UH Hilo fall enrollment reaches all-time high

by Ken Hupp

Enrollment at UH Hilo reached a new all-time high for Fall 2009. Opening enrollment figures from the University of Hawai‘i System shows UH Hilo’s fall enrollment increased to 3,996, with a gain of 210 students, or 5.5 percent over the previous year. This year’s boost extends a steady, upward period of growth dating back to 1998.

“Consistency is the ultimate benchmark of success,” said Chancellor Rose Tseng. “What we’ve been able to do is grow at a sustainable pace over an extended period of time, which we believe validates the quality of UH Hilo’s educational product and the commitment of our faculty, staff and administration to meet the needs of our students.”

Higher retention played a major role in this fall’s enrollment increase, as UH Hilo’s continuing student population grew by 214 or 9 percent to 2,573. The number of transfer students increased by 130 or 2.5 percent to 659. Also boosting UH Hilo’s enrollment was the College of Pharmacy, which admitted the third of four initial classes of 90 students.

Those gains more than offset a 14 percent decline in freshman admissions, which totaled 479. The University also experienced a slight reduction in its international student population, which declined from 328 a year ago to 313.

International students this fall account for approximately 8 percent of the overall student body and span 36 countries, with the largest numbers coming from Japan (76), the Federated States of Micronesia (69), the Marshall Islands (34) and the Republic of South Korea.

Overall, approximately 70 percent of UH Hilo’s enrollment is comprised of Hawai‘i residents, while out-of-state students now total 30 percent. This dynamic reflects the University’s focus on in-state recruitment and the challenging economic climate whose impact is greatest on out-of-state students who pay higher tuition.

Dexter Irvin comes to Hilo with a mandate and a mission

The mandate: to bring accountability and responsibility to an athletic department doing its best to recover from a fiscal shortfall in an uncertain economy.

The mission: to foster an environment in Vulcan Athletics where student-athletes can take pride in being a part of something special.

As the new athletic director, Dexter Irvin brings the experience he has earned in three decades of teaching, coaching and athletic administration. For the past decade, he has guided the Dixie State College program as the Red Storm transitioned from junior college to a four-year institution and rival in the Pacific West conference.

During his tenure in St. George, Utah, corporate sponsorships and financial commitments to DSC athletics increased nearly 300%, as Irvin’s fundraising efforts brought in almost $4 million for Red Storm Athletics. The Red Storm student-athletes earned the PacWest’s Student Engagement Award this year, an award UH Hilo Chancellor Rose Tseng said was “a reflection of Dexter’s own community engagement.”

Irvin also presided over a Red Storm program that brought in national JC championships in women’s soccer (2000 and 2003), men’s basketball (2002) and baseball (2004).

Irvin said that he is ready for a challenge, and
likens the reshaping of the UH Hilo Athletic Department to home improvement.

"Athletically, we have done what many people have done in our country,” he said. “We have built a house that we currently cannot afford. So we need to go about remodeling our ‘home’ so that we can make our proverbial payments and take care of the people that live in our house -- our student athletes. Remodeling can be painful, however. Being responsible for our actions is not only a lesson in business, it is a life lesson we owe to our students.”

Irvin said that the town-gown relationship is vital in this remodeling project.

“We need to re-establish traditional ties within the community through service and extension of ourselves and give businesses and individuals something back for their investment in our students and our institution,” he said. “We need to ask those who have not been asked to become part of something special, and then make sure we are something special. The best way we can do that is to give people something to cheer about.”

The volleyball team has certainly obliged, getting off to a 10-0 start at press time and garnering national notice with a No. 25 ranking in the American Volleyball Coaches Association poll. One student cheering the Vuls on is Chelsea Irvin, Dexter and Connie Irvin’s youngest of six children who is a freshman at UH Hilo. Her siblings include JaMychael, Brandon, Carra, Ezra and Dallas. The Irwins also have 10 grandchildren with an 11th due shortly.

After 31 years of marriage, Irvin still calls wife Connie his “bride” and his “best friend.” He said that one of his favorite things to do away from the job is just to spend time with her. He also enjoys gardening, playing golf, hiking and playing piano. He minored in music at Brigham Young University, where he received his degree in physical education. He also has a masters in phys ed from Adams State.

Irvin said that after building a strong program from the foundation up at Dixie State, it was time for a “new adventure.”

