Students to save on UH Hilo summer session tuition and housing

by Ken Hupp

Summer session classes at UH Hilo will cost less this summer as a result of recent action by the UH Board of Regents. The BOR set the tuition schedule for the 2011 summer session at UH Hilo, UH West O’ahu and the seven community colleges at $248 per credit hour, which effectively rolls back tuition to what it was at the UH Hilo campus during the 2009 summer session.

Under President M.R.C. Greenwood’s Hawai‘i Graduation Initiative, the UH System aims to increase the number of college graduates by 25 percent by the year 2015 through improved access, affordability and student success. Another goal is to reduce the amount of time it takes to graduate students without compromising the value of their degrees.

“Summer session can be a valuable tool to help students meet their graduation timetable by providing an extra opportunity to fulfill degree requirements and offering courses that may be difficult to get during the regular instructional year,” said Chancellor Donald Straney. “This year, students can choose from a wide variety of courses and save money at the same time.”

Under last summer’s tuition of $282 per credit hour, students paid a total of $883 in tuition and fees for a single three-credit course. The cost of that same three-credit course this year will be reduced by $204 as a result of the Board’s action.

This summer, UH Hilo will offer approximately 150 courses, including 40 percent online under the theme “UH Hilo: A Living, Learning Laboratory.” Among the notable online classes are upper-division Nursing and English courses on Health Information Technology and Graphic Novels as Literature.

Corrine Tamashiro, program coordinator, College of Continuing Education and Public Service.

UH Hilo and Hawai‘i’s high technology: where the action is

by Ken Hupp

UH Hilo has the only high technology park in the state linked to a university. As such, the University Park of Science and Technology plays an important role in the development of an “innovation economy” for our island and the state as a whole.

Pacific Business News recently ranked the state’s industrial and technology parks based on acreage. UH Hilo’s University Park was ranked fifth by this measure but third among those identified as high technology parks. Based on acreage alone, O’ahu’s James Campbell Industrial Park topped the list with 1,367 acres followed by Kona’s Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawai‘i Authority (NELHA) with 877. W.H. Shipman Business Park in Kea‘au and the Maui Research and Technology Park in Kihei rank third and fourth.

As for high technology parks, NELHA is first, followed by the Maui Research and Technology Park and UH Hilo’s University Park of Science and Technology. The Maui Research and Technology Park and UH Hilo facility are similar in size at 430 and 425 acres respectively, though UH Hilo’s 120 developed acres is three times Maui’s developed acreage. This illustrates that when it comes to high technology and new industry development, the island of Hawai‘i is a major player.

UH Hilo’s University Park has an enormous impact on the local community. Tenants come from Europe, Asia and the United States and include several astronomy facilities for the telescopes atop Mauna Kea.
Summer Session
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Education and Community Service (CCECS) who oversees summer session, says planners have worked hard to ensure students will be able to get the classes they need this summer.

“We are streamlining our course offerings this summer and concentrating on offering high demand courses,” Tamashiro explained. “These are the courses that students cannot always get because they tend to fill up during the fall and spring semesters.”

In addition to helping students complete degree requirements, the summer curriculum will also feature the flagship Marine Science program with courses on Natural History of Sharks/Rays/Skates, Hawaiian Coral Reefs, plus Polynesian Sailing and Navigation, among others. Students interested in studying abroad can choose among opportunities in China, Peru and Australia, including a new special topics course on sustaining Australia’s human societies and the natural environment.

Two other new special topics courses will be taught by this summer’s visiting professors. ART 294: Photo in the New Media will be taught by Frederic Larson, who has spent 30 years as a photojournalist with the San Francisco Chronicle. Larson will teach the basics in photojournalism dealing in the “New Media” with the emphasis on the photographs that tell a story. SOIL 294: Control of Erosion Processes will identify erosive processes and how to stop them. The course will be taught by Pablo Garcia-Chevesich from the University of Arizona’s Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, who has worked locally on North Hawai‘i’s Kapulena Land Project to make more than 1.7 acres available for community-based agriculture.

