Hoku Scientific founder/entrepreneur to keynote UH Hilo fall commencement

by Ken Hupp

Dustin Shindo, president, chief executive officer and chair of the board of Hoku Scientific, will deliver the keynote address at UH Hilo’s fall commencement scheduled for Saturday, December 15, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. in the UH Hilo new gym. A total of 233 students representing the College of Arts and Sciences (185), College of Business and Economics (30), College of Agriculture, Forestry & Natural Resource Management (17), and Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikolani College of Hawaiian Language (1) are candidates for various degrees and certificates. The event will also include the presentation of the Board of Regents Award for Excellence in Teaching to Dr. Raina Ivanova, associate professor of mathematics.

Shindo, a Waiakea High School graduate, earned an MBA from the Darden School of Business Administration at the University of Virginia and a BA in accounting from the University of Washington. He is one of Hoku Scientific’s co-founders, and has held his positions since the company was established in 2001. In 2005, he led the company through an initial public offering. Today, Hoku Scientific is one of only two Hawai‘i-based companies to be traded on the NASDAQ Global Market. At 34, Shindo is one of the youngest CEOs of a publicly traded company in the country.

As a diversified materials science company focused on clean energy technologies, Hoku Scientific has three businesses: Hoku Materials; Hoku Solar; and Hoku Fuel Cells.

Hoku Solar, an integrated solar panel installation business, offers turnkey installations of photovoltaic (PV) systems for commercial and residential markets. Hoku Materials is building a polycrystalline

Debra Fitzsimons says she faces three major challenges in her new position of vice chancellor for administrative affairs at UH Hilo. They are budgetary constraints, staffing limitations and overburdened facilities.

A native of the beautiful but hardscrabble hills of Western Pennsylvania in the Rust Belt’s “Golden Triangle” of Erie, Pittsburgh and Cleveland, Fitzsimons’ upbringing taught her that life is a series of constant challenges. For those who doubt how tough the area is, the best-known natives are almost all football players. The list of Western Pennsylvania gridiron luminaries include: Johnny Unitas, Joe Namath; Joe Montana; Dan Marino; Jim Kelly and the toughest of them all -- “Iron” Mike Ditka. Football was their escape from the steel mills and coal mines that for decades defined the local landscape. For Fitzsimons, her ticket out was education.

“I come from a small, blue-collar, highly unionized town about the same size as Hilo, and grew up in a working class family,” Fitzsimons said. “My father, uncles, and most of my family worked in the local steel mills and I was the first person in my family to go to college. I worked and put myself through college, beginning with my economics degree at Penn State.

“My first official job working at a college was

Commencement - continued on page 2.
Spotlight - continued on page 9.
Human patient simulation in nursing education at UH Hilo

by Drs. Jeanie Flood and Kay Daub

Three-month-old Zoe is brought to the Emergency Room with a three-day history of cough and congestion. She has a fever of 101 degrees with a poor intake. She arrives in her mother’s arms showing some moderate respiratory distress (an elevated respiratory rate and decreased oxygen saturation). A nurse must quickly make an assessment of the infant to determine the priorities in providing care. Once priorities are ascertained, the nurse will monitor and assess the infant.

Acute respiratory problems are the most common cause of illness requiring hospitalization in infants and children. Pediatric problems may occur as a primary problem or as a complication of non-respiratory conditions and may be life threatening and have long-term implications. Nurses must learn to assess a child’s respiratory status quickly, monitor progress and anticipate any potential complications.

This is an example of a simulation scenario used as a component of clinical education for Nursing students in the UH Hilo Nursing program. The Nursing lab has recently become home to a Laerdal SimMan and SimBaby as a result of a generous donation. The use of high-fidelity human patient simulation is rapidly becoming an integral part of nursing education as it allows students to acquire and develop critical thinking and decision-making skills without exposing patients to unnecessary risk. In the pediatric scenario example, students have the opportunity to utilize prerequisite knowledge learned in theory courses such as pediatric assessment and management of airway and hydration and practice psychomotor skills such as vital signs, lung auscultation and medication administration.

