

**A History of the Asian American Students Experience at
Indiana State University 1865-1965**

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Introduction

Indiana State University was established by the Indiana Legislature on December 20, 1865, as the Normal School in Terre Haute, a city in the heart of the Midwest. It opened its doors to receive its first enrollment of 21 students on January 6, 1870. Its purpose as stated in the legislative act was: “There shall be established and maintained, as hereinafter provided, a state normal school, the object of which shall be the preparation of teachers for teaching in the common schools of Indiana.” Remarkably, from its establishment, the School would be open to all regardless of race, creed, or religion.

However, despite its progressive relationship with students of African descent which dates back to its inception, ISU’s campus relationship with students of Asian descent only dates back to the late 1940s.

Even though this relationship only dates back to the late 1940s, before then the Teachers’ College had an indirect relationship with students of Asian descent through some of its graduates in the late 19th and early 20th centuries venturing to Asian countries to educate their indigenous populations. The Philippines (then a territory of the United States) seemed to be a popular teaching destination for several of the School’s graduates who documented their teaching experiences in the School’s newspaper *Normal Advance* (a combination newspaper and yearbook).

However, the first footprint of a student of Asian descent at Indiana State would not occur until the years immediately following World War II.

For purposes of this essay, “Asian” refers to persons who can trace their origins to any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent. It includes people from countries such as China, Japan, Korea, India, and the Philippines. Throughout this essay, the term “student of Asian descent” or “person of Asian descent” will be used to identify students (citizen or noncitizen) from these areas. In this essay, most of the students referred to as “students of Asian descent” are actually Hawaiian natives of Japanese descent.

This essay describes the first 100 years of the relationship of the Institution with Asian students and seeks to be only an introduction to this remarkable history which can open further study about this often overlooked ethnic group.

While Hawaiian students of Japanese descent were the most populous of the Asian students at Indiana State throughout the decades after World War II, and South Korean students a distant second (i.e., pre-engineering major Kyung Nai Choi), there were representatives of other Asian groups at Indiana State as well. Students from India and Hong Kong, then part of China, were

educated at Indiana State in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Sudhir Munshi from Bombay, India was a chemistry major and Samuel Chau, also chemistry major, was from Hong Kong. Japan was represented by Syoichi Kawasaki, a business major attending the School in the mid-1960s; the Philippines was represented with the presence of Teodora De Los Reyes from Manila. However, it would not be until the 1970s that these groups would attend Indiana State in any significant numbers or until other Asiatic groups would enroll at the School.

1865-1919

1865 to 1919 was the period of recovery and reconstruction for the United States. Out of the ashes of the American Civil War battlefields would emerge a modern nation with remarkable strides in manufacturing and technology, but what would also emerge was a nation that still had a long road to travel in terms of its treatment of minority groups.

For persons of Asian descent in this country, as historian Ronald Takaki has so eloquently coined it, “it was a time of strangers from a different shore.” The first footprints of Asians in any great numbers in the United States or its territories were the Chinese, Koreans, Japanese, and Filipinos who arrived in Hawaii to work as laborers in the lucrative sugar cane industry in the late Nineteenth century. Of course there were many Chinese who were brought to the U.S. in the 1870s and 1880s to work on railroad construction in the western United States. These “strangers from a different shore” were often victims of both personal and employment discrimination. The personal discriminatory practices would often manifest themselves in the form of caricatures and racial jokes with employment discrimination in the form of significantly lower wages for the same work and harsher working conditions in comparison to their European counterparts.

At Indiana State this period marked a time of growth under the leadership of three presidents (William Albert Jones, George Brown, and William Parsons). At the same time, however, its growth did not extend, despite its purpose, to students of all races, notably missing from the student or faculty bodies were members of minority groups other than African American students.

Unlike African American students who were enrolled continuously at the School at this time, during this period there is no existing record of students of Asian descent having been enrolled at the Normal School. Most students of Asian descent were concentrated in the Western part of the United States in states such as California and Nevada or in the territory of Hawaii. Many students of Asian descent at colleges at this time were not pursuing education degrees, the only degree offered at the Normal School during these early years, but were rather pursuing degrees in industrial education. To this end, many students of Asian descent were studying industrial education at historical Black colleges and universities (HBCUs), such as the Tuskegee Institute (Alabama) and Hampton Universities (Virginia) (see Booker T. Washington’s *Up From Slavery* for more information on this phenomenon). Such schools opened their doors to students of Asian

descent almost from their founding because many historical White colleges and universities initially closed their doors to this population.

