

Imula Polenisia

A Newsletter from the
Polynesian Cultural Center

President Orgill: 'Something no one else could do'

Thank you for the spirit and almost super-human performance you pour into all the things we do at the Cultural Center. Haunted Lagoon 2011 is just the most recent example.

There are very few teams, including our community volunteers, who could carry this off each year, especially after completing a normal work-day.

In 2008, at the beginning of the current recession when the economy and travel industry really began to struggle, our Board of Directors asked us to do something focusing on Halloween, to figure out a way to bring *kamaaina* to the PCC by offering more special events, including the creation of something for Halloween — the second-biggest financial holiday period in the U.S.

As is customary of the PCC team, we took on the assignment — however unusual it might have seemed — and decided to do it in a world-class way that is consistent with who we are and what we represent. We did it in a wholesome, entertaining and enjoyable way that appeals to people across the board, and it has been a remarkable success by so many

Continued on page 3



In this Issue

Haunted Lagoon a hit	2
Samoa Head of State visits	3
Christmas in Polynesia	3
Meet the new missionaries	4
Special PCC offers	4



VIPs and travel industry representatives enjoy the grand opening of the Gateway on November 10, 2011

PCC Stages Gateway's Grand Opening

VIP and travel industry guests, led by a royal Hawaiian procession, participated in grand opening ceremonies for the Polynesian Cultural Center's totally renovated, spectacular Gateway dining and multipurpose facility on November 11, 2011.

PCC President Von D. Orgill and his wife, Sherri, did the honors of untying the traditional *maile* Hawaiian leaf lei strung across the massive pillars and doors leading to the Prime Dining section of the huge hall. The PCC's Island Feast uses the other portion of the hall.

Once the invitees moved inside, President Orgill explained, "As we began the journey resulting in this special occasion, we envisioned creating a grand Polynesian hall that would be worthy of the marvelous heritage passed on by those who have preceded us."

He thanked all those involved in the design and renovation of the building, which started in January 2011. He also thanked

"our internal team, particularly Fifita Unga, Director of Food & Beverage, and her team."

"This has always been a grand building," said PCC Chief Operating Office P. Alfred Grace. He traced its original construction

Continued on page 2



Hukilau Theater to get major makeover

Imagine an ancient volcano engulfing the Hukilau (IMAX™) Theater. Imagine walking through a "lava tube" and emerging into a dramatic volcanic chamber inside the mountain. Imagine spectacular images of unseen Hawaii appearing on a giant screen, as cast by one of the world's first highest-definition projection systems. Then imagine other surprises... and you too have a good mental image of the latest excitement coming to the PCC.

Continued on page 2



HAUNTED LAGOON 2011 drew almost 40,000 fans, including the PCC Board of Directors who held their October meeting in Laie to sample the experience. MAHALO to all who helped, including 900-plus volunteers.

Grand opening of the Gateway...

Continued from page 1

back to the mid-1970s when it was initially used for orientation purposes, and a few years later turned into a dining facility. “Now it’s been given a new life,” he added, pointing out to the guests that the Gateway features:

- 24,500 square feet of space, designed so the tables can be easily removed and other functions put on inside.
- “All 38 interior columns are fashioned after giant *koa* logs. In fact, everything in this building has been designed as if it were carved by hand,” Grace said.
- Each of the doors are 12 feet tall, six feet wide, weigh 1,100 pounds, and feature ‘*ulu* or breadfruit and taro motifs, “both of which have sustained the Polynesians over the centuries.”
- A 500-plus-foot mural encircles the upper interior, and includes segments of Hawaiian chief’s welcoming guests as well as the Polynesian people represented at the PCC and Hawaii’s multi-ethnic people. “With a total of over 5,000 square feet, it’s one of the largest murals in the world,” Grace said.
- The food stations are set against the *mauka* (west) wall for non-disruptive replenishment.
- The air circulation system can totally refresh all of the air within the building every three minutes.

