

TO: COE Family

FROM: David Sherrill, Ed Psych Retiree

SUBJECT: The “invitation” to move to the Snyder Replacement Building

### A Bit of History

In 1930 the Territorial Normal School moved to its new home (now Wist Hall) on 35 acres on the corner of Metcalf and University Avenue, across the street from the fledgling University of Hawai‘i which had established the Mānoa campus by moving into its first permanent building – Hawai‘i Hall – in 1912. (Since 1907, the earliest incarnation of the University had occupied temporary facilities.) What is now Wist Annex 1, also completed in 1930, was the Normal School’s Practical Arts building.

For 93 years, teacher education has been rooted “across the street” from the “main campus.” Over time, that divide has loomed large in the University’s neglect of the College. In 1931, the Normal School (responsible for the preparation of elementary school teachers) merged with the University’s School of Education (responsible for the preparation of secondary school teachers) to form Teachers College, the third-oldest degree granting unit within what has become the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. The merger was formally commemorated with the 1933 dedication of Founders’ Gate, its two arches bridging University Avenue. The Gate bears the inscription (in Hawaiian on the east side and English on the west), “Dedicated to All Those Who Through the Many Years Fostered the Cause of Public Education in Hawai‘i.” In 1947, Castle Memorial Hall was completed as the College’s lab school. In 1951, the Teachers College building was renamed Benjamin O. Wist Hall in honor of the man who had been the last President of the Normal School and the first Dean of Teachers College. In 1959, Teachers College was renamed the College of Education. In 1966, Wist Annex 2 was completed. It was renamed Hubert V. Everly Hall in 2006 in honor of the College’s (and University’s) longest serving dean. The Andrew W.S. In College Collaboration Center figuratively linking Wist and Everly Hall was dedicated in 2012. (There was a direct pedagogical link from Wist to Everly to In.) Also in 2012, the Alexander Pickens Office of Development was established in Everly Hall.

Since 1930, generations of students, faculty, staff, and administrators have passed through the Normal School, Teachers College, and the College of Education, all successively occupying the campus acquired by the Normal School. That space, now only 15.4 acres, has been the home of teacher education (Wist Hall, its heart; the land itself, its spirit), nurturing the dreams of thousands past and present. Every generation, in its own time, has been entrusted with protecting and contributing to the legacy of teacher education in Hawai‘i. So many have given so much for so long that it seems unimaginable that the University is so willing to erase all of that in order to monetize the College’s home and commercially “repurpose” historic buildings. Commemorated in buildings are Wist and Everly and In and Pickens and the Castles – all significantly influential in the evolution of the College. The plan to displace the College complex, the University Laboratory School and the Children’s Center negates the meaning of Founders’ Gate, the memorial to the union of the Normal School and the University and the merger of their two campuses. The ewa arch will become a gateway to hoped-for financial gain rather than public education. Wist Hall is the sixth oldest building on campus and the only one designed by famed local architect C.W. Dickey. Castle Memorial Hall was designed in

collaboration with John Dewey, a friend of the Castle family and the father of progressive education in America. The College, for almost 100 years, has been firmly rooted in its current location.

The perpetuation of the College's legacy is now entrusted to those currently working and studying there. All are being "invited" to squeeze themselves into two floors (maybe three) of the to-be-renovated Snyder Hall. Squeeze themselves into too few cracker-box offices and too many impractical workstations – a space that ignores the complex work of the College. The "invitation" to move sounds more like a threat to take Snyder or face an uncertain future. If you agree to move, you can influence the design of Snyder. If you don't move now you take whatever might be available later. Regardless, you will be forced to move at some point. The University covets the non-ceded land you occupy. The new space sends the message, "Work from home, online, forget a sense of identity and community as a College." (The College will become a high-tech correspondence school.) All of this in the name of creating a revenue stream for the University – a "College Town" which may or may not fare better than Puck's Alley.

The College of Education has long been neglected and disrespected by the University, its faculty carrying heavier loads for less pay, its plans for development repeatedly thwarted. Its time to say, "Enough already, no more!" It's time to say, "Give us the resources we need to meet the growing workforce needs of public and private schooling in Hawai'i." It is time to enhance the College rather than downsize it. Don't sell the College out for "30 pieces of silver."

## Questions and Considerations

1. Will the significant downsizing of the COE negatively impact its accreditation?
2. As the "devil is in the details," where exactly would the following be located in the Snyder Replacement Building?
  - The Dean's Office (personnel covering several administrative functions, operational materials, files, equipment, supplies, etc.)
  - The Office of Student Academic Services (personnel, operational materials, files, equipment, supplies, etc.)  
[Note: Those two offices alone occupy most of the first floor of Everly Hall.]
  - The Alexander Pickens Office of Development (already repurposed apparently)
  - The Andrew W.S. In College Collaboration Center
  - Instructional Faculty (and everything they need to meet their teaching, research, and service responsibilities)
  - Secretarial/Administrative Staff/Student Help attached to every department and everything they need to do their work on a day-to-day basis
  - Project Directors/Staff - including but not limited to CRDG personnel (and everything they need to fulfill grant/contract obligations: pending and future grants/contracts will require added space.)
  - Graduate Assistants/Teaching Assistants
  - Adjunct Faculty serving teacher education
  - Visiting Faculty
  - Emeritus Faculty (some units on campus afford them office space)
  - CESA/COEDSA
  - Dedicated Classrooms for science ed, early ed, art ed, math ed, indigenous ed

- Dedicated Department Conference/Seminar rooms
- Space for meetings of the Dean's Council, COE Senate, and large departments
- MaPS (currently in Castle Annex)
- The 8000+ volume Lai Library
- General use classrooms currently in Wist, the various portables, modulars, and FROGs
- Faculty and Office mailboxes and the College's mailroom
- Coffee makers, microwaves, and refrigerators currently scattered around the COE complex
- College publications ([Educational Perspectives](#), [Currents](#), [News This Week](#))

Note: There could be other offices/functions included in the COE complex that I have overlooked. Sorry, I'm old and haven't been on the job since 2002. Please add to the list as appropriate.

