College of Pharmacy to mark new chapter in UH Hilo’s development

by Chancellor Rose Tseng

UH Hilo opens a new chapter in its proud and storied history this fall when our College of Pharmacy welcomes its inaugural class. Approximately 90 students are expected to make up this historic class, which will receive our first Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degrees upon graduation in May 2011. This class will multiply quickly over the next few years, with plans calling for the addition of 80-90 students per year, with four classes in total.

The birth of this new College represents a significant milestone in UH Hilo’s transformation from a liberal arts college to a quality, comprehensive, full service residential university. For starters, it allows us to address a critical shortage of pharmacists in both Hawai‘i and the Pacific Basin. Because of this demand, our graduates will be entering a receptive labor market, offering rewarding, high paying jobs. Secondly, the College will allow students to attend a pharmacy program in Hawai‘i, instead of traveling to the mainland to earn their degrees. And finally, with our strategic location, the College of Pharmacy will position UH Hilo to become the center of pharmaceutical education, research and patient care service in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Heading up this effort is our founding dean, Dr. John Pezzuto, who brings impressive credentials and expertise to this important position. In addition to being a nationally recognized biochemist and researcher, Dr. Pezzuto spent four years as dean of the College of Pharmacy, Nursing and Health Sciences at Purdue University, one of the nation’s top five pharmacy schools. Dr. Pezzuto and his team have designed a four-year curriculum that features classroom instruction for the first three years, with the fourth year focusing on hands-on experience as our students move on to various clinical practices throughout the State.

The seating of its first class tops off what has already been a tremendously successful year for the College. In May, the State Legislature approved $6 million for interim modular buildings to house research.

Spotlight

Castille ready for 21st century challenges at UH Hilo

He’s only been on the job a month, but UH Hilo’s new vice chancellor for academic affairs, Dr. Phil Castille, has already received a crash course on the possible calamities Big Islanders brave as a matter of routine.

Within the space of a week, his introduction to island living included a moderate earthquake and several smaller ones, a tsunami advisory, a brush fire that lasted days, a lava shelf collapsing into the ocean and a near miss by Hurricane Flossie. For the scholar of American literature, a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Tulane who earned advanced degrees in English there and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the storm reminded him of life in the “Big Easy.”

“The hurricane brought back memories for me of the many years I spent on the Gulf Coast, especially the 11 years I lived in New Orleans,” he said. “Hurricanes are a common feature of August and September weather there, although until Katrina they most often brushed past the city. But the semi-tropical atmosphere of New Orleans, the easygoing and friendly nature of the culture and people -- these things seem very similar to Hilo and the Big Island.”
Pharmacy
Continued from page 1

laboratories and classrooms and $2 million a year in operating funds. This early funding will enable the College to meet its obligations over the next five years. At the end of this period, we plan to be fully funded through tuition and located in a new $60 million building.

In June, the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) announced that the College had achieved the first step in the Accreditation Process by granting the College Pre-Candidate Status. With this designation, UH Hilo becomes the first school recognized by ACPE to offer the Doctor of Pharmacy degree in the State.

Like many initiatives, the College of Pharmacy was made possible by our partnerships with agencies and individuals in the public and private sector. Most notable is U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye, whose vision, enthusiasm and persistence helped persuade his Congressional colleagues to fund this venture. Also playing a crucial role was Dr. Jerry Johnson, who authored the grant proposal, navigated it through the academic approval process and was instrumental in the initial funding and design phases.

In addition to attracting students to our pharmacy program, the College will draw increasing numbers of students to other disciplines like chemistry and biology, which are core requirements of our pre-pharmacy program. These programs have already exhibited tremendous growth in recent years, and the presence of the College of Pharmacy will only add to it.

To plan for that growth, the Legislature has appropriated and Governor Linda Lingle has released funding for construction of a new Physical Sciences Building on the Lanikaula Street site currently occupied by the Beaumont Extension Services Building. The three-story, 16,500 square-foot facility will eventually house the physics, astronomy and chemistry programs when it opens in 2009. The relocation of those programs, in turn, will pave the way for the eventual large scale renovation of Wentworth Hall to provide more space and research facilities for other natural science programs.

As these examples illustrate, UH Hilo is a college on the move. We are growing and developing to meet the challenges of tomorrow through educational opportunities, workforce development and economic diversification.

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Campus safety remains a top priority at UH Hilo

With the 2007-2008 academic year just underway, and the tragedy at Virginia Tech still fresh in the public consciousness, UH Hilo officials report that campus safety and security remain a top priority for its students, faculty and staff.

