

# East-West Center Alumni news



EAST-WEST  
CENTER

[Alumni Website](#)

[EWC Website](#)

[Update Contact  
Information](#)

[LETTER FROM EWCA PRESIDENT AMANDA  
ELLIS](#)

[UPDATE FROM EWC PRESIDENT RICHARD  
VUYLSTEKE](#)



## TRIBUTE TO FELLOW ALUM KAREN KNUDSEN WHO SERVED EWC 30 YEARS

*The face of the East-West  
Center . . . Grace personified . . .  
. A swan, all elegance on the  
surface, but paddling away  
madly beneath the surface to  
ensure all the work got done*

*and everything ran smoothly . . . Tireless advocate  
for the Center and its mission . . . Beloved by her  
staff . . . Tributes have poured in for Karen  
Knudsen, who served the East-West Center for  
thirty years.*

Karen is beloved not only by her staff, but also by our alumni across the Asia-Pacific and with so many community members engaged with the Center here in Hawai'i through her work with the Friends, the Foundation Board and the Hawai'i Chapter. Mission driven and grace personified indeed, Karen was as comfortable in a remote village in Myanmar working on women, peace, and security issues, as she was with heads of state.



Dear Fellow EWC Alums –

I hope you and your families are keeping safe and healthy during the ongoing pandemic. This global threat to health and our usual ways of interacting is changing so much of what we considered normal.

Adjustments to crises are never easy, but humans always end up proving to be resilient. People around the world are rising to the occasion to support themselves, families and friends, and their communities. We have this good fortune at the East-West Center, as our students, staff, boards, and friends work together for a safe 'ohana.

Our COVID-19 Task Force, set up at the pandemic's outset, conveys up-to-date information, sets policies and guidelines, and monitors our campus for ongoing health and safety. It continues as a collaborative effort on and off campus. As just one of numerous examples, many of you contributed to the Student Emergency Fund, which not only helped those in serious need, but also sent

So many of us were saddened when we learned of Karen's departure from the East-West Center after thirty years of loyal and dedicated service. Karen and husband Greg are both EWC alumni, having served in the Peace Corps in Micronesia before coming to the Center in 1978, and like my wonderful husband Keric and me, lived in Hale Mānoa—oh! those kitchen stories!

[Read](#) Karen's reflections and thanks to alumni. Add your comments to Karen's [Kudoboard](#)!

As you all know, with only four percent of the world's population, the U.S. has 25% of COVID-19 cases, and while Hawai'i has fared better than much of the U.S. mainland, many students have been unable to return home. Education Program dean Ann Hartman told me how much Karen has been helping students in need, in her usual quiet and understated way. When an Afghan student was unable to return home without an expensive COVID test, Karen generously paid the \$300 fee, helped arrange travel, and even drove her to the airport. As Dean Hartman puts it so well: "Karen loved learning from and about our EWC students. She 'adopted' many students over the years, and her kindness and generosity was always on display". When asked how the EWCA could pay fitting tribute to her loyal and dedicated service Karen immediately thought of students in need so I am delighted, on behalf of all of us across the region, to donate \$2,000 to the [Student Emergency Fund](#) in Karen's name.

THANK YOU! Warmest aloha from all of us, Karen, for all your many, many contributions at every level!

Amanda

a message to everyone that our friends and alumni are available to help. We are all grateful for this.

The pandemic has had unexpected positive results. The necessary shift by everyone around the globe to virtual meetings on Zoom, Teams, or other platforms has brought us back in touch with so many of you, and has given you opportunities to reconnect with each other. An excellent example of this is the ongoing series of monthly webinars in celebration of Professor Barbara Smith's 100th birthday. Close to 150 people around the globe join on the 10th of each month to hear excellent presentations on music and ethnomusicology, ask questions, hear Barbara's own commentary, and then stay on for a social hour. We see similar successes from our ongoing EWC series of webinars on important subjects, hosted from both Honolulu and our Washington DC office. I hope you are taking advantage of these opportunities to learn, to see what the EWC is doing, and to reconnect with each other.

