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As we look to the next 60 years and beyond, your continued partnership will be essential in building a stronger university.

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The Sound of the Islands,” a song written and composed in 1975 by the late Nancy Gustafsson-Rittenband, was inspired by Hawai‘i’s cultural diversity. The chords are meant to reflect the many distinct ethnic groups that make up Hawai‘i’s population – groups that, when combined, create a beautiful harmony.

In writing and composing music, beloved hapa-haole Hawaiian music connoisseurs Nancy Gustafsson-Rittenband and her husband Victor Rittenband wrote songs that not only served to entertain but also encouraged listeners to think of Hawaiian music on a deeper level. More than 40 years later, UH Mānoa alumnus, performer and educator Zachary Lum is doing the same.

“To think of mele [music] as a source of entertainment is only scratching the surface of its value in education, culture, politics and many other realms,” said Lum. “I grew up with Hawaiian music, and over my years of education and experience, its sentimental value has grown into an appreciation for its importance.”

A recipient of the Gustafsson-Rittenband Endowment Scholarship Fund, Lum has made a career of Hawaiian music that can be traced all the way back to his childhood, through his years as a Kamehameha Schools song contest director and onward. But it wasn’t until he came to UH that he was able to fully immerse himself in Hawaiian language as well as study the more fundamental and technical aspects of music. Lum is now focusing on ethnomusicology for his graduate studies.

“The countless lessons and experiences I’ve gained from my education have become tools to create, express and educate others on Hawaiian music,” said Lum, who now teaches music at Kamehameha Schools Kapālama. When he’s not studying, lecturing or teaching, he can be found performing as a member of the Hawaiian music trio Keauhou.

With ample performance experience and penchant for learning in hand, both Lum and the Rittenbands have shared a belief in the value of Hawaiian music and the importance of giving back. In 2009, the late Victor Rittenband spoke of the impact Hawaiian music had had on his life.

“Nancy and I weren’t lucky enough to be born here, but we were smart enough to come here,” he said. “Our lives were greatly enriched by the people and culture of Hawai‘i. We wanted to give back and give thanks for what Hawai‘i gave to us.”

As a way of giving back, Victor Rittenband established the Gustafsson-Rittenband Endowment Scholarship Fund to support students studying Hawaiian music. He also established the Nancy Gustafsson-Rittenband and Victor Rittenband Endowment for Hawaiian Music to support the UH Mānoa Music Department’s Hawaiian Music program.

As for Lum, he aspires to bring his love and appreciation for Hawaiian music full circle.

“As a mele practitioner, I hope to contribute to this soundscape to honor traditions in a contemporary environment, while also contributing to the traditions of the future,” said Lum. “As an educator, I hope to instill and inspire both talent and knowledge in my students so that they too may be equipped to breathe life into our mele, and thus, our lāhui [people].”

Keauhou, L–R: Zachary Lum, Jonah Solatorio and Nicholas Lum
Evening of Exploration

MAY 5 • WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

UH Foundation donor societies exist to honor and thank the visionary philanthropists who have invested in our collective future. To recognize their generous support, we invited these special donors to a celebration on May 5 at Windward Community College, where they learned more about programs that bridge earth and sky.

The evening began in the Palikū Theatre and was followed by behind-the-scenes tours of the Veterinary Technology and Agri-pharmatech programs, Hōkūlani Imaginarium and Center for Aerospace Education. The event culminated with a reception that featured Windward CC students performing live music.
Former faculty return to campus

JUNE 29 • UH MĀNOA

UH emeritus faculty gathered at UH Mānoa’s iLab on June 29 for an afternoon of innovation and visualization. They enjoyed catching up with friends and seeing captivating presentations by Academy for Creative Media System Director Chris Lee, UH Mānoa Academy for Creative Media’s Media Center Director Todd Brissette and UH Mānoa LAVA Lab Director and Professor of Information and Computer Sciences Jason Leigh, PhD. Guests explored UH Mānoa’s iLab and LAVA Lab facilities, giving them a chance to interact with some of the cutting-edge educational technology being developed at UH.
Daniel Hilton, son of Barron Hilton and grandson of the late founder of Hilton Hotels Conrad Hilton, recently joined University of Hawai‘i and UH Foundation leaders for a tour of the Culinary Institute of the Pacific at Diamond Head construction site.

Noel G. Trainor, longtime employee and former general manager for Hilton Hawaiian Village, also joined them on the tour. "It is exciting to see the very real impact gifts by visionary donors like the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation are making in our community," said Trainor, who is now president of Savoy Independent Hospitality Consultants.

