



KŪPONO

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USGS VOLCANOLOGIST

Don Swanson gives back to UH students for their partnership in 'explosive' Kīlauea research

Page 2

Q&A: UHF Trustee Catherine Ngo

A. Catherine Ngo, president and CEO of Central Pacific Bank, serves as treasurer on the UH Foundation Board of Trustees.

Q: What are your thoughts about women and philanthropy?

A: Studies have shown that women give more and volunteer more than men. I think women are naturally strong nurturers and collaborators, and are willing to roll up their sleeves to help. As women continue to move into executive and board-level roles, earn more in the workforce, and become more visible in the community, we should become an even stronger force in promoting philanthropy.

Former UH Mānoa Chancellor Virginia Hinshaw and UH Foundation President Donna Vuchinich brought together a small group of women leaders last year to address this very point: How do we encourage a stronger interest in philanthropy, including amongst young professionals who will be our future leaders and strong contributors to the community?

Among other things, we discussed how hosting events for women to discuss this topic not only would be productive and energizing, but also would be a special opportunity for women to connect and network, something that most women value very much.

Q: Why do you volunteer at UHF?

A: UHF's mission is to unite donors' passions with the University of Hawai'i's aspirations.



Catherine Ngo

I am passionate about the importance of education in building our future contributors and leaders in the community. My parents made many sacrifices to provide a good education for my two brothers and me ... education was one of their greatest gifts to us. It has opened up choices and opportunities for me.

All children and young adults deserve that same opportunity, including those wishing to attend – or are already attending – UH. I believe in UH Foundation's mission to raise philanthropic support, which will ensure the highest possible quality of education at UH and enable all qualified students to attend.

Q: What are your thoughts on the UH innovation initiative?

A: As I think about how innovation and entrepreneurship have changed entire communities, such as Silicon Valley, or even entire countries, like China, I see how the UH innovation initiative can be game changing

for Hawai'i. Our economy must evolve from reliance on the tourism sector and military spending, to include research and innovation as a third economic sector.

There are tremendous opportunities for us here in Hawai'i in the innovation sector, especially where we can leverage Hawai'i's particular strengths, such as in renewable energy and astronomy, to build world class businesses in these areas.

Q: How can the private sector support the innovation initiative?

A: The private sector can provide funding to programs, e.g. events sponsored by the Pacific Asian Center for Entrepreneurship (PACE). CPB, along with many of its executives, is involved with the PACE program.

The private sector can support entrepreneurs by providing mentorship on things like developing a viable strategy and business plan, bringing a product to market, and hiring and retaining the best talent. There are many opportunities to provide mentorship, including through involvement in PACE as a lecturer.

The private sector also can help by beta testing new technology coming out of UH. CPB did a beta test for Meeting Sift, a technology platform for real-time polling and analysis at meetings. The company was founded by a husband and wife team who earned their PhDs at UH. Beta testing enables companies to refine their technology, and provide references when the companies go to market.

DR. DON SWANSON

Honoring work on Kīlauea explosions

Kīlauea hasn't always oozed lava, spreading rivers of molten rock across the landscape and into the sea. For 300 years beginning in about 1500, the volcano on the south-east side of Hawai'i Island produced violent explosions instead, shooting extremely hot ash and glassy shards of lava through the air for miles.

For more than 15 years, Dr. Don Swanson of the U.S. Geological Survey at the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory has worked closely with several UH Mānoa professors and graduate students. They've collaborated to uncover the number, types, sequence and chemical composition of these explosions.

"This is brand-new stuff," said Swanson. "Usually you don't have breakthroughs in a short period of human time. It takes time to develop the evidence."

The award-winning geologist, recognizing the "outstanding people" in UH Mānoa's Department of Geology and Geophysics, has funded the Donald A. Swanson Geology &

Geophysics Graduate Student Endowed Support Fund. The fund will provide annual support for tuition, student fees, field work and other research costs, and is Swanson's effort to pay the university back "for all the good, combined research efforts" over these 15 years.

Swanson hopes the endowment will encourage students to continue the geologic studies in the islands, adding, "The more work they do in Hawai'i, the more likely they are to return as researchers or faculty members" and add to the research on the fascinating geology of the state.

Swanson began his work on Kīlauea in 1968, but also spent time at Mount St. Helens in the years surrounding its eruption in 1980, and as scientist-in-charge of the Cascades Volcano Observatory in Washington and Oregon. He returned to Hawai'i in 1996.

Dr. Kenneth Rubin, chair of Mānoa's geology and geophysics department, said Swanson "exemplifies the type of scientist



we hope our students will aspire to becoming. He is inquisitive, methodical and persistent in his pursuit of understanding. He's a kind and dedicated mentor to students, and has a long interaction with the department through several collaborators.

"Don's generous gift will provide much appreciated research support for a new generation of earth scientists studying in and about Hawai'i," Rubin said. "It will enable them to pursue new, advanced research on the natural and geological history of our island state."

