Greenwood takes the reins

UH’s 14th UH president has faced challenges and seized opportunities

L
ook beyond the undergradu-
ate degree from Vassar and a
long list of accolades, promo-
tions and high level appointments
on M.R.C. Greenwood’s résumé, and
you’ll discover that she knows some-
thing about struggling to get a col-
lege education.

The eldest of four sisters,
Greenwood was born in Florida to
an Army nurse and a physician who
was soon to be shipped out for the
North African campaign. She grew
up in Auburn, N.Y., fond of books
and animals and dreaming about
becoming a veterinarian. Her parents
expected her to do well in school, and
she did—planning to attend Cornell
University. But Greenwood married at
the end of her senior year and
made “the usual choice in those days,”
going to work while her husband went
to school. They had a child, he went to
the Vietnam War, the marriage ended, and she found her-
self facing, at 21, the daunting challenge of putting herself
through college while raising a young son.

“I was one of the few single moms,” she says, “I worked 25–30
hours a week and was on scholarship the whole time.” In her sophomore
year, an anonymous donor began paying her tuition. “That shaped the way
I feel about giving back to higher education ever since,” she says.

Joining forces with another single mother to share childcare
responsibilities, she discovered the value of a surrogate
family. Forty years later, her life-long friend’s
career took her around the bend, but following twists
and turns in the trail can open up new vistas. It
works in nature…and in careers.

Pursuing developmental biology
in her doctoral program at Rockefeller
University, Greenwood became inter-
ested in the biology of adipose tissue.
Fat cells constitute the only organ in
the body that can continue to expand
without killing the organism, and
she wanted to understand how and
why they divide and enlarge. “That
drew me into the field of obesity
and diabetes because those are the
clinically relevant issues of interest to
funding agencies,” she says of her dis-
tinguished research career. “That got
me into nutrition. I ended up chair-
ing the Food and Nutrition Board of
the Institute of Medicine of National
Academy of Sciences. That got me into other areas of
nutrition policy. Next thing I knew I was doing govern-
ment work.” Greenwood was a consultant and associate
director for science in the White House Office of Science
and Technology Policy. When asked to speak to young women, she advises:
“Keep an open mind and be prepared to seize an oppor-
tunity, even if it’s not expected, even if you’re not sure it’s

What’s in the name?

“What young lady of common gentility will reach the age of 16 without altering her name as far as she
can?” Jane Austen observed nearly two centuries ago. Mary Rita Cooke was 12 when she decided—Mary
being far too common and her mother already using their shared middle name—that she’d copy a friend
who’d adopted a phonetic form of her own initials. “I’ve been M.R.C. ever since,” she says. “My sisters
would have called me ‘Mary Rita Cooke’!” But the initials approach afforded an advantage when she entered the male-
dominated world of higher education science.
on your list of things to do,” being nominated for the UH presidency was such an unanticipated opportunity. She expects that she and the UH System will learn from each other. “Primarily, for me, it is a whole new set of intellectual challenges in a new setting I think I’ll enjoy,” she says.

Budget crisis, political realities and even openly expressed Resistance to a mainlander may not sound like much fun, but Greenwood is driven by conviction. “If you have spent a large part of your life as I have, believing that public higher education is one of the most important investments the nation and a state can make, and you see a whole system in some danger from fiscal crisis and changing views, why wouldn’t you take a job to try to help the students, faculty and others who are trying to build a great university and to be a spokesperson for the critical importance to the public of sustaining public higher education?”

For two decades, public financial support has been eroding across the nation, she observes. Teaching is no longer viewed as one of the most desirable jobs in a community, and people increasingly view higher education as a private good that should be paid for by the individual. She is disappointed that in a state once known for broad access to higher education, the University of California has become almost as expensive as a private university. “I personally think that access is more important than the ability to educate people so that they can lead for the future. That is where new ideas, your wealth base for the future and your ability to sustain a quality of life comes from.”

Maintaining focus

Friends aren’t surprised by Greenwood’s passion. When she gets into something, she’s serious and focused, she admits. “The things that happened to me when I was very young, having to make my way in life, was that sort of a stark realization and it does focus you on what you’re going to have to do with your life. At least it did for me,” she says.

Even before that, Greenwood had mucked out stalls as a youngster for the chance to ride. Upon completing her Ph.D., she rewarded herself with a return to horseback riding…in hunter paces, over numerous fences. OK—she admits she hasn’t been that focused on her golf game, and she’s only “half seriously” taking up photography. Still, a bit of a competitive nature probably didn’t hurt in her career.

“I’ve been the first female in any number of positions,” including dean of graduate studies at UC Davis, chancellor at UC Santa Cruz, provost for the U.S. system, and now president at the University of Hawai‘i. “I’ve pushed on the glass ceiling a great number of times. Certainly I’ve experienced the loneliness of being the only woman in the room,” she reflects. “My attitude has always been just keep doing the work and demonstrating that you’re interesting and interested, and most people are drawn to that.”

She hopes her personal story will resonate with people in Hawai‘i. She wants to make a contribution, and she comes eager to learn. She brings a taste for good fish, fresh foods, Asian spices and dark chocolate. She calls herself an enthusiastic fan, following the sports and teams of interest to her family. “I do enjoy going to sports events. I tend to get a little loud,” she confides. And she brings a voracious and eclectic appetite for books. Alongside the fun reading on her nightstand—the latest Bourne espionage novel and a bestseller by Jodi Picoult—“I Hawai‘i/55 Story by Hawai‘i” by Quaron, a history by Herb Kane and the UH history Mālamalama.

Interviewed before her move to the islands, Greenwood said she needed to learn much more before she could outline specific goals for the University of Hawai‘i. She had yet to draft her address for the Sept. 15 UH Convocation (video now available at www.hawaii.edu/about/awards). As a general goal, she said she would like to help advance the institution and gain more national recognition for the interesting and important work already being done at UH’s university and community colleges.

And she had no plans to alter her personal style: work hard and maintain a good sense of humor; “I think I’m going to love Hawai‘i,” she mused. “It would be very nice if people here respect and like me too, but in any case, I’m going to do my best.”

Greenwood’s bio and curriculum vita are available at www.hawaii.edu/offices/op.

Body mass may forge friends but undermine relationships

Adolescents’ body mass index correlates strongly with that of their friends, Mānoa Assistant Professors of Economics Timothy J. Halliday and Sally Kwak report in Economics and Human Biology. They emphasize that their results cannot distinguish whether overweight adolescents influence their friends to also become overweight or choose overweight friends because they are socially ostracized by their slimmer peers. However, the findings could influence school-based interventions to combat obesity among youth.

Meanwhile, a separate study of dating or married New Zealand couples found associations between a woman’s body mass index and perceptions about the relationship. Writing in the July 2009 Journal of Sex and Marital Therapy, Mānoa Associate Professor of Psychology Janet Latner and a colleague report that heavier women had lower quality relationships with less desirable men and were more likely to predict the relationship would end. The male partners rated heavier women as poorer matches to their ideal partners for attractiveness/vitality.

Alien slugs and snails on least wanted pest list

A team led by a University of Hawai’i at Mānoa zoologist has published the first-ever assessment of snail and slug species that would pose a threat to the nation’s agriculture industry and the environment if introduced in the United States. Robert H. Cowie, of the Center for Conservation Research and Training, and his mainland colleagues evaluated all known snail and slug pests globally to determine which species would be of greatest concern in terms of their potential impacts on U.S. agriculture, environment or human health. After a thorough review of literature and input from gastropod experts, they ranked 46 species or groups of closely related species according to 12 attributes—both biological variables and aspects of human interaction. The assessment of snails and slugs from around the world was funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in conjunction with the American Malacological Society. Published in the July 2009 issue of American Malacological Bulletin, the research offers a tool for national agriculture inspection officials in their efforts to keep invasive pest species out of the country.

“The study is preliminary because of the serious lack of basic knowledge about many of these potentially invasive species,” says Cowie. Still, he calls it an important first step in protecting the U.S. and stimulating additional research on these poorly understood potential pests.
Finding puts heat on carbon dioxide emission data

Carbon dioxide alone can’t explain the marked increase in global surface temperatures 55 million years ago, according to a letter published in the July 2009 issue of Nature Geosciences.

Mánoa Associate Professor of Oceanography Richard Zeebe and two mainland colleagues evaluated data from core samples collected in deep-sea drilling expeditions around the globe. The sediments hold clues to the amount of carbon in the atmosphere in the past.

The researchers found that CO2 levels increased 70 percent over just a few thousand years during the Paleocene-Eocene thermal maximum. In applying carbon cycle models, however, the scientists found that the increase in CO2 levels account for less than half of the 5–9 degree Celsius climb in surface temperatures during the same period.

