

# THE DAILY TEXAN

<http://www.dailytexanonline.com>

## ARCHIVES

---

Story 14 of 523

[Next Story](#)

[Previous Story](#)

[Group Page](#)

[Search Page](#)

Date

07/12/2000

Carter named AAS interim director Current director Sakamoto leaves Aug. 31

By Matthew Cook Daily Texan Staff

Richard Lariviere, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, announced Tuesday that associate professor Mia Carter will succeed Arthur Sakamoto as interim director for the Center for Asian American Studies.

Sakamoto, an associate professor of sociology, will step down Aug. 31. He led the search committee to find his successor.

"We wanted someone with an ethnic studies background and she has done that," Sakamoto said. "She's also someone who has had considerable administrative experience on campus. She has a very good rapport with students."

Lariviere said Carter will be a major asset as the new interim director.

"Mia Carter is well known for her active presence at the University and she was the first choice of the Asian American Studies Advisory Committee," Lariviere said. "We are grateful that she has agreed to take on this demanding position at a critical point in the development of the Center for Asian American Studies."

Carter could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

Carter, who received her Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, is an associate professor in the English department. She joined the UT faculty in 1992.

Carter was a recipient of the 2000 Texas Excellence Teaching Award, an award given to the student body's choice of top professors and graduate teaching assistants from each of the schools and colleges.

Sakamoto joined the UT faculty in 1989, after receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1988.

He announced that he would step down as director in May.

"I had been appointed to a term ending Aug. 31, and I'm spending more time teaching and advising students," Sakamoto said. "Also, I need to do more research on Asian-Americans. The Center is getting bigger... and I really can't do everything."

The Asian American Studies program has been developing since 1994 and was a source of controversy in March 1999 when administrators refused to explain why they chose Sakamoto as interim director instead of hiring student-endorsed Thomas Nakayama, a sociology professor at Arizona State University, as a permanent director.

In response, students from the Asian-American Relations Group and the Anti-Racist Organizing Committee protested the postponement in May with a rally and a five-hour sit-in at the liberal arts offices, which led to the arrests of 10 protesters.

---

Story 14 of 523