“The safety and well being of our students, faculty and staff continues to be our paramount concern here at UH Hilo,” noted Chancellor Rose Tseng. “We pride ourselves on providing a quality education with aloha, which means that our top priority is a secure, well-lit campus with a trained, professional and courteous security staff.

“At the start of another school year, we have worked hard to meet the challenges of ensuring everyone’s safety and peace of mind while on campus,” she added.

UH Hilo currently has in place a variety of safety preventative programs, direct services, informational materials, policies, and designated positions to reduce the risk of violence toward students, and to ensure reasonable efforts are made to provide a safe and secure learning environment.

“We have created a safer environment in which our campus is proactively engaged in dealing with situations involving acts of violence, enhancing campus safety and security, and increasing educating our students,” Tseng said. “We will continue to address these situations for the benefit of our students, as well as our faculty and staff.”

Currently, the University has the following in place:

- 18 Emergency Call Boxes
- Emergency Internet communication system
- Counseling Center
- Community partnerships (YWCA Hawai‘i Island, Hilo Women’s Shelter, Dept. of Health, Victim Assistance Program, Turning Point for Families, GirlFest Honolulu, Hawai‘i State Coalition on Domestic Violence)
- UH Hilo Women’s Center

In addition, UH Hilo has spent over $250,000 on exterior lighting improvements, fire alarm modernizations, and removal of dangerous landscapes. Renovations to coordinate exterior night lights on a central computer scheduler are in progress.

“We also have multiple security guards patrolling our campus as well as two shifts assigned exclusively to the residence halls,” Tseng said. “All of our security guards go through eight hours of campus-specific training before they are eligible for University assignments.

“Our Campus Security recently upgraded their walkie talkies, which share the same frequency as our Housing Staff,” she added. “Security cameras have also been purchased and are being installed in public areas around campus.”

Proposals for the future include a UH Hilo Safety Educator, Director of Security, a Sexual Assault Support Services Coordinator, and additional programs and services, such as Safe Walk, NO HARM: Men’s Alliance Against Domestic Violence, and annual guest speakers.
Fitzsimons named vice chancellor for administrative affairs

Chancellor Rose Tseng announced the appointment of Dr. Debra L. Fitzsimons to the post of vice chancellor for administrative affairs, effective August 1, 2007.

Fitzsimons joins UH Hilo with more than 13 years of executive business experience, most recently from Southwestern Community College District in the San Diego, California area where she served as vice president of administrative affairs and chief business officer since 2005. As a key advisor to the college president, she was responsible for policy direction and leadership for all district fiscal business and administrative services. In addition to an $85 million operating budget, she oversaw $14 million in special revenue funds and $56 million in local bond funding earmarked for major college construction, building, repairs and renovation projects.

“Dr. Fitzsimons brings outstanding qualifications to this important position,” said Tseng. “Her extensive experience in fiscal and human resource matters will serve UH Hilo well during this critical period of growth and development.”

Fitzsimons earned a bachelor of arts in economics from the Pennsylvania State University in 1988. She received a master of science in administration in public administration specializing in policy analysis, planning, human resources, and education finance from Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania in 1991. Fitzsimons added a doctorate in education administrative policy studies specializing in policy, planning and evaluation from the University of Pittsburgh in 1994. Topical areas of interest included educational finance, human resources, and governmental and public relations.

A dedicated lifelong learner, Fitzsimons is continuously training and updating her knowledge in the field of educational finance. She is currently working on additional financial course work and studying for certification as a Certified Public Accountant.

“What originally drew me to this position was the faculty, staff, and students,” Fitzsimons said. “They showed an atmosphere of excitement and caring for students and learning that I have not witnessed anywhere else. To work in that environment will be exhilarating. I am also excited to live and be a part of such a vibrant, beautiful, and culturally rich community as that of Hilo.”

All signs now point to North Hawai‘i Education and Research Center

by Ken Hupp

Visitors to UH Hilo’s North Hawai‘i Education and Research Center (NHERC) will now have an easier time finding the facility thanks to the recent addition of new highway signs directing them to the Center’s location in the former Honoka‘a Hospital building. The three signs were installed in July on the makai side of Highway 19, or the Hawai‘i Belt Road, at the 41-mile marker and just past Tex Drive-In at the 43-mile marker, and on the mauka side of the highway at the 44-mile marker.

NHERC was established in 2006 to provide educational opportunities to the vast North Hawai‘i region stretching from Laupahoehoe to Waimea, and including Waikoloa. The Center has also developed an outreach program to provide opportunities for residents of North Kohala.

Thus far, classes and community use of the Center have exceeded University projections. Through its credit and non-credit classes, seminars, lecture series events and community meetings, NHERC has served an estimated 6,548 students and other users.

