

A Newsletter  
for  
Alumni and Friends

March 2003

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The QUADRANGLE is published three times per year by the College of Engineering. It is named after the College's first four one-story concrete structures built in 1928.

#### Dean

Wai-Fah Chen

#### Associate Dean

Vassilis Syrmos

#### Assistant Dean

Tep Dobry

#### Department Chairs

Edmond Cheng (CEE)

Todd Reed (EE)

Bruce Liebert (ME)

#### Editorial Advisor

Carrie Matsuzaki

## Message from the Dean

I WOULD LIKE TO use this report to discuss not only where we have been, but also where we are going. First, some background:

My vision as outlined in my 1999 white paper was simple and clear: our goal is to elevate the College to the level of the nation's top-tier engineering schools by building academic excellence. To this end, we developed a strategic plan that has been implemented over the past three years. Our strategic plan has three major goals:

1. Strengthen our faculty;
2. Increase our enrollment; and
3. Develop our research centers of excellence.

During the last two years, we have added to our ranks 13 new faculty members—seven in Electrical Engineering, four in Civil and Environmental Engineering, and two in Mechanical Engineering. Our dynamic and diverse faculty body has continued to excel in cutting-edge research, and in curriculum innovation and reform.

We are launching two new major initiatives in the rapidly emerging areas of engineering. Hawai'i is the ideal location for the establishment of a world-class corrosion center. Led



by **Lloyd Hihara**, the well-funded *Hawaii Corrosion Laboratory* is already in the process of building a network of partnerships with local and national industries and the Department of Defense.

Another exciting interdisciplinary strategic research initiative is in the development of a *Biomedical Engineering Program*. Coordinated by **Yuling Yan**, the program will first exploit our existing strengths in engineering, computational science, biomedical imaging and biotechnology. We will then build new strengths and expertise in emerging, interfacial research disciplines at the border of engineering and medicine in partnership with the school of medicine.

In April 2002, our College received a donation of a 240-processor special purpose "render farm" supercomputer from Square USA. The



equipment was custom-built by HONCAD Corporation in 2000 at a cost of over \$1.1 million and was used in the creation of the film "Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within." Led by **David Yun**, the system has been converted to a Linux super-cluster parallel computing environment. It puts our College among a few universities in the nation with its own supercomputing environment for education, experimentation, and development.

*continued on page 2*

Photo Above: "Render farm" supercomputer

Photo at Left: George Hawthorn and Alex Niemi are setting up experimental test racks mounted with selected materials that will be used to test corrosivity of the materials under various environmental conditions.

We are also implementing a new teaching model that will provide our students with a discovery-based educational experience and project-based learning process. To this end, we are proud to announce the establishment of the *Engineering Clinic Program* in the College. Through this program, the College attracts industrial support for projects to be performed by our undergraduate students and jointly supervised by our faculty and the industrial liaisons. The program's goal is to bridge the gap between academic education and real world engineering practice.

For the 2002-2003 academic year, the College has been successful in attracting seven *Clinic Projects* from different companies. Each company contributes \$25,000 per project for participating students. Led by project director **Magdy Iskander**, more than 30 of our undergraduate students have already signed up for these Clinic Projects. In these Projects, students work together as a team with our outstanding faculty and graduate students to devise solutions to real-world engineering problems. Participating companies include Orincon, Spirent, Raytheon, ThinKom Solutions, Net Enterprise, Kyocera, and Vernier Networks.

The **Hawaii Center for Advanced Communications (HCAC)** in collaboration with the UH Office of Technology Transfer and Economic Development (OTTED) is developing a new "business model" to help commercialize HCAC intellectual property and provide avenues for its more effective participation in Hawai'i's economic development. This new business model calls for the establishment of a new spin-off company, the "*Wireless Islands*", that would help bridge the gap between the academic status of HCAC and the business, commercial, and investment communities in Hawai'i and perhaps, beyond.

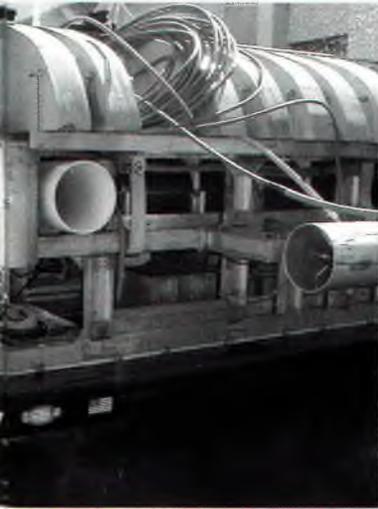
Our research dollars continue to grow, with a total of more than \$6.4 million in sponsored research projected for the fiscal year 2002-2003 as compared to \$5.5 million received during fiscal year 2001-2002. Among some of the large research grants are \$1.5 million for **Junku Yuh's** *Semi-Autonomous Underwater Vehicle for Intervention Missions* project; \$1.05 million for **Mehrdad Nejjhad's** *Adaptive Damping and Positioning Using Intelligent Composite Active Structures* project; \$1.15 million for **Lloyd Hihara's** program to *prevent and control corrosion in military vehicles*, and a \$1.5 million project for **Vassilis Syrmos' Integrated Aircraft Health Management Systems**.



