Together we can increase access to higher education

by Chancellor Don Straney

Students at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo are increasingly dependent on financial aid. While UH System policy established in 2011 called for an increase in the amount of tuition that is used to provide financial aid to our students, we recognize that even modest increases in costs can be a barrier to some. A high priority for us is to keep the UH System accessible to all eligible students in the State. UH Hilo is blessed with donated funds for scholarships and other forms of aid that offset the impact of tuition increases. But we will need to increase scholarships over the next few years if we want to remain accessible to all our island students. To make college affordable to all, this must be a priority for our campus and for our community.

We know the University and local communities understand and care about the need to give access to as many students as possible. Studies show people who possess a college degree have a much higher lifetime earning potential than those who do not. People with a degree are better able to contribute to or build healthy communities.

But as tuition and other costs rise, higher education becomes less affordable to students from middle- and low-income families. Because of this, we need to do everything we can to give all qualified students access to the funds they need. Let me run some numbers by you.

Taniguchi to deliver Fall Commencement keynote

by Ken Hupp

Barry Taniguchi, chair and chief executive officer of KTA Super Stores and K. Taniguchi, Ltd., will be the keynote speaker at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo’s Fall Commencement on Saturday, December 20 at 9 a.m. in Vulcan Gym.

Students have petitioned for a total of 290 degrees and/or certificates from the colleges of Arts and Sciences (204), Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Management (28), Business and Economics (30), and Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke’elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language (12), while 16 others are candidates for various post-graduate honors.

Taniguchi assumed his present position in February of this year after serving as president and chief executive officer since 1989. He has been a director since 1973 for the chain of Big Island family grocery stores established in 1916 by his grandparents Koichi and Taniyo Taniguchi.

A prominent member of the business community, Taniguchi serves on the Board of Directors for Hawaiian Electric Industries, Inc., American Savings Bank, FSB and Valley Isle Produce, Inc. He is also active in the Chamber of Commerce of Hawai‘i, Hawai‘i Island, Portuguese, and Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Hawai‘i and Hawai‘i Island Economic Development Board.

Under his leadership, KTA Super Stores and K. Taniguchi, Ltd. have been strong supporters of UH Hilo. Initiatives include the Taniguchi Memorial Fund, which established endowments for the five degree-granting colleges to provide a permanent source of funds to enhance each college’s recruitment and retention of faculty. He also created the Koichi and Taniyo Taniguchi Award for Excellence and Innovation, which recognizes creativity in teaching, scholarship and artistic production at UH Hilo.
His monetary contributions are matched, if not exceeded, by his generous donation of time to various UH Hilo endeavors. Taniguchi served 12 years on the Mauna Kea Management Board beginning in 2000, including the last five years as chair, and is a past member of the UH Hilo Chancellor’s Advisory Committee.

Taniguchi’s contributions, however, extend beyond the University to the community-at-large, where he is known as a passionate advocate for giving back through his involvement in numerous service organizations. It would be hard to name a community organization he hasn’t assisted in some way. Taniguchi has held virtually every volunteer leadership position with the Hawai‘i Island United Way from treasurer to annual campaign director, worked on two capital campaigns for Hospice of Hilo, and has served as a member, chair or director with numerous other organizations, including The Hawai‘i Island Food Basket, Boys and Girls Club of Hilo, Business Education Partnership, Rotary Club of Hilo Bay, and the Hilo and Wai‘akea High School Foundation Board of Trustees.

His list of awards and recognition includes the University of Hawai‘i Outstanding Alumnus in 2004, the UH Hilo Alumni and Friends Distinguished Service Award in 2005, and the Hilo High School Foundation Alumnus of the Year in 2007. He has also been inducted into the respective Halls of Fame/Honor for the UH College of Business Administration, Hawai‘i Society of CPAs and Junior Achievement. Other notable honors include the Business Education Partnership’s Hawai‘i District Award, Business Leadership Hawai‘i’s Leadership Legacy Award, and the Hawai‘i Island Chamber of Commerce Humanitarian of the Year.

Evan Matsuyama, a History major, will be the student speaker. Matsuyama was born and raised in Kailua-Kona, and graduated with honors from Kealakehe High School in 2011.

He entered UH Hilo in Spring 2013 after graduating with honors from Hawai‘i Community College in Fall 2012. Since his arrival, Matsuyama has earned a lengthy list of academic honors while maintaining a 4.0 GPA. He has made the College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s List four times and successfully defended his History senior thesis paper entitled, “American Samurai – An Inheritance of Honor: A Historical and Cultural Analysis of the Japanese American Warriors of World War II” in Spring 2014. Matsuyama is also a member of Phi Alpha Theta and is currently serving as president of the UH Hilo History Club.

