

KAI ULU

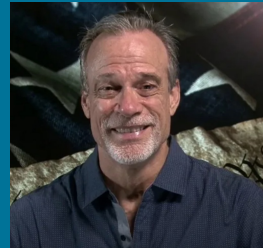
HPU Alumni Currents

A Message from Jon Davidann: How Being Up in the Air Changed My Life

I have spent 28 years at HPU shaping young minds into budding historians who understand the importance of historical perspective, which is when we look to the past to help explain the present. My students also learn to use context historically and in their own lives in today’s world. These two ways of thinking allow them to thrive in a transforming world where much that we assumed is true seems adrift.

It is my firm belief that as we enter a more uncertain age, storytelling will assume greater importance in the world’s twenty-first-century societies. I have a personal story I’d like to share with you.

One day, I was twenty feet up in the air, covered in paint, exhausted, wondering how I got myself into this mess. Standing on a ladder with a brush in hand, I started thinking about what to do with a house I owned in Kailua, Hawai’i, that I was repainting. I could sell it, but the capital gains tax was daunting. I could do a 721 exchange or a 1031 exchange, but neither appealed to me.



Jon Davidann,
Professor of History in the
College of Liberal Arts
at Hawai’i Pacific University

[Full Message](#)

Aloha from Fall Sports

HPU's fall athletics season is off to an exciting start as coaches share their optimism, welcome new and returning talent, and gear up for the season, ready to compete with heart, pride, and purpose.



Jesse Nakanishi – Men’s Basketball Coach

We couldn’t be more excited to get the new school year going as we welcome back 9 returners and 8 new student-athletes to the program. If you're in Hawaii or in a city we're competing in, please come join us for a game. Something special is on the horizon, this is going to be the Sharks' breakthrough year!

[Men's Basketball Schedule](#)

Connor Artigue – Women’s Soccer Coach

It is an honor to be named head women's soccer coach here at HPU. I am thrilled to return to this special island and community. I look forward to representing the university and building a positive, winning culture. There will be a clear identity for our team that will fight, compete, and succeed on and off the field. I can’t wait to get started.

[Women's Soccer Schedule](#)



Brent Gibson – Women’s Basketball Coach

Women's basketball is looking forward to the upcoming season with a new head coach, Brent Gibson. Coach Gibson has added two alumni to the women's basketball staff, Avery Cargill (23) and Haley Masaki (24). The leadership from these two alumni will continue to build the legacy of Lady Shark Basketball.

[Women's Basketball Schedule](#)

Chris Fisher – Men’s Soccer Coach

HPU Men's Soccer is extremely excited for our Fall 2025 Championship season! We have recruited amazing student athletes to join our incredible returning group. Waipio Soccer Park will be the host for a number of great games, and we hope people come out to watch some of the best soccer played in Hawaii.

[Men's Soccer Schedule](#)



Jenic Tumaneng – Women’s Volleyball Coach

Our Lady Sharks and coaching staff are excited for the upcoming 2025–2026 season! As our student-athletes come together to face the challenges ahead, our program remains committed to striving for excellence and competing at the highest level in the PacWest Conference, representing our institution, our team, and our community with pride and integrity.

[Women's Volleyball Schedule](#)

Kevin Schwarz – Women’s and Men's Cross Country

THE CURRENTS

[Hangin’ at the Reef Podcast: The Evolving Value of a College Degree](#)

[HPU Students Gain Global Perspective through Transformative Asia-Pacific IPE Trip](#)

[HPU Awarded First-in-Hawai’i NSF Grant for Coastal Research](#)

[Hangin’ at the Reef Podcast: Finding ‘Ohana through the Arts at HPU](#)

[Alumnus Spotlight: Anthony Katz ’03](#)



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I'm incredibly excited to start year 2 as Head Coach for HPU XC. We are coming into the season much improved. Looking forward to hosting the PacWest Championships at our home course here on Oahu!

[Women's Cross Country Schedule](#)

[Men's Cross Country Schedule](#)



*Celebrating **60 Years**
of Innovation*

Join the excitement this fall—cheer on a game, reconnect with the ohana, celebrate the spirit of HPU, or show your **support by donating** to a team.
Go Sharks!

