

# Gardena Valley Baptist Church

Issue 10

May 19, 2010

## SPIRIT

### GVBC MISSION STATEMENT

Helping people discover Jesus  
and become His fully devoted  
followers.

### GVBC PURPOSE STATEMENT

At GVBC, we seek to glorify  
God by:  
~ reaching the world for Christ  
~ uniting as His family  
~ worshipping Him with our lives  
~ growing in Christ-like character  
~ and serving others in love.



Layne & Susan on the set  
of *LOST* in Hawaii

Hello Family,

Depending on when you read this, two important events in my life may have already happened: (1) I will have completed my fourth semester at Talbot School of Theology (on May 24); and (2) my favorite TV show — *LOST* — will be over after six seasons of mystery, adventure, joy, sorrow, and questions, questions, questions (the series finale is on May 23.) For those of you wondering about my seminary studies, I am about halfway through the MA in Christian Education program.

While it continues to prove difficult to balance school, work/ministry, and home life/Susan on what seems to be an ever-shrinking plate, my faith in the Lord is ever-increasing as I realize my need to lean on Him every step of the way.

Explaining my life with God in control is a lot easier than trying to explain the exploits of the characters on *LOST*. For those of you who are unfamiliar, my only advice would be to start at episode 1 of season 1 and then go from there. But, in a nutshell, it's about the survivors of a plane crash on an uncharted island and how they must learn to live together. While on the island, they start to encounter some very strange things — a giant and destructive "monster", hostile island natives, miraculous healings, strange voices in the jungle, a polar bear . . . this is a good place to stop, trying to explain. My wife, Susan, calls it "*Gilligan's Island*" meets "*The Twilight Zone*." And all the while, the survivors must unravel the mystery of why they were brought to the island in the first place.

One of the overlying themes of the series is the debate between faith and reason, and it's one of the many reasons why I got hooked on the show from the very start. Characters take *leaps of faith* and the idea of destiny is brought up again and again. Two of the main characters, Jack Shepherd and John Locke, are characterized as a man of science and a man of faith, respectively, and their positions flip-flop through the course of the series as they are taken through the trials and tribulations of life on the island.

When it comes to faith and reason in real life, I have learned that taking steps of faith in the Lord may seem to defy all reason when looked at from the world's point-of-view. As you all know, Susan's and my life has changed drastically in the past two years as a result of following God's call to full-time ministry. And, the Lord isn't done with us yet as He leads us to take further steps of faith in following His will for our lives. We are encouraged by Paul's words to the Thessalonian church:

"...we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ."

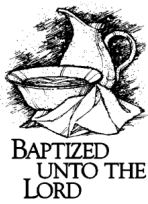
(2 Thessalonians 1:11, 12)

Living by faith is not always easy, but it is the only way God can fulfill his purpose for our lives. The Lord will be with you as you "live by faith, not by sight."

Blessings,  
Layne Wakuta  
Pastoral Intern

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## Baptism Testimonies from Sunday, April 11

My name is **Brandon Fox Barba** and I accepted Christ into my heart when I was about 10 years old. When I accepted, it was at a concert to glorify God and during the intermission, they asked all who haven't accepted to come down to the field and accept if they wanted to.

My cousins took me down to the field and I accepted Christ into my heart. Sadly, at that movement, I had not yet realized I just made the biggest and greatest decision of my life.

As life went on, God was putting in a lot of work in my life, but still I knew little about the choice I made. Then, I came to GVBC's high school group and I began to learn so much. I learned when I accepted Christ into my heart, I was no longer a sinner, but a saint who sins sometimes.

I look back now and wish I had attended church more and actually paid close attention to the message. This past winter camp with GVBC was my first winter camp. I wasn't expecting too much out of it and didn't really know if I wanted to go, but I went anyway. While there, for the first time in my life, I cried tears of joy. During the opening worship of the last service, I found myself tearing up because right then and there it just hit me. God is real. Jesus is our Lord and Savior. The Holy Spirit is within me.

How could I ever have doubted this great and awesome God who has been in my life since day one? This indescribable and all-powerful God who, before the world was even created, predestined all of us to be His children. This almighty and amazing God who sent His Son to die on the cross for all of our sins. How could I have ever doubted our Creator?