Summer instruction will be conducted over two sessions, with the first session running May 16-June 9, and the second session June 13-July 22. Registration begins on April 11. Non-UH Hilo students are welcome to register, but must first complete an application. For a tentative course listing and basic information, visit http://hilo.hawaii.edu/depts/summer/.

Students electing to reside on campus can also take advantage of special discounted rates at the University’s Hale Ikena apartment complex, which will serve as the summer session’s official residence hall. The housing cost for the first summer session will be reduced by $70 to $384.75. The second session will be discounted by $106 to $584.25. Summer housing applications are now available at the University Housing office located in PB-11, or downloaded at http://hilo.hawaii.edu/housing/.

High Tech
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NELHA has more than 600 acres available to develop, leaving it with tremendous capacity to add to existing tenants, which include Koyo USA Corp., Hawai‘i Deep Marine, Kona Coast Shellfish and Cyanotech Corp.

As Hawai‘i Island’s hub of higher education with a thriving research component, UH Hilo manages one and works actively with the other of our island’s high tech parks. The University’s relationship with the astronomy facilities is generally well known, but it also has extensive research ties to the USDA Forest Service’s Institute for Pacific Islands Forestry and the Pacific Basin Agriculture Research Center through faculty-agency research partnerships focusing on agricultural and natural resources management issues.

These partnerships produce a research synergy among investigators from academia, agencies and businesses. The research provides jobs in our community and valuable educational opportunities through internships, researchers’ service on graduate student committees, guest lectures, and seminars in our natural science disciplines.

At NELHA, our Pacific Aquaculture and Coastal Resources Center (PACRC) has developed widespread cooperative research projects with NELHA lessees on such subjects as bigeye tuna, aquaculture effluents, shellfish, and open ocean aquaculture, where PACRC’s research capabilities complement the tenant’s research development needs. During the past year, graduates and students have been hired by various lessees, collaborated with NELHA tenants on research and education projects, developed new internships, and conducted sturgeon marketing at the NELHA Fish Farmer’s Market.

Additional opportunities for collaboration will emerge as new tenants take up residence at both high tech facilities and in future research such as the development of new energy sources like biofuels and algae planned by the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Management. The College is planning an experimental feed mill that will produce a meal for livestock and aquaculture feed from local fruit and nut sources while at the same time pressing oils from these resources for testing as biofuel.

These are but a few examples of how UH Hilo and its partners are utilizing the island’s living, learning laboratory to meet the challenges of the 21st century. The research and resulting innovations are creating exciting educational initiatives, new employment opportunities, and lasting economic development for our island.

(Editors’ note: Ken Hupp is a public information officer.)
Earn green by helping East Hawai‘i go green in March!

by Chelsea Kay-Wong

UH Hilo’s Division of Student Affairs is seeking unit employee teams, RISOs, residence halls, athletic teams, and other groups to form teams to help distribute free fluorescent light bulbs to the East Hawai‘i community this month.

For each fluorescent light bulb that is exchanged for an old-fashioned incandescent light bulb, the University will receive 40 cents, for a total up to $400. Monies collected from this event will be donated to the UH Foundation Hawai‘i Educational Opportunity Fund.

The project is the Conserve-Fundraise-Learn (CFL) Light Bulb Exchange Program jointly sponsored by The Kohala Center, the Blue Planet Foundation, and Hawai‘i Energy. The CFL exchange program aims to reduce Hawai‘i’s dependence on oil and coal for energy. It also provides a service learning opportunity and helps East Hawai‘i residents lower their energy bills and save money.

Several groups have already been formed, including SAC, Admissions Office, Kipuka, Registrar’s Office, and the office of the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs.

The CFL program will go on during the month of March and continue until all light bulbs are exchanged. Each UH Hilo or HawCC student, faculty or staffer who participates will earn a five-day pass to the Student Recreation Center good for the Spring 2011 semester or the Summer 2011 term. In addition, the team that distributes the most light bulbs will receive a $75 gift certificate donated by Pizza Hawaii and Deli.

