UH Hilo and HawCC ink historic partnership

by Ken Hupp

UH Hilo and Hawai‘i Community College (HawCC) ushered in a new era of cooperation last month with the signing of a memorandum of understanding that will enable the schools to promote a new system of coordinating undergraduate classes for students attending both institutions.

The agreement established a Degree Pathways Partnership Program, which allows students beginning their college education at HawCC to complete it easily at UH Hilo. The agreement was signed on January 23 by UH Hilo Chancellor Rose Tseng and HawCC Chancellor Rockne Freitas during a ceremony on the HawCC campus.

“This is a historic day for both institutions,” Tseng said at the ceremony. “Through this partnership, we can make educational opportunities available to more students and encourage them to strive for an even higher level of achievement.”

The program will increase student access, success and four-year degree completion through improved academic program articulation, admission to and advising from the four-year program to students currently attending HawCC, and better alignment between the learning goals at each institution. Freitas said the program is an idea whose time has come.

New VC Hong: right woman, right time, right place

One thing that may have gone unnoticed by some during this unprecedented growth spur at UH Hilo is the exceptional quality of new hires coming aboard to assume key faculty and administrative roles.

One such hire is Dr. Luoluo Hong, the new vice chancellor for student affairs. In her previous position as dean of student affairs at Arizona State University’s West Campus, her achievements include the record enrollment of 558 full-time, first-time freshmen in Fall 2006, the development of a strong student-centered partnership between academic affairs and student affairs, and assumption of oversight for campus residence life programs from a third-party private vendor, which increased residence hall occupancy by 38 percent and doubled lease renewal rates.

“We’re very pleased to have attracted a candidate with such outstanding qualifications for this important position,” Chancellor Rose Tseng said. “Dr. Hong’s expertise in enrollment management and improving student services will enable us to continue building on the gains we’ve made in these areas.”

Prior to joining ASU, Hong served as dean of students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.
“It’s about time,” Freitas said. “Our students will now have the confidence that the credits they completed and degree they earned will count. We want to thank everyone involved for their efforts in making this happen.”

Once an individual program articulation is completed, students in the selected HawCC program will be eligible for future dated admission to the corresponding UH Hilo program following completion of the A.A. or A.S. degree, and meeting the admitting program’s G.P.A. requirement.

“We enroll a lot of students who know they want to attend college but aren’t necessarily thinking about earning a baccalaureate degree,” said Noreen Yamane, HawCC interim assistant dean for academic affairs. “Our hope is that this program will change that dynamic, because we believe there is no reason they wouldn’t thrive in a four-year institution.”

Under the program, representatives from the Offices of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at UH Hilo and HawCC will identify programs on each campus that would benefit from an articulation agreement and work with faculty to develop curricular pathways and advising materials to facilitate transfer between the two institutions.

The first of what is expected to be several agreements was signed today between HawCC’s AA Degree Program and UH Hilo’s College of Business and Economics (CoBE). The agreement, which commences with fall registration, spells out the courses which will enable students earning their A.A. degree with a business emphasis to make a seamless transition to CoBE.

Although the first to be signed, it is not the first cooperative initiative between the two institutions. The Administration of Justice programs at the two schools have already established an effective linkage whereby students take HawCC courses as electives for the UH Hilo major. That informal agreement is now being expanded to include additional HawCC courses that will apply to the UH Hilo program.

“This really is the model for what we are doing,” said Dr. Kenith Simmons, UH Hilo assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs. “The Administration of Justice partnership has shown how well a coordinated approach can work for both schools.”

Donette Heyano, a junior pursuing a B.A. in administration of justice, said the UH Hilo – HawCC partnership made all the difference in her life. A non-traditional student, Heyano enrolled at HawCC in 2004 and transferred to UH Hilo in Fall 2007.

“As a first-time college student and single parent, with a full-time job, I questioned whether I was up to the challenge of enrolling directly in a four-year college,” Heyano said. “The time I spent at HawCC with the guidance, support, and encouragement I received helped me gain confidence that I could succeed at the next level, and made my education more affordable because of the lower tuition.”

While at HawCC, Heyano became a member of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society and was named Distinguished Chapter President of the Pacific Region in 2006-2007. Upon graduation, she looks forward to a career working in the areas dealing with domestic violence, child abuse, or juvenile justice.

Meanwhile, a future articulation agreement between Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke’elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language and the Hawaiian Studies faculty at HawCC is under discussion. The Hawaiian Language faculty from both campuses will be meeting to discuss common learning outcomes expectations for the first- and second-year language courses with the intention of easing transition into junior-level coursework.

Another agreement in the works would establish a partnership between UH Hilo’s College of Forestry, Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (CAFNRM) and HawCC’s Forestry program. CAFNRM is currently working to create a B.S. with a specialization in forestry, which will form the basis for the partnership.

