It has been said that “good things happen to those who wait.” This adage couldn’t be truer than in the case of the Dance Program. After more than three decades in “temporary” quarters on lower campus, the Dance Program finally has a new home. “The Dance Building,” which it is currently called, opened in spring 2013 and is located on Edmondson Road on upper campus. It is uniquely and carefully situated like a hidden treasure behind St. John building. The physical differences between the old space and new home are stark. As a result, the program is flourishing in its modern, practical, and functional surroundings. The beautiful facility boasts an airy studio, offices, classrooms, and restroom and shower facilities. Additional faculty hires, campus collaborations, and increased student enrollment, also play an important role in the growing number of reasons that the future of the dance program is brighter than ever. That’s especially good news because Dance’s success positively impacts culture and the arts in Hawai‘i and beyond.

To celebrate the rare occasion of a brand new building on campus, Mānoa Chancellor Tom Apple, Arts and Humanities Dean Peter Arnade, and Dance Director Gregg Lizenbery invited guests to an open-house style gathering last April, which featured, of course, student and alumni dance performances. Today, just as in the 1960’s when dance began at UH, the vision for an artistically and academically strong curriculum remains at the forefront for this energized and growing program.

Now that the dream of "home ownership" has come true, dance faculty is turning its efforts to establishing an artist-in-residence program, scholarships, and a student travel fund. For a schedule of upcoming events and information on how you can help dance thrive, visit manoahawaii.edu/dance/.
James Prosek

Artist, writer, naturalist, and conservationist James Prosek presented “Painting the Natural World,” an illustrated public lecture, last May at the Center for Korean Studies Auditorium. He published his first book, *Trout: an Illustrated History* at age 19; the book featured 70 of his watercolor paintings of the trout of North America. Since then he has published a dozen books, including *Eels: An Exploration from New Zealand to the Sargasso of the World’s Most Amazing and Mysterious Fish*, which was a *New York Times Book Review* editor’s choice and was the subject of a show of the PBS series *Nature*. His book *Ocean Fishes* is a collection of paintings of 35 Atlantic fishes, all of which were painted life size and based on individual specimens he traveled to see. He has also written for *The New York Times*, *National Geographic*, *Orion*, *Audubon*, *Nature Conservation*, and other publications.

Prosek’s work in conservation includes founding, in 2004, the initiative World Trout (with Yvon Chouinard, owner of Patagonia clothing company), which advocates for cold-water habitat conservation.

In 2012, he was awarded the Gold Medal for Distinction in Natural History Art from the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia.

Parrotfish 2009, watercolor, gouache, colored pencil and graphite on paper. (Courtesy of the artist)

At present, Prosek is a curatorial affiliate of the Peabody Museum of Natural History at Yale and a member of the board of the Yale Institute for Biospheric Studies.

*The Dai Ho Chun Endowment for Distinguished Lecturers in Arts & Sciences is made possible by a generous estate gift from the late Dr. Dai Ho Chun.*

photo by Jason Houston
Dear Alumni and Friends,

Change at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa has been constant, to say the least. In many cases, it has had a positive effect. Long awaited new and renovated buildings (Dance, Edmondson, Information Technology Building, Campus Center) are enhancing the academic experiences and improving life. We are invigorated by the new landscape. The revamped, revitalized facilities provide much more than window dressing to an already beautiful campus—they also provide optimal teaching and learning environments.

Changing local, national, and world economies have increased student enrollment and forced many to ponder and appreciate the value of a college education. Demand and expectations are greater than ever before, as they should be. Rest assured, we’re working hard to earn tuition funding, state and federal tax dollars, and private support.

Many changes that occur force us to hone our skills at being adept at . . . change. As you know, the university has faced leadership transitions and public scrutiny, both of which are functions of a dynamic educational institution for which many care. We welcome the dialogue that arises from these situations. We are reminded of the importance of maintaining the charted course. And just what is that charted course for the Colleges of Arts & Sciences? Simply put, to excel in our roles as educators, researchers, and service providers. When excellence is attained in these areas, students, and many others, reap the benefits.

