

# Hi Ka Lono Hanakahi

*"News of People Working Together"*

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO

VOLUME 28, NO. 4, DECEMBER 2012

## Takamine to keynote UH Hilo fall commencement

by Ken Hupp



*Dwight Takamine*

Dwight Y. Takamine, director, state Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, delivers the keynote address at UH Hilo's Fall Commencement, held on Saturday, December 15 at 9 a.m. at the UH Hilo New Gym.

Undergraduate students have petitioned for a total of 244 degrees and/or certificates from the College of Arts and Sciences (151), College of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Management (16), College of Business and Economics (35), Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language (19) and the College of Pharmacy (3). Another 20 post-graduate degrees and other honors have also been applied for.

Takamine was born and raised in the plantation community of Honoka'a. He attended Honoka'a Elementary and Honoka'a High School where he graduated as class valedictorian in 1971. Takamine earned his bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, and a law degree from the William S. Richardson School of Law in 1978.

Specializing in labor law, Takamine worked for the firm Bouslong and Symonds in 1978 and established a private practice in 1983. His political career began the following year when he was elected to the State House of Representatives in Hawai'i Island's first district where he served until 2008 when he was elected to the State Senate.

His legislative assignments included chair of the House Finance Committee along with the committees on Labor and Public Employment, Water and Land and the Senate Labor Committee. Takamine left the Senate in 2010 when he was appointed to his current position by newly-elected Governor Neil Abercrombie.

As State Labor Director, Takamine has worked with Agriculture Chair Russell Kokubun to launch a "Veteran to Farmer" initiative on Hawai'i Island, which provides job training to veterans while increas-

## The season of giving thanks

by Chancellor Don Straney



*Chancellor Don Straney*

The Fall 2012 semester is coming to a close and I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you in our campus community for your dedication and commitment to the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. Special recognition and thanks to two people in particular:

Dr. Kenith Simmons has been serving as interim vice chancellor for academic affairs. We all share a debt of gratitude to Kenny for her careful stewardship of academic affairs. (Our new VCAAMatt Platz arrives later this month.)

Gerald De Mello is retiring as director of University Relations. For the past 21 years, Gerald has been an indispensable advocate for the University and a major reason for the growth and development UH Hilo has enjoyed during that period. I know all of you join me in wishing nothing but the very best for Gerald as he embarks on new adventures.

One of the things I am most proud of this semester is the hard work of the UH Hilo 'ohana toward our new Strategic Plan. Administrators, faculty, and staff all have been working together diligently over the semester to implement the goals of the plan. I would like to highlight some of the action steps being taken to implement three of the six goals.

Goal 1 is about providing learning experiences and support to prepare students to thrive, compete, innovate, and lead in their professional and personal lives. This goal is being facilitated through the new

---

## Commencement

*Continued from page 1*

ing economic activity in rural communities. The effort is part of Governor Abercrombie's New Day Plan to implement more meaningful sustainability throughout Hawai'i.

Tifeni Kanoë Elvenia, a Hawaiian Language and Communication major, serves as student speaker. Elvenia graduated from Kamehameha Schools-Kapālama in 2009 and has maintained a 3.8 GPA at UH Hilo. Her academic honors include the Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language Dean's List, Chancellor's Scholarship and Fun Factory Scholarship.

Active in campus affairs, Elvenia presently serves as UH Hilo Student Association Vice President and former Senator for Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language, a student assistant at Hale Kuamo'ō, and the Hawaiian Language Editor for *Hohonu*. She also serves as a Neighbor Island Executive Delegate for the University of Hawai'i Student Caucus (UHSC), and is a representative of the UH Hilo Intercollegiate Athletic Advisory Council.

Elvenia's numerous community activities are rooted in her Hawaiian culture. She is a key dancer in hālau hula 'o Ka Leo O Laka I Ka Hikina O Ka Lā, serves as a student volunteer at the Kamehameha Schools Heritage Center, and has been a member of the UH Hilo, Kamehameha and North Shore Canoe Clubs.

She plans to attend graduate school in the fall.

For more information on Commencement, call the UH Hilo Conference Center at 974-7555 or email [commence@hawaii.edu](mailto:commence@hawaii.edu). For disability accommodations, contact Susan Shirachi at 933-0816 (V) or 933-3334 (TTY). Requests should be made at least 10 business days prior to the event.

*(Editor's note: Ken Hupp is a public information officer.)*

*Ka Lono Hanakahi* 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](mailto:alyson@hawaii.edu).

## Giving Thanks

*Continued from page 1*

Office of Applied Learning Experiences, or ALEX, with Dr. Tom DeWitt as director. ALEX has been created to increase real world learning experiences at UH Hilo and maximize student participation. This includes internships, community based projects, service learning, creative activities, research, practica, and capstone experiences. ALEX is hosting its first conference on undergraduate research from multiple disciplines on Feb. 9. Another conference is planned for April dedicated to expanding applied learning experiences across all fields.

