UH Hilo Chancellor finalists to visit campus this month

Four finalists for the position of Chancellor of the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo will visit campus this month, each making presentations over a two-day period, beginning Thursday, November 1. The schedule of presentations with various constituent groups is the same for each finalist. The campus community is invited to meet the finalists at campus presentations, which are held in the Rose and Raymond Tseng Terrace.

“The campus presentations provide an opportunity for the campus community to meet and learn more about the candidates and their perspectives on higher education and UH Hilo’s future,” said Search Advisory Committee Co-Chair Farrah-Marie Gomes. “Participation by students, faculty, staff and the public is highly encouraged and valued.”

The finalists identified by the UH Hilo Chancellor’s Search Advisory Committee are Kristin L. Croyle, Bonnie D. Irwin, Terisa C. Riley, and Ming-Tung “Mike” Lee.

Kristin L. Croyle visits campus Thursday and Friday, November 1 - 2. She is a professor with the Department of Psychological Sciences, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. She recently served as vice president for student success at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, and also served in various administrative capacities at The University of Texas-Pan American.

Bonnie D. Irwin is provost and vice president for academic affairs at California State University, Monterey Bay. She previously served as dean of the College of Arts and Humanities and dean of the Honors College at Eastern Illinois University. She visits UH Hilo Thursday and Friday, November 8 - 9.

Terisa C. Riley is senior vice president for student affairs and university administration at Texas A&M University-Kingsville (TAMUK). She previously served as senior vice president for fiscal and student affairs and vice president for student affairs at TAMUK and has held various administrative positions at other universities. Her presentations are scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, November 13 - 14.

Ming-Tung “Mike” Lee is a professor of business emeritus with California State University, Sacramento. He recently served as vice president...
Finalists
Continued from page 1

for administration and business affairs/chief financial officer, interim provost and vice president for academic affairs, vice provost for academic affairs, and in other administrative positions at the campus. He visits UH Hilo Thursday and Friday, November 15 - 16.

Feedback on each of the candidates is highly encouraged and may be sent via the executive search website through November 23, 2018. The search advisory committee will provide comments to UH President David Lassner, who will make his final recommendation to the Board of Regents. UH Hilo’s new chancellor is anticipated to be announced in spring 2019.

Lani (Sky)

While completing a summer internship at the University of Michigan, UH Hilo astronomy student Kyle Steckler developed an algorithm to discover minor planets that orbit the sun beyond Neptune. The algorithm did not fully work all summer and he was not discovering anything new. But about three hours before he gave his final presentation at the symposium in Ann Arbor, he was running his software and it suddenly popped up something new: Kyle had discovered a new object in our solar system!

Kyle’s internship was funded through the Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program, a highly competitive program funded by the National Science Foundation that supports active research done by undergraduates. He will graduate with this amazing accomplishment already on his résumé, a solid foundation for making future discoveries.

Another astronomy student, Chantelle Kiessner, is doing solar investigations, having been awarded three internships over the course of the past two years. She started in 2016 as a Hawai‘i Space Grant Consortium trainee, and then, building on the skills learned as a trainee, she was selected for the Akamai Internship Program in the summer of 2017. As an Akamai Scholar, she was placed at the Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope on Maui to work on quantifying data on the new Adaptive Optics system where she looked for ways to correct the errors introduced by Earth’s atmosphere.

Chantelle then conducted research over the past summer as an intern in the REU program. She studied at the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics, a research facility at the University of Colorado, Boulder. While there, she worked at the National Solar Observatory analyzing spectral data from the solar chromosphere, the reddish outer layer of the sun.

These two students are already earning their research chops as undergraduates and I can only imagine the great work they will do in their future careers.

Kai (Ocean)

Sabena Siddiqui, a graduate student in Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science (TCBES), is researching the sounds of humpback whales when they are not singing, an aspect of their communication that is clearly important but little studied. Sabena’s investigations focus on spectral analysis of the social sounds of the humpback whale population that breeds in Hawai‘i.

Sabena secured funding to attend UH Hilo through the NSF Centers for Research Excellence in Science and Technol-
Homecoming for New Housing Director Sherri Akau

Hilo girl Sherri Akau joined the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo `Ohana on October 1 as the new Housing Director following the retirement of Miles Nagata, who held that position for 36 years.

