

UFCH Progress Awards

Community Service



Barbara J. Haliniak
Owner, *The Business Depot, Inc.*

Her involvement

In June 2001, Barbara Haliniak restarted the Molokai Chamber of Commerce. In 2002, MCC was awarded a USDA grant of \$53,000.00 to provide technical assistance to business on Molokai. She also spearheaded the Molokai Small Business Summit for years 2003, 2004, and 2005 which promoted entrepreneurship and provided support services, resources to existing businesses. Barbara was instrumental in planning and implementing the annual Business and Food Expo on Molokai from 2003 to 2007.

- President, Molokai Chamber of Commerce
 - Founder/President, Molokai Chamber of Commerce Foundation
 - Board Member, Maui Economic Opportunity
 - Board Member, Maui Economic Development Board
 - Commissioner, County of Maui Civil Service Commission
 - Board Member, Maui Workforce Investment Board
 - Served as Chair for 5 years, Molokai Planning Commission, County of Maui
- All these she performed as a volunteer.

Her excellence

Barbara J. Haliniak opened doors for future and present entrepreneurs on Molokai by promoting and providing resources and opportunities through her continuing activities as a business advocate. She campaigned for and was successful in establishing a business resource center in Maui County. She was a liaison between Maui Economic Development Board and Molokai High School in implementing STEM Project East in 2006. Barbara is always ready to provide testimonies to both County and State legislatures to provide input on bills and how they will affect Molokai.

For her efforts, Barbara received the 2003 U.S. Small Business Award for Minority Small Business Advocate of the Year, Maui County. She was awarded the 2007 Certificate of Recognition from the State of Hawaii House of Representatives.

Education



Aurelio Agcaoili, Ph.D.
Program Coordinator, *Ilokano Language and Literature, University of Hawai'i at Manoa Department of Indo-Pacific Languages and Literatures*

A glimpse

Education: University of the Philippines, Doctor of Philosophy
University of the Philippines, Master of Arts in Philosophy
UE Graduate School of Business, Master in Business Administration

Highlights: Numerous journalistic pieces, poems and other literary pieces in Ilokano, Filipino, English, literary performances; essays; panelist in workshops ;

His works

He was a director, convener, facilitator, and speaker in select conferences, seminars, colloquia, and workshops. The subject matter of these activities include but are not limited to literatures and cultures, linguistics, theater, and poetry, in Ilocano Tagalog and English disciplines.

- President, Nakem Conferences
- Vice President, Hawai'i Association of Language Teaching
- Vice President for Translation and Publication, Ilokano Writers Association Global, just to name a few.

His excellence

- First Prize, Gawad Komisyon for Ilokano Poetry
- "Letters of an Exile/Epistolario ti Exilo," a poetry collection
- Editor's Choice Award International Library of Poetry USA
- Second Prize for Essay in English
- Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Literary Awards Philippines
- First Prize for Poetry/Cultural Center of the Philippines Poetry Writing Grant
- Certificate of Commendation The House of Representative, State of Hawaii 20th Legislature of the State of Hawaii

Education



Barbara Ann Bongo-Arthurs, Ph.D.
Dean of Student Services, *Hawaii Community College*

A glimpse

Spouse: Robert E. Arthurs
Children: Leilani (33), Robert (32)
Education: Master's and Bachelor's Degrees, University of Hawaii at Manoa Doctoral Degree, University of San Francisco

Her excellence

Respect for elders. This is BARBARA ANN BONGO-ARTHURS' most important Filipino value that she believes in because "our elders have the wisdom of their experience based on struggles, courage, patience, faith, and love."

Born and raised in Honolulu in 1944, Bongo-Arthurs attended Kailuani and Waianae Elementary Schools. In 1962, she graduated as class valedictorian from Waianae High & Intermediate School on Oahu. She obtained her post-secondary education at the UH-Manoa on Oahu and the University of San Francisco in California where she earned her doctoral degree.

In 2006, Bongo-Arthurs became the Dean of Student Services at Hawaii Community College where she had been an academic counselor for many years. She has been instrumental in helping to increase the number of college graduates of Filipino ancestry especially in the Big Island.

Her involvement

Her community activities include: National Active and Retired Federal Employees as treasurer; Orchidland Community Association as president and secretary; and Order of the Eastern Star, Worthy and Conductress.

