Welcome to the Spring 2020 Shidler Global Leader Newsletter! This semester kicked off with various service to school events along with our community service activities. However, halfway through the semester, COVID-19 hit and the SGLs had to adapt and overcome the challenges ahead of them.

This not only included the switchover to online classes but also finding their way through tough decisions. For the 2nd year SGL’s that are graduating, they had the opportunity to meet with their mentors via zoom to discuss the unpredictable future that lies before them. Despite the current situation, all the SGLs remained positive and persevered this semester!
On February 20, 2020 the Shidler Global Leaders helped set up, run, and break down the Career Fair, hosted by the Career and Internship Development Office at the Shidler College of Business. We participate in this event every semester to give back to our Shidler Community, and to help make the event run as smooth as possible. Our SGL’s helped setup the tablecloths, assisted with parking, directed professionals on where to go, supervised the lunch room, and helped with cleanup.

We always have a great time at the Career Fair, because we see the direct impact the event has on students looking to expand their network and develop their professional skills. We also love interacting with the professionals that represent the firms, as many of them are returning representatives or Shidler alumni.
On March 12, 2020, the Shidler Global Leaders had the privilege of assisting at the 20th Annual Executive Vineyards held at The Royal Hawaiian Hotel. This is an event dedicated to raising funds for the Shidler College of Business Alumni Association by bringing together professionals from around the island for delicious sweet and savory treats and a glass of wine!

The event featured many different restaurants including MW Restaurant, La Tour Cafe, and The Asato Family, with raffles and silent auctions throughout the night. The SGL’s arrived before the event to assemble pamphlets and wristbands in preparation. The students also helped throughout the evening selling raffle tickets with the Miss Chinatown Cohort and assisting with the silent auction.

The SGLs enjoyed assisting the Shidler Alumni Association and interacting directly with the people who support them. This was a great chance for the SGLs to thank donors for their support towards creating a better education for the Shidler College of Business.
The competitor race number pickup for the annual Great Aloha Run event took place on February 16 at the Blaisdell Center. A variety of Shidler clubs attended to help in the process including our very own Shidler Global Leaders (SGLs). This community uniting event brings together tourists, military residence and plenty of local families to enjoy a day of exercise through Honolulu’s otherwise busy streets.

The SGLs used the time before the event started to network with other community volunteers as well as the kind staff that helps put together the race. After a brief boot camp on race number sorting the students found the post at the pickup tables awaiting the opening of the center to the competitors. While the day was filled with sharing useful information and working out a few misprinted numbers, it also consisted of good conversations as our SGLs met the many people participating in the event. Participating in this volunteering event allowed our students to get some more insight into what it takes to put on large scale logistical events such as this one.
On Saturday, January 25th, 2020, the SGLs participated in the monthly Malama Maunalua Community Huki.

Malama Maunalua is an organization committed to restoring the health of Maunalua Bay through habitat restoration, science and planning while educating others on how they can help. In the beginning, the SGLs got a lesson on the various algae species that negatively impact the biodiversity here in Maunalua Bay. Some of these species include the Gorilla Ogo, Leather Mudweed and Prickly Seaweed. From there, the coordinators of this event showed the SGLs what each species looked like so that they could successfully pick them out and place it in the red bags shown on the bottom left picture.

After, we were taken to a designated plot to hunt down the invasive species. Knee deep and ready with gloves, we picked out the species while coming across others like sea cucumbers! With much searching and going through every foot of the plot, we were able to pick out the invasive species so that they would be less likely to grow in that area. Once we all finished, we loaded up the red bags of invasive algae where they would be taken to a farm behind Kaiser High School to be used as fertilizer. Overall, volunteering with Malama Maunalua has been such a great opportunity as their mission of preserving the environment for the future resonates with all of us. Thank you so much for Malama Maunalua for providing us with this amazing and fun experience!
It is hard to find the words to describe the incredible experience I had while studying abroad in Spain during the Spring 2020 semester. This experience was especially special to me because it was my first time travelling outside of the US and I grew up dreaming about traveling and exploring the world. Living in another country opened up my eyes to new experiences, places, people, food, and perspectives that gave me a greater appreciation for life. Although I was unable to be in Spain for the whole semester due to the situation surrounding COVID-19, I am so thankful that I was still able to go to Spain and immerse myself within their culture.

