LETTER FROM EWCA PRESIDENT AMANDA ELLIS

Happy New Year 2019!

Already counting down to our exciting EWC 60th anniversary in Honolulu next summer. The date for the next biennial EWC/EWCA International Conference is set for June 30-July 2 2020, which is just after the Pacific Festival of the Arts in case you want to come early and take advantage of both these amazing events. More information will be coming soon.

It was inspiring to travel to Fiji in December with President Vuylsteke and interim senior manager of the Pacific Islands Development Program, Scott Kroeker, to meet talented Pasifika alum as they celebrated the 25th anniversary of the U.S. South Pacific Scholarships Program funded by the U.S. Department of State. The panels were great and inspired all sorts of ideas for 2020!
Pacific alum shared their top reasons for retaining EWC alumni connections: both personal and professional relationships, opportunities for career advancement, networking and community work. Alumni noted how valuable pre- and post-scholarship briefings can be and wanted to help pay it forward. Everyone is super busy we know, so committing to just one thing you are able to do to help support the next generation of EWC regional leaders is a wonderful contribution. Mahalo - Thank you! Participants were keen to stay connected for career advancement, too. Top requests were for professional leadership development training, mentoring, skill and story sharing. Participants voted for a virtual Pan-Pacific chapter, led by APLP alumna ‘Ofeina Manuel-Barbarich (APLP 2013-2014) of Tonga, as well as revitalizing Fiji, PNG and Vanuatu. ‘Ofeina has a core of interested EWC alum across the region keen to engage and would be happy to hear from other Pacific alum - email ‘Ofeina. Remember, you can contact our alumni coordinator, Noreen Tanouye if you would like guidelines on how best to establish a chapter.

EWC has formal status as a member of the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) and President Vuylsteke, Scott Kroeker and I also made calls on regional agencies in Suva, including the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the Pacific Power Association, and the South Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO), to consult on the revitalization of the Pacific Islands Development Program. During our visit, SPTO CEO Mr. Christopher Cocker and EWC President Vuylsteke signed a Memorandum of Understanding establishing a collaborative partnership to develop training and capacity building initiatives focusing on economic empowerment of the Pacific Islanders through tourism.
We were also delighted to spend time with Changing Faces alumna Maria Ronna Luna Pastorizo-Sekiguchi, (East-West Seminars, 2014), managing and creative director of The Greenhouse Studio and Pacific Sustainable Tourism Fellow Apisalome Movono to hear about the impact of their EWC experience.

Warmest Aloha,
Amanda

UPCOMING EVENT – EWC/EWCA SYMPOSIUM

Inspired by last year’s international conference in Seoul, plans are in the works for a regional symposium in Chennai, India. This EWC/EWCA Symposium on “Innovations for Social Good and Sustainable Futures” is planned for August 23-25, 2019 and will be held at the Crown Plaza in Chennai. If you are interested in attending, please email the Alumni Office at alumni@eastwestcenter.org by March 31st. Estimated registration fee $100-$150. More details to follow.

PACIFIC ISLANDS PROGRAMS

In 1980 the EWC established a special, geographically-focused Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP) to serve as a catalyst and link between the Pacific islands region and the United States. After nearly four decades, PIDP has developed a broad and deep experience in the Pacific Islands and has a reputation in the region that is unparalleled in the United States. PIDP currently resides with the Center’s Professional Development Program and serves as the Secretariat for the Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders (PICL),
administers the Department of State funded Pacific Islands Tourism Professional Fellows Program, and is making plans to restart the Pacific Islands Report regional news and information service in the next few months. PIDP also collaborates closely with the Leadership Program to deliver activities such as the Pacific Islands Leadership Program with Taiwan (PILP), Asia Pacific Leadership Program (APLP); and the North Pacific Women's Action Program.

Online applications are now being accepted for the Pacific Islands Tourism Professional Fellows Program – Fall 2019. Please share this with your colleagues and prospective participants. The application deadline is March 30, 2019.

EWC RANKED AMONG BEST GOVERNMENT-AFFILIATED THINK TANKS WORLDWIDE

The Think Tanks and Civil Society Program (TTCSP) at the University of Pennsylvania has ranked the East-West Center #4 in its 2018 Global Go To Think Tank Index for best government-affiliated think tanks! See the full report.

