Pharmacy pioneer to address spring graduates

by Ken Hupp

Dr. John Pezzuto, founding dean of the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy will be the keynote speaker at the University’s spring commencement on Saturday, May 16, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Edith Kanaka‘ole Stadium.

Students have petitioned for a total of 821 degrees and/or certificates from the colleges of Arts and Sciences (472), Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Management (29), Business and Economics (41), Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language (33), and Pharmacy (181), while others are candidates for various post-graduate honors (65).

Pezzuto arrived at UH Hilo in 2006 from Purdue University, where he had served as professor and dean of the College of Pharmacy, Nursing and Health Sciences. He was tasked with creating a college from the ground up to serve Hawai‘i and the Pacific region, as envisioned by the late Hawai‘i U.S. Senator for whom the institution is named.

Despite having no offices, staff or students, Pezzuto assembled a team of world-renowned faculty, which enabled the then UH Hilo College of Pharmacy to seat an inaugural class of 90 students the following year and award its first degrees in 2011.

Today, the College is fully accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), on track to become one of the nation’s top 25 institutions, and can look forward to moving into new, modern facilities following last year’s groundbreaking on a permanent home.

Pezzuto believes the successful journey that took the College from a concept to its current status illustrates what can be accomplished through inspiration, focus and hard work -- the same qualities required to earn a degree.

Understanding the varying perspectives and viewpoints about Maunakea

by Chancellor Don Straney

A healthy university is one that embraces diverse subject matter, wide debate, and constructive argument. The recent events on Maunakea prompted by the start of construction of the Thirty Meter Telescope have greatly affected some members of our University of Hawai‘i at Hilo ‘ohana and others from our island and State. At UH Hilo, we respect the right of people to express themselves peacefully, and we have hosted several events this past month designed to help the UH community and the general public understand the varying perspectives and viewpoints about Maunakea.

Kapu aloha

Early in April, we hosted a panel discussion to explore the concept of “kapu aloha,” for the mountain. Three women were on the panel: Manulani Aluli Meyer, a former associate professor of education at UH Hilo and world scholar-practitioner of Hawaiian and indigenous epistemology; Luana Busby-Neff from Moloka‘i, a founder of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana; and Ngahiraka Mason, a senior curator of Maori art from Aotearoa, who gave us an intimate
“Many people predicted the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy would fail. But it will not fail,” Pezzuto said. “And I hope our graduates can view this as an example of how they, too, can be part of something that improves society while at the same time generating pride and self-contentment.”

Pezzuto will remind graduates that their future is in their hands and that the true value of their degrees will be determined by what they do going forward.

“Let’s be honest. A degree embossed with a name such as Harvard, Princeton or Yale opens some doors without a word being said. But there is no doubt that the tools they have acquired at UH Hilo are of high quality,” Pezzuto said. “Now it is time to use those tools, while continuing to acquire additional tools as life-long learners, and building a career and a life that fulfills all dreams.”

His address also marks the final UH Hilo Commencement for Pezzuto, who leaves in August to assume his new duties as professor and dean of the Arnold and Marie Schwartz College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences at Long Island University (LIU) in Brooklyn, New York. He embarks on that next chapter with a sense of satisfaction that the team he assembled here has largely fulfilled its lofty goals.

“From the very beginning, our aspiration was to not simply create a degree mill but to create a top-ranked college that will inspire hope and pride,” Pezzuto said. “And we have proven that a college with all the right stuff can be based in Hilo and thrive.”

He’s bullish on the future of the College, which he says is on a solid trajectory, with a good reputation and much strength. Pezzuto said the next dean will assume leadership of an institution that is well positioned to build on its earlier accomplishments.

“The ‘torch’ being passed is strong and bright,” Pezzuto said. “Anything other than making it stronger and brighter would be a tragedy that could only be attributed to apathy or incompetence.”

