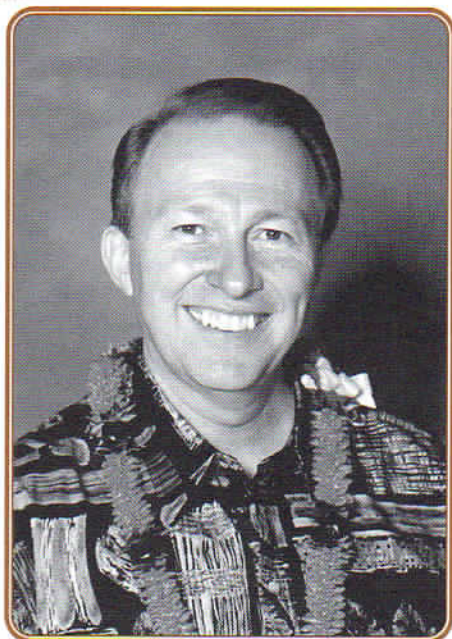
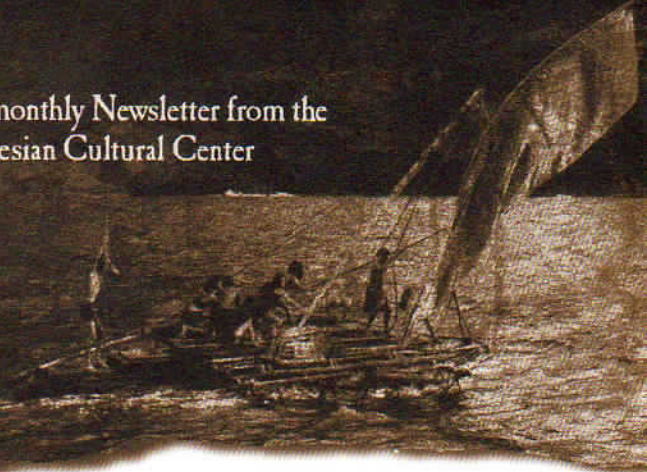


# Imula Polenisia

A Bimonthly Newsletter from the  
Polynesian Cultural Center



## I Wish All of You Could Have Been There

[Excerpts from President Orgill's PCC  
Team Meeting review of the April  
presentation to the First Presidency]

Our new board chairman, Mark Willes, started off the meeting, discussed the recent changes in our Board of Directors, and acknowledged the contributions of Ted Jacobsen who has been called to serve as a mission president in Manchester, England. Then he shared what meant a great deal to me, he bore his own personal testimony of the divine role and mission of the Polynesian Cultural Center, and the impact it is having in the world.

It was very touching, and all of you who

know President Willes know that he is a very spiritual man. That spirit was felt strongly and it was a wonderful way to begin our presentation.

Mark showed a slide with information about the Officer Team. He noted that between them there is a great deal of experience at the PCC. He also highlighted the fact that many are products of the system here, attending and graduating from BYU-Hawaii, and coming from the various cultures and lending their expertise to the ongoing mission of the Center.

I began my part of the presentation with a fond "Aloha!" It is always special to hear them say "Aloha!" back. Each visit they express appreciation for our presence and for the chocolate covered macadamia nuts we give them just before we begin.

We reviewed four basic areas or topics with those present, which included the First Presidency, the Presiding Bishopric, and Elders Scott and Hales. We shared the following:

### Building Bridges of Friendship

One area of continuing significant accomplishment is our ongoing effort to build bridges of friendship for the Church. For example, of the 34,000 non-LDS visitors to the Hawaii Temple

Visitors Center who participated in a guided tour last year, nearly three-fourths of them came from the PCC; and nearly 80 percent of the referrals that came out of the Visitors Center were also PCC guests. These results continue to be second only to the Visitors Center on Temple Square among all of the Church's visitors centers.

In addition, over 40,000 people viewed The Testaments at the PCC IMAX™ Theater before it was moved to the newly renovated Temple Visitors Center on February 1.

Our efforts to build bridges of friendship among peoples, cultures and countries continue to be one of the Center's most primary roles and most pronounced contributions to the Church. In 2004, we hosted over 783,000 visitors from around the world — nearly all of whom, we believe, came away with a more positive impression of the Church.