As we continue to build upon the opportunities of virtual programming, I hope we can find more ways to be in touch with you in qualitatively superior ways.

Please stay safe, healthy, and engaged with our beloved institution –

All best wishes,  
Richard

---

## EDUCATION PROGRAM WELCOMES 77 NEW STUDENTS WITH VIRTUAL COMMUNITY BUILDING INSTITUTE

**October 2020**

### **In this Issue:**

The Education Program (EP) welcomed 77 new students to the East-West Center (EWC) this fall, in spite of travel and visa restrictions and a two-week mandatory quarantine upon arrival in Hawaii. Many students made it from near and far, including India, Burma, Cambodia, Bhutan, Korea, Japan/Okinawa, Guam, FSM and from across the U.S. mainland. Due to Hawaii's mandated two-week quarantine, students arrived in intervals from July to September, and were housed in the 27 kitchen rooms in Lincoln Hall. Our wonderful community rallied to provide wrap-around support for these quarantined students: Friends of the

- Letter from EWCA President
- Update from EWC President

East-West Center and others provided welcome kits; businesses across the islands donated produce and other foods to supply our students; EWC staff arranged for an affordable meal service; current students and staff organized enriching community building activities (including Ukulele serenade/sing-alongs outside their windows!); and each new student was assigned an individual “buddy” for daily check ins. Some students are still not able to travel to Hawaii but have started their classes and their EWC experience online from the Solomon Islands, Fiji, Papua New Guinea and China. We look forward to seeing them soon!

For the first time ever, a fully virtual two-week Community Building Institute (CBI) was held, with students beaming in via Zoom from locations across the Asia Pacific and the US, as well as from Lincoln Hall quarantine. Of these new students, 45 are receiving some kind of scholarship from the EWC, an exciting number that is due in part to our rapidly growing [named, endowed, and alumni funds](#). Many thanks to all who continue to contribute. Your funds really do make a difference for these students!

Thank you to our EWC community for your generous donations to our [Student Emergency Fund](#). We continue to tap this fund to meet the needs of our students in this pandemic. Just as some students can’t get here, others can’t get home. Two of our students from the South Pacific are unable to get back to their homes in Tonga and Nauru. Another, from Nepal, has been stranded since early August and has had many flights cancelled—the most recent one as she was on her way to the airport. Her bags were packed, and she’d given away everything she needed to cook and live in Hawaii. This support has been vital in meeting these and other needs in these difficult and unpredictable times.

Join our community this Fall for the weekly sessions of the *Exchange*! Get on Zoom with more than 100 EWC graduate students for a shared experience of artistic performance, stimulating speakers and small group activity. What better way to see what students are up to these days—and to join the fun. [See the list of sessions and RSVP](#).

Applications are due December 1, 2020 for 2021-2022 [East-West Center Graduate Degree Fellowships](#) and the [Asian Development Bank-Japan Scholarship Program](#). February 1, 2021 is the deadline for the [U.S. South Pacific Scholarship Program](#). Please share these opportunities widely through your networks in Asia, the Pacific and across the United States. Word of mouth about the value of the East-West Center experience is the most powerful advertising!

## JOIN UPCOMING EWC WEBINARS

---

Join us as virtual East-West Center programs reach new audiences. Find upcoming programs on the [Events page](#) on the East-West Center website.

- [The Future of US-China-Hong Kong Relations and Media Challenges](#), October 6, 2020 at 2:30 PM (HST)
- [Music Tradition, and the Politics of Sound](#), October 10, 2020 at 1:00 PM (HST)
- [EWC Insights featuring Pacific Leaders - His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia](#), October 13,

- Education Program Welcomes 77 New Students

- Join Upcoming EWC Webinars

- Virtual 2021 EWC/EWCA International Conference

- Alumni News & Achievements

- In Memoriam

- Chapter News

---

## APPLY NOW

- [EWC Student Affiliate Program](#) – deadline:

November 1, 2020

- [EWC Graduate Degree Fellowship](#) – deadline:

