Fall commencement at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo takes on a different look this year, reflecting the view of higher education through an indigenous lens promoted by the UH System’s Hawai‘i Papa O Ke Ao initiative. The program will feature a student speaker, a hula presentation about learning and growth, and the awarding of degrees on Saturday, December 17 at 9 a.m. in Vulcan Gym.

A total of 242 students have petitioned for 318 degrees and/or certificates from the colleges of Arts and Sciences (233), Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Management (21), Business and Economics (30), Pharmacy (6) and Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language (7), while 21 others are candidates for various post-graduate honors.

Kyle James Davis, an agriculture major, will represent the graduating class as student speaker. Davis, who will receive a BS in tropical horticulture, has maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.48. His academic achievements include being named to the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Management Dean’s List in 2013 and 2015. Davis also earned a Semester at Sea Scholarship and spent the spring of 2014 studying aboard the MV Explorer in nearly a dozen countries.

His campus activities are centered around his major and expertise as the local organic farm owner and operator of Kaimana Cave Farm. He hosts field trips for several UH Hilo Agriculture and Geology classes and has hosted dozens of young adults in the World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms (WWOOF) program to teach organic and sustainable farming practices.

Davis is an ordained minister, who served five years in the US
Army, including over two and a half years in Iraq as a combat medic. His commencement address will draw from his numerous life experiences and will include a call for his fellow graduates to broaden their horizons.

“Don’t let anyone tell you that you can be anything someday when you grow up. Be everything! Do it now!” Davis said. “I’ve been a medic, a firefighter, a soldier, an explorer, a minister, a caveman, a farmer, a boat captain, a teacher and there are so many other things I will be in this long, long life, because everything is possible.”

The chant-hula will be performed by UNUKUPU-KUPU, Indigenous Leadership through Hula Program under the directorship of Pele Ka’io, Hawaiian Protocols Committee chairperson, and Dr. Taupōuri Tangarō, director of Hawaiian Culture and Protocols Engagement, at UH Hilo and Hawai’i Community College.

Organizers anticipate a dynamic performance, with at least 50 individuals representing UH Hilo, HawCC, and Waiakea High School. Gail Makuakane-Lundin, interim executive assistant to Chancellor Don Straney, director of Kipuka Native Hawaiian Student Center, and a member of UNUKUPUKUPU, will introduce the chant-hula, entitled ‘Ulei Pahu I Ta Motu, which was composed more than 200 years ago and documents the evolution of world view.

“The chant and hula celebrate the learner’s evolved and informed worldview through the academic process,” Makuakane-Lundin said. “It encourages the graduates to integrate their education into their respective communities with aloha.”

The chant-hula will be preceded and followed by the sounding of 20 pahu (drums) and 20 pū (conch-shell trumpets) honoring the heart-drum beat of all mothers and grandmothers from whose bodies we enter this space and time. The 20 pū will also sound honoring our Moana-nui-ākea (large and broad oceans) that connect Hawai‘i to the world. The performance will conclude with the presentation of Pa‘akai (sea-salt) to honor the profound intersection where the learner transitions to graduate.

Straney said fall commencement provides a unique opportunity to showcase the UH Hilo – Hawai‘i Community College Papa O Ke Ao collaboration, which seeks to make the UH campuses leaders in indigenous education.

“We believe commencement is an appropriate time to celebrate Hawai‘i’s Foundations of Enlightenment and Knowledge,” Straney said. “Both institutions have large, stand-alone events in the spring, but fall commencement allows us to come together as one ‘ohana to honor our student’s achievements and host culture.”

UH Hilo was among three local nonprofit organizations on Hawai‘i Island recently presented with Smart electric vehicles by the Hawaiian Electric Industries (HEI) Charitable Foundation and Hawai‘i Electric Light Company on November 17. Vehicles and symbolic keys were also presented to the Boys & Girls Club of Hawai‘i Island and HOPE Services Hawai‘i.