"Being there, on the building site, seeing firsthand the institute coming to life and moving from dream to reality, is incredibly inspiring," he said.

In 2008, the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation made a $5 million matching gift to support the world-class advanced culinary institute. Construction is now underway at Diamond Head.

"The Culinary Institute will give Hawai‘i’s students access to affordable, world-class culinary training from top chef instructors from industry and internationally-renown guest chefs, preparing them for success in their chosen field," Trainor said.

"Graduates from the program will greatly enrich our hospitality sector and help secure Hawai‘i’s global reputation as a culinary destination of choice. These are exciting times!"

2016 Regents and Presidential Scholars welcomed at dinner

The UH ‘ohana gathered on July 21 to congratulate and celebrate the 2016 Regents and Presidential Scholars, a select few of the brightest Hawai‘i high school graduates. Joined by their families and friends, scholars met members of the UH ‘ohana and chatted about their academic goals in anticipation of the upcoming semester.

UH System President David Lassner told the scholars, “The opportunities are endless, and this is when you can discover your true passion.”
A world map mounted on the wall of their Kailua home shows that Randy and Jean Jaycox love to travel. Dozens of white pins point out the cities and countries they’ve visited over the years, from Denver to Mongolia, Honduras, Guam, Hokkaido, Petra and beyond.

A retired Navy carrier pilot and former United Airlines flight attendant, Randy and Jean have a shared passion for aeronautics and aviation that has taken them to faraway places many people still dream of seeing.

“We want to promote science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education, and we thought Windward was a great place to do it,” said Randy. “We believe strongly that education is the key for people to go places and do things.”

“I always knew I wanted to fly,” he said. “I had two goals. The first was to get my wings, and the second was to marry someone who savors travel and is ready to see the world.”

Jean Jaycox can trace her interest in flying back to the sixth grade, when her history class learned about Timbuktu.

“Our class had been reading about Africa, and I remember saying to myself, ‘I’m going to go there some day.’ And that was it! Even way back then I knew that’s what I wanted,” she said. Jean went on to work as a flight attendant shortly after meeting her husband and even has 11 hours of pilot time under her belt.

For the Jaycoxes, the sky is a pathway to infinite possibilities. Fueled by their shared love of aeronautics and continued commitment to higher education, Randy and Jean Jaycox are generously supporting the Center for Aerospace Education at Windward Community College through a charitable gift annuity, in hopes of educating and inspiring young minds toward future achievements.

The Center for Aerospace Education promotes aeronautics, astronomy, astronautics and atmospherology by providing students with hands-on learning opportunities, vocational training and state-of-the-art educational resources. The center coordinates and manages several facilities including the Hōkūlani Imaginarium, Aerospace Exploration Lab, Lanihuli Observatory and the NASA Flight Training Aerospace Education Laboratory.

Through their support, the Jaycoxes hope to encourage students interested in aerospace and other related fields to never stop pursuing their goals.

Randy said, “Sometimes when people hear about all the places we’ve traveled to, they say, ‘I wish I could do that’ or ‘I wish I could go there.’ And the truth is, you can! With the right resources, you can go anywhere.”
For 12 years, the Hawai‘i High School Summer Auto Academy at Honolulu Community College has been giving high school students interested in the automotive industry the unique opportunity to hit the road to college running.

Through the generous support of First Hawaiian Bank, the 6-week program consists of an unpaid internship at a Cutter Auto dealership in the morning, and skill-building classes at Honolulu CC in the afternoon. Upon successful completion of the program, students receive four college credits toward an Associate of Applied Science degree in automotive technology.

“This program not only exposes high school students to the automotive industry, but it gives them a unique opportunity to experience a college-level learning environment,” explains Honolulu CC Chancellor Erika Lacro. “We are teaching them transferable skills that will translate in any workplace.”

“At First Hawaiian, we believe that education is the key to unlocking doors to future opportunities,” said Sharon Shiroma Brown, president of First Hawaiian Bank Foundation.

“We are pleased to provide the funding so that high school students interested in exploring a career in the automotive industry can attend the auto academy’s 6-week course at no charge,” said Shiroma Brown. “This partnership is creating opportunities that could lead to successful careers for our kids right here in Hawai‘i.”

The innovative program began as a collaborative partnership between Honolulu CC, First Hawaiian Bank, Waipahu High School and the Cutter Automotive Group in response to a shortage of trained workers in the auto technology industry. Since the program’s inception in 2004, the bank has committed more than $147,500, which covers the cost of tuition, tools and supplies.