To all Alumni of the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo.

We hope you enjoy this issue of the UH Hilo Alumni Newsletter. It’s been fun working on it. Especially gratifying has been hearing from our graduates. Let us know if you like the newsletter and would like to see it continued. If enough alumni remain interested, and if we continue to receive news and other contributions from alumni, perhaps we can make it an annual or semi-annual publication.

This issue includes a section devoted to news from alumni arranged in chronological order by years of graduation. You will probably find some familiar names. One of the advantages of attending UH Hilo, in contrast to attending a large university, is that, because the size of our graduating classes is small, many alumni will recognize at least a few of the names that appear in the newsletter.

Tracking Down Alumni!!

To begin work on this newsletter, we needed first to compile a data base of all UH Hilo alumni. The first graduates were in 1971, although students had been attending college here since 1947. We were able to compile a list of 5,343 alumni and friends. This includes 5,071 alumni who graduated with a bachelor’s degree from Spring 1971 to Fall 1999. It also includes 272 people who are either friends of the University or people who attended UH Hilo at some time but did not graduate.

We were able to compile a list of many activities at UH Hilo. On the inside of this newsletter you will find a ring on our campus, and encourage your participation in UH Hilo activities. On the inside of this newsletter you will find a list of many activities at UH Hilo that are available for alumni participation. Please join us. Your relationship with UH Hilo doesn’t have to end with graduation.

This Alumni Newsletter is one way we can tell you what is happening at UH Hilo and what has happened to many of your friends from your college days. If enough alumni remained interested in an alumni newsletter, we hope it will be a regular publication.

Chancellor’s Message

“...It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...”

These opening words of Charles Dicken’s book, Tale of Two Cities, might be an accurate description of life at UH Hilo in this first year of the new century. After a period of economic downturn, the state’s economy is beginning to show genuine signs of improvement. There is more optimism as we attract more business investments and create more jobs for the citizens of the Big Island and the State of Hawai‘i. Companies and businesses further challenge universities to provide the education for a skilled workforce to meet the demands of the new economy. UHH is poised to meet these challenges.

Our excellent faculty and staff are enthused and motivated to work together for the best quality education. We have achieved national recognition as one of top three among Western Region Liberal Arts Institutions by U.S. News and World Report. Students are choosing our University to pursue their education, and our student enrollment continues to grow each year. We’ve added a new college, College of Hawaiian Language and new programs and majors, including Master’s degrees in Hawaiian Language and Literature and Education. A new road and bridge now connect our campus to our University Research Park off of Komohana Street. A new entrance for the campus on Kawili Street was completed during the Spring 2000 semester. Plans for a new classroom building are underway with possible completion in Fall 2001.

During good times and bad times, one of the strengths of any university is its alumni. At UH Hilo, we are pledging ourselves to establish closer contact with our alumni. We want to acquaint all of you with the changes and events occurring on our campus, and encourage your participation in UH Hilo activities. On the inside of this newsletter you will find a list of many activities at UH Hilo that are available for alumni participation. Please join us. Your relationship with UH Hilo doesn’t have to end with graduation.

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Residence of Alumni Receiving This Newsletter

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<th>Residence</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hilo &amp; Big Island</td>
<td>76%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Islands</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>Other States</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<td>Foreign</td>
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Majors

Among the graduates from UH Hilo, business administration majors are the most numerous, accounting for 19% of our alumni. Next (in order) are Psychology, Education, Agriculture, and Sociology. These top 5 majors account for just over one-half of our alumni. The next highest majors are Liberal Studies, Biology, Political Science, and English.
Renew your connection with UH Hilo

No matter how long you’ve been away or how far you live from Hilo, you can still renew contact with UH Hilo and keep in touch with what’s happening on campus. Here are some easy and enjoyable ways to do it.

Read the Alumni newsletter. One of the purposes of the newsletter is to bring alumni into closer contact with the University by letting you know what’s happening with the University, and with other alumni. All you have to do to get this news is keep us posted on your correct address, including letting us know your new address when you move. A note or call to the Alumni Relations Office is sufficient: Alumni Affairs, UH Hilo, 200 W. Kawili St., Hilo, HI 96720-4091 telephone: (808) 974-7642.

Contribute something for publishing in the Alumni Newsletter. Every once in a while, send in some news about yourself. We probably won’t be able to continue publishing the newsletter without news from alumni. In addition to news about yourself, consider submitting other contributions too. Your own essays, poetry, or art work would make the newsletter more exciting for alumni, and give you a chance to participate in the newsletter. Do you have pictures of yourself, your family, or other alumni? How about your pictures from your UH Hilo days, especially those which include other students you can identify?

