



# Friends of the Medical School

A Non-Profit Organization Supporting the John A. Burns School of Medicine • University of Hawai'i

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## Happy Birthday JABSOM

### *The John A Burns School of Medicine: 50 years of Healing in Hawaii - Dr. Richard Kasuya*



*Dr. Richard Kasuya*

We celebrated the 50th Anniversary of JABSOM at a wonderful Gala in Waikiki. There were over 1300 people in attendance, with the proceeds going to medical student scholarships. It was a memorable event, touched by the impact that JABSOM has on the people of Hawaii, and beaming with pride, to be associated with a remarkable institution.

Among those in attendance were numerous alumni from across the decades and a number of current medical students. As I mingled among them I was struck by how we are all linked together as part of the evolving legacy of our beloved medical school.

It is when I look at the younger alumni that I feel the most reward and excitement. I recall teaching many of them in classrooms, on the wards, in the clinic, or in PBL sessions. I remember welcoming them on their first days of medical school orientation and saying goodbye as they graduated. For some, I also had an opportunity to work with them as interns and residents, and perhaps now as colleagues. To see this younger generation of JABSOM alumni practicing medicine and contributing much to our community is so rewarding.

The Gala was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate all we've done in our first 50 years as a medical school. It also served to inspire us to work together to make the next 50 years equally momentous. Seeing all that our alumni is doing, and knowing the current and future generations of JABSOM students will be equally impressive as their careers unfold, I couldn't be more confident that the future of JABSOM and of the health care in Hawaii is in excellent hands.

## Gala Co-Chairs



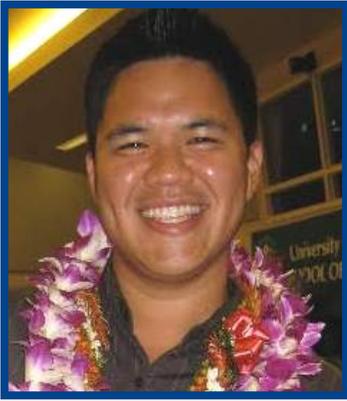
*Governor Ige & Dean Hedges*



*Carla Nip Sakamoto, MD  
Thomas Kosasa, MD*



*Dr. & Mrs. Don Parsa  
President, Friends of the Medical School*



*Jordan Lee*  
*JABSOM Class of 2010*

*“Aloha mai kakou UH JABSOM 'Ohana!”*

As we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of our medical school, I reflect back on all of the wonderful memories that I've shared with my colleagues and patients. They are filled with laughter and bonding, moments of struggle and of triumph, and the sheer joy and privilege of taking care of patients.

It feels like a lot has happened since my classmates and I have left the Kaka'ako campus in 2010. We went our separate ways for residency training--a great diaspora across the mainland and yet, a good number who decided to stay home and continue serving the people of Hawaii. Now five years out, most of us have completed our residency training. Although we may not see each other as much as we would like to, the Hawaii connection and the UH JABSOM ties remain strong, many thanks in part to technology--social media, group texts, alumni dinners, emails and newsletters.

After JABSOM, I left for San Diego to complete my residency training in internal medicine at Scripps Mercy Hospital, where fellow alumni have also trained (Darren Teshima, Nikki Inamine, Ashley Ono, Jason Pirga). After graduating in 2013, I stayed at Scripps for an additional year as a hospitalist and teaching attending, which was a great experience and peek into the future. Then it was time to pack my bags and move to Los Angeles, where I started pulmonary and critical care medicine fellowship at LAC+USC Medical Center and the Keck Medical Center of USC in the summer of 2014.



