September 5, 2009

Duke’s OceanFest
A Fitting Celebration for an Island Legend
By Dr. Chuck Kelley

Outrigger has been supporting Duke’s OceanFest since it was born in 2002, and in its first eight years, the festival has grown into a world-class ocean sports extravaganza celebrating the life and legacy of Duke Kahanamoku. Competitors and spectators come from around the world to be a part of the week-long celebration, whose many events – including surfing, swimming, stand-up paddle boarding, surf polo, and beach volleyball – capture the fun and spirit of Waikiki Beach.

Continued on page 7
**Happy Birthday!**


Sept 27: Maria L.C. Almogela, Peter Finnegan, and Constantino L. Espejo.

Sept 28: Dennis T. Nakachi and Sigfredo C. Raquinio.


**Employment Opportunities**

If you are interested in the position listed below and meet the qualifications, you may apply online. Please go to www.outrigger.com, click on ABOUT OUTRIGGER, then EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES. We only accept online applications for the open listed position from internal candidates. If you have any questions, please call Chad Teramae at (808) 921-6989. Application deadline for the following position is September 11, 2009.

**Human Resources Specialist (Full Time)**

A bachelor's degree in Business Administration or Human Resources and a minimum of three years Human Resources experience or an equivalent combination of education and work experience required. Prior experience in Benefits Administration, Human Resources Information Systems, and other areas within Human Resources preferred. Must be familiar with labor laws, be computer literate, and have excellent written and verbal communication skills.

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**Michael Osborne’s Quick Action Saves Lives**

By Una Murray

Michael Osborne, an Activities Officer and Lifeguard at the Outrigger on the Lagoon - Fiji, put his certification as a Silver Medallion Surf Rescuer to good use. Last Friday, Michael was making his rounds at the property when he noticed a couple surfing in the large and dangerous surf break fronting the hotel. He asked a security guard about the couple and found out that they were from a nearby resort. Out of concern, he kept a watchful eye on them until he noticed the man get hit by a large set and dragged out to sea through a channel in the reef. The woman was frantically trying to search for him when Michael reached her in his canoe. She directed Michael to where the man was last seen, and he quickly paddled over to look for him.

As the woman was following him on her surfboard, she got hit by another large wave and was also dragged out to sea. Michael managed to rescue her and get her to safety, and he immediately returned to rescue the man who had gotten caught in a dangerous whirlpool. While getting them to safety, Michael had to struggle to paddle the canoe against the strong currents.

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The couple, Mesha Sternthall, who is a hotel concierge at the Sands of Kahana Resort on Maui, and Gregg Gardener, who is a surf instructor here in Hawaii, highly praised Michael for his outstanding efforts in rescuing them. On behalf of Outrigger Enterprises, we’d like to thank Michael for a job well done! 🎉
Waikiki Beach Walk® Garners
Top Landscape Design Award
By Eric Masutomi

Since its opening in April 2006, Waikiki Beach Walk has been the recipient of an impressive array of local, national, and international design and development awards. The latest accolade came on August 25, when the Hawaii Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) presented Outrigger Enterprises Group and its landscape architectural consultant, Walters, Kimura, Motoda, Inc., its prestigious 2009 Award of Excellence for General Design.

David Carey, Mel Kaneshige, and I were honored to accept the award as guests of Janine Mori of Walters, Kimura, Motoda, Inc., at the ASLA’s gala Professional Awards Dinner at Waikiki Yacht Club. The ASLA awards, given every three years, recognize the best in landscape architecture for design, planning and analysis, and communications.

In a pleasant surprise, the award was presented by current ASLA Hawaii president Chris Dacus, who many in our Outrigger ‘ohana will remember from his days as a member of Outrigger’s Marketing department. Waikiki Beach Walk was chosen by a juried panel from among 24 entries, the largest number of nominees in the history of the chapter’s awards program. In his introductory remarks, Chris stated, “The jury was drawn to honor projects that had transformational qualities; landscapes and plans that changed the community not just through design, but by providing sensitive, creative and sustainable environmental design solutions.” In selecting Waikiki Beach Walk, the judges noted, “What a great direction Waikiki has taken; a heartily done project. Tourists as well as local residents should be proud of this accomplishment and direction.”

