Hawai‘i Island artist, dancer, cultural practitioner and clothing designer Sig Zane delivers the keynote address at UH Hilo’s fall commencement on Saturday, December 21, at 9 a.m. in the UH Hilo New Gym.

Students have petitioned for a total of 262 degrees and/or certificates from the colleges of Arts and Sciences (174), Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Management (19), Business and Economics (21), and Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language (18), while 30 others are candidates for various post-graduate honors.

Zane, an O‘ahu native, moved to Hilo in the mid-1970s in search of an unhurried life and to study the Hawaiian culture. He joined Hilo’s Halau O Kekuhi in 1981 and immersed himself in the art of hula under the direction of Edith Kanaka‘ole, along with daughters Pua Kanahele and Nalani Kanaka‘ole, who he would later marry. Through hula, Zane developed a deep understanding of the relationship between native plants and the Hawaiian culture, which would inspire his line of clothing.

He opened Sig Zane Designs in Downtown Hilo over 25 years ago, featuring a line of aloha shirts, dresses, bags and tees with popular motifs that reflect Native Hawaiian culture, heritage and practices. Zane, Nalani, the their son, Kuhaoimaikalani, have been working together for more than a decade on special projects that combine their unique designs with fundamentals rooted in culture and place. They have produced iconic images for jewelry, hotel rooms and airplanes and most recently created the traditional bamboo stamp design ohe kapala for Hawaiian Electric Incorporated.

Amanda O’Farrell, a Hawaiian Studies major, serves as student speaker. O’Farrell was born in Hilo, raised in Puna, and graduated from the Kamehameha Schools Kea‘au campus. She has maintained a

Several recent reports indicate many college graduates nationwide are having trouble finding their first jobs. The current job market is tough and employers are looking for people with experience. At the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo, we are moving toward an applied learning experience for every student so they will graduate with an immediate advantage: they will have work experience through internships, collaborative research projects with professors, and/or community projects. Many of our students are already working in the community, applying the learning they receive in the classroom, getting real-life experience before they enter the workforce with their degree. When they graduate, they have a degree AND a resume.

Let me share some examples:

Shadd Keahi Warfield is a high school teacher at Ka ‘Umeke Ka‘eo Hawaiian language immersion school in Keaukaha where he was raised. He received his bachelor of arts, master of arts in Hawaiian language and literature, and is currently a candidate for a doctor of philosophy in indigenous language revitalization, all from UH Hilo. As an undergraduate, Keahi was a coach and mentor for Keaukaha
3.6 GPA at UH Hilo and made the Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke’elikōlani Dean’s List four times.

O’Farrell has been an active participant in numerous cultural and environmental initiatives throughout the island. Her immediate post-graduate plans are to care for her two young children but hopes to return within two years to pursue a masters degree in ethnobotany/ethnomedicine. O’Farrell says her dream is to become a traditional Hawaiian healer, practicing the art of la’au lapa’au and lomilomi. She has also expressed interest in pursuing a Ph.D. in traditional medicine or public health.

(Ken Hupp is a public information officer.)

You’re Invited!

Faculty, staff and students are invited to the blessing and dedication ceremony for Hale‘olelo, the new home of Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke’elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language, on Saturday, January 11, 2014.

A formal “Lei Piko” ceremony begins promptly at noon, followed by a Congratulatory Assembly of special messages and performances from 12:30-2 p.m. Light refreshments and guided tours will take place from 2-4 p.m.

Please RSVP no later than December 20 to donnette@hawaii.edu or call 933-7233.

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past year Islands of Opportunity Alliance related to the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (IOA-LSAMP) started a summer undergraduate research program. This program aims to increase the graduation rate of underrepresented students going into STEM fields utilizing extensive scholarship on cross-cultural communication and Pacific islanders indigenous learning styles. The program is managed by the Pacific Internship Programs for Exploring Science (PIPES) and sponsored 10 student interns last summer for 10-week science-based internship projects. The program will continue in future summers.

In January 2014, the UH Hilo 2011-2015 Strategic Plan Progress Review Team will highlight recent activities supporting Goal #5 concerned with the relationship between UH Hilo and the P-20 education system.

A second priority action supporting Goal 4 intends to establish international partnerships within Oceania. In the
Hats off to...

Bryan Kim, Professor, Psychology, has been appointed as Editor of Asian American Journal of Psychology. The AAJP is a peer-reviewed research journal published jointly by the Asian American Psychological Association and the American Psychological Association.

