Princess Salote Pilolevu Tuita

WINTER 1998
Message from Robert Akoi, Jr. - Alumni Association President
The “Lighting the Way” capital campaign for the Laie campus has been endorsed by the Frist Presidency and the Board of Trustees.

Interview with the WEBMASTERS
UNIVERSITY Magazine staff recently met with Kevin Schlag and Gael Weberg, the university’s appointed webmasters.

Excerpts from 1998 Faculty Convocation Addresses
This year’s convocation speakers, professors Chad Compton and David Porter, shared with students and faculty insights and examples related to the theme from their respective fields of study.

HRH Princess Salote Mafile’o Pilolevu Tuitā
HRH Princess Pilolevu of Tonga visits campus to assist in editing important video documentaries.

The Institute for Polynesian Studies
Two new Fellows announced.

New Associate Deans
Two faculty members appointed to leadership roles.

Athletic Excellence
BYUH Teams broaden scope of athletic achievement in new division.

Emmy nominee Sandra Sagisi directs student activities
Popular local newscaster returns to her Alma Mater.
As we approach the 21st Century, BYU-Hawaii is preparing to improve its service to the youth of the Church in the South Pacific and Asia, reaching out to young men and women in those lands as never before. The “Lighting the Way” capital campaign for the Laie campus has been endorsed by the First Presidency and the Board of Trustees. This process requires a financial partnership between BYUH alumni, friends of the university and church-budgeted resources. With the resources accumulated during this comprehensive campaign, BYU-Hawaii students will extend their influence among the nations of the earth. For us who believe in BYU-Hawaii’s purpose and destiny, this is the time to prepare this great university for its future work and expanding global influence. We invite you to look through the newsletter and read more about the “Lighting the Way” capital campaign and accomplishments of your fellow alums. Your contributions to the university go to the program of your choice. None of them are used for salary, administrative, or other costs. By sharing your means with BYU-Hawaii’s educational programs, you are able to help and bless the lives of students and faculty who, in turn, will bless others.

We want you to feel that being part of the Alumni Association means something. Please consider dropping at our Alumni Office when you come to BYU-Hawaii. We are excited about launching the new Alumni ID Card. With an annual fee of $10, the Alumni ID Card gives alumni access to campus physical education facilities, library facilities, bookstore sales, free admission to campus movies, and so forth—many of the same services you enjoyed as a student on campus. We continue to offer alumni access to special merchandise and services in terms of car insurance, license plates and t-shirts.

We are encouraged by the many letters we’ve received in response to what we are doing as an alumni association. We thank you for your input and excitement in creating more chapters in your state. Continue to let us know how we can better communicate with you and how we can best serve you. Help us to help you by writing, calling or sending us email.

Me kealoha pumehana,

Robert Akoi Jr.
President, Alumni Association
UNIVERSITY Magazine staff recently met with Kevin Schlag and Gael Weberg, the university’s appointed webmasters. Commandeering room 165 of the Aloha Center, we shut out the noise of student conversations between classes, and explored the exciting new mode of internet communication.

UNIVERSITY Magazine: What do webmasters master?

Gael: To me a webmaster creates pages but that is only a small part of my job. I am actually the coordinator of academic web services which includes working as a server manager to ensure a stable, reliable server environment including the security of group accounts. I begin by creating a folder, and giving users permission to create materials to be filed in it. The folder becomes the vehicle for the discussions that take place between users of the information it contains. I also teach faculty in the use of available software for creative use of the Web. If a faculty member is posting a course syllabus on line, while that is valuable, he or she is vastly underusing the technology that is available. However, to assist university users in all of their needs is way too much work for one person.

Kevin: That’s true! We’ve divided the labor between us. Gael takes care of academic needs while I work with non-academic information. While there are a number of webmasters on campus, we function as the two main webmasters.
for the general university area. To be a webmaster one must be a project manager, have technical aptitude, know how to run a server, be current with computer information, be able to manage people, and have some design ability.

The Web is constantly changing both in technology and style. For instance, when USA Today first came out its format, use of color, and other aspects of style were revolutionary. It took the New York Times some 15 years to follow its lead and make changes in its own format – but the Wall Street Journal never did. Here on campus, we judiciously use only those design concepts, technology, and philosophy which appropriately represent BYU-Hawaii.

UNIVERSITY Magazine: There is much focus right now on “marketing” the university. How do you define this in terms of the web page? Is the page an advertisement? A missionary tract? A newspaper? What does it have to do, if anything, with marketing?

Gael: Our web page is all of the above. Kevin: The Web is becoming the primary resource for people beginning research. Our web page is introductory. It gives browsers a first impression of the school. Most young people today will use the Web because it’s faster, easier, and more accessible than a library. Its international reach is very helpful. BYU-Hawaii is an international university, and the web page is the best way for someone in Tonga with a computer to reach us.

UNIVERSITY Magazine: How do you know whether the page is accomplishing results? Are there ways you can measure the level of interest in BYU-Hawaii by those accessing the page?

Kevin: Every time a page is accessed the computer logs it by site. We know our top ten sites visited. We get about 500 “hits” a day. I have a “Comments to Webmaster” note on the page and often get requests for more specific information such as something within Hawaiian Studies, which I forward to the appropriate department or individual.
UNIVERSITY Magazine: How easy is it for campus personnel to access information from other libraries?

Gael: For academic research there are proprietary data bases from libraries which are now accessible through the Internet. BYUH negotiates and purchases rights to use such proprietary sites, and our campus users can access university-approved addresses. When it’s three o’clock in the morning, the campus library is closed, but the Web is not tied to a library schedule, so a student working on a paper has everything at his or her fingertips. In addition, most government documents are free on the Internet.