Some other process must have been at work, they surmise. For example, CO2-induced warming may have triggered an increase in the methane cycle that magnified the CO2 effect through a mechanism termed “feedback.”

While current warming is directly tied to carbon emissions, understanding of feedback and other contributing mechanisms is critical to accurately predicting their effect on future climate change, Zeebe says.

Research update: Dead whale habitats are chemically similar to hydrothermal vents

Whale carcases create a rich life-supporting deep-sea ecosystem similar to the chemosynthetic habitats found at undersea cold seeps and hydrothermal vents. UH Mánoa Professor of Oceanography Craig Smith is part of an international team that has documented biogeochemical processes on the bones and in sediments surrounding a 30-ton whale carcass sunk seven years ago in the Santa Cruz basin off the California coast.

The team describes dense mats of sulfate-oxidizing bacteria and estimates changes in sulphide and methane concentrations during microbial degradation of the carcass in the April 30 issue of Marine Ecology Progress Series. Rates of sulfate production are equivalent to those at hydrothermal vents and cold seeps, suggesting that whale falls provide comparable habitat islands rich in chemical energy at the deep-sea floor.

Whale falls are more plentiful but smaller in area and relatively short-lived compared to some geologically produced chemical energy oases called cold seeps.

Still, they support at least 11 species found at hydrothermal vents and 20 species living at cold seeps, says Smith, who previously reported the presence of blind, gutless worms and other life forms (Mālāmalama, May 2005).

The findings suggest that whale falls may serve as intermediate habitats for dispersal of some hydrothermal vent and cold-seep species, Smith says.

No teacher left behind: Kaua‘i program brings required degrees to Ni‘ihau staff

Opponents of No Child Left Behind legislation probably didn’t have Ni‘ihau children in mind. But the 2001 federal act evoked an inspirational response at Kaua‘i Community College. The act requires that all teachers have a bachelor’s degree and teacher certification in order to teach in elementary and secondary schools. Despite decades of teaching experience, none of the educators at Ni‘ihau School held such credentials. That could have meant the end of the school, which serves about 45 students in grades K–12, but that eventually was averted thanks to the college and a team of community partners.

Led by Kaua‘i Instructor June Sekioka, the Ni‘ihau Teachers’ Cohort was established in summer 2004 to help five teachers and educational assistants attain their degrees. The initiative faced unusual and daunting obstacles. Language and transportation barriers make it nearly unheard of for Ni‘ihau residents to attend college. Needed in the classrooms, educators could only be on Kaua‘i during summer, winter and spring breaks. With no internet, cable TV or TV networking available on the island, traditional distance learning methods were not an option.

The solution? Video tapes—hundreds of them—put together by the college’s media technician, Patrick Watase. “Enough networking available on the island, traditional distance learning methods were not an option.”

Parents participate in a literacy event at Ni‘ihau School, where staff are working to meet No Child Left Behind degree requirements with UH and community support

Kaua‘i Community College graduation 2010: From left, Jennifer Kaahelu‘ai, Laurie Pahulehua and Betty Pahulehua in May; two additional colleagues graduated in the summer of Ni‘ihau, who helped with transportation needs. The Department of Education provided resource teachers to mentor the educators, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs provided generous grants for books, supplies and transportation.

“The amount of kūka‘au extended to this initiative has been tremendous,” says Sekioka.

“Everyone has been very helpful and very patient with us,” adds Lulu Kelley, who has been teaching for more than 20 years. “They found ways to make us comfortable, and we’re so grateful for everything they’ve done. We wouldn’t be here now if it weren’t for them.”

On May 15, three of the teachers—Kaahelu‘ai, Laurie Pahulehua and Betty Pahulehua—from Kaua‘i successfully completed their degrees during the summer. Next they will work toward their bachelor’s through the Ho‘ouluwai Program at the UH Mānoa College of Education. The cohort is on track to graduate by 2012 or 2013, at least two years ahead of their deadline for No Child compliance.

“When you think of all they have had to do, it truly is an accomplishment,” says Sandra Haynes, a Department of Education resource teacher who works with the cohort. “To think that they have none of the modern conveniences that we are used to living with, and the effort they have put into this. This truly is what No Child Left Behind is all about.”

And it’s motivation for other Ni‘ihau residents. “They believe now that they can go for their college degree too,” says Laurie Pahulehua. “They told us they saw us walking up to get our degrees and thought ‘what if that was me?’”

—Kristen K.C. Bonilla
2009 UH Medal Recipients

Regents’ Medal for Excellence in Teaching

David Callies, professor of law, Mānoa

Diane Caulfield, professor of cooperative education, Honolulu

Sang-Yee Cheon, assistant professor of Korean, Mānoa

John Constantino, assistant professor/counselor in Student Services, Kaua‘i

Michele Ebersole, associate professor of education, Hilo

James Henry, associate professor of English, Mānoa

Krista Hiser, assistant professor in Kahioli Umae, Kap‘i‘olani

Franklin Kuda, assistant professor of professional studies/business administration, West O‘ahu

Ross Langston, instructor in biological science, Windward

Laura Lees, instructor in English, Maui

Shelley Ota, professor of accounting, Leeward

V. Amajit Singh, professor of civil and environmental engineering, Mānoa

Taupouri Tangaro, assistant professor and chair of Hawai‘i life styles/humanities, Hawai‘i

Regents’ Medal for Excellence in Research

Milton Diamond, professor of anatomy, biochemistry and physiology, Mānoa

Sandip Pavasa, professor of physics and astronomy, Mānoa

Jon Van Dyke, professor of law, Mānoa

Willard Wilson Award for Distinguished Service

Kenneth Kato, vice chancellor for administrative services, Honolulu

More awards at www.hawaii.edu/about/awards

UH news in brief

• UH Hilo was one of four U.S. colleges awarded Excellent in Debt Management status by loan guarantor USA Funds for helping students manage their debt. The 3.2 percent default rate for Hilo student loans is well below the national average of 5.2 percent.

• The Board of Regents approved the charter for the Pūkū‘a‘a Council, which represents Native Hawaiian students, faculty and administrators statewide. It advises the president along with two other chartered groups, the All Campus Council of Faculty Senate Chairs and the Student Caucus.

• Mānoa’s Hamilton Library will digitize Hawai‘i newspapers dating 1810–1958 under a $415,920 National Endowment for the Humanities grant. Digitized images of 75,000 microfiche pages from 10 Hawai‘i newspapers will be included in the Library of Congress’s Chronicling America database.

• Mānoa’s Hawai‘i Institute of Marine Biology will acquire a new confocal microscope thanks to a $1 million gift from island resident Pam Omidyar, co-founder of philanthropic investment firm Omidyar Network and founder of HopeLab. Scientists will use it to examine physiological activities in living cells under normal and stressed conditions in coral reef ecosystems.

• Kapi‘olani Community College receives nearly $2 million to renovate facilities and bolster programs and UH Hilo receives more than $1.7 million to expand its Native Hawaiian Student Center under the U.S. Department of Education’s Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions program.

• Just in time to help families facing tough economic times, an anonymous donor provided UH Hilo with $1 million for student financial assistance and another $500,000 for the college’s discretionary use.

College addresses pharmacy needs in American Samoa

African Samoa has just two pharmacists—only one licensed in the United States—to serve 60,000-plus residents from the Lyndon B. Johnson Tropical Medical Center in Faga‘alu. So Chief Pharmacist Evelyn Ahhing-Faaiuaso turned to UH Hilo for help. Three faculty members and two third-year students from Hilo’s College of Pharmacy traveled to the U.S. territory to assess the hospital’s pharmacy needs, educate medical staff and encourage island students to pursue pharmacy careers.

The need for pharmacists who understand the Samoan language and the islands’ traditions is great, says Ahhing-Faaiuaso. “An affiliation with UH Hilo would bring the current standards of pharmacy practice into our setting.” Besides offering continuing education classes on topics from diseases prevalent in American Samoa to prevention of medication errors, the UH-HI professors attended rounds to offer assistance to providers, patients and families.

A potential partnership would place fourth-year pharmacy students in advanced pharmacy practice rotations at the hospital. Pharmacy students could help expand inpatient services while facilitating the promotion among secondary and community college students, says Associate Professor Carolyn Ma, director of pharmacy practice experiences. The college has already begun a pre-pharmacy program at American Samoa Community College through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

Step Up supports student success in college or career

Hawai‘i’s P–20 Partnerships for Education urges everyone to get involved in its community-wide Step Up campaign to promote career and college readiness. Out of 100 Hawai‘i ninth graders, 68 graduate from high school on time, 40 enter college, 24 return for the second year and only 12 earn a college degree on time. The campaign encourages students in the class of 2013 and beyond to earn the Board of Education’s Step Up Diploma, which includes more challenging classes and completion of a senior project. “We need to encourage students to pursue a more rigorous high school course of study,” says Tammi Chun, Hawai‘i’s P–20 executive director. UH is a P–20 partner.

