

PRESIDENTS'

# REPORT

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY-HAWAII | POLYNESIAN CULTURAL CENTER



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POLYNESIAN  
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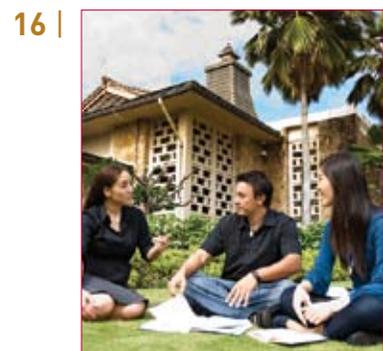
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Presidents’ Report is published by LDS Philanthropies in conjunction with Brigham Young University–Hawaii and the Polynesian Cultural Center. LDS Philanthropies, a department of the Office of the Presiding Bishopric of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, is responsible for encouraging, correlating, and acknowledging all donations to BYU–Hawaii and PCC. To donate to the university or PCC, or for more information, visit [www.ldsp.org](http://www.ldsp.org) or call 800-525-8074.

# Achieving the prophetic promise

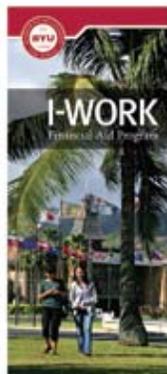
**ALOHA!** Since its founding more than 54 years ago, Brigham Young University–Hawaii has been developing young men and young women of character and integrity. Recent events around the globe have once again confirmed the importance and need for leaders who have such character and integrity and who are willing to take responsibility for not only themselves but for all those they influence.

Speaking on the BYU–Hawaii campus, President Henry B. Eyring said, “Success will be realized as young people gain greater power to make the world better for others. Success will be an increase of the power of students to improve families, communities, and the world. The legendary vision of President David O. McKay for this place was about young people going forth to be an influence for peace worldwide.”

It is our charge, even our obligation and sacred duty, to help facilitate this influence through education and leadership development.

## Accelerating the work

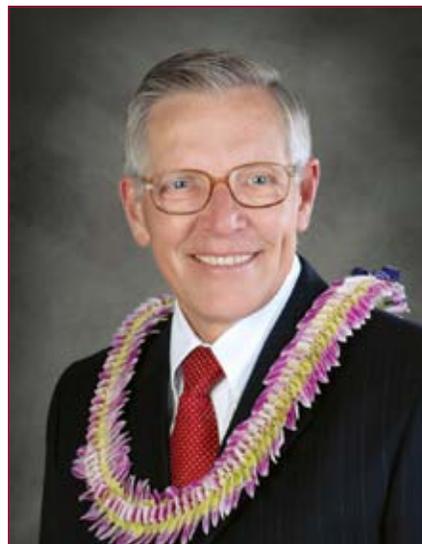
The mission of BYU–Hawaii is to develop leaders and to do so while combining both a spiritual and an academic foundation for a lifetime of learning. Much is required to do this, and we thank you for your part as an alumnus or friend of this blessed institution. We are grateful for your support and example to the wonderful students who come here to learn and to grow. Thank you!



We have focused our efforts on accelerating this leadership development through a coordinated emphasis on three imperatives: continued improvement in quality, continued efforts to lower costs, and serving even more students. We are excited

with the progress being made on each of these imperatives.

A year-round calendar, online courses to assist prospective students in their preparations, the I-WORK financial aid program, and the returned missionary voucher program all have been established to help achieve these three imperatives—and they are working!



President Steven C. Wheelwright

## Planning for the future

Additionally, BYU–Hawaii is working with local communities and all of those in our extended *ohana* as we pursue approval of our plans for growth and further development so that we can serve even greater numbers of students—especially those from throughout the Pacific Rim.

Mahalo for your commitment and participation in blessing the lives of the students at BYU–Hawaii. As you continue to help in this great work, we hope your life will continue to be filled with the blessings of Heavenly Father and His Son.

Sincerely,

Steven C. Wheelwright  
President  
Brigham Young University–Hawaii



# Returning home prepared

**BYU–Hawaii student lands job with multinational firm in Tokyo**

“**B**RIGHAM Young University–Hawaii changed my life,” says recent graduate Masahiko Honda. “When I first came here, I had not yet served a mission, so being in this environment surrounded by the Church and the school helped me prepare, and the example of good friends here motivated me. Since my mission, I have a stronger commitment to education. And most important, I met my wife here—I’m so grateful for BYU–Hawaii.”

“This is a wonderful place,” agrees Eria Honda, Masahiko’s wife. “It will always be special for us.” The Hondas grew up in different cities in Japan. As children, their families were friends, but they met again in Laie in 2001, and they were married in the Laie Hawaii Temple in 2006.

Eria graduated from BYU–Hawaii with a degree in exercise science in 2008 and has since earned an MBA online from another university. Masahiko graduated from BYU–Hawaii in information systems this past June.

Today they are settling into an apartment in Tokyo, where Masahiko has a job with Deutsche Securities, Inc., (a

Deutsche Bank company in Japan). He is enjoying his work and says that every day he learns something new. Eria was recently called to serve in their ward’s Relief Society presidency.

## Securing an internship

How did a student from Japan come to school in Hawaii and end up with a job back in Japan? Perseverance, hard work, trust, and what some might call luck have paved Masahiko’s path to Laie and back.

Masahiko is a second-generation Seaside, so he grew up on stories of BYU–Hawaii. “I knew about the diversity of students,” he says. “My father still has connections with friends from his BYU–Hawaii school days, and now I have a lot of friends from around the world. I know I made the right choice in coming here.”

After his first year at school, Masahiko returned home to serve as a missionary in the Japan Hiroshima Mission. Coming back to BYU–Hawaii, he got into his major but his focus was always on returning to Japan. After they were married, he and Eria were eager to return

home following graduation. They knew they wanted to find employment and rear their family in Japan.

The Yamagata Foundation Asia and Pacific Internship Fund provides travel stipends to international students who intern. Through the fund, Gene and Allyson Yamagata have helped nearly 1,000 BYU–Hawaii students complete internships in more than 40 countries. “The impact is unmistakable,” says BYU–Hawaii president Steven C. Wheelwright. “The Yamagatas bless students and through them families, communities, and countries.”

Looking for an internship, Masahiko sent his résumé and cover letters to contacts and possible employers. One of his father’s acquaintances passed Masahiko’s information along, and Masahiko got several calls. One was from Deutsche Securities, Inc., and they were interested in him. After several communications and phone interviews, Masahiko was invited to intern.

## Learning life’s lessons

Masahiko applied for and received a Yamagata grant to fund his travel back to Tokyo so that he could intern with Deutsche Securities. “Interning was a really great experience,” says Masahiko. “I had a lot of opportunities to learn technical skills.” He worked in the firm’s audio-visual and help-desk departments.

“At the bank every second is important,” he says. “The atmosphere is intense. Employees always asked me how long a project might take; so I learned to give quick and reasonable estimates and to finish within the stated time.”

He learned other things and earned a reputation for being helpful. He finished his internship having had a great practical experience—and with a job offer.

Masahiko is prepared and able to be the kind of leader BYU–Hawaii exists to produce. “I’ve really been blessed,” he says. “I’m going to tell my kids that BYU–Hawaii is a wonderful place.” **PAU**



Masahiko Honda studied information systems and graduated in 2009. He and his wife, Eria, (also a BYU–Hawaii grad) have returned to Japan, where Masahiko works for Deutsche Securities, Inc.



## Establishing peace internationally

### BYU–Hawaii students practice peacemaking abroad

When Dr. Chad Ford and nine Brigham Young University–Hawaii students stepped off the plane in Tel Aviv, Israel, in November 2008, they were prepared to share peacemaking techniques that would change people’s lives. What the students experienced in that far-away place changed them forever.