For more information, or to sign up a team to participate, contact Gabriele “Gabi” Matull Worst at x33187 or at matull@hawaii.edu. 📧

(Editor’s note: Chelsea Kay-Wong is the office manager, Office of the Registrar.)

Strategic planning update: moving into the detail

by Siân Millard on behalf of the UH Hilo Strategic Planning Committee

Strategic planning work continued apace through January and February. Consultation on draft mission and vision statements for UH Hilo, conducted January 17-28, was to improve and clarify the statements. The feedback we received was very constructive, with 128 people responding to the online survey, 30 participating in town-hall sessions, and several direct email submissions. Mahalo nui loa to everyone who participated in the consultation – your comments and suggestions are valued and we are listening to them. We have looked at and considered all of the feedback, across all stakeholder groups, and sought to identify common issues raised. Details of these areas will be in a report by early March.

In terms of general levels of satisfaction and dissatisfaction, just over half (50.3%) of all respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the draft mission statement. 29.1% of respondents were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the draft statement with about 21.3% neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. Levels of satisfaction/dissatisfaction with the draft vision statement were similar to those for the draft mission statement. Almost half (49.1) of respondents were either satisfied or very satisfied with the draft vision. Approximately 1 in 4 (25.4%) were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, and 27.1% were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.

Two points are clear from these summary data: First, there appears to be a level of satisfaction with the general direction the mission and vision have taken. Second, there is also a clear indication that the statements need to be changed in appropriate ways to be more acceptable to a greater proportion of people. We haven’t yet fully revised the draft mission and vision statements. Instead we have focused on reaffirming the core concepts or themes that should be reflected in the statements based on the consultation feedback and our initial discussions. We are continuing to think about and refine these areas as we develop appropriate goals and actions. We’re conscious that discussion on these more specific areas may help us to further clarify and focus the mission and vision statements.

In this regard, our aim is to develop several broad level institutional strategic goals, and supporting actions (what the University is going to do to reach the goals), that will form the main substance of the actual strategic plan document. We have been using, and will continue to use, the preplanning evidence to inform our discussions on this, and also other relevant information such as previous WASC reviews and the UH System goals and priorities. It’s important to note that the strategic plan will not, as a long-term planning tool, seek to cover everything the
Hats off to...

Kirsten Mollegaard, Assistant Professor, English, had her article, “The Aran Islands and Ireland’s Celtic Heart,” published in the Danish ethnographic journal Jordens Folk 3.45 (2010): 40-45.


Susan Jarvi, Associate Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences, was awarded a Pilot Grant from the National Center for Genome Resources NM-INBRE, Santa Fe, NM, for her proposal on “Sequencing the genomes of two biologically distinct variants of Avipoxvirus.” The award will cover the costs of sequencing, and provide preliminary draft genome assemblies and Bioinformatics support.

Keith Miser, Special Assistant to the Chancellor, International Programs, will receive an honorary degree at the University of Vermont’s 2011 Commencement Ceremony for being a national leader in the field of higher education student affairs. Miser joins seven other honorees at the May 22 event, including tennis legend Billie Jean King.

Seri Luangphinith, Associate Professor, English, chaired and presented the panel, “And the View From These Shores: Negotiating Global and Local Agendas in Higher Education,” at the American Association of Colleges and Universities’ annual meeting held in San Francisco, CA in January. She also lead the discussion of introducing the new Diversity Assessment Rubric for UH Hilo’s General Education Program.


Julie Ann Luiz Adrian, Assistant Professor, Pharmacy Practice, and Norman Arancon, Assistant Professor, Horticulture, co-wrote “Effect of High Forage Oxalate and Calcium Consumption on Goat Urine Characteristics,” to be published in the peer-reviewed journal, International Journal of Livestock Production.

Ben Chavez, Assistant Professor, Pharmacy Practice, was accepted as a Clinical Assistant Professor at the John A. Burns School of Medicine with the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health.

