

HBA Soaring Eagle

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Spring 2021



Hawaii Baptist Academy is a Christian college preparatory school that equips students spiritually, intellectually, physically, socially, and emotionally, so that they bring honor to God.

News from Hawaii Baptist Academy



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The New Normal
Jr. Kindergarten Opening
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Virtual MAC Week 2021

Hawaii Baptist Academy

Located in Nuuanu Valley on the island of Oahu, Hawaii Baptist Academy (HBA) is a Christ-centered, co-educational, college preparatory school for kindergarten through grade 12. Established in 1949 by missionaries of the Southern Baptist Convention, the school is affiliated with the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention.

HBA is a member of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools and the Association of Christian Schools International, and accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. HBA is licensed by the Hawaii Council of Private Schools.

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Mission Statement

Hawaii Baptist Academy is a Christian college preparatory school that equips students spiritually, intellectually, physically, socially, and emotionally, so that they bring honor to God.

Soaring Eagle is a publication for alumni, parents, friends and supporters of Hawaii Baptist Academy. It is produced by the Communications Department for:

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A Message from the President



Dear HBA Friends,

When the COVID-19 pandemic began over a year ago, no one realized how long and how great an impact it would have on our daily lives. During the summer of 2020, as it became more apparent that shutdowns and quarantines were going to be part of our “normal” lives, our senior leadership team quickly instituted new safety measures to ensure that our students could continue learning in-person in the safest environment possible. In this edition of *Soaring Eagle*, we highlight what this new “normal” has come to look like on our campuses through a special photo essay. In these images, you’ll see our students, faculty and staff wearing face masks, sitting six feet apart from each other, washing their hands and wearing contact tracing discs. All of these things have become an important part of our school’s culture. That is because we know that the decisions we make affect not only our school community, but ultimately the health and well-being of our entire island community. Despite the challenges and difficulties that come with these new rules, we continue to press on because we have hope that our God is greater and He will carry us through. In the midst of all of the uncertainty and change that COVID-19 has brought about, I’m grateful that we have a firm foundation in Christ. We continue to share the gospel with our students and their families, and remind them that we can have peace and joy in the midst of all of this uncertainty because God has a great future for us all. (Jeremiah 29:11)

Knowing that our God has good plans for us, we continue on in faith to improve and grow our institution. This summer we are adding our youngest learners to our HBA ohana with our very first Junior Kindergarten class. You can learn more about the program in this edition of *Soaring Eagle*. We also look forward to the return of our entire student body to all of our campuses this fall. With the arrival of the COVID-19 vaccine, and our rigorous safety measures in place, we are confident that our students will all be able to return safely in August.

I’m also excited to share about our Virtual Alumni Choir. This school year, our theme has been “Cultivating Hope.” To share that hope, our alumni office, with the help of Todd Yokotake '84, choral director, put together a wonderful song for Easter performed by HBA alumni from around the world, featuring guest artist Christopher Kale Jones '96, a professional actor and singer who is currently based in Chicago. You can watch the song on our social media channels and also on our website. It is my desire that you will be inspired and encouraged through this song.

Thank you for your faithfulness and commitment to our school. Hawaii Baptist Academy is God’s school, and by being a part of our family, you are an important part of God’s story.

Sincerely,

Ron Shiira '75
PRESIDENT

President Ron Shiira '75 welcomes middle school students back to campus in September after starting the 2020–2021 school year online. Photo by Sam Lee.





NEWS FROM
HAWAII BAPTIST ACADEMY

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On the front cover: Left to right: Eden Chow, Kyson Osumi, and Dana Sato '00, 5th grade teacher. Cover photo and all photos of *The New Normal* by Derrek Miyahara for Island Digital Imaging.

THE New Normal



ALLOWING STUDENTS TO ATTEND CLASS IN-PERSON is critical for academic success, and relationships between students and teachers are irreplaceable. Knowing this, our administrators implemented several important safety measures for the 2020–2021 school year to provide the safest learning environment possible so our students could return to the classroom in

the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Online learning options were also made available to families who wanted their children to learn from home.

In these photos, we share how our faculty, staff and students have continued on and found hope in these challenging times.

“ONE THING I LEARNED while teaching in this ‘new normal’ is that students can be so resilient, even in the most difficult of times. I am blessed to have such fun, loving students that have a positive attitude no matter what. Although prayer requests always include ‘for the coronavirus to go away,’ their resilience has become an inspiration to me everyday,” **Ariel Kishimoto**, 1st grade teacher.





"I HAVE LEARNED THE VALUE OF COMMUNITY. Everyone, and especially our administration, worked really hard to find innovative ways to teach and to love on our students. We continue to make progress because we can lean on each other for support and we often share new ideas with each other. We also support one another in finding balance to our personal and work lives as we live through a pandemic. That connection brings everyone closer together as we grow and adapt in this 'new normal,'" **Tiffany Kakinami**, art teacher and 2nd grade teacher.

