AUTHENTIC HAWAII

December 6–11, 2016

Featuring Professor David Cohen & Rachel Pastan
Dear Alumni and Friends:

We invite you to join Professor David Cohen & Rachel Pastan for a most amazing exploration of Hawai‘i’s Big Island with an exclusive stay at a private historic mansion. Travel with alumni and friends on this exclusive small group adventure and take daily excursions to experience the area’s natural wonders—magical waterfalls, lush gardens, and dramatic volcanic landscapes.

Our program will be enhanced by a unique set of lectures by David and seminars with Rachel. In addition to daily tours and excursions exploring the history and natural beauty of Hawaii, learn about astronomy from David and partake in travel writing seminars with Rachel. For a well-rounded experience, we will also visit academic institutions working to advance scientific understanding and preserve the rich heritage of the area.

Our home for the week, the Thomas Guard House, is located in Hilo, on Reed’s Island, a community that was once home to Hawaiian royals. Built in 1916 by the banker, Thomas Guard, the house is a stunning example of neoclassical architecture and has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Visiting Hilo’s historic downtown is like stepping back in time. Explore the museums, shops, galleries, and restaurants; and mingle with the friendly and diverse residents.

This insider’s exploration of the Big Island is perfectly timed to help you escape from the winter weather. Space is limited, so be sure to get your reservation in today. This enchanting setting will create memories for a lifetime!

Best regards,

Lisa Lee '81
Director of Alumni Relations

Torch Ginger, Hawaiian Tropical Botanical Gardens

Sea Turtle

Leilihua Yuen, Hawaiian Cultural Expert
Experience the Delights of a Well-Crafted Itinerary

• Enjoy daily breakfasts served on the lanai where you can view wild birds amidst the lush garden
• Marvel at the dramatic landscape of Waipio Valley
• See the amazing lava glowing against the dark night sky at Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park
• Visit the summit of Mauna Kea (14,000 ft) and view the sunset from above the clouds
• Take an gentle hike to the Big Island’s most famous waterfall, ‘Akaka Falls, dropping 442 feet into a stream-eroded gorge
• Enjoy two Hawaiian dinner banquets at Thomas Guard House, prepared by a local chef with produce grown in his personal garden
• Visit the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo’s ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center and Planetarium for an insightful interpretation of the astronomy being conducted on the summit of Mauna Kea
• Enjoy a special private performance of traditional Hawaiian music and dance by cultural experts

David Cohen joined the Physics and Astronomy Department at Swarthmore College in 2000. He received his BA from Harvard College and his MS and PhD from the University of Wisconsin, where he first started working on the problem of X-ray emission from massive stars.

While his main research focus remains massive stars and their winds and X-ray emission, he has also worked in the field of laboratory plasma physics, carrying out experiments related to the quest for fusion energy. More recently, he has been working on exoplanet science using the 24-inch optical telescope at Swarthmore’s Peter van de Kamp Observatory, opened in 2009.

David teaches across the astronomy curriculum, including upper level seminars in stellar astrophysics, the interstellar medium, and cosmology. David has an active group of student researchers - some working with data from NASA’s Chandra X-ray Observatory and doing numerical simulations of X-ray production in massive star winds, and others working on exoplanet discovery and characterization using data from the van de Kamp Observatory. He has a strong interest in the history of astronomy as well.

More information about David’s work is available at astro.swarthmore.edu/~cohen/

Rachel Pastan’s latest novel, Alena, was named an Editors’ Choice in The New York Times Book Review and selected as Best of 2014 by Pop Sugar and The Washington Independent Review of Books. She is also the author of the novels Lady of the Snakes and This Side of Married. Her reviews and articles have appeared in The New York Times Book Review, The Washington Post, The Huffington Post, and elsewhere. In 2010 she developed the acclaimed blog Miranda, a behind-the-scenes look at what happens at a small art museum (icaphila.org/miranda/) for the Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) at the University of Pennsylvania, which she wrote and edited for four years. Pastan, who was educated at Harvard and the Iowa Writers’ Workshop, taught fiction writing at Swarthmore College from 2003-2010 and is currently a member of the core faculty of the Bennington Writing Seminars MFA program. She is at work on a novel based on the life of Nobel Prize-winning geneticist Barbara McClintock.

