Few if any, would argue that the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo’s growth over the past 12 years has been nothing short of remarkable. During that period, UH Hilo’s enrollment has surged by nearly 40% and is poised to rocket past 4,000 in Fall 2010. But will it last?

The University’s future would appear to depend on it. UH Hilo has been targeted to become the “premier residential campus in Hawai‘i” in the UH System Strategic Priorities approved by the Board of Regents in 1997, and the University’s 2002-2010 strategic plan calls for an enrollment of 5,000 to achieve economy of scale. The emerging consensus is that the University can reach that plateau. But how and when will hinge on what has become an elusive commodity: housing.

“Housing is the critical factor,” said Chancellor Rose Tseng. “Our enrollment growth has been gratifying, but we could have done even better if we had more on-campus housing.”

UH Hilo currently offers 622 beds spread out among four coeducational residence halls, but has added no new on-campus housing since the 236-bed Hale Kehau opened in 1989. Each year, the University has received a growing number of applications for on-campus housing in excess of its capacity - over 300 for Fall 2009 — before the school stopped accepting applications. Jim Cromwell, director of the Admissions Office, said that the shortage of residence hall beds cannot help but have an adverse impact on recruiting.

“The bottom line is that a parent living on O‘ahu, Maui or Kaua‘i who finds out that they can’t get housing here is going to send their child elsewhere,” Cromwell said.

By current, conservative estimates, student demand for on-campus housing exceeds existing capacity by at least 1,200 beds, nearly double what is available. That figure is expected to climb to over 1,500 by Fall 2010. Yet enrollment continues to go up. So where are these additional students being housed?

“For now, they are being absorbed by the community,” said Director of University Housing Miles Nagata.

Approximately 530 UH Hilo students are residing in off-campus housing locations, with whom the University has informal agreements to provide programming, oversight, or support for UH Hilo students residing on those properties. The actual figure is probably much higher, since the University has no documentation about the students who reside off-campus in apartments with whom the University has no affiliation. But regardless, Nagata believes relying on the local community to meet unmet demand is a temporary solution at best.

“Right now, the market has a surplus of rental inventory because of the current state of the economy, so we are able to make do,” Nagata explained. “But as the economy improves, we fully expect the inventory will shrink and landlords will...”

Reminder

The University community is reminded that all UH campuses will be closed during Spring Break, March 20-28, 2010, in accordance with the collective bargaining settlement and with the need to reduce energy costs to meet the University’s budget shortfall.

Please see http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu/campus_closures/ for more information.
charge higher rents, which will reduce our options.”

The East Hawai’i rental market also has other drawbacks that make it challenging to navigate. They include the lack of a central, searchable database, inconsistent quality of property management and residential units, a price range that often exceeds students’ disposable income, and locations with varying degrees of accessibility to the campus and/or public transportation. “Plus, we know that students who live on campus and have access to quality educational, academic and social programming are more likely to succeed in college and stay in college,” observed Dr. Luoluo Hong, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. “Parents know this, and we know this.”

The University’s housing capacity not only determines the size of UH Hilo’s student body, but its makeup as well. Under the Board of Regents-approved Housing Assignment Policy, top priority is given to all first-time freshmen, followed by Hawai’i students (excluding local residents), students from other states and countries, and finally local residents. For UH Hilo, maintaining a healthy mix of Hawai’i, mainland and international students is critical to its overall mission of preparing students for the increasingly global workforce of the 21st century.

“Our diversity is important because it exposes our students to an international atmosphere which is essential to succeeding in today’s global society,” Tseng said.

“Because of our location, we can provide that experience in a more personal one-on-one setting, which really benefits students who might be uncomfortable attending a large university further from home.”

Maintaining that diversity depends in part on the University’s ability to provide housing accommodations for growing numbers of degree-seeking affiliated international students interested in attending UH Hilo. At the same time, co-curricular programs like National Student Exchange (NSE) and the Center for Global Education and Exchange require on-campus housing or affordable, accessible and safe on-campus housing under their agreements with participating institutions. The administrators of both programs say the shortage of on-campus housing presents a serious challenge.

“Many international students choose not to attend UH Hilo because of the lack of safe, reasonably priced housing located near or on campus,” said Special Assistant to the Chancellor for International Programs Dr. Keith Miser. “Certainly, the number of students UH Hilo could exchange with an international university could be increased significantly if we had more housing. On the other hand, the lack of on-campus housing could end up reducing the number of exchange opportunities.”

National Student Exchange Coordinator Zach Street, whose program hosts approximately 130 exchange students each year, worries about the impact a student’s housing hardship will have on others considering an exchange.

“Each year dozens of NSE students are denied on-campus housing and many comment on the difficulty this adds to an already complicated cultural and environmental transition,” Street said. “Despite our efforts to advise and assist, some find themselves paying more than they planned or needing to rent further from campus, which makes their exchange even more difficult.”