*Continued on next page*

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We have a special opportunity in June to enhance the relationship we share with China. We've been invited by Governor Linda Lingle's office to join a Hawaii delegation who will visit key cities in China as part of an economic development and tourism mission. The PCC and BYU-Hawaii have been asked to represent the cultures that are so prominent in the state. The tour will include a PCC Promo Team performance in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing with a television broadcast to a nationwide audience estimated to be over 700 million people.

We believe this will provide a wonderful exposure for the University, for the Center, and for the Church. We're also coordinating a series of special firesides in China for members and special guests.

### Nurturing Future Leaders

President David O. McKay's prophecies about the community of Laie, along with the Temple and the University are the foundation of all of our efforts and our focus. He described those who would be educated here as "genuine gold." He said they would be the kind of leaders the world would be hungering for, leaders among men who could not be bought or sold.

Everything we do at PCC is designed to partner with BYU-Hawaii, the Temple, the Church and the community in fulfilling President McKay's words and those of so many other Church leaders who have seen and foreseen the impact these young people would have on the world. Relatively few members of the Church know, understand or appreciate the importance of what has and continues to take place in this small community on the north shore of Oahu.

Of our 1,200 employees, about 700 are BYU-Hawaii students. They come from

over 70 different countries. For many this is their first experience outside of their home island or community. Initially for many of these students, the experience can be a bit frightening and the work expectations a bit intimidating. However, for all it quickly becomes a pathway to strength, confidence and competence.

Most people think of PCC employees working in the villages, at the luau, and at the night show, yet we have students "performing" in over 50 different job classifications, many of which are directly related to their major course of study at BYU-Hawaii, such as finance, accounting, management information systems, and marketing. As they work in these various roles, many students move into lead and supervisory positions where they gain valuable experience and preparation.

Whatever the role or job responsibility, each has the opportunity to apply in the work place the theories, concepts and principles taught in the classroom. Their positions and responsibilities at the Center become a natural and practical extension of their classroom experiences, providing invaluable benefits for their future lives. These experiences build stronger résumés and improve their prospects for job opportunities after they graduate.

Some classes require students to start a business during the semester, and some of them choose to partner with the PCC. We treat these student efforts like real businesses. They must sign rental agreements and perform up to our standards for regular vendors. Other classes allow students to participate in consulting, market research and process improvement efforts. The Center benefits greatly from all of these activities, but the primary benefit goes to the students who gain valuable real-life experience.

Our efforts are dedicated to assisting each student as they grow and develop. We are blessed with the privilege of helping them become complete, focusing not just on their temporal development, but even more importantly on their spiritual growth as well.

It's all about building the faith and testimonies of the students, along with self-confidence, perseverance, technical and thinking skills. It's about building a strong work ethic and determination, and of celebrating differences, diversity and cultural heritages. It's about developing leadership, management and interpersonal communication skills. It's about developing people of character and integrity who are the literal fulfillment of President McKay's prophecies. How blessed we are to be involved in such an important work.

### The Spirit of Aloha

The PCC Mission Statement echoes the many prophetic utterances about this unique place as it highlights the Spirit of Polynesia, which is often referred to as the Spirit of aloha. This spirit is healthy and infectious. Our guests repeatedly reference this when asked about their experience in visiting the Center. They know it is something special. It is something special, because it is the Spirit of Love, which is felt by all who walk the grounds.

It is the Spirit of Service, which fills the hearts and minds of the students and others, and is so willingly shared with all who visit. Yes, it is the Spirit of the Gospel, which brings us all together as one people, one family.

It is and ever will be the Spirit of God that directs this work, and moves it forward. You can see it in the eyes of these special young people. It radiates from heart to heart as all are edified.



## Strategic Initiatives

We have identified three major goal categories that we feel will continue to ensure the success of the Center:

- Improve financial results
- Exceed guest expectations
- Enhance employee work experiences

Our visitor count rebounded following the 2001 terrorist attacks. Since then visitors to PCC have increased, and we see that trend continuing. The Iraq War and SARS impacted 2003, however we performed well ahead of budget in 2004, and are experiencing continuous positive results this year. Fundraising results have been extremely gratifying and are tracking well above our straight-line budget and projections.