Swanson said, "I've never felt as good about doing something as I do about making this donation. It's buying something for our future."

UHF's Tyler Shortt trekked out to see the lava firehose pouring into the ocean at Kamokuna, in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, where he captured this and the stunning cover image Feb. 19 at sunset.

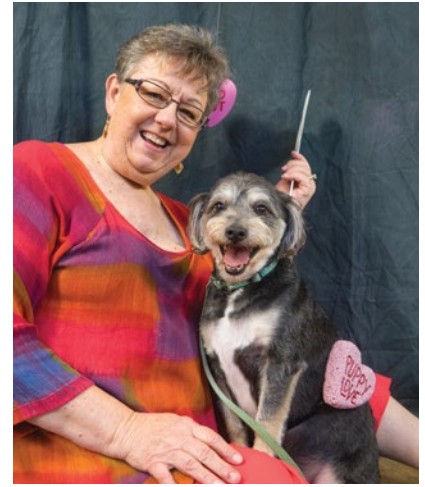
Above: Dr. Don Swanson



Windward CC: Paw Hana

HALE 'IMILOA • FEB. 11

Windward CC alumni and friends had a doggone good time Feb. 11 as they toured the first Veterinary Technology Program learning facility in Hawai'i and met some of its faculty, students and alumni. Guests' furry friends enjoyed a costume contest and special treats made by chefs and students from the WCC Hi'ilaniwai Foodservice program.



Windward CC: Donor Mahalo Reception

UALA LEAF CAFÉ • NOV. 17

Generous donors who support Windward CC programs and students were honored at the Donor Mahalo Reception at Hale 'Ākoakoa in the Uala Leaf Café Dining Room. Guests enjoyed meeting scholarship recipients and hearing firsthand how their support is enriching programs and students' lives. From opening doors of education to students facing financial hardships, to enhancing myriad programs, the impact of private gifts is making a difference.





Hawai'i CC – Pālamanui: Scholarship Donor Mahalo • FEB. 3

Scholarship donors and student recipients were recognized during a luncheon at the Hawai'i Community College – Pālamanui campus, where Culinary Arts students prepared a delicious buffet. The event helped connect scholarship donors and the students who benefit from those donations, and also highlighted the impact of scholarships for students.



Honolulu CC: Scholarship Mahalo Dinner • NOV. 30



Honolulu CC students and the generous donors who are supporting their aspirations through scholarships, student support and program enrichment, enjoyed an evening together in the Norman W.H. Loui Conference Center. Guests were moved by Diesel Technology student Jameson Park, who spoke about the very real impact scholarships and the program are making in his life. Vice President for Community Colleges John Morton, Honolulu CC Vice Chancellor Katy Ho and UH Foundation Vice President for Development Rebecca Smith warmly thanked donors for all they are doing to help support students.



See more photos from these and other events at www.uhfoundation.org/news/photos.



Alice Augusta Ball:

A woman who changed the world

A series of firsts

Fifty years before the first women walked through the doors at most Ivy League schools, Alice Augusta Ball earned a master's degree, the first woman – and first African-American woman – to do so at the University of Hawai'i. The first woman instructor in UH's chemistry department, her work in 1916 led to the first treatment for Hansen's disease, bringing hope to thousands of patients who had previously only known despair.

And she was very nearly lost to history.

Born in Seattle in 1892, Ball lived briefly in Hawai'i and attended Central Grammar School. She returned to Washington, earned bachelor's degrees in pharmaceutical chemistry and pharmacy, and accepted a scholarship from the university then known as the College of Hawai'i.

Her master's thesis on extracting the active chemical in awa roots made her uniquely qualified for research with the Hawai'i chemistry department, where she was the first to reconfigure an oil extract from the chaulmoogra tree for the treatment of leprosy.

Although chaulmoogra in ointment form had for a long time relieved some patients' discomfort, Ball's work resulted in the first injectable treatment. Other medicines for the disease came along years later, but long after her tragic death in 1916 at the age of 24, her discovery still provided the first hope.



Alice Ball at UH graduation, 1915

It remained the most effective treatment until the 1940s.

Far ahead of her time

Sadly, Ball did not receive credit for her scientific contribution for many years. She died before she could publish her findings, and another chemist continued her research and published it as his own. Then in 1922, a U.S. public health officer in Hawai'i named Dr. Harry Hollmann published an article explaining how he had approached the young chemistry instructor to apply her expertise to extracting the essence of the chaulmoogra tree.

Referring to her process as "Ball's Method," Hollmann's effort to give Ball her due attribution "rescued Alice Augusta Ball from the charnel houses of history, and gave her the credit she deserved for the remarkable work she accomplished," writes Paul Wermager in a chapter he contributed to *They Followed*

the Trade Winds: African Americans in Hawai'i.