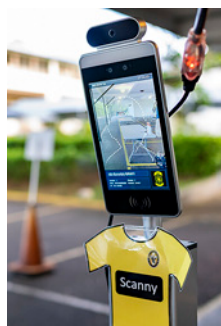
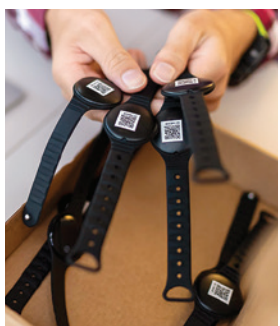
"THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE that I've had to adapt to is a new schedule. Moving from class to class, and carrying all of my materials, instead of students coming to my classroom, was completely new. I've also had to have faith and believe that God is in control of this entire situation, and it is my responsibility to do the best that I can in the classroom. I am thankful for His faithfulness in keeping our school safe, and I have faith that He is in total control of it all," **Dana Sato '00**, 5th grade teacher.





"I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A VERY ANIMATED TEACHER, but I became even more so after we began teaching online/concurrent. I sing, dance and show gestures through the camera and through the shower curtain. (The shower curtain is for the students' protection since I sing.) Teaching a completely different language is always challenging, but imagine teaching that while wearing a mask. In a way, it was good that we started teaching 100 percent online so I could at least see the faces of the students and they could see my face and the mouth for pronunciation. Since they've returned to campus, it has been a bit challenging to encourage them to speak while wearing a mask. However, it's amazing how quickly the students adapted to the environment and started to speak up and say words in Japanese,"

Elena Yoo, Japanese teacher and world languages department chair.



"PSALM 40:3 SAYS, 'He has given me a new song to sing, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see what he has done and be amazed. They will put their trust in the LORD.' I believe that the Lord has given us all a song to sing in our hearts. During this season it looks a little different, and we continue to adapt to the new process of making music together. We will continue to find ways to express our love and joy through song though it may not be on a stage or in a church sanctuary where we can safely gather,"

Todd Yokotake '84, choral director.





“ONE THING I HAVE LEARNED THIS YEAR is that I need to be selfless, especially during this ‘new normal.’ With many restrictions and a new director, it is easy to check out and be selfish, thinking of my best interests or that I could be doing something better. However I, as well as many other seniors, have realized that we care a lot about the future of the band program, and we want our legacy to be that the band program comes before our benefit. We hope that the future Wind Ensemble members will also adopt this thinking, as it will help the program to continue to be successful for years to come,” **Jeremy Oyer**, senior. Photo by Ryan Su '17.





"IF I COULD, I'D RUN WITHOUT A MASK, but since I can't I've had to experiment and find ways that work for me. For example, I've adapted the nose piece on my mask to make an oval around my nose for more airflow. I'm also putting more emphasis on practicing with the team. I really enjoy being with teammates, and I'm grateful that we have the privilege of running together during this time,"
Lindsey Jaeger, senior.





THE EAGLES KOKUA FUND was launched in May 2020 to provide additional tuition assistance to families who have faced significant hardships due to COVID-19. Since its inception, the school has raised over \$83,000 thanks to generous supporters, families and students, allowing the school to help 58 families for the 2020–2021 school year.

Throughout this school year, we have witnessed numerous student led efforts to support this fund. One example is the National Honor Society (NHS). The students of the fundraising sub-committee raised \$2,802.28 from their annual Christmas wreath sale.

“We hope our donation will help alleviate the burden of paying for tuition during a stressful time so that these families’ students can be equipped with the tools they need to succeed while at HBA and beyond,” share NHS fundraising co-chairs Aimee-Louise Lee and Kellie Takai, who are both seniors.

Two sophomores used their new found hobby to help others during this pandemic. In the summer of 2020, Lauren Toda and Noelle Nagaishi took up sewing to pass the time while they were isolated at home. As they progressed in their skills, they started sewing face masks in response to the global health crisis. They then set up a virtual storefront on Esty to sell their face masks to help their classmates who have been financially impacted by the pandemic.

“We love our school and didn’t want to see any of our classmates leave due to financial hardships because of COVID. After learning about the Eagles Kokua Fund, we decided that the net proceeds from the sale of the masks would be given to this fund,” said Toda.

The girls sold 232 masks which raised \$2,270 towards the Eagles Kokua Fund, including a donor matched monetary gift.



