

East-West Center

Fifty Years, Fifty Stories



EAST-WEST CENTER
COLLABORATION • EXPERTISE • LEADERSHIP





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Acknowledgments

A special thank you to the more than 55,000 East-West Center alumni who share a common vision of a peaceful, prosperous and just Asia Pacific community. This book represents a snapshot of the thousands of talented and committed individuals who have participated in East-West Center programs. We'd also like to thank the many people who contributed to this book. Your advice, suggestions and wise counsel are greatly appreciated.

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Valued Leader in Science and Public Service

Celebrating 50 Years of Collaboration ♦ Expertise ♦ Leadership

Women and men of high promise, East-West Center alumni have gone on to become presidents and prime ministers, leading educators and business executives, senior journalists and social advocates. In nations that span the globe, alumni continue to further the mission of the Center.

Many are trailblazers influencing change at the grassroots, local, national, regional and international levels. They have earned recognition for pioneering solutions to long-standing problems. Others are emerging leaders dedicated to forging better futures for their communities.

In the work they do, alumni demonstrate that leadership is tied to service — changing the world in ways that serve others. They apply their expertise to areas of public health, environment, education, agriculture, commerce, human rights, diplomacy, media and technology, science and the arts. They embrace collaboration, an appreciation many alumni trace to their days at the East-West Center.

The 50 alumni in this publication, prepared to commemorate the East-West Center's 50th anniversary, are representative of a vast network that stretches beyond the Asia Pacific region and their countries of origin. The East-West Center experience unites more than 55,000 students, scholars and professionals from more than 50 nations. For many, the Center provided a defining chapter in their lives, influencing their perspectives and aspirations, and initiating lifelong personal and professional associations.

As you read of these 50 individuals, you'll see how East-West Center alumni are contributing to global understanding, building an Asia Pacific community and shaping the future in a region undergoing dramatic transformation.



PHOTO: GREG KNUDSEN



Senen Bacani

Sowing the Seeds of Peace and Development



Senen Bacani (R) examines bananas that helped transform the livelihood of thousands of Filipinos.

“My East-West Center experience primed me to be more sensitive to cultural differences in dealing with people, and at the same time made me more cognizant of the inter-relatedness of different events in the world and their impact on countries and their people.”

Senen Bacani
Philippines
1966, M.A.

As Secretary of Agriculture to President Corazon Aquino, Senen Bacani visited every province in the Philippines.

Wherever he traveled, he witnessed the poor in the countryside struggling to raise enough to feed their families.

Bacani’s father was a doctor and many of his patients would present farm produce as thanks for the medical care they received. That memory and seeing first hand the agricultural needs of the rural poor compelled Bacani to work for shifts in policy and programs — and later when he re-entered the world of agribusiness, to provide employment and management opportunities to alleviate poverty in rural areas in the Philippines.

Most notably, on Mindanao, he launched a venture that brought not only jobs but peace where there had been years of unemployment, crime and inter-ethnic conflict.

After receiving an M.B.A. from the University of Hawai’i in 1968, the EWC grantee spent a successful 20-year career with Dole Food Company, including as country manager of Dole in Costa Rica and then the Philippines.

In 1993, after serving in Aquino’s administration, Bacani started his first entrepreneurial venture, which managed corporate banana farms. It was step one of a business plan that linked development with peace.

While with Dole, Bacani took note of the potential of Mindanao: fertile land, the right climate and an available workforce. He approached Chiquita Unifruitti International to invest in banana farms in a predominantly Muslim area on Mindanao.

In 1996, La Frutera, Inc., the first large-scale banana plantation in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, was formed. Today the plantation is one of the top 10 banana producers in the country, exporting Cavendish bananas to Japan, Korea, China and the Middle East. Perhaps more significant, with Bacani as chairman and president, La Frutera’s success has transformed the once war-torn area. It employs some 1,745 people — 90 percent Muslim and 10 percent Christian. Among the staff are former rebels of the Moro National Liberal Front and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Bacani’s hope is that La Frutera’s success will inspire other companies to see how providing jobs, especially in rural areas, is a sustainable way to alleviate poverty — and strife. At one point when conflict intensified between the government and the rebels, La Frutera workers rejected efforts to rejoin rebel forces. That affirmed Bacani’s belief that “peace and development go together.”

“We cannot keep on waiting for peace to come first,” he says. “The reason there is no peace is that there is no development.” ♦



Muhammad Yunus

Nobel Laureate and Banker to the Poor

Muhammad Yunus
Bangladesh
1973, Workshop

During a field trip to a village, Muhammad Yunus and students in his economics class at Bangladesh's Chittagong University encountered a woman who made simple bamboo furniture. The villager explained that she bought bamboo to weave into stools by borrowing money at a high interest rate from moneylenders. After repaying the loan, there was little profit left to feed her family.

Yunus discerned that if people could borrow at more advantageous rates, they would have a better chance of lifting themselves out of poverty. A very small loan could make a multitude of difference for families in the poorest villages

across Bangladesh. The visionary economist reasoned that providing even the slightest economic cushion would encourage initiative — and be a first step toward achieving his dream of “creating a world without poverty.”

But traditional banks considered it foolhardy to make loans they deemed had little chance of repayment. So the professor made his first loan, \$27 US, from his own pocket, to village women who were bamboo furniture makers.

That loan in 1974, during a famine in Bangladesh, was the beginning of Grameen Bank, which means “village bank.” Formed in 1983 by Yunus, the bank provides “micro-loans” or microcredit to the poor — primarily women —

to launch their cottage industries, encourage village-level enterprise, and put them on the path to sustainable futures.

It was the beginning of Yunus’ goal of “putting homelessness and destitution in a museum so that one day our children will visit it and ask how we could have allowed such a terrible thing to go on for so long.”

The third of 14 children, he was guided by his father to pursue higher education. Yunus received his B.A. and master’s degree from Dhaka University, then a Ph.D. in economics from Vanderbilt University through a Fulbright Scholarship. In 1973, he came to the East-West Center to participate in a leadership seminar.

The economist credits his mother with instilling a desire to aid the less fortunate. As a child he noticed she never turned away the destitute who knocked on their door for help. Influenced by this compassion, Yunus has forged a micro-credit movement. Today you can find replicas of the Grameen Bank model in more than 100 countries spanning every continent.

In Bangladesh, the Grameen Bank has more than 1,000 branches, serves more than 2 million borrowers in 37,000 villages and provides more than \$2.5 billion in micro-loans. Women comprise 94 percent of the borrowers, and nearly 100 percent of the loans are repaid.

In 2006, Muhammad Yunus was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for founding the Grameen Bank “fueled by the belief that microcredit is a fundamental human right” and the impact the innovative banking program has had on allaying global poverty. ♦



PHOTO: ANDY WETTLER/SWISS-IMAGE.CH

Manmohan Singh

Navigating India's Path to Globalization

Manmohan Singh
India
1964, Trade

When Manmohan Singh was tapped as Finance Minister in 1991, India's economy was sliding toward bankruptcy. Singh swiftly instituted reforms that liberalized the economy and placed the South Asian nation on the path to globalization. Under his stewardship, the economy revived and grew at an annual rate of 7 percent.

However, quiet, brilliant economists don't usually make successful politicians. So no one expected Singh to emerge as India's prime minister in the nation's 2004 elections, let alone be re-elected overwhelmingly to a second term. But that's exactly what happened in May 2009, when more than 400 million voters in the world's largest democracy gave Singh's Congress Party its biggest election victory in years.

Singh, who had already made history as the first Sikh to hold the nation's top post, became only the second prime minister — Jawaharlal Nehru was the first — to win another five-year term.

Upon Singh's re-election, an Indian political analyst explained on National Public Radio, "The Indian electorate preferred him because he was low-key, he seemed different. He was an educated man who was known for his scholarship, and it kept his voice and rhetoric at a low level."

Born in Gah (now part of Pakistan), Singh's family moved to Amritsar in 1947, displaced by the partition at the arrival of India's independence. Life was extremely difficult. At times, the family couldn't afford food or electricity. Young Manmohan walked to school barefoot; he studied under a street lamp.

Hungry to learn, he applied himself to his studies, graduating from Punjab University, then attending Cambridge and Oxford universities on scholarships, where he distinguished himself in economics. After returning to India to teach at his alma mater, he came to the East-West Center for a program on international trade. Soon after that he joined the Delhi School of Economics, during its golden era — and began his ascent as an economics reformer.

In 2004, when Congress Party President Sonia Gandhi nominated Singh to be prime minister, observers considered it a gamble that the low-profile economist could win. But he did, and his election eased tensions between the Congress Party and India's Sikhs.

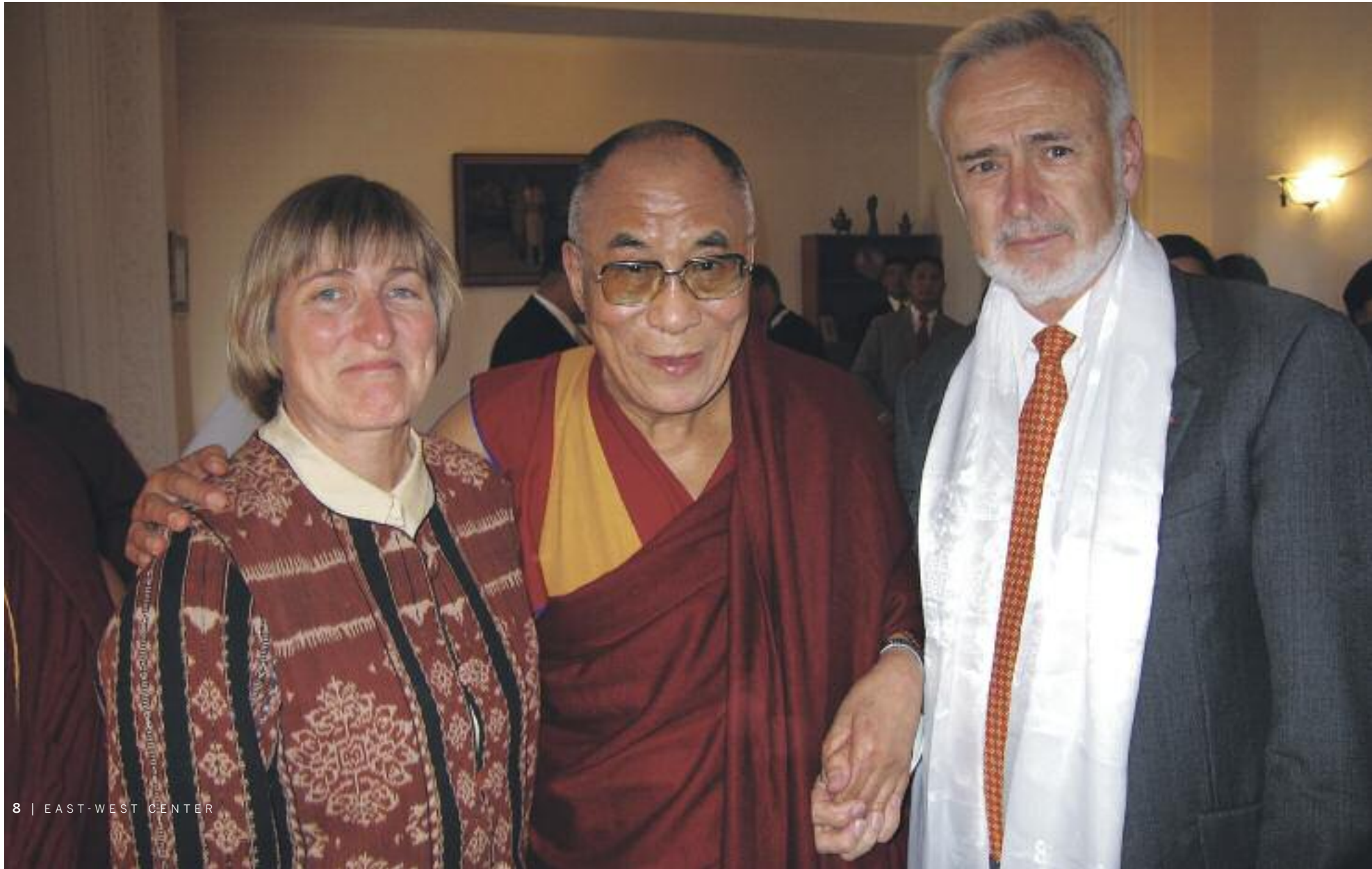
In a notoriously divisive political climate, he steadied India's economy — which grew more than 8 percent when Western economies took a nose dive. And in 2009, Singh earned a clear-cut mandate from Indian voters to continue both economic and much-needed social reforms. ♦

"I was at the East-West Center in 1964. I enjoyed my time there very much and believe that its mission now is even more important than before."



"I knew I wanted a vocation that involved living and working abroad among different societies and cultures, particularly in Asia. The East-West Center experience cemented that commitment and, together with the University of Hawai'i, gave me the tools (language, area studies, contacts) to achieve my goals."

Ambassador Pamela Slutz and her husband with the Dalai Lama.



Pamela Slutz

An Ambassador's Life at Full Gallop

Pamela Slutz
United States
1970, M.A.

Pamela Slutz has ridden across the steppes of Mongolia on horseback, under blue skies and vast horizon that reminded her of the American West. That was when she was U.S. ambassador to Mongolia (2003-06) and had the privilege of hosting the first visit to Mongolia by a sitting U.S. president and first lady.

During her tour in Kenya (2006-09) as deputy chief of mission, she climbed to the summit of Mount Kenya and tracked wildebeest across the Serengeti, enjoying vistas that again reminded her of the American West.

In December 2009 she took over as U.S. ambassador to Burundi, her second post as head of embassy. Burundi is a continent away from Asia, where Slutz has spent a majority of her career — Jakarta (twice), Shanghai and the American Institute in Taiwan, in addition to Mongolia.

However, her first Foreign Service post was in Kinshasa — then Zaire, now the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Each assignment has had its rewards. In Mongolia, she was instrumental in



channeling assistance to the first-ever shelter for abused women in Ulaanbaatar. She worked to empower women, particularly in the political arena, encouraging the passage of legislation mandating that 30 percent of the seats in the nation's parliament go to women. Kenya presented an entirely different set of challenges: threats to Americans from terrorists in Somali, violent crime and civil unrest.

Burundi is proving to be no exception. Slutz has observed elections in Kenya, Mongolia, Taiwan and Indonesia — not all of which went smoothly. In mid-2010 Burundi is to hold its first democratic elections since 1993. She and her embassy team are well positioned to support and monitor the elections.

It was her interest in Asia that brought Slutz to the East-West Center, where she specialized in Indonesian studies. “My heart has always been in Asia,” she says of her passion for the region, which she traces to her childhood as a “diplobrat.” She spent the formative years of her childhood in Thailand, where her father was a Foreign Service officer, then in college visited her parents posted in Indonesia. “I just fell in love with the people, the cultures, the islands,” she says of the largest of Southeast Asian nations.

Before she retires to the Texas Hill Country, where she and husband (retired Foreign Service Officer) Ronald Deutch are building a home, she hopes for one more State Department posting in Asia to complete a career she describes as “living her dream.” ♦



Ashok Malhotra

Educating the Poorest Children in India's Remote Villages



Ashok Malhotra
India
1963, Ph.D.

Ask Ashok Malhotra about his arrival at the East-West Center in 1963 and the decades melt away:

Once again he is a young grantee from the Birla Arts/Science/Engineering Colleges at Pilani, Rajasthan.

It was the beginning of a five-decade adventure that has enabled Malhotra to effect change in amazing ways across borders, continents and oceans. His proudest accomplishment is the non-profit Ninash Foundation, established in memory of his late wife, Nina, whom he met at the EWC.

Since it was founded in 1996, the Foundation and students from the SUNY College at Oneonta campus have assisted in building four Indo-International Schools in impoverished villages in Rajasthan and Gujarat, India. More than 900 underprivileged children — mostly female and the socially outcast — have received a free education and the school employs 20 teachers and staff who otherwise would be jobless. The Foundation's mission is to achieve 100 percent literacy in the villages where these schools are located and then adopt this model for the rest of India.