At this time in American history, Asian Americans, especially members of the Chinese culture, were considered inferior to their White counterparts and often depicted in a stereotypical and even derogatory manner. This was evident at Indiana State in that members of the Chinese culture were often depicted in caricatures (Pictures of them with large slanted eyes and men with extremely long ponytails were commonplace). During these decades, there are many such references to this group in the *Normal Advance*. During the School's early years, the yearbook is peppered with derogatory references and observations about people of Asian descent. For example, the October 1902 *Normal Advance* (p.20) contains a republished joke (originally found in the magazine *Woman's Home Companion*):

Here's a letter from Miranda at College. She says she is in love with ping-pong. She is, hey? Well, she'd better give him up; we ain't going to stand for no Chinamen marrying into this family.

Of course, there's a play on words here, the reference to the game of ping-pong being used as a derogatory term for a person of Chinese descent. Then and now this joke would be considered offensive to people of Asian descent and to some members of other cultures as well.

And, in 1906, the *Normal Advance* included another such derogatory play on words with the entry, "all tales are fruit of imagination, except those of the Chinaman," of course referring to the long hair often worn in a ponytail by men of Asian descent at this time (p.350). In 1912 this preoccupation with Chinese men's hair presented itself again in the joke page (p.168) of the *Normal Advance*:

A china man is a curious specimen of humanity because he has a head and a tail on the same end.

Other aspects of the Chinese culture appeared to be fair game for the student pundits as well. The language of, or rather the *Normal* editors' perceived language of people of Chinese descent, did not appear to be off-limits at this time:

A Chinaman's version of a school teacher:

Teachee, teachee

All day teachee;

Night markee papers.

Nerves all creepee.

No one kissee,

No one huggee,
For did maidee,
No one lovee.

(*Normal Advance*, January 1912, p.103)

While people of Chinese descent often were depicted in a less than favorable light by the editors of the *Normal Advance*, one Asian group appeared to be depicted more favorably. There appeared to be a fascination among the School's students with the Japanese culture during the early decades of the Twentieth century. The fascination with this Asian group would show itself again some 40 years later.

In 1906, a student Japanese Club was formed under the umbrella of the missionary department of the local YMCA. The purpose of this group was to learn more about Japan, its customs and its people. The organizers felt that there was a need for the club due to the "wonderful awakening" of Japan at this time (*Normal Advance*, 1906, p.51). There were approximately 50 student members of the club. An official textbook and regular lectures were a part of the club. The club could even boast the presence of the prestigious Professor Francis Stalker as its advisor (Today's ISU's Stalker Hall is named after him). It is not known how long the club was in existence; by World War II, it was defunct.

This apparent fascination with Japanese culture was also evident in 1907 when a graduate student from Japan, a student at Merom College, was asked to give the chapel exercises (religious readings) at the School. In his presentation, the student compared the morality of the United States with that of Japan and of course, the United States was presented in a more favorable light. He argued that since Christianity had been introduced to Japan that there was much hope for his home country. The speaker seemed to be favorably received.

Upon his return from seven years as a missionary in Japan, Professor James Woodworth became an immensely popular professor at the School, often being asked to recount his experiences there. He even made a gift to William T. Turman, Professor of Art (Turman Gallery) of a representative collection of Japanese watercolors and oil paintings to be displayed at the School.

But while there appeared to be a fascination with students of Japanese descent at the School during these decades, there are no documented cases of students of Japanese descent or of any other Asian culture attending the institution at this time in the School's history.

1920s and 1930s

The 1920s and 1930s were the decades of new found freedoms, a savage depression, and Roosevelt's New Deal. The 1920s was the decade of the Harlem Renaissance, Prohibition, and women's right to vote, Penicillin, the Stock Market Crash, the Great Depression, and the Immigration Act of 1924. The 1930s were notable for the Empire State Building; Amelia

Earhart; the end of Prohibition; the Dust Bowl; Social Security; the Hindenburg; Public Law 162 (which granted hundreds of Asian veterans who served in United States Armed Forces the right to apply for citizenship); and the establishment in San Francisco of the first all Chinese Professional Basketball Team.

The 1920s were innovative and gilded for some, but the latter years were hard and lean for most Americans and persons living in this country. Persons of Asian descent worldwide witnessed a period of strict immigration restriction laws and American isolationism. No Asian group was immune from these laws (although persons of Filipino origin initially fared better due to the Philippines' destination as a territory of the United States). The 1924 Immigration Act (also known as the Johnson–Reed Act), which contained the “Oriental Exclusion Act,” put strict restrictions on the number of Asians who could enter the United States, and in effect banned most immigration from Asian countries. In 1935, Congress also put significant restrictions on Filipino immigration. In essence, these laws reflected an era of racial exclusion.