Sophomores Lauren Toda, front, and Noelle Nagaishi, back, display the masks they created to raise money for the Eagles Kokua Fund. *Photo courtesy of Lauren Toda.*

The National Honor Society’s fundraising committee raised \$2,802.28 from their annual Christmas Wreath Sale and donated the money to the Eagles Kokua Fund. **From L–R:** Kelly Tada, sophomore; Abigail Sumida, sophomore; Ron Shiira ’75, president; Kellie Takai, senior; Lan Lan Lee, senior; Summer Lee, senior; and Catelyn Jochim, senior.

St. Francis Healthcare System donated \$500 to the Eagles Kokua Fund thanks to the hard work of HBA Interact members who participated in the 8th Annual Saint Marianne Cope Walk and Wellness Fair in January. As part of the requirement, the students created a wellness event by organizing a virtual walk on Google Meet so they could participate from the safety of their homes. They also submitted one-minute videos about the importance their grandparents have in their lives. All three student submissions from HBA were shown during the Saint Marianne Cope Walk and Wellness Fair closing ceremony video.

“We sincerely appreciate St. Francis Healthcare System’s generosity towards our families. This is a great example of how organizations in our community are able to help one another, especially during these difficult times. It was also a joy to witness our students practice their leadership skills as they organized their virtual activity in a matter of days, while bringing honor to their grandparents through video in this special way,” shares President Ron Shiira ’75.

The Interact Club develops leadership skills while promoting the concept of service above self.

Hawaii Baptist Academy is inspired by these students who are showing love and compassion to their classmates through these kind and selfless acts. They are exemplary models of leading a life of service.



Front row, L–R: Celina Tong, junior; Jerry Correa, President and CEO of St. Francis Healthcare System; Aaron Yoshida, junior; and Emma Watanabe, junior. **Second row, L–R:** Ed Nishioka, Marcus Mariota’s MOTIV8 Foundation; Cathy Keaulani, Vice President of St. Francis Healthcare Foundation; and Marisa Tonaki, senior. **Not pictured:** Landon Wong, senior.

Alumni Businesses Provide Resources to Improve Campus Safety

PROVIDING A SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT is important for students to thrive, especially during a pandemic. To ensure our students and facilities were receiving the highest quality of care, our administrators reached out to several alumni businesses for support. Here are three that played an important role in allowing our school to reopen its doors to our students.



Daniel Kawika Arita '03

Vice President of American Carpet One Floor and Home

American Carpet One Floor and Home is a one-stop-shop offering a full array of flooring options as well as home remodeling needs. When the COVID-19 pandemic began, the company began offering services and products to help disinfect and clean surfaces of the virus. One of those items is the AirDog, an air sanitizer that uses ionic technology which is proven to kill the influenza virus and COVID-19. The AirDogs have been set up in all classrooms, offices and meeting spaces, adding another layer of protection to keep our students and teachers safe.

American Carpet One is family owned and operated. The owner, David Arita, is a former HBA parent. His son, Daniel '03, is the vice president. When reflecting on his time at HBA, Daniel says he is grateful for the relationships he developed as a student with the school and his peers.

"The alumni support each other really well and we have worked with a bunch of them on their home projects. I am very thankful for these connections," said Daniel.

He's also thankful for the teachers who supported him and encouraged him as he tried new experiences.

"One of my favorite memories at HBA was choir with Mr. Yo. A bunch of my friends were in that class and we all couldn't sing, but Mr. Yo put up with us. Every day he would try to make us better. I appreciate him for having patience with us and always having a great attitude."



Jarrett Walters '00

President and Chief Operating Officer for Hawaiian Building Maintenance

Hawaiian Building Maintenance (HBM) is Hawaii's largest full service facility maintenance provider, specializing in janitorial, maintenance and building engineering services. They also provide LED lighting upgrades, heating, ventilating and air conditioning installation and maintenance, handyman and contracting services and pressure washing. They now offer both preventive COVID-19 cleaning and confirmed COVID-19 cleaning services.

"We have converted all of our cleaning products for surfaces to products approved by the EPA that are capable of killing COVID-19. We also can

"HBA gave me a number of skills and values that have truly helped me throughout my career. The Christian values that I learned at HBA have also been key at HBM, including integrity, honesty and hard work."

JARRETT WALTERS '00

perform some of the following maintenance-related services: installing ultraviolet lighting in air conditioning systems to sanitize the air that circulates, upgrade installed filters to block COVID-19 from being transmitted through, and provide portable ultraviolet light sanitizing systems. Our COVID response team can completely sanitize an impacted area using electrostatic sprayers dispensing EPA approved products designed to fight the virus."

Should HBA ever have a positive COVID case, HBM is ready to provide the school with the services necessary to sanitize the affected areas.

Some of Walters' best memories at HBA are of playing basketball.

