DEAN’S MESSAGE

ALOHA,

This year holds special significance as we celebrate the 75TH ANNIVERSARY of the Shidler College of Business. Across the decades, the college has undergone transformational growth and achieved remarkable landmarks, thanks to the dedication and invaluable contributions of our esteemed alumni, generous donors and the vibrant community that surrounds us.

Our anniversary symbolizes our commitment to international excellence, fostering celebration, innovation and collaboration that defines our journey. Throughout the year, we will be hosting a series of events and special programming to commemorate our milestone. We invite you to share cherished memories of Shidler College using the QR code on the back cover and join in this year’s festivities.

I would also like to reflect on recent achievements:

• We are grateful for Jay H. Shidler’s $5 million cash donation, bringing his total giving to date at approximately $238 million, representing the largest individual gift to the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa and the second largest known gift to any business school at a public university.

• The Walter Dods, Jr. RISE Center opened last fall, named after philanthropist and alumnus Walter A. Dods, Jr. in recognition of his generous $5 million donation in 2023. The live-learn-work community houses 374 students from across all ten UH campuses, providing cutting-edge facilities, coworking spaces, prototyping labs, a recording studio and more.

• We continue to rank in the top 20 for International Business, and the School of Travel Industry Management (TIM School) was rated #18 in the U.S. and 49th in the world by Shanghai Ranking Consultancy’s “2023 Global Ranking of Academic Subjects.”

• Last fall, we raised more than $370,000 for student programs, scholarships, faculty research and alumni outreach as we inducted five exceptional alumni into the prestigious Hall of Honor. We also celebrated our Scholarship Luncheon, uniting approximately 300 students and their donors, and recognizing more than $1 million in scholarships for the 2022-2023 academic year.

As we celebrate our anniversary, I humbly ask you to consider joining the Dean’s Circle with an investment of $1,000 or more to our Advancement Fund. These gifts provide the flexibility to seize opportunities as they arise, address unexpected needs, engage with our alumni and fulfill ongoing commitments that support the work of our students, faculty and staff.

Together, we look forward to positively impacting our students, our island state and the broader global community. Here’s to a year of continued growth, building upon our past successes and further fortifying the bonds within our Shidler ‘ohana. We sincerely appreciate your continued partnership.

Sincerely,

V. Vance Roley
Dean and First Hawaiian Bank Chair of Leadership and Management
ON THE COVER
Guests attend Executive Vineyards 2011 at The Royal Hawaiian Hotel.

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Shidler College of Business Advisory Council
BY DANI DOUGLASS

AN EVENING OF MENTORSHIP AND RECOGNITION

Of the college’s special events, Business Night dates back the furthest. Now in its 63rd year in 2024, the event brings students, alumni and local business leaders together for an evening of mentorship and celebration of outstanding student achievement. These connections often continue far past the event and some students even end up working with their mentors later in their careers.

The event looks much different these days from when it started in the early 1960s. In the early days, the Chamber of Commerce supported Business Week, which consisted of various activities, including a tour of the college (then located in Hawai’i Hall), seminars and an awards banquet at the Ala Moana Banquet Hall. By 1966, the week was shortened to three days, beginning on Wednesday. On the first morning, a Miss Business contest was held to select a queen to preside over the remaining activities, which included student club sponsored speakers, a coffee hour for students with industry professionals and faculty, an awards banquet and a dance.

Although jammed-packed with activities, Business Week attendance was poor and in 1967, event organizers shortened it to one day and introduced the current one-on-one mentorship model, as well as afternoon seminars when classes were canceled and students were encouraged to attend discussions on various interest areas. In 1969, Business Day became Business Night when the daytime portion was dropped and it transitioned.
to the event it is known as today. The gala consistently hosts more than 400 participants each year.

What makes Business Night unique is that the students have a major role in its planning and execution, with the committee working in collaboration with the college’s External Relations Office and Development Office. The student committee is in charge of student recruitment and registration, selecting the year’s theme, marketing and advertising and overseeing the program’s award and publication process. The 2023 Business Night event awarded more than $90,000 to undergraduate and graduate students and First Hawaii Insurance Company of Hawaii served as the event’s title sponsor for the 18th consecutive year.

“The students do a majority of the event planning,” Shidler Dean Vance Roley, said. “The committee takes pride in marketing the event, selecting the theme each year and creating the script for the evening. It really is a quality event and I am continuously impressed by the level of professionalism and enthusiasm that goes into it each year.”

SHIDLER’S HONOR ROLL

The Hall of Honor Awards was born as a stand-alone event out of Business Night, where it was known as the CBA Alumni Hall of Honor. The inaugural Hall of Honor Awards was held in October 2006 at Hilton Hawaiian Village Beach Resort & Spa shortly after Roley became the dean of the college in 2005. Nearly 600 guests came together for the evening to honor the induction of Walter A. Dods, Jr., BBA ’67, David Heenan and Jay H. Shidler, BBA ’68.

“When I came to the college, I was really excited to showcase our brand in the community,” Roley said. “The first time we had it as its own event, I vividly recall walking into the ballroom and it was absolutely beautiful. I remember thinking ‘this is a top-notch event that has the potential to raise a lot of money.’”

As the largest fundraiser held in partnership with the Shidler College of Business Alumni Association, a 501(c)(3) organization, the Hall of Honor Awards selects four or five inductees each year who embody the qualities of leadership important to the college and its values, including sound leadership, unwavering integrity and steadfast service to their communities. The funds raised from table sponsorships support student programs, alumni outreach, college upgrades and special programs.

WINE, DINE AND MINGLE

Executive Vineyards is a steadfast event that has endured the test of time, inclement weather and a global pandemic. This highly anticipated event is organized and hosted by the Shidler Alumni Association, with support from the college and is a wine connoisseur and foodie’s dream come true. It started in 2000 at The Plaza Club in downtown Honolulu under the leadership of Shirleyanne Chew, MBA ’72. Since the beginning, Beverage Marketing & More and Southern Glazer’s Wine & Spirits of Hawaii have been steadfast partners in the event.
Since its inception, the event has had several venues, first moving to the Stan Sheriff Center in 2005, where several images of Napa Valley were displayed throughout the arena as the 53rd Street Band played music and Sodexo provided food stations. In 2010, the event went through a major shift when it moved to The Kahala Hotel and Resort. In addition to being moved to a new home, Executive Vineyards received its own branding under the expertise of long standing event organizer and Toby Tamaye, BBA ’95. “The event was gaining momentum and we wanted to create an entire experience for alumni,” he said.

In just a few years, Executive Vineyards outgrew the space and it was moved to The Royal Hawaiian Hotel, where it has been going strong since 2014. The committee saw the move as another step in elevating the experience for attendees. Tamaye also took the opportunity to showcase some of Honolulu’s hottest restaurants and provide more of a foodie experience where event-goers were able to visit multiple food stations while sipping on wine and spirits. Over the past decades, restaurants like MW Restaurant, Azure, Hy’s Steak House and Beachhouse at the Moana have showcased delicious dishes for guests.

“Our belief is that if you put on a good event people will continue to talk about it and look forward to coming back again next year,” Tyson Yamada, BBA ’03, MBA ’07, Shidler Alumni Association board director, former president and event committee member, said. “We’ve worked hard to make small improvements every year and many sponsors continue to support the event because guests have an enjoyable evening.”

The event’s silent auction has grown substantially in the past several years and many guests look forward to the bounty of hotel, travel, dining, shopping and excursion selections that are included each year. Committee members draw on their career and personal connections and are consistently focused on making improvements to the event to keep it relevant and appealing for guests.

Former event committee member Maile Au, MBA ’06, says that the auction items have become more sophisticated over the years. “I remember they used to make the silent auction baskets the weekend before at someone’s house, these have come a long way,” she reflected.

shidler.hawaii.edu/executive-vineyards

SPOTLIGHTING TOURISM’S BEST

The School of Travel Industry Management’s (TIM School) Celebrate a Legacy in Tourism event started in 1999 in honor of Dean Emeritus Chuck Y. Gee’s retirement from the TIM School after 30 years of service. The first gala was held at the Hilton Hawaii Village and was planned and executed by the TIM Alumni Association and its members. Lee-Ann Choy, BBA ’88, served on the event’s planning committee for the first one. As a young professional, the event provided her an opportunity to make valuable connections.