The BYU–Hawaii group was participating in a study-abroad program sponsored by the university’s David O. McKay Center for Intercultural Understanding. Created five years ago and funded with donations, the center exists to assist students, faculty, staff, and alumni in fulfilling President David O. McKay’s prophecy: “From this school will go men and women whose influence will be felt for good toward the establishment of peace internationally.”

According to Ford, director of the center, his work is to prepare students to

be confident in the gospel, the only true source of lasting peace. Through theoretical instruction and practical application, the McKay Center educates participants on being leaders and peace builders. Currently the center offers an intercultural peace-building certificate, campus forums, and opportunities to dialogue regarding community and world problems.

Ema Billings, an international cultural studies and communications major from Seattle, Washington, who traveled to Israel with the 2008 group, says being

among people she had previously known little about brought her to tears almost daily. “Being there was such a powerful experience,” she says. “Heavenly Father gave me new eyes to see the humanity of these people. I’ll never be the same.”

Those who participated returned home humbled. Through interaction with strangers who are now like family, their faith was deepened. Through service, they blurred boundaries created by years of schism and war. And they ultimately learned that peace building is not about technique; it’s about Christlike service and love.

#### Loving Heavenly Father’s children

When Billings first met Issam Abu Amaryih, their Palestinian bus driver and tour guide, Amaryih asked if most Americans believe that Palestinians are suicide bombers and terrorists. Billings was embarrassed to answer that she thought most did. “Sadly, many Americans believe only

*Above: BYU–Hawaii students, chaperones, and others visit the Dome of the Rock in Israel. The group’s study abroad was sponsored by the David O. McKay Center for Intercultural Understanding.*

what they see and hear in the media,” she says. Looking back, she is ashamed of her own ignorance. Through getting to know Amaryih, she learned more about herself. “Stereotypes dehumanize people and diminish godly nature,” she says.

During her time in Israel, Billings learned from Amaryih that Palestinians yearn for the freedom Americans enjoy every day. On the way to the airport on the last day, Amaryih’s lesson was powerfully illustrated.

“We came to a checkpoint,” says Billings, “and Amaryih explained what would happen: ‘The soldier is going to ask for my passport; he’s going to ask for my credentials, and then he’ll search the van and when he feels that it’s okay, he’ll let us go.’”

“The soldier asked for the credentials, and then he opened the door and realized that we were Americans. He closed it and said we could go. I asked Amaryih why we were not searched, and he said, ‘Americans have freedom.’”

Billings says she vowed never to forget that experience: “What it taught me as a peace builder is that it’s never about holding one side of a conflict. What goes on in the hearts and souls of people is not easy to explain, but we are all Heavenly Father’s children, and the Savior gave His life to atone for us. So I can’t lose sight of that hope—that the message of peace is delivered one person at a time.”

### Is peace really possible?

Justin Ritchie, political science major from Las Vegas, Nevada, says of his time in Israel, “My experience was surreal—these are places you read about in the



Student Justin Ritchie appreciates being able to go to Israel. Being there was humbling, and he learned firsthand about establishing peace.



The McKay Center partners with PeacePlayers International, a global organization that promotes peace through sport. In Israel BYU–Hawaii students organized a basketball game between Jewish and Arab schoolchildren. Those involved learned that peace, though extremely difficult to obtain, is possible.

Bible. To actually be there and see where it happened was humbling. It doesn’t matter what religious background you come from, because something sacred has happened on that ground. I’m truly thankful, not just for the university for allowing us to go, but also for the donors who made it possible.”

As part of their peace building training, the McKay Center partnered with PeacePlayers International, a global organization that uses sports (like basketball) to unite and educate young people in divided communities, including those living in the West Bank. Prior to their trip, the BYU–Hawaii students trained as PeacePlayers International coaches, mentors, and facilitators.

Ritchie says: “We showed up with this idea of peacemaking from textbooks that explain what you have to do. Then you actually see that the conflict is so deeply ingrained. Whether it’s political, religious, or national, there are so many different layers to this conflict that we came away thinking to ourselves, ‘Is peace really possible?’”

As PeacePlayers International facilitators, BYU–Hawaii students organized a basketball game between schoolchildren from Jewish and Arab schools. These young students came in knowing nothing about the other team, except that they were enemies. After the game, they left with a better understanding of commonalities. Ritchie explains: “Yes, the conflict

is real and deeply rooted; it may not be resolved overnight, but through diligent effort it can be overcome.”

### Building peace takes time

In a remote Palestinian village called Beir Sefafa, Ritchie had a profound experience: “We were helping a friend and his family pick olives from the trees on their property. Surrounding the property were rock walls in various states of disrepair. One of the rock walls bordered two or three olive trees. As we were picking olives, a previously standing part of the wall tumbled down. We said to our friend: ‘Let us help you rebuild this wall. There’s enough manpower here that we could put it back together.’ We started handing him stones, and he carefully placed them where they needed to go. As we built, the wall further down would collapse. We kept building it, and it would collapse; building and it would collapse. Eventually the friend’s brother quit. To him and us rebuilding seemed futile, but even though the wall was not rebuilt that day, every stone put in place was in itself a success.”

Ritchie concludes: “That’s what peace building is like. When we’re working on difficult projects and put a lot into it and everything crumbles around us, we should not give up. The gospel teaches us to be committed and to continue on no matter how many times the wall collapses. If we continue, eventually the wall will be built—it just takes time.” **PAU**

# Reaping the benefits of I-WORK

A new donor-funded program enables education for hundreds of international students. Those accepted to the program commit to maintaining good grades and working their way through school.

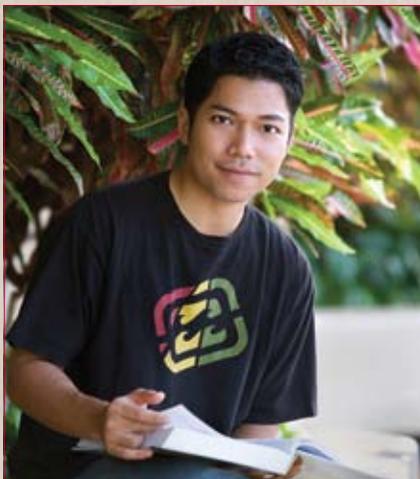
When Apichat Choysrakoo graduates next spring, he will be among the first to have benefited from Brigham Young University–Hawaii’s new financial aid program for international students. “I had never expected to have a college education. In fact, the possibility that I would study at the university level was close to zero. But now I find myself lining up for graduation,” he says. Choysrakoo is majoring in accounting with a minor in information systems. When he returns home to Thailand, he plans to pursue a master’s degree in accounting information systems.

The new program—International Work Opportunity Returnability *Kuleana* (responsibility)—is unique to BYU–Hawaii. It was launched in the summer of 2009 to replace the successful International Work Experience Scholarship (IWES) program that has been in place for many years. I-WORK is broader than its predecessor in that grants are available to any international student, with preference given to those from the Pacific Rim. I-WORK is a reality thanks to the generosity of the university’s supporters.

## Taking responsibility

Rebecca Harrison, BYU–Hawaii assistant controller and administrator of the I-WORK program, says: “The students understand that as they work they are contributing to the cost of their own education, and as they contribute they are accepting increased personal responsibility. It is wonderful to watch as the students see their efforts affect their own success.”

Students who receive I-WORK financial aid commit to stay in school, maintain good grades, work 19 hours per week during school, and merit an annual ecclesiastical endorsement.



Apichat Choysrakoo, left, and Michael Jeremy, right, are among those who have received assistance through BYU–Hawaii’s new I-WORK student-aid program. I-WORK is funded in part by donations. Jeremy, who is from Indonesia, says, “I cannot express enough my gratitude for my I-WORK grant.”

“My purpose here is to get an education so that I can serve my people after I graduate,” says Cristina Choi, a sophomore from Macau, China, who is studying art education. “Without I-WORK, I would not have had this opportunity to come here because of my family’s financial situation. I am grateful.”

