

BACKGROUND ON PROFESSOR BERNHARD HÖRMANN

The Bernhard Hörmann Award was established by Professor Bernhard Lothar Hörmann to recognize exceptional works by students in Sociology and in the College of Arts and Sciences. Papers submitted and selected reflect insightful documentation, analysis, and interpretation about human interaction and social life in and around Hawai'i. Working together with Professors Romanzo Adams, Andrew W. Lind, Clarence E. Glick, and George Yamamoto, Professor Hörmann expected students to write about their lives involving themselves, their families, and communities within the larger communities. The heritage of families from origins of destination from Asia, the Pacific Basin, the Americas, Europe, Africa, and the Middle East also influenced the students in sociology and in arts and sciences classes.

The Sociology faculty found that the diverse multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, socially stratified life and interactions in Hawai'i flowed into student reports and writings in varying ways. Beginning with papers written before 1937, the faculty worked with students to publish promising papers in *Social Process in Hawai'i*. This enabled students and others in the larger community to appreciate and understand the diverse ways in which social life and interaction developed among the peoples in and around Hawai'i.

Professor Hörmann's Rich Background. Professor Hörmann himself was born in 1907 in Watertown, Wisconsin and passed away in Hawai'i in 1990. He lived a rich and diverse life in those eighty three years. His background gave him keen insights about how students from similar and diverse backgrounds survived, coped, and thrived in and around Hawai'i. Born of German parents in Watertown, Wisconsin, he and his family lived in a community where "Yankee" ("Haole") elites from the East ran the town over Germans (Lutherans, Jews, and Catholics) and Irish (Catholics). Each community had their own churches. Hörmann's immigrant grandfather was a physician in Watertown. His father was the oldest of his ten children born of German immigrant parents in St. Louis, Missouri. Mother was born in Berlin, Germany. Born in Wisconsin and having lived in Germany, Professor Hörmann told his students that he was a German "*Nisei and a Half*" of a sauerkraut variety. The family arrived in Hawai'i in 1916, where the father accepted a call from the only Lutheran Church on O'ahu, where the services were in German.

Professor Hörmann's Education. Professor Hörmann attended Punahou School from 1920 to 1923. Because he received four years of credit in high school German, he graduated from Punahou a year early, saving a year of tuition to enter the University of Hawai'i. German had been his home language while he was a child. At the University of Hawai'i, he received a "bridge education" of courses for students from immigrant backgrounds to pursue the liberal arts. The goal of the founders of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa to properly educate immigrant children exposed students to courses that would work within their "native" backgrounds. He took Japanese language for two years, a course in Chinese history, and an introductory course in Economics. In the "bridge courses," Professor Tasuke Harada, a renowned scholar in Japanese Language, Literature, and History and Professor Shao-Chang Lee, who taught Chinese Language and History, rounded out the basic education of Dr. Hörmann at the University of Hawai'i. Because there was no major yet in sociology, he majored in "Languages, Literature, and the Arts" and later in "Secondary Education" to save money for a higher degree than the Bachelor of Arts. He taught at Washington Intermediate School and in English and German at Lingnan University in Canton, China. In his senior year, he had a course in "Race and Culture Contacts" taught by Professor Romanzo Adams, the founder of Sociology, Anthropology, Economics, and Social Work, which led him to focus on Sociology and Anthropology for his Master of Arts. He attended graduate school at the University of Chicago for two years before returning to the University of Hawai'i in 1939 and taught in the Department until 1972 with a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Chicago. He retired as a Full Professor.

Due to a disabling case of polio in 1955, he became paralyzed in his legs. Dr. Hörmann relied on a wheelchair to move about the campus to his office, to his classrooms, and to meetings. While colleagues worked in the upper floors of Crawford Hall, he was assigned to an office on the first floor. Fortunately, the large introductory classes were on the first floor as well as a room for campus, college, and departmental meetings. A major gift of being disabled was a long-term effort to increasing the access of faculty, staff and students with disabilities at Mānoa.

A Broad View of Liberal Education. Having shared in the process becoming liberally educated from an immigrant background, Dr. Hörmann came to understand how this process led to making critical decisions based on systematic research and review of principles and values to lead to just and fair decisions and actions. Dr. Hörmann had an inclusive, equitable, fair and just approach to public and policy issues based on his life-time work within a university system.

In remembrance of Dr. Bernhard Hörmann, an Award has been established with the University of Hawaii Foundation. Contributions to that scholarship can be directed to the Bernhard Hörmann Award on the attached form.