UNIVERSITY Magazine: What do you see in the future?

Kevin: There is a revolution happening in education and we’re going to be forced to respond to the way stu-
dents want to do things. In fact, there are currently BYU-Hawaii students taking a Health class from the Provo campus over the Web. The church is concerned about limited education resources. There are some 40,000 students at BYU, Ricks College, and BYU-Hawaii. In the Church Education System it makes sense to coordinate resources, and Internet use can greatly facilitate this.

UNIVERSITY Magazine: What resources do you lack in your assignment? What would you wish for if campus resources were unlimited?

Gael: To separate the server-manager functions from the Web administrative function. We need a technical person to handle the thorny server issues.

Kevin: The university Web page began as a student project. Since then we’ve duct taped it together over the years. It is now a little more centralized, but eventually we will need a full time university Web master and by then we will need better computers to handle the server needs. Right now we have had to sacrifice image for speed, because the main thing in using the Web is speed.

I am actually the coordinator of academic web services which includes working as a server manager to ensure a stable, reliable server environment including the security of group accounts.
Our web page is introductory. It gives browsers a first impression of the school.

Gael: Yes! If people have to wait longer than 20 seconds to download your information you lose them.

UNIVERSITY Magazine: How did you both become involved in the Internet world?

Kevin: As a student…
Gael: …Five years ago!
Kevin: Yes, in 1994 – aeons ago in Internet time! I was learning about it at school in Provo. The Internet actually began around 1992 and really got going about 1993-4. I put my resume out on the Web looking for a job for after graduation. I found one in Orem working on a newspaper. By 1996 BYU-Hawaii had a Web presence which was student-created. It was in its infancy, and I had some interest in design from my newspaper layout experience, so it was a natural move for me to get involved with our page.

Gael: I was living and teaching in China and had met many artists and made friends there. When I came to BYUH in 1993 the school was already networked and Internet connected. I wanted to create a Web page for my friends’ art works, and I taught myself how to do it by learning from the Internet. In fact, that first page I created still exists. From there I volunteered to create the campus library home page – my great struggle!

UNIVERSITY Magazine: Will the Internet replace books, libraries, and newspapers?

Gael: It could replace things like brochures, admissions forms, registration materials. But it can also reach a lot more people and cost less to do so than mailing out such materials.

Kevin: I would still want to hold a newspaper in my hands and read it. It is a different experience reading a screen to physically handling a book or newspaper. We average about 500 visits a day, and about 75 percent of those visits are from off campus.

Top Ten areas on the BYUH website:
1. The homepage (the first page you see)
2. The student and faculty/staff directory
3. Admissions
4. Ke Alaka’i
5. Alumni
6. Academics
7. About BYU-Hawaii
8. Student Life
9. Campus Services
10. Continuing Education

Photos by Lester Muranaka
Excerpts from 1998 Faculty Convocation Address
CARPE DIEM! --the Latin charge to "seize the day!"--was selected as theme for the 1998 University Convocation held September 3 in the Cannon Activities Center. This year's convocation speakers, professors Chad Compton and David Porter, shared with students and faculty insights and examples related to the theme from their respective fields of study.

Dr. David Porter, associate professor of Physical Education and the men's and women's tennis coach at BYUH, outlined his formula for seizing the educational day in his address at the University Convocation. He initiated his remarks by giving responses he had received in conducting an informal survey to several students about what they came to BYUH to do. Many of the answers had to do with career goals such as getting a high-paying job or going to graduate school. Dr. Porter then dispelled the illusion that getting good grades meant someone would get a high-paying job after college or would be accepted to the graduate school of their choice. He explained that having good grades doesn't get one into graduate school. Instead, a former BYUH valedictorian told him that at Harvard, a highly respected professor maintained that: "...grades and test scores will not get you into graduate school, they will only keep you out." The complete package of the applicant is examined – interviews, letters of recommendation, extracurricular activities, and service. "What gets you into a good graduate school is what you have 'become.'"

Dr. Porter then compared this to the gospel. "Becoming like the Savior is important, not memorizing facts about His life." "Becoming" is difficult both in education and in the gospel because there are no shortcuts. Unconditional commitment and effort are required. True education comes through us actively participating in the learning process, developing the ability to think and defend our thoughts, to challenge and be challenged.

Dr. Porter then showed a film clip from "The Paper Chase" which illustrated how answering questions and asking other questions develops the mind's ability to think and process information.

Dr. Porter urged faculty not to reward passive learning. "Rather we must engage, challenge and stimulate students to think and to do." Using a tennis class as an example, Dr. Porter contrasted the approaches taken by two students, one who wants a high grade and one who wants to improve his game. "Which one promises the greatest long-term benefits – concentrating on grades or concentrating on learning a skill?" he asked and counseled that if one can "...forget about the grade and focus on the skill or knowledge to be learned, you may come out ahead in both areas."

Relating the gospel to seeking knowledge, Dr. Porter used the Savior's admonition to "...hunger and thirst after righteousness" (Matt. 5:6 and 3 Ne 12:6). In the Book of Mormon the educational process is outlined in Moroni 10:4. "Right between 'with a sincere heart' and 'having faith in Christ' Moroni counseled us to pray 'with real intent.' "Enos and Captain Moroni were others from the Book of Mormon who demonstrated "real intent." "They were committed to their course of action. They all had real intent. They all achieved uncommon results."

Porter called for students to help the faculty see more student commitment to learning and to "becoming." Dr. Porter then suggested a tool from the study of physical education–performance versus results goals–which would help to make a transition from passive to more active learning. "You will not learn how to play tennis or master classroom material if you only focus on result goals. You must focus on your performance, the understanding of the material, not its memorization."

