Partnerships key to UH Hilo success

by Chancellor Rose Tseng

Partnerships with public and private organizations have been essential in the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo’s transformation from a small college to a comprehensive university.

During my tenure as chancellor over the past eight years, the University community has cultivated many public and private alliances to help fund innovative initiatives, stimulate research activity, develop new academic programs, and expand campus facilities. We’ve made tremendous progress in these areas.

As a State-funded university, we especially value our partnership with State government. This past legislative session was a tremendous success for UH Hilo. The legislature responded favorably to assist us with our very pressing needs made more critical because of our enrollment growth of 33 percent since 1997, reaching an all-time high of 3,431 students last fall.

Although increased enrollment brings challenges, all qualified Hawai‘i resident students have been admitted and welcomed. While our nonresident numbers have been strong, we have more resident students now than 10 or even five years ago. Mainland and international students come here because of our excellence, and they in turn enrich campus life for everyone.

During the past year, due to increased resident recruitment, numbers of resident Filipino and Native Hawaiian students have grown. Downward trends are occurring in numbers of non-resident students, most notably those coming in through the Western Undergraduate Exchange Program. This enrollment management was intentional in conjunction with the increased resident recruiting.

Sixty-three percent of our students receive financial aid. Our aid dollars for resident students is up by $350,000 this fall. The total amount of general fund financial aid available for tuition scholarships is $1.7 million. Our 2006-2010 enrollment plan calls for a significant increase

Pezzuto’s prescription for College of Pharmacy

by John Burnett

Establishing a College of Pharmacy is a daunting task any way you look at it. As such, it was incumbent upon UH Hilo to recruit a heavy-weight to spearhead the effort of getting the sorely needed school off the ground.

In Dr. John Pezzuto, they’ve landed an A-list biochemist and administrator. For the past four years, he served as dean of the College of Pharmacy, Nursing and Health Sciences at Purdue University, one of the nation’s top pharmacy schools. Before that, he earned his stripes for over two decades at the University of Illinois at Chicago in positions including associate dean for research and graduate education of the College of Pharmacy, deputy director at UIC’s Cancer Center and head of the Department of Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacognosy. The author of over 400 scholarly publications, he has served as editor-in-chief of the journal Pharmaceutical Biology from 1997 to the present.

It would be fair to wonder why an individual of Pezzuto’s accomplishments would leave a great position for an under-funded program. Pezzuto said the answer was not the weather, but the work.

“The Purdue program is fully matured,” he
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in financial aid for resident students over the next three years. The enrollment growth coupled with the addition of new classroom buildings and the campus plaza have created challenges in maintaining our infrastructure, and created a strain on our personnel to properly maintain our campus. The cosmopolitan university community and the improved teaching facilities are welcome additions that have enhanced the quality of campus life and academic programs.

Thus, the partnership with our Big Island legislators is of tremendous benefit. This past session, as in years past, the delegation visited our campus and then worked closely with our staff, students and others who traveled to the State Capitol to seek support for our initiatives.

The Big Island delegation helped deliver our message to the Legislature, and lawmakers listened carefully to testimony about UH Hilo’s important role in strengthening our island’s social, economic and cultural fabric. Our delegation’s leadership and commitment played a pivotal role in making 2006 one of the most productive sessions ever.

Among the highlights were the balance of funding needed for construction of a new $25 million Science and Technology Building and planning money for a new College of Hawaiian Language Building. Also approved was $1.4 million in start-up funds to hire 12 faculty and support staff for the new College of Pharmacy.

Lawmakers also approved 60 hires for programs and services throughout the campus for student services, Education and Nursing departments, Hawaiian studies, Title IX and others that are critical to our becoming a full service university.

Yet, this influx of State funds still leaves us with one major challenge: funding for additional student housing. UH Hilo houses resident and non-resident students, including students from Hawai‘i Community College. Housing is critical, and our waiting list is way too long.

To solve this problem, we, together with the UH System, continue to move forward on entrepreneurial housing initiatives that include student conveniences. This development will contribute significantly to UH Hilo becoming a true residential campus and Hilo a true college town.

We greet the fall semester with a deep sense of gratitude for our governor, legislators, the UH Board of Regents and president, and other partners in the public and private sectors for their dedication to UH Hilo.

Thank you all for your support. UH Hilo is a university of which you can be proud!

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U.S. News & World Report ranks UH Hilo in Top 5 for diversity

The U.S. News & World Reports edition of America’s Best Colleges 2007 has ranked UH Hilo in a tie for fifth place among the nation’s liberal arts colleges for ethnic and racial diversity among the student body.

UH Hilo had the highest percentage of Asian-Americans among liberal arts colleges in the U.S. at 43 percent.

“We are proud of the multicultural makeup of our student body at UH Hilo,” said Chancellor Rose Tseng. “Our students receive an excellent education and become world citizens through interaction with one of the most diverse group of schoolmates in the country.”

