New student housing in 2013
by Ken Hupp

In 1989 the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo officially opened its Hale Kehau residence hall. That was the last time the University offered new on-campus housing. The end of that lengthy drought at long last appears to be in sight.

“This is the closest we’ve been to getting new state-funded housing on campus since Hale Kehau opened,” said Director of University Housing Miles Nagata. “We have a strategy in place and most importantly, financing has been secured.”

The catalyst was the legislature’s approval of a combined $32 million in Revenue ($16 million) and General Obligation or G.O. Bonds ($16 million) to plan, design, build and equip Phase I of the University Village Project on the 33-acre parcel opposite the University’s Kawili Street entrance.

Best estimates are that the project will add between 250 and 300 beds in apartment- and suite-style residence halls. Its makeup will be determined in part by the results of a survey being conducted this month to solicit student input on what features they want or expect in housing units. That survey should be completed by the middle of September.

Construction is expected to begin in Spring 2012 and be completed in July 2013. At first glance, that timetable would appear to be quite ambitious. But University officials believe it is a very realistic schedule.

University officials cite the new “Design Assist” building model used to build the Cancer Center in Honolulu. The procedure allows the University to select a general contractor during the design phase to work with the school and the architects on detailed
The Draft Strategic Goals will guide our planning for the future: students will be challenged to learn from many sources; we will integrate teaching and scholarship; our multicultural University will be rooted in Hawai‘i’s indigenous history and culture; our campus will be vibrant and sustainable; we will continue to strengthen our economic impact and community service on our island; and we will attain organizational excellence.

The next important phase is that of implementation and I would like to give you a brief overview of work we have been doing over the summer to help prepare for this:

Leadership and accountability: The vice chancellors and I fully endorse this strategic plan and we are committed to putting it into action. In that vein, I held a retreat for the senior leadership team in July where we discussed the plan and how we will facilitate implementation. We’ll be looking to identify action facilitators over the coming weeks so that there is a point person for each action. We’re also working on developing outcome measures for the goals and actions so that we will all be able to determine how well we’re progressing against what the plan sets out.

Embedding the plan into the University: The strategic plan is UH Hilo’s strategic plan. To help build a sense of ownership for it across the University, I am going to ask major units to develop an implementation plan that will detail their own contributions toward the strategic plan. At the time of writing, the vice chancellors and I are working on guidance for unit implementation planning and you will hear more over the next few weeks about how that will work and what will be expected.

Doing implementation: Although we will be doing implementation planning over the next year, we also will be doing implementation and I am pleased to report that we are already making progress. Of particular note in relation to priority action 3.2 on upgrading the University’s technology infrastructure is that our Office of Campus Technology is working to improve wireless broadband capability across the entire campus. This work is ongoing and will be achieved by upgrading 300 access points on campus: 62 in the Library; 42 in Housing; 40 in the University Classroom Building, 19 in Edith Kanaka‘ole Hall, and the remainder will be used for upgrading access points on campus and expanding wireless broadband coverage in areas where it is not adequate. Specifically, we will shortly have 100% wireless broadband coverage in the Library where up to only a few months ago it was only at 40%. This is an important upgrade especially for our students who had raised the issue of poor wireless coverage in the Library during the strategic planning feedback processes.

I’d also like to share with you the four things I’m currently putting into place as an introduction to the next phase of the process: strengthening applied learning, teaching and scholarship (goal 1); community partnerships (goal 5); and organizational excellence (goal 6).

The hiring of an internship coordinator will impact three areas: applied learning; teaching and scholarship; and community partnerships. The coordinator will support and increase student internships and practica with local businesses and agencies as well as student involvement in faculty research. Further, the coordinator will work on ways to integrate teaching and research to engage students in collaboration with faculty. Also included will be professional development opportunities and programs for promoting the development and sharing of innovative teaching and mentoring practices.

The internship coordinator also will connect the University and students with the community through internships and practica; joint meetings between UH Hilo and Hawai‘i Community College administration will begin to identify joint program ventures, and activities that could benefit the island and state.