Akau is a Hilo High School graduate who brings more than 18 years of higher education experience. She has an MA in Organizational Leadership with a concentration in Student Affairs from Chapman University in Orange, CA where she most recently served as Associate Director of Residence Life and First Year Experience.

With just four weeks into her new job, Akau has already made an impact. She shares with readers her experiences thus far, her plans for Housing, and what it means to be back home.

KL: How does it feel to be back home, living and working in the community where you grew up?

SA: This is truly a dream come true. I always knew that I would move back home to the islands one day, but never thought I would be able to continue working in the field of student affairs, specifically in housing and residence life, in my hometown. This opportunity allowed me to advance in a field that I fell into and became passionate about. What was a thought in my head 15 years ago as a new professional when I met my predecessor, Miles Nagata, is now my reality and my truth. There are not enough words to express how it feels to be back home with my ‘ohana and to give back to a community that has helped create the person I am today.

KL: After living on the mainland for many years, what about Hilo surprises you the most?

SA: I left Hilo to further my education on the mainland almost 27 years ago. While there are a few things that surprise me about Hilo, the one thing that surprises me the most is the quality of education in most of our public schools in the state of Hawai‘i. Based on what I have read and learned from professionals in the field, the quality of education has significantly decreased over time.

KL: Please share your thoughts on the impact Housing has in any university setting. How does UH Hilo’s Housing measure up to that?

SA: Housing and Residence Life programs in any university setting play a vital role and should be available to students whether they choose to be involved or not. UH Hilo shares the same value and philosophy but has a lot of opportunity for growth. I look forward to those opportunities to enhance our current Residence Life programs and hope to bring about positive change for our students who live on campus.

KL: What has been your biggest challenge thus far?

SA: While I have professionally grown in different positions working in a university setting at a private institution, my biggest challenge is learning and understanding the University of Hawai‘i System and how to navigate through it as the new Director of Housing.

KL: Where do you want Housing to be in the next few years, and how do you plan to achieve that?

SA: In the next few years, I would like for us to create a strong Housing operation that includes a strong Residence Life program so that students choose and want to live on campus. I have a lot to learn before I can implement change, and I know that I will not be able to achieve what I hope for us without my professional and our paraprofessional staff.

KL: What role do you see yourself and your staff having in the University’s retention efforts?

SA: We have a key role in the University’s retention efforts but it is also about the partnerships we create across campus with those who also care about retention efforts.

KL: What would you say is the largest asset you bring to your new position?

SA: ‘A’ohe pau ka ‘ike i ka hālau ho‘okahi

Armed with today’s technology, the guidance of expert mentors, and a deep desire to make new discoveries, these students are learning from many sources and already contributing to their selected fields, their communities, and the world. In a future column, I will share with you the work of several programs that support our students in exploring and investigating our island and beyond.

Aloha and mahalo,
**SA:** The largest asset that I bring to my new position is my 20 years of experience and knowledge I have gained while working in housing, residence life and first year experience at a four-year institution.

**KL:** Please share anything else you want us to know.

**SA:** I am a person that also values professional partnerships and relationships in a university setting. I truly believe that while we may work in different areas across campus, we all serve students and share a common purpose of why we do the work that we do. Creating partnerships across campus and working together can make a difference and can impact a student’s experience! If I haven’t connected with you already, I may be reaching out to you soon!

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**Faculty Mentorship Program established**

A Faculty Mentorship Program recently established by the University of Hawai’i at Hilo Faculty Congress Professional Development committee is currently accepting applications for mentees and mentors. Applications will be reviewed beginning November 2.

Priority will be given to mentees who are junior tenure track faculty members, and recruited to UH Hilo within the last two years. To apply, visit here.

Mentors should have a record of scholarly activities, recognized as successful teachers or are recipients of teaching excellence awards, and/or have demonstrated success in obtaining extramural funding. The application can be found here.

The Faculty Mentorship Program is the result of a faculty survey done in spring 2018 that showed having such a program would fulfill the most critical need within professional development. The program aims to connect senior faculty with junior faculty to serve as a resource with regard to publishing, building an effective dossier, excellence in teaching and research, understanding the culture of UH Hilo and the UH System, and the sharing of ideas and interests.