I sat there in amazement of the work of God and cried that our Heavenly Father would do so much for me. Yet, through most of my life I barely hinted to learn His word.

Acts 2:28 says, *"You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence."*



My name is **Kevin Eguchi**. I have accepted Jesus Christ into my life. I grew up with two good, caring parents who taught me good from bad and showed me all things I need to know to be a good person. Being a kid I learned the hard way and didn't want to obey my parents. I was hardheaded when it came to advice.

To start my life off, I'm going to start at elementary school. My school was good, but I was a little bit of a troublemaker, wasn't interested in school at all — hated it. Then, when I graduated from elementary school, I headed off to middle school. I started growing, learning new things, but then I also started hanging out with the wrong group of people. I started getting into more trouble.

I thought it was fun and I didn't really care about anything — if I got in trouble, if I hurt myself or anyone else. I was a fool!

In the beginning of high school, I got into even more trouble. I really didn't care about anything, still did my school work and stuff, but I was failing a couple classes and I was ditching school. Basically, I was a mess. I thought nothing could hurt me.

*(Continued on page 3)*



*(Kevin Eguchi Baptism Testimony Continued from page 2)*

Near the tenth grade, I was chilling down and not getting into so much trouble. Then, something hit me and made me want to be good. Maybe it was my family or just the realization of how much of a fool I looked like. But anyhow, through eleventh grade I got better and better. Kind of lost in my life, I was lost and didn't know what to do or who to hang out with.

Twelfth grade comes around and I start hanging out with Roosevelt and Brandon more and more. They were very positive and joyful and this made me feel the need to be good and good toward others. Well, we hung out one day and they invited me to their church for youth group. So, I said okay. I went and it was so awesome. I loved the feeling there. So, for a couple of months I kept coming to church and learning new things. I started believing the things they were talking about.

Then, winter camp came along. It was just the most amazing place. I loved the talks of God and Jesus and what others thought of religion. There was lots of worship and I really enjoyed it. One night, one of our cabin leaders, Tommy, asked me about my life. It started making me realize how God has been there through my life, even while I didn't believe in Him.

In the morning after worship, I then realized I believed in God and accepted Him. I am really happy that all of these things happened to me. I am thankful for the good and the bad. If I didn't go through all of this, I wouldn't be standing in this church and getting baptized today.

I have my mom, dad, Ryan, Roosevelt, Brandon, Paul, Tommy and everyone to thank for this.

Thanks you.

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## **Nehemiah 3 Update**

Our debt continues to decrease because of your faithfulness. Over the last year and four months, Nehemiah 3 has been able to reduce our debt from \$3,900,000 when we started on January 1, 2009 to \$3,751,727 as of April 2010. Praise God! We were blessed this month because of a special gift so our income exceeded our \$28,046 loan payment by \$4,450. For the previous four months, our income was lower than what was needed. Thank you for being so faithful!

In the next month, we will be putting together a plan for how we will manage the remaining debt after the end of Nehemiah 3 in November of this year. We will still owe about \$3,700,000. The Finance Committee, Board of Deacons and staff have been meeting with several people to look at our options. We will be sharing the results with everyone in June.

But one thing is true – we have been able to have a larger impact for Jesus in the City of Gardena and surrounding neighborhoods because of our new facilities. The Nehemiah Project is not about money, but about vision and tools. The building is a tool to be used to bring God glory; to make His Name be known. A place where people can come and be loved, healed and empowered. This has been happening and yet we have only just begun. I am very excited about the future of GVBC.



# Mission Field



**Citylights Church May 2010 News by Tom Demorest [www.citylightschurch.org](http://www.citylightschurch.org)**

## **Easter Sunday**

We are happy to announce we had a wonderful grand opening in our new building on Easter Sunday. There were a LOT of new people there from the neighborhood. Besides being our first Sunday in this building, the service will be memorable because an earthquake hit in the middle of Pastor Thien's [Doan] message. Aside from some nervous moments under swinging chandeliers, everyone was in good spirits and many joked the power of God was on display in multiple ways that Sunday. We followed the worship service with a family dinner. Everyone sat around tables downstairs and enjoyed an Easter meal together. The meal not only met a tangible need of providing a meal, it also offered a great opportunity for people to get to know each other.