## Fostering returnability

The program is designed so graduating students leave with an education, experience, and very little or no debt. A portion of many students’ grants are forgivable loans—those who return home will have 25 percent of their loan forgiven for each year they remain in their home country or region.

I-WORK is part of the university’s commitment to fostering returnability. *Returnability* is BYU–Hawaii’s coined word encapsulating systemic and personal efforts that prepare students to return to and succeed in their homelands.

Michael Jeremy, a sophomore from Indonesia studying instructional design, art, and information systems, says that after graduation in fall 2010 he plans to pursue a career in multimedia. “I am planning to go back to my home country to share what I have learned at BYU–Hawaii. I cannot express enough my gratitude for my I-WORK grant.”

Harrison says the new program is blessing the lives of hundreds of students: “It is already helping our students in significant ways. For example, it supports our married students better by helping with housing and health insurance costs. There is also a renewed understanding that work is an important part of the total education experience.”

President Steven C. Wheelwright says: “I-WORK teaches responsibility and accountability to its recipients. Ultimately, what we want to instill in students is that there is always a way to receive an education.” **PAU**

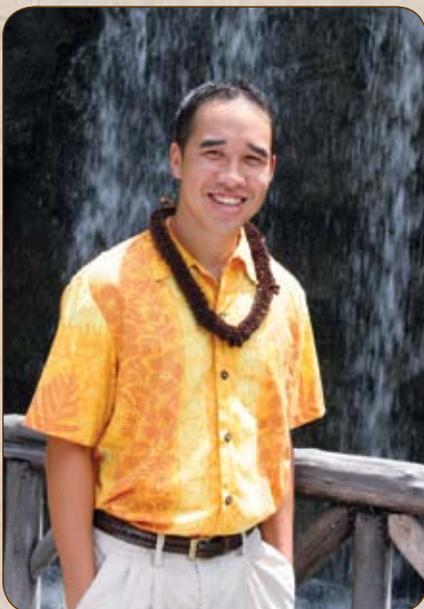
# Preparing leaders

Forty-six years ago Laie was an unknown destination for most visitors to Hawaii. Since then, nestled in this secluded place, the Polynesian Cultural Center has hosted millions of guests and supported the education of thousands of students whose influence is felt around the world.

Our work is threefold: enable and enhance the education of Brigham Young University–Hawaii students through employment, portray the rich heritage of Polynesia, and build bridges of friendship for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints with people and countries worldwide.

Wherever I travel and am introduced as the president of PCC, the response is heartwarming. I've felt it in China, New Zealand, the mainland United States, and countless other locales: PCC is an effective goodwill ambassador for the Church.

We are deeply grateful for your ongoing support. You are indeed a part of PCC and part of our successes. Your donations, patronage, and good word help us bless students and achieve our mission.



PCC student employee Mark Serrao

## Enhancing education

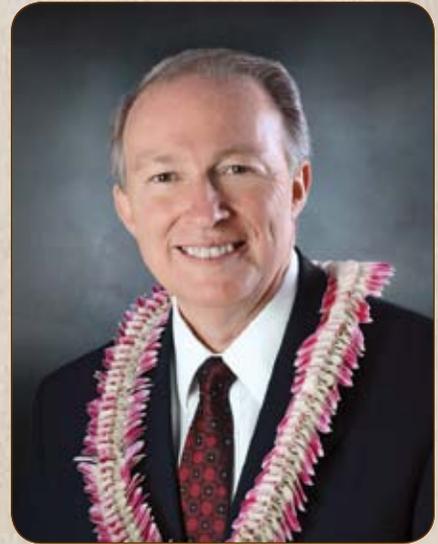
PCC is known for dancing, cultural performances, luaus, and evening shows, but at the heart of each of these is the students. PCC employs approximately 700 BYU–Hawaii students each semester, and currently nearly 500 of these are I-WORK students. Student employees at PCC have more than 50 different job titles, and many of their duties directly relate to their studies.

Experience has shown that PCC employment enhances students' classroom education and better prepares them for life after graduation. The spiritual growth of our student employees is also important, and so we strive to provide a work environment that builds faith, testimony, and self-confidence.

We are partners with and supporters of BYU–Hawaii in providing education. The missions of BYU–Hawaii and PCC are intertwined and centered on the students we mutually exist to serve. A BYU–Hawaii education is meant to be academically and spiritually enlarging. It prepares young women and men to be leaders in homes, workplaces, the Church, and communities around the world.

PCC helps students learn and apply leadership skills. Many of our student employees get direct supervisory experience as they oversee the efforts of up to 12 other students. At PCC we value integrity and model ethical management practices.

PCC works to give students opportunities to gain practical experience in their fields of study: accounting, finance, hospitality and tourism, and information systems are some of the areas PCC tries to incorporate into the student employment experience. But whatever the job description, being employed teaches students important lessons in time and money management and provides safe yet real opportunities to hone vital interpersonal skills.



President Von D. Orgill

## Fulfilling prophecy

PCC alumni are fulfilling President David O. McKay's prophecy. With your support, we are helping to train leaders of integrity and character. The world needs them.

God directs this work and we are blessed to be a part of it. Thank you again for your support. We are ever grateful for your generosity; you truly bless the lives of tomorrow's leaders.

Mahalo,

Von D. Orgill  
President  
Polynesian Cultural Center

P.S. The new evening show, *Hā: Breath of Life*, showcases more than 100 student performers and crew members. (See next page.) I hope you will come experience it the next time you are in Laie.

ON STAGE AT PCC



## **HĀ** **BREATH OF LIFE**

### **New evening show portrays devotion, loss, and love**

The tale is as old as the islands and as new as each breath we take.

*Hā: Breath of Life*, the Polynesian Cultural Center's new evening show, debuted to an enthusiastic crowd on August 14. "It has been 14 years since we've introduced a new night show," says Ray Magelei, director of marketing for PCC. "And we are delighted to offer this new experience to our guests."

A guest from California said of the show, "It's beautiful; I love it." And a guest from Hawaii said: "It was really great. I will definitely come again and introduce it to friends."

#### **One man's universal story**

Three years in development, *Hā* addresses the universal themes of birth, growth, devotion, loss, and love through the story of its lead character, Mana. His life is told with dance, song, and chants from the cultures of Tonga, Hawaii, New Zealand, Samoa, Tahiti, and Fiji.

Alfred Grace, PCC's chief operating officer, says, "Each costume, song, and dance has been carefully crafted by our team to draw our guests into the story." Additionally, new staging helps create an inclusive experience, and custom Polynesian-themed ani-

mations transition the story from one culture to the next.

Grace says: "We know that it is important for us to continually improve and expand PCC's offerings. Based on guest feedback, we knew this show needed to be inclusive and easily translated across cultures. We believe *Hā* will appeal to all of our guests and be a favorite for years to come."

A standing ovation capped *Hā*'s debut and has been a nightly occurrence since. The show has all of the fun and flash—and fireknives—that PCC is known for, but it is not primarily a revue.

A better classification for *Hā* would be a musical Polynesian fable.

Von D. Orgill, president of PCC, says, “We’ve worked to create an engaging experience that captivates audiences through the telling of one man’s story that is, in effect, every man’s story.”

### Students breathe life into *Hā*

*Hā* features more than 100 performers and crew members, making it the largest evening show produced on the Hawaiian Islands. All cast members are or have been students at Brigham Young University–Hawaii.

Student Logoatu Vaka from Tonga plays the role of Mana’s father. Vaka says: “I’m so grateful to be a part of this new show—to portray the cultures of Polynesia and to share the gospel to the world in this way. The story shows the values and lifestyles of the Polynesian people.”

Livini Tuwai, a student from Fiji who works as a tour guide at PCC, says of *Hā*: “I love it! I really love it. It’s very gospel oriented.” And another student guide, Ernest Tan from Malaysia, says: “I enjoy the different cultures coming together to tell one story, a story about families.”