Emmeline de Pillis, Professor, Management, wrote an opinion piece entitled, “In Defense of the Lifestyle Business,” for BizEd magazine that was published last month as part of the publication’s issue on entrepreneurship. The magazine is published by AACSB International and is the only magazine that focuses exclusively on the business education industry.


David Sing, Director, Na Pua No’eau, recently visited the University of Silesia and the University of Lodz in Poland as part of UH Hilo’s partnership with the University of Silesia and a 23 country consortium to share learning that focuses on increasing underrepresented populations into the university. Funded by the European Commission, UH Hilo is the only American university represented in the consortium. Na Pua No’eau has been recognized for its impact on native Hawaiian students at UH Hilo.

Armando Garcia-Ortega, Assistant Professor, Aquaculture, was invited to join the Editorial Advisory Board of the journal Aquaculture. The initial term of the appointment is for two years.

Jon Goebel, Assistant Professor, Art, was recently selected to exhibit his printmaking work in the New Grounds International Juried Exhibition 2013. The exhibition features entries from the U.S., the Netherlands, the Philippines, Australia, Kosovo, and Ireland. More information can be found at www.newgroundsprintshop.com.


Michael Marshall, Professor Art, was selected to participate in the 2013 Pacific Rim International Print Exhibition, a juried show organized through the School of Fine Arts, Christchurch New Zealand, College of Arts, University of Canterbury and presented this month at the Chambers 241 Gallery, Christchurch, New Zealand. He was also represented in the 37th Annual Fall Arts Festival exhibition held last month at the East Hawai’i Cultural Center.

John Pezzuto, Dean, Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy, was recently awarded the “Friends of Pharmacy Award” for 2013 from the Hawai’i Pharmacists Association. The award is given annually to a non-pharmacist who has made significant contributions toward improving or expanding the profession of pharmacy in the State of Hawai’i.
Ron and Alice Taniguchi endow Pharmacy scholarship

Dr. Ronald Taniguchi and his wife, Alice, have made a $25,000 pledge to fund an endowed scholarship to support third- and fourth-year students at the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy. Recipients will be high school graduates from the neighbor islands of Kaua‘i, Moloka‘i and Lana‘i, and have demonstrated leadership skills and a commitment to community service.

“As a founding father, faculty member and now a benefactor, it is difficult to envision stronger dedication than has been embodied by Ron Taniguchi and his wife Alice. We are humbled by their generous support and mindful of our obligation to live up to their expectations,” said Dean John Pezzuto. “The Taniguchi legacy will make a difference to the lives of individual students but ultimately will leave all of our islands with improved health care in critical areas of diabetes and heart health and more. Reaching out to students on Kaua‘i, Moloka‘i and Lana‘i is especially meaningful right now as we show the community and the legislature how the scope of the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy expands to every corner of our State.”

Taniguchi served in leadership roles at two of the largest healthcare organizations in Hawai‘i: Kaiser Permanente and HMSA (Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Hawai‘i). He has also been a leader in the community and held multiple positions in pharmacy associations at the local and national levels. He capped a 40-year pharmacy career as a faculty member at the UH Hilo College of Pharmacy where he served as the director of community partnerships from 2008 – 2011. In this role, he helped galvanize business and industry leaders to lay a strong foundation of support for the college.

“This generous gift is meaningful because it builds on the educational legacies of Ron and Alice Taniguchi,” said UH Hilo Chancellor Don Straney. “It is an investment in our students and in the future of our State. It helps us meet our commitment to keep UH Hilo accessible to the people of Hawai‘i.”

Chinese Studies Program charting 21st century course

As China’s influence expands on the world stage, students at UH Hilo are gaining valuable insight into what makes this emerging superpower tick.

The Chinese Studies Certificate is a 17-credit, multi-disciplinary program with a core focus on language. But the program also features a wide range of coursework and research opportunities to provide students with a broad understanding of China’s various dimensions, including culture, society, art, political science and history, in addition to its language.

“A comprehensive worldview is essential to preparing our students to succeed in the 21st century, where more and more aspects of everyday life demand a global perspective,” explained Dr. Jiren Feng, assistant professor, Chinese. “China is a major power, whose economy will soon become the world’s largest. So anyone who wants to understand the world’s future will want to understand China’s place in it.”