Fundraising, aimed at providing support for student internships and work experiences at the PCC, has been extremely helpful and beneficial in recent years. We're grateful for the First Presidency's approval to partner with BYU-Hawaii and the LDS Foundation in this endeavor.

The most recent summary of guest satisfaction surveys for 2004 show that

about 80 percent of all PCC guests come because of the recommendation of a family member or friend who had visited previously. This is a great comment about what happens here at the Center; and while these results are exceptionally positive, we're constantly trying to improve the overall guest experience.

A similar survey of employees shows that a very high percentage of them are "very satisfied" or "extremely satisfied" with the Center, and we continue to look for ways to meet our employees' needs and to enhance their experiences.

One of our Promo Team members, Marie Sibbett, recently shared a beautiful testimony after the Promo Team performed, "My Hands Are the Lord's Hands" for President Hinckley and the Presidents' Leadership Council in Salt Lake City.

President Hinckley said after the singing of that song and listening to her testimony, "There's nothing more I can say."

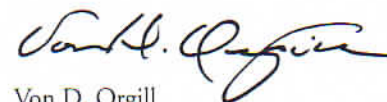
Each visit with the First Presidency is a special blessing and wonderful

# Imua Polenisia

opportunity. I wish all of you could join with me and Jim Hopkinson on such occasions. They are so immensely complimentary of all that you are doing to move the Center forward and for the progress you are making here.

As we were leaving and saying goodbye, I shook hands with President Hinckley. He looked at me and said, "I just want all of you to know how much we appreciate you and what you're doing." Then he paused, and said again, "Really, we appreciate all you're doing."

How blessed we are to be a part of this unique and special place.



Von D. Orgill  
President

## Taking Care of Customers: Satisfaction Remains High

Since summers are a particularly good time for keiki (kids) to visit PCC, the Center is launching its new 'Ohana Adventure package that includes:

### Keiki Kau Kau lunch

P. Alfred Grace, PCC Vice President of Sales and Marketing, explained the Keiki Kau Kau lunch is "an abbreviated family-friendly luau-type experience created especially for kids that will orient families to the activities in each village."

The menu will be made up of keiki-friendly foods like hotdogs and hamburgers, etc. and, "the entertainment will feature interactive performances that involve the whole family,

Polynesian costumes modeled by keiki dancers, and samples of village activities in a fun and exciting show."

"We're excited to offer our visiting families something new for the vacation experience this summer," Grace continued, adding that the new 'Ohana Adventure Package also includes a...

### Passport to Polynesia

Grace said the Passport to Polynesia booklet "will give families a chance to play together, discover new things, and take home a keepsake passport that also serves as a learning tool."

He explained the colorful new Passport is "a child's guide to navigating the PCC's fun activities and shows." It includes:

- A schedule of the day's activities geared toward the family experience.

- Space to write down the greetings for each island.

- A fun illustration and the name of each island's games or activities to help the keiki remember it when they return home.

- Space to collect themed stamps to show they completed that island's games or activities."

"If a child collects at least three stamps, he or she will qualify for a free prize at the PCC's main shop located in the Treasures of Polynesian Marketplace," Grace said.

The 'Ohana Adventure Package with Keiki Kau Kau costs \$50 per adult and \$35 per child (3-11, 2-and-under are free). The package can be upgraded to include a dinner option and evening show.





## 15-Year-Old Claims PCC's 13th Annual World Fireknife Championship

In the end — after three days of the finest knife dancing — a 15-year-old from Orlando, Florida, claimed the Polynesian Cultural Center's 13th annual Samoan World Fireknife Dancing Championship title by a one-point margin.

Mikaele Oloa, a sophomore in high school, turned in two perfect performances, including a three-knife routine at one point, during double evening shows on May 14 in the Pacific Theater to become this year's world champion. Based on the combined scores from both performances, he beat out Hogan To'omalatai of Samoa, 1st runner-up, and Brandon "Fue" Maneafaiga of Waianae, Oahu, 2nd runner-up.

In addition to the title, Oloa won a \$4,000 cash prize and a ceremonial knife created by Pulefano Galea'i, Director of Cultural Islands and the founder of the PCC's World Fireknife Dance Competition and Samoan Festival. To'omalatai won a \$2,000 prize and Maneafaiga won \$1,000.