For people of Asian descent already in this country, it was a time of endurance. While some chose repatriation and returned to their native lands, many others chose to remain in the United States and suffer harsh treatment in order to make a better life for their children and grandchildren. Despite this often harsh and discriminatory treatment, this population endured.

At Indiana State, it was the decades of greater prestige for the School. In 1920, ISNS became Indiana State Teachers College, four-year programs of studies were now offered, a graduate school was established (1927), and the physical campus expanded. The presidents of the Normal School and later Indiana State Teachers College were Linnaeus N. Hines (1921-1930) and Ralph Tirey (1930-1953). Both Hines and Tirey were Indiana University graduates who hailed from the Midwest.

Unfortunately, this researcher could not find or document any presence of students of Asian descent at Indiana State during these decades nor any faculty or staff of Asian descent. There, did however, continue to be an interest in many aspects of the Japanese culture at the School. The girls' physical education department had a folk dancing exhibition in which several countries' dance customs were represented, including Japan's. The Japanese fan dance was performed with the students adorned in traditional Japanese costumes. And, in 1921, there was an “Evening in Japan” presented by the girls literary society. Both of these events were displayed prominently in the School's yearbooks.

1940s

The 1940s was the decade of World War II and subsequent rebuilding. The United States had been triumphant and had fought against not only Germany but Japan, the country of which students at Indiana State had been so curious.

For Japanese Americans in this country in the 1940s, it was the decade of heartbreak and dislocation. In the year after the bombing of Pearl Harbor (December 7, 1941), about 120,000 people of Japanese descent and about 70,000 Japanese Americans, particularly those on the West Coast, were forced to relocate to camps (that were akin to concentration camps) by President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066 and Congress' Public Law 503, which imposed penal sanctions against anyone disobeying Order 9066 (the act was rescinded in 1944). While one of the public rationales behind this forced relocation was to ensure the safety of this group of people, this relocation was also fueled by the idea by some in authority that west coast Japanese had a sinister connection to the country of Japan, an enemy of the United States. The forced relocation of this population is considered a nadir in the history of the United States. No similar camps were established for German or Italian citizens or residents of the U.S.

At Indiana State, it was a time of significant physical growth. The Student Union Building and the Fine Arts Building were two of the buildings realized at this time. President Tirey continued his reign as the 5th president of the School.

How was life for students of Asian descent at Indiana State? Unfortunately, this researcher still could not document any presence of students of Asian descent at Indiana State during the first years of the decade, or even students of Japanese descent. In 1941 Javanese Dancers from Indonesia did grace Tilson Hall as one of the featured performers for the annual Convocation Series. The event was widely attended and was reported favorably in both the school newspaper and in the 1941 yearbook.

Not until World War II was concluded did Asian immigration to the U.S. begin to rise. In 1947 there would also be a significant change at Indiana State when the first Asian American footprint appeared at Indiana State. It was in 1947 that Jane Kugiya, a student of Japanese descent hailing from the Honolulu, Hawaii, enrolled as a student at the School. It is the researcher's contention that Kugiya was the first student of Asian descent to attend Indiana State. Previous reports credit Takeshi Moriwaki, also of Japanese descent from Hawaii, with that honor. However, Kuriga arrived at the School several months before Moriwaki's arrival. While he was the first male student of Asian descent, she was the first female and the first student of Asian descent at the Institution. It is the researcher's contention that Setsue Mizuba became the third student of Asian descent (Japanese) and the third student from Hawaii to attend the School.

All three of these students hailed from Honolulu, Hawaii and were American citizens since at this time, Hawaii, though not a state, was a territory of the United States. It would become a state in 1959.

Kugiya, Moriwaki, and Mizuba were only three of the many students of Japanese descent who hailed from Hawaii who would attend Indiana State from 1947 to 1965. Why did so many Hawaiian students of Asian descent attend the School? The School did not have significant recruitment master plan in which they purposefully recruited this group of students, but rather

students chose the Institution because it was located in the Midwest, which was a desired location for this population and they chose it because of the School's stellar reputation as a teachers college, education being the desired major of the majority of this group of students. The students who were interviewed by this researcher all agree that the reasons they remained at the School and recommended it to their family and friends were largely due to the great education that they believe they received, the friendliness of Midwestern people, and the welcoming and inviting atmosphere of the School.

