

ΦΑΘ NEWS

MAY 2023

A MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL MEMBER DR. BUCHANAN



Aloha mai kākou (Aloha to everyone),

My name is Shirley Buchanan and I have recently been named as one of the National Council members for Phi Alpha Theta. I've been working with the University of Hawai'i, Mānoa chapter of Phi Alpha

Theta since 2011. Alpha Beta Epsilon was started by faculty advisor Dr. Robert McGlone in 1984. He was an incredible mentor to many students and he passed on a legacy to us that we are honored to carry forward and bring to succeeding generations of students.

We have a unique approach to History at UH. In fact, we could not teach our history without using Hawaiian language every day to describe our perspective. There is a saying in Hawaiian that is at the forefront of our History program:

I ka wā ma mua, ka wā ma hope
The future is secured / guided by the past

Everything we do in our department is about learning and teaching history from multiple cultural and indigenous perspectives and incorporating Hawaiian knowledge and language into how we think about the past. This is also what makes our Hawai'i Regional conferences so special and why it is so very important that we send our students to PAT Biennials on the continent. Our students often pursue histories that have yet to be researched and realized. Our students also come from all over the world to study at the East-West Center, to study Hawaiian language and Pacific languages, to read and translate documents which have yet to be included in scholarship, and to understand the important position of Hawai'i at the center of the Pacific, from the ancient past to contemporary times.

Our chapter is robust! We know that if we want to attend conferences and share our research, we will have to get on an airplane to do so. That means we work hard at fundraising all year round. We have loyal donors such as the GFWC History Club of Honolulu and the Sidney Stern Memorial Trust. We are also grateful to Carol Mon Lee who continues to support our chapter in honor of her late husband, Dr. Jerry H. Bentley, the creator of our UH World History program. All of these folks are 'ohana – family. They make it possible for us to help our students continue their education and research.





We also have some spirited book sales for our chapter where students and faculty alike can make a modest donation of \$1 per book, called the “no inflation donation”! UH professors from all different disciplines donate books and this in turn creates the funds needed to continue the work of our chapter. To them, we extend our gratitude!

In past years our chapter members have also assisted at international conferences held in Honolulu and have served as judges at the Hawai‘i State History events. We created a “History Through Film” program focusing on important historical films from all over the world; students help to translate the text and context of this media and its meaning in our lives. Our monthly chapter meetings serve as an excellent venue to teach each other, learn about new research opportunities, and laud the accomplishments of our members. Some of you met Dr. J. Susan Corley at the 2023 Biennial in New Mexico, who recently published her book, *Leveraging Sovereignty: Kauikeaouli's Global Strategy for the Hawaiian Nation, 1825-1854* (UH Press, 2022). You might have also met panel chair Dr. J. Uluwehi Hopkins at the 2023 Biennial. Ulu has been a stalwart of our Alpha Beta Epsilon chapter for more than a decade and was recently given the Emerging Scholar Award for the Sixteenth Annual Global Studies Conference at Oxford. Another UH graduate, Catherine ‘Īmaikalani Ulep, is now pursuing a PhD. at University of Minnesota, and has traveled globally to share her research. These are just a few of the many accomplishments of our Alpha Beta Epsilon members, but they illustrate that Phi Alpha Theta can be a transformative place to meet other like-minded history majors and upcoming scholars who lead our paths into the future. I was honored to work with these three individuals on a podcast for Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford. We collaborated on a project entitled “Labelling Matters,” which seeks to re-examine how artifacts and objects have been portrayed in traditional museum settings. Our team was approached to tell the story of an ‘ahu‘ula (feather cape) in the museum collection. You can hear the stories as told by our PAT members at soundcloud.com/pittriversound-1/sets/stories-around-a-feather-cloak (see recording #4). This podcast will ultimately be part of the virtual tour at the museum.

Our UH program and students impact the local, national and international history community. We encourage our students to reach out, tell their stories, share their research and in turn, the world reaches back!

I am particularly grateful to the kumu (teachers) who have supported our chapter. Dr. Karen Jolly, Dr. Peter H. Hoffenberg and Dr. C. Harrison Kim have donated countless hours to mentor our students and create a thriving chapter. There are so many more people to thank and we try to honor them in our regional paper prizes, many of which are named for those who went before us.

I look forward to serving as one of your National Council Members and I am so very proud to represent the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. With any luck, you all will be meeting us here in Honolulu for a Biennial down the road! Until then, we are sending you our aloha~~

Dr. Shirley E. Buchanan
Dept of History
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