What keeps me going?

by Chancellor Don Straney

The annual Hawai‘i District Science and Engineering Fair was held in February. The event is jointly sponsored by the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo, the State and Hawai‘i District Department of Education, the Hawai‘i Academy of Science, UH Hilo Sigma Xi Chapter, ʻImiloa Astronomy Center, the Robert and Alice Fujimoto Foundation, and many other valuable sponsors who make this fair happen each year.

The event is a great way to help students learn and get excited about science and it gives them an opportunity to apply what they are learning. The projects they submit represent their efforts to take their learning into their own hands.

Many of our faculty, members of the Chamber, and others from the community volunteer to judge the exhibits. Co-director this year was Marlene Hapai, UH Hilo professor emeritus, and Ernie Kho, chair of UH Hilo’s natural sciences division, who served as chief judge at the fair. Many local organizations and businesses sponsored awards.

What is the impact on the students of the awards we sponsor? I’m sure we all have received thank you notes from recipients, and many of you know this recognition is a source of excitement and encouragement for your own children.

But I recently received a thank you note that was a bit different. It made me appreciate what it takes—sometimes not much—to have a major impact on students. I want to share parts of the note because...
New Members
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Shugeng Cao: Associate Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences, DKICP
Academic focus: Biologically active natural products from marine and terrestrial fungi and bacteria in Hawai‘i; manipulating silent genes; herbal medicine; small molecules with biological functions in bacteria
Previous positions: Assistant Professor, University of Hawai‘i Cancer Center; Instructor, Harvard Medical School; Senior Research Fellow, Virginia Tech
Academic background: Ph.D., National University of Singapore; Postdoctoral Fellow, Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University; Postdoctoral Fellow, Harvard Medical School

George Karvas: Instructor, Pharmacy Practice, DKICP
Academic focus: Pharmacy practice
Previous position: Pharmacy Manager, Longs/CVS Punahele
Academic background: B.S., Pharmacy, Oregon State University (1991)
Last book read: Mind over Medicine by Dr. Lissa Rankin

Oscar Larican: Office Assistant, Business Office
Previous positions: Service Assistant, Big Island Honda – Hilo; Customer Representative, Homestreet Bank Queen Anne, Seattle; Senior Consultant, Usbank Corp.
Academic background: business computer network tech training (2 years); financial banking background experience (11 years)
Last book read: Reflections of an Indo Pesilat – The Personal History of Oom Jim Ingram and Amerindo Penchak Silat by Jim Ingram

Morgan Light: Evening Circulation Supervisor, Mookini Library
Previous positions: Associate Librarian, Santa Fe University of Art and Design, Santa Fe, NM; self-employed piano tuner, Los Alamos, NM
Academic background: Support Staff Certification, American Library Association (2014); Library Technology, Northern New Mexico College (2010); A.A., Art and Biology, University of New Mexico (2009)
Last book read: Beyond Words by Carl Safina

Monica Morita: Compliance Coordinator/Senior Women Administrator, Athletics
Previous positions: Executive Assistant, University of Hawai‘i Football; Assistant Athletic Director/Director of Student Services, USC Athletics Stevens Academic Center; Assistant to the Head Football Coach, USC; Student Advisor, Masters Programs, USC Leathal School of Accounting
Academic background: A.B., Journalism – Public Relations, M.P.A, and Ed.D, University of Southern California

Jennifer Naguwa: Admissions Counselor, Student Affairs
Previous positions: GEAR UP Assistant Project Manager, Hawai‘i P-20 Partnerships for Education; Senior Program Assistant, Hawai‘i Community Foundation
Academic background: BBA and Masters in Education Administration, Higher Ed (in progress), UH Manoa

Lukela Ruddle: Cultural Resources Management Plan Manager, OMKM
Previous position: Community Outreach Coordinator, Office of Hawaiian Affairs
Academic background: B.A., English, UH Hilo
Last book read: Kuleana and Commitment by Kathleen Kawelu, Ph.D.

Timothy Scheffler: Instructor, Anthropology, CAS
Academic focus: human paleoecology and historical ecology
Previous positions: Instructor, Tropical Ecosystem and Agroforestry Management Program (Forest TEAM), Hawai‘i Community College; Independent archaeological and geological contractor, Geohazards Consultants International, Inc.
Academic background: Ph.D., Penn State University (2008)
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Last book read: Ecological Imperialism by C. Alfred Crosby and The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humbolt’s New World by Andrea Wulf

Jolene Sutton: Assistant Professor, Biology, CAS
Academic focus: genetics
Previous position: Postdoctoral Researcher, UH Manoa
Academic background: Ph.D., University of Otago; M.Sc., Acadia University; B.Sc. (Honors), Memorial University of Newfoundland

Last book read: Beyond the Pale by Emily Urquhart

Michael Yaplag: Custodian, ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center
Previous position: Temporary Custodian
Academic background: Graduate of Pahoa High School

Chancellor
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each of you who encourage and engage students likely have a stronger impact than you can imagine.