This recognition by the ASLA is particularly meaningful as it validates Outrigger’s desire from the outset to create, in Waikiki Beach Walk, a place that is uniquely “Hawaii,” through extensive use of indigenous plants and tropical materials, a design evocative of Waikiki, and expansive open spaces and water features that will welcome and delight residents and visitors for years to come. Congratulations and mahalo to Walters, Kimura, Motoda, Inc., for its seminal role in helping us achieve this vision.
The Write Stuff
By Lynn Cook

If guests at the Outrigger Reef on the Beach seemed to be outfitted in a somewhat unusual way last week, it was for good reason. The hotel’s lobby and meeting rooms were filled with some of America’s best-selling authors and the “students” who came to reap the benefits of a week of intensive writing courses at the Hawaii Writers Retreat, preceding the 17th Annual Hawaii Writers Conference (HWC). In place of beach towels and sunscreen, tote bags were filled with notebooks and laptops. Even though their daylight hours were spent writing and re-writing, with only a quick dip in the pool or the ocean, the conference guests were enjoying the extraordinary hospitality of the hotel.

Jacquelyn Mitchard, a retreat presenter, keynote speaker for the conference, and author of the best-seller, “Deep End of the Ocean,” was Oprah’s first book club pick. Her writing life is interwoven with raising seven children. Mitchard said with a big family, the free phone calls that are part of the Outrigger Reef’s Fee Free program meant the world to her. Along with the HWC co-founder Shannon Tullius, Mitchard and Anne LeClaire were talking about the location. LeClaire called the staff and the service “stunning,” saying that “they fix problems even before we know we have them.”

Shannon Tullius agreed that the amenities like the free phone calls and free internet service were wonderful, “but the thing that all our presenters and attendees have been raving about is the Aloha Spirit. There are employees who have longevity with Outrigger. They really care about how we feel.” Tullius also praised General Manager Bill Comstock as always being accessible. “He walks the property, always ready to talk and make sure that things are right.”

New York Times best selling author Karin Slaughter, with seventeen million

Continued on page 5
copies of her books in print, explained that she stays in hotels for a living, constantly traveling for her research. “This is one of the best hotels I have ever stayed in, certainly one of the most beautiful.”

The concept of the retreat is an intensive week of work that hopefully results in a New York Times bestselling novel. And it has. A good example is Hawaii high-school teacher, Patricia Wood. One year she was a retreat student, the next, she was the best-selling author of “The Lottery,” now translated into 30 languages and soon to be a film.

Gretchen, a retreat attendee from Chugiak, Alaska, added her comments. “I came a long way to study with these authors. I got out of the cab, and they had my name on a list and were ready to check me in. From that moment I felt welcome.”

Internationally-known author and success-in-business consultant, Sam Horn, has been the mistress of ceremonies and a presenter at the Hawaii Writers Conference and the Writers Retreat for seventeen years. She said, “It is a pleasure to meet the gracious, warm, friendly staff who seem truly glad to work here.” She also shared her knowledge of the place, noting that the convergence of the three fresh water streams from the mountains of Oahu “make this hotel a wellspring of Aloha.”

Lynn Cook is a cultural tourism travel writer and photographer who has lived in Honolulu for more than 30 years. Her feature stories cover Hawaii, the Western U.S., Canada, and the Pacific. In addition to her writing, she researches and photographs ancient rock art petroglyph images around the Pacific Rim. As a printmaker, she translates this research onto fine art on handmade papers. Lynn shares this expertise with guests of the Outrigger Reef on the Beach and the Outrigger Waikiki on the Beach on a monthly basis as part of the hotel’s cultural programming.

