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OSCAR AND ROSETTA FISH SCHOLARSHIP FOR EXCELLENCE

# FISH SCHOLAR NEWSLETTER

FALL 2016

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First Row (left to right): Nikki Oka, Alexis Panoncillo, Kelly Sunabe, Alissa Kelly, Mia Porter

Second Row: Stefan Joshua Rasay, Tate Castillo, Dustin Borromeo

Third Row: Kirk Wei, Nicolas Grigsby

Fourth Row: Matthew Yoshioka

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# OSCAR AND ROSETTA FISH SCHOLARSHIP FOR EXCELLENCE FISH SCHOLAR NEWSLETTER

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## Semester Recap

Welcome to the Fall 2016 Fish Scholar Newsletter. This issue highlights the scholars' activities under the leadership of cohort coordinator, Kirk Wei. The Fish Scholars were hard at work this semester with the implementation of a new Mentorship Program and Alumni Mixer. In addition to new projects, the scholars had a hand in Service-to-School events and coordinated several Community Service events.

This semester, the Fish Scholars were focused on creating strong working relationships between Shidler students and business professionals in the community, while challenging both students and alumni to find hidden potential and innovation in Hawai'i.

The scholars concluded the semester with a Christmas party, graciously hosted by Rikki and Warren Mitsunaga. Filled with gift giving, ugly sweaters, creative games, delicious food, and Holiday cheer, the event was the perfect time for the scholars to decompress and enjoy one another's company after a long and busy semester.

We would like to wish safe travels to Alissa Kelly, who will be studying abroad at the University of Tübingen in Germany and Matt Yoshioka, who will be studying abroad at Keio University in Japan for the Spring 2017 semester.



# FISH MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

## Fish Mentoring Program Kick-Off

October 3, 2016

After much anticipation, the Fish scholars got to meet their mentors for the year as well as network with other professionals. This inaugural mentoring program and kick-off event was a true success thanks to many key players including but not limited to Maile Au, Tyson Yamada, Rikki Mitsunaga, Kirk Wei, as well as all the mentors.

The event started with a few opening words by Dean Roley, followed by a program description by the Fish cohort coordinator, Kirk Wei. After the program started, the mentors and mentees were able to introduce themselves to each other and connect through experiences as well as career aspirations. It was very rewarding and humbling to be a part of such a special program. All of the mentors were assigned to a student based on their career goals, which will hopefully help foster a unique mentor-mentee relationship through a passion for the same or similar industry.



The networking aspect of the event was also very unique. All the Fish Scholars and mentors took part in an icebreaker activity that involved sharing fun facts about themselves. It was a fun way to get to know each other in an amusing and entertaining way.

All in all, the Fish Mentoring Program Kick-Off Event was extremely successful, bringing together the mentor-mentee pairs and initiating the mentoring process. All of the Fish Scholars are extremely excited and grateful to have been given this wonderful opportunity to be mentored by business professionals in their desired field.

# STUDENT-ALUMNI MIXER

## Student-Alumni Networking Event & Speaker Panel

November 2, 2016



After months of hard work and planning, spearheaded by Fish Scholars Mia Porter and Dustin Borromeo, we hosted the first ever Speaker Panel and Alumni Mixer on November 2, 2016. With the support of Shidler's Alumni Association as well as the Inter-Business Council (IBC), the event, hosted at Dave & Buster's, was a great success. The mixer brought together Fish Scholars, Shidler student leaders, and business leaders from the local community.

Moderated by Professor Jack Suyderhoud, panelists Tarik Sultan, Susan Yamada, and Assaf Karmon shared valuable insight on the climate of business in Hawaii.

Tarik Sultan, Managing Partner of Sultan Ventures, spoke about Hawaii's own take on Silicon Valley—Startup Paradise.

This startup community is invested in showcasing Hawaii's diverse and vibrant entrepreneurial spirit.

Susan Yamada, Executive Director of the Pacific Asian Center for Entrepreneurship (PACE) and self-proclaimed "accidental entrepreneur", encouraged everyone in attendance to take risks and have the vision and drive to turn a dream into an actionable plan. She inspired and challenged aspiring entrepreneurs in the audience with her stories of ambition and perseverance. Assaf Karmon, Vice President of Engineering at GoShare, explained how technology has allowed for entrepreneurs to globalize. Companies today can have employees all over the map—an innovation that has the potential to really put Hawaii on the map.