Matsuyama’s immediate post-graduate plans call for traveling to France to conduct research on the 100th and 442nd units and do volunteer work as a historical consultant and English editor. Matsuyama also plans to apply for admission to the MA/Ph.D History programs at various universities in the U.S. and abroad to study the impact of Japanese-American service during World War II and the impact political activism in the post-war era has had on the American Civil Rights movement.

(Mahalo and Aloha,

Donald C. Stanley)
Chancellor Donald Straney announced that the University’s School of Nursing’s Doctor of Nursing Practice program has received accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The School received the full five-year accreditation status.

“The Commission’s action validates the outstanding efforts of our Nursing faculty and staff in the development and administration of this important program,” Straney said. “The Doctor of Nursing Practice will play a crucial role in helping to meet the demand for nursing providers in this highly skilled area.”

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) is a terminal degree in nursing. The program started at UH Hilo in 2012 and currently has 28 students. The DNP provides training to become Family Nurse Practitioners, which are considered primary care providers with global prescriptive authority. The DNP also has a leadership track for those interested in this area of practice. The program objective is to provide nurses with doctoral-level education focusing on primary care, cultural diversity, health disparities, health promotion and disease prevention in rural communities.

“Accreditation is a recognition of academic excellence,” noted Dr. Katharyn Daub, director, school of nursing. “Our University of Hawai‘i at Hilo administration and leadership saw the vision and need for this program and through their support, our program is in place, strong, and now fully accredited. The Doctor of Nursing Practice degree will help shape healthcare delivery in our community.”

For more information on the DNP program, call 932-7067 or email Dr. Alice Davis at aedavis@hawaii.edu.
UH Hilo Testing Center adds additional GRE and Praxis exam options

Effective September 1, 2014, the UH Hilo Testing Center is under the administration of the College of Continuing Education and Community Service (CCECS). This change allows the Testing Center to continue serving UH Hilo students while also serving a broader range of test takers across Hawai‘i Island.

Currently, the majority of test takers at the Center are graduate school candidates taking either the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) or Praxis exam. Tests were previously administered on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. Based on recent feedback and requests from current and prospective students, as well as certain departments, the Testing Center has added weekend test dates. Effective immediately, the Testing Center will be administering GRE and Praxis exams on most Saturdays and Sundays through February 2015.

UH Hilo’s admission deadline for graduate programs is early in the spring semester. Many other graduate programs share a similar timeline. This increase in testing availability will likely support more students in their graduate school application processes.

For anyone working with students who need to take the GRE or Praxis exam, they are to be directed to the Testing Center web page at http://hilo.hawaii.edu/academics/ccecs/testing-center. They may also contact the Testing Center at 974-7539 or hilotest@hawaii.edu for more information.

Under CCECS, the Testing Center will strive to meet the academic, licensure and certification needs of UH Hilo students and the Hawai‘i Island community. UH Hilo faculty, staff, students and community members are invited to share feedback about testing needs with CCECS Interim Dean Farrah-Marie Gomes at fmgomes@hawaii.edu.

Stotter new UH Hilo Affirmative Action/EEO director

Chancellor Donald Straney announced last month that Jennifer Stotter, Ph.D. has assumed her duties as the University’s new Director of Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity (AA/EEO).

“Jennifer has extensive knowledge in workplace and diversity issues from her experience in the public and private sectors,” said Straney. “That, combined with her experience in the classroom, makes her an ideal fit for this position.”

Stotter joined UH Hilo from CVS Caremark where she had served as director of AA/EEO and Diversity Management since 2011. In her previous capacity, she worked to institute a corporate strategic diversity management plan as well as to create and execute the company’s first enterprise-wide Affirmative Action Planning processes.

Prior to joining CVS, Stotter served on two separate occasions spanning nine years as director of regional operations for the mid-Atlantic region of the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP). She also held faculty positions at various Pennsylvania institutions, including Bloomsburg University, where the College of Liberal Arts honored her with the Outstanding Educator of the Year Award in 2008.

Stotter earned a Ph.D in social welfare policy and Masters in social welfare: planning and program development from Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania.

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Holiday Card to Hilo arrives December 14

The sounds of the season fill the air when Holiday Card to Hilo takes the stage on Sunday, December 14 at 2 p.m. in the PAC.

The event features the combined talents of four musical groups, including UH Hilo’s Kapili Choir and University Chorus under the direction of Amy Horst, and accompanied by Walter Greenwood on piano. Joining them will be the Orchid Isle Orchestra, directed by Cathy Young, and the Hilo Community Chorus, under the direction of Tom McAlexander. Together, they will serve up a unique interpretation of beloved holiday favorites.