We were even more encouraged by the NEXT week. Without fail, our largest week of the year by far is Easter and the smallest week by far is the week after Easter. Most in our community are transitioning from not going to church at all, to going once or twice per month. When all these people come out on Easter, none of them come the next week (because they just went to church the last week.) But this year we had a big week the next week too! This whole move has been very encouraging and seeing God's blessing has been a real affirmation of this huge step we have taken as a church.

## **Spring Carnival**

God really used one of our partner churches, Sun River Church in Sacramento, to help us have a great Easter. Sun River sent their youth group down (almost 80 high schoolers!) for their Spring break to help us. The students did a wonderful job doing work around the church, advertising the grand opening and hosting an AWESOME carnival for the community. The carnival was a huge success and we are so thankful for their hard work.



*Over 500 hot dogs were handed out (top left).*



*The 40 foot bounce house obstacle course was a big draw (top right).*



*The high school students performed a gospel-centered puppet show (bottom left).*



*A carnival wouldn't be a carnival without face painting (bottom right).*

*(Mission Field continued on page 5)*





## Family News

### Our Condolences and prayers go out to:

- ✉ Eglia Tingson (our missionary) and family in the passing of her husband, Greg, who passed away on Saturday, April 24 [see article below in Mission Field Continued]. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, June 5 at GVBC.
- ✉ Jo Ann Inafuku and family in the sudden passing of her husband, Nelson, who passed away on Tuesday, May 18. Funeral arrangements are pending at press time.

### Letters from our family and friends

- ✉ Dear GVBC, Thank you very much for your kind note of sympathy accompanied by the beautiful flowers for Yuki's [Ide] memorial service. It was very thoughtful of you and we want you to know how grateful we are. Sincerely yours, Yoshi, Isaac & Alisa Ide
- ✉ Dear GVBC, Throughout this sad time in our lives [passing of Jane Ayame Ueda], the Lord has used many of you to comfort us with His love. We greatly appreciate the way you walked alongside us through your prayers and encouragement, your phone calls and visits, the delicious meals, the beautiful flowers, your attendance at the service, and generous support. May God bless you as you have blessed us. Gratefully, Scott & Steph Ueda and family

### In the News

- 📷 A beautiful color picture of Aiko Hiroshige appeared in the Thursday, May 13, 2010 *Gardena Valley News* on page 15 in an article titled "And a Happy Mother's Day to You, Too." Aiko had attended a special Mother's Day luncheon which had 50s dance music played at the Gardena Retirement Center on S. Vermont Ave. Aiko, you're looking good!
- 📷 Rodney Tanaka's picture was spotted on the front page of the Thursday, May 13, 2010 *Gardena Valley News*. Rodney, Exalted Ruler, stood with a group of seven other people who are members of the Gardena Elks Lodge No. 1919. They had finished the District Ritual contest on May 1 at the Westchester Elks Lodge.

## Mission Field Continued from page 4



Greg (on L) & Eglia Tingson with Bob Finley at Christian Aid headquarters.

### Greg & Eglia Tingson

After more than 60 years of fruitful ministry, a pioneer apostle to the people of the Philippines has gone to his reward.

Greg Tingson went to be with the Lord he served so faithfully on Saturday, April 24, 2010. A special fund has been established in memory of Greg Tingson. All offerings collected will go 100% toward the works he established for the Lord and should be sent to Christian Aid designated for "Greg Tingson Memorial Fund." Greg Tingson's motto was: *"Only one life will soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last."* His life was a witness to these

words, which he often quoted. His ministry was a stellar example of what it means to be an indigenous missions leader. His legacy is a host of new

evangelists, teachers, and missionaries throughout East Asia, the Philippines in particular. What he has done for the cause of Christ endures. Christian Aid still provides a U.S. supply line for all of the ministries which God used. Greg Tingson donations may be sent to Christian Aid, P.O. Box 9037, Charlottesville, VA 22906 or you may contribute online at [www.christianaidministries.org](http://www.christianaidministries.org).