For additional information, contact Julie Mowrer at jmowrer@hawaii.edu.

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**Hats off to...**

**Adam Pack,** Professor, Psychology and Biology, had his invited paper, “Pointing,” accepted for publication in the upcoming Encyclopedia of Animal Cognition and Behavior by Springer International Publishing. Additionally, he gave a talk last month on “The influences of body size and reproductive status on humpback whale (Megaptera novaeangliae) behavioral role, social interaction, and habitat use in Hawaiian waters” at UH Manoa’s Biology Department seminar series.

**Chris Frueh,** Professor, Psychology, gave an invited Grand Rounds to the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, University of Texas Health Sciences Center, Houston, TX, on “Behavioral healthcare for combat veterans: A holistic approach.” He also presented “The role of systemic inflammation in major depressive disorder and implications for novel treatment approaches” at the joint meeting of the 9th Biennial Conference of the International Society for Affective Disorders and the Houston Mood Disorders Conference, Houston, TX.

Data governance and information security briefing to be held on campus

A University of Hawai‘i System briefing on data governance and information security is scheduled for Friday, November 9, 9 a.m. – noon, in Student Services Center (SSC) W-201.

UH System presenters will cover updates on data governance, information security, and protected health info/HIPAA, UH’s new contract policy and ADA compliance.

Presenters include:
- James “JT” Ash, HIPAA Compliance Officer, Information Technology Services
- Sandra Furuto, Director of Data Governance, Academic Planning and Policy
- Jodi Ito, Chief Information Security Officer, Information Technology Services
- Emi Morita, Associate General Counsel, Office of General Counsel
- Mitch Ochi, Client Service and Operations Center Director and ADA Compliance Coordinator, Information Technology Services

For more information, contact the System Data Governance Office at datagov@hawaii.edu.

Governor’s Awards for Distinguished State Service

Faculty and staff are reminded that nominations for the 2019 Governor’s Awards for Distinguished State Service are due by Wednesday, November 14, 2018. The three categories are: Employee; Manager; and Team of the Year.

“The Governor’s Awards for Distinguished State Service are part of the State’s employee recognition and incentive program that is administered by the State Department of Human Resources Development,” said UH President David Lassner. “The three awards are designed to honor the State’s executive branch employees and managers who exemplify the highest caliber of public service and dedication in serving the people of Hawai‘i.”

Detailed instructions, nomination forms, and selection criteria are available on the Office of Human Resources website: http://go.hawaii.edu/bzf.

Nominations should be submitted to the System Office of Human Resources by UH File Drop to mkho@hawaii.edu, by fax to (808) 956-3952, or by mail to 2440 Campus Road, Administrative Services Building 2, Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96822.

Contact Marilyn Ho in the Office of Human Resources at (808) 956-8988 or mkho@hawaii.edu with any questions.

UH Hilo’s Kahuawaiola Indigenous Teacher Education Program receives international accreditation

The University of Hawai‘i at Hilo Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke’elikōlani (KH‘UOK) College of Hawaiian Language’s Kahuawaiola Indigenous Teacher Education Program received a 10-year accreditation from the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium (WINHEC).

“The College applauds Kahuawaiola for being the first of the teacher education programs to meet its accreditation requirements through an international Indigenous accreditation process,” said KH‘UOK Director Keiki Kawai‘ae’a.

The Hawai‘i Teacher Standards Board provides the option for Indigenous and culturally-focused programs such as Kahuawaiola to fulfill its accreditation requirements through either a national or international Indigenous-focused accrediting body. In concert with the accreditation of Kahuawaiola, KHʻUOK applied a year early and was reaccredited by WINHEC.

The WINHEC Board of Affirmation/Accreditation met in Norway in August to consider applications and reports from potential candidates such as the Kahuawaiola Indigenous Teacher Education program.

