

East-West Center Alumni news



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LETTER FROM EWCA PRESIDENT DR. NED SHULTZ



Aloha e,

Each spring I help the Center review scholarship applications from current and prospective grantees. With this year's crop of more than 180 applicants from 29 countries/territories, the task was daunting but rewarding. Virtually every applicant expressed a commitment to the vision of the East-West Center, and so many of them brought rich experiences from their youth growing up in all parts of Asia, the Pacific, and the United States. Our students are coming to the EWC fully prepared academically to participate in their chosen degree programs and be active members of the EWC community. As I was reading through the applications, I couldn't help but feel that I was lucky to have applied in the late 60s, because I doubt I would have made the cut in 2018.

A Ho'opuka (or transition) ceremony is held in early May for participants leaving the Center. At this year's event, the departing participants expressed their feelings about the Center and how it has changed their lives. The vision of the Center that we have come to embrace is very much alive. Hopefully all of us, as alumni and former participants, carry that vision throughout our lives and in our daily encounters. Spring in many places is a time of hope. Certainly the events at the Center speak well to that feeling.

Aloha,
Ned

June 2018

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PRESIDENT AND SENIOR STAFF VISIT ALUMNI



Southern California, USA



Karachi, Pakistan



New Delhi, India



Singapore

EWC President **Richard R. Vuylsteke** and senior EWC staff reached out to multiple alumni chapters this quarter. Collectively, EWC staff visited chapters in Karachi, Washington, DC, Southern California, Chicago, New York, Brisbane, Jakarta, Hong Kong, Seoul, Singapore, and New Delhi. Details on individual Chapter meetings can be found under the CHAPTER NEWS section of this newsletter.

[Alumni Conference 2018](#)

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About Us

The East-West Center promotes better relations and understanding among the

EWC/EWCA AWARDS



Alex B. Brillantes, Jr.

Woo-Taik Chung



Vasanthi Ranganathan

Jessica Sheetz-Nguyen

Prerna Mona Khanna

Siva Gopal Thaiyalan

Congratulations to this year's alumni award recipients who are being recognized for their outstanding personal accomplishments and service to the Center's mission of helping to promote better relations and understanding among the peoples of Asia, the Pacific, and the United States.

The 2018 EWC/EWCA Distinguished Alumni Award recipients are **Dr. Alex B. Brillantes, Jr.** (Culture & Communication, PhD 1980-1985; Resource Systems, 1985-1986) of Manila, Philippines, and **Dr. Woo-Taik Chung** (Population, PhD 1984-1987) of Seoul, South Korea. Receiving the EWCA Outstanding Volunteer Award are **Mrs. Vasanthi Ranganathan** (Open Grants, MEd 1987-1989) of Chennai, India, and **Dr. Jessica Sheetz-Nguyen** (Education, ASDP 2003, 2004, 2007, 2009; Professional Development, 2017, 2018) of Oklahoma, USA; the EWCA 21st Century Outstanding Service Awardees are **Dr. Prerna Mona Khanna** (East-West Seminars, 2006, 2012, 2014) of Southern California, USA, and **Mr. Siva Gopal Thaiyalan** (Education, APLP 2015-2016) of Singapore. Receiving the EWCA Outstanding Chapter Award are **EWCA Dhaka, Bangladesh Chapter** and **EWCA Manila, Philippines Chapter**. [Read more about the recipients.](#)

Join us in honoring the awardees at the [East-West Center/EWC Association's major biennial international conference](#) on "Intercultural Engagement in the Asia-Pacific Community: which will be held August 23-25 in Seoul, South Korea. [Registration is still open.](#)

people and nations of the United States, Asia, and the Pacific through cooperative study, research, and dialogue.

[Short video](#)

REJUVENATING EWC'S PACIFIC PROGRAMMING

The EWC's Board of Governors has approved a plan by **President Vuylsteke** to recast and rejuvenate the Center's longstanding [Pacific Islands Development Program](#) (PIDP). Under the plan, the Center for Pacific Islands Studies and other UH programs will see increased engagement and collaboration, as will the alumni network in the Pacific Islands, including program delivery in the region. Funding will be sought to reinstate PIDP's online news service, the *Pacific Islands Report*, and to broaden it with more commentaries and analyses from experts in the region.

