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College of Education Alumni Association

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COEAA's 2020 General Membership Meeting

Due to the Covid-19 situation, the COEAA's Annual Luncheon and General Membership Meeting, scheduled to be held on Friday, June 5, 2020, has been postponed to Friday, June 4, 2021. The keynote speaker for next year's event is Mrs. Jan Iwase, an educator and author who shares in her book, "Leading with Aloha: From the Pineapple Fields to the Principal's Office," the many lessons learned during her 45 years in Hawaii's public schools. Mrs. Iwase is a graduate of the College of Education's elementary education program and started her career as an educator in the Head Start Program working with disadvantaged preschoolers. She later taught at Wheeler Elementary and Mililani Mauka Elementary Schools. In 2003, she was appointed as principal at Daniel K. Inouye Elementary School, formerly known as Hale Kula Elementary School. As an administrator, she created a blueprint for successful schools with empowered teachers, parent involvement, and classrooms filled with happy students until her retirement in 2018.



Mrs. Jan Iwase

During her career, she was recognized for her excellence in school administration. In 2013, Mrs. Iwase was selected as Central District's Elementary Principal of the Year and was nominated for the Masayuki Tokioka Excellence in School Leadership Award in 2016.

Mrs. Iwase's book, "Leading with Aloha: From the Pineapple Fields to the Principal's Office," will be available for purchase at the June 4, 2021 event. She has stated that she will be pleased and happy to sign all books purchased.

Also, the COEAA is pleased to announce that Mr. Justin Mew, Principal of Kaiser High School and one of the COEAA founders, has been selected as the 2020 Distinguished Alumnus. He will be honored and recognized for his outstanding contributions to the field of education at the annual meeting.

The COEAA leadership team and planning committee look forward to seeing you on Friday, June 4, 2021, at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, Manoa Ballroom. In the meantime, please take precautions and stay healthy and safe.

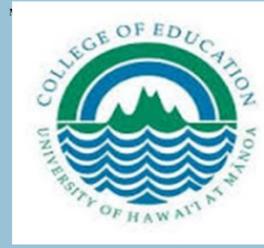
COE/COEAA Kauai Alumni Event

On May 23, 2020, the UH Mānoa (UHM) College of Education (COE), together with the College of Education Alumni Association (COEAA), scheduled a *Neighbor Island Alumni Reception* on Kauai to honor the island's 2020 Distinguished Alumni. However, due to the Covid-19 situation, the reception has been rescheduled for Saturday, November 7, 2020 at the Kauai Beach Resort.

Three outstanding and highly qualified educators have been nominated for this award and all of them will be honored at the event. Of these three nominees, one will be selected as the 2020 Kauai Distinguished Alumna/Alumnus. The announcement will be made at the event.

The event is sponsored by the COEAA to support one of Dean Nathan Murata's goal of visiting at least one island each year as part of the COE's appreciation and recruitment effort. He stated that the "where and how" students learn is constantly evolving due to technology and that it has been established over the years that neighbor island students come to Oahu. He further states that they transfer from community colleges, come for weekend or summer classes, and ultimately graduate from Manoa and many remain on Oahu while others return to the neighbor islands to seek employment. To this end, he wants to reach out to those COE alumni residing on the neighbor islands.

Dean Murata states "The COE is statewide, which means so much more than offering online or hybrid courses. We want to show our appreciation to all of our amazing alumni, retired teachers, current teachers, and even those considering a career in education. Regardless of where you learn or live, we are one, and we are coming to you."



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University of Hawai'i at Mānoa College of Education Alumni Association

COE Dean's Message

As another academic year draws to a close, the events of the past two months have been unprecedented. From a robust economic forecast, to discussions of possible furloughs and massive unemployment, COVID-19 has altered the landscape, not only at UH Manoa, but the world. I wanted to take this opportunity to inform all of the members in the College of Education Alumni Association (COEAA) that the College of Education (COE) is thinking about you during this pandemic and hoping that you are well, safe and healthy. We truly are in this together, and I offer my sympathies and support to all impacted by the virus.

With the announcement of an extended spring break and conversion to online teaching and learning, the COE was able to transition with minimal disruptions to our operations. Our Technology and Distance Learning team led by Dr. Paul McKimmy, provided the necessary support, coaching and mentoring to our COE faculty who needed the time to learn and adjust to online teaching. This online teaching format required using online video and web conferencing tools, such as Zoom, and have provided faculty and students with a safe, face-to-face instruction option. Interactions, questions and answers, debriefing, evaluations and assessments can all be done in a remote environment where everyone remains safe and healthy while practicing social distancing.

A modification to student teaching was approved by the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board in order to allow our teacher candidates to complete their student teaching requirements in order to join the workforce beginning fall 2020. Optional grading requirements, such as Credit/No Credit, have also been introduced to faculty and students this semester.