“I felt it was important to join the industry professional organizations to stay connected for the benefit of fostering the school’s relationships to these businesses and professionals,” she said.
Celebrate a Legacy of Tourism was created with the vision to honor the accomplishments of some of the most accomplished leaders in the hospitality and tourism industries, as well as the dedication of the school’s alumni and the excellence service of local business. It also raises funds to help alleviate some of the financial burden TIM School students face. The event came in the years following the popular TIM Night, an event that was organized by students.

The gala had two short pauses, the first one was from 2007-2010 when the Hawaii Hospitality Hall of Fame ran it and the honorees were recognized posthumously. The event also took breaks in 2014 and 2017 during a dean transition period.

The TIM School continues the tradition of honoring tourism’s legacy in partnership with its advisory and alumni boards. In 2024, the TIM School looks forward to celebrating the event’s 22nd anniversary, which will honor Mufi Hannemann, president and CEO, Hawai’i Lodging & Tourism Association as the Legacy in Tourism awardee; Holden Lim, BBA ’89, president of Hospitality Link International Inc. as the TIM Alumni Hall of Honor awardee; and Kyo-ya Hotels & Resorts, LP as the Distinguished Service Award winner. Each year, hundreds of thousands of dollars are raised to support scholarships for deserving TIM students, with last year’s event raising a record-breaking $430,000.

SHIDLER’S EVENT EXTRAORDINAIRES

Ever wonder what it takes to put on large-scale events? Shidler Business sat down with the college’s two events experts – Jamie Watanabe, BS ’01, events manager; and Amanda Rease, TIM event & marketing manager – for a behind the scenes look at the work that goes into executing a seamless experience for guests.

How long have you been working special events? What about with the college?

Watanabe: “I’ve been in catering and events for about 24 years and with the college for more than 11.”

Rease: “I have been working in the event industry for 20 years. I’ve been with Shidler for nearly two years.”

What advice/wisdom do you have for students wanting to pursue this career path?

Watanabe: “Keep in mind that if you plan events it’s not a normal M-F, 9-5 job, especially if you go into the hotel side. You will also have to learn how to work with a wide variety of people.”

Rease: “My advice is to get experience now. Volunteer at events and see the behind the scenes. Also, start networking now. This industry is all about connections, so start early and build a robust network.”

What is your favorite part of being an event planner? Most challenging?

Watanabe: “For me, the best part is seeing everything you have planned come together. It was also rewarding to see the client happy with how an event went when I did catering at The Kahala Hotel & Resort.

The most challenging thing is that as much as you plan, something will always come up so you have to learn to go with the flow.”

Rease: “My favorite part of event planning is seeing people enjoying something I created. I want attendees to have an amazing experience. I’d say the most challenging part of event planning is staying on budget with rising costs and management expectations. Costs go up every year but the money allocated does not.”

What makes Shidler/TIM events so special and unique?

Watanabe: “Probably the people, everyone comes together for the good of the college and I think that’s great. We have great donors who want to give back and help the next generation.”

Rease: “Our events are special because we try to provide opportunities for our students to connect with industry professionals so that they can practice and grow their networking skills, so when they graduate they have a network already established. It also gives them the opportunity to hear real advice from professionals, not just reading about it in a textbook.”
Sometimes life takes us on a course much different from the one we envisioned or even started on. Faculty instructor Kelly Holden is someone that can relate to this sentiment as she found herself unexpectedly in academia after a successful career in healthcare marketing. But now she can’t imagine not teaching courses in marketing, brand management and business statistics at the Shidler College of Business.

Holden is a popular faculty member, frequently sweeping Shidler College’s professor of the semester awards, oftentimes in more than one category. This recognition affords students an opportunity to nominate and vote for their favorite professors in categories; and winners are selected based on the percentage of votes received. In addition to the several professor accolades Holden has received since 2020, she was also the recipient of the Dennis Ching Junior Teaching Award in the 2021-2022 academic year.

It’s hard to imagine now that there was a time the seemingly confident and natural instructor was terrified of teaching in front of a classroom or that she hadn’t even considered teaching college students. In fall 2016, she taught her first course in market research at Shidler College at the urging of her then professor and now department chair, Dana Alden, William R. Johnson, Jr. Distinguished Professor and chair of the marketing department. Holden was excited for the new challenge but nervous that she would do a poor job and not give her students what they needed.

She was also busy juggling a full-time career leading the marketing department at a well-known hospital while finishing her dissertation and raising three sons with her husband, Rob. Holden says there came a pivotal time in her journey where she had to make a decision between career and her degree.

The tipping point came when she was meeting with Alden and he told her that once she had finished her dissertation proposal, it was now or never to complete her degree. He
said that up until that point deadlines were prescriptive but now the ball was completely in her court and without those looming benchmarks, her career—filled with deadlines and endless tasks and projects—would always take precedence.

“I remember thinking ‘is he questioning my ability to get this done?’ I didn’t say it to him but I thought ‘I’ll show you!’ But he was 100% correct, I lost an entire year to pushing off research due to work deadlines,” Holden said.

On the homefront, she had the support of Rob, who gave her steady reminders to “cross the finish line” with offers to work overtime at his job with the Honolulu Police Department. And so she did what she knew was overdue.

After she gave notice to depart Hawaii Pacific Health (HPH), where she had worked since her family moved to Oahu in 2011, she was ready to cross the finish line. So, while finishing her dissertation, Holden taught her first courses and then she eventually graduated—all while dealing with a family crisis, pregnancy with her third child and coping with the ramifications from the pandemic—with her doctorate in communication and information sciences and the rest is history.

Teaching didn’t come easy and she recalls those early day jitters. To her surprise, a memory that she hadn’t thought about in decades popped into her mind and helped her get through those nerve-racking days.

“I had a professor named Kathy Murphy while I was an undergraduate at University of Minnesota who taught the introduction to public relations course,” Holden reflects. “I remember sitting in her class and thinking how awesome she was and how me and my classmates loved her and were so impressed with her. So I always thought about that when it was time to teach and tried to think of ways I could emulate her.”

It’s now nearly seven years since Holden first stepped foot into a classroom and she has honed her teaching style and finds an ease and a transparent communication style when she leads her students through their academic journeys. She says that marketing at its root is engagement and that is what she strives to emulate as a teacher.

With an approachable, warm and friendly demeanor, she’s unafraid to laugh at herself and use relatable antidotes from her professional and personal life. Having nearly two decades of professional marketing experience under her belt helps Holden to guide her students toward a successful start to their careers, even at the expense of sharing professional faux pas with them to remind them that we are all human and make mistakes.

She has refined her pedagogy through taking constructive criticism from students and mentors. After her first semester teaching, she received comments that she used the word “right” often when lecturing. And it wasn’t just in class because she heard similar feedback from Alden after presenting at the annual Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences conference.

“He told me that my students were spot on,” she said. “And it took me the first part of that following semester to rid myself of the habit. But I tell this story often to my students, as I hope to use this as a lesson that you can change unwanted habits if you pay attention to them.”

Staying relevant with marketing trends, especially ever-changing social media, ensures that her students are well-equipped for the real world. To practice what she preaches, Holden will often ask to manage her colleagues’ social media accounts to gain hands-on practice. Anything she asks her students to do, she does as well. Be it learning the new feature in HubSpot Academy, Semrush or Salesforce; or getting certified in Google Analytics.

“I don’t want to be so disconnected that I can’t support them,” she said. “I want my students to be able to learn how to critically deal with the situation at hand. Sure, there’s the principles side you learn but it doesn’t always apply to real-life and evolving situations so I want them to be able to think outside of the box and create something right-fitted for the need.”

