

UNIVERSITY of HAWAI'I

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

TEACHING TRANSFORMED

How the pandemic changed the way teachers learn and prepare for their careers

PG. 9

MAKING WAVES

Many ocean conservation projects are making a difference

PG. 14

BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

Former Rainbow Wāhine is a standout on the court and in the classroom

PG. 18

SUMMER 2022

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PHOTO BY
DR. JOHN BURNS

LAW STUDENTS HELP KALO FARMERS SECURE WATER ACCESS

📍 MĀNOA

FOLLOWING THE 2018 KAUAI FLOODS on the north shore, Wai'oli farmers were told the centuries-old irrigation system used to water their taro patches was zoned as state conservation land. The farmers had been stewarding the land for generations, providing flood mitigation and taking care of the water flows, and then they were told they needed permitting and authorizations to do so.

"The farmers initially tried to navigate the process on their own and it was incredibly complicated and so they reached out to the clinic," says Professor Kapua Sproat, director of Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law. "We've spent several semesters working with them to try and sort this out and we've made tremendous progress."

The law clinics at UH Mānoa's William S. Richardson School of Law act as practical training for second- and third-year law school students. Over the past four semesters, 33 students worked with the kalo farmers to secure their water rights.

Thus far, they've been successful in securing a right of entry and an easement for the farmers to access the land. They also completed environmental and cultural impact assessments and regularly testified at the Hawai'i State Legislature on House Bill 1768, which is now with the governor. The bill would give traditional taro farmers anywhere in the Islands a water lease exemption.

"Native Hawaiians have been farming successfully on lands throughout the state for nearly 2,000 years without creating adverse impacts to the land in which they operated," the bill states. "The State has an obligation to ensure that traditional and customary practices of native Hawaiians continue to be protected."



U'ilani Tanigawa Lum (BA '13, MA '16, JD '19, UH Mānoa), an attorney and Post-J.D. Fellow, who started as a student in the clinic, now helps teach it.

"It's been a great opportunity to go from being a student and then being able to teach and do it for fun in our free time," says Lum. "For me, the big takeaway is the reciprocal learning. As a student I learned so much from Kapua and the community."

THE HAWAIIAN WORDLE

MAUI

WHEN WORDLE WAS RELEASED IN OCTOBER, it became a viral sensation. The daily word game requires players to solve a randomly selected five-letter word, and they have six chances to get it right.

In January, Keola Donaghy, UH Maui College assistant professor of music, released an ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i (Hawaiian language) version. He had heard about Wordle and knew many people who used it, but has never played the English version to this day.

“I’ve been studying the Māori language for about two years and found someone that created a Māori version of it, which I continue to use,” says Donaghy.

Wordle games were being created in other languages using an open-source code. Donaghy was able to do the same for Hawaiian.

“A colleague, Noelani Arista, formerly at UH Mānoa and now at McGill University in Canada, pointed me to an open-code archive that made it relatively easy to create localized Wordle clones,” says Donaghy. “I looked at it, got some help from the developer and was able to launch the app in a week or so.”

The Hawaiian Wordle game currently has a list of about 350 five-letter words, and more are expected to come. Donaghy is also considering a six-letter word game with about as many words. hulihua.net

TOP 1%

GOING GLOBAL

Started in 2020, The Communication Podcast by journalist and communication scholar Malika Dudley (BA ‘04, MA ‘21, UH Mānoa) ranked in the top 1% (No. 13) in the U.S. on Apple Podcasts under the “social sciences” category. Communication is defined as the beatification of communication to make communicating easier, and the podcast helps listeners learn the latest skills in a safe space to grow. Through her podcast, Dudley also raised \$10,000 for local charities. communicationpodcast.com

MĀNOA

A HISTORIC SEASON

Picked to finish fifth in the Big West Conference, the 2021-22 University of Hawai‘i women’s basketball team exceeded expectations and claimed their first Big West Conference title since 2016. The Rainbow Wāhine also became

the first team in program history to win both the conference’s regular season title and the postseason tournament championship in the same season.

In the NCAA Tournament, the Rainbow Wāhine fell to Baylor but finished their season with a 20-10 record.

Next season, UH head coach Laura Beeman (the league’s Coach of the Year) will return with another talented group of players, including incoming recruit Jovi Wahinekapu Lefotu, the reigning Hawai‘i State High School Player of the Year.





Sage Creamery

Interview by CHRISTINE HITT



Churning premium ice cream with locally sourced ingredients, cofounders Zachary Villanueva (BA '15, UH Mānoa) and his wife, Courtney (BBA '12, UH Mānoa), turned their love for ice cream into a business at the beginning of the pandemic. Their locally made ice cream brand, Sage Creamery, has since built a fan base and sold out flavors. Later this year they year, they will open their first brick-and-mortar shop in Kapolei.

HOW DID YOU FIRST BECOME INTERESTED IN MAKING ICE CREAM?

Zachary: Growing up, ice cream was always a big part of our childhood. I remember my dad always made sure we'd have Dreyer's ice cream in the freezer. That was the thing to look forward to after dinner. I'd say starting an ice cream business, there's a lot of good memories around that.

Courtney: That's where his love for ice cream came from. We would do some traveling and when we would go to the mainland ice cream shops, we found a lot of different flavors and premium quality that Hawai'i didn't have.

Z: I started to make small batches at home. I would just make for family parties and stuff, so that's kind of where making it at home began. It became a hobby.

A LOT OF PEOPLE LOVE ICE CREAM BUT DON'T GO AND MAKE IT. WHAT'S YOUR BACKGROUND?

Z: People ask if I went to culinary school but I was in the military right out of high school, so you know, I wasn't making ice cream in the military. I joined the military then I went to UH and got my political science degree. It was really just a passion or love of ice cream that kind of drove me to figure out how to make it.

WHEN DID YOU START SELLING YOUR ICE CREAM?

Z: In terms of turning Sage Creamery into a business, we didn't start until after my brother had passed. We named the company after my brother, Daniel, who we consider to be our sage. After his passing, all of these amazing things

had happened and it kind of came full circle. Every time we would get these signs from him, we would refer to him as our sage. And the name is actually in memory of Daniel, so that's kind of how the business started, after that happened.

WHAT DOES A SAGE MEAN TO YOU?

Z: According to a dictionary, it's someone who's wise or experienced in life. A lot of people get confused with the sage plant, but this is in reference to a person—a sage who's kind of experienced a lot of life and is wise in that way.

C: I think we also see a sage as someone who is very simple, and not attached to a lot of material fluff, but rather in tune with what is truly important.

HOW DID YOU DECIDE THE FLAVORS FOR YOUR MENU AND WHICH ONES DID YOU START WITH?