The EWC Board and President expressed full support for further strengthening the Center's relationships with heads of governments in the region through its role as secretariat for the Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders (PICL) and membership in the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific (CROP). In preparation for a planned PICL meeting in 2020 at which PIDP will celebrate its 40th anniversary, EWC will conduct a series of planning meetings and strategy sessions with key stakeholders and eminent persons throughout the Pacific Islands to help guide its renewed agenda.

EAST-WEST FEST



This year's East-West Fest brought back the event's former glory with more than 600 people in attendance. The crowd enjoyed performances by EWC students and community groups, food trucks prepared international dishes, and the Friends "World Market" offered items for sale from throughout the region.

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

Michelle Magalong has been recognized by the National Trust for Historic Preservation's initiative "40 under 40: People Saving Places." Magalong is Director of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation. Responding to news of her selection, Magalong said, "The future of historic preservation is highlighted in this list [of 40]—which includes community activists, artists, advocates, and preservationists that envision more inclusive and visionary views in our growing field." In 2016 Magalong participated in the New Generation Seminar.



Peerasit Kamnuansilpa with Scholarship Program Specialist Kim Small, Dean of Education Ann Hartman, Supawatanokorn Wongthanavas, and Awards Assistant Mathura Small

Supawatanokorn

Wongthanavas (34th Summer Seminar on Population, 2003) and **Peerasit Kamnuansilpa** (7th Summer Seminar on Population, 1976; Population, 1983), Dean and Associate Professor, respectively, in the College of Local Administration at Khon Kaen University, visited the EWC. Currently an agreement between Khon Kaen, UH Manoa and EWC

brings faculty to Honolulu for PhD study as part of their faculty enhancement, and Khon Kaen is eager to further cooperation with EWC in areas of local governance and smart cities.



Jenn Abelson (East-West Seminars, Jefferson Fellowship 2010) is an investigative reporter for the Boston Globe's investigative reporting "Spotlight Team" and co-author of the just-released book *I Have the Right To: A High School Survivor's Story of Sexual Assault, Justice, and Hope* by Chessy Prout (Simon & Schuster). In the face of unexpected backlash from her once-trusted school community, Chessy Prout shed her anonymity to help other survivors of sexual assault find their voice. Find the book at [Amazon](#) or [IHaveTheRightToBook.com](#)

Khairuddin Abdul Hamid (Communication & Journalism, 1993) is the new vice chancellor of the University College of Technology Sarawak (UCTS), according to a report in the *Borneo Post Online*.

An EWC graduate student (future alum!) has been selected by the Carnegie Council's Asia Dialogues program for a fact-finding trip to Manila to investigate the effects of climate change on Philippine politics and society. **Layla Kilolu** (representing the US) is one of 10 delegates from the Pacific. She is a graduate student in UH's Department of Urban and Regional Planning with an emphasis on disaster management and humanitarian assistance

Ali Riaz (Culture & Communication, PhD 1987-1991) is Distinguished Professor of Politics and Government at Illinois State University. He recently spent six months at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. His latest book, *Lived Islam and Islam in Bangladesh*, was released in December 2017.

Meredith Holmgren serves as program manager for cultural sustainability and education at Smithsonian Folkways Recordings. A graduate of the East-West Center's Asia Pacific Leadership Program (2008-2009), she also serves as assistant curator of the Smithsonian's Asian Pacific American music series, which is co-sponsored by the Asian Pacific American Center.



Ashok Malhotra with the 2017 AARP Purpose Prize Fellows

Ashok Malhotra (ISI, PhD 1963-1969) has been recognized as an AARP Purpose Prize Fellow at a ceremony in Chicago in November 2017. The award illuminates the advocacy work of people over 50.

Malhotra was recognized for his nonprofit, the Ninash Foundation, which builds schools and promotes literacy for underprivileged children in India. He champions the premise “each one teach one,” believing that if each person made it their responsibility to teach another person, we could eradicate illiteracy.

Susan Huang, Producer at CNNI and a Jefferson Fellow (2007) and participant in the 2016 Korea-US Journalists Exchange produced a one-hour special on the historic Korea summits. She sent along a link to a [video clip](#), saying, “I produce many shows with the insight that’s gained from the fellowship/exchange. Thank you for the opportunity to take part, and I hope the exchange is around for a long time to come.”