PCC currently employs 700 students each semester. Beyond employment, work-study at PCC provides students with practical experience. In addition to those who perform, student employees work in guest service, food service, retail, and office positions.



Animations created for *Hā: Breath of Life*, PCC’s new evening show, help to tell the universal story of Mana. The Polynesian-themed artwork was done by Spitfire Animation Studios in Utah.

### Unique in all the world

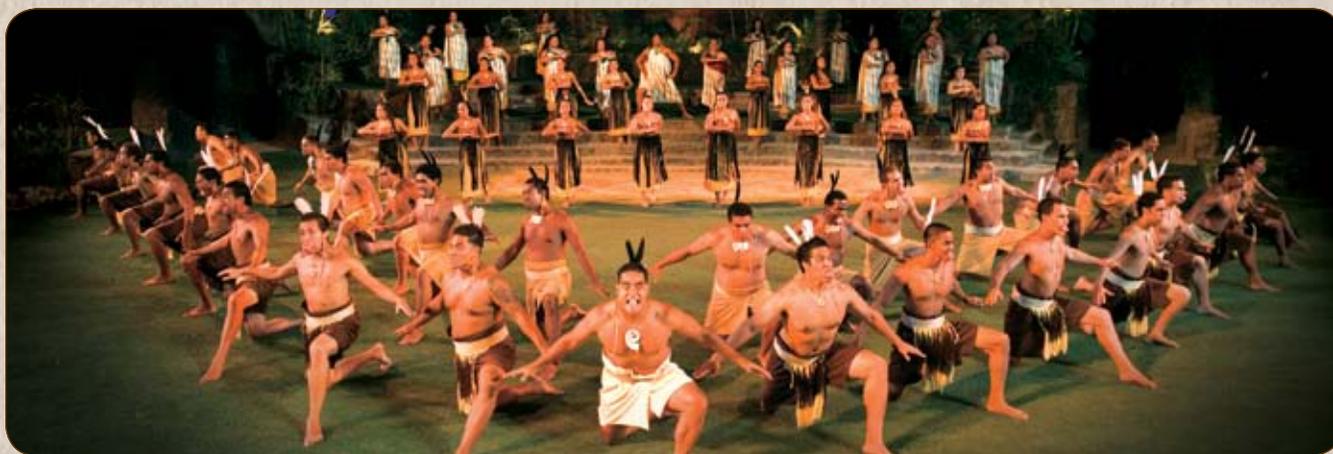
Since 1963 more than 34 million guests have experienced Polynesia at PCC and more than 17,000 BYU–Hawaii students have paid for their educational expenses by working at the center. As a nonprofit organization, PCC uses 100 percent of its revenue for daily operations and to support students’ education. Donations are invited.

The relationship of PCC, BYU–Hawaii, and the students they serve is unique. Speaking of these institutions and the community of Laie, President Gordon B. Hinckley said: “This becomes one great and beautiful and magnificent campus, setting forth the beliefs, the practices, of

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. There is nothing like it in so small an area, really, that we have anywhere else in the world. This is a favored and beautiful and wonderful area” (Hale Laa Boulevard beautification groundbreaking, October 25, 2003).

### Come experience *Hā*

Whether you live in Laie or will be returning for a long-anticipated visit, you can be among the first to experience *Hā: Breath of Life*. The show is performed Monday through Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in PCC’s Pacific Theater. For reservations, visit [www.polynesia.com](http://www.polynesia.com), call 800-367-7060, or speak to your travel agent. **PAU**



Moari warriors conclude a traditional haka (war dance) with main character Mana, center. In the New Zealand portion of PCC’s new evening show, *Hā: Breath of Life*, Mana grows from boy to man. In all, the show features more than 100 performers and crew members.

## Grateful student preparing to serve special-needs children in Fijian homeland

Livini Tuwai is a pioneer—the first member of her family to attend university. She came to Brigham Young University–Hawaii from Lautoka, Fiji, after serving as a missionary in the Hawaii Honolulu Mission of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Her journey is as compelling as her smile is friendly.



“Before my mission I had never thought about coming to school here,” Livini says. To her, Hawaii seemed foreign and far from home. And even if she had thought about it, her family couldn’t afford it. Then came her mission call. While serving in Hawaii, she had companions and senior missionary couples who encouraged her to apply to BYU–Hawaii. Her consistent answer to them was, “It’s a nice school, but I don’t have the money.”

### Because of you

And then she learned about IWES, forerunner to BYU–Hawaii’s recently implemented International Work Opportunity and Responsibility Kuleana (I-WORK) program. I-WORK provides students with financial aid and employment opportunities, often at the Polynesian Cultural Center.



She remembers saying, “Okay, maybe I can apply.” After her mission she returned home, applied for an IWES grant, and was accepted. She says: “When I told my dad I was going to BYU–Hawaii, he was happy for me, and we both wanted to bawl.”

Now Livini has been a student at BYU–Hawaii and an employee at PCC for three years. To those who donate to the university or PCC, she says: “I would not be able to be here if it were not for you. My prayer is that the Lord will bless you. You may not know the generations that you have blessed. You’ve blessed not only me but also my future children and my brothers and sisters and nieces and nephews. It is all because of donors like you—you enabled me to be here. Thank you so much.”

### Working and studying

Livini is a tour guide and a student lead at PCC—she assigns other student guides to tour groups and frequently gives tours herself. “This is the best place to be,” she says. “Meeting people from all over the world gives me the opportunity to share and to be a good example of gospel living.”

She really enjoys working at PCC, not only because of the guests but also because of the spiritual environment.

“Every day there is a devotional; we sing a song, read a scripture, and say a prayer. It helps me throughout the day. It reminds me that whatever is happening in my life, there is a God that loves me, and it makes me grateful for the blessings of my life.”

At school, Livini is double majoring in English and special education and plans to graduate in 2010. “I love all my classes,” she says. “I want to go back home and teach special education—teach kids that are handicapped. People kind of put them down, and I think I can change that, maybe not in a big way, but in small ways that will make a difference one day.”

When she does go home, much will be different. Her mother passed away when Livini was six, and she was reared by her father. He passed away earlier this year. “I miss him; he believed in me,” she says. “Right now I have to work hard, and even though he is not here, I have to achieve my goal. I want to start a special education school, and I am working toward that. I think he watches over me; my Mum does, too. I think seeing me improve will make them more happy than seeing me fail. I am going to try. I am going to complete my education, and I’m going to go home and serve my people well.” **PAU**





# You are the hope of Israel

By Elder David S. Baxter

**“You are today’s rising generation, and the call comes to you, as it has to those who have gone before: ‘Hope of Israel, rise in might!’”**

Recently I accompanied Elder Jeffrey R. Holland on a visit to the Federal Parliament of Australia, where he met with political leaders. It so happens that 81 of our young single adults from across Australia were also in Parliament House that day. They were there as part of our public affairs outreach efforts, meeting political leaders and attending Question Time. They even participated in a mock debate chaired by the Speaker.

As we met with those 81 young adults, I was filled with a sense of hope and optimism. Forty-one of them had

already served as full-time missionaries, serving in places from Italy to Indonesia, Africa to Japan, Spain to Singapore, and across the nations of the Pacific. As a result, 26 were fluent in at least one other language. Seventy-one of them—all but 10—had completed or were currently undertaking tertiary education.

They were sharp, bright, and enthusiastic. They looked terrific. There was a goodness about them that did not just spring from their outward appearance; it flowed from inner conviction and personal purity. I thought, “Here is the Hope of Israel.”

The same sentiment was echoed as we met with more than 3,000 other young adults in fireside meetings in Sydney, Brisbane, and Melbourne. I sensed it here today as I have watched each of our young adult students come in to this meeting. We love you so very much. We love you for who you are and for who you will become. We love you for what you already do and for all that you will yet do.

