KUPONO

THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER
Summer 2015 • Vol. 5, No. 2

CELEBRATING

60 years

For Our University, Our Hawai‘i, Our Future
Q: Can you tell us about your and your family’s connections to UH?

A: We are a UH family. I came here from the Philippines on an East-West Center scholarship. I finished my MA with a major in political economy and was admitted to the PhD program as well. Ather, my husband, was his “parents’ scholar” and came to UH to finish his Master of Science in civil/structural engineering. He is the president and owner of Hawaii Engineering Group. We met as students and the rest is history. We’ve been married 31 years and have four children, all of whom attended UH.

Q: What have you learned as a UH Foundation board member?

A: This is my second 3-year term. On my first year as a trustee I learned a lot about UH’s amazing work and crucial role in our economy and Hawai‘i’s future. I also found out how important it is for the press to look at UH with a fresh set of eyes and how futile it is to put down our own.

Q: Why do you volunteer on the UH Foundation board?

A: I volunteer because I believe strongly in public education. We cannot continue to pay lip service to it. If we believe in it, we should send our kids to public schools.

Q: What role do you see UH playing in our state?

A: UH is a catalyst of hope. We have attracted world-class scholars, academicians, researchers, administrators, students, leaders. I wish the people can truly understand what UH is and what great works it is doing for the people of Hawai‘i, the Pacific and the world at large. I strongly believe we are positioned for greatness. Our graduates are the proof our UH education is strong, relevant and competitive. Don’t let negative press diminish our brilliance.

UH Foundation welcomes five community leaders to Board of Trustees

Stanford Carr
President
Stanford Carr Development

Bill Grayson, Esq.
Principal
Bernstein Private Wealth Management

Robert Hiam
Former President & CEO, HMSA

Michael Hirai, CFA
Senior VP & Manager
First Hawaiian Bank

Mary Sellers
Vice Chair & Chief Risk Officer
Bank of Hawaii
On June 15, 1955, nine regents of the University of Hawai‘i, led by Chairman Philip E. Spalding, incorporated the University of Hawai‘i Foundation. This year, in recognition of our 60th anniversary, we revisit a few of our historical highlights.

On Jan. 21, 1960, saw the groundbreaking of Orvis Auditorium, the first campus facility built with private money.

The President’s Club was formed in 1975 to encourage support for UH from alumni, friends and community leaders. Under the leadership of UH Foundation President Man Kwong Au, the club was formed with 13 members, including Walter Dods, Jr., Keiji Kawakami and Fujio Matsuda. Today there are 1,269 members.

In 1976, the first endowed scholarship was created. Today UHF manages more than 1,500 scholarship accounts. Last year, we distributed $11+ million in student aid at all ten UH campuses.

In 1980, UHF organized phonathons to encourage support for university programs. Our student callers now raise $1.2 million a year to support UH.

The Centennial Campaign surpassed its $250 million goal in 2009. More than 90,000 donors contributed $282 million. With bequest intentions of $54 million, the campaign raised $336 million, making it the largest campaign in Hawai‘i at that time.

On Oct. 20, 2014, we celebrated UH’s first $100 million donor when Jay H. Shidler announced his visionary commitment to the Shidler College of Business.

ENDOWMENT

In 1980, UH Foundation’s endowment was valued at approximately $2.6 million.

Today it is worth $265.6 million.

The Centennial Campaign surpassed its $250 million goal in 2009. More than 90,000 donors contributed $282 million. With bequest intentions of $54 million, the campaign raised $336 million, making it the largest campaign in Hawai‘i at that time.

On Oct. 20, 2014, we celebrated UH’s first $100 million donor when Jay H. Shidler announced his visionary commitment to the Shidler College of Business.
On May 15, 2015, community leaders and friends of the University of Hawai‘i came together to dedicate the Clarence T.C. Ching Athletics Complex at UH Mānoa. Thanks to a $5 million gift from The Clarence T.C. Ching Foundation and a public-private partnership that included support from the state and university, UH Mānoa’s only on-campus, all-purpose track and field, football, soccer and recreational facility has been transformed into a dynamic center for student activity.

Women’s Soccer Head Coach Michele “Bud” Nagamine said, “Having a place for equity sports to call home is a dream come true! When recruits come to visit, we now have a facility that we can show with pride, and it helps keep us competitive.”

Katie Spieler, sand volleyball student-athlete, spoke about how the field has personally impacted her and her teammates.

Members of The Clarence T.C. Ching Foundation Board of Trustees (L-R): Bob Fujioka, Ken Okamoto, Cathy Ching, Ray Tam & Jack Tsui
Scholarship donors, student scholarship recipients and members of the UH Hilo ‘ohana celebrated the impact private support is making in the lives of UH Hilo students.

Leeward Community donors and retired faculty and staff were honored at the recent Donor Mahalo Reception. Scholarships have helped more than 1,000 students since Leeward CC opened more than 40 years ago.

UH Hilo Scholarship Event
April 22 • UH Hilo

Scholarship donors, student scholarship recipients and members of the UH Hilo ‘ohana celebrated the impact private support is making in the lives of UH Hilo students.

