DEAN’S MESSAGE

ALOHA,

What a busy start to the year, with many new initiatives underway, including the opening of the Residences for Innovative Student Entrepreneurs (RISE) student dorms later this month. The live-learn-work community is operated by Shidler’s Pacific Asian Center for Entrepreneurship (PACE) and is accessible to all students across UH. The first-of-its kind in Hawai‘i, the center features state-of-the-art maker spaces, multi-purpose community areas and over 300 dorm rooms. Modeled after the University of Utah’s Lassonde Studios, the center will serve as a hub for like-minded students to come together to collaborate, convene and problem solve. Read more about RISE on page 4.

This issue also highlights our recent signature events, including the successful Celebrate a Legacy in Tourism, which broke a fundraising record for Travel Industry Management (TIM) student scholarships. Our Shidler Alumni Association hosted the 23rd annual Executive Vineyards in March, which continues to draw a record turnout and community support. Also in this issue, we invite you to learn how TIM School professor Jerry Agrusa applies real-life experiences in the classroom and how scholarships allow students to find their purpose.

As we move into the fall, we look forward to hosting alumni mixers on the West Coast, our Hall of Honor gala, the TIM Lane Lecture Series, as well as our fall commencement reception. We hope you will be able to join us for these upcoming gatherings, more details have been provided on the back cover.

Lastly, the Shidler team is gearing up for our 75th anniversary celebration in 2024. While the college has a rich and varied history, it is truly the people that make the college shine. With that said, we welcome you to share your favorite memories of the college – whether it be a specific professor or class, your first entry-level job, piece of advice given by a professor, or meeting lifelong friends – we’d love to hear from you. Simply scan the QR code on the back cover to direct you to the collection form.

We look forward to recounting your fondest memories at Shidler. Many thanks for your continued support and staying connected with the college.

Sincerely,

V. Vance Roley
Dean and First Hawaiian Bank Chair of Leadership and Management
Shidler College of Business Advisory Council


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Price Resorts Hawaii

ON THE COVER
The University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa is poised to make history as Shidler College’s Pacific Asian Center for Entrepreneurship (PACE) opens the doors to a groundbreaking live-learn-work community, called the Residences for Innovative Student Entrepreneurs (RISE). The $70 million state-of-the-art, six-story facility represents the first-of-its-kind entrepreneurship center in Hawai‘i and one of only five such centers in the country. RISE welcomes students from all disciplines enrolled in any of the 10 UH campuses across the state.

“RISE is the first opportunity we’ve seen to spread innovation and entrepreneurship more broadly across the University of Hawai‘i,” PACE Executive Director Sandra Fujiyama, said. “With RISE, we’re bringing together creative and intelligent individuals from diverse backgrounds in an innovative complex and inspiring and empowering them with PACE’s experiential learning programs and resources to be imaginative problem-solvers, pursue their passions and create meaningful impact.”

RISE welcomes the first group of students moving in for the fall 2023 semester. With space for 374 students, the inaugural cohort represents a diverse student body of 73% female, 26% male, 1% nonbinary; and students from every college and school at UH Mānoa. The group, which ranges from incoming freshmen to graduate students, come from 33 states and four countries (data as of July 15).

RISE marks a significant milestone for the university as it is the first residential facility to be opened in 15 years and the only externally managed student housing complex. Spanning over 117,000 square feet, the facility was designed to be LEED certified and features many amenities important to the current generation of students, including secure key fob entry, outdoor spaces, bike and surfboard storage, car sharing options, seamless access to UH’s WiFi, and private booths for Zoom meetings.

It’s also the first public-private partnership for UH. UH and PACE joined forces with the University of Hawai‘i Foundation and Hunt Development Group Hawai‘i to see the project come to fruition, without spending any taxpayer money. The cost of building RISE is covered by bonds and additional costs for furnishing the building and initial operations, as well as scholarships, have been offset by an 18-month capital fundraising campaign, which raised more than $5 million.

**THE SPECS**

RISE is located on University Avenue, across from Shidler College.

- Six-story, LEED-designed, 117,000-square-foot student housing, entrepreneurship and innovation center
- 374 beds for student housing
- Single and double furnished rooms with 9-foot ceilings starting at $1,200 per month
- Air conditioning and WiFi
- Bike and surfboard storage
- Laundry facilities on residence floors
- Kitchens on each floor and a food and beverage vendor coming to the ground floor
- Public transportation and car sharing options
- Coworking space, meeting rooms, outdoor deck with grills and lounge seating
- Prototyping labs, recording studio and classroom

**JOIN THE COMMUNITY**

Leasing and scholarships are still available to students through the PACE Leaders program.

- rise.hawaii.edu
- pace.shidler.hawaii.edu/leaders
“We’re grateful for the generous donors who have shown such a belief and dedication in supporting the RISE project and the students who will live there,” said Tim Dolan, UH vice president of advancement and CEO of the UH Foundation. “This forward-thinking philanthropy is an investment not only in UH students, but in Hawaii’s innovation economy of the future.”

The concept of RISE began more than five years ago, with inspiration from the Lassonde Studios, a University of Utah student innovation and housing facility. Members of the steering committee made several trips to Lassonde Studios and other entrepreneurship centers across the country. Fujiyama and her team met Troy D’Ambrosio, Lassonde Entrepreneur Institute executive director, on several occasions to learn more about pioneering the concept of a live-learn-work community.

“What PACE has done in terms of recognizing how important facilities such as Lassonde Studios are to student success is incredible and this is a huge opportunity for our students to become involved with something so cutting-edge,” Shidler Dean Vance Roley, said. “Although this type of center will naturally attract many Shidler students, the really exciting thing is that it’s open to all students across the UH system, which further strengthens interdisciplinary collaboration and allows for next-level innovation, which will help our economy and state thrive.”

Susan Yamada, PACE board chair, says that an important shift is taking place in today’s workforce. Schools traditionally equip students with hard skills like reading, writing, math and field-specific knowledge, which are fundamental to success. But in today’s dynamic and ever-changing world, there are other skills that are needed for success after graduation.

“There are ‘soft skills’ that are so critical for the future leaders to possess, such as the 4Cs – creativity, critical thinking, collaboration and communication – which are the tenets of 21st century jobs and are the traits we call the emotional quotient,” Yamada said. “As quoted by Richard Riley, former U.S. Secretary of Education, ‘We’re preparing students for jobs that don’t exist, using technology that hasn’t been invented, in order to solve problems that we don’t even know are problems yet.’”

RISE will play an important component in providing the environment necessary to obtain and hone those skills. When students graduate, they will have already explored their passions, solved complex problems, built prototypes, tested ideas, and accessed the professional and financial support needed to jumpstart their careers.

“Universities are the key to economic diversity, meeting the challenge to provide an environment where students can convene, connect and inspire one another to tackle obstacles and build a reimagined future in Hawaii,” Yamada said. RISE is expected to become a vibrant hub of boundless energy and innovative problem-solving, as students tackle the pressing challenges of society. Serving as an idea incubator, this remarkable facility will be a space where countless ideas are born and the entrepreneurial-minded students residing in RISE may very well pioneer the next groundbreaking innovation of our time.

If you’re interested in supporting RISE, please contact Sandra Fujiyama at (808) 956-5368 or sandra.fujiyama@hawaii.edu or Karla Zarate-Ramirez at (808) 376-7897 or Karla.Zarate-Ramirez@uhfoundation.org. uhfoundation.org/RISE| pace.shidler.hawaii.edu/RISE
EMPOWERING STUDENTS FOR A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

SCHOLARSHIPS CREATE A RIPPLE EFFECT

STUDENTS FLOURISH WITH SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT

From keeping up on the latest technological advancements to engaging in fulfilling extracurricular activities, students often find it challenging to strike a balance between academic responsibilities and personal enjoyment. Among the numerous concerns young people face, financial strain is often one when pursuing higher education. Fortunately, scholarships can be a powerful tool in alleviating some of the burden.

During the 2022-2023 academic year there were 406 scholarships awarded to Shidler College of Business students, totaling nearly $1.43 million. “Student scholarships alleviate financial pressure and enable students to focus on their academics and participate in leadership activities as they prepare to become the next generation of business leaders,” Shidler College Dean Vance Roley, said.