President Orgill also noted that the Gateway renovation “is one in a series of improvement projects on the drawing board for the Cultural Center, which you’ll be hearing more about in the future.”

Hukilau (IMAX™) Theater...

Continued from page 1

P. Alfred Grace, Chief Operating Officer, explained, “this major renovation will fit seamlessly into the authentic natural environment of the existing island villages.”

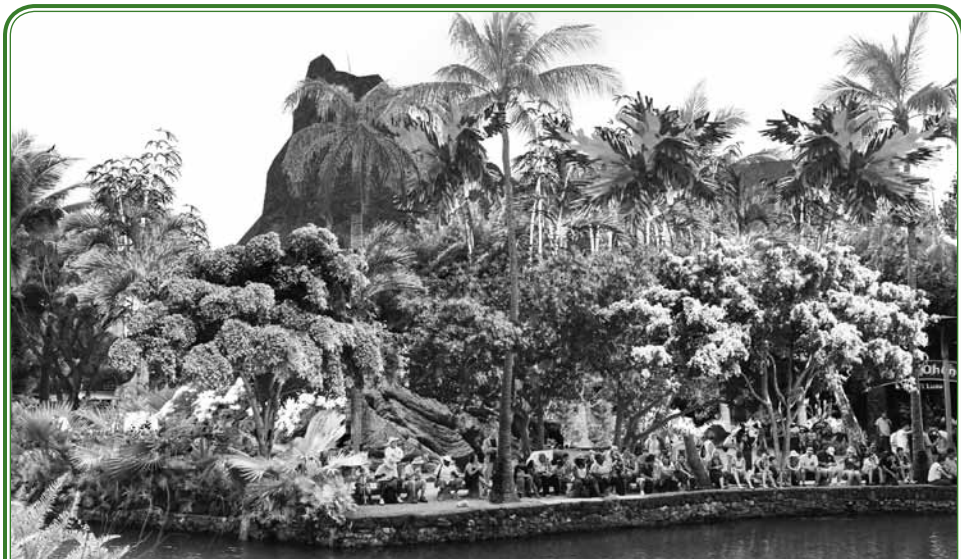
“We’re still refining details of the guest

experience, but the volcanic chamber will show evidence of a place where ancient Hawaiians came. As the show begins the narrator, an elderly Hawaiian man, will invite everyone on a journey to see and experience the Hawaii of his youth — special places rarely seen by many. There are some spectacular locations in our film that even some of our most respected *kupuna* haven’t seen before,” he said.

“Reed Smoot, who has some wonderful ties to the Church in Hawaii, shot the film. David Warner, who helped significantly with *Ha*, is assisting with the story line; and Sam Cardon, an Emmy Award-winning LDS composer, is developing the original music score,” Grace continued. “Michael Lee and Pat Scanlon, the chief designers and producers of the new Gateway, are overseeing development of this new signature attraction. Mike’s background goes back to George Lucas, and Pat is a former vice president of Disney’s Imagineering.”

“When we opened the Hukilau Theater over 20 years ago, it included the state-of-the-art image technology of the time. Today’s state-of-the-art technology is high-definition video. Our new, large-screen HD system will feature 4,096-line resolution — an incredible advantage compared with HDTV’s current 1080-line resolution. A robust new sound system will complement the imagery.”

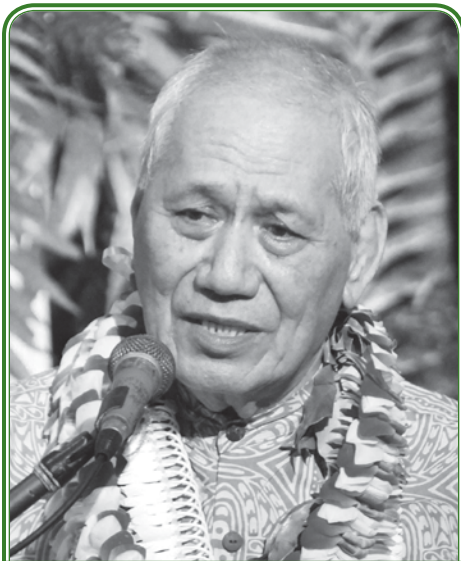
Grace said construction is expected to begin in early January and finish in June or July 2012. “The ‘new’ theater will seat up to 476 guests — “with 252 of those special effects seats that interact with the media. It will also be available for multi-functions, and may eventually include a performance stage for special events.”



