Crosby says UH Hilo research ready to soar to new heights

by Ken Hupp

While many welcomed 2009 with well-intentioned resolutions likely to be broken, UH Hilo’s Interim Vice Chancellor for Research greeted the new year with a resolve and determination to make this a pivotal year for UH Hilo research.

Since arriving on campus early last year, Dr. Michael Crosby has been working to re-shape the University’s research enterprise in a manner that could fundamentally change the role of research and how it is viewed.

“Our objective is two-fold as we strategically focus the growth of our research enterprise beyond merely expanding the frontiers of knowledge,” Crosby explained. “First, we’re emphasizing research activities directly linked to undergraduate education and hands-on training experiences in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields that improve the quality of life and the environment in Hawai‘i. Secondly, we’re striving to foster research programs as a vehicle for stimulating science and technology (S&T)-based economic expansion in the State.”

Crosby believes UH Hilo is well positioned to fulfill those goals. He cites a dedicated faculty, a significant growth in research grants, the Big Island’s physical assets, and the leadership of Chancellor Rose Tseng, who he says recognizes the need for an institutional focal point for research administration and coordination of the University’s research enterprise.

To address this need, Crosby has developed plans for the establishment of an Office of Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development (VC-RED) to guide the growth and expansion of the University’s research efforts, application and awards of grants and other extramural funds to support all research initiatives, and stimulation

UH Hilo and Windward Community College ink partnership agreement

by Ken Hupp

UH Hilo and Windward Community College (WCC) have signed a partnership agreement that will facilitate the completion of baccalaureate degrees at UH Hilo by students who begin their post-secondary education at WCC. The partnership mirrors earlier agreements with Kapi‘olani Community College (KCC) and Hawai‘i Community College (HawCC).

“What is most rewarding about this agreement is that it was faculty driven,” said UH Hilo Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Dr. Kenith Simmons. “They took the initiative, did the heavy lifting and deserve the credit for bringing this about.”

The program will improve student access, success, and four-year degree completion by improving academic articulation, offering students the opportunity to be admitted to and receive advising from the four-year program while they are completing their WCC program, and fostering better alignment between learning goals at each institution.

The first program-to-program articulation achieved under this agreement is between Geology programs and spells out the requirements for students at WCC to earn a B.A. or B.S. degree in Geology from UH Hilo. WCC Geology and Oceanography Professor Dr. Floyd McCoy, and UH Hilo Geology Department Chair and Associate Professor Dr. Ken Hon jointly developed the course articulation tables. McCoy described the partnership as a good fit that builds on existing ties between the
of S & T businesses in Hawai’i. He believes such coordination will develop a synergy among the many capacity-building, mentorship programs and support available to STEM majors, thereby increasing institutional effectiveness and broadening participation.

“Our goal is to create and demonstrate proof of concept for a new paradigm model to increase participation of under represented cultural, socio-economic and ethnic groups from the Pacific Islands in undergraduate and graduate STEM education, attainment of BS, MS and PhD STEM degrees, and broadening participation of these groups in university teaching and research positions,” Crosby said.

Crosby believes a fully functional VC-RED office could save money by significantly increasing cost-effective utilization of grant indirect/overhead funds. By assuming responsibility for all budgeting/fiscal aspects of research grants, a VC-RED office would allow faculty and students to focus more directly on their research, education and training.

The plan reflects a growing trend in which universities play an ever increasing role in economic development in their respective communities. With Governor Linda Lingle, the State legislature, and the private sector promoting economic diversification to reduce Hawai’i’s dependence on land-based initiatives, Crosby has identified several S&T initiatives addressing State and federal priorities that he hopes to implement through the new VC-RED office.

One centerpiece initiative is the development of a UH Systemwide data manipulation center being sought in the University’s next NSF-sponsored Experimental Program for the Stimulation of Competitive Research (EPSCoR) grant. The center, to be based and administered at UH Hilo, would utilize advanced data management techniques to combine numerous and diverse data sets and a wide range of technologies in one centralized location. Crosby sees unlimited opportunities for community outreach, education and training tomorrow’s high tech work force.