A key benefit for HawCC transfers and students registering concurrently at the two institutions is a new priority registration. Students admitted under the Degree Pathways Partnership will be afforded access to the faculty member coordinating the joint program at UH Hilo. They will also be able to register via the UHPortal for UH Hilo courses during the school’s Early Registration period prior to the student’s first semester.

“UH Hilo and HawCC have enjoyed a long, productive partnership in providing opportunities in higher education,” Tseng said. “By making an already transfer-friendly process even more user-friendly, we hope that more students will utilize both institutions in meeting their educational goals.”

(Editor’s note: Ken Hupp is a public information officer.)
NSF leader heads scientific research at UH Hilo

by Ken Hupp

Chancellor Rose Tseng last month announced the appointment of Dr. Michael P. Crosby as interim vice chancellor for research, effective January 8, 2008.

Funded by the National Science Board, Crosby’s initial appointment is for one year, with an option to renew for an additional year. During this period, Crosby will be on a leave of absence from his current position as executive director of the National Science Board, which sets policies for the National Science Foundation (NSF) and serves as an independent advisory body to the President and Congress on science and engineering research and education.

Crosby will be responsible for strengthening science and engineering research at UH Hilo, developing the University in such areas as its research capacity, competitiveness, and management capabilities. He will foster excellence in research, strong linkages to undergraduate education and the incorporation of Hawai‘i Island’s natural environment and cultural diversity into UH Hilo’s research endeavors.

The appointment was suggested following the National Science Board’s June 2007 visit to UH Hilo, where Board Chair Dr. Steven C. Beering praised UH Hilo for “weaving Native Hawaiian and broader Pacific Island culture and perspectives into science and engineering research and education in Hawai‘i.”

“We can benefit and learn from the Hawai‘i model for pro-actively broadening participation of under-represented minorities in fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics,” Beering said.

Crosby earned an MS in biology with honors from Old Dominion University and a PhD in marine estuarine-environmental sciences from the University of Maryland. He brings over 30 years of diverse research and leadership experience to his new position.

“Dr. Crosby is well known among his colleagues throughout the research community, who hold him in very high regard” said Chancellor Rose Tseng. “We are fortunate that the National Science Board allowed him to take a leave of absence to come to UH Hilo. Having someone of his stature will be a tremendous asset as we seek to expand our research infrastructure and attract more funding, which are critical to maintaining high quality in scientific research.”

Prior to becoming executive director of the National Science Board in 2003, Crosby held several positions with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), ranging from chief scientist for sanctuaries and reserves to senior advisor for international science policy. Crosby also served as senior science advisor for marine and coastal ecosystems at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and held several science positions with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the National Cancer Institute, in addition to faculty positions at several universities.

An A list researcher, he has been awarded research grants from a wide variety of organizations, including the NSF, Environmental Protection Agency, NOAA, Department of Defense and USAID. During the past 15 years, Crosby has led national and international multi-disciplinary research programs and developed national policy for the country’s science programs.

Crosby serves as a reviewer and panelist for numerous scientific journals, advisory committees and national and international science panels. He has written more than 40 articles for major marine science journals and edited several books and manuals dealing with marine protected life and coral reefs.

“I’m looking forward to the challenge of helping fulfill Chancellor Tseng’s vision of enhancing existing programs within UH Hilo, while developing and implementing new programs and partnerships that can form the basis of locally, regionally and globally relevant research initiatives,” Crosby said. “I see tremendous potential for the University as a nexus institution, where future generations of scientists and a scientifically literate citizenry can be educated and launch their careers.”

Alumni, int’l students & nursing highlight February telecast

Focus on UH Hilo highlight two signature events along with the University’s Nursing program during the show’s February telecasts. The show is hosted by Chancellor Rose Tseng, and airs live Wednesday evenings during the instructional year from 8:00 – 8:30 p.m. on Channel 55.

The February 6th show includes a preview of this year’s Distinguished Alumni and Service Awards event. Guests include Event Co-Chair Sandy Tokuuke and Carol Van Camp, who is chairing the event’s silent auction. International Student Services Director Dr. Ruth Robison will also appear on the show to preview this year’s International Nights event.

Dr. Kay Daub, chair and associate professor of nursing, will appear on the February 20th telecast to discuss the latest developments and opportunities in the UH Hilo Nursing program. Daub will be joined by a member of the Nursing alumni.

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 x47501 or x47643.
Ostertag puts NSF CAREER grant to work

Under the leadership of Chancellor Rose Tseng, grant monies to UH Hilo for research have increased almost exponentially, putting the school among the nation’s top 15 research institutions among colleges of similar staff size.

“We’ve received a total of 613 grant awards since the Chancellor’s arrival, and (the Research Corporation of UH Hilo) is now managing 345 active accounts worth $96.3 million, with $18.5 million still to be designated for research projects,” said Dr. Dan Brown, professor of anthropology and UH Hilo’s research and graduate studies coordinator. The growth is staggering when one compares those numbers to the just over $3 million in research grants UH Hilo garnered in 1997.

