

Introduction II

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When Seongwon Park approached me last Spring with the idea for a student led Futures Studies conference, I was all for it. We realized that nothing like this had been done before, at least by Futures' students, and we both saw the great potential of bringing together young futurists to network and learn amongst one another. Unfortunately (or fortunately) Seongwon completed his PhD and earned a position as a professional futurist in Korea before he was able to realize his vision. Picking up the torch of an idea, a group of Mānoa School futures' students got together and worked diligently for many months to make the Emerging Futures and Futurists Symposium (a.k.a. The Mānoa Futures Symposium) a reality. We sent out a call for papers to over 40 worldwide futures studies programs and received numerous interesting and worthy proposals. With just one day of time allotted for presentations and a limited amount of funding for travel scholarships, the committee carefully organized a dynamic program.

With what seemed like astonishing speed, November 30th rolled around. It is so amazing to me that with funding support from the Student Activity Program Fee Board and the Hawai'i Research Center for Futures Studies, we were able to bring together young futurists from Regent University, the University of Sunshine Coast, Ontario College of Art & Design, the University of Houston, JAMK University of Applied Sciences, and the University of Southern California to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa for a few days of collaboration and knowledge sharing...as well as a little surf and sun!

All of the presentations were streamed through the Association of Professional Futurists' (APF) and remain available for viewing on their website (<http://www.profuturists.com>). There were many people working on both ends of the connection to ensure that all went well, and I am truly grateful for the generosity and acumen of the APF members and leaders who coordinated our presence online. Friendships and professional connections were forged that will no doubt turn into fruitful endeavors now and into the futures. Many thanks to all who helped to make the first ever Mānoa Futures Symposium a reality!

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