On the whole, the number of our undergraduate students in the college has increased for a second year in a row with a 3.8 percent increase in the fall of 2001 and an additional 9.2 percent increase in the fall of 2002. We have developed a comprehensive *recruitment and retention plan* to manage our enrollment. By the year 2005, our plan calls for doubling our graduate student body and increasing our undergraduate student body by 50 percent. This is necessary in order to leverage and build on our strengths, target areas of opportunity, and enhance our educational environment.

It is indeed gratifying to see that the accomplishments of our faculty have been recognized again this year, most notably with an *NSF Career award* for **Audra Bullock**, the *Regents' Medal for Excellence in Teaching* for **Beei-Huan Chao**, and the *Regents' Medal for Excellence in Research* for **Marc Fossorier**.

The College has opened its door to the world and to the future. We have systematically developed exchange agreements with



Framework of SAUVIM, the semi-autonomous underwater vehicle being constructed by Junku Yuh and his research group under a grant from the Office of Naval Research.

universities from Pacific Rim countries. For example, *Kanazawa Institute of Technology*, the largest private engineering institution in Japan, has been our strategically selected partner since 1982. This year we will sign an agreement with the *Shanghai Jiao Tong University*, a top-tier engineering school in China, to systematically exchange courses, faculty, and students in strategically selected areas of strength of each university.

To further raise the reputation of our College, we need to increase our faculty size, increase our endowments for scholarships, professorships, research, and curriculum innovation; and build and maintain new state-of-the-art facilities. To this end, we have a *Development Advisory Committee* and called upon its most powerful constituency for help: our alumni and friends. The Committee comprised of key alumni and chaired by EE graduate **Ronald Ho**, and spearheaded by **Mark Fukeda**, our College's Director of Development, has been working to help guide the advancement.

The College currently has 50 faculty members and plans to recruit five additional faculty members over the next five years. Endowed professorships will provide a competitive advantage in recruiting the best faculty and in providing the resources for them to succeed. Led by CEE graduate, **Mark Watase**, founder of Mark Development, Inc., and working closely with the faculty members in CEE department, an endowed chair position has been identified with the goal of developing a *state-of-the-art seismic research center* in Hawai'i in order to advance the current seismic engineering research base in the department.

To bolster alumni relations, our College organized annual events in the Los Angeles-San Diego corridor and in the San Francisco Bay Area, as well as annual banquet in Honolulu. We have also held regular on-campus events to open the door to high school students and parents, and to bring in alumni to meet with our faculty in their labs

and students in their classrooms. We must play a more active and vigorous role for innovative communications activities to build the College's reputation by increasing the visibility of our education and research programs to specific audiences in academia, industry and government, as well as the public at large.

By the end of February this year, if you have not had a chance to make a donation to support the College, you will receive a letter from me asking that you consider making a gift to the College's Annual Fund. In each of the last three years, the number of members and friends of the College who have offered their financial support has increased. But we have not yet reached the level of annual support needed to achieve our strategic goals.

The role of our alumni is very important for the success of our College. Your success is our success. We therefore want to publicize our alumni successes, distinctions, and recognitions. So please stay in touch and let us know when you and/or your UH colleagues receive promotions, awards, and recognitions.

With our **President Evan Dobbelle** at the helm and our new **Chancellor Peter Englert** in charge at Mānoa, together with the newly adopted University of Hawai'i System Strategic Plan in place, a new direction for much of the campus has already begun. This is indeed a time for us to seize the opportunity and work collaboratively to implement the stated mission and realize our ambitious vision. I invite you to play a role in the journey and help us get there. I have great confidence in our success.

W. F. Chen  
Dean



# Engineering Dinner

**W**E HAVE BEEN BLESSED with a College of Engineering (COE), which provides education and opportunities for our future engineers and talented faculty. These opportunities have taken our young engineers to places all around the world and have given them chances to be leaders, to be innovators, to be entrepreneurs, and most of all have provided them with opportunities to lead happy and fulfilled lives. In addition to affecting our young engineers, our College of Engineering also provides a place where meaningful research can be done by many of our faculty members. New ideas and products are always being developed by the great minds at the College.