One of the first cultural trips we had was to the Real Alcazar of Seville. This royal palace had beautiful gardens and was used in filming for Game of Thrones!

Pictured here is Plaza de España, a popular spot to visit in Seville. This historical landmark was built in the 1920s for the Ibero-American Exposition that took place in 1929 and is visited daily by locals and tourists.
Without a doubt, I was so happy with my choice to study abroad in Seville, Spain. I spent my first 2 ½ years in college studying Spanish and knew that I wanted to go to a country where I could continue my learning by being surrounded within a Spanish speaking culture. One of the aspects that also drew me to the program was the housing setting. All students were required to stay with a host family to help further integrate us into the Spanish lifestyle. This was one of my favorite aspects of studying abroad because it gave me the chance to understand and actually live the everyday Spanish lifestyle. Getting to know my host mom and developing a relationship with her was truly an indescribable delight and learning experience. We talked about life, food, travelling, movies, and everything in between during our daily meals together. Apart from my host mom, I also got to meet the other students in my program, as well as the administrative staff that took care of us academically and personally during our time abroad. Our college had an amazing program set up for us as almost every week we visited a cultural site or went to a nearby city to learn about its history and explore the area. This expanded my knowledge and experience within and outside of Spain as our program took us to other places to further our education outside of the classroom, and I only wish I could have had the chance to attend all of the activities they had planned for us!

Spending time studying and experiencing life in another country is undeniably the best decision I have made thus far in my college career. I feel so grateful and lucky to have had the experiences I did, even if they were cut short due to COVID-19. It is truly remarkable that as an SGL, and as a student in Shidler we are encouraged strongly to travel and experience new cultures because it does allow us to gain new perspectives both professionally and personally. I will never forget the wonderful people I met and memories made while studying abroad, and I hope that I get the chance to return to Spain in the future.
My study abroad experience was not the typical study abroad that most people would imagine when they look at the pamphlets in the SAC of the MIX offices; in fact the entire second half of my experience did not even take place in Spain. I chose to study abroad in Seville, Spain in the Springs of 2020. It was by far one of the greatest educational experiences during my time at Shidler College of Business, University of Hawaii at Manoa. Before the start date of our program, I went to a small town in Germany called Leutkirch where I spent a couple weeks with a friend of mine and her two girls. I had an incredible time in Germany as we toured the rural less visited areas and I became more comfortable being in a place where I didn't speak the language.

Spain was by far one of the most incredible places I have ever been to. Everything about the country is inviting from the people, the culture, the architecture and even the language. The International College of Seville (ICS) built one of the most amazing programs that provide students with an unbelievable experience from the interesting classes taught by some of the best professors I have ever had; Flamenco dance lessons, cooking classes, field trips, excursions and so much more. I lived with a host mother named Maria Jose and with a randomly assigned roommate (Mel) who turned out to be one of my best friends I've ever had. I was able to travel around Spain to many of the amazing cities such as Granada, Cadiz, and Cordoba. I also got to travel around Europe and visit countries like Portugal where I got to eat some of the best desserts I've ever had and Belgium where many of the European Union headquarters are located. But by far the most important part of my study abroad experience was the amazing friends I met. There were 5 of us in our group: Mel, Alana, Kiana, Kaityln and myself.

This was a picture of us touring some ancient roman ruins just outside of the city of Seville! It was a gorgeous day!
After a few months abroad, the Novel Coronavirus started becoming problematic in Italy which quickly shifted to some prominent cities in Spain as well. It started becoming clear that our program would be canceled and we were going to be sent home. Me and my friends, however, were not ready to say goodbye yet so we started talking about alternatives, which is when we decided for all of us to fly from the beautiful city of Seville to my family’s farm in a small town in Fort Morgan. During our time at the farm we adopted chickens, ducks, pigs, a stray cat as well as saving an injured owl and orphaned baby bunnies. We painted some murals on one of our old rundown buildings, we had campfires, learned to cook, threw birthday parties for each other and cleaned up more animal poop than I would have wished. Even though my study abroad experience was cut short, some of the key takeaways from the experience remained with me through it all. Firstly, even the worst situations can be made into something beautiful and memorable. Secondly, always keep your mind and heart open. Finally, friends and family are everything.

This was the first mural we painted on the side of one of my family’s old rundown buildings! It took us a couple weeks but it turned out incredible!