ABOVE LEFT (L-R): Kapuanani Arsiga, Mathew Estrada and Jessica Vialobos


LEFT (L-R): John Venrick, Desiree Shortt, ShoaAxum Johnson, Aki Oda, Andrea Furuli, Russ Oda and Jerry Chang

Lorri Redlew, Vice President of Pacific Transfer, and John Morton, UH Community Colleges VP
Lester and Marian Kaneta were so impressed by the transformative results their giving has made in the lives of at-risk students enrolled in the Lunalilo Scholars Program at Kapi‘olani Community College, that they have created a $1 million challenge grant.

The successful program was launched in 2012, when Kapi‘olani CC partnered with the Kanetas to start a scholarship program.

“It has been incredible to watch the students gain confidence, take pride in their ability to succeed on and off campus, and truly change the trajectory of their lives!” the Kanetas said.

“When they begin to feel hopeful, they begin to realize they can break the poverty cycle and give back to their community.”

Lunalilo Scholars receive one year of tuition, participate in a summer bridge program to help them bond with their peer cohort, and receive ongoing tutoring, mentorship, financial literacy training, skill-building programs, and a range of support throughout their first year.

Lunalilo Scholars Program Director LaVache Scanlan knows how daunting the first year of college can be for students, especially for students in an at-risk population who are often the first in their families to attempt college.

“Many students start the program with little more than a strong desire to work hard and get ahead. Some are near the brink of homelessness, or stuck in low paying jobs. Some are victims of domestic violence or substance abuse, incarceration or foster homes,” Scanlan said. “We work closely with each student to guide them through the year to help them find their way to independence, complete college and be successful.”

Statistics show that people without a college degree are three times more likely to live in poverty than college graduates, and eight times more likely to depend on public assistance. In Hawai‘i, people with bachelor’s degrees earn $27,000 more per year on average than those who only have a high school diploma.

The program’s first cohort started with 21 students and has grown. More than 50 students are enrolled in the 2015-16 school year and headed for success.

“The success rates for these students are outstanding. We are excited to see what happens in the next five years as the program grows through expanded private support and accepts more students,” said the Kanetas.

To learn more about the Lunalilo Scholars program, please visit www.uhfoundation.org/lunalilo.
Although he was born in Kīlauea, Kaua‘i, Jon Isle has lived on O‘ahu most of his life. He grew up in Aina Haina, graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1960, and earned his bachelor’s in political science from UH Mānoa in 1964.

He soon began his career in the federal civil service as an employee development specialist. He worked hard, applied himself and moved up in his field until he retired in 2012 as head of the Civilian Workforce Development Division at the Human Resources Office, Commander Navy Region Hawai‘i. He credits his success to education.

Last year Isle set up the Tully J. Isle Endowed Scholarship to encourage and assist students studying in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) at UH Mānoa. He also established the fund in memory of his father Charles, his mother Lucille and his brother James.

You’ve designated a portion of your estate to support an endowed scholarship for UH Mānoa students in STEM fields. What motivated you to include UH in your estate plans?

As a product of the public school system in Hawai‘i, I am a strong believer in public education and see a growing need for public support of the UH System. Since I am a graduate of UH Mānoa, I decided to focus on the Mānoa campus. On a deeper level, it is a way for me to help and to give back to society for the benefits I have received.

What do you hope this scholarship will accomplish?

I hope that the fund will attract more students to STEM fields and will help to ensure their success. I think that too many students consider STEM to be too difficult or they can’t afford the tuition, which I personally think is now too high. Perhaps a few more would be willing to try STEM if they had some tuition support.

You attended UH Mānoa and graduated in 1964. How did UH help prepare you for your successful career in human resources?

Although my degree in political science had no direct bearing on my career in human resources, it did prepare me in other ways, such as to be able to think and analyze critically, research issues, present arguments and positions in an organized manner, and to write reasonably well. I have never regretted majoring in political science.
Central Pacific Bank Foundation has generously supported University of Hawai‘i students with recent gifts to scholarship funds totaling more than $57,000.

The CPB Foundation’s mission is to help strengthen Hawai‘i communities by creating opportunities for youth and fostering social progress. This has guided its philanthropic investments in programs and scholarship opportunities for UH students in various programs.

This includes support for the John A. Burns School of Medicine 50th anniversary scholarship fund, which assists full-time medical school students, and the Senator Daniel K. Akaka Regents Scholarship for outstanding students throughout the UH System who have been selected as UH Regents Scholars. The prestigious Regents Scholarship helps Hawai‘i’s most promising students pursue their higher education ambitions here at home.

CPB Foundation also helps economically disadvantaged individuals, many of whom are the first in their families to attend college, to fulfill their potential through the UH Mānoa College Opportunities Program (COP) Central Pacific Bank Rising Scholars scholarship. COP provides a free, intensive 6-week summer academic and residential program to prepare students for a successful freshman year, and provides ongoing counseling support.

“Empowering our youth with the tools and opportunities to succeed is a mission that we share with the University of Hawai‘i,” said CPB Foundation President Denis Isono. “We are pleased that we can support UH programs and provide scholarships to help students reach their goals.”