Clinical experiences for pediatrics, in particular, can be difficult to find and limited in rural environments such as Hawai‘i Island. Nurse educators are challenged to find sufficient clinical experiences to adequately prepare students for nursing practice. Graduating students are expected to function in increasingly more complex and sophisticated healthcare environments. Human patient simulation is a tool which is now integrated in Nursing curriculum at UH Hilo to enhance student learning, and...
A safe winter visit to Mauna Kea

by Bill Stormont

The signs are already here: shorter days; cooler evening and early-morning air; and holiday decorations popping up all over town. Our version of winter is upon us. We’ve even had our first snowstorm atop Mauna Kea recently.

With the arrival of the winter season, the Office of Mauna Kea Management at UH Hilo takes this opportunity to share how best to prepare for a trip to the summit of Mauna Kea. These precautions should be adhered to at all times of the year, but in the months ahead, as we look toward the possibility of even more snow, preparations and precautions for a safe trip are essential.

A safe trip involves first understanding the effects of high altitude. Few places in the world provide the opportunity to go from sea level to nearly 14,000 feet in elevation so quickly. At that elevation, atmospheric pressure is about half of what it is at sea level. Because of this, acclimation along the way is essential to allow your body to adjust, and a stop of at least 30 minutes at the Mauna Kea Visitor Information Station (VIS) at the 9,200-foot elevation is strongly advised. People under 16 years of age, pregnant women, those with high blood pressure or heart or respiratory ailments are advised not to go beyond the VIS, and scuba divers should not ascend to the summit within 24 hours of their last dive.

In the winter months, conditions can change rapidly and become especially hazardous. Temperature variations can be extreme, swinging 20 or 30 degrees in a matter of minutes. Wind speeds can rise to gale force with very little notice. As such, protective clothing, including insulating layers and a water and wind resistant shell are a must. Ultra-violet radiation is extremely intense at that elevation as well, and sunscreen, sunglasses, and other sun protection are critical. With snow on the ground, snow blindness can set in quickly without proper eye protection. And as always, drinking lots of water to maintain hydration in the very dry atmospheric conditions cannot be stressed enough.

Travel to the Mauna Kea summit should be in 4-wheel-drive vehicles only. Part of the reason is the rough gravel conditions, but more importantly, sections of the roadway are quite steep, up to 15 percent in some places. Using the lower gear ratios customary in traditional 4-wheel-drive vehicles, rather than relying on the brakes, reduces the chances of brakes overheating. Your vehicle should also be well-maintained and have standard safety and emergency equipment onboard. And for the safety of yourself and other visitors, please observe the posted speed limits.

Mauna Kea Rangers and Interpretive Guide staff at the VIS can provide visitors with up-to-date and forecast summit conditions. They are there to help, and we ask that all visitors heed all warnings and precautions issued by the on-mountain staff. The following Web sites also have information of summit conditions, precautions, and weather conditions: http://www.ifa.hawaii.edu/mko/visiting.htm for planning and preparations; and http://mkwc.ifa.hawaii.edu/index.cgi for current summit weather conditions and Web cameras. Also, for a recorded message on current road conditions, phone 935-6268.

Lastly, we remind everyone of the special nature and significance of this majestic landscape. Mauna Kea represents the pinnacle of the spiritual existence of the Hawaiian people. It is home to rare flora and fauna, some found nowhere else. And it hosts the most sophisticated astronomy research facilities in the world. It is truly a unique and treasured world-class mountain, and we ask all who visit to do so with respect and reverence.

(Editor’s note: Bill Stormont is director, Office of Mauna Kea Management.)

Nursing education

Continued from page 2

simulations are structured specifically to a student’s level of knowledge. In a beginning nursing fundamentals course, the simulation experiences cover basic skills and assessments and allow students to gain confidence in clinical situations. As students progress through the program, simulations become more complex to teach higher level skills.