This was a tea party themed birthday party we threw for my younger brother John after leaving Spain. We spent 3 days preparing for it complete with costumes, invitations and a 5 layer cake.
I was fortunate enough to be a mentee of Daniel Chun, the regional manager of sales and community marketing for Hawai‘i. Daniel obtained his undergraduate degree at the University of Hawaii at Manoa in Travel Industry Management. He has extensive experience in the tourism industry at the Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau and at the state level as the executive assistant to Hawaii’s governor-appointed tourism liaison. Daniel also served as executive director of the Honolulu Gay & Lesbian Cultural Foundation. Daniel is extremely passionate about his different positions and is invested in giving back to the Hawaii community. This passion for the community is utterly admirable and has sparked a fire in me as an amazing role model and mentor in my life.

The structured nature of this mentorship program allowed for the mentees to choose the industry they are interested in for their mentors. Daniel was the perfect mentor for me because I would love to work in tourism in the future, particularly in the airlines industry. He taught me about how he got to where he is today, and the different kinds of experience he gained from each job he held. I am extremely appreciative of this mentorship program because Daniel helped me grow professionally and personally. I got to meet an extraordinary mentor who shed light on such an unsure time of my life, and also open many doors of networking opportunities. As the community marketing manager of Alaska Airlines for Hawaii, Daniel has many connections with business people in the community. During our meetings, Daniel would offer sharing his connections with me from Hawaiian Airlines and Japan Airlines to help broaden my perspective in the airlines industry.

As a graduating senior who is unsure about the path I want to take, Daniel was a mentor who taught me to expand my mindset to value learning, experience, and the journey instead of solely focusing on my end goals. The most valuable advice I received from Daniel was to take advantage of every moment I have. He reassured me that I did not need to have everything figured out, because plans and circumstances can change abruptly. Daniel taught me to simply learn as much as possible in anything I do, because they will create skillsets that help to pursue the goals I set for the future. I truly appreciate Daniel devoting his busy schedule to meet with me for our bi-monthly meetings. The advice and guidance he provided was invaluable and is something I will use throughout my life.
Over the past year, I've had the great opportunity to receive mentorship from John Jacobi. He leads the IT team at Hawaiian Airlines, working as the Senior Vice President of the Information Technology department. He was appointed to his role in 2017 after spending time at JetBlue Airways, Southwest Airlines, Delta Airlines, as well as a bank and a consulting firm leading IT transformations at each stop. Since joining Hawaiian Airlines, John has implemented new technology (automated check-in kiosks), a year long strategy broken down into quarterly goals, and assisted in launching the company’s new office in Phoenix. One of John’s striking features is his humble, gentle demeanor. While he is one of Hawaiian Airlines’ top executives, one would never know based on how he carries himself. During our first meeting, we discussed our shared love for sports; his passion is swimming while mine is basketball. After having our casual meeting, he invited me to attend a Town Hall meeting, which is basically a quarterly gathering of Hawaiian Air’s ENTIRE IT department. At the Town Hall, I had the opportunity to learn more about the IT departments goals as well as its progress towards achieving them. Additionally, I had the honor of listening to Peter Ingram, the company’s CEO, discuss future plans of expanding flights into new cities while keeping pace with Southwest in the local market. Overall, that experience taught me the value of strong leadership and vision.

One of my biggest takeaways from John is that cultural understanding is just as important as business acumen. He shared that when he initially joined Hawaiian Airlines, he felt that their IT department was severely lacking. He immediately formed a grand plan with goals for rapid growth and implementation. However, he received some resistance and hesitation from his team. He realized that this pushback had a direct correlation with Hawaii’s relatively “slow” culture, where people are less open to change but more comfortable with it when it happens gradually. After his realization, he revamped his planning timeline to accommodate the cultural difference. With that said, he also worked to strengthen guidelines for meeting certain goals while also increasing employee accountability. He accomplished this by creating structured teams and producing a year long plan called “the one pager”. This reduced the segmentation in the department so that each team could understand how their role in a project fit into a larger goal. For me, this was a valuable lesson in cultural sensitivity as well as forward-thinking; John was careful to consider his company culture and employee’s feedback while also finding ways to improve the department.