“We were so fortunate to have attended that meeting as we were afforded the time to present the Kahuawaiola program,” noted Makalapua Alencastre, associate professor and coordinator of the program. Alencastre said the teacher education program and KH‘UOK accreditations “are important affirmations of the cultural and academic integrity of P-20 Hawaiian language medium education for our lāhui Hawai‘i.”
Disney Conservation Fund helps UH Hilo team protect the sounds of the forest

A team from the Tropical Conservation Biology and Environment Sciences program (TCBES) and Biology Department at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo is the latest recipient of support from the Disney Conservation Fund (DCF) for its work to promote successful conservation of the critically endangered ‘Alalā or Hawaiian Crow. The fund has been supporting local efforts around the world aimed at saving wildlife, inspiring action and protecting the planet with more than $75 million distributed to nonprofit organizations since 1995.

Dr. Kristina Paxton, adjunct assistant professor associated with the Listening Observatory for Hawaiian Ecosystems (LOHE) at UH Hilo, said, “Establishing a self-sustaining wild population of ‘Alalā will require flexible and innovative management strategies.” She added, “Thanks to this $50,000 award from the Disney Conservation Fund, we will be able to do intensive research in collaboration with The ‘Alalā Project, a partnership between Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources, San Diego Zoo Global, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to find out if captive reared ‘Alalā are developing new vocalizations as they adapt to new situations encountered in the wild. This information will greatly assist in the conservation efforts of ‘Alalā.”

‘Alalā have complex and diverse vocalizations that are acquired through social learning over a bird’s lifetime. These vocalizations play an integral role in behaviors including avoiding predators, attracting a mate, and establishing a territory. By researching the vocalizations and associated behaviors, teams working to save the ‘Alalā will be able to better shape successful re-entry into the wild.

The ‘Alalā has great cultural and ecological significance for the people of Hawai‘i and the forests where they live and were once found. An endemic species that was once found in forests throughout Hawai‘i, the ‘Alalā has been extinct in the wild since 2002. Through intensive conservation efforts, 16 ‘Alalā raised in captivity have been released into native forests. The DCF award will also help build community awareness around the importance of forest conservation for ‘Alalā and other endangered forest birds and plants.

“Our work is perfectly suited for education and outreach by bringing the sounds of the forest to the people,” noted Dr. Patrick Hart, a professor of biology collaborating on the project. “We will use the findings of our research to highlight conservation and science through the story of the ‘Alalā and their vocal culture. By partnering with existing outreach programs such as The ‘Alalā Project’s outreach and education program, we will be able to share our conservation messages with the local community through interactive audio-visual displays, and presentations.”
UH Hilo Briefs

November

1  “I” Removal Deadline: Student to Instructor
   Last Day to Apply for Credit-by-Exam for Fall
   “Shipwreck’d on the Body Beautiful” solo play by Daniel A. Kelin, 12:30-1:30 p.m., Campus Center 307
2  Chancellor finalist Kristin L. Croyle Open Forum, 10:15 a.m., Rose and Raymond Tseng Terrace
   Hawai‘i Island United Way pledge forms deadline to Jennifer Aguiar (DKICP) or Marcia Heller (Chancellor’s Office)
3  Vulcan Volleyball vs. Point Loma, 5 p.m., Vulcan Gym, Admission
6  Holiday: Election Day
7  Vulcan Volleyball vs. Fresno Pacific, 7 p.m., Vulcan Gym, Admission
9  UH System briefing on data governance and information security, 9 a.m. – noon, SSC W-201
   Chancellor finalist Bonnie D. Irwin Open Forum, 10:15 a.m., Rose and Raymond Tseng Terrace
12 Holiday: Veteran’s Day
14 Chancellor finalist Terisa C. Riley Open Forum, 10:15 a.m., Rose and Raymond Tseng Terrace
15  “I” Removal and Change of Grade Deadline: Instructor to Office of the Registrar
   Last Day to Submit Credit-by-Exam Results to Office of the Registrar
   Graduate Thesis/Dissertation Defense Deadline
   Diabetes, Antibiotics public health information session by DKICP student pharmacists in partnership with Edwin H. Mookini Library, 4:30-6 p.m, Main Floor Library
16  Chancellor finalist Ming-Tung “Mike” Lee Open Forum, 10:15 a.m., Rose and Raymond Tseng Terrace
22  Holiday: Thanksgiving Day
23  Non-instructional Day
30  Great Leaps Dance Concert preview performance, 7:30 p.m., PAC, Admission