

PRESIDENTS'

REPORT

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY-HAWAII | POLYNESIAN CULTURAL CENTER



BYU
HAWAII

YAO ZHANG'S JOURNEY | 3

I-WORK IS WORKING | 5



POLYNESIAN
CULTURAL CENTER

GRATEFUL STUDENTS IN
WORK-STUDY PROGRAM | 6

2011-12

YOUR DONATIONS HELP STUDENTS

Last year 3,525 individuals donated to BYU–Hawaii or PCC. Thousands of alumni, employees, friends, and students give to the university and the center each year.

There are about **12,000** living alumni who have BYU–Hawaii degrees. Nearly half of these have donated to BYU–Hawaii at least once.

In 2010 more than 7% of degreed alumni donated to BYU–Hawaii.

Also last year, 27% of current students gave in support of fellow students.

1955 2010

DONATIONS IN 2010 BENEFITED HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS

14 percent of donations were directed by donors to the PCC Work-Study Internship Program and used to employ and train students.

8 percent of donations were directed by donors to other student-focused programs and projects, including distance learning.

78 percent of donations were directed by donors to aid students through the I-WORK program, scholarships, or internship assistance.

Gifts to the BYU–Hawaii Trustees and President’s Fund accounted for more than one eighth of last year’s donations, were allocated three-quarters to student aid and one quarter to programs and projects, and are included in the numbers presented here.

**MAHALO ‘IA KOU ALOHA!
(THANK YOU FOR CARING!)**

YOUR DONATIONS BENEFIT STUDENTS

Presidents’ Report outlines efforts and spotlights accomplishments related to fund-raising at Brigham Young University–Hawaii and the Polynesian Cultural Center. This newsletter is sent to donors and supporters of the university and the PCC and is published by LDS Philanthropies in conjunction with the university’s and PCC’s presidents. For more information on giving to BYU–Hawaii or PCC, contact your donor liaison, visit giving.byuh.edu, or call 800-525-8074.

Editor in Chief
Ron Taylor

Lead Editor
Brad Olsen

Designer
Randy Sasaki

Photographer
Monique Saenz

Contributing Editors
Darlene Bergeson
Michael Johanson
Jenna Norr
Megan Welton

Returned missionary from Myanmar is grateful to learn at BYU–Hawaii and eager to serve the Lord

EVEN from a young age Yao Zhang has made goals and set out to achieve them with hard work, determination, and a heart full of faith—no matter what.

Born in Myanmar to a Chinese family, Zhang was not recognized as a Burmese citizen and as a result, his opportunities for education were limited.

“I needed an education,” Zhang recalls. “I wanted to learn different languages. I wanted to know about modern technology.”

So Zhang traveled, at great personal risk, to Mandalay, one of Myanmar’s largest cities, to begin his education. There he met LDS humanitarian missionaries who shared the message of the gospel. When they told him he would have to travel to Yangon, the capital of Myanmar, to be baptized, Zhang returned home to his village to pray about it.

“Later, after a week, I decided to go,” Zhang says.

His parents tried to tell him the risk was too great, but Zhang had made up his mind.

“I need to be baptized,” he told his parents.

After two days of travel, Zhang arrived in Yangon and immediately went to the church building where the small branch of 20 were waiting for him. Zhang and four others, the first from the north of Burma, were baptized that winter morning.

“It was a wonderful morning—a wonderful day,” Zhang says. “I can still feel it.”

CALLED TO SERVE

After Zhang was baptized, he learned about missionary work and knew immediately that he wanted to serve a mission. “If the Lord wants me to go, then I will go,” he says.