Dr. Rebecca Ostertag is now in her second year of a five-year National Science Foundation CAREER grant. The assistant professor of biology is one of the bright young scientists on the vanguard of research boom at UH Hilo.

“All I can say is that five-year NSF CAREER grants are very hard to get and only go to the most promising scientists in the country,” said Dr. Leon Hallacher, professor of biology and chair of the Natural Sciences Division.

Ostertag, whose specialty is tropical forest ecology, is studying the mechanisms and consequences of nitrogen and phosphorus in Hawaiian wet forest ecosystems.

“I feel on track in our second year,” Ostertag said from the mainland, while on sabbatical. “The proposal had six major objectives -- four relating to research and two relating to education. We’ve -- meaning myself, a technician, and several undergraduate helpers -- accomplished the first research objective through our field sampling and chemical analyses, using equipment in the UH Hilo Analytical Laboratory established by the NSF EPSCoR grant, and through a collaboration with the UH Manoa Chemistry Department. I presented a talk on this research at the Ecological Society of American meeting in August 2007 in San Jose, California; I am currently working on a publication of this research. Right now, we are working on the second research objective -- doing field sampling in Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park and in Koke‘e State Park on Kaua‘i.”

The inclusion of undergraduates as research assistants both enhance Ostertag’s effectiveness as a teacher and give her students knowledge of research methodology they are unlikely to receive elsewhere at this stage of their education. Ostertag also conducts workshops on research and related topics for her student-assistants.

“We did several workshops last year and will continue to do more,” she said. “We did one on how to find summer research opportunities in the environmental sciences, and another one on writing personal statements. We did these workshops in collaboration with PIPES, PACRC, EPSCoR, LSAMP, Keaholoh, and UH Hilo MOP. We had great turnouts, an average of 45 students. All of the materials from those workshops are on my personal Website, but will be available as part of the large Website we are developing.

“These groups listed above are also helping in our Website development, and I’ll be seeking further input from other departments and groups soon,” she added. “Our goal is to help students diversify their understanding of what they can do with a degree in an environmental science field, which we think is very important for students in Hawai‘i.”

Ostertag said that she keeps in contact with both her graduate and undergraduate students while on sabbatical through e-mails and meetings.

“I’ve been using the time to get a new field campaign done at our sites in Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park and on Kaua‘i,” she said. “I’ve been invited to several functions on the mainland and have used that time to visit colleagues at mainland universities to give informal seminars so that I can get feedback on the research done by our lab group, meaning three graduate students, several undergraduates and me. This is very important, as ecologists need to get perspectives from other ecologists who work in different ecosystems. Also, I’m going to spend several months in a colleague’s lab at the University of Western Australia learning more about phosphorus and plant adaptations.”

When she mentions tropical “forest ecology” or “forest ecosystems,” Ostertag isn’t necessarily referring to the endemic Native Hawaiian rainforest.

“As an ecosystem ecologist, my key goal is to understand how ecosystems are structured and how they function,” she explained. “Structure and function work together. A forest full of non-native species potentially could have a different structure than a native-dominated Hawaiian forest, especially because Hawai‘i, as an isolated island chain, is missing many groups of organisms. This different structure could cause the forest to function differently -- cycle nutrients or water at a faster rate, greater nutrient losses, and increased biomass for herbivores to eat. All of these functions feed back to affect the structure of the forest -- what it looks like and what species are there. And once we understand how forest structure and function are related, we can then use that information for forest management, to remove species or biomass to increase light levels, add water to certain plants to increase growth, remove rats to decrease seed predation.

“The point of this explanation is that state of ‘naturalness’ of a rainforest is not the primary focus, but more of a secondary focus, of my research,” she said. “I examine the species in an ecosystem and how they function in that ecosystem, and if the players are non-native they have to be included. Unfortunately, very few forests left in Hawai‘i are free of non-native plants and animals, so we have to work with what is there and determine how it functions. In addition, ecologists now understand that ‘pristine’ ecosystems just don’t exist. Almost all ecosystems have been influenced by humans to some extent. Rather than ignore that, we have to incorporate those interactions into our research.”
Nā Pua No’eau engages students through its “Learning Opportunities in Medicine Institute”

by Toni Mallow

Fourteen middle and high school students elected to spend part of their Christmas vacation exploring careers in health care through a program entitled “Learning Opportunities in Medicine Institute (LOMI).” The program was conducted by UH Hilo’s Nā Pua No’eau with the purpose to provide native Hawaiian middle and high school students an opportunity to explore a career in health care through hands-on activities with health professionals in the field. The event was made possible through a collaborative effort with Ke Anuenue Area Health Education Center and the Hilo Medical Center.