In referring to the School's reputation, Wynona (Koga) Matsui, a Hawaiian native who attended the College from 1952-1956, contended in a November 2013 interview that, "most of us went into teaching because that was one of the only professions open to women at the time. We knew that we could get a good education and a teaching degree at Indiana State Teachers College." Matsui did receive an education degree from ISTC and after teaching for a two year stint in the Midwest, returned to Hawaii where she taught in the elementary schools for 27 years.

In the area of academics, like their African American counterparts, students of Asian descent often declared that they were treated fairly by their professors and their fellow classmates. They appeared to be equal participants in the classroom and were not relegated to seats at the back of the classroom or to an inferior position.

As for as athletics, unlike their African American counterparts who were prolific and often popular athletes at the School, there are no documented instances of students of Asian descent participating in any official or intramural sports during the 1940s.

Remarkably, unlike their African American counterparts, students of Asian descent lived in on campus housing. Evidence suggests that Asian students lived in Reeve Hall for women and Parsons Hall for men simultaneously with their enrollment at the School in the late 1940s. The privilege of living in on campus housing would not be granted to Black students until the early to mid-1950s. And, students of Asian descent did not have to endure restrictions on room or roommate assignments as did their African American counterparts.

In the area of clubs and organizations, this group of students was just as active as both their White and Black counterparts. Students of Asian descent were members of popular clubs and organizations at this time, including the Veterans Club of which Moriwaki and Mizuba were members, and the *Sycamore* Yearbook Club of which Hawaii native Eleanor Yamato was a member.

Significantly, there was one area that was open to this population that had been denied their African American counterparts until the end of the Twentieth century: national traditionally White sororities and fraternities. While Black students were being denied admittance to sororities and fraternities at the School, the doors to some of these historically White organizations were open to this group. In fact, Kugiya became a member of Psi Theta sorority, an on campus social sorority. In 1947, the sorority began its year with an "Oriental Party." Their skit for the annual

Campus Revue was centered on Kugiya and was called “Dance to the Princess.” Several sorority girls danced in honor of Kugiya, the exotic Hawaiian princess. It is not known if the young women realized that the skit had racial overtones and was in fact stereotypical in nature.

Moriwaki and Mizuba were also members of a social organization, being among the approximately 100 White members of Delta Lambda Sigma fraternity, an Indiana State social fraternity.

Even though the doors were open to members of this population in both the School’s clubs and organizations and in the traditionally White national sororities and fraternities, students of Asian descent simultaneously belonged to their own organizations as well. They continued to participate in the International Relations Club, a club that had its origins on the campus in the late 1940s.

1950s

The 1950s in the United States was the decade of the Cold War, Sputnik, Rock and Roll, the Little Rock Nine, the *Brown* decisions by the Supreme Court, Evelyn Kawamoto (the first Japanese American woman to win an Olympic medal), the Walter-McCarran Act (act which allowed Japanese immigrants to become naturalized citizens), the Kim Sisters (Korean performers who made numerous appearances on the Ed Sullivan Show), and Americans of Asian descent Dalip Singh Saund, Hiram Fong, Daniel Inouye, and Spark Matsunaga being elected to Congress.

For Americans of Asian descent in the United States in the 1950s it was a time of rebuilding and endurance. On the heels of their shameful internment in camps by the United States government, people of Japanese descent in this country had to rebuild their lives and in some cases find a new life. This discriminatory treatment was not confined to just people of Japanese descent; people of Asian descent in general had fallen victim to the discrimination. But despite the hardships and obstacles, Asian Americans persevered and built good lives for their future generations.

During the 1950s, now the Indiana State Teachers College continued to grow in physical size and population. Several dorms were added, including Burford and Erickson Halls. The presidents during this decade were President Tirey who served until 1953 and Raleigh Holmstedt, a Nebraska native and Columbia University graduate, who served from 1953 to 1965.

For students of Asians descent at the School, it was a time of full participation in college life. During the 1950s at any given time, the number of students of Asian descent averaged 30 to 35 students.

