



The Lana'i Connection

Making a Difference: Dr. Derek Vergara

We know how special it is to be a Son or Daughter of Lanai is to be in an exclusive group – by family ties or association. All accomplishments, success and good fortune by any Lanaian is received with pride and aloha. Here is another spotlight on one of our extended family members, **Dr. Derek Vergara**.

Derek, is the son of **Elipido "Pete" and Juanita "Nita" (Remiticado) Vergara**.

Both Pete and Nita were born and raised on Lanai. When it came time for them to raise a family, they made the decision that many have made to move to the States to seek more opportunity. Eventually, the Vergaras set their roots in Torrance, California, and were blessed with their four wonderful sons - **Derek, Glen, Robin, and Wayne**.

As the third oldest, Derek began his educational journey by earning a Bachelors and a Masters Degree at Azusa Pacific University, then his Doctorate in Education at the University of LaVerne. During his course of study, Derek identified what would become his lifelong calling in Social Work and in College Student Development.

Throughout his studies, Derek would take on positions that would strengthen his understanding and practice his goal of guiding and assisting his charges through what can often be a daunting higher education system. He recognized that college is a life-changing period for many students and he undertook to guide many in an often daunting process. Derek has helped to enrich many students' lives to understand the importance of getting involved and staying on course.

Derek has worked in numerous positions in higher education institutions including his aforementioned alma maters, and at the University of California-Irvine, at Pepperdine University, and currently at the Concordia University, in Irvine, where he is an Associate Vice President of Student Affairs/Assistant to the President for Campus Diversity Initiatives.

All of his experience has lead up to his current position which focuses on student development, both individually and within the community. His broad background includes work from a Resident Director to a Director of Housing



August 2012
Vol. 32, Issue 1

The Lana'i Connection is published two times a year (February and August) to enhance the purposes of the Lana'i Alumni and Community Association.

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

January 15 for February 2013
July 15 for August 2013

***Making a Difference: Dr. Derek Vergara***

and Residential Life to a Dean of Students. Derek has organized and/or overseen Student Counseling and Testing Centers at each stop. In addition, his resume is heavily dotted with examples of his involvement with students who, without his caring hand, would easily fall into the category of “most -at-risk-to-fail” whether it be first-generation college students, ethnic minorities, or socio-economically underserved populations to access of services and programs or with student-athletes who may be affected without Derek’s tireless work with Title IX (equal opportunity for women in sports) compliance.

The overwhelming common thread of kokua and compassion has been Derek’s focus in helping students to assimilate, to get involved with school and the community, and to learn the art of networking.

Derek’s work is built on caring for his students inspired in turn by his own parent’s emphasis on higher education. He says, “What I would like emphasized is my parent’s unwavering support for my education throughout my entire life. While I recognize their limitations in completely understanding how to navigate and guide me through my college journey, they were always supportive and encouraging to me. There is much to be said of the extremely hard work of my parents, who were two laborers that worked in the pineapple fields of Lana’i and moved to the Mainland to ensure more opportunities for their family. Much of my life accomplishments, especially my ability to obtain my doctorate degree, are due to my parent’s unconditional love and support.”

The LACA ‘ohana applauds Dr. Derek Vergara who has made his family proud. Derek and his wife, **Michelle**, are the proud parents of a son, 14-year old **Jared**, in whom they instill the strong value of ohana that has been passed down through generations of family, both blood and through community.

Indeed the work ethic of many Lanaians is exemplified in the many generations who have continued on to higher education despite their family’s humble beginnings in the pineapple fields of Lana’i. Kudos to all Lanaians who strive towards higher education!

Note from Donna Ching, Treasurer

I would like to ask all to help us with our LACA savings as we survive only on new Life Memberships to LACA, e-Subscribers, and contributions.

Reach out to all who may be interested in becoming a member. Sign up forms can be found on the Internet at <http://lanaiconnection.com/membership.pdf>



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A Sincere Thank You to the following Contributors:

Robert “Bob” Kinoshita
Hatsue Higa (HI) – In Memory of
Eddie Hokama
Ruth Teraoka (HI)
Sakae Loo (HI)
Richard Nunotani (NV)
Natsuko Woo (HI)
William Olsen (HI)
Mike Kimura (HI)
Eiko Hidani (MI)

Lanai Invitational Golf Association
 (27 participants, Olomana Golf Course)

Please kindly help support our newsletter expenses which costs us about \$1,600 each mail out (February and August articles). As you may have noticed we cut one of our newsletters which used to be 3 times a year. Also thank you to all the volunteers who turn out to help with the mail out. Mahalo and Aloha!



