



**ALUMNI E-NEWS - OCTOBER 2015**  
*Strengthening the EWC Community*

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**EWC HONORS NAVIGATOR NAINOA THOMPSON AT 55TH YEAR CELEBRATION**



At a gala 55th year dinner celebration in Honolulu on Sept. 15 with 550 people in attendance, EWC honored master traditional navigator Nainoa Thompson with the Center's Asia Pacific Community Building Award. Accepting the award "in all humility," Thompson, who has worked closely with EWC's leadership programs, said: "To me, the Center is a *pu'u honua* (place of refuge) ... a place of hope, with a fundamental belief that you can bring people together around the Pacific and find that hope of peace." ... [more](#)...

**CENTER WELCOMES NEW STUDENTS FROM MORE THAN 40 COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES**



Nearly 100 new student fellows from more than 40 countries and territories arrived in Hawai'i to begin their participation in East-West Center programs this fall. The new graduate students and leadership program participants join a diverse community of more than 110 continuing EWC participants. ... [more](#)...

**EXCITEMENT BUILDS FOR JANUARY ALUMNI CONFERENCE IN MANILA**



Programs & Events | 2015 Manila Conference | Registered Participants

**Alumni | East-West Center Association (EWCA)**

**REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS**

Registered conference participants for the EWCEWCA 2016 International Conference in Manila, Philippines, January 15-17, 2016

Please notify us if any of the information below is incorrect or if you have registered and paid for the conference and your name is not listed.

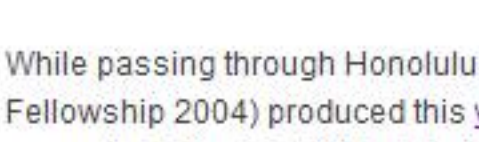
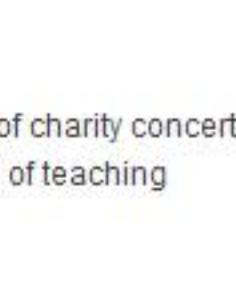
Last updated: October 1, 2015

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	RESIDENCE
1	Ab Hamid	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2	Almadani	Perth, WA, Australia
3	Aghayani	Aurora, HI, USA
4	Aggarwal	Rajkot, India
5	Amara	India

Nearly 200 people have already registered for the next EWCEWCA International Conference in Manila this coming January 15-17. (Click to see a [list](#) of who's coming.) In addition, more than 80 paper proposals were received, and selected presentations are being organized into 20 panel sessions for the conference on "Bridging Diverse Cultures Towards an Inclusive Asia Pacific Community."

**ALUMNI UPDATES**

Dr. **Shamsuddin Ahmad** (RSI 1983-'87) was recently elected Chairman of Prime Bank Securities Limited in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Previously, he worked for 26 years as a development specialist at the World Bank in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Washington, D.C. As an EWC participant, Ahmad was a recipient of the Center's Makana Award for student leadership.



**Glen Gibbons** (ISI 1967-'68) has received a high honor from the United Kingdom's Royal Institute of Navigation for his "outstanding contribution to navigation" as editor of the leading journal on global satellite navigation systems. The institute's 2015 Harold Spencer-Jones Gold Medal was presented to Glen by Prince Philip (right) in July at the Royal Geographic Society in London.

In July, Japan-based musician and musicologist **Tim Hoffman** (ICC 1989-'91) gave a pair of charity concerts in Yokohama and Odawara to benefit Nepal earthquake victims, before leaving for a month of teaching residencies and performances in India.

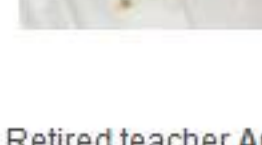
While passing through Honolulu recently, veteran war correspondent **Alex Quade** (Hong Kong Journalism Fellowship 2004) produced this [video](#) about the longstanding controversy over the fate of a World War I memorial at the Waikiki Natatorium.

*Shakuhachi* flute master **Christopher Yohmei Blasdel** (EWCA Conferences 2008 & '10) has released a new CD, *Striking Light, Striking Dark*, with singer Sasha Bogdanowitsch, featuring selections of their favorite poems set to an array of rare world and original instruments.



**IN MEMORIAM**

EWC alumnus **Munawar Ashraf** (CLI 1976-'77) passed away on Sept. 25 in Toronto. Friends report that he always took pains over the years to stay in touch with as many EWC colleagues as he could.

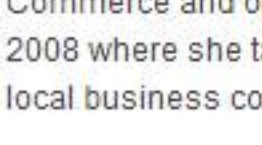
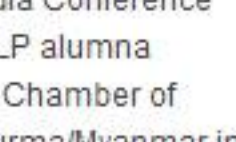


Former U.S. Foreign Service officer **Janey Dea Cole** (OG 1969-'71) passed away in July. She worked for the Foreign Service for 23 years until her retirement in 2003 and often described her time at EWC as the "turning point" in her life.

