

❖ *Remembering Professor Lucie Cheng* ❖

ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER

Thousands of dedicated people have made the Asian American Studies Center what it is today. In this 40th anniversary of ethnic studies at UCLA, we pay special tribute to Lucie Cheng who was the Center's first permanent director and one of its most renowned, influential pioneering scholars and teachers.

During her 15-year tenure as director, Professor Cheng provided vision, leadership and unflinching commitment to developing an unrivaled Asian American Studies program. The Center laid the foundation for enduring core programs in research, teaching, publications, library and student leadership; recruited its first faculty and staff; and initiated many ties with rapidly growing Asian American and Pacific Island communities--in Asia and at UCLA. No other program has contributed to our field in as many ways.

Professor Cheng was a brilliant social scientist who appreciated and advanced theoretical and empirical understanding of Asian Americans at both local AND global levels. Her writings influenced researchers around the world and continue to be read and cited. She was also a very dedicated and innovative teacher. With her colleague, Melvin Oliver, she designed and taught the very popular and highly rated Social Science 20, UCLA's first comparative ethnic studies class.

Above all, Lucie was a fascinatingly complex person: a foodie, an entertaining pianist, a determined mahjong player, an engaging conversationalist, a global traveler, and much more. We will always remember her wonderful smile. And her legacy will benefit future generations.

David K. Yoo, Professor & Director

Don T. Nakanishi, Professor Emeritus & Former Director