Check out the UH Hilo Web Page. The UH Hilo web page is at http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu/. On it you can find many things of interest to alumni:

- a monthly events calendar
- a message from the chancellor about the status of the university articles from the student newspaper (Ke Kalahea) the college catalog a form to request information
- information on the Alumni Association including a form for joining the Alumni Association
- information on obtaining transcripts
- an on-line application for admission

- summer session applications
- transfer handbooks for most UH community colleges
- a faculty and staff directory with campus addresses and telephone numbers and the schedule of courses for the upcoming semester

Join the UH Hilo Alumni and Friends Association. Membership in the UH Hilo Alumni and Friends Association is open to all graduates of UH Hilo, former students, or friends of UH Hilo. With membership you can attend Alumni Association activities including the annual banquet, and you will automatically become a member of the University of Hawai’i Alumni Association and receive their publication, Malamalama. You can also receive a UH Hilo license plate cover, bumper sticker or window sticker, UH Hilo pens or pencils, and discounts on UH Hilo athletic events and theatre productions.

The UH Hilo Alumni and Friends Association is administered by a Board of Directors of 15 members. Current membership in the Association is about 120. More people are needed. As membership grows, activities for alumni can increase also.

Membership is $25 per year, or $40 per year for couples. There are several ways to join: call the Alumni Office at (808) 974-7642 or Fax: (808) 974-7714; send your name, address, phone number and year of graduation along with payment to: Alumni Affair, University of Hawai’i at Hilo, 200 W. Kawili Street, Hilo, HI 96720-4091; or fill out the form on the UH Hilo Alumni Association web site.

If you live on the Big Island or get back once in awhile....

Attend a performance at the theatre on campus. Several outstanding performances are given each semester and events are open to the general public. The University Theatre has a web site at http://performingarts.net/Theatre where you can check on events. You can also reach the theatre web site through the UH Hilo web site. During the 1999-2000 school year, we saw such diverse performances as a Cajun Band, modern dance with Dr. Schaffer and Mr. Stern, the Shanghai Circus, Kekuhi Kanahele, and the UH Hilo production of the play Into the Woods. Most performances were from $12 to $16. Credit card reservations can be made by calling 974-7310.

Attend a sports event. We’ve got nine sports, including men’s baseball, men’s basketball, women’s softball and women’s volleyball. Since UH Hilo joined the NCAA Division II, teams from major universities have been playing in Hilo. Tickets are almost always available, and some events don’t require tickets. For information, call the Athletic ticket office at 974-7520.

Enroll in a course. If you are like most alumni, you can probably think of courses you wish you had taken when you were in college but didn’t. Consider taking them now. Wouldn’t you enjoy taking a course in beginning art or art history? How about archeology, Asian history, oceanography, or music appreciation? The Fall and Spring semester schedules, in addition to the usual day-time courses, include many courses offered in the late afternoon or evening. Summer Sessions offer 50 to 60 courses, including Anthropology, Art, Linguistics, Astronomy, Marine Biology, Geography, Japanese, and Oceanography.

Visit the campus. Visit the Library Lanai, which is the most popular place on campus for students. In the late afternoon (after 3:00 p.m.) coffee, tea, hot dogs, and other snacks are available in front of the Library. Picnic tables and benches are also there. Or have espresso and a snack on the Theatre lanai, another beautiful spot on campus. Eat lunch in the cafeteria. Visit your old department or your favorite teachers. After 3:30 on school days, visitor parking is available anywhere on campus except in the housing parking lots. From 6:00 in the morning until 3:30 in the afternoon, the visitor’s parking lot near the campus center is available for $4 per day.

Students at UH Hilo, Fall 1999

Enrollment at UH Hilo has been increasing. Fall 1999 registration was 2,790 students. Business, Psychology, Marine Science, and Biology are currently attracting the most majors on campus, although Hawaiian Studies now has almost 100 majors. Although the remaining departments account for smaller numbers of majors, they are an essential component of the disciplinary diversity necessary at a liberal arts university. In addition, many departments provide valuable service courses for other majors. Women outnumber men, for reasons no one understands. Any guesses? Hawai’i residents, of course, are in the majority. Although mean age is in the mid-twenties, almost half of our students are in the traditional college age group (18-21).

Fall 1999 Enrollment

Number 2,790
Men 40%
Women 60%
Hawai’i Residents 77%
Other States 13%
Foreign Residents 10%
Mean Age 26
Ages up to 21 45%
Ages 22-29 30%
Ages 30 and up 25%
From the 1970s

Wanda Sako (History ’74) received an M.Ed. from UH Manoa with a focus on international education, then spent 15 years as program coordinator at the Pacific and Asian Affairs Council in Honolulu. Today she is conference coordinator at Tokai University Pacific Center/Hawai’i Tokai International College, where she also serves in the Office of the Chancellor. She occasionally meets UH Hilo people at Tokai sponsored programs. She writes that she has “a depth of gratitude to the faculty who nurtured my intellectual development at Hilo College — it was a small school in a provincial setting but the education I received has served me well over the years in some unique, undreamed of situations.”