With change abound, we can tell you emphatically what will remain constant. It doesn't matter what issues are swirling in our midst, you can count on Arts & Sciences to strive for world-class curriculum, as it already offers in many areas, including language study, economics research, physics, biology, astronomy, and the performing arts. You can count on Arts & Sciences to recruit faculty whose work will enhance the reputation of the university, and thus, the value of each degree conferred. You can count on Arts & Sciences to put student needs first. We hold ourselves accountable for maintaining these standards, through thick, through thin, and through change.

Sincerely,

Peter Arnade
Robert Bley-Vroman
William L. Ditto
Denise E. Konan
Assistant Professor of Physics Jelena Maricic has received a prestigious Early Career Research Program (ECRP) award from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to search for a new type of elementary particle. This is the first such DOE award for a UH Mānoa faculty member.

The ECRP award provides $750,000 in funding over five years that will enable Maricic’s Hawai‘i team to deploy a very strong radioactive cerium (Ce) source in the KamLAND detector in Japan to search for oscillations of normal neutrinos into elusive “sterile” neutrinos.

“Large, specialized detectors allow us to identify the three known types of neutrinos, but recent experiments hint at a completely new particle that mixes with these three but otherwise does not interact with matter,” Maricic said. “This is becoming one of the most important topics to be addressed in neutrino physics. The goal of our CeLAND project is to resolve these hints and determine the true nature of this fourth particle.”

“This is becoming one of the most important topics to be addressed in neutrino physics. The goal of our CeLAND project is to resolve these hints and determine the true nature of this fourth particle.”

-Maricic

Neutrinos are the most ethereal of all elementary particles and interact only by weak forces. About 65 billion neutrinos from the Sun pass through the human body each second without leaving a trace. Sterile neutrinos, if proven to exist, would shed light on a new physics beyond the well-established Standard Model.

Along with CeLAND collaborators from Japan, France, and the United States, Maricic plans to install a 2800 trillion Becquerel electron antineutrino source (144Cerium to 144Praseodymium) in the existing KamLAND detector. The CeLAND project will search for sterile neutrino oscillations in a phase space suggested by observed reactor antineutrino anomalies.

Maricic’s research group at UH Mānoa will design a tungsten shield to surround the Ce source, needed to separate a subtle neutrino signal from the overwhelming radioactive backgrounds.

Maricic joined the faculty in 2012 from the Drexel University in Pennsylvania. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Belgrade and her doctorate in physics from UH Mānoa in 2005.
Turtle Research Team

Scientists have recently decoded the genome of the Western Painted Turtle, *Chrysemys picta bellii*, one of the most widespread, abundant, and well-studied turtles in North America. This freshwater turtle is only the second reptile species for which complete genome sequences have been assembled and analyzed, behind the green anole lizard.

“Turtles are an exceptionally old group of organisms, and they’re also evolving very slowly,” said assistant professor of Biology Robert C. Thomson, who has worked on the Western Painted Turtle project since 2008. Turtle genomes evolve at about one-third the rate seen in humans, and roughly one-fifth the rate of other reptiles such as the python.

Thomson led the analysis of the turtle’s rate of evolution and phylogenetic relationships—the pattern of evolutionary divergence between turtles and other groups of organisms. These analyses indicate that turtles’ closest living relatives are crocodiles and birds, not snakes and lizards as some previous studies have suggested.

The research team announced the Western Painted Turtle sequencing in a March 28 paper in the scientific journal *Genome Biology*.

“In many respects, turtles are a very strange group of animals,” Thomson said. “They have a number of novel traits that we can learn from.” For the Western Painted Turtle, these novel traits include the ability to hibernate through long winters by burying themselves in near-freezing mud beneath streams and ponds, surviving with almost no oxygen for up to four months—longer than any other known tetrapod.

Comparative genomic information about animal species is often valuable for scientists working on certain human health-related problems. Understanding how turtles protect their vital organs during periods of oxygen deprivation may one day improve treatment for human victims of heart attack or strokes, researchers say. This majority of the turtle gene sequencing effort was completed at Washington University’s Genome Institute, which is one of three National Institutes of Health-funded sequencing centers in the United States.

No freshwater turtles are native to Hawai‘i, although three species have been introduced from the pet trade and for food. Five types of sea turtles occur in the Pacific waters off Hawaii’s coasts.

Invasive Algae Removal

Nearly 30 volunteers from the Department of Botany and the Waikiki Aquarium (a part of UH Mānoa) teamed up to remove 1,500 pounds of invasive algae from the coral reef fronting the aquarium.