Outrigger Twin Towns Resort Welcomes Interns from Japan

By Gavan Conway

As Outrigger Twin Towns Resort continues its intern-training program with Japan’s leading universities, we recently welcomed two new happy faces for their four-week work experience programs. Izumi Tsubokura (Sangyo University, Kyoto) and Ayana Kondo (Musahino University, Tokyo), who are both studying English and Business, are working at Outrigger Twin Towns Resort to gain valuable hospitality experience and insights across all resort divisions.

The girls instantly fit in and quickly mastered the art of greeting guests with big smiles and equally big G’Days! When they’re not honing their hospitality skills, Izumi and Ayana are visiting the huge range of attractions nearby, with a special highlight having their photos taken cuddling a koala bear at Dreamworld.

This is the second year the resort has participated in this international work experience program, which is not only important in maintaining our close ties with one of the Gold Coast’s largest tourism markets, but also in nurturing and developing the skills of our future tourism and hospitality professionals.

The Outrigger Twin Towns Resort team has been fantastic mentoring Izumi and Ayana and have made them feel right at home.
Call the Coach Radio Show at the Outrigger Reef on the Beach
By Nancy Daniels

The Outrigger Reef and Kani Ka Pila Grille will be getting a lot more exposure among sports fans this year, with the hotel being named the new venue for ESPN 1420’s popular “Call the Coach” radio shows.

Depending on the home-game schedule, host Bobby Curran will be on air with UH Warrior Football Coach Greg McMackin on Tuesdays and UH Rainbow Warrior Volleyball Coach Dave Shoji on Wednesdays. Each show runs from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., and attendees receive $5 validated valet parking with restaurant purchase.

Help spread the word and come on down with family and friends to enjoy these hour-long programs with Coach Mack and Coach Shoji.

**Tuesday Schedule with Coach Mack**
- September 8
- October 27
- November 10
- November 17
- December 1
- December 8

**Wednesday Schedule with Coach Shoji**
- September 9
- September 16
- September 23
- October 7
- October 21
- November 4
- November 18

Lifesaver Club
By Ashley Cabradilla

If you are interested in saving three lives, you can, in just about an hour! Here are the basic donor requirements:

- Be in good health
- Be 18 years of age or older
  (17-year-olds can donate with written parental consent)
- Have valid photo identification
- Weigh 110 pounds or more
- Wait eight weeks between donations

Compassion and time is all it takes to help collect the 200 pints of blood needed every day to maintain an adequate supply for our patients here in Hawaii. It’s Safe. It’s Simple. It Saves Lives.

BLOOD DRIVE

**Monday**
**September 28**
9 a.m - 2 p.m

Embassy Suites® - Waikiki Beach Walk®
Beach Walk Meeting Room 1
4th Floor

Help us maintain a safe and stable blood supply by making your appointment to donate blood today. To make an appointment, please email ashley.cabradilla@outrigger.com or call me at 921-6972.

For more information on donating blood, visit www.bbh.org, or call the Blood Bank of Hawaii at 845-9966.

Your support is greatly appreciated!
It’s a busy week of athletic events with hundreds of participants and thousands of spectators, and it all benefits the Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation, which was established in Duke’s name to support outstanding Hawaii scholar-athletes competing in water sports and volleyball.

One of the more popular events is the Hawaiian Airlines Duke’s Legends Surf Classic in which corporate teams get to surf alongside a surfing “legend.” This year, Outrigger Enterprises had two teams competing.

The women’s team surfed under the name of Outrigger Reef and included former U.S. Surfing Champion Nancy Emerson, as the team’s “legend.” Joining Nancy were four lovely ladies from our local media community – Malika Dudley of KGMB-9, Amber-Lynn Hyden of KITV-4, Catherine Toth of the Honolulu Advertiser, and Crystal Akana of Island 98.5.