Z: Initially, we stuck with signature flavors that people are familiar with, like vanilla, coffee, strawberry, cookies and cream. But what we did is tried to source higher quality and local ingredients. Our vanilla comes from Lā'ie, our coffee comes from ChadLou's which is in Kailua, and then the honey

comes from Mānoa Honey which is in Wahiawā, and our chocolate comes from Mānoa Chocolate.

We kind of form flavors around what we can find locally and then also flavors that we want to eat. My chai tea is like a tea drink that we always drink at home, and so Courtney always wanted me to make it into an ice cream flavor and so we made that happen. It's really what we were kind of craving or what we like.

C: Even like the stories we want to tell too. If there's a time or event coming out and we want to honor that in some way, those are how some other flavors come out.

SINCE YOU'RE BOTH ALUMNI, COULD YOU DESCRIBE HOW YOUR TIME AT UH HELPED YOU ON THIS PATH?

C: UH was really the foundation for that path. Had I not had that foundation that got me into such a good job, it wouldn't have leveraged me into owning my own business, which has allowed me the freedom now to do this.

Z: Going into political science, it was a major where you kind of study ideas of right and wrong. It brought more of an awareness with how we impact the environment and the idea of sustainability and supporting local and all of those things. I became more aware of that while at UH. Translating it to ice cream, that's what we try to do. We try to support as many local businesses as possible and local farmers and include that in our ice creams.

Sage Creamery can be found at farmers markets, and at Diamond Head Market & Grill, ChadLou's Coffee Shop, and Feast by Jon Matsubara, sagecreamery.com.

“It feels amazing! I’ve always wanted to win for Valorant ever since I joined the team two summers ago.”

► **Manalu Nakanishi**, on winning the UH Mānoa Esports program’s first national championship. His team won playing Valorant, a rapid-fire, five-player elimination game at the National Association of Collegiate Esports StarLeague championship.

[“University of Hawai‘i’s fast-growing Esports program has claimed its first national title,” Hawai‘i News Now 10/19/21]

39.7% is the record four-year graduation rate at UH Mānoa for full-time first-time students. Other campuses also achieved record graduation rates, including UH West O‘ahu, which set a record four-year graduation rate at 23%.

706 The number of acres of a neighboring forest preserve the UH Hawai‘i Community College Pālanuanui Campus will be collaboratively managing with the state Department of Forestry and Wildlife. Students will learn about conservation and resource management in this “living laboratory.”

15 MINUTES

is the max amount of time it takes for high school seniors to apply to the University of Hawai‘i Community Colleges through the new Kama‘āina App. The shorter application process is quick, simple and free. star.hawaii.edu/shortapp



24 HOURS A DAY Asteroid tracking just got better. The UH Institute for Astronomy was already tracking dangerous rocks that could impact the earth from telescopes on Haleakalā and Maunaloa, but it just added two more in South Africa and Chile. Together, these four telescopes allow scientists to scan the whole sky all the time, providing one day’s warning for a 20-meter asteroid and up to three weeks’ warning for a 100-meter asteroid.

“Hawai‘i has one of the richest marine ecosystems in the world—and having a deeper understanding of this ecosystem is the key to preserving and protecting it.”

► **Mark Zuckerberg and Dr. Priscilla Chan** gifted the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa’s School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology a seven-year, \$50 million commitment to help support ocean conservation research. The gift will fund programs that study the impacts of climate change, marine organisms and species, and research on coastal resilience. Additionally, Zuckerberg and Chan gifted a six-year, \$10 million commitment to the John A. Burns School of Medicine to fund a new Kaua‘i Medical Training Track to address the Kaua‘i physician shortage.

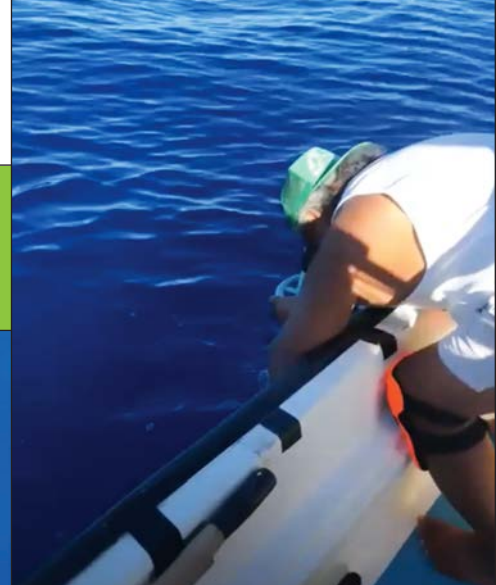
Teaching



Transformed



COVID-19 changed everything, including how Hawai'i's next generation of teachers learn and prepare for their careers. UH Mānoa College of Education faculty, students and alumni reflect on the ways in which the pandemic has made them more resilient and adaptable, in and out of the classroom. *by* TIFFANY HILL



“Wear your sun shirts, hats and sunscreen!”

TARA O'NEILL, A UH MĀNOA COLLEGE OF EDUCATION (COE) professor, told her students at the end of class. She was preparing them for their visit to Miloli'i, one of Hawai'i's last traditional fishing villages. The next day, her 15 students watched as Leivallyn Kaupu of Kalanihale, a cultural education organization, fished for 'ōpelu in the cyan waters off Hawai'i Island—all from the comforts of their desks on O'ahu.

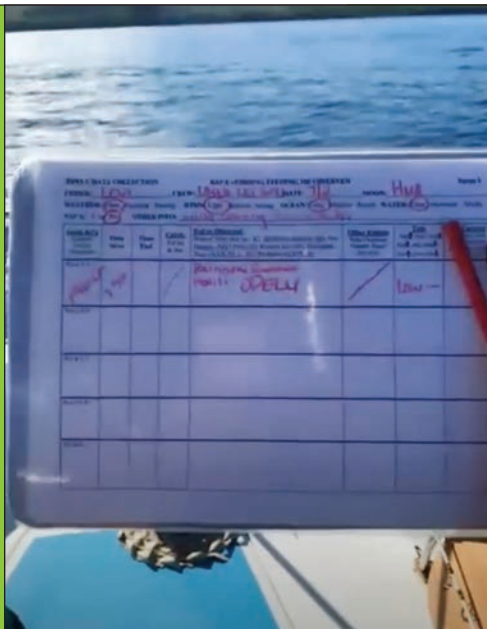
COVID-19 restrictions forced O'Neill, her colleagues and community partners like Kaupu, to restructure the program, temporarily allowing students to learn from their laptop screens.

O'Neill is the director of COE's STEMS², an immersive, cultural- and place-based program that integrates science, technology, engineering and math with social

sciences and sense of place (hence the S²). The innovative UH Mānoa program combines classroom teaching with on-location, hands-on learning through its network of community partners across the Islands. The end result prepares students with essential soft skills that will aid them in their careers as teachers.

