



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

John (Jack) K. Tsui '60



To John K. Tsui for his support of higher education and his dedication to providing opportunities to underrepresented students.

When Jack Tsui came back to the University Park campus for the 50th anniversary of his graduation last June, it wasn't the first time that he had visited campus. He has been back frequently since graduating. But during the tours and events of reunion weekend, Tsui was still impressed with the many changes to campus that he calls "extraordinary."

"I think it's quite striking," Tsui said. "Anyone who attended 50 years ago then visited campus today would be impressed with the improvements."

Tsui has played a significant role over the years in furthering those improvements. Tsui, who grew up in Sharon, Pa., but has lived the last 27 years in Honolulu, Hawaii, has been actively involved in volunteer leadership positions with Penn State for the last decade. He has served on two fundraising campaign committees, including sitting on the 20-member Executive Committee of *For the Future: The Campaign for Penn State Students*.

In addition, Tsui and his wife, Frances, have been strong supporters of Penn State students through two scholarship endowments they have established—one available University-wide and one for Schreyer Honors College students. Both are among the 20 largest individual scholarship funds at Penn State, and both scholarships provide support for Asian American students. The Tsuis feel it is important to help expand opportunities for Asian American students and increase Penn State's diversity.

"Our primary goal was to help Asian American students," said Tsui. "It's important for all sorts of reasons. If this scholarship helps a senior in high school who is maybe considering another school come to Penn State or if his parents don't have the resources to send him to Penn State, then it's terrific that the scholarship helps."

The fact that the current fundraising campaign's focus is on students is very important to Tsui.

"To me, you can have great leadership and a great physical plant but if you don't have motivated students, you aren't going to get very far as a university," Tsui said. "I think scholarships for stu-

dents have always been important but they are going to play a more important role in the future. If students can't afford to come to the school, the school ultimately loses."

Beyond Penn State, Tsui has been involved with many charitable organizations and educational institutions in Hawaii. He was the first statewide chair of the Aloha United Way and is the trustee of several foundations including the Clarence T.C. Ching Foundation, which makes more than 70 percent of its grants to educational institutions. In the 1990s, Tsui was appointed by the governor to co-chair—along with Hawaii's former First Lady Lynne Waihee—a campaign for the Hawaii Fund for Family Literacy, which raised literacy awareness as well as \$1.5 million for literacy projects in the state.

"My wife and I have always been supportive of education and that continues to be our primary emphasis," said Tsui. "A lot of these other projects in Hawaii I've been involved in because of my position. If I believed in whatever I was asked to do, I was delighted to do it."

Following his graduation from Penn State, Tsui served three years in the Army and

then began his career in the banking industry in Philadelphia and New York, moving to Hawaii in 1984 to join the Bank of Hawaii. Ten years later, he joined First Hawaiian Bank as president and COO. After a merger with the Bank of the West, Tsui became vice chairman and chief credit officer of BancWest Corporation. Tsui retired in 2002 from BancWest and continues to serve as a director of its subsidiary First Hawaiian Bank. Currently, Tsui is non-executive chairman of Zilber, Ltd., in Milwaukee, a builder of single-family and multi-family homes. Zilber also has a large industrial portfolio.

In 2008, Tsui was named an Alumni Fellow. He and his wife are life members of the Penn State Alumni Association and live in Honolulu. They have one daughter, Amy, a graduate of Harvard Business School, and three grandchildren.