“I love a great challenge, and with all of our children grown, this seemed like a good time to work on something new, meet new people and see another part of the world,” he said. “I grew up with Native Americans in the desert southwest and had a great experience. It is wonderful to meet and be part of a new -- for me -- native culture, and to get to know the local culture better.

Ultimately it comes down to enjoying what you do and starting a new adventure. I think sometimes we become stagnant if we are not careful and quit growing.”

Irvin said that he and Connie are excited to be here in Hilo, and plan on doing what he knows is right to ensure future success for the Vulcans.

“Athletically, we have a moral obligation to ‘do what say we are going to do,’ and to reestablish trust and integrity,” he said. “The true test of integrity comes when we do what we say we will do, act like we say we will act, and exceed expectations in service and loyalty. When we do those things we will find our place in the educational and athletic hierarchy of this country.

“I believe this is our potential and our destiny. We are Hilo and we are strong!”

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The University has also set the System standard in at least one important area. UH Hilo students this fall topped all other schools in the ten-campus system in student-semester credit hours with an average of 12.7 credits.

“We made it a priority to do everything we could to ensure that our students could get the classes they need to fulfill their academic requirements,” said Dr. Luoluo Hong, vice chancellor for student affairs. “We don’t just focus on enrolling our students. We want to help them stay in school and graduate with a degree, so we’re pleased that we were able to maximize their opportunities.”

(Editor’s note: Ken Hupp is a public information officer.)
UH Hilo to lead the nation with new dual Family Nurse Practitioner/Doctorate in Pharmacy degree

UH Hilo will be the first in the country to offer a dual degree with a Nurse Practitioner Specialty and Doctorate in Pharmacy (FNP/PharmD) thanks to a congressionally directed $951,000 grant from the Department of Education.

“Students studying at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo’s College of Pharmacy are able to take advantage of the best that Western science, Eastern traditions and Native Hawaiian heritage has to offer as they explore the healing arts,” said U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye, whose office approved the funding. “We must continue to expand the educational opportunities available to them so that new ways to heal our sick and prevent illness emerge.”

The new program is created and jointly offered by UH Hilo’s College of Pharmacy and the Department of Nursing. It is expected to begin in fall 2010 and require a six-and-a-half-year commitment from the student, said Dr. Edward Fisher, associate dean for academic affairs in the College of Pharmacy.

With aid from the grant, the College of Pharmacy also plans to:

* Create a general practice pharmacy residency program, as well as a drug information and medication therapy management center and distance learning program
* Develop a clinical pharmacist training model for rural and underserved areas in Hawai‘i. A secondary benefit will be the production of a pharmacist workforce database that will assist in identifying areas in the state where pharmacy and pharmacist needs are not being met
* Enhance training of pharmacy students through the use of new technologies, such as virtual laboratories
* Begin the planning phase for a doctoral program in physical therapy

“There is critical need for all health care services in rural areas of the Pacific region, including many areas of Hawai‘i,” said Dr. John M. Pezzuto, dean of the College of Pharmacy. “This grant will help us expand our reach and be used to help increase the availability of both pharmacists and nurse practitioners to these underserved areas. We are very appreciative of the U.S. Department of Education for their vision in helping us to get these innovative programs started.”

The FNP/PharmD degree would broaden the scope of practice of pharmacists through education and training in the diagnosis and hands-on management of common acute and chronic medical conditions, Pezzuto said. Additionally, an FNP/PharmD dual degree would provide nurse practitioners additional detailed skills relating to medications and potential food and drug interactions.

Family nurse practitioners already provide services to patients of all ages in diverse practice settings and subspecialties, said Dr. Kay Daub, chair of the Baccalaureate Nursing Program.

“Nurse Practitioners are working hard to reduce medication errors, which are a major concern in healthcare facilities,” said Daub. “Our goal is to enhance the evidence-based practice of the nurse practitioner regarding drug therapy and prescriptive authority that will improve patient outcomes. The unique collaboration between Nursing and Pharmacy will provide innovative interdisciplinary research and practice to address the complex needs of a rural and richly multiethnic population.”

The UH Hilo Nursing Program recently received a Health Resources and Services Administration grant for $383,000 to assist with the graduate studies in Doctor of Nursing Practice and the dual Nurse Practitioner/PharmD degree program.

“The most applicable benefit will be essentially supplying two highly needed health care professionals for one individual in a rural setting,” Pezzuto said.