“We essentially modified STEMS² for online,” says O'Neill. “And not just putting instruction online, but auditing our program, going back through the first four and a half years and [asking] what is the purpose of what we're seeking.” Community partners were willing to adapt, too. “[Kaupu] took her phone fishing and stuck the camera just above the waterline.”

The College of Education's mission is simple yet comprehensive: prepare tomorrow's teachers. The college, which



Left: Leivallyn Kaupu of Kalanihale fishes for 'ōpēlu in the waters off Miloli'i over Zoom and teaches students learning from their desks elsewhere. Bottom: COE Associate Professor Hannah Tavares.

utilizing software like Zoom and Google Classroom, to ensuring online availability for student support. “There are so many interesting ways to integrate content, so much pre-planning,”

says Tavares, “but once that is done, it is so rewarding to see it all laid out.”

Fellow UH Mānoa professor Peter Leong built an additional hub station in Second Life, a 3D, virtual reality program that he first developed for COE in 2011. The Second Life platform, which includes a replica of the Diamond Head crater, became a frequent place for students going through distance learning to gather and converse online. O'Neill says it helped the STEMS² fifth and sixth cohorts, with Cohort 6 reporting similar learning experiences as their pre-COVID peers. “They got all of the cognitive and social emotional support.”

Former COE alumni also went digital to provide engaging learning experiences for their students in Hawai'i's public schools. They say that their education at UH Mānoa provided them with the foundation, technical skills and versatility needed to abruptly transition from traditional, in-class learning to teaching from their impromptu home offices.

Zachary Morita (BEd, '07, UH Mānoa), a music teacher at Niu Valley Middle School, had to create new activities that his students could do from home. “The difficult part as a music teacher was the inability to play together,” he says. “The relationships have to be at the forefront, it's

has nearly 2,000 students and eight academic departments, does so through professional development in education, education research and partnering with public and private learning institutions to foster community engagement.

The return to in-person teaching at UH Mānoa and Hawai'i's K-12 classrooms has demonstrated there's hope for a bold, post-pandemic future. This year, COE educators and alumni are armed with resilience, increased support and a fresh appreciation for technology. COE educators and alumni have nimbly adapted, transforming their work for the next generation of teachers and learners across Hawai'i.

Embracing Change



ONLINE COURSES WEREN'T NEW to the University of Hawai'i, or COE; remote instruction has been offered for years. But when it became the *only* learning option, faculty had no other choice but to adapt and reexamine how they teach.

“For my entire professional career, I was a face-to-face instructor,” says Hannah Tavares, a COE associate professor who's been teaching at UH for 19 years. “Occasionally I would teach an online course, but I didn't feel that I was very good at it. I really didn't have a reason to reinvent myself as an online instructor. ... The pandemic changed all of that.”

Instructors like Tavares and O'Neill revamped their syllabi to accommodate for distance learning for the 2020 and 2021 academic semesters. That included everything from meticulous preparations for online-only classes,



something you embed in all of your lessons.” He introduced music education software like Noteflight to work with his students virtually, and created breakout rooms in Google Classroom and Zoom to aid in small-group lessons.

“The beautiful thing about teaching remotely is the creativity that this sudden shift brought on,” adds Kristel Meyers Brogdon (BA, ‘07, UH Hilo; PCERT ‘17, UH Mānoa), a special education teacher at Kea‘au Middle, near Hilo. “What worked really well was having clear expectations for academics, presenting information in fun and creative ways through Bitmoji Google Slides, and carving time out to build relationships through conversations that had nothing to do with academics.” Meyers Brogdon adds that she also increased her “office” hours to meet with students or parents individually and to help troubleshoot tech challenges.

Some educators even took online classes themselves, as a way to not only bolster their own learning, but also get a feel for distance learning from a student’s perspective. “I was curious to experience how the course is delivered and what my learning experience as a student feels like,” says Tavares, adding that she took online courses related to her research, including postmodern philosophy.

Whitney Aragaki, COE doctoral student and the 2022 Hawai‘i State Teacher of the Year, also got a dual perspective with online learning, as both a COE distance student and a science teacher at Waiākea High School on Hawai‘i Island. “This program has helped me critically reflect on my daily practices, the structures that I actively and passively uphold or dismantle, and what I foresee as the future of public education in Hawai‘i.”

The change in delivery, from in-person to online, also affirmed that it’s possible to do place- and culture-based instruction virtually. And since travel around the Islands was curtailed, educators focused on the communities right around them. “Virtual lessons relied on the lived experiences of students in their own homes,” says Aragaki, who’s been teaching for 11 years. “Activities shifted from a reliance on curricular technology and flashy demonstrations to highlighting the stories and phenomena of our daily lives.”



More Ways Forward

C

LASSROOMS ACROSS THE ISLANDS

HAVE WELCOMED students back in person, but for many educators, the practices of distance learning remain integral teaching components.

“This semester I am finding that the students I have in both my graduate seminar and undergraduate class seem to have adjusted to the transition,” says Tavares. This spring semester, she has 47 students in three classes, each of which is delivered differently, including in-



Left: Zachary Morita, music teacher at Niu Valley Middle School. Bottom: Whitney Aragaki, science teacher at Waiākea High School and 2022 Hawai'i State Teacher of the Year.



person, remotely or a hybrid of both. “To be very honest, I would like to see remote and face-to-face teaching coexist.”

And O'Neill says technology has made connecting and supporting students through their educational journey even easier. “You can do it in meaningful ways,” she says. “I think we are better now than we have been.”

Meyers Brogdon and her fellow Hawai'i public educators are also back to teaching in-person full time, but she is continuing to incorporate online learning into her lesson plans. The Kea'au Middle teacher says that she still teaches science virtually to 60 students in grades six through eight. “The pandemic left a lot of kids feeling lonely and isolated,” Brogdon says, “and these virtual meetings with their classmates and teacher provided a space where they could interact and engage with their peers safely.”

Aragaki uses places and cultures her students are familiar with to lead their science learning. “Households and communities melded into our classrooms to educate students in multiple locations and shared expertise,” she says. “Many of these shifts are now permanent changes in my teaching praxis and I truly enjoy the opportunities to connect with students' extended families and treasured places.”

Staying Nimble

B EING A TEACHER IS DIFFICULT, especially the past few years, and resilience and flexibility are required now more than ever. “It's a hard narrative for teachers right now,” says O'Neill. “We say they're the heroes and then blame them.”

The advice for current, upcoming and future teachers is simple, though, she says. Find and rely on a supportive, diverse network, and be willing to try new ideas, in and out of the classroom.


“Surrounding yourself with a community of like-minded people is integral when it comes to growing as an educator and keeping your passion for the profession ignited,” adds Meyers Brogdon.