UH Hilo, which ranked in the fourth tier overall among liberal arts colleges, shares Top 5 honors for campus diversity with Pine Manor College (Mass.), Rosemont College (Penn.), Wellesley College (Mass.), Whittier College (Calif.) and Swarthmore College (Penn.).

For more information about the rankings and the methodology followed by US News, visit the Web at: http://www.usnews.com.

Focus on UH Hilo resumes with two September telecasts

Focus on UH Hilo launches its fall semester of programs this month with shows focusing on scientific research and performing arts. 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.

Dr. Susan Jarvi, assistant professor of biology, will appear on the September 6th telecast. She will be joined by one of her student researchers who will discuss their West Nile Virus research.

Ken Staton, associate professor of music and chair of performing arts, will be joined by a performing arts student on the September 20th program. They will discuss the program’s latest developments and preview the new Theatre season.

Focus on UH Hilo highlights UH Hilo programs, up and coming developments and the University’s partnerships with various community organizations.
Miyashiro named Employee of the Quarter

Alvin Miyashiro has been named the UH Hilo Administrative Affairs Employee of the Quarter. A janitor for Auxiliary Services who has worked at the University since 1998, Miyashiro has been described as a “cleaning machine.” His beat is the areas surrounding buildings, including parking lots, grounds and walkways. His nominator described him as “constantly on the move to insure that his area of responsibility is clean and free of rubbish” and that he “is cordial and respectful of others and always willing to help no matter what the task.”

“He has proven and sustained his superior performance and has also demonstrated his excellence in service with his willingness to help people,” the nominator continued.

The Employee of the Quarter award includes both a plaque and a monetary award.

Crowe is ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center’s “astronomer-in-residence”

Chancellor Rose Tseng and ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center Director Peter Giles in July announced the appointment of Dr. Richard Crowe, professor of astronomy at UH Hilo, as the Center’s first “astronomer-in-residence.”

In the newly-created position, Crowe will assist the Center’s education department in developing astronomy-related public and educational programs, deliver talks and planetarium programs, and serve as liaison with the observatories based in Hawai’i as well as with the University’s Department of Physics and Astronomy, where he will continue as faculty on a half-time basis during the academic year.

“We are pleased to create this new position that strengthens the ties between the UH Hilo faculty, the new ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center, and the observatories,” said Tseng. “Dr. Crowe is both a scholar and educator with a passion for working with the community here in Hilo.”

The new ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai’i, which opened its doors in February 2006, is an educational center and visitor attraction that bridges Hawaiian culture and traditions with science and astronomy.

“Dr. Crowe brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the Center’s staff, providing expertise to review and update its astronomy exhibits, to train staff and volunteers, and work collaboratively with the 13 world-class observatories on Mauna Kea,” Giles said. “We are delighted at this new addition to our staff.”

Crowe has conducted extensive research and published papers on pulsating stars, stellar evolution and spectroscopy. He joined the UH Hilo faculty in 1987, teaching a range of classes from introductory physics and astronomy to senior level astrophysics and quantum mechanics. He recently completed the revision of the popular book, *Stars over Hawai’i*, which integrates Polynesian skylore, voyaging and Hawaiian culture into astronomy. He has also been involved in two nationally-funded programs that encourage local and Hawaiian students to enter careers in space science as well as in the *Journey through the Universe* program.

Jane Eyre auditions this month

Auditions for *Jane Eyre*, the Performing Art Center’s mainstage production for the fall, will be held on September 26 and 27 at 7 p.m.

Reading copies will be available the week before auditions in the back hallway of the PAC. Twelve actors are needed to play a variety of roles in this adaptation of the classic novel.

For additional information, contact Jackie Johnson at x47304 or jjohnso@hawaii.edu.
Distinguished visiting professor at UH Hilo’s College of Business and Economics

Dr. Arch Woodside of Boston College is the 2006 Kitaro Watanabe Distinguished Visiting Professor of Tourism at UH Hilo’s College of Business and Economics. The Watanabe professorship is the only endowed tourism chair in the State of Hawai‘i.

Woodside, who also served as the Watanabe chair in 1997, is offering a special accelerated tourism research through the middle of October. Students will be engaged in hands-on tourism marketing research under his direction, with projects focused in and around Hilo.

Woodside is conducting cooperative research with CoBE faculty. He and marketing professor Dr. Drew Martin are currently conducting research on the tourism plans of Japanese and Chinese visitors to Hawai‘i. He is also planning a long-term research project with management professor Dr. Emmeline dePillis that will involve multiple institutions and utilize evaluation theory to assess government program evaluations.

Woodside is also planning a community presentation in the role of story telling in brand building and has written several papers on the topic. He believes that the CoBE and its sister colleges can play a key role in a coordinated approach that will involve students, faculty and the community. His vision is for the University to create a summer performing arts series focused on stories of the Big Island.