As the time of his departure nears, Pezzuto says he’ll look back on his experience and the countless friendships he’s made along the way. He will also reflect on a lengthy list of firsts, including the inaugural class, gaining professional accreditation, recruitment efforts, establishing quality graduate and research programs, along with the effort to secure a permanent home for the College. And while you can take him out of the College, you can’t take the College out of him.

“Building this College and everything surrounding its creation has become a part of my soul,” Pezzuto said. “In that sense, I don’t imagine I will ever leave.”

Alyssa Loving, a mathematics major with a minor in computer science, represents the Class of 2015 as student speaker.

Born on Hawai‘i Island and raised in Honomu, she has earned numerous academic honors and awards both locally and abroad.

At UH Hilo, Loving has maintained a 3.97 GPA and received the University of Hawai‘i Presidential Scholarship, the Pearson Mathematics Underclassman and Graduating Senior Awards, the Pearson Book Award For Outstanding Computer Science Freshman, and the University of Hawai‘i Centennial Scholarship.

Outside the classroom, she has participated in UH Hilo’s PURE Math program. She also spent a semester studying mathematics in Budapest and summers performing mathematics research at Williams College and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Her work has been showcased at national conferences, where she won the outstanding research poster award from the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science. She has also earned honorable mention for her achievements by the prestigious Barry Goldwater Scholarship and is a National Merit Commended Scholar.

In addition to her national accomplishments and recognitions, she remains heavily involved with campus life, serving as a mathematics and computer science tutor as well as Editor-in-Chief of UH Hilo’s art and literary magazine Kanilehua.

Loving will enter a mathematics graduate program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign this fall, where she will continue to pursue her passion in mathematics research.

(Ken Happ is a public information officer.)
Maunakea
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summary of her own experience and understanding of relationships to mountains.

This two-hour community meeting was attended by 80-plus people, who learned that kapu aloha is a discipline that teaches compassion and aloha for all, especially for those who are perceived to be polar to the cause. As Manulani expressed, “A kapu aloha helps us intentionalize our thoughts, words and deeds without harm to others. It honors the energy and life found in aloha, compassion, and helps us focus on its ultimate purpose and meaning.”

Teach-in

Later in the month, the Ka Haka ʻUla O Keʻelikōlani College of Hawaiian Language held a “teach in” about Maunakea with their students and invited the upper classes of two immersion schools. It was an informational and enrichment day for getting to know more about Maunakea, share cultural connections and examples of strategies for action taken from traditional Hawaiian stories and documented Hawaiian history, as well as information about the current history of astronomy on the mountain.

The purpose was to impart information to students — the future leaders of our communities — in a non-judgmental fashion, and then let them form their own opinions about the current debate.

BOR meetings

About the same time, the UH Board of Regents held a special meeting at UH Hilo to hear about the management of Maunakea and the Maunakea Science Reserve. Public testimony on the current debate about TMT was welcomed and 61 members of the UH Hilo community and the general public presented their views.

There was a lot of respect and aloha shown by everyone who attended the BOR meeting (standing room only in our largest lecture hall) and we listened carefully as presentations occasionally included direct criticism and pointed challenges to the BOR and UH.

As I write this, the Board has scheduled a follow-up meeting at UH Hilo for Sunday, April 26, to continue hearing testimony.

Respect and aloha

I believe it is important to provide opportunities for our students, faculty, staff and the local community to gather together at events like these to learn from many different sources about the events unfolding on Maunakea. This type of discussion and debate is what a university is for.

The issues being discussed are very important to us all and I encourage each of you to listen, learn, and share your opinion in a respectful way. Our respect and aloha for one another will guide us well as we move forward.

Aloha,

Donald O. Shaney

CCECS launches new classes

Summer is always a busy time for the College of Continuing Education and Community Service (CCECS) because it administers Summer Session. This summer, CCECS has chosen to also launch a series of classes that have never been available as non-credit course offerings.