With work and research “by products” from our students and faculty, our College of Engineering provides a very strong stimulus to our economy. Many people benefit from the very existence of our College.

It has been the goal of the Development Advisory Committee to provide strategy and guidance in the development of greater support for the COE. Our Committee tried to first of all, develop a stronger relationship between the COE and our alumni. In addition, we also tried to spread the word around that many other related industries benefit from the COE.



We were successful in attracting more than 500 people to our first Annual Dinner in 2001. We presented our students and faculty to our audience and were very well received. Our second Annual Dinner in 2002 attracted more than 600 people from engineering firms, contracting firms, supplier firms, and other business related companies. We were successful in convincing people that the success of many different businesses depended on the success of our COE. For example,

## Engineering Hawai'i's Future

Join us for the 3rd annual UH College of Engineering dinner. Hear about the latest events happening at the college and reacquaint yourself with fellow alumni and friends. All proceeds benefit the College's equipment fund.

Hilton Hawaiian Village B Coral Ballroom  
 Wednesday, April 23, 2003  
 5:30 p.m. Student/Faculty Exhibits  
 & Cocktails  
 6:30 p.m. Dinner and Program

\$150 per person or table (seats 10)  
 sponsorship:  
 Platinum \$10,000  
 Gold \$ 5,000  
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 Bronze \$ 1,500

**For more information, contact Mark Fukeda, 956-7266 or [mark.fukeda@uhf.hawaii.edu](mailto:mark.fukeda@uhf.hawaii.edu)**



Photo courtesy of University Relations

University of Hawai'i President Evan Dobeille congratulates Donald Kim, recipient of the first "College of Engineering Outstanding Alumni" award. Dean W.F. Chen (background) and former Mānoa Chancellor Deane Neubauer (right) assist in congratulating Kim at the second annual College dinner in April of last year.

research is conducted by faculty, but in addition to funds used by faculty, money is also used for assistants, supplies, and related services. Research funds are circulated in our economy in many sectors of our community. Another example of money affecting many sectors is our Building Industry. Money is used for not only engineers for the design, but also for architects, for all kinds of contractors, for all kinds of suppliers—from flooring, windows, cement, plumbing, window covering, etc. The list goes on and on. In addition, money also circulates and used at banks, insurance companies, accounting firms, legal firms, etc.

We continue to spread the word that our COE provides value to our community and economy, and also affects many different businesses throughout Hawai'i and the world. Our Annual Dinner is one event where our COE has the opportunity to show and tell people about the great things that go on at the College. We appreciate all the good comments and support received from the First and Second Dinners, and with the continued help of our industry and community, we look forward to even greater success for the following years.

Thank you,  
 Ronald Ho  
 Chairman, Development Advisory Committee

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*Editor's note: As a result of their efforts for the second annual dinner, Ho and his committee raised over \$80,000 for the College. The funds have been allocated to the departments to purchase equipment that will be used for instructional laboratories for undergraduate students. In order to keep the curriculum updated, it's important to continually upgrade or replace existing laboratory equipment.*

**Thank you to the generous sponsors of our April, 2002 banquet.**

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# New Faculty



**Adrián Ricardo Archilla** joined the Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) Department as an assistant profes-

sor in January of 2002. His main areas of interest are transportation infrastructure management systems, pavement engineering, applied statistics, transportation systems analysis and traffic engineering. He graduated with honors from the Universidad Nacional de San Juan (Argentina) in 1989 and was recognized as the “Gold Medal” and “Honor Diploma” awardee for earning the best academic record in the six-year engineering program. Archilla obtained his MS in civil engineering (specializing in transportation engineering) in 1992 from the University of Calgary. In 2000 he earned his PhD in transportation engineering from the University of California at Berkeley. He won the 2000 Milton Pikarshy Memorial award for best PhD dissertation; the award is given annually by the Council of University Transportation Centers for the best MS thesis and PhD dissertation in the US in transportation science and technology. Prior to joining the CEE department, Archilla worked as a professor and researcher at EICAM, a highway engineering research center at the Universidad Nacional de San Juan.