“Imagine training someone for disaster management and being able to place them inside a virtual hurricane, tsunami or lava flow much the way pilots train in a flight simulator,” Crosby said. “When combined with the data manipulation center’s forecast modeling software program development, one could not only visualize it, but actually predict how the disaster would behave and its impact on communities.”

The beauty of the technology is its transferability and ability to have cyber-links to locations around the world, which would enable facilities like the `Imiloa Astronomy Center to house elementary data visualization, community outreach, and complex transformative research analyses. That opens up opportunities for UH Hilo to entertain initiatives originating overseas, form international partnerships, and enhance its global credentials. An NSF funding decision for the proposed Data Manipulation Center could come as early as May.

Crosby believes UH Hilo can also play an important role in the development of sustainable energy and food security. He envisions partnerships with various public and private agencies to produce bio-fuels like palm oils for renewable energy, with the bi-products two schools.

“We have a significant transfer of students from Windward Community College to UH Hilo to complete their undergraduate studies,” McCoy said. “WCC also has a strong science program, including geology, which offers a field course to study volcanoes on the Big Island. So it makes good, practical sense to have a partnership program that will promote successful, undergraduate educational experiences for students who attend these institutions.”

Hon said WCC students coming to UH Hilo have represented their program well.

He said the University now looks forward to the additional transfer students that the partnership will encourage.

“I have known Floyd for many years now, and he has built an excellent Geology program at WCC,” Hon said. “Many of our geology majors come from community colleges where they have studied under terrific teachers like Floyd.”

With the signing of the agreement, students in the selected WCC program become eligible for future dated admission to the corresponding UH Hilo program after completing the A.A. or A.S. degree and satisfying the admitting program’s G.P.A. requirement. University Partnerships Coordinator Dr. P. Jayne Bopp said WCC is excited to see the partnership come about after years in the making.

“This is a great opportunity for WCC students interested in earning a bachelor’s degree in Geology to continue their education here in Hawai’i,” Bopp said. “The agreement will make it easier for our students to transfer to UH Hilo, which has the best location in the world for studying volcanoes.”

Ka Lono Hanakahi is published by the Office of University Relations on the first of the month during the academic year for faculty and staff of the University of Hawai’i at Hilo. News and submissions are welcome. Deadlines are on the fifteenth of each month for the following first of the month publication. Contact Alyson Kakugawa-Leong, Director of Media Relations, Beaumont Cottage, (808) 974-7642 or email alyson@hawaii.edu.
Distinguished Alumni Awards banquet set for February 27

The UH Hilo Alumni and Friends Association honors three of its own with Distinguished Alumni Awards while three others will be recognized with Distinguished Service Awards on Friday, February 27 beginning at 5 p.m. in the UH Hilo Campus Center Dining Room. Tickets are $50 each, $375 for a table of eight. The RSVP deadline is February 17.

Distinguished Alumni Awardees for 2009 are environmental, planning and land use consultant Dr. Ron Terry, real estate broker Carol Ginoza-Arikawa, and Kumu Lehua Veincent, a noted teacher and school administrator. The husband and wife duo of Margaret Ushijima and the late State Senator John Ushijima and State Representative Clift Tsuji are the Distinguished Service Awardees.

Dr. Ron Terry earned his BA in geography at UH Hilo in 1980, and went on to earn a PhD in 1988 from Louisiana State University. He was an associate professor at UH Hilo from 1989-1992, developing a reputation for excellence as a teacher in geography and environmental sciences.

In 1991, Terry started a successful independent consulting firm, Geometrician Associates. Despite his busy schedule as a successful CEO, he has managed to teach a course a year at UH Hilo and has also provided frequent guest lectures for other Geography courses.

In 2000, then-Governor Ben Cayetano appointed Terry to the State’s Marine and Coastal Zone Advocacy Council (MCZAC), a public advisory body that addresses coastal issues and advocates for the State’s Coastal Zone Management Program initiatives.

In June 2008, Terry established the Geography Founders Scholarship, naming the $25,000 endowed scholarship after UH Hilo Geography Department founders Drs. Jim and Sonya Juvik, Jim Kelly and Jack Healy, who all inspired and encouraged him to continue his education after earning his degree at UH Hilo.

