Hapai: R&R means Retirement and Regency

It would appear to be a safe bet that Dr. Marlene Nachbar Hapai enjoyed an excellent 2006 and is anxiously looking forward to what 2007 has to offer.

The retired biology and natural sciences professor, administrator and founding mother/former director of the 'Imiloa Astronomy Center was appointed to the University of Hawai’i’s Board of Regents by Governor Linda Lingle, confirmed by the State Senate — who shot down the Governor’s previous two nominees for East Hawai’i Regent — and sworn into office. She was also recently granted Professor Emeritus status by UH Hilo. Hapai is the first woman Regent to represent the Big Island in the Board’s 100-year history. She is also the first UH Hilo faculty member to serve in this role.

“I am really enjoying being a Regent,” Hapai said. “It is a major time commitment, sometimes up to 50 percent of my time, depending on what is pending, but it allows me to use all the experience I have gained over the years as a student, faculty member and administrator and give back to an educational system that has given so much to me.

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“I have given the President many initiatives I feel need to be addressed and he has acted upon some of them already. One is the dedication of two
Donaghy, assistant professor of Hawaiian and Hawaiian studies and technical coordinator for Hale Kuamo’o. “While the College’s programs have experienced tremendous growth, we need the support of legislators to provide the facilities and positions that will enable us to continue strengthening the host language and culture of these islands.”

“We are excited to share our Baccalaureate Nursing program’s uniqueness and growth potential,” added Dr. Kay Daub, associate professor of nursing and chair of UH Hilo’s nursing program. “We are increasing our admissions to meet the needs of the community and we are looking forward to showcasing the unique features of our program. For example, we offer a program with a transcultural focus and a transcultural thread throughout the entire curriculum.”

Kakugawa-Leong noted there will be some changes in the way UH Day is conducted this year.

“In the past, UH Day featured programs by campuses,” she explained. “This year, programs will be placed in focus groups on the third and fourth floors of the State Capitol Building to give a sense of unity among all campuses, to make it easier for legislators to see the overall impact of the University in the community and for legislators to better connect with areas of their own interest.

“The nine focus groups are: Science and Technology; Human Services; Health Services; Economic Development; Native Hawaiian Programs; Liberal Arts; Workforce Development; Sustainability; and Student Groups, Alumni, and Foundation. UH Hilo won’t have a program in each of the nine groups, however, because the UH Hilo Administration felt it more pertinent to instead feature programs based on the ‘07 legislative requests.”

UH Day also features a lecture series, each talk 30 minutes in length. From UH Hilo, Peter Giles, executive director of the ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai‘i, will be speaking on “‘Imiloa: Celebrating Hawaiian Culture and Mauna Kea Astronomy” at 10:30 a.m. in Conference Room A. Dr. John Pezzuto, dean of the college of pharmacy, will speak at 1 p.m. on “Fresh Opportunities for Pharmaceutical Research, Education and Business Development Afforded by a New College of Pharmacy.” His talk will also be held in Conference Room A. There will also be presentations by UH West O‘ahu and UH Manoa.

“UH Day will give ‘Imiloa a chance to make the connection for legislators between ‘Imiloa’s work and priorities important to Hawai‘i’s future,” said Giles.

“The College of Pharmacy hopes to inform the legislature of how this new initiative will transform health sciences on the UH Hilo campus, establish additional partnerships with the other campuses within the UH System, and significantly strengthen the profession of pharmacy throughout the State and the entire Pacific region,” Pezzuto added.

Thirty-six performers of the UH Hilo Samoan Club (Tupulaga O Samoa Mo A Taeao) will entertain at UH Day. Their first performance is at 10:15 a.m. in the Rotunda, which immediately follows President David McClain’s opening remarks. Their second performance is at 1:15 p.m., also in the Rotunda. In addition to the Samoan Club, UH Manoa will have its Chinese Music Ensemble and University Lab School Band, and there will be slack key guitar by Windward Community College.

On the Ewa Lawn of the State Capitol, there will be glass blowing, a 25’ x 8’ steel bridge, a cement canoe, the John A. Burns School of Medicine’s Mobile, a mock crime scene and a model home.

