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# Honolulu Community College in the Community

Honolulu Community College has made its presence known in the community at a number of gatherings.

## Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Job Fair

Kudos to Jeannie Shaw and the many people who helped her welcome over 8,113 prospective apprentices (and potential HCC students) to our campus. Though we originally expected approximately 3,500, the downturn in the economy has piqued interest in jobs; consequently, we had an overwhelming turnout at this event. Many of our faculty, APTs and students came out to volunteer: Lianne Nagano and staff helped more than 200 people preregister for the ASSET exam (College Skills Center); Jean Maslowski (Counseling); Steven Chu and Dennis Pajela (ABRP); Noel Alarcon, Kerweyne Paulo, Justin Clute (AMT); Willie Lau and students (WELD); Paul Onomura and Henry Maile (DISL); Jason Orita and Carpentry students (CARP); Gordon Pang (EIMT); Femar Lee (CSC); David Medeiros and his group for providing live music; Guy Shibayama for printing handouts; Jon Blumhardt and his crew for the PA system; Mike Jennings for the layout and drawings of the cafeteria; Guy Fo, Mike Barros, Steven Fukuoka, Brian Kawahara, Fujio Tomita and Norman Takeya (Construction Academy) for helping to set up the staging area; Norman Takeya, Emily Kukulies and staff for directing traffic; Ken Kato and James Niino for setting up and tearing down 50 cones in the parking lot; Ken Kato, James Niino and Guy Shibayama for repositioning the cafeteria tables and chairs; and Glenn Matsumoto and Ray Valencia for making the awesome signs. We truly appreciate their commitment and hard work.



Interested community member and students flock to job fair at Honolulu Community College.

## First Hawaiian International Auto Show

Many thanks to Steven Chu and his students for staffing the City & County Environmental Services booth for the duration of the show and for promoting environmental awareness to attendees.

## FIRST (For Inspiration of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition

A sincere note of appreciation also goes out to Jeff Lane and his students who volunteered for the second year in a row (Thursday, Friday and Saturday) to staff the welding pit at the 2nd Annual FIRST Robotics Competition. More than 1,000 students from 34 teams representing Hawai'i, the mainland U.S., the Philippines and Mexico participated in this event at the University of Hawai'i's Stan Sheriff Center. Mahalo to Dean Crowell and his Carpentry students who built the steps leading from the pit to the seating area at the Stan Sheriff Center. The request to build steps came at the last minute from the Governor's Regional Planning Committee.

[http://hawaii.gov/vid\\_temp/gov/robotics/BotsTimeLapse.mov](http://hawaii.gov/vid_temp/gov/robotics/BotsTimeLapse.mov)

## Hawaii Ocean Expo

Big mahalo to Vice Chancellor, Ken Kato, who woke up at 2:30 a.m. Saturday morning and who was joined by Kenrick Chung and Bert Shimabukuro to escort our voyaging canoe from the Marine Education and Training Center to the Neal Blaisdell Center—followed by an equally arduous return voyage down Nimitz Highway at 7:00 p.m., Sunday evening. To echo a well known refrain, “Mahalo, Mahalo, Mahalo” to Bob Perkins, Keala Kimura, Leon Florendo, Kaiulani Murphy, Clay Ghylin, Jarred Merkle, Karen Thompson, Keala Chock, Kawehi Murphy and Noel (Red) Griffiths-Seewerker for staffing the table and for proudly displaying Honolulu Community College's voyaging canoe, the *Kama Uheheu* in front of NBC on Ward Avenue.



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Honolulu Community College is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution

# Faculty Profile

## Cynthia Smith looks to the future

Cynthia Smith, professor of history at Honolulu Community College, will be taking the next year off to look at, not the past, but the future. Cynthia leaves for Devon, England, after 18 years of teaching here to join her husband, Neil Basil, the owner of The Owl, one of five vegan restaurants in England. “I’m going to find out if I can carve a place for me in Devon. I don’t know if I can teach there. The system is so different there. They don’t have general education. And I’m not sure if power lecturing works either. The things I think I do fairly well here might not work there. And the idea of not teaching is unimaginable,” she shared.

Her teaching here has been much appreciated by students, with her classes routinely filling weeks before the end of registration. Cynthia started teaching part-time at Honolulu Community College in 1991, after receiving her master’s degree in American diplomatic history from the University of Hawaii at Manoa in 1987. She had come to Hawaii with a bachelor of arts degree in history and political science from Williams College. “I came to the University because of the world history program. It was the opposite of Williams, the polar opposite. It was not East Coast; it was diverse. I applied for a UH teaching assistantship. After a semester I found that instead of wanting to be a lawyer, I wanted to be a teacher,” said Cynthia.

