

# *Oscar and Rosetta Fish Scholarship for Excellence Fish Scholars' Newsletter – Spring 2016*

## *Semester Recap*

Welcome to the Spring 2016 Fish Scholars' Newsletter! This issue highlights the Fish Scholars' initiatives under the leadership of Bethany Kwan, our cohort coordinator. It has been a busy semester for the Fish Scholars with Service-to-School, Community Service, Johnson Hall Mentorship Program, and Study Abroad Adventures.

This semester, the Fish Scholars focused on getting our fellow students excited about business. We hosted events for the Johnson Hall pre-business residence to help in their professional development as aspiring business leaders. With a total of five Johnson Hall events, the scholars and the residents were able to discover and discuss multiple business concepts!

We wrapped up the semester with our final community service project with the American Cancer Society Hope Gala, which was followed by dinner at Doraku. It was a fun night and a great way to end a busy semester!

## *Oscar and Rosetta Fish Scholarship for Excellence Service to School*

### **Internship and Career Expo (Career Fair)**

***February 25, 2016***

On February 25, 2016, Shidler hosted the 2016 Internship and Career Expo at the Shidler College of Business Courtyard. The event was fantastic and went extremely well. All of the students were ecstatic by the sheer number of businesses that attended the event.

The FISH Scholars arrived promptly at 8:00am to help set up tables for the business professionals, registration and snacks. We also checked in the professionals, provided them with the necessary information and guided them to their table. The FISH Scholars divided the responsibilities so it would be easier to get all of the tasks done. Some FISH Scholars helped at the registration table, while others were working with Patrick Stuart to coordinate the rides and to assist with any last minute issues. During the event, the FISH Scholars volunteered at different time shifts, depending on their availability. This allowed the FISH Scholars to help one another out when others are busy and to teach the incoming FISH Scholars what their tasks are.



## **Executive Vineyards**

**March 10, 2016**

On Thursday, March 10th, the FISH Scholars had the chance to serve Shidler by assisting with the annual Executive Vineyards, hosted by the Shidler Alumni Association. Held at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel in beautiful Waikiki, the Executive Vineyards event is held to raise funds for the alumni association, and invites the business community and Shidler alumni to come together for an evening of wine tasting, delicious food, and bidding for auction items. Some items that were up for auction included season tickets to University of Hawaii games, hotel stays, an ukulele, and so much more!

At this event, the FISH scholars assisted with registration, watched the auction items, and presented auction winners with their items. The scholars not only had a fun time at this event; they also had the opportunity to network with many Shidler alumnus, and with professionals in the business community. Many of the scholars concluded that they wanted to come back one day as a group to attend the Executive Vineyards as guests, in order to give back to the Shidler College of Business!



## ***Oscar and Rosetta Fish Scholarship for Excellence Community Service***

### **Hawaiian Humane Society Canine Game Day**

**January 16, 2016**

Canine game day, hosted by the Hawaiian Humane Society, is a family event where pet owners and their pooches can play and frolic with other dogs and participate in friendly canine competition. The event was held at the Neal S. Blaisdell Park in Aiea and included a canine agility course, a Wagging Tail Contest, a Best Trick Contest and a Dog Derby. There were a lot of different breeds of dogs at the event, some of which were adopted from the Hawaiian Humane Society. Dog owners came from all over the island, and throughout the event the emcee would talk story with them about their four, legged furry friends.

The Fish Scholars assisted with setting up the area, refilling the water bowls for the dogs, replacing the dog bath water, and assisted with the canine games. We counted and recorded the results of the wagging tail contest and we held





the small, medium and large sized dogs at the start line of the dog derby. At the command of the emcee, we let go the dogs and they sprinted towards their owners on the other side of the course. After the event, we assisted with removing the doggie fences and helped with cleanup. The Canine Game Day was a success, and we were glad to be able to support the Hawaiian Humane Society.

### **Friends of Hawaii Library Book and Music Sale**

***January 18, 2016***

On January 18th, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the FISH scholars helped out at the FHL Book & Music Sale. This non-profit organization is called 'Friends of the Library' and they fight to keep free public libraries in existence. Their mission includes increasing facilities of the public library system, securing materials beyond the scope of the ordinary library budget, and they promote the extension of library services throughout the state of Hawai'i. Through events like this book and music sale, they're able to raise the proper funds to achieve their mission. All of the books, records, and CDs sold at this event were acquired in the form of donations. The profits made during this sale benefits the public library system in Hawai'i. The FISH scholars helped with the break down of the event, which entailed packing up all of the books and music together by genres. It was a successful event and we were all glad to be able to help the efforts of keeping public libraries free and open for everyone to enjoy!