In concluding his remarks, Dr. Porter restated that learning requires asking questions, focusing on performance and not results, and may involve working at it under difficult conditions, with real intent. "This is the moment in your life to seize your educational day. It will not get easier. This special opportunity may not come again. Your success rests in your own hands."

Excerpted by Dianna Neal
Dr. Chad Compton

Dr. Chad Compton, associate professor of Communication Studies at BYUH, first defined "convocation" for those in attendance. He began, "Convocation is a time for us to reflect on and celebrate our academic values and aspirations." He then emphasized that faith and spiritually-acquired knowledge, among our highest values, create a guiding framework for each to chart an academic course.

First on the academic course is to become active and not passive. Compton gave the example of his former student who sought favorite reading lists from several professors then read these books in his spare time. This choice brought amazing results. "It was clear the extracurricular reading and thinking were paying off in his ability to creatively integrate and critically analyze and forcefully represent his thoughts in the written and spoken word."

Seeing the interrelationships between academic disciplines was another benefit to being an active learner.

He cited the biography of President Gordon B. Hinckley, Go Forward with Faith, which presents many examples of our prophet becoming an active learner or "integrated intellect", as Elder Neal A. Maxwell describes him. Asking the right questions like President Hinckley leads one to become an active learner who can make connections.

Before presenting his second point, Dr. Compton commented on the relationship between grades and learning. He stated these are two different enterprises, that it is possible to maintain a high GPA and yet have a weak learning experience. He cautioned the audience not to allow grades and testing to cloud the vision of a rich and fulfilling university life.

The balance of Compton’s remarks centered around the spirit and philosophy of a liberal arts education. The spirit of this learning is to gain an integrated intellect. The trend to specialize and place an overemphasis on careerism has penetrated society and universities. He quoted general systems theorist Kenneth Boulding "...The spread of specialized deafness means that someone who ought to know something that someone else knows isn't able to find out for lack of generalized ears."

Compton challenged that "to see beyond our own more narrowly defined disciplines, to see relationships among and between disciplines, to gain a great and broad appreciation of the arts and sciences and understand how they come to bear on our particular area of in-depth study..." is the liberal arts education philosophy. The core of general education classes on campus can be relevant to students when they begin to construct these relationships with their majors or selected careers. He added, "These courses have a great deal to do with our ability to live a thoughtful life and to sustain a civil society – something we seem to increasingly be failing at on both counts."

He gave the example of a non-history major taking a history class. "History has a great deal to do with accounting, engineering, English literature, theater, information systems, communication studies, and biology." The course gains value for students who discover they can connect the disciplines.

Education by conversation was the third point discussed by Dr. Compton. In this process, ideas or issues are born, shared, and take on life. Faculty members, primary models of this process, teach students as they "...think through a complex intellectual idea, articulate it well through the written or spoken word, and sustain one's views." Communication skills are vital in this style of learning by allowing one to think creatively, integratively, and critically, in applying reading, writing, speaking, and listening to both learning and conversation. Expecting to enter the conversation in class and preparing for it result in better learning.

Compton summarized his three points of becoming an active learner, gaining a liberal arts education, and joining the conversation of learning at BYUH. He then concluded with this charge: "This is the life of the student in and out of the university. It is a big enough project that like President Hinckley each of us may make it one of our life's work."
Excerpts from 1998 Faculty Convocation Address
For many people around the world, an enduring image from the celebrations surrounding the 1953 coronation procession of Great Britain’s Queen Elizabeth II, is that of Her Majesty Queen Salote Pilolevu Mafile’o Tupou IV, of the Kingdom of Tonga, riding through London in an open carriage in the rain. She had declined to have the carriage closed, the queen later explained, because if the people could get wet to honor the Queen of England, so could she – for in the Tongan custom, no one would seek his own comfort in the presence of majesty.

Queen Salote’s granddaughter, HRH Princess Pilolevu, not only bears her grandmother’s name, but is also a popular Pacific royal who carries on her grandmother’s interest in and support of traditional Tongan arts and culture. The only daughter of His Majesty Taufa’ahau Tupou IV, the King of Tonga, Her Highness took the lead in organizing many of the activities celebrating the king’s recent 80th birthday on July 4, 1998. An important aspect of the celebration was an official request for BYU Hawaii, the Polynesian Cultural Center, and the Smithsonian Institution to assist the government of Tonga in developing three full-length video documentaries. These will focus on (1) the historic celebrations surrounding the king’s birthday; (2) the tradition and authenticity of the royal kava ceremony to Tongan culture; and (3) the traditional performances of the Lakalaka, a dance form which is the singular significant symbol of the perpetuation of Tongan life, culture, and the kingdom.

Accordingly, a team led by BYU-Hawaii President, Eric Shumway, and comprised of Pacific studies personnel from BYUH, film and sound experts from BYU in Provo, and Smithsonian curator and Tongan dance expert, Adrienne Kaeppler, embarked on a three-week, round-the-clock schedule filming celebration preparations and activities on the island of Tongatapu, Tonga. Accomplishing an ambitious program of interviews with government, church, and cultural leaders, including one with His Majesty the King, the team taped hours of rehearsals, food and costume preparation, kava ceremonies, military ceremonies and parades, massed school programs, and other special events.

One event of particular interest to Princess Pilolevu was the formal opening of a Tongan National Museum exhibition, “From the Stone Age to the Space Age in 200 Years”, attended by the king and foreign dignitaries. In her official address the princess noted, “Valuable data has been collected which locates Tongan artefacts all over the world, primarily in Europe and the United States, both in museums and belonging to private collections. Some of our arts and crafts have become extinct and are no longer being produced.” She is convinced, she added, that it is by such exhibits and the current video project documenting traditional dance forms, poetry, oratory, and choreography, that Tongans will enjoy a revival of art forms in danger of being subsumed by modern culture.