Nursing faculty are currently involved in developing and integrating simulation experiences throughout the program. In addition, research in areas such as clinical decision-making are being initiated in collaboration with Nursing faculty, Dean Randy Hirokawa, and other colleagues at UH Hilo.

(Editor’s note: Jeanie Flood is assistant professor, nursing, and Kay Daub is chair, nursing.)
College of Pharmacy facilities receive green light

The UH Hilo College of Pharmacy is poised to take another important step toward its goal of becoming one of the top pharmacy colleges in the nation.

The first-year college, which seated its inaugural class of 90 students this fall, is currently conducting sessions in classrooms and laboratories belonging to the University’s Biology and Chemistry departments. But the school can now make plans to move in to a home of its own next year in the University Park of Science and Technology after Governor Linda Lingle last month released $6 million for design and construction of new, temporary facilities.

“This is a powerful statement that raises the profile of the College of Pharmacy,” said Chancellor Rose Tseng. “We firmly believe it will help transform UH Hilo by producing first-class pharmacists, establishing networks throughout the State, and enhancing our role as a major economic engine. The approval and release of this funding sends a clear signal that the Governor and legislature share and support that vision.”

Plans call for up to four modular buildings on a four-acre parcel in the University Park of Science and Technology next to the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) on South Aohoku Place. The new facilities will include classrooms, teaching laboratories and offices. Design work is expected to be finished in November, with construction beginning in February and wrapping up in Fall 2008.

“Building these interim facilities will enable us to continue recruiting top-notch faculty and staff, accept our next class of students, and maintain a solid foundation for retaining our professional accreditation,” said College of Pharmacy Dean John Pezzuto. “It will also allow us to launch our research programs, which is important because discovery is critical to our success.”

Members of the inaugural class say they are receiving the instruction they need to become successful pharmacists, and view the new facilities as an important piece of the puzzle. Jessica Toyama said where one learns can have a positive impact on what one learns.

“We are very pleased to be able to study pharmacy in Hilo,” Toyama said. “The faculty is fantastic, and the addition of our own facilities will help unite the class and form lifelong relationships that will make a big difference in our careers.”

The College is the first in Hawai‘i to be accredited by the Accreditation Council of Pharmacy Education (ACPE) to offer the Doctor of Pharmacy degree, and will graduate its first class in 2011. Administrators have already received a flood of applications for next fall’s class of 80-90 students, which they anticipate totaling up to 1,000. University Relations Director Gerald De Mello said the new classrooms, laboratories and offices will help the college meet its accreditation requirements, while turning its attention to the next phase.

“The classroom and laboratory space that these modular units will provide are both needed and welcome, so we’re obviously very pleased,” De Mello said. “The College of Pharmacy will still need a permanent site and building, but Phase I is important because it establishes a solid foundation for the full build out.”

Islands of Opportunity Alliance-LSAMP hosts “Discovery Days”

In mid-October, the newly formed Islands of Opportunity Alliance (IOA)-LSAMP Program at UH Hilo hosted a group of LSAMP students for a new event titled, “Discovery Days.” This event brought in LSAMP students and one faculty/staff member from Alliance partner institutions, primarily from the Pacific Basin region. American Samoa Community College, Palau Community College, the College of Marshall Islands, and Kapiolani Community College sent representatives to Hawai‘i for a three-day outreach and recruitment trip to the IOA-LSAMP four-year institutions within Hawai‘i. These included UH Manoa, Chaminade University, Hawai‘i Pacific University and UH Hilo. During their visits to each campus, students and faculty/staff were provided an opportunity to tour each campus and learn more about the degree programs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). While in Hilo, the group visited the Pacific Aquaculture and Coastal Resource Center (PACRC) facilities in Keaukaha where students learned from Sharon Ziegler-Chong (above), Dr. Maria Haws and UH Hilo LSAMP student research assistants. For more information on the Islands of Opportunity Alliance-LSAMP Program, visit http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu/affiliates/ioalsamp or call x30705.
Hats off to...

