JABSOM DAY DECLARED, MORE THAN $940,000 RAISED FOR MEDICAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

The sea of elegantly appointed tables was so wide, you had to move your head back and forth to take them all in. Every seat represented a generous investment in the future. A row of congratulatory proclamations lined a foyer, one from each county mayor, the Hawai‘i State Legislature and the Governor. An internationally known musician prepared to perform. The fresh faces of young medical students smiled as they chatted with magnanimous patrons who sponsored their attendance. And everywhere, the room was abuzz, filled with the sounds of old friends exchanging laughter and warm hugs as they were reunited in one special evening.

The John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) 50th Anniversary Gala on Saturday, July 18, 2015 — officially declared “John A. Burns School of Medicine Day” in Hawai‘i — was magical.

Along with Governor David Ige, Former Governor Ben Cayetano and his wife Vicky

“I know as a graduate of UH Mānoa, I am proud of the John A. Burns School of Medicine,” Hawai‘i Governor David Ige told the audience.

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were among those helping to raise some $940,000 for MD student scholarships. Ninety percent of JABSOM MD students are Hawaiʻi residents, most with moderate income families. Community leaders and hospital officials were there too. Hawaiʻi’s hospitals have been JABSOM’s clinical training partners since the beginning.

Master musician Jake Shimabukuro, spouse of a JABSOM alumna, delivered an electrifying performance, bringing the audience to its feet for two encores. People also were touched by a video produced with proceeds from the Hans and Ilza Veith Fund in memory of Dr. Charles Judd, Jr. The fund enabled JABSOM to publish a book about the medical school by TV producer/author Larry Fleece.

The Anniversary Weekend also included a daylong Continuing Medical Education event, which included panels of alumni describing how medical education has evolved during JABSOM's 50 years.

Dr. Patricia Blanchette, a JABSOM alumna and the founding Chair of the Department of Geriatric Medicine, was among the presenters.

“It was heartwarming to see the outpouring of support for the school and to think about the motivations and principles foremost in the minds and hearts of the school’s founders,” said Blanchette.

There were many to thank for the weekend’s success. “We have an awesome alumni and faculty group who did much to advance the school through this 50th celebration,” said Hedges. “Their hard work planning and executing a myriad of events building over the last four years led to this success,” said the Dean, expressing his gratitude.

THE JABSOM 50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA WAS THE LARGEST SINGLE EVENT EVER HELD AT THE SHERATON WAIKĪKĪ.

Left, a spotlight casts the JABSOM 50th anniversary logo onto the tiles of the lobby of the Sheraton Waikiki. Right, Dean Hedges with Event Co-Chairs Dr. Carla Nip-Sakamoto and Dr. Thomas Kosasa and Honorary Event Chair the Hon. James S. Burns.
The MD Class of 2019 is the largest class this decade, continuing a gradual expansion Dean Hedges began in 2010. The 68 men and women were selected from 2,230 applicants.

One by one, each student was “cloaked” with a waist-length white coat and walked across the stage of the Hawai‘i Theatre to be introduced to family, friends and the community in the annual “White Coat Ceremony.”

First-year MD student Nate Enriquez said he and his classmates were feeling incredible. “Words can’t begin to explain the way all of us were feeling tonight,” Nate wrote on Facebook. “We’re finally on our way!”

Kat Roberts was among ten in the class who won admission to JABSOM by completing the intensive 12-month medical school preparatory ‘Imi Hoʻōla Post-Baccalaureate Program at JABSOM, which recruits aspiring doctors from underserved or underprivileged communities. “For years I’ve dreamed of this day,” Kat wrote on Instagram. “I’ve watched so many White Coat Ceremony videos, especially when I was super discouraged about applying to med school. After all these hurdles and ups and downs, it was such an honor to sit up on stage and receive my white coat.”

Twelve members of the new class are Native Hawaiians. Eleven of them, like Mike Brigoli, also come from neighbor islands.

Mike, married 19 years and a father of two, gave up his career in Pahoa as a firefighter and paramedic to go to medical school on Oʻahu.

“I couldn’t help seeing the impact of the lack of physicians on my Island,” said Brigoli. “It made me want to step up and become a doctor myself.”

Brigoli is also encouraged by JABSOM’s focus on recruiting Native Hawaiian physicians. “Growing up, I never knew Native Hawaiians could be a doctor, he said, I had never met one.”
Dr. Jerris Hedges led the 2015 Men’s March Against Domestic Violence as Honorary Chair for the second consecutive year. The March’s profile has risen through the Dean’s participation—not in small part because he was willing to bravely share his experiences growing up in a home like so many others, where turmoil in the family and violence were not uncommon.

“Our Dean is a very dynamic and influential person in our community. He’s always visible and for him to open up and share his story, is really meaningful for us as students,” said second-year medical student Gabriel Lapid, one of the future physicians marching this year. “It sets a great example.”

A number of student groups from the University of Hawai‘i also marched, along with the baseball, football and basketball coaches and some athletes. “To get people connected to raise awareness about domestic violence and any help we can provide is an honor,” said new UH Basketball Coach Eran Gonot.