Teaching is an ever-evolving profession that demands the passion of a life-long learner. The College of Education is committed to investing in the future of education in Hawai'i, by bolstering students with the development, skills and flexibility required of teachers today. As the pandemic has highlighted, knowledge isn't contained within the walls of a classroom. Regardless of where or how learning happens, COE faculty, students and alumni across the Islands are working to improve all levels of education. **UH**

An underwater photograph of a vibrant coral reef. The scene is filled with various types of coral, including branching and table corals, in shades of yellow, orange, and brown. Numerous small, dark-colored fish are swimming throughout the water. A large, semi-transparent blue circle is superimposed over the center of the image, serving as a background for the title text.

MAKING WAVES

IN OCEAN
CONSERVATION

A vibrant underwater photograph showing a diverse coral reef ecosystem. In the foreground, a dense patch of finger coral (Solenastrea) in shades of white and yellow is visible. Numerous colorful fish, including orange and black tangs, yellow tangs, and dark surgeonfish, are swimming around the coral. The background features a steep, rocky reef wall with more coral and a large school of small fish near the surface. The water is clear and blue, with sunlight filtering down from above.

THE UNIVERSITY
OF HAWAII'S
WORK IN THE
FIELD OF OCEAN
CONSERVATION
PROVIDES
SOLUTIONS FOR
COMPLEX ISSUES
AND ADVANCES
SCIENTIFIC
UNDERSTANDING.

by
**CHRISTINE
HITT**

*Finger coral at
Hawai'i Island.
Photo by
Dr. John Burns*



BASED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PACIFIC, THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII IS A LEADER IN OCEAN CONSERVATION RESEARCH, STUDYING EVERYTHING FROM MARINE LIFE TO CORAL REEFS, CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE OVERALL HEALTH OF THE OCEAN.



ACROSS THE ISLANDS, UH's Faculty brings a range of expertise and serve the public by sharing important research and bringing new ideas to light.

To ensure it's doing work that addresses community concern, UH Hilo's Marine Science projects start with a conversation among Hawai'i Island residents.

"We don't go anywhere without permission and blessings from the communities, and then we build proposals out to support that type of research to provide them with the information they've requested," says Tracy Wiegner, UH Hilo professor of Marine Science and director of the Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science graduate program.

Sewage pollution from cesspools and how that impacts human health, coral reefs and near-shore waters were the main drivers in UH Hilo's research at Puakō and Keaukaha. Undergraduate and graduate students alongside

faculty provided manpower and skills for the various studies.

"The sewage that's getting out there, the No. 1 thing is that it stimulates algae growth," says Stephen Colbert, UH Hilo associate professor of Marine Science and chair of the Marine Science department. The algae can dominate the reef and smother it, and cause diseases and growth anomalies on the coral, not to mention the human impacts of swimming in sewage.

The research was shared with the community, the state, and the Environmental Protection Agency, in hopes that it effects change.

"We answered the call to help the community, we gave them the information they needed, they worked to come to a consensus on what they wanted to



do, they worked with the county and state legislatures to find funding to start implementing it," says Wiegner. "It felt really good to be able to see that information being used to make a difference."

Also at UH Hilo, the MEGA Lab, whose name is an acronym for Multiscale Environmental Graphical Analysis, was created as a collaboration between scientists, athletes and artists who want to improve the planet. John Burns, Assistant Professor of Marine Science and Data Science at UH Hilo, created the lab to be a fun way for students to be part of a team.

"The projects we do are really enormous in their scope, meaning we do everything from 3D mapping of underwater environments and then it just expanded to where we're mapping molecules on reefs," says Burns. The maps can be used to see how sea level rise is changing the coastline.

MEGA Lab was the first to document the reef at Pipeline surf break on O'ahu in high resolution detail. An ancient reef, Pipeline is exposed to strong swells, and its reef of ridges, valleys and spires was formed by hydrology.

"It was just kind of beautiful to see that relationship in front of your eyes of a reef that's shaping the wave, but a wave that's also shaping a reef," says Burns. "Now we have a baseline where we can start investigating further and try to see how it's shifting and changing with sea

level rise, because that's going to change the wave. And it may seem silly to a scientist, but to people who recreate in the water and surf, that's one of the most valuable waves on the planet."

On O'ahu, at UH Mānoa's School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology (SOEST),

faculty and staff are researching a multitude of things, including visitor impacts and fish behavior at Hanauma Bay, reducing sediment runoff into the ocean, supporting native algae, sound monitoring for ocean and reef health and promoting sustainable fisheries.

In January, SOEST received a seven-year, \$50 million commitment from Dr. Priscilla Chan and Mark Zuckerberg to support projects within the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology, where more than 100 researchers study marine animals, human impacts and coral reef communities.

The Waikiki Aquarium, an institution of UH, is also busy with a number of ocean conservation programs, including coral propagation, invasive algae removal and beach cleanups. The aquarium is also in the planning process of a project to aid in green sea turtle conservation.

"Our invasive algae and beach cleanups are open to the public to get involved in our efforts," says Chessa Caparros, volunteer coordinator of the Waikiki Aquarium. "Improperly disposed of trash can make its way into our oceans through wind, storm drains, water runoff and more. Our beach cleanups are in an effort to collect trash and marine debris while educating the public about these important issues."

At UH Mānoa's School of Life Sciences, Hsiao Endowed Chair in Marine Biology, Professor Mark Hixon, has spent nearly 10 years researching ways

From left: A safe boat escorts a snorkeling researcher; manini graze on the reef; and a parrotfish cleans coral.

for reefs to withstand climate change.

Healthy reefs provide many benefits in Hawai'i. They act as a natural breakwater lowering the impact of coastal erosion, they attract fish which provide food, they're important for surfing and recreation, and reef organisms are sources of new medicines.


Hixon's work involves enhancing the coral reefs' ability to survive naturally by having lots of different kinds of fish around them that will eat the seaweed growing on dead coral surfaces.

"If the herbivores are present, then those dead coral surfaces are kept clean and new baby corals can settle and grow," Hixon says. "But the big issue around O'ahu and other population centers in Hawai'i is that those fishes are extremely depleted. They're a popular food fish, and there's not enough public education, there's not enough enforcement of regulations. These fish are less than 5% of their natural abundance."

Hixon and his team are trying to attract fish to highly degraded reefs by placing concrete modules that act as fish condos. The same is being done for sea urchins, with the hope that it will kickstart the herbivore populations.

One of the main herbivores, the parrotfish, is a major sand producer, as it has the ability to grind up reef material and "poop sand." Not only would increasing the parrotfish's populations help clean up the dead reefs, but it also will help replenish sand at beaches.

"The biggest threat that's coming up is ocean warming, which causes corals to bleach," says Hixon. "We've got to clean up our land-use practices and we've got to get lots of herbivores growing out there so that when these bleaching events occur, we don't just end up with seaweed on dead coral rubble, but we end up with new corals coming back in because herbivores have opened that space for them."

It's important work, as are all of the many UH projects happening concurrently across Hawai'i to protect and preserve our oceans and quality of life. 

