effort accounts for the success of the team."

As for diversity, Lynch provided with the examples of his players coming from diverse economic and racial backgrounds, the players all come to Indiana and work toward the same goal in order to make achievement. By telling his experiences of recruiting players whose family backgrounds were largely different, Lynch made the point that cultural diversity is definitely a good thing as long as "they were making the same commitment to themselves and their teammates."



IU Football Coach Lynch (center, in red) led roundtable discussion, titled "What's the Play: Tackling Diversity and Building Team Spirit." Photo by Bertrand Teo

News Brief

Prof. Denise Cruz was recently honored with a Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship 2009-2010 for her current project, *Transpacific Femininities: Literature and the Making of the Modern Filipina*. In this study, she examines Filipino nationalist literary works of mixed-race and mixed-culture Filipinas who traveled between the U.S. and Philippines, held graduate-level degrees from U.S. institutions, and were published in both countries.



Photo from IU Department of English Web site.

ARC 2010

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the series' organizers have invited one speaker and organized a panel of faculty, administration, and staff to address that month's issues.

Past speakers and panelists have included Elinor Ostrom (IU professor and Nobel Laureate), Eileen Diaz McConnell (assistant professor, Arizona State University) and Thao Nelson (IU alumna and VP of Credo Management Consulting), among many others.

This month, panelists John Bodnar (History, Institute for Advanced Study), Lillian Casillas (La Casa), and Hilary Kahn (Center for the Study of Global Change) met on April 8th to discuss the third theme of the series, "Connection: Cooperatively Building for the Future." The following week, April 15th, special guest Jack Tchen from NYU will give a talk entitled

IU alumna Thao Nelson (left), vice president of Credo Management Consulting, hosted a workshop titled "Shift Happens: Think Globally, Respond Locally" on Feb 24.

"The urgency of knowing: building a cross-cultural learning commons."

These events have been reinforced all semester long by workshops and presentations across campus. In the grassroots spirit in which the series began, the organizers have encouraged organizations and individuals to host workshops by folding them into pre-existing program.

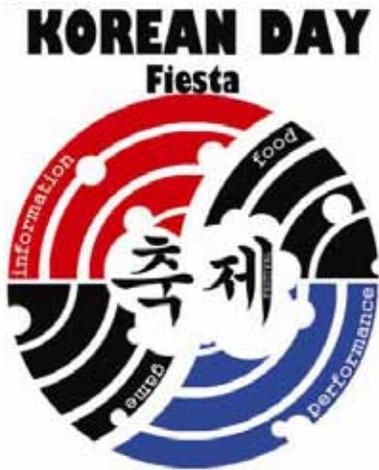
A major purpose of this series has been continuity—cultural inclusiveness is not a one-time discussion—and the workshops and presentations have been vital in maintaining that position. Finally, the series will present a symposium on April 22 both to wrap up events for the spring semesters and to provide continuity into Fall, 2010 and beyond.

I urge everyone to explore the ARC 2010! Web site (<http://www.indiana.edu/~arc2010>) to find out more about the series and to catch upcoming events.



Participants experimented with calligraphy (top, left); junior Bethany Muncy helped female attendees put on the Yukata (bottom, left); attendees had to play games to earn 'meal points' before they could sample food (bottom).

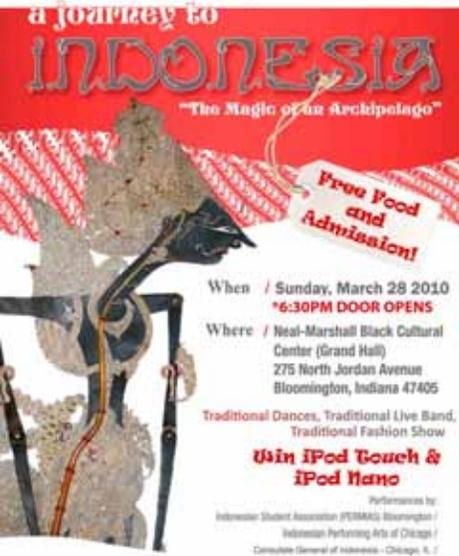
Japan Night took place Friday, Apr 2. The event took the form of Matsuri, Japanese Traditional Festival, where attendees were able to participate in a variety of games and sampled Japanese food.