Students engaged in learning Hawaiian health and healing practices with cultural practitioners in ho‘oponopono, lomilomi and la‘au lapa‘au the first two days. Aunty Ulu Garmon, a ho‘oponopono practitioner, shared the complexity of ho‘oponopono in a deep, yet simplified manner. Lopaka Bukoski, a lomilomi practitioner, taught students techniques, while respecting the spirit that resides in each other. Sean Chun, a la‘au lapa‘au practitioner, taught students how to make medicine. He emphasized that it wasn’t just about making medicine, but a spiritual aspect to gathering and making medicine. After cutting, grinding and squeezing the juices from plants, students tasted their medicine with mixed reviews. Students also made poultice for body aches.

The final two days of the event were spent at the Hilo Medical Center participating in various workshops scheduled by Elena Cabatu, community relations manager. Workshops included respiratory therapy, cardiology, occupational, physical and speech therapy, radiology and laboratory. Wearing hospital scrubs donated by Ke Anuenue AHEC, students resembled young doctors and nurses. Using the hospital’s new SIMMAN, a $78,000 human patient simulator for medical training procedures, students were able to get hands-on experience in checking the vitals of a patient and inserting a breathing tube.

“I want to be a pediatrician,” “I will be a registered nurse,” and “I am going to be a cardiac surgeon” were some of the statements made during the day by students.

Nā Pua No’eau is a cultural based educational enrichment program for Hawaiian students in grades Kindergarten through freshman year of college. The office is headquartered at UH Hilo with other program centers at UH Manoa, Kauai Community College, Maui Community College, Moloka‘i Education Center, Lanai Elementary and High School, and University of Hawai‘i – West Hawai‘i. For more information call x47678.

(Ostertag Continued from page 4)

Ostertag has used part of her grant to “buy out” of teaching one class to give her more time for her reading and research. The recipient of a Board of Regents Excellence in Teaching Award in 2005, she feels the time and how it is spent has made her an even better teacher.

“It allows me the time to do some of the data analysis and writing, which I didn’t have time to do before,” she said. “And when I do this and discover new things, I share that information with students in the classroom. The students benefit because they get to see how science is really done, and not just some syntheses or abstractions they read about in their textbook.”

(EDITOR’S NOTE: Toni Mallow is program coordinator, Na Pua No’eau.)
Hats off to...

Harald Barkhoff, Associate Professor, Health and Physical Education, co-authored “Predictors of Compliance to Health Habits Vary Across Cultures,” which was accepted for presentation at the 34th Annual Convention of the Association for Behavior Analysis International, to be held in Chicago, IL. The paper was co-written with Elaine M. Heiby, Maxwell R. Frank, Carrie L. Lukens, and Sungkun Cho.

Bryan Kim, Associate Professor, Psychology, co-authored “Asian and European American Cultural Values, Bicultural Competence, and Attitudes toward Seeking Professional Psychological Help among Asian American Adolescents,” which appeared in the Journal of Multicultural Counseling and Development, the leading journal on multicultural counseling which has an acceptance rate of 15%.

Julie Ann Luiz Adrian, Assistant Professor, Animal Science, received a monetary grant from the County of Hawai‘i, Department of Research and Development, to endorse the program, “Effects of Guava Consumption on Goats.”

Regina Titunik, Professor, Political Science, presented a paper on “Are We all Torturers Now?: A Reconsideration of Women’s Violence at Abu Ghaib” at the annual conference of the British International Studies Association (BISA), held at Cambridge University, in December.

William Mautz, Professor, Biology, has his research paper, “Parasite loss and introduced species: a comparison of the parasites of the Puerto Rican Tree Frog, (Eleutherodactylus coqui), in its native and introduced ranges,” in the journal Biological Invasions. The paper was co-written with S.R. Marr and A.H. Hara.

Misaki Takabayashi, Assistant Professor, Marine Science, has been invited to participate in the 2008 University of Hawai‘i and University of Tokyo Joint Symposium on Ocean and Coastal Sciences, to be held at the University of Tokyo Ocean Research Institute March 13-16, 2008. The symposium is hosted by the Hawai‘i Sea Grant Program and the University of Tokyo and is designed to inspire and foster innovative and collaborative research among American and Japanese scientists whose research is focused on ocean and coastal sciences.

Linc Gotshalk, Chair, Kinesiology and Exercise Sciences, had his paper, “Creatine Supplementation Improves Muscular Performance in Older Women,” accepted by the European Journal of Applied Physiology (Vol. 2102: pp. 223-241, 2008). The paper is co-authored by Mario Mendonca, the first student to enroll in and graduate from the UH Hilo Health and Physical Education major.

Jonathan Dresner, Assistant Professor, History, presented his paper, “Diaspora Memory: Selective Histories of Japanese Emigration,” at the American Historical Association conference held in Washington, D.C. last month.