Professional development courses being offered for the first time include Federal Grant Writing Training: How to Apply for Federal Resources, Foundations of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Child Social-Emotional Development, and Jumpstart Your College Application Essay.

Technology courses include Introduction to Adobe Illustrator CS6, Introduction to Microsoft Windows 8, Mac for Beginners, iMovie for Beginners, iPhoto for Beginners, Adobe Premiere Elements 13, Social Media for Beginners, Effective PowerPoint for Educators, Getting to Know Your iPhone, Getting to Know Your Android Phone, Introduction to WIX.com (No Code Website Builder), STREAK CRM + Project Management, and Intermediate Excel.

Fitness for Life courses include Art to Wear, Baby Talk: French, Beginning Songwriting, Drawing Portraits by the Graph Method, Introduction to Brazilian Zouk, Japanese Reading and Writing: Intermediate Level, Japanese Reading and Writing: Advanced Level.

For more information about these classes, visit http://hilo.hawaii.edu/academics/ccecs/, follow CCECS at https://www.facebook.com/CCECS.HILO, or call 974-7664.
Hats off to...

Chris Frueh, Professor, Psychology, was a co-author on “Interhemispheric insular and inferior frontal connectivity are associated with substance abuse in a psychiatric population,” *Neuropsychopharmacology* 2015; 92:63-68, and “A dimensional approach to assessing personality functioning: Examining personality trait domains utilizing DSM-IV personality disorder criteria,” *Comprehensive Psychiatry* 2015; 56:75-84.

Jackie Pualani Johnson, Professor, Drama, had a performance of “Lili’uokalani at Washington Place,” a script that she adapted from the writings of Queen Lili’uokalani and visits with her family and historians. The event, performed on January 30 at Washington Palace, the former home of the Queen, was sponsored by Governor David Ige and the Iolani Guild. More recently, the Hilo performance on March 29 was at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Apostles in an evening called “Musings and Meditation with our Monarch.” Justina Mattos, Lecturer, Communication, assisted with script research for the story that focuses on the Queen and her relationship with her hanai children.


Charmaine Higa-McMillan, Associate Professor, Psychology, is the lead author on “Evidence Base Update: 50 Years of Research on Treatment for Child and Adolescent Anxiety,” *Journal of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology*, and co-author on “Balancing Effectiveness with Responsiveness: Therapist Satisfaction Across Different Treatment Designs in the Child STEPs Randomized Effectiveness Trial,” *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*. Both are in press.

Mahavir Chougule, Assistant Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences, was selected as the 2015 American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Minority-Serving Institution Faculty Scholar in Cancer Research. The grant is supported by the National Cancer Institute’s Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities.

Cherie Chu, Assistant Professor, Pharmacy Practice, is co-author of “Obesity increases risk of anticoagulation reversal failure with prothrombin complex concentrate in those with intracranial hemorrhage,” published in the *International Journal of Neuroscience*.

John Pezzuto, Dean, College of Pharmacy, is co-author with Carolyn Ma, Associate Professor, Pharmacy Practice, on “Academic Pharmacy Strikes Hawaii (Part 2),” published in *Hawaii Journal of Medicine & Public Health*. 
Women’s Leadership Summit a success

CCECS Interim Dean Farrah-Marie Gomes provided the welcome and opening remarks to 300 participants at the inaugural Hawai‘i Island Women’s Leadership Summit: Advancing Women through Knowledge, Strength and Community held on April 24 at the Hilton Waikoloa Village. The purpose of the Summit was to advance and celebrate the value of women in our society, cultivate relationships for networking, and move the conversation forward to develop leaders locally.

This event was the first public offering of the Hawai‘i Island Women’s Leadership Forum, a group founded one year ago by leaders moved by their passion to support and encourage women on the island. The keynote address was delivered by Kata Issari, vice president for the Hawai‘i Region of Joyful Heart Foundation. Summit participants also had the opportunity to preview movie clips from Rise of the Wahine, a documentary scheduled to be released later this year.