“We’re very pleased with the response the Center has received from this large geographical area that has been traditionally underserved by higher education,” said Farrah-Marie Gomes, interim director of NHERC. “Given the high degree of use and growing interest in the
UH Hilo Student Life Center a green building as good as gold

by Ken Hupp

It has long been accepted that a healthy body makes for a healthy mind. But UH Hilo officials believe good health is also a product of an individual’s surroundings, and they plan to illustrate that point when the new Student Life Center (SLC) opens its doors in 2008.

The 22,600-square-foot structure adjacent to the Athletic complex represents Phase I of the Student Life and Events Center (SLEC) development and will provide students with a wide range of health, fitness and recreational activities. The building’s features will include a fitness room, aerobicics, martial arts, human performance testing, an Olympic-size swimming pool, an open covered deck, classrooms, lockers, and shower and weight room facilities along with a juice bar or indoor café where students can dine and congregate.

More importantly, the activities will be housed in what is being described as a “healthy building,” which is poised to earn a coveted certification that no project on the Big Island has ever attained.

SLEC is being developed within the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Program. The green building rating system was developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) to provide a set of standards for environmentally sustainable construction. Since its inception in 1994, LEED has grown to encompass over 6,000 projects in 28 countries covering 1 billion square feet of development area.

Developments are evaluated on a set of required prerequisites and various credits in six major areas, including sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, indoor environmental quality, innovation and design.

“The objective in designing the (LEED) system was to encourage environmentally friendly systems and/or design and construction,” said SLEC Construction Manager Mike Godfrey. “It awards points on everything from the physical structure to the various practices you employ in the building’s day to day operations. The more points you accumulate the higher the certification you achieve.”

Under the rating system, buildings can qualify for four levels of certification; the categories in order of point totals are certified, silver, gold and platinum. Ironically, Hawai‘i is not among the country’s leaders in green building construction. SLC will become only the second structure on the Big Island to be LEED rated, when it joins the platinum certified Hawai‘i Gateway Energy Center in Kona. But UH Hilo Facilities Planning Director Lo-Li Chih says an effort is underway to make up for lost time.

“The State legislature has mandated that all new buildings be built to LEED standards that would qualify for a silver certification,” Chih said. “So everything built from here on in will have to meet that threshold.”

SLC was originally designed for silver certification. But there’s growing optimism among the construction team that it will become the island’s first building to be certified as a gold building. Earning a gold rating requires a minimum of 39 points. Just two months ago, the project’s point total stood at 36. But the construction team believes that score is now closer to 43.

“The possibility of a gold certification is a testimonial to the innovative approach of our construction team,” Chih said. “Throughout the entire project they’ve pushed themselves to think outside the box and come up with creative ways to earn additional points.”

Projects can accumulate points for everything from the building construction to environmentally friendly practices such as recycling waste, utilizing day lighting to reduce dependency on electricity, energy efficient air conditioning, and use of renewable and locally produced materials. SLEC Assistant Construction Manager Hadley Null said contrary to what some believe, the project will include few, if any, state-of-the-art technological advances.

“Most of what we are doing is simply making use of the natural options that are available to us,” Null said. “These are very basic, straight up principals and ideas on how you can make a building more environmentally friendly and energy efficient.”

Among the steps being taken is enclosing one side of the building to protect the interior from incoming heat through the windows, while opening the other side to allow light but none of the sun’s rays that would heat up the building. The

Green Building - continued on page 5.
Green Building
Continued from page 4

roof will also be covered with a special paint designed to reflect infra-red rays and direct less heat into the building.

Potential practices are expected to include the use of de-humidifiers to cool the exercise area, increasing lighting efficiency through the use of motion sensors, and grinding up leftover drywall, which makes a very compatible amendment to the area’s volcanic based soil. The drywall conversion reflects the project’s secondary goal of utilizing the building as an educational tool to make people aware of the program and serve as an example of how to practice environmentally friendly construction.

“We’re already achieving about a 97 percent diversion rate away from the landfill, so we’re already looking good when it comes to recycling and waste diversion,” Godfrey explained. “But we believe this practice has tremendous educational value that can benefit the entire County. In fact, we’ve already begun working with recycling coordinators and various County departments to encourage them to follow suit.”

Indeed, officials plan to make extensive use of the building as an educational tool to illustrate how environmentally friendly construction can be user friendly, save energy and create a healthier environment by improving air quality through the use of non-fume-producing materials.

Granted, a LEED building is more expensive than one built by conventional means due to the certification process and cost of construction. But Godfrey believes the additional cost is well worth the investment, and could prove less expensive in the long run.

“Some of these costs will be recovered through savings from being more energy efficient. There are also intangible savings from a healthy building that may not be apparent until problems occur,” Godfrey said. “A sick building can be very expensive to fix, as we’ve discovered in cases of asbestos removal. And then there’s the impact on people’s health, which you can’t really put a price tag on.”

