
OSCAR AND ROSETTA FISH SCHOLARSHIP FOR EXCELLENCE

FISH SCHOLAR NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2017



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

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

Third Row: Kirk Wei, Nicolas Grigsby

Fourth Row: Matthew Yoshioka

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Semester Recap

Welcome to the Spring 2017 Fish Scholar Newsletter. This issue highlights the scholars' activities under the leadership of Kirk Wei during his last semester as cohort coordinator. The Fish Scholars labored tirelessly this semester offering their hand in events that catered to the needs of the students, the alumni, and the community.

As the semester comes to a close we wish those scholars who will soon be participating in study abroad programs safe travels: Kelli Sunabe (PAMI Asian Field Study), Tate Castillo (PAMI Asian Field Study), Nico Grigsby (Spain), Stefen Joshua Rasay (Hong Kong).

We would like to wish our graduating members of the second-year cohort (Dustin Borromeo, Nikki Oka, Alexis Panoncillo, Mia Porter, and Kirk Wei) a warm farewell and the best of luck as they move forward and build a future for each of themselves. We are all eager to see them become the new generation of movers and shakers in the Hawai'i business community.

Finally, a special thank you goes out to Rikki Mitsunaga for facilitating another successful semester for the scholars as Program Coordinator and to the Oscar & Rosetta Fish Scholarship Fund and its many generous donors who make all of this possible.

SPORTS & STORIES ALUMNI MIXER

Student-Alumni Networking Event

March 2, 2017



The Fish Scholars hosted the second Alumni Association Mixer with the Inter-Business Council on March 2, 2017 in the Edwin Wong Hospitality Suite at the Stan Sheriff Center. The event, called "Sports & Stories," was meant to be less structured to highlight the more personal and intimate aspect of networking - a paramount aspect of the business world. This event was to allow both students and alumni to interact with one another in a more relaxed setting. With some networking activities and great pupus and drinks, the Shidler student representatives and professionals attending certainly enjoyed themselves. Afterwards, the students and professionals were invited to an exciting UH Men's Volleyball match against USC where the networking could take place in the seats of the Stan Sheriff Center above.

Words of support and advice were given by esteemed speakers such as Dean Vance Roley, Men's Volleyball Coach Charlie Wade, and former student athlete and Shidler alum, Kacy Johnson. The night was a great reminder for many alumni to reminisce about their days in college while students can imagine themselves in their shoes just a few years ahead. The bonds created that night are now more profound because the alumni realize that the attending students will one day be where they are now. It was definitely an honor to have created this stronger bridge between the alumni and the students because a stronger connection makes for a stronger Shidler College of Business.

SERVICE-TO-SCHOOL

Shidler Career Fair

February 23, 2017

All of the Fish Scholars were very excited to help out at the bi-annual Shidler Career Fair this semester. The career fair allows students a chance to not only practice their networking skills, but also to potentially gain an internship or job opportunity. As Fish Scholars, we are honored to help out the Career and Internship Office at such an amazing event. Many of us had class at various times during the fair, so it was difficult to stay there during its entirety. However, we all made the most of the time we had there and helped out to the best of our ability with the various tasks assigned.

Every service to school project is extremely rewarding in itself as we get to support the college as well as our fellow students. We were also able to network with the numerous professionals that came to our campus and tell them about the wonderful opportunities we have and the support we receive from the college. It is always exciting meeting new people and learning their story. Perhaps the most rewarding part of the volunteer experience was being able to witness the relationships building amongst many students and professionals, relationships that may eventually turn into an internship or job opportunity in the future.

Executive Vineyards

March 16, 2017

On Thursday, March 16, 2017, the Shidler College of Business held its annual Executive Vineyards event at the Royal Hawaiian hotel, and the Fish Scholars were given the opportunity to help out! Assisting Jamie Watanabe from the college's External Relations Office, the scholars were put in charge of preparing information packets, as well as advertising the night's raffle event and convincing attendants to purchase tickets. By the end of the night, the Fish Scholars were able to raise more than \$4,200 in sold raffle tickets alone.

