Jacquie Maly
Beloved Windward CC emerita professor stays involved and keeps faculty connected | Page 4
Connecting cultures in a changing climate

Luce Foundation grant fortifies UH as major hub for SE Asian scholarship

Mānoa’s Center for Southeast Asian Studies is one of the country’s largest centers devoted to the SE Asia region. More than 40 faculty across 21 university departments pursue active research in or on SE Asia.

The Henry Luce Foundation has awarded CSEAS $1 million to explore socioeconomic and environmental shifts that are transforming SE Asian societies in a time of accelerated climate and environmental change.

Dr. Miriam Stark, CSEAS director and UH Mānoa anthropology professor, will oversee “LuceSEA Transitions: Environment, Society and Change” in partnership with the East-West Center.

“I’m honored to work with members in our community of researchers on this project,” said Stark, who conducts archaeological research in Cambodia.

“Most have collaborated with SE Asia colleagues for decades to document changes in rural and urban areas and how this impacts households.”

The UH/EWC team will promote equality and build partnerships with SE Asia-based researchers by embedding training and collaboration into research and professional opportunities.

This will enhance the depth and breadth of UH’s efforts in Hawai‘i, and also strengthen SE Asia studies in the U.S.

“This grant affirms our university’s deep expertise in SE Asian studies,” said Dr. Velma Kameoka, UH Mānoa vice chancellor for research.
“Bringing faculty from 10 departments together with colleagues from the East-West Center, LuceSEA Transitions will advance innovative projects that combine social and environmental sciences with humanities to build research capacity and scholarly resources at UH Mānoa and in the region.”

The team will develop and provide college-level SE Asia curricula on environmental issues and agrarian transitions as open educational resources and for-credit online courses.

The creation of these online scholarly resources will help students, SE Asia-based researchers, and non-specialists more easily incorporate SE Asia into their social sciences and humanities research.

Dr. Jefferson Fox, senior research fellow at the East-West Center and LuceSEA Transitions collaborator, studies changes in land use and land cover in Asia and their impact on the environment.

“By educating and mentoring SE Asian graduate students, we are building enduring global connections and local expertise in the region leading to more equitable urban and agrarian policy making,” he said.

LuceSEA Transitions will create mentorship programs that transcend institutional boundaries through joint fieldwork, professional training, conference participation and scholarly publication.

“This grant will forge an international cohort needed to strengthen the field,” Stark said.

Such collaboration is integral to addressing socio-environmental transformations and to helping SE Asia-based early career colleagues engage with the international academic world.

“This effort closely aligns with the aims of the LuceSEA initiative to support innovation in emerging areas of inquiry and expansion of direct engagement with scholars in the region,” said Helena Kolenda, Luce Foundation program director for Asia.

“It will also enhance scholarly infrastructure for teaching and research relevant to SE Asia, and support collaborations between academic centers and with partners outside academia.”
When Russia hurled its Sputnik satellite into orbit in October 1957, it initiated the USA-USSR Space Race. It would also launch Jacquie Maly to UH.

“Years later, high school teachers of science and foreign languages could go to federally-funded summer institutes, upgrading our abilities to teach, so we could equip our students to beat the Russians,” says Maly, who taught physics in Chicago.

“My criteria were a topic I was interested in and a university as far from Chicago as possible. If I was going to spend 6–8 weeks of my 10-week vacation, I wanted it to count!”

A summer studying radiation biology at UH led to teaching positions at Mānoa, Leeward Community College, and the brand-new Windward Community College.

**Building a school**

The earliest days were a challenge. Windward opened in abandoned state hospital buildings with “big wards from one end of the building to another,” remembers Maly, one of four original faculty there. “They put up some walls to make ‘classrooms’ in a couple of the buildings.”

“My dear general contractor husband Ted made lab tables for me in one of my classrooms, because we only had tablet arm chairs for student desks. In a separate room, he put up bulletin boards, and he made tables and boxes to secure tape recorders, setting up our audio tutorial lab for self-guided lab work. My husband was a saint.”

Maly taught for 23 years at Windward CC. “When we first opened, I relished the solidarity of the faculty. We all communicated with each other—we had to, because the faculty was housed in one large office.

