Fall Conference: Food Security

Did you know that Hawai‘i produces only 15% of our own food supply? Or, that as recently as the 1960s, 50% of our food supply came from local sources? Over 200 students from 20 public and private schools learned about food security for our islands and world at PAAC’s fall conference in November. A panel discussion kicked off the conference, providing the context for a community food game in which students stepped into the shoes of people who face obstacles in accessing adequate nutritious food daily. Students learned how their choices as consumers impact the chain of food supply and demand, and to support those who do not have the luxury of making those choices, they donated 238 pounds of food to the Hawai‘i Food Bank. To help students understand the scope of food security issues, we ended with a career guest roundtable featuring twelve professionals from non-profit, business, and public sectors, as well as academia, entrepreneurs, and farmers.

“WorldQuest helped me become more familiar with Islamic culture. Stereotypes about Muslims are made everyday...After being assigned to study Islam ... I found, to my surprise, that Muslims have many of the same beliefs that I learn in church... This simple understanding of one another can go a long way. We are reminded that no matter where we are from or how we live our life, we are all human.”

Save-the-Date!

Join us as we honor Warren Luke with the Paul S. Bachman Award at our annual dinner.
Thursday, February 10, 2011
Kahala Hotel & Resort, Maile Ballroom
5:30pm Cocktails, 6:15pm Dinner
For more information, please call 808-944-7783.

OneWorld Now!-Hawai‘i: Arabic, Leadership, & Study Abroad

PAAC, in partnership with OneWorld Now! (OWN), is excited to offer the first high school level Arabic language program in the state of Hawai‘i, providing a unique opportunity for Campbell High students to develop skills in this critical and rapidly growing language. OWN!, a Seattle-based nonprofit, has developed an innovative model of language learning, leadership development, and study abroad opportunities in public high schools.

Academic WorldQuest

A team from Punahou emerged as the winner of PAAC’s annual Chevron Academic WorldQuest Competition. They edged out the second place team from Seabury Hall, the third place team, also from Punahou, and two teams that tied for fourth place from Ka‘u and Kealakehe High Schools, to secure their place at the National WorldQuest Competition in Washington, DC. Their trip is provided by Chevron, title sponsor of this competition for six years. Students competed in a pool of 81 teams from 26 schools, making this year’s competition the largest since it began eleven years ago. Four sites on O‘ahu, Maui, Kaua‘i, and the Big Island were linked via teleconference, adding to the excitement. Emcee Carole Kai commended students for their interest in global affairs and encouraged
After-School Global Studies Classes

After-School Global Studies classes were held at eight high schools during the fall semester. Curriculum units included world hunger, food security, and Islamic civilization and art. Students also attended Secretary Hillary Clinton’s talk on America’s Engagement in the Asia-Pacific (see page 3), participated in the International Zero Emissions Conference Youth Day at the Hawai‘i Convention Center, and toured Shangri La to see real life examples of Islamic art concepts. During the semester, students carried out Global Action Projects, community service projects related to their units of study. The Campbell High class continued an on-going project working with Onemalu Homeless Shelter in Kapolei. Funded by Youth Service Hawai‘i, students planned and implemented literacy and art projects twice a month for children at the shelter. Their Thanksgiving visit focused on gratitude. Aiea High students joined the Campbell class at the shelter. Radford and Roosevelt High classes volunteered with the Special Olympics organizing various activities for their holiday event. Kaimuki students did a beach clean-up with Surfrider Foundation. The Kapa‘a High class has an on-going project with the Food Bank on Kaua‘i. They work on Saturdays at the mall to help collect canned goods and other donations. For more photos, see page 4.

Arabic & Leadership Pilot (continued)

Students in this program meet after school twice a week for language training with Dr. Adly Mirza, who teaches Arabic at Hawai‘i Pacific University (HPU) and University of Hawai‘i (UH)-Mānoa, and once a week with PAAC High School Director Natasha Chappel for a leadership seminar. Students who successfully complete the coursework may have an opportunity to travel overseas or participate in an Arabic immersion camp, where they will put their language and leadership skills to use. Campbell High School has been enthusiastic and supportive of this program, which compliments their efforts as an International Baccalaureate school. The pilot program is made possible by generous support from OWN! and the Qatar Foundation International.

International Visitor Leadership Program

Mr. Masahiko Gotambu, Senior Policy Secretary for Representative Koichi Kato of Japan spent two days in Hawai‘i learning about the political process in the months leading up to the general election. He also had the opportunity for a dialogue with professionals at Pacific Forum CSIS regarding current U.S.-Japan Alliance issues.

A group of nine visitors from Central and East Asia, and the Pacific arrived to study crisis management, while another group of thirteen visitors from the Pacific Islands explored climate change issues. Both groups attended valuable professional appointments relating to their program objectives, and had the opportunity to tour the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. Delegates from both groups met and socialized when they attended a lū‘au together the night before the official closing of their three-week IVLP tour. Ms. Keasi Pongi of Tonga stated, “My perception of the U.S. was always through other people’s views. After this trip I now have my own perception. ‘The U.S. and its people are... getting by day-to-day with their work, just like us here in the Pacific.”