Best of Both Worlds

FORMER RAINBOW WĀHINE VOLLEYBALL STANDOUT CLARE-MARIE ANDERSON EXCELLED BOTH ON THE COURT AND IN THE CLASSROOM. AND SHE'S JUST GETTING STARTED.

By LANCE TOMINAGA

CLARE-MARIE ANDERSON LOVED growing up on Moloka'i, and embraced the island's simple, unpretentious lifestyle. As an only child, she spent her early childhood going to school, enjoying the beach, climbing trees and having adventures with friends.


Moloka'i was also where she learned to play volleyball. She and her father would play until sunset in their backyard, using a net stretched between two coconut trees.

"I loved my country upbringing on Moloka'i," Anderson says today. "My mom and dad loved the island as well, and it was the perfect place for them to raise me."

So imagine the day when, at just 9 years old, Anderson approached her parents and asked them if they could move to O'ahu to pursue her dreams.

"To tell you the truth, it wasn't a complete surprise to us," recalls Janet Anderson, Clare-Marie's mother. "When we moved to Moloka'i, we suspected the day would come that we would need to return to O'ahu for her education. Being





a schoolteacher myself, I knew all the pluses and challenges of education on Moloka'i. But we never pushed [O'ahu]. We were really glad that she was the one who instigated it."

Still, when the family relocated to Honolulu in 2007, they couldn't have imagined what the next 15 years would bring for their daughter: a state high school volleyball championship, a stellar career with the UH Mānoa women's volleyball team, traveling to Norway as a Nobel Peace Scholar and earning a scholarship to medical school.

"When I was a little girl, I had no idea what I wanted to do," recalls Anderson. "I just knew I loved school and I loved volleyball, and I was eager to see where those passions would take me. Who knew what this journey was going to look like?"

After a year at 'Aikahi Elementary School in Kailua, Anderson was accepted to Punahou School, her father's alma mater. Jay Anderson led the Buffanblu to three boys volleyball state titles before becoming a three-time First-Team All-American at Pepperdine. He also led the Waves to the 1978 NCAA national championship.

"I had a lot of fun coaching Clare-Marie," says Jay, recalling those years teaching her the game on Moloka'i. "She was like my little protégé."

Like father, like daughter: Anderson helped Punahou capture the 2012 state championship and went on to earn All-ILH honors.

After graduating in 2014, she fulfilled a childhood dream by joining Dave Shoji's UH volleyball program. In four seasons at Mānoa, the walk-on libero/defensive specialist played in 107 matches and contributed 227 digs. More importantly, the Rainbow Wāhine won two Big West Conference championships and made four NCAA Tournament appearances, reaching as far as the Elite Eight round in 2015, Anderson's sophomore year.

"I always looked up to the Rainbow Wāhine and dreamed of playing for a program that not only represents a team, but the entire state," says Anderson. "Looking back, my favorite memories are the moments I spent with my teammates—laughing together in the locker room and having fun whenever we traveled. You spend so much time with your teammates, and you work so hard together. You form a special bond, and they'll be my family forever."

Anderson also excelled in the classroom. A biology major, she carried a near-perfect GPA and earned All-Big West Scholar honors for each of her four years. She received an academic scholarship for her junior and senior seasons.

None of it was easy. Juggling school and volleyball often required sacrifices. Anderson admits to crying when her studies forced her to miss practice, explaining, "I just always wanted to give my 110% to both worlds."

Family members, teachers, coaches, teammates, academic advisors, mentors—many people played a role in helping her navigate the life of a college student-athlete.

"I wouldn't be where I am today without the support of so many people," Anderson says. "It was especially nice to be a student-athlete alongside so many amazing teammates. Doing both [sports and school] is difficult for everyone, but we had a shared experience and really helped each other along the way."

Shortly before the start of her senior season, Anderson was named a 2017 Nobel Peace Scholar, an honor given to only 16 college and university students across the United States. She spent six weeks in Norway studying

at the Nobel Peace Institute and the University of Oslo, immersing herself in issues and theories about dialogue, peace-building, conflict and war.

"It was an incredible experience," she says. "Having the opportunity to learn from and form connections with people all over the world was amazing. I learned a lot about the importance of peace building, communication, compassion and leadership, and what that looks like across the world and in different fields."

Anderson graduated Summa Cum Laude in the spring of 2018. That same summer, she was also accepted into the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM), earning a four-year merit scholarship.


Anderson was wrapping up her second year at JABSOM when the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

"We were gearing up for our first medical board licensing exam," Anderson recalls. "We were heading into eight weeks of dedicated study time, and it was challenging because we didn't even know whether we were going to be able to take [the exam]. A lot of exams were getting canceled because of the pandemic."

Anderson, whose chosen field is OB/GYN, graduated from JABSOM in May and starts her residency at the UC Irvine Medical Center in California. And if she has her way, Anderson's eventful journey will someday come full circle.

"I hope to care for the community of Moloka'i as much as I can," she says. "I hope to practice there someday. I look forward to caring for the community that has given me so much."

One thing is for certain: Anderson is grateful for her time at UH.

"All the skills that you learn through athletics really do translate to medicine as well," she says. "The best teammate is one who makes others around them better. In health care, you work in teams all the time to care for patients. I had so many great teammates who inspired me, and now hopefully I can be a great teammate to others in the field of medicine." 

DARK SIDE OF THE MOON

SELECTED

SHUAI LI WAS CHOSEN AS PART OF A NINE-MEMBER U.S. TEAM FOR SOUTH KOREA'S FIRST MOON MISSION, THE KOREA PATHFINDER LUNAR ORBITER.

T HIS AUGUST IS GOING TO BE A momentous month for Shuai Li, an assistant researcher with the Hawai'i Institute of Geophysics and Planetology. Li, who was hired as a UH Mānoa faculty member in 2020, was chosen by NASA as one of nine U.S. scientists to participate in the Korea Pathfinder Lunar Orbiter mission—South Korea's first Moon mission.

The unmanned spacecraft launches

on the SpaceX Falcon 9 and will orbit the Moon for one year. This seminal expedition aligns with Li's research. He has been researching water formation, retention and movement on lunar surfaces since 2016, and was on a team of UH Mānoa scientists that discovered water on the dark side of the Moon in 2018.

The mission's goal is to develop and establish space technologies for future missions, while investigating the characteristics of the Moon's surface. To do so, the spacecraft will carry five scientific instruments, including three cameras, a magnetometer (an instrument for measuring the strength, direction and relative change of a magnetic field) and a gamma-ray spectrometer (an instrument that measures the way gamma rays interact with different surface materials).

Li will be working with one of the cameras—NASA's ShadowCam—looking for ice deposits in the Moon's polar craters. Li's work at the Hawai'i Institute of Geophysics and Planetology has given him a platform to conduct this research. He has set up his lab to per-

form experiments that are relevant to the lunar mission.