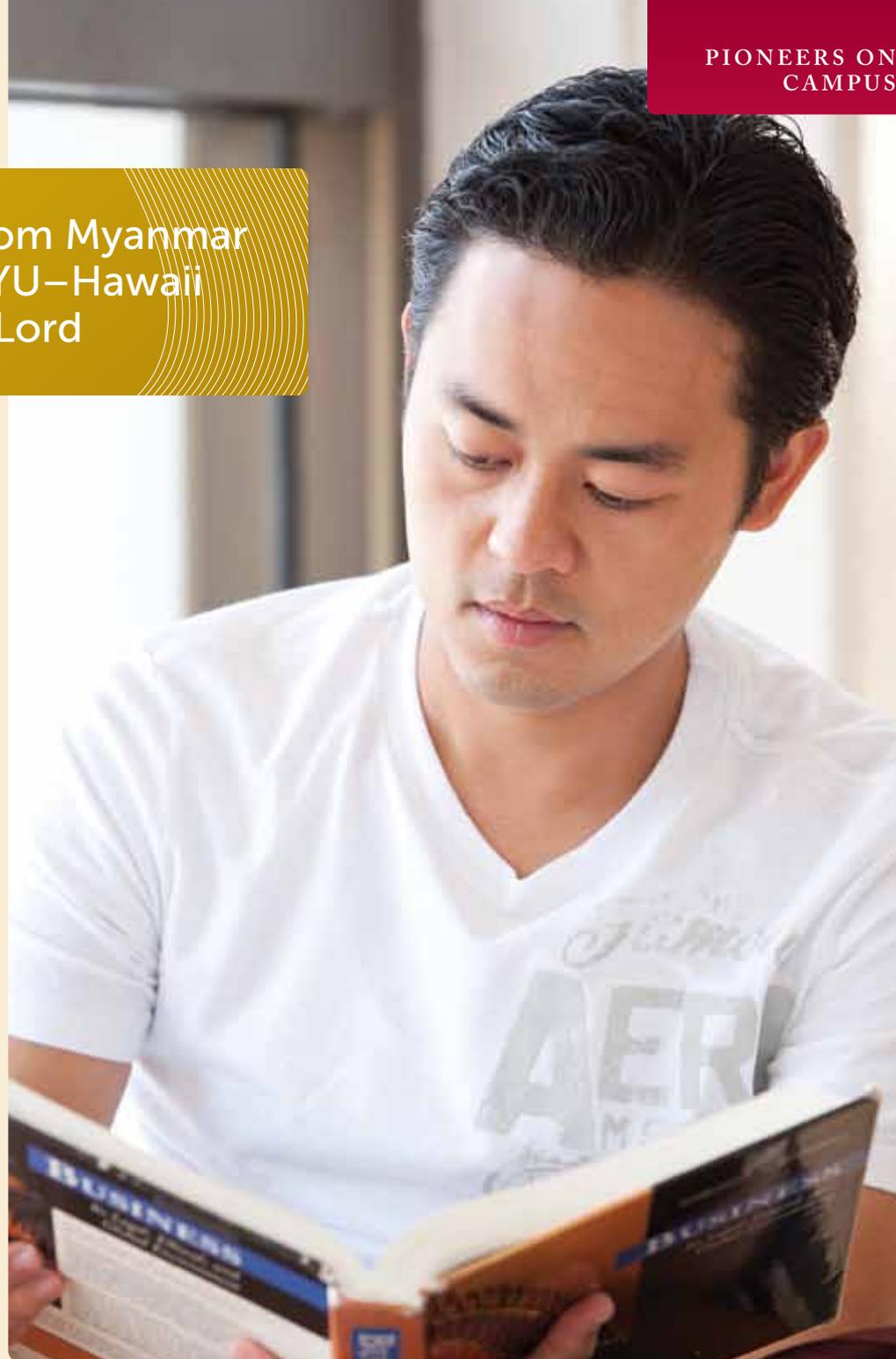
A few months later Zhang was called to serve in the Australia Sydney South mission.

Zhang first heard about BYU–Hawaii as a missionary in Australia. He talked about the school with his mission president, who encouraged him to apply.

“I wanted to come here, but I could not afford to enroll,” he says. “My mission president mentioned the I-WORK program.”

ENTER TO LEARN

Zhang applied to BYU–Hawaii and was awarded an I-WORK scholarship. He is studying finance and works as a server at the



Yao Zhang is a junior at BYU–Hawaii studying finance. He is a recipient of an I-WORK scholarship and works in the Ambassador Restaurant at PCC. He is from Myanmar and is grateful for the gospel in his life and the education he is receiving at BYU–Hawaii.

Ambassador Restaurant at the Polynesian Cultural Center. He knows that this opportunity was all made possible by the I-WORK program.

“Before I joined the Church, I used to feel like I was nobody, but I feel like now I am somebody—somebody with an education and with a knowledge of the gospel of Jesus Christ,” he says.

“I really, really appreciate the donors’ contributions that make it possible for all of the people who are willing to come and study here. They [the donors] are saving thousands of lives. They are helping a lot of people.”

Zhang has made a goal that one day he, too, will contribute to the I-WORK program. “In the future, if I earn some money, if I could do that, it would be wonderful.”

Zhang isn’t exactly sure what his future holds, but he lives each day with faith. He hopes someday to attend graduate school and rear a family.