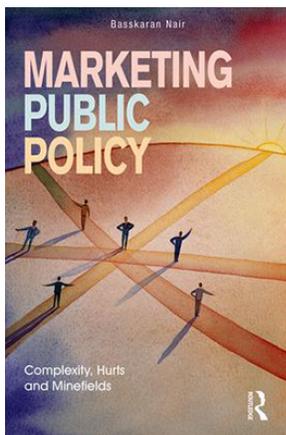
An alumna of both the Changing Faces and New Generation programs in 2014, **Noelle Takahashi** is encouraging “authentic leadership, especially women’s leadership, in Japan,” she says. She ran for office, not with the expectation of winning but more importantly to improve the status of

women in Japan. Undaunted, Takahashi's advice: "Take action and become a role model."

"Aloha from Islamabad, Pakistan," begins a letter from **Abdul Rashid** (Resource Systems, PhD 1980-1984; 1984-1986), a recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award and numerous professional awards for his four decades of work on farmer-friendly fertilizer use technologies. Writing to EWC President Richard Vuylsteke and UH President David Lassner, Rashid reflects on his ability to contribute to the lives of others, concluding: "...it is the consequence of my superb grooming at UH—enabled by the EWC degree program. **I appreciate the EWC for the generous support, and express my heartfelt gratitude to all concerned with my PhD education at UH-Manoa.**"



Shyam Agrawal (Open Grants, 1978-1979; East-West Seminars, 2016) was recently honoured with a Life Time Achievement Award by the Computer Society of India in recognition of his distinguished contributions made in research and education in the field of computer science. He served as chief editor for *Speech and Language Processing for Human Machine Communication* recently published by Springer.



Basskaran Nair (Communication, MA 1977-1979) recently launched his latest book, *Marketing Public Policy: Complexity, Hurts and Minefields* (Routledge), at the National University of Singapore.

IN MEMORIAM



A message from the friends and colleagues of **Deepak Grover** (Population, 1996) appeared on the EWC Facebook account announcing his passing on 4 March 2018. Grover was the retired Assistant Director at the Population Research Centre (PRC), Panjab University, and also Vice President of the Chandigarh Chapter of EWCA Alumni since it was constituted in 2005.



Senior journalist and chief of the Times News Network (TNN) **Ranjan Roy** passed away at his home in Gurgaon, India, on March 10, 2018, after an illness. Roy had participated in the Jefferson Fellowship (2000) and 5th International Media Conference, said EWC Media Program Manager Susan Kreifels: "Ranjan's passing is a loss to the journalism profession as well as to the East-West Center."



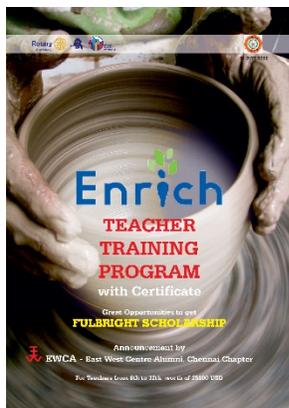
A family friend posted news of the death of "our beautiful friend" **Neneng Syahdati Rosmy** (Education, MLISC 2007-2009) on March 17. "We are all heartbroken. We lost a beautiful soul, vibrant personality, wonderful wife, mother, daughter, sister, and friend." Neneng, pictured on the right, posed below with husband

Muhamad Ali and daughter Inas, and Alumni Coordinator Noreen Tanouye and volunteer Itsuko Suzuki. Friends have created a GoFundMe page: <https://www.gofundme.com/help-aliinas-hospitalindonesia>

John W. Yaukey, media alumnus (Media Program, Jefferson Fellowship 2003, Korea-US Journalist Exchange 2006), passed away March 31 of this year. He was a veteran journalist who reported from the Middle East and covered Capitol Hill, the White House, and the Pentagon for many years for the Gannett News Service in Washington, DC.

CHAPTER NEWS

Chennai, India Chapter



The Chapter hosted 101 teachers from 26 schools who participated in the “Enrich” program organized by Project Indica of the Rotary Club of Guindy. The program’s sessions included a focus on special education, teacher motivation, and coping with violence against teachers. EWCA members participating were **Laksman Rao, Dr. Sengoda Gounder Rajamani, and Vasanthi Ranganathan**. Due to demand, a second program was held March 24.