Chancellor Rose Tseng last month was elected to continue serving as chair of the Statewide EPSCoR Committee for the next two years. The meeting took place during the 2007 National EPSCoR conference in Waikoloa. Additionally, she was the invited keynote speaker at the annual conference of the Northern California American Council on Education’s Office of Women in Higher Education held in May at UC-San Francisco. Her presentation was on “Women Working with Women.” She was also the invited keynote at the ACE Nevada Statewide Conference held in September at UN-Las Vegas where she spoke on “What Women Bring to the Game: Collaboration, Innovation and Entrepreneurship.”

Cam Muir, Assistant Professor, Biology, had the manuscript “Islands under islands: the phylogeography and evolution in Halocaridina rubra Holthuis, 1963 (Crustacea: Decapoda: Atyidae) in the Hawaiian archipelago” accepted for publication in Oceanography and Limnology. Co-authors include Jon Craft, Atlantis Russ, Robert Nishimoto, William Walsh, Charlie Chong, Sharon Ziegler-Chong, Ann Fielding, Bob Kinzie, and Scott Santos.

Stephen Hora, Professor, Management, Science and Statistics, has been invited to present on “Expert Judgment Elicitation” at a forecasting workshop in Warsaw in January 2008. The workshop is a meeting of a group called “Improving Confidence in Forecasting,” which aims at getting a better handle on insurance costs by improving forecasts of certain factors such as illness and disability rates. Hora’s travel is supported by the Swedish Social Insurance Agency.

Kay Daub, Associate Professor and Chair, Nursing, had her research article on “Pheochromocytoma: A Diagnosis That Can Be Missed” accepted for publication in American Nurse Today.


Bryan Kim, Associate Professor, Psychology, co-authored two chapters entitled, “East and Southeast Asian Americans” and “Ethnicity,” in Culturally Alert Counseling: A Comprehensive Introduction, which was recently published by Sage Publications.

Cheryl Ramos, Assistant Professor, Psychology, was awarded a $2500 grant from the UH System Diversity and Equity Initiative for a project on “Diversity and Equity E-Initiative: Connecting Students with Disabilities and the Online Learning Environment.” The project is a collaboration between April Komenaka (CCECS), Robert Chi and Cindy Yamaguchi (Office of Technology & Distance Learning), Susan Shirachi (University Disability Services Office), and Ramos (Psychology Dept.).

Drew Martin, Associate Professor, Marketing, had his article, “Applying Ecological Systems and Micro-Tipping Point Theory for Understanding Tourists’ Leisure Destination Behavior,” accepted for publication in Journal of Travel Research. The article was co-authored with Arch Woodside, Boston College.

William Mautz, Professor, Biology, and colleagues, have their research paper, “Ozone exposure affects feeding and locomotor behavior of adult Bufo marinus” in press in the journal, Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry: Dohm, M.R., W.J. Mautz, R.E. Doratt, and J.R. Stevens. Dohm is a former post-doctoral researcher at UH Hilo, Doratt is a graduate student in the UH Hilo TCBES program, and Stevens is a former UH Hilo undergraduate.
**Hats off**

**Continued from page 5**

**Terrance Jalbert**, Professor, Finance, recently had “Additional Evidence on the most Prolific Authors in Finance” accepted for publication in the *Journal of Financial Education*. The paper is co-authored with Napua Young and Sadhana Alangar.

**Keith Edwards**, Assistant Professor, Computer Science, presented the paper, “Teaching Alice in Hawai’i: Cultural Perspectives,” at the Frontiers in Education Conference, Milwaukee, WI, in October. The paper was co-authored with Judith Gersting, Chair, Computer Science Department, and Taupouri Tangaro, Hawai’i Community College, and was published in the conference proceedings.

**Wayne Miyamoto**, Professor, Art, was a Visiting Artist at the Graduate Program in Art Education at the School of Visual Arts, New York City, and Visiting Artist, Department of Art at Appalachian State University, North Carolina, in October. He also presented digital etchings and lithographs from a Research Relations Grant project, The Gestural Mark and Digital Imagery, as a Guest Artist at the Manhattan Graphic Center in New York and the Littleton Studios in Spruce Pine, NC.