“I want to personally extend my extreme gratitude to you. “In my final year of high school, I had no plans for the future. That year my science project went to the district level, and it was there that I met you. I had no idea who you were other than a polite judge at the fair.

“You made some simple inquiries about my project and then you asked me a much harder question: ‘Have you thought about where you want to go for college?’ I thought I’d like to go to college here at home at UH Hilo. But I thought I would not be able to succeed. So I answered your question with a shrug.

“That evening something astonishing happened. You selected my project and presented me with the Chancellor’s Award. I did not believe in myself, but you saw potential.

“Because of your belief in me, I am graduating from UH Hilo with two bachelor’s degrees. I have made the Dean’s List every semester but one for the past three years and have been excelling with the support of the amazing faculty at this University. I will be returning to UH Hilo to work toward a master’s.”

This will be one master’s degree I particularly look forward to awarding.

People often ask me what it is that keeps me going as a chancellor. You just read the best answer I have.

Mahalo nui to all who make the Science Fair and similar events happen!

Aloha,

Donald C. Straney

UH Hilo’s CoBE receives reaccreditation from AACSB International

UH Hilo’s College of Business and Economics (CoBE) was recently awarded reaccreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International.

“I am pleased that the AACSB Board has concurred with the recommendation of AACSB’s Continuous Improvement Review Committee, and decided to continue the accreditation of the UH Hilo College of Business and Education,” said CoBE Dean Krishna Dhir. “I am most grateful to everyone in CoBE for their tireless work and commitment, and for the unstinted support of Chancellor Straney, the Vice Chancellors, my fellow Deans, Directors, and Division Heads, throughout my tenure.”

AACSB accreditation represents the highest standard of achievement for business schools worldwide with less than five percent of the world’s 13,000 business programs earning AACSB accreditation.

The next scheduled AACSB re-accreditation visit will follow the submission of the College’s next Fifth Year report during the Fall of 2019-2020.
Hats off to...

Jeanie Flood, Associate Professor, Nursing, and Kathleen Commendador, Associate Professor, Nursing, presented their paper, “Undergraduate nursing students’ perspective of their acquired cultural competence,” at the 4th Annual Cross-Cultural Healthcare Conference held on O’ahu in January. Additionally, they are co-authors of the following: “Undergraduate nursing students and cross cultural care: A program evaluation,” Nurse Education Today, 36, 190-194.doi:10.1016/j.nedt.2015.10.003.Epub 2015 Oct 19; “Avatar Case Studies: A Learning Activity to Bridge the Gap between Classroom and Clinical Practice in Nursing Education,” Nurse Educator 2016, 41 (1); and “Using avatars to enhance breastfeeding education for undergraduate nursing students,” Clinical Lactation 2015, 6, 1, 35-38.

Philippe Binder, Professor, Physics, had his research on how giraffes drink water featured in an article in Inside Science, a news service from the American Institute of Physics. Binder was on sabbatical at the University of Cape Town in South Africa when he conducted this research. See article at: https://www.insidescience.org/content/how-do-giraffes-drink-water/3616. Binder’s original paper can be found at: http://scitation.aip.org/content/aapt/journal/tpt/53/9/10.1119/1.4935758.

Chris Frueh, Professor, Psychology, co-authored “Open trial of exposure therapy for PTSD among patients with severe and persistent mental illness,” Behavior Research and Therapy 2015; 78: 1-12. He also gave an invited talk on “Improving behavioral healthcare for combat veterans” at the Seventh Annual University of Texas Healthy Psychiatry Update, Houston, TX.

Jiren Feng, Assistant Professor, Chinese, has been invited to attend and deliver a new research paper for the “First International Forum on Sino-European Architectural Archaeology” co-sponsored by School of Archaeology and Museology at Peking University and Department of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering, KU Leuven (University of Leuven), Belgium, in May. The forum is aimed at building a platform for exploring research methodologies and sharing achievements of the international, multi-disciplinary studies on historical architectural heritage in China and Europe.


Todd Belt, Professor, Political Science, was invited to present “Barack Obama’s Public Leadership” for a roundtable on “Was Obama a Great President?” at the annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association this month in San Diego, CA.

Jackie Pualani Johnson, Professor, Drama, receives the Zonta Club of Hilo’s Rose Award of Excellence on March 14. The biennial award recognizes women who have made significant impact on the lives of others through their employment, volunteer activities and associations. The award is part of Zonta International’s observance of International Women’s Day and Zonta Rose Day. Zonta’s mission is to empower women through service and advocacy.
College of Hawaiian Language honors scholarship founders and donors

UH Hilo’s Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language is celebrating scholarship gifts received from three families and a dynamic fashion entrepreneur, while reminding its students that it will begin accepting applications for the 2016-2017 awards on March 1.