The Chinese Studies Certificate program was implemented in Fall 2011, and awarded its first certificate in May 2012. The program has primarily attracted students enrolled in Chinese language and culture courses, which one would expect. But supporters believe it should also be of interest to students from other disciplines, such as business majors, given China’s economic muscle, and the State’s role in the Pacific region.

“The State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) has established offices in mainland China and Taiwan, while numerous non-profits are being launched to facilitate this area of growth in Hawai‘i’s economy,” said Seri Luangphinith, chair, humanities division. “That opens the door to a wide range of opportunities for business and non-business majors alike.”

She believes students pursuing careers in other fields, including journalism, government, the arts and cultural brokerage, could also benefit from a deeper understanding of China, with additional possibilities in areas such as architecture, science and medicine, where China has made significant contributions.

“China has deep historical ties to Hawai‘i, dating back to the plantation era, and its prominence here is expected to grow over the next several years,” Luangphinith said.

“So the Chinese Studies Certificate could be the key to unlocking the opportunities that this new reality makes possible.”
Jazz Isn’t Dead, It Just Smells Funny coming to UH Hilo

The UH Hilo Jazz Orchestra performs the music of Frank Zappa when it presents Jazz Isn’t Dead, It Just Smells Funny on Thursday, December 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the UH Hilo Performing Arts Center.

“Zappa’s music is complex and technically challenging, yet simultaneously catchy and accessible,” said Orchestra Director Trever Veilleux. “These qualities make it perfect for an educational setting. Its music that is fun to play, but hard to play correctly!”

The program features a range of material drawn from Zappa’s large catalog, with an emphasis on the composer’s jazz-rock compositions from the late ‘60s and early ‘70s.

“The music takes full advantage of the 25-piece Jazz Orchestra,” said Veilleux. “Zappa often wrote for large ensembles and uncommon instruments and I feel very fortunate that we had students audition that play things like bass clarinet, electric violin, or glockenspiel. Being able to cover all these different parts adds authenticity to the performance.”

Joining the Jazz Orchestra will be guest vocalists and dancers performing original choreography by Dori Yamada.

Jazz Isn’t Dead, It Just Smells Funny is an open seating event. Admission is $7 General, $5 Seniors, Students & Children. Advance ticket purchase is recommended. For more information, or to order tickets, contact the PAC Box Office at 932-7490 or artscenter.uhh.hawaii.edu.

UH Hilo lights up the holidays with Season of Light

The UH Hilo Performing Arts Department, in conjunction with the Performing Arts Center (PAC), presents Season of Light, Holiday Concert, on Sunday, December 15, at 2 p.m. at PAC.

The concert, conducted by Kamuela Philharmonic Orchestra Founder and Conductor Dr. Madeline Schatz, features the Kamuela Philharmonic, the UH Hilo Kapili Choir and University Chorus under the direction of Amy Horst, and the Hilo Community Chorus directed by Tom McAlexander. Soloists include Julianne Cross, Melanie Oldfather, Gerdine Markus, Pedro Ka’awaloa, and Barry Branded. Student conductor Chris Tomich conducts the Kapili Choir as Horst joins the alto section for one number.

“We have selected a wide variety of songs and orchestral pieces designed to light up this very busy season and hope our offerings will provide a beautiful and light-filled pause to all who come,” Horst said. “Singers and musicians from all over the island are coming together to present a program filled with sparkle and delight.”

The UH Hilo choirs and Kamuela Philharmonic teams up to perform Christmas Oratorio by Camille Saint-Saens. The three participating choirs and orchestra will also have spotlight sections where each showcases the best of their work.

Tickets are priced at $12 General, $7 Discount, $5 UH Hilo / HawCC students and children, up to age 17, and are available by calling the UH Hilo Box Office at 932-7490 or ordering online at artscenter.uhh.hawaii.edu.
Campus Events

December

2    Graduate Form 3: Thesis/Dissertation to Library & Ofc of Registrar deadline
     Last day to apply for Spring 2014 classified admission
12   Last day of instruction
     Last day to completely withdraw from all classes with a “W”
     Jazz Isn’t Dead, It Just Smells Funny, 7:30 p.m., PAC, Admission
15   Season of Light, Holiday Concert, 2 p.m., PAC, Admission
16-20 Final examinations
20   Fall semester ends
21   Fall Commencement, 9 a.m., UH Hilo New Gym
23   Final grades due in MyUH at noon