Parents and students can sign a Step Up diploma pledge form. Businesses and community organizations can help publicize the campaign, participate in school activities or offer incentives to students who earn the diploma. Find out more at www.stepuphawaii.org.

Restaurant “mom” honored in culinary scholarships

Born in New York and raised in Wahikaula, Sunao Sandy “Mom” Kodama raised six children of her own before helping in a friend’s catering service and serving as the popular hostess at her son’s Sansel Restaurant in Honolulu.

Now a memorial gift in her name will help Leeward Community College students pursue culinary training.

Noting that her wife “always encouraged young people to follow their dreams,” Tamateru Kodama and his family endowed the $25,000 scholarship fund to continue her legacy of support.

See page 21 for more donor stories and a wrap-up report on the Centennial Campaign.

More on scholarships and endowment opportunities at the UH Foundation website, http://www.uhf.hawaii.edu

Step Up supports student success in college or career

Yeh among most admired

Mānoa Professor Raymond Yeh was named one of the nation’s 26 Most Admired Educators of 2009 by DesignIntelligence, the official publication of the Design Futures Council. Yeh teaches professional practice in the School of Architecture and researches sustainable design.

Playing to learn Chinese

For three weeks this summer, 21 secondary students from Hawai‘i and across the country converged on the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa to speak Chinese and play sports.

The students acquired basic communication skills in Mandarin Chinese while living in Frear Hall dormitory and participating in table tennis and martial arts under the tutelage of champion-level instructors from the People’s Republic of China.

The Confucius Institute/STARTALK Chinese Language Immersion Sports Camp is funded by U.S. and PRC government agencies. In addition to the youth camp, it hosts a summer teacher-training institute, providing 32 teachers from across the country with meaningful and technology-driven activities for Chinese language instruction.

For more information, see http://chinesestudies.hawaii.edu/confucius/
Wade finds his way back to UH volleyball
by Kim Baxter

When Charlie Wade first came to Hawai‘i in 1995 as an assistant with the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa women’s volleyball program, he didn’t expect to stay longer than four months. Pressed to find a last-minute staff replacement, Head Coach Dave Shoji told Wade upfront that he preferred to hire a female assistant and would probably look for a female coach to replace Wade when the season ended. Wade ended up spending 11 years on Shoji’s staff, the last 9 as the program’s associate head coach.

When Wade left Hawai‘i to take the University of the Pacific women’s head coaching job in 2006, he didn’t plan on staying away from Hawai‘i forever. He knew that he needed head-coaching experience to be a qualified candidate for the UH top spot one day, but he never expected that opening would come in just three short years, when UH men’s volleyball Coach Mike Wilton resigned after 17 years at the helm.

Named the new Warrior volleyball coach in May, Wade was still spinning from the seemingly perfect karma that brought him home to Hawai‘i and the prime spot on the UH sidelines. “I’m absolutely blessed,” he said with a huge smile during a summer interview. “I just can’t believe it. That’s the part where it’s surreal. Did we really just pull that off?”

The UH men’s volleyball program has put its faith in a coach who is intimately familiar with its unique community and fans. Wade witnessed the rock-star popularity of UH men’s volleyball in the mid-1990s and early-2000s. He watched the Stan Sheriff Center terming with capacity crowds. More important, he saw the program’s potential, and he is confident that he can put together the right mix to get it back on the national stage after three straight losing seasons.

“We may not be rolling people out in laundry carts” to protect them from the crush of adoring fans, Wade says, “but there’s a level below that I think everyone would feel really good about, in terms of the success of the team and the attendance and support of the fans and the community. It will still be a lot of fun for people to be a part of.”

Wade will coach college men for the first time after 14 seasons in women’s volleyball. He has selected experienced assistants—Mason Xue, a former UH player and a member of Wilton’s staff, and Dan Fisher, a standout player and former men’s coach at Pacific. His learning curve will be steep, but the highly successful Shoji predicts Wade’s work ethic and competitive spirit will contribute to a relatively smooth transition.

“The game itself is way different,” Shoji explains, “but Wade has watched men’s volleyball. He knows what men do. It’s not something he won’t be able to do. He’ll pick it up very fast. It won’t take him long to become familiar with the men’s game.”

A primary challenge will be to keep in-state talent at home. Last season, six players from Hawai‘i made Mountain Pacific Sports Federation all-conference teams. None played for UH.

“The lifeblood is recruiting,” says Wade, who attracted local talent to the UH women’s program. “There have always been a number of good local players, and Hawai‘i can’t have all of them. You look at the number of players who are all-league, all-American-caliber throughout the MPSF and throughout the country, that’s the part that we have to change. We need those players on Hawai‘i’s team.”

Wade once told a local newspaper sportswriter that being head coach of the UH women’s volleyball program would be “the ultimate job.” Basking in the afterglow of inheriting a men’s program with a history of top-15 finishes and national respect, he added himself: “UH is Hawai‘i’s team. There’s so much support from so many people throughout the state. So for me, the gender doesn’t matter. I look at it like, ‘You’re the head coach of a University of Hawai‘i volleyball team.’ I’m at the place I want to be. I would take gender off the title and just say that being a head volleyball coach at the University of Hawai‘i is ‘the ultimate job.’”

Kim Baxter is a Honolulu-based freelance writer.
In national competition, the Hawai‘i team faced regional winners from Michigan, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania, who all had previous experience at the national level. They had to prepare a four-course signature menu for 24 in five hours, including setup and cleanup. Teams had to prepare a four-course experience at the national level.

In national competition, the Hawai‘i team received countless critiques and advice on how to perfect—their practice sessions made seven members more confident. Though the team made it possible for them to compete in the tally to more than $60,000 to date, the difference in Team Hawai‘i’s performance was really close, but we knew we had won. The smallest of margins made the difference in what could be the difference in what could make Team Hawai‘i a destination of choice, and Team Hawai‘i is open for business—nine-hundredths of a point. “It was really intense,” says Nakano-Edwards, who was responsible for the competition entry. “The judges are watching your every move. They’re watching your sauce to make sure it’s simmering and not boiling. The littlest things make a big difference.” And the smallest of margins made the difference in Team Hawai‘i’s win—nine-hundredths of a point. It was really close, but we knew we had won when all the judges agreed they would love to have our meal in a restaurant,” says Leake. “They deemed our appetizer and dessert courses the best of the competition, so we opened and closed the show with the best.”

An outpouring of community support made it possible for them to compete despite a sagging economy. Taking food for practice sessions into account food for practice sessions the best of the competition, they would love to have our meal in a restaurant,” says Leake. “Doors are open for them now; they’ve definitely earned it.”

“Those students who participated in the scholarship program were a fitting inaugural director when the Center for Okinawan Studies opened in July 2008 as the first center in the United States (indeed, the first outside of Japan) to focus on studies related to the southwestern Japanese islands known as the Ryukyus. “We find ourselves in the position of being the pre-eminent non-Japanese center simply by proclaiming ourselves to be a center,” Serafim chuckles. In reality, strong academic tradition and vibrant local community prepared UH to take the lead. The list of UH dissertations and theses with ties to Okinawa dates to 1946 and hints at the breadth of work to come. “The University of Hawai‘i has become a major center of Ryukyuan research,” the late professor Robert Sakai declared in 1964. A WWII internee, Sakai volunteered for the Military Intelligence Service, earned a PhD from Harvard and specialized in the Tokugawa-era domain of Satsuma. He was recruited by Japanese history professor Shunzo Sakamaki, author of Ryukyu: A Historical Guide to Okinawan Studies. With help from Hawai‘i’s Okinawan community, Sakamaki secured and augmented materials compiled by English journalist Frank Hawley for an extensive Hamilton Library collection highly valued because so many historical documents in Okinawa were destroyed during the war. Other pioneers include Okinawan native Mitsugu Sakihara, who taught history and compiled the posthumously published Okinawan-English Wordbook; scientist Henry Nakasone, who surveyed Okinawa’s horticulture industry at the invitation of the government; and William Lebra, who taught the first anthropology class to focus exclusively on Okinawan culture and published Okinawan Religion: Belief, Ritual and Social Structure. Longtime Leward Community College colleague Ruth Adaniya co-chaired the 1990 Okinawan International Scholars Forum in Honolulu, helped compile its proceedings and edited the booklets “Of Andagi and Sanshin: Okinawan Culture in Hawai‘i” and “Uchinaa: Okinawan History and Culture.” The School of Medicine has conducted postgraduate education in Okinawan since 1967. UH established a student exchange program with the University of the Ryukyus in 1988. Dance sensei Cheryl Nakasone participated in the 1976 Okinawa-focused Summer Session and Hiroshi Kamiyama coordinated water resources research with the University of the Ryukyus colleagues. The School of Law’s Spencer Kimura organizes tours for Okinawan faculty and law students. Honolulu Community College Instructor in Language Arts Charlene Gima hopes to develop an introductory Okinawan Studies course to complement Mānoa’s upper division offering. Graduate student scholarship continues in diverse disciplines, from music and culture to meteorological forecasting and ethnic identity. The Center for Okinawan Studies builds on this legacy. “It was first a glimmer in the eyes of Center for Japanese Studies Associate Director Gay Satsuma about 2000,” says Serafim. With the university’s blessing and legislative funding, Satsuma and Director Robert Huey established an ad-hoc steering committee (recruiting Mānoa Professor of American Studies Matt Yoshihara and UH West O’ahu Professor of Sociology Joyce Chinien) and secured a three-
Ma`alamama 15