December 1, 2020

- [ADB-Japan Scholarship Program](#) – deadline:

December 1, 2020

- [Obuchi Student Scholarship](#) – deadline:

December 1, 2020

2020 at 5:00 PM (HST)

- [The Exchange: Indigenous-based Resource Management](#), October 19, 2020 at 6:30 PM (HST)
- [Japan's Geoeconomic Strategy in the Asia Pacific](#), October 23, 2020 at 1:00 PM (EST)
- [The Exchange: Race, Gender, and Environmental Justice](#), October 26, 2020 at 6:30 PM (HST)
- [The Exchange: Expanding and Decolonizing Narratives](#), November 2, 2020 at 6:30 PM (HST)
- [The Exchange: Language, Ecology, and Indigenous Knowledge](#), November 9, 2020 at 6:30 PM (HST)
- [Korean Music and Korean Identity in Korea and Beyond: Percussion Music and Song](#), November 10, 2020 at 1:00 PM (HST)
- ["Performing Ethnomusicology": Reflections on our Practices](#), December 10, 2020 at 1:00 PM (HST)

• [U.S. South Pacific Scholarship Program](#) – deadline:

February 1, 2021

• [Pacific Islands Leadership Program with Taiwan \(PILP\)](#) –

deadline:

February 1, 2021

---

## VIRTUAL 2021 EWC/EWCA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Planning has begun for the virtual 2021 EWC/EWCA International Conference. Alumni who might not have been able to travel to Hawaii can now join us from their homes. Stay tuned for more information!

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.

---

[EWC Memories, 2nd edition](#)

[SUBMIT your favorite EWC Memory](#)

---

[APLP Navigator](#)

---

## ALUMNI NEWS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

An article by Amanda Ellis (Open Grants, PhD in Political Science 1986-1989), ["Building forward better" - Why Women's Leadership Matters](#), was published by the International Leadership Association.

---

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

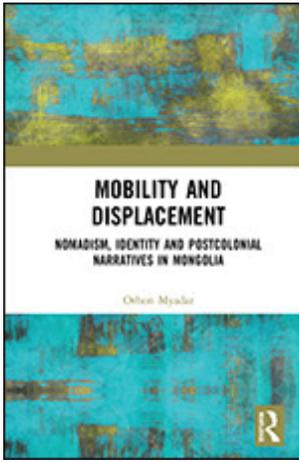
---

[Get involved](#)

[Events](#)

[Become a Mentor](#)

---



**Orhon Myadar** (Education, MPA 2000-2002; PhD in Political Science 2003-2006, NEH Institute 2014) has published her first book, *Mobility and Displacement: Nomadism, Identity and Postcolonial Narratives in Mongolia*. She was recently promoted to professor with tenure at the University of Arizona. She is forever grateful for her EWC scholarship and the opportunity EWC has provided to make this possible.

## Connect

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

---

**Mason Richey** (POSCO 2015-2016) moderated an event at the Asia Society, *Performing in the Pandemic: How COVID-19 Has Affected the Arts in Korea*, featuring Haesun Choe, Jocelyn Collette Clark, and Nemo Kim.

## Support

### Scholarships



EWC adjunct senior fellow **James Spencer** (Research, 2007, 2008, 2011, 2014) has been named vice provost and dean of the Louisiana State University Graduate School. He has also been appointed as a professor in the School of Architecture within the College of Art & Design.

## Create Your Own Fund

---



**Mattias van Ommen** (Education, PhD in Cultural Anthropology 2011-2020) has received a postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard University's Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies for the 2020-2021 academic year. His dissertation, *Intimate Fantasies: an Ethnography of Online Video Gamers in Contemporary Japan*, explores how Japanese youth have become increasingly invested in digital, online fantasy worlds. He will use his time at Harvard to develop his dissertation into a publishable monograph, amongst other research activities.