More recently, during the centennial celebration, she single-handedly planned and coordinated a dinner event that honored and highlighted the accomplishments of Filipino staff and students of Hawaii Community College. She is a great role model as she continues to pursue leadership roles outside of her professional setting.

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Education



Ligaya M. Ricafrente
English Language Learner (ELL)
teacher

A glimpse

Highlight: Leeward District's "Teacher of the Year"

Her excellence

Ligaya Ricafrente knew she was meant to teach when she returned to teaching after working for twenty-eight years in the corporate world. The experiences she gained over the years made her a strong and effective English Language Learner (ELL) teacher. She continued to train and develop her potentials in that profession to be the best teacher for her students. Being the ideal teacher for them would be her contribution in their development as responsible citizens, positive role models, complex thinkers, effective communicators, and highly knowledgeable in the use of technology in this world.

Ligaya is certain that using the bilingual instruction to the non-English proficient students produces magic moments when the "aha" and the lights go on in their eyes. Utilizing the English as a Second Language (ESL) approach that she has been trained all these years have ensured that she has reached the students' mind in understanding the wisdom she wants to impart.

When Ligaya's students listen and participate actively, behave responsibly, and think critically, she knows that her efforts in teaching and her classroom management are effective. Her students display a high degree of respect with one another as well as to their teachers, and envisages to anyone who come to the classroom. The training from her partnership with fellow educators, parents and the community made Ligaya an effective educator. The potentials that she had developed all these years were manifested when she was awarded as Leeward District's "Teacher of the Year". Her accomplished mission to become her students' "Best Teacher" was the result of her proficient and professional teaching practices.

Entrepreneurship



Alma T. Caberto
CEO, Community Mortgage
Services, Inc.

A glimpse

Children: Jason (28), Melissa (24), Mark (18), Jennie (17)

Education: Kapiolani Community College, Southwestern College Business Management

Highlights: Chief Executive Officer & President Community Mortgage Services, Inc.

Her excellence

In every aspect of Alma Alcantra Caberto's endeavor is an inherent respect for life and living.

Caberto was born in the Philippines. Her mother came to Hawaii when she was four years old leaving the family in the Philippines, to work in the hotels so she can build a healthier livelihood when they would finally join her. When she was nine, Alma and the rest of her family arrived in Honolulu to unite with their mother. She attended Kapiolani Community College and went to Southwestern College and eventually earned her degree in Management and finished various courses in Banking at the Financial Institute of Banking.

As a single mother, Alma Caberto's challenges are enormous. This makes her resilient to face problems that impact on her family and the community that she cares about.

Her involvement

Filipino Chamber of Commerce Member since 2001 and President 2005-2006

President of Filipino Business Women's Association

Member of National Mortgage Broker Association

Member of Hawaii Mortgage Broker Association

She was named Businesswoman of the Year by FBWA Foundation in 2005 and was a nominee as Entrepreneur of the Year by the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii Foundation.

Entrepreneurship



Dana Pastula
Owner, Café O' Lei Restaurants

A glimpse

Spouse: Michael Pastula

Education: Hotel & Restaurant Management

Highlight: Café O' Lei is one of the "Top Ten Dining Experiences on Maui"

Her excellence

Passion is the word that comes to mind when you talk about food and Dana. Her reputation for good food and great value are well known to the locals who know where the best food is. That is why, when you visit these restaurants, you will dine with mostly local clientele.

Her story

Dana graduated in hotel and restaurant management and has managed such premier restaurants as Hulo'poe Court, and Ihilani at Manele Bay Hotel on Lana'i, as well as Pacific Grill at Four Seasons, Maui. It all started with a tiny 380 square foot eatery called Café O' Lei in Makawao and the next to open was in Wailuku which became a favorite to businesses in town. By then Ma'alaea Grill became available and because it was too big for her to manage by herself she had ask her husband Michael to join her. Michael, a successful chef and Food and Beverage Director quit his job and they started on their way to work for themselves and become independent. Ask Dana, "the business of creating a menu, conceptualizing and making a restaurant profitable is what is exciting. Many times we find a restaurant like a diamond in the rough. Perhaps it has failed repeatedly, was abandoned or just never quite bloomed. We put a lot of love, sweat, sacrifices and it becomes a jewel".

Pastula also caters to weddings, private events and conventions where their great food and exciting atmosphere has generated numerous praises and awards for the restaurants. Dana attributes the success of her business to top-tier management talent, choice of locations, award-winning cuisine with broad appeal and lastly, virtually no corporate debt.

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