A total of 20 workshop options for personal and professional development were provided. Twenty-eight vendors were also on-site to showcase products and services to meet women’s needs.

The Hawai‘i Island Women’s Leadership Forum is currently organized under CCECS. The Forum intends to coordinate follow-up events and activities based on the feedback from Summit participants.

To find out more, visit http://hilo.hawaii.edu/academics/ccecs/HawaiiIslandWomensLeadershipForum.php, follow the Forum at https://www.facebook.com/hiwlf, connect via LinkedIn at http://linkd.in/1EMitU0 or Twitter at https://twitter.com/HIWLF.

Chinese educators visit Hilo

As part of a week-long tour of Hawai‘i’s universities and private high schools, a group of 14 Chinese high school educators visited Hilo on April 13 to meet with representatives from UH Hilo and Hawai‘i Community College.

The group representing the Beijing International Exchange Center spent a week in Hawai‘i gathering information about opportunities for Chinese students in Hawai‘i. The state Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT), along with Hawaiian Airlines and the Hawai‘i Tourism Authority sponsored the tour in an effort to promote the excellent opportunities for high school and college students in the State to prominent and influential educators.

The Hawai‘i Island portion of the visit included lunch with administrators and faculty from UH Hilo and HawCC, a traditional welcome ceremony from the HawCC Hawaiian Studies program, a tour of ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center and the Science and Technology Building at UH Hilo, and visits to the Pacific Aquaculture and Coastal Resource Center in Keaukaha and the Agricultural Farm Laboratory in Panaewa. The Chinese delegation was impressed by the excellent opportunities for hands-on learning available to students in Hilo and the support available to students interested in the natural sciences.
Adopt-A-Beehive with Alan Wong celebration

In 2011, Chef Alan Wong formed a partnership with UH Hilo through a unique program, the Adopt-A-Beehive with Alan Wong. Now in its fourth season, the program has successfully provided a means for the public to participate in the education and support of UH Hilo students, learn about an agriculturally valuable insect, and contribute to the increased sustainability of Hawai‘i.

On March 14, a special event was held at the UH Hilo Farm in Panaewa that allowed the adopters to interact with the beekeeping students, learn about the bee activities on the farm, enjoy honey food samples (provided by Alan Wong and Sodexo Dining Services) and learn about other value-added harvestable products from the hive. Additional interactive exhibits were provided by Dr. Michael Marshall, professor of art, showing beeswax painting, Ms. Patrice Moriyasu, who demonstrated the use of honey to make a Kombucha drink and vinegar, Mr. Michael Crowell of Wailea Agricultural Group, who partners with the program in demonstrating the benefits of honey bee pollination, and Ms. Makena Hanle, a Hilo Intermediate School student, who did her science fair project using the honey bees at the farm.

The program has annually provided $1,000 scholarships to three current beekeeping students. This season’s recipients were announced at the event and congratulated by Chancellor Don Straney and Chef Alan Wong. The recipients were: Ms. Rachel Nishikawa, Mr. Joshua Boranian, and Mrs. Victoria Taylor.

Scholarship recipients (l-r) Victoria Taylor, Joshua Boranian, and Rachel Nishikawa are congratulated by Chancellor Straney (far left) and Chef Alan Wong (far right).
The UH Hilo Jazz Orchestra to Funk It Up!

The UH Hilo Performing Arts Center swings to soulful dance tunes when the UH Hilo Jazz Orchestra presents Funk It Up! on Thursday, May 7 at 7:30 p.m.

On the heels of December’s sold out Frank Zappa tribute concert, the 25-piece ensemble has focused its attention on the funk genre popularized by artists like George Clinton, Sly Stone and Tower of Power. Joining the UH Hilo Jazz Orchestra will be special guest vocalists and dancers performing original choreography by Dori Yamada.

“Funk music is basically soul music, but with an emphasis on rhythm,” said Orchestra Director Trever Veilleux. “It is dance music that makes you feel good and makes you want to move. The musicians, singers and dancers have done an amazing job putting this show together and I can’t wait for people to see it!”