A “volcano” concept and new technology will “overflow” the Hukilau Theater in 2012. The renovated venue, which is not yet renamed, will also feature the PCC’s own ultra-high-definition film of a little-known Hawaii.

PCC, community greet Samoa's Head of State

The Polynesian Cultural Center hosted the Head of State of Samoa, His Highness Tuiatua Tupua Tamasese Efi, his wife the Masiofo Filifilia Tamasese and traveling party on September 21, 2011, with traditional Samoan and Polynesian protocol, entertainment, the giving of gifts and fine mats, and feasting in the Samoan village.



The Head of State of Samoa,
His Highness Tuiatua Tupua Tamasese Efi

"Hosting the Head of State is such a huge occasion for us that we wanted to include the community, because we know it's as meaningful to them as it is to us. They were more than willing to come and help," said PCC Director of Cultural Presentations Delsa Atoa Moe.

The stopover occurred as the group returned to Samoa from visiting welfare, humanitarian and other Church facilities in Utah. While there, His Highness met with the First Presidency. He also participated in lectures and forums at the University of Utah, Brigham Young University in Provo, and at a student-community forum at BYU-Hawaii on September 22.

Tupuola George Hunt, Welfare Manager and Country Director of Media Relations and Public Affairs for the Church in Samoa who organized the 15-day trip, said the Head of State and his wife were very pleased with their experiences in Utah. At one point he told Elder Ben Banks, an emeritus General Authority who accompanied them in Utah, "I see God in the work that you do in humanitarian aid and in helping the needy, not just in Samoa but the world over. This is love, done with so much commitment and dedication. You folks put yourselves and your resources out."

"He was also very impressed with what he's seen at the Polynesian Cultural Center," added Tupuola, who worked at the PCC while attending Church College of Hawaii in the 1960s.

Following the banquet, the Head of State thanked his hosts and shared several observations from his trip. "Part of the reason I wanted to come is because I've seen so many good works done by the Mormons in ours and other communities. I'm aware of their humanitarian work. It's very impressive. I came to probe the reference, the source for people being motivated to want to do good," the Head of State said.

The Head of State thanked all those who made his visit memorable. "It touches me to no end. I want you to know that I am very happy to be here."

President Orgill: 'No one else..'

Continued from page 1

measures. That first year we experimented for just seven days . . . and we drew around 12,000 people. Since then about 120,000 have taken our Haunted Lagoon ride.

This year for the first time the Board of Directors held their October meeting in Laie so they could experience this phenomenon. The BYUH-PCC Presidents' Leadership Council was also here at the same time, all of which put enormous pressure on all of you; but I want you to know that their feedback

has been consistently complimentary. They described your efforts as "something that no one else could have done" and "as good as Disney could have produced."

I want you to know that I love and care about all of you, and I'm grateful for the privilege and opportunity to associate with you.

I hope you realize we're all here doing the work of the Lord. We're making things happen that will make a difference in this part of the vineyard and, as people visit here, the feelings they have and the spirit they feel will ripple out across the world. This is a small place in a big ocean, but the influence that radiates from here is profound.

I hope you feel the calling and the blessing to make such a difference in the world, and that you never allow your work to become normal or routine.

I pray every single day that the Lord's blessings will continue to be with us. May we do everything in our power to be worthy of His help, so that His Spirit can always operate here unrestrained.

Von D. Orgill
President & CEO

'Christmas in Polynesia' coming again

Raymond Magalei, Director of Marketing, recently announced that the PCC will put on "Christmas in Polynesia" from December 12-23.