The car is a lightly-used Smart for Two electric vehicle manufactured by Mercedes-Benz that is equipped with electric charging equipment. Smart electric vehicles have been rising in popularity in recent years due to their lower cost per mile than vehicles with a conventional gasoline-fueled engine, along with reduced carbon emissions and noise pollution levels.

“We are thankful and honored to have been selected as one of the recipients,” said University Relations Director Jerry Chang, who accepted the donation on behalf of UH Hilo during the November 17 presentation in Hilo. “This is another step in our goal of conservation and starting an Energy Science program at UH Hilo.”

The vehicle is presently located in the Auxiliary Services parking lot near the existing covered electrical outlet. Auxiliary Services Director Kolin Kettleson says the University’s goal is to use it when it’s practical, to increase UH Hilo’s visibility in the community.

“Because of the limited range and required charging times, this vehicle isn’t appropriate for the motor pool,” Kettleson said. “So we’re looking at assigning it to Administrative Affairs for the near future, to enable employees from the various divisions to use it for off-campus trips and meetings.”

UH Hilo was chosen as a recipient along with the UH Manoa, West O‘ahu and Maui College campuses due to the integral role the University of Hawai‘i plays in promoting Hawai‘i’s goal to achieve a 100 percent clean, energy future.

(L-R) Jerry Chang, UH Hilo Director of University Relations, Nico Verissimo, Director Alumni Engagement-Hawai‘i Island, UH Foundation, Jay Ignacio, President, HELCO, and AJ Halagao, Manager of Corporate Community Advancement, pose with UH Hilo’s Smart car.
with the Tsuzuki Education Group is a natural partnership, building on the longstanding relationship between Fukuoka and Hawai‘i to work collaboratively on common, modern challenges in a wide range of fields: business, pharmacy, traditional medicine, disaster resilience, technology, and sustainability.

This new system-to-system partnership builds on already existing agreements between UH Hilo and Tsuzuki, including exchange programs with the Yokohama University of Pharmacy and Japan University of Economics.

UH Hilo’s Conference Center is already arranging study trips for Japanese students. Representatives from Yokohama University of Pharmacy came to visit us here and we put together a series of short visits for students; Japan students can see how we do things and vice versa for our students. We hope now to expand these types of exchange opportunities for students both ways.

While in Japan, Carolyn Ma and I visited the different campuses and pharmacy facilities to look at ways we could establish and expand research exchanges and collaborations. The pharmacy schools in Japan are researching traditional medicines, which dovetails nicely with the research being done on natural products at our pharmacy college.

Three campuses in Japan are working on business and economic issues—faculty there are very interested in the impact of Japanese tourism and are doing innovative work on economic development. Our new interim dean of the College of Business and Economics, Drew Martin, will be traveling to Japan to discuss different opportunities to collaborate on programs of benefit to both Japan and Hawai‘i.

Another area of shared interest is with the use of unmanned aerial vehicles for data collection; we can share strategies for approaching challenges such as natural disaster response, collecting geographic data, and mapping areas such as agricultural lands and conservation areas.

I’m excited about the education and research opportunities this partnership will bring as we work together through collaborations with faculty and students to create a better future of mutual benefit for both the people of Japan and Hawai‘i.

For photos from the trip and more information, visit the post on my blog: Chancellor Straney visits universities in Japan.

Aloha,

Donald C. Straney

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**UH Hilo student programs chosen for holistic care initiative**

The UH Hilo Student Health & Wellness Programs is among six organizations selected to join the Joyful Heart Foundation’s (JHF) Heal the Healers Hawai‘i project. The initiative, funded by the Atherton Family Foundation, will pilot a series of training and technical assistance sessions to provide local programs with the tools to support individual staff wellness while strengthening organizational mechanisms to counter vicarious trauma through policies and procedures.