After completing his EWC studies, Malhotra joined SUNY College at Oneonta, where he was asked to start a philosophy department. Influenced by his EWC experience, he created a program offering Eastern and Western philosophies, and introduced Asian philosophy and religion components into the undergraduate curriculum.

In 1979, he started the SUNY Oneonta Study Abroad Program in India. More than 200 students, faculty and community members have participated in the program. He's been an active member of the SUNY Press Editorial Board, encouraging the publication of books on Asian

"The EWC experience got me out of my box and spread the entire world in front of me. I felt that I did not belong to any one country and at the same time, I belonged to the entire world and to the entire human race."

Sutras and Tao Te Ching into language easily understood by undergraduate students and a general audience.

In 2006, the '60s alumnus established the Ashok Kumar Malhotra Seva (Compassionate Service Award) to reward and encourage public service. Each year a scholarship is given to one or more international students with outstanding academic achievements and a record and intention of being involved in continuing community service in the U.S. and/or the Asia Pacific region. ♦

Studies. The SUNY Press is one of the largest publishers of books on Asian Studies in the United States.

As a member of the National Endowment for the Humanities board, he advocated funding for projects such as the EWC Asian Studies Development Program. He's translated the *Bhagavad Gita*, *Yoga*

Margaret Valadian

Advancing Civil Rights for Australian Aborigines

Margaret Valadian
Australia
1967, M.A.

When Margaret Valadian started school, Aborigines weren't provided opportunities to pursue higher education in Australia, let alone expected to excel academically. But Valadian changed that. She stood out from her earliest school days in Brisbane, aspiring to a career in education when Aborigines could not obtain scholarships for teacher training.

A casual comment from an elementary school teacher that she was good in math, along with her mother's encouragement, fortified Margaret's determination to further her education. In 1966, she received a bachelor of social studies in social work from the University of Queensland, becoming the first Aboriginal woman university graduate.

But it was her experiences outside Australia — including at the East-West Center, where she received a master's in education; and at the State University of New York, a master of social work degree — that put her on a path to advance the development and education of Aboriginal people.

As she traveled across the U.S. in the '60s, she observed the fervor of the civil rights and community organizing movements. She visited a voter registration campaign in the South, minority welfare programs in New York, Chicago and the Southwest. She worked summers at a Native American school, attended the Saul Alinsky Institute for Community Development, the Highlander Folk School in Alabama. Earlier she had spent a summer in Papua New Guinea, where students trained at a specially designed college to learn administrative skills.

"It was not until I became involved in other indigenous communities," she says, "that I saw the need to focus on change as a more appropriate policy and program direction."

These experiences provided a framework for the customized, non-formal education programs of the Aboriginal Training and Cultural Institute she founded in Sydney in 1978. Her hope was to create "a vehicle for bringing change to the lives and aspirations of disadvantaged Aborigines." Students told her the program "made it easy for them to understand the material they were learning."

"EWC staff and students worked together to undertake a wide range of initiatives. The success of these activities confirmed the importance of having a strong belief in what you want to do, having confidence in how you approach your goals and the value of collaborative teamwork."

The institute was soon recognized as the national education institution that provided participants a sense of self-confidence, purpose and direction, and the foundation to pursue their interests. Under Valadian's guidance, the organization pioneered development education and management training so that Aborigines could run community organizations as councilors, youth workers, teaching assistants and health workers.

Valadian went on to work with the University of Wollongong Aboriginal Education Center and to establish the Indigenous Social Development Institute at the turn of the millennium until her recent retirement. ♦



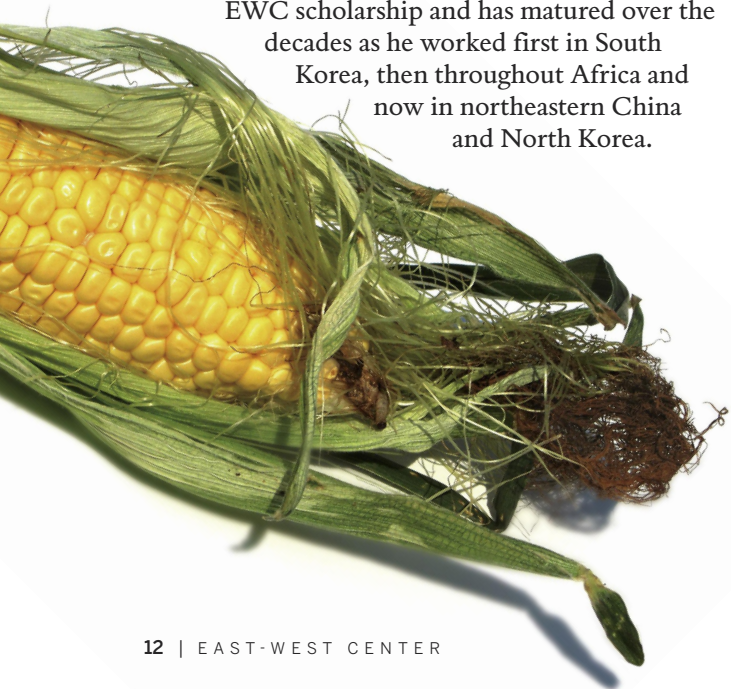
Soon-Kwon Kim

Fighting Famine with 'Miracle Corn'

Soon-Kwon Kim
South Korea
1971, Ph.D.

Soon-Kwon Kim takes pride in introducing himself as “Dr. Corn.” For more than 30 years the South Korean agricultural scientist has been fighting poverty and famine through the development of high-yield, disease-resistant corn hybrids first in Asia, then Africa. His remarkable success, bucking conventional wisdom that corn that thrived in developed countries wouldn’t grow in the developing countries of the third world, earned him the nickname he wears as a badge of accomplishment.

Through the International Corn Foundation, he’s continued a dream that began at Kyungpook National University in the early 1970s, became a reality at the University of Hawai‘i through an EWC scholarship and has matured over the decades as he worked first in South Korea, then throughout Africa and now in northeastern China and North Korea.

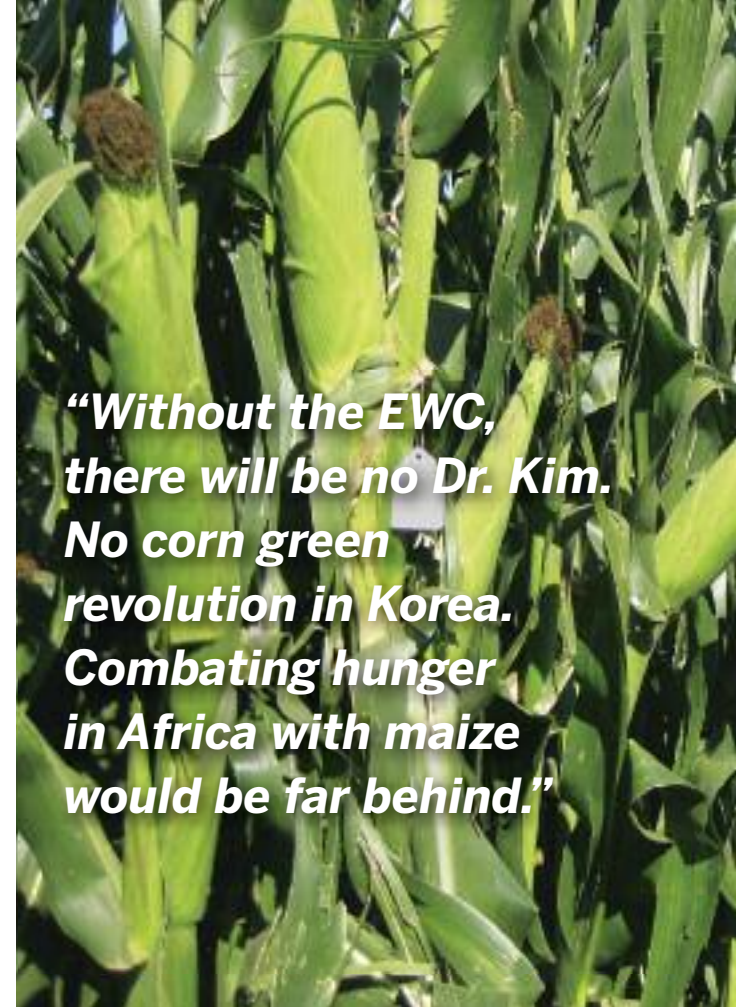


Born in 1945 in Ulsan, the son of a poor farmer in a rural area, Kim “had a lot of experience with hunger.” He attended an agricultural high school, then Kyungpook National University and Korea University on scholarships. That — along with his EWC scholarship and the Center’s mission — instilled in him “a strong responsibility first to help my country, next to help other countries.”

In 1971, Kim arrived at the East-West Center with a keen interest in reducing hunger. His solution: to develop miracle corn by revolutionizing corn breeding. Field study took him through the U.S. corn belt, traveling by Greyhound bus to Nebraska, Iowa, Ohio and Illinois. The corn he saw growing in fields was “better than I dreamed,” he remembers. In Ames, Iowa, he looked out the window of the bus and started to cry — “The corn was so beautiful.”

Back in Hawai‘i, aided by his mentor, Dr. Jim Brewbaker, he developed corn seed resistant to insects, parasites and diseases in South Korea. He mastered hybrid techniques to produce high-yielding crops farmers could grow without relying on chemicals. “With this corn,” he thought, “I can change the world.” When he completed his thesis three months before the semester ended, he immediately returned to Seoul without attending graduation ceremonies, eager to get to work.

But first he had to persuade his agricultural institute, the government and farmers that the seeds he brought home would thrive in their fields. “I told them if I fail, I will go to jail for 10 years,” he says. “I had strong confidence I can do this.”



“Without the EWC, there will be no Dr. Kim. No corn green revolution in Korea. Combating hunger in Africa with maize would be far behind.”

By 1978, his team had doubled the national corn yield twice and tripled farmers’ net income. His success in Korea caught the attention of the International Institute of Agricultural Technology (IIAT). Kim accepted a job at its headquarters in Nigeria, developing corn for countries in Africa to combat hunger on the continent. Kim moved his family, expecting to spend 12 months — and stayed 17 years. His research team succeeded in developing 100 varieties of maize resistant to Africa’s No. 1 enemy, maize streak virus. IIAT and Kim received the CGIAR King Baudouin Award for international agricultural research in 1986.



Endy Bayuni

Editorial Voice for Press Freedom

Endy Bayuni
Indonesia
1999, Journalism

Under the watchful eye of Endy Bayuni, *The Jakarta Post* plays a critical but constructive role as Indonesia's leading independent English-language newspaper. Bayuni is chief editor, a position he's held since returning in 2004 from a prestigious Nieman Fellowship at Harvard University.

Bayuni's widely read columns provide clear-eyed commentary and analysis of Indonesian domestic politics, including Political Islam and foreign policy issues. At a presentation in Europe on the role and responsibility of a free press, he was recognized as "an advocate of press freedom and the free flow of information."

It's a well-earned salute that reflects the editor and his editorial team's commitment to "pushing the envelope through vigorous reporting." Freedom of speech and freedom of the media in Indonesia were hard won. For years under the rule of President Suharto, the press was held in check; it wasn't until the end of the Suharto regime in 1998, followed by a democratic election and reforms, that the Indonesian press was able to enjoy freedom of expression and opinion.

Bayuni is often called on to speak internationally of U.S.-Indonesia relations, issues involving Indonesia and Muslim societies, and events in Southeast Asia. His perspective is informed by experiences overseas, including at Kingston University in Surrey, England, where he received his bachelor of arts degree in economics in 1981; a Jefferson Fellowship at the East-West Center in 1999; and the Nieman Fellowship year. At Harvard, he took advantage of the opportunity to attend classes at the Kennedy School of Government.

Bayuni's newspaper career began in 1983 as a cub reporter for *The Jakarta Post*. He also worked as Indonesian correspondent for Reuters and Agence France Presse news services from 1984 to 1991. At *The Post*, he's held various positions, including production manager/night editor, national editor, managing editor and deputy chief editor. Now *The Post*, with Bayuni at the helm, is recognized as a vigorous watchdog of the people's interests and good governance in the fourth largest country in the world. ♦



In the late '90s, alarmed by reports of famine in North Korea, he decided to return to South Korea, intent on helping fellow Koreans. Since 1998, Kim has made more than 50 trips to North Korea to introduce corn-breeding techniques to cooperative farms in an effort to alleviate famine and foster better relations between the north and south. "You know," he says, "corn doesn't know Korea is divided." ♦

Sombath Somphone

Preparing a Generation of Leaders in Laos

Sombath Somphone
Laos
1971, Population

More than half the population of Laos is under 20 years of age, with few opportunities

for a better life in one of the world's poorest nations. Yet to Sombath Somphone, those 3 million young Laotians represent his country's "best hope."

In 1996, he founded the Participatory Development Training Centre (PADETC) in Vientiane to train and motivate a new generation of leaders to provide education for sustainable development. Guided by Somphone and a small staff, teams of youth volunteers conduct development work throughout the country, reaching as many as 9,000 people a week. These volunteers are also learning by doing — "to think, to plan, to act, and to lead." Somphone calls this participatory learning.

As executive director, he often refers to PADETC's many programs — which emphasize eco-friendly technology, micro-enterprise and education — as "tentacles."

Somphone returned to Laos in 1980 after earning degrees in education and agriculture at the East-West Center. Initially he focused on food security for rural villages, but soon came to believe the future hinged on engaging Lao youth to find appropriate solutions. He began to build a youth program bolstered by hundreds of enthusiastic young volunteers who advance programs aimed at reducing poverty.

One of its most effective programs transforms the learning process inside and outside the classroom. Youth volunteers assist teachers in activity-based learning that takes grade-school kids outdoors. They use play, storytelling and drama to make learning fun. University-level volunteers, called Green Ants, popularize environmental awareness. Post-graduate trainees conduct fieldwork on drug-abuse prevention and HIV awareness. Through PADETC, these volunteers gain both leadership skills and hands-on experience.

For his efforts "to promote sustainable development in Laos by training and motivating its young people" to become leaders, Somphone received the 2005 Ramon Magsaysay Award for

Community Leadership. The prestigious Magsaysay Awards, established by the Rockefeller Brothers Foundation, are often called Asia's Nobel Prizes. The award applauded Somphone's conviction that the young are more receptive to new ideas when they are empowered through practical experience.

"We had to try out different things over the years, to find an entry point into what we really want to achieve," he says. "So everything we did was like little pieces of a jigsaw puzzle, which we have developed and pieced together." Through the efforts of Lao youth and the 14-year-old training center, Somphone can see "a picture is slowly taking shape." ♦



Ann Dunham Soetoro

Trailblazer for Microcredit in Southeast Asia (1942–1995)

Ann Dunham Soetoro with her husband (and EWC alumnus) Lolo Soetoro, baby daughter Maya, and son Barack Obama.

Ann Dunham Soetoro
United States
1973, Ph.D.

Ann Dunham Soetoro found her life's work in the villages and small towns of Indonesia.

Fluent in Bahasa Indonesia, she conversed easily with women in village marketplaces, got to know them in their homes. And in the process she became familiar with the multiple roles and burdens they shouldered as they struggled to raise their families out of poverty.

Clad in garments of batik, with fair skin and expressive eyes, the American anthropologist stood out among the Indonesian villagers. But in many ways Soetoro was more comfortable in Indonesia than she was in Honolulu, where she'd attended the University of Hawai'i on an East-West Center scholarship.

Soetoro had come to the fourth most populous country in the world in 1967 after her marriage to Lolo Soetoro, an EWC grantee. With them was her six-year old son, Barack Obama. When Barack was nine, she returned him to Hawai'i in the care of her parents while he completed school. Yet despite the physical distance, Soetoro instilled in her son — who would become President of the United States — a shared concern for social change and social justice. A journalist friend in Indonesia calls Soetoro “a reformer who committed her life to the idea that was the key slogan of her son's 2008 presidential campaign, ‘Change We Can Believe In.’”

When her marriage to Lolo Soetoro ended, she began an academic and professional journey that took her across the Indonesian archipelago. She eventually completed a Ph.D. in anthropology on peasant blacksmithing in Indonesia. By then,



PHOTO: REUTERS / OBAMA FOR AMERICA / LANDOV

she was recognized as a trailblazer for work she'd initiated at the Ford Foundation in microcredit in the Southeast Asian nation's rural villages.