I had the pleasure of surfing for the Outrigger Waikiki team that also included local fashion designer Sig Zane (who designed the uniforms for our beachfront properties), Hugh O’Reilly of FX Productions, and local travel writer Brian Berusch. Our surf legend was “Dickie Boy” Abbey, who grew up under the wing of another Waikiki surfing legend, Rabbit Kekai, and was also mentored under the watchful eye of Duke Kahanamoku himself in the 1940s. Dickie Boy was one of the standout surfers in the early 1950s at Waikiki Beach, and in the mid-50s, he led the way to California for many Hawaiian surfers and later graced the cover of the very first issue of Surfer magazine.

One of the challenges of holding a surf competition, is you never really know whether or not you’ll have ridable waves. Such was the case on Friday and Saturday of the event. They were gorgeous days in Waikiki, with the sun shining and a light trade wind blowing. Unfortunately, when the horn blew for the Outrigger teams to surf, the waves were dismal to non-existent, but the
teams did their best and took advantage of the little bumps that came their way. Needless to say, they didn’t capture first place, but they also didn’t place last! What mattered most was that everyone had a great time.

A new addition to the calendar of Duke’s OceanFest events this year was a free movie under the stars at the Outrigger Reef on the Beach. Bill Comstock and his staff are to be commended for providing a spectacular evening for hotel guests, visitors, and residents who stopped in to enjoy the movie. Appropriately, the film shown was “The Ride.” Written and produced by local filmmaker Nathan Kurosawa, it tells the tale of a surfer who is carried back in time to 1911 and meets a young Duke Kahanamoku.

It was a perfect balmy evening for an outdoor movie. People settled into the comfortable lounge chairs around the pool, and many hotel guests with rooms overlooking the pool enjoyed the movie from the comfort of their lanais! A large screen was set up, and the acoustics were superb. The event was so well received that we may be seeing a few more poolside movies at the Outrigger Reef in the future!

The week-long festivities come to an end with a particularly colorful event – the Surf Board Lei Procession and Lei Draping at the Duke Kahanamoku statue, a tradition that was started by the staff of the Outrigger Waikiki in 2002. Guests, visitors, and residents gather at the hotel throughout the day to string the beautiful lei that will grace the statue. In the afternoon, the lei are placed on surfboards to be carried to the statue. This year, the cadets from Hawaii National Guard Youth Challenge Academy...
Between and following the Olympics, Duke competed and gave exhibition performances across the country and around the world, also demonstrating surfing in places that had never witnessed the sport, from the U.S. East Coast to Australia. In the 1920s, he began a series of movie appearances, something he pursued for nearly three decades. Duke turned in the surfing performance of a lifetime in California in 1925, when he paddled his longboard out to a ship that had lost power and capsized in heavy surf. He made three trips to the sinking vessel and single-handedly rescued eight of the 29 people aboard. The Newport Beach police chief called Duke's performance “the most superhuman rescue act and the finest display of surfboard riding that has ever been seen in the world.”

Later in life, he took on the role of Hawaii’s “ambassador,” greeting and hobnobbing with visiting personages of every kind. As an article in *Sports Illustrated* (September 17, 1990) put it, “Through the years, in photos, we see Kahanamoku in a boat with Babe Ruth; on the beach with a young Shirley Temple; holding a clean-shaven Groucho Marx on his shoulders; comparing canoe paddles with Joe DiMaggio; chatting with President John F. Kennedy; and giving an impromptu hula lesson to Queen Mother Elizabeth of Great Britain.”

I can remember Duke from when I was growing up in Waikiki. He was a permanent fixture on the beach and kept his surfboard and a koa canoe in the sand under the dining room of the Outrigger Canoe Club, now the Outrigger Waikiki Hotel. He would swim there every afternoon. A striking but gentle man, he was an outstanding role model for so many of Hawaii’s youth, showing them that coming from our Islands need not be limiting in any way.