"Our lab data will be helpful to interpret the returned data by ShadowCam," Li says.

The camera, which weighs about 19 pounds, was designed to be more than 200 times more sensitive than previous space-imaging devices, meaning that shadows aren't an issue when it comes to capturing stunningly detailed images. The ShadowCam's images will help further map unstudied regions of the Moon.

"The lunar's permanently shaded regions have been our knowledge gap about the Moon for a long time," he says. "So far, we do not have very high-quality data from [permanently shadowed regions] to solve important geologic problems about the Moon. ShadowCam will help to fill this gap."

Li hopes his work with the ShadowCam will reveal additional surface ice deposits. "As we know, water ice deposits on the Moon are crucial in-situ resources that can be used for future exploration of the Moon and deep space."—*Tiffany Hill*

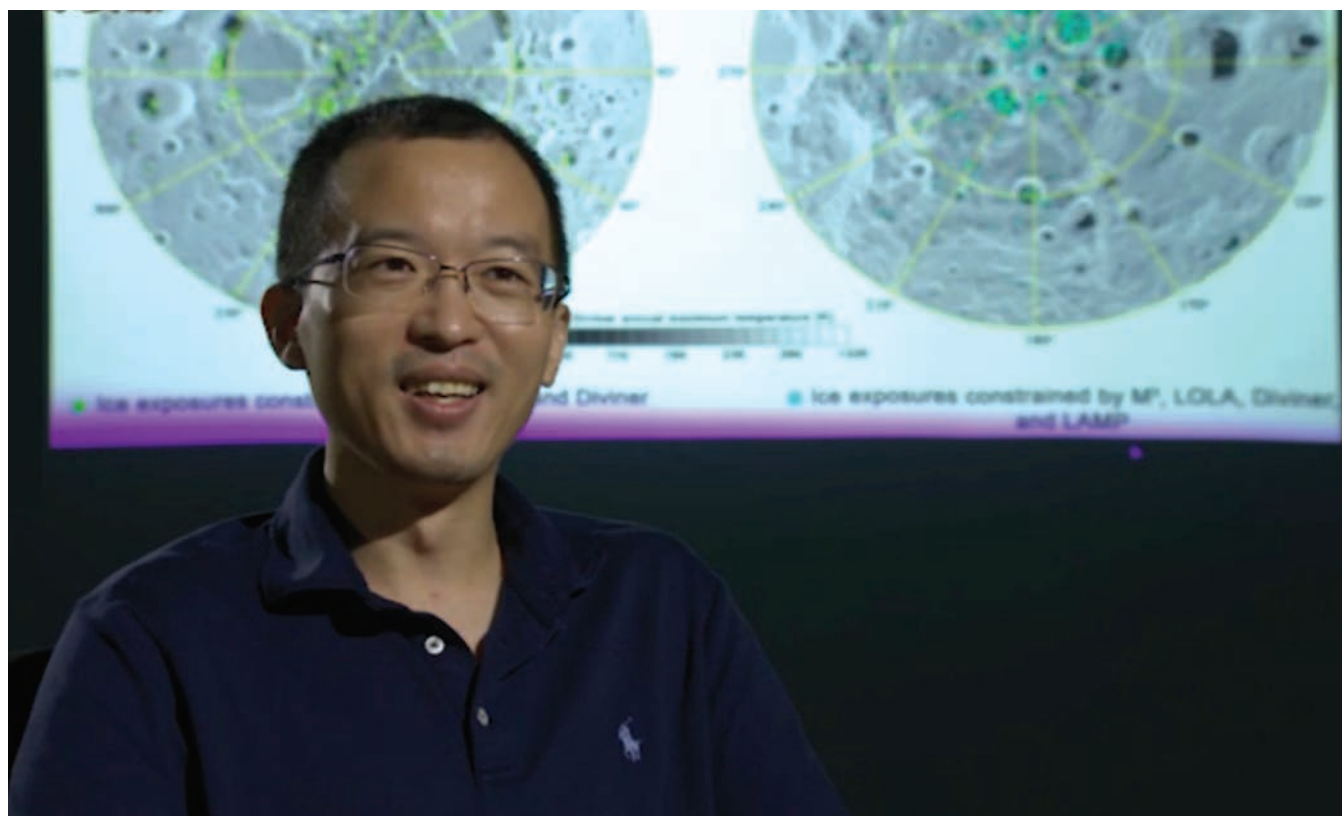


PHOTO: COURTESY OF SHUAI LI



PHOTOS: JORDAN LACINA, COURTESY OF SHARAYAH CHUN-LAI

Left: Sharayah Chun-Lai walks the runway at the finale of her New York Fashion Week show. Below: Ola Hou Designs' New York Fashion Week team in Times Square.

the invitation. Founded in 2019, Ola Hou, which means “new life,” presents a modern take on aloha wear with bold colors and prints inspired by nature.

With roughly three months to prepare, Chun-Lai created 10 new collections to incorporate into her runway looks. It was important for her to be thoughtful about how she portrayed Hawai‘i.

“It was just go time,” she says. “I had to sit down and really think about what it was



I wanted to bring to the stage in New York and to showcase Hawai‘i and our culture.”

From an early age, Chun-Lai knew that fashion was something she loved. It was an appreciation for dressing and styling clothes that she shared with her grandmother. After high school, Chun-Lai pursued that passion at UH Mānoa where she studied fashion design.

“I learned so much from my professors, from learning how to sew to cutting patterns to pattern making, and actually making the clothing,” Chun-Lai says. “I was able to put on one of my very first fashion shows. Then of course, for my senior year, I designed my very first collection. That’s when I knew I wanted to be a designer.”

Following the flurry of excitement caused by New York Fashion Week, she now has something new to look forward to: her first brick-and-mortar storefront. Located in Downtown Hilo at Manono Street Marketplace, the store is set to open this year and will feature a variety of prints from her new collections.—Christine Hitt

PASSION FOR FASHION

SELECTED

HAWAI‘I ISLAND FASHION DESIGNER SHARAYAH CHUN-LAI SHOWCASED COLLECTIONS AT NEW YORK FASHION WEEK.

BRAVING THE COLD NEW YORK WEATHER, Sharayah Chun-Lai (BA ’16, Mānoa)—and her team of models, hula dancers, coordinators, make-up artists and hair stylists—showcased the colorful collections of her Hawaiian-inspired clothing designs at New York Fashion Week in February.

“The entire experience of New York itself was just honestly more than I could have ever imagined it to be,” Chun-Lai says. “I’ve never personally been a part of anything near New York Fashion Week and so it was unbelievable.”