Colleagues found her “purposeful.” They recall she rarely softened her opinions to please others as she pushed to improve the lives of the poor in the developing world, particularly Indonesia. Consistently Soetoro raised awareness of gender equity issues and women's roles in their communities, years before this became accepted policy in the NGO world.

A landmark project involved the East Javanese Women's Central Cooperative, then a fledgling organization and an incubator for economic

empowerment programs for women in low-income and rural areas. The project successfully provided microcredit in the form of loans and assistance to village-level sustainable cottage industries. She continued similar work with other organizations, including the Asia Development Bank in Pakistan and the oldest bank in Indonesia.

When Ann Dunham Soetoro died in 1995 at the age of 52, she'd already secured a legacy that her daughter described in a newspaper interview, “to not be limited by fear or narrow definitions ... and to do our best to find kinship and beauty in unexpected places.” ♦



“My experience at the East-West Center is my greatest asset because that was the first time I recognized the importance of Asia. Without my experience and residence at the East-West Center in the late '70s, I don't think I would appreciate the strategic importance of Asia, the U.S. and the Pacific.”

Sachio Semmoto

Expanding Telecom, First in Japan, Now Globally

Sachio Semmoto
Japan
1978, Communications

Sachio Semmoto had a promising future with Nippon Telegraph and Telephone (NTT) when he arrived in the United States as a graduate student. His encounter with the West changed his life — and the telecommunications industry in Japan.

Through a Fulbright Scholarship, Semmoto earned a Ph.D. in engineering at the University of Florida. Then in 1978, Semmoto came to the East-West Center as a research fellow in the Communications Institute. His fellowship completed, Semmoto returned to Japan and soon broke with corporate tradition when at the age of 41, he quit a comfortable job at NTT to start a rival company. His move shocked colleagues. “No one stood up to compete,” Semmoto told *The Economist* in a 2008 interview. “But I perceived that if no one stood up, then Japan would not change. So I stood up.”

Today that wireless rival, KDDI, is the second largest telecommunications operator in Japan. Its revenues are estimated at \$35 billion. Since then the entrepreneur has gone on to launch four more companies. In 1999, Semmoto started eAccess, a broadband company that helped reduce prices in Japan's expensive Internet access market. After its first year, eAccess turned a profit.

His latest corporate venture is eMobile, geared to deliver inexpensive high-speed wireless data for any device. Semmoto managed to keep eMobile's costs low by once again spurning tradition. Rather than rely on domestic equipment, his company is buying from suppliers in Sweden and China.

His successes have earned him a salute from *The Economist* as a “serial entrepreneur.” *Forbes* magazine called him a “Japanese telecom legend.” The former company man turned risk-taker credits his education in the United States — “from my involvement with American universities and my experience with the East-West Center.”

Semmoto's academic credentials include visiting professorships at Carnegie Mellon University and the University of California-Berkeley, and as a visiting research fellow at Stanford University. In 1996, he joined Keio University's graduate school of business, teaching entrepreneurial management and information technology.

He is outspoken about the need for Japanese students to study abroad. “Without looking globally, you're destined to become conservative, less innovative,” he believes. “It's critical to see outside your own country. One has to find out in the world there are different sets of values. You have to go physically and watch and feel and get the feedback from a different society who has a different set of values. This applies to America, too.

“Being international is increasingly critical for future survival. If you want to survive, you have to see your neighbor,” he says, firmly. “That's why the East-West Center will become increasingly more important as a bridge between the United States and Asia.” ♦

Rajendra K. Pachauri

Leader in Climate Change Awareness



R.K. Pachauri
India
1981, Fellow

Long before climate change became a household worry, Rajendra K. Pachauri identified the dangers of global warming and related environmental issues. As director general of TERI (The Energy and Resources Institute, formerly known as the Tata Energy Research Institute) and chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, he is respected internationally as a leading global thinker and researcher in this area.

In 2007, he was thrust into the spotlight when the IPCC shared the Nobel Peace Prize with U.S. Vice President Al Gore. Pachauri, as chairman of the international panel of scientists, shared the podium in Oslo with Gore, and today is highly sought after as an international spokesman for climate change awareness.

He presented an address at the welcoming ceremony at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009. And he is to give a keynote address at the East-West Center's 50th anniversary celebration in July 2010.

Pachauri has maintained ties to the Center since the late '70s, when EWC Fellow Toufiq Siddiqi approached him to collaborate on a project on the environmental dimensions of energy policies. A series of energy and environment-related projects with Siddiqi and EWC Fellow Kirk Smith brought Pachauri to the Center, including as a visiting fellow with the Center's Resource Systems Institute in 1982.

Born into a family of educators in the mountains of Nainital, Pachauri, like his father, studied abroad. He received a double Ph.D. in industrial engineering and economics from North Carolina State University, where he served on the faculty.

He returned home to teach in India and by 1982 had assumed the directorship of TERI in New Delhi, growing the organization into one of the world's best-known research institutes. Research with global institutions, such as the World Bank and United Nations Development Programme, and institutions in numerous countries also prepared him for the role of chairman of the IPCC. Scientists representing all continents comprise the IPCC, "to assemble, assess and compile knowledge on the greatest threat to the planet since the dawning of the industrial age."

During his two terms as head of IPCC, Pachauri has brought on board once-reluctant developing countries to formulate policies addressing climate change. Work demands have him traveling constantly, yet the scientist manages to find an occasional free moment to compose poetry. And family and close colleagues will assure you that he will always make time for a game of cricket. ♦

Nereus Acosta

Thinking Globally, Acting Locally to Fight Poverty

Nereus Acosta
Philippines
1989, Ph.D.

After Nereus (Neric) Acosta received his Ph.D. in political science in 1994, the EWC Doctoral Fellow returned

to the Philippines and quickly began to make headlines. He became the youngest person ever elected to his local provincial council. Four years later, he won a seat in the national Congress.

In his fight for positive social, economic and political change in the Philippines, his efforts have extended far beyond politics, earning him invitations to speak in countries all over the world about his work in sustainable development and poverty alleviation.

“The worst problem is not poverty with resources, but the poverty of the spirit, the hopelessness and the thought that we cannot make any difference,” Acosta told local legislators and grassroots community organizers in rallying support for policies on population, reproductive health and human development. He’s found these policies can often be a hard sell in a nation with deeply embedded cultural and religious traditions.

“The East-West Center years were a period of intellectual growth and personal character formation. I learned to deeply value knowledge — both from formal sources and the larger social milieu of vast exchanges with other scholars from the Asia Pacific region — including friendships formed for a lifetime.”

But he’s been steadfast. He launched a community college for poor students, especially from the disadvantaged Lumad communities, indigenous to the Bikednon province of northern Mindanao, who share his roots. He subsidized tuition for up to 3,000 students in high school and college from congressional development funds.

Then there’s a microcredit project with close to 8,000 poor rural women as beneficiaries in 130 villages. It gives out loans of 2,000 to 5,000 pesos (\$100 U.S.) for projects such as raising chickens or cultivating vegetable gardens or running small stores. The non-government organization, called BINHI-BULIG, replicates Grameen Bank microfinancing of Bangladesh, where Acosta

trained before he entered politics. According to Acosta, this project is the largest of its kind in the northern Mindanao region.

Acosta advocates a world of “glocal” leadership, of “global and local understanding, global and local responses. A leader in today’s world has to look at these ‘glocal’ realities, ‘glocal’ approaches, and think and act on both fronts,” he says. “Policies are great for a legal framework that can be used nationally, but how is that changing the life of the farmer with the water buffalo in Mindanao? Given this context, the dent you make is actually in the local communities and the lives you transform.” ♦



Amanda Ellis

Striving to Empower Women in Developing Countries

Amanda Ellis
New Zealand
1986, Ph.D.

Take a look at a map of the world's developing countries and chances are Amanda Ellis has played a role in economically empowering women in an impressive number of those nations.

Ellis is lead specialist for the World Bank Group Gender Action Plan, a \$60 million initiative that promotes gender equality as smart economics. She spearheads an exciting new global research program on Economic Opportunities for Women. On top of that, she manages the World Bank's Global Private Sectors Leaders CEO Forum.

Ellis traces her interest in gender issues to a political science class she enrolled in at the University of Hawai'i as an EWC graduate student, pursuing a master's in communications and political science, and studying Japanese. When she completed her studies, Ellis stepped easily into the foreign service in her native New Zealand, serving posts in Paris, the Pacific and Asia.

In the foreign service, "I saw how important it was from a development perspective that women have access to loans in microfinance," she says. After roles with the International Secretariat for the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council and as a senior official to APEC, she was headhunted by Australia's WESTPAC Banking Corporation, as national manager for women in business and the head of women's markets.

There, Ellis ran a women's business program that introduced her to many of the country's women entrepreneurs and led to a book contract with Random House. That book, "Women's Business, Women's Wealth," became a best seller. She followed with a book about women entrepreneurs in New Zealand, "Woman 2



Amanda Ellis (third from left) with World Bank President Robert Zoellick.

"The Center was an amazing opportunity for someone from the bottom of the South Island of New Zealand to learn from 350 students from 53 different countries. I couldn't have known at the time, but it was the perfect training for my subsequent careers in the foreign service and now at the World Bank — and like many Center grantees, I met my future husband at EWC!"

Woman," which shot into the top 10 best-seller list for nonfiction in its first week on the shelves.

She has donated proceeds from sales of her books to an endowment at the East-West Center for the Amanda and Natalie Ellis Scholarships, a tribute to her mother, Natalie, who retired in 2008 after a long and distinguished teaching career. The scholarships will go to young women leaders in Australia and New Zealand participating in the EWC Asia Pacific Leadership Program.

In 2003, Ellis moved on to the World Bank Group, founding the gender program at the International Finance Corporation and subsequently was named Lead Specialist for Gender and Development at the World Bank

itself. In May 2007 and 2008, she gave the keynote address at the APEC Women Leaders' Network Conferences in Australia and Peru. "It's fascinating how things I was involved with at the Center in my early career, how these connections have been maintained and strengthened to become a theme in my professional life," she says.

(In July 2010 Amanda Ellis is expected to return to New Zealand to assume the position of Deputy Secretary – Development in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade, leading the unit that manages the government's international aid and development program.) ♦



EAST-WEST CENTER

COLLABORATION • EXPERTISE • LEADERSHIP



On May 14, 1960, President Dwight Eisenhower signed into law congressional legislation creating the East-West Center, which has a mission of "contributing to a peaceful, prosperous, and just Asia Pacific community by serving as a vigorous hub for cooperative research, education, and dialogue."

Since then, some 60,000 people have participated in East-West Center educational, research, and exchange programs. President Obama's mother and step-father both pursued their graduate degrees on Center scholarships, and other alumni include many political, community, education, cultural, and business leaders.

Over the years, the East West Center has contributed to many of the great policy issues of the era, but perhaps the Center's greatest legacy has been its impact on the lives of its participants.

"Becoming an East-West Center grantee forever altered the course of my life," observes EWC alumnus and Board of Governors Chairmani Puongpun Sarianikone. "At the Center, I began building the basis of a life and career that have been inextricably intertwined with the cross-cultural learning opportunities I had while I was there."



"The East-West Center is here to serve the world. To this Center we shall bring the wise men of the west and we shall invite the wise men of the east. From them we will hope that many generations of scholars will learn the lessons of the two worlds, united to use that wisdom for the benefit of all peoples and the ends of justice and freedom."
— Lyndon B. Johnson

Puongpun and Thanh-Lo Sananikone

The Power of Two

Puongpun Sananikone
Laos
1964, B.A.

Thanh-Lo LeKhac Sananikone
Vietnam
1964, B.A.

In July 2008 Puongpun Sananikone became the first EWC alumnus to be elected chairman of the EWC Board of Governors (and was re-elected in 2009). It's just the latest in a long list of achievements for Puongpun and his wife, Thanh-Lo, who met as

grantees at the Center in 1964.

While their work has taken them all over the world, the Sananikones' hearts have remained in Hawai'i and at the EWC, where they met one fall day soon after arriving from Southeast Asia. Thanh-Lo LeKhac had come from Hue, Vietnam, to pursue a degree in microbiology and chemistry; Puongpun Sananikone, from Vientiane, Laos, to seek a degree in economics.

Fluent in six languages, Puongpun has worked on every continent in a range of high-profile positions as an international development economist. Since 1987, he has headed his own Honolulu-based consulting firm, PacMar, Inc., which provides economic and technical advisory services throughout the Asia Pacific region.

While Puongpun jets regularly to China, ASEAN countries and Pacific Island nations on PacMar business, Thanh-Lo is busy as a business and management consultant in the public and private sectors in Hawai'i, Asia and the Pacific. She's also Hawai'i's unofficial ambassador to Vietnam, promoting sister city relations,

organizing and leading trade, medical, educational and humanitarian missions. Locally she can't say no to non-profit organizations, especially those dedicated to helping immigrants and minorities.

Both Sananikones have been saluted with various awards for their public service. Thanh-Lo was named 2003 Minority Small Business Advocate of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration. Puongpun received the 2003 University of Hawai'i Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award. In 2005, he was named to the EWC Board of Governors, becoming the first EWC alumnus to serve on the board.

Since their return to Hawai'i from New York in 1984, they've been ardent supporters of the EWC Foundation, the EWC Alumni Association and the Friends of the East-West Center. They mentor students in the EWC's Asia Pacific Leadership Program. And graciously welcome students and EWC visitors into their home for Thanh-Lo's curry dinners.

"In many ways, my East-West Center experience prepared me well for the diverse multi-national work and cross-cultural challenges I have had to deal with all over the world," says Puongpun. "The East-West Center equipped us with the ability to look at things from the other person's perspective, across ethnicity, across cultural divides. The Center, as envisioned by its founders, was about creating human agents of change, making long-term change for a better world, by promoting mutual understanding.

"Today, given the unstable state of the world," he adds, "the East-West Center is more relevant than ever." ♦



Hao Ping

In China and Abroad, Bridging East and West

Hao Ping
China
1993, Intern

In 1998, Hao Ping coordinated President Bill Clinton's visit to Peking University. He made such an impression on the U.S. president that five years later, when Clinton returned to China, he recognized Hao and said, "You're Hao Ping, aren't you? You were at Bei Da." (Peking University is known colloquially in China as Bei Da.)

None of this is surprising to those who've known Hao since his East-West Center days. As a graduate student in the early '90s, he naturally put strangers at ease with a smile that could warm the chilliest room. He was so popular with fellow students at Hale Mānoa, they tapped him as floor leader.

At the Center, he learned about the American higher education system and how to raise funds to support programs and research. "In China much of academic study is lectures," he said. "Here at the East-West Center, they let you do your own research work and methodology."

The Center was initiating the Asian Studies Development Program, enabling American college faculty to expand their knowledge of Asia. The personable Hao provided the director of the EWC Education Program valuable contacts throughout China and offered creative ideas on how to develop the program in which American educators learn about China.

After returning to China in the mid-'90s, Hao was regularly tasked with overseeing state visits of foreign dignitaries, leaders such as Russian President Putin and Egypt's President Mubarek.

Hao was vice president at Peking University, often referred to as the Harvard of China, when he was named president of Beijing Foreign Studies University in 2005. China's most prestigious school for language studies offers 43 foreign languages and boasts some 1,500 graduates in China's foreign ministry. In 2007, more than 8,500 Chinese students were enrolled at the university and more than 2,300 international students from 67 countries were studying Chinese.

He traveled widely, forging cross-cultural partnerships between his university and educational institutions in Europe, the U.S. and Asia. In spring 2009, Hao Ping assumed new duties in the Ministry of Education as vice minister in charge of International Education — recognition of his commitment to cross-cultural learning, enriched by his East-West Center experience. ♦

"I think the East-West Center is such a good place for young people to train, pursue their thinking, and, with innovation and hard work, experience American philosophy and psychology."



Nasti Reksodiputro

Spreading the Joy of Reading in Indonesia

Nasti Reksodiputro
Indonesia
1962, TESL

When she retired from the University of Indonesia at age 55, Nasti Bachtiar Reksodiputro was ready for something new and thought, “Wouldn’t it be nice if children could read as much as I did as a child?”