the center hosted an international confer-
ence in March to assess the direction of
Okinawan studies. “Wherever there is Asian
American studies, you’re starting to see
interest in Okinawa,” observes conference
co-chair Chinen, both excited and cautious, lest Okinawan
studies become academic “flavor of the month.” Little
chance of that in Hawai’i, where the center’s to-do list
includes reprinting the Center for Oral History’s 1982
Uchinanchu: A History of Okinawans in Hawai’i and plan-
ing a sequel on the second generation and post-Pacific
War immigrants; web-publishing a workbook developed
for the Okinawan language and culture course; translating
a textbook on Okinawan history from Japanese to English;
and supporting research projects, library acquisitions and
relationships with University of the Ryukyus scholars and
Okinawan communities in South America.

“One of the main things we need to do is develop
courses,” says Serafim. First up: an Asian studies course
on Okinawa and an anthropological course on its diaspora.
Chinen is particularly interested in the dispersion of
Okinawans—an estimated 300,000 emigrants live in Pacific
and American communities, compared to the home popula-
tion of 1.3 million. She developed the West O’ahu course
for the Okinawan language and culture course; translating
a textbook on Okinawan history from Japanese to English;
and supporting research projects, library acquisitions and
relationships with University of the Ryukyus scholars and
Okinawan communities in South America.

The parallels between Okinawa and Hawai’i are
clearly evident, adds Serafim. “It’s about the
cultural heritage, the language, the music, the dance.”
She plans to incorporate Okinawan American writing by
authors such as Maui-born Jon Shirota.

Shirota’s Lucky Come Hawai’i and two other plays are
featured in Mānoa journal’s Voices from Okinawa, the first
collection of Okinawan American literature. Kurumoto
Yamazato, director of the University of the Ryukyus
American Studies Center and a UH classmate of co-editor
Frank Stewart suggested the volume. “He wants to make
sure there’s a Noah’s Ark for preservation of the language. Historians
are interested in early ties to China and trade with south-
east Asia, he adds, and political scientists, in the complex
relationship between Okinawa, Japan and the United States.

Research requires support, and the center is grateful
for it in Hawai’i’s Okinawan community. In the spirit of
mosi, an Okinawan mutual assistance network, the
Worldwide Uchinanchu Business Association in Hawai’i
created an endowment fund for center activities. Center
senior advisors are WUB founder Robert Nakasone and
former UH Regent Edward Kuba; WUB President Lloyd
Arakaki serves as fundraising coordinator.

This year, the center plans to publish a website and hold
monthly seminars on academic course development; says
Professor of Japanese Kyoko Hijiirida, director for year two.
Born in northern Okinawa to bilingual parents but prohib-
ited from speaking Okinawan in school, Hijiirida earned her
MA and EdD from UH Mānoa. Affiliated with UH language
and education faculties since 1976, she teaches an Okinawian
language and culture course that touches on oral histories,
songs, foods, games and traditional proverbs. (A favorite,
karahira choolo, “once we meet and talk, we are brothers
and sisters,” reflects Okinawans’ friendly, welcoming nature.)
She plans to incorporate Okinawan American writing by
authors such as Maui-born Jon Shirota.

Shirota’s Lucky Come Hawai’i and two other plays are
featured in Mānoa journal’s Voices from Okinawa, the first
collection of Okinawan American literature. Kurumoto
Yamazato, director of the University of the Ryukyus
American Studies Center and a UH classmate of co-editor
Frank Stewart suggested the volume. “He wants to make
the world more aware of the complex cultural identity of
Okinawans,” says Stewart.

Which is also a goal of the Center for Okinawan Studies.

Learn more: Contact the Center for Okinawan Studies, Box 950, 2170E Grace,
hawaii.edu; read Voices from Okinawa, mako.wku.edu/mjournals; check out the
Sakamaki/Hawley Collection, www.hawaii.edu/asiaref/japan/special/index.htm
Web extra: A timeline of Okinawan historical highlights and links
to community activities at www.hawaii.edu/malama/ma

Peter Leong’s rooftop terrace on top of
the Hawai’i Institute of Geophysics
building is easily one of the most
scenic, high tech classrooms at
the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa.
Students and instructors sit on cush-
iens on a grid-patterned floor, encir-
cled by multimedia screens. Beyond,
ocean vistas stretch to the horizon.
A few students are fancily dressed in
flowing garb; some have chosen rather
skimpy outfits. Oddly, all have been
sitting in the same posture. They rise
on Leong’s instruction. “Okay every-
one, rear a prim,” says Stewart.

This is not a new cohort of wizards
and witches, but a class of educa-
tional technology students in the
UHM College of Education, meeting
online in a three-dimensional virtual
world known as Second Life. “Rez
a prim” is Second Life speak for
“create an object.” The educational
objects they’ll build by the end of
the class include notecards, virtual
books and interactivity tools for
conducting surveys or creating ani-
mation or sound effects.

The students are training for a future in
which distance and online learn-
ing, multimedia conferencing, profes-
ional networking and even recruiting
will happen as naturally in a virtual
space as they do in real life. Seem
far-fetched? A recent study estimates
that one in eight Americans spends
some time each week in a virtual
environment where they represent
themselves with avatars that range
from the realistic to supernatural to
wholly fanciful. At last count, World
of Warcraft is the largest, with a sub-
scription base of 11.5 million gamers; Habbo Hotel counts 8 million regular
teen players; and the Disney-owned
Club Penguin has attracted more
than 12 million kids age 6–14. Users
are tricky to count for Second Life, the
creative laboratory most widely adopt-
ed by educators, but an estimated
1.5 million people go in at least every
2–3 months. The number continues
to grow as the powerful computers
and fast connection speeds needed to
experience the 3D web became more
persuasive.

“There are more than 100 virtual
worlds right now and millions of kids
in them every day,” says Mānoa
Professor of Library and Information
Science Diane Nahl. “By the time they
reach college—the first big group
of ‘teens will arrive within five years—
they’re going to expect virtual educa-
tion, and we have to be ready for that.”

She notes with pride the leadership
type role Hawai’i is assuming across the country in
getting faculty members into Second Life and supporting their information
needs once they are teaching there, as
she has been doing for the past two
semesters. “We’re trying to figure out
creative ways to interact with informa-
tion in a virtual world because you
can do things very differently here.”

Educational applications include
virtual field trips to various sims, or
simulated environments. For example,
Second Life has a replica of the Sistine
Chapel—inferior to the real thing, cer-
tainly (although the lack of crowds is
refreshing), but in many ways better
than a photograph given the ability to
see the placement of paintings on the
ceiling and zoom in on the artwork. On
the NOAA island, visitors can observe

by Jeeleong Ongley
To help newbies get oriented in Second Life, he offers weekly tours to anyone interested in the UH island and helps new avatars learn the ropes; email srjoseph@hawaii.edu for information.

We’re looking at ways we can use Second Life to better engage students in the learning process as well as lowering operating costs for certain programs. —Jonathan Wong

One of the new social media out there, Second Life has definitely got a steeper learning curve,” admits Joseph. To 3D gamers and the so-called digital natives of the Millenial generation, getting started in Second Life is usually fairly straightforward, but others may find it frustrating and disorienting. Joseph likens exploring Second Life on one’s one to being dropped unawares in the middle of Times Square: confusing, over-stimulating and seedy in places.

“They are trying to craft a positive arrival experience where people can easily find classes and projects,” Joseph says. Although he obliquely rages the existence of mature content (in part because it often drives technology), he is quick to emphasize the importance of exploring and studying the potential beyond Second Life. A seasoned industry observer, Au confirms that not all educational endeavors funded by Second Life will be a failure. Indeed, one of the most powerful educational tools in Second Life is the survivor reaching out to share her story. “One of the most powerful educational tools in Second Life is the survivor reaching out to share her story.”