## 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

Editor:  
Sharon Shimabukuro

---

**Edward Yee** (YSEALI Impact XL 2018), co-founder of Givfunds Social Ventures, is the recipient of a 2020 Diana Award. Givfunds provides support for over 40 social enterprises in South and Southeast Asia, impacting more than 40,000 lives and helping social enterprises generate over \$8 million in revenue. Immersive field work enables him to truly understand the contexts of disadvantaged communities and support social entrepreneurs neglected by traditional financial systems. He inspires others by mentoring entrepreneurs and students, speaking at international conferences, and taking leadership roles at other impactful organizations. He is bringing long-term systemic change to social entrepreneurship by uniting leaders around a common cause, The prestigious

Diana Award, established in memory of Princess Diana, honors exceptional young people who have demonstrated their ability to inspire and mobilize new generations to serve their communities and create long lasting change on a global scale.

## IN MEMORIAM

---

An accomplished artist and scientist, **Richard (Dick) Carpenter** passed away on July 16, 2020 of COVID-19. He was formerly a research associate in the Environment and Policy Institute specializing in environmental assessment.

**John Hawkins** (Resource Systems, 1977-1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1986, 1987-1989, 1990; Centerwide, 1982, 1983; Open Grants, 1983-1984, 1985; International Economics and Politics, 1991-1992; Research & Education 1992, 1993; Education & Training, 1997; Education, 2002) passed away on June 27, 2020 in Los Angeles at the age of 76. He divided his time between the mainland, where he was a member of the UCLA faculty, and Oahu, where he wrote and conducted academic research in affiliation with the East-West Center and the University of Hawaii at Manoa.



**Norma Heen**, former East-West Center staff, has passed away. She was supervisor for the logistics department at the East West Center and planned and provided for international meetings and events.



Former East-West Center senior scholar **Garth N. Jones** (Open Grants, 1969-1970) passed away on July 1, 2020 from a stroke at the age of 95.



**David Fu-Keung Ip** (Open Grants, MA in Sociology 1970-1972) passed away on August 7, 2020 at the age of 72. He taught for 27 years at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia, in the School of Social Science, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, and was on the faculty of the Applied Social Sciences Department at Hong Kong Polytechnic University. He is [fondly remembered](#) by colleagues and the many graduate students he mentored.



Pulitzer Prize winning journalist **Jessie Mangaliman** (Jefferson Fellowship 2002) passed away on July 20, 2020 at the age of 63. He came to the United States to participate in a high school exchange program in Oklahoma, stayed to attend college and began his journalism career in Oklahoma before going on to high-profile assignments for USA Today, New York Newsday, The Washington Post, and the San Jose Mercury News. He was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for articles on AIDS and immigration and was a member of the New York Newsday team that won the

Pulitzer Prize for breaking news on a midnight subway derailment.

Undocumented from his college years until he became a citizen in the 1990s, he was a lifelong advocate for immigration rights. A role model for Asian-American journalists and other people of color, he held leadership positions with the Asian American Journalists Association, which advocates for newsroom diversity and helps foster opportunities for Asian American journalists, and served on the board of directors of the Immigration Institute of Bay Area.

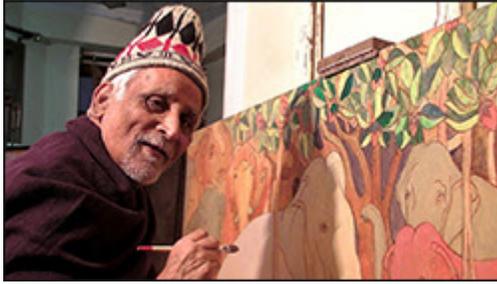


**Fujio "Fudge" Matsuda** (International Relations, workshop participant 1990) passed away on August 23, 2020 at the age of 95. He was the first Asian American to head a major university when the Board of Regents appointed him president of the University of Hawaii. He served as president from 1974-1984 and the East-West Center was separated from the University of Hawaii under his leadership.



**Diane Watanabe** (Institute for Student Interchange, MA in Music 1962-1963) passed away on June 19, 2020 at the age of 80. She worked for the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) as a consultant for the Visual Performing Arts, providing professional development opportunities for teachers and administrators across all LA county school districts to expand arts education. She was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the California

Art Education Association in 2007 for her contributions to the field.