"This is going to be similar to the Christmas event we did in 2008, "A Gift for the Savior," Magalei said. "Before and after the canoe rides we will also provide rides through the villages where people can enjoy the beautiful lighting."

"I'm really looking forward to it," said President Orgill, who noted that community volunteers would be involved. "We'll share the special spirit of the Christmas message in our own unique way with all of those who come."

Imua Polenisia

Meet the new Service Missionaries

A stake president in Oregon City, Oregon, recently put together the interests of two members in his area who began their respective 18-month missions at the Center in October:

SISTER JANICE BOICE

...is assigned to do video editing for the In-House Marketing Department. She's worked in that field for almost 20 years and had her own business doing family histories and weddings as well as Church public affair assignments. She had



Sister Boice

only been home for a couple of months from a proselyting mission in Melbourne, Australia, before accepting her current calling.

"My first companion was a Tongan, and I grew to love the Polynesians," she said.. It's

a great blessing from my Heavenly Father to be able to serve here."

Sister Boice, whose husband passed away in 1996, has five children and 19 grandchildren.

SISTER TERRI BULTEZ

...divides her time between the Islands Office and the Hawaii Mission Settlement. She previously served part-time for two years in the Portland Bishop's Storehouse.

Sister Bultez, whose husband passed away about two years ago, has been a homemaker for their eight children, 33 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. "Two of our daughters attended BYU-Hawaii, and another daughter lived on Oahu when her husband was in the military. So, I came here several times before. In fact, my husband and I had always hoped to serve a mission here," she said.



Sister Bultez

Since the last issue of *IMUA*, also serving at the Center are:

ELDER DAVE & SISTER JACKIE ALLEN

...from Mesa, Arizona, began their 23-month mission in August. They worked on the Haunted Lagoon, and are now focusing on Christmas in Polynesia.

Elder Allen, who served as a young man in the New England States mission, graduated in commercial art from Arizona State U. and spent the majority of his career working as a dental technician. "But he's done haunted houses and been involved in Halloween props forever," Sister Allen said.



The Allens

Before raising their family of five children and 23 grandchildren, Sister Allen earned a degree in elementary education and taught school in Scottsdale, AZ. More recently she was an apartment manager.

Year-end PCC specials

Let your friends and family know the Center is offering several year-end ticket specials:

- From now through December 31, 2011, Hawaii residents (ID required) can purchase a Kamaaina Annual pass for 50 percent off.
- *Kamaaina* (ID required) can purchase an Island Feast-*Ha* ticket for \$25 until 12/31/11.
- For the same time period, *kamaaina* can also purchase a "Go Native!" ticket for \$15.
- Guests purchasing their tickets online through the PCC's web site at least 10 days in advance, can get a 10 percent discount.

"It's beautiful here, and I really enjoy what I'm doing," he said. "I've learned that the Lord's work takes on many faces, and there are many ways to do it," she added. "Plus, it's fun to be here."

ELDER STEVE & SISTER JANIE SANDBERG

...arrived from Chugiak, Alaska, in August and are serving for 18 months. He's assigned to Maintenance electrical projects, and she divides her time between the Seamstresses and the Hawaiian Mission Settlement.



The Sandbergs

The couple is originally from the Los Angeles area, but they have lived in Alaska for almost 40 years. He served as a young man in Chile.

Elder Sandberg graduated from BYU Provo, and retired 10 years ago after working most of his life in the construction industry. Sister Sandberg has worked as a childbirth teacher and recently retired as an office manager in a medical office. The couple has three children and five grandchildren who also live in Alaska.

Elder Sandberg said he's found his coworkers to be "very friendly, and they also have high standards, which is a very pleasant change from the average construction worker."

"I really enjoy working with the Seamstresses because we get to serve with the students," Sister Sandberg said. "They're so much fun, and their stories are very inspirational. Then in the afternoons I really like interacting with the guests."



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