Darren Edmonstone Promoted
By Mel Kaneshige

I join the Human Resources department in congratulating Darren Edmonstone on his new position as Senior Vice President-Asia. In this newly-created position, Darren will lead Outrigger’s expansion into Asia and will oversee Outrigger’s newly-established Asia regional office in Phuket, Thailand. He will continue to report directly to me.

Darren has been at the forefront of Outrigger’s expansion into Thailand and Bali and will guide Outrigger on its Asia expansion—something he is highly qualified for, with his extensive previous experience within the region. Prior to joining Outrigger in 2005, Darren worked with Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels Limited,

Darren Edmonstone

Best Western Honors
Robert McConnell

It always gives me great pleasure when a member of our ‘ohana is recognized for excellence and leadership, but I was exceptionally happy when I heard that Robert McConnell has just been appointed the District Governor for Hawaii by Best Western International.

Robert is the General Manager of the Best Western The Plaza Hotel at Honolulu International Airport, as well as of the nearby OHANA Honolulu Airport Hotel. With his new – additional – role as District Governor, he will be

Robert McConnell and David Kong, President & CEO, Best Western International

Outrigger to Manage New Hotel in Hainan Island, China
By Mel Kaneshige

Outrigger announced last week that it has been selected to manage the Outrigger Qingshui Bay Resort, Sanya, China, a new 500-plus room, five-star, full service luxury hotel to be built as part of Qingshui Bay Resort, an exciting new, multi-billion dollar mixed-use development being built on the island of Hainan in the People’s Republic of China. Located along 7.5 miles of prime beachfront property within Hainan Island’s Sanya Administrative Prefecture on the South China Sea, the Qingshui Bay Resort

Continued on page 5

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Continued on page 5
Joy to the World

Waikiki Employee Holiday Party
By Heather Doeringer

So, you think you can dance? Well, you ain’t seen nothin’ until you see this year’s Employee Holiday Party! We’re delivering entertainment from around the world and much more! Food, music, and dance from far away lands will be sure to amaze you throughout the evening and maybe even entice you to join in!

This year, the format will be pupu-style and we will be announcing prize winners a little differently. Winning names will be drawn and announced throughout the evening, and all winners will be posted on a board at the prize table. Visit the continents of the world food stations, enjoy the all-around, all-night entertainment, and stop by the prize table at your convenience to see if you’ve won or to claim your prize!

Remember, the party is at Ala Moana Hotel’s Hibiscus Ball Room & Garden Lanai on December 11. See your supervisor to sign-up and provide your $0 refundable deposit—do it today and get ready to party!

Watch for upcoming deadlines and more details in future editions of the Saturday Briefing.

The 2008 Digicel Coral Coast Carnival
By Una Murray

The 2008 Digicel Coral Coast Carnival was held from October 4 – 10 and included a float procession, the famous bilibili race, nightly entertainment at the park, and culminated in the crowning of the Carnival Queen. Over 5,000 people attended the carnival, which is a charitable event.

The Outrigger on the Lagoon – Fiji participated in the carnival and took home the trophy for Best Float.

Eight women competed for the Carnival Queen crown. Guest Service Agent Kirri Chand represented the

Continued on page 3

It’s a Boy

Congratulations to Darren Shaw/Operations and his wife Sarah on the birth of their son Jamie on October 16. Jamie weighed 3.6kg (7.9 lbs).

Happy Birthday!


Nov 12: Lori L. Naone, Cristina C. Mamuad, Gah-Yeu Soo Lee, and Yi Zhen Lee.


Nov 18: Flor D. Ramos, Carol Ly, Judd Winchester, Lane Ito, and Kendra Wilson.

Jami Shaw

The 2008 Digicel Coral Coast Carnival
By Una Murray

Attorney General Aiyaz Sayed - Khaiyum congratulates Kirri Chand on being crowned Miss Digicel Personality and Miss Digicel Charity

Joy to the World

It’s a Boy

Congratulations to Darren Shaw/Operations and his wife Sarah on the birth of their son Jamie on October 16. Jamie weighed 3.6kg (7.9 lbs).
Outrigger on the Lagoon – Fiji. Kirti was excited to participate in the competition and hoped that by being part of this event, it would enable her to make a difference in the local community.

Kirti was thrilled when she won not one, but two crowns—Miss Digicel Personality and Miss Digicel Charity. Accepting her awards she said, “My aim is to assist in the development of my community through the funds raised during the carnival.”

The majority of the $32,000 raised will go to build a children’s park in Sigatoka. Other projects that will benefit from the event include educational sessions in Nadroga - Navosa villages, the purchase of a vehicle for the Sigatoka office for the Ministry of Health, and eight further projects undertaken by the charity queens, centering on education and the environment.

Congratulations to Kirti for her outstanding accomplishment and to all the members of the Outrigger on the Lagoon – Fiji who participated in this event.
The Third Annual Guam Ko’ko’ Road Race was held on October 19. This was the first year that Outrigger was a sponsor and participated in the event. The race is actually two road races—a half marathon (13 miles) for soloists and a four-person team Ekiden relay 20KM (12.42 miles) race. Both events are held over the same course, which starts and finishes at East Agana Bay and runs along Guam’s beautiful and scenic west coast.