“…It’s so rewarding when I receive unexpected emails from students that are now doing what they love.”

When asked what keeps her motivated and still excited to step into her classroom to share her knowledge and passion for marketing with her students, two things come to her mind. The first involves when she sees it “clicking” and students are leading discussions and coming up with their own ideas in class and secondly, when students contact her out of the blue to share exciting news.
Shidler Day 2023

Shidler Day 2023 was an energetic and impressive gathering that saw hundreds of incoming and returning prebusiness, business and TIM students come through the Eddie and Elaine Flores, Jr. Courtyard on Sept. 7, 2023. Attendees of the annual welcome back event, which also highlights the numerous student clubs Shidler students have the opportunity to join, were treated to a fun-filled day. This year, they received pizza, popcorn, drinks and goodie bags. Jay H. Shidler, BBA ’68, made an appearance, introducing himself to club leaders and taking the time to talk to the students. This event is made possible through the generosity of sponsors and supporting companies and is a day that students, faculty and staff look forward to. Mahalo to gold sponsors Enterprise Holdings, Hawaii Dental Service, Marriott Vacations Worldwide, Servco Pacific Inc. and Chamber of Commerce Hawaii Young Professionals; silver sponsors Hawaiian Airlines and L&L Barbecue; bronze sponsor Meadow Gold Dairies Hawaii; and supporting sponsors Tiki’s Grill & Bar and Zippy’s.

Commencement 2023

The Fall 2023 Commencement Celebration was a lively and festive evening as recent graduates and their guests gathered in the Eddie & Elaine Flores, Jr. Courtyard on Dec. 15, 2023 to celebrate their academic milestone. Attendees were treated to food from L&L Barbecue, an opportunity to purchase college keepsakes, a fun photo wall and to gather information about the Shidler and Travel Industry Management Alumni Associations. There were lots of photos snapped and guests spent quality time with classmates, family and friends, and college faculty and staff. This memorable experience is provided to each graduating class prior to them participating in the UH Mānoa Commencement Exercises and is partially funded through the college’s alumni associations.
Rick Varley is the director of Shidler College’s Internships and Career Development Office. In this column, Varley selects an outstanding student to share their internship experience. During the spring and fall 2023 semesters, Varley placed 339 Shidler students in internships.

In this feature, Stanley “Stan” Gaudion, BBA ’20, MS ’21, recalls his journey as an intern at several companies during his time at Shidler College and how those experiences strengthened his skillset and eventually helped him to land a position at K1 Investment Management in Manhattan Beach, California, where he has worked since August 2021.

A valuable launchpad for my career
By Stan Gaudion

As a former student at Shidler College of Business, I can say that my experiences at the three internships I completed in college helped me to develop valuable skills that I still use in my career today and paved the way for a successful career in private equity. Looking back, I am grateful that I had the opportunity to intern at these organizations while I was completing my education and to learn from mentors who had already walked a similar path to the one I was aspiring to.

The journey began with my first internship during my sophomore year at Wells Fargo Advisors. This experience was crucial in learning the ropes of professionalism and client management, skills that are imperative in the world of finance and business.

My next internship and perhaps the most impactful, was with Startup Capital Ventures (SCV), which is led by alumnus Donavan Kealoha, MBA ’09, who is also a UH lecturer. It was at that placement that I learned a comprehensive framework for the seed stage of venture capital investing, including analyzing crucial elements such as founder potential, market sizing and product potential.

From my experience at SCV, the final step of my internship journey involved a business development research role for Hohonu, a startup founded at UH. This position provided me with an in-depth understanding of identifying and targeting a startup’s initial customer base.

After I graduated from Shidler College, my journey led me to K1 Investment Management, which is a software-focused private equity fund. I started as an entry-level analyst and then quickly climbed the ladder. I now proudly hold an associate position on the investment team.

For current students, I’d advise you to reach out to prominent community members and leverage your Shidler College and UH network for potential opportunities. You should seek internships in areas of interest as your passions often translate into a successful and fulfilling career. You can work with Rick to ensure that you get the most value out of your internships because they will help in shaping your own professional journey.

International excellence reflected in rankings

Shidler College was once again ranked among the top business schools in the U.S. News & World Report’s “America’s Best Colleges” rankings for 2023-2024. The college was ranked 20th on the “Best Undergraduate International Business Programs” list. The TIM School also received an impressive ranking, coming in at 18th in the U.S. and 49th in the world on Shanghai Ranking Consultancy’s “2023 Global Ranking of Academic Subjects” report.

shidler.hawaii.edu/rankings
Shidler College marketing instructor Constancio Paranal, III started the Mānoa Consulting Case Competition (MCCC) team more than seven years ago in order to provide students with the opportunity to compete in case competitions, where teams of participants work to develop the best solution to a business case study within a certain amount of time.

The program offers a rigorous experience packed with training and workshops on how to be an effective management consultant, a critical problem solver and a confident public speaker. The program, which runs for a minimum of two months, has since provided more than 50 students the opportunity to represent the college in competitions across the U.S. and the Asia-Pacific regions.

“The program is like a boot camp that trains and strengthens a student’s cognitive abilities and business acumen,” Paranal said. “Case competitions have shown to enhance the value of a business degree by providing innovative and hands-on application for students. Not only do case competitions challenge their thinking, but they also provide the opportunity to travel, an immersion experience where students are able to learn about different cultures and business realities.”

Recent graduates Lydia Jun, BBA ’23, Joan Martinez, BBA ’23, Kaylee Miki, BBA ’23, and Stefani Sakamoto, BBA ’23, represented Shidler College at the Milgard Invitational Case Competition on Social Responsibility Feb. 29-March 1, 2023 in Tacoma, Washington and at the Consortium of Undergraduate International Business Educators March 30-April 1, 2023 in Boston.

Nearly 300 supporters and students came together on Nov. 6, 2023 at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel for the college’s annual Scholarship Luncheon. This important event serves as an opportunity for donors to meet the scholars benefiting from their contributions and learn first-hand about the impact their gifts have.

Throughout the 2022-2023 academic year, Shidler College awarded more than $1 million in scholarships. This financial aid is crucial in helping students concentrate on their academic pursuits, participate in study abroad programs and engage in extracurricular activities, which might be financially out of reach otherwise.

Ren Hirose, BBA ’85, who previously served as a regional vice president at HEI Hotels and Resorts, served as the 2023 keynote speaker. In 2022, he established an endowed scholarship of $50,000 for high school students from Maui, aimed at fostering future leaders in tourism and hospitality through the School of Travel Industry Management.

Undergraduate student Jett Zenthoefer expressed how his scholarship has opened doors to higher education in Hawai’i and study abroad opportunities, fueling his ambition to work as an international human rights lawyer at the United Nations. Jordan Reed served as the graduate student speaker and shared his journey of returning to Hawai’i for his MBA after completing his undergraduate degree and the numerous opportunities his scholarship has afforded him.
FIRST RISE RESIDENTS MOVE IN

More than 325 University of Hawai‘i students moved into the new Walter Dods, Jr. RISE Center in fall 2023. Located on the site of the former Atherton YMCA, the state-of-the-art building is expected to transform the entrepreneurial ecosystem at UH’s flagship campus. Students shared positive experiences during the move-in process, expressing enthusiasm for the amenities and the opportunity to connect with like-minded peers in communal spaces.

The inaugural group represents every school and college in the UH Mānoa System from freshmen to graduate students. The residents are 70% female and their hometowns span coast to coast, from Maine to Guam, representing 30 U.S. states and eight countries.

PACE has expanded its presence to the innovation center on the second floor of the Walter Dods, Jr. RISE Center, managing and activating the space with its innovation and entrepreneurship program. RISE and PACE are open to students from any discipline and any UH campus.

LEVEL-UP WORKSHOPS SPAN DISCIPLINES

PACE transformed its inSPACE series into the newly named Level-Up Workshops this past fall. These workshops showcase community members with expertise in specific industries, providing students with a platform to learn collaboratively and expand their networks in a secure environment. The semester highlighted four diverse topics: public speaking, creative writing, jewelry making and eSports internships; and students engaged with a range of disciplines and cultivated valuable skills.

