

East-West Center Alumni news



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LETTER FROM EWCA PRESIDENT AMANDA ELLIS

July 2020

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Aloha Fellow Alumni,

I hope you are safe and healthy during these challenging times. Happy virtual 60th anniversary of the founding of the East-West Center! Many thanks to the Leadership Program for hosting their [online alumni program](#) to mark the event.

The Center's mission is, of course, more important than ever at this critical inflection point: while COVID-19 has wrought havoc worldwide, exacerbating inequalities and devastating economies, it has reinforced just how interconnected we all are. Inclusive leadership models have stood out as the most successful responses to COVID-19 across the region with some interesting lessons for future challenges.

Technology has enabled us to connect in ways we couldn't even have imagined 60 years ago, so it was enlightening to be able to join the [Journalism program](#) for a terrific [panel on Disinformation](#), the Leadership program alumni event - I especially enjoyed Herstories from Fiji! - and to engage in a number of global programs on COVID-19, [climate](#), and [transformational leadership](#).

Congratulations to those who graduated in May. I was thrilled to join you for a wonderful and memorable online ceremony. We know you will all make a tremendous impact for good in your communities and look forward to your active Alumni engagement.

It is with great sadness that I pass on to alumni that Rose Nakamura passed away on July 10, just before her 92nd birthday, with beloved daughter Gwen at her side. Rose was a veritable EWC institution and leaves a wonderful legacy of kindness and support to thousands of us!

Warmest Aloha,

Amanda

COVID-19 UPDATE: STUDENT EMERGENCY FUND, VIRTUAL HO‘OPIKA, AND VIRTUAL SEMINARS/WEBINARS

Public access to all East-West Center offices and buildings remain closed and approximately 180 students remain in EWC housing facilities. EWC in-person events have been cancelled or postponed for the time being and non-essential staff continue to telework from home. These measures apply to both the Center’s Honolulu campus and its Washington, D.C., office. Watch for further [updates](#).

A big MAHALO to everyone who contributed to the East-West Center [Student Emergency Fund](#) to provide special assistance to current EWC student participants who are facing financial difficulties as they comply with tight restrictions on mobility and access to resources and services. The Lucien match challenge has been met and, to date, \$51,000 has been raised. It is anticipated that students will continue to struggle with financial issues, food security, and more. Please consider making a gift to this Fund. It will help provide financial assistance and emotional support to students in need.

International
Conference

- 20th International Graduate Student Conference Call for Abstract Submissions

- Alumni News & Achievements

- In Memoriam

- Chapter News

APPLY NOW

- [U.S. Presidential Election Reporting Seminar](#) –

deadline:

August 6, 2020

[EWC Memories, 2nd edition](#)

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During the month of May, the Office of External Affairs and Friends of the East-West Center volunteers conducted weekly food drives and created a food pantry for students still residing in the East-West Center dorms. Thank you to the individuals, businesses, and organizations who have contributed to the students' well-being. The students are truly grateful for everyone's support during these difficult times.

Although in-person events have been cancelled or postponed for the time being, the Center has been developing new ways to continue its mission and reach wider audiences.

The East-West Center has a tradition of holding a Ho'opuka celebration to honor participants as they complete their East-West Center awards and welcome them as EWC alumni. This year, the ceremony was held via Zoom to allow participants, family, friends and EWC staff and alumni to connect during this difficult time of social and geographic distancing. Many students had already left the Center and joined the celebration from across the region – from India to New York City. [See the slide show](#) of the Class of 2020 pre-separation memories. Presentations were made by [Aidai Almaz kyzy](#) (representing Asian Development Bank/ Japan Scholarship Program scholars), [Ger Thao](#) (representing graduate degree fellows and Foundation scholars), and [Mattias van Ommen](#) (representing student affiliates). Nominated by their peers – Todd Anderson, Lakpa Sherpa, Matt Goldberg, Kripa Bhagat, and Ger Thao – received Distinguished Service Awards and were recognized at the ceremony.