Reksodiputro’s mother, father and grandfather all were teachers, and she grew up in a home filled with books. An EWC grantee in the pioneer class of 1962, she returned to Indonesia in 1964 with a degree in Teaching English as a Second Language. During her years at the Center, she experienced the sharing, support and cooperation among grantees and decided to utilize those elements to create a library on wheels for children. She enlisted a sister-in-law with administrative skills and a friend who was an English teacher. The three women recruited another volunteer knowledgeable in children’s literature to join them in assembling a collection of Indonesian and English books.



They worked on the assumption that “doors will open.” And they did. The head librarian at the British Consulate offered books from their junior section. And Yayasan Pustaka Kelana (the Wandering Books Foundation) was created with the help of Nasti’s lawyer husband. Family and friends pitched in. A van was donated as a mobile library. Parking for that first van was in Reksodiputro’s garage; when a driver was needed, she drove.

A second van was donated, and then a third. With increasing support, the library continues to expand and branch out.

Yayasan Pustaka Kelana offers four programs:

- The Mobile Library.
- The Book Box Lending program, which lends boxes of books to more than 30 schools in Jakarta monthly.
- The Book Bag program, which lends books to street vendors who make them available to children in their community on a monthly basis.
- A small community library in a lower middle class community.

Workshops encourage the writing of children’s books, improving the quality of the writing and increasing the number of Indonesian language books. Out of these workshops, books in Indonesian and English have been written and published.

Today the program truly “wanders” throughout the country in a variety of ways. Reksodiputro has no idea how many children and youths have been able to read books since the foundation got started in 1995, but you can be sure the numbers are vast. ♦



“My East-West Center years have definitely had a strong influence on what I became and have done since then. It has made me pay more attention to matters outside the teaching of English and has made me feel comfortable communicating internationally.”

Victor Yano

Revolutionizing Health Care in the Pacific

Victor Yano
Belau
1971, B.S.

You might say Victor Yano was destined from birth for a career in medicine. His mother named him after one of the first Belauan

physicians, who attended Yano's mother in the delivery room.

"He was a role model at an early age," says Yano, who through an EWC scholarship came to the University of Hawai'i in the early '70s from Belau. Upon receiving a bachelor of science degree in 1974, he attended the John A. Burns School of Medicine in Hawai'i, graduating in 1978.

After completing post-graduate residency, Yano returned to Koror to practice medicine at the lone hospital in Belau, in a government-run health care system that relied on dispensaries to provide the bulk of medical care. In Belau, ailing patients first went to a dispensary; if additional treatment was needed, they were referred to the hospital.

Shortly after his return, Yano found himself tending a critically injured visitor. Her husband had been killed in a boating accident and the woman's condition was deteriorating. There was no specialist to turn to for a second opinion. Yano got on the phone to Queen's Medical Center in Honolulu, consulted with a neurosurgeon who advised a surgical procedure that Yano assisted in — and saved the woman's life. She was eventually medivaced to the United States, where she recovered.

"Through the East-West Center, we begin to appreciate the diversity of the world and validate the real need to strengthen local cultural practices — dances, chants, folklore, sports, literature, language. That is how we stand out as individuals among equally important peoples of the world."



A few months later, the grateful family sent a donation to Koror that was used to purchase neurosurgical equipment for the local hospital. That was the beginning of Yano's career-long commitment to revolutionize and dramatically improve health care in Belau.

On Thanksgiving Day in 1981, the Belau Medical Clinic opened its doors, operating on private funds, including \$200,000 raised by the Belau community. With leadership skills and vision, the determined young doctor continued his efforts to raise the level of medical care in the Pacific. Soon patients were coming from neighboring Pacific Island countries to be treated by Yano, as word spread of his skill and compassion.

In 1995, Yano was the motivating force behind the establishment of the Pacific Basin Medical Association, which provides professional development and support to medical practitioners throughout the region. Ten years later, the president of Belau appointed Yano to head the nation's Ministry of Health, where he continued efforts to enhance patient care, fiscal accountability and community participation. Recently, the doctor raised more than \$40,000 to assist the hemodialysis center at Belau National Hospital.

In April 2010, Yano won easy confirmation as Minister of State, a reflection of the esteem with which he's held in the island nation. Over three decades, he's also mentored every local physician now practicing in Belau. One of them, Dr. Stevenson J. Kuartei, just succeeded his mentor as Belau's Minister of Health. The transformation of the archipelago's health care system, which Dr. Yano began, continues. ♦

Kathleen Hall Jamieson

Making Sense of the Media and Politics

Kathleen Hall Jamieson
United States
1985, Fellow

During the 2008 U.S. presidential campaign, a reporter interviewing Kathleen Hall

Jamieson posed a question about Hawai'i-born Barack Obama. Jamieson replied, "If you really want to understand who Barack Obama is, you have to understand the culture of inclusivity. You need to go to Hawai'i."

Director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania, where she is also a professor of communications, Jamieson is a leading expert on the media and politics, particularly U.S. presidential campaigns. She's written, co-authored or edited 15 books, among them, "Everything You Think You Know About Politics ... and Why You're Wrong," published in 2000 and in its 7th printing. She's also won numerous awards for teaching and for her scholarship.

Every election season, she offers analysis on the influential PBS programs "NewsHour" with Jim Lehrer and "Bill Moyers Journal." She's sought out for commentary in national publications and on National Public Radio. She continues to bring valuable insight into the 44th president to these discussions — a perspective informed and enriched by her ties to Hawai'i, which began with a six-month fellowship at the East-West Center in 1985.

Jamieson came to the Center to explore the contrast between classical Eastern and classical Western rhetoric, particularly in Chinese literature. "Specifically in the advice given to the emperor," she explains. She was fascinated by politics in relationship to authority, an interest that continues to the present.

Jamieson returned several years later to run an EWC conference that brought together scholars from Asia and the United States. "I thought the scholars from the West had a lot to learn from the scholars from the East. An alternative tradition enables you to see things differently about your own tradition."

She was especially interested in metaphor — differences in the way East and West communicate. In Western tradition, Jamieson explains, metaphors

of force are often used to bend an audience to its will. In the East this may be more nuanced, which brings us to Barack Obama and his skills as a communicator. She sees Obama influenced by the Eastern tradition of rhetoric, the implicit rather than the explicit.

Such analysis is evidence of how Jamieson's East-West Center experience continues to inform her efforts to make sense of the media and politics and educate the electorate for the public good. ♦



"The East-West Center offered you an existing community of individuals very open to new ideas and very willing to help. It was an ideal community — truly a community."

PHOTO: ROBIN HOLLAND

Jose Turquel

Nation-Building in Timor-Leste

Jose Turquel
Timor-Leste
2002, B.A.

Jose Turquel was a standout graduate student in public policy and international relations at the East-West Center when he returned to Timor-Leste (East Timor) on vacation. That vacation changed his life, opening a door to represent his country in ways beyond his expectations.

In Dili, he participated in a panel discussion on leadership and nation-building. Impressed with his presentation, Timor-Leste President and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Jose Ramos-Horta invited Turquel to meet with him. As a result of their conversation, the newly elected president asked Turquel to join his cabinet as chief of staff.

It was an offer Turquel couldn't decline, and he agreed to take a six-month break from EWC studies toward a master's degree. He set to work reorganizing and restructuring the Office of the

Jose Turquel with former U.S. President Bill Clinton.



President of the world's newest nation. "After six months, I thought that my 'tour of duty' had come to an end," Turquel recalls, "but reality dictated differently."

Ramos-Horta then appointed his chief of staff to an even more influential position as Director of the International Relations Department and Foreign Policy Advisor to the President. Turquel organizes and coordinates external policy for the Office of the President, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defense and Security, the National Parliament, Timor-Leste embassies and diplomatic corps. He manages the official visits of the president and represents Timor-Leste at international conclaves, essentially in the role of a senior diplomat at an ambassadorial level.

He's traveled widely, attending high-level meetings of the United Nations General Assembly, Security Council, as well as the Clinton Millennial Conference. He's engaged in conversations with world leaders, from U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and former U.S. President Bill Clinton to prime ministers and foreign ministers, including U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

"The East-West Center gave me the credentials and the ticket to go global," Turquel says. "Through the East-West Center I found the true meaning of act locally and think globally. Nation-building is a process and action, and I always try to dedicate my efforts to serve the community, and forge cooperation and understanding ... to achieve mutual benefit for all of us." ♦



Albert Wendt

Master Storyteller of the Pacific

Albert Wendt
Samoa
1973, Culture Learning

From his grandmother, young Albert Wendt learned the power of storytelling. Born and raised in Apia, Samoa, he was enchanted by the myths and legends, chants and poems she told him as a child. Now in his seventh decade, Wendt is a master storyteller himself, probably the best-known writer in the Pacific.

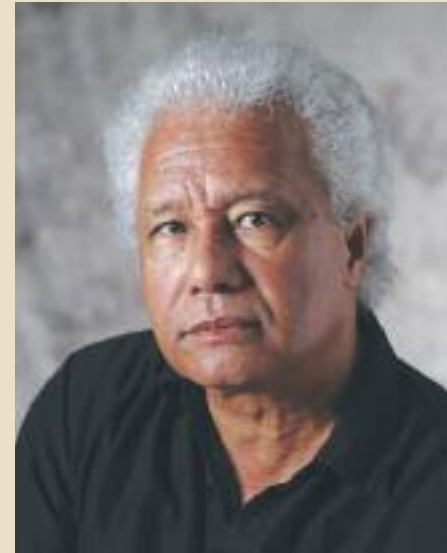
Wendt's novels, poetry, essays and plays reflect his Samoan and Pacific roots, address issues of racism, sexism, materialism and colonialism, as well as universal contradictions and experiences. From the beginning, his literature countered the romanticized images of Polynesians popularized by Western writers. In the 1970s, the publication of his novels gave voice to indigenous cultures and fostered a dynamic period in intellectual and literary life in the Pacific.

In 1980, *Leaves of the Banyan Tree*, a saga of Samoan life now considered a classic, won the prestigious Wattie Book of the Year award in New Zealand. Since then Wendt's writing has brought him numerous literary awards for capturing what's been described as "the rhythms of life and language," while tackling emerging cultural concerns.

"All of my novels are to some extent autobiographical," he said in a 1992 interview at the University of Hawai'i. Wendt has had a long association with the university, most recently in 2004 as the Citizen's Chair at the UH Mānoa Department of English. Many of those visits were sponsored by the East-West Center, where he was a magnetic presence at seminars and workshops.

Of German and Samoan ancestry, Wendt grew up in a household where two languages, Samoan and English, were spoken. His father was the sole English speaker. At 13, Albert received a government scholarship to attend school in New Zealand. By the time he entered college he was already pursuing a passion for writing. In tandem with a career as an academic and administrator at the University of the South Pacific at Fiji and Auckland University came success as a novelist.

Over the years, as teacher, writer and editor, Wendt has shaped Pacific literature and influenced generations of writers across Oceania. In an introduction to an anthology, Wendt wrote of the literature being produced by Pacific writers as "a fabulous storehouse of anthropology, sociology, art, religion, history, dance and music." As the New Zealand Book Council so aptly pointed out, "Wendt's own work has made a leading and lasting contribution." ♦



"Many of my early visits to Hawai'i and my participation in the affairs of the University of Hawai'i were sponsored and organized by EWC. I was able to meet other academics and writers from all round the Pacific and the world, and learn much from them. So, mahalo, fa'afetai lava, EWC!"



Ratu Sir Kamisese K.T. Mara

South Pacific Statesman (1920–2004)

Ratu Mara
Fiji
1980, PIDP

Born the son of a tribal chief, Ratu Sir Kamisese K.T. Mara is recognized as one of the great statesmen of the South Pacific.

Tall and aristocratic in bearing, Mara was tapped as a young man for a leadership role as a member of Fiji's ruling class. After graduating from Oxford University in 1949, he returned to enter politics and guide his island nation to independence.

In 1970 he was elected the nation's first prime minister, served more than 20 years in that position, and is remembered as the founding father of modern Fiji. During a tumultuous period, when Pacific Island nations had just attained independence from colonial powers, Mara steered his neighbors to form the South Pacific Forum. Upon his death in 2004, tributes cited this leadership as perhaps his greatest

“The East-West Center is a unique organization in which leaders can react directly with researchers. Nowhere else in the world will our leaders of government have a research facility to help them that way.”

achievement, noting the often contentious relationships of the emerging nations.

A visionary who sought to build cooperation among Pacific Island nations and between the Islands and the broader world, he was an active and strong supporter of the East-West Center. He was the longest tenured member of the Center's Board of Governors, serving from 1976 to 1986 and 1998 to 2001.

Mara founded the Center's Pacific Islands Development Program. “Thanks to his vision, intellectual stimulation and guidance,” affirms EWC President Charles E. Morrison, “the Pacific Islands Development Program is today a vital organization, providing practical analysis for action by Island leaders and linking the Pacific Island nations with the larger Asia Pacific region.”

From 1980 to 1987, Mara served as the first chair of the Conference of Leaders, a summit of 20 leaders of Pacific Island governments. In 2000–2001, he stepped in again as acting chair at a critical time when the conference was in need of leadership. Throughout his life, this South Pacific statesman was dedicated to advancing the interests of Fiji and the Pacific Islands on the world stage. ◆



Hawai'i Governor George Ariyoshi and Ratu Mara.



Ratu Mara giving remarks in 1980 during the founding meeting of the Pacific Islands Development Program. Seated behind him are Governor George R. Ariyoshi, EWC President Everett Kleinjans, and Ambassador Rozanne L. Ridgway of the U.S. Department of State.

Ricardo Trimillos

East-West Music Man

“It really was a network, the meeting of all these different people from either the Asia Pacific area, or people like myself, Americans who were going to get involved in the Asia Pacific area.”



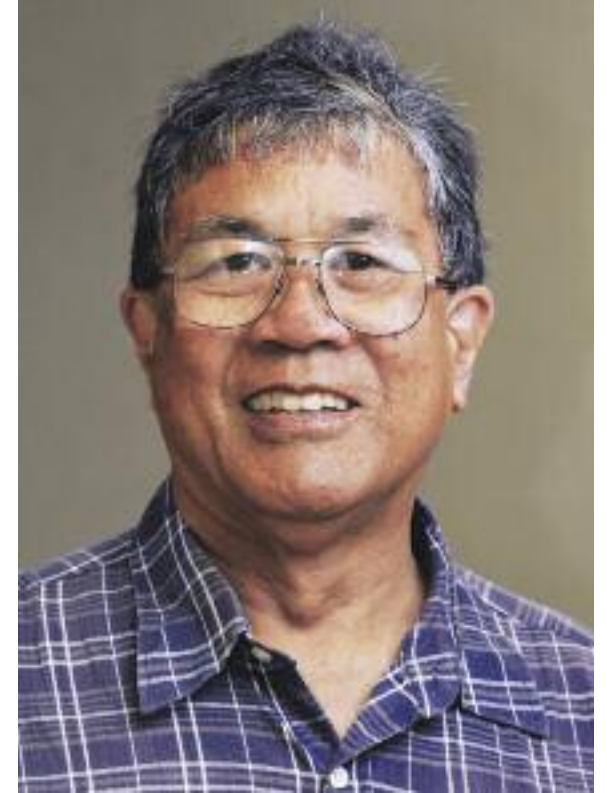
Ricardo Trimillos
United States
1962, M.A.

Ricardo Trimillos is truly an international music man. He’s as comfortable performing solo on the Japanese koto or with a gagaku ensemble as he is the rondalla and kulintang of the Philippines.

The turning point in his life was 1962, when he chose to study at the East-West Center rather than Juilliard, where he had intended to pursue a career as a concert pianist. At the Center, he discovered a world of music and encountered “all these different people from different places.” Born in California, Trimillos was raised in San Jose by parents who emigrated from the Philippines.

Through ethnomusicology Trimillos pursued an interest in the way the humanities cross over into performance. His studies took him to the University of Cologne in Germany and to UCLA, where he received his Ph.D. with a dissertation on Philippines music of the Muslim South. In 1968, he returned to the University of Hawai‘i, where, as an award-winning professor of Asian Studies and ethnomusicology, he’s expanded the breadth and depth of the discipline of music and music-making of the world’s people as expressive arts within a social environment.