The first Level-Up event, “Elevate Your Public Speaking with Carol Lin,” welcomed the award-winning journalist to speak at the Walter Dods, Jr. RISE Center. Lin shared her experiences as a female Asian-American journalist in a then-Caucasian male-dominated industry. She talked about some of the stories she’s produced through her career and gave insightful tips on how to be an effective communicator, driving home the importance of connecting with the audience. One tip she gave was to convey the “why” when sharing a story, a principle that applies to business and other fields outside of journalism.

ENTRE-PINOY-SHIP PANEL HIGHLIGHTS FILIPINO ENTREPRENEURS

In commemoration of Filipino American History Month in October, PACE hosted an “Entre-Pinoy-Ship” panel featuring dynamic Filipino American entrepreneurs, including Karlo Tanjuakio, Kit Furukawa and Lalaine Ignao. The speakers shared their entrepreneurial journeys, emphasizing the influence of Filipino culture and the challenges they faced while providing valuable advice to young entrepreneurs. The influence of Filipino culture on business decisions and strategies was highlighted, emphasizing intentional incorporation of cultural elements and values. Despite the challenges faced by the large Filipino American population in Hawai‘i, the panelists candidly addressed issues such as recognition and acceptance.
The event was organized by Constancio Paranal III, Adelene Ortiz, BBA ’21, MS ’22, and Daniella Pasion from Shidler College and PACE; and was moderated by Pia Arboleda, director of the UH Mānoa Center for Philippine Studies.

4 | PACE LEADERS PREPARE THE NEXT GENERATION

A new PACE Leaders program was launched in conjunction with the opening of the Walter Dods, Jr. RISE Center. This new initiative aims to nurture the next generation of leaders. The program welcomed 50 students from 25 different disciplines into its inaugural cohort for hands-on learning with real-world application. Students have a unique opportunity to develop entrepreneurial skills while spearheading programs, activities and events for their peers. In addition to hands-on learning, students had the privilege of participating in leadership training seminars by TH!NK LLC and the Center for Tomorrow’s Leaders in the fall semester. Students participating in the program were awarded more than $130,000 in scholarships from various funds.

pace.shidler.hawaii.edu/leaders

5 | MAKER PROGRAM UNLEASHES STUDENT CREATIVITY

The Maker program was also launched this past fall. Under this program, a group of dedicated PACE Leaders successfully opened a recording studio and held their first make-and-take workshop at the Walter Dods, Jr. RISE Center. The recording studio is outfitted with professional audio equipment and is open to all UH students, faculty and staff. The studio is the perfect venue to record a podcast, capture voice or create music in an acoustically sound environment. On Nov. 30, 2023, the Maker PACE Leaders hosted a make-and-take workshop in anticipation of two new maker spaces opening in spring 2024. During the session, students learned how to use a digital die-cutting machine and a heat press. Participants were able to create custom tote bags, pencil cases and glass jars.

pace.shidler.hawaii.edu/maker

6 | PROFESSIONALS-IN-RESIDENCE HOSTS BUSINESS LAW CORPS

Business Law Corps (BLC) is a nonprofit organization that provides new business owners and entrepreneurs of limited means with free legal services and resources. PACE hosted six BLC attorneys – Ryan Hew, Gregory Kim, Keri Ann Krzykowski, Daniel Lam, Chris Mashiba, BBA ’91, and Sara Strona, MBA ’15 – in its Professionals-in-Residence program in fall 2023. Each attorney took up to four appointments during their visit as a PACE Professional-in-Residence, providing legal guidance to students with startup issues. Longtime volunteers Pia Aarma
and Scott Brewer, BBA ’81, also served as Professionals-in-Residence during the fall semester, sharing knowledge and expertise to help student entrepreneurs.

PACE and Scott Brewer, BBA ’81, also served as Professionals-in-Residence during the fall semester, sharing knowledge and expertise to help student entrepreneurs.

7 | 2023 SUMMER STARTUP LAUNCHPAD GRADUATES SEVEN TEAMS

For the first time since the pandemic, teams in the 2023 Summer Startup Launchpad met in person at Shidler College. The seven teams of undergraduate and graduate students from various disciplines, including computer science, marine biology, molecular biosciences, engineering and business; spent six weeks validating their business ideas, identifying potential customer segments and formulating feasible business models. During the program, teams received guidance from product development expert Dean Bacalzo and Shidler College faculty members Kelly Holden and Patricia LaPorte. PACE awarded $22,000 in funding to the teams to utilize as startup capital, which was made possible by a generous donation from the Mamoru and Aiko Takitani Foundation.

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8 | KALO GRANTS FUEL STUDENT BUSINESS IDEAS

The Kalo Grants program, which is open to all UH students, completed its inaugural round with a live pitch event at the Walter Dods, Jr. RISE Center in October 2023. The program is organized for students by students and a team of five from diverse backgrounds ran the first Kalo Grants. Participating teams earned $500-$1,000 while gaining real-world experience in innovation and entrepreneurship. The top two business ideas were Hawaii NutriNative and ResQ Drone Innovations. Hawaii NutriNative is an app designed by Dongjun Xie, a food and nutrition student, to blend culture and nutrition while addressing food insecurity and the undervalued richness of Native Hawaiian foods. ResQ Drone Innovations was designed by Cody Hankins, Joshua Bushe, Bryson Uehara and Sang Bui; UH Maui College applied business and information technology (ABIT) students, as an efficient and humane way of finding survivors and recovering bodies using drones. Leading up to the pitch, students were provided with guidance from coaches, including longtime PACE mentor Scott Brewer, doctoral candidate Emma Hsu, and Shidler College Assistant Professor of Travel Industry Management Xiaodan Mao-Clark.
1 | NĀ KUKUI NETLINKS
“Exploring Horizons: Networking Across the World” was the theme for the 2023 Nā Kukui Netlinks. The event, which started in 1995, aims to bring together industry leaders of today with the future leaders of tomorrow. Students enrolled in TIM 316, a special events management course, spent the entire semester planning the event and then executing it on Nov. 30, 2023 at the Oahu Country Club. 150 students and professionals were paired together for an evening of networking and mentorship.

2 | MĀLAMA PONO CHALLENGE
Approximately 30 Direct Admit Program students participated in this year’s Mālama Pono Challenge, organized by instructor Constancio Paranal III. Now in its third year, the most recent challenge marked the first year it was modeled after “Shark Tank.” Students first learned how to kickstart a business and then pitched their ideas to a group of investors, including many Shidler College alumni. The event wrapped up with a talk-story session with the investors, which provided students the opportunity to gain greater insights into the business world. Nearly $2,000 was raised through these student businesses and all proceeds were donated to help Maui wildfires victims.

3 | WHO’S THE BEST?
More than 300 business and TIM students gathered at Kapi’olani Regional Park on Nov. 18, 2023 for Super Clubs Day, the event of the semester. Representing 12 clubs, students competed in a variety of activities which included volleyball, jeopardy, kickball, relay races and a dance competition. A new addition to this year’s event was medical tents to ensure students were able to receive immediate care for any injuries, as well as stay properly hydrated and reminders to stretch after activities. After a long and hard fought battle, the Business Executive Society of Tomorrow (BEST) came out victorious and was crowned the fall 2023 Super Clubs Day champions.

4 | ESD INDUCTION CEREMONY
The student executive committee of the Eta Sigma Delta International Society planned an induction ceremony at the Halekulani Hotel on Nov. 9, 2023 to bring together TIM students, faculty and staff, and industry leaders. This year’s honorees included Julie Arigo, BBA ’88, Bonnie Bise, BBA ’93, and Patricia Tam; and marked the first time three nominees were approved by the International Council of Hotel, Restaurant, Institution and Education. Mahalo to Patricia Tam and the UH Student Activity and Program Fee Board for cosponsoring the event.
WELCOME, HO‘OLINA SCHOLARS!