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About Us

The East-West Center promotes better relations and understanding among the people and nations of the United States, Asia,

The EWC Seminars Live webinar series launched on June 16, 2020 with [Fighting Disinformation on the Frontlines](#) featuring **Alan Miller** (Communication, MA 1976-1978), Baybars Orsek, Harry Sufehmi, and Aya Lowe. The recording of the webinar as well as copies of the speakers' PowerPoint presentations, can be found in the Past Webinars & Briefing section at the bottom of the [EWC Seminars Live webpage](#). [Frontline Reporting from COVID Hot Spots](#) featured journalists who shared their backstories, insights, challenges and lessons learned from reporting in Wuhan and Beijing, Hong Kong, Seoul, Tokyo, Manila, Seattle, India and Pakistan. **Maria Ressa** (International Media Conference, 2012, 2014, 2018) spoke as the East-West Center's 2020 George Chaplin Fellowship in Distinguished Journalism honoree at [Maria Ressa: Press Freedom Under Fire](#). Her remarks focused on attacks on press freedom and democracy around the world, in addition to her own case.

Barbara Smith (Culture Learning Institute, 1973) [celebrated her 100th birthday](#) on June 10, 2020 with her former students, colleagues, and friends throughout the Asia Pacific region via Zoom webinar. [The 2020 Barbara B. Smith Webinar Series: A Legacy for Ethnomusicology](#), a series of free monthly webinars in honor of Professor Smith, will be held on the 10th of each month from June to December 2020, sponsored by the East-West Center, PA'I Foundation, and the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Music Department. Former students will give presentations on current research, representing the work of thousands of people taught and inspired by Professor Smith, who will attend the webinars from her home in Honolulu. The next webinar, [Creative Ethnomusicologists and Creative Teaching: Crossing Geo-cultural and Disciplinary Boundaries](#), will take place on August 10, 2020. The webinars are open to the public at no charge, but [registration](#) is required.

The [60 Minutes for the EWC 60th Anniversary Alumni Seminar Series](#) is a special seminar series commemorating 60 years since the East-West Center's establishment by the U.S. Congress in 1960. This series of one-hour virtual public seminars hosted on the Zoom platform explores the future of the Indo-Pacific region in light of current events in U.S.-Asia relations, featuring policy experts from around the world who have participated in East-West Center in Washington fellowships, publications, dialogues, and conference programs. Upcoming seminars include [Institutionalizing the Indo Pacific: Whither Asian Security Challenges?](#) (off the record), featuring **Dr. Kai He** (EWCW Asia Studies Visiting Fellow, 2012), Professor of International Relations at Griffith Asia Institute & Centre for Governance and Public Policy, Griffith University, in Brisbane, Australia, on July 21, 2020 at 4:00 PM (EDT) and [Getting the Balance Right: Southeast Asia in the Shadow of Sino-US Rivalry](#) (off the record), featuring **Dr. Joseph Chinyong Liow** (EWCW Southeast Asia Visiting Fellow, 2005), Tan Kah Kee Chair Professor in Comparative and International Politics and Dean, College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, Research Advisor and former Dean, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies at Nanyang Technological University, on July 23 at 10 AM (EDT). Please RSVP to the respective links above at least two hours prior to the webinar.

Join attorney Stephen H. Reese, Esq. for an information-packed virtual seminar, [Estate Planning Options During COVID-19](#). on Thursday, August 13, 2020 at 10:00-11:00 AM (HST). Begin your estate planning, understand how to protect your estate for your loved ones, and turn your assets into lifetime income. Anyone can leave a legacy of value. It isn't necessary to be a person of great wealth to make a meaningful contribution. A gift from your estate can be designated to student scholarships or a program at the East-West Center. Although we hope

and the Pacific through cooperative study, research, and dialogue.

[Short video](#)

Editor:

Sharon Shimabukuro

you will consider the East-West Center in your estate plans, there is no charge or obligation to attend this seminar. [Register](#) by Wednesday, August 12th, and you will receive a confirmation email about joining the meeting.