**Olga Boric-Lubecke** joined the Electrical Engineering Department in January 2003 as an associate professor. She

earned a BS from the University of Belgrade (Yugoslavia), MS from the California Institute of Technology, and her PhD from the University of California at Los Angeles. Before coming to UH, she was a member of the technical staff at Bell Laboratories (owned by Lucent Technologies) in New Jersey, conducting research in integrated circuit technology and biomedical applications of wireless systems. At Bell Labs, Boric-Lubecke was part of a team that “created the first all-silicon chips for the part of wireless networks that receives radio signals from mobile handsets. They created a radio receiver comprised of only three silicon chips—roughly the size of a quarter—which is 100 times small than the gallium arsenide-based radio. The silicon chips also are 10 to 100 times less expensive to manufacture.” Boric-Lubecke was also a visiting research scientist at the Institute of Physical and Chemical Research in Sendai, Japan and a resident research associate at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. Her research interests include RFICs (radio frequency integrated circuits) for wireless communications, millimeter-wave and microwave devices, circuits and systems, and biomedical applications.



In August of 2002, **Gregor Fischer** joined the CEE Department as an assistant profes-

sor. His areas of interest include the behavior, design and application of engineered composite materials and structural elements; smart structures; damage evaluation; and durability and repair of infrastructures. He earned his BS from the Technische Universität Berlin in 1996, and an MS and PhD from the University of Michigan in 1998 and 2002, respectively. His research focused on the development of fiber reinforced composite materials and structural elements, both for use in seismic resistant structures. Fischer’s research activities resulted in the invention of an alternative moment resisting frame deformation mechanism with auto-adaptive response capabilities. Prior to coming to UH, Fischer was a post doctoral fellow at the University of Michigan and was an intern at the Kajima Technical Research Institute in Tokyo.



**Magdy Iskander**

became the director of the Hawaii Center for Advanced Communications (HCAC) in

January, 2002. He was also appointed as a professor in EE. Iskander's research interests include numerical techniques in electromagnetics, antenna design for medical applications, dielectric properties measurements, and scattering and diffraction of electromagnetic waves. As director of HCAC, Iskander will promote research and training in advanced communication technologies by providing students with research opportunities, provide the infrastructure for communications research involving industry and academia, and promote entrepreneurial activities in information technology. Prior to becoming director, Iskander was a professor of electrical engineering for 25 years and Engineering Clinic Endowed Chair Professor at the University of Utah. He was also the director of the Center of Excellence for Multimedia Education and Technology and established the Engineering Clinic Program that attracted industrial support for student projects. He is active in professional societies, having recently served as president (2002) and vice president (2001) for the Antennas and Propagation Society (part of IEEE). He's been editor-in-chief since 1993 of the Computer Applications in Engineering Education journal.



**Victor Lubecke,**

a newly appointed associate professor in the EE Department for spring 2003, received his BS from Cal Poly

Pomona and his MS and PhD from Caltech. Earlier in his career he was with Bell Laboratories (owned by Lucent Technologies) in New Jersey, conducting research on microelectromechanical systems (MEMS) technologies for use in wireless and optical communications as well as monitoring technologies for biomedical and industrial applications. He also worked for NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and the Institute for Physical and Chemical Research in Sendai, Japan. While at Bell Labs, Lubecke was part of a team that developed new integrated circuit technology that may one day replace the stethoscope as it allows remote monitoring of heartbeat and respiration rates. Current research interests include MEMS, microwave/terahertz radio, remote sensing technology, and biomedical applications.



The EE Department welcomed **Nancy Reed**

as an Assistant Professor in January 2002. She received a BS in biology

and MS and PhD in computer science from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. Prior to coming to UH, Reed was an assistant professor at Linköpings Universitet in Sweden and an adjunct assistant professor at the University of California, Davis. She was also a lecturer at Sonoma State University in California. Her areas of research interest include artificial intelligence, autonomous agents, cognitive modeling, diagnosis, expert systems, knowledge-based systems, knowledge acquisition, medical informatics, and real-time systems. Reed's teaching interests include autonomous agents (software and robotic entities capable of independent action in open environments), knowledge-based/expert systems, knowledge acquisition, computational models for diagnosis, biomedical informatics, and artificial intelligence.



**Todd Reed** joined the EE Department in January 2002 as a Professor. In July he was appointed department chair. He earned

his BS, MS and PhD in electrical engineering from the University of Minnesota. Reed has been an electrical engineer at IBM, a senior design engineer for Astrocom Corporation, a consultant for MIT Lincoln Laboratory, and head of the image sequence processing research group at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology. He's currently an adjunct professor for Linköpings Universitet in Sweden and prior to coming to UH, was a professor at the University of California, Davis. His research interests include signal, image and image sequence processing, multidimensional digital signal processing, and computer vision. One area of current interest is the application of local frequency and local scale (wavelet) representations to phonocardiogram-based cardiac diagnosis. Phonocardiograms are graphic recordings of the sounds that the heart makes as blood moves through the heart chambers, valves and vessels. Reed is an IEEE senior member.