In a clarion call, set as a hymn some 130 years ago, Joseph L. Townsend wrote of the rising generation of the Church:

*Hope of Israel, Zion's army,  
Children of the promised day,  
See, the Chieftain signals onward,  
And the battle's in array!  
Hope of Israel, rise in might  
With the sword of truth and right;  
Sound the war cry, "Watch and pray!"  
Vanquish ev'ry foe today!*

The militaristic imagery of the hymn is, of course, merely a metaphor, a symbol. But we should be in no doubt that we do live in an age when a battle is raging. There is a war between truth and falsehood, between right and wrong, between good and evil. It is the great deception of our age to suggest that these are simply relative concepts.

Truth is not relative; it is absolute. You are today's rising generation, and the call comes to you, as it has to those who have gone before: "Hope of Israel, rise in might!"

### Strengthen families

As we look to the future of families, you are the hope of Israel. To you will come the sacred, wonderful, noble privilege of

establishing homes of your own—homes that must be havens of love and peace and goodness; homes where there is a complete absence of harshness, abuse, or neglect; homes in which the gospel is lived and its effects felt; homes where children are cherished, nurtured, respected, and cared for; homes with parents who are selfless; homes that are places of learning and growth, where books are read, where entertainment is wholesome, where talents are encouraged and developed; homes where self-worth is enhanced, where praise has replaced ridicule; homes where there is safety and freedom from the evils of the world.

There can be no greater ambition, no loftier goal, no more righteous endeavor, no worthier aim, no more fulfilling pursuit than to create families that are, in every respect, eternal, in homes that are but a reflection of heaven.

President David O. McKay advised:

*Would you have a strong and virile nation?—then keep your homes pure. Would you reduce delinquency and crime?—then lessen the number of broken homes. It is time*

*that civilized peoples realized that the home largely determines whether children shall be of high or low character. Home-building, therefore, should be the paramount purpose of parents and of the nation.*<sup>2</sup>

We hear much in our day of threats to the planet—the ozone layer, the rain forests, and global warming. We see poverty in divers places. There is current economic angst in the midst of global recession.

Yet the greatest threat to our world is not the rise of carbon dioxide emissions but the increased fragmentation of families. The greatest deprivation visited upon children is not just that they go hungry for food—it is that they are starved for affection, that there is a total famine of love, security, protection, and care. The greatest poverty a society or nation faces is found not in reduced bank balances or falling stock markets but in the loss of a moral compass and the abandonment of virtue. The real "inconvenient truth" is that what was once sacred is now mocked and ridiculed and what was once abhorred is now accepted and adopted.

Elder David A. Bednar has taught:

*The Father's plan is designed to provide direction for His children, to help them become happy, and to bring them safely home to Him. Lucifer's attacks on the plan are intended to make the sons and daughters of God confused and unhappy and to halt their eternal progression. The overarching intent of the father of lies is that all of us would become "miserable like unto himself" (2 Nephi 2:27), and he works to warp the elements of the Father's plan he hates the most. Satan does not have a body, he cannot marry, and he will not have a family. And he persistently strives to confuse the divinely appointed purposes of gender, marriage, and family. Throughout the world, we see growing evidence of the effectiveness of Satan's efforts.*<sup>3</sup>

I say to young adults who are here today, if you want to fix the world, fix families. If you want to save the planet, save our future homes. If you want to protect the future, protect the moral certainties and values that make nations strong. If you want to fight for justice, fight for children, for their right to life and for their entitlement to "birth within the

**"If you want to fix the world, fix families. If you want to save the planet, save our future homes."**



bonds of matrimony, and to be reared by a father and a mother who honor marital vows with complete fidelity.”<sup>4</sup>

### Lead an exemplary life

As we look to the future of nations, you are the hope of Israel. From the ranks of this rising generation—including those here today—will come the men and women of integrity who will provide political leadership, corporate ethics, scientific progress, social stability, academic excellence, community capacity, medical advancement, economic growth, and humanitarian development.

We hope that in each of you there will be found a smoldering passion to become economically independent; to be self-reliant; to stand on your own two feet; to provide for yourselves and for your immediate family; to break free from the shackles of dependency; to work and to grow and then to lift and to bless those around you.

Elder M. Russell Ballard has counseled:

*Members of the Church need to influence more than we are influenced. We should work to stem the tide of sin and evil instead of passively being swept along by it. . . .*

*The Lord does not need a society that hides and isolates itself from the world. Rather, he needs stalwart individuals and families who live exemplary lives in the world and demonstrate that joy and fulfillment come not of the world but through the spirit and doctrine of Jesus Christ.*<sup>5</sup>

We have every confidence that the world will be a better place because you are in it. You will make a contribution; you will find ways to serve; you will lift the condition of those around you; you will rise up to the very best that is in you.

### Seeing God's work advance

As we look to the future of the Church, you are the hope of Israel. The baton of Church leadership will pass to you. We know that it will be in the safest of hands.

It is just over 35 years since I entered university in Great Britain to begin undergraduate life as a poor economics student, just a few months before Spencer W. Kimball became the president of the



**“There should be a light shining from your eyes because of the fire that is burning in your soul.”**

Church. At that time we had just 3 million members of the Church. Today we are approaching 14 million. Back when I was a student we had only about 7,000 congregations spread very thinly across the world and just 600 stakes. Today we have more than 28,000 congregations and over 2,800 stakes. And this weekend Elder Tad R. Callister, second counselor in the Pacific Area Presidency, and I will be in the Marshall Islands to create the first stake there. Thirty-five years ago we had about 15,000 missionaries organized in 108 missions; today we have over 52,000 missionaries spread throughout 348 missions. When I was 18 there were only 15 operating temples. Now, we are about to have 130.

The growth that I have witnessed in my lifetime is as nothing compared to the growth you will see in your lifetime. There is much of the world we have still to reach, vast populations yet to hear the message of the restored gospel. From a Church perspective, the years that lie ahead of you will be the most exciting, the most far-reaching, the most exhilarating of any age

in the history of the world. You must rise to the challenge that all of that will bring.

### Learn and love the truth

If you are to successfully carry the baton of Church leadership, you must know the doctrines of the gospel for yourself and have, deep in your hearts and souls, your own witness of its truthfulness and power.

Elder John A. Widtsoe commented:

*It is a paradox that men will gladly devote time every day for many years to learn a science or an art; yet will expect to win a knowledge of the gospel, which comprehends all sciences and arts, through perfunctory glances at books or occasional listening to sermons. The gospel should be studied more intensively than any school or college subject. They who pass opinion on the gospel without having given it intimate and careful study are not lovers of truth.*<sup>6</sup>

You may have lived for a time on the borrowed light of the testimony of others—parents, leaders, friends—but the time has come for you to gain a testimony of your own if it is not already there; and it

needs to be burning bright and true. There should be a light shining from your eyes because of the fire that is burning in your soul. That light will come, or be deepened further, as you immerse yourself in the scriptures so that they become intimately familiar to you as you study the words of apostles and prophets, as you fall to your knees in prayer and supplication, as you strip yourself of pride and seek the inspiration of heaven, as you strive to do good and be good. You cannot lead others to Christ unless you, yourself, have already found Him.

### Arm yourself with virtue

If you are to successfully carry the baton of Church leadership, you must obey the commandments of the gospel—all of them—so that you can be entitled to the companionship and direction of the Holy Ghost.

