



East-West Center

Alumni news



[Alumni Website](#)

[EWC Website](#)

[Update Contact Information](#)

LETTER FROM EWCA PRESIDENT AMANDA ELLIS



Dear EWCA Ohana

In early December I was delighted to celebrate the “Ho’opuka” or “passing through” ceremony, along with East-West Center’s Dean Ann Hartman and President Richard R. Vuylsteke, to welcome the latest cohort of our alumni from Bangladesh,

Brunei, China, Malaysia, Nepal, Taiwan and the US into the EWCA.

When I returned to the Center on sabbatical in 2016 I was amazed—and sometimes confused!—by the array of new short term programs. The next few alumni newsletters will showcase these in turn to give you better insights into all the great work going on and to encourage more opportunities for engagement in the run up to our exciting 60th anniversary celebration here in Honolulu in 2020! (Dates are tentatively set for late June/early July—the Center will let us know for sure ASAP).

Alumni do so much to help current students/fellows. Mahalo! I was thrilled to moderate a combined EWC/ASU Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability Leaders event highlighting APLP Alumna **Marianne Dutkiewicz** (Education, APLP 2015-2016) and current graduate student awardee **Layla Kilolu**. Marianne helped facilitate research meetings for Layla in New Zealand, including with the [Student Volunteer Army](#) where Marianne has been involved since the devastating Christchurch earthquake in 2011. Layla was awarded an EWC travel grant to conduct research in New Zealand to better inform Oahu’s resilience strategy, which is led by the new City and County of Honolulu Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resilience. View Layla’s [Resilience Research Trip 2018 video](#).

Dec. 2018

In this Issue:

- Letter from EWCA President
- EWC Leadership Programs
- EWCA Mentoring Program
- Alumni News & Achievements
- In Memoriam
- Chapter News

[APPLY NOW](#)

- [EWC Opportunities for Study and Scholarships](#)
- [Leadership and Professional Development](#)



- [EWC in Washington Visiting Fellowships/ Congressional Staff Program](#)
-



[Who are the Humans of the EWC? Find out!](#)

As the Center expands its program offerings in the region, please be aware of opportunities to engage directly and also to harness EWC expertise. I was delighted to invite the head of EWC's Leadership Programs **Christina Monroe** (Education, APLP 2004-2005) and Senior Specialist **Gretchen Alther** (Education, APLP 2012-2013) to accompany me to Taiwan, in response to an invitation from the Ambassador for Women's Empowerment, to share leadership training insights with women civil society heads. Please be in touch with Center experts if you have opportunities to share.

Finally, the Asian Studies Development Program is hosting its [25th National Conference](#) in March 2019 and all alumni with an interest in Asian Studies are invited to attend. Please check the conference website periodically for updates; the call for papers and proposals deadline has been extended to December 17, 2018. Please contact [Jessica Sheetz-Nguyen](#) or [Dona Cady](#) for more information about the conference.

Warmest Aloha,
Amanda

Get involved

[Events](#)

[Become a Mentor](#)

Connect

[EWCA Blog](#)
[Facebook](#)
[Linked in](#)
[Twitter](#)

[Support Scholarships](#)

[Create Your Own Fund](#)

EAST-WEST CENTER LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

The EWC Leadership Program is nearing its 20th anniversary. While many alumni may be familiar with the [Asia Pacific Leadership Program](#) (APLP), they may not know about the many other leadership programs and activities. This year the Center welcomed the 18th annual APLP cohort, the 17th [Institute for Natural Resource Managers](#) (a.k.a. YSEALI), and 6th annual [Pacific Islands Leadership Program](#) cohort. The Online Impact Incubator was recently expanded to launch alumni-led [EWC innovation laboratories](#) (EWC Labs) in China, Indonesia, Myanmar, Singapore, Turkey, New Zealand and Tonga. The [North Pacific Women's Action Program](#) is advancing a new online/on-island model with local advisors collaborating with staff to deliver leadership curriculum and tools that women then use to lead their own Community Leadership Incubators. There is also a new series of [Impact XL](#) workshops in region including Inle Lake, Myanmar and Bali, Indonesia, which accelerates emerging social and eco-entrepreneurs.

