

THE PRISM

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's e-newsletter on International Education

INTRODUCING...RAMESH KANWAR



Aloha!! I am truly pleased to be part of the UH Mānoa community with responsibilities to provide leadership to the international programs for the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR). I am blessed to have received my undergraduate and graduate education from two land-grant universities in India (which were established in the early sixties by the leading U.S. land-grant universities, University of Illinois and

Ohio State) and a PhD from Iowa State University (ISU). After completing my education, I served on the ISU faculty for 30 plus years including leadership positions as department chair for 10 years, assistant director of the Agricultural Experiment Station for 5 years, director of the Iowa Water Resources Research Institute for 3 years, and a faculty consultant to the World Bank, NATO, EU, USAID, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in 50+ countries. In addition, I had the privilege to serve in global institutions as a vice chancellor of Academic Affairs in India, and vice rector and provost of a university in Azerbaijan. Therefore, I am very happy to be here for more than a visit and contributing to the excellence of international programs in CTAHR.

As part of my new responsibilities, I have been in a learning mode from the last two months. I am meeting faculty and department chairs in CTAHR and a lot of people on the campus, especially those who have international responsibilities and connectivity. In addition, I am browsing through UH websites and trying to connect with other Schools and Colleges for international collaborations. I am truly impressed with the breadth of international activities that are taking place on the campus and providing international opportunities to faculty and students.

In CTAHR, our faculty is richly global and has been engaged in international education, research, extension, and training programs for decades. Being in a tropical climate and unique landscape, CTAHR has the competitive edge to connect with countries in the tropics, especially countries of Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands. Today we live in a world that is increasingly interconnected and interdependent, and where international boundaries have more or less diminished. Our students are the future leaders of this global society and deserve our best attention in educating them about diverse cultures and complex global problems so that they are prepared as responsible global citizens and competitive professionals. This requires our commitment to a global vision for the entire UH community, including an out-of-the-box thinking on curriculum with clear emphasis on international perspectives. To achieve this global vision, CTAHR faculty and students must be provided ample opportunities and tools for international experience.

Therefore in CTAHR, we have established an International Advisory Faculty Committee with a representative from each of the departments and centers to identify and prioritize international opportunities for faculty, students, industry, and the rest of the university community. We have established a new Dean's Award for International Excellence to recognize faculty's contributions to international programs. Also, we have established international travel grants of \$2,500 for faculty who will either develop and lead a 2- or 3-credit hour study abroad course for two to three weeks in length at a university/NGO/institute/CGIAR Center or develop an international grant proposal for funding for the World Bank/Asian Development Bank/USAID/foundation, etc. Additionally, we plan to endow a certain number of undergraduate and graduate student scholarships for study abroad/CTAHR's International Ambassador Programs with alumni/industry support in the very near future. We are also dreaming to establish a Global Faculty Academy in CTAHR to inspire and encourage our faculty for global opportunities and to deepen our ties with international partners because without faculty participation, it is impossible to achieve our goals of internationalizing CTAHR for global teaching, research, and service engagements. Therefore, the commitment of CTAHR in international programs is good for UH Mānoa and paramount for the continued success and excellence of our faculty, students, and stakeholders.

Mahalo!!
Ramesh Kanwar
Special Director, International Programs

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THINGS ARE LOOKING “UP” AT OUTREACH! by Dennis Chase

The People's Republic of China has over 1.35 billion people and covers approximately 3.7 million square miles of land. According to the *Open Doors Report* published by the Institute of International Education, in the 2014–2015 academic year, China sent 304,040 students to study in the U.S., which amounted to 31.2 percent of the total international students in the U.S. Less than 400 of those students studied in Hawai'i, making up 9.3 percent of the total international student population. That is not very many. While the population of Chinese students has exploded on the mainland, Hawai'i has seen little to no increase in students from China. Outreach College has set out to change this, and the primary way we have done so is to create the University Preparation (UP) program for graduate and undergraduate students. Since the program's inception, UP representatives have made multiple trips to China in order to build up relationships and recruit students.