In the area of academics, this group, according to anecdotal evidence from several interviewees, performed fairly well. The students continued to achieve in the classroom and graduate with their respective degree, specifically in education related fields. Students of Asian descent also

continued to be part of the graduate student ranks, in particular Hawaiian students Mae Fujimoto, Janet Ishiyama, and Paul Masui. There appeared to be no classroom segregation. Students of Asian descent who attended ISTC at that time believed that they were treated fairly by their instructors and believed that the professors were great. In a November 2013 interview with Aika Ota Kimura, an elementary education major from Hawaii attending the Teachers College in the mid-1950s, she stated that, “The professors were great. I enjoyed them.” Kimura even roomed with an ISTC professor and his wife, Dr. and Mrs. John Lamb, for her three year tenure at the College. Eiko (Judy) Hidani Nishimura, a special education major and former Reeve Hall resident from Hawaii, concurred with Kimura in a November 2013 interview recalling an event when the professors went out of their way to help the Hawaiian and other students:

Around 1954, many of the female students in the dorms got food poisoning. Everyone was very very sick. We all missed a lot of school. The teachers were very helpful. They worked with us. I was in the infirmary for a week for I was very ill. My professors were helpful to me.

Hawaii native Wynona (Koga) Matsui enjoyed the learning environment that she was a part of and some 60 years later she has fond memories of her student teaching, “I loved student teaching and I was very fond of my student teaching supervisor.”

Remarkably, one of those professors that treated the students well was one of their own. In 1959, Dr. Liang Lin Hsiao from China taught in the area of economics in the social sciences department. He arrived at the College about three years before the first African American faculty member, Dr. James Conyers, joined the faculty in the same department (Sociology). Both Dr. Conyers and Dr. Hsiao remained at the School until their retirements in the 1990s. Dr. Katherine Hsiao, wife of Liang, also later joined the faculty in the field of economics and also retired in the 1990s. She is believed to be the first woman of Asian descent to teach at Indiana State.

Dr. Frank Hayashida would join the Speech faculty in spring of 1959 as a part-time faculty member. However, unfortunately there would not be additional faculty of Asian descent hired at the College until 1963 when Dr. Jiang Luh joined the Mathematics faculty.

In the area of sports, compared to their White and Black student counterparts whose members were on every major sport and intramural sport teams, students of Asian descent were not as well represented in either arena. During this decade there were few athletes of Asian descent in the major sports at Indiana State. Kil Lee of Seoul, South Korea; Al Watanabe of Hawaii; and Melvin Hirose of Hawaii, however, were three such athletes. In 1959, Kil Lee was a very popular and successful tennis player. Beginning in 1959, Al Watanabe was a star on the swim team. In 1959, Hirose was also on the swim team. That same year, he broke a School record by swimming the 200 yard butterfly with a time of 2:42.2. He was also a part of the four man 400 yard medley relay that broke the School record with a time of 4:41.2.

In the realms of housing/eating facilities, unlike their African American counterparts who were not allowed to live on campus until the early to mid-1950s and even then could not room with anyone outside their race, students of Asian descent continued to live in the dorms and could room with students of any race. Jeannette Inaba, Hawaii native who attended ISC in the mid-1950s, roomed with three White female students and loved the women's dorm. In an October 2013 interview with the author she stated:

I loved my experience at Indiana State. There were four girls in one room, three White girls and myself. We had a good time. I recently attended my fiftieth reunion with those same girls from the dorm that I roomed with.

However, there is no documented case of any student of Asian descent rooming with any member of the Black race. Nishimura remembered the early 1950s to mid-1950s rooming arrangements:

I always had White friends and White roommates. They put Black girls together in the dorms. Black girls lived in the hall but lived in their own rooms. I didn't really know why Black girls were by themselves....Back then I was uneducated about racial matters.

Students of Asian descent could dine at any dorm or commuter eating establishment they chose, and they could sit with anyone they wished to for there were no racial restrictions or norms at the eating facilities on campus for this population at this time. However, while they could eat at the dorm without falling victim to discriminatory practices or customs, there were certain protocols that all the students had to follow. The School had a formal dining policy, a policy in which all students had to dress up and engage in formal dining every evening. Nishimura also reminisced about the dining customs at ISTC in the 1950s:

We ate at the dining room in the residential hall. Everyone had to be dressed. Everyone sat together, Black and White, Asian, all sat together. Each student had a different table every week to get to know each other better.

Not only did the students of Asian descent dine at the residential facilities, remarkably they also had the privilege of dining with the College's president Dr. and Mrs. Tirey on occasion. The President would often invite the students of Asian descent to dine with him and his wife. It is not known at this time if members of any other racial group were extended such an invitation. Unfortunately, lamented 1950s graduate Nishimura, the succeeding president, Dr. Raleigh Holmstedt, did not continue this practice.