Shidler College senior Jett Zenthoefer studied in the United Kingdom at the University of Roehampton this spring, through the University of Hawai’i’s Office of Global Engagement and Shidler College’s Johnson Scholarship, which helped to offset costs while studying abroad. He says that it has been one of the best experiences of his life and has instilled an excitement for his future and allowed him to visit many places in Europe, sparking a desire to work in Geneva.

“While many students treat scholarships simply as money that helps them take less student loans, the actual benefits go so much deeper than the monetary value,” he said. “From the bottom of my heart, I thank all the scholarship donors for the opportunity, support, and money that you generously give to students, including myself. It really does make a bigger difference that can’t even be put into words.”

Zenthoefer is working toward a triple major in marketing, international business and economics and is also pursuing a certificate in Peace Studies and Peace Corps Prep. He serves as president of the International Business Organization and is the program coordinator for the Shidler Global Leaders. He plans to attend law school and become an international lawyer for the United Nations. He’d also like to serve in the Peace Corps and the American Red Cross.

Recent School of Travel Industry Management (TIM School) graduate

BY DANI DOUGLASS
Sarah Lorenzo, BS ’23, stands out as one of the inaugural recipients of a Ho‘oilina Scholarship, established through a collaboration between the TIM School, the Hawaii Tourism Authority and the Hawai‘i Lodging & Tourism Association and funded by the Hawai‘i State Legislature.

As a Ho‘oilina scholar, she was able to focus on her studies, which equipped her with essential skills for her current role in guest relations at The Ritz-Carlton Hotel. Her best memories of her time as a student include involvement in student clubs and the opportunities afforded to her, such as traveling to the Big Island and Japan.

“Receiving this scholarship has been extremely helpful not only because it takes away the financial burden of school, but it presented me with opportunities I wouldn’t get if I didn’t have this scholarship,” she said. “It allowed me to network with different people and pushed me out of my comfort zone. I gained interpersonal skills and real-life work experience and I’m grateful I received it.”

ALUMNI STEP UP TO OFFSET COST

Candes Gentry, BS ’98, MBA ’04, attended the TIM School for her undergraduate studies and Shidler College for her master’s degree and was a scholarship recipient. She established the Candes Meijide Gentry Endowed Scholarship at Shidler College in 2007. The scholarship, which is matched by college namesake Jay H. Shidler, BBA ’68, provides local students a chance to attend an excellent school in their home state.

“My hope is that at Shidler College, students will learn to love their place; not only our island home, but also the people and businesses that make it so unique; and gain a sense of purpose to give back and pay their education forward for future generations and ultimately become conscientious community leaders,” she said.

During her time at the college, Gentry enjoyed collaborating on group projects at the TIM School, as well as her favorite negotiations course and time spent with professors and the college deans. In business school, she obtained valuable knowledge from guest speakers at the Family Business Center. As a successful businesswoman, endurance athlete and author, she encourages others to give back to the college’s legacy in whatever way they can.

“It was inspired by fellow TIM Alumni Association board member, Clinton Inouye, BBA ’80, who established his own scholarship. It is my hope that we can inspire more alumni to join us in supporting deserving students through financial, mentorship and professional support. The college experience is a rich tapestry of education, participation in student organizations, embracing local culture, gaining work experience, and forming lifelong friendships.”

Scholarships provide a solid foundation for students to fully engage in the most important components of their collegiate journey. Having this essential financial support creates stability and plays a significant role in reducing stress levels and allows them to fully immerse themselves in myriad offerings at Shidler College, enabling students to thrive.
Professor Jerome “Jerry” Agrusa returned to the School of Travel Industry Management (TIM School) in 2018, bringing his unique personality and teaching style with him. Beloved by his students, he’s a popular face around town, often featured on the news as a hospitality and tourism expert regarding local tourism trends (he’s published 99 scholarly articles to date) that drive policy change, such as the Safe Travels program, implemented during the pandemic.

Recognized for his teaching and dedication to students, he’s received the Professor of the Semester Award every year at both the undergraduate and graduate level as well as the Dennis Ching Teaching Award for senior faculty. He also keeps a strong and robust network of former students, many who keep in contact years after they graduate and come back to visit his classes and share first-hand perspectives of working in the industry.

Agrusa’s teaching goal is to create an environment that fosters learning by allowing students to feel comfortable and confident enough to question things. He believes that one way to accomplish this is through a spirit of colearning—that is, when both students and teachers are actively involved in the educational process.

“I believe that teaching should be a highly dynamic experience and I consider myself a facilitator,” he said. Encouraging the exchange between participants, which include teachers, students and experts, is at the heart of the educational experience in his classroom.

REAL-WORLD SCENARIOS

Recognizing that good teaching goes beyond the walls of the classroom, Agrusa has found that one of the most important tasks is to encourage his students to test their classroom knowledge and develop new understandings in professional situations.

“We’re an applied science, so I bring the professional industry into the classroom,” Agrusa said. “Reaching out to executives from the hotel and restaurant industry and having them share their expertise in the classroom allows students to see the connection between the course work and Hawaii’s largest industry.”

When scheduling outside speakers, Agrusa reaches out to his contacts that can best reinforce the material of the chapter or topic the class is currently studying. He also invites industry judges to his food and
beneath class as his students present their business plans.

Michael Miller, partner and director of operations for Tiki’s Restaurant, is a UH alumnus who generously shares his industry knowledge with Agrusa’s students by serving as a judge. Miller often reflects on his own time spent in college and the valuable lessons learned that have proven instrumental in his 30-year professional career managing local restaurants.

Miller says that one memorable piece of wisdom from Agrusa was to leave the cash drawers wide open when closing a restaurant. “This straightforward but often overlooked advice can prevent the inconvenience of replacing point-of-sale system hardware and cabling,” he said. “A potential thief, seeing an empty drawer, is likely to move on quickly.”

KEEPING ON TOP OF WHAT’S TRENDING

“Sustainability means keeping the destination the same while ‘regenerative’ tourism is leaving the destination better than the way they found it; and to give back to the land, the ‘aina, as well as to the local residents,” Agrusa said. “We want those who visit Hawai‘i to make a positive difference by doing something constructive, such as purchasing locally grown foods and products, participating in a beach cleanup or working in a lo‘i (water taro patch).”

On a recent evaluation for Agrusa’s Fall 2022 Strategic Management for the Travel/Hospitality Industry class, a student commented that the topic of regenerative tourism was one of the most valuable topics covered. “Dr. Agrusa was very passionate about this new trending concept and was very open-minded to the ideas that we had regarding regenerative tourism.”

Agrusa’s latest research examined the characteristics and trends amongst Hawai‘i’s visitors, revealing that today’s tourists desire a sustainable and authentic experience when visiting the islands. “More than 450 respondents were in each of the studies,” he said. “Almost 80% were willing to pay more for locally grown food, which is a great support for local farmers.”

Despite a rocky road through the pandemic, Agrusa says that the industry is now thriving and as long as there is tourism, there will be jobs. He receives regular emails from top hotels with available management positions at high salaries. Despite local housing shortage challenges, he believes that the industry needs more locally educated and grown managers. “This is an ever-changing business and it’s never boring,” he said.
Executive Vineyards, the Shidler College of Business Alumni Association’s annual wine tasting event, reached new heights in 2023 by raising a record-breaking $65,000. Held at the elegant Royal Hawaiian Hotel on March 9, the fundraising event welcomed a sold-out crowd of more than 600 guests as they came together for an unforgettable evening.

Against the breathtaking backdrop of Diamond Head and Waikiki Beach, attendees indulged in a delightful experience of networking, savoring delectable dishes from local restaurants and sampling a wide selection of wines and spirits. Event goers eagerly participated in the silent auction, vying for an array of enticing items. Many also purchased lucky draw tickets in hopes of winning coveted prizes, including two round-trip tickets courtesy of Alaska Airlines and luxurious stays at The Ritz-Carlton Residences, Waikiki Beach and ‘Alohilani Resort.

Grant Nakama, BBA ’05, MBA ’11, and Kelly Vea, BBA ’18, event cochairs, expressed their heartfelt gratitude for the overwhelming support from the community, especially alumni-affiliated organizations. They praised the unity and dedication of the board in continually elevating and enhancing the event every year.

“Seeing this event grow in size, support and popularity—starting with humble beginnings, to a sold-out event at the Royal Hawaiian—speaks to the sheer commitment and dedication of our alumni board,” Shidler College Dean Vance Roley, said. “We’re incredibly appreciative of the association’s support and the countless volunteer hours put forth to make this event so successful.”