In the area of organizational excellence, I am committing $100,000 each year toward faculty, staff (APT) and support staff (Civil Service/UPW) development opportunities and programs focused on continuous learning and improvement, which will be supported by three advisory groups representing the three categories of employees.

The implementation phase of any plan is complex and non-linear, while at the same time being the most rewarding. I cannot promise you that it’ll be an easy process to implement this plan, but I can promise you that in working together we can and we will put this 2011-2015 Strategic Plan into action and we will see positive, enduring results for our University.


For more information on this and other UH Hilo updates, visit my blog: http://hilo.hawaii.edu/blog/chancellor/
cost estimating and constructability recommendations.

“This Design Assistance method will avoid major cost over-runs and minimize change orders,” said Brian Minaai, UH associate vice president for capital improvements. “We’ll also get the general contractor started on the building foundation before the design is finalized, which can expedite the overall construction schedule by up to eight months.”

Plans call for housing students from the sophomore class on up in the new facilities. That would begin to free up centrally located units on campus, which could eventually be used for Housing initiatives that have produced promising results, such as requiring freshmen to live on campus. The practice has been linked to various student success measures such as improvements in retention, satisfaction and graduation rates.

Meanwhile, the University is moving forward on plans to create up to three Living Learning Communities that provide learning opportunities outside the classroom. Living Learning Communities are special residential programs that connect an academic program or area of interest to the living environment integrating curricular and co-curricular activities.

“These communities could range from Hawaiian Language and Culture to Marine Science, but would not necessarily be limited to students in a particular area of study or ethnic background in the case of Hawaiian Language and Culture,” Nagata said. “At this time, we’re looking for partners to work with us on this endeavor.”

Work will soon begin as a result of the legislature’s recent approval of approximately $4 million in matching funds to renovate, upgrade and build an addition to the existing Hale Kanilehua residence hall. The project will include a small classroom, separate living accommodations for a scholar-in-residence, a fully functioning community kitchen and adding more than 20 beds to the 50 already in existence. Renovations are currently in the planning stage and scheduled to start next summer, which will close Hale Kanilehua for the 2012-2013 school year. If all goes according to plan, the renovated building and new residence hall will both open at the same time.

For a University with only 620 beds on campus to service an enrollment of around 4,100, the new units and improvements to Hale Kanilehua cannot come a moment too soon. The housing shortage is costing the University approximately 300 students per year who are admitted, but decline to enroll when they discover there is no guarantee of housing.

“When students apply for admission they have a few primary questions such as “Can I get financial aid?”, “Can I get my classes?” , “And do I have a place to live?” Nagata said. “We look at this initiative as an important first step in addressing our housing challenges that will play such a big role in shaping the growth of this University going forward.”

(Editor’s note: Ken Hupp is a public information officer.)

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PACRC breastfeeding friendly workplace

The UH Hilo Pacific Aquaculture and Coastal Resources Center (PACRC) was recently recognized by the Big Island Women, Infant and Children (WIC) and the East Hawai’i Perinatal Consortium for their support of breastfeeding mothers as part of the 2011 World Breastfeeding Week, August 1-7.

Ulu Ching, education program specialist with PACRC and mother of KilolanipowhiwhiaMoana, born 12/24/2010, nominated the office. “My office has supported me every inch of the way with being a breastfeeding, working mom, to providing me a space and a place to pump to the even more important support that every new mom needs,” she said.

Ching’s colleagues, Ho’oululahui Erika Perry, Noelani Puniwai and Sharon Ziegler-Chong, all former breastfeeding mothers of a collective total of six children, appreciated the recognition.

“It’s just second nature for all of us mothers and the other staff in this office to provide support for new moms and parents,” Ching explained. “Our kids, our families and our work are part of our lives, and we all feel strongly that we need to make being a strong parent compatible with being a successful colleague.”

L-R: Ulu Ching, Noe Puniwai and Sharon Ziegler-Chong
Hats off to...


Michael Marshall, Professor, Art, had work accepted for inclusion in the North West Art Center’s America’s 2011: All Media exhibition, currently on display in the Hartnett Hall Gallery at Minot State University, Minot, ND. His work was one of 37 selected by Juror Douglas Kinsey. Additionally, Marshall is exhibiting two mono prints in a group invitational, 14+1 Hawai‘i Printmaking Now, at the Kahilu Gallery in Waimea, HI through October 15.