In the 1950s, students of Asian descent continued to be active in great numbers in various school clubs and organizations. The American Council on Education was very popular with this group of students (Emi Watanabe, Beverly Yanagawa, Hisako Murata, Stella Farm, Elaine Hirata, Elaine Kimizuka, Mae Inaba, Theone Inabe, Ellen Haitzuka, and Richard Hidani). The Elementary Club was also popular (Jeannette Inaba, Beverly Yanagawa, Eiko Hidani Nishimura,

and Emi Watanabe). Future Teachers of America could also boost several students of Asian descent (Stella Farm, Mae Inaba, Theone Inabe, Wynona Koga, Sachiko Nashibi, and Yurika Kimizuka).

Other clubs and organizations that remained popular were Alpha Beta Alpha (national library fraternity); Blue Key; Commerce Club; Dolphin Club; Alpha Phi Omega (National Service Fraternity); Foreign Language; Kappa Delta Pi (national honorary society in education); Pi Omega Pi (national business education fraternity); Student Council; Sycamore Yearbook; Veterans Club; the Women's Residence Hall Council; and Who's Who In American Colleges and Universities (Takeshi Moriwaki became the first student of Japanese descent chosen for the Who's Who honor in 1950).

Clubs that students of Asian descent became a part of for the first time in the 1950s included President's Assembly (Sylvia Yap); Dolphin Club (Mae Inaba); Latin Club (Clarence Uyehara); Canterbury Club (Ruth Kim); and Home Economics Club (Carol Uehara).

In the realm of national social fraternities and sororities, students of Asian descent continued to be represented in these organizations while their African American counterparts were still denied admittance. However, while Asian students were admitted to these organizations, it was never in any great numbers. Four significant examples are Moriwaki who in 1951 was a member of Forum, a campus based social fraternity established in late 1900s and Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE), a national social fraternity founded in 1899; Richard Hidani and Clarence Uyehara, also were members of TKE; and Sylvia Yap, a member of Alpha Sigma Alpha (a national social sorority founded in 1901), who in 1956 became the president of the Panhellenic Council.

In the area of fraternity life, what is ironic here is that in 1956, an Asian member of a traditionally White fraternity appeared in black face with his White brothers (also in black face) in a Campus Revue skit. Black face skits, although commonplace at the College, were considered derogatory to members of the Black race and to some members of other races as well.

For students of Asian descent, being members of traditionally White fraternities and sororities at the College was a significant feat. What was even more significant was that at a time when members of various minority groups were being systematically deprived of their rights and in some southern states denied admittance to White universities, a mixed race fraternity Pi Lambda Phi was colonized on the Indiana State campus in 1958. The fraternity, which had been established with the primary purpose of inclusion, could boast Asian, Black and White brothers, a rare occurrence at predominately White institutions in the United States. Herb Torigoe (1959) and Herbert Shigemoto (1959) were members of the fraternity.

Although the various clubs, and to some degree the national traditionally White fraternities and sororities, opened their doors to students of Asian descent, this group of students continued to belong to their own social clubs. One such organization was the International Relations Club, which continued to be popular with Asian students. The irony is that the students of Japanese

descent from Hawaii were not foreign students, but rather American citizens, Hawaii having become a territory of the United States in the late Nineteenth century. However, to students at ISTC and perhaps too many in America, Hawaiians were still viewed as “other,” “exotic,” and “foreign.” And, from anecdotal evidence gathered by the researcher, these students of Asian descent from Hawaii continued to view themselves as “foreign” and sought refuge and comfort with other international students. The students also continued to belong to the Hawaii Club. In the early to mid-1950s the club could boast some 45 members, most of its members Hawaiian natives. The Club filled in the culture gap for many of the students of Asian descent. The ISTC Hawaiian Club would often get together with the Hawaiian Clubs of other colleges such as Indiana University. St. Louis and Chicago were popular destinations for ISTC Hawaiian students to visit and connect with other Hawaiian students and groups. Ralph Ichikawa, Purdue University graduate and husband of the late 1956 Indiana State graduate Sachi (Nisibia) Ichikawa, recalled the Chicago days:

Chicago was the main meeting place for the Hawaiian students. The Wabash YMCA was the place that we would all meet up. All the Illinois and Indiana Hawaii students met there. Several Indiana State students including my future wife Sachi would go up there to meet. We had fun there.

Members of the ISTC Hawaiian Club would often perform for local groups and organizations for whom they would dance the hula and play the ukulele, both traditional Hawaiian art forms.