Mark your calendars for the next Executive Vineyards, which will take place on March 7, 2024, at The Royal Hawaiian Hotel. Executive Vineyards is the largest annual event for the Shidler College of Business Alumni Association, a 501(c)(3) organization, which supports the college with alumni outreach efforts, student programming, scholarships and more.

For more information, or to learn how your organization can get involved, please contact Bianca Mordasini, senior director of alumni and external relations, at (808) 956-3263 or email bianca.mordasini@uhfoundation.org.
Shidler College’s School of Travel Industry Management (TIM School) held its 21st annual “Celebrate a Legacy in Tourism” gala on April 13 at the ‘Alohilani Resort Waikiki Beach. The event, a major fundraiser for the TIM School to support student scholarships, honored Keith Vieira, BBA ’79, Clinton Inouye, BBA ’80, and Alaska Airlines.

A crowd of nearly 500 people united in support, resulting in a memorable event. With overwhelming support from the local hospitality and business community, this year’s gala raised more than $425,000.

“The TIM School plays a pivotal role in preparing the next generation of travel industry professionals,” Shidler College Dean Vance Roley, said. “This sold-out event demonstrates the staunch support we continue to receive for the school.”

Vieira received the Legacy in Tourism Award for his many contributions in elevating the college, opening pathways for diversity and for serving as a visionary within his industry. Vieira’s successful hospitality career spans various leadership positions at Sheraton and Starwood Hotels & Resorts. He currently serves as principal of KV & Associates Hospitality Consulting, LLC and chairs the TIM School’s advisory council. He is also active with many nonprofits, primarily focused on the visitor industry and education, including Catholic Charities Hawai‘i, Friends of Hawaii Charities and Good Beginnings Alliance.

Inouye, a retired professional with extensive experience in information technology and hospitality, was honored with the TIM Alumni Hall of Honor award. Inouye’s passion for photography led him to establish his own business, It’s Photo Time! by Clinton K. Inouye. He has been an active member of the TIM Alumni Association Board and generously supports undergraduate students through the Clinton K. Inouye Scholarship.

Alaska Airlines received the Distinguished Service Award for its significant contributions to Hawai‘i’s tourism industry and the community. Alaska Airlines has proudly served the Hawaiian Islands for over 15 years and has been a strong supporter of local education, environment and social causes, donating over $4.7 million in cash and in-kind support to hundreds of organizations throughout the state.

We look forward to hosting the next Celebrate a Legacy in Tourism gala in April 2024.
COLLEGE NEWS

Jay H. Shidler makes new $5 million gift

Shidler College alumnus Jay H. Shidler, BBA ’68, made a new $5 million cash donation to the college in March, adding to his previous donations of $117 million in 2017, $69 million in 2014 and an initial gift of $25 million in 2006. Additionally, he committed $1.55 million to the School of Travel Industry Management (TIM School) for research support and matching funds for faculty endowments following its reunification with Shidler College in 2019. His total donations to date amount to approximately $238 million in cash, land leases and in-kind donations, representing the largest individual donation in University of Hawai‘i history and the second-largest known gift to any U.S. business school at a public university. This most recent donation will be allocated for faculty research, student scholarships, strategic investments in programs and endowments, visiting faculty support and outreach activities.

Flores Real Estate Lecture features B.J. Kobayashi

The college hosted its 6th annual Flores Real Estate Lecture Series on April 4 at the Hawai‘i Convention Center, featuring B.J. Kobayashi, chairman and CEO of BlackSand Capital and cofounder and senior partner at Kobayashi Group. The event drew a crowd of over 250 attendees, including professionals, students and community members. The lecture series aims to discuss real estate industry issues and trends in Hawai‘i and beyond and provides attendees the chance to learn, network and ask questions. With over 25 years of experience in real estate investment, lending and property development, Kobayashi has led numerous commercial and residential projects in Hawai‘i. He shared insights on recent endeavors, such as affordable housing projects, sustainable building innovations, work-life balance and his personal motivations.

Inaugural RISM symposium

The first-ever Research Innovations in Sustainable Marketing (RISM2023) global online symposium was held in March. A resounding success, the event was endorsed by more than 22 prestigious business schools and attracted more than 90 researchers from 62 universities who presented their cutting-edge findings to 400 attendees from around the world. Rebecca Marmot, chief sustainability officer at Unilever, was one of the keynote speakers. Plenary sessions offered valuable advice for successful publishing from journal editors; expert panel discussions focused on opportunities for innovative sustainable marketing research; and numerous empirical research presentations were given.
Business Night 2023

The 62nd Business Night took place on May 4 at the Sheraton Waikiki. More than 400 students and business professionals gathered for an evening of mentorship, networking, professional development and recognizing exceptional students. Thanks to the generous support of alumni and the local business community, 52 sponsored awards, totaling more than $90,000, were presented to undergraduate and graduate students. The event is organized by Shidler students and pairs them with experienced business mentors relevant to their fields. The night began with a networking hour, followed by dinner and an awards presentation. Shidler College senior Jenny Lau, who served as executive director of the student committee, emphasized the significance of creating connections and learning from one another. Distinguished alumnus David Okabe, BBA ’84, executive vice president, CFO and treasurer at Hawai’i Pacific Health, delivered the keynote speech, sharing career insights and emphasizing community service. First Insurance Company of Hawaii served as the title sponsor, continuing their support for the 18th consecutive year. This signature event exemplifies the college’s commitment to fostering student growth and professional relationships.

Tourism Day one to be remembered

TIM School students, including Makana Esser, James Taylor and Ho’oilina scholars Paana Hanaike and Cody-John Sakamoto, had the opportunity to join the TIM Alumni Association for a tour around the Hawaii State Capitol during the 6th Annual Tourism Day on March 10.

The students were able to meet and talk story with several of Hawai’i’s legislative leaders during the event, which was hosted by Hawai’i Lodging & Tourism Association, Hawai’i Tourism Authority, Hawai’i Visitors & Convention Bureau, Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement and the Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association.

TIM School Director John Crotts, along with alums Julie Arigo, BBA ’88; Lee-Ann Choy, BBA ’88; Dave Erdman, BA ’79; Te’o Fleming, BBA ’98; and Dean Nakasone, BBA ’79; joined the students as the group met legislative members including Lt. Gov. Sylvia Luke, Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Sen. Glenn Wakai and several others. Students were able to share insights and stories about their experience at the TIM School and their goals for the future in Hawai’i’s tourism industry.

Shidler’s MBA program rises a dozen spots in national ranking

The U.S. News & World Report’s Best Graduate School rankings were released in April and the college rose 12 spots from last year to No. 77 out of 149 schools considered in the full-time master of business administration category.

Shidler’s MBA programs are the only Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International accredited programs in Hawai’i and among the few MBA programs in the U.S. with a true Asia-Pacific focus.
The 56th Hawai‘i International Conference on System Sciences (HICSS) was held from January 3-7, with 1,131 attendees from around the world coming together at the Hyatt Regency Maui. The 2023 event featured a remarkable collection of 678 peer-reviewed papers, authored by a pool of 2,012 individuals, from over 50 countries.

“We have seen a high number of research papers on the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on a wide spectrum of MIS topics from technology-supported collaboration to the future of work,” Tung Bui, conference chair, said. “We also noticed an increasing number of research on the pandemic effect on the ‘dark side of technology’ – negative impacts on people’s health and the dissemination of misinformation.”

Prominent figures in the field led the plenary sessions, including Linda Anh Nguyen, clinic chief at the Stanford Digestive Health Center, who pioneered the use of virtual reality in clinical gastroenterology practice; and Lauren Gardner, renowned for developing the Johns Hopkins University’s COVID-19 online dashboard. This widely utilized tool enables public health authorities, researchers, and the general public worldwide to monitor the outbreak of the coronavirus.

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Plan to join us for HICSS-57, Jan. 3-6, 2024, at the Hilton Hawaiian Waikiki Beach Resort. hicss.hawaii.edu
Meet Sherry Menor-McNamara, JD/MBA ’05, president and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii (COCH), the youngest and first female president in the organization’s 173-year history. Prior to COCH, Menor-McNamara held senior level posts at various companies, including ESPN and Sony Corporations. She earned her bachelor’s in political science from UCLA and her juris doctorate and MBA from UH Mānoa. She also pursued graduate education in public administration from USC and earned a certificate in expanding impact in advocacy from the Harvard Kennedy School of Executive Education.