**Kudos to 2012 Lana'i
Outstanding Older American Nominee:
Mrs. Soledad "Sue" Obado**

On May 08, 2012, Mrs. **Soledad "Sue" Obado** had the pleasure of representing the island of Lana'i at the 44th Annual Maui County, 2012 Outstanding Older American Awards Recognition Luncheon held at The Maui Tropical Plantation.

This special event is put on by Maui County as a competition for nominees from the tri-island county for individuals who have done outstanding volunteer community work.

Sue makes volunteering a full time job. She manages the Lana'i Food Pantry as well as cheerfully visits and transports many of Lanai's homebound to medical appointments. She is also an active member of the Sacred Heart's Church doing multiple responsibilities which span decades of dedication and statewide recognition for her volunteerism.

Mahalo Sue for your dedication and aloha in all your good works!



**PEDRO "PEDRING" DUGAY
Ukulele Master Craftsman**

**Ukulele Winner
LACA - MAUI LANA'I CONNECTION
2012 REUNION**



Memorial Day Weekend
Lani Scott
(Henry Aki's Guest)

A Call for Lokahi

"E ala! E alu! E kuilima!"

An 'olelo noeau, a Hawaiian proverb that calls all to come together to tackle a given task. It translates as: **"Up! Together! Join hands!"**

No one person or group can do it all by themselves. Any successful community-based event or effort requires 'ho'olaulima' or the working together of all folks. It is all the working hands that will make a difference in the longevity and continuity of any annual event and/or special occasions.

In the spirit of lokahi, the Lana'i Alumni and Community Association (LACA) board of directors is calling out to its membership and interested non-members, to all who love or live(d) on Lana'i to come forward and be a part of the LACA – to join hands as members and/or partners in its present and future activities.

Recall the early days of LACA – the excitement in reuniting and bonding with school friends and family! Even as the years go quickly by, it is still refreshing to connect again with classmates, neighbors and family. We cheer those LHS classes who connect to LACA. We hope more future class (and family) reunions will be at a LACA event. We praise the Lana'i families who continue to attend and to make it a family tradition!

***A Call for Lokahi (continued from page 3)***

The board of directors acknowledges there has been a slow decline in participation over the past five-plus years in the annual Vegas LACA dinner and in the annual LACA membership social on O'ahu. Some factors for the decline include the following:

- Aging and ua hala (passing) of early founding members.
- Disinterest or inability to attend functions.
- Events have become predictable.
- Economic down turn has affected many folks ability to travel.

What are the next steps to re-ignite more participation and interest in LACA? How do we attract the younger generations to come be a part of the events, make it fun and meaningful for your classmates and family to join in? This is a critical cross point for LACA as the next generation is needed to transition as members and to the board of directors.

Please tell us! Your comments and mana'o (thoughts) are truly wanted to make the LACA events more meaningful and fun for all members, alumni, and Lanaians. Send your suggestions to editor@lanaiconnection.com.

MAHALO NUI LOA FROM THE MAUI-LANA'I CONNECTION

Under the auspices of the Maui Lana'i Connection, a network of Lana'i Alumni Community Association comprised of members with dual memberships, the reunion on Maui May 25 to May 27 was extremely successful & enjoyed by everyone!

The Ad Hoc Reunion Committee was spearheaded by General Chairman: **Nani Kwon Watanabe**, Treasurer: **Dot Mapano Tan**, Secretary: **Amy Ruidas**, Golf Chairs: **Bill Ruidas**, **Sonny Dalde**.

Our LACA/Maui Lana'i Connection Organizing Committee wishes to extend our most heartfelt appreciation and huge "Thank You" to those who generously donated to the Lana'i Alumni Reunion which was held over the Memorial Day Weekend on Maui. Your Aloha Spirit made our three day event a special time as well as a HUGE success. It was a weekend of nostalgic reminiscing and remembering growing up in the old Plantation days. Our program was filled with awesome homegrown Lana'i talent!!! Everyone spoke with appreciation on how special Lana'i meant and continues to be a special place.



Donna Reyes Ching, Jacob & Rosita Hueu with grandson, and Marge Asato

Mahalo to the following for their generous donations:

The Trilogy	Mr. Henry Dulan
The Expeditions	Mr. Gilbert Emata
Mr. Pedro "Pedring" Dugay	Mr. Hollis Lee
The Tropical Plantation	Mr. Joe Recamara
Ms. Gerry Janowski	Ms. Marian Recouperito
Mr. Bob Hobdy	Ching
Mr. Dennis Shiroma	Mr. Ale Arao
Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Hueu	Mr. & Mrs. Douglas
Mr. & Mrs. Francis Goshi	Obado
Mrs. Soledad Obado	



Surprise Luau for Roy Cadiente – Tear Eyes, SURPRISE



Very, Very SURPRISE!!!!!! With all the loud cheers, clapping & Happy Birthday singing of 250 friends & families there wasn't any dry eyes in the place.