Not only did students of Asian descent participate in traditionally White fraternities and sororities, but they also participated in an area that their African American counterparts rarely participated in: on-campus student employment. And on the rare occasion when Black students were given such positions, they were relegated to menial positions (taken from the *African American Student Experience at Indiana State University 1870-1970*, Crystal Reynolds, 2013). However, students of Asian descent were given positions that were equal in stature to their White counterparts. For example, in 1954 the same year as the historic *Brown versus Board of Education* decision, Eiko Nishimura held the positions of student worker in the Alumni Office and campus bookstore employee, highly visible positions on campus. And remarkably in 1955, she became the assistant director of Reeve Hall, the women’s residence hall, a position not held by an African American until the 1970s.

It would appear as if students of Asian descent attained some measure of full participation in the college life at ISTC. This full participation also manifested itself in other areas as well. This group was frequent attendees at mixed college dances and balls. In 1952, Herb Torigoe and his Asian date attended the Christmas Ball sponsored by the Student Union. In fact he and his date were prominently featured in the 1952 yearbook enjoying the festivities.

1960s (1960-1965)

The 1960s was a time of great social change for the United States. The first half of the 1960s witnessed the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, the beginning of the war in Vietnam, Patsy Takemoto Mink of Hawaii becoming the first American woman of Asian descent to serve in Congress, and the passage of the Hart-Cellar Act (October 1965) abolishing the 1924 immigration quota system.

For people of Asian descent in this country, it was a time of increased opportunity. Caught in the wave of the American Civil Rights Movement, people of Asian descent gained a voice and won rights. The new immigration policies that began in 1965 allowed for the future growth of Asian peoples in this country throughout the remainder of the decade.

At ISU, it was a time of increased enrollment, program expansion, and most importantly, a new classification: University. Raleigh Holmstedt continued his tenure as president until relinquishing the reigns to the charismatic Alan Carson Rankin, a Kansas native and Syracuse University graduate, who began his ten year stint in 1965.

During the first half of the 1960s, students of Asian descent continued to call Indiana State home. Enrollment of students from several Asiatic countries and the state of Hawaii continued.

With an average enrollment of between 30 to 35 students of Asian descent, in the first half of the 1960s in the area of academics, this group continued to achieve in the classroom and graduate. Students were represented in several majors but education continued to be the most popular major. Students of Asian descent were now also a greater part of the graduate student population. Hawaii native Diane (Kinayo) Osumi was one of a handful of students of Asian descent who pursued a graduate degree at the School at this time; she received a Master of Science degree in the field of special education in 1962.

The students could even boast of having several members of Asian descent in the faculty ranks: Dr. Liang Lin Hsiao (1959) in Economics, Frank Hayashida (1959) in Speech, Dr. Jiang Luh (1963) in Mathematics, Akhtar H. Siddiqi (1964) in Geography, Dr. Katharine Hsiao (1964) in Economics, Dr. Narsi Patel (1964) in Sociology, and Dr. Rajpal S. Rathee (1965) in Sociology. There was even a reference librarian of Asian descent, Kai Ian Pang (1965).

Although students of Asian descent continued to be underrepresented in major sports as well as in intramural sports, this population could take comfort in having two star athletes, Kil Lee and Albert Watanabe. Lee was a star tennis player from Seoul, South Korea from the late 50s and Watanabe was a standout swimmer from Hawaii in the early 1960s. In 1962, Kil Lee was inducted into the prestigious I-Men's Club, which was only open to the best athletes at the School. His induction into the Club came on the heels of his having led the tennis team to an undefeated season and tying for third place with DePauw University in the Intercollegiate College Conference (ICC) Tournament. The researcher believes that this was the first time in the

School's history that a student of Asian descent was named to the Club. Al Watanabe followed Lee shortly after in 1963 becoming the second student of Asian descent on the prestigious I-Men's Club. To date, this researcher has not uncovered any record of a female student of Asian descent participating in any organized sport at this time.

Watanabe enjoyed his time on the swim team and believed he shared a true camaraderie with his fellow swimmers as well as other athletes both White and Black. Referring to his fellow swimmers he had this to say, "As far as the swim team, all the guys were great. I have a tremendous amount of gratitude to those guys."

Housing/eating facilities continued to maintain the status quo during the early half of the decade. Students of Asian descent continued to live in on campus housing in significant numbers and often roomed with White or Asian students. The researcher could not find any documented case of an Asian student rooming with a member of the Black race at this time at Indiana State. This population continued to serve on the women's and men's residential hall committees helping to shape dorm policy.