“We're looking at ways we can use Second Life to better engage students in the learning process as well as lowering operating costs for certain programs.”

We’re looking at ways we can use Second Life to better engage students in the learning process as well as lowering operating costs for certain programs. —Jonathan Wong

Students attend class as avatars on the HIG rooftop that serves as the virtual College of Education on UH Mānoa’s Second Life island.
Sensational Summer

Diverse activities and international travel mark time away from class

Summer is when many UH students hit the beach, build up the bank account or earn credits in summer session. For some, it is a chance to pursue activities in another part of the world. Mālamalama’s Tracy Matsushima tracked down some of them.

Studying the sun

ENEWETAK, MARSHALL ISLANDS—From this Central Pacific atoll, Sarah Jaeggli studied the solar corona during the 2009 total solar eclipse. The outer portion of the solar corona is impossible to see against a daytime sky, so the eclipse provided the best opportunity to observe that region of the Sun. Jaeggli studied the dust in the solar corona, which may be remnants from the formation of the solar system or recent deposits from passing comets.

Exploring ancient landscapes

CRETE, GREECE—Rhonda Suka helped document a Bronze Age town, once abandoned and then destroyed, and now being uncovered on this island. A huge eruption on the island of Santorini (Thera) may have had an enormous consequence on this ancient settlement. Suka explored offshore areas to begin to reconstruct ancient landscapes, which may reveal clues about events that reshaped this area. This data will inform contemporary hazard management.

Organizing museum archives

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Karen Brown worked at the National Museum of the American Indian as a Smithsonian Institution intern in both the library and paper archives departments. She assisted in the disposition of the museum’s administrative records and helped process a donated collection of approximately 30,000 volumes on indigenous studies.

Exploring ecosystems

BODEGA BAY, CALIF.—At the Bodega Marine Laboratory, Danielle Clauer designed a research project to study the positive interactions among sessile invertebrate communities in Spud Point Marina. The research monitors the recruitment and growth of small invertebrates in order to better understand interactions within ecosystems.

Mastering medieval detail

CHARTRES, FRANCE—To research the decorative element of Gothic architecture, Stephanie Mulloy Sovar traveled to Notre Dame, St. Chapelle, St. Severin and other sites around France. The bulk of her research was conducted at the Chartres cathedral.

Counting lobsters

NORTHWEST HAWAIIAN ISLANDS—Aboard the Oscar Elton Sette, Judy Walker worked for NOAA monitoring traps as part of a long-term effort to monitor lobster populations around Necker Island and Maro Reef.

Reliving the Renaissance

FLORENCE, ITALY—Alicia Yanagihara studied the history and art history of the Renaissance at Lorenzo de Medici international school. She visited museums and churches in Florence, Rome, Pisa and Cinque Terre.

Tasting business

REIMS, FRANCE—Jeremy Uota completed two international business courses at Reims Management School. He also learned about champagne at the Ruinart champagne house in Reims and visited Belgium, Italy, Spain and the Netherlands.

Seeking origins

REYKJAVIK, ICELAND—Sarah Sonnett, Ronald Gilliam presented research on Uyghur, a Turkic language, at Indiana University, and visited Iceland.

Walking and working abroad

OSAKA, JAPAN—Andrew Moser-Samson and Evan Yamashita participated in an internship with the Hyatt Regency Osaka. They worked in the food and beverage section at the hotel’s Pergola restaurant. They also rotated to other restaurants.

Going to sea

JUAN DE FUCA, WASH.—As a NOAA intern, Brian Yannutz participated on a research cruise with the R/V Atlantis and the HOV Alvin. He was at sea for two weeks about 200 miles west of Seattle on the Juan de Fuca Ridge. Yannutz worked on the chemical analysis of fluid samples that were collected near hydrothermal vent systems.

Puppetry

WATERFORD, CONN.—At the O’Neill Puppetry Conference, Sara Skinner-Priest was commissioned to compose an operaetta by the Kariya city educational committee. She also traveled to Durham, N.C., to participate in the Center of Reconciliation at the Duke Divinity School Summer Institute. Participants shared ideas and learned about reconciliation from a theological view.

Studying the corona

Jaeggli studied the solar corona during the 2009 total solar eclipse. From her Central Pacific atoll, Sarah Jaeggli tracked the dust in the solar corona, which may be remnants from the formation of the solar system or recent deposits from passing comets.
MARKALAMA 21

SELANGOR, MALAYSIA—Clare Chan Suet Ching conducted research on the music of an indigenous group called the Mah Meri on Carey Island. She looked at the effects of tourism, national identity and modernization on their music.

GETTING CLOSE TO NATURE

NUNIVAK ISLAND, ALASKA—Encamped in remote Nash Harbor, Robert Morgan explored one of the first settlements of the Nuniwarmiut people. Each day included an ethnobotany lecture (plant families, economic uses, etc.) followed by activities such as hiking, making food, weaving baskets and fishing.

UNDERGRADUATE EXHIBITS PLUCK AND URBAN ART IN THE BIG APPLE

Things rarely go perfectly for one experimenting with new techniques, but for Mānoa student Stephanie Gumpel, research in art presentation literally spanned the highs and lows. Encouraged by Professor Elizabeth Fisher, Gumpel applied for and received the University of Hawai‘i Undergraduate Summer Research Award. She wanted to investigate how artists present dance and performance using video, and how projecting these images could create a new way of presenting performance art. The highlight of the project was to be the debut of her show at a gallery in New York City.

She and her partner, Jeremy Poindexter, created a light projection show called Strand of Icons, consisting of performance art pieces. They chose iconic images people could relate to, such as a ballerina, cowboy, biker and vampire. Gumpel visited Manhattan galleries and museums to collect data on the different ways people present artwork. She found amazing ideas. “People had ingenious set-ups for their video art—small screens, huge screens, no screen, incorporating 3D objects and using different types of surfaces on which to project their video,” she says. “One artist projected video from inside the frame of a couch!”

Unfortunately, she learned, her own gallery show had fallen through. “I panicked,” she recalls. Gumpel and Poindexter had their images and projector, but they needed a place to show their work. They experimented, projecting images in an apartment. On a whim (curious to know just how powerful the projection system was), they projected an image outside the window onto the neighboring building. It appeared strong and clear. A show was born.

One boat battery, a little research and lots of tinkering later, they had a portable system that could take their projection shows to large proportions. They choose sites all over New York to test their evening shows. Gumpel liked the more dilapidated parts of the city—urban decay, like broken down and condemned buildings, graffiti and peeling paint, lent interesting texture to the projections. Her favorite spot was under the Manhattan Bridge.

Soon Strand of Icons images were filling sides of buildings, bridges, walls and rooftops, even a junk car lot! The shows were set up on the ground and from rooftops. The projected videos garnered a lot of public interest. Passersby were curious, giving the artists the opportunity to study the relationship between image and site. “We discovered that showing video on large surfaces in public creates awareness and sensitivity in an otherwise rigid industrial environment,” says Gumpel.

Even New York’s finest gave her raves. Two policemen stopped by one evening. “I was worried I was going to get a ticket, but they said they liked it.” In retrospect, the impromptu shows worked out better than the planned gallery exhibit could have. “The shows evolved into something between fine art and performance art, which was one of our most interesting developments. We wanted to create a stage for performance that was unexpected,” she muses. “The world is our canvas.”

Gumpel plans to bring Strand of Icons to Honolulu, so look for it soon on a street corner near you. —Tracy Matsushima

WEB EXTRA: see video at www.hawaii.edu/malamalama

EXCAVATING THE PAST

THMUIS, EGYPT—Naci Hirayama, Barbara Nickerson, David Rasmussen-Silverstein and Dorothy Terry joined UH Mānoa faculty members Robert Littman and Jay Silverstein on an archaeological excavation at the site of Tell Timai in Egypt. The investigation includes street-by-street mapping of downtown Thmusi and excavation of the older Hellenistic district.

THOUSANDS OF GIFTS CONTRIBUTED TO THE CAMPAIGN TOTAL.

 nunca se acaba la campaña

The university’s most ambitious fundraising effort exceeds its $250 million goal

Historic Campaign Concludes

The Centennial Campaign marked the most ambitious fundraising effort in the state to date, notes UH Foundation President Donna Vuchinich. Surpassing all expectations, it exceeded the $250 million goal and raised a total of $282 million. Another $54 million has been pledged as bequest intentions, bringing the campaign total to $336 million.

More than a fourth of the campaign total is in the form of endowed gifts, like the Sloggett Scholarship—particularly valuable because investment of the principal allows a continuing source of interest-funded support. Campaign support was as broad as the university’s reach, with gifts coming from around the world. While 70 percent of gifts came from Hawai‘i, 28 percent came from worldwide sources.