Executive Vineyards is one of the college's largest fundraising events, with an average attendance of about 500 people. Multiple food vendors were present to supply the guests with beautifully prepared gourmet food, and raffle winners walked away with once-in-a-lifetime prizes (a free trip to San Francisco, and a stay at The Ritz-Carlton in Waikiki, for example). Along with a wine tasting and silent auction, Executive Vineyards allows the college to raise funds to upkeep the campus, as well as supply its students with generous scholarships. The Fish Scholars were very happy to be part of such a great event.



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Kaka'ako Next Step Homeless Shelter

January 23, 2017



On Thursday, January 23rd, the Fish Scholars decided to place themselves deeper into the community and spread goodwill to those less fortunate at the Next Step Homeless Shelter in Kaka'ako.

In association with the Honolulu Museum of Art, the scholars focused their efforts in bringing joy to the children housed at the shelter by participating in arts & crafts, playing with them, and even performing for them courtesy of our resident guitarist, Tate Castillo.

Great Aloha Run Packet Pick-Up

February 19, 2017

On Sunday, February 19th, the Fish Scholars completed their second community service event of the spring semester, volunteering for the 33rd Annual Kaiser Permanente Great Aloha Run. This year, the Great Aloha Run hopes to give \$350,000 back to at least 50 of Hawai'i's charity organizations and the military in 2017. Participating in support of a popular tradition in Hawaii that brings the whole community together is something the cohort takes great pride in.

The Fish Scholars volunteered to assist distributing packets for runners of the race on the day before the actual run. They were split into different sections to assist a large group of participants ranging from babies in strollers to elderly in their eighties still doing the run. The Great Aloha Run is Hawai'i's largest participatory race and has raised over \$11 million for over 150 non-profit health and human service organizations and community groups throughout Hawai'i. It is an 8.15-mile foot race, beginning at Aloha Tower and finishing in the Aloha Stadium.



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Ho'okua'aina Maunawiliwili

March 18, 2017

On Saturday, March 18, the Fish Scholars got their feet wet doing environmental-based service learning at Ho'okua'aina Lo'i in Maunawili, O'ahu. This was a great opportunity for the Fish Scholars to learn more about the 'aina and about the island they call home. Uncle Dean Wilhelm of Ho'okua'aina welcomed them with an 'oli, or chant, and shared his thoughts on Hawaiian culture and how working close to the earth fosters good intentions, togetherness, and awareness for the land. Our Scholars worked very hard to pull weeds, clean out several patches of taro, and remove any invasive snail eggs and were rewarded at the end when we gazed upon the land and saw how much of an impact we had working together.



Small lo'i like Ho'okua'aina rely heavily on volunteer groups to maintain their taro patches and we were extremely grateful to be a small part of the process.



We were very thankful for the opportunity to learn more about Hawaiian culture from Uncle Dean and we all went home that day feeling a bit more connected to this island and each other.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

American Cancer Society: Hope Gala

May 6, 2017

The Hope Gala was the last community service the Fish Scholars had this Spring 2017 academic semester. The event, hosted by the American Cancer Society Hawai'i Pacific, was held at The Modern Honolulu. The event also awarded Dr. Reginald Ho with the Beacon of Hope Honoree. The purpose of the event was to fundraise for the American Cancer Society so they can continue their efforts to end cancer. Since the early 1990s, they have seen a 20% decline in US cancer death rates. Each guests that came to the event paid \$300.00 and each table was \$10,000.00. All of these donations went towards the American Cancer Society's projects and efforts to help house cancer patients from the other islands who do not necessarily have the money to afford housing or family to stay with in Oahu.

The Fish Scholars arrived around 4:00 PM to meet the event coordinators for the Hope Gala and the other volunteers. After we were instructed on what our responsibilities were, we familiarized ourselves with the bids so we can better understand how to sell the bids and what the bids offered. Once the guests were coming in, we situated ourselves around the bid room to help answer any questions the guests had. When 7:15 PM hit, we closed the bids immediately to keep it fair for all the bidders.



After we closed the bid, we got the opportunity to eat the courses of food served at the event, which was very good. When we were done with dinner, we were assigned to find the guests who won their bids and notify them so they knew where to pick up their bids after the event. As the guests slowly started to leave the event and came to pick up their bids, the Fish Scholars were very proactive in finding roles they can help with.