Dynamic Co-Chairs Burgess and Nakamura inspire new record for internal giving to JABSOM by faculty and staff

Faculty and staff at the John A. Burns School of Medicine set a new record in 2014 for their eighth annual “Starting from the Inside Out” internal giving drive. Under the leadership of campaign co-chairs Dr. Lawrence Burgess, Director of Telehealth Research and Dr. Ken Nakamura, Chair of Pediatrics, 394 faculty members and staff (participation was up 22% over the year before!) made gifts totaling $389,402, a 47% boost in the funds raised. The pledges and gifts were made to 77 different UH Foundation accounts benefitting JABSOM. The 2015 campaign kicked off in October.
ALOHA FUND CREATED FOR EVERY FIRST YEAR MEDICAL STUDENT

President Emeritus of The Queen’s Medical Center Will Henderson has established the Will J. Henderson Aloha Fund at the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) to support every first-year medical student now and in the future.

“I decided to make this gift to recognize JABSOM for the instrumental role it plays in training essential physicians and specialists, and founding relationships and partnerships that will be of value to our community and state for years to come,” said Henderson.

Gifts Benefit OB-GYN, Rural Students, Needy

Excellence within the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Women’s Health at the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) prompted gifts this year of $7 million.

Emeritus professor Santosh Sharma, MD created an endowed chair focused on research, presented to Dr. Steve Ward, Director of the JABSOM Institute for Biogenesis Research (IBR). IBR scientists work to expand knowledge of human reproduction and increase the effectiveness of assisted reproduction. Emeritus Professor Thomas Kosasa, MD, and his family endowed two professorships and the first Kosasa Endowed Chair for the Department, Dr. Ivica Zalud.

Dr. Earl Bakken, left, founder of Medtronic Inc., has created the Lau Hawai‘i Fund in the medical school’s Department of Native Hawaiian Health to nurture a robust primary care physician workforce on Hawai‘i Island. An emphasis will be increasing the number of physicians from rural, underserved and/or Native Hawaiian communities.

The Benedict and Miriam Wo Foundation, represented by Ric Wo, Trustee, left, has created two types of scholarships. One will provide four need-based scholarships of up to $20,000 each. The other involves eight merit-based awards of up to $10,000 each. The Wo family founded C. S. Wo & Sons Ltd.

$15.4 MILLION MINORITY HEALTH RESEARCH RENEWAL

Dean Hedges and social work school Dean Noreen Mokuau are leading a five-year interdisciplinary research program to improve health among several cultural and ethnic groups in Hawai‘i. Traditional and non-traditional treatment approaches will be pursued. Funding is from National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities.

Dr. Kenric Murayama, 1985 JABSOM alumnus, has joined the school’s Department of Surgery as Chair. Dr. Murayama’s expertise is minimally invasive gastrointestinal surgery with a focus on laparoscopic treatment for benign esophageal disorders, abdominal wall hernias, and morbid obesity.
UH-JABSOM EXTERNAL FUNDING TOPS $58 MILLION FOR RESEARCH IN 2015

Dr. Axel Lehrer has been awarded a $1.9 million grant that allows him to continue his work with collaborators, including Dr. Thomas Geisbert of the Galveston National Laboratory, to develop a diagnostic test for the Ebola virus. The ultimate goal is to develop a safe and effective non-replicating Ebola virus vaccine based on insect cell expressed recombinant virus subunits that can safely protect humans against infection.

Native Hawaiian Health Department Chair Keawe Kaholokula, PhD, was presented the Clopton Award for Outstanding Community Service by UH Mānoa Chancellor Bley-Vroman this year. Dr. Kaholokula also has been awarded a $3.3 million, five-year grant to perform a community-engaged, randomized control trial of hula, the indigenous dance form of Native Hawaiians, among 250 Native Hawaiians with hypertension living in Hawai`i and Washington State.

Family Medicine’s Dr. Neal Palafox and partners at the UH Cancer Center have received a five-year, $5.5 million grant to fight cancer among Pacific Islanders in Hawai‘i, Guam and neighboring U.S. Associated Pacific Islands. Cervical cancer screening and the impact of betel nut chewing are two focuses.

DR. EDWIN CADMAN REMEMBERED, 1945-2015

Dr. Edwin C. Cadman, Dean of the JABSOM from 1999-2005, died on September 23, 2015 at the age of 70, surrounded by his family in Corvallis, Oregon. Dr. Cadman retired after being stricken with a neurological disorder that left him unable to communicate. “As the driving force behind the creation of the new facilities in Kaka‘ako, Dean Cadman envisioned a school that in only five years under his leadership would experience unprecedented growth in biomedical research,” said Dr. Jerris Hedges, who succeeded Dr. Cadman as Dean of JABSOM. “I was honored to follow his lead and to build on the contributions to the medical school that were made by him and others who came before him.”

The Cadman family requests donations go to the Edwin Cadman Endowed Fund for the Study of Neurodegenerative Disorders at JABSOM.