That’s why governments — including the former Soviet Union, Malaysia, the Philippines and Hong Kong — have sought him out as a consultant on arts and public policy. He’s also served on the boards of the UNESCO International Council for Traditional Music, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Smithsonian Institution Center for Folklife.



As a student at the East-West Center, Trimillos initiated an East-West Fest of music and dance performed by grantees from Asia, the Pacific Islands and the United States. Years later, in a more expansive format, he curated a Smithsonian Folklife Festival that brought folk artists from the Philippines to Washington, D.C.

Equally significant, Trimillos has mentored a remarkable number of today’s leaders in the field of ethnomusicology. Always, he encourages students to explore musical traditions beyond their own. In 2009, the University of Hawai‘i honored him for his achievement in guiding students to pursue a graduate degree not just as an end in itself, but as preparation for a meaningful life — a tribute to this East-West music man. ♦

Muse Opiang

'Saving the Wildlife' in Papua New Guinea

Muse Opiang
Papua New Guinea
2006, M.A.

Imagine looking for an animal that was so illusive, scientists had decided it was impossible to study. Then consider doing this in the most remote rainforests, in the highlands of Papua New Guinea — which means scaling terrain that's slippery from 275 inches of rain a year.

That's what Muse Opiang had been doing since 2001, when after months of searching he finally came upon a long-beaked echidna, a porcine-sized creature that looks a lot like a

spiny anteater. The long-beaked echidna lives only in New Guinea, belongs to a primitive group of mammals called monotremes, and is considered a living link between reptiles and birds to mammals. Over a five-year span, he was able to capture 22 echidna and attach transmitters so he could track them — his ultimate goal to manage and protect the species.

It was a dream come true for Opiang, a field research officer for the Research and Conservation Foundation after graduating from the University of PNG. Today he is a world authority on the

echidna, a biologist working on his doctorate through the University of Tasmania and co-founder of the Papua New Guinea Institute of Biological Research.

Through the U.S.-South Pacific Scholarship Program, administered by the East-West Center, Opiang completed an internship at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in 2007. He was called upon to give presentations on his research of one of the oldest, rarest, strangest-looking creatures on Earth that lives mostly underground to survive.

And the discoveries continue. In early 2009, Opiang and his mentor Kristofer Helgen, curator of mammals at the Smithsonian's Natural History museum, were trekking through a crater more than 8,800 feet above sea level in PNG rainforests as part of a BBC expedition. A local escort pointed out a large rodent on the forest floor — surprisingly tame and unafraid of the two scientists. The three-foot long Bosavi woolly rat is a newfound species. "As biologists, we spend plenty of cold, muddy nights in the rain," Opiang said at the time, "but rarely can we expect to be rewarded like this!"

His dreams go beyond his own research. "I would like to see more Papua New Guineans doing research in ecology and conservation," he says. "We can serve the very remote community through research where government services are lacking. Conservation is not only for 'saving the wildlife' but also 'serving the community.' " ♦

PHOTO: KRISTOFER HELGEN



Alapaki Luke

Awakening an Appreciation for the 'Āina



Alapaki Luke
United States
2001, M.A.

Three buses enter the grounds of Mauna'ala, the Royal Mausoleum in Nu'uaniu on the island of O'ahu, transporting students to day one of an unforgettable introduction to Hawaiian history and culture.

At the entrance to the mausoleum where Hawaiian royalty are buried, the students gather 'round Alapaki Luke as he performs an oli, or chant, in Hawaiian. Then they place fragrant maile lei on the tombs of the Kamehameha and Kalākaua royal families as he explains the significance of the lei as a tribute.

In this way, the EWC alumnus — whose two grandmothers were Native Hawaiian — begins a history lesson about Hawai'i from the time of the arrival of the first Hawaiians to the present, with visits to sites such as the lo'i (taro patches), where he grows taro in Kahana Valley, a Hawaiian language immersion school, Waimea Bay, the Arizona Memorial and the State Capitol.

From August 2002 to August 2009, Alapaki coordinated various activities for the two-week orientation of incoming EWC students, instilling an appreciation for Hawai'i's native people and the host culture. During their time with Alapaki, the students experience the true spirit of the 'āina (land) and how it influences cultural values.

At the University of Hawai'i School of Hawaiian Knowledge and Honolulu Community College, Alapaki teaches courses in Hawaiian Studies and Geography of Hawai'i and assists in the university's Ka Papa Lo'i o Kānewai, Cultural Garden Learning Center. He is a member of the

State of Hawai'i Taro Security and Purity Task Force, an entity established by law to gather information from taro communities in Hawai'i and address issues to perpetuate the industry and cultural lifestyle.

He still finds time to be one of the most active EWC alumni, leading orientation sessions and facilitating presentations and field trips for various seminars and programs. He has served on the EWCA scholarship committee and is the vice president for Participant Affairs on the EWCA International Board.

"It has really opened my eyes and helped me to have a broader perspective about the way I learn and experience things," he says of the Center, "understanding diversity in the world, having more respect for people and cultures."

He notes all this is compatible with one of the basic values in Hawaiian culture: "We don't stop learning. 'You observe and look to the source your whole life — *nānā i ke kumu.*'" ♦



Khunying Supatra Masdit

Championing Women's Issues in Thailand



Supatra Masdit
Thailand
1976, M.A.

In 1995, Supatra Masdit's prominence in Thai politics and international circles as a leader for women's rights led a foreign journalist to write: "Will she be Thailand's first female prime minister?" Masdit was about to convene the Non-Government Organizations Forum held in conjunction with the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing.

Elected seven times to Thailand's Parliament between 1979 and 2000, Masdit is the first Thai woman parliamentarian appointed to a cabinet post. She then served twice as Minister to the Prime Minister's Office. During her first term in the cabinet, she successfully pushed for the establishment of Thailand's National Commission on Women's Affairs, which counseled the prime minister on policies concerning women's issues. And she currently is an adviser to the prime minister.

In a chapter she contributed to a book on *Women and Politics in Thailand*, Masdit wrote that she entered politics because "in my opinion it is the only path to alleviate social disparities effectively." Initially a volunteer in social development programs and university lecturer, she quickly determined, "I could only have minimal impact on social injustice no matter how hard I tried."

She was inspired by her father's transformation from journalist to successful political leader. Representing Nakhon Si Thammarat, a province in Southern Thailand, he was outspoken in his belief in an egalitarian society.

While at the East-West Center pursuing a master's degree, Masdit was shocked when a 1976 coup resulted in the deaths of student activists at Thammasat University. She returned to Thailand emboldened to enter the political arena and fight corruption, social disparity and unequal distribution of resources.

By 1989 her achievements in public and social service had earned her the title of "Khunying," bestowed by the King of Thailand. But Masdit hadn't completed her work. She served as a founder and president of the Center for Asia-Pacific Women in Politics, a Manila-based NGO organized to promote women in politics, and advance economic, social and political equity. She represented Thailand at numerous regional and international summits.

Recently she stepped back from politics to study Buddhism and pursue meditation. And she joined an EWC alumni effort to support educational opportunities for students who want to study in Hawai'i. Masdit is a

co-chair of the Royal Thai Scholarship Fund Committee, which in 2009 announced a \$188,000 endowment to assist Thai students at the East-West Center. ♦



"The East-West Center has really opened my eyes and helped me to have a broader perspective about the way I learn and experience things, understanding diversity in the world, having more respect for people and cultures."

Carl Becker

Pioneering Work on Issues of Life and Death

Carl Becker
United States
1972, M.A.

At the start of each semester at Kyoto University, students in Carl Becker's classes are always startled when he first addresses them. Becker writes and speaks Japanese so fluently, that if you didn't see his face, you'd think you were listening to a senior Japanese scholar.

In a sense, you are. Becker is the first American to be fully tenured and promoted within the Japanese national university system. He's spent 30 of the last 37 years in Japan. In 1992 he was honored with a tenured professorship at Kyoto University, one of Japan's most prestigious institutions of higher learning. Becker's daily life — including lectures, research and publishing — is entirely in Japanese.

In English or Japanese, Becker engages the listener. His undergraduate ethics courses draw hundreds of students keenly interested in the spiritual and cultural issues that influence life-and-death decision-making in transplantation, euthanasia, suicide and elder care in 21st century Japan.

Even before his arrival at the Center in 1972, the Vietnam War had concerned Becker with issues of death and dying, while his Japanese and Indonesian roommates and EWC-trained professor, Tom Fennell at Principia College, had whetted his interest in Asia.

At the East-West Center, Becker focused his Ph.D. studies in Comparative Philosophy and Religion. Then assisted by a Prince Akihito Scholarship in Japan, he immersed himself in its language and culture. Soon he was doing pioneering work on end-of-life issues with which societies and governments wrestle today, especially in countries like Japan with rapidly aging populations.

"The Buddhist Four Noble Truths of Birth, Age, Sickness and Death inform my research in healing, ethics, value systems, logics and world views," Becker writes. "My work has moved from studies of religious experiences to concern with death and dying, and the kinds of education that can improve people's mental and spiritual health."

In Japan he's involved in projects addressing elder care, caregiver burnout, grief and bereavement. Asked to help design hospices, Becker conducted surveys to determine how the elderly in Japan want to spend the end of their lives. The surveys found that even modern Japanese hope to die on tatami mats, gazing out over the sky or seascape.

Over the decades Becker has delved into writings dating back to the 5th century in China and the 10th century in Japan, that record how these civilizations approached death and dying. Acquainting ourselves with cultures like China and Japan, which have flourished for thousands of years, he believes, will help us understand "what kind of world views can make life more peaceful and sustainable." ♦



"Studying at the Center — eating, sleeping, breathing Asia in my dorm rooms and classrooms — was a challenging and enlightening entry to this lifework."

Tin Myaing Thein

Helping Immigrants Get a Fresh Start

Tin Myaing Thein
Burma
1963, B.A.

At the Lemongrass Café bordering Honolulu’s Chinatown, you can enjoy Burmese chicken and pumpkin curry on Mondays, an Indonesian beef special on Thursdays, Singaporean food on Tuesdays and Laotian food on Wednesdays. Often you’ll find Tin Myaing Thein stirring the curry in the kitchen with recent immigrants who are learning to start their own food service business.

The café is a business incubator begun by the Pacific Gateway Center (PGC), a 35-year-old non-profit that offers health and social services to immigrants, refugees and low-income people. The energetic Dr. Myaing is executive director of PGC, formerly called the Immigrant Center, which has helped hundreds of Southeast Asian immigrants and refugees get a fresh start in Hawai‘i.

In recent years, thousands of Micronesians have migrated to the state, primarily for health care, straining the community’s social safety net. At PGC, the Pacific Islanders are provided English classes, computer training and employment assistance as well as translation services.

Born and raised in Burma, Dr. Myaing knows what it’s like to be a newcomer in a foreign land. She came to the United States as an East-West Center grantee in 1963, and, like many EWC students at the time, it was her first venture outside her country. “The Center is the foundation upon which I built my life,” she told a Honolulu newspaper when she received an EWC Distinguished Alumni Award.

And what a trail she has blazed. Galvanized by an agenda-setting meeting in 1977 in Houston for the United Nations Women’s Conference, Dr. Myaing founded the National Network of Asia-Pacific Island Women. President Jimmy Carter appointed her the first Asian woman member of the President’s Advisory Committee for Women.

For her work on women’s issues, she was honored with the Human Civil Rights Award from the National Education Association in 1979. In the mid-’80s she directed the American Association of University Women Education Foundation, which had a \$27 million endowment.

Since her return to Hawai‘i, her efforts have expanded to assist low-income and disadvantaged minorities realize their dreams in their new homeland. The Pacific Gateway Center offers services in more than 33 languages in areas of business and finance, housing, health, education and employment. Dr. Myaing radiates warmth and a can-do approach to challenges: Identify the need, then address it as “a solvable situation.” ♦



Brenda Lei Foster

Promoting U.S.-China Business Ties

Brenda Foster
United States
1976, Intern

With some 4,000 members and more than 300 events a year, the American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai is the largest and fastest growing American Chamber in the Asia Pacific region. Under the leadership of Brenda Lei Foster, its first woman president, AmCham Shanghai — as the locals know the organization — is on pace to become the largest

international business association in China.

As the head of the chamber known as the “Voice of Business in China,” Foster finds herself interacting with government officials and business executives from all over the world, including China and the United States. She travels regularly to cities throughout China where chambers are eager for American businesses to invest in their areas.

“We’re big on building partnerships that have global reach and can support U.S. competition in China,” she

explains. In 2009, for example, the Chamber released a Green Cap report — a multi-national, multi-corporation endeavor to chart a road map of China’s “green tech” or “clean tech” industry opportunities in nine different sectors.

As her fifth year in Shanghai approached, Foster was especially proud of AmCham’s work in collaboration with the Soong Ching Ling Foundation. The Chamber partnered with the foundation to build clinics in rural China, in some of the poorest areas in Guizhou province, where people have never had health care — and many have never seen a foreigner. The program has been nationally recognized as a model in China.

“My EWC experience is what opened the doors for me to even more opportunities in the international arena. It showed me the importance of people and partnerships — and cooperation and what you can achieve.”

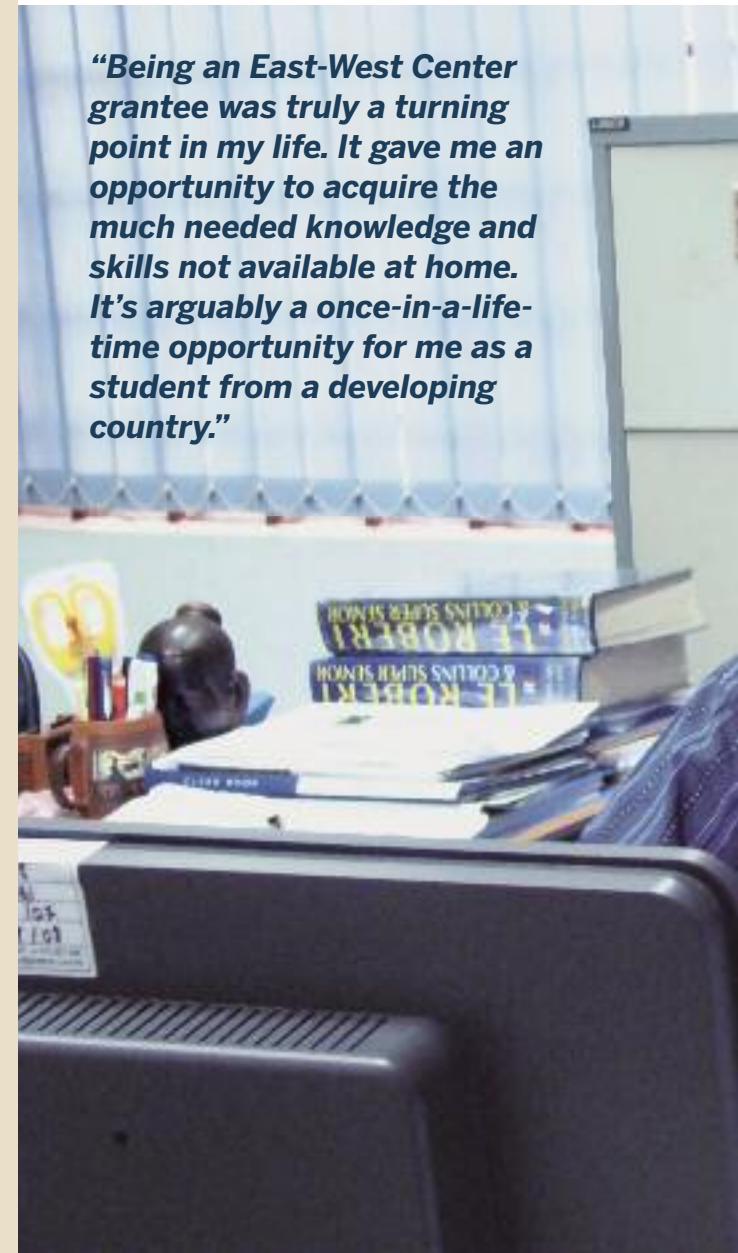
Foster has logged thousands of miles as an active member of the Asia Pacific Council for American Chambers, frequently speaking or leading training sessions and strategic planning workshops in the region.

