

Kūpono

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lovebirds

UH ARCS scholars Lindsay Young & Eric VanderWerf met through a mutual interest in helping birds | **Page 2**

PHOTO BY: HEATHER EIJZENGA

lovebirds

They met at UH through shared passion for birds. Now they work together to conserve them.



In 2008 Dr. Lindsay Young attended a conference in South Africa that would have been beyond her financial reach without an ARCS Scholar Award.

That journey would change her life.

During the long flight from Hawai'i, she and Dr. Eric VanderWerf—a 1996 ARCS scholar—talked about how environmental scientists could work in ways that complement government agencies.

One result of their talk was Pacific Rim Conservation. Their research-based nonprofit now maintains and restores native bird populations and ecosystems in the Pacific region.

The other was that they became partners not only in work, but also in life. This now-married team of UH alumni had met through their shared passion for helping birds.

VanderWerf studied diseases and population biology of the Hawaiian 'elepaio (flycatcher bird) in his doctoral research. He was the resident expert when Young sought consultation on the



Dr. Eric VanderWerf

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LINDSAY YOUNG & ERIC VANDERWERF

avian pox she observed in the Laysan albatross chicks she was studying at O'ahu's westernmost Ka'ena Point.

Over the past 40+ years, the ARCS Foundation Honolulu Chapter has given nearly \$2 million to support UH Mānoa doctoral candidates like Young and VanderWerf in STEM disciplines.

These awards empower students to follow their research passions and change our world.

Young and VanderWerf are doing just that at PRC. As executive director and director of science respectively, they are conserving Hawai'i's native birds and their habitats in spite of many challenges.

Hawai'i is home to 33 percent of endangered bird species in the U.S., but it

receives a scant 4 percent of federal funding. Young said controversy generates money—think spotted owl versus timber interests—but many endangered Pacific Island birds are out of sight, out of mind.

Threats include invasive rats and pigs, as well as pet and feral cats and dogs.

“Anything in Hawai'i that is furry is not supposed to be here, and they all eat birds,” she said.

Avian malaria is another danger, as climate change

is increasing mosquitos' range into higher elevations. Meanwhile, rising sea levels are eroding seabirds' beach and atoll nesting grounds.

PRC employs wildlife veterinarians, ecologists and an avian care specialist who advise volunteers to address these problems.

Their boots-on-the-ground recovery efforts include fencing sanctuary areas to keep predators out, and attracting healthy wild adults or translocating healthy chicks to these protected areas.

Last year alone, PRC translocated three petrel species and Newell's shearwaters, removed rats from forest bird nesting habitat, and replaced non-native weeds with native plants.

They've worked with the Marines to relocate part of the red-footed booby colony outside the firing area at the Kane'ohe Bay Range Training Facility. They also provide educational tours for school and community groups.

“We're not an advocacy organization,” Young said. “We're in the field, getting it done.”



Dr. Lindsay Young

I was attending classes at Kaua'i Community College, while managing a farmer's market in Hanalei and working as a self-employed taro farmer," said Sierra-Lynn Stone.

The pandemic has impacted UH students in many ways. For Sierra-Lynn, quarantine regulations and restrictions made it tough for her to get to her farm.

"It's difficult to bring in a harvest consistently and effectively," she said. "I have less regular income, and finances have become a challenge."

Sierra-Lynn and thousands of other UH students suddenly lost income in March 2020, when most island businesses and services closed their doors to stymie the spread of COVID-19.

Eduardo paid for school expenses with a part-time campus job at the Warrior Recreation Center, but it closed in March.

Lei lost two food service jobs, around the time her mother lost a job with a tour company.

Stephanie's classes were moved online, but internet companies don't offer



Sierra-Lynn, on her Kaua'i taro farm, was one of thousands of UH students impacted by the COVID-19 crisis who benefited from the Urgent Student Relief Fund.

Light, hope & relief

service in the remote area of Hawai'i Island where Stephanie lives.

Concerned members of the community quickly responded with assistance, giving to the Urgent Student Relief Fund coordinated by UH and the UH Foundation.

As of May 28, more than 2,400 students received \$916,360 to cover rent, tuition, healthcare, food

and technology needs when instruction transitioned from physical to virtual classrooms. The aid helped some students clear their final obstacles to graduation.

Gamaliel was a few weeks from completing his bachelor's degree in nursing at UH Mānoa. The relief fund helped him pay his rent, so he could focus on his studies while applying for emergency room posi-

tions in O'ahu hospitals.

"If all goes well, I'll be on the front lines, helping our community during this pandemic," he said.

Students expressed their deepest gratitude for the help they received in meeting the concrete necessities of daily living, at a time when the hard work and dedication they've always counted on were suddenly not enough.

"You all have put smiles on faces, and spread aloha all across the island," said Eduardo, still plugging away at his computer engineering degree.