The Leadership Program organized [Gen2: A Generative Space Across Generations](#), a week-long virtual summit from June 28 – July 4 with EWC leadership alumni and their guests for peer-to-peer collaboration and learning that not only enhanced leadership and professional development but also celebrated the cultures and arts of the diverse East-West Center 'Ohana. The event included 21 alumni-led sessions held between 2:00 – 6:00PM each day such as:

- *Diversity and Inclusion Strategies to Maximize the Potential of a Multicultural Workforce* with Joyce Wong (Hong Kong/US) and a panel of 4 alumni from New Zealand, Sri Lanka, the U.S., and Singapore,
- *Grit: Harnessing Passion & Perseverance for Team Success* with Scott Coates, former Director of People Development at EXO Travel, one of Asia's largest travel companies.
- *Why Positive Psychology Should Be Part of Your Life (& everyone else's too)* with Smaranda Ioana Lawrie from the Psychological and Brain Sciences Center at UC-Santa Barbara.
- Plus cooking classes, book clubs, and more.

[EWC Insights on ThinkTech Hawaii](#), featuring EWC researchers and hosted by EWC vice president Karena Lyons, continues every other Tuesday at 2:00 PM (Hawaii Standard Time). The next program will be on July 21, 2020. Links to past programs can be found at EastWestCenter.org/Insights.

Upcoming virtual seminars and webinars can be found on the East-West Center [Events](#) page.

GLENN VAN ZUTPHEN AND SHIGEO TONOIKE JOIN EWCA EXECUTIVE BOARD

The East-West Center Association congratulates incoming chair of the Executive Board, **Dr. Subir Kole** (Education, PhD in Political Science 2004-2009), and welcomes new Executive Board members **Mr. Glenn van Zutphen** (Jefferson Fellowship 2002), founder of VanMedia Group Pte Ltd, and **Dr. Shigeo Tonoike** (Culture Learning, PhD in Linguistics 1973-1979), institute affiliate at The Keio Institute of Cultural and Linguistic Studies, Keio University. A sincere thank you to outgoing Board members, chair **Dr. Irid Farida Agoes** and **Professor Emerita Keiko Yamazato**, for their leadership, service, and contributions as they have completed their second 3-year term on the Board. See the updated list of [EWCA Executive Board Officers and Members](#).

VIRTUAL 2021 EWC/EWCA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

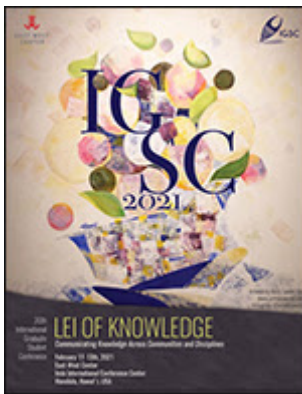
Due to uncertainties associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, how it will impact air travel, and the continuing need to quarantine, social distance, and wear face masks, a decision was made to hold a virtual alumni conference rather than an

in-person conference in 2021. By holding a virtual conference, we hope to engage others who may not be able to travel or attend in person. The next in-person alumni conference is planned for 2022.

And don't forget . . .

- Continue to [share](#) your East-West Center Memories with us. [View](#) the updated second edition of EWC Memories.
- Check out [60 Years / 60 Facts](#) for a series of 60 weekly items celebrating EWC's 60th year.