In June 2009, she received the Athena International Award for leadership, the first to an expatriate American. Foster was honored for her AmCham work, recognition more than 30 years ago of the importance of China, as well as her leadership in business, international and women’s affairs. During a career dedicated to international relations, Foster was an adviser to two of Hawai’i’s governors on national and international issues.

From a school girl’s interest in China, Foster went on to earn a B.A. and M.A. in Chinese studies from the University of Washington before coming to the East-West Center in 1976 on a fellowship, beginning a career path that eventually led to Shanghai.

“When I talk to students I tell them you have to have a passion for what you do,” Foster says, with characteristic enthusiasm. “I knew I wanted to work in international affairs and I have a love for China. I followed my passion and my love.” ♦

“Being an East-West Center grantee was truly a turning point in my life. It gave me an opportunity to acquire the much needed knowledge and skills not available at home. It’s arguably a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me as a student from a developing country.”



Tum May

Boosting Public Health and Opportunities in Cambodia



Tum May
Cambodia
1994, MPH

Tum May witnessed the starvation, suffering and death of Cambodia's Killing Fields. "I still remember vividly as I was escaping from the Khmer Rouge in March 1979, I had a burning desire to go back to school and get as much of an education as I can," he says.

That was the beginning of May's "insatiable thirst for knowledge and skills to help put Cambodia back on track after years of havoc and destruction wreaked by the Khmer Rouge regime."

In the early 1980s, basic social services were non-existent. May began work as a public health worker, having acquired enough practical knowledge to be hired by a district health center. He traveled from village to village in an oxcart with his itinerant health team, promoting awareness about public health, vaccination and prevention of communicable diseases. After each day's work, leading health education sessions to help villagers understand the importance of prevention and basic medical care, he felt an immense sense of accomplishment.

Through his acquaintance with East-West Center Research Fellow Judy Ledgerwood, who was doing field work in Cambodia, May learned of the opportunities to further his public health education at the East-West Center. From 1994 to 1996, he pursued studies at the School of Public Health at the University of Hawai'i.

Upon his return to Phnom Penh, May found himself charged with solving public health problems on a national level. He joined the United Nations

Population Fund (UNFPA) in 1998 and now manages the organization's Cambodia office. While he misses the one-on-one contact with villagers he found so fulfilling, he's involved in shaping policies to improve the health of families throughout his country.

May and his team assist the Cambodian government in forming guidelines and strategies to reduce poverty and support sustainable development, by addressing population, reproductive health and gender concerns. His office provides support to improve maternal and child health, collection of population data, and gender equality with a focus on promoting reproductive rights and addressing sexual and gender-based violence. And they've begun to chart signs of success.

"The ancient Chinese sage, Confucius, once said, 'Get the families right, and all the rest of society will take care of itself.' If individuals take care of their family, the whole society will be taken care of," says May. "By this analogy, I believe that everyone can make a difference by way of their contribution to society and community, be they farmers, office workers or academics — each can make a difference in their own way." ♦



Santiago Obien

'Guiding Father' of Philippines Rice Industry

Santiago Obien
Philippines
1961, M.A.

During his years as executive director of the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), Santiago Obien witnessed a gray-to-green revolution that extended from his home province of Ilocos Norte to the south, in a nation dependent on rice as a staple food.

Under his guidance, PhilRice partnered with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), which developed the miracle rice that made possible what was once just a dream of self-sufficiency. Obien anticipates the Philippines will soon be self-sufficient in the growing of rice.

A scientist, who received a master's degree in agronomy and weed science and then a Ph.D. in soil science as an East-West Center grantee, Obien built PhilRice into a model research institution. He was tapped to be PhilRice executive director after serving concurrently as president of the Mariano Marcos State University and director of the Philippine Tobacco Research and Training Center. There he created an award-winning



research center on the campus, recruiting some 240 researchers who were dispatched to branch stations and on-farm research sites.

That success brought him to the attention of the Philippine government, which wanted a first-class national research institute. "To build world-class institutions, we had to mobilize resources, harness talents and skills of many people, link with several institutions," he recalls. He utilized his extensive administrative and

technical knowledge, combined with social and cultural skills, to establish strong collaborations with universities and research organizations in China, Japan, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia and India.

"My experiences at the East-West Center came in handy," he says. "People are all happy when they are treated nicely, when we understand their specific needs, respecting their habits and even religious inclinations. We did all this at the EWC, respecting differences but building bridges using our similarities."

In 2000, Obien was honored as a "guiding father" of the Philippine rice industry by IRRI upon his retirement from PhilRice. Over the decades he trained hundreds of men and women, highly regarded scientists and researchers in academic and research institutions in the Philippines and the region, producing new technologies and guiding a new generation of students.

And the green revolution in the Philippines continues. In Mindanao, a woman farmer harvested 600 kilograms of rice from 1 kilogram of seeds she had planted after a three-day training workshop attended by 3,500 small-scale farmers. "In just a short time, farming became more profitable and the household had more rice to eat than they ever had before," says Obien. "Yes, there is hope for every farmer with new technology." ♦





Sung Chul Yang

An Ambassador for Reconciliation and Peaceful Reunification

Sung Chul Yang
South Korea
1965, M.A.

Sung Chul Yang experienced the nightmare of war as a child. Born in the southwestern region of South Korea, he was 10 years old when the Korean War erupted.

“The destruction was a terrible thing to witness,” he recalled in an interview with the University of Hawai‘i in 2003. “I saw dead bodies in the ditches of my hometown. Empty shells were my toys; my friends and I collected them and played soldier. We lived in a world where death and destruction were simply routine.”

At a young age, Yang perceived war as “a tragic merry-go-round.” So it is no surprise that his professional career has been devoted to efforts toward reconciliation and peace between North and South Korea.

Arriving at the East-West Center in 1965 to pursue a master’s degree, he encountered students from other countries and at first was startled by how little other students knew about Korea. But with typical self-reflection, he quickly realized he needed to raise his awareness of the world around him, too, and sought to understand different points of view and the cultures of his fellow grantees.

Yang proceeded to earn a Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky. He spent 30 years as a university professor in Kentucky and Indiana, then South Korea, before his election to the Korean National Assembly, where he championed reconciliation and reunification between the two Koreas. An internationally renowned expert on Korean politics and diplomacy, he served as the Republic of Korea’s ambassador to the U.S. from 2000 to 2003.

Today Ambassador Yang resides just outside Seoul, and chairs the advisory committee of the Kim Dae-Jung Peace Foundation. He continues to advocate for reconciliation and reunification. Years ago, he learned war “is not ‘the continuation of foreign policy by other means,’ but a policy failure. War-mongering is easy ... but peace-making, that’s a huge challenge.”

He is fond of the Korean saying: “In 10 years, even mountains and rivers change.” For this engaging man, that expresses the hope he harbors that North and South Korea will be unified in his lifetime.

“I am by nature an optimist,” the ambassador says. “There is no better alternative to reconciliation and peace on the Korean peninsula. Ultimately, there will be no lasting peace in East Asia without a peaceful reunification of Korea.” ♦

“I not only owe a lifelong gratitude to the East-West Center, but to the U.S. government and American people as well.”



Riley Lee

The Shakuhachi Goes Universal

Riley Lee
United States
1984, M.A.

As the new millennium dawned, Riley Lee performed on the shakuhachi from the top of the Sydney Opera House on an internationally televised program. That appearance was symbolic of his success in elevating recognition of the traditional Japanese flute to audiences worldwide.

In 1980 he became the first non-Japanese to attain the rank of *dai shihan* or Grand Master. Quite a distinction for a kid born in Texas, who at one time played bass for a rock band. Lee first heard the shakuhachi on an LP record in high school, after his family had moved to Hawai'i. "I was totally taken by it," he remembers. "The sound was coming from some living sentient being that was speaking to me. I thought, 'Wow, this is really neat.' "

But it was in Japan in 1970 that Lee bought his first shakuhachi and took his first lesson. For seven years he lived in Japan, surviving rigorous instruction from traditional teachers. He trained barefoot in the snow. Blew into his flute under waterfalls. Practiced in blizzards until icicles formed at the end of the instrument. He'd already toured internationally with a Japanese troupe as a full-time performer on the shakuhachi and taiko drum when he returned to Hawai'i.

"Going to the East-West Center allowed me to feel more at home with being part of this international community. What I was missing, that sense of belonging to the land, I gained by feeling a part of the world. "

PHOTO: RUDI VAN STAREX

Arfa Zehra

A Voice for Women and Equality in Pakistan

In Honolulu, ethnomusicologists Ricardo Trimillos and Barbara Smith persuaded him to pursue graduate studies at the University of Hawai'i through the East-West Center. Lee's teacher in Japan also encouraged him. "My teacher thought that by getting more academic credentials," Lee recalls, "I'd be able to bring the shakuhachi to the West better than if I was just a performer."

After completing his master's, Lee went on to complete a Ph.D. in ethnomusicology from the University of Sydney, where he is on the faculty. And for more than 24 years, Australia has been the staging ground in his endeavor to make the shakuhachi as universal as the piano or the guitar.

Along the way Lee has established himself as an innovator, performing as soloist on the shakuhachi with musicians on the harp, cello, saxophone, tabla, guitar, didjeridu (native Australian flute) and even symphony orchestras. He's taught at Princeton, published widely and performed extensively. More than 50 of his commercial recordings are sold worldwide. He co-founded TaikOz, one of Australia's premier performance groups.

In 2008 he was artistic director of the 5th World Shakuhachi Festival in Sydney. More than 450 participants and performers from every continent except Antarctica gathered to showcase the versatility of the shakuhachi. "It was tremendous," marvels Lee. "It was like the Shakuhachi Olympics." ♦

Arfa Zehra
Pakistan
1978, Ph.D.

"We in South Asia take pride in our culture, values, respect for life, but all of these are reversed in the case of women," Arfa Zehra told an audience at a United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) regional conference in 2008. Zehra was speaking as the head of the delegation from Pakistan, and chairperson of the country's National Commission on the Status of Women. "The world has to make it up to women," she encouraged, "and make it up rapidly."

A longtime advocate of gender equality and ending violence against women, Zehra spoke of UNIFEM as "not only the conscience of the U.N. but also of governments and civil society.

"We have the greatest challenge on our hands," she said. "We have to change history — let us share that burden equally."

In her role on the national commission, as she has throughout a distinguished career, Zehra served as a conscience for Pakistan. That same year she led a delegation to the U.N.'s Commission on the Status of Women in New York. As a history professor and then leader of Lahore College for Women, she pushed for equality beyond the campus. "I observed my mother going through life in a stereotypical male-dominated society," she says. "The early impressions of such life conditions made me think about the inequities and injustices so common to the underprivileged sections of society, especially women across the board."

Her achievements have brought her national and international awards, but Zehra considers her most important accomplishment her role in the government's passage of the Women Protection Act in 2006. The legislation ensures protection to women from "faulty



and prejudiced laws." Last year, several bills were introduced into the Parliament to extend protection of women domestically and in the workplace.

Zehra sees more possibilities for positive change. She continues to teach history, now at Forman Christian College University, promote interfaith dialogue, literacy programs and basic health awareness — as well as lead the EWCA Lahore Chapter. At the EWC, she earned a master's degree and then a Ph.D. and returned with much more, she says, including "an enhanced confidence in human potential and capacities."

"I learned to accept and examine issues, challenges and problems without getting angry or threatened," she says, "My optimism was reassured of possibilities, no matter how grim or discouraging the situation might be." ♦

Elizabeth “Betty” Bullard

Born to Teach (1930–2008)

Elizabeth Bullard
United States
1967, TIP

Elizabeth “Betty” Bullard was born to teach. Former students will tell you Miss Bullard was the teacher “who inspired you more than anyone else.” She didn’t pigeon-hole students. At a time when the South was resisting civil rights, she was color-blind. In the ‘60s in North Carolina, where she was born and raised, her American History class was the class you didn’t want to miss.

Then she came to the East-West Center for a Teacher Interchange Program, a one-year non-degree program for social studies teachers from Asia and the United States. And there she found a new passion: Asia. As longtime friends noted, you could always hear North Carolina when Bullard spoke, but her heart forever after her EWC experience was in the Far East.

Like many of the TIP teachers, after her year at the EWC, Bullard went on to earn advanced degrees — first, a master’s in education from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, followed by a doctorate in education from Duke University. She then dedicated herself to think globally through her work in the classroom, on television and public programs, always with great energy, enthusiasm and intellect.

Bullard became a curriculum specialist, then director of international education for the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. In Raleigh, she hosted her own public television program on world cultures. She spent five years as director of education for the Asia Society in New York before joining the University of South Carolina as a graduate professor of education.



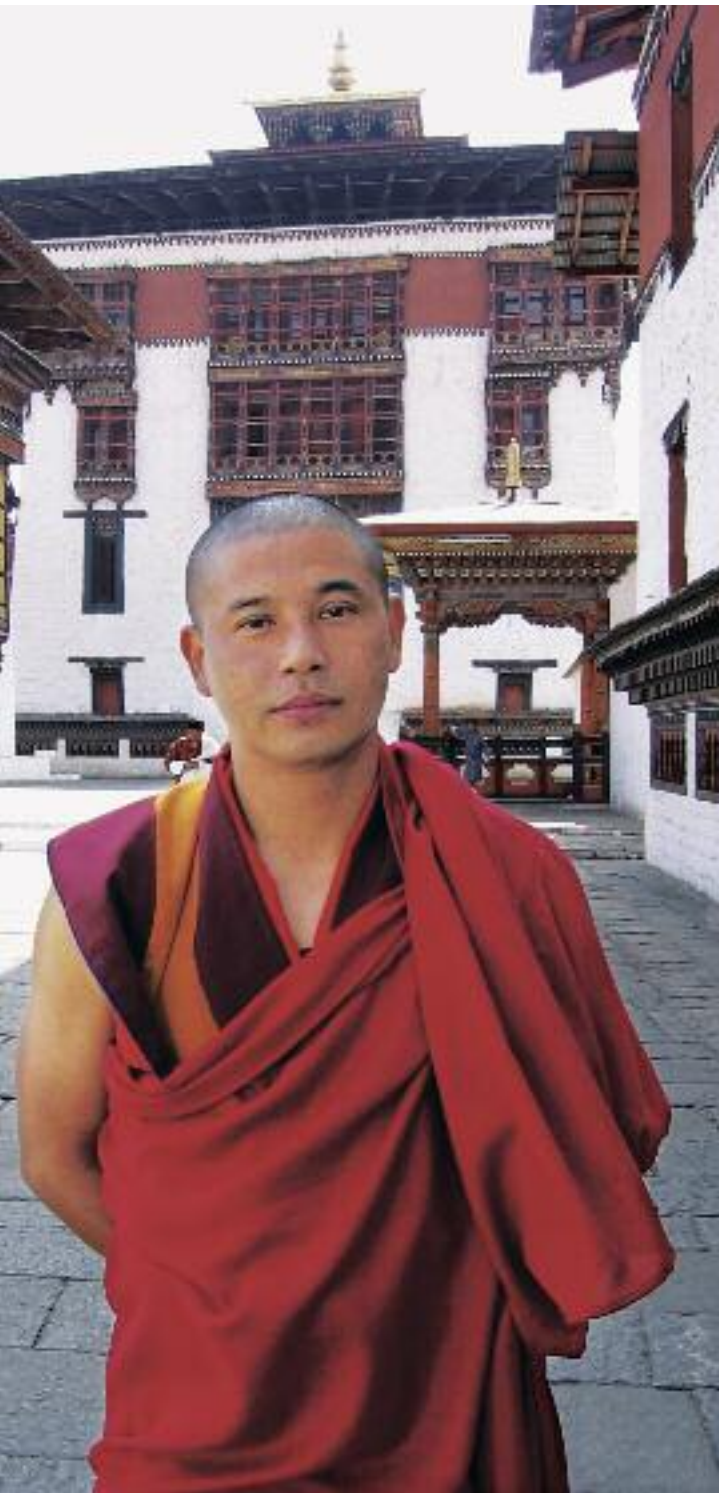
In 1978, President Jimmy Carter appointed Bullard to the President’s Commission on Foreign Language and International Studies. Later she served as chief consultant to Walter Cronkite’s television series, “Why in the World?” By the time she retired from the University of South Carolina, her honors included North Carolina’s Outstanding Educator Award, national awards for excellence in writing, and the University of North Carolina Outstanding Alumna of the Year award in 1995.