EWCA APLP CHAPTER – KEEPING MEMBERS ENGAGED

The EWCA Asia Pacific Leadership Program (APLP) Chapter is one of the EWCA constituent/special interest chapters made up of alumni of the Asia Pacific Leadership Program. Multi-generational, including alumni from its inception (G1) through the most recent cohort (G18), the demographics include a range of ages, a multitude of fields, and members at different stages of their career. Because the membership is geographically diverse, it operates virtually, with a limited number of “local” events. To maintain a cohesive and engaged membership, the chapter publishes The Navigator, a quarterly newsletter; members are invited to submit stories and news, the chapter leadership includes
announcements, and EWC Leadership Program staff provide stories and announcements of current EWC happenings.

Of related interest, see the New Year greetings from the EWC Leadership Program to all leadership alumni.

FINDING HOME

Over a dozen EWC students have leveraged their musical and artistic talents in the Finding Home project. They have produced an album to raise awareness about the global refugee crisis. The students left their families and homes in Canada, Guam, Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines, Vietnam, and the United States to become a part of the EWC ‘ohana. Their shared personal stories of home, leaving home, and recreating home, exploring feels of loss or discovery that “home” evokes, inspired new musical compositions and poems. Sample the tracks recorded by the students, then purchase the Finding Home album. See Layla Kilolu’s video as she discusses the making of the album.

ALUMNI NEWS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Michael MacArthur Bosack’s (Education, MA 2007-2009) article, “What the Stalled US-Korea Cost-Sharing Negotiations Mean for Japan” appeared in The Diplomat. Bosack is the former Deputy Chief of Government Relations at Headquarters, U.S. Forces-Japan, where he was part of the team that drafted and implemented the 2015 Guidelines for U.S.-Japan Defense Cooperation. While there, he also served as a multilateral coordinator with counterparts from the Japanese interagency, South Korean Ministry of National Defense, and United Nations Command. Prior to that, Michael was a Mansfield
Fellow, completing placements in Japan’s National Diet, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Defense.

See Amanda Ellis’s (Open Grants, PhD 1986-1989) chapter ‘From marginal to mainstream – leadership in integrating gender into private sector development’ in Leadership and Power in International Development: Navigating the Intersections of Gender, Culture, Context, and Sustainability, edited by Randal Joy Thompson and Julia Storberg-Walker and published in the Building Leadership Bridges series by Emerald Publishing Limited. This book has been selected as the recipient of the 2018 R. Wayne Pace HRD Book of the Year Award. This award is presented by the Academy of Human Resource Development to author(s) of a book which is identified as outstanding in advancing the theory and/or practice of the profession.

When MRT Jakarta, Indonesia’s first mass rapid transit (MRT) system, fully opens to the public next month, passengers will hear the voice of Devianti Faridz (Senior Journalists Seminar 2008; International Media Conference 2018). Ms. Faridz has long been impressed with the warm, calming, well-rounded voice of radio veteran Juanita Melson, whose voice was heard in the original announcements for Singapore’s rail system. After a train ride in Singapore last year, Ms. Faridz was inspired to submit a recording of her own voice to MRT Jakarta making a train announcement.

The University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa collaborated with Chamber Music Hawai‘i to stage Todd Farley’s (Education, MFA 2017-2019) thesis production, Mo‘olelo o ke Koa, a Hawaiian adaptation of Stravinsky’s l’Histore du Soldat (Soldier’s Tale) in ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i. In addition to Chamber Music Hawai‘i, the play featured theatre, dance, Hawaiian language and Hawaiian studies students from UH Mānoa. In addition to performances for the general public, Mo‘olelo o Ke Koa was also performed for Hawaiian Immersion Schools in the Ko‘olaupoko and Ko‘olauloa districts.
The Center for Investigative Reporting (CIR) was launched in Sri Lanka on January 30, 2019 with a keynote address followed by a panel discussion on ‘Re-imagining Investigative Reporting in Sri Lanka’. **Amantha Perera** (Jefferson Fellowship 2001; International Media Conference 2014, 2016, 2018; South Asia Journalists Dialogue 2016, 2018), Asia-Pacific Coordinator at the DART Center for Journalism and Trauma, Columbia University served as a panelist.

“The Center is a collective effort of a group of journalists and media trainers who wish to raise the bar in Sri Lankan journalism. The Center is conceptualised and driven by Sri Lankan journalists for journalists here,” said CIR Executive Director **Dilrukshi Handunnetti** (Jefferson Fellowship 2009; International Media Conference 2016, 2018; South Asia Journalists Dialogue 2016, 2018).

**Yi Jin** (Education, MA 1994-1995) has been appointed vice president at Bank of Hawaii and continues her duties as an international banking officer in International Commercial Banking, providing financial services to international business and consumer clients.