Cheryl Nakagawa attended UH Hilo from 1970 to 1971 and graduated from UH Manoa in 1974. She has worked as a Clerk-Typist III for State of Hawai’i Attorney General Child Support Enforcement. She’s also been an Avon Representative (Number 12 in Hawai’i). Cheryl volunteers at the Mental Health Association, where she is an advisory board member, and at the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill.

Wilbert Shimaburuko (Geography ’75) has lived and worked in Hilo since graduation. He is currently a sales consultant for Servco Integrated Office Technology. He also works in the agricultural field raising greenhouse tomatoes, papayas, ginger root, and macadamia nuts. Wilbert writes that he took up golf in January and broke 100 in April, and last year became a Republican.

Naomi Hirano Omizo (Linguistics ’75) spent one summer at Stanford University, then received the Prince Akihito Scholarship and studied at the International Christian University in Tokyo for two years. She is currently chair of the Foreign Language Department at Punahou School in Honolulu. Naomi has co-authored two volumes of “Adventures in Japanese” and is now doing research on a third volume.

Nina Arcidicono (Biology ’76) served as a medic in the air force reserves for 20 years, and also received a degree in communicative disorders and counseling from Redlands University (California). She is a speech pathologist and currently works with the Hemet USD in Hemet, California. She recently bought a small condo on the coast in Carlsbad, California near San Diego. She writes that she misses Hawai’i everyday, and might someday build a little hut on an acre of property she owns in Kean’au.

Wayne Metcalf (Political Science ’76) received a Master of Arts in International Relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy (Tufts University), and a law degree from UH Manoa. He served in the State House of Representatives from 1984-1992 and in the Hawai’i State Senate from 1997 to 1998. He has twice served as State Insurance Commissioner, from 1994 to 1997 and from March 1999 to the present. His current term will expire in 2002.

Jerry Chang (Sociology ’79) is Representative for the 2nd District (Hilo) in the Hawai’i State House of Representatives.

Debhi Shiroma (Ross) (Agriculture ’79) received a professional diploma in secondary speech education from UH Manoa and worked at LOGOS Bookstore as a card/gift buyer. She currently lives in Sacramento, California and works for the newspaper’s HR department (Sacramento Bee). She also assists her husband who is a minister for an Asian-American Baptist Church. She and her husband are the parents of two daughters.

Steve Coccaimiglio (Political Science ’79) and Glenda Jordan (Psychology ’79) came to UH Hilo together as high school sweethearts in 1975. Steve played for the Vulcan Basketball team from 1975-77, and Glenda was a cheerleader for 3 years. They have been married 20 twenty years and have 3 children. Steve is a Junior College basketball coach in California.

Solonaima Siafolei Tui, (Liberal Studies ’79) is a teacher at Leone Midkiff Elementary School in American Samoa. By next year, she may become a vice principal at the same school, which has 1,200 students and a staff of 65.

Bill Cesaletti (Geography ’79) does architectural drafting in the community. He has recently begun volunteer work at Hilo Medical Center in the wheel chair maintenance program, and may try taking up the violin.

From 1980 to 1985

Alan Lew (Geography ’81) received Masters and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Oregon. Since 1986, he has been a professor of geography at Northern Arizona University. He has edited three books: Tourism in China, Sustainable Tourism, and Tourism and Gaming on American Indian Lands. He is also editor of the journal Tourism Geographies. He has taught as a visiting professor at the University of Tubingen (Germany) and at National University of Singapore. This year he will be on sabbatical leave, traveling in Europe and Asia, with time as a “visiting scholar” at Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

David Howell (History ’81) studied in Japan then went to graduate school. He received a Ph.D. in Japanese history from Princeton University in 1989. He taught in the History Department at the University of Texas at Austin from 1989 to 1992, then in January 1993 returned to Princeton to join the faculty. He is now an associate professor of East Asian Studies and History at Princeton, where he teaches courses on the history of Japan during the Tokugawa (1603-1868) and Meiji (1868-1912) periods. His main area of research and interest is the social and economic history of Japan in the nineteenth century.

Registration: Then and Now

Alumni who graduated more than 5 years ago will envy our current UH Hilo students. Registration today is mostly “early registration” occurring towards the end of the prior semester. Students can register either by touch tone telephone (using course number codes) or register on the UH Hilo web site. Either way it’s a whole lot easier than standing in line for each course.

Registration:

Today:

- Students can register online, by phone, or in person.
- Registration is usually done during the fall and spring semesters.
- The registration process is much more streamlined and user-friendly.

Then:

- Registration was a more manual process, with students standing in long lines to register for classes.
- Students had to register in person or by phone, and often had to call multiple times to register for all their courses.
- The registration process was much more time-consuming and stressful.