A firm believer in the mission of the East-West Center, Bullard took on the responsibility of chairing the ‘60s Alumni Endowment Fund Committee, inspiring its members to think big and set high goals. More than \$300,000 has been raised by the ‘60s alumni, followed by \$200,000 by the ‘70s alumni, enabling the Center to strengthen its student program — Betty Bullard’s lasting contribution toward the education of students from Asia, the Pacific and the United States. ◆



“I would definitely say that there has been some EWC influence in how I plan and execute programs in the monasteries, in terms of creating goal-oriented projects and becoming a more effective leader. I think my experience with the EWC leadership program has enhanced my ability to approach projects with a larger world view and incorporate new ideas and methods that have been effective in other regions.”





Rinchen Wangyel

Opening a Window to 'The Sacred Arts of Bhutan'

Rinchen Wangyel
Bhutan
2004, APLP

From the main monastery in Thimpu, Rinchen Wangyel can see the eastern Himalayas, like snow-capped guardians watching over the kingdom of Bhutan. In December 2005, Rinchen returned to Taschichho Dzong Temple after completing his master's degree in religious studies at the East-West Center, expecting to resume the solitude of monastic life.

Instead he found himself immersed in preparations for "The Dragon's Gift: The Sacred Arts of Bhutan," an extraordinary exhibition of works of art that had never been seen outside the kingdom. The landmark show opened at the Honolulu Academy of Arts in February 2008 before embarking on a worldwide tour. Rinchen accompanied Bhutanese delegations to Honolulu and other destinations in connection with the tour.

This work was in addition to his position as director of planning for all state-supported monasteries in the country, as part of the Council for Religious Affairs. Fluent in English, Rinchen worked alongside Western curators researching art pieces specific to Bhutanese tradition for the exhibition. He assisted with the translations so that they authentically reflected Buddhist heritage.

For the gentle-spoken monk, his role in the bridging of East and West through art was a logical next step after two years at the East-West Center, first in the Asia Pacific Leadership Program, then as a degree fellow.

In Hawai'i, dressed in informal monk's robes — "aloha style" robes, he called them — Rinchen learned about other cultures, religious traditions and made many friends. "In Bhutan," he explains, "I'm exposed only to Buddhism, to the local traditions. I don't have access to a whole lot of information." He was interested in the social aspect of the study of religions and "what religion can contribute to building a more peaceful and tolerant global community."

During his 20 years in the monastery, Rinchen has distinguished himself. He was involved in the education of young monks in the country and worked with United Nations agencies to improve sanitation in the monasteries. Prior to coming to the Center as an APLP fellow, he managed the Scriptural Preservation Project of Bhutan's Central Monastic Body, an effort to preserve his nation's religious and cultural heritage by documenting and disseminating its arts, history, rituals and practices so they could be more accessible to laypeople.

"The monasteries in Bhutan are noted for their seclusion and isolation and for centuries have kept outside influences at a minimum," he says. "This is slowly beginning to change." He believes his appointment to a significant position in the monastic establishment testifies to the importance being attached to change and sustainable development. ♦



Mau Piailug

The Navigator Who Launched a Renaissance in the Pacific



PHOTO: MONTE COSTA

Mau Piailug
Micronesia
1975, Culture Learning

In 1976, the Hawaiian voyaging canoe *Hōkūleʻa* completed a historic journey, sailing 2,300 miles between Hawaiʻi and Tahiti without modern-day navigational instruments. At the helm of the 62-foot replica of an ancient voyaging canoe was navigator Mau Piailug from the Micronesian island of Satawal, in the Pacific Island nation of Yap.

It had been more than 600 years since canoes had made the journey along the ancestral Polynesian sea route — and the *Hōkūleʻa* launched a renaissance of voyaging, canoe building and non-instrument navigation that began in Hawaiʻi and now extends across Polynesia.

None of this could have happened if the unassuming Piailug had not agreed to share the traditional seafaring knowledge passed on to him by his grandfather. In 1976, the East-West Center was asked by University of Hawaiʻi anthropologist Ben Finney, also of the Polynesian Voyaging Society, to help find a navigator from Micronesia. In that corner of the Pacific, a handful of Micronesians were still sailing between remote islands using traditional methods. Piailug accepted an invitation from the East-West Center to come to Hawaiʻi as a special fellow.

Born in 1932, he was tapped by his master navigator grandfather to carry on a tradition essential to survival in Satawal. Six hundred people live on the island, only a mile and a half long and a mile wide. The navigator takes the canoe into the vast ocean to catch fish so his neighbors can eat.

At a very young age, Mau was placed in tide pools so that he could sit in the water and sense the changes in the sea's movements. At the age of four, he began to sail with his grandfather. Through these experiences came an inherent connection with the heavens and the ocean — the ancient mariner's skills.

In 1979 Piailug agreed to teach a young Native Hawaiian, Nainoa Thompson, the traditional ways — how to steer by stars, wind, waves, current, the flight of birds. With Thompson as navigator, the *Hōkūle'a* has voyaged throughout the Pacific, most recently to Japan, and is planning to sail around the world in 2012.

Historic sea voyages across vast stretches of ocean were made possible through the generosity of Piailug, who found in Hawai'i an interest in a 3,000-year-old tradition not shared by the young people of his island. Before Thompson began his first voyage as a navigator, he recalled Piailug advising him to keep in mind an image of the island that was his destination. "Don't ever lose that image or you will be lost," Piailug told him. It's a lesson, Thompson realized, that applies to any journey: Trust yourself, hold steady to your vision, and you will arrive at your destination. ♦



PHOTO: DARREN CHAN

S.R. Nathan

President of Singapore

S.R. Nathan
Singapore
1984, Senior Seminar

S.R. Nathan, the second elected president of Singapore, has enjoyed a distinguished career that has taken him from

social work to journalism and foreign service.

Despite the loss of his father at a young age, he applied himself to his studies and graduated with distinction from the University of Malaya in 1954, a standout in the first class to receive diplomas in social work. He began a life in public service in the areas of social welfare and labor, eventually earning postings in the Ministries of Defense, Foreign Affairs and Home Affairs before being appointed executive chairman of *The Straits Times*. That brought him in the 1980s to the East-West Center for regional conferences sponsored by the Culture and Communication Institute.

But outside of Singapore he is best-known for his diplomatic service. Nathan was High Commissioner to Malaysia (1988-90) and Singapore's ambassador to the United States (1990-96). In each of those postings, he served as Singapore's representative during difficult periods in foreign relations with his host countries.

In Malaysia, he stepped into the position soon after the visit of an Israeli president to Singapore, which created tension with Malaysia. In Washington, he was ambassador during American protests of the caning of an American citizen living in Singapore found guilty of committing vandalism.

Earlier, as director of the Security and Intelligence Division, he was thrust into the spotlight as chief negotiator in a hijacking and hostage-taking incident in 1974. The hostages were eventually released. Whether as envoy or negotiator, Nathan has demonstrated diplomatic skills and a steadiness that have served him well throughout his long career. ♦

Amy Agbayani

Advocate for Social Justice

Amy Agbayani
Philippines
1964, Ph.D.

Have a cause worth fighting for? You'll want Amy Agbayani on your side. Those who know her, especially East-West Center alumni who were classmates in the '60s, know her as fearless in her quest for social justice.

Since receiving her Ph.D. in political science as an East-West Center grantee from the Philippines, Agbayani has successfully established programs that promote multi-culturalism, civil rights and improving the status of Filipinos in Hawai'i. In 1989, the Honolulu YWCA honored her for "her leadership as a strong voice for civil rights, immigrant rights, workers rights, and equity and diversity in higher education for minority students at the University of Hawai'i."

Agbayani is founding director of Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity (SEED), which provides programs for the recruitment and success of Native Hawaiian, Filipino and other students from underrepresented groups at the University of Hawai'i. She's an on-campus and community champion for women, students with disabilities, adults returning to school, and gay, lesbian and transgender individuals.

Over the years, Agbayani obtained millions of dollars for UH college scholarships for low-income high-achieving students as well as funds for community outreach for recently arrived immigrant children and other disadvantaged students to prepare them in secondary school for higher education. Prior to her work with SEED, Agbayani founded and was the first director of Operation Manong (now the Office of Multicultural Services at the university).

It's been said if you want to get something done, ask a busy person. Agbayani is active in a long list of community organizations, often in leadership positions. She was appointed by the governor to be the first chair of the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission and member of the Hawai'i Judicial Selection Commission.

Asked to reflect on her many accomplishments, she says, "My most rewarding professional achievement has been mentoring young university students who have become leaders serving the community with integrity." ♦

"The foundation of my professional work and philosophy of service was formed during the time I was an EWC scholarship student in the 1960s."



Zhao Zhenge

Applying Leadership Skills, Valuing Diversity

Zhao Zhenge
China
2002, APLP

All of China caught Olympics fever in the summer of 2008, when Beijing hosted the international games. Even the people of Honghe Hani and Yi Autonomous Prefecture in Yunnan — a remote region bordering Vietnam — felt the excitement.

“The Olympics is not just for athletes and for physical competition,” Zhao Zhenge told EWC friends at the time. “2008 is the Olympic year for all Chinese — not just for Beijing or for big cities which are hosting Olympic events.”

He also observed that “as more and more athletes and visitors come to China, Chinese people are becoming more interested in learning English and in learning about foreign cultures, and are preparing for constructive exchange and dialogue.”

At the time, Zhenge was lieutenant governor of the southeastern prefecture known for its dazzling landscape, natural resources, and the colorful traditional culture of its ethnic minority groups. He was responsible for tourism, culture, physical education and mass media affairs, which plunged him into planning, policymaking and charting blueprints for action in those areas, as well as poverty alleviation efforts.

“The new friends I made during my post there and the undertakings and services that I have dedicated there greatly enriched my life experience and opened my view and vision,” he said, “which will surely help my thorough understanding of China, its exciting progress and development as well as problems, difficulties and challenges.”

Zhenge is now based in Beijing, as deputy director general of the Exhibition Department of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade. His new assignment took him to Shanghai, where he was in charge of protocol for the China Pavilion and coordination of domestic participation in the World Expo 2010 Shanghai.

In his work, he finds himself applying leadership skills developed as a fellow in the 2002-2003 Asia Pacific Leadership Program at the East-West Center. “Successful leaders need to have multi-dimensional perspectives of regional issues

and a network of support to achieve the program’s mission and values,” he believes. “Leaders need to be sensitive to development needs in the region and be innovative and action-oriented in developing solutions for change.”

Zhenge prizes the APLP alumni network as “a very rich resource for linkages and interaction” in the region. An avid supporter of the EWC leadership program, he’s encouraged Chinese professionals to apply and also recommended candidates from the country’s ethnic minority groups. ♦



Kitty Pilgrim

Informing Viewers on a World of Economic Trends

Kitty Pilgrim
United States
2002, Journalism

The impact of the economic crisis in Asia. The Japanese health care system. U.S.-China trade relations. As the New

York-based correspondent for CNN Business News, Kitty Pilgrim covers a vast marketplace of economic issues with national and global implications.

Known for her cool, calm and professional delivery, Pilgrim's reports are broadcast on CNN Worldwide programs on TV, radio and online.

She was a regular correspondent for Lou Dobbs' primetime CNN "Moneyline" program, which was on the air until Fall 2009; she also served as the chief substitute anchor.

Pilgrim earned her stripes at CNN, beginning as a production assistant for CNN Business News in 1986, and was named business news correspondent in 1990. She anchored the morning program "Early Edition" and CNN's "Your Money" on personal finance.

Her extensive coverage of the Russian economy in 1991, the end of apartheid in South Africa in 1993 and live broadcasts from Havana in 1995 won her media awards. A longtime member of the Council on Foreign Relations, she contributes an understanding of global economic trends to public discussions and is also on the Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs Roundtable on Foreign Policy.

Off camera, Pilgrim has carved out time to pursue writing of a different dimension. In the Spring of 2011, Scribner will publish the first in a series of adventure novels authored by Pilgrim, which focus on scientific discovery and exploration.

An active alumna of the East-West Center, she graciously assists the Center's Media Program with arrangements when journalists visit New York City. She participated in two Center media programs — the Hong Kong Journalism Fellowship Program and the Korea-U.S. Journalists Exchange — that travel to the Asia Pacific region and expose media to the complexity of political, social, economic and cultural issues.

Pilgrim returned to Honolulu in 2007 to be part of the Center's first Northeast Asia Journalists Dialogue, a lively exchange among media, scholars and policymakers on the most significant and sensitive issues facing the U.S., Japan and South Korea.

"My experience with the East-West Center has been the foundation of a new understanding of Asia," she says. "I have been able to explore topics and countries that I never would have had the opportunity to experience." ♦



"The East-West Center is educating a new generation of journalists to carry in-depth knowledge of Asia to their viewers and readers all over the world."

Chōkō Takayama

Strengthening Hawai‘i-Okinawa Ties

Chōkō Takayama
Okinawa
1962, M.A.

Okinawa in 1962 was still undergoing post-war reconstruction when Chōkō Takayama was accepted as a grantee at the East-West Center. “It was my long cherished dream to expand my academic knowledge, broaden my international view and understand a different culture by studying at a university in the United States,” he recalls.

At the Center, Takayama dormed in Hale Mānoa with 500 EWC students from Asia, the Pacific Islands and the United States. “We were like one family living together,” he remembers, almost a half century later. “I believe that my experience, knowledge and skills acquired at the Center helped me to achieve my goal and carry out my profession effectively with confidence.”

Takayama returned to Okinawa and a rewarding career as an administrator at the University of the Ryukyus, then entered broadcasting — including as a manager at the NHK Okinawa Broadcasting Station — before moving into public service as executive director in the governor’s office and chief of staff for the government of Okinawa prefecture. From 1997 until he retired in 2001, he served as deputy mayor of Naha City.

Throughout his career, Takayama engaged in promoting and supporting exchange programs for foreign students, visitors and overseas organizations, influenced by his East-West Center experience. In retirement, he devotes his time to strengthening exchange relationships between Okinawa and Hawai‘i, and the network of Okinawan immigrants in communities worldwide. For the past 12 years, he’s led the EWCA Okinawa Chapter, encouraging students to apply for the Obuchi Scholarship program at the East-West Center.

He maintains broadcasting ties, coordinating a radio program that features prominent guests addressing current issues and the future of Okinawa. And in his leisure time, he takes great pleasure in playing the *san shinn*, an Okinawan three-string musical instrument, and — in a nod to his EWC years in Hawai‘i — the ‘ukulele. ♦



Khaleda Rashid

A Blueprint for Livable Housing

Khaleda Rashid
Bangladesh
1977, M.A.

Khaleda Rashid doesn't just teach her students to build beautiful structures, she challenges them to design livable housing and communities for low-income families in urban areas. She brings in speakers from the public and private sectors to share different views of problems and solutions. Then students engage in interactive discussions that stretch their minds.



Perhaps this is why her students don't forget her. Rashid encourages students to consider the social, cultural and economic dimensions of housing and community facilities. Years after completing their degrees at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), with flourishing careers abroad, they're still in touch. When Rashid traveled to Australia for a conference a few years ago, former students arranged for a reunion with more than a dozen Bangladeshi architects.

Trained as an architect, Rashid earned a master's degree in urban and regional planning at the East-West Center in 1979. She worked for a small architectural firm in Hawai'i while her husband completed his EWC studies, then returned to Dhaka in 1981 to join the faculty at BUET. Eventually Rashid was appointed chair of the Department of Architecture and in 1999 the first woman dean of a university in Bangladesh.

With a colleague, Rashid led a 12-year effort, the Gender Equality Policy Group, to increase the enrollment of women students in technical fields at BUET. The number of women enrolled at the university rose from less than 3 percent in 1992 to more than 24 percent in 1994. The group also submitted an action plan to remove barriers to the employment of women technical professionals. And she's adviser to the recently established Women Architects, Engineers and Planners Association.



