## EXECUTIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I AT MĀNOA**

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHO SHOULD ATTEND</th>
<th>EXECUTIVE MBA</th>
<th>DISTANCE LEARNING EXECUTIVE MBA</th>
<th>MASTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CLASS SCHEDULE</strong></td>
<td>Experienced professionals seeking career advancement</td>
<td>Neighbor island professionals and military personnel</td>
<td>HR professionals and individuals seeking HR careers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROGRAM FEATURES</strong></td>
<td>Tuesdays 6 - 9 pm Alternating Saturdays 8 am - 5 pm</td>
<td>Online Tues &amp; Thurs 6 - 9 pm Alternating Saturdays 8 am - 12 pm</td>
<td>Wednesdays 6 - 9 pm Alternating Saturdays 8 am - 5 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Study integrated core business disciplines with cutting-edge business practices</td>
<td>• Collaborative hybrid learning environment with online and in-class lectures</td>
<td>• Strengthen knowledge of HR practices locally and globally</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Valuable networking opportunities amongst diverse cohort members and alumni</td>
<td>• Optional Health Care track offers insight into the dynamics of health care industry</td>
<td>• Guest panelists offer real-world experiences on HR strategies and practices</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NEXT COHORT INTAKE</strong></td>
<td>August 2015</td>
<td>August 2016</td>
<td>August 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CONTACT</strong></td>
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<td>shidler.hawaii.edu/mhrm</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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NEXT COHORT INTAKE
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Table of Contents

6 NEWSMAKERS  
Maui’s teaching hotel, Hilo’s research drone and why Jay Shidler gave $100M

8 UPDATE  
Briefings on the latest UH achievements

9 Q&A  
2014 Young Community Leader of the Year Trisha Kehaulani Watson

16 GAME OF LIFE  
Former Wahine athletes Beth McLaughlin and Maj Forsberg tell why they’re “still in the game.”

19 2015 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI  
Ren Hirose  
Jillian Inouye  
Tom H. Shigemoto  
Stanford B.C. Yuen

24 MILESTONES  
Local matters for Bamboo Ridge, Stephany Nihipali Vaioleti and others

29 ALUMNI EVENTS & CALENDAR  
Happenings and upcoming activities

30 PARTING SHOT  
It’s Big Data, virtual reality and video games for inventor Jason Leigh

THE INTERSECTORS  
Pastry Chef Michelle Karr Ueoka is one of three professionals whose work at the crossroads of Art & Science keeps their businesses creative and competitive.
Inside every small business is a bigger one.

We understand where your business is now and where you want it to be. That’s why we provide personalized services and critical tools that help you achieve your goals. Our products include business loans, business credit cards, and merchant and payroll services. Talk to us. We’ll help you become the bigger business you were meant to be.
Percent of Hawai‘i students, grades 9-12, reported by a UH Cancer Center study to use e-cigarettes—the highest rate in the nation at more than double the national teen average of 12 percent. “Well-designed studies are (now) needed to provide a clearer picture of the risks and benefits of e-cigarettes by teenagers,” says Thomas Wills, lead researcher and interim director of the Center’s Cancer Prevention & Control Program.

Sources: Pediatrics Journal online 12/15/14; Pacific Business News 12/18/14

DRONE ON—Flying 400 feet above Pāhoa, UH Hilo’s FAA-authorized UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) or drone captured this now historic 2014 photo of the lava flow encroaching on the Pahoa Transfer Station’s buildings (it stopped just short). Making up to six flights daily to remote, uninhabited and even dangerous lava flow areas, the fixed-wing drone, outfitted with a high-resolution camera, “is a great use of UAV technology to benefit people and communities,” says Hilo’s Assistant Professor of Geography and Environmental Studies Ryan Perroy of the drone’s contributions of rapid, frequent and updated data for use by Civil Defense, Hilo County and UH researchers. (Inset: Pictured with drone, Hilo’s Spatial Data UAV team (L-R) Ryan Perroy, Nicolas Turner and Jonathan Price).

For more information: Spatial Data Analysis and Visualization Laboratory | spatial.uhh.hawaii.edu
“Actually, it exceeded my expectations.”

Jay H. Shidler (BBA ’68, Mānoa), Hawai’i real estate leader and philanthropist, of his $100 million total gift—the largest by a single donor—to his namesake Shidler College of Business because of its outstanding growth under Dean Vance Roley in “three key aspects: faculty, students and reputation.” The unique gift, including ownership income interests (leased fees) generated by Shidler’s downtown office buildings in Chicago, Denver and other cities, will provide an ongoing source of cash to meet the College’s long-term financial needs.

Heard of teaching hospitals? How about Hawai’i’s first ever teaching hotel at UH Maui College? Thanks to $3.5 million in state funding, former dormitory buildings will be transformed beginning this year to “a fully functional hotel where guests can stay and students can have ‘hands-on’ real-world hospitality work experience,” says Lorelle Peros, UH Maui’s hospitality and tourism program coordinator of its Hospitality Academy (HA).

Through a unique Adopt-a-Room collaboration with Maui’s major resorts, HA guests can choose from among hotel-sponsored interior decors outfitted to individual resorts’ standards. The College’s Maui Culinary Academy, featuring award-winning fine dining Leis Family Class Act Restaurant, will offer food and beverage services. Maui-born Grand Wailea Director of Operations Kai Pelayo, also chair of Maui College’s Hospitality Advisory Committee, says HA will “impact the whole campus academically, from accounting, natural resources to IT, marketing, retail and more” because, like small, ever-changing communities, hotels’ work force needs are diverse.

“It creates unprecedented opportunities for local talent to train here for competitive jobs and to share their knowledge of our cultural values, sense of place and aloha.”

For information: maui.hawaii.edu/haofmaui/

“Successful veterans able to work in the civilian sector are what we’re about,” says Associate Professor Debra Mark of Hawai’i’s first Vets-to-BSN program, launching this fall, at Mānoa’s School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene. While not a scholarship program, it aims to assist veterans with military medical experience toward obtaining a bachelor’s degree in nursing and eligibility to take the national exam for registered nurses (RNs), now the nation’s third-largest middle-income occupation.

A key program focus is how much military medical experience can help current and incoming students accelerate building their nursing skills. This may include offsetting specific prerequisite courses, and preference points for military nursing experience, says Mark, herself a 34-year Army veteran.

Services, including tutoring, a bridge program this summer and a newly hired academic advisor, a former Marine, are underway to help ease the nursing career track for veterans. Collaborations are planned with Kaua’i, Kapi‘olani and Maui campuses. One of just 19 universities to date selected nationwide for a three-year federal grant, UH joins a unique national initiative to address veteran employment, military downsizing and looming nursing shortages.