The luau was for **Roy Cadiente's** 71st birthday, 50 years anniversary of teaching karate & semi-retired. All in one bang of a celebration!

Took my sons and I 5 months of planning with friends & his students... It turned out beautiful...

**Picture (left):
Roy Cadiente - Gift Presentation
from Karate School**

Love, Auntie Sally



**Roy, Sally, Son Darryl, Sister In-Law Laura, Nephew Donovan,
Grandson Logan, Son Tim & Niece Diana... Cadientes**



Photos taken at a board meeting held on August 8, 2012

Name of members in pictures:

Donna Reyes Ching, Elaine Yockman Masterman (visiting from Washington State), **Coochie Cayan, Gloria Obado Reyes, Suzanne Damian, Monica Cocket, Randy Sanches**. Pictures taken by **David Cornwell**, photographer at request from Mr. **Robert "Bob" Kinoshita**.

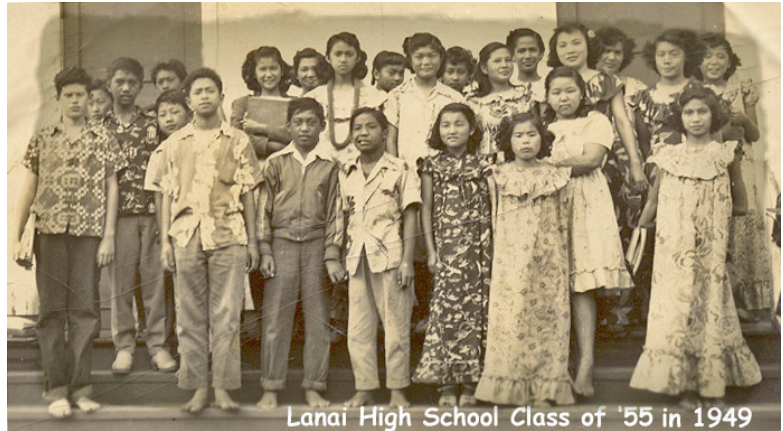


Our Friend My Friend

By David Lee

Richard Tesoro, MD, Class of 1955, passed Friday morning, Aug 10, 2012 at home. He had had a lot of health problems after retiring from his Wahiawa family practice. In fact, the last time I (& **Charles Kokubun**) saw him alive & joking was at Pali Momi Hospital. He looked good, sitting up, following the baseball games, flirting with the nurses. At his family's request, **Libby & Loretta Viduya, Charles & Judy Kokubun, Lorraine Ching, James Shiroma** & I joined in the family's grief. Our communion through our reminiscing helped us all to gain a measure of peace. I remember, Adele saying, "Come, but no karaoke!"

Richard was an Eagle Scout, honored by Gov. Sam King at Iolani Palace for saving fellow scouts from drowning at a Scout Jamboree in Lake Tahoe, Dole scholar. Richard was a Dole scholar, graduating from UH, then U of Oregon Medical School, in 1963. He served in Vietnam with the 25th Infantry Division as a Battalion Surgeon, was in campaigns in triple canopy jungle, "Iron Triangle", even with his pronounced limp. He was often told, he shouldn't be with the infantry. He just smiled saying, "I know!" Richard persevered even after his grenade accident (age 7 or 8?) evacuation to Oahu on a fishing boat, long rehab at Shriner's, making up his grades to stay with his classmates. Never did he make excuses, blame anyone, lose his temper (he did mutter under his breath at times), stop him from chasing the girls, etc, etc. I'll stop here, there isn't enough space to honor My Good Friend, I miss you, Richard, thanks for the memories...



Lanai High School Class of '55 in 1949

Row 1: Barrat Scott, Ben Lui, Mariano Masicampo, Richard Tesoro, Karen Nobui, Evelyn Sakuma, Betty Jane Ramaila

Row 2: John Rabbon, Tom Yokoyama, Elaine Saito, Emerantiana Recopuerto, Ruth Okimoto, Patsy Wong, Dora Sakamoto, Agnes Tanigawa, Harriet Tabata

Row 3: David Lee, Amadio Sanchez, Carolyn Niibu, ???, Mary Pagay, Roselle Lindsey, Alma Richardson, Ann Miyazaki

CLASS OF 1958 AND 1959 REUNION



It started when **Marge Asato** contacted **Jeri Iba** after hearing the Class of 1958 was having their annual Reunion in Las Vegas at Main Street Garden Buffet, Saturday October 13, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. She asked if her classmates could join class 1958 for fun and games.