Students from three elementary schools in Oneonta, New York, spearheaded **Kiss a Goat fundraisers** along with teachers, principals, and members of the local community to raise funds for the Ninash Foundation. For every $60 raised, a goat could be adopted in India and a teacher in Oneonta had to kiss a goat. Through this fundraising effort, the Ninash Foundation will provide 63 goats to families in need in Kuran, a village in Gujarat, India. The Ninash Foundation, founded by **Ashok Malhotra** (ISI, PhD 1963-1969; ASDP 2014, 2018), builds schools and promotes literacy for underprivileged children in India. To date, 277 goats have been given away in three different villages where the Ninash schools are located.
Professor Md. Abdul Mannan (Resource Systems, 1979; Population, 1980), an active member of the Bangladesh Alumni Chapter and currently Chairman, University Grant Commission in Bangladesh has been awarded the honorary degree of D Litt (Honorus Causa) by the University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya, India, in recognition of his contribution to development of higher education.

**Arting and Writing to Transform Education: An Integrated Approach for Culturally and Ecologically Responsive Pedagogy** by Meleana Aluli Meyer (Cultural Studies, MEd 1992-1993; CTAPS, 1998), Mikilani Hayes Maeshiro, and Anna Yoshie Sumida presents an integrated approach to teach children how to see and describe their world – both the natural world around them and their own culture and identity – through the parallel creative-expressive processes of arting (representation in visual images) and writing (representation in words). This inspirational book will be available in paperback on March 1, 2019.

Apisalome Movono first came to the Center on a YSEALI award in 2009 and was inspired by a visit to the Manoa Heritage Center to revive a historic cultural site on his return to Suva. Api rounded up a host of volunteers to clear the overgrown site of the last battle - and the last wetland - in the Suva area. Now a lecturer in sustainable tourism at the University of the South Pacific, he has restored the site and planted native vegetation with cultural significance. Api returned to the EWC for the Fall 2018 Cohort of the Pacific Islands Tourism Professional Fellows Program where he worked to refine a plan to turn his Laucala Beach Heritage Site into a formal NGO tasked with empowering indigenous communities, increasing awareness, opportunities, and appreciation of Pacific Island indigenous cultural and natural heritage through a tourism oriented platform. Wonderful to see firsthand the positive multiplier effect Api’s EWC experience is having on local heritage and environmental preservation!


Philippines journalist Maria Ressa (International Media Conference 2012, 2014, 2018), one of several newspeople collectively named as Time magazine's 'Person of the Year' was also honored at EWC's 2018 International Media Conference in Singapore as a journalist of courage and impact. Watch video of her presentation on “Undermining Free Press in Asia.” The East-West Center is
greatly concerned over her arrest on cyber libel charges on February 13, 2019. She is the publisher of Rappler.com.

**Dwi Rryan** (YSEALI 2017) founded the Pongo Ranger Community, focusing on environmental education specifically for orangutan protection and to empower indigenous youth to be environmental educators. Pongo Ranger has reached more than 500 indigenous youth in Ketapang, West Kalimantan using an innovative environmental education platform, and empowered more than 50 local youth to be environmental educators in 2018.

**IN MEMORIAM**

**Dennis Kam** (Inst for Student Interchange, MA 1964-1966), professor emeritus at Frost School of Music at the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida, and composer-in-residence/associate conductor of the South Florida Youth Symphony, passed away on Christmas Day at the age of 76. He also conducted the Other Music Ensemble (group for the performance of new music) at the University of Miami.

**CHAPTER NEWS**

**EWCA Kathmandu Chapter**

23 chapter members, spouses and guests gathered for high tea and refreshment at the annual EWC gathering of the EWCA Kathmandu Chapter. The program included presentations on “Federalism in Nepal” by past president, Dr. Shankar Prasad Sharma and “Agriculture and Food Security” by Dr. Neeranjan Rajbhandar. Members also discussed and commented on their East-West Center experiences and the impact on their lives. Travelling in Nepal, director
Jefferson Fox and senior fellow Sumeet Saksena of the EWC Research Program were welcomed by the chapter.

EWCA Kuala Lumpur Chapter

The EWCA Kuala Lumpur Chapter annual reunion was attended by about 30 members, including spouses. Many came dressed in Aloha shirts and mu’umu’u.

EWCA New York Chapter

Nearly three dozen New York-area EWC alumni and friends across six decades of EWC history gathered for dinner on Friday, Nov. 30, at Jasmine in mid-town Manhattan. The speakers were Simon Winchester, author of more than 30 books, including *The Man Who Loved China*, a biography of British scientist Joseph Needham, author of the multi-volume series "Science and Civilization in China," as well as journalists Mary Childs of Barron’s and Alex Kaufman of Huffington Post. Mary and Alex participated in an EWC journalism visit to China last fall and reported on their experience.
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