Thousandsoisteduted to the campaign total. Clockwise from top left, scholarship benefactors Paul and Jane Field; Mānoa Business Dean Vance Bailey with generous alumni Jay Shidler; retired teacher and endowment honoree Anna Sloggett; Queen’s Health Systems officials with Kapi’olani Community College scholarship recipients.

The Centennial Campaign marked the most ambitious fundraising effort in the state to date, notes UH Foundation President Donna Vuchinich. Surpassing all expectations, it exceeded the $250 million goal and raised a total of $282 million. Another $54 million has been pledged as bequest intentions, bringing the campaign total to $336 million.

More than a fourth of the campaign total is in the form of endowed gifts, like the Sloggett Scholarship—particularly valuable because investment of the principal allows a continuing source of interest-funded support. Campaign support was as broad as the university’s reach, with gifts coming from around the world. While 70 percent of gifts came from Hawai‘i, 28 percent came from worldwide sources.

Thousandsoisteduted to the campaign total. Clockwise from top left, scholarship benefactors Paul and Jane Field; Mānoa Business Dean Vance Bailey with generous alumni Jay Shidler; retired teacher and endowment honoree Anna Sloggett; Queen’s Health Systems officials with Kapi’olani Community College scholarship recipients.

The Centennial Campaign marked the most ambitious fundraising effort in the state to date, notes UH Foundation President Donna Vuchinich. Surpassing all expectations, it exceeded the $250 million goal and raised a total of $282 million. Another $54 million has been pledged as bequest intentions, bringing the campaign total to $336 million.

More than a fourth of the campaign total is in the form of endowed gifts, like the Sloggett Scholarship—particularly valuable because investment of the principal allows a continuing source of interest-funded support. Campaign support was as broad as the university’s reach, with gifts coming from around the world. While 70 percent of gifts came from Hawai‘i, 28 percent came from worldwide sources.

Thousandsoisteduted to the campaign total. Clockwise from top left, scholarship benefactors Paul and Jane Field; Mānoa Business Dean Vance Bailey with generous alumni Jay Shidler; retired teacher and endowment honoree Anna Sloggett; Queen’s Health Systems officials with Kapi’olani Community College scholarship recipients.

The Centennial Campaign marked the most ambitious fundraising effort in the state to date, notes UH Foundation President Donna Vuchinich. Surpassing all expectations, it exceeded the $250 million goal and raised a total of $282 million. Another $54 million has been pledged as bequest intentions, bringing the campaign total to $336 million.

More than a fourth of the campaign total is in the form of endowed gifts, like the Sloggett Scholarship—particularly valuable because investment of the principal allows a continuing source of interest-funded support. Campaign support was as broad as the university’s reach, with gifts coming from around the world. While 70 percent of gifts came from Hawai‘i, 28 percent came from worldwide sources.

Thousandsoisteduted to the campaign total. Clockwise from top left, scholarship benefactors Paul and Jane Field; Mānoa Business Dean Vance Bailey with generous alumni Jay Shidler; retired teacher and endowment honoree Anna Sloggett; Queen’s Health Systems officials with Kapi’olani Community College scholarship recipients.
Improving Madagascar village life

Herlyne "Dr. Ihanta" Ramihantaniarivo, and Jeannette Koijane with villagers at their newly built school

Madagascar-native Herlyne Ramihantaniarivo left the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa with more than a master's degree in public health. "Starting a non-profit organization aimed to reform Madagascar’s public health system was a new idea I got from Hawaii," she says, chuckling. "I went to Hawai‘i as a public agent to study about healthcare, not to start a project of my own!"

Ramihantaniarivo, widely known as Dr. Ihanta for the shortened version of her last name, came to UH as a government physician charged with reforming Madagascar’s public health system. The country provided free public health services for its more than 16 million inhabitants, but with little money, few resources and a multitude of health issues, improving Madagascar’s public health system involved many challenges.

At Mānoa, she discussed those challenges with friend and classmate Jeannette Koijane. "My husband and I have been involved for a long time in various public health issues around the world, so we had a lot to talk about in terms of what the reality was for our country and the incredible challenges her country was facing," Koijane says.

Ihanta was introduced to the non-profit model. "At the School of Public Health, Ihanta learned that public health is very community-oriented," Koijane says. "She liked the idea that you could have more flexibility to implement something in a non-profit organization." Ihanta completed her degree in 1997 and returned to Madagascar. She continues to work for the ministry of health, spearheading the Zahana project on her private time.

The participatory rural development project encompasses several aims, including creation of sustainable agriculture, reforestation of villages, education and the revitalization of traditional Malagasy medicine. Zahana strives to make local village life more livable so people aren’t forced to leave home to seek a better life. In Fiadanana, home to about 1,000 people, Ihanta held a series of community meetings to determine residents’ priorities for their village. Zahana’s initial projects were to install a water system and build a school. In neighboring Fiaraena, population 350, Zahana is helping build a plant nursery.

The organization’s name reflects both its focus on reforestation and goal of bridging traditional Malagasy and western medicine. "Zahana is a plant used in traditional medicines," Koijane explains. "We use collaboration with traditional medicines. It’s hard to revitalize traditional medicines, but it’s necessary in order to fight diseases like malaria.”

Koijane, now a program coordinator at UH’s Cancer Research Center of Hawai‘i, and her husband Markus Faigle visited Madagascar for the first time about four years ago.

"It was clear that, with some public health intervention, people’s lives could be drastically improved,” she says. "So they agreed to help with fundraising and serve as advisors.

Living 11,000 miles from the country they’re helping—which sometimes seems like a world away to Koijane—the couple describes the organization’s work in talks at schools and churches. "The Zahana project is a great way to increase awareness about how the rest of the world works, what kinds of issues people are facing and the different challenges they have," Koijane says. Faigle also maintains a website that he created for the project, and the couple communicates with Ihanta at least once a month via Internet phone.

Continued on page 25
Ma¯lamalama 25

Forming the Himalayan Consensus
by Stacia Garlach

Laurence Brahm promotes culturally sustainable development

Ever wonder how to become a global activist and change the world for a living? International crisis mediator, economist, political columnist and author Laurence Brahm (MA ’82, JD ’87 Mānoa) says the University of Hawai‘i helped develop his career aspirations. “This was the foundation. The atmosphere of community and the atmosphere of a multiculturally, really harmonious society—that was what I think made a very deep impression on me and the way I wanted to live my life,” he says with an intensity that hints at the fire compelling him to make the world a better place.

Captivated by Asian culture while studying in China, Brahm graduated from Duke University in 1982 and decided a law degree might prepare him to participate in the burgeoning economic reforms in China. Few U.S. law schools offered an Asian focus; at the William S. Richardson School of Law, he was able to earn a master’s in Asian studies along with his juris doctorate. He also gained new perspective, practicing his Mandarin with Chinese students, interacting with classmates from Asia and the Pacific, studying with a Japanese karate master and forming lasting friendships. After graduation, he returned to Hong Kong on a midnight flight. “A bunch of classmates and friends sent me to the airport, and I remember getting on this plane, leis piled up to my eyes! I felt very sentimental about leaving Hawai‘i. I left the leis on for the whole flight.”

In China, Brahm was a foreigner, working from the outside to effect change. “In Asia, politics and economics, politics and business, are totally intertwined. So the entry into policy and influencing public change was through business,” he says. Throughout the 1990s, he promoted economic development as a commercial lawyer, restructuring companies for multi-national corporate investment. Government officials and policymakers he worked with sought his advice on changes in legislation, monetary policy and enterprise.

Cambodia and worked with the Mongolian government. By 2002, major reforms in China largely accomplished, he became more interested in spiritual/ideological aspects of human change and policy. He was concerned with whether China would become more Westernized or develop a unique identity drawn from its cultural roots. That led him to Tibet and his own views on cultural sustainability, combining business sense and experience with a humanitarian mission. He became involved with mediation between the 14th Dalai Lama and Beijing and the peace process in Nepal. While traveling throughout the Himalayas, he developed the Himalayan Consensus, an economic model for empowering indigenous peoples to sustain their culture and communities. In 2005, he established Shambhala, an organization dedicated to mitigating poverty through grass-roots initiatives that include artisan communes, schools, medical clinics and architectural restoration projects. The principles are demonstrated in his Himalayan Consensus Communities. Built around heritage restoration and ecotourism, the hotels at the Great Wall use sustainable tourism to support integrated programs of micro-finance and medical care. For example, at the House of Shambhala, a 10-suite Tibetan heritage boutique hotel in the heart of old Lhasa, spa visitors enjoy massage oils and incense made at a Tibetan monastery; proceeds fund the monastery’s medical clinic, which offers care to villagers at affordable prices.