Joining the Mechanical Engineering Department in August of 2002, **Yuling Yan** is coordinating the development of

a bioengineering\* and biomedical imaging program. Yan earned her BS and MS from Nanjing Institute of Technology in China and her PhD from Keio University in Japan. Prior to coming to UH, she was on the faculty at the University of the Ryukyus, Japan and University of Wisconsin-Madison. She's done postdoctoral research at McGill University in Canada, Max Planck Institute for Biochemistry in Germany and Keio University in Japan. Yan's research interests include biomedical image/signal analyses for medical diagnosis, biomolecular imaging and devices, dynamic systems, and robotics. She said that "a chance discussion with a leading researcher on human voice disorders has resulted in a collaborative project where I provide analytical tools using my engineering expertise to interpret dynamic properties of the vocal folds from high-speed laryngeal imaging in patients. I would never have thought the methods used in machine diagnostics could be equally useful for clinical diagnosis of human organs."

# Faculty News.

**Audra Bullock** (Assistant Professor, EE) was awarded a *National Science Foundation CAREER Award*, a highly competitive and the most prestigious award for junior faculty members. Her research on the "Improvement and Integration of Laser-based Sensors for Advance Situational Awareness" will involve undergraduate students to provide them with hands-on experience and encourage them to pursue graduate degrees. Bullock wants to propose a Master of Science option that would allow students to get their master's with a thesis within one year after earning their bachelor's degree.

**Horst Brandes** (Associate Professor, CEE) was elected president of the *Hawai'i Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers* for 2003. ASCE, founded in 1852, has over 130,000 members and is the largest engineering society in the world. The Hawai'i section has over 1,000 members and is the largest engineering society in the state. Brandes will lead the section in "developing leadership, advancing technology, advocating lifelong learning, and promoting the profession." He is a member of Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society, Sigma Xi Scientific Research Society, Marine Technology Society, and International Society of Offshore and Polar Engineering.

*\*(In July of 1997, the National Institute of Health established a working definition of bioengineering. "Bioengineering integrates physical, chemical, or mathematical sciences and engineering principles for the study of biology, medicine, behavior, or health. It advances fundamental concepts, creates knowledge for the molecular to the organ systems levels, and develops innovative biologics, materials, processes, implants, devices, and informatics approaches for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of disease, for patient rehabilitation, and for improving health.")*

**Beei-Huan Chao** (Associate Professor, ME) was awarded a *Regents' Medal for Excellence in Teaching*. The award, given by the Board of Regents, recognizes a faculty member's mastery of subject matter and ability to convey concepts to students. When preparing the nomination dossier, Chao described his teaching philosophy and explained his personal values. He is able to take complex theory and simplify it into mathematical relationships that his students can understand. Chao does this because he believes that teaching is his most important duty.

Sponsored by the Hawai'i Visitors and Convention Bureau, the *2002 Kuhina Recognition Dinner* honored College of Engineering faculty who have used "their influence with business and professional contacts to encourage organizations and associations to meet in Hawai'i." **Wai-Fah Chen, Anders Host-Madsen, Magdy Iskander, Anthony Kuh, Todd Reed and Wayne Shiroma**, through their professional connections during 2002, secured six conventions to be held in Hawai'i in coming years. The importance of conventions is that they bring many millions of dollars in visitor spending and tax revenues to the state.

**Carlos Coimbra** (Assistant Professor, ME), **Wayne Shiroma** (Associate Professor, EE) and **Michelle Teng** (Associate Professor, CEE) received the *Hi Chang Chai Excellence in Teaching Awards* for 2002. The awards are given annually to one faculty member from each department of the College. According to Dr. Chai's wishes, the faculty are selected by

the graduating seniors. Dr. Hi Chang Chai (1924-2001) was a professor and served as chair of the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

**Marc Fossorler** (Associate Professor, EE) received a *Regents' Medal for Excellence in Research*. Since joining the faculty in 1996, he has attained an international reputation in communications and error control coding in just a few years. Two key accomplishments are the development of the most efficient probabilistic algorithms for block codes and development of reduced complexity iterative decoding algorithms for turbo codes and low-density parity check codes. Error control coding deals with techniques to detect and correct errors in signals and is especially useful for wireless systems. This kind of coding adds redundancy to a signal at the transmitter and uses that redundancy at the receiver to detect and/or correct signal errors.

**Frank Koide** (Professor, EE) retired in May 2002 after 33 years at the College of Engineering. Koide joined the faculty in 1969 as an associate professor. Before coming to the University of Hawai'i, he worked as a Biomedical Engineer at Technology Inc., an assistant professor at Iowa State University, and an electronics engineer at the R&D division of Collins Radio Co. at Rockwell. His areas of research interest include biomedical engineering, operational amplifiers, and electronic circuits. Koide has been awarded the emeritus title in recognition of his dedicated service to the University.