Her fashion brand, Ola Hou Designs, had caught the eye of the New York Fashion Week Runway 7 director, who offered



ESPORTS PIONEER

Nyle Kauwelo

HOMETOWN

My hometown is Honolulu, but I grew up in San Diego before moving back to Hawai'i to attend Kalani High School. I have always wanted to pursue graduate work growing up. My grandparents instilled in me an appreciation for education.

EDUCATION

- Political Science '04, Eastern Washington University
- Master's in Communication, '14, UH Mānoa
- PhD student in Communication and Information Sciences, UH Mānoa

Living in South Korea after I did my undergraduate work inspired me to want to do my studies in communication and information technologies. I did my master's in Communication, and now I am doing my PhD in Information and Communication Sciences. This has been a journey in which I have been able to pursue my research with the support of my academic mentor, advisor, and chair of my committee, Dr. Jenifer Winter. I feel extremely fortunate to have been given the opportunity to have pursued my studies at UH.

WORK

- Interim Director for UH Mānoa Esports (2018 to present)
- Created the first esports course at the University of Hawai'i

When you think about esports (short for electronic sports), it's one of those interesting dynamics where it is such a powerful medium and form of entertainment for youth and young adults. Video games as an industry is bigger than music and movies combined. This is a very shocking thing for people to understand how powerful video games are in people's lives.

The goal of UH Esports is to understand that we are not looking at this as just a sport; we're looking at this as an opportunity to engage in the industry. Students are really interested in technology, and the games become a very powerful conduit.

My role as a director, and also the roles of the team captains and my assistant, is

that we make sure that what they're doing is ethical, what they're doing is meaningful, what they're doing has a purpose. We don't want them just to play games. We always want them to reflect on what they're doing and what they're gaining out of this.

Last year, we actually partnered with Activision-Blizzard, and it's one of the biggest video game companies in North America. We were able to bring them to the campus five different times over the summer to hold their main tournament that they have for a game called Overwatch.

The Overwatch League event, in my opinion, encapsulates what makes Mānoa stand out. No other video game publisher-developer has ever done that before with a university. It was a complete one-off and it set Mānoa apart completely. We were recognized as one of the top 10 collegiate programs in North America during the Esports Awards in November last year, and that partnership was a big reason why. We were able to get students connected with industry leaders in the video game space.

PROUDEST MOMENT

The Overwatch League event was absolutely spectacular and I was proud of everybody who was able to take part in that, but I think some of my proudest moments are really seeing students who were part of our program move into the industry itself.

We had a student who took my esports course, and he was kind of lost after graduation. He's a big fan of doing graphics work and wanted to do a lot of media work. We brought him back after he graduated to do work for UH Esports, especially with graphics, and about a year later, he was hired by Riot Games. That's a huge accomplishment. Riot Games is one of the biggest publishers in video games, especially in esports, and that to me was a tremendous point of pride to see that we actually can produce talented students that can actually move from UH Esports into industry. Over the last year or two, we've really done that with different students. One has gone to Ubisoft, another big publisher, and so for me that is the proudest moment seeing those students do that.

LEARN MORE ABOUT UH ESPORTS AT:
hawaii.edu/esports.

Aloha 'Oe

James Brewbaker

(1926–2021), plant breeder, innovative and compassionate agricultural researcher. Brewbaker's illustrious career started in 1961 at UH Mānoa's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. Genetically modifying corn to improve quality and quantity, Brewbaker's corn seeds have been feeding millions around the world for several decades. He also authored more than 280 publications, and found joy seeing his many students continue the work he loved.

Barbara Smith

(1920–2021) UH music program pioneer who championed cultural diversity. Smith introduced her classes to music from Hawai'i, Pacific, and Asian cultures at a time when only Euro-American music was taught—and this work led to the establishment of an ethnomusicology program with master's and doctorate programs. Smith, who was also an editor for "The Queen's Songbook," had just celebrated her 101st birthday.

Adrienne Kaeppler

(1935–2022) (BA '59, MA '61, PhD '67, Mānoa) anthropologist, music and dance lecturer, curator. Kaeppler earned her bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees in anthropology at UH Mānoa, then worked much of her career as a curator for the Pacific Islands in the Department of Anthropology at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. She danced hula and published the book "Hula Pahu, Hawaiian Drum Dances," and produced many publications.

Haunani-Kay Trask

(1949–2021) educator, fearless advocate, author. A leader in the Hawaiian sovereignty movement, Trask's career at UH Mānoa spanned 29 years. During that time, she was the founding director of the Kamakākūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies. Upon retirement, she continued advocating for Native Hawaiians and encouraged the next generation to do the same. She also wrote two books, including "From a Native Daughter: Colonialism and Sovereignty in Hawai'i," and two books of poems. She co-wrote a documentary, "Act of War: The Overthrow of the Hawaiian Nation."

Robert Kekaula

(1965–2021) (BA '08, Mānoa) beloved TV sports reporter, voice of UH football. Soon after graduating from Kamehameha Schools in 1983, Kekaula began his television career at KGMB as a weekend sports producer. In 1997, he was hired as KITV's sports director, and for more than 25 years was one of Hawai'i's most recognizable personalities and UH football commentators. Kekaula also had a love for music, releasing three solo albums.

Leanne Ferrer

(1967–2021) (AA '88, Leeward CC; BA '93, Mānoa) award-winning filmmaker, mentor, advocate for Pacific Islander stories. Ferrer worked in video production locally at PBS Hawai'i and KHON, and in Hollywood on films, including "George of the Jungle" and "Escape from Atlantis," before serving Hawai'i at nonprofits as marketing director for Nānākuli Housing/Baseyard Hawai'i and then as executive director for Pacific Islanders in Communication.

Colt Brennan

(1983–2021) (BA '07, Mānoa) record-setting UH quarterback, first UH football player to be a Heisman Trophy finalist. From 2005–2007, Brennan played for the Rainbow Warriors—breaking numerous NCAA records and winning awards—and led the team to an undefeated season in 2007. Though an injury kept him from playing in the NFL, he was picked by the Washington Redskins in the sixth round of the 2008 Draft.





POKI'I BALAZ



TIMMY CHANG



DIANE PALOMA



SUZANNE VARES-LUM



GREG YOUNG

CHRIS KANAZAWA (BA '74, Mānoa) was appointed U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development State Director for Hawai'i and the Western Pacific by President Joe Biden. Kanazawa served this position under the Barack Obama administration. He also formerly worked as president and CEO of Parker Ranch Inc. and Coldwell Banker Commercial Pacific Properties.

HOLLY SHIKADA (BBA '81, JD '85, Mānoa) has been named Hawai'i's new attorney general after serving 30 years for the Department of the Attorney General. She was most recently its first deputy. Shikada's legal career started with the Fujiyama Duffy & Fujiyama law firm.

ELTON KINOSHITA (BBA '82, Mānoa) is the new high school principal at Hawai'i Baptist Academy where he will oversee campus operations. An educator first and foremost, Kinoshita previously was the principal of Lāna'i High and Elementary School.