Carol S. Ginoza-Arikawa is a community leader in every sense of the word. A 1973 graduate of UH Hilo with degrees in both English and social studies, she founded Ginoza Realty, Inc. in 1982 and remains its principal broker and president.

Ginoza-Arikawa has a long record of service to the real estate industry, the community and the University. She is a longtime member of the Hawai‘i Island Board of Realtors and has been active in industry organizations. She has been the Board’s secretary and has served on the Grievance Committee since 1994. In 1995, she was selected as one of the Big Island Women of the Year.

Her community service includes membership on the Kuikahi Mediation Board of Directors since 2006, also serving as its fundraising co-chair the past three years. She served as treasurer of Hilo Little League from 1997-2006 and served double-duty as secretary from 2000-2006.

Ginoza-Arikawa also has a long record of service to UH Hilo. She chaired the UH Hilo Athletic Fund Drive from 1992-1995 and has served on the UH Hilo Athletic Advisory Board since 2003. She is a charter member of Hui Ka‘u, serving on various committees, and is the newest member to join the Performing Arts Center’s Advisory Committee.

Known affectionately by many as “Kumu Lehua,” Lehua Mark Veincent is on the vanguard of Hawaiian language immersion education. The Hawai‘i Island native with genealogical ties to Ka‘u, Puna and Kea’au earned dual degrees at UH Hilo -- a BA in Hawaiian studies and a BBA in business in 1988, plus teacher certification in 1990. He has also earned two masters degrees from UH Manoa, in curriculum and instruction in 1999, and in educational administration in 2002.

Veincent, currently principal of Keaukaha Elementary School in Hilo, has served as a teacher at Keaukaha School, Pa‘ia Elementary School on Maui and Ke Kula ‘o Nawahiokalan‘opu‘u when it was established in 1994. He has taught kindergarten through 12th grades, and has also served as a lecturer and supervisor in the teacher education program at UH Hilo. For over two decades, he has taught and coordinated the Hawaiian language, literature, and cultural classes for the DOE Community School for Adults.

In 2001, Veincent co-founded the Ke Ana La‘ahana Public Charter School, a grades 7-12 Hawaiian cultural-based school within Keaukaha School. Despite the long hours required of an administrator, he continues to serve as coordinator of the Keaukaha night tutorial program for grades K-12 and summer school programs for high school students of Keaukaha with Aunty Luana Kawelu of the Queen Lili‘uokalani Children’s Center, as he has for 12 years.

Margaret S. Ushijima and her late husband John exemplify lives committed to the principle that higher education can break down social barriers and maximize human potential.

Ms. Ushijima began her service with the UH Hilo Campus in 1963, as it was then known. A great many UH Hilo graduates attribute much of their success to the encouragement, help, and candor that she provided. She led the Office of Student Services as director and then dean of students from 1968 to 1973. She served in that capacity until her retirement in 1980, when she went to law school and after graduation, joined her husband in the family firm, Ushijima & Ushijima.

While serving in the State Senate, John Ushijima was instrumental in the transformation of the two-year transfer
**Hats off to...**


**Helen Wong Smith**, Librarian, presented two of her papers at the Hawai’i International Conference on Arts & Humanities in Waikiki last month: “Hawai’i’s Agricultural Archives: Records and Special Collections,” and “Digital Hawaiian Resources: Disseminating Hawai’i-based Primary & Compiled Resources.” Over 450 participants representing more than 40 countries presented.

**Jean Ippolito**, Assistant Professor, Art, had her article, “The Search for New Media: Early Avant-garde Momentum for the Digital Art Pioneers of Japan,” accepted for publication in the annual yearbook of *Art Inquiry on Virtual Art/Virtual Domains of Art*, published through the University of Lodz, Poland. Additionally, her proposal on “Globalization and Teaching the Contemporary in Art: The Importance of Including the Most Recent International Currents When Introducing the History of Asian Art to College Students in the U.S.,” has been accepted for presentation at the 7th International Conference for New Directions in the Humanities, to be held in June in Beijing, China.

