

# KAI ULU

## HPU Alumni Currents

### A Message from Dean Mani Sehgal



Mani Sehgal  
Dean of the College of  
Professional Studies at Hawai'i  
Pacific University

As we step into a new year, it's a joy to reconnect and celebrate the growth of our alumni community. Each of you exemplifies the enduring values of Hawai'i Pacific University—aloha, pono, and kuleana—and your achievements inspire the next generation. Today, I'm excited to share the remarkable progress happening at the College of Professional Studies (CPS), made possible by the strong foundation you've helped build.

This year, we've secured a **\$1.2 million grant to enhance STEM education**, empowering teachers who will shape the future of innovation in STEM. Grant Recipient Dr. Eugene Guillian is the Principal Investigator collaborating with the College of Natural and Computational Sciences to support future growth of STEM teachers in education. We are also very proud of Dr. Kathryn Vaughn who was recently awarded **Teacher of the Year at HPU**.

In addition, our expanding Cybersecurity programs are set to outpace other areas of study, opening unprecedented opportunities for our students. Beginning this January, we started a Master's Program with our partners at 2U, a global online learning platform, to expand the reach of the program beyond the Hawaiian Islands.

All HPU undergraduates have access to A+, Network+ and Security+ certifications, bolstering their skills and career readiness while continuing the legacy of excellence established by you, our alumni.

[Read Full Message](#)

## Hangin' at the Reef Podcast: Talking with a Cybersecurity Expert

Assistant Professor and Cybersecurity Department Chair Cort Chambers, Ph.D., delivers a compelling overview of today's cyberattack landscape, examining current threats and the evolving role of AI in both launching and defending against attacks.

## THE CURRENTS

[Professor Ken Schoolland Brings Economics to Audiences across North America](#)

[Celebrating Evidence-Based Practice Excellence](#)

[Entrepreneur Inspires](#)



In conversation with host Jeffrey Rich, HPU's chief communications officer, he also highlights the rapidly growing career opportunities in cybersecurity.

Click the play button below!



For more information on HPU's Certificate in Cybersecurity:  
<https://www.hpu.edu/cps/public-service/cybrcert.html>

For more information on HPU's Master of Science in Cybersecurity:  
<https://www.hpu.edu/cps/public-service/ms-cybersecurity.html>

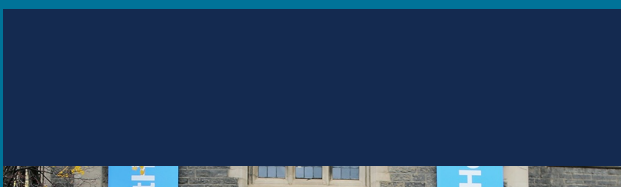
Students with Lessons in Resilience, Innovation, and Ethic

Celebrating HPU Homecoming 2025 at the Shark Tank

Alumni Spotlight: Steve Simpson '95



# THE CURRENTS





## Professor Ken Schoolland Brings Economics to Audiences across North America

HPU Associate Professor Ken Schoolland delivered lectures from Texas to Toronto this past fall, sharing his deep understanding of economics. Known for his engaging teaching style and renowned textbook, *The Adventures of Jonathan Gullible*, Schoolland's work was recently adapted into an animated film series debuting at the Anthem Film Festival in Las Vegas

[Learn More](#)



## Entrepreneur Inspires Students with Lessons in Resilience, Innovation, and Ethics

Kent Untermann, founder and CEO of Pictures Plus, shared his entrepreneurial



## Celebrating Evidence-Based Practice Excellence

HPU undergraduate nursing students showcased their dedication to healthcare at the Evidence-Based Practice Day held at the end of the Fall 2024 semester. The event featured 68 seniors presenting projects that blend research, critical thinking, and clinical application, highlighting their knowledge and commitment to advancing nursing care.

[Learn More](#)



## Celebrating HPU Homecoming 2025 at the Shark Tank

HPU's Homecoming on Saturday, February 8, brings together students, alumni, faculty, and staff for a day of school spirit, community, and basketball action against Fresno Pacific

journey and personal principles at HPU's "CEO-Student Talk Story Series," captivating College of Business students with his story from selling picture frames at the Aloha Stadium swap meet to leading a multimillion-dollar enterprise.

[More Info](#)

University. This annual tradition celebrates the strong bonds within the HPU 'ohana.

[More Info](#)

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

# HPU ALUMNUS STEVE SIMPSON '95



Working under seven U.S. Presidents, HPU alumnus Steve Simpson '95 has dedicated 40 years to federal service for the United States. Currently serving as the Headquarters Marine Corps Security Director, Simpson's

### Alumni Involvement

The HPU alumni 'ohana spans the globe, and all opportunities are available in-person or virtually. We invite you to explore how you can make a meaningful difference by sharing your time and talents to support our students. Your involvement will create lasting, transformative impacts on their 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 opportunities, and continued

career has included leadership positions in the Marine Corps and the FBI. His notable journey, much of which unfolded at the Pentagon, began with a pivotal decision to pursue a master's degree at HPU while stationed in Hawai'i.

Born in Los Angeles and raised in Pittsburgh, Simpson grew up with a passion for service. Inspired by the mystique of the Marines and their reputation as the best of the best, he joined the Marine Corps Reserve while still in high school. After graduating from Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania, he commissioned as a Marine Corps officer, embarking on a career that spanned two decades, taking him to locations that include Korea, Afghanistan, Haiti, and Bosnia.

"I thoroughly enjoyed my time in the Marines. I originally wanted to be a pilot, but as a six-foot-six officer who doesn't enjoy roller coasters, I knew that wasn't the right fit for me," Simpson said with a laugh. "Instead, I became a military police officer, which turned out to be a perfect match."

Simpson's Marine Corps service included deployments during Desert Shield, Desert Storm, and the Los Angeles riots, as well as multiple tours at the Pentagon. During 9/11, while serving as a Marine Corps officer and completing advanced studies at the War College, he was handpicked to develop operational plans for Afghanistan, a real honor for a young officer.

It was while stationed at Camp Smith on Oahu and walking by an HPU classroom every day that he was reminded about HPU and the various educational opportunities the University offers to active-duty military members.

"My wife gave me that extra nudge to pursue a master's degree," Simpson said with a smile. "After I inquired, I knew that HPU's human resources program was the right fit for me. I enrolled and absolutely loved my classes. The skills I gained, especially in budgeting, have been invaluable throughout my career."

[Full Article](#)

involvement with the HPU campus.

## Upcoming Events:

Healing from Within: Transforming Self-Talk Through Attachment and Reparenting Strategies with Dr. Judy Ho

Wednesday, February 5th  
9AM PST

[More Info Here](#)

Revolutionizing Fairness: A New Paradigm for DEI in the Workplace with Siri Chilazi

Thursday, February 27th  
9AM PST

[More Info Here](#)

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