A program booklet featuring all of the campuses, student/alumni success stories, program schedule, and layout of the focus groups will be given to legislators ahead of time so they can determine beforehand what tables they want to go to and decide how best to use their time since UH Day falls on the third day of the new session.

A big bonus for UH Hilo is that approximately 50 UH Hilo students will be at UH Day, all dressed in red.

“In the past, feedback from legislators was that they really enjoyed seeing students at UH Day, talking with them, hearing about their educational experiences, asking questions and interacting with them,” Kakugawa-Leong said. UH Hilo students will be represented by the UH Hilo Student Association, the Student Activities Council and the UH Hilo Samoan Club.
UH Hilo partners with community colleges in Degree Pathways programs

UH Hilo has begun work with the community colleges in the UH System to design Degree Pathways Partnership programs.

Faculty from UH Hilo’s College of Business and Economics and Kapiolani Community College’s Business Education program have created a Degree Pathway for KapCC students to work toward a Bachelor of Business Administration at UH Hilo. Faculty in Marine Science, English and Sociology have also created pathways from the KapCC Associate of Arts Degree to the Bachelor of Arts at UH Hilo.

Pathways include a defined set of courses KapCC students can take that will count toward a bachelor’s degree at UH Hilo. In addition, eligible community college students who opt for the Degree Pathways program can be accepted to UH Hilo’s program while still at KapCC. Advantages include advising from both KapCC and UH Hilo faculty to keep students on track. And when students transfer to UH Hilo, they will be classified as continuing students eligible for early registration.

UH Hilo is also collaborating with Hawai‘i Community College on ways to share resources to provide better opportunities for students. Initiatives are underway in Administration of Justice, Substance Abuse Counseling, Psychology and Mathematics.

Geology faculty at UH Hilo and Windward Community College are also designing a Degree Pathway. In addition, UH Hilo’s College of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Management is working with Hawai‘i and Maui Community Colleges to improve course coordination so students will be able to transfer more credits from the community colleges toward a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture.

For more information on the Degree Pathways program, call x47707.

UH Hilo’s Alumni and Friends Association celebrated its year-end festivities last month at its 4th Annual Holiday Social event held at the Hilo Yacht Club.

Filled with holiday cheer, Malika Dudley, Miss Hawai‘i 2005, sang to over 60 attendees comprised of UH Hilo alumni, friends, faculty and staff.

“The main goal of this annual event is to provide an opportunity for anyone interested in enjoying an evening of delightful fun, good food and warm fellowship,” said Yu Yok Pearring, director of marketing and alumni.

The Association also thanked Dr. Jim Kelly for his many years of continued service as president of the Association. Taking over the helm is Kapena Lum, who has been a board member for the past two years. He and his wife, Abby, both graduated from UH Hilo’s College of Business and Economics in 2002. Lum enjoys a successful career as a financial consultant associated with Pacific Wealth Management, LLC.

The Association is currently planning its signature event, the Distinguished Alumni and Service Awards banquet, scheduled for Friday, February 23 at the Hilo Hawaiian Hotel. Information of selected nominees and event details will be announced later this month.

For additional information on the UH Hilo Alumni and Friends Association, call x47501.
Hats off to...

Julie Ann Luiz, Assistant Professor, Animal Science, had her paper on “Giant Marine Toad, *Bufo marinus*L., Poisoning in Hawai‘i: Symptoms and Treatment” accepted for publication by the *Journal for Hawaiian and Pacific Agriculture*.

Bryan S.K. Kim, Associate Professor, Psychology, had his article, “Using Storybooks to Promote Multicultural Sensitivity in Elementary School Children,” published in the October 2006 issue of the *Journal of Multicultural Counseling and Development*. The JMCD is a journal of the American Counseling Association.

Wayne Miyamoto, Professor, Art, presented his work in the 73rd National Membership Exhibition of the Society of American Graphic Artists, New York City. The exhibition was presented in the Selby Gallery of the Ringling School of Art and Design in Sarasota, FL last fall. He also participated in Compact Prints 2006, International Print Exhibition and Exchange, Umbrella Studio, Townsville, Queensland, Australia, last fall. The exhibition featured 124 Australian and international artists.

