The pandemic has brought challenges to every aspect of higher education around the globe. Its impact on international education—particularly on student mobility—is staggering right now, with travel restrictions, cancelled programs, visa uncertainties, to name but a few. All of UHM’s study abroad and international exchange programs for summer 2020 have been cancelled; for the fall we are monitoring and hopeful, decision coming soon.

Along with these direct impacts on mobility, the world is facing not only a rise in positive cases of the virus, but also an alarming rise in populist isolationism and overt racism, primarily anti-Asian. As we are forced to stay at home, work from home, study online from home, we need to be especially vigilant in promoting and nurturing the tolerance and understanding that form the bedrock of international education. Some of this—perhaps more than we thought previously—can be conducted virtually, and we at UHM are already exploring new options in the virtual realm. Yet as circumstances permit in the coming months and years, we will still want to encourage our students to study overseas and UHM has lots of terrific international partner institutions eager to welcome our students!

Even when the threat of the pandemic has been addressed, though, there will remain other barriers to wide participation by UHM students. Following a discussion I had with University of Hawai‘i Foundation CEO Tim Dolan in early March on fundraising to support student mobility, he accepted my invitation to join our monthly Mānoa International Education Committee (MIEC) meeting to speak with us. He ended his inspiring presentation and Q&A by announcing that he was authorizing $50,000 in UH Foundation funds to be earmarked for supporting UHM students to study abroad! With a mahalo nui loa to Tim, I am pleased to announce this fund has been established as the “Global Opportunities Scholarship” and will be awarded starting in spring 2021, or as soon as overseas programs are running again. Details forthcoming.
At the Hawaii English Language Program (HELP), we offer training in academic English for students seeking entry into UH Mānoa or another U.S. university. Our Conditional Admission pathway to UHM means students can be accepted to undergraduate or graduate studies without submitting a TOEFL/IELTS score if they finish one semester in our highest level with a GPA above 3.7. Since our founding in 1971, hundreds of students have been admitted into UH and gained undergraduate and graduate degrees in their chosen fields.

As a unit of the renowned Department of Second Language Studies, HELP also is a lab for faculty and students of the DSLS to carry out research on language instruction methods and techniques. Many of our teaching staff are currently studying or have graduated from the DSLS, so they bring vibrant and research-based approaches to their classes.

As a complement to the undergraduate and graduate programs of the DSLS, HELP is the only location in Hawaii to offer the CELTA English teaching certificate course to aspiring English teachers. We offer customized language programs for a range of university and industry groups, as well as teacher training workshops. In developing multiple linkages with universities and territories around the world, HELP works to enhance the reputation of UHM throughout Asia and beyond.

Service Learning is a valuable connection for our students to the local community, and every HELP student must complete at least 3 hours of Service Learning each month.

Service Learning allows students to engage with the larger society in Hawaii, helps them to develop English communication skills in real-life situations, and gives them a transformative opportunity to make a tangible difference in the lives of others.

Our Internship Program is unique in Hawaii and rare anywhere in the world for ESL students. Students in our top levels can learn about professional development in an academic setting while gaining work experience through an unpaid internship. As they work in an industry of interest to them, they build professional skills and develop a clearer sense of themselves and their career goals.

In 2021, HELP will celebrate 50 years of providing outstanding full-service academic English training to students from around the world. Despite the extreme challenges facing International Education in this time of global pandemic, HELP is planning for another half-century serving as an entry point for international students to continue “Making academic dreams come true!”
Hawai’i English Language Program (HELP) students Kyoko Nagatomo and Yijun Chen reflect on their experiences in the program and offer insights for incoming students.

Kyoko Nagatomo is a nontraditional student who decided to apply to study at HELP after her son attended the program five years ago. “He enjoyed studying English at HELP so much. When he came home at Christmas, he told me that there was a 65-year-old woman who attended his class. When I heard this, I prepared to attend the program myself,” Nagatomo laughed. After graduating, Nagatomo said she plans on becoming a Japanese teacher to work with English-speaking visitors and put her new language skills to good use.

