Ms. Kim Compoc - English
Excellence in Doctoral Dissertation Research Award
In recognition of outstanding doctoral dissertation research

Kim Compoc is a doctoral candidate in the English department whose research interests include Filipin@ American studies; literature and colonialism, and feminist theory and American empire. Her dissertation is titled “(Im)perfect Allies: Decolonizing Hawai’i from a Filipino Perspective.” Compoc has been published in SPAN: Journal of the South Pacific Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies and is a contributor to Asian American Culture: From Anime to Tiger Moms. In 2011, she received a pre-doctoral Ford fellowship. Before starting graduate school, Compoc was active in a number of community-based organizations including Maui Filipino Working Group, Talking Stories, and Mediation Services of Maui. She is now active with Women’s Voices, Women Speak, and Decolonial Pin@ys.

Ms. Katie Gao - Linguistics
Excellence in Doctoral Dissertation Research Award
In recognition of outstanding doctoral dissertation research

Katie Gao, a PhD candidate in the Department of Linguistics, is writing her dissertation about the relationship of language and ethnicity in Yunnan Province, China. Gao’s dissertation presents a language survey of the 13 ethnolinguistic groups in Wuding County and, more specifically, discusses language use and identity in inter-ethnic households. Her research seeks to bridge the gaps between language documentation, sociolinguistics, and geography. Ultimately, Gao wants to provide useful materials for community members, NGOs, and other researchers working in central Yunnan. When not pursuing academic goals, she enjoys competitive outrigger paddling, watching sunsets, and eating yakitori.
Dr. Christina Gerhardt - LLEA
Junior & Mid-Career Faculty Excellence in Scholarship & Research Award
In recognition of outstanding scholarship and research

Christina Gerhardt is Assistant Professor of German at the University of Hawaii, where she teaches 20th century German literature, culture, and film.

She has finished two book manuscripts: Critique of Violence: The Trauma of Terrorism, and Nature in Adorno, both under review; as well as two edited volumes, 1968 + Global Cinema; and Climate Change, Hawaii and the Pacific, also both under review with university presses.

Gerhardt has received grants from the Fulbright Commission and the DAAD. She has been a visiting scholar at Harvard University and at Columbia University, and a post-doctoral fellow at the Free University in Berlin. Previously, she taught in the Department of German at the University of California at Berkeley.

Her articles and reviews have been published in Cineaste, Film Quarterly, German Studies Review, New German Critique and Quarterly Review of Film and Video.

Dr. James Dean ("JD") Brown - SLS
Senior Faculty Excellence in Scholarship & Research Award
In recognition of outstanding scholarship and research

James Dean ("JD") Brown is currently Professor of Second Language Studies at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. He has spoken and taught courses in many places ranging from Australia to Venezuela. He has published numerous articles and books on language testing, curriculum design, research methods, and connected speech. Brown’s most recent books are: Mixed methods research for TESOL (2014 from Edinburgh University Press); Cambridge guide to research in language teaching and learning (2015, edited with C. Coombe from Cambridge University Press); Teaching and assessing ELL in local contexts around the world (2015, written with S. L. McKay from Routledge); and Introducing Needs Analysis and English for Specific Purposes (2016 from Routledge).