

Top 40, Hollywood fun, BYU changes

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40 Under 40

This issue honors our 40 Under 40 class of 2016. This is PBN's 17th installment of the program, meant to recognize outstanding young leaders who excel at both business and in supporting the community, which means we now have 720 members of this very exclusive club. Past honorees have included such people as [Layla Dedrick](#), [B.J. Kobayashi](#), [Stan Masamitsu](#), [Peter Hanashiro](#), [Tom Bell](#), [Bryan Andaya](#), and [Peter Ho](#), just to name a few.

Through the nomination and writing process, our 40 tell us far more about themselves than we could possibly publish. There's one anecdote in particular I want to highlight here because it really jumped out at me as example of excellent leadership. We had asked all our honorees to share their biggest professional accomplishment so far and [Marcus Yano](#), chief operating officer of SystemMetrics, a Hawaiian Telcom Co. shared that his was being named vice president of CIS for Title Guaranty, a pivotal job in his career. Wrote Yano, "I can still remember my first evaluation when I was a support technician [there]. My boss asked at the end of my evaluation if I had any questions. I pointed behind him to the CIO's office and asked, 'What do I need to do to get that job?' After chuckling to himself, he asked if I was serious and I told him that if I had to shoot for something I might as well aim for the top position in the department, right? My boss, [Jerry Opedal](#), made every effort to give me opportunities to prove myself and advance. When the CIO left to pursue other opportunities, Jerry graciously recommended that they give me the chance to earn the job, even if it meant that I would then become his boss. I will forever be grateful for the faith that he and the Pietsch family showed in me by giving me a chance and eventually promoting me to the vice president of CIS and expanding the role to cover other areas within the company beyond the IT department. Without that opportunity, I would never be where I am today."

I'm sure all of our honorees have stories like that. I was just really impressed all around by this one — by Yano's gumption and especially by Opedal's willingness to help a young employee move up in the company, to where a new hire would one day become his boss.

Movie Night

We went with a Hollywood glamor theme for this year's 40 Under 40, and we're grateful to the honorees for playing along. They all dressed up appropriately for a fun photo shoot, yielding us a great-looking section — tip of the hat to PBN photographer Tina Yuen and Creative Design Director Bethany Bickley for executing that.

We also asked them, if a movie were being made about your career, what would it be called, who would play you, and what kind of movie would it be? So, naturally, we were kidding around in the office about our movies. Mine would be, "The English Major," starring Ralph Fiennes. It ends with me being cared for by Juliette Binoche in a remote church in Tuscany, where I'm recovering from a horrific proofreading accident.

It's a comedy.

News from BYU Hawaii

Among the first people to reach out to me when PBN announced its new recognition event for the visitor industry, the Pineapple Awards, was [David Preece](#). Preece is the academic director of the Center for Hospitality & Tourism at Brigham Young University Hawaii and a lot has been going there. For one thing, the center itself is new as of December 2015 and represents a major commitment by the university to take its existing hospitality program further. Over lunch, Preece explains, “We’ll be launching a new curriculum in the fall, with more depth and flexibility on electives, and more experiential learning, so students can customize their education to their way of being in the industry.”

The program has 150 students majoring in it. Preece and [Steve Lundgren](#), the center’s director, hope to raise that to 250, and maybe, down the road, to the 350-400 range. The program takes full advantage of the neighboring Courtyard by Marriott hotel, where students try out every aspect of hotel operations, but Preece and Lundgren also aim to establish a satellite presence in Waikiki, where students can live and work closer to the bigger hotels there.

If you are a leader in the visitor industry, BYU Hawaii’s new center holds opportunities for you, too. Preece and Lundgren tell me it could be as easy as speaking to a class, offering site visits or providing internship opportunities. Financial support is always welcome too.

And, notably, they’re now assembling an advisory board to help them stay in touch with the needs of the industry and are seeking people willing to serve there. Interested? Email them at steve.lundgren@byuh.edu or david.preece@byuh.edu.

By the way, nominations are still being accepted for our inaugural Pineapple Awards at bizjournals.com/pacific/nominations.



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