REGISTER NOW FOR THE 2021 EWC/EWCA INT’L CONFERENCE

CONNECTING ALUMNI ACROSS ALL SHORES. COME JOIN US.

2021 EWC/EWCA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Registration is now open for the 2021 EWC/EWCA International Conference, Bridge to 2022: Virtual Mini-Conference and Awards to be held on July 16-17, 2021 from 2:30-6:00 PM (HST).

View the conference schedule. Meet dynamic alumni working on today’s core issues: climate change; diversity, equity, and inclusion; misinformation in the media; pandemics and planetary health. Share and create knowledge, memories, and new collaborations. In a fresh online platform, you will have spaces to (re)connect with alumni from your region or decade; ask questions directly to EWC staff about current programs and opportunities; and discuss what's important to you.

Get involved! Volunteer as a facilitator or host, submit a song to the conference playlist, or share a favorite EWC photo.

In this issue:
- EWC/EWCA International Conference
- 2020 EWC/EWCA Alumni Awards
- EWC Update
- EWCA Executive Board Welcomes New Members
- Featured Alumni
- EWC Events
- Alumni News and Achievements
- In Memoriam
- Chapter News

APPLY NOW
- EWC Employment Opportunities

Get involved
- Events
- Become a Mentor
2020 EWC/EWCA ALUMNI AWARDS

Join us as we honor the recipients of the 2020 EWC and EWCA Alumni Awards on July 17, 2021 at 2:40 PM (HST), the second day of the 2021 EWC/EWCA International Conference, Bridge to 2022: Virtual Mini-Conference & Awards. Congratulations to these outstanding alumni and EWCA chapters for embracing the mission of the East-West Center (EWC) and East-West Center Association (EWCA) to promote better relations and understanding among the people and nations of the United States, Asia, and the Pacific in their professional, as well as personal lives. Learn more about our honorees.

The recipients of the 2020 EWC Distinguished Alumni Award are Ms. Diane Grady (Open Grants, MA in Asian Studies 1971-1973) from Australia and Dr. V. Bruce Tolentino (Resource Systems, PhD in Economics 1982-1986) from the Philippines. This award recognizes outstanding accomplishments, including significant contributions to the promotion of better relations and understanding among the peoples of Asia, the Pacific, and the United States; significant achievement in the career field; and continuing support for the goals and objectives of the East-West Center.

The EWCA Outstanding Chapter Award recognizes outstanding EWCA Chapters which have provided significant contributions to the goals and programs of the EWCA. The recipients of the 2020 award are the EWCA Asia Pacific Leadership Program (APLP) Chapter and the EWCA Chennai Chapter. Both chapters have a history of excellence, as both are repeat recipients of this award—the APLP Chapter previously received the award in 2006 and the Chennai Chapter previously received the award in 2006 and 2016.

Dr. Amefil “Amy” Agbayani (Institute for Student Interchange, PhD in Political Science 1964-1969) from Honolulu, Mr. William “Bill” Armbruster (Open Grants, MA in Asian Studies 1971-1973) from New Jersey, U.S.A., and Mr. Choko Takayama (Institute for Student Interchange, MA in Educational Psychology 1962-1964) from Okinawa, Japan, are the recipients of the 2020 EWCA Outstanding Volunteer Award. This award recognizes outstanding alumni volunteers who have provided significant contributions to the programs and activities of the East-West Center Association.
The EWCA 21st Century Outstanding Service Award recognizes East-West Center participants whose initial involvement in an EWC program began during or after 2000 and have provided outstanding services to the community. The 2020 recipient of this award is **Ms. Doreka Dai** (Pacific Islands Women in Leadership Program, 2013-2014 from Papua New Guinea (PNG)).

**EWC UPDATE**

**Presidential Search** - EWC President Richard Vuylsteke has announced that he will step down at the end of the year. The EWC Board of Governors is conducting a search for his successor.

**EWC Board of Governors** - Former Marshall Islands President and current member of Parliament, **Hilda Heine** (Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders, 2016; Professional Development Program, Women Fast Forward 2017) was recently elected by the East-West Center Board of Governors as one of five international members.

**Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders** - The 11th Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders (PICL) took place virtually on June 1-2, 2021 after a gap of five years. This meeting reacquainted the Secretariat of PICL and all member countries, the Pacific Leaders engaged in dialogue on regional issues and concerns, and governance arrangement for PICL and its Secretariat were discussed. The leaders elected Federated State of Micronesia President David W. Panuelo as the body’s new chairperson and endorsed Dr. Mary Therese Perez Hattori to continue as interim director of the Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP) through 2025. View the [welcome video](#) for PICL and [U.S. Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken’s message](#).

**EWCA EXECUTIVE BOARD WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS**

We extend congratulations and a warm welcome to the following new members of the EWCA Executive Board effective July 1, 2021:

- **Dr. Taine Duncan** (ASDP 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020), Chair, Department of Philosophy and Religion; Associate Professor of Philosophy, Director of the Gender Studies Program; Co-Editor, Journal: Philosophy in the Contemporary World, University of Central Arkansas, USA.
- **Ms. Bich Thi (Bella) Tran** (EWCW, Asian Studies Visiting Fellow 2019) Ph.D. candidate, University of Antwerp, Belgium/Vietnam; Visiting Research Fellow, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, Japan.
- **Ms. Nikola Komailevuka** (Education Program, BA in Accounting, 2009-2012) Executive Coordination Officer, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Fiji.

**MAHALO** to **Susan Heftel-Liquido, Karen Nunan, Jessica Sheetz-Nguyen,** and **Penny Weibacher** for their service to the EWCA. Their terms expire on June 30, 2021.
Meet Tippi Cogen (Changing Faces Women’s Leadership, 2019), healing and spiritual growth life coach, and former executive director and founder of Thrive Global of Hawai‘i. With a previous military career that spanned 20 years serving in both the U.S. Army & Air Force, Tippi, a now-retired, former Army Airborne Chaplain, chooses to focus her energy on healing and helping marginalized communities break generational poverty, through her first initiative called Thrive Global of Hawai‘i—a humanitarian travel non-profit started in late 2015 that organizes volunteers to serve locally and abroad on sustainability projects in efforts that support clean water, eco-school builds, food shortages, environmental & community revitalization, mentorship, and more, and has partnered with major organizations like PACT Hawai‘i, Bikeshare Hawai‘i (Biki,) Target, Yelp, and Starbuck for success.

Due to the pandemic halting much of travel last year, Tippi took no time off in planning the organization's next pivot. Having studied Business Entrepreneurship at Hawai‘i Pacific University (also a Kaimuki Bulldog!!) and a Master's in Theology from Fuller Theological Seminary, Tippi intuitively knew it was time to decrease her bandwidth by ending Thrive's five-year humanitarian world tour to fully develop her Healing + Spiritual Growth Life Coaching brand which, similarly to Thrive, adopts the vision of ending generational poverty, but not just in a financial way. With her one-on-one life coaching sessions and private retreats that focus on personal healing, spiritual growth, and value reprioritization, Tippi wanted to design a more evolved version of humanitarian support through self-healing and authentic community after isolation for her clients and former Traveltarians®. Her focus now provides guidance and education on self-healing for deep spiritual and personal growth, the catalyst and starting point for real community change and cycle breaking. Her passion for helping others, serving underrepresented populations, and desire to understanding the complex biopsychosocial nuances of poverty and oppression, has led her to begin a doctorate in Clinical Psychology in hopes of becoming a private-practice clinician, educator in the field of body trauma healing, and continue to heal, serve and travel the world.

EAST-WEST CENTER EVENTS

For the latest calendar of activities and opportunities, visit the Events page on the East-West Center website.
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa journalism professor with more than 30 years of teaching experience, Ann Auman (Communication, MA in Asian Studies 1980–1982), has been internationally recognized for outstanding classroom teaching in media ethics. She is the winner of the 2021 Teaching Excellence Award in the Media Ethics Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. The award committee was impressed by Auman’s work, “incorporating Indigenous values and ethics in a cross-cultural media ethics course and classroom.” Auman is director of the Carol Burnett Fund for Responsible Journalism at UH Mānoa and is secretary of the EWCA Hawai‘i Chapter. The award will be formally presented to Auman at the Media Ethicsy hope to pass on to younger generations.


