



ALUMNI E-NEWS - JUNE 2015
Strengthening the EWC Community

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CHARLES E. MORRISON TO RETIRE AS EWC PRESIDENT IN 2016



East-West Center President Charles E. Morrison has told the Board of Governors that he intends to retire at the end of his current contract on July 31, 2016. "By the end of my current term, I will have led the East-West Center for 18 years. It is time for new leadership for the institution and a different lifestyle for myself," Morrison said. He said he is "confident the Board will find a visionary and effective leader for the next stage of the Center's development."

Expressing his appreciation to all EWC staff, alumni, board members and others for their exceptional support and work on behalf of the Center during his time in office, he said, "It has been wonderful to have worked on strengthening U.S.-Asia Pacific relations with so many dedicated EWC community members, an accomplished and passionate staff, and wonderful partners. I cannot imagine a more rewarding job."

There have been many changes at the East-West Center during Morrison's tenure. These include holding EWC/EWCA international conferences on a regular biennial basis and the establishment of new virtual alumni chapters to complement the city/country chapters.

EWC COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO NEPAL QUAKE



Photo credit: EWC alumna Luna K. C. Ghimire

Members of the EWC community, including alumni, participants and staff, have engaged in a variety of response efforts in the wake of the recent devastating earthquakes in Nepal. "Our hearts go out to the family members of those who lost their lives and to the thousands who have had to leave their homes," said EWC President Charles E. Morrison. "We know that rebuilding will require enormous leadership, stamina, and resources, and we hope to be able to help." ...[more](#)...

REGISTRATION OPENS FOR MANILA ALUMNI CONFERENCE



[Online registration](#) and a [call for papers](#) are now open for the next EWC/EWCA international alumni conference, to be held **January 15-17, 2016, in Manila, Philippines**, at the historic Manila Hotel. Hundreds of EWC alumni, friends and colleagues from dozens of countries are expected to attend the conference on the theme of "Bridging Diverse Cultures Toward an Inclusive Asia Pacific Community." Deadline for early registration rate and abstract submission is August 15, 2015. Visit EastWestCenter.org/manila2016 for more information about the conference.

RETIRING MENDEL DJUNAIDY HONORED AT HO'OPIKA CEREMONY



Longtime EWC student liaison Mendl Djunaidy, who is retiring this summer as Associate Dean of Education after 43 years of service at the Center, was specially honored at this spring's Ho'opuka Ceremony for students completing their EWC awards. In addition, Mendl – who first came to the Center in the 1960s as an intern – was added to the [East-West Center Wall of Honor](#), thanks to the generosity of many alumni, staff and friends whose lives she has touched. All donations to the Wall of Honor program support the EWCA Alumni Endowment Fund for Student Scholarships.

MISSING ALUMNUS SOMBATH SOMPHONE

The EWCA regrets that nothing has yet been learned about the fate of distinguished UH-EWC alumnus **Sombath Somphone** (PI 1971) since his disappearance in Vientiane, Laos, on December 15, 2012. Numerous nations and civil society organizations have also expressed their concern. Sombath was widely recognized for his accomplishments in sustainable development and empowering the rural poor, and in 2005 he was awarded the Magsaysay Award, Asia's equivalent of the Nobel Prize.

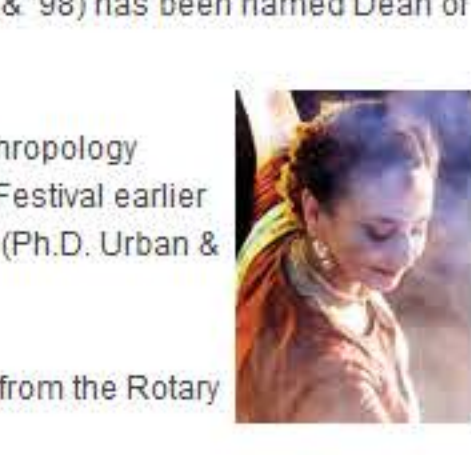
ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

At the University of Hawai'i's spring graduation ceremony, EWC alumnus **U Than Oo** (SI 1962-63) was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters for his pioneering education and literacy work in Myanmar. Now 88, he journeyed from Myanmar to Hawai'i especially for the ceremony, where he was formally recognized for "the instrumental role he played in bringing about overall educational gains to the people of his country." ...[more](#)...



