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EWC ALUMNI AND FRIENDS SHOW STRENGTH AND ALOHA IN FACE OF AAPI HATE

April 2021

APPLY NOW

• [EWC Employment Opportunities](#)

• [U.S.- Republic of Korea Cooperation in Southeast Asia Program](#)
DEADLINE
April 14

• [The U.S.- Philippines Alliance Fellowship](#)
DEADLINE
April 16

• [Young Professionals Program](#)
DEADLINE
April 18

• [EWC Student Affiliate Program \(Fall 2021\)](#)
DEADLINE
May 15

[EWC Memories, 2nd edition](#)

[SUBMIT your favorite EWC Memory](#)

[APLP Navigator](#)



We applaud the courage of our ‘ohana in educating and advocating to #StopAsianHate in the United States and globally.

Senator Mazie Hirono (PBEC, 2011) introduced the [COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act](#) to bolster U.S. Department of Justice efforts to combat hate crimes. EWC Alumni share their perspectives on the [EWCA Blog](#).

Join [EWC Seminars Live](#) on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 from 3:00-4:30 PM (HST) for *Asian Americans Unsilenced* to hear prominent Asian Americans across politics, journalism, civil society, and the arts reflect on the wave of racialized attacks targeting their community, and give voice to the discrimination they’ve faced; the importance of allyship and solidarity across communities of color; and best practices in raising awareness, challenging stereotypes and ensuring greater equality for the many different groups within the Asian American umbrella.

A new **EWC Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee** (DEI) is actively engaging staff and management in dialogue and action on Anti-Asian American sentiment in the U.S. and the atrocities against civilians in Myanmar. To help facilitate the DEI Committee and advance important DEI projects, the East-West Center hired Sabrina Nasir (pictured above right) as the Center’s DEI Coordinator. Sabrina has worked on a variety of DEI initiatives including applied research to promote inclusive hiring practices, analyzing the gendered nature of classroom experiences, and several direct service roles working with students in creating a safe, equitable, and inclusive campus.

In this issue:

- EWC Update
- Voices from Myanmar

- Innovation Fellows
- New Funding for Alumni
- Virtual Conference
- EWC Events
- Alumni News and Achievements
- In Memoriam
- Chapter News

Who are the Humans of the EWC? Find out!

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

Editor:
 Sharon Shimabukuro

EWC UPDATE

EWC Board of Governors - [Five new members have been appointed to the Center's Board of Governors](#) by the U.S. Department of State: We are proud that three are EWC alumni.

- Recent Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Academic Programs **Caroline Casagrande** (New Generation Seminar, 2015)
- Recent Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues Kelley E. Currie
- Recent Ambassador to India Kenneth I. Juster
- Recent Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs **David R. Stilwell** (Culture & Communication, MA in Asian Studies 1987-1988)
- Hawai'i State Representative **Gene Ward** (Technology & Development, PhD in Sociology 1968-1974)

EWC Ranked 4th - Once again, the East-West Center has been ranked 4th among government-affiliated think tanks world-wide by the University of Pennsylvania Lauder Institute's [Think Tanks and Civil Society Program](#) and moved up a spot to rank 8th in the Best Regional Studies (Free Standing) category.

Center Awarded \$1 Million Contract - The Center has been awarded a [\\$1 million contract](#) from the U.S. Department of State to research, design, and implement the BASE Project to heighten awareness of U.S. messaging efforts—including government, civil society, industry, and academia—to develop human capital in the strategically critical regions of Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands.

EWC Housing - No East-West Center housing reservations will be taken until 2022. Please check the [website](#) for updates due to COVID-19 restrictions on the EWC campus.

VOICES FROM MYANMAR



We express our deep concern regarding the events unfolding in Myanmar as we witness restrictions and risks to the health and safety of our alumni 'ohana in and from Myanmar. Alumni have reached out and we share their Voices from Myanmar on the [EWCA blog](#).



The [New York Times](#) quoted **Dr. Miemie Winn Byrd**, EWC adjunct fellow and professor at the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies in Honolulu: “Even though these are dark days and my heart breaks with all these images of bloodshed, I’m more optimistic because I see women on the street.” Based on her 28 years of service in the U.S. Army and 16 years of civilian private-sector and research experience, Dr. Byrd shared [resources](#) and guidance on how civilians can protect themselves from harm in their day-to-day lives and Dr. David Law shared ways to cope mentally in the face of violent threat in *Self-Protection and Mental Coping for EWC Myanmar Alumni*.

