Hemmes bids UH Hilo a long, sweet farewell

by John Burnett

While there are many talented and dedicated academicians at UH Hilo, it would be difficult to find one more accomplished and more committed to the school than Dr. Don Hemmes. The professor of biology, who also serves as chair of the natural sciences division, is announcing his retirement after 33 years of service to the University. Fortunately for both students and colleagues, there will be time to bid the respected and beloved professor Aloha.

“I am taking the State’s early retirement incentive program and will ease out of the University by teaching one course each semester for the next three years,” Hemmes said. “My wife, Helen, and I will keep busy and will look for new and exciting opportunities where we can channel our energies. We also look forward to having the time to travel and visit family and friends.”

Hemmes embodies the ideal of *mens sana in corpore sano*, “a sound mind in a sound body.” He is an engaging teacher, a tireless researcher and a paragon of both University and community service, as evidenced by his lengthy list of awards, which include the University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents’ Excellence in Teaching Award, the Associated Students University of Hawai‘i Excellence in Teaching Award for the Natural Sciences and the W. H. Weston Excellence in...
Grand Opening
Continued from page 1

they could take classes closer to home. And she believes the possibilities are only limited to the imagination.

“We’ve had a tremendous response to the introductory college courses we’ve taught in North Hawai‘i, along with our planned offerings through the Osher Life Long Learning Institute,” Tamashiro said. “One of the things we’re particularly excited about is developing classes that can be taken together as an intergenerational family initiative, which residents have shown strong interest in.”

NHERC’s credit and non-credit programs will effectively serve college and advanced placement (AP) high school students, adult learners, trade union members, seniors and displaced workers with in-service training for professional workers, agriculture extension support services and training and computer classes.

“Higher education has an important role to play in meeting the challenges of Hawai‘i’s economy in the 21st century,” said Chancellor Rose Tseng. “To that end, we’re pleased to partner with the North Hawai‘i community and look forward to doing great things together.”

NHERC’s central location effectively positions the Center to combine the workforce community initiatives established by State Representative Dwight Takamine with the wellness activities in Waimea initiated by Five Mountains Medical Group and the aging population of the North Hawai‘i community.

Honoka‘a Business Association President Lois Keb says bringing higher education to the community means residents no longer have to choose between a rural lifestyle and higher education. And she says the business community is excited about the Center’s upside potential.

“Education is opportunity at its best,” Keb said. “Honoka‘a businesses can only appreciate the benefits that will come from it.”

The Center will provide economic benefits to the community by drawing visitors to the area, whose activities will create new revenue sources for local merchants. At the same time, special events, programs, conferences, retreats and town hall meetings will make the facility a valuable community resource and gathering place.

Takamine sees the Center as an important component in the area’s recovery from the loss of 1,200 jobs when large-scale sugar operations were shut down in the mid-1990s. Up to now, workers have been sustained in part through job-training, outreach programs and grassroots community development, but have longed for an educational component.

“The Center is important because higher education is the element that ties together everything we have done to create a more diverse, broad-based economy,” Takamine said. “More importantly, education is a clean industry that preserves the special character of North Hawai‘i, yet has the capacity to grow and develop to meet future challenges as they occur.”

Private foundation supports research on Big Island marine reserves

Oregon-based Cascadia Conservation Trust last month donated $50,000 to UH Hilo’s Marine Science Department.

Marine Science Department Chair James Beets said, “This contribution is significant and will have a tremendous impact on the field research opportunities for our students and faculty.”

The funding is earmarked for research on Marine Protected Areas in West Hawai‘i to determine the effectiveness of banning certain types of fishing from the designated coastal locations. Beets said the model reflects the traditional Hawaiian kapu system, dictating times when certain fishes and fishing styles were prohibited.

“We hope this project will show how the marine reserves help to conserve and enhance local resources,” Beets said.

For more information on how to support UH Hilo’s departmental programs, please call the UH Hilo Development Office at x30829 or x33112.

CPR certified!

