Articulation agreement links UH Hilo and community colleges

by Ken Hupp

The UH Hilo College of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Management (CAFNRM) has reached a new agriculture course articulation agreement with five UH System community colleges.

The agreement, reached on March 9, 2012 with Hawai‘i, Kaua‘i, Leeward, and Windward Community Colleges and Maui College takes effect immediately and will make it easier for community college students to transfer to CAFNRM through a process similar to the 2 + 2 program.

“In the past, most agriculture courses offered by community colleges could only be used as electives, when transferring to a four-year institution,” explained Dr. Bruce Mathews, acting dean, CAFNRM. “That meant a student who had completed a two-year program still faced up to three-and-a-half more years to earn a four-year degree. This agreement streamlines that process by allowing those courses to meet specific CAFNRM agriscience requirements for obtaining a BS degree.”

Under the agreement, a grade of C or better is required for the 299 and below level courses to be transferred to UH Hilo unless otherwise noted. Some substitutions for CAFNRM courses numbered 300 and above require a grade of B or better.

Agriculture instructors at the community colleges, who have long sought an academic pathway between two- and four-year institutions within the UH System, hailed the announcement. They said the agreement will remove a tremendous barrier to pursuing a four-year degree.

“This decision means that students transferring from our two-year 

Partnering with UH community colleges to strengthen Hawai‘i’s future

by Chancellor Donald Straney

Last fall in this column I wrote about a report by Complete College America stating that by 2020, 68% of jobs in Hawai‘i will require a career certificate or college degree, but currently only 41% of adults have a college degree. The gap: 27%. For a strong economy, the report states, the skills gap must be closed. We simply will not have enough skilled workers to meet the needs of our economy unless many more college and university students graduate.

One way the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo is addressing this challenge is by collaborating with the UH community colleges to facilitate seamless transfers into UH Hilo—for example, by giving students “road maps” to use when they begin their college education at Hawai‘i Community College (HawCC) so they will have a plan on how to transfer and achieve baccalaureate degrees at UH Hilo.

Two UH Hilo degrees offered in the HawCC-UH Hilo “pathways” program are Administration of Justice and Business Administration. Currently in discussion for the Pathway Program are HawCC’s Digital Media Arts degree, which would lead into UH Hilo’s BA in Art, and HawCC’s Tropical Forest Ecosystem and Agroforestry Management program.
program to UH Hilo’s four-year program won’t have to repeat similar courses,” said Sharad Marahatta, instructor, integrated farming systems, Kaua’i Community College. “That saves my students time and money.”

Chris Jacobsen, agriculture program instructor, Hawai’i Community College (HawCC) and a graduate of UH Hilo, described the agreement as a “great first step” and is looking forward to even greater collaboration between the two institutions. He believes such cooperation is essential to meeting the tremendous challenges and opportunities in agriculture that affect everyone.

“Most people know that Hawai’i imports a tremendous percentage of its food. What may be less known is that many of the state’s food producers are aging,” Jacobsen said. “To address these issues we need well-prepared individuals who are familiar with current technologies and environmentally-appropriate methods of production.”

Another factor adding to the timeliness of the agreement is the growing popularity of locally produced food in the various culinary programs. With initiatives like the “Local First” program launched by UH Hilo and HawCC, more and more students are becoming interested in how food is produced.

“These students aren’t talking about changing their major,” Mathews said. “But they see an agriculture degree as something that can enhance their culinary development by learning things like how a crop is grown to produce a desired texture, or even doing some farming as a sideline.”

CAFNRM currently enrolls approximately 200 students. But given the growing emphasis on sustainability and local food production, the newly articulated agreement may be the vehicle to usher in a new era of growth for the College and a new generation of Hawai’i farmers.

(Editors note: Ken Hupp is a public information officer.)
Chancellor Donald Straney announced the appointment of Dr. Matthew Platz to the position of Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, effective January 2013.