"I learned so much from working with the team, as we all did our best to get better every day. The whole experience was enriching, from the time we spent in study hall before practice to our neighbor island trips for basketball games. I've always felt that the game isn't won during the game, it's won during everything leading up to the game. That mentality has really helped me to work harder and be more successful in my life outside of HBA as well."



Von Kenric Kaneshiro '83

Owner of Von Kenric Brushes

Von Kenric Brushes was started by Von Kaneshiro's parents when he was just six months old. It has been in business now for 55 years, the last 15 years led by Kaneshiro.

"We specialize in commercial janitorial cleaning supplies and equipment, selling commercial products for disinfecting and cleaning, as well as personal protective equipment (PPE). We have supplied HBA with disinfectant products, and foggers that are used in the gym, classrooms and other large areas," said Kaneshiro.

Kaneshiro credits HBA for teaching him to trust in God, and to believe that anything can be accomplished if it is in His plan, and through hard work.

"The challenge of operating a small, 'mom and pop' business is the uncertainty from competition and the economy. Yet each time I feel the anxiety of uncertainty I am reminded of Matthew 11:28, 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.'"

Kaneshiro is also thankful for the mentorship that he received while at HBA.

"If I were to adapt a famous phrase from Harry Potter, 'Help will always be given at Hawaii Baptist Academy to those who ask for it.' I always knew I could count on the many adults that shaped me at HBA. I had over a dozen mentors ready and willing to help me out on almost any topic."

"HBA helped to shape me into who I am and who I've yet to become. I still have a lot of room to grow." VON KENRIC KANESHIRO '83



Artist rendering, classroom view: Group 70.

Junior Kindergarten Opens June 2021

BEGINNING JUNE 14, HBA will welcome its very first Junior Kindergarten class.

“At HBA, we bring faith and learning together to build a strong foundation from which our students can transform the world guided by Christian values to bring honor to God. With our new Junior Kindergarten, we will partner with parents to cultivate our little ones in a developmentally appropriate, safe and nurturing environment,” said Amy Vorderbruegge, elementary principal.

Families can expect the same high academic standards that the school provides for students kindergarten through high school. The program will also include the school’s expected school-wide learning results, which focus on the sensibilities of humility, curiosity, love and commitment. The music building at the Richard Bento Elementary Campus will be renovated to provide the best learning atmosphere possible for our little ones. In addition, safety measures, such as daily temperature screenings, frequent hand-washing,

wearing contact tracing discs and following distancing protocols, allow students to attend class in-person which is critical for young learners.



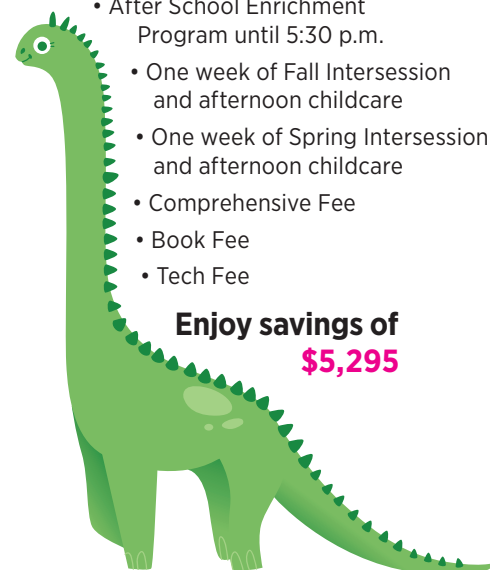
Tuition for the 2021–2022 school year is \$14,950 and is all inclusive. Additionally, families who enroll in our first Junior Kindergarten class will have the opportunity to take advantage of more savings the following year when they enroll their child for Kindergarten. Families that return for the 2022–2023 school year as an incoming kindergartner will be eligible for a partially inclusive package that will save families approximately \$4,345.

Junior Kindergarten Tuition for 2021–2022: \$14,950 (valued at \$20,245)

Tuition includes:

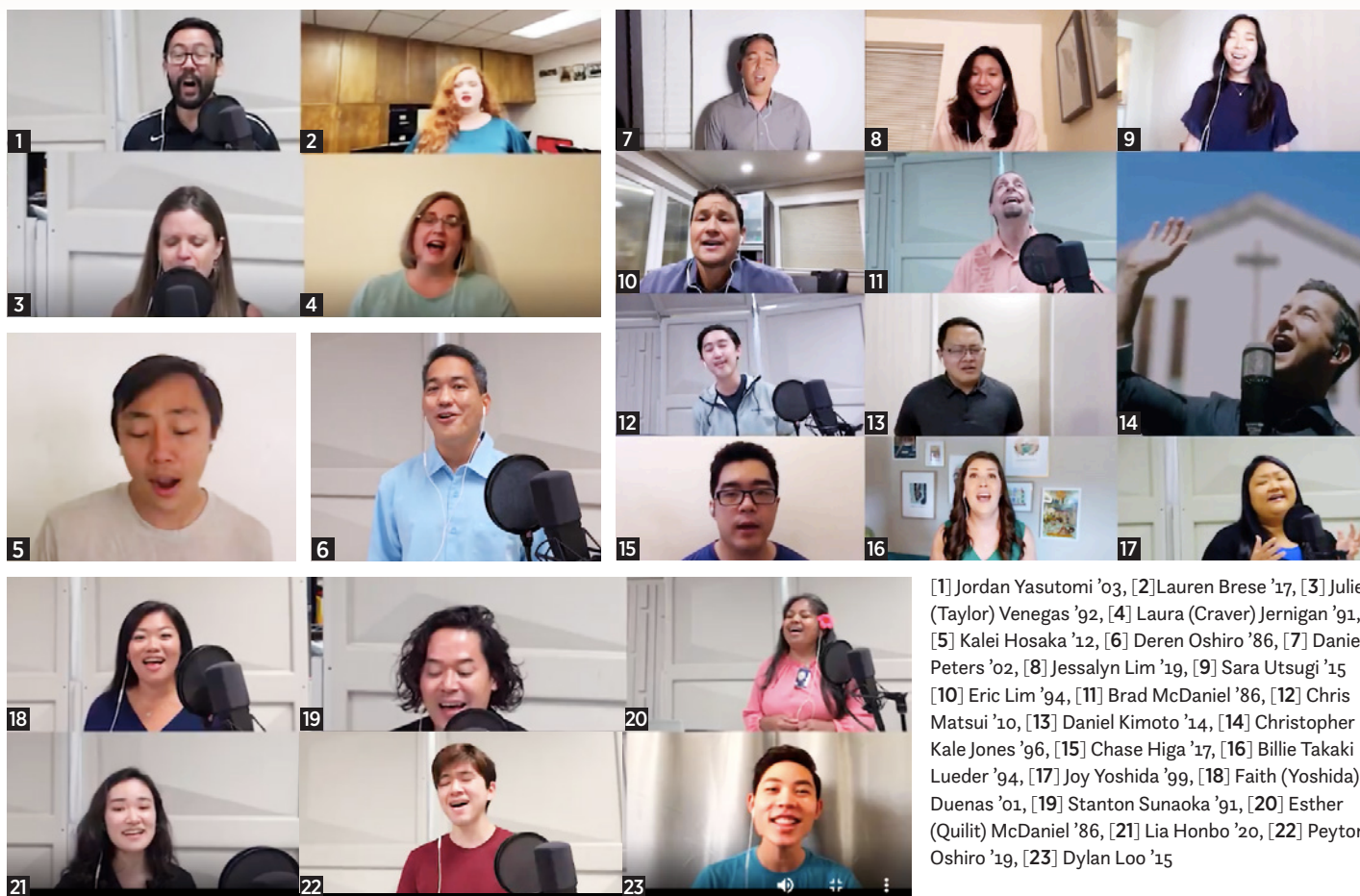
- 10-month school year (August–May)
- School uniform
- All meals (breakfast, morning snack, lunch and afternoon snack)
- After School Enrichment Program until 5:30 p.m.
- One week of Fall Intercession and afternoon childcare
- One week of Spring Intercession and afternoon childcare
- Comprehensive Fee
- Book Fee
- Tech Fee

Enjoy savings of \$5,295



Applications are now being accepted. Learn more at www.hba.net/academics/jr-kindergarten.

Alumni Virtual Choir Inspires Hope



[1] Jordan Yasutomi '03, [2] Lauren Brese '17, [3] Julie (Taylor) Venegas '92, [4] Laura (Craver) Jernigan '91, [5] Kalei Hosaka '12, [6] Deren Oshiro '86, [7] Daniel Peters '02, [8] Jessalyn Lim '19, [9] Sara Utsugi '15, [10] Eric Lim '94, [11] Brad McDaniel '86, [12] Chris Matsui '10, [13] Daniel Kimoto '14, [14] Christopher Kale Jones '96, [15] Chase Higa '17, [16] Billie Takaki Lueder '94, [17] Joy Yoshida '99, [18] Faith (Yoshida) Duenas '01, [19] Stanton Sunaoka '91, [20] Esther (Quilit) McDaniel '86, [21] Lia Honbo '20, [22] Peyton Oshiro '19, [23] Dylan Loo '15

FOR MANY PEOPLE, 2020, and even through the first half of 2021, has been a very dark time. In following with HBA's all-school theme of hope, the alumni office sought to share the hope of Jesus Christ with the world at Easter by coordinating a virtual choir.