For more information: debramar@hawaii.edu
Number of states adopting UH’s “15 to Finish” initiative, now a national model to encourage students to graduate in four years. The 2011 initiative saw fall 2014 enrollment in 15 credits or more jump to more than 55 percent (from 38 in 2013) for first-time, full-time UH freshmen. Four-year graduation rates rose in 2014 to 24.7 percent from 19 (2012).

[“Help UH students graduate in 4 years” editorial, Honolulu Star-Advertiser 12/4/14]

“Update
It has the potential to exceed any other product in the Pacific or the world.”

Failautusi Avegalio, Jr., director, UH Pacific Business Center Program, on its Pacific Regional Breadfruit Initiative, winner of the University Economic Development Association 2014 National Award of Excellence, to boost the agricultural industries in Pacific nations that grow breadfruit (ulu in Hawaiian), a naturally gluten-free, high protein “wonder food,” with tree sap that’s 100 percent organic latex, flower that’s a natural, potent insect repellent, and wood that’s termite-resistant.

[Honolulu Star-Advertiser 12/13/14; UH press release 10/28/14]

“By the end of the century, I would be surprised if Waikiki Beach is still there.”

Charles Fletcher, UH associate dean/geology professor and one of dozens of experts contributing to “Climate Change and the Visitor Industry,” one of three ground-breaking UH reports predicting Hawai’i will be hotter, with rising sea levels, unstable surf spots, sand loss and fewer beaches etc. if global warming continues. The Hawai’i Tourism Authority, one of the study’s funders, plans to use it to guide visitor industry environmental initiatives.

[Honolulu Star-Advertiser 8/27/14.
See the reports: seagrant.soest.hawaii.edu/publications]

“We just looked back in time.”

John Tonry, only UH astronomer among 50 international astronomers to share in the $3 million 2015 Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics on how the team discovered that the universe is accelerating, not slowing down as long assumed. “We looked at things so far away that their light took a long time to get here...(and found they) were expanding slower than today.”

[Hawaii News Now Sunrise interview 12/8/14; Pacific Business News 11/14/14]

Projected energy use savings over 20 years across five UH community college campuses (Leeward, Honolulu, Kapi’olani, Maui and Kaua’i) through 2010 green technology contracts. Since 2008 the campuses have reduced energy consumption by 18 percent.

[Honolulu Star-Advertiser 12/8/14]

UH medical school’s largest ever private individual gift, given by the Kosasa Family, founders of ABC Stores, to the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Women’s Health at JABSOM, celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2015.

[UH Press Release 1/22/15]
Q&A

2014 Young Community Leader of the Year (Pacific Business News) Trisha Kehaulani Watson, 39, talks about indigenous conservation, being paid in mangoes and poi, and the importance of “Why Not?”

How did you get from dropping out of college three times to being the only Native Hawaiian woman with two doctorates and a law degree?

I wasn’t ready. My family valued education, but I had to come to that on my own. I think that’s true for other young people. Once I did, UH gave me a community education, building community ties. I cried when I got into Richardson. Native Hawaiian activism in law was high with Rice v. Cayetano (2000 U.S. Supreme Court ruled non-Hawaiians allowed to vote in OHA elections). I took the approach that being on the inside (of the law) negotiating, advocating was the way to show how Native Hawaiian culture can enhance environmental work. A Native Hawaiian woman with back-to-back PhDs and a JD wasn’t typical. I was never taught limits, so I thought, “Why Not?”

At 26, you started Honua, a consulting firm, which others do after decades of work, and you advocate for involvement by indigenous people—Native Hawaiian and other Pacific peoples—in conservation work led by scientists. How did this come about?

I was the child at family parties with a pair of scissors cutting up plastic six-pack holders because I read that they killed sea turtles. I always had a passion for the environment. For the rest, it was a combination of my own passions and great mentors. I started consulting for one right out of law school in 2003. It was my first lobbying and policy work. While pursuing a PhD, I worked for UH Vice Chancellor of Research and Graduate Education Gary Ostrander, a hugely influential learning experience that helped me shape what Honua was to become.

So what is Honua today?

We bring people together on environmental, cultural, legal, civil rights and community development issues through consultation, mediation, research, strategic planning and informed resource management practices. We helped dispel misunderstanding and shifted public perception of endangered monk seals through Hawaiian archival and language research (thank you, Dr. Ostrander). Traditional knowledge we gathered from Pacific Island villages and communities influenced inclusion of a native culture’s role in marine protected areas for a regional environmental plan. Our most exciting but not “sexy” project now is helping the state streamline long-standing permitting problems for restoring traditional Native Hawaiian fishponds (mahalo, UH law school). We’ve worked in Samoa, Yap, Solomon Islands and Fiji. I’m on the planning committee for the first ever World Conservation Congress in Hawai’i in 2016.

You work out of your home, do “robust” pro-bono work, lobby at the Legislature, conduct fieldwork in remote Pacific villages, and still make time for family. Do you sleep? (Laughs). Family comes first. My husband Matt Sproat of the Hawaiian music group Waipuna is the best: He cooks, cleans and sings. Yes, we’ve been paid in mangoes, poi and coconuts, but my brother Dodge reminds me that we need to keep the books balanced. This work doesn’t stop with us. I want born and raised Native Hawaiians and other indigenous young people to speak for ourselves and to know you can invent and start your own business, while being committed to sustaining this work of preserving our environment and our culture.
THE INTERSECTORS

Mingling of artistic ideas and technical methodologies is all part of many jobs today to develop aesthetic yet functional products for businesses. For these three innovators profiled, it’s a daily balancing act between the arts and the sciences.

By Tiffany Hill • Photos by Aaron Yoshino
van Gabriel’s office looks like a standard workplace. Until you spy standing to your right two shiny, custom-made classic motorcycles, known for their small, hard seats and shortened rear fenders. Showcasing the craftsmanship of Gabriel, the founder and owner of Ivan’s Psycles, a motorcycle customization shop in Kalihi, they are functional art: aesthetic, high-performing riding machines. Nearby sits Gabriel’s computer and a file cabinet of research with industry regulations and build measurements. Physics and geometry are as much a part of Gabriel’s daily equation of innovation as are his unique metalwork and airbrushing.

“A lot of art is involved,” says Gabriel of his work, “but I also think of function. I don’t want to do something so elaborate that hand controls won’t work, or the fuel isn’t delivered correctly, or I can’t maneuver the motorcycle.”