UH Hilo Student Health & Wellness Programs provide systems of holistic care that integrate education and prevention efforts with medical and mental health services, programs and activities. University staff who provide direct support services to survivors of child abuse and neglect, domestic violence and sexual assault, have also been invited to participate in the Heal the Healers Hawai‘i project.

The other Statewide recipient organizations include PACT: Parents and Children Together, YWCA of Kaua‘i, Hawai‘i Immigrant Justice Center of the Legal Aid Society of Hawai‘i, Women Helping Women Maui, and Ho‘ōla Nā Pua.

The Joyful Heart Foundation was founded in Kailua-Kona in 2004 by actress and advocate Mariska Hargitay of the long-running TV series Law and Order: SVU. JHF has grown into a national effort to transform society’s response to sexual assault, domestic violence and child abuse, support survivors’ healing, and end the violence.

For more information, contact Dr. Sulma Gandhi at sulma@hawaii.edu or visit: [http://www.joyfulheartfoundation.org/programs/healing-wellness/heal-healers](http://www.joyfulheartfoundation.org/programs/healing-wellness/heal-healers).
Program Spotlight

*Ka Lono Hanakahi* is launching a new feature to highlight the work of various programs at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo. Program Spotlight will select a specific program and follow it throughout the entire academic year, providing monthly updates, including photos on various developments and events.

We begin this month with the Adopt-A-Beehive with Chef Alan Wong program, whose participation in the Taste of the Hawaiian Range event was featured in last month’s issue.

**Adopt-A-Beehive with Chef Alan Wong**

by Ken Hupp

UH Hilo and a famed Hawai‘i chef teamed up in 2011 to play an active role in promoting and spreading awareness of the importance of honey bees in local and global sustainability.

“The public is pretty familiar with the threat faced by honey bees,” said Dr. Lorna Tsutsumi, professor of entomology, College of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Management. “But what they may not realize is that more than 80 percent of our food supply is directly or indirectly associated with honey bee pollination, which is why their survival is so critical.”

The honey bee decline caught the attention of long-time friend and Chef Alan Wong, which led to establishment of the Adopt-A-Beehive with Alan Wong program that provides financial support for UH Hilo beekeeping courses, scholarships for students, and public education events. The funding is provided by donors, who adopt a hive, that is managed by beekeeping students at the UH Hilo Ag Farm in Pana‘ewa. Levels of funding range from $300 –$1,000.

In turn, adopters receive periodic reports and photos of their assigned bee colony from the students taking care of the hive. They also receive their own personal supply of honey/honey products, along with invitations to join Wong at bee and agricultural-related activities on campus, at his restaurant in Honolulu, or at the UH Hilo Ag Farm.

Since its inception, the program has attracted about 110 donors annually, who have contributed some $250,000, while awarding 18 scholarships with an estimated value of $18,000, and supported Tsutsumi’s entomology classes by funding equipment and tools needed to continue her practical application of beekeeping in a tropical environment.

“Support for the program has not On October 29, the Adopt-A-Beehive with Alan Wong program hit the road to Ko Olina Resort on O‘ahu for Keiki in the Kitchen. The event is part of the Hawai‘i Food and Wine Festival and promotes healthy food, fitness and fun for children (and adults, too!). The program provided free comb honey samples and educated the public on the importance of honey bees for both their pollination services for agricultural crops and the usable products from the hive. Over 1,000 attendees enjoyed the day. Also attending to watch his granddaughter participate in the keiki cooking contest was Mike Crowell, a cooperating farmer. Photo: Dr. Lorna Tsutsumi (standing), Mike Crowell of Wailea Agricultural Group, and technician Cheryl Yara at the program exhibit.
Program Spotlight
Continued from page 4

only made more resources available for students, but has generated more interest in our beekeeping courses and beekeeping in general,” Tsutsumi said. “That has led to development of a beekeeping certificate we now offer.”

By supporting research and development of healthy beehive practices, the program seeks to increase the number of successfully managed bee colonies throughout the State and establish a steady pipeline of educated and experienced beekeepers on both the professional and hobby level.