THE CURRENTS



Hangin' at the Reef Podcast: The Evolving Value of a College Degree

Host Jeffrey Rich, HPU VP of Marketing and Communications, talks with Ryan Tin-Loy, Senior Career Services Advisor, about the evolving expectations of employers—from hands-on experience to adaptability—and why personal branding is essential for career success.

[Learn More](#)



Students Gain Global Perspective through Transformative Asia-Pacific IPE Trip

What happens when learning goes global? Twelve HPU students from diverse majors spent nearly five weeks this summer in Japan, Cambodia, and Viet Nam through the International Professional Experience program. Guided by faculty advisor Paul Tran, the journey blended academic study with meaningful cultural and community engagement.

[Read This](#)



HPU Awarded First-in-Hawai'i NSF Grant for Coastal Research

HPU has received a \$502,819 grant from the National Science Foundation's Building Research Capacity of New Faculty in Biology program to study sea-level rise and methane in coastal wetlands. Led by Assistant Professor Carmella Vizza, Ph.D., the project will fund student research and integrate fieldwork into environmental science lab courses.



Hangin' at the Reef Podcast: Finding 'Ohana through the Arts at HPU

Guest host Dabney Gough, HPU Director of Marketing, talks with faculty emerita Teresa McCreary, Ph.D., and student cellist Aubrey Motsinger about how the arts shape student life. They spotlight HPU's Arts and Markets degree and explore how creativity fosters connection and purpose.

[Learn More](#)

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

HPU Alumnus Anthony Katz '03 The Accidental Entrepreneur



When HPU alumnus Anthony Katz '03 turned 30 he had a vision for the nascent industry of sports recovery. One morning, he got in his car and drove to a wetsuit factory in Southern California with a pair of scissors, cutting neoprene into shapes that could fit around his knee.

Katz was not starting a business, yet. He was just trying to keep up his basketball pickup games without feeling wrecked the next day.

“I made my prototype with the neoprene and wore it after basketball games at UC Irvine. One day, a friend asked me, ‘Where’d you get that? I just made it, I said.’” And that’s the moment when it clicked, Katz remembered, still a little surprised at his discovery more than a decade later.

That homemade ice wrap, part wetsuit sleeve, part medical bag, became the spark of **Hyperice**, Katz’s company now valued in the hundreds of millions and used by everyone from Kobe Bryant to Olympic skiers. In fact, Bryant became the first recipient of the Hyperice knee ice and compression wrap!

But Katz will be the first to tell you the truth: he wasn’t sure what he was making at the time, only that it would be the start of an incredible story. Katz grew up with his mother and father in the small town of Laguna Niguel, California, in the 80s and 90s, what he affectionally calls “pre-digital childhood.”

“We were the first generation with a computer in the house, but I didn’t get on the internet until my second year of college,” he said. “The social dynamic was different back then. We didn’t have digital identities. That came later, when we were all adults.”

Katz was raised in a middle-class home where college was non-negotiable. Sports, movies, and hip hop soundtracked his youth, but academics? Not early on. Not yet.

Alumni Involvement

The HPU alumni ‘ohana is worldwide, all opportunities are available in-person or virtually. We encourage you to consider how you can contribute your time and talents to support our students. Your involvement can have a lasting impact on student personal and professional growth.

HPU Connect

HPU Connect makes it easy to get in touch with fellow alumni and support current students. Every HPU member adds value and prestige to our community.

[Sign Up Today!](#)

Career Connections

Networking, mentorship opportunity, and continued involvement with the HPU campus.

[Learn More Here!](#)

Planned Giving

Whether you're exploring options for the future or simply curious, our online tools will help you reflect on what matters most, explore giving possibilities, and take the next step, with aloha.

[Launching soon — stay tuned!](#)

HPU Athletics

Learn more about our teams, game schedules, standout student-athletes, and how you can support HPU Athletics all season long.
[Learn More Here!](#)

Upcoming Events:

How to Ignite Passion and Performance in Every Employee
Wednesday, September 10th
9:00 a.m. PDT
[More Info Here](#)

Getting Unstuck: How to Thrive in Times of Uncertainty
Tuesday, September 16th
9:00 a.m. PDT
[More Info Here](#)

HPU's 60th Anniversary Campus Event
Saturday, September 20th
5:00 p.m. to 9:00pm HST
[More Info Here](#)

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