Alumni of the EWC Leadership Program number over 1600 across 49 countries. They represent all sectors and myriad professions. Many have taken on leadership roles in their local EWCA Chapter and the EWCA APLP Chapter. Moving forward the EWC Leadership Program is prioritizing in-region action and collaboration. This means working directly and deeply with the EWCA alumni from all locations, generations, and backgrounds to find the best ways forward to achieve the EWC vision of a peaceful, prosperous and just region.



APLP alumni **Jeremi Panganiban** (Education, APLP Gen16 2016-2017), **Alisha Bhagat** (Education, APLP Gen12 2012-2013), **Wesley Hedden** (Education, APLP Gen16 2016-2017), and **Christopher Zobrist** (Education, APLP Gen16 2016-2017) returned to Honolulu and conducted sessions with the current Gen18 participants.

Online applications are now being accepted for the [2019 Asia Pacific Leadership Program \(APLP\)](#) and [2019 Pacific Islands Leadership Program with Taiwan \(PILP\)](#) fellowships. Please share this with your colleagues and prospective participants.

About Us

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.

[Short video](#)

EWCA MENTORING PROGRAM

The [EWCA Mentoring Program](#) provides an excellent opportunity for current EWC participants to connect with Honolulu-based alumni and other professionals and community leaders for professional and personal development. Participants are able to observe and apply leadership, organizational, and communications skills in a multicultural environment. Participation by mentors and mentees is voluntary.

This year, the EWCA Mentoring Program celebrates its 20th anniversary at the Center. More than 500 participants have benefited from the program. Many successful matches have been made and in many cases, the relationships established between mentors and mentees continue even after participants return to their home country. The program was started by a group of alumni in 1997 and officially adopted by the Alumni Office in 1998. The program is run by alumni volunteers **Ituko Suzuki** (Inst for Student Interchange, MA 1962-1964), **Amy Agbayani** (Inst for Student Interchange, PhD 1964-1969), and **Kem Lowry** (Technology & Development, PhD 1969-1972) and operates with generous support from the Friends of the East-West Center and the EWCA Hawaii Chapter. The Mentoring Program is proud to have a network of more than 300 professionals in Hawaii who have volunteered their time and expertise to meet with the mentees.

ALUMNI NEWS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

[Is There a Future for Economic Integration in East and Southeast Asia?](#) by **Choong Yong Ahn** (ISI, MA 1966-1968; TDI, 1977; Research, 2000, 2001) was recently published in the [East-West Wire series](#). The paper is based on Professor Ahn's presentation at the EWC/EWCA International Conference in Seoul in August 2018 and on his chapter by the same title in Peter Hayes and Chung-In Moon, eds., *The Future of East Asia (Asia today)*, Singapore: Palgrave Macmillan, 2018.

Senior associate environmental engineer **Nancy Convard** (Open Grants, MPH 1985-1986; EAPI 1988, 1990; Environment 1994) spearheaded a two-day project at Puuhale Elementary School in conjunction with the Honolulu Community Action Program Head Start as part of her company's annual Stantec in the Community

Week, which mobilizes thousands of employees in service to their local communities. A contingent of volunteers from the international design firm spruced up the campus—helped with painting, landscaping and a few minor repairs—and shared some quality time with the students, reading and talking story with the kids.



Journalist-turned-filmmaker **Sunshine de Leon** (East-West Seminars / Professional Development Program, International Media Conference 2014, 2016, 2018) is the co-producer, co-director, and co-writer of *Curiosity, Adventure & Love*, winner of numerous film festival awards. The documentary delves into Philippine history by way of her grandmother's century-long journey of love, war, and discovery. The film is now available within the USA on [multiple platforms](#). See the [trailer](#).

Benjamin Fairfield (Education, MA 2010-2012) has translated *Forbidden Songs of the Pgaz K'Nyau* by Suwichan Phattanaphraiwan ("Chi"), a book about Karen funeral songs in Thailand, "a poignant testament both to the work of an indigenous activist/scholar/musician and the importance of East-West relationships formed at the center." Chi was at the Center in 2012 to present lectures and performances in the opening week of the Songs of Memory exhibit. Ben showed Chi, Victoria, and Aju around during their stay and also connected as academic colleagues. "Many thanks go to **Bill Feltz** (ISI, MA 1966-1968), **Michael Schuster** (Cultural Studies, PhD 1991-1995), and Eric Chang for the power of the arts to forge connections across cultures, borders, and oceans." The translation has been published in the [Society for Ethnomusicology Translations project](#).