“Dr. Platz brings important strengths to this critical position, including extensive academic and administrative experience, and recognition in research and grant acquisition,” said Straney. “We welcome his leadership in this new capacity.”

Platz, who was selected following a nationwide search, is currently a Distinguished University Professor of Chemistry at Ohio State University, where he has spent 33 years as a faculty member, department chair, interim dean and vice provost. He also serves as Director of the Division of Chemistry at the National Science Foundation, maintains a federally-funded research laboratory, and continues to publish and patent his work.

Dr. Dan Brown, interim vice chancellor for research who chaired the search committee, said his colleagues were particularly impressed by the broad background Platz has had in academic affairs.

“He is a prolific scholar, a teacher of excellence, and an experienced administrator,” Brown said. “We were also impressed by Dr. Platz’s commitment to undergraduate education, and his recognition of the need for a high quality, broad liberal arts education to increase our students’ future opportunities.”

Platz said he found UH Hilo’s mission of encouraging students, particularly first-generation students, to reach their highest level of educational attainment “compelling,” noting that higher education had been a game-changer in his life.

“I have had a wonderful life because of my Dad’s decision to attend night school and become a first-generation college graduate,” Platz said. “So I know first-hand how the power of education can alter the destiny of a family.”

In his current position with the National Science Foundation, he has focused on funding the basic science that must be discovered to create sustainable food, water and energy to meet the needs of the world’s expanding population.

Platz, who owns a home in Kona, sees the Big Island and UH Hilo as major role players in meeting those challenges.

“The island of Hawai‘i is the perfect place for the next Steve Jobs to show us how to live both well and sustainably,” Platz explained. “And I believe UH Hilo can be an exemplar of 21st century higher education, which is a future I look forward to being a part of.”

Platz will make several extended campus visits prior to his official start date in order to familiarize himself with the University, meet with faculty and staff, and take part in budget planning.

Chef Alan Wong presented the first-ever “Adopt-a-Beehive with Alan Wong” scholarships to UH Hilo students (left to right) Julianna Graper, Tayler Manriki and Brittany Ann Rocha at the “Bee-Coming Sustainable” event held March 10 at the UH Hilo Ag Farm. The trio received their $1,000 awards after successfully completing UH Hilo’s introductory beekeeping course (Entomology 262), maintaining a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher, and enrolling in advanced beekeeping (Entomology 350) for the spring semester. In its inaugural year, Adopt-a-Beehive with Alan Wong raised funds for student support, instructional costs, and equipment/supplies to expand the University’s beekeeping curriculum. The program provides a virtual beekeeping experience as nearly 100 adopters were paired with beekeeping students and received periodic reports and photos of their assigned bee colonies. For more information on how to participate in the upcoming 2012-2013 program, visit www.uhfoundation.org/AdoptABeehive.
Cheryl Ramos, Associate Professor, Psychology, presents her paper on “Quality of Life of Long-Term Cancer Survivors in Rural Communities” at the 4th International Conference of Community Psychology, to be held in Barcelona, Spain in June. Her presentation is part of an international symposium (Australia, Canada, Hawai‘i/U.S., New Zealand, Portugal) focused on rural quality of life and unique aspects of indigenous communities.

Karla Hayashi, Coordinator, Writing Tutorial, received travel funds to support a UH inter-campus team to present “Alignment to Assessment: Closing the Loop” at “Writing Gateways,” the 2012 CCCC Convention in St. Louis, MO, last month. The Conference on College Composition and Communication is the premier national professional association for faculty in composition and rhetoric. A major focus of the presentation involved details about the creation of a new Expository Writing course for graduating high school students as well as continuing assessment activities for UH Hilo’s expository writing course.

Seri Luangphinith, Associate Professor, English, co-facilitated the WASC workshop, “Assessment 101: The Assessment Cycle, Clear and Simple” in February at the Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa in Honolulu, HI. The workshop offered an intensive introduction to the vocabulary and concepts of student learning outcomes assessment as well as the rationale behind the process.