‘Akaka Falls
December 6 • Arrive Hilo, Lili’uokalani Gardens, & Independent Dinner

Arrive at the Hilo Airport on the Big Island of Hawai‘i. Meet your guide and transfer to Reed’s Island, where you will spend five nights at an exclusive house, surrounded by tropical rainforests, waterfalls, rivers, and gorgeous gardens. The epitome of exclusivity and comfort, Reed’s Island will be your home away from home for the duration of the tour.

In the early evening, take an optional walk through the peaceful Lili’uokalani Gardens, named after Hawai‘i’s last reigning monarch, Queen Lili’uokalani. Located on Hilo’s Banyan Drive, this authentic Japanese garden was dedicated in 1917 as a tribute to Hawai‘i’s first Japanese immigrants, who worked in the island’s sugar cane fields. This beautifully landscaped park features arching red bridges over fishponds, rock gardens, pagodas, Japanese stone lanterns, and a teahouse. Views of Hilo Bay and Moku Ola (Coconut Island) enhance this remarkable landscape.

Following the garden tour, join your fellow travelers at an optional dinner at the elegant Hilo Bay Café, featuring stunning bay views and fine contemporary American, Hawaiian and Japanese cuisines. (none)

December 7 • ‘Akaka Falls, Honoli’i Beach, & Carl Smith Beach Park, Welcome Dinner

Enjoy breakfast, served daily on the open veranda, or lanai, of the Thomas Guard House. After breakfast, tour ‘Akaka Falls State Park, 14 miles north along the Hamakua Coast. Visit two gorgeous waterfalls on a pleasant 0.4-mile uphill hike that takes you through a lush rainforest filled with wild orchids, bamboo groves, and draping ferns.

Follow the paved footpath to the 100-foot Kahuna Falls. Continue to follow the loop around the bend, where you’ll discover towering ‘Akaka Falls, dropping 442 feet into a stream-eroded gorge. Beautiful ‘Akaka Falls is perhaps the Big Island’s most famous waterfall.

Later, visit Honoli’i Beach. Popular among the local surfing crowd, Honoli’i beach is a mix of
black sand, coral rubble, rocks and beach glass.

Return to Hilo for lunch at a local restaurant, then visit Carlsmith Beach Park, with a black sand beach and beautiful views of Hilo Bay and Mauna Kea. Watch locals swim and surf. Take an optional swim, conditions permitting, and perhaps see a honu, or Hawaiian green sea turtle!

Later, return to the Thomas Guard House for a home-cooked dinner, prepared by a local Hawaiian chef and featuring fresh farm-to-table delicacies. (B,L,D)

December 8 • ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center & Downtown Hilo, Mauna Kea Summit
In the morning, visit the world-famous ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center, a public science center dedicated to sharing and interpreting the astronomy conducted on the Mauna Kea summit. ‘Imiloa presents the astronomy atop Mauna Kea within the framework of native Hawaiian traditions of navigation and exploration. Tour the facilities and learn about the ongoing scientific and cultural research within the context of the community. Watch a show at the world’s first 3D digital dome in the planetarium and stroll through gardens that feature native and Polynesian-introduced plant life.

In the afternoon, enjoy lunch on your own and free time in Hilo’s historic downtown. Featuring century-old wooden storefronts housing a variety of sophisticated galleries, shops, restaurants, and cultural sites, Hilo is the Big Island’s biggest small town. Start your walk on Kamehameha Avenue facing beautiful Hilo Bay and discover the variety of shops, restaurants, and attractions. Choose to visit the Pacific Tsunami Museum, which chronicles the cataclysmic natural disasters of 1946 and 1960 that forced Hilo to rebuild farther inland using parkland as a buffer. Or explore the Lyman Mission House and Museum, and Hawai‘i-based natural history museum founded in 1931.

Mid-afternoon, depart for an optional excursion to Mauna Kea – the world’s highest volcano! Enjoy a hot picnic-style dinner from a remote outpost, watch the sunset from the top and in the midst of world-class observatories, and view the nighttime Hawaiian skies with a local interpretive naturalist.