“As a result of this work, we can significantly enhance the clinical pharmacy training and applied rural science programs conducted by UH Hilo.”

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**Hats off to...**

**Stephen Worchel**, Professor, Psychology, and **Dawna Coutant**, Assistant Professor, Psychology, were invited guest speakers to present the paper, “Both Sides of the Street: Prevention v. Resolution of Intergroup Conflict,” at a meeting of the European Society of Experimental Social Psychology held last month in Jerusalem, Israel. Additionally, Worchel and Coutant are co-authors with UH student Marcelo Hanza of the chapter, “Pigs, Slingshots, and Other Foundations of Intergroup Conflict,” in *Intergroup Conflicts and Their Resolution: Social Psychological Perspectives*, Psychology Press: New York.

**Drew Martin**, Associate Professor, Marketing, and Arch Woodside, recently had “Tourists’ Dual-Process Accounts of Reasoning, Judgment, and Actions,” accepted as a peer reviewed publication in *International Journal of Culture, Tourism and Hospitality Research*, Vol. 4, no. 3. Also, Martin has “Uncovering Unconscious Memories and Myths for Understanding International Tourism Behavior” forthcoming in *Journal of Business Research*.

**Faith Mishina** was promoted from Instructor to Assistant Professor, Spanish.


**William Mautz**, Professor, Biology, and **Becky Osterreich**, Associate Professor, Biology, presented the paper, “Tracking a Nitrogen Fixing Tree delta 15N signature Through a Hawaiian Coqui Frog Population,” at the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists’ July meeting in Portland, OR.

**Walter Dudley**, Professor, Oceanography, is senior author of “Capturing the next generation of cultural memories – video interviewing tsunami survivors” published in *Journal of Tsunami Hazards* (28:3, 154-170).

**Adam Pack**, Assistant Professor, Psychology, was elected to vice-chair of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council.

**Bryan Kim**, Professor, Psychology, was lead author on “Client Adherence to Asian Cultural Values, Common Factors in Counseling, and Session Outcome with Asian American Clients at a University Counseling Center” that appeared in *Journal of Counseling Development*, the flagship research journal of the American Counseling Association.

**Kelly Burke**, Associate Professor, MIS, had his paper, “The Impact of Internet and ICT Use Among SME Agribusiness Growers and Producers” accepted for publication in the peer reviewed *Journal of Small Business and Entrepreneurship*, vol. 23 (3), Fall 2010.

**Randy Hirokawa**, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, presents the keynote address at a Technology and Communication conference hosted by the Institute for Communication Studies at National Chiao Tung University, Taiwan, Oct 15-17.

**Misaki Takabayashi**, Assistant Professor, Marine Science, served as co-author of the paper, “Comparison of endosymbiotic and free-living *Symbiodinium* (Dinophyceae) diversity in a Hawaiian reef environment,” accepted in *Journal of Phycology*. It was co-authored with colleagues from the Hawai‘i Institute of Marine Biology and World Bank-supported graduate students from Columbia, Tanzania, and New Zealand who participated in the Edwin W. Pauley Summer Program.
**Hats Off**

Continued from page 4


**David Sing**, Director, Na Pua No’eau, was awarded the 2009 Native Hawaiian Education Award at the 8th Annual Native Hawaiian Convention on O’ahu. The Ipua Ka’eo Educator Award is sponsored by the Kamehameha Schools and recognizes an outstanding educator who has contributed to the achievement and educational enrichment of Native Hawaiian children. According to Sing, the award represents the people and organizations that have worked with Na Pua No’eau over the past 20 years.


**Elizabeth Stacy**, Assistant Professor, Biology, presented her paper, “Partial reproductive isolation of successional varieties of Hawaii’s dominant tree, *Metrosideros polymorpha*, fits a model of epistasis,” at the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Evolution, Moscow, ID.

**Kauanoe Kamanā**, Associate Professor, Hawaiian, has been selected as a 2009 Mellon-Hawai‘i doctoral fellow at UH Manoa. She is earning a doctorate in Hawaiian language and indigenous language and culture revitalization at Ka Haka ‘Ula O Keʻelikolani College of Hawaiian Language at UH Hilo. The fellowship award is $40,000.