The latest article by **Neal R. Goodman** (Culture Learning, 1983; Culture & Communication, 1985; Cultural Studies, 1992) on *Best Practices: Helping Asian and Western Companies Work Together*, is based on over 30 years of work which began with his experiences as a senior fellow (1983) and several stints as a visiting scholar at the East-West Center. Goodman is president of Global Dynamics, Inc., a training and development firm specializing in globalization, cultural intelligence, effective virtual workplaces, and diversity and inclusion.



I-r: *Kate Brown, Amanda Ellis, Kazumi Ogawa, and Audrey Newman*

Sustainability and resilience are becoming household words here in Hawai'i. As the impacts of climate change—so well documented in the recent report of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)—ratchet up, Hawai'i is stepping up.

Hawai'i was recently named one of the first global UN Local 2030 hubs and the first in both our Pacific region and for islands. EWC alumni played a key role. **Audrey Newman** (EAPI, 1989) spearheaded the state's multistakeholder partnership, Hawai'i Green Growth. **Kazumi Ogawa** (International Relations, MA 1990-1992) flew in from UN Habitat HQ in Nairobi, Kenya to represent the United Nations at the November 29 launch of the UN Local 2030 hub partnership at the Governor's mansion.



HAO Ping (Education, ASDP 1993-1994, 1994-1995, 1995-1996), East-West Center Distinguished Alumnus and chair of the EWCA Beijing Chapter, was recently named president of Peking University, China's premier institution of higher learning. He previously served as party secretary of the university—often referred to as the “Harvard of China”—as well as a national vice minister of education.

Drawing from his journalistic experience with extensive coverage on defense reporting, **Dr. Syed Ali Mujtaba** (Media/East-West Seminars, 2003 Jefferson Fellowship, 2008, International Media Conference 2016, 2018), a veteran journalist and Head of the Department of Visual Communication at Gurunanak College, gave a candid talk on the theme “Defence Journalism—Challenges and Opportunities”. He encouraged defense studies students to make a career in defense journalism, which is fast emerging as a niche area of specialization in journalism.



Ben Ponia (Education and Training, 1994) has been appointed the new chief of staff of the Office of the Prime Minister in the Cook Islands. He will be responsible to ensure that the Office of the Prime Minister delivers on major national development projects that will allow the Cook Islands to achieve its national vision. Ponia has a public service career spanning 18 years, first with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) in New Caledonia and since 2010 as Secretary of the Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR).

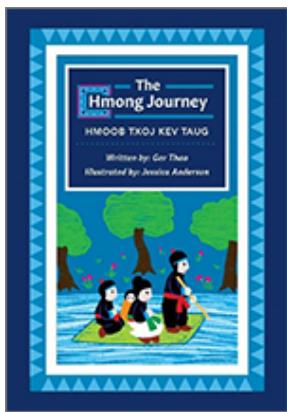
The American Translators Association (ATA) has awarded **SIEGFRIED RAMLER** (Education – CTAPS, 1995-1998) the Alexander Gode Medal, its most prestigious award. The award is presented to an individual or institution in recognition of outstanding service to the translating and interpreting professions. Mr. Ramler has also been featured as one of the interpreters at the Nuremberg Trials in an exhibit mounted by the Association of International Conference Interpreters (AIIC). The exhibit has been presented in a number of venues in both Europe and the United States, including UN Headquarters in New York City and, more recently, in San Francisco, last June.



On September 25, 2018, **Chōkō Takayama** (ISI, MA 1962-1964; Inst for Tech Interchange, 1963-1964) was awarded the Ryukyu Shimpo Prize for his long-time contribution to develop Okinawa society and

education. Mr. Takayama is the president of the Okinawa-Hawaii Association and former president and current adviser of the EWCA Okinawa Chapter. In 1999, Mr. Takayama proposed a plan to establish a new EWC scholarship program; the Japanese and US governments cooperated to establish the Obuchi Okinawa Education & Research Program to be administered by the East-West Center. Mr. Takayama continues to encourage the young people and

scholars in Okinawa to live at the Center and attend the University of Hawai'i to acquire an international mindset and to make international friends.



The Hmong Journey was published by Hmong Educational Resources Publisher in 2018.