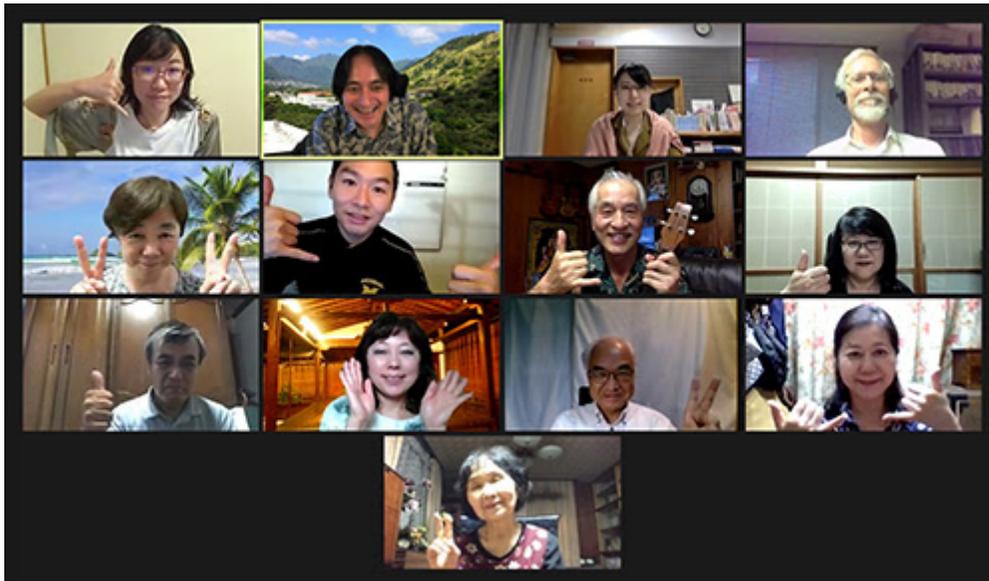
**Mohammad Yasin** (Institute for Student Interchange, UGU Art 1962-1964; Culture & Communication, 1986), a versatile artist calligrapher, print maker, and pioneer of the technique of lithography in the Department of Graphics at Jamia Millia Islamia, passed away on August

19, 2020. He conveyed the message of Peace and Harmony, and in 2017, Aseem Asha Foundation conferred a life-time achievement award on him. He also received a life-time achievement award from the All India Fine Arts and Crafts Society (AIFACS), New Delhi.

## CHAPTER NEWS

---

As the coronavirus pandemic continues to keep us physically distanced from one another, social interaction and communication are more important than ever before. Chapters are encouraged to hold virtual meetings and gatherings and keep socially connected, continue to pursue projects, and remain active.



The **Kansai Chapter** held a virtual general membership meeting on July 11 which was attended by nine members. New Board members were confirmed: Dr. Fumiteru Nitta (president), Dr. Takashi Mita (vice president), Dr. Yumiko Okamoto (accountant), and members Dr. Fred Einar Anderson and Mr. Nobuyuki Tanii. The meeting was followed by a virtual social gathering including four guests from Tokyo, Nagoya, and Honolulu. After self-introductions, the gathering broke up into smaller groups to get to know each other, and concluded with entertainment by Seiko Furuhashi and Fumiteru Nitta.



Singapore is still under partial lockdown, with everyone encouraged to work from home. The chapter's senior ladies are busy looking after their grandchildren at home and the working alumni members are busy with e learning and zooming, also at home. The **Singapore Chapter** held a virtual tea session. Fellow EWCA Board member Glenn van Zutphen organized a great exchange with the Singapore Chapter, inviting Amanda Ellis to update the chapter with news from Hawai'i..

---

*EastWestCommunity has recently revised its **Privacy Policy** and **Email Preferences**. Please review them using the links 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](mailto:Alumni@EastWestCenter.org)  
[Privacy Policy](#) | [Visit Our Website](#) | [Email Preferences](#)