**C.S. Papacostas** (Professor, CEE), director of the Hawai'i Local Transportation Assistance Program (LTAP), was elected to the executive board of the *National Local Transportation Assistance Program Association (NLTAPA)*. He's representing Region 9 (Arizona, California, Hawai'i, and Nevada). Most of the NLTAPA members are from transportation training and technical assistance centers funded by the Federal Highway Administration. Hawai'i LTAP will be hosting the 2003 National LTAP Conference in Waikiki from July 27-31, 2003.

**Paul Yuen** (Professor Emeritus, EE and former dean of the College) was honored by the Hawaii Council of Engineering Societies with a *Lifetime Achievement Award*. The award recognizes a recently retired engineer who has made significant contribution to the development of engineering in Hawai'i. Yuen started in 1961 as an associate professor at the College of Engineering and, over the ensuing years, served as department chair, associate dean of the college, dean of the college, acting president of the Pacific International Center for High Technology Research, senior vice president of academic affairs for UH, and acting president of UH. Yuen was nominated for the award by the Hawai'i section of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers who said "he is an engineer who ventured beyond his technical boundaries to give back to the community in a most meaningful and memorable way."

commitment to excellence.

# Alumni News. . . .

**Paul Hirota's** (CE, 1954) favorite extra curricular activities include church functions/projects, golfing (avid golfer and has carried the same handicap for years and years), walking with his wife at the top of Waialae Iki, and painting (the artist type painting) whenever he has time. Having worked for 46 years at Belt Collins and serving in all capacities including Vice Chairman, Paul is contemplating retirement. *(News courtesy of Ron Ho)*

**Kazu Hayashida** (CE, 1956) had a full career as a Hawai'i public servant since 1956. He worked for the State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources, followed by positions as Deputy Director of Public Works, Director of Public Works, Director of Transportation Services, Manager of the Honolulu Board of Water Supply and Director of Transportation. Somewhere in this lineup Hayashida served four years in the military. He was popularly known as the "Water Marshall" while at the Board of Water Supply and the "Road Warrior" while at the Department of Transportation. After 40 years of public service, Hayashida retired in 2000. He enjoys golfing (has 3 hole-in-ones to his name), singing (favorite song is "Theme from Ice Castles") and watching his grandchildren. *(News courtesy of Ron Ho)*

**Donald Kim** (CE, 1958) was honored at the College's 2002 banquet with the first "College of Engineering Outstanding Alumni" award. He was selected by the dean, department chairs, and the Development Advisory Committee for his outstanding contributions to the College and received a koa plaque. Among his many contributions to the College was a gift of \$1 million that was used to establish an instructional multimedia computer laboratory. In his accept-

ance remarks, Kim said that "when I was a little boy, my parents, the first Korean immigrants to Hawai'i who came as sugar plantation workers a century ago, instilled into me three valuable and unforgettable lessons. First, never forget those who helped you along the way. Second, fulfill your commitment to the community and third, when giving, give from your heart."



**Harold Sugiyama**

(CE, 1959) was promoted to Hilo Office Manager for M&E Pacific, Inc. He will be responsible for coordinating

all projects on the island of Hawai'i. Prior to being manager, Sugiyama headed M&E's construction management division on the Big Island and before he joined M&E in 1999, was Division Chief for the Public Works Division of the County of Hawai'i. He has more than 40 years of experience in wastewater, civil engineering, and construction management.

**Peter Patacsil** (CE, 1960) is an Associate Professor of Mathematics at the University of Guam. He earned his BS at UH, an MS at the Naval Postgraduate School and a PhD at Union Institute in Chicago, Illinois. He was selected for inclusion in the seventh edition of Who's Who Among America's Teachers, 2002. According to their website, "Who's Who Among America's Teachers, first published in 1990, was created in an effort to pay tribute to America's most respected teachers." Only the "nation's top high school and college students ... are given the opportunity to nominate one teacher who has been most influential during their academic career."

**Brian Kim** (ME, 1969) is with the Pacific Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command. He's the head of the Mechanical Engineering Branch's Design Division.

**Wesley Segawa** (CE, 1975) was selected by the Hawaii Society of Professional Engineers as the 2002 Engineer of the Year. Segawa, president of Wesley R. Segawa and Associates, Inc., has offices in Hilo, Kailua-Kona and Honolulu. He is active in numerous engineering societies, including the Hawaii Society of Professional Engineers, American Society of Civil Engineers, American Water Works Association, Consulting Engineers Council of Hawaii, and Structural Engineers Association of Hawaii. He received the Silver Beaver Award from the Boy Scouts of America, a prestigious award for "distinguished service to youth."