For more information about the Adopt-A-Beehive with Chef Alan Wong program, visit http://hilo.hawaii.edu/adoptabeehive/.
**Hats off to...**

**Jackie Pualani Johnson**, Professor, Drama, recently performed at the 100th Memorial Service for Lili‘uokalani at the Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin, recreating Hawai‘i’s last Queen and sharing information about her visit to a Buddhist ceremony in 1901. The occasion also marked the anniversary of Lili‘uokalani Gardens, where the Queen’s land gift to Hilo was transformed into a Japanese nïhon koen, or public garden, honoring the Queen’s contribution to Buddhism in Hawai‘i. The script was researched by KT Cannon-Eger and Johnson shaped the info into a presentation before the Hawaiian Royal Societies, visiting Bishop Matsumoto, dignitaries, and the congregation.

**Todd Belt**, Professor, Political Science, was awarded the John W. Kluge Fellowship in Digital Studies at the Library of Congress for 2017.

**Chris Frueh**, Professor, Psychology, was co-author on “Operationalizing NIMH Research Domain Criteria (RDoC) in naturalistic clinical settings.” Bulletin of the Menninger Clinic 2016; 80:187-212, and “The gut microbiome is associated with disease severity among individuals with complex neuropsychiatric disorders,” which was presented at the 6th Annual Meeting of the International Human Microbiome Consortium in Houston, TX.

**Dan Brown**, Professor, Anthropology, co-edited the book Biological Measures of Human Experience (Springer 2016) and authored one chapter, “Stress biomarkers as an objective window on experience,” and co-authored two others in the volume. He also recently coordinated an international conference held at UH Hilo in August, entitled “Modernization and Health in the Asia-Pacific Region,” which was co-sponsored by the Human Biology Association and the Japan Physiological Anthropology Society. His co-authored paper, “An investigation of life circumstances associated with the experience of hot flashes in Campeche, Mexico,” was published in the journal Menopause (vol. 20, 2016), and his co-authored chapter, “Symptoms at menopause: risk factors for chronic health concerns,” appeared in the edited volume Anthropology and Public Health, Ljubljana, Slovenia: National Institute of Public Health, 2016:181-194.

**Makalapua Alencastre**, Associate Professor, Hawaiian Studies, recently participated in the Center for Advance Research on Language Acquisition’s (CARLA) 6th International Conference on Immersion & Dual Language Education held October 20-22 in Minnesota. She led a pre-conference workshop on “‘Ike Mauli Lahui: Cultivating Cultural Identity within Hawaiian Medium Education,” and presented an invited symposia, “Educational Innovations in Immersion Teacher Preparation and Development.”

**Jiren Feng**, Associate Professor, Chinese, has been invited by Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin, Germany, to join a week-long, fully-funded collaborative workshop on Chinese building materials in local gazetteers, to be held in March 2017. Feng will join an international working group for studying Chinese historical records of various construction materials through a large digital humanities project.
Holiday Card to Hilo: Christmas Around the World is Dec. 11

The public is invited to Holiday Card to Hilo: Christmas Around the World at the University of Hawai‘i at the Hilo Performing Arts Center on Sunday, December 11, at 2 pm.

Join the UH Hilo Kapili Choir and University Chorus under the direction of Amy Horst, the Orchid Isle Orchestra under the direction of Cathy Young, the Hilo Community Chorus under the direction of Tom McAlexander, and VOICES under the direction of Mark Sheffield, performing holiday classics, favorites and more.

Tickets are reserved seating and priced at $20 General, $15 Discount, and $7 UH Hilo/Hawai‘i Community College students (with a valid student ID) and children, up to age 17, pre-sale, and $25 General, $20 Discount and $12 UH Hilo/HawCC students (with a valid student ID) and children, up to age 17, at the door.