“These kinds of opportunities for our students, faculty and community are priceless,” said CoBE Dean Dr. Marcia Sakai. “The tourism industry is burgeoning and appropriate research and training will help to support and direct the sustainable development of this industry in Hawai‘i. We are extremely fortunate to have Dr. Woodside at UH Hilo.”

Woodside founded the International Society of Culture, Tourism and Hospitality Research and its professional journal as a direct outgrowth of a research symposium held at UH Hilo in 1998. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, Society for Marketing Advances, the American Psychological Association and the American Psychological Society.

The Kitaro Watanabe Distinguished Visiting Professor of Tourism endowedowment was established in 1987 specifically for the Big Island by Mr. Kitaro Watanabe to “inject new ideas, fresh approaches and creative insights into existing programs” and to “stimulate dynamic research and projects.”

NHERC full of excitement

by Farrah-Marie Gomes and Bill Kunstman

UH Hilo’s North Hawai‘i Education and Research Center (NHERC) has been bustling with activity since its grand opening in May. Classes this summer included an online Psychology 100 course as well as six non-credit Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) courses.

This fall, the Center is anticipating a growth in facility usage. Word of the Center’s availability has significantly increased the number of reservations by community groups, organizations and government agencies. Both credit and non-credit courses are also scheduled. NHERC is offering English 100, Expository Writing, in collaboration with Hawai‘i Community College. This class, part of the Running Start program, enables high school students to earn both high school and college credits upon successful completion of the course. Initial registration numbers indicate that this class will be at full capacity.

The OLLI program at NHERC is offering 14 non-credit classes this fall. Classes include Mahjong, Computer Basics, Basic Hawaiian Language, Tai Chi & Qigong Meditation, Dream Interpretation, Basic Genealogy, Genealogy Research, Estate Planning, Printmaking, Hawai‘i’s Natural History, Wisdom of the Seneca, The Old Testament (Tanakh), Guns, Germs, and Steel, and Hiking Hamakua. Additional OLLI events include monthly gatherings for OLLI members and instructors as well as a monthly public speaker series. Tentative speakers include Kat Brady from the Community Alliance on Prisons presenting information on Hawai‘i’s new “Three Strikes” law, Dr. Billy Bergin discussing the upcoming second volume in his history of Parker Ranch, and UH Hilo’s Gerald De Mello talking about Hawai‘i’s unique people and cultures.

The Center also recently opened its computer lab to the general public. Memberships are available on a daily ($1), monthly ($5) or yearly ($30) basis. UH Hilo faculty and staff may use the computer lab at no cost.

The Filipino Centennial Exhibition and gifts given to the Center for its grand opening remain on display at the Center. If you have not yet stopped by to see these items, please do so before the exhibition is moved to another location. And if anyone is interested, the Center is seeking volunteers to help with various aspects of operations and maintenance.

For additional information, please contact the Center at 775-8890.

(Editor’s note: Farrah-Marie Gomes is interim director, NHERC, and Bill Kunstman is program coordinator, OLLI, NHERC.)
Gersting receives UH Regents’ Excellence in Teaching Award

Dr. Judith L. Gersting, professor of computer science and chair of the computer science department, received the UH Board of Regents’ Excellence in Teaching Award. The prestigious award was presented at the Spring 2006 Commencement ceremony held May 13 at the Edith Kanaka‘ole Tennis Stadium in Hilo.

“I am very honored by this award,” Gersting said. “Teaching is my first love; my goal is to help each student be successful in the demanding courses in the computer science curriculum. To receive recognition from fellow faculty and from students is very special.”

Under Gersting’s leadership of the Computer Science Department, UH Hilo junior computer science majors who took the Major Field Achievement Test in Spring 2005 scored an overall mean score of 172, placing the University in the 90th percentile of student scores used by the Educational Testing Service as the national normative data. It also places the University in the 95th percentile of the 177 institutional scores making up the national norm. She is also the author or co-author of three current college-level computer science textbooks.

“Judy is extremely deserving of the award,” said Chancellor Rose Tseng. “Under her direction, UH Hilo’s Computer Science Department has become recognized as one of the very best at the national level. The successes of our Computer Science Department and the quality of education our students receive have made our Computer Science graduates highly sought after for positions in both the public and private sectors.”

Gersting, who has been at UH Hilo since 1990, is also the recipient of the UH Hilo Excellence in Service Award in 1999 and the UH Hilo Advising/Mentoring Award in 2003.