He believes that he has been richly blessed by the gospel of Jesus Christ and the opportunity to study at BYU–Hawaii and asks, “If you have the gospel and you have an education, what else do you need?”

The path to a bigger, better BYU–Hawaii

By BYU–Hawaii President Steven C. Wheelwright

ABOUT 2.5 miles northwest of Brigham Young University–Hawaii there has been a twice-daily traffic jam for years—the only such stop on our part of the island. Parents from Laie have been driving their children to school in Kahuku because until now, there has been no safe walking path. But working together, the community, university, and landowners figured it out. We built a two-mile-long pedestrian path. It's gorgeous and is heavily used. People walk and stroll on it, and children go to and from school.

There is a lesson in our path: for every challenge we face, there are opportunities to succeed in unexpected ways. And you are part of our success.

DOUBLING BYU–HAWAII

The BYU–Hawaii Board of Trustees, chaired by President Thomas S. Monson, has approved a major expansion of the university. Our goal is to double the number of students on campus. To do so will require new housing and academic facilities and more aid for deserving students.

Clearly one of the keys to success with this goal is expanding the I-WORK program. Doubling the number of students on campus, especially international students, will require your support.

BLESSING STUDENTS' LIVES

You make education possible for many of our international students. Last year, more than two-thirds of donations received were directed to student-aid programs, and I-WORK assisted more than 500 students. We thank you, and the students thank you.

My wife, Margaret, and I have the great blessing of living on campus, and we love the students! We talk with them whenever we can. I meet with them often, and we are with them in weekly devotionals and on many other occasions. It is always inspiring to hear what brought them to us, to learn of their hopes and dreams, and to see their stories unfold. You are contributing to their life stories.

We want our students to be lifelong learners in a gospel sense and in an academic and professional sense. We want them to be leaders

of character and integrity; they are examples in their homes, workplaces, and communities. And we want them to be builders—people who make a difference in the world around them and who further God's work.

Thanks to you, they are becoming learners, leaders, and builders who serve today and will bless future generations. We're grateful for all that you do for these wonderful young women and men.

Below: President Steven C. Wheelwright (right) and Margaret Wheelwright on their bicycles before the new path was finished. In this article President Wheelwright uses the path as a metaphor for addressing opportunities. The BYU–Hawaii Board of Trustees has approved a major expansion of the university.





You make I-WORK work

“I’M THE first in my family to go to college, and I-WORK made it possible. *Malo ‘aup-ito.*” says Lani Tilini from Tonga, who is studying computer science and information technology.

By design, a significant portion of Brigham Young University–Hawaii’s students are from countries outside the United States. This culturally diverse mix of students is fundamental to BYU–Hawaii. For many international students, however, a college education, especially at a private school in the United States, is financially out of reach. The costs and resulting debt are simply too great.

When President Steven C. Wheelwright proposed BYU–Hawaii’s I-WORK program in November 2008, his goal was to enroll more students from the university’s target area of the Pacific Basin and Far East. He said: “One way to think about this is that we would be willing to provide funding to any qualified international student with need over and above what they earn for working and support their families can give. This would be donor funded and will continue to build the Church in those areas and develop leaders for their communities.”

“What I am learning here, I will teach to my family and others. Your influence will last for eternity.”

LEARN AND RETURN

I-WORK stands for International Work Opportunity, Returnability, and *Kuleana* (responsibility). *Returnability* is the university’s coined word encapsulating systemic and individual efforts that prepare students to succeed in their homelands. I-WORK encourages self-reliance and industry.

Vika Naulu from Australia, who is studying social work, says, “I-WORK has taken a huge burden off of me. In the long term, you are not just educating me. What I am learning here, I will teach to my family and others. Your influence will last for eternity.”

Students who receive I-WORK assistance agree to abide by the honor code, keep their grades up, work 19 hours per week, contribute financially to their education, and return home.

“We really want to develop leaders who will go home and build up their countries,” says Brian Blum, director of financial aid at BYU–Hawaii. “So to give them an incentive, if they return home after graduation we forgive what is owed.”

Here is how the I-WORK program works: The amount of aid given is based on students’ individual needs. The costs of a

BYU–Hawaii education are divided into four parts. The first part is student wages: each I-WORK student works on campus or at the Polynesian Cultural Center, and a portion of their wages go toward their education. The second part is family support: each I-WORK student’s family makes an income-based contribution, which differs based on each family’s situation. The third part is what the university covers—a grant. And the fourth part is a forgivable loan: if students return home for four years, their loans are forgiven.