**William Wanner**

(MS in environmental engineering, 1975) was promoted to construction services manager for M&E Pacific, Inc. He will

head the Construction Management division and manage more than \$100 million in construction projects on Oahu, Maui, Kauai, Hawai'i and Molokai. Prior to this, Wanner served as resident engineer for M&E, where he managed individual construction projects. Employed at M&E since 1978, Wanner has 24 years of design and engineering experience.

**Leland Lee** (CE, 1976) is a Senior Wastewater Project Manager at Belt Collins Hawaii. His most recent assignment took him to Tinian, Rota and Saipan where he spent almost two weeks working on a Utility Master Plan for these islands. *(News courtesy of Ron Ho)*

**Susan Uejo** (CE, 1981) has been appointed as civil/transportation engineer at Belt Collins Hawaii Ltd. With over 24 years of experience in transportation related engineering,

## ALUMNI NEWS

Uejo has worked on projects like the H-3 freeway, Kauai Long-Range Land Transportation Plan, and State of Hawaii Congestion Management System. Prior to Belt Collins, she worked at the State Department of Transportation; Austin, Tsutusmi & Associates, inc.; and Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade & Douglas, Inc. She earned an MS in urban and regional planning from the University of Hawai'i, is a registered CE in Hawai'i, and is active in professional societies. She's currently serving for her second term as treasurer of the Institute of Transportation Engineers Hawai'i Section for which she's been president, VP and secretary.

**Robyn Tabata** (ME, 1988) is a licensed mechanical engineer and has been at Randolph H. Murayama and Associates, Inc. for the past 12 years. She's married to Kyle and has two children. After being a condo owner for years, the family moved to single family dwelling in Pearl Ridge in September. (News courtesy of Ron Ho)



**Martin Nakasone** (CE, 1990) was promoted to senior project manager at M&E Pacific, Inc. Nakasone, a licensed professional engineer, will continue managing several design projects and assume administrative and personnel responsibilities for the engineering division. One project he currently manages is the development of the civil infrastructure for the residential part of the Hawai'i Kai peninsula. Nakasone joined M&E Pacific in 2000, having held prior positions at Wesley Segawa & Associates plus R.M. Towill Corporation. He has over 13 years of experience in design and planning.

**Terilyn (Shibata) Watanabe** (CE, 1991) recently married Lance Watanabe, a teacher at Waianae High School. She's been active in various engineering societies including American Public Works Association and American Water Works Association

and is a past president of the Engineering Alumni Association. Watanabe, a licensed engineer, has been at ParEn, Inc. since 1991. She enjoys shopping, golfing, and playing softball. (News courtesy of Ron Ho)

**Tony Lau** (CE, 1992) was named the 2002 Young Engineer of the Year by the Hawaii Society of Professional Engineers. Lau, a project engineer with Hawaii Pacific Engineers, currently serves as president of the Hawai'i Section of ASCE. In addition to the Young Engineer award, he's received other individual awards for his outstanding contributions to the engineering profession and community. In both 1996 and 1999, he received the ASCE Western Regional Younger Member Council, Outstanding Younger Member in an ASCE Activity. Hawai'i is part of the Western Region which encompasses Alaska, Arizona, California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Washington.



**Reynold Kam** (ME, 1993) was promoted from project manager to Vice President of KD Construction, Inc., a general contracting firm. He will be responsible for construction projects at Hickam Air Force Base. Before joining KD Construction in 1994, Kam worked at Hobbietat, Inc.

**Maelyn Uyehara** (CE, 1993) has been promoted to Associate Principal of Rider Hunt Levett & Bailer, a property and construction consulting firm. Uyehara has over eight years of cost estimating experience. The Hawai'i Convention Center, Kahala Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Windward Community College Campus Center, Pearl City Bus Facility, and Kapolei Civic Center are some of the projects she has worked on. She joined Rider Hunt Levett & Bailey in 1994 as a cost estimator; prior to that she worked for Kaikor Construction Associates and the State of Hawai'i Department of Agriculture.

