Carol Fox is director of the Office of Strategic Planning and Partnerships.

EAST-WEST CENTER FOUNDATION
The East-West Center Foundation is a private non-profit organization, established in 1982 to broaden and diversify private support for the Center. The EWC receives approximately half of its annual financial support through a U.S. Congressional appropriation, which covers the Center’s operational expenses. In turn, private contributions, grants, and sponsorship, supplemented by competed funding from governments of the Asia Pacific region and the United States are then used entirely to support EWC student scholarships and programs. Financial support from the Center’s alumni and friends is also a powerful measure of our programs’ value to the people and communities we serve.

The Foundation’s Board of Directors has played a significant role in the stewardship of private gifts. In 2006, Gerald J. Keir, executive vice president for corporate communications of First Hawaiian Bank, and Don K. Kim, president of Sony Hawai’i Company served as co-chairs of the Board, guiding the Board’s fundraising activities both locally and internationally. Kim reflected on the Center’s value to the Hawai’i community, stating, “The Center enhances the image of Hawai’i as a gateway between East and West and enriches the cultural and intellectual life through its research, arts, and educational programs, and the diversity of its students. Each year, the East-West Center brings $25 million directly into the Hawai’i economy from the outside and accounts for approximately 30,000 visitor-days.”

Gifts to the EWC Foundation
An investment in the East-West Center is an investment in the future of the Asia Pacific region. Gifts from alumni, friends, and other supporters help make East-West Center’s unique programs accessible to all qualified participants. In 2006, the Foundation received $299,830 in unrestricted support, which included general contributions, designated gifts, and sponsorships. Restricted revenue was $484,533 including funding by the Hawai’i Pacific Rim Society for the George R. Ariyoshi Fund and EWC Arts Program, and contributions received for the Alumni Endowment Fund, OmniTrak Loui Schmicker Scholar Awards, and the Ashok Kumar Malhotra Seva (Compassionate Service) Award.

Alumni Endowment Fund
EWC alumni established this endowment fund as their legacy to help future students participate in EWC programs. To demonstrate their deep-rooted commitment to the Center, hundreds of alumni from the 1960s and 1970s raised more than $350,000, which will be held in perpetuity with investment income used to fund student scholarships. Due to the contributions of alumni, 19 students from China, East Timor, India, Korea, Mongolia, Nepal, Palau, Philippines, Taiwan, Vietnam, and the United States have been able to participate in the EWC experience over the past two years.

“...encourage more collaboration through private-public partnerships.”

PATRICIA LOUI
EWC alumna and OmniTrak Group Founder, President and CEO

EWC alumni Patricia Loui (2nd from right) and husband, Michael Schmicker (2nd from left) establish the EWC’s first permanent named endowment.
The First Permanent Named Alumni Endowment Fund: The OmniTrak Loui Schmicker Scholar Awards
OmniTrak Group Founder, President and CEO Patricia Loui celebrated OmniTrak’s 25th anniversary by establishing the EWC’s first Permanent Named Endowment. The $50,000 endowment will provide annual awards for Asia Pacific Leadership Program students from the private sector in Hawai‘i, Thailand, China or Japan. Loui, a 1970s EWC degree fellow and former EWC Association (alumni) president, stated: “We hope this award will stimulate more EWC participation from business and non-government organizations and encourage more collaboration through private-public partnerships.”

Ashok Kumar Malhotra Seva (Compassionate Service) Award
Dedicated volunteer and philanthropist, Ashok Malhotra (1960s EWC alumnus), previously established a foundation to promote literacy in developing countries; and in 2006 he wanted to give back to the Center, since it changed his view of the world. He contributed $25,000 to create an EWC scholarship fund emphasizing compassionate service. Awards will be distributed annually to international students with an outstanding academic record and a history of and intention to continue community service in the U.S. and/or in the Asia Pacific region. Additional contributions are encouraged to further grow this fund and perpetuate this legacy of service.

2006 Annual Dinner Honors Freemans
Houghton “Buck” Freeman and Doreen Freeman were honored with the Asia Pacific Community Building Award for their dedication to promoting understanding among the peoples and nations of Asia and the United States at the 2006 annual dinner, An International Affair. Held in January at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom, the event celebrated the Center’s international students and raised more than $150,000 to support East-West Center students and programs. As a highlight, guests viewed East-West Center Voices, a new documentary featuring the Center’s young leaders describing the life-changing impact of the East-West Center experience.

Arts ‘Ohana
The EWC Arts Program, with a long history of presenting ethnic arts, involves young students in its activities, with a particular effort to reach at-risk youth and underserved schools in Hawai‘i. In 2006, this program reached more than 20,000 children and adults statewide. Through these innovative presentations, children interact with artists and performers from different cultures, gaining an awareness of the world’s rich diversity.

The Arts ‘Ohana is a distinguished group of supporters of the EWC Arts Program’s outreach initiatives. This private support group for the Arts Program was founded by Jean E. Rolles in 2005. Special programs arranged exclusively for ‘Ohana members provide opportunities to enjoy EWC exhibitions and live performance-demonstrations in intimate settings. Ruth Ono is the Arts ‘Ohana chairperson.

Gary Yoshida is the East-West Center development officer