On January 19, Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language thanked and recognized each of the generous donors for making it possible to increase the numbers and proficiency of Hawaiian speakers, cultural practitioners, and teachers through scholarship.

“We are deeply grateful for the support of these donors and their commitment to helping us fulfill our mission,” said Dr. Keiki Kawai‘ae‘a, director of the Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language. “Each person carries their own unique and inspiring story about their dedication to preserving and perpetuating the Hawaiian language and culture.”

The Daniel and Lydia Makuakāne Endowed Scholarship was established in the Fall 2015 by their family to honor the contributions of their parents to the preservation and perpetuation of Hawaiian language and cultural practices.

Daniel and Lydia Makuakāne grew up in Hawaiian speaking families in Puna, Hawai‘i and always spoke in Hawaiian to each other and with their family members and friends. They took great pride in conserving and cultivating Hawaiian plants, especially maile, and Daniel was consulted regularly by Native practitioners and UH scientists about his specialized techniques in growing this endangered plant.

Lydia served as the primary caregiver and language resource throughout their youngest grandson’s Hawaiian language education. Following his graduation in 2001, she served as mānaleo (native speaker) at the college and was given the honor of placing the ‘ō‘ō into the site of the piko during the February 2012 groundbreaking ceremony for Hale‘ōlelo. She was honored again at the blessing two years later, when her great-grandson welcomed the guests in ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i.

Lawrence Silva was not a Hawaiian speaker himself, but he embraced his Hawaiian cultural heritage in everyday activities, like the cultivation of Hawaiian plants and the preparation of Hawaiian food throughout his entire life. Making laulau was a favorite winter holiday activity for Silva, his wife Margaret, and their three children.

Their youngest, Dr. Kalena Silva, is a faculty member at the College and served as its first director. He credits his father with encouraging his interest in Hawaiian language and culture and supporting him as he learned the language from his Tūtū Annie and studied chant and hula from several noted kumu hula.

Lawrence Silva was a consummate educator who devoted his entire career to teaching, mentoring and inspiring Hawai‘i’s youth, enabling them to grow and develop into positive, contributing members of the community. The Lawrence Silva Memorial Endowed Excellence Scholarship was created after his passing in 1998 to provide support in perpetuity to Hawaiian Studies students and to ensure the development of future generations of Hawaiian speakers.

The UH Hilo Haunani Bernardino Endowed Scholarship for Excellence is named after the late educator, musician and songwriter Theresa Marie Haunani Bernardino. Schooled by some of the foremost kupuna, including Mary Kawena Pukui and Sarah Nākoa, Bernardino was an active member of the Ka Leo Hawai‘i Hawaiian language radio show, along with the ‘Āhahui ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i and Hui Aloha ‘Āina Tuahine Hawaiian language perpetuation projects that emerged during the Hawaiian Renaissance of the 1970s. Her numerous compositions included “Lei Pukana,” which captured first place in the 1976 Search for Songs Contest.

Bernardino served as a lecturer in Hawaiian language at UH Mānoa for several years and earned her Master’s in Education in 1988. She went to work in Fall 1989 as an assistant professor at UH Hilo, where she taught Hawaiian language, culture, and music classes, and was instrumental in the establishment of the College. She also directed UH Hilo’s commencement ceremonies for many years and composed the music for the school’s alma mater, Pūlelo Ha’aheo.

Bernardino lost her three-year battle with colon cancer in 2006, but during her active lifetime, shared her music and ‘ike (knowledge) with thousands of people, including many students, who have gone on to become teachers of Hawaiian language.

KAI NOA Swimwear owner and designer Noelle Bali has created a unique line of swimwear to educate people about native cultures throughout the world. By purchasing her swimwear, consumers support research, sustainability, educational projects, or charities within those cultures.

Her first swimwear collection was released for Hawai‘i and was inspired by kalo, which is considered the “root of Hawaiian culture.”
as the food staple of the Hawaiian people. She sees a parallel between the role of kalo as a source of life and health and the College as a national leader in indigenous language revitalization, the first such institution in the world to educate through the medium of Hawaiian.

That parallel, combined with a long-time admiration for the College’s mission, led Bali to create the KAI NOA Scholarship Fund, to support those dedicated to researching and revitalizing all areas and forms of Hawaiian knowledge. For more information on KAI NOA, visit www.kainoahawaii.com.

The application deadline for all four scholarships is April 29, 2016. The recipients will be selected in May. For an application and/or more information, including scholarship criteria, visit www.olelo.hawaii.edu/haawinakala/ or call 932-7360.