Student representatives from many Shidler clubs were able to ask the panelists questions, and they also had the opportunity to network with Shidler alumni. The Fish Scholars were honored to be able to facilitate this connection between our current and future business leaders, and we look forward to planning many more events like this in the future.

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# SERVICE-TO-SCHOOL

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## Hall of Honor Awards

October 13, 2016

Hall of Honor is one of the largest and most prestigious events the Shidler College of Business hosts annually. This year, the Fish Scholars got the opportunity again to volunteer and help Shidler successfully execute this prestigious event. From the wonderful guests to the amazing décor and food, the Fish Scholars got to experience what it was like talking to outstanding professionals in Hawaii who have made huge positive impacts in the community. Along with that, the Fish Scholars worked together to help Maile Au, Jamie Watanabe, and Dolly Omiya with a variety of tasks to make sure all the guests were well acquainted when they arrived and knew where to go before and during the main event.

In the beginning, the Fish Scholars helped with checking in the guests and made sure which guests were past honorees and who were allowed in the VIP room. The Fish Scholars worked cohesively as a team to help each other and the Shidler faculty out with each task given to them. By the time we opened the doors for the main event, the Fish Scholars were able to clean up their sections quickly and help guide the rest of the guests into the ballroom to get the program started.

There were four honorees this year. They were Patrick Chang, Theresa Yang, Tra My Nguyen, and John C. Dean Jr. Some of the Fish Scholars had the pleasure to meet and greet the honorees and had a wonderful time talking to them. During the program, the Fish Scholars and guests for the event got to learn more about the background of each honoree and see clearly why they were selected as this year's honorees. Each honoree contributed so much back to the community and always worked passionately to motivate his or her peers. They were true leaders in our community.



## Fall Shidler Career Expo

October 20, 2016

The Office of Internships and Career Development hosted Shidler's semi-annual Career Expo on October 20th, 2016. A wide range of over sixty companies were in attendance, offering Shidler students the chance to network with representatives and learn about various organizations and career paths. This semester, the Fish Scholars had a hand in the Shidler Career Expo from start to finish. Between their classes, Scholars helped with set up, greeted and directed professionals in the parking areas, assisted with professional registration, managed the buffet in the faculty lounge, and assisted with breakdown as the expo concluded to help ensure a successful event.



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# SERVICE-TO-SCHOOL

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## Scholarship Luncheon

November 14, 2016

On Monday, November 14th, the Fish Scholars along with other Shidler students received the wonderful opportunity to meet and socialize with their scholarship donors. Prior to the luncheon, scholarship recipients were also invited to attend Marketing YOU! Workshop presented by Warren Kwan from Enterprise. Gathered in a separate room, Mr. Kwan followed along with a slideshow that contained key facts on branding oneself and effectively creating a good impression during business interactions. Personal highlights included the idea of "telling a story," in which one must portray themselves as capable, likeable, and a good culture fit. Also, the fact that genuine enthusiasm will always resonate well in the eyes of others. Mr. Kwan then asked for volunteers for his own version of Family Feud, in which students were offered the chance to be engaged and receive Enterprise prizes. Considering students would move on to network in the second part of the luncheon, this workshop was in some ways eye-opening and served as great preparation for everyone's interactions with their donors.

Once situated in a grand ballroom, students found their assigned seats and sat alongside their scholarship donors. Enlightening speeches were given by the Dean of the Shidler College of Business, Vance Roley, Martin J. Welch, and our very own Fish Scholar, Nikki Oka. Mr. Welch is the Chief Executive Officer of Hawaii Employers' Mutual Insurance Company (HEMIC). Their messages were clear in the sense that the future is slowly being placed in all of our hands, and it is our duty to take what we learn from our classes and outside opportunities and somehow make our community a better one. With innovation and fresh perspectives, the Fish Scholars and every other Shidler student began to understand our roles as the potential leaders of tomorrow. Thank you to the Shidler College of Business for coordinating this event, and to all of the donors and speakers. On behalf of the students, we appreciated the professionals for taking time out of their days to meet with us and for offering their insight and kind words.