### Tommy Dyo

In January, nearly 650 college students and staff attended The Epic Movement (EM) national conferences, which were held in Philadelphia, Dallas, and San Francisco. There was a common challenge presented by all the guest speakers. The speakers sought to empower and challenge the students to launch new ministries on their campuses. By doing so, they could attempt to reach each unique people group. Tommy is praising God that through the conferences, 20 accepted Christ. Some made a decision to go on summer missions, while others indicated they wanted to serve in fulltime ministry. Thank you for praying for the EM and also for Tommy, who is the National Director. Please specifically pray for Tommy's health as he has been having minor health issues. He recently had his first angiogram. Tommy's family is doing fine. "God is definitely providing me with unimaginable opportunities and places to step out in faith. Thank you for your support and prayers," writes Tommy.





**CONTACT:** office (310) 323-5683.

**EMAIL:** [gvbc@gvbc.net](mailto:gvbc@gvbc.net) [put your event in the subject line]. You can also call or email the event leaders directly.

**WEBSITE:** [www.gvbc.net](http://www.gvbc.net).

## ♥ Children's Ministry

- ♦ KidZone (1<sup>st</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup> graders), Fridays, 7:00 - 8:30 PM, Community Hall. Wear comfortable clothes and gym shoes to all events.
- May 28 — No Meeting — Memorial Day Weekend
- June 4 — Baseball
- June 11 — Foxtail Tag
- June 18 — Water Bottle Boats
- June 25 — Sockey/5th Grade Farewell
- ♦ Vacation Bible School Sunday, July 26 to Friday, July 30 [see article on page 7].

Contact: Susan Wakuta, ext. 689, [susan@gvbc.net](mailto:susan@gvbc.net).

- ## ♥ Casting Call for GVBC Christmas Musical "A Prodigal Christmas."
- Two performances on Saturday, December 4, 11:00 AM and 3:00 PM. Rehearsals start Sunday, September 12. We need actors and singers of all ages. No experience needed. Contact Susie Shelley, ext. 673, [susie@gvbc.net](mailto:susie@gvbc.net) or David Cheng at [noelquest2007@yahoo.com](mailto:noelquest2007@yahoo.com) [subject: Christmas Musical].

- ## ♥ The Cross Shop
- a new ministry started by CityLights, helps train those with no previous work experience, to learn woodwork. They are requesting new or used equipment. For more information and for a list of the equipment, please pick up a flyer on the Narthex counter. Contact via the church office.

- ## ♥ Reaching My Buddhist Friends
- Sunday, May 23, 12:30 — 3:00 PM, room 113. Visit the Guest Center between services. Contact Marianne Matsuda via the church office.

- ## ♥ Discovering Jesus Bible Study
- Wednesdays of May 26, June 16, June 23 & July 7, 6:00 — 8:00 PM, room 113. Helps those who want to meet Jesus for the first time. Taught by Cyril Nishimoto. Info at the Guest Center in the Courtyard or contact Cyril via the church office.

- ## ♥ Hope for the Future Music, Dance, & Hobby Night
- Thursday, May 27, 6:00 — 9:00 PM, Community Hall. Share your talent. Please bring food for the potluck dinner. Sign up at the Guest Center in the Courtyard between services or contact Cindy Matsuda [hopecindymatsuda@gmail.com](mailto:hopecindymatsuda@gmail.com).

- ## ♥ Baptism Sunday
- May 30 both worship services.

- ## ♥ Memorial Day
- Monday, May 31 office closed.

- ## ♥ Getting to Know Us Luncheon
- Sunday, June 13, 12:30 — 2:30 PM, room 113. Pastor Steve Langley and members of the pastoral staff and the Board of Deacons would like to invite you to this free luncheon. We're glad you're at GVBC! This is an informal time to ask questions and share ideas about GVBC and its ministries. Also, the Pastoral Staff and Board will share the vision they have for GVBC. Sign up on the back of your Connection form and drop it in the offering bag or call the church office, ext. 0. Child care not provided but children are welcome.

- ## ♥ Baby Dedication
- Sunday, June 13

- ## ♥ 180 High School Ministry

- ♦ Sunday, June 20 — Recognition of Graduates
- ♦ Friday, June 25 — Departing Seniors' Farewell Party

- ♦ Saturday, June 26 to Friday, July 2 — Short Term Mission Trip to Long Beach.