Many jobs today increasingly stand at this tenuous intersection between art and science. Work in the digital age, while creatively conceived, must be executed with knowledge of technical methodologies.

Meet three such creative UH alumni: Gabriel, a motorcycle customizer who intertwines physics and painting, also an imaginative textile designer who meticulously lays out each graphic mathematically, and a renowned pastry chef who uses food science to reinvent dessert classics.

**IVAN GABRIEL**

**FOUNDER AND OWNER, IVAN’S PSYCLES**

Ivan Gabriel grew up around heavy metal—the kind used to craft custom hotrods and motorcycles. His father worked on roadsters, and his grandfather built bikes. They passed their love of mechanics on to Gabriel.

“I started riding when I was 6,” says Gabriel, who took classes and served in the carpentry apprenticeship program at Honolulu Community College. “I’ve done road racing, dirt biking. I know all about suspension, horsepower, and the safety and fundamentals of a motorcycle.”

For 28 years, the Honolulu native worked for motorcycle dealers around the island before opening up his Kalihi shop seven years ago. Ivan’s Psycles is run with the help of Gabriel’s wife Karen and lifelong best friends, Guy Miyamoto and Ben Hurley.

“A lot of times our customers know what they want visually,” says Gabriel, pointing to the row of bikes he’s currently building: choppers, stripped down with extended forks, and baggers, large, long-distance motorcycles with saddlebags. “We take their visions and apply the technology, innovation, research and development.”

It’s a process that can take a month for the smaller, stripped down bikes, to six months for baggers. Gabriel says every custom fabrication begins with at least two weeks of research and prep before he even picks up metal. Safety always trumps looks. Each custom build takes into account the rider’s center of gravity, aerodynamics and maneuverability. The shop does four complete builds annually, in addition to custom alterations, repairs and maintenance.

“We start drawing a sketch of the direction we want to go,” he says. Then they start building, including forming the frame, building fuel and oil tanks, fenders and inserting the motor and transmission. The bike is test ridden around O’ahu, making sure it handles well.

Sometimes they cry with joy when we hand them the keys, and we cry with them. Every bike we build, every piece we make, has a piece of our soul.

Ivan Gabriel

Safety first doesn’t mean the bikes don’t look awesome. Once in working order, Gabriel disassembles the bike, switching from engineer to artist to diligently airbrush each piece. Some are painted in see-your-own-reflection solid colors, while others incorporate flames, pink plumeria, skulls, even the Hulk. “Sometimes they cry with joy when we hand them the keys, and we cry with them,” he says. “Every bike we build, every piece we make, has a piece of our soul.”
Each Manuheali'i print weaves a personal story for Danene Lunn, founder of Hawai'i clothing brand Manuheali'i, her husband Pono and their youngest son Lokahi, both of whom are graphic designers for the company. “We draw inspiration from the people, places and experiences in our lives,” she says.

Sometimes their muse strikes at 2 a.m. “That’s why we work at home,” says the petite Lunn with a laugh, sporting her own design, an avocado green print dress. Conversations can blossom into collections. Lunn recalls talking story with Pono about the delicate lei nani her auntie made. It formed the root for the 2011 Na Lei Nani collection, featuring colorful garlands. This winter’s Kaiwi collection, featuring shirts with bold swirls in oceanic hues designed by Lokahi, represents his hope for stellar winter surf, says Lunn. “He spends a lot of time at the beach!”

Manuheali'i releases a limited collection every eight to 10 weeks, each a celebration of Hawai'i and its vibrant culture.

Lunn (AA fashion design ’88, HonCC) attributes her artistic intuition to growing up in a creative household; her mother, a textile representative, taught her to sew. Lunn’s own fashion career began in 1985, selling individually hand silk-screened T-shirts, totes and baby blankets at craft fairs. The Windward O‘ahu native says HonCC gave her technical bolstering, allowing her to expand Manuheali‘i—her middle name—in 1993 with a brick-and-mortar location in Kailua. Today, the brand boasts a second location in Honolulu, and an online store.

While Pono and Lokahi illustrate the prints, Lunn develops the color concepts, grading or sizing, and pattern designs for each collection. She gives each print careful attention, working in Adobe Illustrator to layout the graphics for the fabric’s pattern repeat, the mathematical vertical and horizontal distance between the repeated elements. The layout for each repeat is technically and aesthetically determined by the type of fabric, such as rayon or cotton, and the cut, such as for a keiki top, aloha shirt or mu‘umu‘u. Lunn adjusts the measurements and placements of the graphic elements accordingly. The last touch is incorporating the iconic “Manuheali‘i” signature into the print to face both ways. This is done to save fabric, Lunn explains. “Even though it may look it, random isn’t random.”

The layout for each repeat is technically and aesthetically determined by the type of fabric, such as rayon or cotton, and the cut, such as for a keiki top, aloha shirt or mu‘umu‘u.

Danene Manuheali‘i Lunn

Crème brûlée, floating island, even shave ice and candy bars are all desserts people know, love and love to eat. But for Michelle Karr Ueoka, it’s about more than making a delectable dessert you devour; it’s about sparking memories. “I want to remind people of their mom, or a trip they took,” says the pastry chef, who founded MW Restaurant with husband and chef Wade Ueoka. “I want to build another sense of connection to the dessert.”

The posh Kapi‘olani restaurant features nine unique desserts on its regular menus, many of which began informally. “Honestly,” says Karr Ueoka, sitting in the restaurant staff area, “it’s (based on) what the farmers have, and what I’m craving.” The Ueokas pride themselves on using local products to create MW dishes.

The Punahou graduate maps out new recipes on paper, and then weighs the ingredients, strictly using gram and ounce measurements, not tablespoons and measuring cups. Half way through, if she doesn’t like it, she amends the recipe, or starts over. But she must be doing something right. She was nominated
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Shelley Wilson

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in February as a 2015 James Beard Outstanding Pastry Chef semifinalist and was nominated last year—as was MW for best new restaurant—becoming the first Hawai‘i woman nominated for a James Beard.

“Science is always involved,” she says, referring to her understanding of how foods interact because of their physical and chemical makeup when brainstorming new dishes. “I use the fundamentals of cooking, but (incorporate) modern concepts,” she says. “It helps to create a whole different style of cooking.”

I want to remind people of their mom, or a trip they took. I want to build another sense of connection to the dessert.