*Jordan Lee, Keck Medical Center of USC*

I have to be honest, the first year of fellowship was by far the hardest year of training with the steepest learning curve, but I learned a ton and survived with the help of my co-fellows, friends, and 'ohana. Fellow JABSOM alumni, Mark Valdez and Joleen Aguon, recruited me and helped guide me through this busy fellowship, and now I get to pass on the torch to recent alumnus, Jamie Kagihara, who just started her first week of fellowship. It is also nice to see a bunch of JABSOM alums around LAC+USC, including Christian Kikuchi of orthopedic surgery, Darragh O'Carroll of emergency medicine, and Jenn Tamai and Neal Onizuka of internal medicine.

To the many mentors, educators, scientists, and doctors of the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine, we say thank you. Mahalo for the many learning and growing opportunities, for patients who teach us lessons not found in books, and for a very vibrant and supportive alumni network that makes us feel like we are all part of something special, as many of us now make our way back home to Hawaii in the coming years. Happy 50th UH JABSOM!

With warmest aloha,  
Jordan K. Lee  
JABSOM Class of 2010

# Convocation 2015

The following outstanding medical students received special awards from The Friends of the Medical School

## Aequanimitas No'ono'o Pono Award



*In 2013 The Friends of the Medical School established the Aequanimitas No'ono'o Pono Award to honor William Osler's principles of Aequaimitas in clinical practice. Sir William Osler is considered the father of modern medicine. He was one of the founders of Johns Hopkins Medical Centers and has served as a role model to thousands of young physicians. This award goes to the student who best epitomizes a quick and thoughtful manner to difficult situations in a calm and humanistic quality. Chosen by his/ or her peers.*

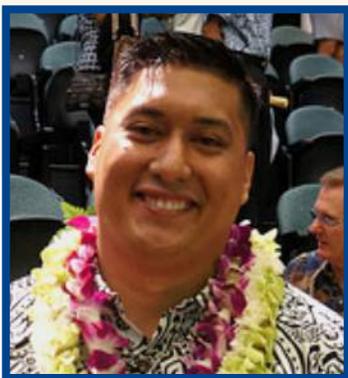
Aileen N. Tamura, MD, MS  
*Internal medicine  
University of Hawaii at Manoa*

One can understand why Aileen Tamura would be the recipient of the Aequanimitas No'ono'o Pono Award. She has a calm and thoughtful manner; a real joy to be with. Her interests are anything in the ocean and enjoying movies.

After graduating from La Pietra, she went on to USC where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention with a minor in East Asian Languages and Cultures. During this time, she volunteered at LA County Hospital's emergency room and saw what an impact doctors can make on a person's life.

After graduating, she worked for two years in clinical cancer research in Los Angeles, and then did a masters in Developmental and Reproductive Biology at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Through her master's degree, she came to realize the integral part research plays in the progress of medicine as a whole.

The research she conducted looked at the changes in the cellular structures of mouse eggs during vitrification, or an egg freezing process used in many in-vitro fertilization clinics. This is an area of medicine she is very interested in. She will be doing an internal medicine residency at the University of Hawaii Residency Programs and looks forward to participating in future research projects.



## Po'okela Noi'i

*The Po'okela Noi'i Award was established in 1997 by The Friends of the Medical School to the graduating student selected by a faculty panel with the most outstanding research conducted during his/her medical school years.*

Steven W.A. Gonsalves  
*Orthopaedic Surgery  
University of Arizona Affiliated Hospitals*

Steven recieved his BA in Biology from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He is from Kahului, Maui and would like to return home to practice.



## The Po'okela No'eau

*Established in 1977 by The Friends of the Medical School to recognize the student with characteristics which best exemplify the qualities of the ideal physician. The recipient is selected by class vote.*