Another residential facility proved significant at this time for this population as well. In a December 9, 2013 interview, 1962 alumna, Osumi recalled the great experience she had as a resident of the local YWCA, which was located only a short distance from campus. She and seven other women students from various local colleges roomed there in the early 1960s:

I stayed at Reeve Hall, and then I moved to the YWCA and lived there for the remainder of my stay in Terre Haute. I think two years. There were seven of us who lived there. There were girls from the local beauty school, business school, and the College. We cooked our meals and enjoyed our stay there.

Watanabe, however, lived in the TKE fraternity house during his junior and senior years in college. For this population, living in a fraternity or a sorority house was a rare occurrence since very few students of Asian descent were members of such organizations.

Students continued to eat at on campus eateries. While the dorms made no special dietary accommodations for the students of Asian descent, the food was palatable.

Students of Asian descent remained a presence in fair numbers in on-campus clubs and organizations as had been the practice in the 1950s. Education clubs such as the Elementary Club and the American Council on Education continued to be popular among this group of students. And, beginning a new trend, students of Asian descent became members of several clubs for the first time. Patsy Nakagaya was a member of Athenaeum, an organization for physical education majors and the Women's Recreation Association Council; Jong Ra of Seoul, South Korea was a member of the Social Studies Club and the Political Science Club; Sharon Chiang from Hong Kong (China) and Hiromi Kimizuka from Hawaii were members of the Newman Club (religious club); Kimizuka was also a member of the Science Club and Young Republicans;

Sudhir Munshi of Bombay, India was a member of the Science Club; and Linda Fukunaga from Maui, Hawaii was a member of both the science and social studies clubs.

However, the participation of students of Asian descent in traditionally White national social fraternities and sororities appears to have been on the decline during the first-half of the 1960s. When asked if she was a member of a social sorority, Osumi stated that “No, Asians were generally not included in those social sororities.” However, there was one fraternity that continued to embrace students of Asian descent: TKE. Al Watanabe was a member of the fraternity in the early 1960s. Fifty years later, discussing what it was like to be in an all-White fraternity at Indiana State, Watanabe stated in a December 2013 interview with the researcher that he believes his race was never an issue:

The guys were all down to earth. I never thought about race. The guys were all blue collar people like I was used to back home. It never dawned on me that I was the exception. I was just one of the guys.

Students of Asian descent continued to be members of the mixed race fraternity Pi Lambda Phi.

Asian clubs remained strong at this time. Both the International Club and the Hawaii Club (the official name was Keiko O’ Hawaii Club) continued to have strong participation. The International Club in 1960 had 11 students of Asian descent. In 1963, the Hawaiian Club which appears to have been very popular and at its zenith, had 18 Hawaiian students of Japanese descent.

Interestingly not only did students of Asian descent from Hawaii continue to flow into the campus during the first half of the decade, but Indiana State University now offered a scholarship for a student from the United States Mainland to study the Chinese or Japanese language in Hawaii. The Hawaii Scholarship was valued at \$4500.00 and was to be given to a liberal arts upperclass student to study either Asian language during 12 weeks of intensive study in Hawaii followed by one year of language study on campus. (This scholarship is now defunct).

Conclusion

This essay is only meant as a survey on the history of students of Asian descent at Indiana State University from the School’s inception to the mid-1960s. An often overlooked group, the students of Asian descent were very much a part of the fabric of the University from their first footprint in 1947 to the mid-1960s and the advent of the Civil Rights Movement to today where several Asiatic countries are represented on campus. Students of Asian descent left their mark on the campus and in society at large. Remarkably many of these students went on to have long and stellar teaching careers in various school systems around the country with Hawaii being the most common teaching destination. Students who were interviewed unanimously proclaim that they received a world class education at Indiana State, an education that prepared them to educate countless students across the country and the world.

The second half of the 1960s witnessed a decline in the Hawaiian student population. However, in the 1970s, the enrollment of students from several Asian countries increased. On the heels of the end of the conflict in Vietnam, several students from South Vietnam and Cambodia enrolled at many American universities, including Indiana State. The 1980s was remarkable for the large number of students from Malaysia enrolled at the School. Approximately 800 students from Malaysia were enrolled at Indiana State during the last half of the 1980s. However, for a myriad of reasons, this population declined during the 1990s.

Today, the campus can be proud that students from all over the globe, including many Asian countries, attend Indiana State University. The University can also be proud that there are several Asian American faculty members on campus, perhaps the largest number of faculty of Asian descent in the School's history. Remarkably, ISU alumni can be found on all the inhabited continents.

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