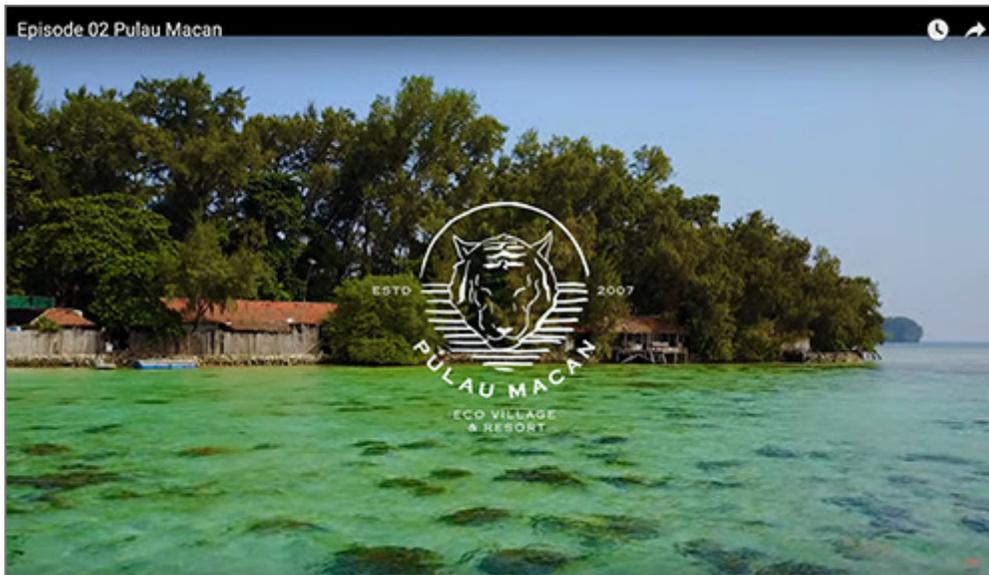
View the February 23, 2021 EWC Seminars Live [After the Coup: What’s Next for Myanmar](#) webinar moderated by **Ramy Incencio** (Asia Pacific Leadership Program 2009-2010; Asia Pacific Journalism Fellow 2019).



[Try. Adapt. Grow.: A Lifetime of Learning at Mingalar Farm](#), episode #5 of *Farmers in the Kitchen*, features EWC program assistant **Saw Thinn** (Asia Pacific Leadership Program 2007-2008) and her husband, who are from Myanmar. Saw introduces a traditional Mon dish made from banana stalks grown on the farm. She is one of many EWC alumni who came to the Center to participate in a program and have returned as staff.

INNOVATION FELLOWS: ASIA’S MOST SUSTAINABLE HOTELS

Initiatives by [EWC Innovation Fellows](#) are transcending differences in program affiliation, cohorts, and generations to advance the cause of sustainable development while impacting thousands across Asia.



Launched in the COVID era, Asia's Most Sustainable Hotels with **Tomohiro "Tomo" Hamakawa** (Asia Pacific Leadership Program, 2008-2009) of Earth Company, seeks to build back the tourism industry in a more conscious manner that does not harm natural resources and cultural heritage. [Asia's Next Gen Hotels](#) is a monthly video series that appeals to independent, conscious travelers interested in circular, sustainable properties in the region. The first two episodes feature [Mana Earthly Paradise](#), Ubud, Bali, Indonesia and [Pulau Macan](#).

NEW FEATURED ALUMNI SERIES

Follow our new "Featured Alumni" series on Facebook [@EWCAumni](#) or by joining our [LinkedIn East-West Center Alumni and Community group](#).



Dewardric L. McNeal (Asia Pacific Leadership Program 2002-2003) is a US-China policy expert formerly at the Pentagon as an Obama-appointee and The Brookings Institution. As the founder and managing director at Longview Global LLC, he is frequently tapped for public commentary, most recently on how President Biden could approach China trade and security policy on CNBC Squawk Box. Tune in to "The Point and the Pushback", his new podcast where he interviewed EWC classmate **Charles Babb** (Asia Pacific Leadership Program 2002-2003) and has a two-episode Black History

Month political arc. Dewardric co-led a training on Power & Influence at the East-West Center for the Pacific Islands Leadership Program Alumni Summit.