To remove the algae, UH divers and volunteer snorkelers used paddleboards to collect, transport, and separate native algae from the invasive algae.

The clean-up removed more than 100 tons of unwanted biomass from the area’s reefs. Botany professor, Dr. Celia Smith, led the effort.

Aloha, Glenn Cannon

Charismatic professor, inspiring director, actor extraordinaire, Glenn Cannon passed away at age 80 on April 20, 2013. Despite successes as a Broadway and Hollywood actor, Cannon’s passion was giving to others, as exemplified by his 45 years with the Department of Theatre and Dance. He directed 163 plays at Kennedy Theatre and other community venues, and was still greatly involved in both until the end of his life. Cannon portrayed many memorable characters throughout his illustrious career, perhaps most notable were his recurring television roles as District Attorney John Manicote on the original *Hawaii Five-O* and Dr. Ibold on *Magnum P.I.* More recently, he was in the TV series *Lost*.

Cannon mentored several generations of young actors. In the days after his death, his Facebook page was filled with former students recalling his influence. “Glenn touched thousands of students and audience members in his career at Kennedy Theatre and in the community. He didn’t just teach, he changed people’s lives,” said Paul Mitri, Chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance.
Sai Bhatawedekar is an assistant professor of Indo-Pacific Languages and Literatures. She states that she and her students transform the classroom into a “dynamic, vibrant, hilarious, and stimulating learning environment that brings out the best in all of them.” Bhatawedekar’s forthcoming publication as a Hindi text and workbook with CD-DVDs will benefit language programs nationally that struggle with inadequate and outdated books. The depth and breadth of her extensive, eclectic research has significantly and profoundly impacted her teaching. One student defines her own career path as only a dream previous to Bhatawedekar’s influence on her, saying “her influence on student success advances the academic community of the university in cultivating new expectations for those born and raised in Hawai‘i.”

John Lynham is an assistant professor of Economics. His ancestral lineage of teachers extends back seven generations. Lynham learned from his mother that experiential learning is the most effective method of learning, which he engages in wholeheartedly. A colleague describes how reading Lynham’s student evaluations is a joy because they often speak of him as the best professor they have ever had or credit him with their decision to major in economics. One student stated that, “he navigates what could be divisive cultural or ideological issues with tact and respect for all students so that discussions explore new ground and lead to sometimes unexpected conclusions.” Lynham firmly believes that students who graduate from Mānoa who are equipped with an understanding of economic principles will earn more, do more, and change more.

Paul Mitri is an associate professor and department chair of Theatre and Dance. Mitri believes in the transformative power of theatre and the craft of acting, teaching students, and preparing them for continual professional work and a life in the arts. Mitri’s expertise extends from voice and movement to advanced acting techniques. A visionary who works tirelessly to create opportunities for students, Mitri creates courses specifically for students in the department and brings theatre to the community. His recent Mānoa Valley Theatre production employed students, an alumna, and a faculty member, and garnered seven Po‘okela Awards for acting and directing. A colleague noted that Mitri “seeks to enable students to do something brave every day, to bare their souls and feelings in front of complete strangers, and then put themselves back together and continue living happy lives.”

Krisna Suryanata is an associate professor in the Department of Geography. Her research is in the subfield of human geography, focusing on political ecology, resource management, and agriculture. Suryanata’s current research investigates the political and cultural dimensions of technologies. She is actively involved and chairs various graduate committees in geography and in other departments. Suryanata judges her own success by that of her students, many of whom have received prestigious awards for their research. She has consistently demonstrated excellence in teaching and mentoring graduate students.
Chancellor’s Citation for Meritorious Teaching

Monisha Das Gupta is an associate professor in the Ethnic Studies and Women’s Studies departments. She seeks to create a learning environment in which students can thrive and experience the university as a unique place where the life of the mind and concrete action come together. Highly regarded for mentoring students and teaching assistants into their future as professionals and scholars, Das Gupta credits students for contributing to creating safe and respectful environments for discussion. One colleague praises Das Gupta’s skill at talking to students in highly theoretical language that was nonetheless quite understandable and that they gave every indication of grasping, adding, “She mixes complex theory and terminology with plain language and clear examples, a priceless skill.”