Michelle Karr Ueoka

Her talent today meant first understanding how to make the basics: simple custard, traditional brûlée, classic floating island. Mastering these only fueled her creativity to experiment with different flavors and textures, and to deftly tweak ingredients to engineer her own versions. Take MW’s tropical fruit creamsicle brûlée. Karr Ueoka’s twist on the French dessert incorporates lilikoi sorbet, lilikoi custard, tapioca, tropical fruits and guava chiffon. For the tapioca, she drew from the popular Filipino dessert, halo-halo, and for the lilikoi concoctions, mixed in a tribute to her childhood eating gummy bears. “For us, it’s about using local cultures that make Hawai‘i unique, but also trying to reinterpret it,” she says. “That’s what I like about creating.”

Karr Ueoka first stepped into a professional kitchen during an externship at Alan Wong’s, as a travel industry management major at UH Mānoa (it’s also where she met Wade). It ignited her passion to become a chef; she went on to extern at the French Laundry and to stage at Per Se, both in New York City. Karr Ueoka says MW has been the most challenging—she often works 16-hour days—but fulfilling point in her career. “The most rewarding aspect is making people happy with our food.”
Contrary to what Vince Lombardi and other fire-breathing coaches may claim, winning isn’t everything or the only thing. It’s just a thing. Two University of Hawai’i at Mānoa alumnae and former Wahine athletes know that the value of amateur sports really is in “how you play the game,” especially after the final buzzer sounds, the crowd disperses and life must go on.

By Dave Choo

Two-time United States Volleyball Association All-American Beth McLachlin helped lead the University of Hawai’i to three Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) National Championship Finals. She also co-captained the 1976 U.S. Women’s Olympic Volleyball Team, so she’s been a part of a fair share of victories. However, one of her favorite sports memories didn’t involve a win or even competition on the court. It took place at the awards ceremony the day after McLachlin and her UH teammates lost 2-0 to the powerful UCLA Bruins at the 1974 AIAW National Championship Game.

“It was one of those knock-down, drag-out matches, but UCLA was just too big,” says McLachlin, who at 5’8” was her team’s tallest player. “But at the awards ceremony, when we were announced as the runners-up, we got a standing ovation. When UCLA was called up, they got only a smattering of applause. I remember looking at my teammates and wondering what’s going on here?”

What the crowd responded to that day was what McLachlin refers to as “the struggle,” the hard work, gritty determination and slow progression that enables players to not only meet but exceed their potential. In 1974, the UH women’s volleyball program was only two years old and already playing in its second national championship game. The team didn’t even belong to a college athletic conference at the time, spending most of its time scrummaging the Punahou School boys’ team.

McLachlin and the Wahine would make another appearance in the finals two years later, beating the Bruins before falling to the USC Lady Trojans 2-0. By then, McLachlin had a badly injured knee, so her competitive volleyball playing days ended shortly thereafter. But she quickly transitioned into a career teaching physical education and coaching at Honolulu’s all-girls school La Pietra. As teacher, coach and mother, McLachlin saw the importance of the struggle to teenagers struggling to find their place in the world.

“Kids need to find a passion in their lives and it could be any one of a number of things: art, music or sports,” says McLachlin. “If they find something that they do really well and it makes them feel good about themselves, they are less
likely to be talked into doing something stupid.”

McLachlin has been teaching at La Pietra for 35 years and plans on retiring after the 2016 school year. She’s got a couple of grandchildren on the Mainland she’d like to visit more often and another one on the way who will need babysitting. However, McLachlin isn’t ruling out a little coaching from time to time. “When you see a kid find a purpose in life through sports, it makes all the teaching and coaching worthwhile.”

It’s late on a Sunday evening in early spring in Birmingham, Alabama, and Maj Forsberg is in the middle of her own March Madness. Forsberg is a women’s basketball referee, contracted to officiate for some of college sports’ biggest and most competitive conferences: Atlantic Coast Conference, Southeastern Conference, Big East, Big 12 and Big 10, among others.

Before Birmingham, Forsberg spent seven hours in Las Vegas, two days in Hartford, Connecticut, a couple days in Dallas and a few more in Greensboro, North Carolina. Forsberg officiates an average of five to seven games a week, logging about 200,000 air miles a year.

“It’s planes, trains and even automobiles a lot of the time, especially when the weather is bad,” says Forsberg, a native of Denmark, who was a point guard for the Rainbow Wahine basketball team from 1997 to 2000. “Travel is the hardest part of the job. But once you get there, the games are a lot of fun.”

After graduating from UH in 2001 with a degree in finance and management information systems, Forsberg began her refereeing career working Hawai’i club and high school games. After a couple of years, she attended a referee training camp on the Mainland, where she was hired away as a Division I referee, an unusually quick ascent up the officiating ladder.

A professional referee now for 12 years, Forsberg has been, for ten of those years, among an elite group of about 100 women’s DI referees chosen to officiate the NCAA Women’s Championship Tournament. For the first time this April, she was selected for the NCAA Women’s Final Four playoffs, an honor she calls “the pinnacle of my trade.”

In addition to her NCAA duties, Forsberg spends her summers refereeing WNBA games. Forsberg also has a day job in the financial markets, doing foreign currency exchange. Luckily, it’s something she can work on while on the road, which is about 10 months out of the year.

Forsberg says that she developed a deeper appreciation for basketball during her freshman year at UH, when she injured her ankle and had to spend much of the season watching from the sidelines. A back-up during her four years with the Rainbow Wahine, Forsberg also learned the importance of contributing wherever necessary and figuring out what was needed to keep the team running smoothly, a skill she employs on the court today.

“I’ve never been a goal-oriented type of person. It’s never been about winning this or achieving that,” says Forsberg. “Things get tough, sometimes you go through a lot of hardship but you learn from it and move on. You work hard and see how things turn out, and I’ve been so fortunate to be able to stay connected to a game that I love for a lot longer than I ever thought possible.”
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Distinguished Alumni Awards
University of Hawai‘i

2015

Ren Hirose
General Manager
W Scottsdale Hotel

Jillian Inouye
Associate Dean for Research, Schools of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Tom Shigemoto
Vice President of Planning, A&B Properties, Inc.

Stanford Yuen
Principal
SLC Consulting
‘Take on a Challenge’

Since freshman year at UH, I wanted to work in the hotel business and since graduating, I have worked at 11 hotels over the last 30 years. My first general manager position in 1999, to develop the former Colony Surf Hotel into W Honolulu – Diamond Head, offered the chance to take on a challenge to create a new Waikiki hotel bar. The hitch: Our team didn’t have the luxury of space. So I came up with the never-before-tried idea—a first nationwide—to convert our existing restaurant after 9 p.m. to a nightclub on Fridays after dinner hours. It took a lot of planning, but our risk-taking paid off. It was an instant (and profitable) hit: live DJ, dancing and people waiting in line stretching down the street. Soon other Waikiki hotels copied our model. We changed the landscape of entertainment.

