ARCS Honors Graduate Students for Research

Achievement Rewards for College Scientists is a national non-profit organization that boosts U.S. competitiveness by raising funds to support promising U.S. citizens in doctoral programs in the sciences, engineering, and medicine. ARCS Honolulu Chapter has awarded more than $1.7 million to 559 University of Hawai‘i scholars since 1974.

**Joseph Bramante** (Robert and Doris Pulley Award in Physics) seeks evidence of a new elementary particle in the photo distribution of what’s called the “cosmic microwave background,” which might be responsible for the rapid expansion of the universe in the earliest period of inflation following the “big bang”.

**Robert Lewis** (Sarah Ann Martin Award in Chemistry) is particularly interested in promising chemicals derived from guava trees and an Indian shrub that exhibit activity against liver and breast cancer cell lines. He is developing new technology to synthesize the compounds in quantities needed for studies of their therapeutic potential.

**Geoffrey Patterson** (Robert and Doris Pulley Award in Mathematics), in a collaborative project with the Institute for Astronomy, uses geometric control theory to identify optimum trajectories that would allow spacecraft to intercept temporarily captured objects—asteroids and the like caught in Earth orbit for a short time.

**Hollie Putnam** (Sarah Ann Martin Award in Zoology) studies cauliflower coral exposed to different temperature and carbon dioxide levels to gauge physiological and molecular changes in the adults and their offspring.

**Christie Wilcox** (Maybelle Roth Award in Conservation Biology) identifies a toxin in rois and other groupers that might account for false positives in ciguatera testing.

Other 2012 ARCS-Honolulu Chapter Scholarship Award recipients are: Chris Beaumont, April Darrow, Rachael Gonzales, Jonathan Mita, Bryson Padasdao, Yoshimi Rii, and Jarred Yasuhara-Bell

Erin Lau Earns Film Award in Shanghai

Academy for Creative Media student Erin Lau earned top honors at the 2012 Shanghai International Film Festival for the Best Documentary in the Sino-U.S. Student Shorts Program. Lau and fellow ACM students Allison Le, Holly Larson, Vincent Desrosiers-Nault, Kristin Kouke, and Jeffrey Leong recently returned from the bi-annual Student Media Art Exchange between ACM and Shanghai University’s School of Film and TV department.

Lau directed the film *Ka Pua*, a documentary that compliments an elderly woman who, despite her age, still retains her beauty which is reflected through her sense of family and aloha.

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