**Walter Dudley**, Professor, Oceanography, is a co-author with Drs. Bruce Richmond, Bruce Jaffe, Guy Gelfenbaum, and Steve Watt, all of the U.S. Geological Survey, on a paper, “Extreme Wave Deposits on the Southern Flank of Kilauea Volcano, Hawai’i,” which was presented at the annual meeting of the American Geophysical Union. The paper characterizes and discusses the difference between deposits left by tsunamis and storms.

**Chris Frueh**, Professor, Psychology, recently had the following published, both of which were completed with former students: “Therapist adherence and competence with manualized cognitive-behavioral therapy for PTSD delivered via videoconferencing technology,” *Behavior Modification* 2007; 31:856-866, and “Patients’ perceptions of care and safety within psychiatric settings,” *Psychological Services* 2007; 4:193-201.

**Ron Amundson**, Professor, Philosophy, published a book review in the prestigious journal, Science, in October. He was invited to review the book, *From Embryology to Evo-Devo*, after his own book on a similar topic was reviewed in the journal in August 2005. His book was entitled, *The Changing Role of the Embryo in Evolutionary Thought*. Amundson also co-authored an article with his undergraduate research assistant, Shari Tresky, which will appear in this month’s issue of the *Journal of Medicine and Biology*. That article is entitled, “On a Bioethical Challenge to Disability Rights.”

**Jing Yin**, Assistant Professor, Communication, presented a paper, “Popular Culture as Public Pedagogy: Disney vs. Chinese Stories of Mulan,” at the 93rd annual meeting of the National Communication Association, held in Chicago, IL last month.

**Thom Curtis**, Associate Professor, Sociology, was invited to present two workshops at the Sixth Annual Rocky Mountain Disaster Mental Health Conference held last month in Cheyenne, WY. “Tourists and Disasters” was designed to help disaster planners recognize the importance of preparing to meet the needs of tourists caught unexpectedly in disaster situations. “Disaster Mental Health Ethics” was an interactive program for disaster mental health counselors and disaster managers.
UH Hilo programming teams take top honors

The UH Hilo computer science programming teams took first and second place honors for the Hawai‘i site in the annual ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest held on Oahu on November 10, 2007.

“The ACM programming contest is an annual competition sponsored by the Association for Computing Machinery and IBM that pits teams of three programmers against a set of fiendishly difficult programming problems,” explained Dr. H. Keith Edwards, UH Hilo assistant professor of computer science and team coach. “The teams have one computer and five hours to solve as many of these problems as possible. The team that solves the most problems wins the competition with ties broken by the amount of time that it took a team to solve the problems and number of incorrect submissions.” Successful teams require a mix of mathematical problem solving abilities, technical programming expertise, and the ability to work together as a team.

Led by Jahrain Jackson, Yekaterina Kharitonova, and Chris Usher, UH Hilo’s Team Anonymous submitted two last minute solutions to win a dramatic come-from-behind victory. “The team had struggled during the early part of the contest and had only managed to solve a single problem going into the final hour of the contest,” Edwards said.

During the final hour, the scoreboard is turned off. “Team Anonymous used this time to their full advantage and corrected several early mistakes that had prevented their problems from being accepted by the judges. When the scoreboard was turned back on, the team had pulled ahead of all the other teams by one problem,” Edwards said.

UH Hilo’s other team, Team Decepticons, composed of Vladimir Ivanov, Collin Schrandt, and Andrew Zdryski, took second place by submitting early and correct solutions. They finished one problem behind Team Anonymous, but had the best times of any team at the site.

Cassandra Cabaong, the senior UH Hilo team member and alternate, competed on an inter-university squad with students from BYU-Hawai‘i and Hawai‘i Pacific University. The inter-university squad overcame some technical difficulties to solve one of the problems during the final hour of the competition.