Michael Marshall, Professor, Art, last month renewed confirmation of program participation in the University of Houston-Clear Lake International Art Consortium, which provides international dialog and cultural exchange among universities on various levels of diverse artistic performance. He also organized a UH Hilo campus residency for Chris King that takes place this month in support of National Poetry Month, and was awarded $10,000 by the Hawai‘i Community Foundation to support the UH Summer Art Institute—Hilo scheduled to take place next summer.

Chris Frueh, Professor, Psychology, co-wrote “Key stakeholders perceptions regarding acute care psychiatry in distressed publicly funded mental health care mistakes,” Bulletin of the Menninger Clinic 2012; 76:1-20.

Ben Chavez, Assistant Professor, Pharmacy Practice, was an invited speaker for a March webinar on “Gambling in Education” for the American Association of College of Pharmacy.

Mahavir Chougule, Assistant Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences, co-wrote “Enhanced anticancer activity of Gemcitabine in combination with Noscapine via antiangiogenic and apoptotic pathway against Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer,” published in PLoS ONE, an international peer-reviewed high-impact factor journal in the field of pharmaceutical sciences.

Deborah Juarez, Associate Professor, Pharmacy Practice, was appointed to the State Health Planning Council by Governor Neil Abercrombie. Additionally, she co-wrote “The Relationship of Hospital Quality and Cost Per Case in Hawai‘i,” published in Inquiry (in press), “Prevalence of Comorbid Conditions with Aging Among Patients with Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease,” in Hawai‘i Med J, and “Prevalence of Coronary Heart Disease and Its Risk Factors Related to Age in Asian, Pacific Islanders, and Caucasians in Hawai‘i,” in Journal of Healthcare for the Poor and Underserved (in press).

Anthony Wright, Associate Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences, co-wrote “Antioxidant Activity of Hawaiian Macro-Algae (Limu),” published in Marine Drugs, and “Correlation between tea leaf age, chemical content, and shade levels,” published in Food Chemistry.
College of Pharmacy students offer Second Annual Health Fair in Miloli‘i

Students from the UH Hilo College of Pharmacy offers its Second Annual Health Fair in Miloli‘i on Saturday, April 7, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Miloli‘i Community Center. There is no admission charge.

The event offers free cholesterol and diabetes screenings as well as blood pressure monitoring. Attendees will have an opportunity to speak with a pharmacist one-on-one about their results and review any medications they may be taking. There will also be numerous health education booths.

The UH Hilo students represent Phi Delta Chi, a professional pharmacy fraternity with more than 43,000 pharmacists and student members nationwide.

In addition to the health fair, the Pharmacy students are planning activities for the keiki, including an Easter egg hunt and egg decorating. Children will have opportunities to make things to take home. Live entertainment will be provided by “Hi-Town,” a Hilo band that won the 2010 Hawai‘i Music Award for Island Contemporary Album of The Year. Attendees will receive a free lunch as well as be eligible to win raffle prizes.

“The event drew about 75 people last year, mostly residents from Miloli‘i, but we want the whole island to know everyone is invited,” said Matthew Sasaki, a third-year student pharmacist who is helping to coordinate the event. “This event is designed to gather families from around Hawai‘i island to learn how to improve their health. We’re excited to also offer some food and entertainment.

“We’re honored to have the opportunity to meet and help the residents of this small, rural community,” Sasaki said. “This is a chance for people from all over the island to visit us in Miloli‘i for this event on Easter weekend.”

For more information, call 933-7663.

Conservation biology/West Hawai‘i outreach featured this month

Focus on UH Hilo’s April telecasts highlight the Master’s program in Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science (TCBES) and a new West Hawai‘i business program. The show airs on Friday evening from 8-8:30 p.m. on Oceanic Digital Channel 355.