Women "who have left Xinjiang face imprisonment if they return home and persistent insecurity abroad," writes Melissa Chan (East-West Seminars, Korea-U.S. Journalists Exchange 2015) in The Atlantic and in partnership with The Fuller Project. She delved into the story of Uyghur exiles trapped overseas, particularly the difficulty facing women. Earlier, she also wrote for POLITICO about the genocide designation to describe the mass detention and sterilization of ethnic minorities in China, a debate playing out in legislatures around the world and for Foreign Policy, or you might also have heard her on your morning commute on Slate’s What Next podcast. She also reported on the precious few days when Chinese, Hong Kongers, Taiwanese, Uyghurs—both in and outside China’s borders—engaged in intensely free exchanges on Clubhouse, the new social audio app and appeared on BBC’s Newshour to discuss the unusual moment.

Debasish Roy Chowdhury (Jefferson Fellowship, 2017) has received the Human Rights Press Award in the commentary category for his piece on caste and migration in India, “Coronavirus Lockdown: If India Treats Its Migrant Workers Like Dirt, Blame It on Caste”, published in the South China Morning Post. The Human Rights Press Awards recognize top rights-related reporting from around Asia, with the goal of increasing respect for people’s basic rights and focusing attention on threats to those freedoms. The awards, now in their 25th year, are organized by The Foreign Correspondents’ Club Hong Kong, Amnesty International and the Hong Kong Journalists Association.

Bidhayak Das (East-West Seminars, Senior Journalists Seminar 2011, International Media Conference 2014, 2016, 2018; South Asia Journalists Dialogue 2018,) has been named one of sixteen International Democratic Goodwill Ambassadors by the Korean Development Foundation for his tireless work for the past 30 years in over 40 countries as a journalist, researcher, and clean election and democracy activist, primarily in South and Southeast Asian countries. The ambassadors from 16 countries will participate in various democracy-related international events and meetings in various regions.
Maruf Hossain (Education, MBA 2014-2016) has joined Wealthsimple, one of the most sought-after startups in Canadian investment management services, as Core Operations Analyst. He is currently based in Toronto where he is tasked with corporate client onboarding and internal business process improvement for the company. Prior to joining Wealthsimple, he served as Business Analyst and Credit Analyst for small business banking in two prominent banks based in Dhaka, Bangladesh for the past seven years. Maruf also served as Secretary of EWC Participants Association during 2015-16.

Shun Ishimine (Education, MLA 2019-2021) received the 2021 UHM School of Architecture/AIA Honolulu Architecture Month Student Portfolio Competition. He received a $500 award and presented his portfolio during the Portfolio Pau Hana on April 23, 2021. He was also the recipient of the inaugural Thomas S. Witten, FASLA Pūlama ‘Āina Award—for his project “Restoring Symbiotic Aquaculture.” The award recognizes an MLA graduate whose capstone or thesis project focuses on regional or community planning and urban design with an emphasis on environmental sustainability and resiliency for our islands.

East-West Seminars Media Program Manager Susan Kreifels (Jefferson Fellowship, 1985) was interviewed by the Pacific Stars and Stripes about her experience reporting on the Mt. Pinatubo explosion that occurred on June 15, 1991—30 years ago. She also wrote of her experience in “30 Years Later, Lessons of Love and Loss from Mount Pinatubo” published in the Honolulu Star-Advertiser and “A Nebraska Native Recalls Nature’s Fury During 1991 Volcano Eruption” published in the Omaha World-Herald.

Award-winning veteran journalist **Stephen Magagnini** (Jefferson Fellowship, 1997) has joined *The Observer* in Sacramento, California, as editor-in-chief. He has worked at daily newspapers in Florida, Texas, and California, covering diversity, including race relations, ethnic affairs, immigration, tribal and spiritual affairs, and civil rights. He has mentored thousands of young journalists at Sacramento State, UC-Davis, USC, and other universities.


![Nicole Kahielani Peltzer](image1.png)


![James Phillips](image2.png)

Professor Emeritus **James Phillips** (Population, seminar participant 1985, 1995) is the recipient of the Population Association of America’s 2021 Robert J. Lapham Award, given biennially to individuals who have distinguished themselves by their sustained achievements in the following areas: contributions to population research, applications of demographic knowledge to improve the human condition, and service to the population profession. His 32-year affiliation with the Population Council accorded him opportunities to collaborate with colleagues in the Philippines, Bangladesh, Thailand and Vietnam, as well as several countries in Africa, but most prominently Ghana. After his retirement from the Council in 2007, he joined the Heilbrunn Department of Population and Family Health of the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health where he served as a Professor until his recent reattempt to retire. James Phillips was also the recipient of the American Public Health Association’s 2020 Carl S. Schultz Award for Lifetime Achievement. He was nominated for this award by previous Schultz awardee, **Amy Tsui** (Population, MA in Sociology 1971-1973; Research, 34th Summer Seminar in Population 2003), a past president of the Population Association of America and a fellow student of Professor Lee Jay Cho, former director of the East-West Center Population Institute.