“I valued the cooperation, and one thing we’ve maintained at Windward over the years is the caring faculty. Even the young faculty caught the message that we’re a caring campus.”

An atmosphere of solidarity and caring translated to the student body too, says Maly, who is still in contact with students from the early years.

For more than 20 years, she’s maintained an email list called Hui Ho’opili, the “Sticking-together” group, which includes more than 100 former students, faculty and staff.

The group invites faculty returning from sabbatical to discuss their work at brown-bag presentations.

“It’s a great thing all the way around. It gives our extended community a chance to get back on campus and rub elbows with people, and it lets the faculty and staff learn what their colleagues did on sabbatical.”

**Staying involved**

Maly retired from the classroom in 1999, but continues to be a vibrant part of campus life.

For the past 20 years, she’s presented all the public lectures in the Imaginarium. She’s also volunteered as an usher and assistant manager at Palikū Theatre.

In the days before the Windward campus added food service, Maly asked...
Ho‘opili members to assist the chancellor’s office with convocation, setting out buffets for breakfast and lunch.

Convocation is held at the beginning of every term before students report for classes. It’s an important occasion for faculty and support staff to “begin each semester on the same page,” focusing together on the school’s goals and mission.

Today, the school’s cafeteria caters the event. When funds were especially tight recently, Maly picked up the catering bill for the entire faculty. “Not a problem; I’ll pay for lunch,” she said.

Spurred by the importance of the recurring event and its ongoing need, Maly established the Jacquie Maly Advancement Endowment to support the chancellor’s efforts in promoting staff development and quality education.

“This fund is not only for convocation,” she says. “The chancellor covers expenses for faculty going to conferences, and for staff training, so the fund will foster staff development at the college, too.”

“Jacquie’s generosity has supported and grown WCC from the moment she set foot on campus. In all her endeavors, she consistently gives time, thought, hard work and aloha,” said WCC Chancellor Ardis Eschenberg.

“With this endowed gift, she carries her vision of support for our faculty and college into the future. We are so thankful for Dr. Maly, our beloved, benevolent Energizer Bunny!”

The fund assures Windward CC that some needs will always be taken care of, and that one of its founding professors will forever contribute to the school’s growth, as she did on the school’s first day, and as she does now.

“They made me an emeritus professor,” Maly says. “That’s Latin for ‘she retired but she didn’t go away.’ ”
Native Hawaiian families in Waimānalo are making a change for healthier lifestyles, connecting the culture of generations to the science of aquaponics. They are participants in MALAMA—Mini Ahupua’a for Lifestyle And Mea’ai through Aquaponics. The program is a collaboration between the Waimānalo community and Public Health Studies and College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources faculty at UH Mānoa.

Waimānalo residents learn to build and maintain closed, sustainable systems for hydroponic plants and farmed fish in their backyards, growing their own healthy food. Entire families, including grandparents and children, participate in classes to encourage healthier practices as a family tradition. The program is so transformative, demand for classes exceeds its capacity, spreading into communities outside Waimānalo.

Preliminary findings suggest that families have increased their consumption of fresh fruits, vegetables and fish as a result their participation. They also report that their sense of family and community connectedness has grown stronger through the program. In response, thanks to financial assistance from The Queen’s Health Systems Native Hawaiian Health Program, MALAMA is developing instructional manuals and videos to train and empower communities in Maui, Moloka’i and Hawai’i Island.

The support from Queen’s continues its history of empowering Native Hawaiian students and the broader community. In the past year, it has also provided funding for the Community Health Worker program at Kapi’olani Community College. Students in the program learn to connect disadvantaged populations with healthcare resources, such as health education, care coordination, and access to services. Queen’s continues to support ‘Imi Ho‘ōla in the John A. Burns School of Medicine’s Department of Native Hawaiian Health. ‘Imi Ho‘ōla helps students from underrepresented backgrounds become doctors. After completing a 12-month post-baccalaureate program, they matriculate directly into med school.

Through its scholarship and program support of ‘IKE AO PONO at UH Mānoa’s School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene, Queen’s has contributed to Hawai’i’s workforce diversity. It has helped 460 Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders and Native Americans complete nursing degrees. These nurses are now serving as valuable frontline health professionals who are supporting communities throughout Hawai’i during the COVID-19 crisis.