Catherine Becker, Associate Professor, Communication, taught an online course on Sustainability, Communication and Culture from Ecovillage Ithaca over the summer. The course was developed from a grant from the Finger Lakes Project.


Susan Jarvi, Associate Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences, was co-sponsor and invited keynote speaker at the annual spring meeting of the Hawai‘i Branch, American Society of Microbiology meeting on O‘ahu. She presented “The Hawaiian avian disease system: Genes, Genomics and Pathogen Interactions.” She also co-authored a travel grant to provide funding for seven students and post-docs from the College of Pharmacy to participate in the meeting.

Judith Fox-Goldstein, Director, Conference Center, was recently selected as a Trustee for the Lyman House Museum and elected Vice President of the Hawai‘i Island Chamber of Commerce. She now chairs both the Economic Development Committee and the Tourism Committee on HICC. Additionally, the Conference Center’s Hawaiian EDventure program was selected as one of the “Best Practice” educational tourism programs and is featured in Hana Pono: Best Practices in the Visitor Industry for Perpetuating Hawaiian Culture.


Sevki Erdogan, Professor, Computer Science, attended the IEEE International Dynamic Spectrum Access Networks (DySPAN) sym-
Hats Off
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Kalena Silva, Professor, Hawaiian Studies, presented “A Contemporary Response to Increasing Hawaiian Mele Performance Contexts” at the 2011 lecture of the Marjorie Putnam Sinclair Edel Reading Series at UH Manoa. He was also appointed to the Executive Board of the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium at the Consortium’s 2011 meeting in Cusco, Peru.


Focus on UH Hilo kicks off Sept 2

Focus on UH Hilo launches its Fall 2011 series of telecasts with two programs this month. The show airs on Friday evening from 8 – 8:30 p.m. on Channel 55.

The guest lineup for the September 2 program includes Performing Arts Center Director Lee Dombroski who will preview the 2011-2012 Performing Arts season.

Appearing on the September 16 program is Dr. Maria Haws, assistant professor of aquaculture. She’ll discuss the Pacific Aquaculture and Coastal Resources Center’s oyster initiative.

Focus on UH Hilo highlights UH Hilo programs, up and coming developments and the University’s partnerships with various community organizations. Anyone interested in participating in the program should contact UH Hilo’s Marketing and Alumni office at 974-7501 or 974-7643.

Nominations open for Distinguished Alumni and Service Awards

UH Hilo’s Alumni and Friends Association is currently accepting nominations to honor selected individuals for its 12th Annual Distinguished Alumni and Service Awards Banquet scheduled for Friday, February 24, 2012 in the UH Hilo Campus Center Dining Room. The nomination deadline is October 28.

Each year, the Association grants one or more Distinguished Alumni Awards to individuals based on the nominee’s professional accomplishments, service to the community, and service to the University. Nominees for the Distinguished Alumni Award must have completed at least 50% of his/her college education at UH Hilo.

The Distinguished Service Award is given to those whose contributions to UH Hilo (financial or service) has benefited the University in numerous and significant ways. Nominees of the Distinguished Service Award must have demonstrated consistent contributions to the University over a reasonable period of time, and whose contributions have had positive impact on the students and/or the University.

Nomination forms can be found at http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu/alumni or by calling 974-7501 or 974-7643.

Newsletter online only for 2011-2012

Ka Lono Hanakahi, UH Hilo’s monthly faculty/staff newsletter, is available online only for 2011-2012.

Each month, faculty and staff will be sent a link for that month’s issue via UH Announce. Ka Lono Hanakahi will continue to be published during the academic year with news submissions due on the 15th of each month for the following first of the month publication. News may be emailed to Alyson Kakugawa-Leong, Director Media Relations, at alyson@hawaii.edu.
College of Pharmacy creates program to aid military mental health professionals

UH Hilo is the first in the nation to offer a Master of Science in Clinical Psychopharmacology (MSCP) degree solely within a College of Pharmacy after an August 25 vote by the University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents on Maui.