"You gave me light, hope and relief," said Sierra-Lynn. "I am forever grateful and humbled." ❄️



Eduardo



Lei with her mom



Dana Naone Hall at 'Iolani Palace. Photo by Masako Cordray

poetic justice

New Hawaiian Studies chair honors poet & activist **Dana Naone Hall**

“There was never any conflict between my poetic voice and my political voice,” Dana Naone Hall reflected, upon accepting an American Book Award for “Life of the Land: Articulations of a Native Writer” in 2018. “Each informed the other.”

The poet, Hawaiian rights advocate and environmental activist worked for decades to honor and protect Hawaiian burial sites

and culturally-important locations when planned development threatened access for Native Hawaiians and the public.

Her advocacy helped to bring about the passage of historic preservation laws in Hawai‘i.

“Dana Naone Hall shaped history by leading changes in practices and laws through her protection of a Maui Native Hawaiian burial site,” said Jonathan Osorio, Hawai‘inuiākea

School of Hawaiian Knowledge dean.

“She brought environmental and cultural values into political activism, culminating in the protection of sacred places.”

Naone Hall explained in the introduction to “Life of the Land” her unique approach to doing this.

“In speaking on behalf of these special places, I sought to leaven polemical language with poetic

expressions of aloha ‘āina,” she wrote.

“I also wanted to convey as much pertinent information as possible to aid those in decision-making positions.”

Naone Hall’s perspective was forged through her deep sense of place. She graduated from Kamehameha Schools before earning her BA in liberal studies with an emphasis on contemporary poetry from UH Mānoa. There,

she became editor of its flagship literary journal, *The Hawai‘i Review*.

She also edited *Bamboo Ridge Press’s* winter 1985 issue, “Mālama, Hawaiian Land and Water.” Her poetry has been published in national and international literary journals.

And she’s spent countless hours writing testimony.

Osorio said, “Powerful, fearless community leaders like Naone Hall have been key to the perpetuation of Hawaiian knowledge over the last 50 years, as they worked tirelessly to protect our oceans, streams and forests from

urbanization and tourist-driven development.”

To celebrate her life and impact on our world, the Laurence H. Dorcy Hawaiian Foundation has established the Dana Naone Hall Endowed Chair in Hawaiian Studies, Literature and the Environment at UH Mānoa’s Hawai‘inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge.

Its purpose is to help perpetuate Naone Hall’s lifelong passion for preserving and maintaining native Hawaiian history, culture and environmental stewardship.

“Dana challenges us to

reflect on our values and live them. To acknowledge what we see, and if the spirit moves us, to act,” said Jeffrey Peterson, president of the Dorcy Foundation.

“Her words and her actions align to make her life truly inspirational and worth honoring in this lasting way.”

Osorio said the chair will contribute continuous research in indigenous land and resource management in Hawai‘i, building a platform for policy change in keeping with its namesake. He sees this as a valuable tribute to Naone Hall’s work.

“Through this endowment, we will teach new generations of Hawaiians about their ancestors who honed social, environmental and cultural management skills over a thousand years,” he said.

UH President David Lassner said the impact of this endowed chair—and Naone Hall’s influential teachings—will stretch across generations.

“These leaders and future alumni from our programs will infuse new energy into the application of Hawaiian knowledge, enriching not only our Hawaiian communities, but our world.” ❁



LEFT
Dana Naone Hall responds to support from motorists on Ka‘ahumanu Ave. in Kahului. Photo by Masako Cordray

BACKGROUND
A view of Ho‘okipa with Mauna Kahalawai (the West Hawai‘i Mountains) in the distance. Photo by Dana Naone Hall

Kapi'olani CC students help feed hungry keiki

Since 2015, Kapi'olani Community College has helped to feed hungry O'ahu children as part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Summer Food Service Program, which ensures children who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches have access to nutritious meals and snacks when school is not in session.



When Hawai'i public schools closed in March in response to the pandemic, Kapi'olani CC sprang into action and started a spring feeding program, with the assistance of existing and new partners and donors.

The Kapi'olani CC cafeteria cooks the meals and non-profit organizations serve as meal site partners, handling food pick-up and distribution at eight O'ahu locations.

"We're producing meals for children who are out of school and usually eligible for free and reduced lunch. During this interruption, school lunches are available, but may not be offered at all the schools, or children may not be able to get there to pick them up," said Daniel Leung, Kapi'olani CC Culinary Arts program coordinator.

"We can at least provide one nutritious meal a day, with a kitchen that meets all USDA guidelines."

Hawai'i Department of Education data for the current school year shows almost 85,000 students qualify for free and reduced-price lunches.

"Through this community feeding program, I think we've been able to provide for a lot of children who wouldn't have meals," said John Mizokawa, Culinary Arts operations manager.



Meal participants receive USDA Summer Food Service meals prepared by Kapi'olani CC students—in spring.

In addition to the usual, rigorous food sanitation and safety measures the Culinary Arts program follows, COVID-19 protocols are being practiced.

