



JAWAUCB Keynote Speakers 1991 - 1999

1991

Yori Wada UC Regent

Yori Wada, UC Regent, addressed "The Mission of Higher Education."

Wada, the first Asian American UC Regent (1977-1992), was the former Executive Director of the Buchanan YMCA in San Francisco, California. In 2017 he was elected to the YMCA'S Wall of Fame.

Wada received a BA, Journalism and certificate in Social Work from UC Berkeley.

Wada passed away in 1997.





1992

Peggy K. Takahashi, PhD

Associate Professor, University of San Francisco

Peggy K. Takahashi addressed international business developments in Japan. She was a JAWAUCB graduate scholarship recipient in the 1983-1984 academic year.

Takahashi is currently Associate Professor and Undergraduate Programs Associate Dean, at the University of San Francisco. Her primary focus is international business management with research including organizational strategy and policy, and comparative studies of East Asian business with a concentration on Japan.

She received a BA in Asian Studies from Pomona College. She also received an MA in Asian Studies, an MBA and a PhD in Business Administration from UC Berkeley.

1993

Chang-Lin Tien, PhD

Chancellor, UC Berkeley

At a joint dinner with the California Japanese American Alumni Association, UC Berkeley Chancellor Chang-Lin Tien spoke on "Diversity at the University."

He was Chair of the Academic Senate's Committee on the Status of Ethnic Minorities and Women and was instrumental in recognizing the Nisei of the Class of '42 at their graduation ceremony in 1992. From 1990-97, Tien, a professor of Mechanical Engineering, was an outspoken supporter of equal opportunity in higher education.

He received a BS in Mechanical Engineering from National Taiwan University, an Masters in Mechanical Engineering from University of Louisville and a PhD in Mechanical Engineering from Princeton University.

He passed away in 2002.



1994

Evelyn Nakano Glenn, PhD

Chair of Ethnic Studies, Professor
UC Berkeley

Dr. Evelyn Nakano Glenn was UC Berkeley's Chair of Ethnic Studies and Professor of Women's Studies, was the keynote speaker and recipient of the Outstanding Alumna Award.

Currently, she is Professor Emerita of Gender and Women's Studies and Ethnic Studies. She was founding director of the Center for Race and Gender, an organized research unit. Her teaching and research interests center on comparative race and gender studies focusing on political economy, immigration, labor, and citizenship. She also works in the areas of critical race and feminist theory and transdisciplinary methods.

She received a BA in Psychology from UC Berkeley and PhD in Social Psychology from Harvard.



1995

Sara Ishikawa

Architect

Sara Ishikawa shared about her family and her work.

She is an architect and Professor Emerita specializing in people-space relationships at urban and smaller scales with a particular interest in affordable and low income housing and community facilities. She co-authored a series of books, including "A Pattern Language." Since 1990, Professor Ishikawa worked on community housing projects in San Francisco and the East Bay. She served as Assistant Planner for the Oakland City Planning Department and Program Developer for the Western Addition and Chinatown Anti-Poverty Program in San Francisco.

She received a Bachelors of Architecture from UC Berkeley. She was the JAWAUCB Outstanding Alumnae in 2012.





1996

Beckie Masaki

Director, Activist

Beckie Masaki spoke on "From the Asia Women's Shelter to Asia: Local and Global Perspectives on Asian Women's Human Rights."

She was Director of the Asian Women's Shelter, San Francisco, Associate Director of the Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence, a National Resource Center on gender violence in Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities. Today, she is team lead at Building Relevant Infrastructure to Develop Global Equity, and three-time awardee for the Building Beloved Community in the movement to end domestic violence.

She received a BA and an MSW from UC Berkeley.

1997

Martha Midori Matsuoka, PhD

Executive Director, Urban Planner

Martha Midori Matsuoka focuses on Urban Habitat planning. Her speaking engagements included the 1995 World Conference on Women in Beijing addressing race, poverty and environmental issues.

She is currently Associate Professor of Urban and Environmental Policy and Executive Director of the Urban and Environmental Policy Institute at Occidental College where her work is anchored and inspired by the Moving Forward Network, a nationwide network established to transform the system of ports and freight transportation to improve public health, labor conditions, and environmental justice.

She received a BA from Occidental College, an MS in City Planning from UC Berkeley, and a PhD in Urban Planning from UCLA.



1998

Yoshi Akiba

Dancer, Restaurateur

Yoshi Akiba gave a keynote presentation in text and dance. She believes that music has to touch people.

She came to the U.S. from an orphanage in Tokyo to study at the Peabody Conservatory of Music. Akiba entered the restaurant business with Yoshi's – a Japanese Club in 1963, while she was still a student at UC Berkeley. In 1997, Yoshi's moved to the location at Jack London Square, where it quickly gained an outstanding reputation for great Japanese cuisine and the most popular jazz musicians in the world.

She received a BA in Art from UC Berkeley and a graduate degree in Dance Therapy from Mills College, Oakland.



1999

Dr. Naomi Nakashima

Chief of Pediatrics, retired

Naomi Nakashima spoke about her choice of career, which spanned 32 years, including her work as Chief of Pediatrics, San Francisco Kaiser.

She was the first woman to serve on the Board of Directors of the Kaiser Permanente Group. She also volunteered with Project Hope, the People to People Foundation, serving in Tunisia and Brazil, and the Academy of Science in San Francisco.

She received her BS from UC Berkeley and MD from UC San Francisco Medical School. She was a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics (FAAP).

Dr. Nakashima passed away in 2015.