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**S-STEM Program at UH Hilo accepting applications**

The Scholarships for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (S-STEM) Program at UH Hilo is currently accepting applications for the 2016-2017 academic year. The S-STEM Program supports academically talented and highly motivated students from economically disadvantaged families to complete STEM degrees in Astronomy, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Environmental Science, Geology, Marine Science, Mathematics, Natural Science, or Physics. Application deadline is March 15.

The S-STEM Program provides each scholar with a $20,000 scholarship for four years of their undergraduate studies (up to $5,000 per year) while they maintain a good academic standing in their STEM major. The program also integrates and expands existing educational services for STEM students at UH Hilo.

“We are very pleased with the success of our first cohort, accepted in S-STEM in Fall 2015,” said Raina “Reni” Ivanova, professor of mathematics, principal investigator and director of the program. “Our scholars came from different cultural and academic backgrounds. Along with the kama`aina students from the Big Island and O`ahu, we have scholars who travelled thousands of miles, from places like Montana and Saipan, to join us at UH Hilo. With the S-STEM support, they are able to pursue their dream careers in STEM. We are very proud of their progress. Our S-STEM team and I look forward to welcoming our second cohort in Fall 2016.”

For more information about eligibility requirements and an application form, visit http://hilo.hawaii.edu/affiliates/s-stem/, call 932-7587, or email mmellott@hawaii.edu.

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Last month, six UH Hilo faculty and staff were honored at a Play4Kay Vulcans women’s basketball game to recognize their bravery and achievement in overcoming cancer. Shown left to right are: Director of Nursing Kay Daub, Kilohana Director Karla Hayashi, Psychology Professor Cheryl Ramos, Campus Center Assistant Ivy Losh, Campus Center Associate Director Lai Sha Bugado, and Campus Center Director Ellen Kusano.
Irish and American musical odyssey coming to UH Hilo

The sounds of American and Irish music will fill the air at the UH Hilo Performing Arts Center (PAC) when Grammy® award-winning singer-songwriter-instrumentalist Tim O’Brien and Lúnasa take the stage on Wednesday, March 9, at 7:30 p.m.

“I’ve been told that music is one of Ireland’s most celebrated exports,” said Performing Arts Center Manager Lee Dombroski. “And Lúnasa, a band like no other, has been at the forefront of that musical migration.”

Lúnasa has been called an “Irish Music Dream Team” by Folk Roots Magazine with members who comprise the best of the best in recent Irish music, including all-Ireland champions like fiddler Sean Smyth and other players, including veterans of The Waterboys and Donal Lunny’s Coolfin.

O’Brien, who Dire Straits’ front man Mark Knopfler referred to as “one of my favorite singers,” has collaborated with Steve Martin and the Chieftains among numerous others, and has had his songs recorded by Garth Brooks, the Dixie Chicks and Nickel Creek.

“Tim O’Brien and Lúnasa will take you on a transatlantic journey exploring the common roots, interplay and mutual influences at the heart of American and Irish music,” Dombroski said. “I can’t think of a better way to get into the spirit ahead of St. Patrick’s Day.”

Tickets are reserved seating and priced at $30 General, $25 Discount and $15 UH Hilo/Hawai‘i CC students (with a valid student ID) and children, up to age 17, pre-sale, or $35, $30 and $20 at the door.

For tickets, call the Box Office at 932-7490 or order online at artscenter. uhh.hawaii. edu.

Journey through the Universe
March 7-11, 2016

http://www.gemini.edu/journey
UH Hilo Briefs

March

1, 2  Vulcan Baseball vs. Concordia University, 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m., Wong Stadium, Admission
4  Last Day to Drop a Class with “W”
5  Vulcan Softball vs. Dominican University, Noon, Vulcan Field
   Vulcan Baseball vs. Azusa Pacific University, 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m., Wong Stadium, Admission
7, 8  Vulcan Baseball vs. Azusa Pacific University, 6 p.m., Wong Stadium, Admission
9  Tim O’Brien and Lunasa, 7:30 p.m., PAC, Admission
11, 12  Vulcan Baseball vs. Point Loma Nazarene University, 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m., Wong Stadium, Admission
12  Vulcan Softball vs. Holy Names University, Noon, Vulcan Field
16  Spring Welcome, 3 p.m., UCB 127
   Vulcan Baseball vs. California Baptist University, 6 p.m., Wong Stadium, Admission
17  Vulcan Baseball vs. California Baptist University, 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m., Wong Stadium, Admission
18  Vulcan Baseball vs. California Baptist University, 6 p.m., Wong Stadium, Admission
19  Vulcan Softball vs. Academy of Art University, Noon, Vulcan Field
21-25  Spring Recess
25  Holiday: Prince Kuhio Day
   Holiday: Good Friday