Now:

- Online registration is available, allowing students to register from anywhere at any time.
- The registration process is much faster and more convenient.
- Students can easily see their class schedule and make any necessary changes.

In conclusion, registration has come a long way since the early days of higher education. The process has become much more efficient and user-friendly, making it easier for students to register for their classes and plan their schedules. However, the importance of education has remained the same, and students continue to work hard to achieve their academic goals.
Paulette Imoto Kurakazu (General Business ’82) and her husband own and operate a wholesale baked goods business in Hilo called “Kelly Boy’s”.

Bridgit Rovner (Chemistry ’83) received her M.D. degree from the University of Hawai‘i School of Medicine in 1989. She completed residency in pediatrics at Kapiolani Hospital for Women and Children in Honolulu in 1992. Currently she practices general pediatrics at Pali Momi hospital in Aiea. She and her husband, Mike Rovner (assistant managing editor for the Honolulu Star Bulletin) live on the windward side of O‘ahu and have three children ages 7, 12, and 16.

Jamil Ahmadia (Education ’84) is a science teacher and department chair at Waiakea Intermediate School. He also acts as a supervising teacher for student teachers from UH Hilo. In 1999, he was the recipient of the prestigious Milken Foundation Award. He was honored, along with other winners of the $25,000 outstanding teacher award, on June 28, 2000 in Hollywood, CA.

Sue Aki (Anthropology ’84) received M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in cultural anthropology from SUNY Buffalo. Since 1991, she has been an affiliate professor in Anthropology at UH Hilo. She also serves as a lecturer at Hawai‘i Community College.

Gordon M. Muramaru (Social Sciences ’84) teaches physical education at Kapaa Middle School on Kauai.

Janet Coney (Business Administration ’85) is office manager for Kilauea Lodge in Volcano. She and her husband live in Volcano with their three children.

George R. Fosty (History ’85) is Film Producer/President of Stryker-Indigo Publishing Company in New York. He is currently involved in creating and promoting documentary films and historical manuscript/book projects. He is married and has two children ages 2 and 7.

Anna Smith Yorba (Geography ’86) just completed the second year of a three year Masters Program in Landscape Architecture at North Carolina State University. She writes that she is enjoying the east coast experience, but “feeling pulled west again.” Her children are grown now, the youngest just turned 21, and she’s enjoying being on her own.

Frank Kaauamo III (Agriculture ’86) has been a working foreman for the Line crew at Maui Electric Co. for 8 years. He and his wife, Valerie, have a nine-year-old son, Dana, and a daughter, Nicole, who’s 6. Both children attend Kamehameha School, Maui Campus.

Karen Kane (Psychology ’86) has worked on O‘ahu at a shelter for teens, at the State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and as a counselor at Kapiolani Community College. Since 1992 she has been a counselor for students with disabilities at Hawai‘i Community News About UH Hilo construction

A new entrance to the campus, off Kawili Street, is completed, and the old entrance is closed. A new road, with a new bridge crossing the drainage ditch (right), connects the campus with the University Park (where the buildings for the telescope people are located) on Kamokuna Street. Although we have no new buildings under construction, plans for a new classroom building and a new Marine Science Building are underway.

From 1986 to 1989

UH Hilo has a longer history than most people realize, and because of frequent name changes, its history can seem complicated. The University of Hawai‘i (later called University of Hawai‘i at Manoa) began offering college level courses in Hilo as extension courses in 1947. Located in the former Hilo Boarding School just above the Lyman Museum, 4 faculty and 4 lecturers taught 46 freshmen students. Two years later the program acquired a name, University of Hawai‘i, Hilo Branch. By 1955, Hilo Branch had 155 students.
College in Hilo. In 1998 she received a Masters Degree in Higher Education Administration from UH Manoa. Karen writes that her job “is in a very rewarding field. When I see students succeed, it makes me proud to be a part of the field of education.”

Rob Huelskamp (Agriculture ’86) worked for 4 years as an assistant production manager for Floral Resources, a large local shipper of cut flowers and foliage. Since 1990 he has worked with his wife and father to develop their small farm at Kapoho, Hawai‘i. They are packers and shippers of avocados and work with wholesale companies in Honolulu, the U.S. mainland, Canada, and Alaska. They also have a honey packing business located on their farm.

Nolan N. Antonio (’87) is an ACC Registered Representative with JFM Financial Services in Hilo.

Trina T. Bowman-Johnson (Psychology ‘88) is currently living in the Caribbean Island state of Barbados where her Marine Corps husband is a Detachment Commander with the U. S. Embassy. They previously lived in Cameroon in West Africa for 18 months. They plan to return in Hawai‘i in October 2000. After graduation, Trina worked in Social Services and Nursing in California. She is currently working on a Masters Degree in Health Services with a concentration in Wellness Promotion.

Stephanie Darrow (English ’88) teaches English at Saint Francis School in Honolulu, where she is also the Speech coach. Since graduation she has been “teaching, traveling, and enjoying life.”