Following the lead of UH Manoa, many of the COE activities have been canceled or postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Both the COEAA Kauai Alumni Reception and the Annual Luncheon & General Membership Meeting were postponed until next year. However, this does not diminish the great work that the Alumni Association has done for the COE this past year led by President Helen Hasegawa and the alumni board. The COE will be hosting its May 2020 convocation and Job Fair virtually. Both events provide some sense of normalcy in a time of social distancing, stay at home and work from home policies.

The COE continues to produce high quality graduates and graduates that receive coveted national and professional awards. I would also like to acknowledge our faculty and staff who continue to explore ways to enrich the teaching and learning experiences with new and innovative ideas and strategies. As I have expressed in the past, THANK YOU to the facul-



Dean Nathan M. Murata

ty, staff, students, alumni and families for your perseverance, commitment, and flexibility. No matter where you are on this continuum, know that the COE and University appreciate your efforts to adapt and overcome.

Looking forward, the COE has submitted an Authorization to Plan for both the Doctor of Physical Therapy and School Counseling programs. While our fiscal outlook appears bleak for the moment, we cannot "pause" on certain areas of growth and innovation. We need to continue to press forward in order to emerge from this crisis stronger and more efficient in the way teaching, learning and research occur. I expect the COE to be a major player in the post-pandemic rebuilding. I am grateful to our Alumni Association for their continued support and advice. As we all deal with this pandemic, please know that the COE appreciates each and everyone one of you. Thank you

Message from the President

Dear COEAA Ohana,

We are hoping and praying that you and your loved ones are all healthy. As you know, the Covid-19 situation has caused us to alter our daily life routines due to the uncertainty of this disease. As we face the challenges of Covid-19, please take precautions and stay safe and healthy. If any of our COEAA members, especially our kupuna, are in need of assistance, please let us know. We will do our best to reach out to them. In the meantime, please take care of yourself and your family.

Mahalo,
Helen Hasegawa, Ph.D.
President, COEAA

Aloha and Mahalo, Dr. Charles Araki



Dr. Charles Araki
1933—2019

The COEAA ohana bids our warmest aloha and mahalo to Dr. Charles Araki and extends our deepest condolences to his wife Ellen, sons Wade (Kristie) and Blake (Valerie), grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Dr. Araki was an alumnus of the UHM COE and served as President of the COEAA from August 2000 to June 2002 and as Director on the Board until his passing on May 24, 2019. Also, he was the recipient of the COEAA Distinguished Alumni Award in 2004.

Dr. Araki was a highly acknowledged and distinguished educator and worked tirelessly and unselfishly during the span of his career. During his tenure as Interim Dean of the COE, he ensured that the College prepared teachers and administrators worthy of providing the children of Hawaii with the best education possible.

We thank you, "Charlie," for your invaluable contributions to the COE, COEAA and Hawaii's education community and bid you our fondest aloha. You will surely be missed.

Honoring our 2020 Distinguished Alumnus



Mr. Justin Mew

Mr. Justin Mew's outstanding contributions to teaching, leading, and learning are far-reaching and remain consistently stellar over several decades. The Jedi force of education runs strong in his family. After spending his childhood in a family where Mom was an educator, young Mew's passion for teaching was awakened. During a career of more than 30 years, he worked as a teacher, vice principal, state specialist, and principal. In 1981, he began his career as a Biology teacher at Kaimuki High School and then as Vice Principal at Aiea Intermediate and Moanalua Intermediate Schools. In 1992, he was the State Science Education Specialist. He also was a Principal at Aina Haina and Niu Valley Elementary Schools. Currently, Mr. Justin Mew is the Principal at Kaiser High School.

In 2011 he was the recipient of the Hawaii State Middle School Principal of the Year Award - a distinction that acknowledged his many years of service to the community, not only as an outstanding administrator, but also as a valuable resource in advocating for innovation initiatives for the youths of Hawaii. Also, Justin was the first recipient of the YMCA Hero for outstanding leadership and service to the YMCA and the community, and he was named a semifinalist for the Masayuki Tokioka Excellence in School Leadership Award in 2006.

He holds a Bachelor of Education (Secondary Science Education), a Master of Education (Curriculum and Instruction, Biological sciences), and a Master of Education (Educational Administration) from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. The late *Dr. Charles Araki (former Dean, University of Hawaii College of Education)* described Justin as an "outstanding graduate student in educational administration. A leader among our students, he was astute in the conduct of public school administration and possessed a keen insight into the concepts of supportive relationships."

Justin Mew has served on numerous education boards, including the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board, Nuuanu Branch YMCA, Community Church of Honolulu, Youth Service Hawaii, and Hawaii Kai Advisory Council.

According to Teacher Gwen Lee, "Justin is known throughout Hawaii and among his colleagues as the *Jedi Master* of Science. Humble, unassuming, and supportive are just a few words to describe the demeanor of this Jedi Master. His positive and principled character allows for open communication. One can be assured to not only be heard but to be of value. It is heartening to know that anyone can easily and comfortably engage in conversations with Mr. Mew. He is very respectful and often treats his constituents as equals. Mr. Mew does not act impulsively, but rather reflective and considers all viewpoints before taking action. He is extremely responsive to any need or action and takes the time to communicate with all. He often goes more than the extra mile, spending countless hours in school, even through the wee hours of the night."