“It’s something that totally integrates with the culture and works with it,” Brahm says. Everything from lanterns to lamas to pottery is made by local Tibetans through micro-finance programs that empower women and the handicapped, “to give them not only employment, but identity.” In the commune that makes rugs for the hotels, women are encouraged to bring their children to work.

“We can have all the material possessions in the world, but it doesn’t necessarily make us happy,” Brahm reflects. “Spiritually, ultimately, is more powerful than materialism. We should learn to preserve ethnicity, to find our roots and go back to our identity, before it’s too late.”

Initiatives help indigenous people sustain their culture and communities


Association News

Enjoy homeowner, nominate alumni and join our directory

We congratulate the UH Foundation for a hugely successful Centennial Campaign. The greatest news for us from the campaign is the level of alumni giving, which nearly doubled over the previous campaign. Our alumni giving level is at the top 10 percent compared to our peer institutions nationwide.

Mahalo to all our alumni who understand the importance and value of investing in higher education. Your commitment to our alma mater is commendable and we are so proud of your generosity!

We are looking forward to another exciting week of activities during 2009 Mānoa Homecoming Week. For the first time, we are offering travel packages to bring alumni home to take part in the activities. We hope you will join UHAA for our annual Homecoming Golf Tournament Nov. 3. It is a great way to network with fellow alumni and spend time with other chapter members out on the links. And then there’s the Homecoming Pre-game Tailgate with lots of great food, fun and awesome local entertainment. There are so many different activities to choose from, we hope to see you at all of them!

Please be sure to submit your nominations for the 2010 Distinguished Alumni Award. Each year, we are impressed with the number of alumni who have accomplished so much in their lifetime and yet have taken the time to give back to their community and their university. Recognizing the excellence of these individuals is truly a humbling experience, and to know that there are so many distinguished alumni worldwide really brings home the pride and gratitude we have for our education at UH.

We hope you will all be a part of the second edition of the University of Hawai‘i Alumni Directory. The print directory project underway in you should hear from our directory contractor, Harris Connect, about your inclusion in the second edition of the directory. The directory will be available in spring 2010.

We thank you for your continued support of UHAA. It’s been a great year of successes and growth.

Aloha,
Mitchell Ka‘aili‘i ‘92, ’97 President
Janet Yoshiida Bullard ’82, Executive Director

Madagascar village continued

The project’s success is due in large part to the villagers, says Koijane. “The participation of these people is really what makes a difference. It’s not coming in and deciding for people what they should have, but asking them what they want and working with them to realize some of those goals.”

Although Ihanta, Faigle and Koijane spend hours discussing next steps for the project, they ultimately want the choice to belong to the people of Madagascar. Ihanta discusses proposed goals and solutions with her team in Madagascar and the villagers. “It’s not just like somebody from the outside gave them something,” Koijane says. “They built the project themselves; they’re very clear that these are now their obligations.”

A participatory approach ensures change and community interest, Ihanta believes. “We ask them, ‘What do you think will change your life for the better?’ We ask what they think will improve the current situations, then we set priorities and try to accommodate.

Community development and participation are key concepts taught in the School of Public Health, Koijane says. She and Ihanta were able to apply what they had learned in the lecture halls within a practical environment. “You know, you’re reading about things in school and you’re learning about how things could work, but now, they’re actually coming to fruition, and it’s very exciting,” she says.

Other people’s support is heathening, and achieving goals, exhilarating, but the true reward comes in seeing the villagers’ lives being changed for the better, she adds. “It’s cool to take what you learned at UH and go out and use it in the world. Change is possible and there’s a role for all of us to play!”

Web extra: slideshows of Zanana projects at www.hawaii.edu/malamalama
Ma¯lamalama 27

Virginia Hinshaw

left: Center for Japanese Studies Director Robert Attending the UHAA–Japan event were, from left: Cheng Shu Li (BBA ’04), Robin Kaneshiro (BBA ’97), Yeon Han (BBA ’05), Selina Yost Shidler dine around participants, from left: Cheng Shu Li (BBA ’04), Robin Kaneshiro (BBA ’97), Yeon Han (BBA ’05), Selina Yost Shidler

Assistant to the Dean Jean Imada and Walter Ohta (BS ’03), Marian Nakama (BS ’92, MBA ’07), Interim Associate Dean Bruce Liebert, Aaron Okita (BS ’13), Marian Nakama (BS ’92, MBA ’07), Assistant to the Dean Jean Imada and Walter Billingsley (BS ’83, MBA ’93). At the annual picnic in Bellevue, Wash.

sent off 10 new UH freshmen at the chapter’s annual Hawaiian Picnic potluck in Central Park in July. The chapter also welcomed alumni from all over Japan—including Hisatsugu Toyoda (MS ’64), a 1948 East-West Overseas Scholarship scholar and one of the chapter’s eldest members—and guests from Hawai‘i.

On the Mainland

UHAA—Greater Midwest members and guests enjoyed Hawaiian food and music from the Oakton Community College Na Mele Aloha musical group in Evanston, Ill., when Northwestern University Hawai‘i Club Co-presidents Jessa Baker and Blair Limm invited them to its 23rd Annual Lu‘au. The UHAA—East chapter collaborated with New York Hawaiian community group Hālāwai and others to host the annual Hawaiian Picnic potluck in Central Park in July, with Hawaiian entertainment, singing and hula. The chapter also welcomed UH Mānoa School of Architecture Dean Clark Llewellyn and Dave Evans (BBa ’79, MS ’06), president and guest of the UHAA Travel Industry Management International chapter. UHAA—Pacifi...
Lyn Flanagan (MA ’68, JD ’91 Mānoa) of Sterling & Tucker was among the Pacific Business Women of the Year. In the community, he served as the 2001-2002 President of the Honolulu chapter of the Association of Women’s Business Owners.

George Held (MA ’63 Mānoa) published his 12th and 13th collections of poetry, The News Today (Cervena Barva Press) and Phased (Poets Wear Prada). A retired professor of English, he lives in New York City with his wife Cheryl. (We apologize for the misspelling of George’s name in the previous issue.)

Ernest Nishizaki (BA ’59 Mānoa) was named an outstanding tourist industry pioneer at the Travel Women Hawai’i 55th anniversary celebration held at the newly renovated Royal Hawaiian Hotel.

Tammy Duckworth (BA ’90 Mānoa) was selected to assist the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, Kealohi, to promote and manage a construction facility inside the Kahului Helipad.

Bill Hoag (BA ’79 Mānoa) recently earned his PhD in management and organization change from Southern Cross University in the Office of the First Nations, Australia, at age 70. His scientific approach to the planning and design of corporate marks, which he calls credibility-based logo design, was the subject of his dissertation.

Financing experience to the 36-year-old North Hollywood, Calif. “Come fall, I’ll be teaching two sections of Journalism 201 and leading drum and bugle corps.

Ernest Nishizaki (BA ’65, MA ’68 Mānoa) writes about the history of the Royal Hawaiian Band for his master’s thesis. He has worked with Walt Disney Entertainment, MCA/Universal Studios and leading drum and bugle corps.

Michelle Tucker (BEd ’75, PD ’75, JD ’81, MURP ’95, MA ’99, JD ’07 Mānoa) was nominated in July by the Business, named the 2009 Woman of the Year at the 2009 Bama Business.

The News Today (Cervena Barva Press) and Phased (Poets Wear Prada). A retired professor of English, he lives in New York City with his wife Cheryl. (We apologize for the misspelling of George’s name in the previous issue.)

Ernest Nishizaki (BA ’59 Mānoa) was named an outstanding tourist industry pioneer at the Travel Women Hawai’i 55th anniversary celebration held at the newly renovated Royal Hawaiian Hotel.

L. Grant Arnold, Jr. (BA ’78 Mānoa) was selected to assist the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, Kealohi, to promote and manage a construction facility inside the Kahului Helipad.

Joan Canfield

Botanical music host

UH degree: PhD ’86 Mānoa

First radio task: Organizing some 120 CDs into a database

Current shift: 6-8 p.m. weekdays

Power of music: “That ability to reach into that space of self or time or memory.”

Career advice: “Everything you’ve done contributes to what you end up doing, just you don’t know where it’s going to lead.”

How does a botanist from Virginia end up broadcasting classical music? Volunteering. “I turned 50, stopped and I examined my life.” Says Canfield, host of HPR’s Evening Concert show. After an intense and rewarding career in conservation, she wanted to do something different for community service. “I heard on the air for Hawaii Public Radio needing volunteers. From there, I was hooked. I noticed that corporate music was just a bit too much fun and we are all there a labor of love because of our passion for music.”

Canfield grew up playing the piano and viola. “It really was just picking back up doing, you just don’t know where it’s going to lead.”