Todd Belt, Assistant Professor, Political Science, had his article “The Local News Story: Is Quality a Choice?” accepted for publication in the peer-reviewed journal *Political Communication*.

Raina Ivanova, Associate Professor, Mathematics, had her paper on “A geometric characterization of a statistical parameter space” accepted for publication in *Differential Geometry and Vector/Tensor Analysis*, a leading international journal noted for its high scientific standards in publishing original research in new fields of mathematical and information sciences. The Editorial Board of the journal recognized that Ivanova’s paper “contains outstanding research in Information Geometry.”

Thom Curtis, Associate Professor, Sociology, was invited to present his observations and recommendations regarding disaster response activities following the October 15, 2006 Big Island earthquake to a Statewide summit of disaster responders. The Hawai‘i Chapter of the American Red Cross sponsored the conference at Kapi‘olani Community College last month.

UH Hilo Job & Internship Fair next month

UH Hilo hosts its spring semester Job & Internship Fair on Monday, February 26 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Campus Center Plaza. The event is open to all UH Hilo and HawCC students and alumni.

Faculty and staff are asked to encourage their students to attend this event, and to remind them to dress professionally and bring multiple copies of their resume.

Contact the Career Center at x33115 or email Dr. Norman Stahl at <nstahl@hawaii.edu> with any questions.
NHERC expands credit offerings

UH Hilo’s North Hawai’i Education and Research Center (NHERC) is offering 11 credit courses this spring in Honoka’a.

“We’re excited to offer a variety of courses for the residents of North Hawai’i,” said Interim Director Farrah-Marie Gomes. “The Center is striving to meet the higher education needs of North Hawai’i’s communities and expanding college-level offerings is central to our mission.”

UH Hilo is offering Philosophy 100 and Psychology 100 while Hawai’i Community College is offering English 100 and English 255. Videoconferencing classes are also available at the Center and include Bus120, HOpe44, HOpe47, HOpe260, Haw202, HwSt107, and HwSt125.

The Center’s videoconference classes are the result of the ongoing collaboration between UH Hilo and HawCC.

“We’re happy to report that the collaborative efforts of UH Hilo and Hawai’i Community College at NHERC is enabling the University of Hawai’i System to provide an unprecedented range of higher education courses in North Hawai’i,” Gomes said.
Student Life & Events Center underway!

A groundbreaking ceremony was held on November 22, 2006 for the much anticipated Student Life & Events Center. Here, students offer their blessing during the program.

Artist rendering

UH President David McClain, Lt. Gov. Duke Aiona, Chancellor Rose Tseng, and UH HSA President Kainoa Kaumeheiwa-Rego get ready to break ground.

Dignitaries in action
Continued from page 1

days to Board meetings for UH Hilo alone. Although I am now aware that others have been asking for this for awhile, this was one thing I asked the President in our first meeting as I said the one day for UH Hilo and one for HawCC has been historical and we need to give UH Hilo the time and attention it now needs in its present form.”

Hapai, a Honoka’a native, was appointed to the Board seat left open when former Regents’ chair Allan Ikawa, the founder and CEO of Big Island Candies, resigned. She was quickly indoctrinated in the sometimes sensitive nature of the job at her first meeting May 18-19, 2006.

“This first meeting was the one in which Native Hawaiians chained the doors to the Medical School,” she said. “Fortunately, being new, I was there early and got in before the chaining took place.”

Hapai was a high school science teacher before earning a Ph.D. in entomology from UH Manoa in 1981 and starting her career as a university educator and administrator. Having worked her way up the ranks at UH Hilo and having also served as associate dean for Academic and Student Affairs at the College of Tropical Agriculture at UH Manoa before coming back and taking the reins of the Mauna Kea Astronomy Education Center—which became ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center, she has a unique perspective on the entire System.

“Although Regents represent the entire System, the neighbor island Regents are looked upon by the administration and other Regents to be the eyes and ears for our areas,” she said. “We feel the pulses of our campuses better than anyone. I have made it my focus to stress working as a System. I have asked consistently that we work more as a System. I would like to see some type of model that labels each campus as new, developing or mature. Each type of campus should have a budget model that reflects this stage.