Please Note: The Mauna Kea excursion is a high-altitude activity, where you will spend several hours between 9,000-14,000 ft. Because of the altitude and the quick ascent from sea level, this tour is not recommend for those with respiratory, circulatory or heart conditions, who are pregnant or in poor health, or for those who have scuba dived in the previous 24 hours. Although not a
hiking tour, you should also be able to walk on uneven or rocky terrain.

For those not participating in the Mauna Kea excursion, your Tour Director will help you plan the rest of your day. You can relax at your house, explore downtown Hilo, with fun shops, galleries, cafes and markets, or enjoy a traditional lomi-lomi massage at the local spa. (B, Picnic dinner for those on the Mauna Kea Excursion).

December 9 • Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park

Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park encompasses two active volcanoes: Kilauea, one of the world’s most active volcanoes, and Mauna Loa, the world’s most massive volcano. In recognition of the need to preserve Hawai‘i’s outstanding natural environment, in 1980, Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park was designated as an International Biosphere Reserve, and in 1987, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The park gives scientists insight into the birth of the Hawaiian Islands and is the location of ongoing studies into the processes of volcanism.

Spend the day experiencing the dramatic volcanic landscapes and rare flora and fauna. Take an easy one-mile walk through Kipuka Puaulu, or Bird Park, to look for native birds and koa trees. Stop at the Kilauea Visitor’s Center and the Jaggar Museum, built on the edge of the Kilauea Cauldera, for a breath taking panoramic view of the Halema‘uma‘u Crater. With its robust plume of volcanic gas, Halema‘uma‘u is a constant and dramatic reminder of the molten rock churning in a lava lake beneath the crater floor.

For lunch, enjoy a picnic of island specialties, including delicious tropical fruit.

Later, take an optional four-mile hike of the Kilauea Iki trail – the most beautiful hike in the park! The lush crater is an invigorating and intimate way to experience the volcanic terrain and ecology. Or opt for a scenic drive along the Chain of Craters Road, stopping at various scenic locations to view wildlife and the beautiful surroundings.

Then, watch the sunset overlooking Halema‘uma‘u, which continues to thrill visitors into the nighttime with a vivid glow that illuminates the clouds and the night sky.

Enjoy dinner from a scenic location overlooking the crater. (B,L,D)
December 10 • Waipio Valley, Tropical Botanical Garden, Cultural Performance, & Farewell Banquet

This morning, drive to Waipi’o Valley, the childhood home of King Kamehameha I, and an important center for political and religious life in Hawai‘i. Though Waipi’o Valley was once the home of thousands of Native Hawaiians, today fewer than 100 residents live among the waterfalls, taro fields, and rivers permeating the valley. Stop at the lookout for breathtaking views of the valley, cerulean ocean, local villages and the farms that Native Hawaiians have cultivated for centuries. Immerse yourself in the dramatic landscape, with cliffs thousands of feet high and the Big Island’s tallest waterfall, Hi’ilawe Falls, which cascades down 1,300 feet to the valley floor.

Continue onto Kalōpā Natural Forest State Park for short walk through Native Hawaiian rain forest, followed by a delicious picnic lunch.

In the afternoon, tour the famous Hawai‘i Tropical Botanical Garden. This 40-acre “garden in a valley on the ocean”, situated on the Lush Hamakua Coast, is a naturally formed greenhouse benefiting from fertile volcanic soil and natural protection from trade winds. Photographers, gardeners, botanists, scientists, and nature lovers from around the world are drawn to this museum of living plants. Over 2,000 species, representing more than 125 families and 750 genera, are found in this one-of-a-kind garden. Throughout this garden valley, nature trails meander through the tropical rainforest, crossing bubbling streams, passing several beautiful waterfalls, and offering exciting ocean vistas along the rugged Pacific coast.

This evening at the Thomas Guard House, enjoy a special Hawaiian Cultural & Music Presentation, performed by an award-winning husband and wife team, followed by a special farewell banquet – the perfect end for your authentic Hawaiian experience! (B,L,D)

December 11 • Depart Hilo

After breakfast, one of your guides will accompany you to the Hilo Airport for your departure. Check-out time is 10:30 am. (B)
Thomas Guard House: Grounds and Common Areas

The Private Waterfall at Hilo House

The Lanai (front porch)
**Private Suites**

The two private suites in the house have king and queen beds, respectively. Both suites offer gorgeous waterfall views, sitting areas, desks, and private ensuite bathrooms.