Typically offered by schools of psychology, the degree gives clinical psychologists in the military, as well as in Guam and two states (New Mexico and Louisiana), the authority to write prescriptions once they pass a national board exam. Initially the program will be offered to students at the Tripler Army Medical Center on O‘ahu.

“Senator Inouye has studied the need for psychologists to have prescriptive authority for decades,” said Pat DeLeon, chief of staff to Senator Daniel K. Inouye and past-president of the American Psychological Association (APA). “We’re happy to see our College of Pharmacy take the lead in developing this program that helps our troops and their families while looking ahead to improving the way all clinical psychologists can do their jobs.”

The MSCP program will provide advanced professional development to working clinicians, with an initial focus on those practicing in the state of Hawai‘i.

“Training clinical psychologists in the art and science of psychopharmacology will result in improved mental health treatment for our service men and women and their families, and we’re honored to meet the needs of the military in Hawai‘i,” said John M. Pezzuto, dean of the College of Pharmacy. “In addition, our long-term expectations are that we will be able to help improve patient care on a broader basis if legislation pending in several states, including Hawai‘i, gives prescriptive authority to all MSCP graduates. In any case, clinical psychologists will be better positioned to interact with physicians and care for their patients.”

The program begins this fall semester. Each successive group of students would start in the fall, and will require four semesters and one summer session to complete.

Most of the coursework will be offered via distance education through lectures posted on the Internet and biweekly hour-long meetings between instructors and students that will be recorded and provided to students for review.

“The curriculum begins with a strong foundation in biochemistry and physiology,” said Edward Fisher, associate dean of the College of Pharmacy and director of the MSCP program. “Our objective is to provide a rigorous, advanced education in clinical psychopharmacology so licensed, doctoral-level, practicing psychologists can safely and effectively prescribe medications for their patients.”

The first group of students is expected to be between five and 10 and will be located at Tripler Army Medical Center, where pharmacy instructors will make live on-site visits between three and five times per course.

“With more than 40,000 active military personnel stationed in Hawai‘i, we are constantly striving to meet and improve on the pharmacologic treatment of mental health issues,” said Captain Rafael A. Salas, chief of the education and training branch and deputy chief in the Department of Psychology at Tripler Army Medical Center. The program includes a one-year practicum where students must complete a minimum of 400 hours under the supervision of an individual with prescriptive authority, he added.

The MSCP program was given interim approval by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) in June. WASC is the regional accrediting organization responsible for evaluating colleges and universities in the western part of the United States. In recommending the program for final approval, the reviewers said that “UH Hilo is commended for the strong planning demonstrated in this new program with a well-articulated design of courses, a solid financial plan, and an admirable plan of faculty development.”

In addition to the Doctor of Pharmacy, the MSCP is the third new degree to be offered by the College of Pharmacy this year. In February, the Board approved a Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Science as well as a Bachelor of Arts degree in Pharmacy Studies.

Mahalo from Tohoku University!

Representatives of Tohoku University in Sendai, Japan show off the 1,000 origami cranes made by UH Hilo and HawCC students, faculty and staff following the March 11 earthquake and tsunami. The cranes, many of them containing personalized messages, are currently displayed in the lobby of the Faculty of Science building, Tohoku University’s largest building on campus. The project was spearheaded by UH Hilo’s Geography and Marine Science Departments and the Center for Global Exchange to send Aloha and support to the Japanese people. Monetary donations were also collected and sent to the American Red Cross for the Japan Relief Fund.
Tickets for UH Hilo’s 2011-2012 Performing Arts season are currently on sale at the PAC Box Office, temporarily relocated to the Theatre Building Room 141 (next to the loading dock). Single performance tickets can be purchased beginning Tuesday, September 6.

The season opens this month on September 23 with Jazz Pianist Bill Cunliffe Trio at 7:30 p.m. On October 14, the “Queen of Jazzipino” Charmaine Clamor and band performs in celebration of Filipino American History month.