Tenure and promotion awarded

Congratulations to the following faculty members who received promotion and tenure:

Tenure and Promotion
- Dr. Linc Gotshalk, Associate Professor, Health & Physical Education
- Dr. Seri Luangphinith, Associate Professor, English
- Dr. Rebecca Ostertag, Associate Professor, Biology
- Dr. Thomas Pinhey, Professor, Sociology

Tenure
- Dr. Philippe Binder, Associate Professor, Physics and Astronomy
- Dr. Sevki Erdogan, Associate Professor, Computer Science
- Dr. Charles Simmons, Associate Professor, Chemistry
- Ken Staton, Associate Professor, Performing Arts
- Dr. John Pezzuto, Professor, Chemistry

Promotion
- Michael Marshall, Professor, Art
- Dr. William Mautz, Professor, Biology
- Dr. Christopher Reichl, Professor, Anthropology
- Dr. Regina Titunik, Professor, Political Science

UH Hilo alumni golf tournament next month

The UH Hilo Alumni & Friends Association hosts its third annual golf tournament on October 14 at the Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel golf course and is open to anyone who has an established handicap. The shotgun start begins at 8:00 am and will be followed by lunch at Arnie’s. The fee of $175 includes a gift bag, green fees, cart, mulligans and lunch.

UH Hilo’s Alumni Golf Tournament was initiated in 2004 to raise scholarship funds for students attending UH Hilo. Scholarship recipients are selected based on academic merit and financial need. Scholarship applicants must be or have an immediate family member who is an alumnus of UH Hilo, in addition to possessing the required grade point average of 2.5 for undergraduates or 3.0 for graduates. To date, six scholarships have been awarded.

Special room rates at Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel are offered for the weekend of the tournament. Those interested in participating should call x47643 or x47501, or visit the alumni golf Web site at http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu/alumni/golf.
Hats off to...

Keola Donaghy, Assistant Professor, Hawaiian Studies, served as keynote speaker at the 2006 Computer Assisted Language Instruction Consortium International Conference held on May 18 at the East-West Center at UH Manoa. He discussed the College of Hawaiian Language’s work in revitalizing the Hawaiian language and the roles that technology and distance learning have played in that movement.

Robert Fox, Co-Director of the UH Charter School Resource Center, accepted an invitation to become a reviewer for the American Library Association’s Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries where he will review books on education and school choice policy and law. He is currently guest-editing a special issue of the Journal of School Choice on “School Choice and the Law.”

Randy Hirokawa, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, was elected to the University of Washington’s Department of Communication’s Alumni Hall of Fame. He will be inducted at a ceremony next month.

Ron Amundson, Professor of Philosophy, and his student assistant, Shari Tresky, had their paper “On a Bioethical Challenge to Disability Rights” accepted for publication by the Journal of Medicine and Philosophy. He also had his paper “Evolution and Development” accepted for publication in the Blackwell Companion to the Philosophy of Biology. Finally, his paper “Evo Devo as Cognitive Psychology” came out this summer in the journal Biological Theory.

Yoshitaka Miike, Assistant Professor of Communication, had his article “Non-Western Theory in Western Research? An Asiacentric Agenda for Asian Communication Studies” published in the Review of Communication (Vol. 6, Nos. 1-2, pp.4-31). Also, his textbook commentary, “‘Not Always So’: Japanese Assertion-Acceptance Communication,” was published in Intercultural Communication Encounters by Donald W. Klopf and James W. McCroskey.

Misaki Takabayashi, Assistant Professor of Marine Science, had her paper on “The effect of nutrient availability and temperature on chain length of the diatom, Skeletonema costatum” accepted for publication in Journal of Plankton Research. It is co-authored with colleagues at San Francisco State University.

Rick Castberg, Professor of Political Science, was reappointed by Governor Lingle to another four-year term on the Civil Defense Advisory Committee as the Big Island representative.

Harald Barkhoff, Assistant Professor of Health and Physical Education, gave talks at the Pulama I Ke Ola – Healthcare Conference at UH Hilo in May, and “Self-efficacy, self-regulation skills, and mood states predict skaters’ performance during championship competitions” at the University of Bern, Switzerland in June. He also accepted invitations to serve as reviewer for Diabetic Medicine, The Sport Psychologist, Sportpsychologie, and Psychology Press.
Ron Gordon, Professor of Communication, was invited to serve on the editorial board for a 2007 special issue of the International Communication Association’s scholarly journal Communication Theory. The theme of the forthcoming issue is “Fresh Perspectives in Dialogue Theory.”

John Hamilton, Instructor of Physics and Astronomy, attended two Teacher Excellence Workshops sponsored by NASA’s Center for Astronomy Education and the National Science Foundation held in Kona in July. The workshops focused on learner-centered techniques for teaching introductory astronomy courses at the college level.

Wayne Miyamoto, Professor of Art, was invited by the Educational Testing Service, Princeton, NJ, to participate as a visual arts reader for the College Board Advance Placement Program in sessions at the College of New Jersey in June. Additionally, he presented work in the 56th Annual Artists of Hawai’i Exhibition at the Honolulu Academy of Art, participated in “Echoes of China” sponsored by the Boston Printmakers Association at the Brickbottom Gallery, Sommerville, MA, and in the Fourth Biennial International Miniature Print Exhibition at the Federation Gallery, Granville Island, Vancouver, Canada.