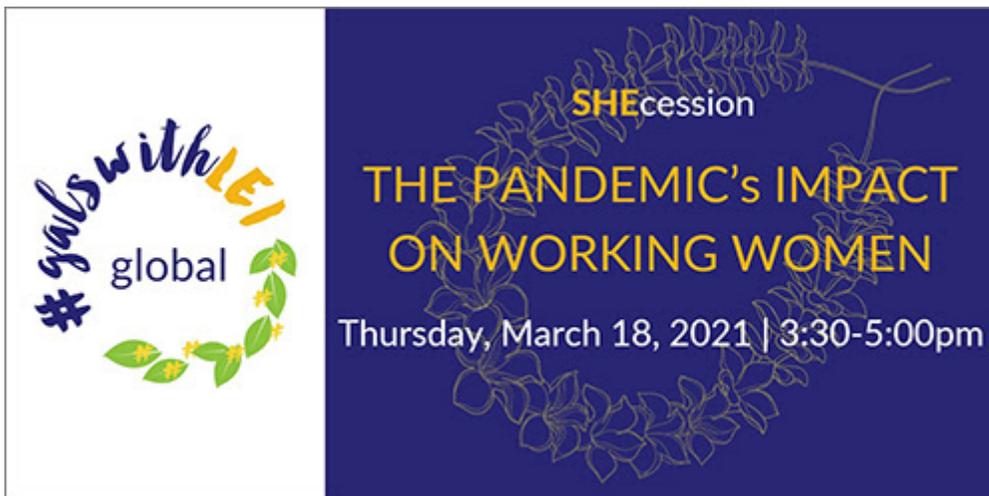
NEW FUNDING FOR ALUMNI

New funding is available starting this month to EWCA chapters for chapter development to support activities to recruit, retain, and engage members. [APPLICATION DEADLINE MAY 1](#).

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

Save the date! The 2021 EWC/EWCA 1st Virtual Alumni Conference will be held on July 16-17 afternoon in Hawaii / July 17-18 morning in Asia. Stay tuned for further information.

EAST-WEST CENTER EVENTS



In celebration of International Women's History Month, the East-West Center launched the #galswithLEI Global webinar series on March 18 with *Shecession: The Pandemic's Impact on Working Women* to connect with a more geographically distributed and diverse audience than ever before. The webinar series will run bi-monthly from March 2021–January 2022, offering a 90-minute keynote panel and attendee-driven open space designed to address today's critical concerns, identify innovative solutions, and build networks of support for women business and social entrepreneurs, corporate and non-profit managers, and other community leaders across the United States and the Asia Pacific. Save the date for the [next webinar](#)—May 20, 2021 at 3:30 PM (HDT), theme and speakers to be determined.

[The Mekong, China, & Southeast Asian Transitions Series](#) explores how communities in the region are experiencing the economic, social, and cultural dislocations of major shifts from predominantly subsistence agriculture to industrializing economies and resulting changes in migration, crop production systems, and major infrastructure. Register for [Mekong Dams: Debates and the Politics of Evidence](#) on April 28, 2021 at 2:00 PM (HST).

Find upcoming programs on the [Events](#) page on the East-West Center website.

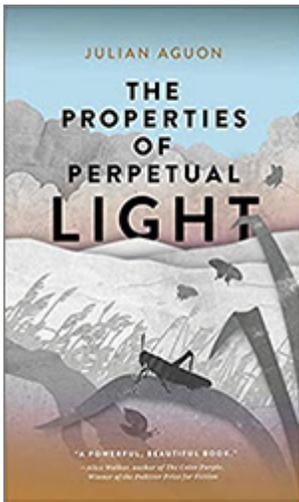
ALUMNI NEWS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



Chee Ying "Jeffrey" Tong (Young Southeast Asian Leadership Initiative, 2015) with Temasek Foundation and Anna Moore with Eco-Business Singapore, discuss on EWC's [Breaking Silos](#) how their [Liveability Challenge](#), a global challenge offering \$1 Million Singapore in prize money is creating greater awareness of how innovation can address climate change and helping innovators scale their inventions. Applications accepted until April 15, 2021!