President Joseph Fielding Smith taught:

*The Holy Ghost will not dwell in unclean tabernacles or disobedient taberna-*

*cles. The Holy Ghost will not dwell with that person who is unwilling to obey and keep the commandments of God or who violates those commandments willfully. In such a soul the spirit of the Holy Ghost cannot enter.*

*That great gift comes to us only through humility and faith and obedience. Therefore, a great many members of the Church do not have that guidance. Then some cunning, crafty individual will come along teaching that which is not true, and without the guidance which is promised to us through our faithfulness, people are unable to discern and are led astray. It depends on our faithfulness and our obedience to the commandments of the Lord if we have the teachings, the enlightening instruction, that comes from the Holy Ghost.<sup>7</sup>*

The Lord's command to each of us is to "let virtue garnish thy thoughts unceasingly."<sup>8</sup> Virtue means purity; it means valor; it means merit and chastity and goodness and honor and dignity and integrity and decency and moral perfection. Garnish in this setting does not mean

light decoration or casual adornment, as if we were trying to make a lousy meal look appetizing. In this context its true origin is in the old French word *garnir*, meaning to "equip" or "arm." The Lord invites us to arm, equip, or defend ourselves with virtue, and as we do so He promises:

*Then shall thy confidence wax strong in the presence of God; and the doctrine [or the power] of the priesthood shall distil upon thy soul as the dew from heaven.*

*The Holy Ghost shall be thy constant companion.<sup>9</sup>*

### Defend the faith

If you are to successfully carry the baton of Church leadership, you must rise up and defend the faith.

In the early days of the restored Church, in the first decades of the Restoration, converts found that they not only had to embrace a new faith but also had to defend that faith against vociferous critics and opponents. We have entered such a period of time again.

I think of the sacrifices made by some of the early British converts:

Elizabeth Briggs Welch, who joined the Church in 1841, was on her way home from her work as a lace maker and heard the testimony of a young missionary, Alfred Cardon, who was standing on a soapbox preaching in the street. She was immediately touched by the Spirit. She invited Elder Cardon to her home, announcing to her surprised husband, Nick, "I've heard the Gospel; it's the only Gospel and it's true and I know it, and I have invited this young Elder to visit us to tell us more about it." They were baptized one week later. Elizabeth's instant yet deep witness of the truth was to prove vitally sustaining as she endured the loss of Nick and two sons, who would die in Nauvoo; the crossing of the Plains; and the loss of two more husbands before her own death in Utah in 1867.<sup>10</sup>

Priscilla Staines was born to Episcopalian parents in 1823. When she was 19 she heard the gospel and decided to be baptized, knowing she would be cut off from family, from friends, from society. She was baptized in midwinter at

**"As we met with those 81 young adults, I was filled with a sense of hope and optimism."**



In May, Elder David S. Baxter visited the Federal Parliament of Australia with 81 young adults who were in their nation's capital learning more about the political process (see *Ensign*, August 2009, 74–75).



## “The Lord will perform miracles with you and through you. As you honor Him, He will honor you.”

the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.”<sup>13</sup>

So stand up, rise up, make your voice heard, bear your witness, be courageous, let the light of the gospel shine from you, and defend the faith.

### Follow the Savior

If you are to successfully carry the baton of Church leadership, you must follow the Master. Your membership in the Church has to be transformed into discipleship. The invitation of the ages is to “come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness . . . and love God with all your might, mind and strength.”<sup>14</sup>

President David O. McKay advocated:

*Members of the Church of Christ are under obligation to make the sinless Son of Man their ideal—the one perfect being who ever walked the earth.*

*Sublimest Example of Nobility*

*God-like in nature*

*Perfect in his love*

*Our Redeemer*

*Our Savior*

*The immaculate Son of our*

*Eternal Father*

*The Light, the Life, the Way. . . .*

*God bless us all that we may hold him as our ideal and pray for power to be like him.*<sup>15</sup>

It is the privilege of our lives to be disciples of Jesus Christ, to follow the pattern He has set, to strive to become like Him, and to ask ourselves each day, “What would Jesus do? What would He have me do?” and then do it. This is the commitment we make in the waters of

baptism and when we are confirmed; it is central to the oath and covenant of the priesthood; it is fundamental to the sacred ordinances of the temple; it is the obligation we happily renew each week when we partake of the sacrament.

You are, in every respect, the hope of Israel—the hope for families, the hope for the nations from which you come, the hope for the future of the Church. Of course we each know that our ultimate hope, the real Hope of Israel, is found in the life, the teachings, and the atoning mission of Jesus Christ. As you embrace the doctrines of the gospel, as you live in obedience to the commandments, as you defend the faith, and as you follow the Savior, living the life of discipleship, so you will find peace, purpose, direction, hope, and fulfillment. The Lord will perform miracles with you and through you. As you honor Him, He will honor you all the days of your lives.

I testify of the Father and the Son, of the restoration of truth and authority through the Prophet Joseph Smith, and of this divine work, and I invoke heaven’s blessings on each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.



David S. Baxter of the First Quorum of the Seventy of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was president of the Church’s Pacific Area when this address was given at BYU–Hawaii on

June 9, 2009. You can read the entire address online at [devotional.byuh.edu](http://devotional.byuh.edu).

midnight—to avoid mobs—walking four miles to be immersed in a hole chopped through ice and then returning the four miles in freezing garments. She later left for Nauvoo stating, “I was willing to make every sacrifice for it in order to gain my salvation and prove myself not unworthy of the saints reward.”<sup>11</sup>

In the face of ridicule, bigotry, prejudice, false charges, rejection, and persecution, these early members, the faithful few, the humble followers of Christ, had to stand tall and true. They had to withstand the cries of the crowd—and so must you.

### Be courageous

Well, like others who have gone before, you must withstand it all and be bold in the defense of truth. As one of our recent prophets, President Harold B. Lee, said, “Remember this isn’t 1830, and there aren’t just six of us.”<sup>12</sup> Like Paul, be “not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is

1. “Hope of Israel,” *Hymns*, 1985, no. 259.

2. David O. McKay, *Conference Report*, April 1967, 135; emphasis in original.

3. David A. Bednar, “Marriage Is Essential to His Eternal Plan,” Worldwide Leadership Training Meeting: Supporting the Family, 11 February 2006 (Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2006), 5.

4. “The Family: A Proclamation to the World,” *Ensign*, November 1995, 102.

5. M. Russell Ballard, “The Effects of Television,” *Ensign*, May 1989, 80; emphasis in original.

6. John A. Widtsoe, *Evidences and Reconciliations*, arr. G. Homer Durham (Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1960), 16–17.

7. Joseph Fielding Smith, *Take Heed To Yourselves!* (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1971), 364.

8. D&C 121:45.

9. D&C 121:45–46.

10. Elizabeth Briggs Welch, Biography, microfilm of type-script, LDS Church Archives, Salt Lake City, 1–2.

11. Priscilla Mogridge Staines, quoted in Edward W. Tullidge, *The Women of Mormonism* (New York: Tullidge and Crandall, 1877), 286; see also 285–88.

12. Harold B. Lee to Boyd K. Packer; as retold in Boyd K. Packer, “The Standard of Truth Has Been Erected,” *Ensign*, November 2003, 26.

13. Romans 1:16.

14. Moroni 10:32.

15. David O. McKay, *Conference Report*, April 1951, 98.



Students, faculty, alumni, and others ask:

# How can I help?

“Your help has been such a blessing to me and my family. We really appreciate your generosity and kindness,” writes one student to the donor family who funded her scholarship.

Another student writing to another contributor said: “Thank you for helping me and showing me a great example of giving, sharing, and serving others.”

Helping is at the heart of so much that happens at Brigham Young University–Hawaii and the Polynesian Cultural Center. Students help one another, faculty and staff assist students, students serve PCC guests, alumni and friends support today’s students, and so on.

## Three imperatives, two organizations, one focus

President Steven C. Wheelwright is leading the university to achieve three imperatives—continue to improve the quality of education provided, lower the cost of a BYU–Hawaii education, and serve more students—that have been endorsed by the BYU–Hawaii Board of Trustees, which President Thomas S. Monson chairs.

Together BYU–Hawaii and PCC prepare students to succeed. PCC, a not-for-profit organization, is focused on providing work-study opportunities for BYU–Hawaii students while preserving and portraying Polynesian culture. PCC

president Von D. Orgill is seeking to fund work-study opportunities for the center’s student employees.

## Every donation matters

Those who donate to BYU–Hawaii and PCC bless students and help the university and the center fulfill their missions.