There will also be a slot tournament that evening starting at 8:00 p.m. in Main Street. Class members who are interested in entering the tournament, please contact **Marge Asato** at (808) 455-5066, or **Jeri Iba** at (808) 455-5848 as soon as possible.





BONAMI "BJ" KIM

The "Pineapple Wireless" whether telephone or email has been buzzing with so many sad news & bad news. It's so overwhelming, our heart aches hearing the loss of a family member, friend, mentor. It's difficult to know what to say just now accept that their families are thought of in sympathy & friendship. We wish them comfort & peace.

Jaime Dugay sadly informed our Maui Lanai Connection members that our friend **Bonami "BJ" Kim**, 87 year old LHS Class of 1943, was hit by a Kenworth Commercial Truck while he was crossing a street. Truck failed to stop making a right turn. BJ had an active role in the MLC group, a loyal member & a participant in activities. His wife always supported him.

Nikki Morita Oshiro remembers him as the Bugler @ LHS in the early 1940's when the American Flag was raised signaling the start of school. He was also a Boy Scout.



Group Photo: **Bonami "BJ" Kim** and his wife **Misao** (bottom left, dressed in white)

Maricruz "Boston" Macadangdang DeRoeth said she first met BJ in 1969 at Maui Community College where he taught carpentry. He built her first home. She always remembers him with a big smile & his generous help. His wife **Misao** was always a great hostess & would fix Udon soup when visiting their home on the spare of the moment.

Jaime, Maricruz "Boston" & the entire Maui Lana'i Connection Group will always remember "BJ" with love & gratitude.

In Loving Memory:

Harriet Tabata Nakamiyo,
Class of 1955

Edward Hokama, Class of 1952

Nellie Piena, Class of 1947

Mieko Nakamura Fujimoto,
Class of 1944

Yasuko Minani Gima, Class of 1944

Samuel Rubio, Supporter
(non-Lanaian, but a member)

Bonami "BJ" Kim, Class of 1943

Richard Tesoro, MD, Class of 1955

Christine Daguay Alo,
Class of 1963



Class of 1940's: Soledad Obado, Alejandro "Ale" Arao, Henry Aki, Bonami "BJ" Kim



Na Kamehameha Commemorative Pa'u Parade Lana'i Pa'u Unit

Riding in the Front of the Pa'u Units as Pa'u Marshall of the Lahaina, Kamehameha Day Parade, held June 16th, 2012, is **Henry Aki** "Ah Ying" to those who know him well, flanked by his lifetime girlfriend, **Lani Scott**, left, and **Makenzie Aki**, great-granddaughter on the right. (see photo on the right)

He was followed by 2nd daughter, **Mei Lani Aki**, representing Lana'i as Princess; and followed by her daughter, **Ayla Mei Jing Aki**, as attendant, and outrider, **Jordan D. Kamalani Aki**, grandson, adopted by Henry.

The event celebrated having the Lana'i Unit represented by Lana'ians this year. Honored one of the last true Lana'i Paniolos, whose made his own Hawaiian Saddles, made Ilima leis through 5 generations, and feather hat leis, trained many quality Arabian-Paleminos alongside the animal culture of field trial dogs & horses. Handed down from many eloquent and revered Lana'ians such as **Ernest and Johnny Richardson, Lloyd Cockett, Mona Viela, Johnny Maile, and Richard Morita, Sr.**



**CLASS OF 1952** by Richard Kawakami

Photos from the Class of 1952 Meeting,
August 15, 2012.

We met at MFC at 11:00 am on August 15th Present were **Stanley, David, Marcellino, Mildred, Irene, Takeko, Evelyn, Liam** and **Richard**. The following items were discussed:

- **David** brought Macaroons and deluxe doggy bag containers, Stanley -- Red Bean Manju, Irene -- assorted Strudels, Mildred -- Yoku Moku Cigaro and homemade Choc Chip Cookies, Marcellino -- large box of homegrown Peaches and Tomatoes and **Richard** -- Cinnamon/Pecan Coffee Cake.
- Happy birthday to Hawaii classmates **Lu, Natsuko Henry** and **Rosita S**.
- **Class Reunion News:** The Class of '52 will be celebrating our 60th Reunion September 24th-28th. 12 classmates will be attending the Valley View Indian Casino and Hollywood Sightseeing Tours. Five classmates will arrive from Hawaii on 9/24/12 and depart on 9/28/12. **Hattie, Ruth, Daniel** and **Donna** are staying a little longer for personal reasons. Other options include shopping at Del Amo Mall, visiting the Wayfarers Glass Chapel in Palos Verdes, Trader Joes. I purchased my case of "2 Buck Chuck" wines there (yes, \$2 for a bottle of good wine). They also wanted to have lunch at Marukai, where we have our monthly lunch meetings. We will spend the rest of the time EATING good food and talking story. **Daniel, Donna, Mildred, Marcellino, Stanley, Richard** and **Barbara** paid for the Hollywood tour. Waiting for Hawaii classmates **Kiyomi, Helen, Ruth, Hattie** and