Jing Yin, Assistant Professor, Communication, and Yoshitaka Miike, Assistant Professor, Communication, published an article, “A Textual Analysis of Fortune Cookie Sayings: How Chinese Are They?,” in the Howard Journal of Communications (Vol. 19, No. 1, pp. 18-43).

Wayne Miyamoto, Professor, Art, is participating as an invited artist in the Third International Biennale for Artist’s Books – 2008 at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Alexandria, Egypt from April 22-May 26, 2008. He is presenting A Book of Six Kami – East, West, North, South, Heaven & Earth, a handmade book of solar plate etchings based upon digitized visual images developed in a UHHRC research grant project.
Jean Ippolito, Assistant Professor, Art, had her paper, “Interviews and Avatars: Physical Place Expressed in Cyberspace,” accepted for presentation at the 2008 International Society for Electronic Arts Conference, to be held in Singapore in July. Her paper was written to address the conference theme: Locating Place – concerning how artists of various cultures convey a sense of place in their work on the Internet.

Ron Gordon, Professor, Communication, had his paper, “Beyond the Failures of Western Communication Theory,” published as the lead article in the latest issue of the Journal of Multicultural Discourses. JMD is a peer-reviewed international interdisciplinary journal, based in England.

The Vagina Monologues return to UH Hilo

by Dr. Candace Rosovsky

The 2008 UH Hilo V-Day “Stop the Violence” benefit production of Eve Ensler’s The Vagina Monologues is scheduled for February 3 in the Performing Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. This performance celebrates the 10th anniversary of the play that has been performed globally to end violence against women through changing lives, laws, political perspectives and individual hearts and minds. The first success of The Vagina Monologues in 1998 brought responses from hundreds of women who asked playwright Eve Ensler to share their own stories of violence in their lives: in schools, families, the workplace, during wars and occupations. The monologues reflect these lives.

The Vagina Monologues has become part of Hilo’s response to the escalating reports of domestic violence, rape, child abuse, and sexual assault. Since its inception, V-Day has raised over $50 million for local communities and generated increased media coverage on these issues. Local productions have raised approximately $10,000 over the last four years for programs in East Hawai‘i.

This year the V-Day 2008 Spotlight Campaign, the global initiative, focuses on the women of New Orleans and the Gulf South. These women – Katrina Warriors – have come to symbolize the universal plight of women in conflict zones: high levels of violence; economic hardship; racism; and public structures that failed to protect them. Katrina Warriors also highlight the dire need for resources to this devastated community.

The Vagina Monologues will be directed by Kalyan Meola and Laura Acevedo and coordinated by Beverly Tese, a first-year student at UH Hilo. The cast of 26 includes students, staff, and community members. It is sponsored by the UH Hilo Women’s Center in partnership with local businesses and organizations.

Tickets will be available on February 1 at the UH Hilo Women’s Center, CD Wizard, the UH Hilo Performing Arts Center Box Office, and The Girl Next Door. Ticket prices are $12 general, $10 seniors, $6 students. All proceeds will go to benefit local agencies that work with issues of violence against women. Past recipients include Turning Point for Families, the S.A.R.A.H. Foundation, and the UH Hilo Women’s Center.

V-Day is a non-profit organization that distributes funds to grassroots, national and international organizations and programs that are involved in issues of violence against women and girls. In 2001, V-Day was named one of Worth magazine’s “100 Best Charities” and in 2006 one of Marie Claire magazine’s “Top Ten Charities.”

For more information about The Vagina Monologues, or to become a sponsor, contact the UH Hilo Women’s Center at x47306 or uhhwomen@hawaii.edu.

(Advertiser’s note: Dr. Candace Rosovsky is director, UH Hilo Women’s Center.)
The UH Hilo Alumni and Friends Association will be holding its 2008 Distinguished Alumni and Service Awards banquet on Friday, February 29th in UH Hilo’s Campus Center Dining Room to honor selected individuals for their outstanding achievements and contributions. The event begins at 5 p.m. with no-host cocktails and a silent auction.

Each year, the Association grants one or more Distinguished Alumni Awards to individuals based on the nominee’s professional accomplishments, service to the community, and service to the University. Nominees for the Distinguished Alumni Award must have completed at least 50% of his/her educational program at UH Hilo, or at least one year at UH Hilo for those who attended the institution prior to 1973 when UH Hilo was a two-year college.

The Distinguished Service Award is awarded to those whose contributions to UH Hilo (financial or service) has benefited the University in numerous and significant ways. Nominees for the Distinguished Service Award must have demonstrated consistent contributions to the University over a reasonable period of time, and whose contributions have had a positive impact on the students and/or the University.

Included in the evening’s program is a silent auction to raise scholarship funds for students attending UH Hilo. Applicants for this alumni scholarship, which is given annually, must be or have an immediate family member who is an alumnus of UH Hilo. To date, the Association is proud to have awarded a total of 10 scholarships.

