

# Imua Polenisia

A Newsletter from the  
Polynesian Cultural Center



## President Orgill: 'An on-going miracle'

We have all heard that the Hawaii visitor industry continues to face challenges, but I want to reassure you there are also many good things happening at the Center. Indeed, we must build on our accomplishments and improvements, and strive to make good things happen. Fortunately, we have a lot of help in doing that. I'd like to update you on a few of them:

First, we're very grateful for special visitors who come to the Center and BYU-Hawaii to help our students in "learning, leading and building" their leadership potential.

One of these, Elder Dallin H. Oaks of

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Outrigger canoe paddling will soon join other new "Go Native!" program activities at the PCC

## PCC plans \$38 million in enhancements

The Polynesian Cultural Center recently announced a \$38 million plan to enhance its activities, shows, restaurants, retail operations and business-to-business booking system over a five-year period.

"The additions we have planned at the Polynesian Cultural Center will bring new and exciting elements to the park that will revitalize our guests' experiences," said P. Alfred Grace, PCC chief operating officer. "These investments will allow our guests to gain a deeper understanding of the Polynesian cultures in new and more immersive ways." He pointed out that several of the biggest changes have already been underway since the first of this year, including:

**Renovation of restaurant facilities:** The former Gateway Restaurant and Ambassador Fine Dining facility has been closed since January for an "extreme makeover." Since then construction crews have stripped the building down to a shell; and when it reopens

later this summer with a new name — yet to be finalized — its greatly expanded capacity of 24,400 square feet can be easily reconfigured for a variety of activities. In addition to dining, these include dances, receptions and concerts.

In the meantime, PCC Ambassadors have been dining in the Marquesas while the Gateway buffet is served in the Hale Ohana.

**Rediscover the Marquesas:** After nearly a year's worth of renovations and the completion of the PCC's main multipurpose dining facility, the Marquesas exhibit will also reopen this summer. However, this unique corner of the PCC will continue to be available for private events with advanced booking.

**"Go Native!":** Grace also pointed out that first phase of PCC's planned upgrades and enhancements has already started and includes four of eight new "Go Native!" daily

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**MAKEOVER IN PROGRESS:** The former Gateway will be completely renovated when it's soon completed, and in addition to dining, it can also serve as a multi-purpose venue.

## PCC enhancements...

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activities which have already been unveiled:

- Twice-daily cooking demonstrations where guests learn to make island dishes with food items and appliances they have at home.
- Making an *umu* and traditional food for the Samoan above-ground rock oven.
- The Hawaii Mission Settlement now offers Hawaiian quilt-making lessons and handi-craft quilting kits.
- Coconut tree climbing in the Samoan village (using wall-climbing equipment for safety).

"For example, thousands of our guests have already witnessed unveiling a traditional Hawaiian *imu* as part of the luau experiences here or elsewhere in Hawaii, but our new Samoan *umu* activity takes that several steps further," Grace continued.

"We don't just show people how some Polynesians cook traditional foods, we invite them to get personally involved with the preparations. And the best part? Those who come back when the *umu*'s ready a couple of hours later get to sample delicious fresh-cooked Samoan food items such as *palusami*, baked taro and green bananas as well as *fai'ai eleni* — mackerel and coconut cream baked in a half-coconut shell. People are pleasantly surprised at how good these dishes taste."

Grace said the other new "Go Native!"

activities include:

- The Tahitian Village Te Here celebration. Beginning toward the end of July, PCC guests will have the truly unique opportunity to experience an ancient and exotic Tahitian wedding ceremony.
- PCC guests can also try outrigger paddling on the lagoon in a newly built four-person canoe. For those with a competitive edge, the paddlers will also have the opportunity to race other canoe teams throughout the day.
- Learn how the Tahitians dye their colorful pareo (sarongs), then learn a variety of ways to tie them.

"Guests can even experience dying pareos in the Tahitian village," said Kealii Haverly,

PCC Director of In-Center Marketing. He explained the dying process requires sunny days, and that guests can purchase a blank pareo and "create their own designs with the materials that we have and pick it up later in the day, or buy a similar one."

- The Tahitian village will also offer spear throwing, in which guests can try to hit a coconut set on top of a 6-foot pole.

**New business-to-business booking system:** Grace noted the Center's new B2B online booking system is currently in final testing and is also scheduled to go live this summer. He explained it's part of the TicketSage™ system, which has an emphasis on travel agency integration.