Henry to make their commitment. Our Valley View Casino bus reservations were confirmed for 12 seats. **David** told me at our meeting today that he may join us if a seat is available. **Richard** will pass out souvenir VV Tee-Shirts to all classmates on 9/26 after our Casino trip.

- **Travel News: Stanley, Pearl and Evelyn** (not together) will be headed for Vegas to attend the Annual Basketball Tournament for their grand children. **Takeko** will be traveling to Hawaii next month. **David** is leaving for Utah on the 9/27 so will miss most of our reunion.
- **Health News:** Everyone looked healthy--no complaints, probably excited about our reunion next month.
- **Mildred** received 4 calls this morning before our meeting. She also had some plumbing problems that were solved in time for our meeting. Evelyn will assist Mildred's sister who is interested in buying a house on Lanai.
- **Other News:** We spent most of the time discussing our reunion. I suggested that classmates visit the location where the VV bus will pick us up and to be on time. Takeko still has her laptop in the box. Richard needs a mouse to feel more comfortable with it. Some unfavorable news about King's Restaurant. David gave some golf balls to Liam--he was waiting for them. Another customer complained to us about having our bags on another table--lots of other tables available.

Next meeting on September 26th with our Hawaii classmates.



2012 ANNUAL LACA GOLF TOURNAMENT

By Bill Ruidas, Tournament Chairman

Ten brave souls had fun playing at Pukalani Golf Course (Maui) at our LACA Golf Tournament. It was rainy, windy, and cold, so we had to battle the elements and play golf. Everyone was a winner in this tournament because everyone received a prize at the end.

During our awards ceremony, we had a special prize, a four foot trophy donated by the late Randy Pascua. This trophy is a perpetual trophy and is awarded to the "WORSE OF THE WORSE" golfer. The worse golfer during this tournament gets to keep this trophy until the next LACA tournament. His job is to polish this trophy until the next tournament.

The current holder of this trophy is Bob Hobdy, class of 1960, and he has kept it for over 10 years. Fortunately, Bob Hobdy got to pass it on to the new "KING", Jansen Cayan. His 18 hole score was 119 gross. Jansen said he can't wait to pass it on to next year's "WORSE" golfer.

Come out next year – remember everyone gets a prize for trying! And you may be the next "King" or "Queen!"

Jansen with son, Bobby Hobdy, Bill Ruidas



Photo above (left to right): **Jansen Cayan, Jon Cayan, Robert Garcia, Butch Gima, Sonny Dalde, Julie Dahang Oyama, Robin Collado, Pete Tolentino, Bill Ruidas.**



1994 - Ale Arao (first perpetual winner) with the late Randy Pascua

Class of 1970: Ricky Macabio, Jon Cayan, Nani Kwon Watanabe, Robert Garcia, Shirley Kato Ito, George Ito



CLASS OF 1960
70th Birthday Celebration in Vegas, November 2012
by Angie Perez

The Class of 1960 will be celebrating their 70th Birthday in Las Vegas on the weekend of November 2-3, 2012.

They will do a Laughlin Tour all day on Friday. Please meet at the Main Street Lobby by 8:30 a.m. on the Friday morning. The bus leaves at 9:00 a.m., there will be a Complimentary Buffet Lunch, and time to do shopping at the nearby factory mall (besides gambling).

BIG REMINDER please call **Angie Perez** as she needs a firm head count no later than October 16, 2012 for the Friday Laughlin tour. Her email is haunani41@yahoo.com and/or phone: 808-649-0281.

Secondly, the class will meet again on Saturday November 3, 2012 for the Buffet dinner at the Main Street. No details yet on when to meet for the buffet. Ask Angie when you email or call her.

Class of 1960 please make your travel accommodations for that weekend. Let's make it a memorable and fun time! Hope to see you all there!



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We're on the web!



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COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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**Save
the Date!**

**LACA / LAS VEGAS
REUNION**

**October 12, 2013,
Saturday Evening**

More details to follow in
the next LACA
Newsletter