Ren Hirose

‘You’re in Charge of Your Destiny’

Growing up, I was inspired by my mother who returned to college at age 42 to become a nurse. She always said, “You’re in charge of your destiny.” I remember her quoting from the poem “Invictus,” “I am the master of my fate; I am the captain of my soul.” So when I was offered a three-month legislative internship with Senator Daniel Inouye, I took the risk, leaving behind my husband (bless him!) and two kids, ages three and five. It turned out to be a turning point. I helped on a bill to fund medical centers in states to develop child abuse prevention programs. When I returned to Hawai‘i, the experience not only gave me a job in Tripler’s child abuse prevention program funded by that legislation, but also expanded opportunities in my academic career.

Jillian Inouye

LITTLE KNOWN FACT
Shot the first of his three holes-in-one at age 12.

LITTLE KNOWN FACT
Climbed to the top of Diamond Head from its exterior with no trail in the 5th grade.

1985
Earns BBA, UH Mānoa, with emphasis in hotel & restaurant management

1998
Joins Board of Directors, TIM International, Inc. “as a way of giving back to UH”

2005
Assumes dual positions as area managing director and regional director (Six Sigma Master Black Belts best practices), Starwood Hotels & Resorts – French Polynesia. Wins 2006 IMPACT Award, Starwood Worldwide.

1966
Earns BS, MA (1980) and PhD (1987), UH Mānoa

1979
Receives a National Institutes of Health Fellowship that opened new areas of research, leading to her current focus on lifestyle behaviors, health disparities, chronic illness and self-management

2013
Named professor and associate dean for research for the Schools of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

PHOTO COURTESY OF REN HIROSE

PHOTO: ODEELO DAYONDON

PHOTO: ODEELO DAYONDON

2015 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS
‘A “Mistake” Changed My Life’

I planned to be a math teacher and chose UH because its offer of a $750 Hemenway Scholarship meant I wouldn’t burden my hardworking parents for my $116 a semester tuition. Then calculus made me realize I couldn’t teach something I didn’t understand! Remembering my good high school aptitude test scores in art and design, I changed to pre-architecture. But after two years of design classes, I thought: What skills would I have to start working immediately? A bit panicked, I took a chance and switched to urban/regional design planning, a relatively new field. A job offer after graduation in county planning enabled me to fulfill my wish to go home to Kaua‘i to work and raise my family. A ‘mistake’ changed my life.

‘Don’t Screw Up Second Chances’

In 1962, I flunked out of UH engineering school and couldn’t get a job anywhere. It was a blessing in disguise. I got a second chance to go back to school and went on to earn degrees and professional licenses in mechanical and industrial engineering. Turns out, I’m an adequate engineer, not a bad one, just adequate. But engineering got me military jobs, where working on a team to develop an EIS (environmental impact statement), I discovered a knack for relating to people. Another second chance opened up for me with whole new opportunities that became a 40-year career, the last 14 as civilian special assistant and senior advisor to the Admiral, Navy Region Hawaii. I’m living proof: Don’t screw up second chances.
The University of Hawai'i Distinguished Alumni Award Winners (1989 - 2014)

1989
Joshua C. Agsalud ’55, ’61
Robert H. Hughes ’38
E. Alison Kay ’57
Ah Quon McElrath ’38
Wayne Carr Metcalf, III ’75
Marie Nakashiki Milks ’66
Richard Penhallou ’26
Larry D. Price ’65
Tina M. Shelton ’80

1990
Mom i W. Cazimer o ’55
Stanton Ho ’75
Lolani Jameson ’79, ’88, ’89
Thomas K. Kaulukukui, Sr. ’38, ’39, ’41
Donald C.W. Kim ’58
Dorothy I. Matsuo ’50
James M. Morita ’56
Andre S. Tatibouet ’64
Joyce S. Tsnuoda ’60, ’65

1991
Neil Abercrombie ’64, ’74
Marion Diamond ’35
Hiram L. Fong ’30
Fuji Matsuda ’43
Sharon Narimatsu ’67, ’75
Harriet Natsuyama ’59, ’60

1992
S. Haunani Apoliona ’67, ’73
Patricia Lanoie Blanchette ’72, ’74
Vernon Char ’56
Kan Jung Luke ’36
Ralph M. Miwa ’48, ’50
Margaret Oda ’47, ’77
Patsy Saiki ’54, ’59
James Walker ’59, ’62
Michael B. White ’72
Walter Wong ’67

1993
Wally J. A. Dods, Jr. ’67
Robert M. Fujimoto ’51
Edward Hirata ’56
Satoru Izutsu ’50
Lawrence M. Johnson ’63
Kent M. Keith ’77
Alexander Malahoff ’65

1994
Isabella Aiona Abbott ’41
Michael J. Chun ’68
William Fruean ’77
Dewey H. Kim ’50
Helen R. Nagtalon-Miller ’51, ’67
Francis Y. Sogi ’49
Ben Taguchi ’54
Jeanette C. Takamura ’69, ’72

1995
Rosie Kim Chang ’47, ’77
Madeleine J. Goodman ’73
David Hyun ’40
Andrew W.S. In ’42
M. Asad Khan ’67
Frederic F.Y. Pang ’58, ’72
William S. Richardson ’41
Yoshiko Sakurai ’69

1996
Ame nil Agbayani ’66, ’69
Chang-Yoon Choi ’70, ’73
Gregory Dever ’78
Richard H. Kosaki ’49
Abraham Piianaia ’53, ’55

1997
David C. Cade ’67
Philip Helfrich ’58
Richard D. Parsons
Attended ’64, ’65, ’78
Barbara Peterson ’78

1998
Dyanne Affonso ’66
David E.K. Cooper ’63
Soon-Kwon Kim ’74
Beatrice Krauss ’26, ’30
Ernest K. Nishizaki ’69
Livingston M.F. Wong ’52

1999
Fred Shiu Leung Chau ’72, ’74
Doris M. Ching ’63, ’71
Eddie Flores, Jr. ’70
Mo-Im Kim ’67
Michael S. Nakamura ’74
Terry T. Shintani ’79, ’85
Daniel K. Akaka* ’52, ’53, ’66