NAOMI KUWAYE (BA '89, Mānoa) was selected for the Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission, beginning June 30, by Gov. David Ige. Kuwaye currently works as an attorney at Ashford & Wriston LLP, where she specializes in environmental law, land use, public utilities and administrative law.

DIANE PALOMA (BS '95, MBA '99, Mānoa) was named Hawai'i Dental Service's president and CEO. She formerly was the CEO of King Lunalilo Trust and Home, where she oversaw the trust and its services. Prior to that, she also served as director of The Queen's Health Systems' Native Hawaiian Health Program.

SUZANNE VARES-LUM (BA '89, MEdT '96) is the new president for the East-West Center. The first woman and Native Hawaiian to be appointed to this position, Vares-Lum will use her role to look for engagement opportunities between the U.S., Asia, and the Pacific. She is a retired major general in the U.S. Army, where she served for 34 years.

CHELSEIE EVANS (AA '03, UH Maui College; BA '08, Hilo) is the new executive director at Hawaiian Community Assets, a nonprofit that helps families achieve homeownership. Previously, Evans was the executive director of Maui Hui Mālama.

TIMMY CHANG (BA '11, Mānoa) is the new University of Hawai'i head football coach. Previously, he had been a wide receivers coach at Colorado State, and spent five seasons as the wide receiver and tight ends coach at the University of Nevada. Chang played quarterback for the UH Rainbow Warriors from 2000 to 2004.

GREG YOUNG (MBA '07, Mānoa) has been named president and CEO of HawaiiUSA Federal Credit Union, Hawai'i's largest credit union, where he has worked since 2019. Prior to that, Young held positions at American Savings Bank and Wells Fargo.

POKI'I BALAZ (BS '08, MBA '20, Mānoa; DNP '16, Hilo) is now the interim executive director at Lunalilo Home, where she will serve kūpuna and underserved populations, focusing on neurology and Native Hawaiian Health.

ALIKA TENGAN (AA Kapi'olani CC '12; BA '12 Mānoa) had his film, "Every Day in Kaimuki," premiered at the annual Sundance Film Festival in January. The

first feature length film by a Native Hawaiian to be featured at Sundance, it is about a young man's apprehension to move to the mainland. In 2021, he also won a \$500,000 feature film grant by Array and Google.

ASHLEY LEAHEY (MBA '13, Mānoa) is now the director of communications and development at 'Ohana Pacific Health and Hale Mākua. Previously, she was the marketing director at Blue Zones Project.

KIANA YAMAT (BS '16, Mānoa) was crowned Miss Hawai'i USA at the 2022 Miss Hawai'i USA Pageant. She graduated from Mānoa with a civil and environmental engineering degree and works as a construction engineer.

MOANA JONES WONG (AS '19, Kapi'olani CC; BAS '21, West O'ahu) is the new "Queen of Pipeline" after winning as a wild card entry at the 2022 Billa-bong Pro Pipeline—the championship tour stop of the Vans Triple Crown. Jones Wong has a degree in Applied Science in Hawaiian Health and Healing and focused her senior project on the importance of surfing in Hawaiian culture.

CASSANDRA ORDONIO (BA '21, Mānoa) was selected as a 2021 Voices student fellow by the Asian American Journalists Association. A journalism graduate, Ordonio was among 21 other student journalists picked from a large national and international pool of applications that were trained and mentored over the summer.

ALOHA, LAS VEGAS!



Above: Rainbow Warrior fans gathered along with UH President David Lassner at Mandalay Bay ahead of the Nov. 13 football game against UNLV. Right: Ānuenue Connection mentors and mentees enjoyed a beautiful day outdoors learning about native plant species found in Hawai'i.

THE NINTH ISLAND WAS AWASH WITH MĀNOA GREEN as UH alumni and Rainbow Warrior fans gathered for the Nov. 13 football game against the UNLV Rebels, commonly known as one of the most anticipated games of the season.

Hawai'i fans got their pre-game festivities off to a good start with Warrior Weekend in Las Vegas—a two-day event hosted by the UH Office of Alumni Relations in partnership with the organization The Hawaiian Islands. On Friday, Nov. 12, more than 120 fans gathered for the Kickoff event at the California Hotel and Casino. Guests enjoyed pūpū, entertainment by the UH Band and Cheer team, special guest appearances by UH President David Lassner and Athletics Director David Matlin, and live radio broadcasts by ESPN Honolulu.

Then on Saturday, Nov. 13, roughly 320 fans gathered for our Game Day Rally at Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino. Guests enjoyed heavy pūpū, drinks, and entertainment from the UH Cheer team before heading to the new Allegiant Stadium.

GROWING TOGETHER

In the fall of 2021, Ānuenue Connection mentors and mentees gathered for a special hands-on event titled Let's Grow Together. Held in partnership with UH Mānoa's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, attendees learned about the living collection of native plant species found in Hawai'i and even got their hands dirty creating their very own potted plant arrangements.

ABOUT THE ĀNUENUE CONNECTION PROGRAM

Research shows that approximately 30% of first-year students don't return to UH Mānoa at the end of each academic year. The Ānuenue Connection Program pairs UH alumni, faculty and staff with an incoming UH Mānoa student in order to welcome students to the UH 'ohana and help them feel supported and connected to the university. Ānuenue Connection outings give mentors and mentees the opportunity to bond outside of the typical mentorship environment.

For more information on the Ānuenue Connection Program, visit uhalumni.org/get-involved.



STAY CONNECTED

Interested in attending an alumni event, participating in a volunteer program, or keeping up-to-date on UH news and discounts? Update your contact information to ensure you stay in the know! Scan the QR code or visit uhalumni.org/contact/update.

▼
PARTING SHOT

HAWAI'I REWOUND

A MOVING IMAGE ARCHIVE, 'Ulu'ulu at UH West O'ahu preserves film and video related to the people of Hawai'i. Developed by the Academy for Creative Media, it's a repository of Hawai'i history and its varied voices for future generations.

In this photo, Robert Omura, 'Ulu'ulu digital media specialist, is in the archive's digitization lab where he transfers analog videotapes to digital preservation and access files. He is monitoring the digitization of a Betacam SP tape of a 1994 interview with Patsy Mink, from the Tom Coffman Collection, originally recorded for the documentary film "The First Battle."





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—Leroy and Roberta Chang
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Back-to-Back National Champions!

The University of Hawai'i men's volleyball team won the NCAA volleyball championship for a second straight year.

The University of Hawai'i men's volleyball team successfully defended its 2021 national title with a three-set sweep over Long Beach State in the NCAA Championship match.

The Rainbow Warriors (27-5) are only the fifth team to repeat as national champions

The Warriors concluded the season with nine wins in a row enroute to their second-straight national title.



PHOTOS: HAWAII ATHLETICS