Suzy Andrade (Geography ’89) received a teaching certificate from UH Hilo in 1991, and a Masters of Education from Heritage College in 1995. She has just completed her ninth year of teaching in the Hawai‘i public school system. For eight of those years she has been a second grade teacher at Waimea Elementary & Intermediate school in Kamuela, Hawai‘i. She and her husband, Billy, live in Ahualoa where they own and operate a cattle ranch. Suzy also raises and sells goats as a hobby.

John P. Coney (Computer Science ’89) is employed at UH Hilo as an Educational Specialist for the Marine Options Program and the Department of Marine Science. He and his wife, Janet, live in Volcano.

1990

Suzanne Shero (Psychology ’90) is finishing a Masters in Social Work degree at the University of Texas. She writes that “This work is easy compared to many of my UHH classes!” She also sent along thanks to Professor Jerry Johnson (Psychology) for “getting me through that awful statistics course. Graduate (school) statistics is now a breeze.”

Doug Webb (Economics ’90) worked in Seattle for 5 years as a Business Analyst for Safeco Insurance, then moved to Iowa, where he grew up. He still works for Safeco, currently as a telecommuter. He and his wife also own and operate vacation rental cottages at Clear Lake. They have a 4-year-old son, Alex.

Linda A. Verrill (Sociology ’90) will soon complete her Ph.D. dissertation in Sociology at Georgia State University. While in graduate school she has also been teaching and doing research at Georgia State. She and her husband, Brian (Sociology ’92), have a three year old son, Nicholas. They are making plans to move to Washington, D.C. Linda writes that she and Brian met at UH Hilo. They miss Hawai‘i and proudly display their UH Hilo Alumni license plate frame and the UH Hilo checkbook cover.

Jordan Rosado (History/ Education ’91) teaches social studies at Honokaa High School, where he also coaches track and field, cross-country, and wrestling. He resides in Mountain View in Puna, and, “Yes, I drive every day.”

Robert K. Allen (Education ’91) taught 11th grade English at Honokaa High School for spring semester of 1992, then entered Drake University Law School in Des Moines, Iowa. After graduating in 1995 with a J.D. (Honors, Order of the Coif), he returned to the Big Island. After working with the Valta A. Cook law firm for approximately one year, he opened Allen Legal Services in Hilo. Since that time he has engaged in general practice with some emphasis in family law.

Deborah Scott (Biology ’91) worked for the Biology department as an APT (educational specialist). She has also had experience in native botany and entomology at Volcanoes Nat’l Park and is currently working as a Natural Resources Assistant at Pohakuloa Military training area.

Our official name

With so many name changes in its history, it’s no wonder UH Hilo is referred to by different names. We still occasionally hear it called “Hilo College,” even though that name was discontinued in 1979. Most people today call it UHH, UH Hilo, University of Hawai‘i, Hilo (with a comma), University of Hawai‘i - Hilo (with a hyphen), and University of Hawai‘i at Hilo. What is our official name? If you guessed “University of Hawai‘i at Hilo,” you’re right.


Extension Courses Offered Moved to New Campus Renamed Hilo Campus *Vulcan* name adopted becomes 4-year baccalaureate institution, renamed Hilo College, merged with 2-year HawCC to form UH Hilo new athletic complex & gym, library and media center opened UH Hilo and HawCC ordered to split

full-time students. The name “Vulcans” was adopted, and red, white, and blue were designated as official school colors. Tuition in 1967 was $85 per semester.

The 1970s were big years for Hawai‘i Community College to form the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo. One year later, UH Hilo graduated its first class. Also during the 1970s, Student Services Building and Campus Center were constructed, the College of Agriculture established, the UH Hilo Theatre was expanded, and Hilo College changed its name to College of Arts and Sciences. In the early 1980s, a new athletic complex and gym, and the Edwin Mookini Library and Media Center were opened. By 1989, enrollment in the two-year and four-year colleges reached 3,960. Then, just as they were merging together, the four-year schools and Hawai‘i Community College were ordered to split. Since then the schools have existed on the same campus, but under separate administrations.

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More News of Alumni

Steve Skipper (Liberal Studies '91) was a Soil Conservationist/Planner with the U. S. Department of Agriculture on Kauai for two years after graduation. He was then assigned to the NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) Kona Field Office as a Soil Conservationist/Planner. Since March 1996, he has been the District Conservationist in Kona.

1992

Mitchell Dodo (General Business '92) is Vice-President and Operations Manager for Dodo Mortuary, Inc. in Hilo.

Cris Murphy (Speech '92) joined the army and spent time as an Airborne Ranger. He will complete his masters degree in Public Administration in August 2000.

