

Do you know who's on the SPJ-Hawaii board? This is the third in a series of profiles on board members: who they are, what they do, and why they serve as volunteer board members.

**Journalism Chief**



AP News Editor  
Dave Briscoe with wife Leonor

**T**alk about being at the right place at the right time.

For Dave Briscoe, it was the Philippines, 1986.

Dave was the Associated Press bureau chief in Manila from 1980 to 1986, covering one of the biggest stories in Asia – the People Power Revolution that resulted in the overthrow of Philippines dictator Ferdinand Marcos and his exile to Honolulu.

“It was my scariest and most exhilarating moment as a journalist, with two presidents claiming power in a country that many thought was on the brink of chaos,” Dave says. “But it turned out to be one of those rare good news stories, with little bloodshed and a good outcome. Even Marcos got out with a cushy exile in Hawaii. It’s always struck me as ironic that I ended up here, too.”

Dave is no stranger to adventure in far-off places. A native of Salt Lake City, Dave attended the University of Utah, where he majored in English and minored in journalism. He left college before getting

his degree and joined the Peace Corps, teaching college in the Philippines. He also edited a national Peace Corps monthly magazine. His journalism experience led him to being hired as a reporter for AP’s Manila bureau. The Philippines is where he met and married Leonor Aureus, who was an editor for a regional newspaper in Naga City. They have four children.

After working at AP’s Washington, D.C., bureau, Dave transferred to Hawaii in 2001 to become AP’s Honolulu bureau chief, a position that has since moved to San Francisco. His new title at AP is news editor overseeing coverage of Hawaii and the U.S. territories in the Pacific. He’s been on the SPJ Hawaii chapter board since 2004.

“I have always enjoyed the company of fellow journalists, and admire the dedication of the handful of professionals who remain active in SPJ,” says Dave. “I’d like to see more ongoing dialogue and interaction among Hawaii journalists who are interested in building up the profession.”



**JUNE 2007**

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**'Aha'ilono**

'Aha'ilono: reporter, messenger, bringer of news

'Aha'ilono is a newsletter of the Society of Professional Journalists, Hawaii Professional Chapter.

We welcome news stories, commentaries, letters, tidbits and other items of interest about journalists in Hawaii.

**Submit items to**

P.O. Box 3141, Honolulu, HI 96802, or call Stirling Morita at 529-4755, or email spj@flex.com.

**SPJ SPREADS THE ALOHA SPIRIT**



Hula Hui O Kapunahala performs during the conference dinner.

**HAWAII CHAPTER HOSTS REGIONAL CONFERENCE.**



Keynote speaker Adm. Gary Roughead.



Journalists from Hawaii and the Mainland at the opening night reception at the Waikiki Yacht Club.



Honolulu Star-Bulletin reporter Crystal Kua and Honolulu Advertiser reporter Gordon Pang participate in a panel on ethnic media.



KGMB-9 reporter Tina Chau and Bright Light Marketing's Wally Zimmermann enjoy a picnic hosted by Bright Light's president Lynette Lo Tom.

**T**he Hawaii chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists hosted the 2007 Region XI Conference April 12-14 at the Ala Moana Hotel. It was the first time in nine years the Hawaii chapter hosted a regional conference in Honolulu.

More than 75 people attended the conference, including journalists from SPJ’s Region XI (California, Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands). The conference was filled with three days of events that included an opening night reception at the Waikiki Yacht Club, guest speakers during lunch and dinner, panel discussions on media issues, and writing critiques for beginning and mid-level journalists.

San Francisco investigative reporter Lance Williams was the luncheon keynote speaker. He talked about facing jail time with

fellow reporter Mark Fainaru-Wada for not revealing their sources to the U.S. attorney in the BALCO steroid scandal. (See story inside.) The keynote dinner speaker was Adm. Gary Roughead, Commander of the U.S. Fleet Forces Command, who discussed security in the Pacific.

The conference included panel discussions on a wide range of issues dealing with the media, including press freedoms in China; how blogging is changing the face of the media; and celebrity journalism.

Conference attendees also got an opportunity to receive valuable writing critiques and coaching from Hawaii veteran journalists: Honolulu Advertiser columnist David Shapiro, Pacific Business News editor Jim Kelly, and Bright Light Marketing’s senior vice president Wally Zimmermann, a former news director at KITV-4.

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HAWAII CHAPTER



# SCANDAL-BUSTING SAN FRANCISCO JOURNALIST SPEAKS AT SPJ REGION XI CONFERENCE

By T. Ilihia Gionson



Lance Williams

"It's every reporter's dream to do a story that causes some ruckus," said San Francisco Chronicle investigative reporter Lance Williams, the keynote speaker

at the April 14 luncheon of the SPJ Region XI conference at the Ala Moana Hotel in Honolulu.

Amid the ruckus caused by Williams' and partner Mark Fainaru-Wada's series on the BALCO steroid scandal, the duo met President Bush, appeared on the Letterman Show, and "even got sentenced to prison!"

Prior to Congress becoming active in the matters of illegal drugs in baseball in 2004, the feds had begun investigating former Tower of Power bass player Victor Conte and his Bay Area Laboratories Co-operative (BALCO). As part of that investigation, professional athletes were summoned to testify before a grand jury. Conte and others eventually cut plea bargains with the government; however, the names of the athletes who testified were sealed and never revealed.