Congratulations to 29 faculty and staff members who became CPR certified by Dr. Kay Daub, UH Hilo associate professor of nursing; Robert Chi; Lola Salimova; Jean Ippolito; Mark Garcia; Lori Hu; Becky Ostertag; Norm Stahl; Carolyn Stahl; Tim Eakins; Carolina Lam; Joan Thompson; Kainoa Ariola; Lynette Egusa; Jay Slivkoff; Chris Rances-Seymour; Ramon Figueroa; Shawn Humphers; Howard Van Trease; Janis Iyo; Anne Miller; Susan Rezentes; Audrey Furukawa; Lisa Takahashi; Kolby Santiago; Sevki Erdogan; Anne Erdogan; Albert Mehau-Matsu; Thom Curtis; and Navtej Singh.
Yoshitsugu named Admin Affairs Employee of Quarter
by John Burnett

Albert Yoshitsugu is one of those longtime staffers whose familiar face and friendly demeanor give UH Hilo an atmosphere that is as much small town as college campus. He has been here since July 1976, starting out as a janitor. He was promoted in 1987 to working supervisor.

For years, he was assigned to the Manono Campus, where he and his crew performed the outside groundskeeping duties in the morning and the inside cleaning duties in the afternoon. He is now in charge of a Main Campus crew, doing the cleaning for the Performing Arts Center and Old Gym Area, as well as the Administration and Shops.

Yoshitsugu said he was “pretty surprised” upon learning he had been named Administrative Affairs Employee of the Quarter in recognition of nearly three decades of dedicated service to UH Hilo.

Yoshitsugu’s nominator said that he “symbolizes what public service is all about.”

“Simply put, Albert leads by setting a good example,” the nominator wrote. “He shows up for work early, is very pleasant to all his co-workers. Albert always goes above and beyond for his customers, getting them anything they need or request, working around their schedules and deadlines. When his cleaning duties are complete, Albert always makes the extra effort to pick up rubbish and cigarette butts around the buildings and parking lots, making sure the campus looks as good as possible.”

“Enjoy my job,” said Yoshitsugu, who prefers to speak with his actions instead of words. Asked what he enjoys most, he said, “The people I work with, the University surroundings.”

Yoshitsugu’s nominator said that UH Hilo has been “very fortunate” to have Yoshitsugu’s services for nearly 30 years. As for retirement, Yoshitsugu said, “In the next few years, I guess. I’m not looking forward to it. I enjoy my work.”

Partnerships for Reform through Investigative Science and Mathematics (PRISM): A partnership between the TCBES graduate program at UH Hilo and Hawai‘i DOE

A National Science Foundation grant for $1,825,466 was recently awarded to UH Hilo as a direct outcome of the Hawai‘i NSF EPSCoR program. Partnerships for Reform through Investigative Science and Mathematics (PRISM) is a NSF GK-12 program in which graduate students in the Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Sciences (TCBES) program will be working with teachers in the Hamakua School District on Hawai‘i Island to develop hands-on inquiry-based science curriculum to supplement the school curriculum.

The Principal Investigators on this grant are Dr. Donald Price, director of the TCBES program, Ania Driscoll Lind, program director for the Kula Nai‘a Foundation and TechnoStudio Mobil Science & Technology Lab, Dr. Elizabeth Stacy, assistant professor in biology and TCBES at UH Hilo, and Dr. Jan Zulich, professor of education at UH Hilo. In addition, Alan Nakagawa, director of Mobile Education Partners, and Anne Kennedy, director of the Science and Mathematics Education Resource Center, are consulting on the project. They are working closely with Art Souza, superintendent, West Hawai‘i Complex Area, to coordinate the projects with the Hawai‘i DOE initiatives.

The PRISM program will develop a pioneering initiative that will advance science and mathematics education in K-8 schools that serve a rural and ethnically diverse student population in Hawai‘i. To accomplish this goal, partnerships have been developed between the UH Hilo TCBES Graduate Program, Kula Nai‘a Foundation, the Hawai‘i Island Department of Education (HIDOE), Hawaiian Island Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (HIHWNMS), MARE (Marine Activities, Resources & Education) and FOSS (Full Option Science System) at Lawrence Hall of Science at the University of California, Berkeley, and Mobile Education Partners.