There are many ways to help, and every donation—large or small—matters to students, the university, and the center. David J. Smith, who directs solicitations to BYU–Hawaii and PCC alumni, says: “We are gratified that so many of our alumni give. A small donation may seem no more significant than a drop of rain.



But add that drop to thousands of other drops, and pretty soon you have a flood. In the same way, many donations combine to make a significant difference.”

Donors provide financial aid at BYU–Hawaii including I-WORK grants, fund work-study opportunities at the Polynesian Cultural Center, enable internships, and in other ways enhance the education that is provided here.

For 2009 the board has endorsed a goal to raise \$8.5 million from alumni and friends of the university. Donations that directly support students through scholarships, grants, etc., are a priority. Unrestricted gifts to the BYU–Hawaii Trustees and President’s Fund or the PCC Directors and President’s Fund are also priorities.

Programs and projects that have been identified as priorities for 2009 are BYU–Hawaii scholarships, PCC work-study opportunities, internship assistance, the university’s distance learning initiative, and the sailing and maintenance of *Iosepa*.

### BYU–Hawaii financial aid

To fulfill its international mission, BYU–Hawaii must continue to attract and enroll an increasing number of students from Asia and the Pacific. Without financial assistance many of these students would not be able to enroll. Donations toward financial aid including scholarships, I-WORK grants, and forgivable loans are an ongoing priority.



Scholarships and grants-in-aid, including I-WORK grants, enable students from many countries to attend BYU–Hawaii.



Students, including Spencer Scanlan from Samoa, benefit from work-study at PCC. Each semester PCC employs 700 students.

### PCC work-study opportunities

Student employment assists students financially and academically: wages help students afford an education, and work helps them apply what they learn.

As a nonprofit organization, PCC’s revenues come only through ticket sales and donations. Currently PCC employs 700 students each semester in good and bad economic times. Donations to the center help it consistently provide students with work-study opportunities.

### Internship assistance

Internships provide students with experience and opportunities to network. For international students, internships are vital to successfully returning home. BYU–Hawaii gratefully acknowledges that its successful international internship program is funded by donations from the Gene and Allyson Yamagata Foundation. Donations to support internships assist students in finding and travelling to internships.



Internships allow students to practice what they learn in classes, and they help students build networks. At BYU–Hawaii donations fund internships.



BYU–Hawaii is improving, lowering costs, and serving more students. Distance learning aids each of these imperatives.

### Distance learning

Using technology to instruct students, BYU–Hawaii is increasing students’ academic preparation and the English fluency of incoming students. This approach is also freeing up class space and allowing more students to receive a BYU–Hawaii education. Funds donated in support of distance learning accelerate the number and availability of online courses.

### *Iosepa*

The centerpiece of BYU–Hawaii’s Hawaiian Studies program is *Iosepa*, a 57-foot double-hulled voyaging canoe. The canoe is housed and displayed for guests in a donor-funded canoe house at PCC. Donations are being sought to help maintain the canoe and its display house as well as to fund annual student-manned ocean voyages. **PAU**

Donate online: [www.ldsp.org/hawaii](http://www.ldsp.org/hawaii)



*Iosepa* is now displayed at PCC. As a floating classroom, *Iosepa* is central to BYU–Hawaii’s Hawaiian Studies program.

**Studying insects takes students from Papua New Guinea to Provo**

Two BYU–Hawaii biology students spent three weeks in Papua New Guinea during the summer of 2008 collecting insects and sea life. The students, Keone Young and Daniel Ka’onoahi, are in the middle of a three-year mentored-learning opportunity made available by Brigham Young University–Hawaii, Brigham Young University in Utah, and a National Science Foundation grant.

Mentored by professors David Bybee of BYU–Hawaii and Michael Whiting of BYU, Young and Ka’onoahi spent time this past summer in Whiting’s Provo lab. The students’ experiences in the field and in the lab are focused on DNA extraction and analysis.

Ka’onoahi says: “We were able to learn so much in just a short amount of time. I was able to use the knowledge gained from classes to help me keep pace with molecular techniques and genetic ideas. I am so grateful for the many opportunities that I have been granted while attending BYU–Hawaii.” Their work will continue next summer.

Hojun Song, recipient of the NSF grant, who is conducting postdoctoral research with Whiting, says: “We wanted to provide students with hands-on experiences in molecular biology and systematics. This will give motivated undergrads from BYU–Hawaii a chance to have a thorough research experience so that they can learn all aspects of research from data generation, analysis, and writing a manuscript to presenting their data in scientific conferences.”



**Psychology students present at national convention**

Nine BYU–Hawaii psychology students presented at the 21st annual Association for Psychological Science convention in San Francisco, California, in May. Working with psychology professor and mentor Dr. Ronald Miller, the students outlined their findings from three projects: investigating an evolutionary hypothesis linking lip color and attractiveness, discovering whether students sacrifice more for genetic or religious in- and out-groups, as well as understanding the plasticity of implicit attitudes.

At the conference BYU–Hawaii’s research into implicit attitudes attracted both attention and praise from Harvard professors although the findings seemingly contradicted ideas originated at Harvard.

Miller has studied similar subjects for some time and regularly includes students on his research teams. Early on he questioned whether undergraduate students could conduct research at a level that would qualify them to present at national scientific conventions like these. He now knows that the answer is yes. Miller says: “The world’s future scientists attend this convention. This is the third time I’ve been there with BYU–Hawaii students, and they deserve to be there—among the best.”

**Church leaders visit campus**

BYU–Hawaii and its students are blessed to regularly receive counsel from Church leaders. Among those who have visited campus and addressed students in recent months are President Henry B. Eyring, Elder D. Todd Christofferson, Elder Steven E. Snow, Elder David S. Baxter, Elder Anthony D. Perkins, Elder Tad R. Callister, Elder Won Yong Ko, and Elder Kim B. Clark.

President Thomas S. Monson, Elder L. Tom Perry, Elder Richard J. Maynes, and Sister Julie B. Beck are scheduled to visit campus before the end of the year.

**Top-12 finish for BYU–Hawaii’s SIFE team**

The students of BYU–Hawaii’s Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team brought the spirit of aloha to Philadelphia for this year’s SIFE National Exposition. The Seaside team came away with a top-12 finish and a check for \$1,500. SIFE is a global non-profit organization whose mission is to promote enterprise through community outreach projects.

The BYU–Hawaii team presented its community involvement projects, as did 120 teams from other universities. At the competition BYU–Hawaii was recognized as an underdog. Michael Crowe, a recent graduate in business management from Metamora, Illinois, and a member of the team, says, “I don’t think anyone but us expected us to get as far as we did.”

This year’s team, comprising 22 students and 12 advisors, received the university’s highest-ever placement in this annual competition. Team members believe it was the wide variety and success of their projects that helped them secure the high ranking.



**First full school year with new academic calendar begins**

In January BYU–Hawaii implemented a new academic calendar; in July the first full, new-calendar school year began. The new calendar includes two 14-week semesters (fall and winter) and three 6-week terms (spring, summer, and first), where the previous calendar had two 16-week semesters and just two terms.

Students generally take four or five courses during the semesters and two during terms. With the additional term and students attending at least two of the three

terms, it is anticipated that students will graduate sooner. I-WORK and some other scholarship students are required to attend both semesters and two of the three terms.

With the new calendar, facilities are being more fully utilized year-round, and the university is on track to award more course credits in 2009 than it did in 2008. Max Checketts, vice president of academics, says, "More students in better utilized facilities means more opportunities for education and reduced per-student costs."

Arapata Meha, director of enrollment services, says that first term 2009 (the added term that began in July) had more than 1,200 students enrolled and more than 250 of those were new students. "With the timing of first term, more parents were able to attend new student orientation," he says. "It was great to have so many come to campus." Beginning in 2010, the university's graduation will be in April instead of June.