UH Hilo is also planning for an on-site electricity generation system that would connect to the Hawai’i Electric Light Company (HELCO) grid, which can provide a steady flow of power during a system outage that could be shared with major buildings on campus. The heat from the generators would then be used to warm the pool and heat water for the showers. Although the funding of this feature is still being requested through the State CIP budgeting process, it is indicative of the statement the construction team hopes to make.

“The need for the signage became very evident based on the feedback we’d been receiving from our community and worked together to get the job done.”

State Representative Dwight Takamine was instrumental in obtaining the signage by working closely with University Director of Special Events Walter Dudoit and State Highways Overseer Herring Kalua to bring the project to fruition.

In conveying his approval for this new scholarship to be named in his honor, Senator Inouye commented, “I am pleased to support this effort to encourage excellence in astronomy among the most outstanding Big Island students.” The UH Hilo program offers a unique undergraduate experience owing to the proximity of premiere astronomical observatories atop Mauna Kea.

For more information on how to support UH Hilo, call the Office of Development at x31945, or visit: http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu/ and click on “Make a Gift to UH Hilo.”

(Editor’s note: Margaret Shiba is director of development.)

Prestigious addition to undergraduate astronomy program

by Margaret Shiba

Boasting one of only 25 undergraduate astronomy majors in the nation, UH Hilo recently added another distinction to its program with the establishment of the Daniel K. Inouye Scholarship in Astronomy. This prestigious new merit scholarship has been made possible through the generous gift of a longtime friend of the University and of Senator Daniel Inouye, Ms. Sheila Watumull of Honolulu.

The scholarship will underwrite one-half of the annual cost of tuition at UH Hilo and will be awarded each year to a senior majoring in astronomy, with a GPA of 3.5 or higher. Preference is given to graduates of high schools in the state of Hawai’i. The first recipient of the award for 2007-2008 is Heather Kaluna, a graduate of Pahoa High School who is completing her degree in astronomy and preparing for a career as a professional astronomer.

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(Editor’s note: Margaret Shiba is director of development.)

Signs
Continued from page 3

Center, the signage is something we’ve sorely needed to make it easier for people to find us.”

State Representative Dwight Takamine was instrumental in obtaining the signage by working closely with University Director of Special Events Walter Dudoit and State Highways Overseer Herring Kalua to bring the project to fruition.

“The need for the signage became very evident based on the feedback we’d been receiving from our community based groups,” Takamine said. “We’re just happy that all the parties involved agreed that there was a real need here and worked together to get the job done.”

(Edited by Margaret Shiba)
Hats off to...

**Rose Tseng**, Chancellor, has been appointed as a Commissioner on the Education Commission of the States (ECS), an interstate compact established in 1965 to help states develop effective policy and practice for education.


**Cheryl Ramos**, Assistant Professor, Psychology, and **Robert Chi**, Specialist, had their paper on “Students’ Preferences for Different Types of Online Learning” accepted for presentation at the ED-MEDIA 2007 World Conference on Educational Multimedia, Hypermedia & Telecommunications held in Vancouver, Canada in June.

**Drew Martin**, Associate Professor, Marketing, received the Best Paper Award for “Toward a Grounded Theory of International Tourism Behavior: Building Propositions from Ethnic Interpretations of Japanese Travelers Visiting the United States” at the 5th Bi-Annual Symposium of Consumer Psychology of Tourism, Hospitality, and Leisure, Charleston, SC, held in June.

**Roberta Barra**, Assistant Professor, Accounting, received the Best Paper Award for “Accounting Processes and the Accountant’s Role in AIS: An Instructional Resource” at the Ninth Annual AIS Educator Association Conference, Estes Park, CO, in June. The paper is co-authored with Arline Savage, Cal-Poly, San Luis Obispo.

**Kenith Simmons**, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs, has her poem, “Augury,” appearing in Beyond Forgetting: Poetry and Prose about Alzheimer’s Disease, forthcoming from Kent State University Press as part of its Literature and Medicine series.

**Cecilia Mukai**, Associate Professor, Nursing, has been appointed by the Hawai‘i State Legislature to the Hawai‘i Board of Nursing for a three-year term, 2007-2010. The Board of Nursing oversees the licensing requirements for all nurses in the State of Hawai‘i.

**Marcia Sakai**, Dean, College of Business and Economics, presented her paper, “Evaluating Tourism Management Programs: Advancing a Paradigm Shift for Achieving Highly Effective Tourism Destination Management Programs and Strategy Performance Audits,” at the 5th Biennial Symposium of the International Society of Culture, Tourism and Hospitality Research, held in Charleston, SC. The paper is co-authored with Arch Woodside, Boston College.