There were 104 teams participating in the Ekiden relay in various categories, including Men’s, Women’s, Coed, Military, and Corporate. Representing Outrigger on the relay team was Rodel Soberano, Joy Advincula, Sheila Devera, and myself. In the spirit of community, Charlene Goo ran for another team who needed a last-minute replacement. As you can see from the results below, Outrigger’s team did a great job in competing against more seasoned and experienced teams.

**TEAM OUTRIGGER STATISTICS**

Division: Corporate (Ekiden Relay)
Overall: 41 out of 104 Ekiden Relay Teams
Division: 7 out of 31 Corporate Relay Teams
Finish Time: 1:47:16
Min Per Mile: 08:39
(results by JTL timing)

The Guam Ko’ko’ Road Race was created by Guam Visitors Bureau to increase interest in the island by international athletes, but more importantly, to highlight the plight of the Ko’ko’ bird. The Ko’ko’ is a flightless bird, brought to the brink of extinction by the brown tree snake, pesticides, and other predators. All proceeds from the race benefit the preservation of the Ko’ko’ bird.

Congratulations to Team Outrigger and Charlene; you did an outstanding job—we can’t wait for next year’s race.
Outrigger to Manage New Hotel in Hainan Island, China

Continued from page 1

will feature six luxury hotels, a diverse range of residential apartments and villas, multiple championship golf courses, and a comprehensive mix of commercial, retail, and entertainment offerings.

This is a tremendous opportunity for Outrigger for a number of reasons. First, it gets us into China's rapidly growing resort leisure market in China's best known warm weather resort leisure location. Second, we have established a relationship with one of South China's largest property developers with a potential for other management opportunities in the future. Third, this represents a strategic opportunity for Outrigger to build brand awareness by operating a flagship property in China's premier resort destination.

The Qingshui Bay Resort is being developed by a joint venture between Morgan Stanley managed funds and Agile Property Holdings Limited, a Hong Kong listed property developer specializing in large-scale, high-end, design-oriented residential and resort developments.

The Outrigger Qingshui Bay Resort, which is expected to open in 2013, will be one of six hotels within the Qingshui Bay Resort and will include multiple food and beverage outlets, an exclusive beach club, extensive landscaping, a variety of specialized water features, and high-end retail.

Located just off the southern coast of the People's Republic of China, Hainan is China's second largest island. Over the years it has developed into one of Asia's premier resort destinations. The island enjoys easy international access via Sanya Phoenix International Airport, servicing a growing number of domestic and international destinations, including Hong Kong, Seoul, and Moscow.

Because of its expansive beaches, natural beauty, and tropical setting, as well as its location along the same latitude as Hawaii, Hainan is sometimes referred to as the “Hawaii of China.” Like Hawaii, visitors can enjoy an array of water sports, including scuba diving, snorkeling, water skiing, and parasailing, as well as world-class golf and cultural activities. There are also wildlife preserves with exotic animals and birds in the island's rainforests, as well as geothermal hot springs across the island.

In the two short years since we began our growth into Asia, we have acquired properties in Bali and Phuket, with discussions now underway for additional properties in Phuket and Koh Samui in Thailand. At the present time, we are also investigating other opportunities in Hua Hin, Krabi and Pattaya in Thailand, another location in Bali, and several locations in Vietnam.

In addition to these exciting new developments in Asia, we continue to explore other opportunities in Hawaii as well, as our roots remain deep in Hawaii and our commitment to the islands remains steadfast.
Best Western Honors Robert McConnell

Continued from page 1

representing the five Best Western Hotels in Hawaii to Best Western International’s board of directors—not only the Best Western The Plaza Hotel, Honolulu, that he manages for us, but also the Best Western Coconut Waikiki Hotel, Waikiki; Best Western Plantation Hale Suites, Kauai; Best Western Maui Oceanfront Inn, Maui; and Best Western Pioneer Inn, Maui. In addition, he will do property inspections to ensure that guests continue to receive quality accommodations and consistent hospitality up to Best Western’s stringent standards.

Robert is a veteran hotelier with over 25 years of experience. He has worked in a succession of management positions at various Outrigger properties in Hawaii, Fiji, the Marshall Islands, and Palau. He is a Certified Rooms Division Executive and a Certified Hotel Administrator (through programs of the American Hotel & Motel Association’s Educational Institute). He is also an active member of various internal Outrigger organizations, including chair of Outrigger Hotels Hawaii Political Action Committee and a member of Outrigger’s annual Visitor Industry Charity Walk committee. In light of Robert’s experience, talents, hard work, and dedication, I am not surprised that he has been selected for this important role with Best Western.

O outrigger is pleased to be affiliated with Best Western International, Inc., the world’s largest hotel chain with over 4,000 independently owned and operated hotels. The affiliation is a great marketing tool that attracts guests, such as members of Best Western’s rewards program, who might not otherwise choose our property. About 60 percent of Best Western’s hotels are in North America. The rest are found in nearly 80 countries and territories around the world, including Europe, Asia and the Middle East, Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific, Central and South America, and Africa. On average, over 400,000 guests sleep in a Best Western Hotel every night of the year.

Founded in 1946 by M.K. Guertin, Best Western has been providing quality service and hotel accommodations to leisure and corporate travelers for over 60 years. With corporate headquarters in Phoenix, Arizona, the company is governed by a seven-member board elected from geographic districts around North America. There are separate boards for other countries. Governors serve as communication consultants and links between the hoteliers in their district and their board.

Congratulations, Robert. We are all very proud of you.