Noelani Goodyear-Ka‘ōpua is an associate professor of indigenous politics in the Department of Political Science. One of her great joys is helping students transform a vague sense of discomfort or wonder into a clearly defined direction for inquiry and plan of action. A former student attracted to the study of theory that extends into application and practice speaks of Goodyear-Ka‘ōpua’s groundbreaking research that documents, envisions, and creates alternative and liberating educational systems and concepts of nationalism. Colleagues express the good fortune to have a teacher and scholar of Goodyear-Ka‘ōpua’s caliber. She is one who advances the university’s priorities as a Hawaiian place of learning and is a visionary who believes that educators, students, families, and communities together can shape more balanced and sustainable futures.

Steve Robinow is a professor in the Department of Biology. In developing his own philosophy of teaching, he studies the expanding literature on how humans learn, and this research informs his practice of teaching. It is rare for Robinow to teach a course of fewer than 150 students, so he perpetually confronts the challenge of developing an engaging and active environment in a large lecture hall. His many innovative strategies include that of flipping the classroom, and making students responsible for learning much of the material outside of the lecture room so that he can use time in class to focus on problem solving skills. In great part due to Robinow’s vision, commitment, and inspiration, a new classroom designed to engage and energize teaching and learning through collaboration has been created on the campus, the first of others to come.

Chancellor’s Award for Outstanding Service

Tana Marin is a secretary in the Department of Theatre and Dance. Marin has served the campus for the past 13 years. According to Paul Mitri, department chair, Marin is a “true team-player and an exemplary employee” with a “smiling attitude, kind heart, and willingness to go beyond the call of duty.” Described as an “ambassador for the department,” her dedication to her department is evident. Marin puts in a lot of extra hours and is active in all of the department’s activities, from assisting with events to handling time-sensitive reports and materials. She demonstrates her commitment to the students by coming to many of their performances held at night, which they say is “an amazing show of support and sign of care.”
Aloha e CASAA Ohana,

Happy 20th anniversary, CASAA! I’m proud to say that we’ve come a long way since our humble beginnings. In 1992, the then-deans of Arts & Sciences (Bob Hines, Dick Seymour, Chuck Hayes, and Dick Dubanoski), and the director of the Arts & Sciences Office of Community & Alumni Relations (Karin Mackenzie) met informally with alumni at the Campus Center’s executive dining room. They “talked story” about organizing an alumni group. Was it desired? Was it viable? Was it sustainable? These were important questions because, after all, Arts & Sciences graduates were not connected to each other by a common profession like, for example, engineering graduates, and Arts & Sciences was too expansive to foster close student relationships (or so some thought). Well, those who attended the Campus Center affair proved these notions wrong. And so CASAA began.

Russell H. Ando was one of the attendees; in 1993, he became CASAA’s first president. His strong and steady leadership put the organization on the right footing from the get-go. Eventually the reins would be held by Rodney P. Santos, Grant Yoshikami, Sue May, Russell Ando (for an encore performance!), Bernadette Baraquio, and me. I salute my predecessors and thank them for each building upon previous success while navigating new paths.

To CASAA’s board of director members, I thank you for giving your precious time to ensure alumni camaraderie, alma mater loyalty, student support, and an unparalleled partnership with the colleges. You are the heart and soul of CASAA from which all efforts originate. As if that weren’t enough, you have also made CASAA feel like “family.”

To our many friends and members, many of whom pay membership dues to show their support even if they aren’t able to be active, I thank you. Your encouragement and support are invaluable and sustain operations and inspire continued growth. Simply put, you humble us with your kindness and generosity.

CASAA would eventually become one of the most active chapters of the University of Hawai‘i Alumni Association, and an extremely successful fund raising organization-- the latter by happenstance. We didn’t set out to fund raise, but focusing on finding ways to provide financial assistance to undergraduates was a natural concept that caught on in a big way. The rest, shall we say, is history. CASAA’s record of scholarship support is unprecedented. Historic Hawai‘i Hall, the campus’ first permanent building, even has a room named the “CASAA Conference Room,” thanks to a major contribution CASAA made to the “Arts & Sciences Endowment Fund” in support of the colleges. CASAA is the only alumni chapter with the distinction of a room named in its honor throughout the 10 campus UH system.

The past 20 years have been filled with hard work and determination, and immeasurable reward—all because of you. CASAA looks forward to the next 20 years—and raising the bar even higher.