Their dancing, indeed that of all nine semi-

finalists, was so outstanding — fast, creative and entertaining — that the difference in the judge's mind was probably as thin as a knife blade and the number of drops became a critical factor. To'omalatai, for example, dropped his knife during the first show in the finals competition, and Maneafaiga dropped his knife once in each of the finals shows.

Amazingly, Oloa had originally intended to compete in the junior category which covers ages 12-17, "but my father says I have what it takes," he said of his decision to go against the older, more experienced dancers. He has been training with his father for the past four years.

Former and current PCC dancers were among the nine semifinalists, including outgoing champion Alexander Lefolasa Galea'i; his cousin, three-time former champion David Galea'i; Samoan "ambassador" Kapaneta Te'o-Tafiti, and his brother Ah Chew Tafiti, who has danced in all 13 of the PCC's competitions.

Other current and former PCC employees involved in this year's competition included Taeyoung Kim, a BYU-Hawaii student from Korea who used to take care of the knives as a member of the stage crew; and judges Junior Ah You, Keleise Taulogo, Seiuli Laneseloka

Nuga and Quincy Leiataua, who along with Pulefano, was one of the original fireknife dancers when the PCC first opened in 1963.

### Junior and Keiki winners

The future of fireknife dancing seems quite secure, if the level of talent demonstrated by the junior and keiki (children) is a good indicator. These kids were awesome!

Top honors in the junior division (ages 12-17) went to Via Tiimalu Jr., a 13-year-old 7th grader from Orlando, Florida, whose victory included an \$800 prize. Brothers Malakai and Jeurell Lavata'i of American Samoa took 2nd and 3rd place finishes with \$600 and \$400 prizes, respectively.

In the keiki division Dallin Muti, the 11-year-old son of PCC musicians Dallin and Tia Muti, overcame the momentary surprise of flaming gas on his neck to take first place and a \$150 prize. Larry "Tui" Tuileta and Philip Mauigoa took 2nd and 3rd places, respectively.

### Samoa Festival

Fun, talent and pride are just some of the adjectives that describe this year's annual



# Imua Polynesia

Samoa Festival. The four high schools competing — Farrington, Kahuku, Moanalua and Waipahu — as well as groups from BYU-Hawaii, the University of Hawaii at Manoa and the United Samoan Organization of Hawaii, a Samoan cultural organization in Honolulu, thrilled the capacity crowd in the Pacific Theater with their enthusiasm.

The festival began with Samoa Island manager Tuiala Savaiinaea giving a speech of welcome, followed by last year's overall winner, Farrington High, singing Lo Ta Nu'u, an anthem which expresses gratitude for the beloved home islands.

Next high school orators competed with traditional lauga, and then the fun really began as the youth raced each other in completing traditional skills such as peeling green bananas with a bamboo knife, husking coconuts, weaving coconut-leaf baskets and starting a fire just like they do in the Samoan village. The crowd loved the events, and unlike some past competitions, this year a Farrington student

actually finished a basket while three schools led by Kahuku got the coconut husk to burn.

Delsa Moe, Director of Cultural Presentation, explained the high schools had previously met in the Samoan spirit of fealofani or "mutual respect" to help them prepare for this year's annual event as well as encourage them to complete their school work.

For example, Robert Tiave Jr., a former PCC performer who helped the Farrington group prepare, explained the festival "brings out their positive side and let's us know our culture is alive. The majority of these kids were born here, not in Samoa. In the Farrington club, Samoan is their second language. We also have Micronesians and Tongan kids involved, so our club is called Island Harmony."

"If it wasn't for the club and the study hall, a lot of these kids might not be passing," he added.

Like all good showmen, the students saved the best for last: Each group sang and danced,

moving in close synchronization and spurred on by their respective fa'aluma or comedic leaders. They were obviously crowd pleasers. The audience also shared their alofa by donating money when the chief's daughter (taupo) did the traditional tauluga dance.

In the end, nearby Kahuku High took the overall prize, but it seemed like everybody there was a winner.