"The new B2B system will enable agencies to register online and book their orders directly without having to go through the general call center or a wholesaler. This adds overall efficiency by making it simpler for travel agents to do business with us," Grace said. "It will also make the PCC more accessible to U.S. mainland tour and travel agencies, increasing reservation accuracy and improving our working relationship with partner agencies."

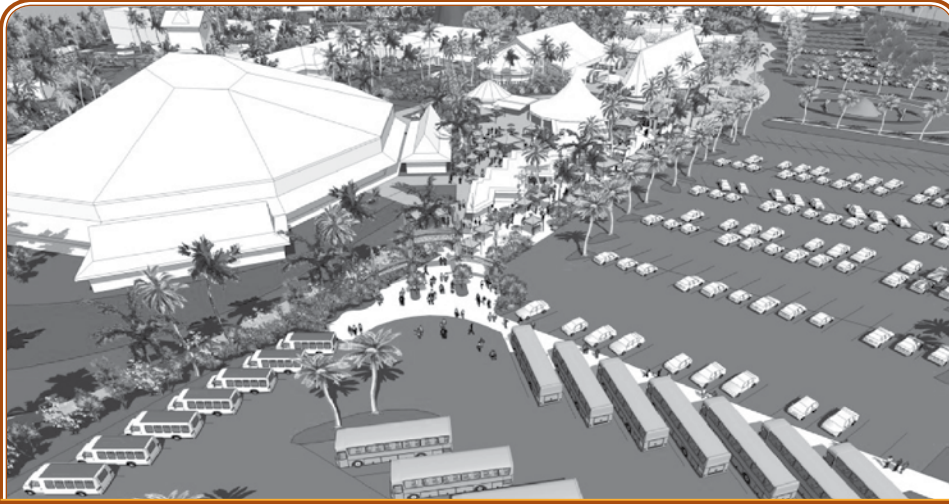
**Hawaiian Journey in the Hukilau Theater:** Looking farther ahead, PCC plans call for major changes to occur in the Hukilau Theater by spring 2012. These include redesigning the exterior of the building and executing a major makeover of the interior, complete with new digital projectors. The makeover will be more than skin deep, as an all-new 4D experience will be unveiled to



Polynesian Cultural Center guests not only learn how to prepare a Samoan *umu* as part of the new "Go Native!" program, they also get to sample such delicacies as baked bananas and breadfruit.



# Iimua Polenisia



In 2012 the PCC plans to expand the Polynesian Market Place and make it more accessible to the public.

take visitors on a “Hawaiian Journey” unlike anything currently offered in the Hawaiian Islands.

**A Bustling Market Place:** Also in planning is a major extension of the Polynesian Market Place by summer 2012. Accommodating more shops, the expanded market place will enable the PCC to offer a wider variety goods from throughout all of Polynesia, including an ukulele factory, Polynesian handicrafts, fresh island fruits and vegetables and other Polynesian cuisine. Admission to the market place will be free to the public.

In addition to these plans, in 2009 the PCC reinvented and launched its new evening show, the highly successful and critically acclaimed *Ha: Breath of Life*, the world’s

largest Polynesian review.

Another hit production, *Haunted Lagoon*, enters its fourth season this October, has become Hawaii’s preeminent Halloween experience. Likewise, the World Fireknife Championships, set to hold its 20th anniversary

in May 2012, continues to sell out and attract top fireknife talent from around the world.

Since its founding in 1963, the Center has introduced more than 34 million visitors to the culture, arts and crafts of Polynesia. In that same time, nearly 17,000 young students from more than 70 different countries have received financial assistance for their studies at Brigham Young University–Hawaii.

## President Orgill...

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the Twelve — a former chairman of our board of directors — recently gave a very powerful talk to members of the BYUH/PCC Presidents Leadership Council (PLC). He referenced a talk he gave in the 1980s on what he thought the future would look like for students back then and what they needed to do to prepare for it. In that address, he spoke about conditions in the world, including accelerating natural disasters and rumors of wars. He said as you look around the world, there are a lot of people who are pessimistic about what’s happening, but inside the Kingdom of God things are bright.

That’s where we need to keep our focus, in moving the work of the Lord forward in all the ways we can.

Elder Oaks also thanked the PLC members for supporting the Center and BYU–Hawaii, and encouraged them to do even more in the future. “Give more. Keep giving, so that we can move the work of the Lord moving forward more rapidly,” he said.