**Don Price**, Professor, Biology, presented two papers with students at the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Evolution, Moscow, ID: “Population differentiation and local adaptation in an endemic Hawaiian picture-wing Drosophila” and “Comparative Genetic Analysis of the Hawaiian Goose (nene) and the Giant Canada Goose: DNA microsatellite heterozygosity predicts breeding success in nene.” Additionally, Price was invited to participate in the conference on “Transforming Undergraduate Education in Biology: Mobilizing the Community for Change,” sponsored by the Biology Directorate of the National Science Foundation.

**Terrance Jalbert**, Professor, Finance, and **Karla Hayashi**, Writing Coordinator, recently had “A Ranking of States by Cost of Living Adjusted Faculty Compensation,” accepted for publication in *Accounting and Taxation*. It is co-authored with Mercedes Jalbert.

**Jim Beets**, Professor, Marine Science, presented an invited seminar at the University of San Carlos, Cebu, Philippines, on the “Benefits of a Marine Protected Network in Hawai‘i.” He also discussed potential collaborations with colleagues he visited in the Philippines, Guam and Pohnpei to assist with a recently funded NSF grant on marine species invasions.

**Wayne Miyamoto**, Professor, Art, was selected for inclusion in “Accession ‘09” at the Hawai‘i State Museum, which showcases new works collected by the Hawai‘i State Foundation for the Culture and Arts through the Art in Public Places Program.

**John Hamilton**, Instructor, Physics and Astronomy, received a scholarship from the Spitzer Science Center to attend workshops on astronomy out-
Hats Off
Continued from page 5

reach during the Astronomical Society of the Pacific’s 2009 meeting held in San Francisco last month. He also presented a poster, “PISCES Outreach: Bringing the Moon down to Earth” at the conference.

**Jason Turner**, Assistant Professor, Marine Science, presented his paper, “Feeding ecology of Eleotris sandwicensis and Xenoconger fryeri found in Hawaiian Anchialine Ponds; a possible paradox,” and presented with student Trisann Bambico on their work, “Foraging Ecology of the Hawaiian Green Sea Turtle (Chelonia mydas) at Punalu‘u, Hawai‘i” (co-authored by Karla McDermid), at the 89th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists.

**Jing Yin**, Assistant Professor, Communication, had her essay, “Confucian Communication Theory,” published in *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Communication Theory*. She also served as a reviewer for Routledge’s *Journal of Multicultural Discourses*.

**Lucy Maloney**, Coordinator, SeniorNet Learning Center, was honored when national SeniorNet named Hilo the “Learning Center of the Month.” For 14 years Hilo SeniorNet has taught computer skills to hundreds of seniors in East Hawai‘i. There are more than 200 such centers worldwide.

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**College of Hawaiian Language receives international accreditation**

Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language recently was awarded full accreditation by the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium. The announcement was made at WINHEC’s annual general meeting in Toronto, Canada.

“WINHEC’s accreditation of Ka Haka ‘Ula is a great honor,” said Dr. Kalena Silva, director of the College. “We are delighted that this organization with member nations from all over the world has so strongly affirmed the quality of our programs.”

WINHEC’s accreditation team also jointly reviewed Ka Haka ‘Ula’s Kahuawaiola Indigenous Teacher Education Program in conjunction with the Hawai‘i Teacher Standards Board’s State Accreditation Teacher Education (SATE) team. The WINHEC accreditation recognizes Ka Haka ‘Ula as a preschool to graduate school program that includes its preschool to grade 12 laboratory school program, its two Bachelor of Arts programs, its teacher education certificate, its two Master of Arts programs and its Ph.D. program.

WINHEC accreditation serves to strengthen and to validate indigenous higher education institutions and programs founded upon the diverse indigenous languages, cultural beliefs, protocols and practices of WINHEC member institutions.

Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikōlani is the first college in the U.S. within a mainstream institution to be awarded WINHEC accreditation. Only two other institutions worldwide have been similarly accredited: New Zealand’s Te Wananga O Aotearoa and Norway’s Sami University College. The accreditation period lasts 10 years with a midterm, fifth-year review.

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**Pharmacy/Nursing highlight October telecast**

Two medical science programs are featured on the October programs of *Focus on UH Hilo*. The show is hosted by Chancellor Rose Tseng and airs live Wednesday evenings during the instructional year from 8:00 – 8:30 on Channel 55.

Dr. John Pezzuto, dean and professor, College of Pharmacy, appears on the October 7th telecast. Pezzuto will discuss a wide range of current events, including the opening of new, temporary facilities, admission of the third class of students, and this month’s White Coat Ceremony.