Tell us about a day at the office.
“My day generally starts at 3:30 a.m. I review emails, read the news, workout and then head to the office. I make it a point to say ‘good morning’ to our team and then I work on projects, lead team meetings, have lunch meetings and occasionally attend board meetings. After 5 p.m., I’m still working, whether it’s attending events or work dinners. I usually wrap up my day by 10:30 p.m.”

What projects/initiatives are you currently working on?
“We just finished ‘Hawaii on the Hill,’ a partnership with U.S. Senator Mazie K. Hirono, showcasing our state to national leaders. Over 200 people, including business leaders and policymakers from Hawai‘i flew to Washington, D.C. Our team is also working on some exciting initiatives, including business advocacy and development, education and workforce development, and local manufacturing to build a more resilient and healthier economy and a stronger talent pipeline to prepare our future workforce.”

What do you do to relax/destress?
“I’ve learned how important it is to make time to relax and destress. No matter what kind of day I’ve had at work, my Pomeranians always bring a smile to my face. I also like to work out, whether it’s doing the Peloton, going for a run, walking with the dogs, lifting weights or yoga. Occasionally, I like to binge an Amazon or Netflix show and believe it or not, making Spam musubi also relaxes me!”

What’s your advice for current students?
“Focus on the ‘why,’ the ‘how’ and ‘success.’ As you embark on your career path, define the why in every decision. Once you do, passion and purpose will come. Once you define the why, determine the how. What’s the plan? How will you get to where you want to go? Even President Obama said, ‘passion for change is not enough, you need a strategy, an action plan. Not just hashtags.’ Another part of how is mindset, have a positive attitude in anything you do. Finally, be your true self. Once you identify the why and how, success will come, which is defined by doing your best. More importantly, success is about the impact you have on others. The poet, Maya Angelou, said, ‘If you find it in your heart to care for somebody else, you will have succeeded.’”

What’s your favorite lunch?
“I love food and generally stick to salads during the week. However, if my schedule is light, I love a good hamburger and fries or fried chicken.”

What are some of your favorite memories of Shidler?
“The community of students, faculty and administration that I connected with. I truly enjoyed spending time with my classmates and I still stay in touch with them. Shidler creates and instills an environment that builds long-lasting relationships and an expansive network. For the most part, I attended evening classes, because I was in the joint JD/MBA program. My schedule was jam-packed, attending law classes in the morning, working two jobs during the day and taking business classes at night.”

What’s your favorite activity outside of the office?
“Spending time with my hubby, John, and our two Pomeranians, Kuma-Chan and Bubbles. On weekends, we like to go to pet-friendly restaurants, many of which are in our neighborhood. I also love to golf.”

How did your experiences at Shidler prepare you for what was to come?
“Shidler encourages collaboration, relationship-building and teamwork, which are principles that prepared me for my first position at the COCH. Even after graduating, the college continues to find ways to stay connected with alumni, which is important to expand its reach between current students and graduates.”
The 2023 University of Hawai‘i Venture Competition (UHVC) held its final in-person event on May 6. This year, 40 teams entered the semester-long program. Students attended intense, half-day boot camps and shaped their business plans using the lean startup method and competed in the semifinals in April. Four teams then presented in front of the judging panel.

Congratulations, winners!

1st place: Motion Management (Devon Baldwin, Richard Jegers, Heather Jung, Juliana Rogers, BBA '23, and Joane Yu), which helps water sports athletes elevate their brands and create impactful change in the industry and Native Hawaiian community. The team won a prize package including $10,000 from the competition’s title sponsor American Savings Bank.

2nd place: Zingipop SodaWorks (Amelia Stucker and Adam Sullivan), which makes 100% locally-sourced craft soda and supports local agriculture. The team earned a prize package including $5,000 from HEI and Hawaiian Electric.

3rd place: LocaLinQs (Stanislava Gardasevic, Colleen Milbury, Valerie Linuma and Milan Cvetic), which is a social and academic platform powered by faculty and students’ crowdsourced information and data from multiple websites, aiming to help students make informed, data-driven academic decisions and connect to peers. The team claimed a prize pack that included a $2,500 cash prize sponsored by HiBEAM in honor of pioneer Billy Richardson.

4th place: The Anywhere Squeegee (Alexander Oshita and Edward Shepherd-Johnson), which makes a compact, easily transportable tennis court squeegee to remove rainwater from outdoor recreational courts, improving safety and the quality of play. The team received a prize of $1,000.

PACE hosted three in-sPACE events this spring. The events introduced students to field-specific pioneers. For the first time, PACE highlighted the innovation and popularity of video gaming and eSports by cohosting two events with UH Esports. During his visit to campus in March, Joe Marsh, CEO of T1 Entertainment and Sports, sat down with UH Mānoa student Asia Nunez to talk about his role in the huge growth of T1. In April, PACE collaborated with UH Esports and the College of Engineering to bring together a panel of leaders from Activision Blizzard — the company behind games such as Candy Crush, World of Warcraft, Call of Duty and Overwatch. Also in April, PACE welcomed serial entrepreneur, Kirthi Jayakumar, to talk to students with an interest in social enterprise. Jayakumar’s story as a young female entrepreneur is an inspiring example of women empowerment and perseverance against cultural and social norms.

PACE partnered with the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) student group, ThriveHI, Builders VC and UH’s Office of the VP for Information Technology & Chief Information Officer, to host the second Talk Story with Tech Pros event on March 21. The gathering offered 70 students the chance to meet nearly 50 technology industry professionals during an open-air mixer. Tech pros included software engineers, founders and other professionals from companies including Microsoft, Amazon and Google. Students also attended a smaller breakout session where four professionals shared their unique journeys to exciting careers. The event was held as part of the Tech Days of Spring event series in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii.
PACE

Get Involved with PACE

Members of our community, including alumni, make it possible for PACE to deliver its programming. If you have more than five years of experience as an entrepreneur, working in a startup environment or assisting entrepreneurs, please consider serving as a volunteer speaker, instructor, mentor or judge. Your experience can help to grow the next generation of business leaders and new venture founders in Hawai‘i.

pace.shidler.hawaii.edu/give  |  pace@hawaii.edu

Spring ’23 Entrepreneurship Live

Entrepreneurship Live events inspire and empower students. This spring, established entrepreneurs and industry influencers shared their experiences and strategies for success and several student-led clubs and organizations, including the Inter-Business Council (IBC), Hawai‘i Student Entrepreneurs (HSE) and the International Business Organization (IBO), had the opportunity to collaborate with PACE to host these events. Greg Young, EMBA ’07, CEO of HawaiiUSA Federal Credit Union, drew a crowd as he spoke about his entrepreneurial journey. The room was filled with students who had an opportunity to network and speak to him firsthand. Rose Wong, BBA 20, PACE alumna and CEO of Kolohe, shared her inspiring story of balancing college life while managing her own jewelry business. There have been many diverse and notable speakers who have helped ignite the entrepreneurial flame within students, such as Chris Iwamura, MBA 18, CEO of Rainbow Drive-in and Anthony Duong, CEO of Illikoi Goods.

pace.shidler.hawaii.edu/live

PACE Leaders

A select group of students were chosen to head the PACE Leaders pilot program in January. Their mission was to promote PACE to students and members of the community through hosting events, giving classroom presentations and volunteering. The pilot program created four divisions for the students to collaborate: in-SPACE, Entrepreneurship Live, social media; and a collaborative event with PACE, ThriveHi and the Association of Computer Machinery. Through their efforts, the group was able to host and promote more than 10 events over a range of interest areas. With the opening of RISE in the fall, the PACE pilot program will be expanding with more student leaders to spread the entrepreneurial mindset of PACE.

pace.shidler.hawaii.edu/leaders

Student-Run Venture Fund

The Calvin Shindo Student Venture Fund, for University of Hawai‘i affiliated companies in the early stages of development, has new student screening committee codirectors – Ashten Akemoto and Joshua Galeria. Akemoto is studying computer engineering at UH Mānoa and hopes to pursue a career in space exploration and start a space robotics company. His research and industry work experience includes interning at Jet Propulsion Laboratory and Astrobotic, a Pittsburgh-based space company; and research with NASA’s Space Grant program, the Hawaii Space Flight Laboratory, and with the autonomous navigation software for the Robotic Space Exploration Lab’s rover team. Galeria is also studying computer engineering at UH Mānoa and hopes to work as a software engineer and start his own company. He conducts research at the Laboratory of Advanced Visualization and Applications at UH Mānoa and has interned as a software engineer at RevaComm (RVMC). He is also the ground station software lead for the Robotic Space Exploration Lab’s rover team and the Vice President of Information Technology on the Engineer’s Council at UH Mānoa.