**Karla McDermid**, Professor, Marine Science, had her paper on “Nutritional Composition of Marine Plants in the Diet of the Green Sea Turtle (Chelonia mydas) in the Hawaiian Islands” published in Bulletin of Marine Science, vol. 81. The paper is co-authored with Brooke Stuercke of UNC-Wilmington and George Balazs, NOAA-NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center. McDermid also presented the paper at the July Hawai‘i Conservation Conference.


**Seri Luangphinth**, Associate Professor, English, presented her paper, “Paradise Lost: Poetic Negotiations of
the Pacific (Im)migrant Experience,” at the Association of Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies, held last month at the University of British Columbia. The paper compares Juliet Kono and Sudesh Mishra and their treatment of anti-Asian sentiment in the Pacific.


**Susan Jarvi**, Associate Professor, Biology, has published “Diversity, origins and virulence of Avipox viruses in Hawaiian Forest Birds” in the journal of Conversation Genetics. The paper can be found online at [http://www.springerlink.com/content/m2q16746x130030/fulltext.html](http://www.springerlink.com/content/m2q16746x130030/fulltext.html). Co-authors include Dennis Triglia, Alexis Giannoulis, Margaret Farias, Kiara Bianchi, and Carter T. Atkinson.

**Helen Wong-Smith**, Librarian, co-presented “Providing Basic Archival Instruction to People of Hawai‘i” with UH Manoa Archivist James F. Cartwright at the Annual Conference of the Society of American Archivists in Chicago last month. Wong-Smith is a certified archivist and is the scholarship recipient for “Persistence in Memory: Stewardship of Digital Assets” held in Tucson, AZ.

**Norman Stahl**, Director, Career Center, has been appointed to the Governor’s East Hawai‘i Advisory Council. The nine-member council seeks public input and advises the Governor’s administration on budget priorities and issues that are important to the East Hawai‘i community.

**Walter Dudley**, Professor, Oceanography, delivered the keynote address at the opening of the first International Tsunami Training Institute, which was held at the University of Washington in Seattle in July. The Institute is a part of the newly developed Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System and provided a special two-week training course for emergency managers and other government officials involved in disaster mitigation, warning, response, and recovery operations.

**Wayne Miyamoto**, Professor, Art, participated in Automatic, a drawing show curated by Chris Churchill at the Franklin Parrasch Gallery in New York City over the summer. He also presented work in the 8th International Biennial of Engraving 2007, VIII Edition, Associazione Biennale Internazionale per l’incisione in Acquiterme, Italy, and in the 6th Lessedra World Art Print Annual at the National Palace of Culture in the city of Sofia, Bulgaria.

**Harald Barkhoff**, Associate Professor, HPE, accepted an invitation to serve as a textbook reviewer for Brooks-Cole/Motor Learning: Theory and Practice.

**John Hamilton**, Instructor, Physics and Astronomy, attended the 20th International Conference on the First Year Experience held in Kona in July, and received a scholarship to participate in the “Cosmos in the Classroom,” a National Symposium on Teaching Astronomy for Non-Science Majors held at Pomona College, Claremont, CA last month.

**Kirsten Mollegaard**, Lecturer, English, had her review of director John H. Y. Wat’s production of Mary Zimmerman’s “Arabian Nights. A Play” at Mid-Pacific Institute School of

Jean Ippolito, Assistant Professor, Art, gave a poster presentation at the NPAR 2007 5th International Symposium on Non-Photorealistic Animation and Rendering in San Diego, CA last month. The presentation concerns her evolving research on media art in Japan, and her book-in-progress entitled, The Search for New Media: Late 20th Century Art and Technology in Japan. In addition, Ippolito has been asked to serve on the Art Show Committee for the 2008 SIGGRAPH Asia, to be held in Singapore in December 2008.


Steve Lundblad, Assistant Professor, Geology, received a grant from the Department of Health HEER office for the program, “Evaluation of Energy-Dispersive X-ray Fluorescence Spectrometry (EDXRF) as a Rapid Screening Tool for Soil Arsenic on the Hamakua Coast.”

Yumiko Ohara, Assistant Professor, Linguistics and Japanese, recently published an edited book, Various Approaches to Japanese Discourse: Conversation Analysis, Discourse Analysis, and Critical Discourse Analysis, in cooperation with the National Institute for Japanese Language in Japan. The volume focuses on three major analytic approaches to spoken discourse and includes contributions from internationally recognized scholars of Japanese discourse. Ohara’s own article, “Reconstruction of gendered realities in the Japanese media,” is also part of the volume.