In terms of my career goals, John has taught me to continue pursuing opportunities for growth; when he feels that he has accomplished enough to leave the company in a significantly better place than it was when he started, he pursues a new challenge. While I probably will not work in the IT industry, I will carry John's wisdom with me into whatever my future profession may be. Overall, John has been a wonderful mentor and I am excited to stay in touch with him as I progress in my career.
Over the past academic year, I was given the tremendous opportunity to learn from my Shidler Global Leaders mentor Todd Nacapuy, Chief Information Officer at HEMIC. I could not have asked for a better mentor than Todd. Among his plethora of experiences and accolades in both the public and private sectors, I was most impressed with his generosity and am grateful for the time he took to impart his wisdom to me. I really appreciate how Todd made time for me to discuss my career interests and aspirations with him. His guidance on navigating the beginning of my professional career was important and comforting in times of uncertainty. Todd's wisdom in combination with his candor allowed for open and thought-provoking conversations.

Todd's authenticity and genuine desire to help was evident from the start. He was constantly looking for ways to ensure I got the most out of our time together and was eager to contribute and see me succeed. I am so appreciative that Todd shared his career experiences, goals, work ethic, and approach to problem solving with me. Todd stressed the importance of hard work, networking, and always striving to be the best that you can be. After each meeting, I felt inspired to continue pursuing my goals and improve myself. I enjoyed speaking with and learning from someone at such a high caliber who has been so successful in his field.

Having Todd as my mentor was one of the biggest highlights of my time as an SGL and I look forward to staying connected with Todd throughout my career. Thank you to the Shidler College of Business for arranging great opportunities like this mentorship program and thank you again Todd Nacapuy for your generosity!
My mentor is Kent Tsukamoto, who was the Manager Partner of Accuity LLP. Mr. Tsukamoto is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA) has been with Accuity since 1978. His areas of expertise include: structuring complex business transactions, international transactions, estate and personal financial planning, real estate investment, insurance companies, not-for-profit enterprises, retail and hospitality. He has received his BBA in Accounting from Shidler College of Business of University of Hawaii at Manoa, as well as a Masters in Business Taxation from University of Southern California. Mr. Tsukamoto is also actively involved with various roles in boards and non-profits such as Treasurer of PBS Hawaii, Board of Governors of Iolani School, Past Chairman of State of Hawaii Board of Public Accountancy, Past President of Hawaii Society of Certified Public Accountants, and more.

As my mentor, Kent has provided me with lots of guidance, support, and insights from the perspective of an experienced professional in Accounting. Kent is an active listener and great storyteller who is willing to share his skills, knowledge, and expertise for my personal and professional development. He values ongoing learning and growth in and out of the accounting field and inspires me to continue improving myself everyday. His positive learning attitude has changed the way I used to think of learning and challenged me to gain new knowledge on a daily basis. Overall, I was able to learn what was not taught in school and the practical aspect of my career from this mentorship program.

In such unprecedented and uncertain times, Kent is also great at communicating hope and optimism. With his background in Accounting, he provided lots of reassurance for the outlook of the profession and various career paths. In addition, he has also commented on various business trends which I think are very insightful and fascinating. In one of our conversations, he mentioned that this is a great time to be in the profession due to the advancements in technology. This has provided me with a different set of perspectives, as many students are afraid that automation and artificial intelligence will replace them in the future. To stay relevant, he encouraged me to be updated with the latest news and build new skills constantly. With his guidance and support, I felt more prepared for my career in Accounting as well as a lifelong journey of learning.
As a second-year SGL, one of my favorite experiences has been the mentorship program. I was nervous going into the program, because I didn’t know what to expect and wasn’t sure how I would properly interact with such an important member in the business community. However, the more I talked to my mentor and learned about his experiences, the more I wanted to gain, and I found myself looking forward to the next time I could speak to him.

As an entrepreneurship major, I was excited to fill out my application form in hopes of getting paired with an entrepreneur. My prayers were answered when I got an email asking to choose between two mentors, one of whom was Jimmy Chan, the owner of Hawaiian Chip Company. I remember watching his E-Live at PACE and being utterly inspired. I quickly sent in my request to have him as my mentor, and was eager to learn as much about the business as I could from him.

Our first meeting was in August, 2019 before I departed for my studied abroad in France. I visited him at his factory, and he gave me a tour of the space and introduced me to a few of his staff members. We spent about an hour talking about his background and my career goals, and the advice he gave me was amazing, because he used his own past experiences to give me relevant examples for how I should approach my own plans. After returning from my study abroad, we met once more at his factory to catch up, and I learned about his new business ventures. His business is already so successful as it is, but he explained to me that he wanted to explore more opportunities, and expressed his inspirations from other cultures such as Japan, to help him reach newer audiences.