For now, the University is poised to keep growing at a modest rate as it seeks a long-term solution to the housing issue. But the clock is ticking. Next month, a look at how students benefit from residing on campus and possible remedies to the housing crunch.

(Editor’s note: Ken Hupp is a public information officer.)
Na Pua Noʻeau to honor educators, community leader at annual celebration

Two long-time educators at UH Hilo and a community leader will be honored on March 13 at Na Pua Noʻeau’s 19th Annual Hawaiian Family faFAIR beginning at 9 a.m. on the Campus Center Plaza. The event is also a celebration of Na Pua Noʻeau’s 20th year of conducting educational enrichment programs for students throughout the State of Hawai‘i.

Gail Makuakane-Lundin, director of Kipuka Native Hawaiian Student Support Services and Ginger Hamilton, director of the Minority Access and Achievement Program, have been selected as honorees for this year’s event. The two women have been active supporters of Nā Pua Noʻeau from its very beginning, helping in providing student interns, coordinating activities at the Fair to mentoring students in leadership, said Dr. David Sing, director of Na Pua Noʻeau.

The late George Naope, co-founder of the Merrie Monarch, will also be honored. Fair organizers are recognizing “Uncle George” for his contributions to the community through his legacy in hula and the Merrie Monarch.

The Nā Pua Noʻeau staff and its planning committee, composed of community and agency representatives, will also recognize Chancellor Rose Tseng in her last year as chancellor at UH Hilo for her leadership and support of Nā Pua Noʻeau and all of the programs at the University.

“We will truly miss her warm welcome she conveys to all of the Fair attendees each year during the opening ceremony,” Sing said. “She has definitely left her mark in Hilo and the State of Hawai‘i.”

The honorees and their families will be recognized at the opening ceremonies of the Hawaiian Family faFAIR.

Gail Makuakane-Lundin
Ginger Hamilton

Construction of new UH Hilo Science and Technology Building 70% complete

The new UH Hilo Science and Technology Building is on schedule for completion by the end of October 2010, according to Dr. Debra Fitzsimons, vice chancellor of administrative affairs.

“Within the next couple of months, the public will see a major transformation of the structure as windows and doors will be in place by the end of March, and the exterior finish will be in process,” Fitzsimons noted. The Physics, Astronomy, and Chemistry departments and staff will move into the $28 million, 41,560 square-foot structure.
Hats off to...

Bryan Kim, Professor, Psychology, co-authored a research article entitled “Acculturation, Enculturation, Perceived Racism, Minority Status Stressors, and Psychological Symptomatology among Latino/as” that appeared in a recent issue of Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Sciences.

Walter Dudley, Professor, Oceanography, will be hosting Professor Osamu Murao of the University of Tsukuba, Japan who received a Fulbright Award to work for five months with Dudley following five months at the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University in Cambridge, MA. The focus of the research collaboration is to compare policy and urban planning for disaster management in the U.S. and Japan.

Harald Barkhoff, Associate Professor, Kinesiology and Exercise Sciences, co-authored “Mood-Regulation Intervention: Two Season Long Case Study of a Training Champion vs. a Competitor Type Athlete in Artistic Roller Skating” that was accepted for publication in The Journal of the American Board of Sport Psychology.

Adam Pack, Assistant Professor, Psychology and Biology, presented “A Whale’s Eye View: Insights into the mating system of Hawai'i’s humpback whales using CRITTERCAM and underwater videogrammetry” at the Hilo Natural History and Conservation Seminar Series held last month.

Robert Chi, Specialist, Bill Chen, Director, Technology and Distance Learning, Sevki Erdogan, Professor, Computer Science, Donna Delparte, Assistant Professor, Geography, and Philippe Binder, Professor, Physics, had their full-paper, “Gourmet Dishes: One Ingredient at a Time, The Taxonomy of Data Visualization and its Degree Programs,” accepted by the Global Learn Asia Pacific 2010 of the Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education after rigorous peer review. It is the first academic publication from the Cyber Team of the new EPSCoR project. Other team members are David Lassner (UH System) and Ken Kaneshiro (UHM).

Marianne Takamiya, Assistant Professor, Astronomy, and UH Hilo graduate Anthony Ridenour presented “Mapping Extinction and Star Formation Rates of Nearby Galaxies” at the 215th meeting of the American Astronomical Society held in Washington, D.C. in January. The work was funded by the Cottrell Research Corporation through a grant awarded to Takamiya.

Kathleen Commendador, Assistant Professor, Nursing, had her article on “Parental Influences on Adolescent Decision Making and Contraceptive Use” accepted for publication in the Mar/April 2010 issue of Pediatric Nursing.