### **Hapalua Packet Pick Up**

***April 9, 2016***

The FISH Scholars volunteered at the Hapalua Packet Pick up on April 9th, 2016. Approximately 8,000 runners participated in Hawaii's Half-Marathon Hapalua. The cohort responsibilities included passing out bids to the runners and directing them to stations for their shirts and bags. We had a fun time interacting with the other volunteers and the runners from around the world.



### **American Cancer Society Hope Gala**

***May 7, 2016***

On May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016, the American Cancer Society presented the fourth annual Hope Gala Honolulu at the Hawaii State Art Museum. The proceeds of the gala benefited the American Cancer Society's mission of creating a world free from the pain and suffering of cancer. The FISH Scholars assisted with the live and silent auction and with clean up. Aside from the live auction, the organization also collected \$500 donations for the Hope Lodge, a new facility where patients who need cancer treatment on Oahu can stay for free during their care. The Scholars assisting with spotting the audience and with that donation process. It was a fun event with live jazz music and beautiful décor.



# *Oscar and Rosetta Fish Scholarship for Excellence*

## *Johnson Hall*

### **Welcome Back Event and Game of Life**

***January 11, 2016***

On the first day of the new Spring 2016 semester, all the FISH scholars gathered at Johnson Hall for the Game of Life Event. This event launched the monthly Johnson Hall Events for the semester. We used a custom made Game of Life board game that allowed for a truly unique interactive experience. The FISH scholars were stationed throughout the game and were able to move the Johnson Hall residents along the Game of Life by using a dice app on their



phone that the residents could roll. Through this type of interaction, it gave residents and scholars a special opportunity to get to know one another especially in the beginning of the new semester. Although our event mainly revolved around playing a large board game, there was a much deeper meaning that was realized and understood throughout. The game was a representation of the steps they will eventually take in life. Hopefully it got them thinking about steps they will take in the future and take steps now to provide a better future for themselves. This can be provided through school, internships, or other opportunities. This event was a wonderful, fun-filled event that allowed interaction between the scholars and residents that also held a deeper takeaway meaning.

### **Study Abroad Info Session**

***February 8, 2016***

On Monday, February 8th, the FISH Scholars hosted yet another session for the Johnson Hall Residential Learning Program. The theme for this workshop was Studying Abroad and International Travels! We are lucky to have a wide range of international study abroad experiences among the Scholars, from Hong Kong to London, the Philippines to Germany, and Singapore to Paris, just to name a few. Between the 11 of us, we completed summer and semester programs through Manoa International Exchange, Manoa Study Abroad, and the Pacific Asian Management Institute (PAMI). After the welcome and introductions, the main part of the program was having three Scholars present on their experiences, one on Europe (represented by Wai Sam [Germany]), one on Asia (represented by Bethany [Hong Kong]), and another on the intensive 3-week, 5-city program put together by PAMI (represented by Ken [Shanghai, Hanoi, Hong Kong, Bali, and Jakarta]). Even though there were only three main presenters, the other Scholars contributed some of their experiences to the presentations. It was really great because all of us were able to learn something new from the event!



## **Fish Tank**

**March 7, 2016**

On March 7, 2016, the FISH Scholars and Johnson Hall residents participated in Fish Tank (spin-off of Shark Tank). The goal was to create an idea/product from a bag of pre-selected items, come up with a business plan on how much funding would be needed to successfully implement the business plan, and present the idea/product to a panel of judges (venture capitalists) who then decide whether they support your business plan or not. The competition was between two pairs, one representing Johnson Hall, and another representing the Fish Scholars.



We first introduced the event with a video clip from the show “Shark Tank”, which was an example of a farmer entrepreneur requesting funding for his idea. Then we went straight into the planning process. Each Fish scholar who was not a judge or participating was assigned a group to help create an idea/product. Each team was given 20 minutes to finish everything and was allotted 5-minutes to pitch their ideas. Overall, the event was successful because everyone was given the exposure of how companies request funding from capitalists. It was a good experience talking with the residents and learning about what ideas they had for new products.

## **Business Boot Camp**

**April 4, 2016**

In preparation for Business Night 2016 - First Journey Towards Success, the FISH scholars organized a Business Boot Camp that served as a mock professional mixer. The event took place on Monday, April 4, 2016 at Frear Hall.