2000
Robin K. Campaniano ’73, ’83
Ronald N.S. Ho ’67, ’68
Daniel K. Inouye ’50
Francis A. Keala ’53
Pamela Samuelson ’71, ’72
Glady s A. Brandt ’42

2001
Nalene Naupaka Andrade ’76, ’82
Jack S. Fritz ’73, ’79
Haruyuki Kamemoto ’44, ’47
Robert N. Katayama ’50
Lydia L.W. Tsui ’75
Edwin S.N. Wong ’51
Kane S. Fernandes* ’58

2002
Warren Haruki ’77
Kevin Hughes ’93
David B.T. Lau ’41
Kurt Osaki ’88
Donna Tanoue ’76
Alan Wong ’79
Hiram L. Fong* ’30

2003
Allan K. Ikawa ’71
Howard Karr ’66
Francis S. Oda ’00
Puongpun Sanaiki ’68
Patrice Tanaka ’74
William S. Richardson* ’41

2004
Beadie Kanahele Dawson ’81
Attilio Kaniel Leonard ’72, ’94
Thelma Chock Nip ’50, ’61
Barry K. Taniguchi ’69
Frank Wattase ’50
Ah Quon McElrath* ’38
Richard Hartman* ’74

2005
Charles T. Araki ’57, ’61
Elmer Botsai ’00
Frederick Duenebier ’68, ’72
Robert P. Hiarn ’69
Jong-Wook Lee ’81
Gary A. Okamoto ’66
Carole R. Onouye ’67
Ronald E. Bright* ’56, ’57, ’73

2006
Thomas Kaulukukui Jr. ’77
Samuel Koide ’45
Patricia Y. Lee ’65, ’79
Robert G. F. Lee ’71, ’83
Seiji Naya ’58
Kent Tsukamoto ’74
Victor Yano ’74, ’78
Genoa Keawe*

2007
Walter Kirimitsu ’62
Jay H. Shidler ’68
Thomas P. Gill* Attended ’40, ’42, ’47

2008
Centennial Celebration with Distinguished Alumni

2009
Chiyoue Fukino ’79
James & Lois Horton ’69
Dee Jay Mailer ’75, ’85
Sabrina McKenna ’78, ’82
Daniel B.T. Lau* ’41
David & Wendie McClain*

2010
Wesley Fong ’65
David Lassner ’98
Ashok Kumar Malhotra ’69
Virginia Pressler ’75, ’81, ’82
Patricia Saliki* ’52

2011
L. Tammy Duckworth ’89
Gary Galicher ’71, ’77
Diane Ono ’73, ’82, ’77
Richard Ha ’73
John T. Komeiji ’75
Hing Leung Shuo ’80
Isabella Aiona Abbott* ’41

2012
Robert Alm ’73
Frederick D.S. Choi ’65, ’68
Patrick H. DeLeon ’73
Ted T. Tsukiyama*
Attended ’39, ’41, ’46
Virginia Hinshaw†
Ann Dunham Soeto† ’67, ’83, ’92

2013
Edwin Gayagas ’62
Alden Henderson ’77, ’82
Patrick Sullivan ’81, ’85
Barbara Tanabe ’83
David Ezra* Attended ’67-’68

2014
J. Kūhiō Asam ’78
Claire L. Asam ’78, ’99
Rick Blangiardi ’73
Emme Tomimbang ’71, ’73
John Waihe’e III* ’76

* UH Founders Alumni
Association Lifetime Achievement Award
† UHAA President’s Award

Degrees are from UH Mānoa unless otherwise listed.
And Now, a Centennial Scholar
The first recipient of CTAHR’s Centennial Scholarship is Food Science and Human Nutrition (FSHN) freshman Maili Sabo. The newly endowed scholarship assists incoming freshmen and transfers who are first-generation college students. Maili, a longtime athlete, was looking for a course of study related to fitness, coaching, sports, and nutrition, so the Sports and Wellness track in FSHN is a perfect fit—and Maili says she’s having the experience of her life.

Environmental Protection and Law
Plant and Environmental Protection Sciences alumnus Matthew Alan Sylva has continued to excel since winning two major student awards last spring for his work with wiliwili trees. Matthew spent his summer working with Native Hawaiian plants at the Amy B.H. Greenwell Ethno-Botanical Garden in Kealakekua before beginning the next step in his educational journey: the William S. Richardson School of Law, where he’ll focus on environmental law.

How to Build a Toxin—and a Career
“Lab superstar” and Kaua‘i transplant Chino Cabalteja, MS alumnus in Molecular Biosciences and Bioengineering, won the 2014 UHM Student Excellence in Research Award for his work with conotoxins, poisons produced by cone snails. Conotoxins can now be formulated in the lab, though Chino helped to discover that human-made versions are different than those made by the snails. Chino’s now in the University of Pittsburgh’s prestigious PhD program.

Ag Innovation for AquaFarmers
Avery Lau and Donna “Sweetie” Kuehu, Natural Resources and Environmental Management students and founders of Hawaii AquaSeed & Distribution Co., LLC (HADCO), were semi-finalists in the Howard G. Buffett Foundation’s University of Wisconsin-Madison 2014 Agricultural Innovation Prize. HADCO’s agriculture/aquaculture food system business model mitigates barriers for small to medium-size operations for sustainable production of a fresh and nutritious food supply.

The Bread(fruit) Basket of the Pacific
Tropical Plant and Soil Sciences graduate and 2015 CTAHR Outstanding Alumna Diane Ragone was selected as a Star of Oceania by the Pacific Business Center for her work as director of the National Tropical Botanical Garden’s Breadfruit Institute. This honor stems in large part from her work to end world hunger through the Institute’s research into breadfruit propagation and cultivation, and its global distribution of breadfruit saplings to aid in sustainable agriculture and food security.

Exploring the Global Mosaic in Taiwan
Jasmine Asuncion, Family Resources alumna, was one of two scholars from UH and 30 nationwide selected for Mosaic Taiwan, a three-week fellowship program led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Taiwan. Participants learned about Taiwan’s environment and culture through tours of businesses, museums, and cultural sites and meetings with government officials—including President Ma Ying-jeou and Vice President Wu Den-yih!—educators, community representatives, and young leaders.

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Photo courtesy of the Breadfruit Institute
Eric Chock and Darrell Lum | 35 YEARS: Bamboo Ridge

Experiencing Our Lives as Art

A bold idea back then, Bamboo Ridge also culminated what Chock calls “literary activism” on campus and in the community—workshops, conferences, outreach to Mainland Asian-American and other ethnic writers, and the 1978-'79 Talk Story Conference—focusing on local writing about Hawai‘i.