As honorary adviser of Bibi Khadeja Kalyan Sangstha, a non-profit social welfare organization, Rashid advocates for low-cost solutions, such as sanitation measures, to improve living conditions at squatter settlements in urban areas where the poor can't afford to own land.

Everything leads back to the classroom. "I love teaching," Rashid says. "I can discuss ideas for hours, talk about the social problems we have in our society, about values, lifestyles — and other countries as well. If you don't know the cause of a problem," she adds, "how can you find the remedy?" ♦

Carl Wolz

Creating a Global Dance Community (1932–2002)

Carl Wolz
United States
1962, M.A.

Dance, Carl Wolz believed, could bring people together. Through the course of his life as performer, choreographer, teacher, scholar, administrator and mentor, he did just that, creating what he affectionately called his “global dance family.”

Trained at Juilliard in Western traditions of dance, he discovered the dances of Japan first, then the rest of Asia, as a graduate student at the East-West Center in the early 1960s. It didn’t take long before he embraced the world of dance.

“He possessed the soul and sensitivity of an artist, the mood and curiosity of an educator and

the prodigious energy of youth,” a colleague noted in a tribute upon his death in 2002. Over the 70 years of his life, he won numerous international awards in an illustrious career.

Wolz was also a fine dancer — ever the innovator. He choreographed works representing astronauts in space and even danced on crutches. His experiences at the Center formed an unshakable belief in the unifying power of dance and a deep appreciation for indigenous dance forms, including the hula, which experienced a renaissance in Hawai‘i in the 1970s.

Wolz spent 20 years on the faculty of the University of Hawai‘i, founding its dance program before leaving to become dean of dance at the Hong Kong Academy for the Performing Arts. He went on to teach in Tokyo and in 1988 achieved his vision of forming a World Dance Alliance.

He served as executive director of the association that created a community of artists — not always the most collaborative individuals — to share, learn and respect each other’s traditions regionally and globally. A gentleman, he easily befriended anyone he met. His hope of “celebrating the variety, the depth and the beauty of human difference through the art of dance” was an extension of his own experiences as a young dance student at the East-West Center. ♦

PHOTO: UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII ARCHIVES



Angela Kay Kepler

Conservationist and 'Old-Fashioned Naturalist'

Angela Kay Kepler
New Zealand
1964, M.A.

Angela Kay Kepler has camped on uninhabited coral atolls, in tropical forests and on icy tundra.

She's spent difficult months at sea on large and small vessels — even a former Russian spy ship. All for the purpose of ecological and conservation research, which has taken her to wilderness areas and national parks in some 90 countries — from the Hawaiian Islands to Alaska and the Russian Far East, the Caribbean and the remotest islands and atolls in the Pacific, to the Chilean Fiords and Antarctica.

Birdwatcher. Backpacker. Lecturer. Award-winning photographer and author. Conservationist. The New Zealander who now lives on Maui says, "I still call myself 'an old-fashioned naturalist' — a dying species in this age of specialization!"

But her modesty belies her impressive achievements. Kepler has discovered or co-discovered several new species of birds, plants and lizards. The most notable is a new species of Puerto Rican bird named after her, the Elfin Woods Warbler (*Dendroica angelae*) that lives in high-elevation cloud forest. It was the first new species discovered in the West Indies in 100 years. On Maui, she came upon a tiny, flightless fossil, excavated from a lava tube. The extinct Hawaiian bird was named *Porzana keplerorum* in her honor.



PHOTO: CAMERON KEPLER

Kepler's remarkable career grew out of a childhood interest in butterflies and beetles she collected in New Zealand. This developed into a quest for knowledge relating to plants and wildlife. "A passion that consumes me even today," Kepler says.

She considers her EWC experience "a turning point in my young life. The East-West Center opened up opportunities to interact with people, not only from all over the world," she says, "but with standing in the community and at higher levels than me in the university system."

The author of 18 books, Kepler is recognized as the world's authority in three areas: a West Indian family of birds called *Todidae* (these four-inch long birds resemble a cross between a hummingbird and small kingfisher); Hawaiian and Pacific traditional bananas and plantains; and Pacific Island ecology and conservation of uninhabited atoll ecosystems and seabird colonies.

For more than 30 years she's campaigned for the preservation of prime natural areas. Kepler's "special loves" are the Line and Phoenix Islands, especially Millennium Island, formerly Caroline Atoll. With "a crystalline lagoon and teeming seabird colonies," she describes it as "one of the two or three most near-pristine atolls in the world." In 2000, Kepler was declared an honorary citizen of Kiribati for her conservation work in the Pacific Island nation. At the same time a "long-awaited dream" took shape when the president of Kiribati announced plans for Millennium Island to become a national park and UNESCO World Heritage Site. ♦





PHOTO: CAMERON KEPLER

“The East-West Center opened the gateway to my deeper understanding of the Pacific. As a conservationist and old-fashioned naturalist, I sought opportunities to use and expand my increasing breadth of knowledge to protect wildlife and terrestrial ecosystems.”

Muhammad Jailani

Ensuring Child Rights in Southeast Asia

Muhammad Jailani
Indonesia
2003, M.A.

Two dozen middle school and high school students from villages in North Sumatra bond at a camp

where they learn peer-counseling skills. These youth counselors are part of a prevention effort to reduce incidents of child-trafficking and violence against children.

This is just one of the programs of the Education and Information Center for Child Rights Indonesia (KKSP Foundation) based in Medan, Sumatra’s capital, where Muhammad Jailani works as a human rights trainer. Peer group training is only one of his many responsibilities. He trains law enforcement officials on prevention and handling of cases of child trafficking following basic human rights standards. He advises journalists on guidelines for news coverage involving child victims. With his assistance, street children form and maintain a community in which they express themselves through music.

KKSP provides protection, education and medical services for children in Northern Sumatra and training to ensure child rights in an area scarred by poverty and years of strife. The NGO was constructive in the recovery in Aceh province after the devastation of the 2004 tsunami, building nearly 800 houses for families who’d lost their homes. And it operates three children’s centers that facilitate 700 youngsters every month, two mobile libraries that reach 600 children in remote areas,



three kindergartens, two health clinics for women and children, and a community radio station with programming on women and children’s rights managed by young adults.

Jailani’s role as a leader in child rights extends beyond Indonesia. He was re-elected chairman of the Steering Committee for the Southeast Asia Region’s Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers at a meeting in Bangkok in September 2009. And he is involved in organizing a conference on Islam, childhood and building a culture of peace in Southeast Asia, to be held in the Philippines.

At the East-West Center, he earned a master’s degree in sociology, examining the subculture of street children in Medan. His studies influenced his belief that to solve problems, you must involve everyone, including children, and treat them with respect. “The East-West Center taught me to make something impossible to be possible,” he says. “There is no difficulty to do something if we focus on our objective and work as a team.” ♦

Arjumand Faisel

Committed to a Pakistan You Don't See on CNN

Arjumand Faisel
Pakistan
1987, MPH

After an earthquake devastated northern Pakistan in 2005, Arjumand Faisel visited an orphanage in Islamabad that was a refuge for 450 young children. They were provided housing, education and medical care. But when the children ran up to greet the physician and public health specialist as he entered the orphanage, he realized what they missed most was affection.

Faisel recruited EWCA chapter members to “hug a child.” Newspapers covered their day at the orphanage, saluting the chapter for its community service project. EWCA alumni played cricket with the children, sang folk songs, painted henna on the hands of girls — and hugged the youngsters.

Chapter leader Faisel expanded outreach to other orphanages. The chapter also organized seminars on earthquake safety for structural engineers and geologists. These are just a sample of the activities on his plate, in addition to his ongoing work in public health.

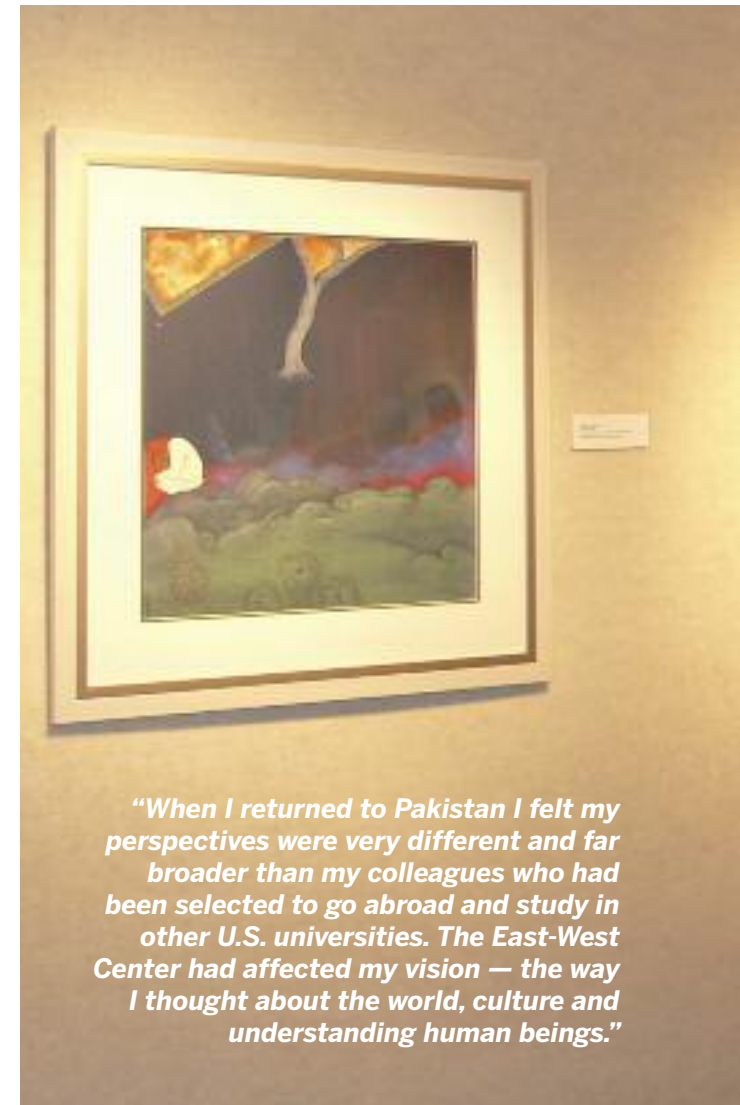
Faisel was in Honolulu in 2008 for the opening of “Unseen Visions,” an exhibition of contemporary Pakistani art in the East-West Center Gallery in Burns Hall. During his visit, he gave several talks, speaking with quiet passion about the work of 12 Pakistani artists, including his daughter, a promising artist whose work has been shown in London and New York City.

“I love the title ‘Unseen Visions,’” he said while in Honolulu, “because these really are unseen visions of Pakistan. I see there are two Pakistans: a CNN Pakistan and a Pakistan in which I live. Most of the United States has only seen the CNN Pakistan. But actually life goes on in Pakistan the way it does anywhere else in the world. Those things are never shown. Art represents this life.”

The exhibition was also an opportunity to return to the East-West Center, where Faisel spent 1987 and 1988 working toward a master’s degree in public health, in maternal and child health and health education.

After he returned to Pakistan, he managed a \$62 million, four-year project dealing with child survival. He then joined the World Health Organization in Egypt before returning to Pakistan to continue public health work for the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and U.S. organizations. In 2002, he formed his own consultancy firm to tackle public health projects on a national level.

And he’s maintained a lifelong interest in the arts. At one time he provided financial support for low-income art students who couldn’t afford supplies. As a result of Promote Art in Pakistan, which he founded in 1999, the nation boasts a growing art community as evident in “Unseen Visions.” ♦



“When I returned to Pakistan I felt my perspectives were very different and far broader than my colleagues who had been selected to go abroad and study in other U.S. universities. The East-West Center had affected my vision — the way I thought about the world, culture and understanding human beings.”

Shankar P. Sharma

Representing Nepal in Washington

Shankar Sharma
Nepal
1979, Ph.D.

Shankar P. Sharma's day no longer begins in Kathmandu, against the striking backdrop of the highest mountains in the world. Recently appointed his nation's ambassador to the United States, he's adapting to diplomatic life in the corridors of Washington, D.C.

It's the latest distinction for the international economist, who earned his Ph.D. in economics at the University of Hawai'i while an EWC grantee.

Former vice chairman of the Planning Commission in Nepal, Sharma most recently has been a consultant to the Constitutional Assembly, drafting a new constitution for the South Asian nation. He also served as senior economic adviser to Nepal's Ministry of Finance.

On the regional and global level, he has been involved in international organizations addressing energy issues, challenges facing Asia's least developed countries and, for UNESCAP, the implications of the global financial crisis on fiscal policy in the Asia Pacific region. Add to this hands-on experience in the field as a consultant in Laos, Bhutan and India.

So it comes as no surprise that Sharma is comfortable with donor governments, development agencies, NGOs and the corporate sector, all of which he's interacted with in discussions of foreign aid, peace-building and development in Nepal.

His academic credentials are also impressive. In Singapore, he was senior economist in the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies. The ambassador also was a professor of economics at Tribhuvan University in Nepal. And he returned to the East-West Center in 1983-86 as a research fellow in the Resource Systems Institute. ♦



“Attachment with the East-West Center enhanced my understanding of the multicultural dimension of the Asia Pacific region and helped me to expose myself to a wide range of academic and social activities, broaden my vision about national and global challenges and develop my leadership quality.”



Didin Sastrapradja

Valued Leader in Science and Public Service

Didin Sastrapradja
Indonesia
1961, Ph.D.

Sastrapradja has provided valued leadership and advice with implications beyond the Asia Pacific region.

Throughout a distinguished career that has been a marriage of science and public service, Didin


After receiving a Ph.D. in botany while at the East-West Center, Sastrapradja returned to Indonesia to serve as director of the Bogor Botanical Garden, world famous for research and conservation. He encouraged exploration into the use of Indonesian plants for medicinal and agricultural purposes, and to protect rare and endangered species.

His achievements brought a request to rehabilitate the Homma Botany Garden, “one of the oldest and most beautiful landmarks in the Mediterranean region,” which had suffered extensive damage during the war in Algeria in the 1960s. These efforts and his reputation as a proponent of biological diversity soon brought appointments of global scope, with such institutions as UNESCO and the United Nations Environment Programme.

Sastrapradja also served his country, as Deputy Minister of Development of Science and Technology in the Ministry of Research and Technology, before being elected a member of Parliament.

Most recently he was honored for his national and international contributions to science. “There are still many unnamed plants in Indonesia,” he told *The Jakarta Post*, at the awards ceremony in 2009. “These plants could provide ingredients for medicines, food sources, ornamental plants and many other purposes.” Sastrapradja also believes that if Indonesia invested in research into botanical science, the nation would be able to produce ample food for its people.

Within the East-West Center community, Sastrapradja is beloved for his lifelong dedication to the Center’s mission and alumni, including many years leading the EWCA Executive Board and guiding the Indonesian Alumni Chapter. Respected as a gentle man with a gift for persuasion, his legacy is the “Didin Principle,” a practice the EWCA Executive Board continues to follow, in which decision-making is by consensus rather than confrontation. ♦



“The experience of living in the dorm of the East-West Center, with various students from all over Asia and the United States, provided me with tolerance and understanding of different cultures needed in my work both at the national and international level.”

The East-West Center promotes better relations and understanding among the people and nations of the United States, Asia and the Pacific through cooperative study, research and dialogue. Established by the U.S. Congress in 1960, the Center serves as a resource for information and analysis on critical issues of common concern, bringing people together to exchange views, build expertise and develop policy options.

Officially known as the Center for Cultural and Technical Interchange between East and West, the Center is a U.S.-based institution for public diplomacy with international governance, staffing, students and participants.

The Center is an independent, public, nonprofit organization with funding from the U.S. government, and additional support provided by private agencies, individuals, foundations, corporations and governments in the region.

The Center's 21-acre Honolulu campus, adjacent to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, is located midway between Asia and the U.S. mainland and features research, residential and international conference facilities. The Center's Washington, D.C., office focuses on preparing the United States for an era of growing Asia Pacific prominence.



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Charles E. Morrison, President
Karen Knudsen, Director, Office of External Affairs
Gordon Ring, Alumni Officer

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EastWestCenter.org

1601 East-West Road, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96848-1601
Tel: 808.944.7111 | Fax: 808.944.7376
EWCInfo@EastWestCenter.org