The TIM School welcomed four new Ho‘olina Scholars to the 2023 cohort with a reception at Tiki’s Grill & Bar on Sept. 13, 2023. Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, representatives from Hawaii Lodging & Tourism (HLTA) and the Ho‘olina Scholars 2020 cohort helped welcome and honor the students. The Ho‘olina Scholarship is a partnership between the Hawai‘i Department of Labor & Industrial Relations, HLTA and TIM School, with funding generously provided through support from the Hawai‘i State Legislature.

COURTYARD CLEANUP

Uniting students across eight clubs, the Inter-Business Council took the initiative to arrange a Shidler beautification day. More than 50 participants spent their weekend freshening up the Eddie & Elaine Flores, Jr. Courtyard. Dedicated students worked tirelessly cleaning door handles, washing windows and removing trash to transform the courtyard into a welcoming and vibrant space for students and faculty to enjoy for the rest of the school year.
New Faculty and Staff

Penny Ching has been named Direct Admit Program advisor, previously serving as student services specialist for Shidler College. Before joining Shidler, she served as an instructor in the Department of Dental Hygiene and earned her master’s degree in education administration from UH Mānoa.

Cody Fujimoto joins the college as an IT specialist, supporting faculty, staff and students with their IT needs. Prior to his appointment, he worked as a student assistant in the Shidler Netlab and is a UH Mānoa alumnus.

Research


Berkhoval also contributed to two articles published together with industry professionals and tourism academics on the implications of generative AI: “Generative artificial intelligence in the hospitality and tourism industry: developing a framework for future research” in Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Research, 2023; and “The implications of generative artificial intelligence in academic research and higher education in tourism and hospitality” in Tourism Economics, 2023.


Recognitions and Promotions

Jerry Agrusa, professor of TIM, was the first U.S. recipient of the Asia Pacific Tourism Association (APTA) Founder’s Award, which recognizes a scholar or industry leader who has made significant lifetime contributions in advancing tourism research and/or industry practices in the Asia Pacific region. The award was presented at APTA’s annual conference in Chiang Mai, Thailand in July 2023.

Manu Ka’iama, instructor of accounting, was voted to serve on Bishop Museum’s board. In her role, she will be serving on the collections committee and...
Academic Advisor Clare Fujioka-Sok and her husband, Sam Sok, welcomed baby Eleanor Anne Sok, who was born on Sept. 22, 2023.

The Consortium for Undergraduate International Business Education (CUIBE) named the 2023 CUIBE Best Paper Award in Memory of Dr. N. Lane Kelley at the 2023 Academy of International Business Annual Meeting in Warsaw, Poland on July 7, 2023. Professor Lane Kelley passed away in 2004 and was chair of the Department of Management, the first director of the University of Hawai’i Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER), director of Pacific-Asian Management Institute, and the founding representative of UH Mānoa for CUIBE.

Jee-Hae Lim, distinguished professor of accounting, was recently elected as editor of The Journal of Information Systems and the associate editor for the Cybersecurity and Privacy Track for the International Conference on Information Systems. She was also invited as the main speaker to discuss spinalizations at the 2023 Association for Information Systems Doctoral and New Scholars Consortium in January 2023.

Congratulations to Sandra Fujiyama, executive director of the Pacific Asian Center for Entrepreneurship (PACE), on being named a Pacific Business News Power Leader for 2024. The award recognizes Hawai’i’s business leaders who will make a big difference in the state over the next 10 years.

Constancio Paranal, III, Department of Marketing instructor, was recognized as a 2023-2024 Innovation and Impact Showcase awardee, winning the category of Client-Centric Pedagogy: Transformative Learning through Live Campaign Consultation. Created by UH Mānoa’s Office of Vice Provost for Academic Excellence, the Center for Teaching Excellence, the Assessment and Curriculum Support Center, and the General Education Office; the showcase aims to celebrate innovative and high-impact teaching practices and to generate a repository of these practices as resources and inspirations.

Qimei Chen chaired a special topics session on advertising’s role in promoting sustainability at the American Academy of Advertising’s 2023 annual conference in Denver. In addition, Chen cochaired a special session at the Journal of Product Innovation Management Research Forum in New Orleans in fall 2023. The session titled “Are AI-enabled Innovation and Sustainability Answers to Grand Challenges” provided Shidler’s current and past graduate students a platform to present timely research, including doctoral candidates Scott Hachey; and Blake Nichols and Jaisang Kim, PHD ’21.

Wei (Victor) Huang, professor of finance and John and Sue Dean Distinguished Professor, delivered an address at the Shanghai Forum, an international event jointly hosted by Fudan University and the Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies. Held in October 2023, the presentation explored Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) rating and investors’ reaction to earnings surprises — a research collaboration with Shidler doctoral student Zefan Huang. Nearly 500 professionals from around the world participated, each contributing their perspectives on the theme “Towards a More Inclusive Globalization: Asia’s New Responsibilities.”

From left to right: Scott Hachey, Blake Nichols, Qimei Chen and Jaisang Kim
DONOR NEWS

Walter Dods, Jr. RISE Center

$5M gift to new entrepreneurship center

In honor of Honolulu philanthropist Walter A. Dods, Jr.'s, BBA '67, $5 million donation to Shidler College's Pacific Asian Center for Entrepreneurship (PACE) at the newly established RISE building, it has been renamed the Walter Dods, Jr. RISE Center. The facility, which combines an innovation center operated by PACE with housing for 374 students, has become a vibrant hub for entrepreneurship and innovation.

Dods' gift was commemorated at a reception in October 2023, which was also attended by PACE Executive Director Sandra Fujiyama, University of Hawai'i President David Lassner and University of Hawai'i Foundation (UHF) President Tim Dolan, along with new student residents, who moved into the facility in fall 2023.

"I'm honored to champion a program that's growing new generations of critical thinkers and entrepreneurs who will create the businesses that grow Hawai'i's economy," Dods said in a news release. "I look forward to seeing the future these PACE at RISE students will create for themselves, our state and the world."

Dods' gift supports RISE and its programs, which include mentorship programs, venture competitions and funds, leadership programs and talk story sessions with industry leaders, which are run by PACE. The center itself is right across the street from the UH Mānoa campus and is a live-learn-work community that hosts classes, guest speakers and private events. All UH students can access coworking spaces, meeting rooms, makerspaces and a recording studio. RISE residents enjoy amenities important to today's students, including secure key fob entry, bike and surfboard storage and car sharing options. In December 2023, Island Brew Coffeehouse announced its plan to open its newest location within RISE in 2024.

Dods retired from First Hawaiian Bank in 2004 after a 36-year career with the bank, most notably serving as chairman and CEO for the last 15 years of his tenure. He has a longstanding commitment to the University of Hawai'i and previously served as president of the University of Hawai'i's Foundation's board of trustees. His latest donation adds to his previous support of the university and a $500,000 contribution to the UH Foundation for RISE in 2022.

Since his retirement, Dods has maintained an active presence in the community, serving on the Alexander & Baldwin board as its chairman and later on Matson's board. He was also a trustee of the Samuel Mills Damon Estate and served as non-executive board chairman for Hawaiian Telcom and Mid Pac Petroleum. He currently sits on the Par Pacific Hawaii board as a director.

The Walter Dods, Jr. RISE Center opened in August 2023 and is the first public-private partnership between UH, UHF and Hunt Development Group Hawai'i. It is an externally managed student housing complex providing housing to students from any UH campus. The $70 million dollar facility is the first-of-its-kind in the state and one of only five such centers in the country.

shidler.hawaii.edu/walter-dods-$5Mgift

Giving is at the heart of Shidler College

The 2022-2023 donor recognition listing can be found on our website at shidler.hawaii.edu/donorroll. We extend a sincere mahalo to all the alumni, corporations, foundations and friends of the college who have made a gift to the Shidler College during the past year.