Tickets are available by calling the UH Hilo Box Office at 932-7490 or ordering online at artscenter.uhh.hawaii.edu.

Zappa-4-ever coming to UH Hilo PAC

The UH Hilo Jazz Orchestra presents its 4th Annual Frank Zappa Tribute Concert Zappa-4-ever on Wednesday and Thursday, December 7 & 8, at 7:30 p.m. in the UH Hilo Performing Arts Center.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Zappa’s debut album Freak Out! In celebration, the concert will feature songs from Freak Out!, such as Hungry Freaks Daddy and Trouble Every Day. Musical Director Trever Veilleux describes Zappa as a brilliant social commentator and notes a song like Trouble Every Day with lyrical themes of racial violence, social injustice, and sensational journalism is just as relevant today as it was when it was released in 1966.

“Because 2016 has been so crazy we decided to include more of Zappa’s political songs in this year’s show,” Veilleux said. “The concert will also feature songs from the albums You Are What You Is, Bongo Fury, We’re Only In It For the Money, and more.”

The UH Hilo Jazz Orchestra includes over 25 singers and musicians with a large horn section blowing over a rock and roll rhythm section. To capture Zappa’s complex music, the orchestra began rehearsals for the show back in August.

“Zappa always had amazing musicians in his bands, and he would push them to their limits with very challenging compositions,” said Veilleux. “Our students have the difficult task of performing these compositions. They’ve worked incredibly hard throughout the semester to bring our audience a tight, professional-sounding show.”

Tickets are open seating priced at $10 General, $7 Discount, $5 seniors, students w/valid ID & children 17 and under. Advance ticket purchase is recommended. For more information, or to order tickets, contact the UH Hilo Performing Arts Center Box Office at 932-7490 or artscenter.uhh.hawaii.edu.

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Oh Snap!

UH Hilo Holiday Celebration
Friday, December 9, 2016
3-4:15 p.m. - UBC 127

COOKIE CONTEST RULES

Contestants can be individuals or in groups
Each contestant is allowed up to 2 entries
Contestants must enter the contest by 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 7th
Entries must be submitted through email to uhhconferencecenter@gmail.com or call UHH Conference Center at (969) 932-7040
A minimum of 3 dozen cookies (total of 36) must be baked
Each entry must submit a card with the cookies name and ingredients
Contestants must drop off their cookies between 2:45-3:15 p.m. in UCB 127

1st Place $150
2nd Place $100
3rd Place $50
UH Hilo Briefs

December

2, 3  Great Leaps!, 7:30 p.m., PAC

4  Vulcan Women’s Basketball vs. Notre Dame de Namur University, 5 p.m., Civic, Admission
    Vulcan Men’s Basketball vs. Notre Dame de Namur University, 7:30 p.m., Civic, Admission

7, 8  Zappa-4-ever, 7:30 p.m., PAC

8  Last Day of Instruction

9  UH Hilo Holiday Celebration, 3 p.m., UCB 127

10  Vulcan Women’s Basketball vs. Chaminade University, 5 p.m., Civic, Admission
    Vulcan Men’s Basketball vs. Chaminade University, 7:30 p.m., Civic, Admission

11  Holiday Card to Hilo: Christmas Around the World, 2 p.m., PAC

12-16 Final Examinations

16  Vulcan Men’s Basketball vs. Seattle Pacific University, 7:30 p.m., Civic, Admission

17  UH Hilo Fall Commencement, 9 a.m., Vulcan Gym
    Vulcan Women’s Basketball vs. University of Alaska Anchorage, 4 p.m., Civic, Admission

19  Final Grades Due in MyUH, Noon
    Vulcan Women’s Basketball vs. Dominican University, 5 p.m., Civic, Admission
    Vulcan Men’s Basketball vs. Dominican University, 7:30 p.m., Civic, Admission

29  Vulcan Men’s Basketball vs. Northwest Indian College, 7:30 p.m., Civic, Admission