



KUPONO

THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

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Fun Fund

For 25 years, Fun Factory has worked with UH to help keep more than 500 bright local students like Shay Chun here in Hawai'i



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FOR OUR UNIVERSITY, OUR HAWAI'I, OUR FUTURE

New leaders bring new vision

Ron Ho

Ron Ho (BS '67 & MS '68, electrical engineering, Mānoa) spent most of his engineering career in



Hawai'i leading a local electrical engineering consulting company, Ronald N. S. Ho & Associates, Inc. Over the years, his company grew from a one-person firm to one of the larger electrical engineering consulting companies in Hawai'i.

A proud alumnus, Ho has supported the UH Mānoa College of Engineering in various ways, helping raise it to higher levels of excellence and providing opportunities to the next generation of engineers of Hawai'i. In recognition of his accomplishments, Ho received the UHAA Distinguished Alumni Award in 2000.

Ho is an old friend to the UH Foundation. In the late 1990s he served as a trustee for six years and was chair of the board toward the end of his term. Ho was an active member of the team that successfully

planned, and completed, the UH Foundation's first major fundraising campaign for UH.

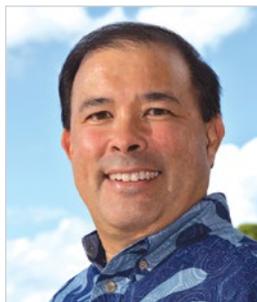
Ho decided to re-join the board for myriad reasons. He wants to help UH provide high quality public higher education for Hawai'i's younger population, support UH in its efforts to become a major player as an economic driver in Hawai'i, and to give back to the institution that gave him the skills that he used to start his career many years ago.

"I see my time at the UH Foundation as an opportunity to provide leadership to engage all of the trustees to work toward achieving UHF's mission," said Ho.

Paul Kobayashi

Joining the UH Foundation as vice president for administration/chief financial officer is

Paul Y. Kobayashi, Jr. He comes to us with extensive experience in corporate enterprise and higher education. Most recently, Kobayashi served as the execu-



tive assistant to the vice president of budget and finance and chief financial officer for the UH System.

Prior to that he was the director – financial management and controller at the University of Hawai'i. Kobayashi also brings years of experience from the private sector. He worked at Hawaiian Airlines, Inc. for 15 years, serving in a variety of finance and accounting capacities, including his last seven years as vice president and controller.

"We are delighted to welcome Paul to the team," said Donna Vuchinich, UHF president and CEO. "He brings a powerful combination of skills and experience to this key leadership position, coupled with a sincere commitment to UH."

"Having served as a UH financial executive, I have a deep appreciation and intimate understanding of the vital and central role the UH Foundation plays in support of the many programs and students across the university system and its 10 campuses," said Kobayashi. "I am very excited to be part of this team supporting my alma mater in such a significant way."

Aloha 'oe, Bill King!

After serving the UH Foundation for 11 years as vice president for administration/ chief financial officer, Bill King has decided to retire to explore new chapters in his life and spend more time with family. King has been a pillar of strength, knowledge and stability and his tremendous contributions to our organization will be missed. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors!



Fun Factory scholarships: A generation of support

For the past 25 years, Fun Factory Inc., in cooperation with the University of Hawai'i, has funded a year's study at a UH campus for 20 students. To date 500 Fun Factory scholars have benefited from this partnership.

It all began on a rainy day in 1976. Kane Fernandez and his wife Linda were standing in the mud watching the rain pour down on what was supposed to have been a crowded and profitable Punahou Carnival. They looked at each other and agreed they needed an indoor venue for their games and rides that would shore up their weather-dependent outdoor carnival business.



"I am one of the lucky few who received the second year scholarship and my parents and I are so appreciative of it. It makes financing my education a little more bearable. My parents know they are in for a long haul since my goal is to become a medical doctor." —**Shay Chun, second-year Fun Factory scholar**

The result was the opening, in 1977, of the first of more than 20 Fun Factory indoor entertainment centers. While Kane managed the carnival side of the business, Linda took over Fun Factory. The two spouses were well-matched with a shared



Fun Factory recognized for 25 years of student support. L-R: Malia Peters, Donna Smith, Linda Fernandez, Donna Vuchinich & Sydney Fernandez-Fasi.

work ethic. They also shared a commitment to education.

In 1982, Linda created the Fun Factory honor roll program, which encourages children to "study hard and make good grades." The Fun Factory/UH scholarship evolved from a conversation that Kane and Linda had with then-UH President Al Simone. Fun

Factory agreed to give \$20,000 to be used for \$1,000 scholarships to 20 freshmen students, and at that time the university was able to grant tuition waivers. The goal was to reward students for academic excellence and to provide an incentive for

Hawai'i's bright young people to come to UH rather than go to a mainland university.