This year’s Distinguished Alumni Awards recipients are: Mr. Robert Dircks, Mrs. Gay Porter and Mr. Hansen Tsang. Distinguished Service recipients are: Dr. Don Hemmes, Mr. John Farias, Mr. George Martin, the late Eddie De Mello, and Mr. Stanley Hara.

Robert Dircks (BA, Liberal Studies 1989) graduated from Saint Louis High School in 1971 and joined the US Navy where he served in the Vietnam War before assuming various positions at the Department of Defense. He went on to pursue his educational goals and earned several diplomas, including an M.Ed. from UH Manoa. Dircks put his education to good use by teaching at Kohala Elementary and Kohala Intermediate Schools and was vice principal at Kohala High, Kealakehe Intermediate and Hilo Intermediate Schools before becoming principal of Mountain View Elementary School. Dircks became principal of Hilo High School in 2005. He and his wife of 30 years, Julie-Beth Ah Sam, have 3 children and 2 grandchildren.

Gay Porter (BA, Sociology 1977) was not only an astute student while at UH Hilo (graduated with highest honors and listed in the “Who’s Who in American Universities and Colleges”), she was also a great athlete, having lettered in three varsity sports: volleyball, softball and basketball. Since graduating, she went on to establish her professional career in the insurance field. Currently the Hilo branch manager of Business Insurance Services, Inc. (one of the largest locally owned independent insurance agencies in the State of Hawai‘i)), Porter also serves as president of the General Insurance Association of Hilo and president of the Rotary Club of Hilo. She and her husband, Chuck Porter, are also active in various aspects of the community.

Hansen Tsang (BA, Economics 1982), whose origins are from Hong Kong, worked at a number of companies in the community after graduation. In 1991, he joined Mauna Kea Electric, Inc. and purchased the business in 2000. A fun-loving, resourceful and hardworking person, Tsang has been a pioneer in developing renewable energy technology for the Hawai‘ian Islands. His company installed the Pakini Nui Wind Farm at South Point, which provides power for 10,000 homes, and installed the wind farm at Kaheawea in the West Maui Mountains, which meets 9% of Maui’s electrical energy needs. Besides being a businessman, Tsang has also been an ardent supporter of various organizations in the community, such as the HIV/AIDS Foundation and the Hawai‘i Transportation Association. Tsang enjoys playing golf and traveling with wife, Neva, and daughter, Chanel.

Don Hemmes, always with a cheerful disposition and a greeting smile, is a household name to those who like mushrooms, gardens and biology. Known as one of the world’s leading experts in the field of mushrooms, Hemmes is also an outstanding faculty member, as evidenced by the Regents Excellence in Teaching Award and a recipient of the Biology Professor of the Year (awarded by Counsel for the Advancement and Support of Education – CASE). In addition to his many professional accomplishments, Hemmes has also contributed greatly to the community by mentoring many high school students on their science fair projects and presenting talks at schools, civic clubs and community organizations on the

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Distinguished Alumni

Continued from page 8

Big Island and on O‘ahu. In August 2007, Hemmes was bestowed a prestigious role as the 76th president of the Mycological Society of America. In his spare time, he enjoys traveling with wife, Helen, to visit their children and grandchildren.

This year marks the 60th year of UH Hilo’s birth and the Association takes pride in honoring John Farias, George Martin, the late Eddie De Mello, and Stanley I. Hara for their passion and instrumental boldness in helping transform UH Hilo from a two-year campus, then known as the University of Hawai‘i Hilo Campus (UHHC), to a four-year university. Farias was the Big Island representative on the University of Hawai‘i’s Board of Regents. Martin was the Hawai‘i Division Director and International Vice President of the International Longshoreman’s and Warehouseman’s Union (ILWU). De Mello was a member of ILWU, a labor organizer and respected lobbyist. Together, these three championed an aggressive effort to garner community support for the successful expansion of the Hilo campus into a four-year university. Subsequent to that, former State Senator and Chair of Education Committee, Stanley I. Hara, through his leadership, vision and political effort, played a vital role in the site selection of this newly approved four-year university. Highlights of this eventful history will be made at the upcoming banquet.

Cost is $50 per person and $350 for a table of eight. RSVP deadline is February 19th. For more information, call x47643 or x47501.

Spotlight

Continued from page 1

assistant vice president for student affairs and dean of students at Shepherd College, and director of wellness education and outreach services at Louisiana State University.

“What attracted me to UH Hilo first and foremost are the students,” she said. “This is a chance to work with one of the most diverse student populations in the country. Many students are the first from their families to pursue a baccalaureate degree, and many, like myself, are of Asian Pacific Islander background.

“UH Hilo also offered the exciting opportunity to work with an impressive leadership team, headed up by Chancellor Tseng, who has a great reputation nationally,” Hong added. “Also, UH Hilo is in a growth trajectory; it intrigued me to be part of an organization that is building, evolving, expanding and striving for excellence.