With support from EWC's Experiential Professional Development Program, **Jerica Marie Cawalo** (Young Southeast Asian Leadership Initiative, 2019; Change Leadership Certificate, 2020) and **Christina Gabrillo** (Asia Pacific Leadership Program, 2019) created 'Kabangis sa Bagyo' (Be Typhoon Resilient), a radio drama. This initiative on disaster preparedness improves equity in disaster resilience via innovative story-based radio programming in an indigenous language of the Philippines. Watch the [behind-the-scenes video](#) and read the [Visayas State University press release](#).



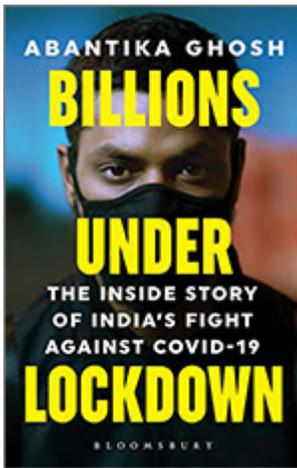
[The Properties of Perpetual Light](#), by human rights lawyer and writer from Guam, **Julian Aguon** (Education, JD 2007-2009), is a collection of soulful ruminations about love, loss, struggle, resilience and power. View [Word Baskets and Witness Bearing: A Talk Story with Julian Aguon and Kathy Jetñil-Kijiner](#), celebrating their contributions to the literature of the Pacific Islands. Together, Aguon and **Kathy Jetñil-Kijine** (Education, MA in Pacific Islands Studies 2013-2014), a poet of international acclaim and member of the Climate Envoy for the Republic of the Marshall Islands government, “talked story” about their art forms, journeys, what motivates them in their work, the messages they hope to convey through their work, and what they hope to pass on to younger generations.

Noam Altman-Kurosaki (Education, MS 2018-2019) is the lead author of a study published in *Coral Reefs* on marine protected areas (MPAs) around O’ahu. The research team performed dive surveys, analyzed the data, and identified algae specimens, and found that of four MPAs, only Hanauma Bay showed significant conservation benefits. The results suggested that existing MPAs should be more effectively managed before designating additional MPAs.

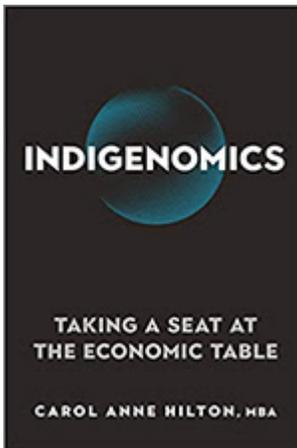
["An ASEAN Way to Resolve the Myanmar Crisis"](#), by **Kavi Chongkittavorn** (Jefferson Fellowship, 1988; EWC in Washington, Asia Studies Visiting Fellowship 2018) was recently published by the *East Asia Forum*.



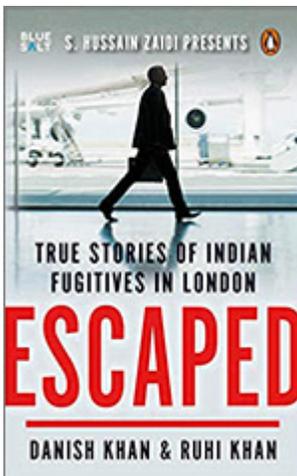
Jon Funabiki (Jefferson Fellowship, 1989) was honored by the Northern California chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists with the Distinguished Service to Journalism Award for his dedication to collaboration, diversity, inclusion, and equity in the media. He recently retired from [Renaissance journalism](#) at San Francisco State University. As its founder and executive director, he developed projects exploring new forms of journalism and storytelling that serve, strengthen, and empower communities.



Billions Under Lockdown: The Inside Story of India's Fight Against COVID-19, by **Abantika Ghosh** (Professional Development, Cross Border Workshop-Health 2020) is based on her coverage of India's response to the pandemic, first for *The Indian Express* and then for *ThePrint*.