A hui hou and aloha pumehana,

Jean Toyama, BA ’64
CASAA President
In 1993, CASAA was a start-up alumni association with high hopes to serve as a valuable resource for the Colleges of Arts & Sciences, students, and alumni. Membership dues provided modest income for grandiose dreams. In 1995, CASAA awarded its first scholarships carved out of membership dues. Through the years, and to our amazement and gratitude, the generosity of many alumni would grow. CASAA not only expanded its scholarship offerings, but also made scholarships an integral part of its mission. With foresight of its leadership and directors, CASAA has established endowments that provide a permanent source of income for its scholarship awards and continuously seeks ways to strengthen these endowments.
Historical Highlight

In 2003, a conference room was named in honor of the Colleges of Arts and Sciences Alumni Association in beautiful Hawai‘i Hall. The naming took place after the extensive historic restoration and preservation of the hall. Located within the College of Social Sciences dean’s office, the CASAA Conference Room is the first room named for an alumni chapter at the University of Hawai‘i.

Hawai‘i Hall is the university’s first permanent building, renowned for its stately elegance. Throughout its existence, it has served as the university’s library, as the hub of student activities and theatrical performances, and as the site of graduation ceremonies, to name just a few of its past roles. Today, it is home to the offices of the Mānoa chancellor and vice chancellor for academic affairs, and two Arts & Sciences deans’ offices—that of Arts & Humanities and Social Sciences. CASAA is grateful to its board of directors, members, and friends who made the dream of a named room a reality. All monies raised to create the CASAA Conference Room benefited the Arts & Sciences Endowment Fund.
Meet Newest CASAA Board Member

Kamilla C. K. Chan (BA ’99 Journalism) is a manager at the Hawaiian Chip Company in Kalihi, where she focuses on developing the company’s growing retail operation.

Kamilla previously worked as an attorney with the City and County of Honolulu Department of the Corporation Counsel, where she was a member of the Personnel and Public Safety section. Kamilla also worked as a researcher for the Legislative Reference Bureau in Honolulu and practiced law in California. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling and running.

We gratefully acknowledge the service of CASAA’s current Board

Jean Toyama, (BA ’64) President
Russell H. Ando (BA ’77)
Bernadette Baraquio (BA ’94)
Kamilla C.K. Chan (BA ’99)
Jodi Ito (BS ’82; MS ’87)
Karin Mackenzie (BA ’83)
Jim Manke (BA ’65)
Scott Nishimoto (BA ’97; JD ’02)
Crystal Pancipanci (BS ’03)
Nadine Shigezawa (BA ’85; MA ’87; PhD ’93)

Colleges of Arts & Sciences Alumni Association

9TH ANNUAL WINE PAIRING DINNER
a benefit for the CASAA Scholarship Endowment

Friday, September 20, 2013
Kapi’olani Community College

Call (808) 956-4051 or email artsci@hawaii.edu for information

Distinguished Alumni

The University of Hawai‘i Alumni Association honored the 2013 recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Awards last May. Edwin Gayagas, Alden Henderson, Patrick Sullivan, and Barbara Tanabe received the Distinguished Alumni Award. Judge David Ezra received the Founders Lifetime Achievement Award.

Edwin Gayagas BEd ’62
Alden Henderson BS ’77, MPH ’82
Patrick Sullivan MS ’81, PhD ’85
Barbara Tanabe MBA ’83
David Ezra attended UH Mānoa 1967-1968
Scholar of the Year

Biology graduate student Jonathan L. Whitney received the prestigious Scholar of the Year in Scientific Merit award from the Achievement Rewards for College Scientists (ARCS) Foundation Honolulu Chapter.

Genetic populations separated by physical barriers such as steep mountain ranges are often invoked to help explain how species diverge—but in the ocean there are few such obstacles. Whitney is working to describe a different type of evolutionary process for speciation on coral reefs. He is studying a common Hawai‘i reef fish called the arc eye hawkfish that exhibits two permanent color morphotypes—one uniformly dark and the other lighter and striped. The two color morphotypes appear to have diverging ecologies, occupying slightly different habitats on the reef and yet overlapping enough to allow interbreeding.

“Due to ecological complexity on reefs, these fish are experiencing different selection pressures, despite being right next to each other,” said Whitney, whose research combines ecology, behavior, and genetics. “By studying the arc eye hawkfish, we can get a better sense of how natural selection may restrict gene mixing and split a single species into two, even without physical barriers.”