Dr. Ramón M. Figueroa-Centeno from the UH Hilo Mathematics Department assisted the teams with graph theory and number theory problems.
Reyn Spooner designer creates new line of UH Hilo tees and sweatshirts to benefit alumni association

Noted artist and designer Eddy Yamamoto has lent his considerable talents to the UH Hilo Alumni & Friends Association to develop a new line of specialty clothing.

Yamamoto, who has designed shirts and t-shirts for clients, including Reyn Spooner, has produced a special design imprinted on a variety of t-shirts and sweatshirts in various colors and selected styles. Proceeds will be used to support the UH Hilo Alumni and Friends Association scholarships, along with initiatives aimed to meet the needs of its members. The new line of apparel was unveiled last month.

In creating the new design, Yamamoto wanted to give back to the University, where his daughter graduated with a business degree from the College of Business and Economics. Yamamoto credits the education his daughter Kelly received after transferring from a mainland university with helping her launch a successful career in accounting.

“We deeply appreciate Eddy’s kind gesture,” said Yu Yok Pearring, director of marketing and alumni. “His genuine gratitude toward the University is reflected in the brilliantly conceived design that we are so honored to receive. These tees and sweatshirts are a great way for alumni, students, staff and faculty and the community-at-large to showcase their pride in the University. This new initiative has enabled the Association to further collaborate with the community and will provide more opportunities for us to grow in more ways than one.”

The shirts can be purchased by calling the Alumni and Marketing Office at x47501 or x47643. Styles, sizes and prices are as follows:

- **Men** (Heavyweight tee) –
  black w/ sand print & pebble w/ black print: $20 / $22 2XL

- **Women** (Jerzees ladies 50/50 tee) –
  sea foam w/ green print & black w/ dark amber print: $20

- **Long Sleeves** (Hanes heavyweight tee) –
  black w/ sand print & extra print on sleeve: $25 / $27 2XL

- **Sweatshirt** (Crewneck) –
  light steel w/ blue print: $30 / $32 2XL

---

**Construction updates on the Web**

UH Hilo’s Office of Facilities Planning and Construction now has an online summary of the various construction, renovation and maintenance projects underway on campus or currently being planned. The summary is available at: [http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu/uhh/planning/](http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu/uhh/planning/).

OFPC will be regularly providing updates so the campus community can be kept apprised of the facilities-related activities taking place. If you have any questions regarding any of these projects, please call Dr. Debra Fitzsimons at x47750 or Lo-Li Chih at x47595.

---

Over 425 people nationwide participated in the 20th National NSF EPSCoR conference held November 6-9, 2007 at the Waikoloa Beach Marriott Resort. Hosted by IMUA NSF Hawai‘i EPSCoR, this year’s theme was “EPSCoR Leadership for Scientific Innovation, Collaboration, and Enculturation.” A full agenda was comprised of panel presentations, keynote speakers, meetings and breakout sessions for brainstorming and networking. Pictured above are some members of the Statewide EPSCoR Committee during a meeting: (L-R) Dr. Don Price, co-director, IMUA NSF Hawai‘i EPSCoR; Dr. Jim Gaines, UH vice president for research; Dr. Rose Tseng, chancellor and committee chair; and Terri Chong, project administrator, IMUA NSF Hawai‘i EPSCoR.
Holiday Party kicks-off UH Hilo’s 60th anniversary celebration

The University community is reminded of this year’s Holiday Party, which will be held on Tuesday, December 4, 3-5 p.m., in the Campus Center Dining Room. Hosted by Chancellor Rose Tseng, this annual event is open to faculty and staff and their families.

In addition to holiday festivities, which include a special visit by Santa and holiday songs performed by the University Chorus, the University’s 60th anniversary celebration will be launched.

Come one, come all! “Celebrate 60! Big Island… Big Ideas!”

Spotlight
Continued from page 1

at Penn State where I worked as a lab assistant and then, later in the Financial Aid Office as a student peer counselor while attending school. I then continued my education and got my masters in public administration from Slippery Rock University and my doctorate in education at the University of Pittsburgh, specializing in public policy and educational finance.”