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# COMMUNITY SERVICE

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## He'eia Loko I'a Work Day

September 24, 2016



The Fish scholars had the amazing opportunity to go out into nature on the 24th of September to help clean up the He'eia Fishpond. While the land belongs to Kamehameha Schools, the organization that cares for this historic fishpond is Paepae o He'eia. This fishpond had been built more than 800 years ago and at one point fed an entire community. It was restored recently with the help of many volunteers and now serves as a link to the past and a place of learning.

Living in Hawaii we regularly experience tropical storms and while we experience most of them mildly, some of them cause a lot of damage. This was the case with Hurricane Darby this past July. Darby had damaged a 250 foot section of the fishpond wall as well as trapped debris in the pond itself. The previous volunteers did a fantastic job of repairing the wall and so the scholars assisted with debris cleanup and removal of invasive plants. Scholars were not afraid to get down and dirty to jump into the pond to remove invasive mangrove seedlings that have taken root. On and along the wall many buckets were filled to the brim with these seedlings and debris. The scholars also assisted with the weeding of invasive sleeping plants along the property.

Before and while the fish scholars were helping, many cultural lessons were given about the significance of the He'eia fishpond and about Hawaiian culture. While the scholars were able to give back, what they took home with them is a greater understanding of sustainability and what that meant to the Hawaiians. It was truly a great experience.



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# COMMUNITY SERVICE

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## Center for Tomorrow's Leaders

September 15, 2016

On Thursday, September 15th, the Fish Scholars completed their first community service event of the Fall 2016 semester. They volunteered with Rizen Hawaii's fundraising night for the Center for Tomorrow's Leaders, a non-profit group dedicated to empowering high school youth. The proceeds of this casino-themed fundraiser supported the Center for Tomorrow's Leaders programs, which focus on student leadership and creating peer role models. The Fish Scholars assisted with event registration, raffle tickets, and selling tickets for beverages and games. They learned from the Center For Tomorrow's Leaders Executive Director, Katie Chang, how programs for youth can strongly and positively influence them throughout their high school and college careers and the importance of facilitating youth leadership at an early age. The Fish cohorts bonded together over a meal and live entertainment and enjoyed their experience with Rizen Hawaii/Center For Tomorrow's Leaders.

## Keiki Costume Ball at the Children's Discovery Center

October 30, 2016

The day before Halloween in the fall of 2016, the Oscar & Rosetta Fish Scholars got the chance to feel like kids again at the Children's Discovery Center in Kaka'ako where the Keiki Costume Ball was being held. Kids and their families were there in their costumes ready to collect candy, make some crafts, and play some games. The scholars helped with serving food and helping make crafts. Families lined up to get their pizzas, drinks, and ice cream in the middle of their candy collections and craft creations. There were definitely times when we were overwhelmed but we still had fun, seeing both children and adults ecstatic to get a meal.

As for the crafts, many of the kids loved to make their own ghost fans, unleashing their creativity. There were many different faces made by the kids and parents, ranging from happy ghosts to ghosts with flower tattoos and more. This event was packed and overflowing with laughter and energy where kids and families could enjoy Halloween.





# COMMUNITY SERVICE

## March of Dimes: Hawaii Governor's Ball

November 5, 2016



Giving back to the community is one of many core values that the Fish scholars share. They are constantly looking for opportunities to reciprocate the kindness that they have experienced and enjoy engaging in community volunteer events. On Saturday, November 5th, they woke up bright and early to help coordinators set-up for the annual March of Dimes Governor's Ball and also learned about what the program is doing to help prevent premature births around the world.

The scholars got to work and promptly formed groups which were tasked multiple projects to get the event set up before guests arrived. They created beautiful center pieces, set tables, and organized the auction floor. There were over 60 tables, hundreds of settings, and an entire room of auction items, but the scholars saw it as an opportunity to work together.

Throughout the day they met other scholars and volunteers that shared the same passion for community involvement and were inspired by the level of dedication everyone had. Working together with others was encouraging and left everyone with a heartfelt feeling of accomplishment. We can't wait to come back!



The tremendous personal and professional growth undergone this semester would not have been made possible without the generous support of the Oscar and Rosetta Fish Scholarship Fund for Excellence and our program coordinator Rikki Mitsunaga.

The Fish Scholars would like to express our endless gratitude for the many opportunities made available to us here at Shidler College of Business and will continue to work diligently to uphold the values and expectations of being a Fish Scholar, exemplifying professionalism and International Excellence.