- ♦ Sunday, June 27 — Promotion Sunday
- Contact Daniel Matsuda, ext. 681, [daniel@gvbc.net](mailto:daniel@gvbc.net).

- ## ♥ Women's Breakfast & Crafts Fellowship
- Saturday, June 26, 9:00AM—12:30PM, Community Hall. Contact church office.

- ## ♥ Independence Day
- office closed Monday, July 5

- ## ♥ Ohana Family Festival
- Saturday, July 10, Mas Fukai Park. Director is Barbara Moncada via the church office.

- ## ♥ Hope for the Future "Fireproof" Movie Night
- Thursday, July 22, 6:00 — 9:00 PM, Sanctuary. Contact Cindy Matsuda [hopecindymatsuda@gmail.com](mailto:hopecindymatsuda@gmail.com).

- ## ♥ Mexico Outreach Missions (M.O.M.)

- 🌐 Friday, July 23 to Sunday, August 1, Summer Mission Trip from Oaxaca to Panama

- 🌐 Saturday, October 2, Tijuana

- 🌐 Friday, December 17 to Sunday, December 19, San Telmo Christmas Mission Trip

[NOTE: a U.S. passport is required]. Spanish is helpful, but not required. Contact Teresa Matsushima via the church office.

- ## ♥ Women's Craft Fellowship & Lunch
- Saturday, August 14, 10:00AM — 2:00PM, Community Hall. Contact church office.

- ## ♥ GVBC Seminarian Golf Tournament
- Monday, August 16, Rio Hondo Golf Club, 10627 Old River School Rd, Downey. Applications available on our website. Contact church office.

- ## ♥ Youth Summer Camp
- Sunday, August 8 to Friday, August 13, Alpine Conference Center, Blue Jay, finished 5<sup>th</sup> to finished 11<sup>th</sup> grades. Contact Daniel Matsuda, Youth Pastor, ext. 681, [daniel@gvbc.net](mailto:daniel@gvbc.net).

- ## ♥ Neighborhood Day of Prayer Outreach
- Saturday, August 21, 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM. On Saturday, Aug 14 and Sunday, August 15 we will walk the neighborhood to get their prayer requests. Contact Bob Matsushima via the church office.

- ## ♥ Primetimers' 2010 Calendar of Activities

•Great Reno Balloon Race & Lake Tahoe, Thursday, September 9 — Sunday, September 12. Cost \$492 per person double occupancy, single occupancy add \$150 (includes gratuity to the bus driver). Payment due: August 2.

•Glory of Christmas at Crystal Cathedral, Sunday, December 12. Cost: \$105 (based on 19-28 participants) includes the gratuity to the driver. Please note: price does not include dinner. Please eat your dinner prior to boarding the bus. We will leave GVBC at 6:00 PM and return at 10:30 PM. Payment due: October 24.

Make checks payable to Gardena Valley Baptist Church [your event title in subject line]. **Contact:** Keiko or Richard Imatomi via the church office.

- ## ♥ Keep Gardena Beautiful
- Saturday, September 18. We'll be working in the wetland preserve near South Park on Vermont & Artesia Blvd. Contact the church office.

- ## ♥ Men's Retreat
- Saturday, September 25 to Sunday, September 26 at Victory Ranch. Contact the church office.

- ## ♥ Cult & Occults Seminar
- Sunday, September 26, 12:30 — 3:00 PM, room 113. Contact Marianne Matsuda

- ## ♥ Perspectives
- Mondays starting September 26 — January 10, 2011, 7:00 — 9:00 PM, Room 218/220. Contact Tom Park.

- ## ♥ Storytelling Class
- Sunday, October 10, 12:30 — 3:00 PM, room 113. Contact Cyril Nishimoto.





## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**JULY 26-30, 2010**

**9:00AM - 12:15PM**

**PRESCHOOL TO ENTERING 5TH GRADE**

**(310) 323-5683**

**WWW.GVBC.NET**

Come join our Prayer Safari! This year's theme centers around the Lord's Prayer. Children will learn about the love of Christ.

**Registration** forms will be available on Sunday, June 6 in the Sunday school classes, on the pamphlet table in the Narthex or from the office.