### Restructuring business and HTM

BYU–Hawaii's international business management and hospitality and tourism management (HTM) majors recently underwent major curricular revisions. The international business management major has been renamed business management and now comprises six areas of emphasis (general business, corporate finance, investment finance, human resource management and organizational behavior, operations and supply chain management, and marketing). The HTM major is now combined with business management for its basic classes.

Glade Tew, dean of the College of Business, Computing, and Government, says: "We felt a need for students to have an area of emphasis. Our graduates will be more marketable if, while gaining general business knowledge, they also develop expertise in a narrower area of emphasis."

Students wishing to major in business management must now pass specified prerequisite courses and complete an application in order to enter the programs. Prerequisite courses include economics, statistics, and accounting.

Once accepted, students take business foundation courses and then courses in their area of focus. Students finish their studies by taking a capstone course, which integrates principles learned from

prior business courses, and a career management course.

These changes affect 156 HTM and 363 business management students from 48 countries. The proposal that initiated the curricular revisions was the work of eight full-time faculty and was based on research into current domestic and international job markets, as well as benchmarking with business and HTM programs at other universities.



### Envision Laie: Campus and community plan for the future

Through ongoing surveys, workshops, presentations, and meetings, BYU–Hawaii, PCC, and residents of surrounding communities are working together to understand and prepare for the area's future. This effort, named Envision Laie, is a collaboration of residents and stakeholders in the greater Koolauloa region to study the area and plan for its future possibilities. The possibilities are being explored while taking into consideration the long-term impact of many factors such as housing, traffic, job opportunities, and local amenities.

"Hundreds of local residents have participated in the Envision Laie process, and we're extremely delighted with the feedback and support we have received through this planning stage," says President Steven C. Wheelwright.

Next steps for Envision Laie include holding ongoing community workshops, further coordinating with the city and county government, and filing official land-use requests with the State of Hawaii.

Additional information and regular updates on the Envision Laie process can be found at [www.envisionlaie.com](http://www.envisionlaie.com).

### Board organizes four new colleges at BYU–Hawaii

During fall semester 2008, the BYU–Hawaii Board of Trustees approved a recommendation made by the president's council to reorganize the school's academic divisions into four colleges. The four new colleges are the College of Language, Culture, and Arts; the College of Math and Sciences; the College of Business, Computing, and Government; and the College of Human Development.

The change has helped campus departments and degree programs with common themes work more closely and more effectively together.

This, in turn, benefits BYU–Hawaii students in selecting and completing the courses in their chosen field.

"This reorganization provided needed alignment that matches the programs and definitions of a comprehensive university," says Max Checketts, vice president of academics.

Phillip McArthur is dean of language, culture, and arts. Jeff Burroughs is dean of math and sciences. Glade Tew is dean of business, computing, and government. And John Bailey is dean of human development.

## PICTURE THIS



**1.** Finalists of the 2009 Willes Center for International Entrepreneurship's business plan competition received over \$50,000 in donated prizes at the Conference of Champions held March 4–6. **2.** Ira Fulton, longtime benefactor and friend to BYU–Hawaii and PCC, received a carving of a Polynesian canoe as a birthday gift from PCC at the fall 2008 Presidents' Leadership Council–Hawaii luncheon. **3.** Fans packed the Cannon Activities Center for the NCAA Division II Men's Basketball West Region Championship game on March 18, 2009. The Seasideers ended the season with a narrow 59–58 loss to Cal Poly Pomona and a season record of 27–2. **4.** An exciting medley of Tagalog lyrics, lively choreography, and colorful costumes comprised the Filipino Club's portion of the fall 2008 Songfest. **5.** At their winter 2009 concert, BYU–Hawaii's Salsa Orchestra performed with special guest vocalist Rolando Sanchez, "Mr. Salsa Hawaii," of local premier ensemble Salsa Hawaii. **6.** Fine arts faculty member Viliami Toluta'u sculpted a bronze statue dedicated in December 2008 for the Abner Paki Hale Courthouse in Kaneohe. **7.** Exercise and sports science graduate from Moloka'i, Trenson Akana, poses with his family, including brother and assistant men's basketball coach Brandyn Akana, following the December 2008 commencement exercises. **8.** Members of the BYU–Hawaii Samoan Club produced an electrifying display of cultural dance after many months of practice and preparation at the winter 2009 Culture Night held on March 22.



More than 175 runners participated in the Utah–Central Alumni Chapter’s 5K race on August 29, 2009, in Mapleton, Utah.

## Utah–Central Chapter holds Aloha Run

The Utah–Central Alumni Chapter organized the Aloha Run 5K race held August 29 in Mapleton, Utah. There were more than 150 adult runners and 25 youth. There were prizes for the winners, including a scooter that had been donated.

A committee of alumni organized the race. Members included **Matt and Phaik “Sannie” Tan Lewis** (’95; ’96), **Jeff and Kathy Shields Shumway** (’92; ’92), **Ying “Chris” Loke** (’99), **Tao and Teuila Lavea-Gerber**, and **Philipp and Kehaulani Oleole Malzl** (’97; ’97).

The chapter donated proceeds to BYU–Hawaii scholarships and is already looking forward to next year’s event.

For news on this and other chapters, go to [byuh.edu/alumni](http://byuh.edu/alumni).

### Follow us on Facebook

Check out the official BYU–Hawaii Alumni Association Facebook page for updates and happenings from BYU–Hawaii alumni around the world.

### Please update your contact info

If you are not receiving the Alumni eNewsletter or other BYU–Hawaii communications, please update your contact information by sending an e-mail to the Alumni Office at [alumni@byuh.edu](mailto:alumni@byuh.edu).

## Personal updates

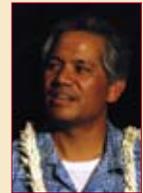
### 1955–60s

**Viliami Hemaloto Jr.** (’65) and nine other CCH alumni have been busy serving full- and part-time missions at the LDS Church Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.

**Vernelle “Nellie” Arakaki Lakatani** (’69) recently retired as BYU–Hawaii registrar after 42 years of service.

### 1980s

**Chad Keliiliki** (’86), who was a PCC dancer while studying at BYU–Hawaii, is now senior designer and creative director for Utah-based Tahitian Noni International, which sponsored the Polynesian Cultural Center’s 2009 Tahitian dance competition for children.



### 2000s

**Fa’afō’i Charles and Shirley Tuigamala** (’04; ’05) now live in Mount Hagen, Papua New Guinea, where he is an area manager for his employer. The Tuigamalas have helped established a small branch of the Church in an area where the Church had not existed before.



*The Tuigamalas (third row, left of center) next to the mission president and his wife and members of the Mount Hagen Branch, Papua New Guinea.*

**MinSun “Ellie” Hwang** (’05) recently graduated from the BYU College of Nursing and passed the national nursing test.

**Toshiyuki Takata** (’06) works on a quality assurance team for Sprint cell phones at Kyocera. He and his wife, **Fengxian “Amy” Ou Takata** (’07) live in Japan.

**Hyungoak “Ogi” Park** (’08), former BYUHSA vice president of service learning, is preparing a worldwide conference for Korean Young Single Adults in Korea. More than 1,000 are expected to attend.

Send your updates to [alumni@byuh.edu](mailto:alumni@byuh.edu).



“Ever since I have been closely associated with the BYU–Hawaii campus, I have felt that those who have had a vision for this university—President Joseph F. Smith, President David O. McKay, and others—must have seen way beyond the Polynesian parts of the Church. They must have seen that there was a destiny for the university and the Polynesian Cultural Center that would move far beyond their original purposes.

I think we’re going to need all the support, help, and resources we can muster to prepare BYU–Hawaii and the Polynesian Cultural Center to carry the gospel to the four corners of the earth.”

.....  
—ELDER M. RUSSELL BALLARD, “TOWARD OUR DESTINY,” APRIL 7, 2008

**BYU**  
HAWAII



**PRESIDENTS' REPORT**

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