“I would also like to see each campus put its strategic plan into a timeline to show what year they expect to put up a building or start a new program and how it will be funded, i.e., how much from tuition, general funds and private funding,” she added. “This plan would be a long-term plan — eight to 10 years, the length of the campuses strategic plan — and enable campuses, administrators, regents and legislators to plan better. It would also be a commitment to campuses and not create a new set of pleas every time we have a change in administration or legislators.

“We really have a challenge not only being a 10-campus system, but being an island state as well. Even with today’s technology enabling us to communicate more readily, there’s just something about that water between us that impedes the process. But if we look at resources, UH Hilo has done proportionately quite well. The problem is, it is still not enough and many of the other campuses feel the same way.”

The ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center, which is Hapai’s brain-child, was an “if you build it, they will come” project. Unfortunately, visitor numbers to the $28 million, 40,000 square-foot exhibition and planetarium complex have been well below original projections. Only a small amount of the Center’s $3 million annual operating budget was earmarked for advertising and marketing.

“‘Imiloa needs to spend much more in marketing to create its own location,” Hapai noted. “We had originally counted on the visitor market to be the greatest source of revenue. However, without the dedication of large amounts of marketing dollars, it will grow slowly, by word of mouth of satisfied customers. When we put the original business plan together, we first had $20,000 per year dedicated to marketing. I bounced this figure off my daughter who asked if this was the amount just for the gift shop which was the size of her store which she at the time was spending $5000 per month on marketing. When I told her it was for the entire center, we decided $200,000 for marketing per year was more realistic. I don’t think ‘Imiloa has this kind of money for marketing yet.

“Also, I think with the café now open and the possibility of more events taking place there, we should be seeing more meetings and parties that are revenue generators. I know this is beginning to happen. Also, they are focusing more on the local market now as this is the majority of their business. This is important as you need a strong local base because we never know when the visitor market will evaporate due to some unforeseen circumstance. However, I do believe there needs to be much more done with the visitor market. It is my understanding they are working directly with the cruise ships now, which is a large market.”

Hapai plans to apply for a full four-year term as a Regent when her current term expires June 30, 2007. The mother of two and grandmother of two also plans to stay active after Regenthood.

“I do have my own business, Science FUNdamentals, which focuses on bringing fun into the learning of science,” she said. “I’ve already directed a grant that produced a pictorial field trip guide for eighth graders for ‘Imiloa addressing the State eighth grade science standards and benchmarks. This uses the strengths of the Center’s exhibits to engage students in learning. Eighth grade is the grade the earth and space sciences are focused upon.

“I may consider another position in higher education administration in the future. I also have been encouraged to consider political office.

“My ‘rule of thumb’ has been to go where called and where you can do the most good,” she said. “Serving on the Board of Regents at this point in my life is the greatest fulfillment of this philosophy.”
# Campus Events

## January

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Holiday: New Year’s</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-5</td>
<td>Orientation, Advising and Registration</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>FIRST DAY OF INSTRUCTION</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Vulcan Women’s Basketball vs. Hawai’i Pacific Univ, 4 p.m., Civic, Admission</td>
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<td>Vulcan Men’s Basketball vs. Hawai’i Pacific Univ, 7 p.m., Civic, Admission</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Last day to register or add a class</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Vulcan Women’s Basketball vs. Hawai’i Pacific Univ, Noon, Civic, Admission</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Vulcan Men’s Basketball vs. Hawai’i Pacific Univ, 2:30 p.m., Civic, Admission</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Holiday: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Vulcan Baseball vs. Alumni, 6 p.m., Wong Stadium, Admission</td>
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<td>25, 26</td>
<td>Vulcan Baseball vs. Oregon State Univ, 6 p.m., Wong Stadium, Admission</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Last day to apply to Spring 2006 graduation</td>
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<td>Last day to exercise credit/no credit</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Vulcan Baseball vs. Oregon State Univ, 1 p.m., Wong Stadium, Admission</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Last day to withdraw from courses with “W”</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>The Campbell Brothers, 7:30 p.m., PAC, Admission</td>
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<td>13-19</td>
<td>Late add/drop</td>
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