"Our goal was to bring our alumni together to share the hope and joy that can only be found in the resurrection. Doing so with a virtual choir was absolutely wonderful, because we were able to worship as one body and proclaim the gospel to the world, even though we physically couldn't be together," said Billie Takaki Lueder '94.

More than 40 alumni from Hawaii and around the world answered the call and submitted their videos.

"I have missed singing and music so much throughout this pandemic. My college choir

has been fully virtual all year and I was excited with the opportunity to return to my roots and worship to a familiar song," said Kylie Aoki '17, who is a student at Seton Hall University in New Jersey. "I loved the idea of being able to make music with my fellow Eagles. Being able to contribute and connect with the HBA Ohana to celebrate Easter, especially from so far away, was a fun project to embark upon. In my final semester of undergrad, and especially in this hard time, I am grateful for this community and the hope that we can spread through our song."

The song featured guest artist Christopher Kale Jones '96, a professional singer and actor based in Chicago. Jones is best known for his role as Frankie Valli in the first national tour of the Broadway hit "Jersey Boys."

"The mental, spiritual, emotional, and physical health have suffered for many during this unprecedented time, but God is still in control. I am excited to be a part

of something that can bring more hope to hurting people. It is my hope that each and every person who watches it will be uplifted and filled with hope. Our school, our city, our state, our country, and indeed our entire world is ripe for rebirth, and what better way to epitomize that than with the story of Jesus at Easter," said Jones.

The song was featured on the HBA Alumni Facebook and Instagram platforms, and on the school's YouTube channel.



Christopher Kale Jones '96. Photo by Derrek Miyahara.

CHANGING THE WORLD one country at a time

By Maurine King

John Hasse '90 says of his four years at HBA that he felt accepted, had fun, and was NOT an outstanding scholar. But those years laid a strong foundation for his life. He says he was challenged to take his faith seriously by teachers who lived out their faith in practical ways. He learned to hear God and to value people. During Christian Emphasis Week of his junior year, he felt led toward some type of ministry, but what that ministry would look like remained vague.



John Hasse greets children in Kasama, Zambia, while inaugurating a new municipal water system funded by World Vision. Photo by Tigana Chileshe, World Vision.

GRADUATION FROM HBA coincided with his military family's retirement to Texas. John attended a community college, then the University of Texas at Austin, and finally Mary Hardin-Baylor, where he majored in English and Psychology. While in university he began working for Hope for the Hungry, which took him to both Mexico and Haiti. These trips to developing countries led to a Master's degree in international development from the American University in Washington, D.C.

While in graduate school John worked in the private equity field for funds which promoted environmentally preferable projects in developing countries. After several years, "ministry" started calling again and John went to work with USAID's "Food for Peace." After four years at USAID, a transition to World Vision was a natural move that allowed him to be "closer to the action" of helping those who were hungry, thirsty and forgotten. For the first several years at World Vision John focused his

work on Latin America and responding to emergencies, including hurricanes, flooding, earthquakes and conflicts.

In 2010 Haiti was devastated by an earthquake and after years of supporting that country from the US, John was appointed World Vision's Country Director for Haiti and moved himself and his family to Port-au-Prince. During those times the Haitian people needed adequate food, water, education, health care, safe housing and personal security. These challenges were exacerbated by several hurricanes.

In 2018 John and his family moved to lead World Vision's ministry in Zambia. World Vision is the largest private provider of sustainable clean water in the country. In 2020, Zambia experienced its worst drought in nearly 40 years. During that year, John led his team to feed almost half a million people for much of the year. In addition to meeting these basic needs, the World Vision team works with thousands of women each year to start up savings clubs. These small groups pool their resources and take turns borrowing from the savings to buy animals, start small businesses, or improve their agriculture. As they repay their loans, the pool grows, so each member benefits. One of the secrets to helping women and their families rise from poverty is spending some time teaching them an "empowered biblical worldview." This training teaches them that they don't have to be victims and to see and use the assets or gifts that God has put around them. After seeing this new perspective on life, the majority of people change their perspectives and start to see their lives improve dramatically in just a couple of years. Families can educate their children, feed them three meals a day, build houses, buy vehicles, and take better care of themselves.



The Hasse family at Victoria Falls, Livingstone, Zambia. Photo courtesy of John Hasse.

John's team in Zambia also trains teachers and students to improve literacy in nearly 400 schools each year and recently co-led the revision of the national literacy curriculum for elementary students. In the last two years they have built two large health centers, including one rural hospital. Their programs have helped reduce the spread of COVID-19 by disseminating education on prevention measures and supplies to 1.8 million people, or a tenth of the country's population.