For Chock, a Conscientious Objector during Vietnam, VISTA volunteer and Legal Aid intern, and later president of Hawai‘i Literary Arts Council and coordinator of public schools’ Poets in the School, “It’s been about my own writing/reading, and on a larger scale about the value of local lit. How it sparks local students in ways that they just can’t get from Shakespeare or Chaucer. Why not give them that option?”

From the start, both editors “chose what we liked” of the poems, essays and stories featured, but often after much debate and, no doubt, guided by a lifetime of exploring local identity, ethnicity and relevance. “They offered a new model for local people to write...building a different kind of voice in an unclichéd landscape,” says Marie Hara, president of Bamboo Ridge Press.

That those works tapped into something deeply felt and shared by others, and achieved wider acceptance and recognition “spurred us all forward,” says Chock. Today, Bamboo Ridge, Hawai‘i’s oldest and longest running literary press, is one of the nation’s oldest nonprofit, independent presses.

Stepping down with Chock as editors in 2014, Lum chuckles when he hears Bamboo Ridge called a “canon” or “the establishment.” It was part of the change, he says, that has made local literature more diverse, more accepting of cultural differences. It raised our island tradition of “talk story” to national and international literary recognition and validated experiencing our lives as art.

– Gail Miyasaki
Awarded: Stephany Nihipali Vaioleti | 2015 Omidyar Fellow

Starting as a social worker in 1998 and now as administrator/CEO at Kahuku Medical Center, Stephany Nihipali Vaioleti always wanted to work on the North Shore. When, KMC faced a shutdown, in 2007 as the area’s only medical facility serving 22,500 residents and 1 million annual visitors, the Laie native stepped up as its interim administrator to serve in the delicate role of liaison with its employees, the legislature and community.

“We walked door-to-door soliciting support. It was overwhelming,” says Vaioleti (BS ’96, MSW ’98, JD ’05, Mānoa). Since its 2008 emergence from bankruptcy, KMC has worked to inspire community trust, grown by more than 30 percent and is now at full capacity. Vaioleti is leading its current strategic master planning as a health care model focused on wellness.

“We have lots of work to do,” she adds. So the lifelong learner applied for two leadership fellowships, hoping to get one. She got both.

As one of 14 Hawai‘i leaders selected as a 2015 Omidyar Fellow, Vaioleti is “excited about providing KMC with access to new resources and expertise” from the prestigious program dedicated to cultivating emerging executives with skills and relationships to help lead Hawai‘i into the future. Vaioleti plans to pursue both fellowships, the other a health care professional program. Any doubt she’ll do it?

Central bank considered the most influential national institution to maintain the economic soundness of the American economy. Landon, also a lecturer at Mānoa’s School of Law, was praised as “an outstanding leader (who) possesses a keen intellect and understanding of the community banking system” by Peter Ho, Landon’s successor as chairman and CEO of Bank of Hawaii.

Published

The Faith of Leadership: Insights from Hawai‘i’s Leaders, by Robert “Robbie” Alm (BA ’73, Mānoa), former executive vice president of Hawaiian Electric Co. and currently president of the Collaborative Leaders Network. Drawing on his leadership experiences in Hawai‘i’s public and private sectors, Alm, a 2012 UH Distinguished Alumni honoree, “offers a series of guideposts for mapping a life path to becoming a good leader.” (Watermark 2014).

ALOHA ‘OE

James Shigeta (1929-2014), one of the first Asian-American actors to land a leading role (“Flower Drum Song,” “Bridge to the Sun”) and a talented singer and entertainer, whose studies at UH were interrupted by the Korean War. “One of the most important pioneers for Asian entertainers,” Honolulu-born Shigeta opened doors for those who came after him, says local entertainer Jimmy Borges. Shigeta established the James Shigeta Scholarship in Asian Studies at UH Mānoa.

ALOHA ‘OE

Murray Turnbull (1919-2014), inspirational artist, educator, self-taught musician and best known as the founder of the East-West Center in 1959, also chair of the UH Mānoa art department (twice), acting dean of the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, director of planning for UH, and the EWC’s first (Interim) Director. The faculty committee he chaired wrote the EWC’s proposal that envisioned an “international college” to foster respect for differences and similarities among people in order to create together “a dynamic, fruitful but peaceful life for all.” Among his 7,000+ art works are stained glass windows (Keller Hall), sculpture walls (UH Music Building) and mural (Mō‘ili‘ili’s Kokua Market).

ALOHA ‘OE

Ah Chew Goo (1919-2015), admired Hilo-born basketball wizard who stood just 5 feet 4 inches, first inductee in Hawai‘i Sports Hall of Fame (1978) and UH men’s basketball coach (1954-’57), nationally recognized as Hawai‘i’s sensational “Mandarin Magician” hoopster who influenced NBA legend Pete Maravich and the Harlem Globetrotters with his quick, accurate and timely dribbling, passing and other ball-handling skills. Two UH postseason awards bear his name in men’s and women’s basketball (the latter is the Wahine’s most prestigious individual award).
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Dino Babers (BEd ’84, Mānoa), former UH football running back and defensive back (1979-1983), has been named head football coach of Bowling Green State University. Babers, who began his coaching career as a graduate assistant at UH, has also held coaching positions at Eastern Illinois, Baylor, UCLA, Texas A&M and Arizona.

Reg Baker (BBA ’86, Mānoa), who joined PKF Pacific Hawai’i LLP in 2014 as a partner to head its tax and accounting practices, has been appointed executive committee chairman as one of three PKF partners to head PKF’s management. He has more than 25 years of accounting experience and a specialized expertise in personal financial planning and business advisory services in Hawai’i and on the Mainland.

Catherine Caine (MEd ’13, Mānoa) has been named 2015 Teacher of the Year by the state Department of Education and, as this magazine goes to press, is one of four finalists for the 2015 National Teacher of the Year. A proponent of creating a “mindful school” (developing critical thinking in children), the second grade teacher at Waikiki Elementary, a national “blue ribbon” school in 2007 and 2013, is also a mentor for UH and Hawai’i Pacific University student teachers.

Leslie Isemoto (1973-’75, Hilo, ’78, Mānoa), president and chief operating officer of Isemoto Contracting in Hilo, has been named 2015 Outstanding Union Builder of the Year by the Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters for his exceptional contributions to the construction industry and the community. He is the third generation head of his family’s 88-year-old company; one of the few local builders qualified to construct advanced scientific research installations, including Mauna Kea telescope facilities for Gemini North and Subaru Deep Space.