Goal 2 is to inspire excellence in teaching, research, and collaboration. Dan Brown, interim vice chancellor for research and economic development, is heading the expansion of research support services. A priority initiative is a new Science Outreach Resource Center or SOURCE to support faculty researchers and outside research partners in research and STEM education efforts. Another priority is to expand the support services to faculty, staff, and student scholarly activities. To that end, the office is undergoing a reorganization to include personnel from RCUH's Office of Research Administration and Project Development (RAPD) within the UH Hilo office.

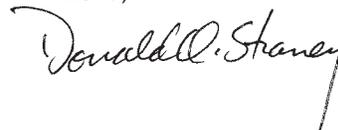
Goal 3 is to foster a vibrant and sustainable environment within which to study, work, and live. Dr. Cam Muir's work with several campus and community groups is leading us to adopt more sustainable practices on campus. UH Hilo has also begun planning for a comprehensive Freshmen Village as early as fall 2014, utilizing the current housing facilities that now constitute the core of the campus. Freshmen Village will be a highly interactive residential first-year experience to help students transition and adapt to UH Hilo academically and socially as freshmen. The village concept will provide ways for students to study and participate in programs and activities together outside the classroom, including the possibility of freshmen research-related projects.

This year, rather than a campus-wide holiday gathering, I will be visiting the various offices and units on campus personally to deliver special holiday wishes. I look forward to seeing each of you!

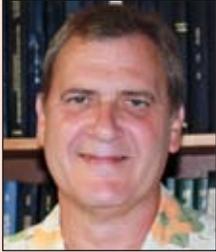
This fall, we have begun discussing two important questions facing UH Hilo: How fast should we grow? How do we help make Hilo a "college town"? When we return for the spring semester, there will be opportunities for broader discussion of these questions. I hope you will contribute your thoughts to the ongoing dialogue about the future of our University.

I wish all of you a safe and healthy holiday season!

Aloha,



## Pezzuto named AAAS Fellow



John Pezzuto

UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Dean John Pezzuto has been named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

Pezzuto was honored “for distinguished service in the advancement of pharmacy and pharmaceutical education, and pioneering work in the field of natural product inhibitors of cancer.” He is widely recognized for discovering the anti-cancer benefits of resveratrol in grapes and grape products.

“This prestigious group has confirmed what we already know about John Pezzuto,” said UH Hilo Chancellor Don Straney. “He’s a dedicated, prolific researcher who attracts positive, national attention to UH Hilo, and we’re fortunate that he is here.”

Pezzuto became the founding dean for the College of Pharmacy at UH Hilo in 2006. He has held several administrative positions in academia, including dean of the College of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Health Sciences at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. He also was associate dean for Research and Graduate Education, University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) College of Pharmacy, deputy director of the UIC Cancer Center and head of the Department of Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacognosy at UIC.

AAAS has nearly 120,000 individual and institutional members and 261 affiliates, serving 10 million scientists in fields ranging from plant biology to dentistry.

This year, 702 members have been awarded this honor by AAAS for their scientifically or socially distinguished efforts to advance science or its applications. From the section on pharmaceutical sciences, only 12 New Fellows will be appointed this year, including Pezzuto.

New Fellows will be presented with an official certificate and a gold and blue (representing science and engineering, respectively) rosette pin on February 16 during the 2013 AAAS Annual Meeting in Boston, MA.

Election as an AAAS Fellow is an honor bestowed upon AAAS members by their peers. The announcement was formally made in the AAAS News & Notes section of the November 30, 2012 issue of *Science*.

## UH Hilo launches coral information websites



Misaki Takabayashi

UH Hilo researchers and students recently launched a pair of websites providing information on the health of various coral reefs around Hawai‘i Island.

A research team led by Dr. Misaki Takabayashi, an associate professor in marine science, has spent the past seven years conducting investigations. The team’s findings are available on-line with easy-to-follow formats:

- <http://geodata.sdal.hilo.hawaii.edu/techgis/wai/indexcopy.html> displays time-series photographs that tracks changes in 48 coral colonies that were observed every month for the last 4-5 years at Waiopae tide pools in Puna.
- <http://coralhealth.spatial.hawaii.edu/> provides basic information about coral health and diseases along with the researchers’ data on coral disease prevalence at several sites around Hawai‘i Island.

Takabayashi’s team included Ph.D. student John Burns, master’s students Makani Gregg and Monika Frazier, and undergraduates Niegel Rozet, Eva Farah, Lauren Kapon, and Danielle Claar.

The health of corals is considered to be fundamental to Hawai‘i’s ocean life with direct cultural, environmental and economic significance. Researchers hope that the websites will help Hawai‘i residents understand the importance of a healthy coral community and the state of its health at various reefs around the island.



# Hats off to...



Chris Frueh

**Chris Frueh**, Professor, Psychology, was senior author on *Assessment and treatment planning for PTSD*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, 2012.

**Kathleen Commendador**, Associate Professor, Nursing, and **Robert Chi**, Specialist, co-wrote "Comparative Analysis of Nursing Students' Perspectives toward Avatar Learning Modality: Gain Pre-Clinical Experience via Self-Paced Cognitive Tool," which was accepted by *Journal of Interactive Learning Research*.