John is also proud of the work he gets to do in the country's four refugee settlements, where World Vision provides water, sanitation, gender-based violence prevention, and other services to over 80,000 refugees, most of whom are fleeing conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Child marriage is a practice World Vision is specifically trying to end. It persists because many poor families are tempted to marry off "surplus girls" and to receive

a "bride price," typically cattle or goats. Zambia has a dual legal system and some chiefs and headmen with traditional beliefs tend to support child marriage. However, it is very encouraging that many of these traditional leaders are now championing new laws in their chiefdoms. With the support of World Vision, Zambia is seeking to pass a law making 18 the minimum age of marriage and some of the chiefs are favoring that.

While he loves what he does helping some of the world's most vulnerable children, John's favorite thing is to spend time with his family, consisting of his wife Aubrey, three sons (ages 15, 13 and 10), and a seven-year-old daughter. While their school in Zambia is great, John wishes it were more like HBA in promoting a strong Christian faith, but they appreciate its incredibly diverse student body. Aubrey also has an MBA and works on the business side of the school and does business consulting. They love living in Africa and have enjoyed

the wonderful people, wild animals and amazing landscapes and waterfalls.

To learn more about John's work, look up World Vision Zambia and see videos and news items.



The Hasse family. **Front row, L–R:** Cobey, 10; John; Aubrey; Annie, 7. **Back row, L–R:** Cross, 15; Caleb, 13. Photo courtesy of John Hasse.

Virtual MAC Week 2021



OUR MAINLAND SUPPORTERS came together for their 45th annual meeting not in Honolulu, but from the comfort of their homes via Zoom. While it was certainly different seeing our friends through a screen, we were grateful to be able to come together despite the difficulties brought about by the pandemic. In anticipation of the virtual meeting, care packages filled with cards, artwork and notes from students were sent along with prayer cards from the middle school, Hawaiian candies and lu'au

style lei with the hopes of bringing a little bit of HBA and Hawai'i into their homes.

Seventy-two members of the Mainland Advisory Council attended the virtual two-day event, where they heard important updates about the school, and testimonies from students, parents and alumni. Devotionals were led by members of the HBA board of directors, and there were special performances by the Hoomana sign language ministry and Soldiers of Light choir.



Wedding



KELSEY HAMANO '10 AND EVAN MONMA '10 were married on October 10, 2020, in Kailua, Hawaii. Kelsey is a nurse practitioner at Kapiolani Women's Center, and Evan is an IT Engineer at Network 2000. They both reside in Honolulu.

In Memory

Alumni

Bruce Parker Ellis, 60, of the class of 1978, died July 17, 2020.

A resident of Kailua, Hawaii, he worked as a paralegal at Davis, Levin, Livingston. Bruce is survived by wife Susan (Gates) '78 associate; children: Meghan, Michael, Nicholas, Patrice, Connor; granddaughter, Stella; and brother, Larry (Beth). He was preceded in death by his parents, Ellsworth and Charlotte Ellis, and grandson Kamaehu.

Virginia "Ginny" (Crossett) Morris, 82, associate member of the class of 1955, died August 25 in Bloomingdale, Illinois. She is claimed to be the first student enrolled at HBA in 1949. She wrote the words to the first alma mater "All Hail, HBA." Ginny worked at Wheaton College in the Institute for Chinese Studies and the Billy Graham Center. She is survived by her husband, Ed; five children; eight grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and a sister, Margaret (Crossett) McKay '57 associate.

Sidney K. Higa, 57, of the class of 1981, died October 27 in Honolulu. He was a senior engineer at Hawaiian Electric Company. He is survived by his wife, Debbie; sons, Trevor and Trent '21; and his mother, Tomiko Higa.

Ruby (Sakoda) Nakahara, 83, class of 1955 associate, died February 3, 2021, in Fullerton, California. She taught at high schools in Honolulu, California and in Germany at an American school for military dependent children. Ruby is survived by her husband, Masaru; brother, Walter Kirimitsu; and a niece and several nephews.

Aloha Council

Hatsue (Higa) Kinoshita, 96, died September 22 in Honolulu. A retired public school teacher, Hatsue also gave a lifetime of service to churches pastored by her husband, Carl. She served on the HBA Board of Trustees, 1954-55. She and Carl have established the Rev. Carl & Hatsue Kinoshita Scholarship Endowment Fund at HBA. Survivors include her husband, Carl; two sons, James (Lillian) and Elton; and two grandchildren, Jeannie and Joshua '14.