The cafeteria staff are also working to scale up to maximum capacity of about 1,500 meals a day. It's a true community effort, with collaborators such as La Tour Bakehouse and Zippy's working to develop products for the program.

"We try to work with the local suppliers," said Mizokawa. "We work with farmers, trying to use their products so they get some sort of income stream."

The community feeding effort has received

support from Walmart Foundation, Harold K. L. Castle Foundation, the Ulupono Fund at the Hawai'i Community Foundation, the Healy Foundation, Kaiser Permanente and various individual donors.

With increasing unemployment, the number of hungry children and vulnerable community members is likely to rise dramatically.

Leung says Culinary Arts is committed to the effort through the summer, until the end of August.

"It's difficult at times, but it is gratifying to know we are able to make a difference," Mizokawa said. ❄️

A lifetime of learning, a generous heart

“Donald was a glowing kind of person,” remembers Dr. Carole Mandryk, director of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UH Mānoa.

“One favorite memory I have of Donald is his regular gifts to his teachers. He didn’t give apples, but mangoes from his own tree, or dragonfruit he picked up at the farmers’ market—always with one of his radiating smiles.”

OLLI offers non-credit, college-level courses and activities to encourage older people to engage their minds, enrich their lives, and serve their community.

Dr. Donald Matsumori, a retired UH Mānoa librarian, was a member since the program began in 1996. Over the years, he took classes in cinema, history, art, politics, cuisine and science.

“He was taking classes three or four times a week on a variety of subjects, and was interested in all kinds of things,” said his brother Neil Matsumori. “Even when we were children, he was



Dr. Carole Mandryk, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute director, with Dr. Donald Matsumori, retired UH Mānoa librarian and long-time OLLI member and donor.

a very serious scholar,” he recalls. “I just sort of played around, but he was very studious.”

In 2001 Matsumori taught a special course, “Donald’s Excellent Adventures in Vietnam,” sharing a historical overview of Vietnam that he highlighted with photos from his travels.

Matsumori bequeathed a portion of his estate to OLLI, which Mandryk said “will allow us to make improvements we’ve always wanted.”

They plan to use these funds on things that were important to Matsumori. Mandryk said he especially enjoyed film-based classes, watching films and talking about them.

that became his primary, lifelong interest,” Neil said. “Until shortly before his death, he was the organist at Epiphany Episcopal Church in Kaimuki.”

To help students engaged in significant music research, Donald also established the Donald Matsumori Grant Fund in 1992, then bequeathed an additional portion of his estate to bolster it.

Susan Jacob, a UH Mānoa graduate student in music and theater, received the grant in 2020.

“Your donation eases the stress of paying for my education, allowing me not to worry as much about finances and keep my focus on studies,” Jacob wrote in a letter. “Thank you for being part of my journey.”

Donald’s memory lives on through the impact of his gifts. But Neil still misses having his brother around to talk with.

“He wanted to know everything, and he really wasn’t ready to go. But he would be happy to know he’s helping students in these two programs to learn as much as they can.” ❁

Part of his gift will be used to improve the viewing experience for film classes with a new eight-foot TV and enhanced sound system. The classroom’s noisy air conditioner, which makes it hard for people to hear each other, will also be replaced.

Mandryk said Matsumori always had new ideas for music-related classes. “With his gift, we’ll make an effort at least once a year to have a music-themed class, paying the instructor with his funds.”

His brother said Matsumori’s interest in music went way back.

“He started piano lessons when he was a child, and



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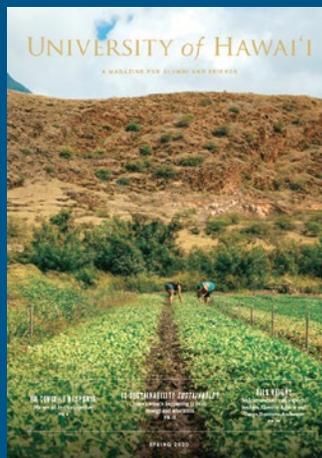
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Spring 2020 UH Magazine now available online

As Hawai'i embraces sustainable approaches to island living, University of Hawai'i problem-solvers bring forward advances in energy, agriculture and education; completely off-grid housing; and internships for careers in locally-grown produce.

Also, the new UH Office of Sustainability demonstrates what Hawai'i's future can be. These stories, and UH's many responses to the unpredictable flux of life during a pandemic, are highlighted in the spring 2020 issue of UH Magazine for alumni and donors.

Read about Karen Tan's vision as CEO of Child and Family



Services, an “incubator and innovator” with new strategies to address domestic violence, sex trafficking, sexual harassment in the workplace and families on the brink of homelessness.

Catch up with alumni from across the UH system, including two grads whose paths intersected as player and coach but continue as friends and mainstays in the high school volleyball landscape; and a Living Treasure of Hawai'i who founded the first Hawaiian

language preschools. Now online at:

[uhfoundation.org/news/publications/
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