More than 100 former colleagues and students from around the world met virtually for a surprise 80th birthday party for **Ricardo Trimmillos** (Institute for Student Interchange, MA in Ethnomusicology 1962-1964), professor emeritus in the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa Department of Music and former Department of Asian Studies chair. The milestone birthday party kicked off an “80 for 80” fundraising drive to raise $80,000 within the next year for the **Ric Trimmillos Visiting Distinguished Professorship in Ethnomusicology** established in 2017 to bring a foreign scholar of ethnomusicology to the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa for a semester.
**Florence Van Dyke** (Changing Faces Women’s Leadership, 2018), co-founder of Chia Sisters, EWCA President **Amanda Ellis** (Open Gants, PhD in Political Science 1986-1989) and New Zealand (NZ) Businesses for Climate Action, presented on sustainable business at an event for Treasury staff in Wellington, NZ with the CEO of NZ Treasury Caralee McLiesh and NZ’s youngest councilor Sophie Handford. New Zealand is the first country globally to require mandatory climate disclosures for business. Chia Sisters is now NZ’s top ranked B corps and has just been rated by B Corps globally as the world’s top sustainable juicery.

Professor Emeritus **Surapone Virulrak** (Open Grants, PhD in Drama & Theatre 1977-1980), Fellow in Performing Arts, has been appointed by His Majesty the King to be the president of the Royal Society of Thailand.

**Nicole Yamase** (Education, PhD in Marine Biology 2014-2016), the youngest woman and first Pacific Islander to visit Challenger Deep, the deepest part of the Earth, will be the keynote speaker at *Climate Emergency: A Free Virtual Workshop for Educators in the Pacific Islands Region*. She will speak about her once-in-a-lifetime experience, her passion for raising awareness on climate change, and how this global issue is already impacting the Pacific Islands. Join NOAA, ClimateGen, and educators across the Pacific Island Region (Hawai’i, American Samoa, Guam, CNMI) on Tuesday, July 13 from 1:00-2:30 PM (HST), and Wednesday, July 21 and Thursday, July 22 from 1:00-4:30 PM (HST). All educators are welcome to attend. Register—priority will be given to 5th-12th grade educators.

**IN MEMORIAM**

**Michael Anderson** (Communication, PhD in Political Science 1974-1978) passed away on June 20, 2021 at the age of 75. He taught English and was a journalism lecturer/trainer in Malaysia as a Peace Corps volunteer. He joined the U.S. Department of State in 1981 and served in many South and Southeast Asian countries—Papua New Guinea, India, Pakistan, Singapore, Philippines, and Indonesia—often serving as the Councillor for Public Affairs, managing the Embassy’s press, cultural, and educational affairs. He received the EWC Distinguished Alumni Award in 2002. He retired in 2011 and had been active in volunteer and philanthropic activities in the Washington, D.C. area. He recently served on the EWCA Development Committee.

Former environment reporter at *The Canberra Times*, **Rosslyn Beeby** (Jefferson Fellowship, 2009), passed away suddenly at her home in April 2021. She left *The Canberra Times* in 2012, then was the Australian and New Zealand editor for Research Professional, a global research news service, until last year.
Burdette “Pete” E. Bostwick, Jr. (Open Grants, PhD in Geography 1972-1976) passed away unexpectedly but peacefully on July 13, 2020 in Corrales, New Mexico. He pursued graduate studies at the University of Hawaii, Overseas Career Program where he received an MA in Geography - Southeast Asian studies. As an East-West Center grantee, he did field research in Laos and Thailand as part of the UN Mekong Project. It was during this time in Southeast Asia that he became fluent in the Thai language. Upon returning from Southeast Asia, he taught Geography at UH-Hilo while continuing to work on his Ph.D. A distinguished 25-year career in Military Intelligence at Headquarters US Commander in Chief Pacific/US Pacific Command (USCINCPAC/USPACOM) followed, which included extended assignments in Southeast Asia. He retired from Joint Intelligence Center Pacific (JICPAC) as Sr. Intelligence Officer (SIO) in 2005.