In addition to providing preparation in Academic English skills, HELP offers internships and community service projects to encourage social and community engagement for the international students in the program. Yijun Chen reflected on her experience in an internship that HELP arranged for her with local marketing company Orig Media. “During my time with Orig Media, I experienced how American media companies organize their daily work and coordinate their team bonding,” Chen explained. In addition to the cross-cultural lessons Yijun learned in her internship, participating in Service-Learning events such as the Great Aloha Run Expo and helping with the Honolulu Marathon gave her the opportunity to practice English outside of the classroom. “At these outside events, I was given the chance to communicate with others and learn useful language skills through volunteer work,” Chen said. Due to her diligent studies and to taking advantage of these other opportunities provided at HELP, Chen has been accepted into the graduate program in the UHM Department of Communications in Fall 2020. She encourages other students to pursue their academic dreams with the HELP program.
The Hoakipa Scholarship Program is administered by Mānoa International Exchange (MIX).

“Hoakipa” is a Hawaiian word for “visitor.” “Hoa” is “friend” and “kipa” is “to visit”.

It all started when I spent two semesters as an exchange student in Nashville, Tennessee. I had an amazing time there during undergraduate studies and I was sure that I wanted to go on exchange again during my masters. I was looking at either Australia or Hawaii. Places with good universities where it's warm all the time, beautiful nature, beaches, and far away from home!

Back home in Norway, I am in the MBA program at Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) a UH Mānoa Ho’okipa Scholars Program Partner. The courses I took at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa were from the College of Social Sciences (CSS). I took a microeconomics class and three electives on mathematics for economics, macroeconomics and negotiation.

I really like the setup for the classes at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa, where most of the projects we did counted toward the final grade. In Norway, we mainly have one big exam at the end of the semester in all classes that counts towards our final grade.

I loved going to study abroad in Hawaii! I met so many new people who were nice and smart. I had the chance to improve my language skills and learned how to adjust to new places and cultures. Highlights of studying in Hawaii were the outdoor activities and fun sports we could watch on campus. I hope all students will study abroad in Hawai'i. They won’t regret it!
MEET DAN FERGUSON

International Programs Director, CSS

Dan Ferguson grew up in the Seattle, WA area on a 10-acre farm in the shadow of Mount Rainier. Dan discovered his passion for International Education when he studied abroad for one year in Japan to teach English. That opportunity changed his career trajectory, and his life, as he subsequently worked in Japan for 11 more years. He is currently finishing his PhD in Adult Learning and Higher Education at Oregon State University. His dissertation is on “The impact of geo-political trends on US higher education cross-border partnerships with non-US educational institutions.”

“I started working at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa in August 2019 to oversee strategic international partnerships and direct the international programs for CSS. In this role, I identify and promote collaborative relationships with non-US educational institutions in Japan, China, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Cambodia and other countries. As part of our mandate, CSS is an active participant in promoting UHM as we develop and coordinate international programs in the CSS. This includes developing short-term programs for students from partner universities and working with faculty to develop research collaborations with core strategic partners.

What projects are you working on and what are your future plans?

I am working on a core strategic partnership framework for CSS that will be the basis for cross-border research collaboration and assorted other cross-border engagements. This could impact the CSS exchange agreements, in coordination with MIX, and the maintenance of mutually-beneficial cross-border partnerships. I’m continuing to work on developing short-term (1-3 week) programs with universities in Japan where we have Japanese students coming to UHM to participate in cultural learning classes. Part of this includes building long-term programs, such as our 1-year language and content area study with Meiji Gakuin University, one of our Japanese partners.

Tell us about your role in the College of Social Sciences (CSS)?

I started working at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa in August 2019 to oversee strategic international partnerships and direct the international programs for CSS. In this role, I identify and promote collaborative relationships with non-US educational institutions in Japan, China, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Cambodia and other countries. As part of our mandate, CSS is an active participant in promoting UHM as we develop and coordinate international programs in the CSS. This includes developing short-term programs for students from partner universities and working with faculty to develop research collaborations with core strategic partners.

― Angel Flonis Harefa

“There will always be a reason why you meet people. Either you need them to change your life or you’re the one that will change theirs.”
UH MĀNOA INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION LINKS

FACULTY AND SCHOLAR IMMIGRATION SERVICES (FSIS):
FSIS provides immigration services and advising for departments, international visiting scholars, and employees across the University of Hawai‘i System.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES (ISS):
ISS is the primary university resource for international students in areas ranging from immigration advising to cross-cultural adjustment. They consult with the greater community on related issues.

MĀNOA INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE (MIX):
MIX facilitates partnerships with outstanding universities around the world to the benefit of UH Mānoa students, faculty, and staff. MIX promotes cross-cultural education and understanding through the enrollment of international exchange students, and providing UH Mānoa students with study abroad opportunities that have a transformative and positive effect on their lives.