Kirsten Mollegaard, Assistant Professor, English, presented her paper, “Phantoms of the Literary Canon in Graphic Novels,” at the Southwest/Texas Popular Culture and American Culture Association’s annual meeting last month in Albuquerque, NM.
**Relay for Life 2010!**

_by Ellen Kusano_

UH Hilo’s Colleges Against Cancer student club, together with the American Cancer Society, the Student Service Corps, HawCC Student Life Council, the Student Activities Council and Isemoto Contracting are partnering to support the 2010 campus Relay for Life on March 12-13.

This event began with one man’s effort, in 1985, to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. Little did Dr. Gordy Klatt, of Tacoma WA, imagine that his solitary walk would spread to communities around the world with more than 3.5 million people taking part in a unique event.

Relay seeks to celebrate with those who have survived this devastating disease, and survivors lead off the first lap around the track to open the event. Then, we remember those who have lost the battle with cancer and honor their lives with the luminaria ceremony when candles are lit and a lap is taken in silence.

This year’s Relay is dedicated to three people who lost their battles with cancer: Sandy Medeiros, wife of UH Hilo Facilities Planning staff Vern Medeiros; Sheryl Lundberg-Sprague, HawCC financial aid director and Dr. Regina Titunik, UH Hilo political science professor.

To sign up a team or to learn more, please go to: http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?fr_id=23688&pg=entry or email ekusano@hawaii.edu. (Editor’s note: Ellen Kusano is director, Campus Center.)

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**CSAV/computer science, STEM featured on Focus on UH Hilo**

*Focus on UH Hilo* features a potpourri of hi-tech and traditional learning during the University’s March telecasts. The show is hosted by Chancellor Rose Tseng and airs live Wednesday evening during the instructional year from 8:00 – 8:30 p.m. on Channel 55.

Appearing on the March 3rd show is Dr. Don Thomas, director of the Center for the Study of Active Volcanoes, and Dr. Keith Edwards, chair and associate professor of computer science. Thomas and Edwards will discuss the goals and objectives of their respective programs and some of the exciting initiatives they’ve produced over a five-year collaboration.

The March 17th program features Keahola Scholar Coordinator Pelika Bertelmann and two Keahola Scholars who will discuss the Keahola STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) program, its formation, progress, offerings and benefits to students and the community.

*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 should call x47501 or x47643.

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**UH Hilo’s global education outreach**

by Judith Fox-Goldstein

As 22 Chinese students from Beijing stepped off the plane to begin their scientific and cultural EDventure with the UH Hilo Hawaiian EDventure program, one could sense the enthusiasm and excitement about their pending exploration of Hawai‘i’s living laboratories and the University.

In conjunction with the China Association for Scientific Expedition, Group Coordinator Lily Liu returned to UH Hilo for her fourth educational trip, providing her students with hands-on opportunities to experience astronomy, volcanology, marine science and Hawaiian culture and history and, of course, a special visit to the ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center.

These students are truly exceptional. Their level of English is outstanding and their quest for knowledge is invigorating. With a packed schedule that included learning opportunities at the ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center, the Tsunami Museum, Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park and Akaka Falls, the students also made time to visit with kupuna at Ke Ola No Na Kupuna in Keaukaha to learn about Hawaiian culture, music and dance.

Chancellor Rose Tseng continues to encourage student exchanges and always welcomes international visitors to campus. In her recent travels to China, Korea and Taiwan, Dr. Tseng invited delegations from two Korean universities to visit the campus to discuss student and faculty exchange programs and collaborative research.

The Hawaiian EDventure program, celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2010, continues to bring middle school, high school and university students to campus each year. This coming summer, UH Hilo, in conjunction with the UH Hilo Conference Center, will host the International Underwater Robotics Competition, which will bring 50 teams of students representing an international student body of dedicated young scientists from many different countries. The competition will draw 600-800 visitors to the University from June 22 - June 26.

(Editor’s note: Judith Fox-Goldstein is director, UH Hilo Conference Center, and director, Hawaiian EDventure program.)

**UH Hilo reaches out--online**

by Dr. April Komenaka Scazzola

UH Hilo is offering more students, full-time and part-time, to work toward their degrees with online courses. While many faculty add online material and activities to mainly face-to-face courses, others have gone fully online. In Spring 2008, 441 students enrolled in 20 fully online courses; by Spring 2010, there were 794 in 30 such courses, with average enrollment rising from 22 to 26. In Summer 2010, over 50 completely online courses are on offer.

While most of our online students are full-time UH Hilo students, an increasing number, especially in the summer, come to us from other baccalaureate programs across the State, and our online doors are open to working people seeking professional improvement. Online programs are a relatively low-cost way for UH Hilo to grow enrollment and serve students Statewide.