Tenure and promotion awarded

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

Tenure and Promotion:
- Ramon Figueroa-Centano, Associate Professor, Mathematics
- James Beets, Professor, Marine Science

Tenure:
- Robert Chi, Specialist, Distance Learning

Promotion:
- Harald Barkhoff, Associate Professor, Health and Physical Education
- Emmeline, De Pillis, Professor, Management
- Sevki Erdogan, Professor, Computer Science
- Drew Martin, Associate Professor, Marketing
- Jene Michaud, Professor, Geology
- Lynn Morrison, Associate Professor, Anthropology
- Michael Shintaku, Professor, Plant Pathology
- Vladimir Skorikov, Professor, Psychology
- Errol Yudko, Associate Professor, Psychology

Marcus Oshiro, chair, House Finance Committee, greets a College of Pharmacy student working in the temporary College of Pharmacy lab while Jerry Chang, chair, House Higher Education Committee, looks on. Members of the House Finance Committee visited UH Hilo on August 23 to review the various initiatives that were funded as well as to get a feel of the University’s enrollment growth and its new operating budget requests for the upcoming legislative session.
National publication ranks UH Hilo among leaders in diversity

UH Hilo is tied for sixth place among the nation’s liberal arts colleges for ethnic and racial diversity among the student body in the 2008 edition of “America’s Best Colleges” by U.S. News & World Report. The exclusive rankings, which this year feature some substantial changes in methodology, were published in the magazine’s August 27 issue.

UH Hilo had the highest percentage of Asian Americans among liberal arts colleges in the U.S. at 50 percent. The University, which ranked in the fourth tier overall among liberal arts colleges, is tied with Brigham Young University-Hawai‘i, where the percentage of Asian Americans stood at 40 percent.

“The multicultural makeup of our student body has and continues to be one of the strengths and distinguishing features of UH Hilo,” said Chancellor Rose Tseng. “This diversity is both a tremendous source of pride and a valuable asset in preparing our students to excel in a global society.”

For more information about the rankings and the changes in methodology employed by US News, visit the magazine online at www.usnews.com/colleges.

Four awarded 2007-08 Alumni and Friends Scholarships

Four UH Hilo students have been awarded $2,000 scholarships from the UH Hilo Alumni and Friends Association. They are Isaac Crosson, Hope Kalei, Angelica Stevens and Kiera Yabusaki.

Students are selected based on academic merit and financial need. They also must be or have an immediate family member who is an alumnus of UH Hilo.

Crosson, a graduate of Hilo High School, is majoring in physics with plans to pursue a Ph.D. in physics or applied mathematics. Crosson’s excellence in mathematics has earned him a research internship position in the Physics Department. His mother is a graduate of UH Hilo.

Kalei is a graduate of Waiakea High School where she was honored by Who’s Who Among American High School Students. She earned a BS in exercise and sports science at Oregon State University and has returned to Hilo to pursue a nursing degree. Her mother is a graduate of UH Hilo.

Stevens graduated from Konawaena High School and earned at B.A. in political science at UH Hilo. While pursuing her undergraduate degree, she won the Political Science Department’s “Best Research Paper” award. Stevens is currently pursuing her masters degree in China-U.S. Relations.

Yabusaki, whose mother is an alumnae of UH Hilo, is a graduate of Waiakea High School where she won numerous awards and held leadership roles in KIWIN’S and student government. She is currently pursuing a double major in Business Administration and Communication.

A total of 10 alumni scholarships have been awarded since 2004. The UH Hilo Alumni and Friends Association organizes two signature events annually to fund these scholarships. Each spring, the Distinguished Alumni and Service Awards Banquet includes a silent auction component to raise funds. The Alumni Scholarship Golf Tournament, initiated in 2004, takes place in the fall. This year’s 4th Annual Golf Tournament is set for October 13, 2007 at the Hapuna Prince Hotel Golf Course. Call x47501, x47643 or visit http://www. uh.hawaii.edu/alumni for more information.

Office of Mauna Kea Management Director Bill Stormont, right, discussed facilities and resources on the Mauna Kea summit with Lt. Governor James “Duke” Aiona (second from right) last month. The Lt. Governor was briefed on OMKM’s stewardship role, management issues, and possible future development. Accompanying the group were UH Institute for Astronomy Director Dr. Rolf-Peter Kudritzki, second from left, and Chris Baron of the Hawai‘i Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism.
UH Hilo to offer new degree in accounting

UH Hilo has established the University’s first specialized business major. The BBA/Major in Accounting was developed by the AACSB accredited College of Business and Economics (CoBE) and unanimously approved by the University of Hawai’i Board of Regents at its May meeting. The program has also been endorsed by the Hawai’i Association of Public Accountants (HAPA) and the Hawai’i Society of Certified Public Accountants (HSCPA), which represent the accounting profession in Hawai’i.