The UH Hilo Performing Arts Center and the UH Hilo Performing Arts Department team up to present Go, Dog. Go!, with six performances in November: November 4, 5, 6, 11, 12 & 13. Directed by Justina Taft Mattos, this musical version of P.D. Eastman’s classic children’s book is recommended for children ages 4 – 84.

Ben Vereen lights up the stage with his trio on January 21 at 7:30 p.m. In February, PAC showcases No.2, a one-woman play by New Zealand playwright Toa Fraser on February 9, and Rasta Thomas’ Dance Stars featuring Bad Boys of Dance on February 21. The 8th Annual Girls’ Day Diva Festival will be in March, with the date to be announced soon, and First Person: Seeing America, a multi-media production featuring photos from the Metropolitan Museum of Arts collection, written works and the music of Ensemble Galilei, is on March 10.

The spring musical, Hairspray, presented in cooperation with the UH Hilo Performing Arts Department, hits center stage April 13, 14, 15, 20, 21 & 22. The show is directed by Jackie Seaquist with Musical Director Quack Moore.

The UH Hilo Performing Arts Center also offers two special events outside of the regular season ticket package. Christopher O’Riley, a co-production with the Hawai’i Concert Society, is on November 29, and Living Waters: Kulanihako’i, a Hula Drama by Na Kinimakakehua, under the direction of Kuma Hula Hokulani Holt, Keali’i Reichel and Pali Ahue, is on June 2.

PAC Box Office hours are Tuesday – Friday, 9 am – 1 pm. Call 974-7310 for ticket information or order online at artscenter. uhh.hawaii.edu.

A blessing and dedication was held last month for UH Hilo’s new $25 million Sciences and Technology Building, fulfilling the need for additional classrooms, office spaces and new state-of-the-art laboratories for the University’s expanding Physics, Astronomy and Chemistry programs. The building will also accommodate classes in Biology, Mathematics, Geography, History and Communication. The event was attended by state, county and university officials, including Governor Neil Abercrombie and UH President MRC Greenwood.
2011 UH Hilo Alumni Golf Tourney is Oct 22

The UH Hilo Alumni & Friends Association hosts its 8th annual Golf Tournament on October 22 at the Waikoloa Kings Course in Waikoloa and is open to anyone who possesses an established handicap.

The fee for the one-day tournament is $175, which includes merchandise, green fees, a cart, mulligans, and lunch. Tee off is at 8 a.m.

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 3.0 GPA for graduate students or 2.5 GPA for undergraduates. To date, 20 scholarships have been awarded.

Those interested in participating in the tournament as a golfer or as a sponsor should call 974-7643 or 974-7501, or visit the alumni golf website at http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu/alumni/golf.

Mark your calendar for upcoming Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit meeting!

All systems are “GO” for Hawai’i to welcome President Barack Obama and the APEC conference, which will be held on O’ahu November 6-13, 2011. APEC is a 21-member association of economies from the Asia Pacific region working together to advance regional economic integration and prosperity.

For more information on the conference, visit: http://apec2011hawaii.com/hawaii-meeting-place. Any questions may be directed to Judith Fox-Goldstein, UH Hilo APEC representative, at 974-7555.

New UH Hilo program now airing on local airwaves

A new program about UH Hilo can now be heard on Big Island radio stations.

The UH Hilo Report, a one-minute feature, focuses on various non-commercial topics at the University such as research projects, new degrees and programs, expansion plans, and outstanding students and faculty. The program airs daily on 67AM KPUA, 94.7 FM KWXX and B97 FM during the academic year, and is posted online at http://hilo.hawaii.edu/news/report/.

Programs are still being booked for the 2011-2012 school year. To reserve a spot, email Ken Hupp at hupp@hawaii.edu.

Campus Events

September

2 Last day to completely withdraw from classes without owing tuition
   Focus on UH Hilo, 8 p.m., Channel 55

5 Holiday: Labor Day

9 Final deadline to apply for Fall 2011 Graduation
   Last day to exercise Credit/No Credit
   Last day to submit Auditors Form

12 Last day to drop classes without “W”
   Last day to receive 50% refund of tuition for complete withdrawals

16 Focus on UH Hilo, 8 p.m., Channel 55