“I am focused on getting to know the students, staff and faculty with whom I will be working here at UH Hilo,” she said. “I want to understand what makes this campus unique and special -- to get a grasp of the underlying values and culture which shape and define UH Hilo. Similarly, I am getting a sense of what the particular needs of students are here at UH Hilo, and how the units that comprise Student Affairs can best serve them. I also need to jump right in to carry on and complete some major building and renovation projects that were initiated by my predecessor, Dr. Keith Miser. It really is quite impressive how much is going on in Student Affairs.”

Hong joins the UH Hilo administration at an exciting and critical time, with all systems go for the long-planned China-U.S. Center.

“I think it is important to acknowledge that UH Hilo has continued to grow in past years despite not being able to expand its residential capacity,” she said. “With that said, certainly the construction of the China-U.S. Center will allow for some exciting opportunities to expand our on-campus residential community and attract more students for whom having an on-campus living option is critical to their being able to attend UH Hilo. UH Hilo is grateful to the Board of Regents and to the State of Hawai‘i for their support in this endeavor.”

Hong, a Baltimore native and the eldest daughter of Taiwanese immigrants, received a BA in psychology from Amherst College, earned a master’s in public health in health promotion, policy and resources from Yale University, and received her Ph.D. in educational leadership and research from Louisiana State University. At ASU, she also served as a clinical associate professor of criminology and criminal justice. The breadth of her education and experience has allowed her to become a nationally-known speaker, trainer and consultant, providing programming and services to colleges, universities and regional/national student conferences in the areas of leadership, health and social justice.

“I view education as an important tool for improving the quality of life and wellbeing of individuals and families,” she said. “Certainly, education alone cannot combat the barriers that result from sexism, racism, classism and other forms of systemic oppression, but certainly it can help break down some of those barriers and increase the chances for success.

“I also see education as an opportunity to expand one’s world view, to acquire critical thinking skills, and to develop the capacities...
important for being an active, thoughtful, contributing citizen and leader in the 21st century. I know very lofty concepts both, but I really believe in the power of education to transform people and communities, and it is what has kept me in this profession.”

Hong’s husband is a social worker. They have five “children”: Toby, a cocker spaniel; and four cats, Mozart, Aiwa, Puck and Athena. Her family is spread out across the U.S. A younger brother, who is getting married in June, is in Philadelphia. Her father lives in Las Vegas. Her younger sister, brother-in-law and niece live in Phoenix. Her mother moved with her from Phoenix to Hilo. Her interests away from work are as broad as her educational background.

“Since graduate school, wherever I have lived and worked, I have always volunteered in some way with a local community agency that serves victims and survivors of sexual assault and/or domestic violence; I plan to follow suit here in Hawai`i,” Hong said. “My hobbies include PC-gaming. I have a level 70 human warlock in World of Warcraft and also play Civilization IV, Age of Empires III, Battle for Middle-Earth, and The Sims 2, among other games, and paper crafting -- I especially like to make greeting cards.

“What my colleagues would probably find most interesting or surprising about me is that even though I behave like and appear to be an extrovert, I actually like to spend a lot of time quietly by myself in reflection, listening to music or just relaxing after a busy week,” she added. “Oh, and I almost became a concert pianist - except my hands are too small and I lacked the upper-body strength to master the really significant works for classical solo piano.”

Most of all, Hong is looking forward to becoming better acquainted with both the campus and Hilo communities.

“The aloha spirit of UH Hilo has been overwhelming,” she said. “Everyone I have met – students, staff, faculty and administrators – have all extended warm sentiments of welcome, made generous offers of help, and gifted me with lots of flowers, fruits and vegetables. People I interact with in the community while opening a bank account, buying groceries, etc., are all warm, friendly and helpful. It is delightful to talk story with all the new people I am getting to meet. I am so grateful to be here and to become part of the UH Hilo ‘ohana.”

Activist Dr. Angela Davis to speak at UH Hilo

by Dr. Candace Rosovsky

Dr. Angela Davis, distinguished philosopher, educator, sociologist, community and prison reform activist, will speak on “Race, Gender, Politics, and Prisons” on February 28 at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center. The program is free and open to the public. Seating is limited and will be on a first come basis. Sign language interpreters will be available.

Currently professor of the History of Consciousness at the University of California and presidential chair at the University of California, Santa Cruz, Davis has worked for decades to raise issues of social justice, racial and gender equality, academic freedom, and prison abolition.

Born in an educated family in the segregated South, Davis earned a scholarship to Brandeis University where she studied French and philosophy. She earned a master’s degree from the University of California, San Diego, and a Ph.D. in philosophy from the Humboldt University of Berlin, GDR. Upon her return to the U.S., she was appointed in 1969 as an acting assistant professor in the philosophy department at the University of California, Los Angeles. In a controversial decision, the Board of Regents of the University of California, urged by then-California Governor Ronald Reagan, fired her from her job in 1969 because of her membership in the Communist Party, and later rehired after the controversy ignited community protest at the BOR decision. She has continued to serve as a spokesperson for the oppressed, as an author and speaker.