Holiday Card to Hilo continues a decade-long tradition of holiday concerts at UH Hilo, which have delighted families and children of all ages with renditions of traditional favorites from “Jingle Bells” to “Joy to the World.” This year’s concert will mark the Orchid Isle Orchestra’s first joint performance with the choirs and will include local school children performing for the first time.

Tickets are $15 General/$10 Discount, and $5 Students w/valid ID and Children 17 & under. The PAC Box Office is open Tuesday-Friday on school days from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. To order by phone, call 932-7490, or order online at artscenter.uhh.hawaii.edu.
Hats off to...

Todd Belt, Professor, Political Science, last month provided campaign and election analyses for KPUA 670 AM radio, and radio show Island Issues. Additionally, his article, “Hawai‘i’s Stormy Primary Election,” was published online by the London School of Economics.

Jon Goebel, Assistant Professor, Art, was recently selected to exhibit his artwork in the Southern Printmaking Biennale VI at the University of North Georgia. The juried exhibition is on display through December 12, 2014 at the Bob Owens Art Gallery in Dahlonega, GA. Details at http://ung.edu/art-galleries/dahlonega/index.php.

Leng Chee Chang, Associate Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a grant for $50,000 from the National Health Institutes’ Research Centers in Minority Institutions Translational Research Network for her work on “Evaluation of Vernonia cinerea (Vc) in the Treatment of Cancer.” Collaborators include Supakit Wongwiwatthanankanit, Associate Professor, Pharmacy Practice, and James Turkson, UH Manoa.

Carolyn Ma, Associate Professor, Pharmacy Practice, was lead author on the chapter, “Career in Pharmacy: Areas and Opportunities,” to be published in Pharmacy for the Curious, Why Study Pharmacy? Co-authors include Assistant Professors Roy Goo and Sheri Tokumaru.

Julie Adrian, Assistant Professor, Pharmacy Practice, was lead author on “Developing pharmacy student communication skills through role-playing and active learning,” accepted for publication in American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education. Co-authors include Paula Zeszotarski, Assessment Coordinator, and Carolyn Ma, Associate Professor, Pharmacy Practice.

Elizabeth Stacy, Associate Professor, Biology, has her research on “Tracing the Evolution of Forest Trees” highlighted on the National Science Foundation’s Discovery website: http://www.nsf.gov/discoveries/.

Jiren Feng, Assistant Professor, Chinese, was invited to deliver his research paper, “The Entanglement of Technology and Culture,” at the international symposium “Redrawing the Zeitgeist of Medieval China: From the Perspectives of Knowledge, Beliefs, Society and Their Interactions” held last month at Fudan University, Shanghai, China. His paper will be published in the symposium proceedings in 2015.

Misaki Takabayashi, Associate Professor, Marine Science, was an invited speaker at the International Symposium of Women Scientists held at Hokkaido University in October. She serves as the co-PI of the UH Hilo EDGE Program for the advancement of female faculty in STEM and spoke about her global experiences with achieving gender equity in the sciences. Additionally, she co-authored an article with her undergraduate research mentee on the ecological effect of the coral disease, Growth Anomaly, which was accepted for publication in the journal Marine and Freshwater Research.

Faculty Congress Lecture Series an early success

The UH Hilo Faculty Congress has lined up speakers through the end of 2015 for its monthly Lecture Series. Mark your calendars and save the dates; all lectures are held on the third Thursday of each month starting at 6:30 pm in UCB Room 100.

Speaking on December 17 will be Dr. Linc Gotshalk, professor and chair of the Department of Kinesiology and Exercise Sciences. His talk is entitled “Physiology of Type II Diabetes.” The presentation will be on the topic of blood sugar control by the body, its comparison to a home’s central heating and air conditioning, and how diabetes mellitus disrupts this control. Explanations of the control mechanisms for blood sugar in the body, including insulin, glucagon, and cortisol, will be presented. Gotshalk will then share the reasons for the increase in diabetes in the world, including the theory of “Evolutionary Mis-match” syndrome.

On January 21, Dr. B. Christopher Frueh, a clinical psychologist and professor in the Department of Psychology, presents “Mental Illness and the Future of Mental Healthcare.” His presentation will explain what mental illness is and how common it is, as well as how it affects individuals, families, and society. The current state of mental healthcare treatment options will also be discussed. This will include a short summary of what we know about psychotherapy, medications, life style modifications, and other biological interventions - as well as new technologies and advances on the horizon. The future of mental healthcare will also be discussed in the context of advances in science and medicine, as well as relevant policy implications.