fbcofhawaii.org

Family Business Center of Hawai‘i

The Family Business Center of Hawai‘i had a jammed-pack start to the year, holding numerous programs for its members, ranging from topics including business valuations to taking intellectual property to the next level. Other sessions included estate and succession planning, leveraging your family story to build your brand, and first-hand stories from companies like Hawaiian Pie Company. Members in chapters statewide were able to participate in annual socials, which helped to foster new relationships and introduced new members to the organization.

fbcofhawaii.org

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1 | TIMSA TAKES JAPAN
The Travel Industry Management Student Association (TIMSA) traveled across the sea to Tokyo for spring break to learn more about Japan’s hospitality and tourism industry. During their time there, members participated in a Ritz-Carlton site inspection and visited Team Labs, a digital art facility. Due to the generosity of Meikai University, a TIM partner school, TIMSA members also attended a hospitality workshop and took part in a site inspection of Tokyo DisneySea.

2 | INAUGURAL APSMCC
The Asia-Pacific Sustainable Marketing Case Competition (APSMCC) is the first and only international case competition to be hosted by Shidler College. With the help of instructor Constancio Paranal III and the Business Executive Society of Tomorrow (BEST), the inaugural event took place virtually from April 14-22. The competition was designed to promote knowledge, excellence and leadership in sustainability within the state and the Asia-Pacific region. Out of the 10 universities that were invited to participate, the Shidler student team placed second. Congratulations Anastacia David-Demakas, Eve Gray, Jessica Wielgus and Bree Yoneda!

3 | FIRST HO’OLINA SCHOLARS GRADUATE
Congratulations to nine TIM students on being the first Ho’olina Scholarship graduating class! In 2019, the Hawaii Tourism Authority and the Hawai‘i Lodging & Tourism Association (HLTA) partnered with the TIM School to create the Ho’olina Scholarship, which provides Hawai‘i public high school graduates with a four-year scholarship to study at the TIM School. During the course of their academic careers, Ho’olina scholars participated in a series of community service events, attended college sponsored events and held leadership positions in TIM student clubs.

4 | BREAKING BARRIERS
With the ultimate bragging rights on the line, more than 250 business and TIM students across 10 clubs came together on April 8 for the highly anticipated Super Clubs Day. The spring semester’s Inter-Business Council theme of “Breaking Barriers” translated into several modifications taking place for Super Clubs Day. To ensure the students a safer and more inclusive environment by allowing a greater number of students to participate in each activity, clubs competed in a series of new activities which included kickball and Jeopardy! Attendees also enjoyed returning favorites, such as volleyball, mini games and a dance competition.

5 | CFA ETHICS CHALLENGE
Through the generous support of the CFA Society Hawai‘i, professor Tray Spiker hosted a CFA Ethics Challenge on April 10. Before diving deep into the challenge, students received a remote training session on ethical decision making from three former litigators for the Securities and Exchange Commission who now work for the CFA Institute. Five teams of
undergraduate and graduate students then went on to analyze a case that introduced several ethical challenges before presenting their recommendations to a panel of judges consisting of local institutional asset managers.

6 | PLEDGE TO SUPPORT LOCAL
TIM School faculty and students participated in the O’ahu Good Food Show at the Hawai‘i Convention Center on Feb. 7. To kick-off the event, government leaders and representatives from local restaurants and hotels signed the O’ahu Good Food Pledge, including TIM School Professor Jerry Agrusa, representing a commitment to buying more from local farmers. The pledge builds on previously published research and examines the perceptions of locals’ and visitors’ willingness to pay for locally grown food products in Hawai‘i. The event also created new opportunities for local farmers to connect and sell their products to restaurants and hotels.
FACULTY AND STAFF NOTES

New Faculty and Staff

Janet Mulvey, BBA ’93, CPA, joins Shidler College as chief administrative services manager. She will be responsible for all fiscal processes and transactions for Shidler College and the TIM School and for administrative and Human Resource functions. With more than 28 years of accounting and audit experience, she most recently served as administrative services officer with the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission.

Research


Elizabeth Davidson, interim associate dean and W. Ruel Johnson Distinguished Professor of Information Technology Management, served as coguest editor for the lead article: “Future directions for scholarship on data governance, digital innovation and grand challenges,” with L. Wessel and J.S. Winter, published in Information and Organization, 2023.


Presentations

Jerry Agrusa, professor of TIM, spoke on a panel at Hawaii Business Magazine’s Need to Know series “The Promise and Reality of Regenerative Tourism.”

Tung Bui, acting chair and professor, Department of Information Technology Management and Matson Navigation chair of global business, presented at the Hawaii Pacific Export Council’s Exporting to Vietnam panel discussion, held in April 2023.

Jian Zhou, professor of accounting and Lloyd Fujie/Deloitte Foundation distinguished professor, presented a paper on environmental, social and governance (ESG) ratings at the Chinese University of Hong Kong in Shenzhen in May 2023.

Recognitions and Promotions

Jerry Agrusa, professor of TIM, was recently honored with a Pineapple Award from Pacific Business News. This annual recognition, now in its seventh year, recognizes individuals who have made outstanding achievements in Hawai‘i’s largest industry. He joins the Class of 2023 of 17 recognized leaders, from across the industry including hotel executives, restaurant owners and chefs.

Karyl Garland, lecturer, Department of Marketing, was part of the first UH Mānoa cohort to complete the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) program focused on improving gateway courses for college students. Sponsored by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the ACUE program includes 40 interactive modules that include research and reflection.

Rick Kazman, Danny and Elsa Lui Distinguished Professor of Information Technology Management, and S. Ghon Rhee, professor of finance and K.J. Luke Distinguished Professor, were recognized among the world’s top researchers in the Computer Science and Economics and Finance categories, respectively, according to the 2023 Best University Rankings by Research.com.

Tamar Kreps, assistant professor in management and industrial relations, authored with K. Coll, K. Bain and E. Tenney: “Fighting Incivility One Amplified Idea At A Time: Increasing Willingness To Voice In Uncivil Groups.” The document was a Best Traditional Paper Finalist at the Western Academy of Management, held in March 2023.
Hannah-Hanh Nguyen, associate professor of management, was awarded with the Presidential Citation for Meritorious Teaching from the UH Mānoa, which recognized 30 of its finest faculty, staff and students at the 2023 Mānoa Awards Ceremony.

Jian Zhou, professor of accounting and Lloyd Fujie/Deloitte Foundation distinguished professor, was recently appointed to serve as an editorial board member of the academic journal, Contemporary Accounting Research.

The following faculty and staff were recently recognized by the Shidler College of Business Dean’s Office for exemplary service: the Kaizen Award to Kristine Senstrom, secretary, Department of Finance; the Dean’s Ka Pou Hana Awards to Jamie Watanabe, BS ’01, events manager and Sandra Fujiyama, executive director, Pacific Asian Center for Entrepreneurship; the Dennis Ching Senior Award to Sonia Ghumman, chair, Department of Management and Industrial Relations and professor of management; the Dennis Ching Junior Award to Constancio Paranal III, instructor, Department of Marketing; the Shirley M. Lee Research Senior Award to Bo (Sophia) Xiao, professor of Information Technology Management and Shidler College Distinguished Professor; and the Shirley M. Lee Research Junior Award to Adiyukh Berbekova, assistant professor of TIM.

Faculty in the News

Jiakai Chen, assistant professor of finance, was cited in a U.S. Congressional report: “Frannie Mae and Freddie Mac: Recent Administrative Developments,” prepared for members and committees of the U.S. Congress on April 5, 2021. Additionally, Chen was cited by John C. Williams, president, and chief executive officer of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York at the 2020 U.S. Treasury Market Conference in his writeups titled, “MBS market dysfunctions in the time of COVID-19,” and “A solution to every puzzle.”