“We are pleased to add a BBA in accounting to the degrees offered by our College of Business and Economics,” said Chancellor Rose Tseng. “This is an excellent entry degree for professional level accounting and a firm foundation for graduate study in Business and related disciplines.”

The new major will be launched in Fall 2008 and helps address two areas of need. The U.S. Bureau of Statistics estimates that 260 accounting and accounting-related positions will be needed annually in Hawai’i through the year 2014, which is far in excess of the 110 to 130 accounting majors the University of Hawai’i System currently graduates each year.

That shortage has produced upward pressure on existing entry-level salaries, which have averaged between $45,000 and $48,600 in Honolulu, and $44,500 on a national basis.

Additionally, the BBA/Major in Accounting will address underserved regions and populations of the State, including Native Hawaiians. With UH Hilo’s large Native Hawaiian student population, CoBE is in a superior position to recruit Native Hawaiian students, along with other underserved student populations for the new accounting major.

“When students complete this program, they will have earned a degree in one of the highest demand areas of the Business field,” said Barbara Leonard, accounting professor at UH Hilo. “More importantly, this program will increase the educational capital of the State, expand the workforce in an area of critical need, and assist in expanding and diversifying the economy.”

To make it easier for students to begin their four-year education at a community college, CoBE is working with institutions throughout the State to establish a degree pathway that would lead to a BBA/Major in Accounting degree.

The first agreement with Kapi’olani Community College was completed in November 2006. Work on similar agreements with Hawai’i Community College (HawCC) and Maui Community College is currently in progress, to be followed by agreements with Kauai Community College and the remaining community colleges on O’ahu.

Accounting professors within the UH System regularly discuss and coordinate Accounting curriculum with their counterparts at an annual meeting, which UH Hilo and HawCC are planning to host in 2008. Drs. Roberta Jones and Joel Peralto, accounting professors at UH Hilo and HawCC, are working to establish additional components to the degree pipeline. They include an accounting student club and a non-credit course series designed to help Accounting graduates prepare for the CPA exam, required for licensure in Hawai’i.

Marine Science to offer new undergraduate degree

by Ken Hupp

UH Hilo is adding a new undergraduate degree to its popular Marine Science program. The University of Hawai’i Board of Regents in July approved provisional status for a Bachelor of Science in marine science, which the University will launch in Fall 2008.

“Our new BS degree in marine science is a perfect fit for UH Hilo,” said Chancellor Rose Tseng. “We have always been blessed with the perfect location in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, and with our new Marine Science Building, we now have first-rate facilities to match our prime location with our dedicated and talented faculty.”

The new degree is designed to provide students with a more comprehensive background in the natural sciences than the existing Bachelor of Arts degree by requiring more upper-level required courses in the focal areas of marine biology, marine ecology and oceanography. That would make graduates more competitive for graduate school, or specialized career paths like research technicians.

“Many of our students have expressed a strong desire to attend graduate school or teach high school marine science,” said Associate Professor and Marine Science Chair Dr. Marta deMaintenon. “We initially upgraded our BA to help them meet their objectives. But in the long run designing a new degree and retooling the existing one proved to be a better strategy, since we have the courses in our existing curriculum and the faculty to teach them.”

The BS degree will differ from the BA primarily by requiring two semesters of organic chemistry, and designating a number of 400-level electives as requirements. The BA meanwhile, will be restructured to offer a multidisciplinary array of elective options with a balance of the traditional sciences and advanced courses in related disciplines so that a student may tailor their degree plan for a variety of career options. The net impact will raise the total number of credits required for the BS to 91, while the BA will be reduced from 81 to 75 credits.

The addition of a new BS degree is expected to increase the number of Marine Science majors, and more importantly, improve retention. The Marine Science program typically averages approximately 200 majors, but graduates about 30 per year.

Faculty members have already begun to advise students on the new degree program. Over the years, UH Hilo Marine Science majors have entered a wide range of public and private sector jobs, including careers as aquarium biologists, ecological consultants, educators, environmental attorneys, and commercial and scientific divers. With the new BS in marine science, students can expect more career options than ever before.
Since 1995, Castille has been a member of the prestigious St. George Tucker Society, admission to which is by invitation only. Based at Emory University, it includes the leading scholars in the field of Southern Studies. He has written extensively on the literature and culture of the Deep South, including the work of William Faulkner.

From 2000 to the end of the past academic year, Castille was the founding dean of the College of Arts & Letters at Eastern Washington University. He and wife Shannon Amidon, a poet who was lead writer/editor for EWU’s Office of University Relations, are expecting their first child, a boy, in mid-October.