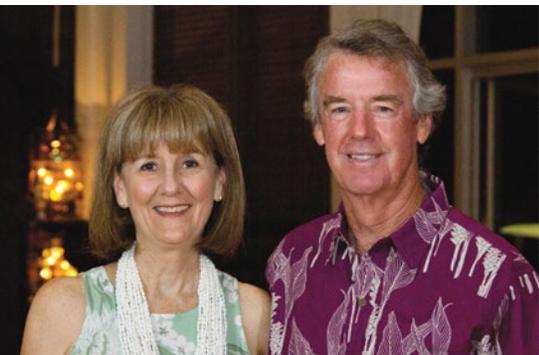
In 2003, UH asked Linda to consider adding five more annual scholarships of \$1,000 each. These would help five of the freshmen scholars in their sophomore year with the hope that their academic success would earn them Presidential Scholarships to cover their junior and senior years. Linda agreed, and these additional scholarships have been offered every year since.

Although Kane passed away in 2001, Linda remains just as strongly committed to this community investment as she was in the first year. "This is our corporate giveback to the community because our youth are our future," she explains. "There's no better investment than in Hawai'i's young people. By nurturing and encouraging them from grade school to college, we hope to be making a positive difference in their lives and in that of our community."

UH's most generous donors, our Hōkū Society members, were honored at an exclusive dinner at The Kahala Hotel and Resort. The event celebrated the power of dreams, and the lasting legacies that gifts of \$1 million and more are building. Interim UH System President David Lassner expressed his gratitude to the honored guests. "As Hoku Society members, you are our most generous donors, our stars, and your impact is demonstrated every day in support of public higher education in Hawai'i," he said.



Dr. David Lassner, Donna Vuchinich, Ronald Ho, Flora Williams and Paul Antonelli



Dee Jay & Don Mailer



Mark Fukeda, Herlinda Kawakami and Dr. Beth Pateman



Ted & Fuku Tsukiyama



Stephen Maybir, Sally Kanehe, Dr. Jim Brewbaker and Lysa Lai

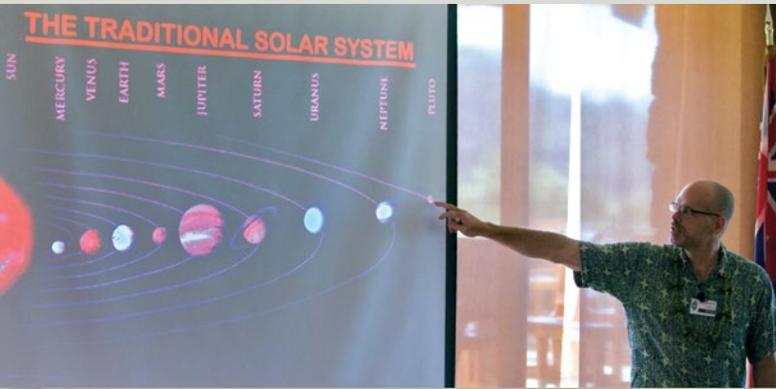


Martha Hanson, Lenn & Eileen Urquhart, and Linh Hoang

Clockwise: Oceanography grad student Yoshimi Rii talks about her research on phytoplankton; Dr. Joseph Ciotti demonstrates the origins of our calendar; and Dr. Robert Jedicke advises on how to avoid killer asteroids.



See more UHF event photos online:
www.uhfoundation.org/EventPhotoGalleries



Heritage Society Symposium • Oct. 23, 2013

Heritage Society members and special friends of the University of Hawai'i enjoyed a fun and thought-provoking event at the O'ahu Country Club that featured presentations by exceptional professors from across the UH System.



Dr. Stephen & Virginia Lau



Dr. Wasim & Saltanat Siddiqui



UNVEILING THE GAME PLAN

UH Mānoa athletic coaches and student athletes joined donors and supporters at a luncheon at the Honolulu Plaza Club Sept. 27 to unveil the "The Game Plan." Athletics Director Ben Jay shared this strategy to transform the UH Mānoa Athletic Department into a NCAA Division 1-A Top 50 national program through a \$40 million fundraising initiative.

Right: Ben Jay, Dr. Edison Miyawaki & Dr. Tom Apple



Disney conservation grant supports coral reef research

The UH Mānoa Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB) has been awarded a grant from the Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund (DWCF) to support the Connecting Coral Reefs Worldwide project.

Today, coral reefs are at a critical stage with threats from human activities, climate change and ocean acidification. A fifth of all coral reefs have been destroyed and a further 15 percent are under immediate threat.

“The grant from Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund will provide essential support to better understand the coral reefs around Palau. The findings of this research will immediately and significantly contribute to the government of Palau’s efforts to protect their reefs as well as provide management recommendations for the rest of Micronesia, which is facing similar challenges,” said HIMB director Jo-Ann Leong.