Whitney’s work provides the first direct evidence of a marine fish species’ divergence in Hawaii’s waters. “If we can understand how and on what spatial scale natural selection affects gene flow between populations, we will be better equipped to manage marine populations and ultimately improve species conservation,” he said.

In addition to the Scholar of the Year Award, Whitney received the ARCS Foundation’s Maybelle Roth Award in Conservation Biology. He was awarded $6,000 total for the two honors.

Other graduate students from the College of Natural Sciences who received the 2013 ARCS award (and $5,000) are:

Todd A. Baumeister
(Computer Science)
Sarah Ann Martin Award in Computer Science

Research focus: balancing performance and anonymity in peer-to-peer systems and enhancing cyber security

Patrick M. Stengel
(Physics)
Sarah Ann Martin Award in Physics

Research focus: Weakly interacting massive particles barogenesis framework for explaining dark matter

Raphael Ritson-Williams
(Conservation Biology)
Maybelle Roth Award in Conservation Biology

Research focus: use of genetic sequencing to understand corals’ response to stressors

Aaron T. Tamura-Sato
(Mathematics)
Sarah Ann Martin Award in Mathematics

Research focus: creating a mathematical model of embryonic brain development
Your Contribution at Work

Your annual gift to the Arts & Sciences Expanding the Student Experience Fund makes possible research awards for undergraduate and graduate students. In 2013, the following students received the Arts & Sciences Student Research Awards, allowing them to pursue extracurricular research in their fields.

Graduates
- James Anderson (Zoology), $1,500
- Gregory Brown (Chinese Literature), $1,200
- Katie Butler (Linguistics), $2,400
- Yanjun Cai (Urban and Regional Planning), $2,850
- Annick Cros (Zoology), $1,400
- Benjamin Fairfield (Music), $2,800
- Patricia Fifita (Anthropology), $3,000
- Ronald Gilliam (Asian Theatre), $2,000
- Joseph Harroff (Philosophy), $2,950
- Raina Heaton (Linguistics), $2,200
- Kathryn Holt (Dance), $2,000
- Justin Hunter (Ethnomusicology), $1,200
- Yong Shin Kim (Political Science), $1,200
- Ruby MacDougall (Dance), $2,000
- Guanpei Ming (Political Science), $1,300
- Stephen Moody (Japanese), $1,500
- Sanae Nakatani (American Studies), $1,000
- Colleen O’Brien (Linguistics), $2,400
- Mohammad Rahman (Urban and Regional Planning), $2,500
- Jaya Reinhalter (Geography), $1,500
- John Sweeney (Political Science), $2,000
- Nozomi Tanaka (Linguistics), $1,500
- Seana Walsh (Botany), $1,000
- Ming Yang (Chinese Theatre), $2,500
- Xi Yang (Ethnomusicology), $1,600

Undergraduate
- Alma Herrera-Mendoza (Anthropology), $2,500

Carol Burnett Fund Supports Editors

Ka Leo O Hawai’i editors earned awards from the Carol Burnett Fund for Responsible Journalism. “The award winners exemplify high ethical standards in their coverage of important issues at the UH community,” said School of Communications professor Ann Auman at the awards ceremony last May. Each student received $1,500.

Marc Arakaki
BA ’13 Political Science/Communicology

Davin Aoyagi
BA ’13 History/Political Science/Sociology

Paige Takeya
BA ’12 English, currently a graduate student in English

Caitlin Kelly
Journalism undergraduate student

Alex Bitter
Journalism undergraduate student

The Carol Burnett Fund for Responsible Journalism was endowed by the long-time TV actress and part-time Hawai’i resident following her libel suit against The National Enquirer. In 1982, Burnett sued the tabloid and won. She donated a portion of the $800,000 award to UH Mānoa.
Philanthropy

Saving Endangered Languages

The world is experiencing an alarmingly accelerated rate of language extinction. It is predicted that at least 50 percent of languages will not survive this century. Every time a language disappears without documentation, we experience a monumental loss of scientific and human information.