“This partnership seeks to transform existing math and science curricula such as MARE and FOSS into locally relevant science investigations that meet State education standards,” Price said. Central goals of this systemic reform include providing teachers with research based marine and terrestrial science curriculum in the context of outdoor or field projects and improving the science attitudes and content knowledge of K-8 learners. These transferable, inquiry-based curricula created in partnership with teams of teacher-leaders and TCBES graduate students will provide new inquiry-based field projects adapted to Hawai‘i’s unique terrestrial and marine environments.

“The TCBES graduate students will also develop improved communication, teaching and team building skills and a greater ability to communicate science to the general public,” Price added. “Through these partnerships, a professional learning community is developing in Hawai‘i that will culminate in improved math and science education across the island and beyond.”
Hats off to...

Mary Ann Tsuchiyama, Assistant Director, Conference Center, was selected as the 2005 RCUH Employee of the Year at a luncheon held on February 24 on O’ahu.

Jerry Calton, Professor of Management, has been named a Fellow of the International Association for Business and Society (IABS), a learned society devoted to research and teaching the various aspects of the interface between management and the social political dynamics of the surrounding society. IABS has over 300 members worldwide and sponsors the only peer-reviewed scholarly journal, Business & Society.

Harald Barkhoff, Assistant Professor of Health and Physical Education, accepted an invitation to serve as associate editor of the Journal of the American Board of Sport Psychology.

Sabry Shehata, Professor of Agriculture, had his paper on “Application of the Internet in Management, Marketing, and Education, and Linking Hawaiian Small Agribusiness to the World” accepted to the West Indies Agricultural Economics Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico in July. The conference is hosted by the Caribbean Agro-Economic Society.

Yoshitaka Miike, Assistant Professor of Communication, published “The Ferment and Future of Communication Studies in Asia: Chinese and Japanese Perspectives” and “Perspectives on Asian Cultures and Communication: An Updated Bibliography” in China Media Research (Vol. 2, No. 1, 2006). The essay, which was co-authored with Dr. Guo-Ming Chen (University of Rhode Island), appeared as the lead article of the issue.

Jennifer Richardson, Assistant Professor of English, and a number of UH Hilo students have formed an official student chapter of the Rhetoric Society of America, the only RSA student chapter in the country comprised entirely of undergraduates. The UH Hilo chapter is featured on the RSA Web site: www.rhetoricsociety.org.

Wayne Miyamoto, Professor of Art, is participating in the “2006 Harnett Biennial of American Prints” at the Joel and Lila Harnett Museum of Art at the University of Richmond, VA. In addition, his article on “Art and Printmaking at the University of Hawai’i at Hilo” in Graphion, International Review of Contemporary Printmaking, Book, and Paper Art, Vol. 18, 2005, was published by Stredovropska Galerie A Nakladatelstvi in Prague, Czech Republic, released in 2006.

Todd Belt, Assistant Professor of Political Science, had his paper “The Issue of Emotions: The Impact of Emotions about Candidates on Perceived Candidate Issue Differences and Vice-Versa” accepted for presentation at the American Political Science Association meeting this summer.

Cheryl Ramos, Assistant Professor of Psychology, had her paper “Ka Pouhana: Student Success in an Alternative Learning Center” accepted for a symposium presentation at the First International Conference on Community Psychology, to be held at the University of Puerto Rico in June. The symposium is entitled, “The Impact of School Policies and Environments on Students: International Perspectives on Theory, Research, and Interventions.” Additionally, she received a seed grant from the UH Hilo Psychology Department for a research project, “Before and After Cancer: Quality of Life, Life Events, Traumatic Grief, Social Support, and Use of Complementary and Alternative Therapies.”
Kamehameha CEO to keynote Spring Commencement

by John Burnett

Pomp and circumstance shall be the order of the day as degrees and certificates are conferred upon the Class of 2006 at UH Hilo’s Spring Commencement, scheduled for 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 13, at the Edith Kanaka’ole Tennis Stadium.

A total of 467 candidates have applied for graduation. The bulk of the candidates, 371, are from the College of Arts and Sciences. The College of Business and Economics has 48 candidates, Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke’elikolani College of Hawaiian Language reports 28 candidates with 20 candidates from the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Management. By primary credential -- and some candidates have applied for multiple credentials -- 390 are Bachelors degree candidates, 12 are Masters candidates, 62 are for Education certificates and three have applied for subject certification.