Kainoa Daines, lecturer of TIM, coauthored: “Island Wisdom – Hawaiian Traditions and Practices for a Meaningful Life,” in October 2022. Daines serves as senior director of brand for the Hawai‘i Visitors & Convention Bureau (HVCB), where he oversees and integrates all Hawaiian cultural aspects within the visitors bureau, as well as for HVCB members across the state.
Conrad N. Hilton Foundation gives $500K to the TIM School

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation made a $500,000 gift to the School of Travel Industry Management (TIM School) in January. The donation will establish a scholarship for juniors and seniors from Hawai‘i high schools who demonstrate financial need and leadership qualities, with a preference for students of Native Hawaiian descent. The Hilton family has deep ties to the islands and hopes to increase the representation of local candidates and promote diversity in management positions within the visitor industry. This gift is the second largest the Hilton Foundation has given to the University of Hawai‘i, following a $5 million contribution in 2008 to the UH Culinary Institute of the Pacific at Diamond Head.

The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, established by international hotelier Conrad N. Hilton in 1944, focuses on improving the lives of disadvantaged individuals worldwide. The foundation’s work includes supporting early childhood development, sustainable livelihoods for youth, transitioning foster care youth, providing housing and support services for the homeless, safe water access, and promoting the efforts of Catholic sisters. The foundation annually awards the $2.5 million Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize to an organization making exceptional contributions to reducing human suffering. With approximately $8.5 billion in assets, the Hilton Foundation has awarded over $2.4 billion in grants to date, including $339 million worldwide in 2021. shidler.hawaii.edu/hilton

Roland and Evelyn Casamina House of Finance Undergraduate Student Leadership Center modernized

The newly modernized Roland and Evelyn Casamina House of Finance Undergraduate Student Leadership Center was unveiled in January at Shidler College. The $250,000 renovation, made possible by alumnus Roland Casamina, BBA ’76, founder and CEO of House of Finance, Inc. and founding president of the Filipino Community Center, and his wife Evelyn, transformed the former office space. These days, it’s a multipurpose student lounge area, a conference room and provides additional storage space. The renovation, managed by Bowers + Kubota Consulting, features an open floor plan, flexible furnishings and a design incorporating natural elements.

“The ethos of hard work was ingrained in me at a young age,” Roland Casamina said. “It has always been my hope to inspire future generations to pave their own path and hone their leadership skills. Evelyn and I decided to support the Undergraduate Leadership Center to show students that anything can be accomplished through hard work, persistence and dedication.”

Roland Casamina, originally from the Philippines, came to Hawai‘i in the 1960s and worked his way through school. In 1995, he and Evelyn founded House of Finance, a residential loan funding company. Their contributions to the Shidler College include establishing an endowed scholarship in 2012 and donating an additional $250,000 in 2021 to renovate the Undergraduate Leadership Center, which now bears their name. shidler.hawaii.edu/casaminas
DONOR NEWS

Tang Wee Loke Distinguished Professorship

Earlier this year, Shidler College alumnus Wee Loke Tang, BBA ’73, generously established the Tang Wee Loke Distinguished Professorship at the TIM School. Tang’s gift of $250,000, coupled with matching funds from Jay H. Shidler, BBA ’68, will advance research and academic activities at the school while increasing the number of faculty fellowships and chairs to six since the school rejoined the college in 2019.

Tang was inducted into the college’s Hall of Honor in 2018. As an international student from Singapore, he was drawn to the TIM School and his early jobs in Waikiki fueled his passion for hospitality management. With fond memories and nostalgia, Tang considers it an honor to support the TIM School’s long-standing reputation.

Shidler College Dean Vance Roley expressed his gratitude for Tang’s contribution, which highlights growing support from successful Asian alumni for the TIM School. “This gift will attract world-class faculty, which plays a crucial role in raising the school’s profile. It also contributes to the success of Hawai‘i’s leading economic driver, the tourism and hospitality industry, by nurturing management talent and facilitating valuable industry research,” he said.

shidler.hawaii.edu/weeloke-tang

Sheila Chuang establishes scholarship for first-generation students

Sheila Kan Chuang, BBA ’76, understands the challenges that come with being the first person in a family to attend college, which led her to generously establish the Kan-Chuang Hope Endowed Scholarship with a donation of $250,000. The scholarship aims to support undergraduate students who come from families where they would be the first generation to pursue higher education.

Chuang believes that her education served as the foundation for her subsequent career and life journey. She holds fond memories of her time as a student at Shidler College, especially during a difficult medical situation she faced. She hopes that her scholarship will help others in similar situations to achieve their goals and pursue higher education. In addition to her recent scholarship donation, Chuang has also contributed to the renovation of the Dean’s Conference Room, a project completed in 2021 and sponsored by the Hong Kong Alumni Group.

After earning an accounting degree in 1976, Chuang went on to complete her master’s in business administration at the Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan. Throughout her professional career, she held various leadership positions with different affiliates of The ExxonMobil Corporation. Chuang retired in 2012 as the senior vice president of ExxonMobil China Petroleum and Petrochemical Corporation.

shidler.hawaii.edu/sheila-chuang

Show Your Shidler Support

There are many ways to contribute to Shidler College and every gift matters. Your generous donation ensures that the college can continue performing at a level of excellence while providing students with valuable resources and support to stay on track with their academic and career goals. Please consider making a gift to one of our three funds by scanning the QR code. shidler.hawaii.edu/alumni/giving-opportunities
INSPIRE, EMPOWER & CELEBRATE

After participating in a semester-long mentorship program, recent alumni and Shidler Global Leaders celebrated their accomplishments with their mentors on May 16 at Aloha Beer Company’s speakeasy, the HI BRAU Room. Hosted by the Shidler Alumni Association, this fun event brought two separate mentorship groups together for an evening of networking and learning about others’ experiences throughout the mentorship program. A big mahalo to our mentors, many of whom are alumni, for their investment in guiding up-and-coming young business professionals.

PACIFIC MARKETING CONFERENCE

Taylor Ledgerwood, BS ’23, and Daniel Chun, BS ’02, along with TIM School professor Jerry Agrusa, were featured panelists on the Pacific Marketing Conference’s discussion: “The Future of Hospitality: A Shift in Tourism Marketing.” The conference was hosted by the American Marketing Association’s Hawaii Chapter for the Pacific Marketing Conference on June 22 at Aloha Tower Marketplace.

ASIAN FIELD STUDY REUNION

More than 100 alumni gathered on Feb. 5 at Aloha Beer Company, founded by alumnus Steve Sombrero, EMBA ’94, for the inaugural Asian Field Study Reunion. Sponsored by the Asian Field Study Association, the event was packed with catching up with old friends, sharing stories, enjoying music, and delicious food and drinks. Asian Field Study directors K.K. Seo, Jack Suyderhoud and Ben Bystrom relived the program’s history and some lucky guests won fabulous prizes from the raffle.
SHIDLER ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

The Shidler Alumni Association hosted its annual meeting on June 21 at the Honolulu Burger Company, owned by alumnus Ken Takahashi, BBA ’87. Attendees received updates from the association and college while enjoying delicious pupus and drinks. The board welcomed Michelle Dang, BBA ’16, and Yosef Ben Gershom, MBA ’22, as new directors, while thanking outgoing directors David Matlin, MBA ’97, Trevor Newman, BBA ’12, and Scott Rasak, BBA ’09, for their service.

NETWORKING ADVENTURES

It’s been a busy semester for the TIM Alumni Association as they hosted a series of fun networking opportunities. Locally, the alumni toured various hot spots on Oahu such as Kaimana Beach Hotel and the LineUp at Wai Kai, a recreational hub that features Hawaii’s first deep-water, surf park. Across the sea in Singapore, TIM Alumni Association directors, Holden Lim, BBA ’89, and Ren Hirose, BBA ’85, hosted a reunion with fellow alumni in Singapore at Sarai, a Thai restaurant owned by alumnus Anthony Wong, BBA ’83.

HOME RUN EVENT

The Shidler Alumni Association hit it out of the park with their baseball alumni networking event on May 25. Alumni, as well as friends and family, showed up in full force to support UH Mānoa’s Rainbow Warriors as they took on the UC Santa Barbara’s Gauchos. Attendees also received a special wine tasting with delicious selections from Kaka’ako Wine, one of the event partners for the annual spring Executive Vineyards event. From cheering on the Bows as they won 17-1 to rekindling old friendships, it was a home run event.

We want to showcase you on #FeatureFriday!