Mainland Advisory Council

Marion G. Rakes, 91, died July 7 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Formerly of Albuquerque, New Mexico, she and her late husband, Jim, joined the MAC in 1981 and were inducted into the Ali'i Eagle Circle in 1999. She is survived by her son, Tom (Alice); daughter, Janet (Bruce) McGovern; son-in-law, Allen Goodrich (all MAC members); and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Bonnie June McClain, 89, died July 18 in Bullard, Texas. She was active with First Baptist Church, Tyler, and her community on Lake Palestine. A lifelong gardener, June was awarded the honorary title of Texas Master Gardener Emeritus. She is survived by her daughter, Jamie (Robert) Valentine; son-in-law, Curtis Edmonds; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Robert Lee Spottswood, Sr., 89, died August 16 in Dallas, Texas. A petroleum engineer, Bob worked on oil and gas industry projects in more than 20 states and 14 foreign countries. He continued to support overseas mission work through First Baptist Church, Richardson. He and his late wife, Barbara, were strong supporters of the HBA art department. Bob is survived by his daughter, Barbara (Mike) Mayo; son, Rob Spottswood (Janet) (both MAC members); six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Billie Edwards, 90, died November 15 in Fort Worth, Texas.

She was a piano instructor and later became a real estate broker. She was active in the music program at Broadway Baptist Church where she was a deacon and Sunday School teacher. Survivors include her daughter, Jana Edwards (Rick Poppe); son Brent (Sherry); four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Mildred Elizabeth (Libby) Brown, 92, died November 28 in Webster, Texas. Art and traveling were her passions, with much time spent in the Holy Land. She taught art at the University of Houston, La Porte High School and also several summers at HBA. She was a deacon at University Baptist Church in Clear Lake. Libby is survived by her son, William, and two granddaughters.

Mary Lou Salter, 94, died December 13 in Milton, Florida. She was a retired operating room and school nurse. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Richmond, Kentucky, and while in Milton, Florida, she was a faithful worshipper at Pine Terrace Baptist Church. Survivors include her son, J. Gregory Salter; daughter, Cynthia (James) Grimes; three grandsons; and three great-grandsons.

Evelyn Burnell Hutcherson Jett, 97, died on December 26 in Winnsboro, Texas. A member of First Baptist, Winnsboro, for over 70 years, Burnell served as Sunday School teacher, choir member, WMU president, and volunteer for Vacation Bible School and other church programs. She was also a volunteer at a local hospital for over 50 years. She and her husband, Ed, joined the MAC in 1980 and were presented the Ali'i Eagle in 2002. The J. Ed and Burnell Hutcherson Scholarship Endowment Fund was established at HBA in 2007. Burnell was preceded in death by her first husband, Ed, and her second husband, Ernest Jett. Survivors include her daughters, Sylvia (Peter) Maddox and Sharon (George) Gorham (both MAC members); son, Jimmy, former HBA counselor; two stepsons, Ernest (Jeanine) Jett and David (Gail) Jett (MAC); six grandchildren, including MAC member Leah Gorham; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Dorcas Cornwell Barbee, 96, died December 28 in Shelby, North Carolina. She assisted her late husband, Frank, in his business, Electric Motor Service. She was active at Zion Baptist Church and in several community organizations. Dorcas was the niece of Laura Cornwell, first principal of HBA's elementary division. She is survived by her son, Franklin (Janice); daughter, Betsy (Steve) Boatwright; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

James F. King, 93, died January 2, in Pollock, Louisiana. He was retired from General Motors Acceptance Corp. Jim was a deacon at First Baptist Church, Pollock, and a member of Gideons International. He and his wife, Florine, joined the MAC in 1994 and were awarded the Ali'i Eagle in 2011. Jim is survived by his wife, Flo, and many nieces and nephews.

Other Friends

Arnold Ken Goto, 65, died in Honolulu on August 3. He was President and CEO of the Hawaii Baptist Foundation, which manages a large part of HBA's investment and endowment funds. Prior to heading the foundation in 2015, Arnold had a successful career in technology and management consulting. He worked for Hewlett-Packard, Oracle, and KPMG where he was a Partner, before founding an executive search business. He served the Hawaii Kai Church as Elder Chair and Executive Pastor. Arnold is survived by his wife, Cynthia; two sons, Jonathan (Marisa) and Joshua (Brianna); his mother, Hisae "Emily"; sister, Wendy; and mother-in-law, Janet Young.

Norma Boyer, 81, of Kansas City, Missouri, died December 21. She taught elementary students at HBA, 1960-62. She also taught in North Carolina, California, Guam and Missouri and retired as an independent consultant. She is survived by a brother, Earl Boyer, and several nieces and nephews.



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“HBA is building future leaders

who will change the world for the better. Jasper is blessed to have teachers who not only shape his outlook, but also build his confidence and inspire him to learn. This school is equipping him with the tools and skills for a bright future. It is HBA who gives to us, not the other way around. So when God blesses us financially, this is the time to raise our standards of giving, rather than standards of living.”

Janna Watanabe-Hiromasa (Jasper '31)



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