Tickets are $7 General, $5 Discount, Students with a valid ID, and Children 17 & under and are available at the Box Office, Tuesday - Friday, 9-1 p.m. on school days, by calling 932-7490, or ordering online at artscenter.uhh.hawaii.edu.

OHA provides funding to support Na Pua No‘eau

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs is providing a total of $896,232 UH Hilo’s Na Pua No‘eau program, the Center for Gifted and Talented Native Hawaiian Children. Na Pua No‘eau provides Native Hawaiian students Kindergarten through college with learning opportunities as a University of Hawai‘i Center. Students have direct access to UH facilities and faculty where they are guided and supported in their educational and career goals. Na Pua No‘eau has staff and offices at the University’s campuses on O‘ahu, Kaua‘i, Maui, Lan‘ai, Moloka‘i, and Hawai‘i Island.

In 2015, Na Pua No‘eau celebrates its 25th anniversary. Throughout the years, the Center has supported thousands of students in their educational and career goals. In Fall 2013, graduates made up 9% of the Native Hawaiian students enrolled at UH. In Spring 2013, Na Pua No‘eau made up 13% of the Native Hawaiian students who graduated from UH.

Along with the enrollment and graduation of Native Hawaiian students, Na Pua No‘eau is also committed to creating opportunities and supporting Native Hawaiian students in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and health career pathways. In Fall 2013, Na Pua No‘eau students made up 11% of the Native Hawaiian students enrolled in STEM fields and 9% of the Native Hawaiian students enrolled in health fields in the UH System.
The UH Hilo Performing Arts Department’s semester-ending dance extravaganza, *Great Leaps Spring 2015*, adds a new dimension. A special Preview Showing takes place on Friday, May 1 at 7:30 p.m., followed by the regular performance on Saturday, May 2 at 7:30 p.m. featuring over 150 dancers from UH Hilo and Hawai‘i Community College performing original choreography.

Two graduating seniors will present heartfelt reflections of their lives as Ashley Terrell honors her late father, and Zachary Tman creates an aerial dance that communicates the importance of friendship through bullying as a child.

The Dance Ensemble (DNCE 401) will perform three completely different styles. “Paid In Blood,” choreographed by Dori Yamada, plays with the ideas of contagion and infection of both the tangible and intangible kind; Lawrence Mano celebrates the power of positivity with “Believe,” while Celeste Staton and Monique Clevenger create a musical theatre romp with soft shoe, in the classic “Steam Heat.”

Kea Kapahua’s Jazz class will perform a suite of short dances saluting the musical movie era that ends with a funky modern twist. She has also choreographed a modern piece entitled, “One-Song,” inspired by astronomical movements and patterns that reflect humanity’s connection and place within that universe.

The concert will also include a pair of aerial dances from Annie Bunker, an exciting dance with an Afro-Celt sound by the Hawai‘i CC Modern Jazz class, along with performances from the UH Hilo Modern Dance and Ballet classes.

Both performances are open seating. The May 1st preview is priced at $3. Tickets for the May 2nd performance are priced at $7 General, and $5 Seniors, UH students (with a valid student ID) and children, up to age 17, and are available by calling the UH Hilo Box Office at 932-7490 or ordering online at artscenter.uhh.hawaii.edu.

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**Campus Events**

**May**

1, 2  
*Great Leaps Spring 2015*, 7:30 p.m., PAC, Admission

6  
Last day of instruction  
Last day to completely withdraw with a “W”

7  
*Funk it Up!,* 7:30 p.m., PAC, Admission

11-15  
Final examinations

14  
Year End Celebration, 3 p.m., UCB 127

15  
Spring semester ends

16  
UH Hilo Spring Commencement, 9 a.m., Edith Kanakaʻole Tennis Stadium

18  
Final grades due in MyUH portal, noon