Kathy Dede Nein Jetnil-Kijner (MA ’74, Mānoa), lecturer at the College of the Marshall Islands and internationally known poet and spoken-word artist, was one of seven opening ceremony speakers at the Climate Summit at the United Nations in September 2014. Sharing the podium with U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon and former Vice President Al Gore, the Marshall Islands native was selected as the civil society representative from 500 individuals nominated from 100 nations.

Shannon Okinaka (BBA ’96, Mānoa) has been promoted to senior vice president and interim chief financial officer for Hawaiian Airlines. The Hilo native will oversee all financial planning, accounting, treasury and compliance functions for the largest Hawai’i-based airline. Okinaka joined the company in 2005 as a senior director in charge of Sarbanes-Oxley compliance and special projects, and was promoted to vice president and controller in 2011.

Blake Oshiro (JD ’96, Mānoa) has rejoined Honolulu law firm Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing after more than a decade of public service as a longtime state legislator and most recently former Governor Neil Abercrombie’s deputy chief of staff. Oshiro will serve as director of counsel for the state’s fourth largest law firm’s government relations division. His areas of practice also include commercial litigation, employment law, government contracts, entity formation, and environmental law. Oshiro also earned an environmental law certificate from UH’s William S. Richardson School of Law.

Angela Perez Baraquio (MEd ’04, Mānoa), former Miss Hawai’i and first Asian-American Miss America, has published Amazing Win, Amazing Loss: Miss America Living Happily, Even After (self-published 2014). One of 10 children born to Filipino immigrants, she shares personal anecdotes of her life story to inspire young people, especially women, to fulfill their dreams.

Hao Ping (MA ’95, Mānoa), vice minister of education in China, has been elected president of the 37th General Conference in 2015 for UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization). Ping, the first General Conference president elected from China, heads the governing body for UNESCO’s 195 member states and nine associate members. A recognized international scholar in education, he also served as consultant at Mānoa’s Center for Chinese Studies.

Richard Yanagihara (BA ’68, Mānoa), pediatrics professor and recognized health disparities researcher, received the 2014 Minority Health and Health Disparities national award for his work in expanding infectious disease research capabilities at UH and for his prominent role in bringing attention to research into why people of certain cultural backgrounds suffer from disproportionately poor health issues.

Llewellyn Young (MEd ’03, PhD ’06, Mānoa) has been named principal of St. Joseph’s School, a private Catholic preschool to grade 12 school in Hilo. The Kaua’i native has more than 16 years of experience in educational administration in Hawai’i and the Mainland. He has also served as a project director of UH College of Education’s Hawai’i Leadership Academy.

Ahmad Yu (MA ’82, Mānoa), with more than 30 years of experience in food manufacturing and processing, has been named vice president of operations for Honolulu Cookie Company to oversee manufacturing, distribution, purchasing and quality assurance. Specializing in food science and technology at UH, Yu will be part of major expansion plans for Honolulu Cookie, which opened its first Mainland outlet in 2014 in Las Vegas, NV.
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ALUMNI GATHERINGS

2015 UH NURSING ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER
More than 140 guests celebrated UH Mānoa Nursing Alumni Association’s Second Annual Endowed Scholarship Fund, which raised $55,000 to benefit undergraduate and graduate nursing students enrolled at Mānoa. First year scholarship recipient, Jessica Niles, was a guest speaker at the March event.

ARIZONA ALUMNI HOST UH AND UHAA
A UH and UHAA booth, sponsored by UH alumni and friends, at the Arizona Aloha Festival 2015 in Tempe reached out to alumni and future students among the March event’s 150,000 attendees. (L-R) Arizona resident and 2015 UHAA Distinguished Alumni honoree Ren Hirose, UHAA’s Roxanne Kam and UH Mānoa Admissions’ Justin Wamsley.

VVV ALUMNI VOLUNTEERS REUNITE FOR 73RD ANNIVERSARY
Four surviving members of the Varsity Victory Volunteers (L-R), Yoshiaki Fujitani, Ted Tsukiyama, Akira Otani (’47) and Takashi Kajihara (’49, ’50), reunited in February 2015 to commemorate their volunteer labor battalion created by 169 UH ROTC members initially denied military service during World War II because of their Japanese ancestry. VVV later disbanded so members could volunteer for the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

2015 UHAA LIFE MEMBER EVENT
A tour of an aquaponics farm, a delicious lunch by Miso and Ale featuring the farm’s fresh ingredients, and plenty of talk story highlighted this February 2015 event held at Millani’s Mari’s Gardens, courtesy of father-son alumni Fred (’76) and Brendon (’11) Lau at their family-owned farm.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ALUMNI AND UH EVENTS go online at UHAlumni.org/events hawaii.edu/calendar/uh/2015

May 13
UHAA Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner
Sheraton Waikiki
Honolulu

May 16
UH Mānoa Commencement
Stan Sheriff Center

UH Hilo Spring Commencement
Edith Kanaka’ole Multi-purpose Stadium
Hilo

May 29
Shidler Maui Alumni Golf Tournament and Networking Event
Wailea, Maui

July 18
John A. Burns School of Medicine 50th Anniversary Gala
Sheraton Waikiki
Honolulu

October 8
Shidler Hall of Honor Awards
Sheraton Waikiki
Honolulu
This 3D visualization, shown by world renowned data visualization expert Jason Leigh, features simulations of spacecraft flights to rendezvous with mini-moons (fast orbiting asteroids close to Earth). Leigh’s inventions of pioneering tech collaboration tools create visual representations of big data to enable research teams to gain quick and confident insights of the massive data. Joining UH Mānoa’s information and computer sciences department in 2014, he came to Hawai‘i to work with world class UH researchers (astronomy, oceanography and more), to teach his popular video game design and development class, and to learn Samoan and other Pacific languages. “I’ve made a pretty successful career out of following paths less trodden.”
On June 15, 1955, nine members of the University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents met to organize a charitable corporation whose sole mission would be to generate private support for the University of Hawai‘i.

The numbers shown at the right highlight the growing impact the UH Foundation and its donors have made for more than half a century.

The UH Foundation and its Board of Trustees are deeply grateful to all donors who have been our partners in this tremendous progress over the past 60 years. It has made a difference in the lives of so many students and created a legacy for generations to come.

Thanks to you, the UH Foundation raised a record $98.6 million last year to support all 10 UH System campuses.

Please help us continue building a strong foundation for UH students, programs and research. Call 808.956.8849 or visit www.uhfoundation.org.
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