We love to brag about the amazing achievements of Shidler College alumni on our social media channels, @ShidlerAlumni and @TIMAlumniAssociation. If you’d like to share news about a recent job appointment, promotion, professional recognition or celebratory moment, please get in touch and let us know so we can spotlight the great news on a future #FeatureFriday.

To share alumni announcements, please email Kirstin Tran at seal@hawaii.edu.
Corina Quach, BBA ’20, is better known on social media as @fiveftfoodie. A self-proclaimed introvert, she could have never imagined she’d be a social media sensation with nearly 40,000 followers on Instagram. In fact, Quach was originally planning to attend culinary school in Tokyo to pursue her passion for baking. And then the pandemic hit and she needed a new plan.

Started as a passion project, she now manages @fiveftfoodie alongside her social media management company, SUMIKA LLC. As if that wasn’t enough, Quach also works part-time at a local ramen shop. When she puts on her @fiveftfoodie hat, Quach is busy showcasing eateries around the island and other locations she travels to. She relishes in being able to talk to people and make connections with businesses while sharing their products and her reviews on them with her followers. She also enjoys the perks of being an influencer, such as being able to try new items, receiving complimentary products and providing helpful feedback.

As a social media manager, Quach services many small businesses on Oahu and has helped to grow their platforms to showcase their products and services. She is currently involved with Foodland’s 75th anniversary celebration and Central Pacific Bank’s shaka bank account launch and contactless payment campaign.

Reflecting on her time at Shidler College and on her time as a member of the prestigious Shidler Global Leaders, Quach says that her education helped her immensely in achieving success in her combined pursuits. Networking is a big part of what she does these days and her time in college helped her to overcome her fears and teach her transferable business skills that she uses today. Other challenges along her path included being a younger, inexperienced face in an industry with many seasoned media professionals. Despite this, she persevered and is now enjoying success from her hard work and dedication.

Quach attributes her growth to authenticity and giving her honest reviews so that her followers trust her. She also appreciates the support that surrounds her, which helps fuel her drive to create and assures her that she’s on the right path.

“I think knowing my worth now and having my friends, followers, business owners and family show their support for me is the biggest thing that helps keep me going, even when I feel like I’m not doing enough,” she says.

Travis Counsell, EMBA ’19, lives his passion for bicycles every day as the executive director of the Hawai’i Bicycling League (HBL), a local nonprofit that represents all people who bike for recreation, health or transportation. In this role, he leads the organization to enable more people to ride bicycles. The HBL advocates for legislative changes and infrastructure improvements, supports educational programs and oversees large events. He also helps to secure grants and funding sources and is working on the strategic planning for the upcoming 50th anniversary in 2025.

For Counsell, one of the most rewarding aspects of his job is that it brings people happiness.

Turning passion into purpose

“Whether that’s a fourth grader who just learned how to bike, or a family biking to the beach, bikes are part of the solution to so many complex issues, such as climate change, cost of living, transportation equality and more,” he notes. “Being a part of coalitions that seek to better our future in various ways is very rewarding.”

Before taking the helm at HBL, Counsell served as its membership coordinator and then events director. He rode his bike to school as a child and later worked in bike shops and when he was in college, he biked across the country. When he enrolled in Shidler College’s Executive MBA program, he was craving a leadership role within the organization, which he successfully landed following a brief move back to the East Coast with his wife to be closer to family.

Counsell says that one of the biggest challenges he faces is the fact that change is slow, especially when it comes to infrastructure. “But by being persistent, we can keep progress on track and it’s very rewarding once accomplished.”

Ultimately, he feels fortunate he’s able to turn his passion into a career to help others.
Actor, producer, marketer and all things creative

Christian Bowman, MBA ’22, grew up traveling the world with his musician parents but he didn’t get into the music industry right off the bat. The energetic alumnus wears many creative hats and started his career as an actor on the television hit “Lost.” He’s since played roles on many other shows, including “Magnum P.I.” He’s also directed and produced several shorts films.

These days, he spends most of his time as the chief marketing officer at Sight and Sound Productions and the recently acquired Island Sound Studios, where he’s able to integrate many of his passions and help businesses showcase their products and services and recording artists share their talents with the world. It’s a role that Bryan Spicer, the executive producer and director of Hawaii Five-O and Magnum P.I., offered him and he feels very grateful to work in.

When he’s focused on the Sight and Sound Productions side of the house, Bowman says that he gets excited about connecting with different local industries and applying cinematic-grade media to help them tell their stories. When he’s working in the Island Sound Studio sphere, he finds joy in being able to hear artists pour their souls into their music.

“It’s just such an honor to be able to present a facility like this in Hawai'i,” he says of the recording studio. “I feel like a kid in a candy store every time I visit the space.”

Bowman now applies everything he learned during his time at Shidler College earning his MBA to his career. “What’s great about my job is the ability to not only understand how to position these nontraditional businesses in entertainment and marketing, but also understand how the value add applies to other businesses as we grow together.”

Bowman is living his dream and is able to draw on his life experiences, education and professional acumen to create his own personal masterpiece.

“Every day is new, every story is unique, and getting to collaborate and watch the stories come to fruition is truly a gift,” he says.

Pacific Business News’ 2023 Women Who Mean Business

Congratulations to our distinguished alumnae for being named to Pacific Business News’ 2023 Women Who Mean Business. Jennifer Barrett Fajarado, EMBA ’07, Michelle Leon-Guerrero, BS ’07, MHRM ’09, Monica Salter, MBA ’07, and Niki Shishido, MBA ’06 (pictured from left) were recognized for their stellar contributions to their businesses, industries and communities.

Hawaii Business Magazine’s 20 for the Next 20

Congratulations to Christian Chambers, MBA ’12, and AJ Halagao, MBA ’04, for being named to Hawaii Business Magazine’s 20 for the Next 20. This annual list highlights 20 individuals whose talents, accomplishments and potential set them apart as emerging leaders of Hawai'i into the next two decades.

Happy retirement, Rick Ching!

Best of luck to Rick Ching, MBA ’86, (pictured on the left) as he retires from his role as president and COO at Servco Pacific, Inc., effective Oct. 1. Ching will continue to serve as a director on Servco’s Global Mobility Board. He will retire with 38 years of service to Servco, holding various leadership positions in corporate finance and automotive operations.
1960s

Krishna Dhir, MBA ’68, was featured at The London Book Fair for his book, “The Wonder That is Urdu.” The fair showcases recently published books from various countries. The National Book Trust, an agency of the Indian government, selected the book to represent India.

1980s

Denise Iseri-Matsubara, BBA ’86, was hired as executive director of the City and County of Honolulu Mayor’s Office of Housing and Homelessness. She will lead efforts to complete various housing initiatives. Iseri-Matsubara will also be taking over leadership of the city’s Affordable Housing Working Group.

Rose Kemna, BBA ’84, earned an Aloha ‘Āina REALTOR® Award. The Honolulu Board of REALTORS® annually recognizes 10 individuals who excel in the real estate profession and have gone above and beyond. Kemna is currently a realtor broker at Hawai’i Life Real Estate Brokers.

1990s

Jay Ana, BBA ’98, has been appointed as a new trustee to the Coast Guard Foundation. Ana currently serves as the president of Young Brothers, LLC and sits on the Shidler Advisory Board.

Jon Evans, MBA ’94, was promoted to president of Charlie’s Produce Seattle, the largest independent produce distributor on the West Coast. Evans has also been the executive sponsor of the company’s sustainability efforts including the recent install of the largest rooftop solar array in Western Washington.

Shelee Kimura, BBA ’95, was named a Power Leader by Pacific Business News. In addition, Kimura was appointed to Mid-Pacific Institute’s Board of Trustees. Kimura currently serves as president and CEO of Hawaiian Electric.

Daniel Nāhoʻopiʻi, MBA ’93, has been named chief administrative officer at Hawai’i Tourism Authority (HTA). Nāhoʻopiʻi previously served as HTA’s director of research from 2006-2017, a time in which he led the organization’s statewide Tourism Strategic Plan process, oversaw the research department and more.

David Matlin, MBA ’97, has retired as athletic director of the University of Hawai’i. He will retire with almost eight years of service to UH and over three decades of sports administration experience in Hawai’i. Matlin has also ended his term as a director on the Shidler Alumni Association board, a position he has held since 2005.