Accordingly, in September, HRH Princess Pilolevu visited BYU-Hawaii to assist in editing the celebration tapes which will produce these documentaries. She met with the project team helping refine cultural information in the campus TV studio, and
worked a full morning in front of the camera narrating introductions for the videos on the grounds of the Tongan Village in the Polynesian Cultural Center. The three-day work schedule was arduous and took her from many royal duties including management of her company, Tongasat, the exclusive agent of the Tongan government for the marketing of the country’s nine orbital slots which span the globe providing satellite communications world-wide.

Reviewing the lakalaka tapes, the princess, an accomplished dancer herself, commented on her own participation particularly in the Vava’u performance. “I took it upon myself to enjoy myself,” she recalls with a laugh, “I have been dancing since I was a child and used to dance in the vahenga position but now, being fakapotu is much more enjoyable to me than vahenga.” The vahenga position in the center of the lakalaka line, she explains requires perfection of movement, while the fakapotu position at the end of the line of dancers, allows for spontaneity in the movements. She is especially pleased with the success of a new punake she had encouraged whose poetry and choreography captured everyone’s attention at the celebrations.

“Mele Suipi Latū,” she explains, “is a young, relatively unknown composer. She has an M.A. in English, is a born-again Christian in her early 40s, and is a very modern thinker.” When the princess challenged Mele to create an original lakalaka to honor the king on his birthday, Mele responded with a tour de force composition which relates the king’s history from before his birth to the present day. “She composed the entire lakalaka in two weeks,” Her Highness relates, “and the dancers and chorus rehearsed it in three weeks. It was a tremendous undertaking. The poem has 13 verses and was performed by more than 600 dancers with just as many singers in support. Every village on the island of Vava’u had representation in the performance, and more than 1,300 people made the journey to Tongatapu for the event. The most exciting aspect of the event was the sense of community the villages had,” she relates. “People came together with a national feeling and grew to know and love each other. Every Vava’u church leader supported the event and sent representation along with the performers.”

The dance itself was notable for its break from certain traditions to blend ancient and modern elements in a stunning performance. “It was a joy for me when Mele interpreted my father’s academic degrees into Tongan dance movements,” Her Highness recalled, “that is something new in lakalaka, yet as part of the king’s history, his accomplishments should be told in the traditional way.”

For Princess Pilolevu, another pleasing element of the celebrations was the generational participation in all events. “In the Vava’u performance grandmothers, mothers, grandsons, and great grandsons all danced
together in a wonderful sense of belonging and patriotism. People danced their love of each other, of the king, and of Tonga, their home and nation.”

The *lakalaka* is deeply symbolic of Tongan culture, she explains, “Its major themes are that it is essential for all Tongans to remember the historical event of 1875 when George Tupou I performed a ceremony giving Tonga to God. Tonga’s well being, its people, plants, animals, sea, everything, comes from God. We feel safe as a people because of what Tupou I did, and we feel safe that this has been done again by Tupou IV. Thus, we feel that God will look after us.”

During the king’s birthday celebrations, the Vava’u group danced their stunning *lakalaka* on the final day of performances. It was very late in the day, and as the light began to fade it started to rain. Soon the rain became heavy and onlookers scattered to shelter under trees and festival marquees. The dancers, however, abandoned themselves to the power and energy of the composition. Princess Pilolevu, rain drenched but smiling broadly, stepped forward out of the line of performers and drew loud applause as she danced.

“I was told to come out,” she laughingly recalls. “An older woman called to me to step in front of the group ‘like a beauty spot on a face’ – and my enjoyment actually increased with the rain. I wanted to keep the togetherness of Vava’u.”

That night the public performance in a rainstorm was a moment resonant with history. Like her grandmother before her, Salote Pilolevu performed her royal duty with natural graciousness, contagious goodwill, and deep personal love and respect for Tonga, its kingdom, and its people. While at BYU-Hawaii she attended official functions at both the Polynesian Cultural Center and on campus, generously meeting with faculty, staff, and students. When it was time to leave, Her Highness expressed gratitude for the work and offered her continuing assistance. “I have thoroughly enjoyed myself,” she said, “and I am very excited about these documentaries. They are going to be a valuable resource in the perpetuation of our culture through our dance forms, our poetry, and our history. I want to thank BYU-Hawaii and the Polynesian Cultural Center and all involved in the work. Thank you so very much for having me and for inviting me to participate in the project. *Malo aupito!*”

By Vernice Wineera

**Notes:**
- Tonga is 150 islands stretching over 700 miles of ocean.
- It is known as the only Polynesian kingdom that remained intact from its early days, never colonized, never occupied by any foreign power.
- It is a Christian nation that respects the Sabbath. Nearly the entire population attends church in the many Christian denominations throughout Tonga. Thus, despite the country’s challenges over the years, Tonga has not only retained its independence, it has also remained peaceful and stable.
- Tonga’s national motto is: “Koe ‘Otua mo Tonga Ko Hoku Tofa” – “God and Tonga are my inheritance.”
- Princess Pilolevu is married to The Honorable Ma’ulupekotofa Tuita, Governor of Vava’u. They are the parents of four daughters.

*By Vernice Wineera*

*Photos by Lester Muranaka*
Women bear gifts of hand made tapa cloths. Bearers carry live pigs in wooden cages to present to the king as part of the royal kava ceremonies.

Chief Faivaola, (BYUH President Eric Shumway), fifth from right, joins with other chiefs following one of several royal kava ceremonies attended by the king.

Bearers carry live pigs in wooden cages to present to the king as part of the royal kava ceremonies. Women bear gifts of hand made tapa cloths.
The week-long traditional cultural activities celebrating His Majesty’s 80th birthday were documented at the request of the Tongan government.

