

# AAARI Spotlight

December 2008

## CUNY Conference on The Model Minority: Blessing or Curse?

Date: May 2009



## Spotlight Focus - of the month



Henry Chang is a New Yorker, a native son of Chinatown and the Lower East Side. His poems have appeared in the seminal *Yellow Pearl* anthology, and in *Gangs In New York's Chinatown*. He has written for *Bridge Magazine*, and his fiction has appeared in *On A Bed Of Rice* and in the *NuyorAsian Anthology*. His debut novel *Chinatown Beat* garnered high praise from the *New York Times Book Review*, the *Boston Globe*, the *Washington Post*, among others.

Henry Chang is a graduate of CCNY (City College of New York). He has been a lighting consultant, and a Security Director for major hotels, commercial properties, and retail businesses in Manhattan.

He is currently working on the third book of his 'Chinatown Trilogy,' a detective noir, and will give a talk on his second book, "Year of the Dog" at AAARI on Friday, December 12, 2008.

## Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Happy Holidays from AAARI! Barack Obama's election to the presidency is acknowledged by all as a historic event. For many, the fact that a Black man could be elected raises the hope that opportunities are indeed available for all. For some, especially the young who have grown up with role models like Gary Locke, Tiger Woods, Jerry Yang, Indra Nooyi, Andrea Jung and David Ho gracing the covers of national magazines, it seemed natural.

Regardless of whether or not he was your choice, it is clear that there is much to learn from how Obama ran his campaign. The key lesson is that he did not allow others to define him. He methodically combated the stereotypes that would keep him from getting his message across and connecting with the public on "who he is." We in the Asian American community can draw upon that lesson, and begin to set an

agenda where we define "who we are," rather than to allow those around us to do so.

In May 2009, we will be holding our annual conference entitled, "Model Minority – Blessing or Curse?" We will explore the issue of how Asian Americans are defined in the context of the US, how we see ourselves, and how we want to be seen. We will explore how being defined by others results in being left out when resources are being allocated, or being completely left out of the conversation, and most importantly what we can do about it, and how. Please join us ; we at AAARI look forward to working with you in this defining moment in our history (yes that was a pun).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Joyce Moy'.

Joyce Moy  
Executive Director

## 7th Annual AAARI Banquet



**10/30/08** - Over 500+ guests turned out for AAARI's 7th Annual Banquet and pre-banquet reception at Golden Bridge Restaurant in Manhattan's Chinatown. The evening's festivities were led by our gracious emcees Vivian Lee from NY1 News, and Dr. Victoria Ying from NYC College of Technology.

Honorees included NYC Council Speaker Christine Quinn; City College Alumnus, Aziz Ahmad; Author, Simon Winchester, and student recipients of the CUNY Thomas Tam Scholarship.

Missed the banquet? Watch the streaming video online at [www.aaari.info/2008banquet.htm](http://www.aaari.info/2008banquet.htm)



## News: Silk Road Study Nets Major Ford Foundation Grant for Prof. Tansen Sen (11/17/08)

A Baruch College history professor is among a team of scholars that has been awarded a \$525,000 grant from the Ford Foundation for a four-year project titled "Cross-Cultural Exchanges Along the Unknown (Southern) Silk Road." The ancient road, between China and India, once served as a major trade route between the two countries, but has been closed off since World War II. Now the governments of each country are looking to reopen it. One goal of the project is to examine the potential implications for both countries from an economic, political, cultural and environmental aspect, if the route were to reopen. **Source:** CUNY Newswire

**Asian American / Asian Research Institute**  
**The City University of New York**  
**25 West 43rd Street, Room 1000**  
**New York, NY 10036**



### About Us

Asian American / Asian Research Institute (AAARI) was established under the aegis of Queens College on November 19, 2001, by The City University of New York Board of Trustees, in a resolution introduced by Chancellor Matthew Goldstein.

AAARI is a university-wide scholarly research and resource center that focuses on policies and issues that affect Asians and Asian Americans.

### AAARI Board

Chairperson	Vice-Chair	Co Vice-Chair	Treasurer	Secretary
Betty Lee Sung	Hiroko Karan	Susan Wong	James Lap	Loretta Chin

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Ngee-Pong Chang, Zhao Chen, Nehru E. Cherukupalli, Linda T. Chin, Jennifer Hayashida, Nazrul Khandaker, Kiyoka Koizumi, Daxi Li, Rohit Parikh, Parmatma Saran, Tansen Sen, Brian Schwartz, Frank Shih, Lene Skou, Kyoko Toyama & Victoria Ying

**Executive Director** Joyce Moy

**Program Coordinator** Antony Wong

**Staff** Minyi Chou, Shashi Khanna, William Tam & Zhu-Hui Wu

### Upcoming Events

November 21, 2008

#### Friday Evening Lecture Series

Snapshot: A Demographic Profile of CUNY Asian American Students

Speaker: Cheryl Littman & Christine Wade (CUNY Office of Institutional Research and Assessment)

December 5, 2008

#### Friday Evening Lecture Series

Cooking from China's Fujian Province (Book Talk)

Author: Jacqueline M. Newman (Queens College)

December 12, 2008

#### Friday Evening Lecture Series

Detective Noir, Chinatown-Style (Book Talk)

Speaker: Henry Chang

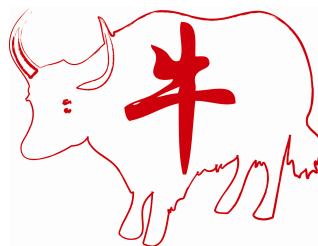
January 30, 2009

#### CUNY Asian Faculty & Staff: Lunar New Year Reception

May 29, 2009

#### 6th Annual CUNY Asian American Film Festival

### 2009 CUNY Asian Faculty & Staff: Lunar New Year Reception



**Date:** Friday, January 30, 2009

**Time:** 6PM to 8PM

**Place:** 25 West 43rd Street, 18th Fl between 5th & 6th Ave, Man.

**RSVP Deadline:** 1/19/09

**Note:** Reception is open to all CUNY Asian faculty and staff, non-Asians involved in Asian-related subjects, Asian students, and current AAARI members.

- The reception will introduce faculty and staff to the Asian American / Asian Research Institute; our mission as a university-wide scholarly research and resource center that focuses on policies and issues that affect Asians and Asian Americans and professional development opportunities and programs available.
- Attendees will have a valuable opportunity to meet and network with colleagues like themselves, from different fields across the twenty-three CUNY campuses.
- CUNY Trustee Wellington Chen among others will be on hand to give greetings at the reception.

**URL:** [www.aaari.info/09-01-30reception.htm](http://www.aaari.info/09-01-30reception.htm)



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