Tracy Wiegner, Assistant Professor of Marine Science, had her article “Bioavailability of dissolved organic nitrogen and carbon from nine rivers in the eastern United States” published in Aquatic Microbial Ecology. It is co-authored with S.P. Seitzinger, P.M. Gilbert, and D.A. Bronk. She also received a grant from Hawai‘i County for her study on “Water quality in Hilo Bay under base and storm flow conditions.” This work will complement the water circulation model for Hilo Bay that the Army Corps of Engineers is developing.

Ken Staton, Associate Professor of Performing Arts, is the 2006 recipient of the Hung Wo and Elizabeth Lau Ching Faculty Service to the Community Award from the University of Hawai‘i. Additionally, he received a $10,000 grant from The Arthur and Mae Orvis Foundation to support the performance of a new REQUIEM composed by Karl Jenkins. The performances will be in May 2007 in the UH Hilo Performing Arts Center and will feature the UH Hilo Orchestra and Choral Ensembles under Staton’s direction.

Jean Ippolito, Assistant Professor of Art, had “From the Avant-Garde: Re-Conceptualizing Cultural Origins in the Digital Media Art of Japan” accepted for publication in the April 2007 issue of Leonardo: Journal of Art and Technology. The article is a result of research conducted during the summer of 2005 in Japan on an RCUH Research Relations grant.

Michael Marshall, Professor of Art, served as a juror for the 2nd Big Island Short Film Festival in July, conducted reviews for the United States Achievement Academy Scholarship Foundation Committee, and served as a juror for the Abstract Only exhibition at the Wailoa Center.

Larry Rogers, Professor of Japanese, had his translation and introduction of the leftwing writer Kuroshima Denji’s short story “Siberia Under Snow” published in the June issue of Critical Asian Studies. Also, one of his previous published translations, Hino Keizo’s “Jacob’s Tokyo Ladder,” was anthologized in Japan: A Traveler’s Literary Companion, published this year by Whereabouts Press.
A UH Hilo educator is embarking on a cancer survivor study which could significantly add to the existing body of knowledge by boldly going where no others have gone before. Dr. Cheryl Ramos, assistant professor of psychology, says the study is timely given the tremendous strides researchers have made in recent years.

“Cancer survivorship is on the rise. According to the Center for Disease Control, there were approximately 10.1 million survivors in the United States as of January 2002,” Ramos said. “As survivor rates go up, so does the interest and concern about the quality of life and related issues that confront the cancer survivor prior to and after their cancer diagnosis.”

Ramos brings a unique perspective to her study. She fought two bouts with Hodgkins Lymphoma in the 1970s before being diagnosed with thyroid cancer in 1997 and breast cancer in 2003.

“It goes without saying my own personal history has given me a special passion for this project,” Ramos said. “Surviving multiple bouts of cancer is a sobering reminder that each day of life is a gift, and that makes any additional knowledge obtained from this research even more meaningful.”

The study will be of particular interest to residents of Hawai’i’s rural communities. Ramos, who was born and raised in Paauilo, notes that cancer survivorship in those areas is currently under-researched and in need of additional study.

“Studies have found that cancer survivors in rural communities face unique challenges compared to their urban counterparts,” Ramos explained. “These include providers’ failure to diagnose cancer in a timely manner, difficulty accessing health care information, dealing with isolation, having to travel for treatment, feeling the financial burden, and coping with changing work.

‘Quality of life’, a multidimensional construct of well-being that relates to physical, psychological, social, and spiritual functioning, has been the primary outcome variable in much of the existing cancer survivor research. Studies on quality of life outcomes for cancer survivors have been conducted for specific types, including breast, lung, ovarian, prostate and childhood cancers. Researchers have also looked at stressful life events, traumatic grief, social support and coping strategies and their interactions as predictors of cancer onset and cancer-related quality of life outcomes.

Ramos says existing research contains several gaps, which she hopes to address. For example, studies have examined the multi-factorial relationship between stressful life events, social support, coping and cancer-related quality of life outcomes and cancer onset, but have yet to include traumatic grief in the analysis. Nor have studies compared social support, coping strategies, and quality of life assessments on post-cancer diagnosis with pre-cancer measures. And while traumatic grief caused by death of a spouse has emerged as a predictor of cancer outset, there is some evidence that it could also apply to termination of other close relationships.

“What we hope to find out is a) if stressful life events, traumatic grief, social support and use of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) are predictors of quality of life and cancer status; b) whether these factors differ before and after cancer is diagnosed or in non-cancer patients; c) are these variables the same for those experiencing any loss as for those who experience spousal death; and d) what specific challenges do cancer survivors living in rural Hawai’i communities face?” Ramos said.