His Majesty
King Taufaʻahau Tupou IV

Dress rehearsals over many days and nights ensured impressive results in the performances.

Village performers watch intently as another village participates early one morning.
The Institute for Polynesian Studies recently invited two BYU-Hawaii professors to serve on its Board of Fellows. This board is a gathering of BYU-H faculty and cultural specialists from the Polynesian Cultural Center who share scholarly interest in the Pacific. The advisory role of the board includes being a bridge to the PCC by keeping abreast of research in the Pacific and providing support for research in the arts and sciences.

**Phillip Bruner**

Phil Bruner’s first contact with the Pacific was as a missionary in New Zealand where, along with the people, he met the *kiwi*, *tui*, and other native birds. He has spent the last 24 years working with birds of the Pacific and is the author of numerous papers on the subject. He finds the islands a rich source for biological research. “From a natural history point of view,” he says, “the Pacific Islands are miniature worlds. You can look at them and see the changes wrought by man. Some outliers are still pristine and relatively unchanged. They provide us a little window into the past.”

Bruner recently travelled to 34 Eastern Polynesia islands. The trip confirmed his desire to build appreciation in his Pacific students for the biological perspective of their homelands. There is, he says, a continuing burgeoning of human population on the fragile ecosystems of the islands with some showing signs of long-term human degradation. The process, begun with the first human contact, is exacerbated by cutting and burning. “Tropical islands are very poor in nutrients,” he says, “once the forest is burned it takes a very long time for the biological system to replace itself.”

He takes his students on exploratory trips into the valleys of Hawaii’s volcano region, where they experience for themselves some of the awe and respect he has for the beauty, fragility, and value of the native plant life of the islands. He hopes to instill in them an appreciation not just of their cultural past but of the biological past of their island world. “In the next century,” he says, “I’d like to see a future of people being more responsive to the past in order to be more in touch with the how a world – its plants, animals, and people, sustains itself.”

As a Fellow of the Institute for Polynesian Studies, he expresses enthusiasm and interest in learning about the work of other Fellows. “I’m a ‘wanna-be’ anthropologist, a ‘wanna-be’ geologist,” he laughs. He looks forward to the exchange of scholarship his appoint-
ment affords. “I’d love to hear a presentation from every one of the Fellows on their fields of study and their current work.”

Phillip McArthur

Dr. Phillip McArthur, assistant professor of humanities at BYU-Hawaii, is named as a Fellow of the Institute for Polynesian Studies.

Dr. McArthur’s background and interest in the Pacific have been ongoing since he served his LDS mission in the Marshall Islands. Later, while living there with his young family, he conducted award-winning research for his doctoral dissertation, “The Social Life of Narrative: Marshall Islands.” Currently, Dr McArthur chairs the new International Cultural Studies major on the campus. He describes this interdisciplinary major as allowing students to:

“...celebrate and appreciate cultural differences while learning to transcend these differences by applying brotherly love and kindness and principles of the gospel. Students will be provided with a tool kit that allows them to function with cultural sensitivity in church settings, in government, in the private sector, and also in academics.”

McArthur points out that this is particularly important as the church expands, becomes internationalized, and moves into the twenty-first century. The major is closely related to the BYU-H mission statement. He wants to “…create courses that will engage students in thinking about cultural issues, in critical, thorough, and thought provoking ways that will continue to generate appreciation for cultural sensitivity.” He also looks forward to a positive collegial exchange between faculty and students as well as among faculty.

In addition, he notes that “since culture is purposefully targeted as the object of interest, the two majors of International Cultural Studies and Pacific Studies are nicely connected to each other, and they are complimentary rather than competitive.”

McArthur applauds the efforts and successes that have already been established by the IPS and the Pacific Studies major on campus. He feels distinctly priviled to be a Fellow and looks forward to the interchange the honor affords with others – learning their ideas and gaining from their experiences. He also hopes to facilitate research and to encourage student involvement in these Pacific-related concerns.

By Dianna Neal
New Associate

Jeffrey Belnap
Associate Dean of the Fine Arts Division

In addition to supporting and complementing the programs of the university, the goals of the BYU-Hawaii Fine Arts program include “giving meaning to life in intellectual, emotional, creative and academic ways; developing problem-solving, decision-making, and communication skills that will be useful within the contemporary global environment; and affirming human dignity and spiritual values” in its curriculum.

As the new associate dean of the department, Dr. Jeffrey Belnap epitomizes these goals both personally and professionally. His own academic career has led him into research in literary and visual cultures of the Spanish Pacific in both the East and West Indies, and the Pacific Island cultures of the Marshall Islands, Tonga, and others.

In his new campus role, he sees the division faculty as the strength of the university’s arts program. All members of the fine arts faculty are involved in creative endeavors in their various fields as well as in their teaching assignments, and he is particularly impressed with the level of accomplishment these dedicated individuals achieve in their work. Their talents and professionalism as artists and musicians in their own right as well as their skills as teachers are readily apparent in the excellent work being achieved by graduates of the BYUH fine arts program.

One of Dr. Belnap’s challenges lies in streamlining the division programs to facilitate both student graduation and faculty professional development. Another is a crucial need for physical facilities to ensure a quality teaching and learning environment. The division has always striven for excellence in its performing arts, and he notes that he has inherited strong programs in Symphonic Band, Chamber Orchestra, Concert Choir, University Chorale, Showcase Hawaii, and both the Drama and Musical Theater programs.