Supakit Wongwiwatthanunukit, Assistant Professor, Pharmacy Practice, was the Winner of Outstanding Poster Presentation Award for Pharmacy Practice, 27th Annual Research Conference in Pharmaceutical Sciences, Bangkok, Thailand, for his poster, “Development and Evaluation of Pharmacist-Based Smoking Cessation Program for Youth Offenders.” Additionally, “Development of Smoking Cessation Health-Related Quality of Life Scale” and “Comparison of Changes in Body Water Measured by Using Bioelectrical Impedance Analysis Between Lercanidipine and Amolodipine Therapy in Hypertensive Patients” were published in the Silpakorn U Science & Technology Journal and Journal of the Medical Association of Thailand, respectively.
Why Relay?

by Dr. Cecilia Mukai

Relay for Life (RFL) is an event held annually to raise awareness of the needs for cancer care and to generate funds for cancer services and research. The event includes a candlelight ceremony to recognize our brave cancer survivors and memorials to our fallen cancer fighters. Student co-chairs Jacky Mena and Amanda-Sue Mahuka and the planning committee are working hard to make this year’s event especially memorable.

UH Hilo has partnered with the American Cancer Society (ACS) for the past four years and will be conducting its 5th annual Relay for Life event on the UH Hilo campus (Campus Center Plaza) on March 11 starting at 6 pm and ending March 12 at 6 am. Yes, it is an overnight event, recognizing the fact that cancer “never sleeps.” Participants register to be on a team of their choice, often one from their academic unit. This is a great opportunity for an inclusive activity that involves faculty, students, staff, family, friends, and anyone else that is interested in being a part of a worthwhile event.

Here is a smattering of what to expect on March 11-12: Opening Ceremony with a march lead by UH Hilo Cancer Survivors. A night of entertainment, including Hawai‘i Pacific Hero of Hope-Yisa Var and her band, follows. Different teams will have their own fun and on-site fundraisers including food and games. Those brave enough to stay overnight will have night-time activities, like the Waffle Decorating Contest at 2 am. The highlight of every RFL is the Luminaria Ceremony at 10 pm. The entire Relay crowd quiets down and joins together in a meaningful tribute to every cancer “warrior.”

Why Relay? Because we care. Who hasn’t been touched by the big “C”? Often, it’s been a family member; sometimes, it’s one of our very own - a faculty member, staff member, or, a student. At the time when one faces the crisis of a health provider saying, “you have cancer,” our world changes dramatically. Having a reliable organization to turn to that has resources -- information, survivor volunteer counselors, transportation funds, pioneering research and a national network of resources -- can make a world of difference in facing the Big Challenge alone or feeling buttressed by a network of practical support.

Internationally, RFL events are now held in more than 600 communities spanning 21 countries. In Hawai‘i, there are usually over 25 Relays. UH Hilo has a separate Relay from its host town, Hilo, which holds its Hilo Community Relay for Life in July. Hilo has the distinction of being the highest fundraising Relay in Hawai‘i and UH Hilo has followed suit. Despite being relatively new at this, UH Hilo has garnered an award for third in the nation per capita (student population of 2500 - 3000) in 2009. Each year has seen a growth in the UH Hilo RFL from an initial 20 teams and raising $ 9,878 to 30 teams and raising $22,476 (net) in 2010. The goal for 2011 is to have 30 teams and raise $25,000 (net). How will we attain these goals? Through the selfless kokua and contributions of the UH Hilo ‘Ohana.

Please support an established Relay team from your unit, or make a team of your own. I encourage all faculty and staff to get behind this effort to fight cancer, and have fun at the same time. Join or donate online at: www.relayforlife.org/uhhilohi, via iPhone or Facebook. Friends and family from afar can join in with the activities and participate without being physically here. What an opportunity to get involved! Hope to see you at the UH Hilo Relay for Life, live at the CC Plaza, or online.

(EDITOR’S NOTE: Dr. Cecilia Mukai is faculty adviser, Colleges Against Cancer, Relay for Life.)

Strategic Plan

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University does, but it will seek to identify areas of focus (i.e. goals) for the institution over the coming years.