Ramos is currently seeking 100 cancer survivors and 100 non-cancer subjects from rural Hawai’i communities to complete a series of surveys in a questionnaire packet. Participants will receive a $10 KTA gift certificate in appreciation for taking part in the project. The study will compare quality of life, stressful life events, traumatic grief, social support, and CAM for cancer survivors before and after being diagnosed. Similar measures will be obtained from the non-cancer sample.

Ramos says the project presents a wonderful opportunity for people to make a significant contribution to cancer research in their community. But she knows that recruiting 100 people on the Big Island diagnosed with cancer within the past year to take part in the study may be a challenge for a variety of reasons.

“I understand from my own experience, what they are going through - coping with their diagnosis, treatment, life changes, etc.,” Ramos said. “But their participation is critical. Therefore, I encourage anyone who meets our criteria but who may be hesitant about taking part in this study to give me a call to discuss their concerns.”

In addition to participants, Ramos is also seeking funding to conduct her study. She’s already obtained a small seed grant from her department to get the study off the ground and hopes to secure substantial financial backing from a major funding source like the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health or other private groups. For now though, just getting the project started is its own reward.

“It’s very exciting to finally get this research underway, since it has been on my ‘to do list’ for years,” Ramos said. “After all my years of experience with cancer, and as a cancer survivor, I feel like I’ve come full circle by becoming a cancer researcher.”

For more information about the study, or to volunteer as a participant, please call 756-2075.

(Editor’s note: Ken Hupp is a public information officer.)
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explained. “It’s ranked in the top five in the country. We’ve just completed a very successful fund raising campaign, had some endowed chairs in place and it just seemed like it was a reasonable time to turn that over and move into a new challenge which I think is a very important one here.

“The main thing that persuaded me is the great enthusiasm of everyone in the profession and that of the upper administration of the University of Hawai‘i,” he added. “There is an acute need for establishing a pharmacy program in this part of the world, where there is apparently none. These are the most compelling reasons.”

The challenges of assuming the helm of a start-up program are manifold, according to Pezzuto.

“The first challenge is to put into place everything we need to start a first-rate College of Pharmacy,” he said. “First of all, recruiting an administrative team and faculty, establishing the curriculum -- and at the same time, meeting accreditation. We need to be regionally accredited. We have submitted applications to the regional accreditation body, which is WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges), and we’re currently in the process of submitting a document to the professional association for accreditation, which is the ACPE (Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education). In the meantime, we’re fortunate that we’ve already gained affiliate status in the biggest professional organization in pharmacy, which is the AACP (American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy). And then we’ll have the pre-site visit for professional accreditation in September.

“At the same time, we need to organize an approach to attract applicants. We’re in the process of doing that; we’ll set a deadline for applications in about January or February and hopefully have a good response so we can have everything that I have listed in place for next fall to admit our first class.

“And then the final big challenge is temporary space for conducting classes and ultimately securing the funding for a new building. At the moment, we’re renting space from the Department of Agriculture Forestry Service. It’s a nearly new building with good office space, a conference room and a reception area. So we have the office space and we can start bringing in faculty and at least we’ll have a place to conduct business. We’re looking at some temporary lab space; that is a big challenge. There is some lab space in the forestry building. We’re also looking at rental space at various other places around the city. We’re also considering the possibility of mobile labs.”

In the long term, the College of Pharmacy will have about 60 faculty and staff, Pezzuto said. In the shorter term, the school is currently recruiting nine faculty to teach an initial class of 80 -- 40 Hawai‘i students and 40 from out-of-state -- for the 2007-08 academic year. Pezzuto has also been busy since his arrival making contacts among the State’s physicians and pharmacists.

“We’ve already assembled a steering committee of about 40 people that involves the leaders of pharmacy throughout the State and really, the enthusiasm and cooperation is tremendous,” he noted. “This is the first opportunity for local people to receive training in pharmacy without needing to leave the State. I think it’s going to be a really fantastic experience overall, based on every single person I’ve met so far. …I met with the IPA, the Independent Physicians Association, on the Kona side, and they were interested in hearing how our scholarships were coming along. Again, I saw great enthusiasm for creating partnerships with certain physicians. Without even having to ask, they provided a very generous donation to the College.”

Pezzuto and his wife, Mimi, a registered pharmacist he called “an important part of this initiative,” have bought a house locally and moved in their children -- John-Henry, 12, a seventh-grader at Hawai‘i Preparatory Academy, Elisabeth, 6 and Michael, 4 -- signaling their commitment to UH Hilo and pharmacy education in Hawai‘i and the Pacific Basin.

“I’d only been to Hilo on business, really, until we moved here,” he said. “My impression of the community as a whole is that it’s old Hawai‘i, so I think we’ll be happy here. I really like the geographical diversity of the Big Island with the option of getting to the other islands without too much trouble.”