Retired teacher **Andrew James 'Jim' Heller** (CWP 1965) passed away peacefully in July. A veteran of the Pacific War, he taught in the Minneapolis public school system for 34 years, and was actively involved in professional organizations.

Educator, public servant, author, former Pan Am flight attendant and adventurer **Paula Helfrich** (EWC 50th Anniversary Conference 2010, Myanmar Futures Exchange 2013, and 4th International Media Conference 2014) died on October 6, 2015 at age 69. She is the mother of two daughters including APLP alumna **Laurien Helfrich-Nuss** (APLP 2010-'11). After a successful career in Hawaii working at the Chamber of Commerce and on economic development projects on the Big Island, Paula returned to Burma/Myanmar in 2008 where she taught English at several schools, wrote a novel based on her life, and was active in the local business community.

Longtime EWC community member **Jack Reynolds** (ISI 1964-'66) passed away recently. He specialized in evaluation and applied research, largely in international health. Over the course of his career, he worked in more than 40 countries and was married to fellow EWC grantee **Tin Myaing Thein** (Institute for Student Interchange 1963-'66), after they met at the Center 50 years ago.



Recent alum **Eric Tenzin** (Tenzin Lhundrub, Danzenglungzhu, EP 2010-'12) was killed in an auto accident in Tibet in September. Back from Hawai'i with a Masters of Public Administration from UHM, he was starting a career in Lhasa with a vision to promote civic engagement through NGOs. His many EWC friends and colleagues remember Eric as a kind, generous and spirited person.

Micronesian alumna **Karmerina Yamada** (ITI 1966) passed away in September. Active in Pohnpei civic life, she served for a time as the FSM president's protocol officer.

**Zarina Zaman** (ISI 1961-'63) from Bangladesh passed away in September. Zarina taught at Dacca University until retirement, then became a U.S. citizen and lived in Florida where her two youngest children had settled.



**EWCA CHAPTER NEWS**



**APLP Chapter** – The launch of the first-ever Asia Pacific Leadership Program "global happy hour" was a huge success, with representation on 5 continents and 15 cities. Approximately 90 APLP alumni, staff, participants and friends joined in gatherings worldwide on the evening of September 8. The **Washington, D.C. Chapter** also participated in the event, along with several other EWC alumni and affiliates.

**Beijing Chapter** – New Community Liaison **Yue (Sherie) Cai** re-established alumni involvement in the chapter by reaching out to members by email and creating a chat group, which will make it easier to communicate with members living in other areas of China. The group now has 62 members.



**Karachi Chapter** – In an effort to activate members through social, cultural and educational activities, a first aid training workshop was held in August. The training, which members found quite beneficial, consisted of measures to take during emergencies such as road accidents, fires, bomb blasts, etc.

**Laos Chapter** – Two years ago in Vientiane's Chao Anou Vong Park, chapter members planted 25 rainbow-shower trees that originated from Honolulu, Hawaii, via Hue, Vietnam. Today, all the trees have grown well and now bear beautiful colored flowers.



**Hawai'i Chapter** – In August, chapter members hosted more than 175 East-West Center students and alumni for their annual Community Building Institute picnic in Kapi'olani Park. Each year this picnic is an excellent way to network with students who will be future alumni of the East-West Center.



**Islamabad Chapter** - In early September, the chapter organized a reception at Gallery 6 for 17 journalists from a dozen countries who were in Pakistan on their study tour for EWC's Senior Journalists Seminar.

**Nepal Chapter** – The chapter celebrated East-West Center dinner with a talk by visiting **Brisbane Chapter Treasurer Bhisna Bajracharya** on "Post Earthquake Rebuilding in Nepal: Challenges and Initiatives from Queensland." Later, Dr. Bhisna visited a school in Kathmandu where he distributed protective headgear to children to wear in the event of an earthquake.



**New York Chapter** - Members of the New York City Chapter gathered at a restaurant for dinner in late September, where special guest Steve Orlins of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations shared insights on relations between the world's two largest economies. On the menu – delicious Chinese food, of course.

**Tokyo Chapter** – Twelve chapter members held a summer party in July to send off a new APLP grantee to Honolulu and welcome a new alum who just returned from their studies at the Center. The guests of the evening were EWC Director of External Affairs **Karen Knudsen** and Alumni Coordinator **Noreen Tanouye**, who provided the latest information about the upcoming EWCA international alumni conference in Manila.



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

The Alumni e-News replaces the EWC Associates Update newsletter and is produced by the Center for Cultural and Technical Interchange between East and West, Inc. Editors: [Derek Ferrar](#) and [Noreen Tanouye](#)