I can also remember the worried look on Duke’s face when our company acquired the lease on the Outrigger Canoe Club site in 1963 and was planning to build the Outrigger Waikiki. He was in his 70s at that point and was quite concerned about where he could conveniently keep his surfboard and canoe once construction started. I remember accompanying my father as we walked onto the property we now had under lease. As we were standing on the beachfront boundary, Duke came up and said, “Mr. Kelley, I’ve had my canoe stored on this land for years. Would you mind if I continued to keep it here until you start construction?” Roy replied, “I would be honored if you would do that.” And he made sure there was always a spot for Duke’s canoe through and beyond the construction period.

I would also see Duke at the Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament (HIBT) in Kailua-Kona. I participated in that tournament for a number of years in the 60s and 70s. (Dr. Chuck Kelley, then 9-years-old, accompanied me once.) Duke would fish from his own boat, which I recall was named the Nadu-K, (a melding of his wife’s name – Nadine – and Duke). HIBT founder Peter Fithian recalls that in 1961, when Duke was 71-years-old, he hooked a potentially tournament-winning 441-pound Pacific blue marlin and had almost brought it to gaff when his rod broke, disqualifying the catch under tournament rules. “If you can’t break the record, break the rod,” said Duke afterward, according to an article recounting the battle in the September 4, 1961, issue of *Sports Illustrated*.

HIBT, now celebrating its 50th year, honors Duke’s memory by annually presenting the Duke Kahanamoku Memorial Award to the angler boating the heaviest qualifying billfish in the tournament.

It gives me great pleasure to know that Duke’s memory continues to be honored in many ways, not least of which is Duke’s OceanFest, a living – and lively – memorial to this exceptional man, which our company supports and in which we enthusiastically participate.
Duke’s OceanFest
Continued from page 9

And how gratifying it is to see the statue serve as the focal point of the closing ceremony. Not everyone will remember this – in fact, some people reading this article were not even born when the statue was installed in 1990! – but Outrigger played a quiet, but significant role in the project. As noted in the August 25, 1990, issue of Saturday Briefing …

“The idea of a statue honoring Duke was floated around for several years, but it never seemed to be possible. About a year ago, State Rep. Fred Hemmings and City Councilmember Neil Abercrombie seized on the idea and asked Outrigger for assistance. Dr. Richard Kelley, in turn, asked Max Sword to work on the project, and David Carey became involved through his membership in the Waikiki Improvement Association.

Max and David worked behind the scenes, and although they will probably not get much public recognition, they deserve a great deal of credit for steering the project to a successful conclusion.

Outrigger also provided a significant amount of the financing needed to get the statue delivered in time for Duke’s 100th birthday celebration.”

Congratulations to everyone who was involved in this year’s Duke’s OceanFest for another memorable event, and a particular mahalo to Ethan Chang, who played an instrumental role in coordinating Outrigger’s day-to-day participation.

Outrigger Reef on the Beach and Oahu to Receive National TV Exposure
By Nancy Daniels

Tune into the FOX network television station (KHON FOX2 in Hawaii) on Tuesday, September 8, at 8 p.m. HST, to see the Outrigger Reef on the Beach and various locations on Oahu as backdrops for the next episode of the show “More to Love.”

“More to Love” is a new dating competition show similar to the highly successful TV program “The Bachelor.” The twist is that competitors do not follow the normal “modelesque” form for these shows. Instead, the show features plus-size bachelor Luke Conley, as he searches for love among a group of women who are similarly-sized.

The TV crew filmed the seventh episode of the show at the Outrigger Reef in June. In addition to general property shots, several of the hotel’s newly-renovated suites, the Kani Ka Pila Grille, and poolside were used as locations for a number of the scenes. The beauty of Oahu and various outdoor activities were also showcased.

It’s always a challenge having a television crew film on property, especially when they use multiple areas of the hotel for location shots. However, the staff of the Outrigger Reef did a tremendous job ensuring that everything ran smoothly for both the film crew and hotel guests.

The stunning changes that have taken place at the Outrigger Reef will be front and center of the millions of viewers who tune in to watch “More to Love” next week. I hope you’ll tune in as well.