Currently, Hawai‘i needs about 40 new pharmacists a year. With the increasing population, the aging of the Baby Boom generation and national pharmacy chain Walgreen’s planning to expand into the State to compete with Long’s Drugs, a California chain that has been serving Hawai‘i since 1954, the pressure is on to get the UH Hilo College of Pharmacy up and running.

“Hawai‘i is unique because of the need for this profession here,” Pezzuto concluded. “To be honest, it wasn’t Hawai‘i that drove me to it as much as the excitement and the need and the promise of establishing a program from the ground up that will hopefully have a several-hundred-year legacy.”

(Editor’s note: John Burnett is a public information officer.)

End of Year award winners

UH Hilo faculty, staff and a student were recognized for their outstanding contributions during the University’s End of the Year Celebration and Recognition event on May 11, 2006. Honored were Dr. Marilyn Brown (Excellence in Service), Dean Miyose (Excellence in Building and Ground Maintenance), Gail Makuakane-Lundin (Distinguished Service), and Amber Lehua Botz (Student Employee of the Year).
New members join UH Hilo’s Mauna Kea management entities

Chancellor Dr. Rose Tseng recently announced the appointments of new members to the Mauna Kea Management Board (MKMB) and the Kahu Ku Mauna Council.

“One of the most important contributions made by the Master Plan is its commitment to include community input into the decision-making process, which it does primarily via the MKMB and Kahu Ku Mauna Council, both of which are comprised of individuals from the community,” Tseng stated. “We are indeed fortunate that something as important as the management of Mauna Kea is being overseen by people that hold broad knowledge and command respect in the community.”

At its July meeting, the UH Board of Regents approved the appointments of Herring Kalua and Anthony Schinckel to the MKMB, effective August 1.

Kalua was born and raised in Keaukaha. A graduate of Hilo High School and UH Hilo, he works for the State Department of Transportation as supervisor for Construction and Maintenance on the Big Island. Kalua is a former Hawaiian Homes commissioner, is active in numerous local educational and advisory committees, and served on the Mauna Kea Advisory Committee that developed the UH 2000 Mauna Kea Master Plan.

Schinckel is director of operations of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory Submillimeter Array (SMA). Since 1998, he has overseen all aspects of the SMA operation. Schinckel’s experience with Mauna Kea spans 18 years, when he first arrived in Hawai‘i to work for the CalTech Submillimeter Observatory as a telescope engineer. During his tenure here, he has distinguished himself as an outstanding scientist, and a strong advocate of cooperation, compromise and respect between science, Hawaiian cultural interests and the environment.

Kalua and Schinckel join MKMB members Rob Pacheco, Harry Yada, Pat Bergin, Ron Terry, and Barry Taniguchi.

Three new members were approved by MKMB to the Kahu Ku Mauna Council.

“The MKMB and Kahu Ku Mauna provide a vital link between the community and the University regarding meaningful, proper, and sensitive stewardship and oversight of Mauna Kea,” said Office of Mauna Kea Management Director Bill Stormont.

Sean P. Naleimaile recently graduated with a bachelor’s degree in anthropology from UH Hilo and is currently pursuing a master’s in archaeology from UH Manoa. Naleimaile also works at the ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai‘i as a research assistant in the Hawaiian Heritage component of the Center.

Chad Kalepa Baybayan is widely known as one of the few individuals who is capable of navigating long, open ocean voyages using only traditional Polynesian methods. He is a graduate of UH Hilo’s Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikolani College of Hawaiian Language, and holds a masters degree from Heritage College. He also serves as project director for ‘Aha Punana Leo’s Hokualaka‘i Voyaging Program.

Leilehua Omphroy is a respected kupuna who has dedicated the past 10 years of her life to teaching young people about the significance of the Hawaiian culture and the importance of preserving the wahi pana (legendary) of these islands. She has shared her expertise with the State Department of Education, Alu Like, Lyman House Museum, World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education, Kamehameha Schools, and the State Kupuna Hawaiian Studies programs, amongst others.


“We welcome each of the new appointees, and express our heartfelt appreciation for their willingness to contribute a community voice to help guide stewardship efforts on Mauna Kea,” Stormont said. “Each brings expertise, and passion, that will serve the mountain well.”

10th anniversary of providing undergraduates an opportunity to explore science in Hawai‘i and the Pacific

by Carmen Perez-Frayne

PIPS: Pacific Internship Program for Exploring Science program, which includes the University of Hawai‘i Hawaiian Internship Program (UH-HIP), the Micronesia and America Samoan Student Internship Program (MASSIP), and the NSF-funded Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU), and its collaborating partners, including UH Hilo’s Keahola STEM and many host agencies across the State, celebrated its 10th anniversary of working together to increase and strengthen the involvement of underrepresented minorities in science and conservation biology. Through these programs, coordinators Sharon Ziegler-Chong and I worked to strengthen the State’s efforts in protecting and managing its natural resources by connecting researchers and partner agencies to young people from the islands and

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Another exciting theatre season!

by John Burnett

The UH Hilo Performing Arts Center kicks off its 2006-07 season with a sizzling September, featuring performances by legendary jazz duo Chick Corea & Gary Burton and The Cashore Marionettes, featuring renowned puppeteer Joseph Cashore.