Future alumna **Ger Thao**'s (Education, 2018-2019) historical and realistic fiction bilingual picture book about the Hmong journey from Laos, to Thailand, to America, provides a mirror for Hmong students to see themselves in literature, as well as a window for non-Hmong students to learn about the culture and history of the Hmong and to understand the journey taken (and sacrifices made) by Hmong families seeking a better life and future in America. *The Hmong*



Philippa J. Tolley's (East-West Seminars, Jefferson Fellowships 2017) [Insight Climate Change - Politics and Actions](#) received the Asia-Pacific Sustainability award in the audio category from the Association for International Broadcasting (AIB) for best coverage of sustainability in the Asia-Pacific Region. The AIB awards

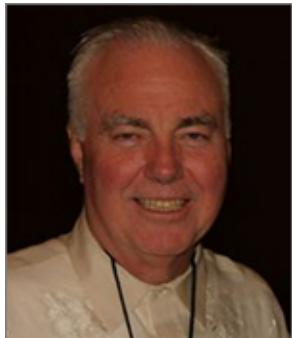
are one of the major set of international radio competitions. Both the audio and online versions of this story are very accomplished so the award is a wonderful confirmation of the quality of the work.



Peter F. Young (Population, MA 1979-1980) has been honored for his “360/VR News Storytelling Project” at San Jose State University by the Spanish edition of the Dircom Communications Yearbook for 2018-2019. He was honored for his research in 360 degree and virtual reality techniques as it is applied to news story gathering. The case study on his work will be a part of a larger effort to educate Spanish-speaking journalists and communications specialists in the field of new media technology. Peter recently joined the Center

as the new grants development specialist and is currently the interim director of the Office of Development.

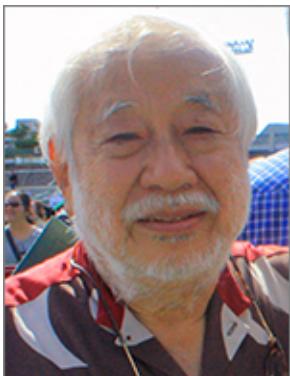
IN MEMORIAM



Robert Armbruster (Associates Office, 2006, 2016) passed away on September 23, 2018. He began his journalism career as the editor-in-chief of both his high school paper, the Rampart at Fordham, and his college paper, the Pauw Wow, at St. Peter's. In 1969, he was awarded a fellowship to spend four months at the Washington Journalism Center, where he and other outstanding young journalists met with Supreme Court justices, Cabinet members, Senators and Congress. Throughout his career, Bob was a reporter for the Bergen Record, the Wall Street Journal, the Catholic paper in Buffalo, and the Advocate (the Catholic paper in the Archdiocese of Newark). From the early 1980s, he was a copy editor for the Star Ledger until his retirement in 2006. Bob was able to attend a reunion with many of his Star Ledger colleagues just six days before the accident that took his life.



Kathleen Alice Kalab (ISI, MA 1962-1964) passed away peacefully on October 20, 2018 at the age of 77. Kathy was among the early groups of students at the newly-opened East-West Center. After earning her MA in Sociology, she earned a Ph.D. in Sociology at Vanderbilt University while teaching at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green. As a tenured professor, Kathy won teaching awards and published articles focusing on Gerontology. Her great love and passion was teaching both at the university level and the Semester at Sea program. After a 32 year career in academia at Western Kentucky University, she returned to Coronado with her husband. During retirement Kathy maintained an active correspondence with former faculty and students, family and friends worldwide and volunteered at Sharp Coronado Hospital and the Senior Center.



Victor Kobayashi (External Affairs, 2008, 2010) passed away on Tuesday, October 2, 2018 while visiting New York City. Victor was Professor Emeritus of Educational Foundations at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, where he served several terms as Chair for the Department and as Head of International Education for the College of Education. He became the Dean of Summer Sessions and served as the first dean of

Outreach College from 1985-2002. In addition to his career in academics, Victor was a successful artist and great supporter of the arts. His art work, which covered a wide range of forms, including ceramics, mosaics, collages, stain glass, and photography, has been displayed across Hawai'i and he was honored by the Koa Gallery with the 2011 KOA Lifetime Achievement Award. Victor was also one of the founders of the Hawaii International Film Festival and led the project to restore Krauss Hall, a historical building on the University of Hawaii campus that houses the John Young Museum of Art.