3. If the 15.4 acres are cleared for development, the University Laboratory School will have to find a new home off campus, distancing itself from the COE and probably significantly increasing its rental costs. Saying "That's not our problem," negates the valuable role the Lab School has played relative to the College, the valuable role it now plays, and the even more valuable role it could play in the College's future. And remember, the Lab School, like Castle Memorial Hall, is our direct link to John Dewey.
4. The Children's Center is apparently quite willing to move into a to-be-constructed building on Dole Street behind the East-West Center's Burns Hall. (I would rather see them remain in a renovated Castle Memorial Hall because of its historic ties to early education.)
5. As a final thought, envision the COE complex as it now exists. Where exactly are you and all of your stuff (all of the things you use to meet the responsibilities of your job) in the complex? Where do you park? Now, envision the Snyder Replacement Building. Where will you and your stuff be located? Will you have a dedicated office space? A place to meet with students? A place to hold a zoom class/meeting? Privacy?)
6. It is hard for me to imagine everything that the COE complex encompasses – everybody and everything in Wist Hall, Everly Hall, Wist Annex 1, Castle Memorial Hall, the MaPS building, a dozen portable buildings and two FROGs – shoe-horned into two or three or four floors of Snyder Hall. The COE will be significantly downsized. Who/what exactly doesn't make the move across the street?

### A Word of Caution

The University has a long history of disrespect for the College – most notably the report critical of the COE that prompted Dean Andrew In's resignation and retirement in 1984. In 1930, Wist Hall was to be the centerpiece of a five-building complex that never materialized. Immediately after Teachers College was formed, its appropriated budget was slashed by 50%, 20 staff members were let go, and enrollment was strictly limited. For years official maps of the Mānoa campus stopped at University Avenue, the COE nowhere to be seen. In 1992, a 120-page picture book – [The University of Hawai'i: A Portrait](#) (University of Hawai'i Bookstore) – included photos of buildings on all ten campuses of the UH System. Not a single photo of the COE was included even though historic Wist Hall and Castle Memorial hall are uniquely photogenic.

Think of how many requests for facility improvements for the College have been denied over the years. Think, too, of how many buildings have been constructed and renovated at Mānoa

after the 1993 ground-breaking for a new COE building that was never built. Most recently (Star-Advertiser, 2/8/23) saying there is no “actionable plan” and disguising their eviction notice as an “invitation to move,” the University insults the College’s intelligence. They are not as blatantly dishonest as US Representative George Santos, but they are using weasel words to hide the truth of their intent.

The data are clear, the needs of the College have not been and are not now, a priority. If the COE is relocated, it will be the only professional school on campus without a dedicated space of its own. The to-be-redesigned Snyder Hall is a poor substitute for what the College currently occupies. The hope to collaboratively turn a sow’s ear into a silk purse is not grounded in reality. The University ultimately calls the shots. Who knows what may or may not be available three to five years from now? Who knows who the decision makers will be? The College could get support and respect for a change. (I know, I’m dreaming.)

### Conclusion

Those who will come to the College in the future are grounded in the College’s past. That history contributes to their identity as a member of the ever-growing COE community. That history inspires them to overcome obstacles and strive for better for themselves and those whom they will teach and lead. They, like those who came before, rely on your voice to guarantee their inheritance. Do the right thing, just say “No!”

### Recommended Reading List

Building A Rainbow: A History of the Buildings and Grounds of the University of Hawai‘i’s Mānoa Campus. (Hui O Students, 1983.)

Edited by Victor Kobayashi, Professor of Educational Foundations, the book grew out of a 1959 class assignment involving dozens of students.

A History of Teacher Education in Hawai‘i. (Hawai‘i Education Association, 1995.)

Authored by Robert Potter, Professor of Educational Foundations, and Linda Logan, one of his doctoral students. Her 1989 dissertation was its beginning.

To Teach the Children: Historical Aspects of Education in Hawai‘i. (S.B. Printers, Inc., 1982.)

A publication celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the College of Education (1981) and when revised and reissued in 1991, the sesquicentennial of public education in Hawai‘i (1840-1990). The volume was largely the work of Alexander Pickens, Professor of Curriculum and Instruction, David Kimble of the Bishop Museum, and Alexander Kali who worked closely with Dr. Pickens.

Mālamalama: A History of the University of Hawai‘i. (University of Hawai‘i Press, 1998.)

Authored by Robert Kamins, Emeritus Professor of Economics, and Robert Potter, Emeritus Professor of Education, the book details the University’s growth from 1907 to the mid-nineties and includes the formation of Teachers College and the College of Education’s emergence.