Congratulations Mr. Justin Mew - May the Force be with you!!

Congratulations to COEAA Board Member, Dr. Bebi Davis

Congratulations to COEAA Board Member, Dr. Bebi Davis, on receiving her second doctorate from Walden University. As a Hawaii State Teacher of the Year, she was awarded a full scholarship from Walden University. Bebi is a University of Hawaii College of Education Alumna and also received her Bachelors, two Masters, and a PhD from the UH Manoa, College of Education.

Bebi is a native of Guayana, South America. Her educational career in Hawaii started in 2002 as a Physics and Chemistry teacher at Farrington High school. In 2005, she was the recipient of the prestigious National Milken Educator Award; and in 2014, she joined the Kaimuki McKinley Roosevelt Complex Area as a resource teacher for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Currently, she is a Vice Principal at Kawanakoa Middle School. Bebi also served as a lecturer in Biology, Mathematics, and Education for Honolulu Community College, Kapiolani Community College and UH Manoa - COE.



Dr. Bebi Davis



Scholarships 2020 Scholarship Recipients

Each year the COEAA awards two scholarships to COE students enrolled in teacher preparation programs. The recipients of the 2020 scholarships are K. Blythe Kaapana and Kimiko Torres. Both Blythe and Kimiko are teacher candidates in the B.Ed. in Elementary Education program.

Recently, the COEAA received an email from Kimiko Torres who will be graduating in Spring 2020. She thanks the COEAA and its members for their kindness and generosity and stated that the scholarship alleviated some stress while she worked either full-time or part-time to attain her educational goals. She further states "I hope one day I can be in your position — supporting the next generation of college students."

Congratulations Blythe and Kimiko on your accomplishments!

"Teaching is the essential profession, the one that makes all professions possible."

David Haselkorn



WIS Future Teachers Club



Dr. Vail Matsumoto

On February 28, 2020, the Future Teachers Club (FTC) convened at Waipahu Intermediate School (WIS). Sponsored in part by the University of Hawaii College of Education (COE) and its Alumni Association (COEAA), the newly formed club attracted 22 students interested in teaching as a profession. Led by co-advisors Ceanne Englar (Technology Resource Teacher) and Rachel Takebayashi (Special Education Teacher), the club is the product of the UH Manoa and Waipahu Complex Professional Development School partnership.

College of Education Assistant Professor, Vail Matsumoto, developed the idea after repeatedly hearing about the teacher shortage from multiple sources. "Other folks are making large scale recruitment efforts and there are programs out there aimed at increasing the teacher pool. This little club has the same lofty goal, but at a grass-roots level. Kids in elementary school often say they want to be teachers and then we lose that interest somewhere along the way. This club is an attempt to keep that fire burning, to keep the passion alive and it can also feed into the high school teacher academies. My hope is that I'll see some of these club members years from now in the College of Ed or in the schools teaching. That's the end game and it's a long-range effort, not something that will happen overnight. It'll take time, but developing great teachers is worth the time."

Part of that development includes learning universal strategies. At each meeting, members will be introduced to a strategy to add to their growing arsenal of skills and ideas. Learning about relationships and rapport is another part of their development. Networking with a variety of educators is the third component of the club's mission. At the first meeting, members rubbed elbows with COEAA board members, including President Helen Hasegawa, who said, "The success of the first meeting of the FTC was due to many individuals' efforts and diligence. At a time of teacher shortages, it is awesome that educators in the field are making a difference by mentoring students at the middle school who are interested in pursuing teaching as their career choice. I believe the FTC in the future can be a model for other schools."

COEAA Vice President Jean Kiyabu also networked with the students and commented on the spirit of openness and cooperation among this group of WIS students that was so inspiring. "When someone had difficulty choosing a word using the first letter in their name to describe themselves, students voluntarily and generously offered suggestions to help their fellow classmates. During the small group discussion, several WIS students shared their aspiration to teach math or science, as their preferred subject area. Their level of group interaction and depth of sharing are foundational qualities for a vibrant Future Teachers Club at WIS." Club members were also able to share conversation with Kayla Ueshiro, recent COE graduate and former CESA President. As a model of learning and a good example of how a degree in education can translate to a variety of careers, Kayla shared that she will be joining the Peace Corps and will be traveling to Uganda, Africa to serve as a teacher there.

UHAA Membership

The University of Hawaii Alumni Association is entering a new phase and has discontinued dues-based membership as of August 2019. Currently, the UHAA Board is in the process of discussing next steps to ensure a smooth transition.

In the meantime, we invite you to join UH Connect at <https://connect.uhalumni.org>—an online networking and mentorship platform exclusively for University of Hawaii alumni, students, faculty and staff.