“Broadcasting enables me to broadcast things that I’ve never heard of, thanks to Belt Collins design, planning, engineering and consulting. It’s the opportunity to shape the audience and their spirits up.” —Kimberly Seko

Kelly Benoit-Bird

The Road Map to Achievement! After graduating from UH, he began his 30-year career in the printing industry in Honolulu. He has two sons and two daughters.

Tara Bowers (BA ’84, MA ’88 Mānoa) was named the 2009 Woman of the Year at the 2009 Bama Business.

The News Today (Cervena Barva Press) and Phased (Poets Wear Prada). A retired professor of English, he lives in New York City with his wife Cheryl. (We apologize for the misspelling of George’s name in the previous issue.)

Ernest Nishizaki (BA ’59 Mānoa) was named an outstanding tourist industry pioneer at the Travel Women Hawai’i 55th anniversary celebration held at the newly renovated Royal Hawaiian Hotel.

Tammy Duckworth (BA ’90 Mānoa) is assistant secretary of public and intergovernmental affairs for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. She previously served as the director of the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs and is a major in the Illinois National Guard.

L. Grant Arnold, Jr. (BA ’78 Mānoa) was selected to assist the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, Kealohi, to promote and manage a construction facility inside the Kahului Helipad.

Lani (Kwok) Meilgaard (BA ’92 Mānoa) and Justin Meilgaard proudly announce the birth of Nia Christian Meilgaard. He was born June 6, 2009 to Ann Arbor, Mich., and weighed 8 lbs, 6 oz.

Michelle Liana Marcella (BA ’93, MBA ’98 Mānoa) is prestigious president of the Pacific Business Women’s Foundation, a national organization dedicated to the education of women and girls.

Mark Tawara (BA ’79 Mānoa) is president of the Society for Marketing Professional Services–Hawai’i chapter. He is the director of Belt Collins design, planning, engineering and consulting.

John A. Trayler (BS ’79, MBA ’86 Mānoa) is a federal administrative law judge with the Social Security Administration in New Orleans. He is also a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve.

Evening Concert

Submit class notes at www.UHAlumni.org or email magazine@hawaii.edu
I feel like I have one foot here, one foot in Maine, so he invented a flavor of rural Maine to assist his 90-year-old solar energy and worked as a Hawaiian entrepreneur.

He studied philosophy, was a graduate alum for the Distinguished University and improved the quality of life presented May 11, 2010.

Nominate an outstanding alum for the Distinguished Alumni Award.

Lihau Hannahs (BA '04, BBA, MBA '06, JD '10 Mānoa) and her musical partner, Kellen Paka, recently released their first album, '06, JD '07 Mānoa) and her musical.

Visit www.maluakai.com to learn more.

Allison L. Johnson (BD '08 Mānoa) was selected in the second round of the 2009 NFL Draft and signed as a defensive end with the Cleveland Browns on July 26.

Jon Sweet entrepreneur

UH degree MA '67 Mānoa

Hometown: Jefferson, Maine

His mentor was his PhD in composition at New York University. In served the college as professor and as president of University of Hawaiʻi School, director and chair of second- ary education, chair of curriculum and instruction, assistant dean for curriculum, associate dean and dean. He helped to organize the CDE Retirees Association and continued to be an active member of the CDE Alumni Association until 2005.

Kathleen Woodruff (BS '74, Mānoa) died on May 26. In returned to the college in 1995 after earning his master's and he doctoral degree in secondary education at New York University. In served the college as professor and as president of University of Hawaiʻi School, director and chair of second- ary education, chair of curriculum and instruction, assistant dean for curriculum, associate dean and dean. He helped to organize the CDE Retirees Association and continued to be an active member of the CDE Alumni Association until 2005.

Kathleen Woodruff (BS '74, Mānoa) died on May 26. In returned to the college in 1995 after earning his master's and he doctoral degree in secondary education at New York University. In served the college as professor and as president of University of Hawaiʻi School, director and chair of second- ary education, chair of curriculum and instruction, assistant dean for curriculum, associate dean and dean. He helped to organize the CDE Retirees Association and continued to be an active member of the CDE Alumni Association until 2005.

Kathleen Woodruff (BS '74, Mānoa) died on May 26. In returned to the college in 1995 after earning his master's and he doctoral degree in secondary education at New York University. In served the college as professor and as president of University of Hawaiʻi School, director and chair of second- ary education, chair of curriculum and instruction, assistant dean for curriculum, associate dean and dean. He helped to organize the CDE Retirees Association and continued to be an active member of the CDE Alumni Association until 2005.

Kathleen Woodruff (BS '74, Mānoa) died on May 26. In returned to the college in 1995 after earning his master's and he doctoral degree in secondary education at New York University. In served the college as professor and as president of University of Hawaiʻi School, director and chair of second- ary education, chair of curriculum and instruction, assistant dean for curriculum, associate dean and dean. He helped to organize the CDE Retirees Association and continued to be an active member of the CDE Alumni Association until 2005.

Kathleen Woodruff (BS '74, Mānoa) died on May 26. In returned to the college in 1995 after earning his master's and he doctoral degree in secondary education at New York University. In served the college as professor and as president of University of Hawaiʻi School, director and chair of second- ary education, chair of curriculum and instruction, assistant dean for curriculum, associate dean and dean. He helped to organize the CDE Retirees Association and continued to be an active member of the CDE Alumni Association until 2005.

Kathleen Woodruff (BS '74, Mānoa) died on May 26. In returned to the college in 1995 after earning his master's and he doctoral degree in secondary education at New York University. In served the college as professor and as president of University of Hawaiʻi School, director and chair of second- ary education, chair of curriculum and instruction, assistant dean for curriculum, associate dean and dean. He helped to organize the CDE Retirees Association and continued to be an active member of the CDE Alumni Association until 2005.

Kathleen Woodruff (BS '74, Mānoa) died on May 26. In returned to the college in 1995 after earning his master's and he doctoral degree in secondary education at New York University. In served the college as professor and as president of University of Hawaiʻi School, director and chair of second- ary education, chair of curriculum and instruction, assistant dean for curriculum, associate dean and dean. He helped to organize the CDE Retirees Association and continued to be an active member of the CDE Alumni Association until 2005.

Kathleen Woodruff (BS '74, Mānoa) died on May 26. In returned to the college in 1995 after earning his master's and he doctoral degree in secondary education at New York University. In served the college as professor and as president of University of Hawaiʻi School, director and chair of second- ary education, chair of curriculum and instruction, assistant dean for curriculum, associate dean and dean. He helped to organize the CDE Retirees Association and continued to be an active member of the CDE Alumni Association until 2005.
Hawai'i's largest native true bug, Coleotichus blackburniae, lives only on endemic koa and 'a'ali'i. Its population is in decline in part due to a fly introduced to control agricultural pest stink bugs.

The specimen is one of 225,000 insects in the University of Hawai'i Insect Museum, including native insects and agricultural pests used for insect identification and pest control, conservation, reserve land management and systematics-based research, Associate Professor of Entomology Daniel Rubinoff, director.

www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/peps/museum/index.htm

Mounted Koa Bug specimen with magnified projection
9mm x 17mm
Photo by R. David Beales

“Whatever good or bad fortune may come our way, we can always give it meaning and transform it into something of value.”

HERMANN HESSE
Nobel Prize in Literature, 1946

You don’t need a cookie to tell you that.

Whatever your fortune may be, now is a great time to invest in what is important to you and still make a positive impact in someone’s life. From enhancing your family’s financial future to creating a scholarship for a student in need, the Office of Estate and Gift Planning can show you how to achieve both by using charitable estate and tax planning strategies. Together we can make life more meaningful to you while transforming the lives of aspiring students.

You can make a difference in the lives of students today.

The University of Hawai'i Foundation, a nonprofit organization, raises private funds to support the University of Hawai'i System. Our mission is to unite our donors’ passions with the University of Hawai'i's aspirations to benefit the people of Hawai'i and beyond. We do this by raising private philanthropic support, managing private investments and nurturing donor and alumni relationships.

Office of Estate and Gift Planning
808.956.8034 • giftplanning@hawaii.edu • www.UHFoundation.org
HAWAII’S ONLY NATIONALLY RANKED GRADUATE BUSINESS PROGRAM
Now accepting applications for fall 2010

INTERNATIONAL MBA PROGRAMS
• Full-Time MBA
• Part-Time MBA
• China International MBA
• Japan-focused MBA
• Executive MBA – Vietnam

PROGRAM FEATURES
• Ranked in the Top 25 for International Business by U.S. News
• Accredited by AACSB International
• Internationally renowned faculty
• Strong global alumni network
• Scholarships available

Priority Deadline: November 15

www.mba.shidler.hawaii.edu