The October 21st guest lineup includes Dr. Kay Daub, professor and chair of Nursing, and senior nursing student, Ms. Kelly Paikai. Daub will discuss programs and opportunities for Nursing majors as well as new initiatives and grants that will further enhance students’ learning and faculty instruction.

*Focus on UH Hilo* highlights UH Hilo programs, up and coming developments and the University’s partnerships with various community organizations. Anyone interested in participating in the program should contact UH Hilo’s Marketing and Alumni Office at x47501 or x47643.
UH Hilo employs innovation to trump economic adversity

by Ken Hupp

Growing enrollment and a shrinking budget is forcing many to do more with less as UH Hilo strives to maintain the quality of its educational product. But as one class has discovered, a little creative ingenuity can sometimes overcome the most daunting challenge.

Dr. Randy Hirokawa, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, faced a dilemma as he prepared for his Communication 270 class, “Introduction to Theories of Human Communication.” The class, which is a required course for Communication majors, and an elective for other students, has grown in popularity with some 70 students enrolled this fall. But the absence of a classroom large enough to host a class of that size had Hirokawa facing the prospect of turning away students who might need the class to graduate.

“It was a real problem,” Hirokawa explained. “UCB 100 and the Wentworth lecture hall were the only large multimedia classrooms that could accommodate classes in excess of 50 students, which are becoming more common. But we have other programs that rely heavily on those facilities so they weren’t going to be available, and without them there was no way we could admit all the students who had signed up.”

A potential solution emerged when Housing Director Miles Nagata offered the use of the Hale Kehau Dining Room, which serves meals at night but sits empty during the day. The room was certainly large enough to accommodate Hirokawa’s class, but there was still the matter of equipping it for multi-media use.

“This class requires a lot of electronic bells and whistles, including a full sound system, a microphone, a projector, DVD player, document producer, podium and a screen,” Hirokawa said. “We were easily looking at a price tag of about $25,000.”

Given the state’s current budget crunch, the chances of getting a purchase of that magnitude approved ranged somewhere between slim and none. But as luck would have it, it wasn’t needed. Older versions of the equipment Hirokawa needed were about to be discarded after being replaced by newer, more efficient models prior to the economic downturn. Much of the equipment was in need of repair, but Office of Technology and Distance Learning Specialist Bob Chi was able to fix, modify and install the equipment at virtually no cost to the University.

Hirokawa’s class is the only one currently being held at Hale Kehau, but it could be made available to other departments in need of a large capacity classroom. It could also be used for movie nights or other activities that require large, multi-purpose rooms.

An evaluation will be conducted to obtain the views of students on the use of the room. So far, students appear satisfied with the accommodations where dining tables serve as desks. But the ultimate decision will rest with Housing, which retains jurisdiction of the facility. For now, Hirokawa is pleased that a way could be found to meet the needs of his students.

“That’s 20 students we were able to accommodate, who might have otherwise been turned away,” Hirokawa said. “I think this is a great example of how we can create a win-win situation under difficult circumstances if we’re willing to think outside the box.”

“Best Bowl” is one of the best!

A dozen UH Hilo cooks and roughly 130 faculty and staff participated in the first “Best Bowl” cook-off last month, sponsored by the Student Life Center. Winning the grand champion crown was Sheila Kaupu of Auxiliary Services with her Ke ‘Ohana Chili. Other winners included:

* **Best Soup/Stew Bowl**: Debbie’s Beef Stew, Debbie Pina (Student Life Center)
* **Best Dessert Bowl**: Sweet Dreams Rice Pudding, Jodi Kunimoto (Advising Center)
* **Best Chili Bowl**: Ke ‘Ohana Chili, Sheila Kaupu

Walter Dudoit believes he knows the secret ingredients in Ruth Robison’s (center) and Talaite Petrowski’s entries.
## Campus Events

### October

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<td>Priority deadline to apply for spring 2010 graduation</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td><em>Focus on UH Hilo</em>, 8 p.m., Channel 55</td>
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<td>14, 15</td>
<td>WASC site visitation</td>
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<td>Last day to withdraw from courses with “W”</td>
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<td>Dervish, 7:30 p.m., PAC, Admission</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td><em>Focus on UH Hilo</em>, 8 p.m., Channel 55</td>
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<td>“I” removal deadline: student to instructor</td>
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<td>Last day to apply for Credit-by-Exam for fall</td>
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