We will likely take another few weeks to continue to formulate draft goals and supporting actions. We will then come back to the campus and broader community (possibly in late March/April), with the new draft mission and vision included, and consult with everyone further on what we will have developed. We’ll keep you posted on when exactly that consultation may take place.

We are committed to making the planning process fair, transparent and evidence-based. To support that commitment you can follow our progress and discussions by accessing our meeting agendas, papers and minutes at www.hilo.hawaii.edu/strategicplan/strategicplanningcommittee. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Siân Millard at uhhplan@hawaii.edu or x33297, or any member of the Committee.

(Editor’s note: Sian Millard is UH Hilo’s strategic planning coordinator.)
Assessing diversity: indigenous and multicultural claims in dialogue

by Dr. Seri Luangphinith

The UH Hilo Assessment Support Committee of the Faculty Congress is seeking input from all faculty and staff regarding working definitions of critical thinking. In particular, the committee seeks as many responses as possible on two particular questions: (1) what do students “do” when they exhibit critical thinking and (2) what assignments do people use to get them to do this?

So far feedback from several programs has been eye-opening. For example, Kalena Silva of the College of Hawaiian Language notes that in his upper-division hula course, students must do more than “simply copy moves,” but they must also read essays from the 1800s about this cultural tradition, reflect on past and current theories of dance, and choreograph their own version of songs while being cognizant of the social, political and cultural contexts that inform various versions of hula to similar songs. Ron Gordon of Communication speaks of using “group dialogue” to encourage his students to identify logical fallacies and biases and then have them look for answers on issues that fall outside conventional explanations for issues such as love or death.

This is the wide range of innovative and creative approaches to advanced cognition that the Committee is hoping to bring together in a democratic process that can help us devise a common rubric that can be mapped to what we are already doing. After all, according to WASC assessment experts like Amy Driscoll (2004), success on campuses coincide with over 90% of the faculty involved in a community-based approach which “made changes and improvements directed to student learning as a result of their collaborative analysis of student work” (p. 15). Another expert, Peter Gray (2002), goes so far as to argue that “it is important to identify faculty members as being primarily responsible for setting the context for student learning through the design and implementation of educational practices and experiences” (p. 60).

The Committee will try to hammer out a viable multi-point rubric by the end of the term, so feedback is needed as soon as possible. Please do not hesitate to contact any of the Committee members: Lorna Tsutsumi (CAFNR), Keola Donaghy (CHL), Luke Bailey (CAS—English), Sarah Marusek (CAS—Political Science), Karla Hayashi (Kilohana), Fiona McCormack (CAS—Anthropology), Mitch Anderson (CAS—Math), John Hamilton (CAS—Physics), Ginger Hamilton (Student Services), Hank Hennessey (CoBE), Matt Haslam (CAS—English), Kathleen Stacey (Library), Errol Yudko (CAS—Psychology) and Seri Luangphinith (CAS—English). We will also be walking around, introducing ourselves, and interviewing as many as we can.

For more information, please contact the Chair of the Assessment Committee, Seri Luangphinith, at seri@hawaii.edu.

Frank De Lima headlines UH Hilo Library fundraiser

The Edwin H. Mookini Library hosts Tea with Tutu: A Fundraising Event Featuring Frank De Lima, on Sunday, March 20, noon-3 p.m. in the UH Hilo Campus Center Dining Room.

As “Tutu,” De Lima will offer a unique and humorous perspective on libraries, books and librarians. Light refreshments will be served. There will also be door prizes, including an iPad and numerous autographed books by the authors.

Proceeds from the event will support the Library’s vision to provide excellence in academic library services and collections for the students and faculty of UH Hilo and Hawai’i Community College, as well as the Big Island community.

Advance tickets are $50, $25 of which is tax-deductible. Checks and credit cards are accepted. Preferred tables of six are available in advance for $300. Local service organizations that purchase a table of six for $300 will be mentioned in the program. All tax-deductible donations will also be acknowledged by the University of Hawai’i Foundation.