Previous Kathmandu Alumni Chapter Leader **Shankar Sharma** (OG & RSI 1979-'86), a former ambassador to the U.S. and Vice Chair of Nepal's National Planning Commission, was appointed to the Rapid Environmental Assessment Team that the government formed to address post-earthquake scenarios.

Media program alumna **Kitty Pilgrim** (Hong Kong, Korea and Asia Pacific Journalists Exchanges, 2002-'07), a former CNN anchor, has written her third travel-mystery novel, *Summer of Fire*, set on the Italian isle of Capri.



EWC Adjunct Research Fellow **Sherry Broder** has received the American Bar Association's 2015 Solo & Small Firm Lifetime Achievement Award for her work over more than three decades that has "epitomized the ideals of the legal profession and of solo and small-firm practitioners." Among Broder's accomplishments cited by the ABA was a successful class-action suit by victims of the Marcos regime in the Philippines, her work on Native Hawaiian social justice issues and her selection as the first woman president of the Hawai'i Bar Association.

Recent Senior Journalists Seminar alum **Vijay Joshi** (SJS 2014) has been promoted to the new Associated Press post of Director of News for Southeast Asia. Joshi, a veteran foreign correspondent for AP who has spent three decades covering Asia and the Middle East, will continue to be based in Bangkok, where he was most recently Assistant Asia Pacific Editor.

Tokyo Alumni Chapter member **Yutaka Harada** (OG 1978-'79) has been invited onto the Board of the Bank of Japan, which directs Japan's monetary policy.

Joker, a new play by recent alumnus **Yilong Liu** (MFA Playwriting 2015), has been selected for performance as part of the next season of Honolulu's Kumu Kahua theater company, as well as this summer's New York International Fringe Festival. Set during the run-up to the passage of Hawai'i's marriage equality law, the play explores devotion and loss through a family that manages a Chinese restaurant in Honolulu.



Asian Studies Development Program alumna **Carol Edwards** (ASPD 1994 & '98) has been named Dean of Florida State University—Panama City.

Pakistani anthropologist and classical dancer **Feriyal Aslam** (MA Anthropology 2005-'06) performed at the opening ceremony of the Islamabad Literature Festival this year. Feriyal, incidentally, is married to fellow EWC alum **Wilmar Salim** (Ph.D. Urban & Regional Planning 2003-'07) from Indonesia.



Dr. **Mila C. Espina** (CLI 1983) has received an award for tourism education from the Rotary Club of Manila.

Chennai alum **H.K. Lakshman Rao** (RSI 1978-'80) has been conducting programs on spoken English, Kannada and Tamil for secondary school and college students in rural areas of India's southern Tamil Nadu and Karnataka states.

IN MEMORIAM

Nationally noted atomic technology scientist and lawyer **John P. Craven** (CI 1973, EAPI 1980 & '84, PIDP 1989, RSI 1989), 90, passed away in February in Honolulu. As a top scientist for the U.S. Navy, he headed many vital projects, including the Polaris submarine program and top-secret efforts to recover lost nuclear weapons and even a wrecked Soviet submarine from the ocean floor. As a distinguished University of Hawai'i professor in later years, he was credited with numerous innovations, including the development of an experimental ocean thermal energy plant in Kona and revolutionary ship hull designs. Read his NY Times [obituary](#).



Early '70s visiting Fellow **Samuel T. Hurst IV** (OG 1973-'74), one-time Dean of Architecture and Fine Arts at USC, passed away in April at the age of 94. During the more than a year he spent at the Center, Hurst participated in numerous urbanization and housing-issue projects and publications, including an "experiment in group living" at Hale Manoa. His wife Lillian writes that Hurst's fellowship at EWC "was a stimulating and valuable time in his life. He spoke of it often."