UP is a college preparation program for international students who have the academic credentials to attend UH Mānoa but lack the English language skills to handle a university course load. The program also provides cultural support to assist international students in the adjustment to university life in Honolulu.

It is important to note that the UP program is not limited to Chinese students. Any student who wishes to improve his or her English before entering UH Mānoa can apply. Acceptance in the UP program includes conditional acceptance into UH Mānoa. At this point, all of the students who have graduated from UP and moved into UH



May 2015 UP graduates

Mānoa full time have been from China. UP has a 100 percent graduation rate so far. That is obviously not sustainable, but the main priority of this program is to make sure that international students have the tools needed to succeed at UH Mānoa.

One thing that differentiates UP from other English language programs is the previously mentioned cultural support it provides to students. All UP students are assigned a current UH Mānoa student as a mentor. The mentor meets with each student weekly to help him or her adjust to life in Hawai'i.

UP also offers an Intercultural Communications course, taught

Fall 2015 UP students visit Hanauma Bay



by an expert in the field, to help students understand it all and put the entire experience in context. Outreach College believes that providing this additional support will allow international students to exceed previous expectations to become active and successful members of the UH Mānoa community.

Another unique characteristic of UP is the opportunity to take credit courses. While the first semester is comprised entirely of English language and test preparation courses, the second semester features a mixture of noncredit English courses and credit courses from UH Mānoa. Students who have completed UP are currently studying subjects such as architecture and business. Several of our current students are looking to study in the School of Travel Industry Management, which is a popular choice for international students at UH Mānoa. Right now, UP is welcoming 5 to 10 students to Mānoa each semester, with the goal of 20 plus students each semester by fall of 2017.

If you are interested in UP, or have more questions about the program's goals, you can contact UP Coordinator Dennis Chase at dennisrc@hawaii.edu.

SPRING 2016 INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE EXCHANGE

Improve your target language and make new friends...and it's **FREE!**

Wednesdays from 4:30-5:30 p.m.

4/20 (Sakamaki B104), 4/27 (Krauss 012),
5/4 & 5/11 (Krauss 012), 5/18 (CC 310),
5/25 (Sakamaki B104),
6/1 & 6/8 (Krauss 012)

1st half hour: Conversation in English
2nd half hour: Conversation in Japanese,
Korean, Chinese, or other languages*

*For other languages, see Ash Ruggiero.

All international and UH-affiliated students are welcome.

Sponsored by the NICE Program.

For more information, e-mail Ash at ruggiero@hawaii.edu or call 956-7753.

LIVE ♦ LAUGH ♦ STUDY ABROAD

Qiaoe Zheng, who was born in Shanghai, received her BA degree at UH Mānoa in May 2014 and is currently in the MFA Asian Theatre program. Below, she shares some of her thoughts about her study abroad experience.

Why did you choose to study theatre at UH Mānoa?

In 2009, I was invited by the Los Angeles Kunqu Research Institution to participate in a cultural exchange performance in Los Angeles. The performance was a success and the audience clearly enjoyed it very much. Many audience members were very interested to learn more about *kunqu* (one of the oldest extant forms of *xiqu*, which is Chinese indigenous theatre or “opera”). Cumulatively, those experiences convinced me that kunqu has great potential in the West, and I decided to become the first kunqu actress to pursue an MFA at UH Mānoa, the only institution in the world to offer an MFA concentration in Asian Theatre.

How did you become interested in kunqu?

In 1999, I was fortunate to be selected by the Kunqu Acting Department of the Shanghai Theatre High School to start learning kunqu acting, which combines singing, dancing, poetry recital, acting, acrobatics, and stylized, conventional gestures. After eight years of training at the high school and college levels, I became a professional kunqu actress and a member of the Shanghai Kunqu Company, a nonprofit governmental organization. I have five consecutive years of full-time professional experience in the Shanghai Kunqu Company, including participating in 300 professional performances each year. In 2001, UNESCO honored kunqu by recognizing it as a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity for its unique cultural value, as it represents the highest achievement of *xiqu*, so that is another reason why I was interested to learn kunqu.