**Deadline** to register is Sunday, July 11 or until maximum capacity has been reached.

**Volunteers** needed! Contact Susan Wakuta, ext 689 or [susan@gvbc.net](mailto:susan@gvbc.net).



### Team Basketball Practices Update

We are opening up the list to include grandchildren of GVBC members, too. At this point, we are taking names **ONLY** to create a list of interested parties. If you want to be on this list, please email [wendy@gvbc.net](mailto:wendy@gvbc.net), and put the day and time you would be interested.

### Scholarships

Available for GVBC undergraduate students:

#### Christian Service Scholarship

Several scholarships are given to encourage those who have used their time and talents in Christian service. For more information, please read the brochure attached to the application.

Scholarship application is available in the narthex, and are due on June 20th, including recommendations. For questions, please call Wendy in the church office, ext. #672.

**Newsletter  
DEADLINE**

**Issue 11** will be uploaded to website on Wednesday, June 2. Hard copies available on Sunday, June 6 in the Narthex. All articles should be submitted by Sunday, May 30.

The **Spirit** is copyrighted © 2010 and a publication of Gardena Valley Baptist Church, 1630 W. 158th Street, Gardena, CA., 90247, (310)323-5683, FAX: (310)768-2783, Email: [gvbc@gvbc.net](mailto:gvbc@gvbc.net), Website: [www.gvbc.net](http://www.gvbc.net), Senior Pastor: Steve Langley (310)323-5683, Editor: Susan J. Shelley, [susie@gvbc.net](mailto:susie@gvbc.net). Office hours: 9:00am—5:00pm, Nichigo Website: [www.gvbc.info](http://www.gvbc.info). The **Spirit** is published twice a month to keep members and friends informed of programs of the church and to report news about GVBC and its people. Announcements, praise, prayer requests, and letters are welcomed. Articles are subject to editing and/or postponement.





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Are you focusing on what's  
urgent and forgetting what's  
important?

—Daniel Matsuda,  
Assistant Pastor, Youth  
*Metamorphosis* Sermon Series  
"The Uncomfort Zone"  
Colossians 1:24 — 2:5



- ✚ Morning Worship @ 8:45 AM & 10:45 AM
- ✚ Nichigo Japanese-speaking Service @ 10:45 AM, Room 201

Sermon Series: *Metamorphosis*

**Sunday, May 23**

Pastor Steve Langley  
Colossians 2:6-15 ~ Rooted & Built Up in Christ

**Sunday, May 30**

Pastor James Chang  
Colossians 2:16-23 ~ Rules, Regulations, Religion

**Sunday, June 6/Communion**

Pastor Steve Langley  
Colossians 3:1-11 ~ Hidden with Christ

**Sunday, June 13**

Pastor Steve Langley  
Colossians 3:12-14 ~ What to Put On

English-speaking children's Sunday school runs concurrent with the Worship Services. Nichigo children's Sunday school 9:30am, Room 206.

Steve Langley, Senior Pastor, ext. 0  
Bunso Otani, Nichigo Pastor, ext. 676  
Ron Matsuda, Associate Pastor — Teaching, ext. 679  
Annette Kakimoto, Assistant Pastor —  
Leadership Development, ext. 680  
James Chang — Assistant Pastor of Young Adults, ext. 682  
Chris Koga, Assistant Pastor—College, ext. 685 (pt)  
Daniel Matsuda, Assistant Pastor — Youth, ext. 681  
Layne Wakuta, Pastoral Intern — Junior High, ext. 684 (pt)  
Susan Wakuta — Elementary Children's Director, ext. 689  
Linda Matsuda — Director Early Childhood, ext. 683 (pt)  
J.J. Frey, Worship Coordinator (pt)  
Wendy Nakano, Office Manager, ext. 672  
Rei Abe, Nichigo Secretary, ext. 677 (pt)  
Peggy Kushigemachi, Financial Assistant, ext. 675  
Jan Magnani, Secretary, ext. 671  
Dawn Robinson, Christian Educ. Secretary, ext. 678 (pt)  
Susie Shelley, Newsletter Editor ext. 673 (pt)  
Kevin Hatashita, Maintenance Asst. (pt)  
Socorro Kagawa, Maintenance Asst. (pt)  
Kevin Maeda, Maintenance Asst. (pt)  
Kyle York, Maintenance Asst. (pt)