The complete results can be found at:

[http://www.polynesia.com/press/press\\_05.05.14\\_samoafestivalresults.html](http://www.polynesia.com/press/press_05.05.14_samoafestivalresults.html)



Chief Tuiala Savaiinaea welcomes all to the 2005 Samoa Festival



PCC's very own Kap Tafiti



Valerie Si'ilata of Kahuku High



Winner of the Junior Pacific Fireknife Championship, Via Tiumalu Jr.



## Rapa Nui Leader Visits PCC

When former PCC board member Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of The Quorum of the Twelve served in residence as President of the Chile Area, in February 2004 he became the first Apostle to visit Rapa Nui (Easter Island). At that time he invited Alberto Hotus to visit BYU-Hawaii and the Cultural Center.

The 75-year-old former mayor of Rapa Nui and president of the island's hereditary council of elders, spent a week in Laie in April. Speaking in Spanish through an interpreter, Hotus said it was "very impressive to see how the cultures at the PCC are presented, and in some ways flourish. I recognize that if it weren't for the commercial part, none of this would flourish."

"I was impressed by the Rapa Nui exhibit," he said, adding he hopes to see a time when the people of Rapa Nui are represented at the Cultural Center. "Of all the Polynesians, we're the only ones who had writing, so I think it's also important to bring that knowledge here."

"I was extremely impressed by the people who put together all of the villages, especially those who are working with the canoes. They know perfectly well what they are doing," Hotus continued. "I was also very impressed to see the [BYU-Hawaii canoe] Iosepa. This is a canoe that could sail across the high seas."

"I was a sailor in the Chilean navy, and I've been many places in large boats made of metal. When you compare those to a canoe like this, you're left to marvel at how the ancient peoples could do this. I'm really in awe of it. I know the builders knew what they were doing, and that they understood the heritage of canoe voyaging. When I think that our ancestors traveled the open seas and brought with them the tools and supplies they needed, that's awesome to contemplate."

He added he's also impressed with the objectives of the PCC. "They are so clear,

and more importantly, not politicized. When I first came I thought the Center and the University were the same. What I understand now is that there's a bridge between them, and that bridge provides work opportunities for the students, and also provides an opportunity for those who come to the Center to be supportive of the students."

Hotus is particularly interested in helping preserve the traditional language of Rapa Nui and its philology or relationship to other Polynesian languages. During his visit, he presented the university with copies of his studies on the language and its etymology as well as a genealogy of Rapa Nui families from the time it was first populated until the current generation.

"We feel the best way to preserve the culture of the island is by the study of the language," said Hotus, who explained he first became interested in the language and traditions of his people as a young nurse in charge of all the elderly leprosy patients on Easter Island. Later he used that knowledge to successfully lobby the Chilean government to return and restrict ownership of Rapa Nui land to the Polynesian natives.

Hotus' visit to Hawaii and the Polynesian Cultural Center, his first, has encouraged him. "A lot of Easter Islanders had said we don't want development to make us like Hawaii, but after visiting here and seeing all that has been done, I can also see economic and cultural progress. Much of what I see here is what we need to do. We need to economically develop, but at the same time preserve the important things of our culture."

The stone statues, for example, which have become icons of Polynesia that are recognized worldwide, "are not gods, but they are very sacred because they are representations of our ancestral leaders."

As an outgrowth of Señor Hotus' visit, BYU-Hawaii is extending three scholarships to Rapa Nui students. "I'm also grateful for the Polynesian Cultural Center and the way they received me," he said.

## New Missionaries: Elder and Sister Johnson x2

Say aloha to Elder and Sister Johnson, and another Elder and Sister Johnson, all of whom have recently started 18-month service missions at the PCC.

### Elder Charles and Sister Patricia Johnson

...are from Gold Hill, Oregon. This is their first mission. He's been a civil engineer for almost 40 years and is assigned to Physical Facilities. She is assigned to the Hawaii Mission Settlement.

"Our initial project will be the front entry. We're going to re-do the concrete on the outside," said Elder Charles Johnson. He noted that even though he had never previously been to the PCC, he lived on Oahu from 1941-45. "My father was working for the Navy in the Civil Service, and he moved to Hawaii in October 1941. I was 4 when we came. I remember a little bit, such as dark smoke and airplanes, and some offshore activities. We left in April of 1945."