Te Ati Awa leader **Sir Ralph Heberly Love** (TDI, 1975; RSI 1975-1978, 1978-1979), known as **Ngātata Love** passed away on October 17, 2018 at the age of 81. He was a Treaty of Waitangi Negotiator, academic and educationalist who spent time working at Massey University and Victoria University of Wellington. He was also the chief executive of Te Puni Kokiri from 1995 and played a significant role in overseeing Treaty of Waitangi settlements.

Ngātata's lifetime commitment to te ao Māori was recognized nationally when he was made a Companion of the Queen's Service Order (QSO) in 2001 and invested as a Knight Grand Companion of The New Zealand Order of Merit (GNZM) in 2009. Ngātata Love was a commissioner with the New Zealand Law Commission, a senior fellow at the East-West Center, chair of the New Zealand Natural Heritage Foundation, trustee of the Futures Focus Foundation, trustee of the Crown Forest Rental Trust and trustee of the Westpac Stadium in Wellington. He also served on the boards of New Zealand Post and Air New Zealand.



Shoji Nishimoto (Open Grants, MA 1969-1971; Research 2010) passed away on November 6, 2018 at the age of 73. He retired from ADB as Director General in November 2002. Friends and former colleagues who wish to convey personal messages of condolence may send them to his daughter, [Sakura Nishimoto](#).



PARK Myung Seok (Inst for Tech Interchange, 1966-1967; Culture Learning, 1974), professor emeritus, Dankook University, and chairman of Beautiful Community INC. Association, passed away in September 2018. Dr. Park was a professor at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies from 1968 to 1983. While studying in Hawaii, Park attended intercultural communication lectures, which inspired him to ponder how to survive in a global

community. He established the Korea Communication Association in 1976 and was a founding member of the Pacific and Asian Communication Association (PACA), which encompasses the Pacific Rim area. He was also an advisor to the World Communication Association. In addition, he founded Beautiful Community, INC. Association, a charitable organization that supports underprivileged people.

Dr. Park was the first recipient of the EWC/EWCA Distinguished Alumni Award in 1980, which honors former East-West Center participants for exceptional accomplishments in their professions and contributions to East-West relations and understanding. In 2016 the EWCA also awarded him the EWCA Outstanding Volunteer Award for providing significant contributions to the programs and activities of the East-West Center Association. At that time, Dr. Park established the **Myung Seok Park Fellowships** to provide scholarships for students who have an outstanding academic record and financial need.

CHAPTER NEWS

Karachi Chapter

The EWCA Karachi Chapter elected new officers and members of the Governing Board. The newly-elected president is Mr. Aamir Latif. Vice president cum treasurer is Mr. Naeem Sahoutara and general secretary is Ms. Ghazala Fasih. Members of the new Governing Board are Mr. Kamal Siddiqi, Mr. Aziz Husain, Mr. Mushtaq Sirki, and Mr. Ather Khan. The new Cabinet plans to enhance the role of the Karachi Chapter. A Whatsapp group of Alumni will be formed shortly.



Sitting (l-r): Farooq Moeen, Kamal Siddiqi, Aami Latif, Aziz Hussain, Ghazala Fasih

Standing (l-r): Naeem Sahoutara, Ather Khan, Maliha Siddiqui, Mushtaq Sirki, M Raza, Farzand Ali, Abid Syed

Okinawa Chapter

East West Center President Richard R. Vuylsteke and Ann Hartman, dean of the Education Program, visited Okinawa on August 27 after the EWC/EWCA International Conference in Seoul. The Okinawa Chapter hosted a dinner and exchanged views on how to develop EWCA activities. Dr. Vuylsteke thanked the Okinawa Chapter for its cooperation and asked members to continue their financial support of EWCA activities. The Okinawa members recounted their own experiences at the Center, and explained how they learned to become more internationally minded during their stay in Hawaii. Mr. Flavio Hidemi Minei, 2018 Asia Pacific Leadership Program (APLP) fellow, also participated in the dinner. He is of Brazilian and Okinawan descent.

Dr. Vuylsteke and Ann Hartman also visited the Okinawa English Center and spoke about the Obuchi Okinawa Education & Research Program, encouraging Okinawan fellows to apply for the prestigious Obuchi program.



*EastWestCommunity has recently revised its **Privacy Policy**. Please review it using the link at the bottom of this email.*

East-West Center
1601 East-West Road Honolulu, Hawai'i 96848 USA.
Phone: 808.944.7111 | Fax: 808.944.7212
Email: alumni@eastwestcenter.org

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Visit Our Website](#)