The keynote speaker is Dee Jay Mailer, chief executive officer of Kamehameha Schools. Mailer is a 1970 graduate of Kamehameha Schools and has received two degrees from the University of Hawai’i at Manoa, a bachelor of science in nursing in 1975 and a masters in business administration in 1985. She is also a graduate of the Kaiser Permanente Executive Program, a business program for national healthcare executives offered in partnership with Stanford University.

Her appointment as Kamehameha’s CEO in December 2003 -- against a backdrop of improprieties by former trustees and allegations of malfeasance by her predecessor -- garnered praise from Kamehameha alumni and community leaders.

“We are honored that Dee Jay Mailer will be addressing our graduating class as commencement keynote speaker,” said Chancellor Rose Tseng. “Ms. Mailer is one of the University’s most distinguished alumnae. She exemplifies the ideals of leadership and community service and is a shining example of achievement for both women and for Native Hawaiians. Her exemplary record in health care, in non-profit foundations and in education is a testament to the value of diversity in the workforce as well as the limitless nature of human potential when an educated, prepared and confident individual encounters opportunity.”

UH Hilo Drama Professor Jackie Pualani Johnson, a Native Hawaiian faculty member who is serving as Commencement coordinator, praised the Chancellor’s choice of Mailer as keynote speaker.

“I believe that UH Hilo is looked to as the locus in our State where ‘olelo Hawai’i is maintained and perpetuated,” Johnson noted. “Having Ms. Mailer as the keynote speaker takes us a step further, solidifying our commitment to be a part of exploring the social issues that affect our Native Hawaiian students. What she has to share will make all students realize how they need to be aware of cutting-edge educational choices that cannot help but shape our communities as a whole.”

Before taking the mantle of leadership at Kamehameha Schools, Mailer was the chief operating officer and executive director of The Global Fund, a private foundation based in Geneva, Switzerland, that raises and distributes funds to support the fight against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in developing countries. During her tenure, some $3.4 billion was raised from international donors, $33 million of which was disbursed in grant funds to 92 countries. She worked her way to the top of the healthcare industry, from quality assurance director and nurse manager at Kapi’olani Medical Center for Women and Children to chief executive officer at Kaiser Permanente Hawai’i. Her implementation of a service-oriented culture improved health plan member satisfaction and retention rates to the highest levels in the State and within the national Kaiser program. After leaving Kaiser in 1999, she became chief administrative and operating officer of Health Net, Inc., a health insurance program serving two million members in California. She later served as senior vice president of National Contracting and Claims Best Practices for the company.

Mailer, who is married with two daughters, is also active in the community as a board member and chair-elect of the Hawai’i Business Roundtable and has been chair of the Institute for Human Services. She is also a board member of the Pacific Research Institute, the Hawai’i Community Foundation, the Aloha United Way and the Junior Achievement School Mentoring Program.

The student speaker selected to represent the Class of 2006 is James B. Cox, who will receive a bachelor of science in biology with a minor in chemistry. The 37-year-old Cox, who carries a 3.18 GPA, has worked as an Alaska king crab fisherman, statistically the world’s most dangerous job, and also pulled 12-hour shifts at Ken’s House of Pancakes while attending UH Hilo full-time. Cox echoed Mailer’s theme that hard work opens the door of opportunity.

“No matter what, you set a goal and if you never stop, you never fail,” he said.

(Editors note: John Burnett is a public information officer.)
Summer construction projects

The following projects should be started or on-going this summer, according to the UH Hilo Facilities Planning Department:

* Re-roofing Edith Kanakaole Hall begins mid-May and completed early August 2006. The University will occupy the building during the construction. Some inconveniences and disruptions may occur.

* Re-roofing Business Education/Computing Center begins in mid-May and completed early August 2006. The University will occupy the building during the construction. Some inconveniences and disruptions may occur.

* Covered walkways begin June 2006 and completed by April 2007. There are three covered walkways: Performing Arts Center to Edith Kanakaole Hall; Campus Center to Hale ‘Ikena; and Computing Center to Life Sciences. There will be major disruptions to access in those areas.