Indigenomics: Taking a Seat at the Economic Table, by **Carol Anne Hilton** (Professional Development, Women Fast Forward 2017) lays the foundation for economic reconciliation in an emerging indigenous economy based on relationships, multigenerational stewardship of resources, and care for all.

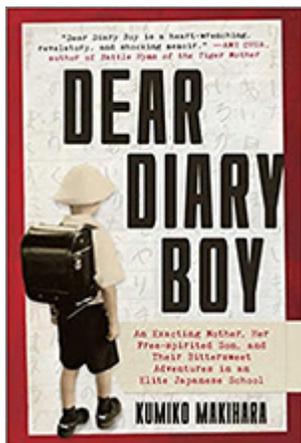


Escaped: True Stories of Indian Fugitives in London, by Danish Khan and **Ruhi Khan** (Jefferson Fellowship, 2008) explores 12 cases where Indian fugitives have fled to London to seek refuge from prosecution under Indian law.



Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist **Kathleen "Katie" Kingsbury** (Korea-U.S. Journalists Exchange, 2020) has been named NYT Opinion Editor. She joined the *New York Times* in 2017 and had been serving as acting editorial page editor since June 2020. Prior to that, she was managing editor for digital at the *Boston Globe*.

LIU Fang (China-U.S. Journalists Exchange, 2017) and two other authors won a First Prize in the 30th China News Award in November 2020 for their news report “Beware of Formalism at Fingertips”, criticizing local government leaders who overuse WeChat apps for propaganda purposes.



Dear Diary Boy: An Exacting Mother, Her Free-spirited Son, and Their Bittersweet Adventures in an Elite Japanese School, by **Kumiko Makihara** (Culture Learning, MA in American Studies 1981-1983), is about her son’s experience at an elite elementary school in Japan and her own, as a single mother. [View](#) her Tea Time interview with The Japan Society.



Dr. Linda Miller (Consortium for Teaching Asia and the Pacific in the Schools, 1991) took the creative activities learned at the CTAPS institute back to her classroom. Over her 40-year career teaching social studies, she earned numerous teaching awards and fellowships allowing her to visit Japan, Korea, China, Australia and New Zealand, and Russia so she could present an Asian perspective to her classroom. She often dressed in costume and has written an e-book for the National Social Science Association and presented “Acting for Teachers” at its 2009 conference. In 2016 she coordinated a NSDAR trip for three USS Nevada veterans to attend the 75th Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor

and wrote a photographic book to commemorate the visit. Grateful for the impact the Center had on her career, she recently established a scholarship fund for degree fellows.

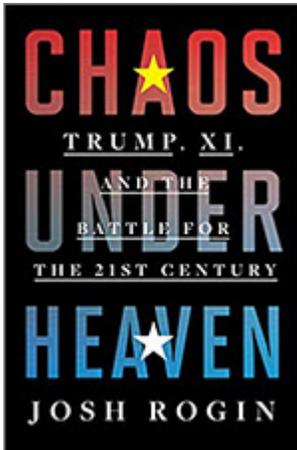


Christopher Molina (Education, PhD in Music 2015-2017, 2020-2024) is the recipient of the 2021-22 Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship. This highly competitive scholarship is awarded to students whose studies and research intersect with Japan, offering students the opportunity to travel to Japan to deepen their knowledge and experience.



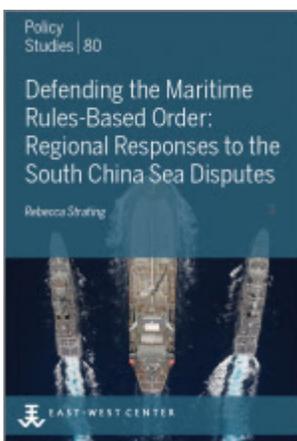
Kier Mitchel Pitogo (YSEALI 2016) and Aljohn Jay Saavedra have rediscovered a rare frog last seen almost three decades ago. For decades, the brightly colored Guttman's stream frog was believed to be extinct. A small population of the frogs were found near the streams of Bulul Tbotu, Lake Sebu in South Cotabato in September 2020. Filipino scientists making

discoveries in Philippine biodiversity are supported by USAID.