PREPARING LEADERS

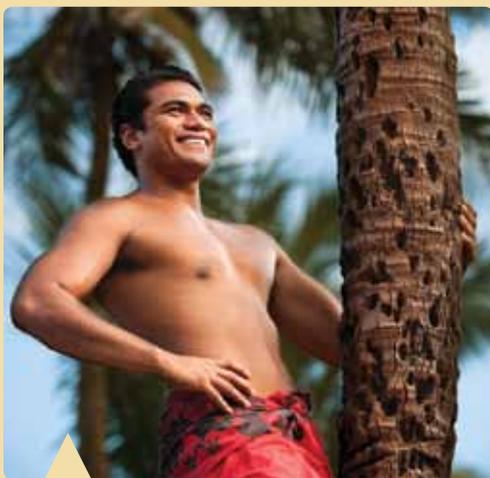
Donations to BYU–Hawaii from generous alumni and friends provide funding for the third and fourth parts. Donations to PCC assist the center with the first part—paying wages for student employees.

EJ Hernandez, a business management major from the Philippines, says: “I came here for an education, for leadership training, and for preparation to excel in life. Thank you for donating to I-WORK. It’s a wonderful thing you are doing. You are helping to prepare a generation of leaders.”

Above (left to right): Vika Naulu, Lani Tilini, and EJ Hernandez from Australia, Tonga, and the Philippines, respectively, are recipients of I-WORK scholarships.

FACES *of* GRATITUDE

EVERY semester the Polynesian Cultural Center employs hundreds of BYU–Hawaii students. Your donations allow them to gain hands-on experience and apply what they are learning in class.



I love interacting with PCC guests and teaching them about my Samoan culture. I am studying accounting and business management at BYU–Hawaii. The Lord guided me to Laie, and I have learned so much about the world around me and myself since I came. **I will forever cherish the memories, friendships, and life lessons that you made possible** through your donations—*fa'afetai tele lava*.

*Sone Naunau
Business Management and
Accounting, '11
Auckland, New Zealand*



I love working with awesome coworkers and supervisors who share my beliefs and standards, as well as serving guests from all over the globe. In my job with concessions I am learning vital lessons in leadership, marketing, and communications. **Words can't express my gratitude for your generosity.** You have helped me, and I dream of someday having the means to help my brother gain an education.

*Celeste Chan (above, center)
Business Management and Finance, '13
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia*



Through my job I bring happiness and an unforgettable vacation experience to our guests. I work as a canoe pusher with PCC Guest Services. With what I have learned here about cooperation among workers from different backgrounds, I hope to work for the government of Hong Kong and dedicate myself to the improvement of society. **Your aid really helps me.**

*Wai Man Ng
Psychology, '13
Hong Kong, China*

Thank you for giving me the chance to better my life. Working with the lights in the theater gives me great hands-on learning in my field, and I am gaining important leadership skills working with people from other cultures. **Without you I would not have been able to afford school. Thank you!**

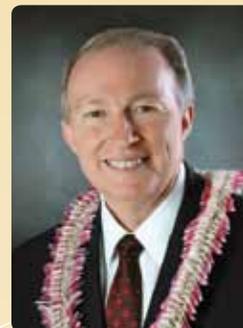
*Richard Sidal
Information Technology, '12
Taveuni, Fiji*

Preparing for the future

By PCC President and CEO Von D. Orgill

You help us succeed. One of the primary reasons the Polynesian Cultural Center exists is to assist Brigham Young University–Hawaii in preparing young people for their futures. That's really what it's all about, and I know that is why you support PCC—to help these young people.

A lot is happening at PCC, but it is still all about the students. In order to help them, we need to keep guests coming through the front doors. To do that, we seek to make their experience valuable and memorable. We want to give them reasons to keep coming back.



LOOKING AHEAD

Two years from now PCC will mark 50 years of helping students obtain and afford an education and acquire valuable work experience in the process. As this is an accomplishment worth celebrating, multiple events are being planned for September 1–8, 2013. Put it on your calendar; we hope you will join us. We're going to have a great time.

There is a lot to get done between now and then. We'll be expanding our retail space, renovating the IMAX® Theater exterior and creating a new film and experience on the interior, adding new activities, and building a new hotel. The dust won't settle for quite a while. It has already begun, in fact—we recently re-opened two restaurants in the wonderfully renovated Gateway Building.

YOUR DONATIONS HELP

Your donations allow us to employ, mentor, and train BYU–Hawaii I-WORK students. At PCC we call it the Work-Study Internship Program. With your help, students in this unique program graduate from the university with little or no education debt. I-WORK and the PCC Work-Study Internship program make a BYU–Hawaii education possible for international students.