Drs. Elizabeth Stacy and Patrick Hart, associate professors of Biology, appear on April 6th program to discuss various highlights of the program in addition to the research and career opportunities available to students.

The April 20th program features Dr. Hank Hennessey, interim dean, College of Business and Economics (CoBE). Hennessey will talk about the College’s first Bachelor’s in Business Administration degree program being offered in West Hawai‘i through the business pathway agreement between UH Hilo and Hawai‘i Community College.

Focus on UH Hilo highlights UH Hilo programs, up and coming developments and the University’s partnerships with various community organizations. Anyone interested in participating in the program should contact UH Hilo’s Marketing and Alumni Office at 974-7501 or 974-7643.

Ka Lono Hanakahī is published by the Office of University Relations during the academic year for faculty and staff of the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo. News and submissions are welcome with priority given to current faculty and staff members. Deadlines are on the fifteenth of each month for the following first of the month publication. Contact Alyson Kakugawa-Leong, Director Media Relations, (808)974-7642 or alyson@hawaii.edu.
The UH Hilo Performing Arts Center presents the popular musical comedy *Hairspray*, Fridays & Saturdays, April 13, 14, 20 & 21 at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays, April 15 & 22, at 2 p.m. *Hairspray* sweeps the audience to 1960s Baltimore where change is in the air. Lovable plus-size heroine Tracy Turnblad (played by Becca Barrett), has a passion for dancing and wins a spot on the local TV dance program, “The Corny Collins Show.” Overnight she finds herself transformed from outsider to teen celebrity. She starts using her fame to speak out for the causes she believes in, most of all, integration. In doing so she earns the wrath of the show’s former star, Amber von Tussle (Heather Chase). The rivalry comes to a head as the two vie for the title of Miss Teenage Hairspray 1962. Can a larger-than-life adolescent manage to vanquish the program’s reigning princess, integrate the television show, and find true love without mussing her hair?

“The production team for *Hairspray* is fantastic! The show is directed by Jackie Seaquist, musical director Quack Moore, choreographer Celeste Staton, with costumes created by Jackie Johnson and Malu Debus, scenery designed by Heiki Wolf and lighting designed by Ariana Bassett,” said producer Lee Dombroski.

“The talented cast features UH Hilo students Christopher Tomich as Turnblad’s mother Edna, Dailee Morrone as Penny, Justin Chittams as Seaweed, Scott Wuscher as Link, Robbie Craddock as Gilbert, Baba Tavares as Stooie, Leah Wilson as Cindy, and community favorites and alumni Jim Thompson as Turnblad’s father Wilber, Yisa Var as Verna, as well as Gene Gold, Cristina Heussey, Pedro Ka’awaloa and many more,” she added.

Tickets are reserved seating and priced at $15 General, $10 Discount and $7 UH Students/Children 12 and under. Box Office hours are Tuesday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

For more information and to purchase tickets, call 974-7310 or order online at: Artscenter. uhh.hawaii.edu.
Campus Events

April

2  “I” Removal Deadline: Student to Instructor
    Last Day to Apply for Credit-by-Exam for Spring
    Priority Deadline to Apply for Summer & Fall 2012 Graduation

6  Holiday: Good Friday
    *Focus on UH Hilo*, 8 p.m., Oceanic Digital Channel 355

9  Graduate Thesis/Dissertation to Committee Deadline

13 “I” Removal and Change of Grade Deadline: Instructor to Ofc of the Registrar
    Last Day to Submit Credit-by-Exam Results to Ofc of the Registrar

13, 14 *Hairspray*, 7:30 p.m., PAC, Admission

15 *Hairspray*, 2 p.m., PAC, Admission

20 Graduate Thesis/Dissertation Defense Deadline
    *Focus on UH Hilo*, 8 p.m., Oceanic Digital Channel 355

20, 21 *Hairspray*, 7:30 p.m., PAC, Admission

22 *Hairspray*, 2 p.m., PAC, Admission