At Slippery Rock, Fitzsimons researched educational finance issues and state formula funding.

“Those two experiences gave me my first taste for education finance, which I truly enjoy,” she said. “I was lucky enough to have competed for and been awarded a highly competitive fellowship through the Lilly Endowment whose purpose was to mentor minorities and women into the field of educational policy and planning. It was with that fellowship at Pitt that I was mentored under some very well-known faculty members in the field of educational finance and policy, planning, and evaluation. I have continued working in education administration and finance since.”

Fitzsimons paid her educational dues in the Rust Belt, working in a similar capacity to her current position in the early 1990s at Youngstown State in Ohio, a medium-sized university dealing with many of the issues UH Hilo is facing now.

“It was one of 11 universities in the Ohio State System and was severely underfunded and had major budget issues when I had arrived there,” she said. “I enjoyed working in the administration and financial areas helping the university gain more state dollars and improve their financial position. It made me very proud to have been able to improve their funding situation and budget processes.”

Fitzsimons then migrated west for an opportunity to work in two large community suburban San Diego college districts.

“Grossmont-Cuyamaca and Southwestern Community College Districts each had approximately 19,000 students,” she said. “Their facilities had been run down and they were the two poorest community colleges in the state system. They badly needed maintenance dollars, new buildings, and equitable budget allocations from the state. Grossmont, for instance, had originally been built for 6,000 students and it had almost 19,000. They were bursting at the seams. When I arrived there, they were even teaching classes in hallways.

“I greatly strengthened my expertise at budgeting, obtaining state funding for the colleges, and facilities planning and construction management. I worked with the state system and within the political structures in the state to have a change made in the state formula. In a very similar way, at each of the three colleges that I worked at, the budgets became greatly improved, repairs and maintenance infrastructure improvements were made, and sorely needed new buildings were constructed during my tenure.

“It was very fulfilling to be able to make a big contribution to assist each college in achieving their mission through enhancing their budget and facilities.”

Fitzsimons said that after several years working in California’s huge and complex community college system, she began to miss the environment of a four-year university.

“I missed serving students from their freshman year through their graduation,” she explained. “I missed that four-year connection to students and being on a campus that was residential versus a commuter campus which most community colleges were. I knew I wanted to get back to working at a university, one in which I could bring my knowledge of finance, budgeting, and facilities and one in which I felt part of a leadership team that could make a contribution to improving things for students.

“So here I am at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo. It is such a great university. It does have some of the same challenges of budget, state funding, and facilities that I can assist with. I will enjoy working with the various campus constituencies on the priorities that UH Hilo has.”

One tool she uses is her “photographic memory,” which Fitzsimons says is sometimes “scary” to people, but not totally infallible.

“Despite my great memory, I am the world’s worst joke teller,” she said. “I kill the punch line every time!”

Fitzsimons and her husband, Shawn, have two daughters – Lindsay, 21, and Lauren, 17, a student at St. Joseph High, and two cats. Her interests outside of work include running, tennis, reading, listening to music, traveling, cooking, spending time with her family and friends and teaching her younger daughter to drive. And she is thrilled to be in Hilo.

“Everyone has been so welcoming to my family and me,” she said. “Hilo already feels like home.”
Campus Events

December

1  *Savor the Season* holiday concert, 7:30 p.m., PAC, Admission
2  *Savor the Season* holiday concert, 2 p.m., PAC, Admission
3  Last day to apply for spring 2008 classified admission
4  2007 Holiday Party, 3-5 p.m., Campus Center Dining Room
5  *Focus on UH Hilo*, 8 p.m., Channel 55
6  Last day of instruction

8  Badi Assad in concert, 7:30 p.m., PAC, Admission
10-14 Final exams
14  Fall semester ends
15  Fall Commencement, 9 a.m., New Gym
17  Final grades due in MyUH at noon
25  Holiday: Christmas 🌞