**Kimberly Furumo**, Assistant Professor, Management Information Systems, and **Emmeline de Pillis**, Professor, Management, won the Best Paper award for “What Affects Virtual Team Productivity in Members from Low-Context and High-Context Cultures?,” presented at the Association for Global Business Conference held in Newport Beach, CA in November.

**Walter Dudley**, Professor, Oceanography, will be hosting Osamu Murao, associate professor, Department of Risk Engineering, Graduate School of Systems and Information Engineering, University of Tsukuba, Japan, who was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to work with Dudley and conduct research on urban safety planning and the recovery process in Hilo following the 1960 tsunami. They will also collaborate on current best practices in tsunami disaster management. Murao will be in Hilo from summer through fall 2009.

**Bryan Kim**, Professor, Psychology, is the first author of a chapter on “Research in and on School Counseling,” which was published in the *Handbook of School Counseling* by Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Inc.

**Norman Arancon**, Assistant Professor, Horticulture, had his article, “The Relative Toxicity of Metaldehyde and Iron Phosphate-based Molluscicides to Earthworms” published in an international peer-reviewed journal, *Crop Protection* (2009), doi:10.1016/j.croppro.2008.11.009. The paper was co-authored by Clive Edwards and his students from Ohio State University.

**Jackie Pualani Johnson**, Chair, Performing Arts, was invited to create the role of Queen Ka‘ahumanu at the Public Theatre in New York City last November. The performance was a
Yoshitaka Miike, Assistant Professor, Communication, had his Asian-centric bibliography, “‘Cherishing the Old to Know the New’: A Bibliography of Asian Communication Studies,” published in China Media Research (Vol. 5, No. 1, pp. 95-103). This 2009 version lists additional items that were not included in his 2006 bibliography on indigenous theoretical approaches to Asian cultures and communication.

Wayne Miyamoto, Professor, Art, is presenting work in the Southern Graphics Council National Traveling Exhibition. The exhibition was juried by Warrington Colescott, professor emeritus, University of Wisconsin, and will travel throughout the U.S. until 2012. The opening exhibition is featured at Columbia College in Chicago, IL from March 9-April 24, 2009.

John Hamilton, Instructor, Physics and Astronomy, was awarded a scholarship for the 2009 Professional Development Program workshop entitled, “Re-Thinking Science and Engineering Learning & Teaching,” held last month on Maui. The workshop was sponsored by the Institute of Scientists and Engineer Educators and the University of California Center for Adaptive Optics.

Jing Yin, Assistant Professor, Communication, had her 2006 article, “Toward a Confucian Feminism: A Critique of Eurocentric feminist Discourse,” translated into Chinese and included in Jingjing Z. Edmondson’s edited book, Asiacentric Theories of Communication (pp. 274-293, Zhejiang University Press).

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**Faculty, staff get fit!**

The wait is over! Memberships to the Student Life Center are now available for faculty and staff. Whether you are an avid swimmer, weight lifter or just wanting to shed a few pounds as your new year’s resolution, the Student Life Center has what you need.

**Who is Eligible?**

* Faculty and Staff (UH Hilo/ HawCC and UH System employees)
* Alumni (Alumni Association Membership required)
* Spouses/Domestic Partners of Faculty/Staff and Students

For details on facility, membership rates, membership criteria, hours of operation, etc. please go to: [http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu/studentlife/center/membership.php](http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu/studentlife/center/membership.php)

**Classes**

A variety of group fitness classes are offered for all levels of fitness. Imua Fitness classes include: Yoga; Fit as a Fighter; Hula Auana; Turbo Kick; Aqua Aerobics; and Stability Ball (just to name a few). A full schedule can be found online at [http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu/studentlife/center/IMUAFITNESS.php](http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu/studentlife/center/IMUAFITNESS.php)

**‘Ohana Hours (family hours)**

‘Ohana Hours are designated times for Student Life Center members to bring their families and children (age 17 and under) to utilize the Student Life Center pool. The spring ‘Ohana Hours are 9am-7pm on Saturdays and 12pm-7pm on Sundays. The weight room area is off limits to families during ‘Ohana Hours.
Distinguished Alumni
Continued from page 3

institution that was the UH Hilo Campus to a full four-year degree-granting college. At a time when there was considerable resistance to the idea of having a second four-year degree-granting institution in Hawai‘i, Ushijima brought his considerable influence in the Legislature to bear to make a degree-granting college in Hilo a reality. He also secured substantial appropriations to finance development of the campus infrastructure. After his retirement from the Senate, Ushijima was appointed to the University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents in 1987 and served for eight years.