Volunteering at the Hope Gala was a great experience to learn more about the American Cancer Society and what its vision and mission is for the future of Hawaii's cancer patients. It was a very rewarding experience and we all truly enjoyed ourselves.

SCHOLAR OVERSEAS

Matthew Yoshioka

Keio University - Japan



"Our surroundings have a profound influence on who we are and who we aim to be. As our surroundings shape who we are, we as surroundings of others effectively shape what is around us. This perpetual motion of shaping and being shaped can be defined in many ways, but I view it as a privilege to be a part of the beautiful miracle of life.

During a previous study abroad experience in Japan, I learned basic Japanese language, history, and culture. This time around was used to dig deeper and better understand this beautiful country. I took (reasonable) risks, explored new horizons (literally), and walked outside of my comfort zone. I embraced both success and failure and learned that the most important part of this experience was realizing that every outcome was dependent on how I chose to interpret it, as either a positive or negative experience.

While in Japan I struggled with the busy streets of Tokyo, an enormous cultural shift, and a completely different way of life. At the same time, it was also an amazing opportunity to be a part of a high-energy society, to explore Japanese customs, and to see life from a new point of view. Every day was a new challenge, a challenge waiting to be explored. Not all of these challenges were easy, but the choice to view my surroundings and experiences as positive influences made this journey so insightful and memorable. The Japanese have a saying, "rui wa tomo o yobu," which means "we attract that which is like ourselves." It is the Japanese expression for the law of attraction and thus far I have met many amazing people and have seen many amazing things. This is the result of viewing every experience, good or "bad", in a positive light.

This semester was the beginning of a new chapter in my life. Six months in Japan studying at the prestigious Keio University has taught me many things and all of this was made possible by the support of so many wonderful people. Special thanks and my utmost gratitude go to the Oscar and Rosetta Fish Foundation, the Freeman Foundation, the Honjo Foundation, Keio University, the Shidler College of Business, and the University of Hawaii for making this experience a reality.



I am extremely grateful for this privilege and understand the responsibility that comes with these blessings. It is an honor to be chosen as a representative of our university, state, and country. As my surroundings continue to shape me, I will continue working to positively shape the world we live in. It is a blessing to have time, resources, and most importantly hope invested into others. This entire experience continues to inspire me to live a life that invests in the betterment of future generations while remembering to stay grateful for each and every day we have."

Mahalo,

Matthew

SCHOLAR OVERSEAS

Alissa Kelly

University of Tübingen - Germany



"As I boarded my second of three flights, part of a 30 hour marathon journey from Hawaii to Germany, it finally sunk in that I would be living abroad for five months. People seated around me spoke quietly in this language I had been studying for three years, but everything still felt so foreign to me. The flight attendant glided down the aisle to explain the emergency procedures, first asking "Deutsch oder English?" The woman seated next to me said Deutsch, and thinking I could keep up I nodded my head in agreement. He then began to explain how to open the emergency exit door... in the fastest German I had ever heard. I am 100% certain I wouldn't have been able to understand him even if he was speaking in English. I knew then that this would be much more than just an academic learning experience for me.

I have been in Tübingen, Germany for just over a month now and can confidently say that studying abroad has gone way beyond just an academic learning experience for me. Not only am I learning in the traditional classroom sense, but I am also figuring out how to navigate a foreign country on my own and speak a language I've only ever practiced with other native English speakers. I get to attend courses that teach business and economics from a global perspective—courses that aren't offered back

home that are taught by professors from all over the world. Yet at the same time, I get to take trains and planes and buses to different cities and different countries (France is next on my list!). It's a cultural experience that I've never been afforded, growing up on an island where you can drive from one end to the other in an hour.

I've become really close with students from Italy, Spain, England, Ireland, Azerbaijan, and even a couple from the United States. Most are graduate students and post-graduate researchers, but we all share a desire to travel and immerse ourselves in an unfamiliar culture. It's been so enlightening realizing that people from so many different places around the globe can still come together and share meaningful, once in a lifetime experiences together.

I am extremely grateful to the Oscar and Rosetta Fish Scholarship as well as the Johnson Study Abroad Scholarship for giving me this opportunity. Each day is an opportunity to grow, and I look forward to learning both in and out of the classroom as I continue on this adventure."

Thank you,

Alissa