In the Humanities area the division recently received approval for an exciting new major in International Cultural Studies, an interdisciplinary program with three emphases: Humanities, Communications, and Anthropology. The new dean sees this program offering students a way of dealing with the next century’s challenges of globalization and cross-cultural encounters, and he is both humble and excited to enter the era with them.
Gary Frederick,
Associate Dean of the Math and Sciences Division

“Building a tradition of understanding and excellence that students can feel and will hopefully emulate…” is the guiding theme of the Math and Sciences Division, according to Dr. Gary Frederick, associate professor of chemistry, now serving as the associate dean of the division. He administers 16 full-time faculty members and several staff members in the computer science, biology, chemistry, and mathematics departments. He loves teaching and says that administration differs from teaching only on the surface – he tries to guide people and lead them in his new role much like he tries to do in the classroom.

He feels that the environment here at BYU-Hawaii opens up the world to students and makes it seem smaller and much closer which allows them to go anywhere and be confident and successful in their careers or in graduate studies. The gospel setting in a multicultural environment, academic classes, and a research requirement in the science majors all contribute to this outcome.

Looking ahead, he sees both opportunities and challenges in the twenty-first century. “It means being able to foresee things we don’t yet envision,” he states. “It will be necessary to think nontraditionally.” He feels this approach can also be applied to meeting current challenges such as accelerating students through their programs and being able to serve a larger number of students on campus.

His personal vision underscores setting priorities and balancing life, and he emphasizes that life is meant to be enjoyed. Being positive, choosing what is right, and working toward worthy goals are among other guiding principles he elects to live by both personally and professionally.

Dr. Frederick feels strongly that the greatest strength of his division is the people in it. He describes his colleagues as people with personal integrity who respect each other and get along well, and believes that the time he invests in understanding those he is leading will be worth the effort in progressing toward the level of excellence the Math and Sciences Division seeks.
The Seasiders have moved uptown. That’s right, Brigham Young University Hawaii has left the cozy confines of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) in favor of the more spacious quarters of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II.

Seasider Athletic Director Ken Wagner indicates that scheduling and money were two big factors leading to the move. He says, “I think the number one reason was scheduling. It allows us to schedule a lot more easily. All of the teams around us are Division II, as are most of the teams in the Western United States, so for scheduling purposes, which ultimately affects financial results, it was crucial that we switch. For whatever reason, the two sports we’ve always put more emphasis on here have been men’s basketball and women’s volleyball, and they only had six home matches last year in volleyball simply because teams didn’t want to pay to get to Hawaii and we can’t afford to give them huge guarantees. Scheduling was getting worse and worse. In basketball we were having to give huge guarantees to get anyone here in

Athletic Excellence

Part 1

Athletics (NAIA) in favor of the more spacious quarters of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II.
January and February. If we wanted to have a successful athletic program for a good price we actually could add the new sports and do it for the same price it would have cost in the NAIA with the scheduling that we would have had to do.”

Women’s volleyball head coach Wilfred Navalta sees another good reason for the move. “I think it’s a great step up for us as far as our competition, because it helps us to look for better competition, for better players, and being affiliated with the NCAA will definitely bring more positive publicity to our program.”

Norman Kaluhiokalani (Coach K.) coaches the women’s cross country team, a sport added in order to meet the Division II minimum number of varsity sports. He says, “It’s like climbing a ladder, where you’re down at one level, where we’ve been since 1969, and now we’re climbing up another step into the NCAA Division II, which is where we should be.”

For BYU-Hawaii to qualify for NCAA Division II status, there were new rules to comply with, and four sports had to be added to the program. The NCAA minimum for Division II is eight varsity sports and BYUH had men’s basketball, women’s volleyball, and men’s and women’s tennis. In the Fall of 1996 women’s softball, men’s soccer, and men’s and women’s cross country were added.

At the same time the Seasiders enter a new division of competition they enter a new conference. This Fall BYU-Hawaii joined the
Pacific West (PacWest) Conference. The PacWest is a 16 team conference sprawling over eight states, a Canadian province, and the Pacific Ocean. It is divided into two divisions, the Pacific and the West. BYUH is in the Pacific Division along with Hawaii Pacific, Chaminade, Hawaii Hilo, Alaska-Anchorage, Alaska-Fairbanks, Western New Mexico, and Montana State Billings. The West Division is comprised of St. Martin's, Lewis-Clark State, Western Washington, Seattle Pacific, Western Oregon, Central Washington, Simon Fraser, and Humboldt State.

Wagner, who also coaches the men's basketball team, likes the new conference. “I think it’s a great conference. There’s a lot of tradition there. They have had some really strong teams in the league, especially basketball. Division II is a lot the same way as the NAIA, it started with a big basketball tournament and the other sports came on. The PacWest was formed mostly to provide better basketball schedules.”

Coach Navalta sees both good and bad in the conference. “Right now, with 16 teams, there are some really good teams but some teams are quite far for us to travel to, like Montana, Alaska, and New Mexico. The first impression I have of that experience is good, but I think in the long run we have to take a look at consolidating the teams geographically. I think we should be a little bit closer because it’s going to cost quite a bit and the expense is going to increase if we stay as a conference spread throughout the Western United States.”

An exciting aspect of the new conference alignment is the renewal and intensifying of some old island rivalries with Hawaii-Hilo, Chaminade, and Hawaii Pacific. Wagner sees added fan interest as a result. “We had such great rivalries before when we were in the same league and we lost that over the last few years. We had a big rivalry with HPU but with the others it really didn’t mean that much. Now, being in the same conference, it will add a lot of interest for the people here in Hawaii and you’ll see those rivalries go back to being what they used to be in a lot of ways.”

Navalta agrees. “There’s no question about it now, the rivalries between BYUH, Chaminade, HPU, and Hilo are being intensified. Now we’re playing for something. It’s not just a matter of playing matches, we’re playing for seeds and for conference championships so the rivalry is definitely more intense, more exciting, for us and for the fans, too.”