Jimmy has inspired me to never stop trying. His stories have taught me that as long as you have the entrepreneurial spirit and a passion to make a change, anything is possible. His willingness to try new things and draw creativeness from other ideas is a skill that I want to make as my own one day. Jimmy has taught me not to be afraid to put myself out into the real world, and that opportunities can jump out when you least expect it.

Left: Corina Quach, Right: Jimmy Chan
As a second year Shidler Global Leader, I was given the chance to be the mentee of Terri Fujii. Terri is currently an audit partner at CW Associates. Before that, she was an office managing partner at Ernst and Young. Her unique background in working not only in audit, but also in tax, gave her a vast understanding of what to focus on when deciding what career path to take. She gave profound insights about the most relevant experience that would prepare me for my ultimate career goal.

Terri was extremely accommodating. Despite being in Kaua‘i, I was still able to talk to her via Skype. She also willingly met with me in person when I needed someone to talk to about the kind of job that would help me learn the most. As a graduating student, I had a hard time deciding the path I wanted to take. She pointed out that it’s important to choose the company that would prepare me for my end goal, not it’s size. She gave me an assurance that taking an unusual path does not mean turning down opportunities.

I am very grateful for this opportunity. Having the chance to talk to someone with such experience gave me a head start with my career. I was able to focus on what truly matters. I want to thank Shidler College of Business for supporting us Shidler Global Leaders by arranging this mentorship program.
Immediately after graduating with my BBA in Human Resources in Spring 2013, I started my career in HR at The Boeing Company in Seattle, WA. Now in 2020 I will be celebrating my third year with The Walt Disney Company in California. I started my career with Disney as an HR Business Partner to Corporate Enterprise Financial Services and took on a new role in 2019 to support Disney Parks, Experiences and Products Marketing. I work with HR partners and business leaders to support our employees as they navigate their careers and make magic for Disney. Some of the Disney magic moments along my journey include being invited to the filming of our holiday special at Disneyland which my Marketing clients produce, celebrating Lunar New Year with Mickey and Minnie at our Grand Central Creative Campus in Glendale, CA, and of course my first day orientation tour of The Walt Disney Studio Lot in Burbank, CA.

My experience in the SGL program allowed me to interact with peers who studied Marketing, Finance, and Accounting which are the very employee groups I've supported! The insight into their priorities and thought processes proved valuable for being able to quickly build relationships with the professionals I work with every day. It also surrounded me with go-getters and I'm happy to say that the spirit of ambition propelled me to accomplish many of my early-career goals including multiple promotions, earning a Master's degree and HR certifications, and being financially healthy and becoming a homeowner twice now.
I spent a lot of time in SGL coordinating and volunteering for on and off-campus events which allowed me to build skills in time management, communication, leadership, and agility. It also taught me the power of giving back and creating meaningful experiences for people. Specifically, I remember putting together the job fairs in the Shidler courtyard and I was always so energized seeing students and professionals making connections and sparking the start of their career! These types of career building moments further confirmed my love for the HR field.

My study abroad experience at Yonsei University in Seoul, South Korea also allowed me to be immersed in a different culture which taught me valuable lessons in diversity and inclusion, core to many company values and HR strategies. I would not have had that opportunity had I not been a part of the SGL co-hort and cherish the memories of visiting palaces and walking the beautiful university campus. The friendships I made nearly 8 years ago are still strong. In fact, my classmates from California, Hawaii, Toronto, Bangkok, and ao Paulo recently met on a Zoom call to catch up and share our experiences as we stay safer at home during these challenging times. It was an hour of pure joy and laughter as we reminisced about our time in Korea and learned what we were all up today. We may be in different locations around the globe, but we still have a common sense of optimism and an appreciation of the human connection.
To the 2nd Year SGLs, we would like to congratulate you in obtaining your degree! There is no doubt our minds that every one of you will be successful in what you do! Despite the circumstances that we're in, don't ever give up and keep pushing towards your dreams. From the 1st Year SGLs, we would like to extend a huge thank you for mentoring us, helping us and for all the memories we've made together. We will all miss you but wish nothing but the best!