Wermager says the article became a critical piece of a "giant jigsaw puzzle with pieces all over." For years, the former head of the science and technology department at UH Mānoa's Hamilton Library has pursued the details of Ball's life. Ball's significance reaches beyond the Mānoa campus, he says: "She was far ahead of her time, and is likely the first African-American to be published in the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*."

The journal published articles co-authored by Ball in 1914 and 1917. The treatment she developed was effective enough that three years after her death, 78 patients recovered and were sent home from the leper colony at Kalaupapa on Moloka'i.

A scholarship to help others change the world

Ball's place in history will be remembered in perpetuity: the Alice Augusta Ball Scholarship, endowed by Wermager, will be awarded to UH Mānoa students in chemistry, biochemistry, biology or microbiology who typify the characteristics Ball displayed in her studies and research.

"I hope that this scholarship will inspire other people to pursue science as a career, and to remember Alice's life, and what she accomplished in such a short time," Wermager says. "She changed the world. How many people can do that?"

DAVID KANASHIRO:

Echoing an 'extreme act of generosity'

Some may remember the late Dr. Arthur Lynn Andrews for his many roles at UH – as an important leader in the school's transition from college to university, English professor, first dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, dean of faculties, Board of Regents member, organizer of the first campus newspaper and more. But for the Kanashiro family, Andrews played an even greater role.

James Kanashiro, an immigrant from Okinawa, was working in Kaua'i's sugar cane fields before moving to O'ahu and joining the Andrews' household staff. Andrews sensed potential in the boy and decided to sponsor his education, a journey that eventually led Kanashiro to becoming one of the first Japanese-American dentists in Honolulu.

"Not many people know this aspect of Dr. Andrews," said Kanashiro's son David. "What he did for my father was such an extreme act of generosity."

Thanks to Andrews' sponsorship, Kanashiro graduated from high school and went on to Vanderbilt University before enrolling in the Vanderbilt School of



Dr. James Z. Kanashiro receiving a certificate of recognition from Hawai'i Governor John A. Burns for his efforts in teaching citizenship naturalization classes from 1953-1961.

Dentistry. Upon completing the dentistry program, Kanashiro returned to Hawai'i and went into practice, where he remained for 47 years.

"It really shows the importance of a good education and higher learning," added David. "If it weren't for that, my father may have still been working in the sugar cane fields on Kaua'i. His education made all the difference."

In honor of Andrews' generosity, David Kanashiro is working with the UH Foundation Office of Estate and Gift Planning and his estate plan to establish

the Arthur Lynn Andrews Regents Scholarship Endowment to support students chosen as Regents Scholars. Selected students will receive a full tuition scholarship for four years of undergraduate study, allowing them to focus on school without the added financial stress.

"The gift given to his father ensured that David's life was also filled with opportunities that would not have been possible otherwise," said Risa Dickson, UH vice president for academic planning and policy. "This is a beautiful

example of paying it forward – in honor of the man who changed the course of his own life, David is making possible the exact same opportunities for future generations."

Kanashiro hopes to continue Andrews' legacy of generosity that afforded his father – and in turn himself – the opportunities to succeed in their education and careers.

"Take my father's story as an example of the importance of higher education," he added. "Never give up, and get as much education as possible."



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Hawaii Dental Service cares for smiles statewide

Many of Hawai'i's families face serious oral health challenges due to issues including the high cost of living, no statewide fluoridation system, no school sealant program, and a lack of oral health education. The Pew Center on the States reviews and assesses states' performance in a variety of domains. Its reports on oral health have consistently rated Hawai'i an "F."

Hawaii Dental Service (HDS) is partnering with UH to improve oral health by providing grants totaling \$211,000 to UH programs to expand dental services and education, and gain a better understanding of how to overcome the barriers to improved oral health. Three UH programs are receiving the funding:

\$120,059: Improving oral health outcomes for pregnant women & children in Hawai'i

UH Mānoa Nursing is teaming up with the Kapi'olani WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Program at Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children. They will use funding from HDS to gather information about the oral health beliefs and behaviors of families, provide oral health education to high risk families, and connect these families to dental providers in the community.

\$60,000: Expanding UH Maui College Oral Health Program community outreach

The UH Maui College Dental Hygiene Program will leverage HDS support to expand dental care and support services offered by its Maui Oral



Dr. Maureen Shannon and Dr. Deborah Mattheus from UH Mānoa Nursing conduct an oral health consultation with a Hawai'i mother and her son.

Health Program (MOHP), which assists underserved populations on Maui through community outreach and collaboration with local nonprofit agencies.

\$30,710: Needs and assets assessment of oral health services in Hawai'i

With support from HDS, the UH Mānoa Office of Public Health Studies is conducting a statewide assessment of oral health care services (both prevention and treatment), in order to discern potential needs and gaps. More than 300 individuals have participated in the study, including clinicians, instructors, administrators and researchers. The final report will provide recommendations and steps for action to help HDS and other stakeholders develop plans to improve the state's oral health.