Kendall Inada was the heart and soul of the Latin program at the University of Hawai‘i during the twelve years that he served as an Instuctor of Classics. Lloyd Hamasaki, Kendall’s colleague and a respected Instructor himself, should not object to my making this statement since Lloyd had made clear to me many times that he strongly preferred teaching Greek to teaching Latin.

After graduating from the ‘Iolani School (1991), where he had earned five Gold Medals in the National Latin Examination, Kendall earned his B.A. in Classics at the University of Hawai‘i (1996), graduating as a Phi Beta Kappa inductee, and then earned his M.A. in Classics at the University of Hawai‘i (1998), having passed with distinction his M.A. Comprehensive Examination. Based on Kendall’s superb work as a G.A. and Lecturer, I hired him as an Instructor soon after the retirement of my great colleague Dennis Ellsworth, confident that Kendall would breathe new life into the Latin program (I was unable at that time to hire a new professor because of a budget crisis, which I came to regard as a blessing in disguise in view of Kendall’s great promise).

Although modest and reserved by nature, and believing (as he once told me) that he would never have a student following, Kendall blossomed into a Pied Piper, who attracted students into his Latin classes in droves, instructing approximately one hundred of them per semester and learning the first and last name of every single enrollee within the first two weeks of each semester. Kendall went out of his way to accommodate students who were clamoring to register for his closed Latin sections and would often raise the limit to thirty rather than the usual twenty-five—something I approved since they insisted on having only him as their teacher, whom one of them called their Kinpachi-sensei, the beloved educator of the TV series broadcast over Japanese radio.

During his tenure as an Instructor, Kendall served as Coordinator of all first-year and second-year Latin sections (a position he assumed for eight years without any course reduction), and he taught with amazing dexterity every undergraduate course in Latin in the UHM catalogue, from the 100-level to the 400-level, as well as LLEA 123 (Greek and Latin Elements in English). Kendall was able to teach such a wide variety of classical language courses and to teach them with such remarkable expertise not only because he had the knowledge of the classical authors (acquired at ‘Iolani and at UHM) but ultimately because he had the pulse of the students, because he could speak their language, and because he always showed how deeply he cared for them.

In accordance with the methodology Ellsworth and I had created, Kendall crafted detailed syllabi, with the assignments listed for the entire semester,
with requirements based on reasonable and appropriate standards for a high-ranking state university such as UHM—requirements that he tested through rigorous unit examinations, which challenged the students in every respect. During Kendall's twelve years as an Instructor, almost twenty-four hundred students testified to his stellar performance (the students being the only accurate measure of a teacher's cumulative performance in the classroom)—a record that earned for Kendall just four years into his career as an Instructor the Frances Davis Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching (2006).

Kendall gave of himself unstintingly to his students, in and outside class—through extended office hours, through a large number of directed readings, through special review sessions before final examinations, and through his own student-friendly scrupulously written commentaries for Cicero’s *On Old Age*, Petronius’s *Dinner of Trimalchio*, and Suetonius’s *Lives of the Caesars*. His unqualified devotion to his students and his love of the Latin language and the Roman authors point to Kendall as the person primarily responsible for attracting and maintaining for well over a decade the largest number of students ever enrolled in Latin in the history of the Classics program at the University of Hawai‘i, when enrollments in Latin were stable and flourishing.

Kendall used every available opportunity to show the classical influence on popular culture, especially on the films *Star Trek, Star Wars, Hercules: The Legendary Journeys, Xena: Warrior Princess*, and *Lord of the Rings* (he would dazzle his students by comparing their trek from Latin 101 to 202 with the Fellowship’s journey to destroy the One Ring created by Dark Lord Sauron). Kendall also founded the first UHM Classics Club, for which he organized single-handedly meetings six times a year, featuring in alternate years the twelve-episode award-winning series *I, Claudius* (for which he provided his own commentary, revealing his vast knowledge of Roman imperial history) and a series of Hollywood blockbuster movies inspired by classical antiquity.

Kendall Inada was indeed the heart and soul of the Latin program at the University of Hawai‘i and will live on in the hearts and minds of his students. Heeding the words of his avatar, the wizard Gandalf (*Lord of the Rings*)—“All you have to decide is what to do with the time that is given to you”—Kendall became an excellent Latin teacher, never to be forgotten by those he touched.

Robert J. Ball

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Professor Emeritus of Classics
Chair of the Classics Division (August 1978–July 2012)
Chair of the LLEA Department (August 2005–July 2012)