

## **SOCIOLOGY Graduate Student Scholarship Opportunity for Spring 2008**

### **Gary Kazuo Sakihara Memorial Scholarship Fund**

*Who's eligible:* Ph.D.Candidate (enrolled full or part time) in UHM's Sociology Department whose dissertation research involves a challenging research design, or which will benefit the community, and who exemplifies collegiality (a willingness to help fellow students succeed in their graduate education).

***Requirements:***

- 1. Academic merit as demonstrated by a minimum G.P.A. of 3.0 in Sociology.*
- 2. Some degree of financial need, not necessarily as determined by federal guidelines.*
- 3. The recipient must be known for assisting and advising fellow graduate students with their research projects or community groups with their projects.*
- 4. The recipient must be nominated by one or more fellow graduate students or faculty members (one or two paragraphs maximum describing why the student is deserving of this award).*
- 5. Priority may be given to students whose research topics focus on innovative use of statistical techniques, methodologies, or on race and ethnic relations.*

**The award can be used for tuition, books or travel to conferences to present research.**

**Selection committee will conduct interviews in late spring or early summer. The amount of the awards shall be determined by the selection committee based on the availability of funds and eligibility.**

Submit nomination by March 31, 2008 to:

Graduate Secretary, UHM Sociology Department, Saunders Hall 247



**Gary Kazuo Sakihara**  
**10/21/49-11/17/03**

Gary was born on October 21, 1949 and lived first on a UH farm on the Manoa campus where his father was a gardener. During his childhood, they moved to their East Manoa Road home where he lived his entire life.

Gary attended Maryknoll Elementary School and St. Louis High School where he was noted for his academics and for playing on the state championship football team. With a football scholarship, he attended Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon his freshman year and then returned to Hawaii to complete his Bachelor's in Sociology at UH in 1971. He began graduate studies in Sociology and for the next 9 years, worked on his studies, and as a Teaching Assistant and Lecturer. While in school, Gary worked on projects with the UH Survey Research Office and started a small private research firm with two other Sociology graduate students, David Takeuchi and Mel Sakurai.

Gary assisted many faculty and students with their statistical analysis, as he quickly learned first, mainframe, and then personal computer programming and analysis. His knowledge and skills in these areas preceded many others, as he went on to thrive in school and business through his knowledge of complex quantitative analyses and large computer datasets. He also enjoyed conducting qualitative research which benefited local social service and educational organizations.

Gary left UH prior to completion of his PhD to work full-time at SMS Research, a local survey research firm, in 1978 where he soon led the public sector research division. The contracts included many evaluations of large educational programs like Title I and ESAA and others regarding Honolulu planning and transportation. Gary had various research publications. Of special note were an Appendix called "A Student's Guide to SPSS" in Earl R. Babbie's The Practice of Social Research and a chapter, "Okinawan Household Survey" in Uchinanchu: A History of Okinawans in Hawaii.

In 1981, Gary went to work for Hawaiian Telephone in the market research office and in his 19 years at what became GTE and then Verizon, he did market research, market planning, and forecasting. Gary regularly traveled to the Dallas and Seattle area offices where his groups were based, yet he managed to work mostly from the Honolulu office. He was highly regarded for analysis of nationwide datasets which directed the company to market-based decisions through his forecasts. With reorganization and downsizing, Gary chose to retire from his job at Verizon in late 2000.

Gary continued to help friends with their statistical analysis in order to complete their PhD dissertations and many attest that they owe their graduation to his assistance.

In 2001, a year after Gary completed his surgery and first chemotherapy for stomach cancer, he was hired by another UH Sociology graduate, Dr. David Swanson, to teach statistics at the Helsinki School of Economics and Business Administration, Mikkeli, Finland, for one semester.

He underwent cancer treatment on and off for the next two years and enjoyed time at home in Manoa, visiting with friends, many from his college years at UH. Gary loved socializing with friends, "playing" on the computer, cooking and entertaining at home, watching TV and football, listening to good music, and attending movies, arts and cultural events.

Gary passed away on November 17, 2003 at the age of 54. His mother, three sisters and their families live in Manoa, Kailua and McCully.