Our friends on Maui still need support as they recover from the devastation of the August 2023 wildfires. If you’d like to contribute to one of the UH Foundation’s Help Maui funds, please visit uhfoundation.org/helpmaui.
2024 marks our 75th anniversary and is a perfect time to pledge your support to ensure a strong foundation for the college now and into the future. If you’re interested in supporting Shidler College, you can scan the QR code to designate your gift to one of our three funds.

shidler.hawaii.edu/alumni/giving-opportunities
A celebration of global opportunities

Representatives from the Freeman Foundation visited Shidler College on Dec. 4, 2023 for a reception in appreciation of their continued support of Shidler students pursuing studies in Asia.

Graeme Freeman, president of the Freeman Foundation, his son Alec Freeman, senior program officer of the Freeman Foundation and Shereen Goto, director of operations and programs of the Freeman Foundation; attended the gathering and enjoyed talking with students who have received fellowships.

Shidler College Asian Field Study (AFS) program director Ben Bystrom provided an update on new program initiatives including students undertaking consulting projects for leading corporations in Asia. Executive MBA students Jared Hamamoto and Christopher Wong shared how the Asian Field Study 2023 business tour visited 25 companies in Japan, Thailand and Cambodia and gave them hands-on experience in industries including fintech, healthcare, real estate, agriculture, media, food and beverage and artificial intelligence. Four Shidler College undergraduate students also shared about their experiences in Asia during the fall 2022 and spring 2023 semesters.

“With strong financial support from the Freeman Foundation, the Shidler College Asian Field Study has become the global leader in Asian business education preparing hundreds of Shidler graduates for dynamic careers in the Asia-Pacific region,” Bystrom said.

Graeme Freeman discussed the significance his family places on Asia and its people, emphasizing his family’s commitment to supporting fellowships to provide the next generation with transformative experiences to influence their educational path, future professions, and overall lives. The Freeman Foundation, headquartered at the East-West Center at UH Mānoa, is an active donor to educational causes around the world.

$100,000 donation will elevate Walter Dods, Jr. RISE Center

Moss Construction generously presented the UH Foundation with a $100,000 gift in support of the Walter Dods, Jr. RISE Center. The gift was officially commemorated on Oct. 31, 2023 with a check signing presentation, which was attended by Shidler College Dean Vance Roley, Shidler College and PACE representatives, UH Foundation representatives and Moss General Superintendent Reggie Catillo.

“Moss’ dedication to our mission is a testament to the impact we can make when we come together as a community,” Roley said.

“The company’s support has played a critical role in our efforts to bring entrepreneurial programs and skills to the University of Hawai‘i. Together, we’re making a real difference and as we move forward we’re excited about the possibilities that lie ahead.”
Meet Elliot Mills, BBA ’93, vice president of hotel operations at Disneyland Resort and Aulani, A Disney Resort & Spa. Mills is responsible for overseeing operations and providing strategic direction for the Disneyland Hotel, Disney’s Pixar Place Hotel and Disney’s Grand Californian Hotel & Spa in Anaheim, California, as well as Aulani, A Disney Resort & Spa, in Ko Olina, Hawai’i. Mills is a Kamehameha Schools trustee and serves as a board director for the Bank of Hawai’i. He earned his bachelor’s in business with an emphasis in travel industry management from UH Mānoa and a certificate from the Cornell Hospitality General Managers Program. He was inducted into the Shidler Hall of Honor in 2021.

Tell us about a day at the office.
“Actually, I find that a day I can spend outside the office is far more interesting and rewarding. This is when I spend quality time connecting with cast members and understanding their needs and personal stories. I can have candid conversations with our guests about their experiences and how they are enjoying the resort and what opportunities we might have to further enhance their experience. I also truly value time where I’m able to serve our community. I make it a priority to meet with other community leaders and organizations and have robust conversations about the sustainability of Hawai’i and the hospitality industry.”

What projects/initiatives are you currently working on?
“In California, we recently celebrated the grand opening of the Villas at Disneyland Hotel, which is a new, 344-room tower at the Disneyland Resort. We’re also excited about the transformation of Disney’s Paradise Pier Hotel into Pixar Place Hotel, scheduled to open in January 2024. Here in Hawai’i, we’re continuing our focus on our commitment to the celebration of Hawaiian culture and stories. We recently brought on a new Hawaiian cultural advisor, Kama Hopkins, who is helping to guide this work and furthering our investment in cultural immersion for our cast members, who can then more fully immerse our guests in Hawaiian culture. We also recently reopened our reimagined ‘AMA’AMA Restaurant at Aulani Resort, which features a beautiful four-course menu of locally-sourced ingredients served within the most picturesque setting overlooking Ko Olina lagoon. It’s now my favorite spot to celebrate something special or just enjoy a nice dinner out.”

What do you do to relax/destress?
“There is nothing I enjoy more than spending quality time with my wife and kids. We love cruising on the beach, surfing or bodyboarding.”

How did your experiences at Shidler prepare you for what was to come?
“Shidler provided me with a solid educational foundation, but more importantly it gave me the opportunity to create long lasting relationships in the industry through internship programs as well as collaborations with classmates, many of whom are now my colleagues.”

What’s your advice for current students?
“Take this time to discover the things you truly enjoy and dive into them and get more exposure, experiences and perspective. I couldn’t emphasize enough the importance of community involvement and civil engagement. The experiences, as well as the relationships, built by volunteering your time will prove to be invaluable in the long run. Also, don’t forget where you came from – leverage your local knowledge and experiences as a differentiator as you advance your career.”

What are some of your favorite memories of Shidler?
“My fondest memories were putting on the TIM Night events with my classmates. We hosted industry professionals in an annual themed-gala. It involved collaboration among students and building on the relationships within the hospitality and business community and was one of the best industry events in Hawai’i.”

What’s your favorite lunch?
“A poke bowl from Ulu Cafe at Aulani Resort. An insider tip: Ask for hapa poke.”

What’s your favorite activity outside of the office?
“I enjoy spending time with my wife and kids and getting into the ocean as much as possible. I also love getting up to the mountains with family and friends to ski and snowboard.”
1 | TASTING TOUR
The annual Alumni Dine Around took place on Aug. 16, 2023 at the International Marketplace and it was a delectable treat for all who attended. Attendees ventured to Eating House 1849, Stripsteak and Kuhio Avenue Food Hall, where they were able to sample various cuisines while networking with others in their group. A raffle prize featuring a one-night hotel stay, all in the name of gathering funds in support of Maui, was given to a lucky attendee. More than $1,300 was raised and donated to Hawaii Community Foundation’s Maui Strong Campaign.

2 | HAWAI’I HOSPITALITY HALL OF FAME
In partnership with the Hawai’i Hospitality Hall of Fame trustees, the TIM Alumni Association hosted this year’s Hawai’i Hospitality Hall of Fame gala on Aug. 29, 2023 at the Hawai’i Convention Center. The event honors those who have made a meaningful impact on Hawai’i’s visitors and local community. Notably, the late Chuck Y. Gee, former dean of the TIM School, was inducted along with 11 other tourism pioneers. Nearly $25,000 was raised and donated to the Hawaiian Way Fund - Kāko’o Maui in support of our friends, family and colleagues affected by the Lahaina wildfires.

3 | COASTAL CARE
The TIM Alumni Association teamed up with current TIM students and faculty to host a coastal cleanup at Sand Island on Oct. 28, 2023. Participants spent the morning clearing the area of debris and also received a lesson on marine life from Mike Ohashi, BBA ’79, and Mauliola Keʻehi, a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating visitors on the physical, mental, cultural and scientific activities at Keʻehi. Special thank you to Mike and his wife, Christine, for also providing bentos to all attendees.

4 | MENTORSHIP IN MOTION
As the semester began, the Shidler Alumni Association kicked off several mentorship programs for the year. Each
mentorship program is tailored to a specific target audience - current Shidler undergraduate students and Direct Admit Program students, current Executive MBA students and Shidler alumni who have graduated in the past five years. Mentees are provided an opportunity to connect and learn from Hawai'i’s leading business professionals allowing for career insights, personal and professional development.