Director of the East-West Center Professional Development Program Allen Clark (Resource Systems, 1979, 1982-1985) passed away unexpectedly on May 29, 2021. During his 36-years as a member of the EWC staff, he was a fellow, the assistant director for the Program on Energy and Minerals, a senior fellow with the Research Program, principal investigator for the Pacific Disaster Center, and director of the Professional Development Program.

Former fellow in the Resource Systems Institute Chung H. Lee passed away on May 11, 2021. A professor emeritus of Economics at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, he contributed greatly to the East-West Center.

Norma Jean Peters (Summer Institute of Asian Studies, 1966) passed away on December 15, 2020 at the age of 84. She began her teaching career at Conehurst Elementary and then moved to Northside High School for Roanoke County Schools. She was the supervisor of Social Studies and Foreign Languages until her retirement, fulfilling a 35-year career in K-12 education. After her retirement, she became a professor in the Education Department at Hollins University in Roanoke, Virginia where she continued to influence pre-service teachers. Her impact on many students is her lasting legacy.

Retired U.S. diplomat Louis E. Polichetti passed away on May 5, 2020 at the age of 88. He was a member of the Friends of the East-West Center. As director of the USIA Pacific Islands Program from September 1986-1991, he worked closely with the East-West Center on its cultural exchanges throughout the Pacific.

David Thomas passed away in May 2021 in Chiang Mai, Thailand. He participated in several Human Ecology programs in the Environment and Policy Institute in the mid-1980s and in the
Research Program from 2006-2008. He was the Ford Representative in Bangkok for many years, then became the World Agroforestry representative in Chiang Mai.

CHAPTER NEWS

Congratulations to all whose Chapter Development proposals were accepted to increase recruitment, retention, and engagement of EWCA members. Representatives from the Asia Pacific Leadership, Asian Studies Development, Dhaka, Islamabad, Karachi, Latin America, Manila, New York, Okinawa, Pan-Pacific, Port Moresby, Seoul, Singapore, Southern California, Tokyo, and Ulaanbaatar Chapters are implementing their plans. In addition, alumni are working to form new chapters in Bangalore, Bhutan, New Zealand, and Tahiti. Stay tuned as they reach out to East-West Center alumni throughout the region.

The U.S. Embassy in Tokyo has awarded a $70,000 grant to the EWC Office of Alumni Engagement and EWC Experiential Professional in collaboration with the EWCA Okinawa Chapter, InnoDays, Worldwide Uchinanchu Business Association (WUB), and Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology (OIST).

The Asia Pacific Leadership Program (APLP) Chapter will be hosting eight online (Zoom) events from June through September. The first two events were the Annual Meeting of APLP Alumni Members and Leadership in a Crisis: A Conversation with Keith Coats. Register for upcoming events:

- Preserving Traditional Cultures Through Exploration with Jeff Fuchs on July 3, 2021 at 3pm (Honolulu), 9pm (NYC) and July 4, 2021 at 8am (Bangkok), 2am (London)
- Eddie Aikau and The Reinvigoration of Hawaiian Culture with Stuart H. Coleman on July 31, 2021 at 3pm (Honolulu), 9pm (NYC) and Aug 1, 2021 at 8am (Bangkok), 2am (London)

All events have been promoted on Facebook, LinkedIn, and via the APLP Listserv to more than 600 APLP alumni with two mailouts for each event. Events will continue to be promoted in this fashion. See more chapter activities and updates in the APLP Chapter’s quarterly alumni newsletter, The APLP Navigator.

The EWCA Media Chapter also produces a quarterly newsletter for its members.

The EWCA Islamabad Chapter, in collaboration with Gallery 6, is organizing Visual Dialogue on Climate Change, an International Photographic Competition. Please participate and spread the word around through all your groups.

The Southern California Chapter invites EWC associates across generations from the 1960s to future alumni in California, Arizona, Hawai‘i, and others visiting, to join their EWCA Special Impact Event Weekend on September 11-12, 2021 at the Ayres Hotel (near Disneyland & Amtrak Rail). Reunion fun with a focus on challenges facing diverse cultural communities and the impact East-West Center alumni—past, present, and future—have made and can make. For more information or to RSVP early for a low group rate, contact Claire Langham, Jay Brara, or Inge Maranto.