Herman R. Nakoa Jr. (Sociology '92) works for the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations on Maui as an Employment Specialist. He writes that he enjoys his job, and also finds time for fishing, playing the guitar and ukulele, and spending time with his two girls, ages 2 and 4. He and his wife, Misty (Sociology '93) are active church members.

1993

Misty K. Cordero (Sociology '93) is a Social Worker/Probation Officer at the Judiciary/Family Court on Maui. She is currently Senior Probation Officer in the Children Services Branch where she works with juveniles and their families. She and her husband, Herman (Sociology '92), have two girls, ages 2 and 4, and are active church members.

Epifania Suafa'a (Anthropology '93) returned to Samoa to work for American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA) doing Archaeology, including supervising 10 employees and writing several mini-reports. After receiving a Masters of Arts degree in archaeology from the University of Oregon in 1998, she returned to American Samoa to become an archaeologist for the National Park of American Samoa. Epi is also a vice president of the American Samoa group of alumni of the University of Hawaii at Hilo.

1994

Alice Moon (English '94) served on the UH Hilo Alumni Association Board from 1994 to 1999, including two years as President. She was project manager for the Hilo Main Street Program from 1995 to 1997. She is currently the Community Relations Associate at Borders bookstore in Hilo where she helped to open the store in 1997. Her responsibilities include coordination of events and activities, liaison with community members, and production of the Borders monthly event calendar. Alice also serves on the board of directors for Destination Hilo and the East Hawaii Cultural Council. Under EHCC she has helped produce the annual Big Island Slack Key Guitar Festival. In May 2000 she co-founded the 1st annual Hawaii Island Writers' Conference.

Shinae Hirano (Japanese Studies '94) is serving her second year as Moderator for the Puna Congregational Christian Church, and also is secretary of the UH Hilo Alumni Association. After taking some computer classes, she recently purchased one for her own use.

Sigríð Yoakum (Geography '94) is teaching full time at Waiakea High School. This year the subjects are Intermediate Spanish, Introduction to Business, and Introduction to the Travel Industry. She enjoys the interaction with students, who keep her young and hopping, although the work load can be stressful.

1995

John Lightner (Agriculture '95) is a Plant Protection Quarantine Officer for the USDA. He currently works at Los Angeles International Airport doing international passenger screening and clearance, but hopes to transfer home to Kona in a year or two.

Charmane Mattos (Sociology '95) received a Masters in Social Work degree from UH Manoa in 1998. She was recently promoted to mental health supervisor at the Family Guidance Center (Department of Health), where she supervises 17-19 mental health care coordinators.

Bonnie K. Kahape'a (Hawaiian Studies '95) received an M.S. in counseling psychology from Chaminade University in 1998. She sailed on the voyaging canoe Makalii'k from Kawaihawe to Saipan in 1999. The E MAU Voyage honored Grand Master navigator Mau Piallug in his islands of Micronesia. She is currently a therapist for the Marimed Foundation working with at-risk adolescent males aboard the sailing ship Tole Mour. She is applying to graduate school to pursue a Ph.D. in Transformative Learning.

Maria A. Jose (Animal Science '95) received her Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from Oregon State University in 1998. She worked for one year in Santa Rosa, California doing small animal/avian veterinary medicine. Recently she returned to the Big Island and is currently working with the Hawaii Island Humane Society to develop an early spay/neuter program to control animal overpopulation in Hawaii'i. She is also employed by Ali'i Veterinary Hospital. Maria resides in Kona with a dog, cats, and a fiancé.

Elaine Wong (Business Administration '95) moved back to Hong Kong four years ago, but "still misses life in Hawaii'a lot."

Susan C. Smith (Geography '95) received a Master of Science degree in Resource Planning from Southwest Missouri State University. She is currently attending Northern Illinois University pursing a Professional Environmental Geosciences Certificate.

1996

Linda DiSante (Geography '96) and her family moved to Burlington, Vermont in the summer of 1999. They have discovered that Vermont is a small, progressive state with wonderful natural resources and a myriad of activities. The move has been particularly rewarding for her 12-year-old daughter, who, among other firsts, experienced snow for the first time. Linda is employed at the Fletcher Allen Health center; a large teaching hospital. Recently she started working as a volunteer with Outreach for Earth Stewardship. Her husband continues with short-term overseas consulting in natural resources management.

Cherie Okada (Education '96) is in the M.A. History program at UH Manoa.

Janet Tengan (Agriculture '96) works at Kauai Marriot as a licensed massage therapist.

Scott Pyon (Chemistry '96) lives in Los Angeles and is a senior in the School of Dentistry at the University of Southern California. He writes that he really misses the times at UH Hilo, "where I had to wash all the test tubes after a long time spent experimenting, and meet with my partners to discuss the presentation about superconductors, etc." After comparing himself to other students in dental school, Scott believes the education he received from UH Hilo was not inferior to that of students from top notch schools, such as Cornell, Berkeley, UCLA, and USC.