An additional boost for Seasider fans from the move is the opportunity to see more NCAA Division I teams come to Laie. As a Division II school, BYUH can now host tournaments for Division I teams and schedule tougher competition. The first product of this new opportunity is The Pearl Harbor Classic Basketball Tournament to be held December 21-23. This first annual tournament will bring Alabama, Oregon State, Pepperdine, Weber State, Texas Tech, Tulsa, and preseason #5 Michigan State to the Cannon Center to join the Seasiders. Wagner sees great benefits for BYUH from the tournament. “It’s really exciting. I think the school gets more publicity
from that than they do any of our games or national championships because Division II is not as visible as Division I, so it adds great visibility for the school. For our basketball program it’s a great opportunity for our young men to participate against the top competition in the country and by upgrading our schedule, it helps our recruiting. So there will be some real positive benefits from not only having the men’s basketball tournament but later on adding tournaments in all our sports.”

Plans for volleyball tournaments are already under way according to Navalta. “Right now we are looking at establishing a Division I tournament by bringing in three teams in the near future, hopefully next year. We are also looking at establishing an international tournament where we host the champion from a foreign country like Australia, Japan, or China in a tournament.”

Coach Porter has already scheduled a tennis tournament for Division I schools. “We’re bringing in BYU-Provo, Fresno State, and Michigan, three very high quality women’s teams, in January, and we’ll be playing them on the 14th-16th and hosting them at the Polynesian Cultural Center as well. It should be a lot of fun.”

Probably the biggest question to be answered as BYUH moves to Division II and begins hosting Division I teams is how competitive the Seasiders will be. A partial answer to that question has been given by the volleyball team, which has been ranked number one in the division all season. But what about the other sports? Wagner thinks funding will help. “I think we started with the plan to add the new sports and then build them up as we can. Hopefully we can get to where all of them are funded to the point where they have a chance to be competitive, because when you look at the results it all depends on how much you spend. If you spend some money and back the program you’re usually pretty successful, and historically that’s true in any sport and any school.”

Coach K. feels that alumni and fans can help. “With our program and our alumni all over the world, if someone can see talent out there, they need to let us know. They need to tell us if they see a good runner or a good softball player. We’d like to bring in good kids from all over the world, so if they’re aware of any they need to contact us so we can build our programs.” He says it won’t take long to build a good program if he can get the right people. “In cross country, it’s talent. If we recruit the right talent we could be in it next year. If I get five good runners that can run within 19 or 18 it wouldn’t take me long to develop a competitive team.”

A new division, a new conference, new sports, new tournaments, and new opportunities. It all adds up to an exciting future for BYU-Hawaii athletics. With great facilities, a great location, and support from a worldwide network of alumni, friends, and fans, it should also be a very excellent future.

By Scott Lowe
Brigham Young University Hawaii Campus announces

Education for Daily Living Conference
formerly known as Education Week
August 5 - 7, 1999

BYU-Hawaii is pleased to combine the best of Education Week with a new and exciting program called "Education for Daily Living" Conference. Still three full days packed with inspiring, instructive and entertaining teachers who are among the best in the church, this conference is designed to meet the everyday opportunities and challenges all LDS adults and youth face in an ever changing world of choices. The conference will focus on five areas of interest:

The Best of Education Week
Strengthening the Family
Working Towards Self-Reliance
Understanding the Richness of the Pacific
The Best of Especially for Youth

Program features:

Why You Should Attend
• You will experience the unique spirit of Hawaii in a multi-cultural setting that only BYU-Hawaii and its sister institution, the Polynesian Cultural Center can offer.
• In that setting you will come to understand the international role of BYU-Hawaii through its excellent faculty and programs showcased during the conference.
• You will enjoy the best faculty from Provo's Education Week without the wait of long lines and overflowing crowds and classes.
• You will choose from more than 200 classes designed to meet today's needs, opportunities and challenges-truly a program for daily living.
• You can take advantage of incredibly low tuition fees. All you have to do is register as 8 adults or 8 youth together. So register as a family, a ward, as YW or YM, a single or young adult group, or any 8 people who just want to be together as "ohana", a popular Hawaiian word for family, and receive a discount all can afford.

Join our BYU-Hawaii Ohana in August by Registering Now!

Call BYU-Hawaii at (808) 293-3788 and register today! Register by website at http://www.byuh.edu/coned. Have your credit card information ready for a smooth registration. After December inquire about our discount airfare rates from the mainland through BYU-Hawaii's Travel Office.

Testimonies from Past Participants
"I attended all the [classes] with the youth from our ward... I know for a fact that lives were changed..."
Bishop Ross Moody, Waialua Ward

"Our summer activities will now be planned around the dates for Education Week. Thanks for the wonderful, spiritual, educational, and inspirational experiences our family had!"
Roy Winstead, Dean, BYU-Hawaii School of Education

"Education Week is like a vacation where you come home rested, enlightened and filled with spiritual treasures. The experience bears repeating each year."
Shauna Ana' Thee, Laie

For further information, contact the Division of Continuing Education, BYU-Hawaii
Mail: BYU-Hawaii Box 1963, Laie, HI 96762 E-mail: conedrep@byuh.edu
Phone: (808) 293-3788 Fax: (808) 293-3789 Website: http://www.byuh.edu/coned/
When she was six years old, Sandra came to Hawaii from her birthplace, Laoag City, Ilocos Norte, in the Northern Philippines, to settle in the Hana Ma'ulu Sugar Plantation Camp on the island of Kauai. Both sets of Sandra’s grandparents were sugar plantation pioneers in Hawaii who came to the islands at the turn of the last century. Fittingly, as the present century turns, their granddaughter Sandra Sagisi is a noted Hawaii pioneer in her own right.