Participants played with games such Ddakji (top, left) and Tuho (bottom, left); attendees posing for pictures with the hosts who were dressed in a Hanbok (top, right); Decorative items such as Korean dolls, tea sets, and masks were on display (bottom, right).

Korean Day Fiesta happened Saturday, Apr 3 at Willkie Auditorium. Booths were set up to displaying information on Korean history and culture.





Attendees were entertained by a range of traditional dances including the Topeng Kelana (right); members of Permias stood in line displaying traditional Indonesian clothing (bottom).



The Indonesian Student Association held their annual Indonesian Night on Sunday, Mar 28 at the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center. The event showcased traditional dances such as Tari Saman, traditional musical instrumental performances using the Angklung, and a traditional clothing fashion walk session.



Presenter, Franco Lai from Purdue University, presents "Transnational Sexualities: Women Same-Sex Desires among Indonesian Migrant Domestic Workers in Hong Kong", on Saturday, September 26, 2009.

The CIC sponsored IU-Purdue AAST Conference '09 "Crossroads: Asian America/Asian Diaspora across Disciplines" was co-hosted by IU and Purdue University on Sep 25-26, 2009, here at the IUB campus. The conference was participated by about eighty scholars from various academic institutions across Midwest and Penn State University.



The faculty conference organizers Joan Linton from IUB (right) and Patsy Schweickart from Purdue University (left) at the banquet, on Saturday, September 26, 2009.



Panelists, Purnima Bose, Joel Wong, Carwina Weng (left to right) from the panel discussion on "Life as an Academic".



Presenter, Alexander Lu from IUB, presents "The failure to acquire citizenship: Legal framing in whiteness claims"

Profile

By Bertrand Teo

Joel Wong, Assistant Professor Counseling and Educational Psychology, School of Education



Photo from IU School of Education Web site.

Asian Americans seldom seek assistance for emotional and mental health problems compared to other races, says counseling psychology professor Joel Wong, thus the increased poignancy of such issues in their community.

Wong explores and addresses these problems and the solutions in his course "Being Asian Americans: Challenges of Identity and Adjustment" (AAST 300). Wong says the course is an introduction to

Asian American mental health and well being, with a psychological approach at racial-cultural and contextual factors that looks at Asian American well being.

"This course has two angles – the personal angle and the professional," says Wong. "From a personal angle, the course will help Asian Americans understand themselves, their identities, and reflect on the stressors of their bicultural experiences."

"From a professional angle, this course will provide insight into how psychologists view mental health and the intersection of culture and wellbeing. Students will be equipped to deal with issues related to race and culture in an increasingly multicultural workforce."

Wong received his PhD from the University of Texas at Austin and an LL.B. from the National University of Singapore. When not teaching, he can be found hiking and sampling local restaurant fare.

Debra Dean, Lecturer Asian American Studies Program

The Irish poet Patrick Kavanagh once said, "You begin dabbling in verses and they become your life." That has been the case for Debra Dean both as a poet and as a teacher.

"I didn't set out to be either," said Dean. "As a student of poetry, I was really trying very hard to "learn my trade" rather than thinking about teaching, which is why I pursued an MFA degree rather than a PhD."

This fall Dean teaches Introduction to Asian American Studies (A101).

She hopes that the course can help students reflect more deeply on and broaden perspectives on many contemporary issues relevant to a hyphenated identity in this country in the context of figuratively shrunken our world due technological changes.

"My goal is to provide students with a "story" that connects the history of Asians in America with some of the contemporary issues, such as immigration and citizenship, that are still with us today," she says. "I hope that through the lens Asian America, students will gain a clearer perspective on the present—and the future."

Dean received her MFA in Poetry from the University of Montana. She has published three collections of poetry and essays centered on being an Asian-American poet. She is a member of the IU Tai Chi Club.



Photo from Crossroads: IU-Purdue Asian American Studies Conference '09 Web site.