20TH INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE CALL FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS

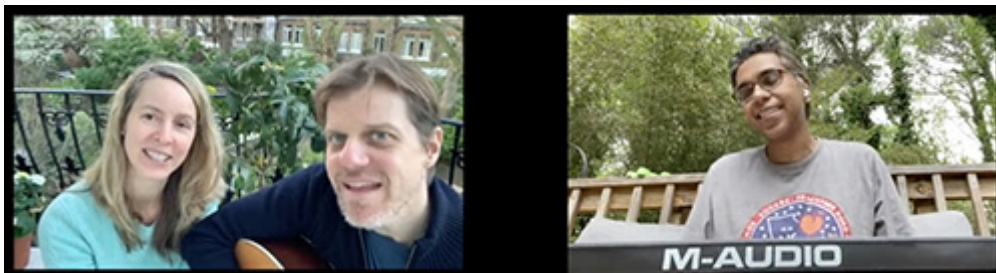


The student-led [International Graduate Student Conference](#) (IGSC) is accepting abstracts for the 20th annual conference to be held February 11-13, 2021. The conference theme is *Lei of Knowledge: Communicating Knowledge across Communities and Disciplines*, and the geographic focus is the Asia-Pacific region. The deadline to submit a 350-word abstract (for review) and a non-technical summary (to be printed in the booklet) for a presentation or poster talk is October 9, 2020. For more information about the conference, visit the IGSC website and read the flyers

and theme statements. Please circulate the call for abstracts to your contacts in as many offices and fields as possible!

Note: Should an in-person or hybrid conference not be possible in February, organizers will shift to a fully online event. A final decision will be made before selected presenters are invited.

ALUMNI NEWS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



“A song of hope, a labor of love, a way to connect with friends flung far and wide in these times of uncertainty.” Wanting to do something fun and uplifting while stuck at home, **Saeed Ahmed** (China-U.S. Journalists Exchange, 2013) put out a call to musician friends, including fellow 2013 China-U.S. Journalists Exchange participant **Brian Wingfield** and his wife. Within two days, he received music files from 16 friends in 7 cities and 4 countries, and made this video – [Three Little Birds \(Coronavirus pandemic edition\)](#).

Arvinder “Ari” Brara (Technology & Development, MA in Business Administration 1970-1973) composed and recorded a [poem](#) inspired by World Environment Day.

Sambandh Scholars Speak, the Brookings Institution blog on South Asia, featured the research of **Md. Azmeary Ferdoush** (Education, PhD in Geography 2015-2019) in “[India and Bangladesh, Exchanging Border Enclaves and \(Re-\)connecting with New Citizens](#)”. His research interests include borders, enclave, citizenship, and nationalism, and he studies the way man-made ideas of borders and bounded spaces affect human mobility and vice versa. The interview was based on his article “[Acts of Belonging: The Choice of Citizenship in the Former Border Enclaves of Bangladesh and India,](#)” *Political Geography*, Volume 70, April 2019, pp. 83-91.

The East-West Center and Korea Press Foundation co-sponsored a virtual forum, [One Pandemic, Two Koreas: Coronavirus and the Korean Peninsula Standoff](#). Moderated by **Dr. KIM Ji Yoon** (Meeting International Standards in Human Rights Reporting, 2015), the panel featured the following speakers: Director-General for North American Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, KO Yunju, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Korea and Japan, Marc Knapper, President of the Korea Institute for National Unification, KOH Yu Hwan, and Executive Vice President and Director of Studies at the Peterson Institute and EWC Non-resident Senior Fellow, Marcus Noland (International Economics & Politics, 1994; Senior Security Seminar 1999; Research, Visiting Fellow 2000; Senior Policy Seminar 2008). Featured discussants were The Hankyoreh journalist LEE Jae Hun, YTN journalist **WANG Son Taek** (2nd Northeast Journalist Dialogue 2008; International Media Conference 2012), National Security Team Leader at The Washington Times **Guy Taylor** (Senior Journalists Seminar 2014; Asia Pacific Journalism Fellow 2016; International Media Conference 2018), and Worldview columnist at The Philadelphia Inquirer **Trudy Rubin** (Jefferson Fellowship 1993).