From the beginning as a student at BYU-Hawaii, she took center stage, hosting the campus television show featuring ASBYUH activities. She was a member of Showcase Hawaii 1980-81 and worked as assistant student coordinator in the campus Public Relations department in 1982. That year she was also employed as narrator for the canoe pageant at the Polynesian Cultural Center, earned her A.A. Degree in Fine Arts, and transferred to BYU in Provo to complete her studies.

The biggest change in her life came while she was still a student of BYU-Hawaii when she converted to the church and was baptized on her birthday at Hukilau Beach. “My conversion started with the visiting teachers,” she recalls, “but because I was a born-again Christian, I told them not to come and visit me again.” She laughs at the memory, “Of course they came again, and this time I told them that I wouldn’t join the church until the moon turns green!” She pauses a moment quietly contemplating, “The spirit converted me,” she says simply, “it was the spirit.”

She interrupted her studies at BYU to serve in the England Bristol Mission. She remembers the exact words of the blessing she was given as she was set apart for the work. “This is not a coincidence that you are here at this time of your life,” she was told, “you promised your Heavenly Father that you would serve this mission, and this will be the first of many missions that you and your husband will serve.” On her mission, she recalls, “We stood on soap boxes, set up big boards on the streets of England, and I taught hula and taught dozens of people that way. We worked hard, obeyed mission rules and came up with creative ideas to find people.” That creativity led her mission president to later recommend her to teach English-speaking missionaries in the Provo Missionary Training Center, an assignment she still considers an honor.

Sandra graduated from BYU with a B.A. in Communications with emphases in broadcasting, print, journalism, and public relations. At the same time she was already working in the field anchoring for Utah News Tonight, a prestigious appointment for a young professional. She served a summer internship with ABC KTVX NEWS in Salt Lake City, Utah, where she wrote news copy for the channel’s prominent news anchors, Dick Norse and Karen Karns. In 1987-89, she herself was Weekend Anchor/Producer for ABC’s WMBB TV in Panama City, Florida before returning to Hawaii.

Typically, this move was prompted by prayer. Sandra had married her husband, Kendall, and he had returned to school for his law degree. “I was praying one morning,” she says, “when I experienced the strongest impression: ’You need to go back home.’” The couple decided to act on it. On the plane to Hawaii she met Elder Dallin Oaks, and after a brief greeting and his inquiry as to their trip, he told her, “There’s going to be a job waiting for you. Things will work out.”

“We had no job interviews set up,” she recalls, so she went to the local KGMB TV station as a walk-in and met the news director who, she discovered, had worked for the same company she had in Florida. He told her they had nothing at the moment. The very next day, however, he called her with the news that
the station had created a position for her. “It’s not exactly what you want,” he said, “it’s two days reporting and three days as associate producer!” All she could think, she remembers, was “You’re home!” She anchored for local newscaster, Tim Tindall, and loved every minute of it. The job allowed her both to build her dream home and to meet and interview many powerful heads of state and other prominent people and although she was averaging only four hours sleep at night and the demands were constant, she says, “I was on cloud nine for eight years.”

From the time she was a child, Sandra has dealt with challenges other people do not normally experience. She was just two years old when her father, the mayor of Bacarra City, caught in the highly volatile politics of the Philippines, was assassinated. “He was gunned down at high noon in broad daylight at the peak of a violent election,” she says. Years later, as the lone U.S. journalist travelling with Imelda Marcos returning the body of her husband, former president, Ferdinand Marcos, back to the Philippines, Sandra extended her research into her father’s story. “I traced my father’s steps,” she says, “it was a spiritual experience for me.” What emerged was a powerful documentary of the times. In 1993 it won her a National Academy of Arts and Sciences Emmy nomination for News Writing – Reporter/Producer.

That same year Sandra was awarded a second Emmy nomination in Talent – Reporter/Producer, for her deeply moving self-study of her progressive battle with breast cancer which resulted in her undergoing a mastectomy. The good news is that she eventually received a clean bill of health. The best news is that Sandra Sagisi remains unbowed by the experience.

Her innate good cheer, intelligence, and deep spiritual outlook on life give hope and encouragement to many women in Hawaii as well as nationally as they are heartened by her struggle with the disease. As her little family grew – she and Kendall are the parents of a seven-year-old daughter, Ashley – Sandra desired to spend more time with her family. In addition, the stressful conditions of daily news reporting began to wear on her spirit and she wanted to look for work in a place closer to a church environment.

The transition from newscasting to campus life has not been without its challenges. “I have to learn to relax,” she says. “In my old job I would have to be at the studio in the wee hours of the morning to plan the day’s news.” In the news business, she observes, you must get the story, the photos, the personal quotes. Here at BYU-Hawaii, she observes, “The students are looking forward to entering the world, but I’ve just come from it, and I know what it demands of employees. I feel that I can help the students by teaching them what will be required of them after graduation.”

Sandra Sagisi is an accomplished, articulate individual who already brings tremendous presence and experience to the university. Her bright spirit, intelligence, and powerful faith are matched by her love of people, boundless energy, and quick sense of humor. Reviewing her brave, experience-filled journey from Hawaii out into the world and back to the islands again, she responds with a warm, self-deprecating laugh: “Back here among the students of BYU-Hawaii I get to be young again!”

By Vernice Wineera
May the Lord’s Peace and Love attend this Holiday Season and Abide with each of us in the coming New Year.

UNIVERSITY Magazine

Photo by Lester Muraoka
“I am very excited about these documentaries. They are going to be a valuable resource in the perpetuation of our culture through our dance forms, our poetry, and our history.”