“You need to do it for you, because of the blessings that will accrue to you for being generous with the blessings that the Lord has given you.”

A number of those generous donors also recently spent a day at the PCC. They were absolutely stunned by the Spirit they experienced here. They had a hard time finding enough good words to explain the feelings they had, how beautiful everything is, and how marvelous it is to see the Lord’s hand at work here. They were touched to be a part of what they called this “on-going miracle.”

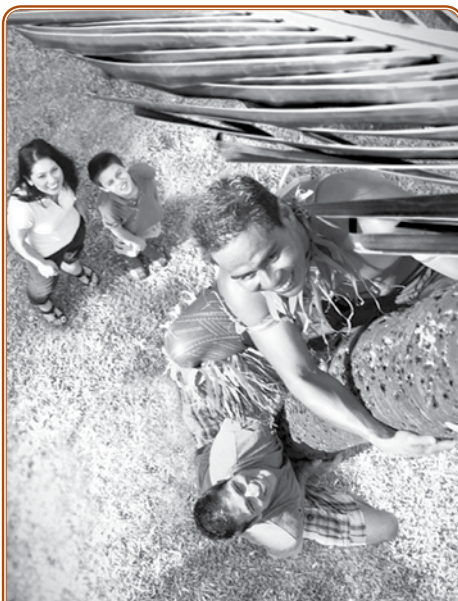
I hope you feel their sense of excitement. I hope you feel grateful and will continue to partner with all who help us make these many positive things happen at the PCC.

It’s wonderful we get to feel the Spirit that is here every day, largely because of the lives you live, because of who you are, and because we really are all about the Lord’s work here.

I express my thanks and aloha to each of you. I appreciate that you come to work every day with a smile on your faces and do everything you can to help each other and our visitors feel that same sense of joy as we’re engaged in this marvelous journey.

*Von D. Orgill*

Von D. Orgill  
President & CEO



Guests can now use a safety device to learn how to climb a coconut tree.





ALLSTAR WEEKEND presented its first live concert in Hawaii at the Polynesian Cultural Center on June 25, 2011: (left-right) lead singer Zach Porter, bassist Cameron Quiseng and drummer Michael Martinez (folifoto)

## PCC Special Events & Guests

### ALLSTAR WEEKEND PRESENTS FIRST LIVE CONCERT IN HAWAII AT PCC

Standing ovations are a familiar sight in the Pacific Theater, but many of the fans on the afternoon of June 25, 2011, were also screaming and dancing at their seats during the Center's special live Allstar Weekend concert. Some of the faithful came from the mainland and as far away as Australia to hear the musical group share their hits in person.

The group (lead guitarist Nathan Darmody was on personal leave) started up about four years ago in their high school near San Diego and are perhaps best known from Disney Radio's "Next Best Thing" contest, music videos and their hit song, "Not Your Birthday," which is featured in this year's full-length movie *Prom*.

"Allstar Weekend is the type of family band that really fits with the kind of entertainment we like to feature at the PCC," said Raymond Magalei, Director of Marketing. "We're excited to have this group at the Center, and hope to have more concerts like this in the future."

Several mid-teen fans from Pearl City said they "really like the music because it's catchy, fun and you can dance to it."

Local band Kolohe Kai warmed up the audience with their local style reggae sounds.

### 12TH TAHITI FÊTE OPENS UNDER THE STARS

The PCC's 12th annual Te Mahana Hiro'a Tumu o Tahiti special event started on July 1, 2011, with senior division solo competitions under starry skies and gentle trade winds in the

Tahitian village. For the first time this year, each of the entrants had been invited to compete at the PCC after having previously won the equivalent of a "best Tahitian dancer" in a *heiva* or dance competition in Hawaii or the U.S. mainland.

The tropical ambiance, exciting Tahitian drums and obvious skills of the dancers made for a most memorable evening.

The next morning more drumming and excitement filled the PCC's Pacific Theater as approximately 60 younger dancers entered their respective age division Tahitian solo competitions.

Congratulations to the winners: Kauluwehi-okekai Oliver and Keawe McArthur, senior *va-hine* and *tane* winners, respectively; Cailin-Tiana Sabado and Brayden-Tyler Agpaoa, girls and boys 13–18 overall winners; and Breeze-Makana Agpaoa and Lohiau Kinimaka-Guillory, girls and boys 4–12 overall winners.