Even students who live near campus like the 24/7 availability of course materials, assignments, and interaction with instructors and classmates. Students who work all day or have family responsibilities find that they can readily fit such courses into their busy lives. Responding to Statewide demand, UH System campuses now offer numerous online courses, and most also offer online certificates and/or degrees.

Faculty like online courses, too. Two UH Hilo professors who became physically incapacitated for a period in Fall 2009 found that they could keep their courses buzzing and their students happily at work by using Laulima, the UH System’s online course management system. Others take pride in being able to make lectures available in both narrated Powerpoints and in PDF, adapting to students who learn best by listening.
Faculty/Staff Awards, 2010

Nominations being accepted through March 29. [http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu/uhh/awards](http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu/uhh/awards)

**Innovation Award**

**Koichi and Taniyo Taniguchi Award for Excellence and Innovation**

Recognizes creativity in teaching, scholarship, and artistic production at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo. Any full-time UH Hilo faculty or staff member is eligible. Teams consisting of two or more faculty or staff may also be nominated. Students may be part of teams led by faculty or staff.

**Chancellor’s Service Awards**

**Distinguished Service Award for Improving Student Life**

Presented to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to student life beyond the boundaries of the official responsibilities. All UH Hilo faculty and staff are eligible for this award.

**Excellence in Service Award**

All UH Hilo tenure-track faculty and full-time BOR-classified professional staff are eligible for this award, except for prior recipients of the award. Service must be related to professional skills and include service to the college or unit, to the university, and/or to the community, state or nation.

**Pūlama ‘Ike Award**

All UH Hilo employees are eligible for this award. Presented to an individual who has made a significant contribution to developing and promoting the mission and spirit of the university.

**Excellence in Building and Grounds Maintenance Award**

Presented to a building or grounds maintenance employee who has made significant contributions to UH Hilo.

Nomination instructions are on UH Hilo’s awards webpage: [http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu/uhh/awards](http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu/uhh/awards)

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(Editors note: Dr. April Komenaka Scassola is interim dean, CCECS.)

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Online

Continued from page 6

and those who learn best by reading and seeing.

YouTube, PBS’s World Music site, and many other Web resources enliven and enrich learning—and teaching. More than one long-time faculty has observed that teaching online has opened them up to many different ways of sharing knowledge and enthusiasm with students.

UH Hilo units are cooperating to support these ventures:

- **Instructional Technology and User Services (ITUS)** provides the Help Desk, rooms and equipment for PolyCom, HITS, Adobe Connect, lecture videotaping, and materials development, as well as faculty training in Laulima and other instructional technology and software. ITUS is offering hands-on Laulima training Fridays 12-1:30 p.m. in Lib 359. Call Kristi Doran at x38858.

- **CCECS’s DL Coordinator** provides logistical and student support for academic programs who are offering or preparing to offer online or offsite programs and courses. Call Candace Wheeler at x47664.

- **The Mookini Library** offers a range of online reserve materials, information and research services to students and faculty. Call Amy Saxton at x47733.

- **Kilohana Writing Center and CCECS** are teaming up to offer an Online Writing Lab available to students in UH Hilo online courses, with individualized service provided by an experienced English instructor. Call Karla Hayashi at x33421.

- **ITUS and CCECS** are partnering to provide faculty with online course design and instructional technology skills. This spring ITUS is providing incentive laptops (first come, first served) for faculty aiming to teach online in UH Hilo’s Summer Session.

- The English Language Institute is using iPods and podcasts developed by ELI faculty (posted on UH Hilo’s own podcast server) to enable second-language learners to practice listening and speaking “anytime, anywhere.” Call Pamala Collins at x38855.

- The VCAA will soon appoint a faculty Distance Learning Task Force charged with developing policies to guide online outreach, including ways of ensuring that UH Hilo’s online courses and programs provide the quality education on which the institution prides itself. ☞

(Editors note: Dr. April Komenaka Scassola is interim dean, CCECS.)
Campus Events

March

3  Focus on UH Hilo, 8 p.m., Channel 55
5  Last day to withdraw from courses with “W”
6  UH Hilo Symphony Orchestra featuring UH Hilo Chamber Singers and the Kanilehua Chorale, 7:30 p.m., PAC, Admission
7  UH Hilo Symphony Orchestra featuring UH Hilo Chamber Singers and the Kanilehua Chorale, 2 p.m., PAC, Admission
10  Koʻolau: A True Story of Kauaʻi, 7:30 p.m., PAC, Admission
12-13 Relay for Life, 6 p.m. – 6 a.m., UH Hilo Field
13  Hawaiian Family afFAIR, 9 a.m., Campus Center Plaza
17  Focus on UH Hilo, 8 p.m., Channel 55
18  BOR mtg at UH Hilo, 9 a.m., UCB 127
22-26 Spring Recess
26  Holiday: Prince Kuhio Day ♦