



# Malama O Pa!

Take Care Lest You be Hurt!



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### Inside this issue:

Who is the ASSE 2  
Region 1 SPY in  
our midst? Find out  
inside.

The Pac-Rim 2010 2  
Special Achieve-  
ment Award went to  
a special person.  
How did her pas-  
sion for safety be-  
gin? Find out

Our Meet the 3  
Safety Leaders  
event turned out to  
be an inspiring  
highlight for those  
who attended. See  
photos inside.

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Pac Rim 2010

## Keynote Speakers Bernie and Sheila Inman: Safety Starts with Awareness, Awareness Starts with You

By Les Onaka

One day in 1994, Power Engineer Bernie Inman drove his truck to a remote Canadian natural gas well site in -45°C weather. After parking his truck, he entered the small shed that housed the equipment that brought up natural gas through a four-inch pipe that went into the ground some 3,000 feet. No one really knows what happened next, but Bernie somehow fell and hit his head. His foot cracked open a valve from a methanol pump and he spent the next 12

hours soaked in methanol up to his neck.

The methanol caused 2nd and 3rd degree burns over 70% of his body. It had caused his liver, kidney and lungs to fail and terrible lesions to develop in his brain. Physicians at the burn center in Vancouver felt that the comatose patient would succumb to his injuries at any time.

By some miracle, Bernie woke up from his coma 32 days later and began his long rehabilitation. All through this time, Bernie's wife Sheila, then six months pregnant with their first child, suffered though a living nightmare. She read to us a poem she had composed about her husband and how his injury had affected their lives. By the



Sheila Inman reads her touching poem about her husband Bernie and how his injury affected their lives.

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## Notes From the Editor...

As billed, PacRim 2010 offered something for everyone and from high-quality speakers. The line-up of speakers who came to check in at the registration desk on the first day read like a Who's Who of

the Safety Profession. Coming up to register as speakers were individuals I recognized from their pictures in Professional Safety and other safety jour-

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## Mary Silva ASSE Region I Safety Professional of the Year

When we first received **Neil Yamamoto's** e-mail announcing **Mary Silva's** selection as the ASSE Region I Safety Professional of the Year (RI SPY), I admit to not being very surprised. I had been in enough meetings—PacRim planning and Chapter Board of Directors—with her to know her to be outstanding in her passion for safety and the advancement of the ASSE. After a few minutes **John Ramos** replied in an e-mail that this was the second time he could remember a Hawaii Chapter member was named RI SPY. Then it dawned on me—another historic Chapter event just happened. There seems to have been many in the past year since I became newsletter editor.

Mary's selection as RI SPY becomes an astounding accolade when one considers it in context of more than 4,600 ASSE members from California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska and Australia in addition to Hawaii. Most of us know that she has put in a lot of time to our Chapter—President four terms, Delegate to the Society's House of Delegates, five terms and Chairing our PacRim Conference three times among many other positions.



Martin Jeppeson, ASSE Region I Vice-President reads off the long list of Mary Silva's accomplishments at PacRim 2010.

In addition, she has volunteered her time at the Regional and Society levels. She served three years as the Assistant Regional Vice-President of Finance and one year as the Assistant Regional Vice-President of Chapter and Member Affairs. On the Society Level, she currently serves on the ASSE By-Laws Committee.

## Chulee Grove Winner of the Hawai'i Chapter Special Achievement Award



I had planned to capture the look on **Chulee Grove's** face when her selection for this award was announced. I had my camera aimed and my finger on the button then the announcement was made... I had not anticipated an entire table of students erupting to hug and congratulate her. My photo only had a small part of what I thought was Chulee's shoulder among a blur of her joyous students.

Despite being internationally known for her expertise on Occupational and Environmental Safety Management, her most rewarding professional

moments come when her students hug her and tell her how much she has done to help them professionally.

Chulee's passion for safety began while reading of the plight of workers exposed to asbestos. This led her to the University of Hawai'i at Manoa's Masters in Public Health program and the Occupational and Environmental Health specialty. Upon graduating, she got her first safety job as an industrial hygiene technician conducting air monitoring for asbestos removal workers. Since then, her long list of accolades and achievements stretches from California to her native Thailand. Her passion for safety has rubbed off on her students and their accomplishments have made her very proud.

## Meet the Safety Leaders Wednesday May 5, 2010



Safety Leaders from left to right:: ASSE Past President Mike Thompson; ASSE Past President and current BCSP president Eddie Greer; IOSH President Lawrence Bamber; ASSE Senior VP (to be President in 2012-2013) Rick Pollock; ASSE Past President James "Skipper" Kendrick; and current ASSE President Chris Patton.



ASSE Safety Leaders and Hawaii Chapter Board Members. Standing from left to right:: Jim Newberry, Chapter webmaster; Eddie Greer; Rick Pollock; "Skipper" Kendrick; Chris Patton and Mike Thompson. Seated from left to right (Chapter Board Members): Craig Shoji, president-elect; Mary Silva, treasurer; Neil Yamamoto, president; Joanna Clark, past-president; Howard Hendricks, secretary; and Les Onaka, newsletter editor.

Seeing these heavy-hitters of global safety all in the same room at the same time made me realize that not only did they represent a lot of safety and leadership knowledge and experience, but they were also super-volunteers. The future of ASSE resides in its membership. As Chris Patton reflected aloud: "Just think of all that we could accomplish if every member gave just two hours a month of their time to the Society."

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**Stay up to date with chapter activities and other news items related to our profession by visiting the chapter website at . . .**

***[www.assehawaii.org](http://www.assehawaii.org)***

**Write to the webmaster at ASSE Hawaii**

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**Web motto: Working in partnership with industry and government for a safer tomorrow!**

### Notes from the Editor

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nals—Eddie Greer, Skipper Kendrick, Mike Thompson, Rick Pollack, Chris Patton, Peter Furst and Kelly Bernish just to name a few. A couple of hours later, Bernie Inman sat in his wheelchair on the stage telling us of his ordeal and offering living proof of why we need to do what we do to prevent worker injury. This underscored the importance of Pac-Rim 2010.

Your Pac-Rim 2010 committee, co-chaired by **Mary Silva** and **Craig Shoji** made some tough, gutsy decisions in its planning given the economic uncertainties of the times. (Note: During the conference, Mary was recognized as the ASSE Region I Safety Professional of the Year.) As I flitted from one breakout session to another, I had some tough decisions to make myself - I often wanted to be in two places at the same time due to the quality of the sessions.

The Meet the Safety Leaders reception after the first day highlighted my PacRim 2010. That so many globally-recognized safety professionals came to share with us their experiences and visions for the future of the safety profession definitely elevated the conference to a higher level.

*Les Onaka, editor*

### Talking Story with Ken Atha



Ken Nishiyama Atha

Members of the HIOSH Advisory Committee had the opportunity to “Talk Story” with OSHA Region IX head Ken Atha after the breakout sessions on Thursday, May 6th. Mr. Atha, a local boy from Kauai, expressed his support of HIOSH and other State Plans but plans to take a firm stance against continuously non-compliant employers.

### Bernie and Sheila Inman

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time she had finished, I don't believe there was a dry eye in the room.

Seven years after his injury, Bernie began speaking to groups about safety and how complacency in the workplace leads to injuries. On the day of his injury, Bernie wore a baseball cap and his reading glasses instead of the required hardhat and safety goggles. At the well, he skipped the safe-entry procedures and just walked right in. After all, he had been doing it for nine years and nothing had happened. He knew of the hazards—he had been certified and trained to do the work, but had gotten complacent and that contributed to his family's tragedy.