The first part of the evening included a formal presentation on networking. Mia Porter, one of our first-year scholars, gave us her insights and personal tips on interacting with professionals. She also included some guidelines to making a lasting first impression and the dos and don'ts of formal dining etiquette.



For example, she mentioned that it would be a good idea to think of some interesting facts or hobbies you can share with your professional. Along with being a fun way to break the ice, it would help the professional to remember you.



Following her presentation, we had a dinner simulation to practice the concepts Mia shared. Each student was paired with a Fish Scholar to provide one-on-one interaction and specific advice. During this time, the FISH Scholars were able to cater to each student's individual concerns. Overall, it was a wonderful night of peer mentoring!

## **Farewell Event**

***May 3, 2016***

With the semester winding down, the FISH Scholars bid farewell to the students of Johnson Hall with the Farewell Event that was held on May 3rd in the front lawn of Johnson Hall A. After an entire academic year of mentorship, this event was a chance for the Fish Scholars to mingle and talk to the pre-business students in a relaxed setting. Food, music, and several games were provided to facilitate even more bonding between everyone. Horseshoes were tossed, a rousing game of Taboo was played, and conversations flowed throughout that evening. The FISH scholars also made new friendships with other non-business students who had attended. It was a night of both new hellos and fond farewells. It was the perfect end to our yearlong mentorships with the Johnson Hall students.

# ***Oscar and Rosetta Fish Scholarship for Excellence Second Year Reflections***

We would like to bid farewell to the second year FISH Scholars, as they embark on the next chapter of their life. Here, each of them shared what being part of the FISH Cohort has meant to them.

### ***Christina Amundsen***

I am incredibly grateful to have spent the past two years with this intelligent, compassionate and kind group of individuals. Looking back now, it is difficult to imagine my time at the Shidler College of Business without the FISH program. It has been a fantastic journey.



### ***Michelle Dang***

As my days at Shidler are dwindling, I can't help but reflect on how much being a part of the FISH cohort has impacted my college career. Being a FISH scholar has shaped me into the person I am today, and has given me a greater understanding of business and the overall community. I consider the people in my cohort some of my closest friends. I am sad to leave my college years behind, but I will always be grateful for the friendships, memories, and valuable lessons that I gained by being an Oscar and Rosetta FISH Scholar.

### ***Cassandra Joy Ecraela***

Definitely and without a doubt the FISH Scholarship has changed me for the better. It sparked a fire in me to be more involved in my community and within the Shidler College of Business. It gave me a sense of pride in the work and service I did inside and outside of the college. Although I am busier than I could have ever imagined, I've never been happier. There were so many sleepless nights, stressful situations, and doubtful moments, but I don't regret a single second of it. The Fish Scholarship and my wonderful cohort members truly made my time at Shidler remarkable!

### ***Ken Kanemitsu***

As my college career come to a close I look back at the path I have walked thus far and I am humbled and amazed to have been blessed with so many experiences. FISH opened up a world most people will never even hear about and I am truly thankful. To be able to meet such intelligent, intriguing, and passionate people and to travel the world FISH has become a part of who I am and a part I am very proud of. I gained knowledge, life skills and life long friends. Na'u me ke aloha... From me with love, thank you Rikki, fellow fisheries and everyone at Shidler

### ***Bethany Kwan***

Thanks to this awesome scholarship foundation and cohort, I have grown so much as a student, businesswoman, dreamer, and friend. The fact that someone believed in me enough to make me a FISH scholar allowed me to finally believe in myself. And because of that, I am forever grateful!

### ***Angelica (Wai Sam) Lao***

Becoming a part of the Fish cohort has been one of the most humbling and rewarding experiences at UH Manoa. We came together two years ago nervous and uncertain, but we will be walking away as a family with empowered hearts and minds full of gratitude. Throughout all the trials and triumphs, thanks to this scholarship and my inspiring cohort members I have had the fortune to befriend, I know I have been changed for good.

### ***Jessica Lee***

My personal and professional growth stems from carrying out my duties as a FISH Scholar. It is humbling to be a member of such a diligent and impactful cohort. In the beginning, planning and executing events was new to me, however, the collaborative efforts of my cohort as a whole taught me that it is important to take charge but also to know when to ask for help. I am thankful for the support received from my cohort, scholars before us, faculty and staff, and Rikki, our advisor.