Tonnie Bernardson (Psychology '96) completed the UH Manoa Masters of Social Work graduate program (held in Hilo). Internships at Kapiolani Child Protection Center and The Neighborhood Place, both in Kona, led to part-
A college education is what you have left, after you forget everything you learned in college.

Staff

Marnie Honeycutt (Psychology '96) received a Masters of Social Work degree from UH Manoa in Spring 2000.

Chih-Li Wang (Liberal Studies '96) returned to Taiwan and now works for Evergreen Airline Services Corp. at C.K.S. Airport. Chih-Li writes that “one of the biggest moment in my life will occur on 19 June 2000, that is my first child coming into the world.”

1997

Amber Mugford (English '97) is currently attending Tufts University in Massachusetts where she is working on a Ph.D. in English. She received an Masters degree this year at the same university. Her husband, Esos Bobnar is also a graduate of UH Hilo (Chemistry '97).

Peggy Ann Soriano (Natural Science '97) moved back home to O‘ahu, and worked at Ili‘ili Elementary School helping students with reading difficulties. Having a desire to become a science teacher, she is currently attending University of Hawai‘i at Manoa, working on a Master’s degree in secondary science education. In her spare time she enjoys playing soccer, running, hiking, going on trips, and hanging out with friends.

Lorraine Ornellas (Communications/Psychology '97) is completing an Administration of Justice degree at Hawai‘i Community College.

Marissa Kunz (Art '97) recently received a Masters of Fine Arts (MFA) degree in Printmaking from the San Francisco Art Institute.

Laura Lucas Camara (General Business '97) is married and employed at HFS Federal Credit Union as a member service representative. Her son, Dalton, is now 7 years old. She keeps busy with various activities including being a Junior Achievement Advisor, a volunteer elementary basketball coach at St. Joseph Elementary school, and competing in rodeos on the Big Island.

Jason Timmer (Political Science '97) completed his Masters in Public Administration degree from Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Robert A. Evans (History '97) has his own business as a construction consultant. He is also taking a few courses at UH Hilo in International Relations, completed several essays on International Affairs and working on a book called “Cultural Geography of Chuuk Islands.” He also does volunteer work at the UH Hilo Library and for Habilitat of Hawai‘i.

Melody B. W. Cosma (Hawaiian Studies '97) is an instructor at Maui Community College where she teaches Hawaiian language (Haw 101 and 102). She also works part-time at Hana High School and Elementary School and with the Hana Community Enrichment Summer School Tutorial Program. She lives in Hana with her fiancé and one year old daughter, Harmony-Sanoe.

1998

Jym (Jimmie) Duncan (Education '98) taught for a year at Kohala High School, then returned to UH Hilo to pursue a degree in music.

Christine Loftus (Geography '98) is finishing graduate school at San Diego State University. She writes that the surf in San Diego is good, but nothing like Hawai‘i. She misses Hawai‘i and hopes to return. Her daughter, Mane, is now 12 and almost as tall as her mother. The mainland provides many opportunities for road trips, and this summer she’ll be driving through the Big Sur on the way to San Francisco.

Vicki L. Davis (Sociology '98) is the Program Coordinator for the Home Safety Monitoring Program at UH Hilo. This program helps older adults in Hilo and Puna maintain a safe home environment. She trains and supervises volunteers from community organizations as well as service-learning students from UHH/Haw CC, who then monitor the senior's safety for a twelve week period. She gives many presentations in the community on fall prevention, and is a member of the Department of Health Case Management Coordination Project.

Nadine Austin (Liberal Arts '98) earned her degree while working at UH Hilo Auxiliary Services, and is still there in the Mail Room. (Nadine was able to provide valuable assistance in sending out this newsletter.)

Doris N. Boushey (Education/Sociology '98) is in her first year as a fourth grade teacher at Waiakea Elementary School.

Tom Sharkey (Education '98) teaches science at Pahoa High School.

Carolina Lam (Anthropology '98) was a Rotary Scholar to Santiago, Chile from 1998-1999. While she was there, she took the opportunity to visit Rotary Clubs in other countries of South America. She is currently attending the School for International Training in Brattleboro, Vermont, seeking a Masters in International and Intercultural Management with a concentration in International Education. She will be getting married this summer, and will begin working as an intern with the Office of International Affairs, UH Manoa.

Charles Espin (Political Science '98) is a paralegal at the Legal Aid Society of Hawai‘i.

Stefanie Y. Sakamoto (English '98) is a Congressional Aide for Representative Patsy Mink at the Hawai‘i Office in Honolulu.

Kristy Arakawa (Communication, Psychology '98) was an A+ Director and Kindergarten teacher on Oahu after graduation. She also continued to lifeguard and teach kayaking. Recently she left Hawai‘i to become a Flight Attendant for Northwest Airlines, and now lives in Detroit, Michigan.