It is an honor for me to be associated with these young people and with you. I am blessed to see the effects of your help in their lives. They are grateful; I know because they tell me. Their faces and thanks are sincere, and they always strike a chord in my heart. I've included thanks from six of these students on these two pages.

With your help our students return home prepared and able to move the work of the Lord forward and build communities and families. In the last three years those who donate to PCC have been part of helping more than 1,500 I-WORK students succeed.

Thank you. The students and PCC are grateful for your support. Our work is all about moving forward the Lord's plans for these young people. It's about opening doors of opportunity for them and building bridges of friendship to the rest of the world. You have felt the spirit of this place; you know that the Lord influences what happens here. It is a place of miracles; we see them every day.

Many of these miracles happen because of you. We pray for you, and we pray that the Lord's spirit will touch, lift, and inspire you.



Every day, I am grateful for those who make my education possible. I decided to go to BYU–Hawaii while serving a mission on Temple Square in Salt Lake City, but neither my mother nor I could pay for tuition. Fortunately some sister missionaries told me about I-WORK. **Because of you I am gaining an education** at BYU–Hawaii and professional experience as an accounting clerk at the PCC business office.

*Tsatsral Enkhtuvshin
Accounting, '12
Dornod Aimag, Mongolia*



I do the sound for the luau show and help with the wireless microphones at the night show. The best part of my job is when people say, "Thank you!" even though I am just doing my job. I am learning to be responsible, to cooperate with different people, and to appreciate different cultures. **To those who make my work here possible, thank you very much!** Without you, I would not have had this chance.

*Mei En Huang
Social Work, '13
Hsinchu, Taiwan*



Nanako and Rio Hayashi are BYU–Hawaii alumni. Their family is living in Logan, Utah, where Rio is a graduate student. He says BYU–Hawaii is where he learned to apply the gospel in everyday life. See a video about the Hayashis at give.byuh.edu/nanako.

How you helped Rio Hayashi prepare for life

BECAUSE of your support, our family has been tremendously blessed. BYU–Hawaii is where I found my eternal companion and where we started our family,” says Rio Hayashi, a BYU–Hawaii graduate from Hiroshima, Japan.

To those who made his education possible, he says: “You gave me the chance to attend BYU–Hawaii, and future generations will be blessed by our BYU–Hawaii experience. What I learned in Laie set the course of my life and gave me hope.

“BYU–Hawaii is where I really learned to apply the gospel in my everyday life,” he says. Hayashi is a second-generation member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and a returned missionary who served in Tokyo from 2003 until 2005.

LESSONS TAUGHT WITH SANDBAGS

Hayashi tells of a time when he felt the sense of community that for him is a hallmark of the BYU–Hawaii experience. In the early morning hours of December 11, 2008, Rio and his wife, Nanako, were awakened by knock on their door. They were greeted with the news that their ground-floor Temple View apartment would soon flood due to heavy rains.

Within the hour, the apartment building was encompassed by people who came to

assist them. The Hayashi’s bishop directed the work of friends and strangers. They worked together throughout the morning and into the afternoon placing sandbags to lessen the damage. Everyone helped.

“This experience,” says Hayashi, “where even strangers came to help, taught me that we are all brothers and sisters, that we are all one family, and this, for me, is what BYU–Hawaii and the aloha spirit are all about.”

That was nearly three years ago. Today Hayashi and his family live in Logan, Utah, where he is a graduate student. They plan to return to Japan.

Thousands of miles from home and his alma mater, he is strengthened by what he learned at BYU–Hawaii. “I am blessed by having experienced the aloha spirit,” he says.

After the recent earthquake and tsunami in Japan, Rio was reminded of the sandbag morning in Laie. “I received many calls and e-mails from our BYU–Hawaii family, who now live in different countries, asking if our families were safe and if we needed any help.”

Thanks to you, BYU–Hawaii changed Hayashi’s life. “I cherish the friendships I made while I was at BYU–Hawaii,” he says. “Because of the friends I made there, I understand that faith bridges diverse cultures and that together we can build Zion.”

“The institutions of our Church Educational System—including our own beloved BYU–Hawaii—are beacons of light and assurance in this troubled world.... From the watchtower of the Church, we look ahead with optimism for ourselves and for our educational institutions and for all who are touched by the children of God.”

—Elder Dallin H. Oaks
“The Bright Beacon in the World”
April 4, 2011