

Hawaii's: Pamela Young



Class of 2004

Silver Circle Profile
By: **Kevin Wing**



Her name is **Pamela Young**. And, if you've lived in Hawaii for the last three and a half decades, you'll certainly know who she is.

If you've worked in television news since the early 1970s, you'll certainly know who Young is, too. Some might call her the "queen of television in Hawaii." Ever modest, that branding would more than likely embarrass the humble Young.

The 11-time Emmy® Award-winning Young, who was inducted into the *Silver Circle* of the San Francisco/Northern California Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences in 2004, is still going strong after nearly 40 years in the business. Although now part-time in Hawaiian television, she still anchors the weekend newscasts at KITV. That allows her time to be involved in her other professional and charitable endeavors, including having a rewarding personal life with her husband and former co-anchor, **Gary Sprinkle** (SC '07). They have been married since 1985 and anchored together for 20 years. Sprinkle has been retired from television in recent years to devote full-time to his production company. Young plays a major role in many of his projects.

Young was born in Hawaii, and if you've ever met her, you know that the Hawaiian spirit is alive and well within her.

She left Hawaii when it was time to attend college, choosing California and San Francisco State University. She graduated with a master's degree in 1973.

In 1974, Young was hired at San Francisco's KPIX. "It was a minority position," she says, "and I worked on a show called *All Together Now*, with **Belva Davis** (SC '89). After college, I wanted to stay in the Bay Area. The Bay Area can grow on you, and getting the job at KPIX was perfect."

Young is the first Asian American reporter to work on a programmed show such as *All Together Now*.

She stayed on a year, at which time she joined KQED, San Francisco's premier PBS station.

"**George Osterkamp** (SC '88) invited me to

come over to KQED to work with **Mel Wax** and **Bill Schechner** (SC '02) on a wonderful program," Young says. That program was *Newsroom*, a highly-acclaimed Bay Area news program that, at the time, was lauded as much for its news content as it was for its style of reporting the news in the Bay Area.

"That show spawned a lot of interesting characters," she recalls. "It was a wonderful place to cut one's teeth. I learned from the best, and I am so grateful for that."

Eventually, Hawaii called Young home, and she began working as an anchor and reporter for KHON. That was followed by tenures at KGMB and KITV.

In addition to anchoring weekends at KITV, Young launched a show in 1984 called *Mixed Plate*. Twenty-eight years later, the program is still going strong, and has the distinction of being the longest-running television magazine show in Hawaii.

"A mixed plate is a little of everything," she says. "Something Japanese, Chinese, Filipino, what have you. It is usually a 30-minute program, but it is expanded to 60 and 90 minutes on occasion when the subject matter warrants a longer show."

Young also writes a travel column, which fits her love for travel very well. She is also the author of a book, *My Name Is Makia Malo*. It is the biography of a man, now 80 years old, who is a leprosy patient.

Of course, with a career that has spanned the decades, Young has many favorite stories, and many which have impacted her personally and professionally.

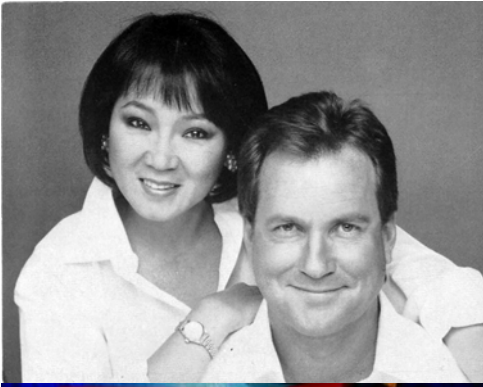
"Other than being in Tiannanmen Square (in 1989) and being a part of the historical process, it was very rewarding. Sharing something with viewers," she says, "is always a big thrill for me."

Young says she was also very moved by a story she reported on last year on an orphanage in Cambodia.

Just because Young is now working in television part-time doesn't mean she's not busy. "Gary and I have probably been busier than we've ever been in our lives," Young says.

Young has also served on the Board of Governors

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of the San Francisco/Northern California Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for many years, serving as a Governor as well as regional Vice President for Hawaii. She received the Governors' Service Medallion in 2011.

In addition to her 11 Emmy® awards, Young is also the recipient of a George Foster Peabody Award. She has also received 17 Society of Professional Journalists honors and is an inductee of the

Hall of Pioneers of the Asian American Journalists Association. This year, Hawaii named her as the "Outstanding Advocate For Children."

"Every year, my husband and I offer scholarships to students in the University of Hawaii system," she explains. "We give four or five scholarships a year. This year, we gave our 48th scholarship." Young and Sprinkle have a 34-year old son, **Paulo**, who lives in the Bay Area.

NATAS Education Committee Seeks New Members

Appeal by **Steve Shlisky** Education Committee Chair



Steve Shlisky

The Northern California Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS) governor elections signal a time of change for standing committees. On this election cycle, the Education Committee has lost some key individuals. As the Chair of the Education Committee, I would like to invite any NATAS member to join

in our fine and important work. You do not have to be on the board to contribute. All you have to be is a NATAS member.

The Education Committee has four bulleted functions:

- Vet, judge and decide the recipients of the regional NATAS College Scholarships. This year we will distribute up to \$16,000 across seven categories.
- Judge and decide the recipients of the regional

NATAS High School Awards. See High School Awards on page 4 of this *OFF CAMERA*.

- Establish guidelines for a Speaker's Bureau, a program which matches our professional members to appropriate speaking engagements in our chapter.
- Create guidelines for media literacy. Previously called Creating Critical Viewers, we will brainstorm on how NATAS NorCal can best serve our community.

Education Committee members choose one or more areas of interest.

If you have any interest in the goals of this committee or have any questions about the duties of the committee, please contact me at:

sshlisky@emmysf.org

NATAS NorCal has many other committees. I can provide information about those as well.

Send your Stories & Press Releases to
offcamera@emmysf.tv