Australian journalist **Stuart Inder** (CI 1974, '76, '79 & ICC 1985-'86), a leading expert on the Pacific as editor of Pacific Islands Monthly magazine from the 1950s to '80s, passed away in Sydney earlier this year.

EWCA has learned that frequent Asia Studies Development Program workshop participant **Joseph McKeon** (ASDP 1995, '97, '00, '04, '10) passed away in 2013. A one-time priest, McKeon later taught philosophy and Eastern religion at Central Connecticut State University.

EWCA CHAPTER NEWS

Brisbane Chapter – During a recent visit to Hawai'i, Chapter Leader **Iraphne Childs** (right) enjoyed breakfast at Zippy's with EWCA VP for Chapter Development **Estrella Sybinsky** (center) and her daughter **Andrea**, a 2005 Asia Pacific Leadership Program alumna. (Since then, Estrella has stepped down from the board after five years of exceptional service, and ASPD Chapter Leader **Jessica A. Sheetz-Nguyen** from Oklahoma has taken on the Chapter Development post).



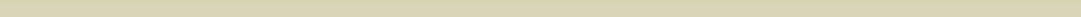
Chennai Chapter – In April, the chapter co-organized a special World Health Day [program](#) at the U.S. Consulate on "Summary of Students Health: A Holistic Approach to Mental, Emotional and Physical Wellbeing of the Learner," which was attended by more than 30 senior schoolteachers from the Chennai area. Other co-sponsors included the Rotary Club and the Exchange Visitor Alumni Association.



Islamabad Chapter – During a visit in to Pakistan in January, EWC Director of External Affairs **Karen Knudsen** accompanied chapter members to the **House of Light School** for children from very underprivileged communities. The chapter has been helping to support the school, including organizing an art sale of students' painting that helped raise funds for its new building.



Laos Chapter – Chapter Leader **Chanthavong Saignasith** recently hosted 10 English teaching apprentices in EWC's Brunei-U.S. English Enrichment Program (ASEAN) at his home, along with alum and former EWC Board of Governors Chairman **Puonpun Sananikone** and the family of the Second Secretary of the Embassy of Brunei Darussalam. The teachers were briefed about Laos and the city of Vientiane. Chanthavong reports that the teachers have all been assigned to secondary schools across Vientiane.



Manila Chapter – Preparations for the 2016 EWC International Conference to be held in the historic landmark Manila Hotel are in full swing. The Board of Officers of the EWC Philippine Chapter met with conference co-chair, Professor Emeritus **Ric Trimillos** on June 20th at the residence of **Senen** and **Yoly Bacani**. Further preparations for the 2016 Conference will be undertaken with the visit of two members of the Hawaii-based EWC Conference Team, **Karen Knudsen** and **Noreen Tanouye** on July 7-13.

Northern California Chapter – On March 24, the chapter co-sponsored a "What We Know: Writing on North Korea Today," event with co-sponsors the Asia Society of Northern CA, UC Berkeley Institute of East Asian Studies, UC Berkeley Center for Korean Studies and the Yale Club of San Francisco. Speakers covered insights about North Korea from defectors and other sources.

Singapore Chapter – In January, renowned Primatologist and United Nations Messenger of Peace and **Jane Goodall** met with several chapter members at Nanyang Technological University. In addition to discussing the environmental pollution threatening both chimpanzees and humankind, discussion centered on a global youth program called **Roots & Shoots**, which the chapter hopes can be initiated with primary school children in Singapore.

Southern California Chapter – Chapter members gathered for a meeting and lunch, organized by Chapter Leader **Claire Langham Richmond**, on April 25th at the beautiful Santa Ana home of **Ron Jackson** and **Dorothy Siddall**.

EWC AND EWCA ONLINE NETWORKS

The East-West Center and the EWCA maintain four main online networks to keep Alumni, Associates and Friends of the East-West Center communicating with each other. Join our Online Networks at:

- Facebook**
[EWC Alumni and Community Facebook Page](#)
- LinkedIn**
[EWCA Alumni and Community LinkedIn Group](#)
- East-West Center Community**
[East-West Center Community](#)
- Twitter**
[EWC Twitter Account](#)

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