John Ushijima passed away on August 13, 2006 at age 82. Margaret, who retired from the practice of law in 2003, continues to be active in community affairs.

State Representative Clift Tsuji understands the positive economic impact a strong university has on a community such as Hilo, both as a large-scale employer and as an educator of the local workforce.

Tsuji, a retired Central Pacific Bank senior vice president, has long been a staunch supporter of UH Hilo. In his third term representing the 3rd House District, Tsuji has assumed a proactive role as a creator of and advocate for legislative initiatives to benefit UH Hilo.

In the 2007 and 2008 legislative sessions, Tsuji introduced three bills and one concurrent resolution directly affecting UH Hilo, two relating to Hawaiian language education. As Chair of the House Agriculture Committee, Tsuji introduced a measure requesting that the UH Hilo College of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Management collaborate with the State Department of Agriculture and Hawai‘i Community College to conduct a study to evaluate programs developed by the Kulani Correctional Facility to aid in the revitalization of State agriculture.

Closer to home, Tsuji has worked as a member of the UH Hilo Education Department’s Advisory and Advocacy Group. He also supported repairs to the Manono Street Campus, testified before the Board of Regents in support of the China-U.S. Center and worked to advance the UH Hilo Baccalaureate Nursing program and to fund faculty positions.

In addition to the awards ceremony, there will be a silent auction with proceeds to the UH Hilo Alumni Scholarship Fund.

For reservations, call the UH Hilo Marketing & Alumni Office at 974-7501 or 974-7643.

Research
Continued from page 1

becoming a source of agriculture and/or aquaculture feed. Another area of opportunity is in rural public health and outreach, where the Big Island’s living, learning laboratory makes it a natural location for researching disparities in health care for residents in outlying rural areas suffering from ailments like diabetes and obesity. And Crosby wants to see UH Hilo’s Pre-Engineering curriculum evolve into a full bachelor’s degree program emphasizing a wide range of areas from robotics to artificial intelligence.

“Each of these initiatives is consistent with our overall objective of providing active research opportunities for our undergraduates,” Crosby said. “These projects will also afford them the chance to work with various State and federal government agencies, as well as private enterprise – some that are already in existence and others that will be created or encouraged to re-locate here. So it’s really a win-win situation for everyone involved.”

While research and the pursuit of funding can be highly competitive, Crosby doesn’t see a conflict between UH Hilo and UH Manoa that would cause one to succeed at the expense of the other. In fact, he envisions the two needing and supporting each other.

“This is not a zero-sum game, because we are not competing with each other, but are part of the same UH System” Crosby said. “UH Manoa primarily concentrates on basic and doctoral level research while we’ve focused on filling the niche for applied research that seeks to strongly link to both the undergraduate STEM education experience and S&T economic stimulation for Hawai‘i. So what each institution does complements what the other is doing and strengthens the broader UH System as it addresses the critical needs of our State.”

Crosby, who returns next year to his position in Washington, D.C. as Executive Director of the National Science Board, is hopeful that some tangible results will be realized by the time his appointment expires. But the more important goal for him is long-term.

“Our success will be measured by future performance,” Crosby said. “If we succeed in building a strong, strategic foundation, UH Hilo’s research enterprise can look forward to a future of unprecedented growth and prosperity that links directly to an expansion of Hawai‘i’s S&T economic base. That will be the true test of what we’ve accomplished together.”

(Editor’s note: Ken Hupp is a public information officer.)
NSF CREST awards $4 million grant to UH Hilo TCBES

The National Science Foundation has awarded a prestigious Center for Research Excellence in Science and Technology (CREST) grant to UH Hilo. The purpose of the grant – $5 million over five years – is to build UH Hilo’s Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Sciences (TCBES) graduate program into a center of excellence in research and training for Hawai’i and the Pacific. The grant’s investigators are Drs. Donald Price, Misaki Takabayashi, Patrick Hart, Elizabeth Stacy, Jon Price, Tracy Wiegner, Jason Turner and Cam Muir with support from Terrilani Chong and Doreen Koizumi.