Queen’s also supports the Translational Health Science Simulation Center at UH Mānoa’s School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene, UH West O‘ahu’s ‘Ike Mauli Ola nursing pathway, and Kapi‘olani CC’s Allied Health Program.
Angelica Ljungqvist was here today, and Charlie Wade came by the other day,” says Eleanor Chu, a longtime fan of UH Mānoa athletics. The volleyball coaches visit “because they’re thankful, but what I’m doing is not that great. It’s just something I want to do.”

Softball Head Coach Bob Coolen, Ljungqvist, Wade and others from the athletic department bring meals to 91-year-old Chu, tossing carefully packed food to the second-floor walkway outside her home, conversing from the driveway below.

It’s a safe way for the coaches to connect with an ardent fan in these COVID-19 days of empty courts and quiet arenas.

Chu, who cites the 1971 and 1972 men’s “Fab Five” basketball teams among her fondest memories of UH sports, has committed part of her estate to Mānoa athletics to express appreciation for decades of joy.

She says, “I know what it’s like to be a poor kid going to school, not having enough money to do everything I wanted to do. I want to make sure these athletes have a chance to do things for fun.”

Fun wasn’t a priority when she attended UH Mānoa in 1947. Going to school was her job, she says.

“I came from a family with 15 kids. I had no time for sports. It was my job to get a degree, go to work and help my family. I give the athletes of today a lot of credit! They work hard, they study hard and they give me a helluva lot of pleasure.”

After graduation, Chu taught at Waiakea-Kai, Pearl Harbor, and Ma’ema’e elementary schools, attending as many UH games as she could. She doesn’t get out much anymore, but she watches games on television.

“I still enjoy them totally,” she says. “Sports are in my blood.”

Two of Chu’s brothers were the first Chinese students to earn athletics scholarships at Pomona College. One of them, Ung-Soy “Beans” Afook, was a legendary boys basketball coach at Hilo High School, and a namesake of the storied Afook-Chinen Civic Auditorium in Hilo.

“I felt left out when I couldn’t participate in sports, as a young girl and as a college student,” she says, “but I make up for it now. I do whatever I can to help the student-athletes.”

This is why she included them in her will and revocable living trust. Working with UHF’s Office of Estate and Gift Planning, she designated Mānoa athletics as an heir to receive most of her net estate.

As a revocable commitment, Chu can use these funds for healthcare, travel, or any of her needs and wishes. In this way, she need not sacrifice anything today while offering a transformative gift to future Rainbow Wahine and Warriors.

“I’m not looking for fame—I just want to help the students,” she says. “Besides, I can’t take it with me! What am I going to do with it in the next world? They don’t use money!”

If you would like information about including the UH Foundation in your will, trust or other gift plan to benefit the University of Hawai‘i, please contact us!

808-376-7874 • giftplanning@uhfoundation.org • uhflegacygift.org

Estate & Gift Planning
University of Hawai‘i Foundation

Lifelong fan makes ’Bows part of legacy
UHF thanks donors for $84.7 million in FY20 to benefit UH

Thanks to 17,414 donors’ generosity and strategic investments, the UH Foundation raised $84.7 million in the fiscal year ending June 30. These funds directly benefit students, faculty, research and programs on all 10 UH campuses.

“This is an exceptional fundraising result, considering the volatile and challenging year we have all had,” said Rich Wacker, UH Foundation board chair. “We are so grateful that our community members, foundations and corporations are coming together and funding solutions to help us navigate these times and re-imagine our future.”

“The University of Hawai‘i is absolutely critical to the success of our state and our people,” said UH President David Lassner. “We are so grateful to our many donors who are helping us provide the high quality affordable higher education opportunities needed in our communities to help both recent graduates and the recently unemployed find their paths to success.”

UH Vice President of Advancement and UHF CEO Tim Dolan added, “Donors have made a phenomenal difference in the lives of our students this year, funding COVID-19-related urgent needs, programs supporting high school students’ transition to college, and students from all backgrounds graduating with the degrees and certificates essential for our economic recovery.”

Read about gift impact at uhfoundation.org/impact.