**John Chung** (CE, 1994) and **Anna (Tam) Chung** (CE, 1994) married in 1999. John is a senior civil project engineer at Belt Collins Hawaii and Anna is an engineer with Chevron. They have been traveling around the globe during their vacations, visiting Munich, Germany; Interlaken and Gimmelwald, Switzerland; Venice, Rome and Florence, Italy; and Paris, France where they enjoyed the food, wine, beer, art and history. (News courtesy of Ron Ho)

**Erik Snyder** (CE, 1996) has been appointed as Estimator for Kaikor Construction Associates, Inc., a general engineering contractor firm. Snyder will oversee all project bids and is currently responsible for the \$1.1 million pipeline replacement project at Kauai's Hanapepe River Crossing. He joined Kaikor in 1996 as a co-op intern through the UH and was later appointed as Neighbor Island Manager. He oversaw the Hoonani Bridge replacement on Kauai and Inoino Bridge on the Big Island.

**Sey Ito** (EE, 2000) is an electrical engineer with Ronald N.S. Ho and Associates. He enjoys surfing, golfing, playing softball and eating. He was seen in Las Vegas eating a very rare 32 oz prime rib, followed by dessert. (News courtesy of Ron Ho)

**Nguyen (Wen) Phan** (EE, 2001) was selected as the 2002 Student Engineer of the Year by the Hawaii Society of Professional Engineers. His achievements are in academics, professionalism and service. After graduating as valedictorian of Kaimuki High School, Phan won a Regents' Scholarship that provided \$4,000 per year plus tuition, renewable for four years upon maintenance of eligibility. It also included a one-time \$2,000 travel grant. Phan maintained an overall GPA of 3.9, led his micromouse team to a first-place finish in his junior year, worked at Adtech, did summer internships at Raytheon and ON Semiconductor, minored in speech,

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gave numerous presentations, and lead the establishment of the first Student Advisory Board to help the EE department prepare for the next accreditation visit.

### *In Remembrance*

**Randolph Ouye** (CE, 1965; MBA, 1973) was senior vice president and chief operating officer at Gentry Homes. In 1996, after 16 years with Gentry Homes, Ouye took over the day-to-day operations of their design, engineering and home building divisions. He joined Gentry in 1980 as construction manager of their industrial/commercial construction subsidiary and was senior vice president for site development before being promoted to CEO. Prior to being at Gentry, he served in the Air Force during the Vietnam War and worked as a cost engineer at Hawaiian Dredging & Construction and an estimator for Swinerton & Walberg. Ouye spent 32 years in the construction industry. His first job was operating a pineapple peeler and his favorite hobby was golf. In a speech given in 1999 at a College of Engineering Convocation, Ouye said "after all these years I've found that success is a choice." Ouye shared one of his favorite books by Rick Pitino, "Success is a Choice," which lists

ten steps that helped Ouye to succeed in his career. Two steps that Ouye said he found especially critical to his career were "always be positive" and the art of communication." Born in Hakalau, Ouye passed away on March 12, 2002. His wife Linda, sons Mark and Sean, and daughters Erin and Brooke survive him.

**Gary Kawasaki** (CE, 1966) was engineering division chief for the Department of Water for Hawai'i county. Born in Hilo, he joined the Department of Water Supply in 1967 and headed the engineering division since 1980. According to Ron Ho, "he believed strongly in keeping the Department of Water as a semi-autonomous status for the benefit of the Hawai'i water customers and in 1979 he actively campaigned along with Bill Sewake (CE 1963) for its continued status." Kawasaki was a member of the National Society of Professional Engineers, Hawaii Society of Professional Engineers, American Society of Civil Engineers, American Water Works Association and Hawai'i Water Works Association. In addition, he was active in the Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin, Hongwanji Senior YBA, Hongwanji Hoyukai, Kaumana Terrace Association, and Hawaii Shima Hiroshima Kenjin Kai. He golfed and was a member of the YBA Golf Club, Water Hazards Golf Club, and Suey's Golf Club. Kawasaki passed

away on September 7, 2002, and is survived by his wife, Wilma, son Garrett and daughter Kim.

**Kely (Ramos) Nakata** (CE, 1991) was a civil engineer at the Honolulu Board of Water Supply. Starting as an intern in 1990 at the Board, Nakata was hired there immediately upon graduation. Starting as a Civil Engineer I in 1992, she rose to Civil Engineer V by 1999 due to her high performance ratings. She was an active member of the Hawaii Water Works Association, American Water Works Association and Engineering Alumni Association of the University of Hawai'i, and was also active in community affairs, serving as the Board's representative for Neighborhood Board #16 (Kalihi Valley) and volunteering for the Hawaii Library Foundation's charity golf tournament. As president of the Engineering Alumni Association, she volunteered her time to support the Association and the College of Engineering. In her honor, the Association has named one of their scholarships the "Kely Nakata Memorial Scholarship" and it will be awarded "to an incoming freshman who exhibits the leadership skills and commitment to service that were characteristic of Kely." Nakata passed away on March 8, 2002 and is survived by her husband, Ryan and daughter Rachel.



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