Williams and Fainaru-Wada's stories revealed

the athletes who admitted to using steroids. The stories were based largely on the sealed grand jury transcripts leaked to Williams, which contained testimony from the athletes. He got the documents based on the promise of confidentiality. "You have to make promises, then you have to keep promises," Williams said on investigative journalism.

Williams kept his promise when in May 2006, he and Fainaru-Wada were subpoenaed to testify about how they obtained the sealed grand jury testimony. "I did think they would start a feckless search for the source, but not us," said Williams. "Mark and I were determined not to betray our sources."

The reporters appealed, urging the judge to excuse them from testifying, but the appeal was denied in August. In September 2006, the duo was handed an 18-month prison sentence for contempt of court. Williams was astonished. "They're going to send these guys to prison for a baseball story that the president himself liked?" he said.

Luckily, legal counsel for Hearst, the Chronicle's parent company, was very supportive of the two, Williams said.

Meanwhile, the FBI "turned up the heat" on its investigation and eventually found the leak. In February 2007, attorney Troy Ellerman

admitted to leaking the information to the reporters.

"The lesson I can draw is the oldest lesson in journalism," Williams said. "You need to do more reporting. You've got to get off your ass."

Williams called for the journalists in the audience to "push for a shield law for reporters covering the federal government. There's a real possibility that we can get one that President Bush won't veto." Williams added, "Any little push in commentary would be helpful."

Before the BALCO scandal, Williams reported on the cocaine trade in California, Oakland's Black Panther party, and San Francisco mayor and political power-broker Willie Brown.

"Hearing Lance's speech reminded me of what journalism was all about—dedication and determination," said conference attendee Clarissa Leon, a University of Nevada, Reno student and staff member of the campus newspaper Sagebrush. "It's nice to know that good journalism has its rewards, and through hard work it will lead to justice."

Williams concluded, "The truth wants to be free."

*Writer T. Ilihia Gionson is the former editor in chief of the Ke Kalaheia, the student newspaper of the University of Hawaii at Hilo and Hawaii Community College.*

## 2007 SPJ-HAWAII SUMMER INTERNS SELECTED

The new face in your office this summer may be a college student chosen in this year's SPJ-Hawaii Summer Internship Program.

This year, 14 college or university students were selected to work

in paid internship positions this summer in print, broadcast and public relations. The students are Hawaii residents attending school either in Hawaii or on the Mainland. This year, about 50 students applied

for the 10 full-time and four part-time paid positions. Students submitted samples of their work; the chosen finalists were required to take a test and underwent an interview.

## CONGRATULATIONS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S INTERNS. WE WISH THEM WELL THIS SUMMER AND IN THEIR FUTURE CAREERS.

### HONOLULU ADVERTISER

Celia Downes (Marquette University)

### HONOLULU STAR-BULLETIN

Brittany Yap (Hawaii Pacific University)

### MAUI NEWS

Travis Kaya (Pomona College)

### PACIFIC BUSINESS NEWS

Joshua Huff (George Washington University)

### HAWAII BUSINESS MAGAZINE

Matthew Ing (University of Hawaii at Manoa)

### HONOLULU MAGAZINE

Joshua Kapono Duvauchelle (Trinity University)

### ISLAND SCENE MAGAZINE

Leanne Ta (University of Pennsylvania)

### TRADE PUBLISHING

Matthew Tuohy (University of Hawaii at Manoa)

### ALEXANDER & BALDWIN

Aria Castillo (Loyola Marymount University)

### BRIGHT LIGHT MARKETING GROUP

Maribeth Harkins (Hawaii Pacific University)

### KGMB-9

Jessica Schiaretta (American University)

### KHNL-8

Ashley Monfort (University of Hawaii at Manoa)

### KHON-2

Michelle White (University of Hawaii at Manoa)

### KITV-4

Camissa Hill (Syracuse University)

For more information about the SPJ Summer Internship Program and how to apply for next year's program, visit [www.hawaiispj.org](http://www.hawaiispj.org).

## SPJ HAWAII CHAPTER 2006 EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM AWARDS DINNER

The 2006 Excellence in Journalism Awards will be given at the annual dinner of the Hawaii chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

Please join us for dinner at 3660 on the Rise to find out the award winners.

Friday, June 29, 2007

3660 on the Rise, 3660 Waialae Ave.

Dinner will start at 6:30 p.m., with no-host cocktails at 6 p.m.

Cost: \$38 for SPJ members and students;

\$42 for non-members

\$320 for tables of 8.

### DINNER MENU

Choose one of the following entrees:

- Herb Crusted Breast of Chicken with Red Wine Shallot Sauce, Warm Apple Crisp with Chantilly Cream; or
- Pan-Seared Ginger Scallion Crusted Ahi Steak with Yuzu Sauce and Sweet Soy Drizzle, Old Fashion Chocolate Cake; or
- Vegetarian

Also included are Mesclun of Nalo Greens with Lemon Miso Dressing, Taro Rolls, and 3660's Island Roast Coffee or Tea.

Make checks payable to Hawaii Chapter SPJ. Credit cards accepted (Visa, MasterCard, American Express). No shows will be billed.

The winners will be announced at the dinner only.



RSVP by June 26, 2007 to:

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