UHM STUDY ABROAD CENTER (SAC):
SAC provides summer, semester, and year-long study abroad programs for undergraduate student. Faculty are able to teach, mentor students, develop new courses, and pursue their research interests. Students earn UH Mānoa credits for coursework completed overseas.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION (COE) – INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES:
COE develops and maintains sustainable international agreements and partnerships in higher education with institutions in China, Japan, Kazakhstan, Norway, Russia, and Vietnam. Activities include collaborative research projects, educational conferences, and student/faculty exchanges. COE annually hosts numerous visiting scholars interested in studying with COE faculty and exchanging expertise.

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (CSS):
The International and Special Programs (IASP) at UH Mānoa’s College of Social Science (CSS) Dean’s Office supports international activities and initiatives for the entire College, striving towards creating a global experience for its students, faculty and staff, with a regional research and practice focus on Oceania and the Asia-Pacific. The unit works collaboratively with academic departments and support units throughout the College in areas of international recruiting, advising and retention of students from anywhere in the world. We believe in fostering a global community of learners, educators, practitioners and researchers.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTITUTE (ELI):
ELI, housed in the Department of Second Language Studies, supports admitted students at UH Mānoa who speak English as a second language and are found to be in need of ELI’s support. ELI provides instruction in English for academic purposes and strategies for more effective study and helps students acclimate to a new academic culture.

GRADUATE DIVISION – UHM 3+2 International Program:
UHM 3+2 International Program cooperates with prestigious universities overseas to recruit well-performing college students to spend their senior year at UH Mānoa and simultaneously, pursue their master’s program at UH Mānoa. After five years, the student will acquire a bachelor’s degree from his/her home institution and a master’s degree from UH Mānoa.

HAWAII ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAM (HELP):
The HELP program has been providing the highest quality academic English classes for over 40 years. Through our Conditional Admission pathway, students can enter undergraduate or graduate study at UH Mānoa without a TOEFL score. HELP also offers teacher training workshops and the CELTA English teaching certificate program.
THEATRE AND DANCE:
The Theatre and Dance programs give students an opportunity to work in Asian and Pacific traditions, while also experiencing more Western ones. With a mix of academic coursework and live productions, the department aims to provide a rich global environment in which students strengthen both the mind and the body. The Kennedy Theatre provides a great space for experimentation and community collaboration.

OUTREACH COLLEGE - INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS:
The International Programs division of the Outreach College provides international students access to UH Mānoa through its CEA-accredited Intensive English Program, conditional admission University Preparation programs, and short-term customized programs on a variety of subjects.

SCHOOL OF TRAVEL INDUSTRY MANAGEMENT (TIM), IN THE SHIDLER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS:
TIM is recognized as a leading educational institution in hospitality, tourism, and transportation management. TIM pioneered the concept of integrating all aspects of the travel industry under a single discipline. Built on a foundation of management science, TIM also draws on a broad range of disciplines to provide high-quality education at the undergraduate and graduate levels to current and future professionals.

SHIDLER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS - FULL-TIME Global MBA Program:
The Full-time Global MBA program offers students a comprehensive foundation in business fundamentals with its wide array of internship and study abroad opportunities in the Asia-Pacific region. Students can take a semester of classes at one of our partner schools and work at a professional internship in countries such as China, Japan, and Vietnam.

PACIFIC ASIAN MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE (PAMI):
PAMI is the center for international business programs with an Asia-Pacific focus. They are the umbrella organization housing the PAMI Summer Program, PAMI Year-Round Programs, PAMI Asian Field Study Program, Center for International Business Education and Research, and Pacific Asian Consortium for International Business Education and Research.

WILLIAM S. RICHARDSON SCHOOL OF LAW - International Programs:
WSRSL maintains an active schedule of international programs and activities. The law school offers two degree programs for international students, the LLM degree for foreign law graduates and the advanced JD program, which grants credit for qualified foreign law graduates. American law students are encouraged to pursue international law study through our exchanges with schools such as with Bucerius Law School in Germany or through programs in China, Hong Kong, or Australia.

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COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES (CTAHR):
CTAHR at the University of Hawaii’i at Mānoa is composed of six academic departments, the Center on the Family, and the Western Insular Pacific Sun Grant Subcenter. The mission of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources is to create and deliver knowledge that supports and strengthens families, agricultural and food systems, and the natural environment.