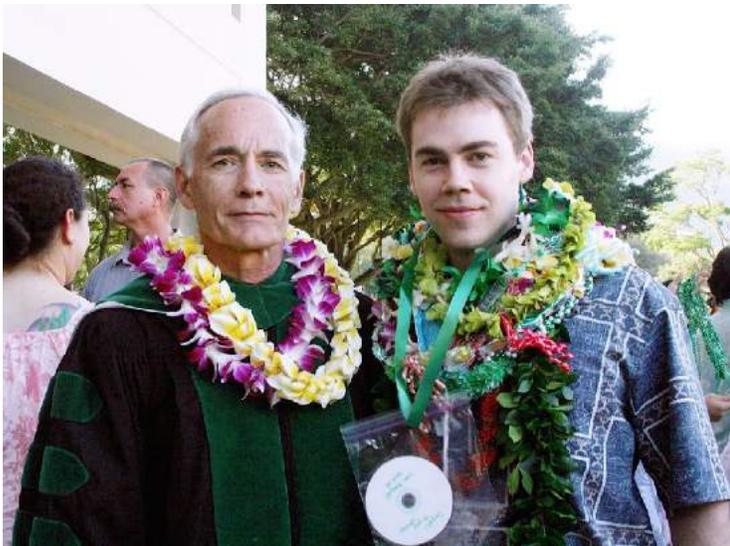
**Kimberly E. Hall**  
Orthopaedic Surgery  
Stanford University

I had the honor of spending an afternoon with Kim. From our meeting I can understand why her peers chose her for their ideal physician. She has an ease and smile that instantly makes one feel comfortable. She is friendly, intelligent and someone I would trust as a physician.

Kim grew up in Kaneohe, graduating from Punahou School where she played water polo. As with any sport Kim was well versed with injuries. Her desire for medicine came when she saw the immediate satisfaction in fixing an injury; if someone is broken fix them! She wanted to help make people feel better!

Kim said she was surprised when she received the Po'okela No'eau Award. It was exciting to be recognized, especially by your peers. The bonds and connections that are made at JABSOM are strong and the support is always there with one another.

Kim will be returning to Stanford, where she received her undergraduate degree, for a residency in Orthopaedic Surgery. She wishes to go into Pediatric Orthopaedics, helping heal the whole child with sports injuries and disabilities. This is an area that would enable Kim to be a team doctor, building relationships with families through medicine, friendship and counseling. She sees a joy and solace in the patient interaction. Kim holds her Hawaiian roots strongly and wishes to return home to practice.



*Dean Cadman and Michael Semenza  
Convocation 2008*

*Dedication of the Pu'uhonua Garden, June 2009*



*Lila Johnson, Beadie Dawson, Jim Fleming, Dr. Kwong Lim, Judge Jim Burns*

## ALUMNI CORNER

Aloha from Kathrine Gelber!

Anesthesiology Resident  
Columbia University

Katie with her Father

Dear JABSOM,

Happy 50th! What an incredible milestone. It has been quite a while since we were sitting in your classrooms at the beautiful Kaka'ako campus doing PBL cases. Some of us are still in the grinds of residency, others have started fellowship, and a few of us have even made the transition to attending. Anyway, some of the recent alums wanted to send you a brief update.

**Lina Miyakawa (2012)** completed her internal medicine residency at Santa Clara Valley Hospital and has just started a Pulmonary Critical Care fellowship at Mount Sinai's Beth Israel Hospital in NYC. Lina presented at the American Thoracic Society last year and is in the process of publishing her research on bronchiectasis.



Brad Kamitaki in Times Square, NYC

**Brad Kamitaki (2012)** is a senior resident in neurology at Columbia University Medical Center. He was recently accepted to the epilepsy fellowship at Columbia, so he'll be able to read all those EEGs for us! Brad also hopes to come back to Hawai'i after his fellowship.

**Rachel Arakawa (2014)** just started her R2 medicine year at Columbia University Medical Center, now assuming the role of team leader in management decisions. She's happy to be rid of the intern pager! Rachel has been enjoying her co-residents and her precious time off is spent exploring New York City, scouting the best places for brunch! She wants to do an Endocrinology fellowship and then return to Hawai'i.

Rachel Arakawa and Nic Villanueva (2012)  
on Columbia Medicine Night Float together!

Lina Miyakawa (front, center) on her last day as a resident in the ICU.