Tasha Sawai, BBA ’95, MAcc ’97, has been appointed controller at Mid-Pacific Institute. With 25 years of finance and accounting experience, Sawai will oversee all accounting operations to ensure sound financial reports, records, controls, policies and procedures.

Matt Takamine, BBA ’98, was recognized in the 2023 Captive Review Power 50. Holding the 31st spot, he was selected for this list as one of the most influential people in the captive industry. Takamine currently serves as the executive managing director and captive practice leader at Brown & Brown.

Todd Takayama, BBA ’90, has been promoted to president and CEO at First Insurance Company of Hawaii. With more than 30 years of experience in the insurance industry, he will lead the company in its efforts to improve customer
experience while also finding ways to service the community through volunteer work and outreach.

2000s
Kristi Chun, BBA ’06, has been appointed partner and financial advisor at HIPac Financial, LLC. Chun was named one of Forbes “Top Best-in-State Financial Security Professionals” in 2022.
Jason Domingo, BBA ’04, MHRM ’07, was named a recipient of the McDonald’s Presidents’ Award, which recognizes the outstanding achievements of the top 1% of McDonald’s corporate, segment and market staff globally.
Kylie Matsuda-Lum, BS ’01, was awarded Hawaii Venture Capital Association’s Agriculture/ Clean Tech Entrepreneur of the Year at the 2023 Hawaii Entrepreneur Awards. Lum and her husband, Judah, are cofounders of Kahuku Farms.

Bernadette Kaneshiro, BBA ’08, has been promoted to assistant vice president & private banking mortgage loan officer at First Hawaiian Bank. In her role, she is responsible for generating residential mortgage loan production through various network referral sources, developer projects and bank resources.
Jeffrey Kao, BBA ’02, MBA ’06, has been appointed partner and financial adviser at HIPac Financial. Kao is also the cofounder of Sweet Creams, the first ice cream roll shop in Hawaii.

2010s
Maurice Berbano, BBA ’19, has been hired as social content creator at REVOLVE. In this role, he is responsible for creating and publishing content across a variety of channels that showcase the company’s lifestyle brand and as a next-generation fashion retailer.
Dakota Chun, BBA ’19, has been promoted to marketing manager at Pacxa. She is responsible for leading the company’s marketing and communication initiatives.
John Doyle, EMBA ’17, has been named senior vice president of cloud operations & security at Accelya Group. In his new role, he will be responsible for security efforts that protect the company’s global air transportation infrastructure. Doyle currently serves on the Shidler Alumni Association board of directors.
Jonathan Kam, BBA ’16, has been hired as a realtor at Coldwell Banker Realty. In his role, he offers clients vast market knowledge and seamless assistance with every aspect of the homeownership and selling process.

2022 Kāne Fernandez Award Recipient
Kelly McGill, BS ’97, was named recipient of the 2022 Kāne Fernandez Award, presented by the UH Letterwinners Club. This award is given each year to a past letterwinner who has volunteered to further advance the community. In 2022, as owner of Tiki’s Grill and Bar, McGill celebrated its 20th anniversary which raised more than $16,000 for the Hawai’i Food Bank and the planting of 28 trees for the Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative. With his wife, Thao, they also donated water to over 200 homes and schools after the Red Hill contamination and provided Thanksgiving dinners for the homeless.
CLASS NOTES

Lynn Miyahira, MBA ’10, has been promoted to vice president of public affairs at iQ360. In her elevated role, she specializes in communications and market strategy advising clients on how to best integrate branding, marketing and media relations.

Brandie Ota, MHRM ’15, has been promoted to human resources director at AlohaCare. In her role, she oversees all aspects of the Human Resources department with an emphasis on policies and procedures.

Lauren Saiki, BBA ’15, has been promoted to associate director of alumni & community engagement at the University of Hawai‘i Foundation. In her elevated role, she leads initiatives to connect UH system campuses with alumni through special engagement opportunities in Hawai‘i and worldwide.

2020s

Christian Bowman, MBA ’22, has been named chief marketing officer and production manager at Sight and Sounds Productions and Island Sound Studios. In his role, he uses his branding, advertising and narrative expertise to expand the two companies, while also continuing his duties as production manager.

A hui hou, Joe Magaldi

Joseph “Joe” Magaldi, BBA ’64, retired marine and a former Hawai‘i Department of Transportation (HDOT) director, passed away on Jan. 4, at the age of 93. The Massachusetts native served as a colonel for the Marine Corps based in Kaneohe Bay. After retiring from the Marine Corps, Magaldi was appointed head of the HDOT, which also resulted in his unofficial appointment of Honolulu Hale’s Santa Claus, a role which he joyfully served in for over 30 years. Magaldi was also an active member of the Shidler Alumni Association Board for nearly 15 years.

Send in your class notes and photos

We love to feature your special milestones, including job appointments, promotions, retirements, engagements, marriages and births on our website, eBlasts and in Shidler Business.

shidler.hawaii.edu/classnotes
Proudly representing the hospitality of our islands, Prince Resorts Hawaii (PRH) employs over 1,600 employees on two islands. Named again as one of Hawaii’s Best Places To Work, PRH has an enviable record of employee satisfaction and retention. This is perhaps due to its practice of empowering employees and providing mentoring and internal growth opportunities. This leadership approach and commitment to Lifetime Wellness programs has helped create a nurturing environment that has enticed generations of families to work at PRH and guests to return year after year.

PRH owns three luxury hotels and golf courses: Prince Waikiki, The Westin Hapuna Beach Resort, Mauna Kea Beach Hotel, Hawaii Prince Golf Club, Hapuna Golf Course and Mauna Kea Golf Course. PRH is a subsidiary of Japan’s Seibu Holdings, Inc. and part of that company’s international family of Seibu Prince Hotels Worldwide.
FEATURED EVENTS FOR FALL & WINTER 2023

THU & SUN
SEP 21 & SEP 24
California Alumni Events
Calling all California alumni! Join us for two fun events in the Golden State this fall. Our first stop is in Northern California for our Silicon Valley Alumni and Friends Mixer on Sept. 21. We will then be in Southern California for our Newport Bay Alumni Cruise on Sept. 24 with Shidler alumnus Bill Johnson, BBA ’65, and his wife, Sue, aboard the Dulcinea. Registration begins at noon PDT and is $30 per person.
ş shidler.hawaii.edu/norcal | ş shidler.hawaii.edu/newport23

THU
OCT 26
Hall of Honor Awards 2023
Join us as we honor five exceptional college alumni! This year, we celebrate Maura Mizuguchi, BBA ’83, chief accounting officer, Cetera Financial Group; Diane Paloma, MBA ’99, president and chief executive officer, Hawaii Dental Service; Matt Takamine, BBA ’98, executive managing director and captive practice leader, Brown & Brown; Eric Tom, BBA ’81, former executive vice president and chief revenue officer, Teradata; and Joseph Young, BBA ’98, managing partner, Deloitte. Event begins at 5:30 p.m. HST at the Sheraton Waikiki.
ş shidler.hawaii.edu/hall-of-honor

2024
JAN 3-5
Hawai‘i Accounting Research Conference
The Hawai‘i Accounting Research Conference (HARC) returns for the 7th year on Jan. 3-5, 2024. Join accounting professionals from across the globe as they engage in lively and intellectually stimulating discussions as the most influential researchers share their latest findings. Event will be held at UH Mānoa.
ş shidler.hawaii.edu/harc

2024
JAN 3-6
Hawai‘i International Conference on System Sciences (HICSS)
The 57th annual Hawai‘i International Conference on System Sciences (HICSS) returns on Jan. 3-6, 2024. This event is known worldwide as the longest-standing working scientific conference in Information Technology Management. The upcoming event has received a record submission of more than 1,600 papers. HICSS-57 will be held at the Hilton Hawaii Village Waikiki Beach Resort.
ş shidler.hawaii.edu/hicss

UPCOMING EVENTS
ş shidler.hawaii.edu/events

SHIDLER’S 75TH ANNIVERSARY!

2024 marks Shidler College’s 75th anniversary! As we gear up to commemorate this exciting milestone, we’re calling for alumni to share their lasting memories of the college. Do you have a favorite professor or class you remember fondly, did you make connections with lifelong friends or have a particular piece of advice that sticks with you today? Whatever your recollections may be, we want to hear from you. Scan the QR code to share your stories and we look forward to showcasing as many reflections as we can as we celebrate our diamond year.