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Davis

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Davis has spent a lifetime of working on behalf of the oppressed and dispossessed as a radical feminist, author, as an outspoken activist during the American Civil Rights Movement as a member of SNCC (Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee), the Black Panther Party, and in her run for U.S. vice-president on the ticket with Gus Hall. She is a pioneer in the struggle against mass incarceration and has been active in this engagement for many years, most recently through her work as an organizer of Critical Resistance, a national, member-based grassroots organization that works to build a mass movement to dismantle what it calls “the prison-industrial complex.”

In addition to her work on prison reform, Davis is a noted writer and educator. The current challenges and on-going issues in education, particularly in communities of color, are topics in which she addresses in her writings, presentations and discussions. Among her publications are titles including If They Come in the Morning: Voices of Resistance (1971), Violence Against Women and the Ongoing Challenge to Racism (1985), Women, Race and Class (1981), Are Prisons Obsolete? (2003), and Abolition Democracy: Beyond Prisons, Torture, and Empire (2005).

Her work cuts across multiple layers of diversity: race, social class, gender, and ethnicity and her most recent work to reform the prison system is one that deeply affects Hawai’i. Violence -- domestic, sexual, and drug-related -- are of particular importance to members of the UH Hilo, Hawai’i Community College and our local community.

Davis’ presentation is co-sponsored by a University of Hawai’i Student Excellence, Equity and Diversity (SEED) Grant, the UH Hilo Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Kipuka, UH Hilo Women’s Center, Cultural Diversity Committee, Women’s Studies Program, Minority Access and Advancement Program (MAAP), UHHSA, UH President’s Commission on the Status of Women, and the HawCC Student Government Association.

For more information, contact the UH Hilo Women’s Center at x47306 or by email at uhhwomen@hawaii.edu.

International Nights 2008!

The UH Hilo International Student Association presents International Nights 2008 on Friday and Saturday, February 15 and 16, at 7:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center. Tickets are currently on sale and available at the PAC Box Office for $7 general admission and $3 for students, children and seniors.

The annual event will feature cultures from around the world with an array of performances by students and community members.

For additional information, including accommodations for people with disabilities, call the International Student Services Office at x47313.

Pahinui to teach courses at UH Hilo

One of Hawai’i’s greatest slack key guitar artists, Cyril Pahinui, is teaching a pair of courses through UH Hilo’s College of Continuing Education and Community Service (CCECS).

The first course covers the basics of kiho’alu, or slack key guitar. Students will learn several traditional tunings, focusing on those taught to Pahinui and his brothers by their legendary father, the late, great “Pops” Gabby Pahinui, as well as musical methods to start playing music. Students must bring their own guitars. Rentals are available at several Hilo music stores.

The second course is Hawaiian music appreciation. Pahinui will share his knowledge of the history and tradition of Hawaiian music and slack key guitar, featuring the songs of the Pahinui family. Students will also learn the themes, stories and kaona (metaphoric subtext) behind the music, as well as insights on the composers.

Each course will be taught on six Tuesdays between February 12 and March 18 in Campus Center 301. The slack key instruction course will be from 4 to 5 p.m., while the music appreciation course will be from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Tuition for the slack key course is $75, and tuition for the music appreciation course is $50. Members of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute receive a $5 discount on each course.

To register, or for more information, call CCECS at x47664.
# Campus Events

## February

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<td>Final deadline to apply for Spring 2008 graduation&lt;br&gt;Last day to submit auditors form&lt;br&gt;Last day to exercise Credit/No Credit</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Atamira Dance Collective, 7:30 p.m., PAC, Admission</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Last day to drop classes without “W”&lt;br&gt;Last day to receive 50% refund of tuition&lt;br&gt;&lt;i&gt;The Vagina Monologues&lt;/i&gt;, 7:30 p.m., PAC, Admission</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Tuition payment due for Early, Regular &amp; Late Registrants</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>&lt;i&gt;Focus on UH Hilo&lt;/i&gt;, 8 p.m., Channel 55</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>UH Hilo Orchestra Concert, 7:30 p.m., PAC, Admission</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>UH Hilo Orchestra Concert, 2 p.m., PAC, Admission</td>
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<td>15-16</td>
<td>International Nights 2008, 7:30 p.m., PAC, Admission</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>&lt;i&gt;Focus on UH Hilo&lt;/i&gt;, 8 p.m., Channel 55</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Hugh Masekela in Concert, 7:30 p.m., PAC, Admission</td>
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<td>8th Annual Distinguished Alumni and Service Awards Banquet, 5 p.m., CC Dining Room, Admission</td>
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