* Student Life Center begins May 2006 and completed by January 2008. The walkway between UCB to Athletics will be closed. Alternative walkway will be provided along the driveway between the shops. There will be other construction disruptions in the Athletics parking and entrance area.


* Re-roofing Hale ‘Ikena begins mid-May and completed early August 2006.

* Renovation of Redwood City has begun and will be completed in August 2006. There will be noise and access disruptions.

* Campus drainage project has begun and will be completed in August 2006. There will be minor disruptions in various locations on campus.

* North Hawai‘i Education and Research Center, Phase 2 is in bidding process. Construction should start in summer 2006 and completed by end of 2007.

* Hale Kehau Dining Room Renovation is in bidding process. It should begin this summer and completed by end of 2006.

Great Leaps!

The UH Hilo Performing Arts Department presents its culminating dance concert of the semester, “Great Leaps,” on Wednesday, May 3, at 7:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center.

Celeste Anderson Staton, UH Hilo dance instructor, has been coordinating this event twice a year for the last 14 years to showcase the Dance classes of UH Hilo, HawCC, the Fitness for Life program and invited community dance artists.

This semester, the program highlights graduating senior, Lauren Klopp, in her original choreography. The UH Hilo Dance ensemble will also combine with the UH Hilo Chamber Singers to dance the premiere of Staton’s work to a medley from “Phantom of the Opera.” Other choreographers that contribute to the evening include Kea Kapahua, Anela and Maika Woods, Nichole Gaskill, Michelle Darrah and Baya Voce Hoffman.

Tickets are $5 general, $3 seniors and children, $1 UH Hilo students, and are available at the Box Office or call x47310.

Legislative initiatives/NHERC to highlight May Focus on UH Hilo

Focus on UH Hilo concludes its broadcast schedule for the academic year this month with a discussion of legislative initiatives and the North Hawai‘i Education and Research Center (NHERC). The program is hosted by Chancellor Rose Tseng, and airs Wednesday evenings during the instructional year from 8:00 – 8:30 p.m. on Channel 55.

University Relations Director Gerald De Mello will be among the guests appearing on the May 3rd program. De Mello will discuss the progress of various UH Hilo initiatives at the State legislature. He will also preview this month’s grand opening of the NHERC and talk about various programs the Center will offer.

Focus on UH Hilo highlights UH Hilo programs, up and coming developments and the University’s partnerships with various community organizations.
UH Hilo to host holistic health conference
by Ken Hupp

The UH Hilo Baccalaureate Nursing Program hosts the 2006 Pulama I Ke Ola Healthcare Conference, entitled “Pono: Harmony in Health,” May 18 and 19 on the UH Hilo campus. The conference is open to the public. However, there is a fee and registration is required.

Pulama I Ke Ola is an annual event which promotes a comprehensive approach to health care, according to Dr. Cecilia Mukai, associate professor of nursing and conference chair.

“Health care providers are entrusted with a significant responsibility to heal, nurture, empower and respect a person’s mind, body and spirit,” Mukai explained. “Recognition and treatment of all aspects of an individual is known as the holistic approach to healthcare.”

The two-day conference includes presentations on research and practices related to holistic approaches, with special attention placed on issues impacting the health of people living in a multi-cultural environment such as Hawai‘i.

Dr. Dyanne Affonso, a nationally known researcher who has studied cultural implications in health care and health disparities, is the keynote speaker. Dr. Affonso will discuss cultural pathways to health. Interactive sessions on energy healing and holographic memory resolution, lectures on kinesiology, immunizations for the elderly and relaxation techniques, and various demonstrations, cultural performances and treatments are among the activities planned.

The event’s unique format provides pathways for health care professionals and high school students interested in health careers. The youth program will expose high school students to healthcare issues and provide an opportunity to interact with professionals on an informal basis. All high school students, including those that may not be able to attend the conference, are invited to participate in poster and essay contests for monetary awards.

Health care professionals may obtain more information about the conference, including fees and registration, by calling Danielle at Ke Anuenue Area Health Care Center (AHEC) at 935-8658 or by visiting the conference Website at www.uhh.hawaii.edu/depts/nursing/pulama.

Community partners include Ke Anuenue AHEC, Pacific Islands Geriatric Health Center, Hawai‘i/Pacific Basin AHEC, and the East Hawai‘i IPA.