Contact Michelle Sylvester at x47759 or libadmin@hawaii.edu by March 16 to ensure availability and advance prices. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door.
Almost Elton John at Girls’ Day Diva Festival

The UH Hilo Performing Arts Center presents the 7th Annual Girls’ Day Diva Festival featuring Craig A Meyer: Almost Elton John and Harmony on Tap – HOT on Thursday, March 3.

The evening starts at 5 p.m. with food from numerous local restaurants and businesses, including Abundant Life Natural Foods, Big Island Delights, Crivello’s Place, Hilo Bay Café, Kawamoto Store, Ken’s House of Pancakes, Millie’s Deli & Snack Shop, Ponds Hilo, Kuhio Grille, Restaurant Encore and Sodexo.

“We have a great silent auction with items donated by businesses owned and operated by women,” said Jan Higashi, the event’s chair. Harmony on Tap – HOT, cool women making hot music, performs at 6:30 p.m. The evening comes to a crescendo at 7 p.m. with Craig A Meyer: Almost Elton John, a spectacular musical journey celebrating the decades of chart topping hits of Sir Elton John.

Craig A Meyer’s strong vocals, amazing talent on piano and striking resemblance to Sir Elton have audiences everywhere remembering “when rock was young.”

“We’re extremely pleased that Big Islanders will have the opportunity to experience a fabulous evening of great entertainment by Craig A Meyer - Almost Elton John and HOT,” Higashi said. “We welcome men as well as women to celebrate Girls’ Day in this special way.”

The Girls’ Day Diva Festival is sponsored by local businesses at two levels: “Super Stars” Business Services Hawai‘i; Creative Arts Hawai‘i; GW Construction; Hawai‘i Forklift; Hirayama Brothers Electric; Ken’s House of Pancakes; Naniloa Volcanoes Resort; plus “Shining Star” Ginoza Realty, Inc.

All seating is reserved. Tickets are priced at $40 and available at the Box Office Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., by calling x47310 or online at artscenter.uhh.hawaii.edu. Proceeds benefit the UH Hilo Performing Arts Center Scholarship Fund and the Performing Arts Center’s programs.

UH Hilo Symphony performs Beethoven’s 9th

The UH Hilo Symphony Orchestra and Chorus presents “The 9th: A Performance of Beethoven’s Monumental Choral Symphony,” on Saturday, March 5, 7:30 p.m. in the UH Hilo Performing Arts Center.

The concert is the Big Island premiere of Beethoven’s 9th Symphony. Dr. Matthew Howell, the UH Hilo Symphony Orchestra and Chorus conductor, will present a pre-concert Informance at 6:30 p.m. discussing the symphony, the life of Beethoven and the orchestra and chorus.

The concert is sponsored in part by a grant from the Orvis Foundation. Tickets are $12 General, $10 Seniors and $7 UH Faculty, Staff, Alumni, Students and Children. Tickets are available at the PAC Box Office, by calling x47310 or online at artscenter.uhh.hawaii.edu.

Campus Closure Reminder

The UH Hilo community is reminded that all UH campuses will be closed during Spring Break, Saturday, March 19 – Sunday, March 27, 2011, in accordance with the collective bargaining settlement and with the need to reduce energy costs to meet the University’s budget shortfall. Certain functions and specialized facilities will continue to operate. Please see the Campus Closure web page, particularly the “Campus Closure Matrix,” at http://hilo.hawaii.edu/campus_closure/index.php for a list of the accessible areas of campus that will operate over Spring Break.
Campus Events

March

3  7th Annual Girls’ Day Diva, 5 p.m., PAC, Admission

4  Last day to drop a class online with “W”
   Focus on UH Hilo, 8 p.m., Channel 55

5  The 9th: A Performance of Beethoven’s Monumental Choral Symphony, 7:30 p.m., PAC, Admission

11, 12  UH Hilo Relay for Life, 6P-6A, CC Plaza

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

20  Tea with Tutu: A Fundraising Event Featuring Frank De Lima, Noon, CC Dining Room, Admission

21-25  Spring Recess

25  Holiday: Prince Kuhio Day