5 | FOOD 4 KEIKI
For the ninth consecutive year, the Shidler Alumni Association volunteered at the Hawaii Foodbank on Oct. 7, 2023. Over 30 students, alumni and board members spent the morning packing bags of food for the Food4Keiki Pantry Program, a program that helps feed children and their families at 29 schools across Oahu and Kauai. With everyone’s help, the group was able to pack 6,000 bags in one day. Mahalo to those who came out to help.

6 | FUN IN THE GOLDEN STATE
This year, the first stop on the West Coast alumni trip was Northern California for the Silicon Valley Alumni and Friends Mixer on Sept. 21, 2023. Not only did alums reconnect with old friends and classmates, but they also enjoyed a special treat from Kyle Oura, MAcc ’05, and Jason Xie, who shared about the latest and greatest advancements to artificial intelligence (AI) and how individuals can leverage AI in their lives. The team then headed south and enjoyed some fun in the sun as more than 30 alumni gathered on Sept. 25, 2025 in Newport Bay for the college’s annual yacht cruise. Mahalo, Bill Johnson, BBA ’65, and Sue Johnson, for hosting everyone again aboard the Dulcinea.
ALUMNI FEATURES

A sweet, sustainable success

If you’ve ever tasted Banán, you know that the banana-based, non-dairy ice cream is a delicious alternative to heavily processed and sugar-laden desserts. The company was started by Shidler alumnus Luke Untermann, BBA ’16, and three of his childhood friends – Matt Hong, Zak Barry and Galen McCleary – back in 2015 when they collectively dreamed of starting a business that would support Hawai’i’s agriculture industry.

The team always had a big picture goal of reviving the banana industry, dwindling from disease and forcing many local farms to shut down. Banán has partnered with Hawaii Banana Source over the years to supplement their supply with organic, Hawai’i grown bananas. Barry says the partners hope that through Banán’s growth and its customers’ enjoyment of its tropical flavors, they can continue to be a part of supporting local agriculture while helping Hawai’i sustain itself.

Banán started selling its plant-based treats out of a food truck in the Diamond Head neighborhood. Today, it has grown to multiple locations across Oahu and is enjoying sweet success at its newest location in Kaimuki, next door to Barry’s parents’ Bead It! store. And the company’s latest addition to its product offerings is a sister brand called CheeHoo that is now available in grocery stores across the state. “Think Banán in an ice cream bar format,” Barry said.

Untermann reflects that his time at Shidler College was instrumental to the early days of starting and growing the business. “My education propelled our business success in that UH programs really give you the opportunity and experience to work in team settings in a way that mimics the real business world,” he said.

The cofounders appreciate the community they’ve been able to create as part of their business journey. “Banán’s community consists of athletes, artists and creatives who share a passion and want to leave a positive impact on the environment,” Barry said. “Sometimes it’s funny to think that a seemingly simple and silly cold treat unites our company and drives our mission to have a positive impact on our community in Hawai’i.”

These days, Banán looks a lot different than four friends serving frosty treats out of a food truck between kitchen dances and surf sessions and Untermann knows that he and his buddies have left an indelible mark on the local food scene. “We’re inspired to lead a movement of connecting people to the story of their food,” he said. “We work with Hawai’i’s farmers, big and small, to make eating a locally grown meal as easy and affordable as possible and support the local farming community in efforts to reduce the voyage our food must take to arrive at our shores.”

Soaring to new heights

Daniel Chun, BS ’02, has been a key member of the Alaska Airlines leadership team in Hawai’i for more than 12 years, most recently serving as Alaska’s director of sales, community and public relations here in the Islands. He was recently promoted to regional vice president – Hawai’i, which makes him the senior executive in the state for Alaska Airlines.

He now reflects back to when he first came aboard the Seattle-based airline, which is the fifth largest in the U.S., and recalls words from his former boss. “He said, ‘Your life is gonna change’ – and he was right,” Chun said. “As an almost 40-year employee of Alaska Airlines himself, he knew what a special place this is, and that it’s a company where many choose to establish roots and build their careers. I feel very blessed to have found a team of such caring people whose culture and values align so closely with my own.”

While the creation of his new role was not related to the recent announcement that Alaska will be acquiring Hawaiian Airlines, Chun will serve on the planning
In 2022, two Shidler College alums – Christian de Quevedo, BBA ’15, MBA/JD ’21, and Scott Taber, BBA ’15, joined with UH Mānoa architecture alumnus, Jonathan “Malu” Stanich, MLA ’21, to start Lē‘ahi Landscaping as an all-electric service committed to providing its customers with an environmentally-friendly option for their landscaping needs. Compared to traditionally gas-powered equipment, the company’s electric fleet provides a quieter atmosphere, net zero emissions and releases no toxic gases into the environment.

“We came together to start this landscaping company with a shared passion for environmental stewardship first and foremost,” Taber said. “Growing up amidst Hawai‘i’s unique natural beauty, we wanted to contribute to its preservation and enhancement by incorporating cutting-edge technology and sustainable practices to the landscaping industry.”

Taber added that the idea for the company grew partially from a frustration of constantly being interrupted by loud and toxic methods of landscaping, a common occurrence throughout Oahu’s neighborhoods. The trio also grew tired of watching Hawai‘i lag behind the mainland in adopting these new types of technologies.

These days, Lē‘ahi Landscaping is being managed by de Quevedo and Stanich, who both see the value of their UH education in the company’s success. Their blend of business and architecture backgrounds create a strong, multidisciplinary foundation.

“It’s been a great synergy,” de Quevedo said. “Malu’s knowledge of ecosystem dynamics and my understanding of business strategy has been the driving force behind our company’s success. We’ve managed to strike that delicate balance between creating beautiful, functional landscapes and ensuring they are environmentally responsible.”

The partners built Lē‘ahi Landscaping to help homeowners and businesses create aesthetically pleasing, eco-friendly outdoor spaces that are in harmony with Hawai‘i’s natural environment. They recognized the need to address the environmental impacts of traditional landscaping practices, which often rely on gas-powered equipment, chemical fertilizers and other dangerous additives. They also wanted to lead by example and inspire others in the community to embrace the principles of environmental stewardship and sustainable living.

“That’s the beauty of it – the fusion of our backgrounds has allowed us to create a company that’s truly unique in the Hawai‘i landscaping scene,” Stanich said. “Our education experiences at the University of Hawai‘i provided the perfect foundation for our business and I’m excited to see how we continue to innovate and make a positive impact on the islands we love.”

leahilandscaping.com

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leahilandscaping.com
1970s

**Peter Fong, BBA ’77**, was awarded the 2023 Noblesse Oblige Award for Service by Maryknoll School, which honors those who devote their talent to the service of others.

2000s

**Daniel Chun, BS ’02**, has been appointed regional vice president for Hawaii at Alaska Airlines. In this newly created role, Chun serves as the senior executive for Alaska Airlines in Hawaii, leading the long-term strategy for the company’s growth within the state and continuing to deepen Alaska’s long-standing support and engagement within the local community.

**Damian Davila, MBA ’09**, has been promoted to senior marketing manager at CBRE. Davila oversees all aspects of the business development process to help commercial real estate professionals win assignments in leasing, sales, property management and project management.

**Liuone Faagai, MHRM ’09**, has been named group senior vice president and director of human resources at Central Pacific Bank. Faagai is responsible for overseeing HR strategy, people programs and the HR functions of the bank. His key objectives will include cultivating and nurturing an organizational culture that acknowledges and rewards high performance through effective talent management programs and services.

**AJ Halagao, MBA ’04**, has been appointed president of the Hawaii Leadership Forum (HLF). Halagao is responsible for helping to advance and shape the future of HLF, including the Omidya Fellows, its cornerstone cohort-based development program.