### ***Kathy Oyadomari***

As I reflect on my past two years as a FISH Scholar, I can see how far I've come. During this journey I have created close friendships with my cohort and grown both professionally and personally. I am very grateful for the many unique opportunities that Fish has provided me. The experiences will definitely carry with me beyond by college years.



**First Row** (left to right): Michelle Dang, Bethany Kwan, Cassandra Joy Ecraela, Angelica (Wai Sam) Lao, Kathy Oyadomari, Jessica Lee, Christina Amundsen. **Second Row:** Ken Kanemitsu



# *Oscar and Rosetta Fish Scholarship for Excellence*

## *Fish Scholars Abroad*

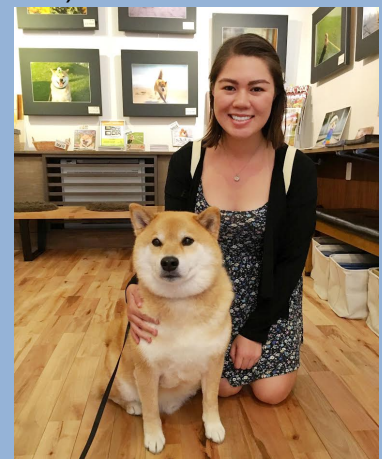
**Nicole “Nikki” Oka**  
*Tokyo, Japan – Keio University*

In Japan, there is a Buddhist proverb, “ichi-go, ichi-e,” which translates to “one opportunity, one encounter.” It means that we should value every experience as no two are alike and once the moment passes, it can never be regained. My semester in Japan has been full of ichi-go, ichi-e moments.



After spending a month backpacking solo across Southeast Asia, I settled down in a new country— Japan, the land of my ancestors. It has been a truly rewarding experience. At Keio University, I am able to discuss current events in Japan’s economy with professor that make it their lives’ work and have presented their findings to local and foreign officials. I have been pushed out of my comfort zone in the best way possible and have made several local friends despite my poor Japanese skills. I am also seeing the true Japan— the cultures and attitudes that lie beneath the surface. I am interested in the multiculturalism of Japanese society and am doing a personal project on zainichi (Japanese-Koreans), buraku society (social caste system), and haffu/mazehito (people of mixed race.)

I am extremely grateful for this opportunity to study abroad in Japan and for the support of the Oscar and Rosetta Fish Scholarship for Excellence. Every day is a new adventure and an opportunity to improve my Japanese language skills and make new friends. I look forward to sharing my experiences with those interested in study abroad in Japan upon my return!



*Read more about her experience on her travel blog  
available at [keio-nikki.tumblr.com](https://keio-nikki.tumblr.com)*



**Alexis Panocillo**  
*Tokyo, Japan – Keio University*

The first signs of spring blossomed at the end of March, and I found myself surrounded by cherry blossom trees. I was overjoyed by the experience of walking beneath the canopies of delicate pink and white flowers. I think I had the most welcoming first few weeks in Japan and getting to witness the sakura's brief visit had been the icing on the cake. After about a week of being in the



presence of cherry blossoms, I noticed more and more flowers beginning to fall. Large gusts of wind brought showers of petals down to the sidewalks and left trees almost bare. The Japanese see cherry blossoms as a representation of the fragility and beauty of life. "It's a reminder that life is almost overwhelmingly beautiful but that it is also tragically short". This is part of a quote by Homaro Cantu and I thought about it as I witnessed the flowers disappear.

Much like the briefness of the cherry blossom season in Japan, my study abroad experience, although life changing and beautiful in so many ways, will only last a semester. So far, a whole month has gone by and I think that during this time, I have grown and learned so much. What I love is that not only am I taking several business classes and learning through an international perspective, but I am also meeting people from around the world, immersing myself in Japanese culture, and also learning about myself a little more every day. I will spend the rest of my semester abroad taking in as much as I can with every opportunity that comes my way. I have been sight seeing around Tokyo, Yokohama, and Kamakura but have a trip planned to Osaka and Nara coming up later this week and Sapporo in a couple months. I also plan to visit South Korea, Thailand, and Singapore. Something that's important is to step out of your



comfort zone every so often because that is where memories are made. Just how the sakura have become just memory, it's a beautiful memory that I will cherish forever—along with the rest of my study abroad experience!

*Read more about her experience on her travel blog  
available at <http://hawaii2tokyo.weebly.com/blog-alexis-abroad>*