When Cynthia came to Honolulu Community College, she found a supportive environment for her and her two-and-a-half-year-old son. Here she faced her



Cynthia Smith, professor of history, looks back fondly at nearly two decades of teaching at Honolulu Community College.

biggest challenge—only 24 hours in a day. “There was more to do than I had time. Teaching five classes and being a single mom; I didn’t have time,” she said. From that experience, Cynthia has developed empathy for many of her students in the same situation.

Cynthia appreciated the support she received from faculty members in the humanities and social sciences division. She said her son got to have conversations with a number of really intelligent adults, something that helped shape his love for learning.

Cynthia also completed a short stint in administration. The college had two failed searches for the Dean of Instruction (now Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs). “I stepped in to fill the gap. I did that to get moving on a lot of stuff—assessment and disability access. I had been on the accreditation team and knew what needed to be done.”

Cynthia took a major role in the accreditation process, serving as Accreditation Liaison Officer. This past semester she helped the college prepare for the mid-

term report and two substantive change reports to the ACCJC. Though she has since passed the ALO reins to Marcia Roberts-Deutsch, she will continue to help from a distance.

And Cynthia will continue to teach for Honolulu Community College in the fall as an online lecturer.

Will she miss Honolulu Community College? “My heart is here forever,” Cynthia replied.

### KA LONO

Ka Lono (The News) Monthly is published every Month for the faculty, staff and students of Honolulu Community College. To submit items for the monthly newsletter, send an email to [kam@hawaii.edu](mailto:kam@hawaii.edu) and include NEWSLETTER in your subject line.

Ralph Kam: Editor  
Jason Oshiro: Design

# History of Honolulu Community College

## 1940s: Honolulu Vocational School Works for Victory

(Part 5 of a 10 part series)

Honolulu Vocational School was instrumental in the war effort in Hawaii. With machine shop equipment, the students were able to fabricate a wide range of equipment. A report from the Department of Public Instruction attests to the variety: "All vocational schools have assisted in the war program and have cooperated in actual war production. They have made stretchers, machine gun mounts, range finding instruments, water tanks, searchlight towers, land mines, tank tetrahedrons, instrument desks and work benches."

Instructors, too, got involved in the war effort. Norman "Tommy Thompson" wrote: "After Dec. 7th and while at Honolulu Vocational School I directed (in my classes) the construction of about 10,000 watts in new transmitting equipment and repaired about the same amount for the Department Signal Office at Ft. Shafter, Honolulu. We also built 260 line amplifiers for the coast artillery. I was net control station for six months in the Army Amateur Radio System after Pearl Harbor." Another instructor, Dr. Roy Alexander Woods of Virginia Beach, taught physics and mathematics. He also served as a radar instructor and technician at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard.

One student, Robert Hiroyohi Sumida, ended up in an Arizona prison camp at a



USS Shaw explodes on December 7, 1941, victim of the Japanese attack.



Tommy Thompson checks equipment.  
"<http://hamgallery.com/Tribute/AH6E/>"

ranch called Triangle T. Sumida said that at the time of his arrest he was studying "electricity and radio." The 19-year-old was the son of the gardener for the Japanese Consulate in Honolulu.

Another student during the war, Grady Hall Morgan, came to Hawaii in 1942 to help at the shipyard. In his memoirs he wrote: "I will never forget the turmoil and destruction we viewed on arrival. It seemed none of the ships were moved from where they sat during the raid of the morning of December 7." Morgan completed his contract with the shipyard. He then attended Honolulu Vocational School to become an aircraft

carburetor specialist. Upon graduation he went to Kaneohe Naval Air Station where he fixed and tested aircraft carburetors, first as a civilian and later as a member of the U.S. Naval Reserves Inactive.

The war also had an impact on alumni of Honolulu Vocational School. Robert T. Kuroda applied to Pearl Harbor with his newly minted electrician qualifications, but was rejected because of his Japanese ancestry. Kuroda eventually enlisted in the Army as received the Medal of Honor for his role in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team's rescue of Texas' "Lost Battalion." The experience was different for Allen Kim, a 1938 graduate from Honolulu Vocational School. Kim's Korean ancestry allowed him to continue working at the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard where more than 7,000 vessels were repaired and returned to service. Kim participated in rescues of sailors from vessels damaged on December 7, 1941.

Students, former students and instructors from Honolulu Vocational School all played a role in America's victory in the Pacific.