Spotlight
Continued from page 1

Teaching Award from the Mycological Society of America. He has also been recognized with the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo Chancellor’s Excellence in Service Award, the Willard Wilson Distinguished Service Award for the University of Hawai‘i System, and the Dr. Hung Wo and Elizabeth Lau Ching Faculty Service to the Community Award. In 2000, Hemmes was named Professor of the Year for the State of Hawai‘i by the Carnegie Institute.

“I treasure all my teaching awards because that’s what I do,” he said. “To win the Board of Regents Excellence in Teaching Award early in my career and then to be recognized nationally with the W. H. Weston Excellence in Teaching Award from the Mycological Society of America were very special. But to win the Carnegie Foundation Professor of the Year for the State of Hawai‘i in 2000 is an award I really treasure because it recognizes teaching, scholarly efforts and service over my entire career.”

Hemmes is a native Iowan who received his undergraduate degree in biology at Central College in Pella, Iowa, before earning both his M.S. and Ph.D. in microbiology at UH Manoa. He has done postdoctoral work at the University of Zurich, the University of California at Riverside and at the National Cancer Institute at Bethesda, Maryland. He has spent his entire teaching career at UH Hilo and has concentrated much of his research in mycology, the study of fungi.

“My research has had two phases -- the first 15 years concentrated on cell biology and ultrastructural studies of fungi, and the second 15 years was concentrated on systematics and identification of fleshy fungi in Hawai‘i,” he explained. “The first 15 years culminated in a chapter in the book Phytophthora, Its Biology, Ecology and Pathology, which was the result of a symposium I delivered at the national conference of Phytophthora researchers. Of course, I am proud of our book Mushrooms of Hawai‘i, which is a culmination of my work on fleshy fungi in Hawai‘i and which I wrote with my colleague, Dennis Desjardin of San Francisco State University.”

Hemmes has also received the Chancellor’s Excellence in Research Award in 2004 and in the same year was honored as a Fellow of the Mycological Society of America for his work on Hawaiian fungi.

“I have three or four monographs on various groups of fungi that I would like to finish before I tie a big bow tie on my research activities in Hawai‘i and call it quits, he added. “I will be presenting papers in Québec City, Canada, and in Cairns, Australia, this summer. Dennis and other colleagues have made quite an impact in our understanding of fleshy fungi in the Hawaiian Islands. I will continue to host mycologists from all over the world at UH Hilo and collaborate on a number of projects. I am serving as vice president of the Mycological Society of America this year and will be president elect next year. I will present my presidential address at Penn State University in 2008, which will be a summary of all of our knowledge of fungi from Hawai‘i up to that point.”

Some of Hemmes’ hobbies also stem from his biological training. He has identified and named numerous marine mollusks and says he has about 100 that are yet to be described but “there just isn’t enough time in a day.” He also started a botanical garden at UH Hilo, largely to feature cycads, because he was tired of people incorrectly calling them “palms.”

“That is actually why I am retiring, so I can work in the University botanical gardens,” he said. “There is no email or cell phones out there. Not only do I want to maintain the gardens, but to increase the number of species so that our gardens are recognized as one of the top botanical attractions in the State.

“I’m also looking for a major service project or two,” he noted. “I would like to select some community effort where I could make a big impact. Teaching our youth and preserving the environment are both attractive.”

MAY, 2006 Ka Lono Hanaka‘i 7
## Campus Events

### May

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<td>Last day of instruction</td>
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<td>Das Wunder von Bern: the Miracle of Bern, 5 p.m.</td>
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<td>Great Leaps, 7:30 p.m., Performing Arts Center, Admission</td>
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<td>Focus on UH Hilo, 8 p.m., Channel 55</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Spring Commencement, 9 a.m., Edith Kanakaole Tennis Stadium</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Final grades due in MyUH portal, Noon</td>
<td>Spring semester ends</td>
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<td>2006 Pulama I Ke Ola Healthcare Conference, “Pono: Harmony in Health”</td>
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<td>Holiday: Memorial Day</td>
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<td>8-12</td>
<td>Final examinations</td>
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<td>End of the Year Celebration &amp; Recognition Ceremony, 3 p.m., UCB 127</td>
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