Kauluwehi-okekai Oliver won the Center's first invitational senior women's Tahitian title

### PCC WELCOMES VOYAGING CANOE CREWS

The Center also hosted about 60 crew members on July 1, 2011, from a fleet of seven traditional double-hulled Polynesian voyaging canoes from across the South Pacific called Te Mana O Te Moana — "the spirit of the sea," which had arrived at Kualoa several days earlier and was preparing to sail on to North America.

Following a tour of the islands and a feast in the Samoan *maota*, the PCC presented each crew with items suitable for carrying on their ongoing journey.

"Te Mana O Te Moana is the modern-day embodiment of the Polynesian Voyaging spirit," said P. Alfred Grace, PCC Chief Operating Officer. "It was truly inspiring and refreshing for them to join us as guests and share their *mana'o*."



SAMOAN EVENTS: Hundreds participated while thousands enjoyed the 19th annual World Fireknife Championship and Samoan Festival in May. V.J. Tiumalu (lower center), 19, claimed the grand prize, again. (Mike Foley photos)

## Meet the New Service Missionaries

The following senior service missionaries have recently arrived at the Polynesian Cultural Center:

### ELDER GALE & SISTER BONNIE BRYCE

...arrived in March from Orem, Utah, to serve again at the PCC for 18 months. Elder Bryce is the quality assurance team leader, while Sister Bryce assists him and also works in the Hawaii Mission Settlement. They previously served in the same areas at the Center from 2006–07. In the interim he taught for a school year at a university in England. He also served a mission in Brazil as a young man.

Elder Bryce is a statistician who retired after teaching at BYU for 33 years and consulted extensively “with all kinds of industries essentially across the world.” He earned his master’s degree at BYU and a Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky. In addition to being a homemaker for their nine children, 27 grandchildren and one great-grandchild, Sister Bryce still operates her own residential interior design business.

“We have been overwhelmed with the welcome back we have received, and we’re grateful to be here,” she said. “The people I work with are absolutely fantastic,” he added. “They are kind, considerate and very helpful.”



The Bryces

“We’re excited to be here with so much change going on. It’s really an exciting time,” Sister Bryce said. “It’s great to be a part of the mission of the PCC.”

### ELDER NOLAN & SISTER JENNIE GILES

... also arrived in March from Ocean Shores,

Washington (west of Olympia) to start serving an 18-month mission. He works in the Physical Facilities department on construction projects, and she divides her time between the seamstress and the Hawaii Mission Settlement.



The Giles

Six weeks before coming to the Center they completed another 18-month senior mission as specialist auditors at Church Headquarters in Utah. Elder Giles also served as a young man in the California Mission, which “in those days was everything south of San Luis Obispo, all of Arizona and all of Clark County, Nevada.”

The couple retired just before serving their first mission together. He worked in construction, the last 23 years in project control for the city of Ocean Shores, with responsibility for permits and enforcement as well as project manager for all of the city-built improvements. He earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Utah and an MBA from the University of Phoenix.

Before getting married, Sister Giles lived on the Big Island for a year in the early 1970s, attended BYU–Hawaii for a year in the late 70s, and “I worked at the PCC selling pineapple deelines.” Later she worked as a hairdresser in high-end salons; then, after raising their nine children, she worked in quilt-making and taught people how to sew and embellish their clothing. The couple also has 17 grandchildren.

“It’s nice to back,” she said. “I love the people and the area I’m working in. I’m excited about learning how to sew aloha wear.”

Elder Giles said he’s found those who built the Center “did a good job, but this is a very exciting

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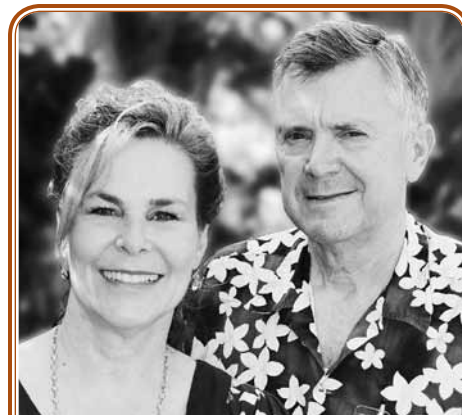
time. We’re here to serve and happy to be here.”

“To be on a mission is a great way to retire,” Sister Giles added. “Here in Hawaii there’s a wonderful spirit.”