Kathleen Commendador

**Drew Martin**, Professor, Marketing, co-authored "Wearing Community: Why Customers Purchase a Service Firm's Logo Products," published in *Journal of Services Marketing*, 26 (5), 310-321. An earlier version of this manuscript won Best Track Award at the American Marketing Association Summer Educator's Conference in 2011. Additionally, he was appointed Senior Associate Editor of *Journal Business Research*; since 2009, he has served as the Journal's Associate Editor of Buyer Behavior.



Drew Martin

**Armando Garcia-Ortega**, Assistant Professor, Fisheries & Aquaculture, presented the paper, "Feeding hatchery-produced larvae of the giant grouper *Epinephelus lanceolatus*" at the 40th Scientific Symposium of the United States-Japan Natural Resources Panel on Aquaculture, held on O'ahu in October. The paper reports the first successful production of juveniles from a reef fish species at the Pacific Aquaculture & Coastal Resources Center, UH Hilo.



Armando Garcia-Ortega

**Linda Connelly**, Assistant Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented research entitled "Subtype specific effects of inflammatory signaling on osteoprotegerin expression by breast cancer cells" at the European Association for Cancer Research Conference on "The Tumor Microenvironment," Dublin, Ireland, in September. She also was co-author on a paper published in the *Journal of Visualized Experiments* with associates from Vanderbilt University: "Intraductal injection of LPS as a mouse model of mastitis: signaling visualized via an NF-kappaB reporter transgenic."



Linda Connelly

**Dianqing Sun**, Assistant Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a \$50,000 grant from the Leahi fund of the Hawai'i Community Foundation to develop novel natural product-inspired antitubercular agents for treating pulmonary tuberculosis. In addition, he served as co-author on the following publications: "Synthesis of 2-Arylindole Derivatives and Evaluation as Nitric Oxide Synthase and NFκB Inhibitors," *Organic & Biomolecular Chemistry*; "Synthesis and Structure-Activity Relationships of Lansine Analogs as Antileishmanial Agents," *ChemMedChem*; "Evaluation of Flavonoid and Resveratrol Chemical Libraries Reveals Abyssinone II as a Promising Antibacterial Lead," *ChemMedChem*; and "Microwave-assisted Synthesis of Macrocycles via Intramolecular and/or Bimolecular Ullmann Coupling," *Tetrahedron Letters*.



Dianqing Sun

## Rhythm & Blues Revue coming to UH Hilo

The Rhythm & Blues Revue, featuring the UH Hilo Jazz Orchestra, takes the stage at the Performing Arts Center on Thursday, December 6 at 7:30 p.m.

The Jazz Orchestra, comprised of UH Hilo students under the direction of Trever Veilleux, has attracted a growing following over the past few years. This semester's evening of live rock-jazz-soul music will include performances of music by artists Duke Ellington, Tower of Power, Luiz Bonfá, and Aretha Franklin.

The show will also feature a tribute to the Blues Brothers, choreographed by UH Hilo's Dori Yamada and starring special guest vocalists Justin Chittams, Scott Wuscher, Eva Gonzalez, Chris Tomich, Lilinoe Kauahikaua, Kimo Apaka, Cristina Hussey and Le'a Gleason.

This is an open seating event. Admission is \$7 General, \$5 Seniors, Students and Children. For more information, or to order tickets, call the PAC Box Office at 974-7310 or visit [artscenter.uhh.hawaii.edu](http://artscenter.uhh.hawaii.edu).

A photograph of Maestro Michael Russell, a Black man with glasses, wearing a black tuxedo jacket over a white shirt and a dark bow tie. He is holding a white baton in his right hand and gesturing with his left hand. The background is a festive green with bokeh light effects and holiday decorations like red and white ornaments and a silver bell.

### Ring in the holiday season with the UH Hilo Symphony Orchestra

Come and celebrate the holidays with the UH Hilo Symphony Orchestra and Chorus as they present "Sounds of the Season" on Sunday, December 9 at 2 pm in the Performing Arts Centre. Ringing in the festivity with both traditional and contemporary pieces, Maestro Michael Russell will conduct a concert that is certain to provide a melodic gift to both young and old.

Tickets are reserved seating and priced at \$17 General, \$12 Discount and \$7 UH Hilo/HawCC students and children, up to age 17, and are available by calling the UH Hilo Box Office at 974-7310 or ordering online at [artscenter.uhh.hawaii.edu](http://artscenter.uhh.hawaii.edu).



The UH Hilo Vulcans participated in the Annual Lehua Jaycees' Christmas Parade on Saturday, November 24, boasting a strong showing of student/athletes and coaches. "The crowd support was awesome!" Vulcans Senior Women's Administrator/Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance Pam Knox said. "This was a great opportunity to go off campus and give a glimpse of who we are to the community."

---

# Campus Events

## December

- 1 Last day to apply for spring 2013 classified admission
- 6 Last day of instruction  
Last day to completely withdraw with a "W"
- 9 Sounds of the Season, 2 p.m., PAC, Admission
- 10-14 Final examinations
- 14 Fall semester ends
- 15 Fall Commencement, 9 a.m., New Gym
- 17 Final grades due in MyUH, noon