What is your favorite role that you have performed?

My favorite role is the young girl Du Liniang, from the kunqu play *The Peony Pavilion*. Du Liniang, who is 16 years old, comes alive in the pursuit of true love, dies of lovesickness, and in the end is brought back to life because of the strength of her true love. I am so touched and impressed by Du Liniang’s love story.

As a professional kunqu actress, what are your goals upon graduation?

My long-term goal in pursuing my MFA in Asian Theatre Performance is to bring the knowledge and cultural values I am learning here in Hawai‘i back to China, so that Chinese people can also learn about Hawaiian and Western culture and arts. Also upon my return, I desire to become an intermediary, promoting cultural exchange and communication.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

My father is a Chinese calligrapher – Chinese calligraphy was honored as part of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO in 2009 – and a lover of traditional culture. He inspired me to become an enthusiast of traditional culture and arts. I started to practice Chinese calligraphy when I was 3 years old and my first teacher was my father. Another interest of mine is playing the *guqin*, a seven-string plucked Chinese musical instrument.

What are some of the highlights of your study abroad experience?

The highlights of my study experience here include participation in the training and performance for various Asian productions in the Department of Theatre and Dance. In addition, I was selected for a Graduate Teaching Assistantship and have begun teaching. These are great and unique opportunities in my life.

What has been the most challenging thing for you?

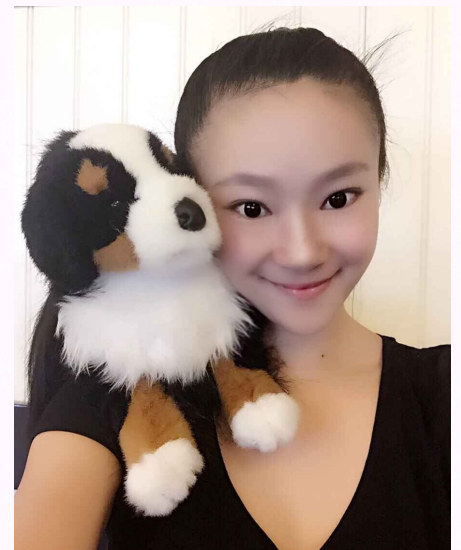
The most challenging things for me in terms of studying at UH Mānoa have been the language barrier and homesickness. However, as time goes by, these challenges have been transforming into great motivators and opportunities to improve my language skill and help me become more independent.

What have you learned about Hawai‘i?

I have learned that Hawai‘i consists not only of beautiful islands, but also carries rich history, cultural significance, and religious beliefs. Hawaiian culture ensures the health of the community as a whole. The Hawaiian people believe in and build upon the foundation of the ‘ohana, the family, which encompasses not only those related by blood, but all who share a sense of aloha.

What advice would you give to someone who is interested in studying at UH Mānoa?

I would love to share the suggestion to please take your time to learn new things, enjoy the unique Hawaiian culture, make friends, and seek advice from your professors.



UH MĀNOA INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION LINKS

Office of International and Exchange Programs: <http://manoa.hawaii.edu/international>

For more information on
The Prism, please contact:

Office of International and
Exchange Programs

loiskk@hawaii.edu

Faculty and Scholar Immigration Services (FSIS): <http://www.hawaii.edu/fsis>

FSIS provides immigration services and advising for departments, international visiting scholars, and employees across the University of Hawai'i System.

International Student Services (ISS): <http://www.hawaii.edu/issmanoa>

ISS is the primary university resource for international students in areas ranging from immigration advising to cross-cultural adjustment, and consults with the greater community on related issues.

Mānoa International Exchange (MIX): <http://manoa.hawaii.edu/mix>

The goals of MIX are: (1) to facilitate partnerships with outstanding universities around the world to the benefit of UH Mānoa students, faculty, and staff, (2) to promote cross-cultural education and understanding at UH Mānoa through the enrollment of international exchange students, and (3) to provide UH Mānoa students with study abroad opportunities that will have a transformative and positive effect on their lives.