The College of Continuing Education and Community Service (CCECS) has partnered with Faculty Congress to assist with marketing the lectures. Previous lectures have garnered attendance ranging from 21 to 84 individuals. Live streaming was provided during one session, which attracted an additional audience of 41 viewers online.

Faculty who are interested in presenting at a future session are encouraged to contact Emmeline dePillis at depillis@hawaii.edu.

Estrella appointed interim athletic director

Chancellor Donald Straney announced that former Vulcan Baseball Coach Joey Estrella will assume the position of Interim Athletic Director on January 1, 2015, and the search for a permanent athletic director will begin in early January.

“Now more than ever, successful intercollegiate athletic programs and a solid community partnership go hand in hand,” Straney said. “With this appointment and the selection of a new A.D., strengthening that relationship between Vulcan Athletics and the community will be job one.”

Estrella, who headed the Vulcan baseball program he founded for 37 years, brings extensive experience to the position. From 1980-1989 he served as both head baseball coach and athletic director. He also served as an assistant athletic director from 2009 until his retirement in 2013.

Estrella replaces Tim Moore, whose appointment as interim athletic director ends on December 31, 2014. The new permanent athletic director will succeed Dexter Irvin, who resigned at the end of 2013.

Reserve your spot on UH Hilo Report

Sign-ups for the UH Hilo Report are now being accepted for spring 2015 on a first-come, first-served basis, with an initial limit of one program per semester.

The UH Hilo Report is a one-minute radio feature that is broadcast at NO COST on KWXX, B97-FM, and KPUA 670 AM. The reports are aired multiple times over a minimum two-week period and are also posted on the UH Hilo website.

2014-2015 marks the fourth year of the University’s partnership with New West Broadcasting, who has generously donated the air time that would normally command a premium price.

Contact Ken Hupp at hupp@hawaii.edu to have your program, event or news featured on the UH Hilo Report.
New report on endangered Palila conservation biology

The U.S. Geological Survey recently announced the availability of a report, “Palila Restoration Research, 1996–2012,” which summarizes long-term studies on the conservation biology of the palila (Loxioides bailleui), a critically endangered Hawaiian forest bird found only on the upper slopes of Mauna Kea Volcano. With the publication of this report, the palila becomes the most thoroughly documented Hawaiian bird species.

Topics covered in this extensive report include population dynamics and restoration research, demography and breeding ecology, predator ecology and management, and habitat use, food ecology, and vegetation ecology, and management implications.

The report details how research results can be applied to the conservation of the palila and restoration of its habitat. “Some results can be expected to have immediate, practical value; whereas, other information is more likely to enlarge our understanding of the species so that conservation strategies can be adjusted as conditions change,” said Paul Banko, USGS biologist and co-editor of the new volume.

The major goal of the population and restoration research was to develop methods for reintroducing palila to former range and for enhancing the main palila population on the western slope of Mauna Kea. This work involved evaluating sites where palila could be reintroduced, translocating wild palila to northern Mauna Kea to start a new colony (supplemented by palila bred in captivity by the San Diego Zoo). Translocating palila proved successful in establishing a small breeding colony of palila on the northern slope of Mauna Kea that persisted for a number of years before disappearing during severe drought.

A key aspect of the research was documenting the roles of drought and habitat damage by feral sheep in the sharp decline in palila numbers after 2003. One of the outcomes of the decline was the disproportionate number of male palila in the population, suggesting that females suffered greater mortality under stressful conditions. Although palila were found to be at lower risk for mosquito-borne diseases than are most other Hawaiian birds, their reproductive capacity is low, based on studies of the demographic characteristics of the breeding population, productivity of breeding pairs, and nesting success.

Introduced predators are a longstanding threat to Hawaiian birds, but before this research little was known about their ecology in upland Mauna Kea, their level of threat to palila, or methods for their control. Radio-telemetry was used to track feral cats, mongooses, and rats to determine home range characteristics and activity and movement patterns. Diet studies revealed the roles of cats and mongooses as bird predators. Surveys revealed that populations of rats were relatively small compared to wet forest habitats and that large outbreaks of mice occasionally occurred. This new knowledge of small mammal ecology was applied to understanding the impacts of these invasive predators on palila and other forest birds and to refining control methods.

The report has been published by UH Hilo’s Hawai‘i Cooperative Studies Unit as part of its technical reports series. This document and the research contained within represents the collaborative partnership between researchers from USGS and UH Hilo that has made these studies possible. Edited by USGS researcher Paul Banko and Chris Farmer of the American Bird Conservancy and with contributions from 23 other authors from UH Hilo and other partners, the new report highlights years of work of many hundreds of technicians and volunteers.