**Kara (Luersen) Brooks (2012)** is in her final year of dermatology at University of North Carolina. She and her husband welcomed baby Winnie this year – little Winnie couldn't be cuter (pic below)!



Winnie Brooks, Kara's daughter!

Daniel Sugai (c/o 2012) at Harvard's Dermatology Clinic  
(prescribing topical steroids for everyone)

Don't put it past **Daniel Sugai (2012)** to actually call his residency "luxurious" -- although we must remember he is a dermatologist. He's finishing up his last year at the Combined Harvard Dermatology residency program, and even more exciting news is that Daniel and his lovely wife Erina (also Class of 2012), who is a Hospitalist at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, are expecting their first child in January 2016. (Very exciting for them!)

As for me, I'm in my last year of anesthesiology residency at Columbia, working hard but enjoying it immensely. I think about my time at JABSOM often. It was such a special place to learn and train; I really don't think there is another medical school like it. It took so many dedicated individuals to make JABSOM what it is today. We all know that we didn't get here on our own: we owe everything to the JABSOM leadership, administration, teaching faculty, and community physicians, all of whom went above and beyond to bring us to this point.

So we all want to send you a heartfelt Happy 50th. Thank you for instilling in us the desire to learn and continue to grow as physicians, values rooted in Aloha, the sense of responsibility to our patients and our communities. Although we are currently dispersed across the Nation, practicing near and far, the general sentiment is that we all either want to return to Hawai'i after our training or make certain that we share the values that JABSOM taught us wherever we might end up. Hopefully, we will be able to build on the incredible legacy that JABSOM has shared with us and we, each in our own way, will be able to promote JABSOM's mission for another 50 years.



Darragh O'Carrol (2012)

Los Angeles County + USC  
Emergency Medicine.

*"JABSOM... congratulations on reaching a half century, your alumni are extremely proud to carry your name. You and your terrific faculty, teachers, and staff have given us the skill and knowledge to care for not only patients at home but patients around the world. In May of 2015 I was one of 3 "attending" MDs supervising and running the Healing Hearts Across Borders Clinic in Rural Tijuana. We treated 600 people over 2 days, who otherwise receive no medical care. Thank you JABSOM for giving me the foundation to help."*

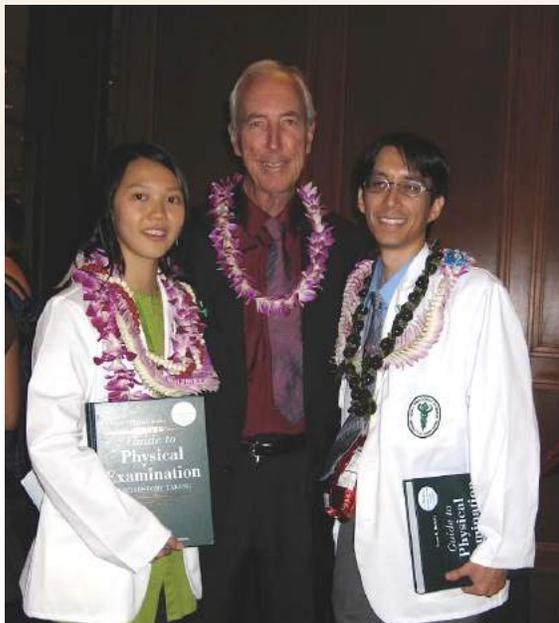


Thomas & Iris Noh (2012)

*Before leaving for Michigan, an attending I worked with said, "I would never had made it through residency without help." Having Iris by my side has helped me learn what this truly means, I never could have made it without her support. For some of us it might be a partner, for others family or even a hobby. Wherever the source of inspiration, love it, cherish it and don't ever let go.*



Julie Inuma '07  
&  
Katie Gelber '12  
Strolling in Central Park  
New York



Judge Burns with two Medical Students at White Coat 2010  
Holding, Bates Guide to Physical Examination  
A Gift from the Friends of the Medical School