“An Evening with Chick Corea & Gary Burton, Duets” is Sunday, September 17, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are reserved seating and range from $40-$50 with discounts available to qualified persons.

Armando Anthony “Chick” Corea is one of the most prolific composers of the last half of the 20th century and a legendary keyboardist who played with Miles Davis and fronted the seminal jazz-fusion group Return to Forever during a four-decade career. The 12-time Grammy winner continues to break new ground and stretch the limits of musical experience.

Gary Burton’s innovations in jazz, especially his approach to the vibraphone and his mastery of simultaneous four-mallet playing, have been the hallmark of a career that has also spanned four decades. His five Grammy awards and 13 Grammy nominations cross multiple categories and attest to the high regard his music has achieved amongst his peers.

“The Cashore Marionettes—Simple Gifts” is Saturday, September 23 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are reserved seating and range from $12-$15 with discounts available to qualified persons.

Joseph Cashore has received numerous awards for his artistry, including a Pew Fellowship for Performance Art, a Henson Foundation Grant and a Citation of Excellence from the UNIMA-USA, the highest honor an American puppeteer can receive. His moving and humorous performances have astounded audiences in Europe, the Far East and across North America.

“Simple Gifts,” a program for adults and children ages 8 and up, is a series of touching portrayals and poignant scenes from everyday life set to stunning music by such composers as Vivaldi, Strauss, Beethoven and Copland. Through a combination of virtuoso manipulation, beautiful music, theatrical illusion and artistic insight, the original vignettes presented in “Simple Gifts” provide a sensitive vision of what it is to be human.

The PAC Box Office is open Monday – Friday from 2-6pm on school days. Call x47310 or order tickets online at www.uhhtheatre.com.

Another exciting theatre season!

Koa Ell welcoming the PIPES interns to Mauna Kea.

PIPES

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beyond as part of the overall effort to train the next generation of scientists.

To date, the program has connected over 300 undergraduates with over 250 internships; over 65 percent of the programs’ graduated interns have joined Hawai’i’s conservation work force.

Currently, 36 undergraduate interns participated in one of the PIPES programs. Interns located near UH Hilo participated in joint weekly meetings, lectures and scientific excursions focused on exploring the issues, techniques used and ecosystems of Hawai’i’s diverse environment. Excursions included hikes in the Kohala area to explore ancient Native Hawaiian terrace fields with Stanford University scientist Dr. Peter Vitousek, and exploring the cultural and scientific aspects of Mauna Kea by spending time at the new 'Imiloa Astronomy Center and atop Mauna Kea with Institute for Astronomy’s Koa Ell.

Overall, the program enjoyed another successful year thanks to the dedication and support provided by the many volunteer mentors, host agencies and program funders: the UH Hilo Pacific Aquaculture and Coastal Resources Center (PACRC); UH EPSCoR, Kamehameha Schools, USGS Biological Resources Division Pacific Island Ecosystems Research Center (PIERC), the USDA Forest Service Institute of Pacific Island Forestry, the Nature Conservancy, Alu Like, Inc., Hawai’i Chapter of the Wildlife Society, and the Hawai’i Conservation Alliance.

(Editor’s note: Carmen Perez-Frayne is an education program coordinator with PACRC.)
Campus Events

September

2  Vulcan volleyball vs. West Virginia State Univ, 1 p.m., New Gym, Admission
4  Holiday: Labor Day
5  Vulcan volleyball vs. Fairfield Univ, 7:15 p.m., New Gym, Admission
6  Focus on UH Hilo, 8 p.m., Channel 55
8  Last day to exercise credit/no credit
   Last day to apply for Fall 2006 graduation
9  Vulcan cross-country in UH Hilo Invitational, 7:30 a.m.
10 Last day to withdraw from courses without “W”
16 Vulcan volleyball vs. BYU-Hawai’i, 7:15 p.m., New Gym, Admission
17 An Evening with Chick Corea and Gary Burton, Duets, 7:30 p.m., PAC, Admission
18 Vulcan volleyball vs. Notre Dame deNamur Univ, 7:15 p.m., New Gym, Admission
20 Focus on UH Hilo, 8 p.m., Channel 55
23 Vulcan volleyball vs. Grand Canyon Univ, 7:15 p.m., New Gym, Admission
   The Cashore Marionettes – Simple Gifts, 7:30 p.m., PAC, Admission
28 Vulcan men’s soccer vs. Hawai’i Pacific Univ, 2 p.m.
29, 30 Vulcan volleyball vs. Chaminade Univ, 7:15 p.m., New Gym, Admission
30 Vulcan women’s soccer vs. Hawai’i Pacific Univ, 10 a.m.