### ELDER PAUL & SISTER NOLA HARBER

...are from Las Vegas, Nevada. They actually started their 18-month mission in Lodz, Poland, about seven months before being transferred to the PCC in June. Both are assigned to the Hawaii Mission Settlement. As a young man, he also served in the Australia East Mission.

After working for about three decades, Elder Harber sold his underground utility construction business two years ago. Sister Harber’s been a homemaker for their four children and four grandchildren. They’ve also worked in real estate development, and in their spare time they enjoy



The Harbers

family activities at their cabin near Brianhead, Utah, or on their cattle ranch south of Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

“This is an unbelievable place for the young people,” Elder Harber said. “We’ve already had some great experiences. I’m looking forward to learning more about this place.”

“We’re excited to help and be a part of this,”

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## Meet the Missionaries...

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Sister Harber said. "I don't know if it gets any better than working with the youth. I'm grateful and excited to be here."

### ELDER WARWICK & SISTER CAROL SPILLER

G'day to the Spillers who arrived here from Mudgeeraba, Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia, on the day of the March 7 tsunami scare, to serve for 18 months. Elder Spiller is assigned to Maintenance plumbing, and Sister Spiller works in Human Resources. They had previously been to the PCC as tourists, "but we never, ever thought we'd be back as missionaries," she said.

He retired three years ago after operating his own business for the past 20 years manufacturing large water tanks for industrial sites "from the South Pacific all the way over to Africa. We've helped about 50 young men over those years get on their missions," he said. Prior to that he worked on large plumbing projects in Sydney.

She's been mainly a homemaker for their 12 children and 32 grandchildren, with two more on the way. Eight of their children have or are serving missions. "We've been on national TV in Australia five times on Family Home Evenings," he said. "They always mentioned the Church," she added.



The Spillers

"It's really enjoyable and a great bunch of people to work with," he said. "I was terrified because I haven't been used to computers," she said, "but they've been very patient. I just love it, and I love the people I work with. It's a real blessing."

She added that serving as missionaries "is a great time to spend together, and is really an op-

portunity for us to show our gratitude to the Lord for all the blessings He's given us."

### ELDER WENDELL & SISTER LUCILLE WEBB

...arrived in April from Snowflake, Arizona, for their 18-month mission: He's assigned to the Motor Pool working as a welder and doing heavy equipment repair, and she serves as a seamstress.



The Webbs

Both are retired. He worked in the construction industry for about 40 years; and after raising their kids, she taught quilting — primarily American patchwork — at Northland Pioneer Community College in Holbrook, Arizona. She said she purchased a few Hawaiian quilt kits after previously visiting Hawaii.

The couple has nine children and 25 grandchildren, with at least another three on the way. Though this is the first mission for either of them, Sister Webb explained, "We have a history of being missionaries in our family: We've collectively served 212 years as missionaries."

"I love the people I work with," Elder Webb said. "It's a spiritual uplift to go to devotionals with them every week and ask the Lord's blessings as we go about our daily tasks. In the type of work we do, we need all the safety we can get."

"I don't know how you could ask for nicer people to work with, and I especially love working with the students," Sister Webb added. "There are two I would like to adopt and take home with me."

"We've been here three times as tourists," she continued, noting that they had previously come to love Hawaii through Viola Kawahigashi Payne who taught their four oldest children when the family lived in Mesa, Arizona.

"We might never go home," Sister Webb said. "I just love it here," he added.

### ELDER ROBERT & SISTER LYNETTE ZEEMAN

...arrived in April from their home in Payson, Utah, to serve a 23-month mission. She's assigned to Human Resources and he works in the Motor Pool on small engine and equipment repair.

Before he retired about six years ago, Elder Zeeman repaired heavy highway construction equipment for 32 years in Springville. For the past 20 years Sister Zeeman worked part-time as a rural mail carrier. "Mostly I took care of the family of eight children...and four grandchildren, with two more on the way," she said.

"This is our first time to Hawaii," Sister Zeeman continued, explaining that she and her husband found out about serving at the Center from the Church web site.

"You can't meet better people, and there's not a better spirit anywhere," Elder Zeeman said of his assignment.



The Zeemans

"I had never really worked in an office before," Sister Zeeman added, "but I jumped right into Human Resources, and I'm so impressed with the humility and love shown by everyone here at the Cultural Center. We're very impressed with all the people who work here. They're so friendly and helpful."



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