[Stars and Stripes](#), whose journalists have covered the U.S. military overseas in wars, revolutions, natural disasters, and political changes, is celebrating 75 years in the Pacific. East-West Seminars Media Program manager **Susan Kreifels** (Jefferson Fellowship, 1985) was the Philippines bureau chief from 1987 to 1991 – the first woman to hold such a position for the newspaper. She reported on a series of politically motivated attacks that claimed 10 American lives outside Clark Air Base, then experienced firsthand the eruption of Mount Pinatubo. With the closing of the bases in the Philippines, she moved to Tokyo and served as Japan bureau chief for four years. *Stars and Stripes* gave her the opportunity to be a foreign correspondent. Read about some of Susan’s experiences in “[A Look Back at Stars and Stripes’ 75 Years in the Pacific](#)”.



University of Hawai'i Department of Geography and Environment doctoral candidate **Foley Pfalzgraf** (Education, Ph.D. 2018-2020) has been selected as a Fulbright Scholar to Vanuatu. She will partner with the University of the South Pacific - Emalus Campus in 2021 to conduct mixed-methods research into the impacts of nature-based climate change solutions such as carbon forestry and REDD+ programs on communities across the archipelago. As nature-based solutions continue to expand globally and in Vanuatu, there is an impetus to consider the extent to which these programs provide environmental and social

justice to communities, while also examining alternative adaptation and mitigation activities pursued by Vanuatu's communities and government.

Vasanthi Ranganathan (Open Grants, MEd in Counseling and Guidance 1987-1989; International Media Conference 2016) has designed [PEEPS in English](#), an exclusive series for high school, college, and vocational school students on the subjects of exam skills, career exploration, and motivation to support their aspirations for education and employment.



EWC Media alumna **Maria Ressa** (International Media Conference, 2012, 2014, 2018), CEO and executive editor of Rappler, who has chronicled President Rodrigo Duterte's bloody war on drugs on her news site, was [convicted of digital libel](#) in the Philippines. Appealing to Filipinos to protect their rights, she called the conviction "a cautionary tale . . . if you don't exercise your rights, you will lose them". Although she is appealing the conviction, Ressa could spend up to six years in prison.

IN MEMORIAM



Herbert Long (Institute of Advanced Projects 1968) passed away on May 15, 2020. He was co-founder, faculty member, and chairman of the Board of Process Work Institute in Portland, Oregon.



Former East-West Center program officer **Rose Nakamura** (1970s Alumni Reunion participant, 2007) passed away on July 10, 2020, one day before her 92nd birthday. She assisted and came to know hundreds of East-West Center students in her 25 years as a program officer and participant services officer. Upon her retirement in 1989, she co-founded Project Dana (named after the Sanskrit word meaning “selfless giving”) and put her program officer skills to work extending compassion and care without any reward or recognition. Project Dana is a small faith-in-action initiative based out of the Mo’ili’ili Hongwanji Mission that provides volunteer assistance to homebound

elderly and disabled persons to ensure their well-being, independence, and dignity. She served as volunteer executive director until 2017. Last year, Project Dana celebrated its 30th anniversary. From 55 volunteers serving 110 elderly people, Project Dana has grown into a statewide interfaith coalition of more than 30 churches/temples with over 850 volunteers assisting more than 1,000 senior citizens each year and has expanded its array of services.

Rose Nakamura received the prestigious East-West Center Baron Goto Award for outstanding achievement in 1983 and the Outstanding Service Award from the East-West Center Association-Hawai’i Chapter in 1993. Under her guidance, Project Dana was the recipient of the first National Rosalynn Carter Caregiving Award. She was named a Living Treasure of Hawai’i by the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawai’i in 2000 and received a Ho’okele Award from The Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation and the Hawai’i Community Foundation in 2007. In 2008, she was one of the first recipients of the Honolulu Forever Young awards honoring dynamic servant-leaders and, in 2009, she was recognized as a “Compassionate Caregiver” and traveled to Washington, D.C. to receive the Inspire Award from AARP-The Magazine. Rose Nakamura’s example of selfless giving and dedication to improving our community and bringing people from multi-cultural backgrounds together personifies the mission of the East-West Center and she is an inspiration to us all.