The theme of the NSF CREST project is Tropical Ecology and Evolution in Marine and Terrestrial Environments. The goals of the grant are to enhance faculty research to become nationally competitive and to recruit and mentor students, largely from groups under-represented in the sciences, in the TCBES graduate program, and guide their progress to PhD programs and professional careers.

To reach these goals, the CREST grant team chose three synergistic subproject areas. The Evolutionary Genomics and Ecology of Local Adaptation and Speciation (EGES) subproject will advance understanding in two areas of importance to evolution and conservation: the molecular basis of population divergence and speciation, and species’ responses to environmental change. The Coral Reef Ecosystem (CRE) subproject will focus on the ecology of pristine and human-impacted coral reef ecosystems. Results from this work will improve our understanding of how coral reefs respond to human disturbances of the marine environment. The Terrestrial Ecology and Climate Change (TECC) subproject will further our knowledge of the long-term impacts of climate change on forest dynamics, bird and plant community structure and species interactions. All three subprojects foster collaboration of faculty and graduate students within and among subprojects, with colleagues from federal and state agencies in Hawai’i, and with researchers from PhD-granting institutions in Hawai’i and across the nation.

The proposed activities will integrate the TCBES program with UH Hilo’s numerous undergraduate degree-granting programs and established research-experience programs that target under-represented students in the sciences. In addition, academic, research and career mentoring and training programs will be improved by CREST to better prepare TCBES students for entry into the professional workforce and PhD programs. The longer term goals are to improve and diversify the next generation of scientists in the U.S. and to further integrate research and education with the changing needs of our global society.

UH Hilo hosts 2009 Hawai’i TESOL spring conference

by Laura Kimoto

“Ideas that Work for the ESOL Student, Teacher, and Program” is the theme of the 2009 Hawai’i TESOL Spring Conference, to be held on Saturday, February 14 on the UH Hilo campus from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 pm. The conference is sponsored by the UH Hilo English Language Institute and features guest speaker Joy Reid, who will give a plenary speech entitled, “Who are the L2 Students in our Classes?”

Reid, a retired professor of the English department at the University of Wyoming and currently a part-time research writing instructor at Maui Community College, has written numerous ESL textbooks, including her most recent work, Writing Myths: Applying ESL Research to Classroom Teaching. She is currently co-editing a series of teacher resource books for the University of Michigan Press. In addition to her many publications, she has done teacher training within and outside the U.S., including seminars in Hungary, Malaysia, Russia, Ukraine, Egypt, Lebanon, Dubai, Hong Kong, and Taiwan.

Throughout the day, attendees can attend the two dozen conference presentations by ESL professionals throughout the State and from abroad. They can talk to publisher representatives and peruse exhibits of current ESL teaching materials on display, and also get free examination copies of materials. After a catered lunch by Sodexho, attendees can participate in a workshop conducted by Reid entitled, “Write to Learn.”

The conference registration fee ranges from $15 to $40 depending on the status of registrants. Onsite registration will also be available.

Hawai’i TESOL is a volunteer-based professional organization for teachers of English to speakers of other languages (TESOL) and has traditionally held its annual conference on O’ahu.

For more information, view http://www.HawaiiTESOL.org/AnnualConference, email laura.kimoto@hawaii.edu, or call (808) 756-6186. 📧

(Editor's note: Laura Kimoto is a lecturer, English Language Institute, and Hawai’i TESOL conference chair.)
Campus Events

February

1  Last day to withdraw from courses without “W”
   Last day to receive 50% refund of tuition

4  Focus on UH Hilo, 8 p.m., Channel 55

14 2009 Hawai‘i TESOL Spring Conference,
    8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., UH Hilo campus

16  Holiday: Presidents’ Day

18  Focus on UH Hilo, 8 p.m., Channel 55
    Anjelique Kidjo, 7:30 p.m., PAC, Admission

27  UH Hilo Distinguished Alumni and Service
    Awards Banquet, 5 p.m., CC Dining Room