Elder Johnson pulled a dollar bill out of his wallet stamped "Hawaii" from those days "so you couldn't sneak other kinds of money on or off the island. My mother saved it."

Sister Patricia Johnson was born in Bakersfield, California but moved around a lot as a child. "My dad was a chef who worked in resorts, such as Yellowstone for 45 years, and at Camelback Inn in Arizona during the winters."

She worked as a teacher for many years. "I've taught everything from pre-school to college. I did restaurant training. I was a handicapped specialist for Head Start for years, and I've done a lot of private English tutoring for foreign students. Sister Johnson adds she's also worked as an actress in commercials, TV and a couple of movies. "It was a long time ago," she says.

The couple has eight children, and five-and-



a-half grandchildren. Elder Johnson says the Center is "very nice and pretty well run. There are a few places that need some attention from our area, and they'll get taken care of."

Sister Johnson says she loves working in the Mission Settlement. "The people here are so gracious and kind. I haven't met anyone who hasn't just been wonderful to talk to and serve, and I think the students are just marvelous. They're so beautiful in willing to serve the Lord. This is a very spiritual place."

## Elder Bruce and Sister Sally Johnson

...are from Stevensville, Montana. He is assigned to work with Maintenance in the kitchen area, and she is assigned to the Hawaii Mission Settlement. This is their first mission.

"I hope to bring some expertise in keeping the equipment running better," said Elder Bruce Johnson, who "started off repairing office machines as a teenager in San Francisco, where I met my wife." Before

retiring, he operated his own business selling and servicing restaurant equipment and maintaining medical equipment.

Sister Sally Johnson has an intriguing résumé: She is a professional artist in acrylics and oils. "I like historical themes — old houses, barns and cars. I've got paintings all over in Europe and the United States." She has taught gifted programs for elementary kids in Utah and Montana for 18 years, and she is a self-taught chocolatier.

"That means I understand how to work with chocolate and make various candies. It's an art by itself. We also have a chocolate store, which my daughter took over when we left," she says, listing her specialties of "moose nuggets" — chocolate fudge dipped in dark chocolate; and a "chubby cherry", a maraschino wrapped in a flavored creme, "and then we double-dip it until it's about two inches high. They're a meal replacement."

The couple, who had never been to Hawaii before, has six children and 27-and-a-half grandchildren. "I don't like airplanes, and it

was a challenge to get here, but I told my husband I would fly to go on a mission," she says. Now that she's here, "I get feelings of love from the people. They are such a good example of love and caring. I think that will help me grow."

Elder Johnson says Laie is "a beautiful area with beautiful people, but I prefer the cool nights in Montana. The PCC provides a great experience for the people who visit. It's positive exposure for the Church and a great missionary tool.

You should get to know all the new Johnsons real soon, because Les Steward, who coordinates all the service missionaries at PCC, says another Elder and Sister Johnson are expected in about a month.



Elder Charles and Sister Patricia Johnson, from Oregon



Elder Bruce and Sister Sally Johnson, from Montana



# EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION



PCC's Calendar Girls: (from left to right) Carolyn Purcell, Toiva Lake, Kim Nae'ole, Pekka Tapusoa

PCC Employee Recognition Week was March 13–18 — with the theme of *pulupululima fa'atasi* or "Many hands working together to lighten the load for everyone" — included honors, prizes, good food and tons of fun. **Theresa "Nona" Warner**, who started as a fry cook in 1969 but transferred to wardrobe in 1971, where she has been ever since, was recognized for her 35 years of service to the Center. **John Muaina Jr.**, **Regina Pasi** and **Lavata'i Sagapolutele** each marked 30 years, as did **Carolyn Purcell**, a part-time employee. The week concluded with an evening concert in the Hale Aloha by Kapena, followed by an outrageous David Tiave production that featured all of those behind-the-scenes employees who have been dying to show us their moves. Unbelievably awesome!



Theresa "Nona" Warner celebrates 35 years



Kapena rocks the Hale Aloha



Tali "Presley" Galea'i brings the audience to their feet with a Hunk-a-hunk-a Burnin' Love



55-370 Kamehameha Highway, Laie, HI 96762  
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