Hawai'i Chapter



Pat Masters, Outstanding Service Award honoree (inset); Student performers (l-r): Yu-Fen Huang, Bahram Sanginabadi, Mojtaba Abolfazli, Morsaline Mojid, Layla Kilolu, Yuichiro Masuda.

A glittering bazaar and auction of Asian art, an exquisite dinner buffet, and lively cultural performances by EWC participants made for a grand evening for the more than 150 alumni and guests who gathered at the Pacific Club for the EWCA-Hawaii Chapter Annual Membership Meeting and Dinner, on April 22. Alumna **Pat Masters** (Population 1979; Culture & Communication, PhD 1990-1992; Associates Office 1997; Education Program 2002, 2007)

received the Outstanding Service Award for her continuing efforts to support the EWC. EWC President **Richard R. Vuylsteke**, EWC Board of Governors Chairperson **Richard Turbin**, and EWCA-Hawaii Chapter President **Carl Hefner** gave remarks. The dinner and bazaar/auction help EWCA-Hawaii raise funds and provide up to six grants to help EWC students travel to professional conferences during the summer.

EWC'S CHAPTER VISITS

Brisbane, Australia Chapter



With suggestions from members of the Brisbane, Australia Chapter, **President Vuylsteke** packed several productive meetings into his one-day stay in Brisbane. A chapter

board member reports that "Dr. Vuylsteke's visit has revitalized our Chapter energies and encouraged members to pursue new projects to contribute to the EWCA." [Read more](#) . . .

Chicago Chapter



After enjoying a brunch hosted by **Tsue** and **Jerry Ostermann**, **President Vuylsteke** described his first 16 months at the East-West Center. Tsue said, "We feel very encouraged to learn that Richard's vision for the Center puts more emphasis on the

student programs" and made an appeal for everyone to think of ways that the chapter can become more active."

Jakarta, Indonesia Chapter



Thirty alumni ranging from their 40s to their 80s gathered in Jakarta for dinner with **President Vuylsteke** on March 30. Alumni representing recent EWC generations gave speeches of welcome. [Read more](#) . . .

Karachi, Pakistan Chapter



The *Sights of South Asia* photo exhibition sponsored by the Center for Excellence in Journalism honored **Athar Kahn** and **Naeem Sahoutara**, whose photographs document their journeys through India and Sri Lanka as part of a collaborative project with the East-

West Center Journalist Exchange between India and Pakistan funded by the US Embassy Islamabad. In Karachi for the exhibit, Media Program Manager **Susan Kreifels** met with members of the Karachi Chapter and briefed them on the upcoming International Media Conference in Singapore and talked about the Center's future programs. [Read more](#) . . .

New Delhi, India Chapter



In New Delhi, twenty-one EWC Alumni and spouses gathered for dinner and discussion with **Satu Limaye**, Director of the EWC in Washington. In addition to the latest news about the Center, the group discussed the contributions that can be made by the India alumni, as well as the planning of future activities in India. [Read more](#) . . .

New York Chapter



The New York Chapter had a great evening welcoming President **Vuylsteke** and **Gary Yoshida**. With 23 people in attendance, every decade of the EWC was represented at the dinner. Their affiliation with

the EWC varied as well. In attendance were graduate degree participants, staff members including **Doug Murray** who served as Vice President in the 1980s, former chair of the EWC Board of Governors, **Ko-Yung Tung**, and journalists from the Jefferson Fellows and other Journalism Programs. [Read more](#) . . .

Singapore Chapter



Scott McLeod, Associate Director of the Center's Leadership Programs, enjoyed lunch with members of the Singapore Chapter, providing an update on EWC and program developments.

Southern California Chapter



The Southern California Chapter celebrated Cinco de Mayo with a visit from President **Richard R. Vuylsteke** and Development Officer **Gary Yoshida**. "It was an opportunity for chapter members to get acquainted with our friendly, visionary, professionally diverse and relevantly qualified new EWC president and his opportunity to get to know Southern California alumni and hear their ideas."

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