**Sandy Narvaez, BBA ’06**, has been named market director, leisure sales, Hawaii & French Polynesia at Marriott International. Narvaez leads the leisure team’s efforts in leveraging Marriott International’s global reach to increase individual hotel revenue by maintaining relationships with key travel agents and wholesale accounts, establishing travel marketing and action plans and facilitating the integration of individual property efforts into the overall Marriott Bonvoy Hawaii strategy.

2010s

**Brittany Bonilla, BBA ’17**, has been named complex associate director of HR at Highgate. Bonilla is responsible for the recruitment efforts at two of Highgate’s newest hotels – AC Hotel By Marriott Honolulu and Renaissance Honolulu Hotel & Spa.

**Nathan Choy, EMBA ’17**, has been appointed director of revenue strategy at Four Seasons Resort Hualalai. He is responsible for supervising the resort’s comprehensive commercial strategy, which encompasses activities such as defining its market positioning, formulating the go-to-market approach, strategizing pricing and yield management, as well as managing distribution channels effectively.

**Irina De La Torre, BBA ’19**, has been named associate director of
Irina De La Torre, development at the University of Hawai‘i Foundation. In this role, De La Torre is primarily focused on identifying, engaging and soliciting prospective donors for Shidler College.

Ayano Hanaoka, BBA ‘19, has been promoted to human resources manager at Outrigger Hospitality Group. In her elevated role, Hanaoka oversees Outrigger’s human capital management system and is responsible for recruiting efforts and leading employment programs.

Brandon Hirokawa, BBA ‘19, joins Locations Hawaii as a real estate agent. Hirokawa helps first-time homebuyers with the purchasing process while building relationships to encourage clients to grow generational wealth through buying, selling and exchanging real estate.

Adrian Perez, BS ‘11, has been appointed general manager at the Coconut Waikiki Hotel. Perez has 15 years of experience in the hotel industry and previously served as the hotel manager of Wayfinder Waikiki.

Christine Quach, BBA ‘19, has been promoted to alumni, communications, and events specialist at the University of Hawai‘i Foundation. Quach supports Shidler College and its alumni association with communications and events to bolster outreach among alumni.

Nicole Calio, BBA ‘20, MS ‘21, has been hired as a financial analyst at Y. Hata & Co Ltd. In her new role, Calio prepares financial reports, including variance/trend analysis and tracking of key performance indicators for department leaders and executive management. She supports the planning of the annual budget and assists in developing financial models to support strategic decisions.

Alyssa Mencel, BBA ‘22, has been hired as associate analyst at Hawaiian Airlines. Working in the Financial Planning & Analysis Department, Mencel provides support for the team’s financial systems and works to enhance workflows, including high-level data analysis.

Adelene Ortiz, BBA ‘21, MS ‘22, has been promoted to program manager for the Pacific Asian Center for Entrepreneurship.

Hospitality 2023 Honoree

David Kong, BBA ‘74, was inducted into the International Hospitality Institute’s 2023 International Hospitality Hall of Fame. This award honors men and women who selflessly elevate and support the global hospitality industry. Kong is former president and CEO of Best Western International.

Congratulations to Chris Iwamura, MBA ‘18; Isaac Okita, BBA ‘07; Nicole Okuna, MS ‘08; Nikkirae Padilla, BBA ‘12; and Justin Puckett, MBA ‘21, for being inducted into Pacific Business News’ 40 Under 40 Class of 2023. The annual 40 Under 40 class recognizes exceptional young leaders from across the state, honoring their remarkable achievements in their professional careers and contributions to the community.
(PACE). In her elevated role, she oversees the implementation of new and existing entrepreneurship programs.

**Stefani Sakamoto, BBA ’23,** has been named business process manager, auto retail operations at Servco. In her new role, Sakamoto is responsible for driving efficient process improvements, leading cross-functional initiatives and developing training programs. She also serves as a digital strategy liaison, ensuring consistent operations and compliance while supporting new tool implementation.

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**Sweet Recognition**

**Erin Kanno Uehara, MBA ’13,** owner of Choco le’a, was named to the U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce Foundation’s 2023 list of Ten Outstanding Young Americans. This award honors individuals between the ages of 18 and 40 for their efforts in creating positive change and making an impact locally, nationally or globally.

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**2023 Jerry Allen Courage in Leadership Award**

**Brian Bowers, MBA ’96,** president and CEO of Bowers + Kubota Consulting, was awarded with the Zweig Group’s 2023 Jerry Allen Courage in Leadership Award. The award is given each year to someone working in an architecture, engineering, planning or an environmental firm who has made tremendous impacts on the company through courageous leadership.

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**PBN Most Admired Leaders 2023**

Congratulations to **Jay Ana, BBA ’98; Rick Ching, MBA ’86; and Sherry Menor-McNamara, JD/MBA ’05,** for being inducted into Pacific Business News’ 2023 Most Admired Leaders. The award recognizes exceptional executives who have made significant contributions in their companies and their communities.

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**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
As the number one bank in Hawai‘i, First Hawaiian Bank (FHB) proudly upholds a legacy dating back to its 1858 founding as Bishop & Co. Renowned for consistently ranking among the top tier of U.S. banks, FHB provides unparalleled financial security coupled with exceptional service and innovative financial solutions. Operating 51 branches throughout Hawai‘i, three in Guam, and two in Saipan, First Hawaiian Bank offers a comprehensive range of banking services for both consumer and commercial customers.

The bank’s commitment to community and employee development is evident through ongoing contributions, accolades, and recognition for fostering an exceptional work environment. Rooted in its foundational commitment to serving Hawai‘i, FHB continues to evolve while preserving its core values, ensuring team members thrive in their careers. This positions First Hawaiian Bank as an ideal employer, offering a dynamic environment that values professional growth and actively contributes to the communities it serves.
FEATUERED EVENTS FOR SPRING/SUMMER 2024

THU | MAR 7  Executive Vineyards
The Shidler Alumni Association’s premier fundraiser event returns at The Royal Hawaiian Hotel. The festivities get underway at 6 p.m. with wine and spirit tasting, delicious fare from some of Oahu’s hottest restaurants and exciting auction items. You don’t want to miss this highly anticipated event, which raises funds for scholarships, programs and alumni outreach initiatives.

shidler.hawaii.edu/executivevineyards

WED | APR 10  Celebrate a Legacy in Tourism
The 22nd annual Celebrate a Legacy in Tourism will take place at the Sheraton Waikīkī at 5:30 p.m. Join us as we recognize those who have excelled in the hospitality and tourism industries. Mufi Hannemann, president and CEO of the Hawai‘i Lodging & Tourism Association, will receive the Legacy in Tourism Award; and Holden Lim, BBA '89, president of Hospitality Link International, Inc., will receive the TIM Alumni Hall of Honor Award. Kyo-ya Hotels & Resorts will receive the Distinguished Service Award.

shidler.hawaii.edu/legacy

WED-SAT | APR 24-27  Japan and Hong Kong Alumni Trips
The Shidler Development Team will travel to Asia this spring to host two exciting alumni trips in April. Be sure to mark your calendars to join us in Japan with Alan Ikawa, BBA ’71, on April 24, 2024 and then in Hong Kong with UH President Lassner on April 27, 2024.

shidler.hawaii.edu/japan | shidler.hawaii.edu/hongkong

THU | MAY 2  Business Night
Shidler’s student-organized event returns in 2024 at the Sheraton Waikīkī at 5 p.m. for the 63rd year. We hope you can join us for an evening of mentoring, fun and scholarly recognition that students and local professionals look forward to each year.

shidler.hawaii.edu/businessnight

UPCOMING EVENTS
shidler.hawaii.edu/events

SHIDLER’S 75TH ANNIVERSARY!

2024 marks Shidler College’s 75th anniversary! We will be celebrating our exciting milestone all year as we launch a fundraising campaign and culminate our diamond anniversary with a special Hall of Honor Awards in October 2024! We’re collecting memories our alumni, faculty and staff have of the college to share out on our various channels throughout the year. We encourage you to share your recollections by scanning the QR code or visiting shidler.hawaii.edu/75th-memories.