Profile

Mayumi Hoshino, IU graduate student in History

By Jason Nguyen

I recently had an opportunity to chat with Mayumi Hoshino, an IU graduate student in History. She majors in U.S. History with minors in Cultural History and Jewish Studies. Her current research and dissertation topic centers on Japanese immigrants in Chicago.

Jason: How did you get started at IU? What is your current status as a student?

Mayumi: I joined the graduate program in history in fall 2001. Initially, I started to get a master's degree in history, but after I received the degree in 2003, I decided to continue to pursue a PhD. My current status is ABD (all but dissertation).

Jason: Can you tell us a little about your work?

Mayumi: My research explores the ways in which earlier Japanese immigrants settled in Chicago, constructed their community, and developed it before WWII. In so doing, I hope to highlight the resilience of Japanese immigrants who remained subjects of the Empire of Japan while living in the Windy City as "good" immigrants. I am hoping to shed lights on the Japanese Chicagoan and their community, whose details have not been fully explored due to the community's small size.

However small their community, they did not simply discard their Japanese-ness to blend in the society. They tried to keep in touch with the Empire of Japan, and embrace their tradition and ethnic heritage while balancing with their status in the American society as "good" immigrants. This is slightly different from the situation on the west coast, where harsh anti-Japanese movement discouraged Japanese immigrants to remain patriotic subjects of the Empire of Japan, and also from European immigrants predominant in

the city, who tried to get "Americanized" as soon as possible. I would like to highlight toughness as well as resilience of Japanese Chicagoans who sustained a small community in the metropolitan Midwest.

Jason: How did you come to be involved with the Asian American Studies Program at IU? Has your involvement in the program's activities helped you in your research or your academic work more generally?

Mayumi: First, I was asked to be a student representative for a search committee for the director of AASP, and then I was asked to be a student representative for a search committee for an Asian American historian for my home department. Both experiences helped me interact with faculty members in related fields and get me involved in forming the foundation of the Asian American Studies Program at the very initial stage. Then I gradually attended AASP events, which actually had a lot to do with my research.

Jason: Do you have advice for other graduate students pursuing studies on Asian Americans and the Asian diaspora?

Mayumi: Asian American studies field is still relatively a new scholarly field, and thus there is a lot of room for us, younger scholars, to contribute. In that sense, it is really exciting to be a part of the field.

Thank you, Mayumi, for taking time from your busy schedule to share with us!



Photo from Crossroads: IU-Purdue Asian American Studies Conference '09 Web site.

Upcoming courses for fall 2010

New

AAST A101 Introduction to Asian American Studies (3 cr.) S & H

Instructor: Debra Dean

TR 9:30-10:45 a.m., SB 231

Explores the diversity of groups brought under the umbrella of "Asian American." Discussions include racial stereotyping and the mainstreaming of things Asian, like sushi and curry.

AAST A300 Topics in Asian American Studies

[Topic: Being Asian Americans: Challenges of Identity and Adjustment (3 cr.) CSA]

Instructor: Joel Wong

TR 4:00-5:15 p.m., BH 229

Addresses issues of Asian American ethnicity, culture, and race as they relate to mental health, psychopathology, and psychotherapy.

AAST A300 (Joint listed with AMST-A350) Topics in Asian American Studies (3 cr.)

Topic: Playing with Difference: Popular Cultures of Asia in America

Instructor: Karen Inouye

TR 11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m., BH 231

Examines the changing representation, and thus reception and conception, of Asians and Asian cultures in American popular media.

For more information on courses for fall 2010 or the undergraduate minor in Asian American Studies, please contact us at aasp@indiana.edu or visit our Web site: <http://www.indiana.edu/~aasp/>



Taste of Asia
Sponsored by the Asian American Association

When: Friday, April 16th, 2010
doors open at 5 pm
Where: IU Auditorium

Come experience a night of
Asian American culture

Featuring:
-Incredible performances
-FREE FOOD*

With generous donations from
Asian Culture Center, Office of Multicultural Initiatives


*for attendees only

ARC 2010 Event >> Talk with Jack Tchen

The urgency of knowing: building a
cross-cultural learning commons
April 15, 3 p.m. @ IMU Georgian Room

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