Scientific research using the latest methods in population genetics will be conducted on the reefs of Palau to understand how reefs recover from catastrophic disturbances, such as mass bleaching events. The results will provide guidance in the design of Marine Protected Areas in Micronesia

and globally to help restore and preserve the reefs and their incredible biodiversity for future generations. Project partners include The Nature Conservancy’s Micronesia Program and its Reef Resilience Network, and Palau International Coral Reef Center.

The grant will be used to cover the costs of the lab work as well as to disseminate management recommendations and provide support to education programs that are already in place through The Nature Conservancy and Palau International Coral Reef Center.

“We are grateful to the Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund for partnering with UH Mānoa to address some of the world’s most pressing conservation issues,” said UH Mānoa Chancellor Tom Apple. “Projects like Connecting Coral Reefs Worldwide help develop community conservation and educational programs in critical ecosystems worldwide.”

The Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund works to protect species and habitats, and connect youth to nature to help develop lifelong conservation values. Since its foundation in 1995, DWCF has supported more than 1,000 conservation programs in 112 countries.

Photo: Graduate student Annick Cros conducts coral reef research



DIETER AND ANNETTE MUELLER-DOMBOIS: Planning for the next generation

UH Mānoa Emeritus Professor Dieter Mueller-Dombois has studied the 'ōhi'a forests of Hawai'i for fifty years and, with his colleagues, was the first to identify 'ōhi'a forest dieback as not an outcome of pathogens or invasive species but a natural life cycle event of cohorts of trees that germinate, grow up, and die together. Their demise makes way for the next generation. This observation received global recognition.

He counts this paradigm shift regarding forest diebacks, and his graduate students, many of whom are leaders in the environmental ecology field today, as his greatest accomplishments. He advised 18 students on PhD dissertations, 17 on MSc theses and five on post-doctoral fellowships.

Born and raised in Germany, he knew as young as seven years old that he wanted to be a forester like his uncle. Before he could pursue that dream, he experienced the nightmare of WWII as a 17-year-old drafted



into the German army. "When the war was over, I knew I would never go through anything as terrible as that again in my life."

After the war, he immigrated to Canada where he earned a PhD in forest ecology and then completed research in southeastern Manitoba, while stationed as a forest research officer in Winnipeg.

In 1963 he joined the UH faculty. "I was interested in teaching introduction to botany, but I was scared because I had never taught on tropical plants. It was a challenge." Three years later, the Smithsonian gave him an opportunity to study

the flora and aspects relating to the ecology of vegetation and elephants in Sri Lanka. When he returned to UH in 1969, he had material for his college classes and successfully instituted a world-class plant ecology program. Today, he is considered the foremost vegetation ecologist in the Pacific.

His wife, Annette, is a teacher who also comes from Germany. This is a second marriage for them both. They have seven children between them from their first marriages and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Together, they have made a bequest to the University of Hawai'i. The Dieter and Annette Mueller-Dombois Endowed Fellowship will be established from a portion of their estate and fund graduate or post-doctoral research at the UH Mānoa College of Natural Sciences, Department of Botany.

Having studied the life cycles of 'ōhi'a forests for decades, Dieter and his wife Annette are well aware of their own. As Dieter observes, "Aging is not a disease. It is the ultimate predisposition to completing a life cycle. Growing old is a challenge. It takes courage, self-discipline, and a sustained love of life with resilience to complete one's own life cycle."

With this attitude, Dieter and Annette have chosen to provide for the generations to follow.

When considering a bequest

Annette Mueller-Dombois has these suggestions for anyone considering a planned gift to the University of Hawai'i Foundation:

- Think carefully about what you are doing. Do you need your resources yourself or not?
- What is your intention or passion? For example, Dieter wants students to continue his work.
- Does your family know about your intentions to make a gift? It's important that all are in agreement.

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FHB creates new banking professorship at Shidler College

With a \$500,000 gift, First Hawaiian Bank (FHB) Foundation is helping the Shidler College of Business at UH Mānoa expand its ability to recruit and retain faculty of the highest caliber in the area of banking. By establishing the First Hawaiian Bank Distinguished Professor of Banking, the bank is building on its long-standing and generous support of UH, and our state.

“In today’s competitive environment, this professorship will provide continuous funding to attract world-class educators and researchers in the area of banking, thereby strengthening the college’s overall business program,” said Vance Roley, Shidler College of Business dean.

“We see this partnership as an exciting opportunity to gain access to top-rated professors who will inspire, motivate and educate students about banking,” said Bob Harrison, FHB president and CEO.

FHB is one of the state’s largest corporate contributors to charity. By the end of 2013, FHB



L-R: Donna Vuchinich, Mitchell Ka'aiali'i, Robert Harrison, Dr. Vance Roley, Sharon Brown, Brandt Farias, and Dr. Tom Apple.

will have contributed \$10 million to charities over the last four years. In recognition of its impactful philanthropic investments, First Hawaiian Bank was the recipient of the 2013 National Philanthropy Day Outstanding Corporation Award.