In order to help stem this linguistic and cultural crisis, the Henry Luce Foundation has awarded $160,000 to the Department of Linguistics for research on endangered languages in China and mainland Southeast Asia for the Catalogue of Endangered Languages (ELCat). The Luce Foundation was established in 1936 by the late Henry R. Luce, co-founder and editor-in-chief of Time Inc., to honor his parents who were missionary educators in China.

“To have such a major grant awarded to the Department of Linguistics is a true testament to the value of the international significance of the ELCat project’s work and its critical role in fostering language preservation and revitalization,” said UH Mānoa Chancellor Tom Apple.

The ELCat project is a joint undertaking by UH Mānoa and the LINGUIST List at Eastern Michigan University. It has received financial support from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and in-kind support from Google. The primary goal of ELCat is to produce a comprehensive, reliable, up-to-date source of information about the world’s endangered languages. The ELCat project began in the fall of 2011 and the findings of the first phase are available at the Endangered Languages Project website.

“Thanks to the Henry Luce Foundation, NSF and Google, the ELCat project will:

• Develop a definitive catalogue of endangered languages, with extensive new knowledge about the situation in East and Southeast Asia.
• Provide hands-on research experience and training for a number of graduate students, the future specialists in these regions.
• Serve as a resource for communities whose languages are endangered, providing them with information to help their efforts at language preservation and revitalization.
• Raise public awareness, foster increased research on endangered languages of these regions, and increase documentation of these little-known languages.

"The project fits well with the Luce Foundation’s goal to strengthen scholarly and public resources on East and Southeast Asia,” said Helena Kolenda, who directs the foundation’s Asia Program. “We are grateful to UH Mānoa and to Professor Campbell for their leadership in this important effort to document linguistic and cultural diversity."
Language Learning For Workforce Needs

We need people who can:

- provide interpreters to service the court and medical systems
- train teachers and implement foreign and heritage language early education
- provide bilinguals for supervisory positions in our companies and State agencies
- serve as flight attendants and customer service representatives

The above constitutes only part of the list that the 50 leaders from the business, education, and government sectors provided at the Hawai‘i Language Summit last March. The summit was part of the state-wide Hawai‘i Language Roadmap Initiative (HRMI), co-sponsored by the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa and The Language Flagship, a federally-funded program established to shape advanced language education. The initiative recognizes the importance of promoting competency in critical world languages such as Chinese and Korean, as well as in languages of the Pacific Islands and Asia that Hawai‘i is so rich in.

Hawai‘i is among a leading group of six states that is committed to addressing the specific language needs of their respective communities. The primary goal of the HRMI is to help create an educational environment in Hawai‘i that prepares its workforce for the challenges of an ethnically and linguistically diverse global economy by providing the prerequisites for participation in this economy—high levels of proficiency in world languages and a sophisticated understanding of world cultures.

In preparation for the summit, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa faculty produced a discussion paper outlining economic and demographic data useful to set the context for workforce development. The authors included results from interviews with a wide range of government, non-government organizations, and business representatives. A second report outlined key aspects of how a linguistically and interculturally competent workforce would result in actual economic gains for the State of Hawai‘i. The report estimates the rate of return for investment in language education at between 5% and 14%.

In May of 2013, working groups were formed to develop initiatives and projects to address the short-, mid-, and long-term language needs of the State. These ideas will be incorporated into the final phase of the Hawai‘i Language Roadmap Initiative and provide strategies and specific actions to improve language and cultural education.

For more information on HRMI, visit http://nflrc.hawaii.edu/languageroadmap/

Governor Neil Abercrombie, College of Languages, Linguistics, and Literature Dean Robert Bley-Vroman, and Senator Daniel Akaka attended the summit in March. (Jennifer Crites photo)
“There are trees on this campus that are on no other campus in the U.S.,” said Austin Stankus (MS ’13, Zoology), who works in the university’s landscaping department. “We have a very diverse collection and some trees you can’t see anywhere else.”

The university received a Tree Campus USA recognition by the Arbor Day Foundation, given to select colleges and universities for promoting healthy trees. In that spirit of conservation, Stankus and Tropical Plant and Soil Sciences student, Nate Ortiz, created a website that maps, and provides basic information, on just about every tree on campus. Please visit http://manoa.hawaii.edu/landscaping/maps/plantmap.html.

“The landscaping department has been using this app, this desktop application for quite a while, using it to manage the trees,” said Stankus. “But we realized that this information was so interesting that we want to share it with everybody.”