Palila research was supported by the Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawai‘i, U.S. Geological Survey Wildlife Program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Hawai‘i Division of Forestry and Wildlife and conducted in partnership with UH Hilo.
Borsting joins ‘Imiloa as deputy director

Esben Borsting has been named deputy director with the ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center. A graduate of Waiakea High School, the Hilo native will oversee all human resources and fiscal operations, and serve as part of ‘Imiloa’s executive management team. Prior to joining ‘Imiloa, Borsting worked at Kapiolani and Windward Community Colleges for over seven years, serving on various UH leadership teams and implementing several federal projects. He brings with him 12 years of experience in higher education management, community-based programs and government.

“It is a great privilege and opportunity to bring my collection of experiences and skills to work for ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center and to support its educational mission,” Borsting said.

Great Leaps!

The UH Hilo Performing Arts Center (PAC) presents the Great Leaps Dance Concert for one night only on Saturday, December 6 at 7:30 p.m. The end of the semester performance brings together more than 100 dance students from UH Hilo and Hawai’i Community College for a celebration of original choreography by instructors and invited choreographers. A wide range of dance styles will be on display designed to entertain audiences of all ages.

Celeste Staton’s Ballet classes will provide a dance of toys come to life and a jeweled waltz by Shostakovich, while Annie Bunker’s UH Hilo Modern I class, with a cast of 21 dancers and large umbrellas, will perform “A Moment in Rain.” Dancers will also take part in the HawCC Modern Jazz 1 class performance “CAUGHT,” which investigates repetitive habits, co-dependency and the sensations of being stuck. The UH Hilo Jazz class will honor Bob Fosse in a piece co-mingled with other fun and funky dance moves.

Kea Kapahua will present a physically demanding and emotionally engaging piece entitled “How Many?” incorporating interviews with two combat veterans to portray some of society’s complexities in dealing with war and peace. And Dori Yamada has created a dance with shifting tones and a mood that mimics the unsettling way that dreams can shift from one minute to the next.

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

December

1       Last day to apply for Spring 2015 Classified, Admission
6       Great Leaps Dance Concert, 7:30 p.m., PAC, Admission
11      UH Hilo Jazz Orchestra’s “It Can’t Happen Here,” 7:30 p.m., PAC, Admission
         Graduate Form 3: Thesis/Dissertation to Library & Office of the Registrar deadline
         Last day of instruction
12      Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy Groundbreaking and Blessing Ceremony, 4 p.m.,
         corner of S. A’ohoku and Nowelo
14      Holiday Card to Hilo concert, 2 p.m., PAC, Admission
15-19   Final exams
17      Faculty Congress Lecture Series with Dr. Linc Gotshalk, 6:30 p.m., UCB 100
19      Last day to completely withdraw from all classes with a “W”
         Fall semester ends
20      Fall Commencement, 9 a.m., Vulcan Gym
22      Final grades due in MyUH at noon

“It Can’t Happen Here” is Dec 11

The UH Hilo Jazz Orchestra presents “It Can’t Happen Here,” the 2nd Annual Frank Zappa Tribute Concert, on Thursday, December 11 at 7:30 pm in the UH Hilo Performing Arts Center.

Musical Director Trever Veilleux says, “the response we received from last year’s concert was overwhelmingly positive. Zappa’s music can be very difficult to perform and students in the band put their heart and soul into learning to play it correctly. I think the audience was genuinely surprised and delighted by the musicianship and performance skills these young musicians displayed. These cats can play!”

Zappa was a prolific composer who released over 60 albums in his lifetime. The concert will feature songs from throughout his career, including material from Mothers of Invention albums from the 1960s to songs recorded on Zappa’s last tour in 1988.

“Zappa used to employ virtuosic musicians and singers and wrote music that allowed them to stretch out and show off their skills,” adds Veilleux. “This makes the music very fun to play for the band and fun to watch for the audience. He also would write for very large ensembles and uncommon instruments for jazz and rock like marimba or electric violin. These qualities make the music ideally suited for the 30 piece Jazz Orchestra.”

This is an open seating event. Admission is $10 General, $5 Seniors, Students & Children. Advance ticket purchase is recommended.

For more information, or to order tickets, contact the UH Hilo Box Office at 932-7490 or artscenter. unh.hawaii.edu.

For disability accommodation, contact Dori Yamada at 932-7496 (V) or 933-3334 (TTY) at least 10 working days prior to the event.