National Student Exchange (NSE): <http://www2.hawaii.edu/~nse>

Although the UH Mānoa NSE website has instructions for UH Mānoa students wanting to attend an exchange school or students attending consortium member schools wishing to exchange to UH Mānoa, the most detailed information on each of the 170 participating schools can be found on the national website, <http://www.nse.org>.

Study Abroad Center (SAC): <http://www.studyabroad.hawaii.edu>

The UHM Study Abroad Center provides summer, semester, and year-long study abroad programs for undergraduate students and for faculty to teach, mentor students, develop new courses, and pursue their research interests. Students earn UH Mānoa credits for coursework completed overseas towards their Mānoa degree requirements.

College of Education (COE) – International Activities: <https://coe.hawaii.edu/research/international-and-special-programs-iasp>

COE develops and maintains sustainable international agreements and partnerships in higher education between COE and institutions in China, Japan, Kazakhstan, Norway, Russia, and Vietnam. Activities include collaborative research projects, educational conferences, and student/faculty exchanges. COE annually hosts numerous visiting scholars interested in studying with COE faculty and exchanging expertise.

College of Social Sciences (CSS): <http://www.socialsciences.hawaii.edu>

CSS offers students many opportunities to engage in the global community through its expertise, leadership, and far-reaching partnerships which span from Indonesia to Sweden. CSS continues to expand and grow new and existing relationships with its international partners through innovative educational agreements, programs, conferences, symposiums, and other collaborative projects.

Hawai'i English Language Program (HELP): <http://manoa.hawaii.edu/eslhelp>

The HELP program has been providing the highest quality academic English classes for over 40 years. Through our Conditional Admission pathway, students can enter undergraduate or graduate study at UH Mānoa without a TOEFL score. HELP also offers teacher training workshops and the CELTA English teaching certificate program.

John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) – Global Health/Medicine Programs: <http://jabsom.hawaii.edu/global-health/>

JABSOM is committed to improving the health of the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. Our mission is to train a globally competent health workforce with skills to address critical global health problems. JABSOM strives to understand and reduce health inequalities around the Pacific Rim.

Outreach College – International Programs: <http://www.nice.hawaii.edu>

The International Programs division of Outreach College provides international students access to UH Mānoa through its ESL programs, conditional admission university preparation programs, and short-term customized programs on a variety of subjects.

School of Travel Industry Management (TIM): <http://www.tim.hawaii.edu>

TIM is recognized as a leading educational institution in hospitality, tourism, and transportation management. TIM pioneered the concept of integrating all aspects of the travel industry under a single discipline. Built on a foundation of management science, TIM also draws on a broad range of disciplines to provide high-quality education at the undergraduate and graduate levels to current and future professionals.

Shidler College of Business:

Full-time Global MBA program: <http://www.shidler.hawaii.edu/ft-mba>

The Full-time Global MBA program offers students a comprehensive foundation in business fundamentals with its wide array of choices in the Asia-Pacific region for internships and study abroad opportunities. Students can take a semester of classes at one of our partner schools and work at a professional internship in countries such as China, Japan, and Vietnam.

Pacific Asian Management Institute (PAMI): <http://pami.shidler.hawaii.edu>

PAMI is the center for international business programs with an Asia-Pacific focus. PAMI is the umbrella organization housing the PAMI Summer Program, PAMI Year Round Programs, PAMI Asian Field Study Program, Center for International Business Education and Research, and Pacific Asian Consortium for International Business Education and Research.

William S. Richardson School of Law – International Programs: <https://www.law.hawaii.edu/which-program-right-you>

The William S. Richardson School of Law maintains an active schedule of international programs and activities. The law school offers two degree programs for international students, the LL.M. degree for foreign law graduates and the advanced J.D. program, which grants credit for qualified foreign law graduates. American law students are encouraged to pursue law study in international law study, through our exchanges, such as with Bucerius Law School in Germany or through programs in China, Hong Kong, or Australia.