Former EWC researcher **Kirk R. Smith** passed away on June 15, 2020 at the age of 73 after suffering a stroke. A distinguished environmental health researcher, he first came to the Center as a young scientist in 1978 to lead the Center’s Energy Program, examining nuclear energy risks. His research focus shifted when on a 1981 trip to India, he observed a great deal of smoke coming from cook stoves in rural Indian villages and assumed they must have health effects. Finding no research on the topic, he began his own project with Indian colleagues and found that most Indian women and children were being exposed to

harmful pollutants by inhaling the toxic smoke of traditional wood-burning stoves. He devoted much of his later career to rural pollution and its health impacts; he and his colleagues are credited with saving millions from premature death through the switch to less toxic and more efficient cook stoves, which is still in progress. He left Hawai’i in 1995 and completed his career at UC Berkeley, where he was a professor of global health. He participated in the UN’s

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which shared in the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize. In 2012, he was awarded the prestigious Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement for his work with cook stoves, health, and climate change. Toward the end of his career, he also served as Director of the Collaborative Clean Air Policy Centre in New Delhi, where he spent a semester each year. As an advisor to the Indian government and NGO community, India launched its highly successful Give It Up campaign that encouraged 10 million middle class Indians to forego their subsidies for liquid petroleum gas so that the savings could be shifted toward the poor. Kirk Smith will be remembered as a dedicated humanitarian, a devoted husband and father, and an engaging colleague, mentor, and teacher with a wry sense of humor.



Retired U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Henry “Hank” Stackpole (Senior Policy Seminar, 2005 and 2008) passed away on May 29, 2020, at the age of 85. He served as Commander of U.S Marine Forces Pacific from 1992 until his retirement in 1994 and was the president of the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies in Honolulu from 1998-2005, establishing it as a renowned international forum. Most recently, he was chair of the foundation for the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies. He has been described as a scholar, warrior, teacher, leader, mentor, and statesman.



Former member of the East-West Center Foundation Board of Directors **Gulab Watumull** passed away on May 18, 2020 at the age of 96. He will be remembered for his winning smile, his acute business acumen, and most of all his love for Hawaii and his commitment to the community. Along with his wife Indru, he wholeheartedly embraced the vision and mission of the East-West Center and was a longtime supporter of the Center's Arts Program and the EWC student program.

CHAPTER NEWS

The **EWCA Asia Pacific Leadership Program (APLP) Chapter** held a Virtual Pau Hana organized by generation, many taking place over Zoom and with at least ten participants. In total, at least 225 alumni participated and had a great time catching up with their fellow generation cohorts, sharing their experiences since completing their time in Hawai'i, and making plans to meet up again. A few of the Pau Hana lasted more than two hours and one even lasted four hours. The Virtual Pau Hana were a huge success and hope to be done again in the future. The 20th issue of *The APLP Navigator* included write-ups by APLP alumni and a message about Black Lives Matter, a message from the EWC staff, a few updates from alumni, and information on a logo redesign contest for *The Navigator*.

The **Kansai Chapter** had an online board meeting on Saturday May 16 and allowed Chapter members to catch up with each other. One common idea among members who teach at the college level was that the springtime and the new school year which started in April have been the most hectic ones with a new type of instruction – online classes. The Chapter’s general meeting for the new fiscal year will be held online. It appears that the Chapter will have more members and observers at the general meeting than in the past because it will be online, which wouldn't be possible without COVID-19! As elsewhere around the world, lifestyles have changed drastically such as social distancing, talking with masks on, as well as online communications. It seems that tele-work and online meetings and parties may have some positive points!

Pakistan has also had a severe outbreak of Coronavirus. They are facing lockdown and all official activities are being carried out from homes through Zoom meetings, video conferences, and webinars. The **Karachi Chapter**, through its WhatsApp group, is actively sharing valuable information of pandemic updates and motivational posts and this helps them stay in close contact while maintaining social distance.

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