“We are very excited that he will be an Island Boy, a keiki kane,” Castille said. “It was certainly not planned that moving to the Big Island and having our first child would coincide, but they did. I left our home in Spokane in early August to begin as VCAA at UH Hilo, and Shannon stayed behind in Spokane to oversee packing and moving. She’s also been trying to get our dog and cat ‘Hawai’i-ready’ with vaccinations, a big undertaking in itself.”

Castille’s initiatives at EWU include the establishment of an Advanced Languages in the High Schools Program, an English Composition in the High Schools Program, an upgrade of the Honors Program, inauguration of a Centers of Excellence Academy, the construction of a Digital Fine Arts Laboratory, and increased external and donor funding. He believes that UH Hilo is ready for a more prominent role both locally and internationally.

“It seems to me that UH Hilo has a dual mission,” he noted. “One aspect of this is to become an increasingly active player on the global stage of higher education, offering a widening array of programs and attracting top students from the State, the Mainland and around the world. The other is to increase our outreach into the Hilo community, West Hawai’i, and other parts of the Big Island, partnering with business, social and cultural institutions in order to play a vital role beyond campus walls.

“The challenge for 21st Century comprehensive universities like UH Hilo is to serve their communities as institutions of access and also to raise their institutional profiles in the wider world of academia to become institutions of choice for top students and faculty,” he added.

Castille says that during his two interviews here, he was “really struck by the strong sense of community” on the UH Hilo campus.

“Everyone has been so welcoming to me,” he said. “I am deeply impressed the successful leadership Chancellor Tseng has provided the campus over the last 10 years. And I am highly optimistic about the bright future UH Hilo faces as it transitions toward becoming a comprehensive university serving both the Hawai’i chain and the international academic and research community.”

In his new post, Castille is well-positioned to be a major contributor to that transition.

“I have always thought that the job of vice chancellor of academic affairs is the best job in the University,” he said. “Think about it -- you actually get to lead the academic side of the house. In my 25-plus years as a professor, faculty leader, and administrator in higher education, I am very comfortable in my academic identity: I am an academic first and foremost, a member of the faculty, a scholar of American Literature, and a participant in shared governance. I look forward to working collaboratively with the faculty leadership and the University executive team to keep UH Hilo an on-the-go institution that serves as an institution of both opportunity and academic excellence.”

Another successful PIPES summer

by Carmen Perez-Frayne

The Pacific Internship Programs for Exploring Science (PIPES) concluded another successful summer with 34 students presenting their internship experiences during a two-day Student Symposium in August. Ten students participated in the National Science Foundation-funded Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU), 22 participated in the 11th annual University of Hawai’i Hawaiian Internship Program (UH-HIP), and two students participated in the Micronesian and American Samoa Student Internship Program (MASSIP). Through these programs, Coordinators Sharon Ziegler-Chong, Carmen Perez-Frayne, Ulu Ching and Sierra Tobiason continued to work with researchers and partner agencies in Hawai’i and the Pacific to train the next generation of environmental scientists.

All interns completed project proposals, worked with their host mentor on a directed project or program, submitted progress reports and completed a final project report along with a final presentation.

This summer included exciting excursions such as hiking in the ancient Kohala Field System with Stanford University scientist Dr. Peter Vitousek, and learning about the cultural and scientific aspects of Mauna Kea through time at ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center, the Institute for Astronomy, and the majestic mountain itself. In late July, PIPES interns from Hawai’i, Maui, Moloka’i, and O’ahu attended the Hawai’i Conservation Conference where they learned about current environmental issues in Hawai’i and the Pacific.

Program coordinators continue to be grateful for all the programmatic collaborations that make the PIPES programs possible: the UH Hilo Pacific Aquaculture and Coastal Resources Center (PACRC); Kamehameha Schools Lands Assets Division; USGS Biological Resources Division; Pacific Island Ecosystems Research Center (PIERC); the USDA Forest Service Institute of Pacific Island Forestry; UH EPSCoR; Alu Like, Inc.; Hawai’i Chapter of the Wildlife Society; the Hawai’i Conservation Alliance; and the many agencies who host interns each summer.

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

September

3   Holiday: Labor Day
5   Focus on UH Hilo, 8 p.m., Channel 55
7   Final deadline to apply for Fall 2007 Graduation
    Last day to exercise Credit/No Credit
    Last day to submit auditors form
9   Last day to drop classes without “W”
    Last day to receive 50% refund of tuition; no refunds issued after this date
10  Tuition payment due for regular and late registration
19  Focus on UH Hilo, 8 p.m., Channel 55
27, 28 UH Board of Regents’ meetings in Hilo, UCB