**Deluxe Rooms**

The three deluxe rooms in the house have queen beds, a sitting area, a desk, and private bathrooms. The Palm Room, is located on the main level of the house, the other deluxe rooms are located on the upper level.

**Aloha Rooms**

The two aloha rooms in the house have a queen and two double beds respectively, with a shared bathroom, and day beds for additional seating. These rooms are perfect for a family or friends traveling together.

*Note: Aloha Rooms are located on the garden level.*
**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

**RESERVATIONS:** Bookings are subject to the terms and conditions mentioned in these sections. By placing a deposit you agree to the terms and conditions listed herein. To confirm your reservation, a deposit of $800 per person is required. Credit card payment is accepted for the deposit only; final balance must be paid by check.

**AIR:** Air cancellations and penalties are based on each carrier and ticket. Be sure to review these policies before purchasing. China Advocates, Inc., and Swarthmore Alumni College Abroad are not responsible for any penalties incurred due to air changes or cancellations.

**CANCELLATIONS:** No cancellation is valid until it is received in writing by the office of China Advocates. Cancellation penalties are based on the date of receipt of written notice and are as follows: 91 or more days prior to departure, a cancellation fee of $600 per person is retained; 50-90 days prior to departure, $1,600 per person; 45-59 days prior to departure, $2,600 per person; 30-44 days prior to departure, no refund is made.

Cancellation penalties for additional hotel nights, hotel and cruise ship room upgrades, tour extensions, and any special arrangements, are as follows: 50-31 days prior to departure, 25% of cost is retained; 30-0 days prior to departure, no refund is made. No refunds will be given for unused portions of the tour.

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Trip cancellation insurance is highly recommended and available. You will receive travel insurance information once you are confirmed on the program.

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**Tour Costs**

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**Main Tour Includes:** • Double occupancy accommodations • Airport transfers for arrivals and departures to/from Hilo airport on group dates • Meals as indicated in itinerary as (b,l,d) • Wine and beer for dinners at Hilo house • All sightseeing, entertainment, and activities listed in itinerary • All air and ground transportation • Tour Director • Local tour guides • China Advocates Hostess / House Manager • Gratuities to local guides • Evening excursion to Mauna Kea • Preparatory materials

**Not Included:** • Airfare to/from the tour • Porterage • Meals not listed as included in the tour • Excess baggage charges • Travel insurance • Wine, beer (outside of two hosted dinners), liquor and other items of a personal nature • Spa treatments • Optional Activities

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**Tour Reservation Form**

Swarthmore Alumni College Abroad

**Authentic Hawaii** December 6–11, 2016

Enclosed is a deposit for $ ________________ ($800 per person) to hold __________________ place(s).

Please make checks payable to **China Advocates.** Final payment is due September 7, 2016 (Reservations will be accepted after this date if available and accompanied by full payment.)

Name/s _____________________________________________ Birthdate ___________________________ Class Year __________________________

Name/s _____________________________________________ Birthdate ___________________________ Class Year __________________________

Address ________________________________________________________________________________ City ____________________________

State__________ Zip _________________ Email ______________________________________________________________________________________

Primary Phone __________________________________________ Alt. Phone __________________________________________

Accommodations: [ ] Single [ ] I need assistance in securing a roommate [ ] Double

(If a roommate cannot be secured for me, I agree to pay the single supplement fee(s).)


I/We understand that, by signing below, I/we acknowledge that the Terms and Conditions section of this brochure has been read and accepted.

Signature _____________________________________________ Date ____________________________

Signature _____________________________________________ Date ____________________________

Please note: Any payment to China Advocates constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out herein, including but not limited to the cancellation terms.

**Credit Card Number for Deposit:**

Exp. Date ________________ CVV Code ____________

(Credit card payment is for deposit only. Balance must be paid by check)

Signature _____________________________________________ Date ____________________________

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Please fax, scan & email your reservation to:

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