Best practices in alumni outreach and fundraising was the focus of five university administrators from Japan who learned how Hawai‘i’s legislature, private and state universities, and community colleges engage their alumni and balance finances during tough economic times. > Continue on page 4
A Lana‘i student who spent a semester in Oman on a U.S. government scholarship is encouraging Hawai‘i high school students to apply for the YES Abroad program for study in countries with significant Muslim populations. “After I went to Oman, I kind of fell in love with the Middle East,” said Richard Gima, who graduated from Lana‘i High School in May and is headed to the American University of Cairo in January. “I decided to do my degree in Middle East studies.” Gima, born and raised on Lana‘i, got his first view of the outside world through PAAC. “I definitely have to credit the Pacific and Asian Affairs Council, because they offer a summer study tour every year, and I went to China and Taiwan with them,” Gima said. “That was the first time I had been out of the country. That’s what triggered me to go to Oman for a semester.” Gima said he was fascinated by Oman, “My outlook on the world has dramatically changed... The relationships I made there really mean a lot. The Omanis are very open and hospitable. They put your needs before their own. They’re the nicest people I’ve ever met.” - Susan Essoyan, Star Advertiser, November 14, 2010

A Portrait of Turkey featured Professor Thomas Klobe on Turkish art and a panel of public school teachers who participated in a two-week summer study tour throughout Turkey. They shared highlights of their trip and talked about how they are using the experience in their classrooms; a science teacher has incorporated Turkish metallurgy in her curriculum on the chemical make up of metals. The event was sponsored by the Turkish Cultural Foundation in collaboration with Shangri La, owned and supported by the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Arts.

Hawai‘i International Education Week

Kapi‘olani Community College (KCC) International Festival
PAAC hosted several performances including Indian and South American dance (photos at left), and presentations on the North Korean crisis and Af-Pak conflict.

Community College and University WorldQuest
Over eighty students participated in the Community College and University WorldQuest competition, representing Hawai‘i Pacific University (HPU), Kapi‘olani Community College, University of Hawai‘i (UH)-Hilo, University of Hawai‘i-Mānoa, and Windward Community College. Competition categories ranged from business & trade to climate change. A team from UH-Mānoa emerged as the first place winner; followed by a team from HPU; and another team from HPU took third. Each member of the teams received cash and prizes donated by The Actor’s Group, Rosemary Casey, Contemporary Museum, Dave & Busters, Hawai‘i Theatre, Honolulu Zoo Society, Kim Chee II, Wet & Wild, and the Willows restaurant. Event sponsors included Hawai‘i Hotel & Lodging Association, Hawai‘i Pacific University, UH-Hilo Center for Global Education & Exchange, UH-Mānoa Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER), and UH-Mānoa Office of International and Exchange Programs. Special thanks to Joel Weaver for emceeing the event, Associate Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, Krystyna Aune for opening remarks, and all judges, volunteers, and participants.

PAAC students and teachers had the exciting opportunity to listen to Secretary Hillary Clinton’s talk on America’s Engagement in the Asia Pacific (photo at left) during her stop in Hawai‘i before traveling to Asia. A teacher from Moanalua High School commented, “Thank you so much for inviting Ashley and me to Secretary Clinton’s speech this morning. It was a valuable reminder of what our democracy is about.”

PAAC coordinated other forums in the fall: ChinaTown Hall featured Michael McCune of TransPacific Brands and U.S. Ambassador to China, Jon Huntsman, via webcast on U.S.-China relations. This event was held simultaneously throughout 50 cities and coordinated in collaboration with the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations.

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Student Corner

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IVLP (continued)

Five visitors from Indonesia’s environmental sector came to Hawai‘i to study biodiversity education and awareness. The group had the opportunity to meet with professionals from O‘ahu and Kaua‘i. They also discovered interesting similarities in language and culture between indigenous Indonesian peoples and Native Hawaiians during a visit with staff from Ka Papa Lo‘i o Kanewai.

Thanks to the following organizations and individuals for meeting with our visitors:

Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies
Center for Excellence in Disaster
Management and Humanitarian Assistance
Center for Sustainable Coastal Tourism
Customs and Border Protection
Democratic Party of Hawai‘i
Department of Health
Department of Land and Natural Resources
East-West Center
Green Party of Hawai‘i
Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve
Hawai‘i Disaster Medical Assistance Team
Hawai‘i Pacific University
Hawai‘i Passport Office
Hawai‘i Republican Party
Hawai‘i Seafood Council
House Committee for Higher Education
Kahuku Wind/First Wind
Marine Corps Base Hawai‘i
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Pacific Forum CSIS
Pacific Tsunami Warning Center
Professor Jon Van Dyke
Queen’s Medical Center
Senate Committee for Higher Education
State Energy Office
Taiwan Economic and Cultural Office in Honolulu
University of Hawai‘i
University of Hawai‘i Community Colleges
U.S. Pacific Command

Website & Social Media

PAAC has a new website look! Visit us at www.paachawaii.org. Also, friend, fan, or follow us on:

WorldQuest (continued)

them to continue their efforts. Mahalo to prize sponsors: Dave and Busters, Glow Putt Mini Golf, Zippy’s, and TD Food Group, judges, question-writing committee, and all volunteers.

MISSION STATEMENT

PAAC’s mission is to promote a greater awareness and understanding of international affairs, working to strengthen Hawai‘i’s role in the Asia-Pacific region.

ASC & GAP (continued)

Left: Aiea students assisting with Christmas party at Onemalu Homeless Shelter.

Above: Aiea class reviewing Islamic art elements. Left: Kapa‘a class after serving Thanksgiving lunch at the Salvation Army.

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