Award-winning Washington Post columnist **Josh Rogin** (Asia Pacific Journalism Fellowship, 2019) has just published *Chaos Under Heaven: Trump, Xi, and the Battle for the Twenty-First Century*.

Ambassador Pamela Spratlen (Diplomat-in-Residence, 2004-2005), has been designated the senior advisor to the Health Incident Response Task Force (HIRTF), the coordinating body for the Department of State and interagency response to unexplained health incidents for personnel and dependents under Chief of Mission security responsibility.



Defending the Maritime Rules-Based Order: Regional Responses to the South China Sea Disputes (Policy Studies, No. 80), by **Rebecca Strating** (EWC in Washington, Asia Studies Visiting Fellowship 2019), examines the responses of non-claimant regional states—India, Australia, South Korea, and Japan—to the South China Sea disputes which have intensified over the past decade.



Kris van Cleave (Pakistan-U.S. Journalists Exchange 2013) has been named Congressional reporter for *CBS* after more than five years as the *CBS News*' transportation correspondent and as a correspondent for *CBS Newspath*, the Network's 24-hour television newsgathering service.

IN MEMORIAM



AZM Anas (Jefferson Fellowship, 2012; South Asia Journalists Dialogue, 2016) passed away on March 16, 2021 at the age of 45. He was the economic editor of the *Financial Express* and a permanent member of the National Press Club. In his 20-year career, he also worked for *The Independent* and *The New Nation* and wrote for a range of international and online publications, earning several national and international awards. He was the first Bangladeshi journalist to earn the gold prize in the Prince Albert II of Monaco and UNCA Awards for coverage of climate change in 2019.



Former board member of the East-West Center Foundation
Daniel B. T. Lau passed away peacefully on October 21, 2020 at the age of 101. He was one of the founders of Finance Factors, which grew to become the largest locally-owned depository financial loan company in Hawai'i. He also served as CEO and chairman of Grand Pacific Life Insurance Company.



Vale Andrew Mack (International Relations, 1991) passed away in Vancouver on January 20, 2021 after a serious illness. A fellow in the International Relations Program in 1991, he also participated in numerous EWC workshops and seminars between 1989 and 2000. He was a senior research fellow in the Australian National University's Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, director of the Peace Research Centre, and head of the Department International Relations. From 1998 to 2001, he was director of the Strategic Planning Unit in the executive office of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

CHAPTER NEWS

President Richard Vuylsteke, Director of Alumni Engagement Christina Monroe, and Alumni Coordinator Noreen Tanouye have been meeting with EWCA chapters. To date, they have met via Zoom with the leadership of the **Southern California and Manila Chapters**, and the **Singapore Chapter** members. Christina has also attended meetings of the **New York and Washington, D.C. Chapters** and with the **Hong Kong Chapter** leadership. Meetings with additional chapters are being scheduled.

The **Asia Pacific Leadership Program (APLP) Chapter** has published a special COVID-19 issue of *The Navigator* to help their alumni member community with mental health, ideas to make supplemental income during the pandemic, further education ideas, book suggestions, and in other ways. Fellow alumni/program participants have volunteered for a “Ready to Listen” initiative to be there to listen or chat with when/if a need arises. APLP members have someone to have a great conversation, share their stress, and manifest solutions, so they can hopefully leave the session feeling relieved, focused, and better about life.

EWCA Executive Board

Subir Kole, Chair	Ex-Officio Members (non-voting):
Amanda Ellis, President	Edward (Ned) Shultz, Immediate Past President
Susan Heftel-Liquido, Vice President for Development	Irid Farida Agoes, Immediate Past Chair
Ramon Clarete, Vice President for Programs	Carl Hefner, EWCA Hawaii Chapter Representative
Jessica A. Sheetz-Nguyen, Vice President for Chapters	Carol Li, EWCPA Representative
Carl Hefner, Vice President for Participant Affairs	
Penny Weilbacher, Secretary/Treasurer	
Ronny Adhikarya	
Karen Nunan	
Shigeo Tonoike	
Caitlin Wyndham	

Aloha from the Office of Alumni Engagement staff team!
Christina Monroe, Noreen Tanouye, Patrick Mishina, Sharon Shimabukuro

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