Catherine Pruitt (Geography '98) spent one year as a realtor then in August 1999 entered law school at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon. After graduation she hopes to specialize in Land Use and Real Estate Law.

1999

Barbara Kuikahi (Liberal Studies '99) is a part-time reading teacher at Waiaakeawaena School. She has been accepted into the Teacher Education Program in Fall 2000.

Klaythord Lazo (General Business '99) may follow the lead of many others and soon move to California.

Lynette “Haulani” Fernandez (Anthropology '99) entered the education program at UH Manoa. She did her student teaching at Kapa‘a High School on her home
island of Kaua‘i, and received her teaching certificate in Spring 2000. While student teaching, she was also able to earn money as a substitute teacher.

**Aaron Samples** (Political Science ‘99) will soon be entering law school at the University of Connecticut.

**Sally Ancheta**, (Communication ‘99) is a Job Placement Specialist with Goodwill Industries in Hilo where she assists welfare recipients to enter the workforce. She teaches job readiness classes that include resume writing, interviewing, and how to maintain employment. Her work is challenging, but helping welfare recipients is very rewarding. Sally also writes that her family will grow by one baby boy in September, making their 3-year-old daughter, Kylee, a big sister.

**Gerri Kalei Lee Hong** (History ‘99) is a pre-school teacher with the Edith Kanaka‘ole Foundation. Their new school in Keaukaha should be completed by Fall 2000, so she is busy working with other staff members on planning for the curriculum, a new and exciting venture.

**Colleen L. N. Yamamoto** (General Business ‘99) is an office administrator for the Waimea Community Montessori School.

**Travis Heggie** (Geography ‘99) and Tracey Heggie (Geography ‘99) are both graduate students in geography at Texas A&M University. Tracey has received a research grant from NASA and will begin work this summer in Southwestern Colorado, investigating issues dealing with acid precipitation and water quality in Yankee Boy Basin. Travis received grants from L.T. Jordan Institute Fellows program and the Texas A&M Research Foundation. He recently started research in American Samoa where he is studying vegetation processes in the Samoan rain forest, and working to preserve historical Samoan agro-forestry practices.

**Amanda L. Myers** (Agriculture ‘99) spent time traveling in Micronesia, Nepal, Thailand, and Tibet. She lived in Nepal for six months, trekking the Himalaya mountains and working in the lowland jungles. Beginning in the fall, she will begin work toward a Masters of Science degree in Ecology at Colorado State University with a concentration on Ecosystem Management.

**Tracy Woita** (Psychology ‘99) is living at home in Kane‘ohe and working with special needs teens and children at CARE Hawai‘i.

**Scott Wallis** (Geography), after making maps for a telecommunications company in California, went into private business giving baseball lessons at his batting cage called “The All-Star Dugout.”

**Courtney Kinkead** (Biology) returned home to Washington after graduation, and during the summer worked for a whale-watching company. She recently moved to Dallas, Texas where she is working for Cstreet.com, an internet company that provides shopping cart services for independent bands and labels on the net. Courtney will be getting married in July, and hopes to move back to Washington in a year or so.

**Elizabeth Markt** (Nursing) lives in Spokane, Washington and works at the Riverview Care Center as an RN. Moving to Spokane after 22 years in Hawai‘i was hard, but she likes the Spring and being able to experience four seasons. She loves her job, but misses Hilo, Maui, family, friends, and surfing (a lot!).

**Kara K. Ishimaru**, (Liberal Studies) entered the Teacher Education Program at UH Hilo, completed her student teaching at E. B. de Silva Elementary School in Hilo, and received her teaching certificate at the Spring 2000 commencement ceremony.

**Dean Tokishi** (Marine Science ‘99) moved back to Maui after graduation. He currently works on the island of Kaho‘olawe as a Geological Technician. In his spare time, he enjoys diving and surfing.

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**Future Newsletters**

Many thanks to the alumni who sent us news about themselves, which we have now included in this newsletter. Without your response, the newsletter would never have been produced. Many people also wrote to say they think a UH Hilo alumni newsletter is a great idea.

In order to continue the alumni newsletter, however, we will have to get a regular supply of news from alumni. For this newsletter we sent out letters to as many alumni for whom we had addresses. Over 2,000 letters were sent out, but only 90 people responded. Because news about alumni is a crucial part of the newsletter, without alumni news or other contributions, future alumni newsletters will either be very dull or non-existent. Moreover, in the future we probably won’t be able to write to alumni individually, but will have to rely on people to voluntarily send in news and other contributions for the newsletter.

If you have suggestions on what things to include in the newsletter, let us know. Is there a program, department, activity, professor, staff, or alumni you think would make a good item for the newsletter? This alumni newsletter is designed for alumni, so your suggestions about its content are important.

Finally, do you know of a UH Hilo alumni who didn’t get this newsletter and would like to be on our mailing list? Please have them contact us.

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