Rural health center aims to improve health, healthcare

UH Hilo has become a major player in the effort to improve health and healthcare in Hawai‘i’s rural communities.

The Center for Rural Health Science is an extraordinary opportunity for UH Hilo to help improve life in the rural communities of Hawai‘i through new and better models of health care,” Straney said. “It will have the resources, the expertise and the partners to succeed. Our College of Pharmacy collaborates effectively with hospitals and health care providers all over the state, and UH Hilo’s School of Nursing has enthusiastically embraced the opportunity to support the Center’s work.”

Mayor Billy Kenoi expressed pride in welcoming the Center to the University and to the island of Hawai‘i.

“The expertise and capacity of our educators, physicians and our health care community are perfectly suited to complement the center,” he said. “We can and we will improve access to health care in rural areas and positively transform our health care system. The Center for Rural Health Science is the beginning of that transformation.”

The Center’s founding director is Dr. Karen Pellegrin, CoP’s director of strategic planning and continuing education, and principal investigator of a $16 million federal Beacon Community grant. The goal of this grant is to achieve measurable improvement in health care quality, cost-efficiency, and population health in Hawai‘i County through health

Grand opening for Pacific Islander Student Center

by Ken Hupp

The Pacific Islander Student Center officially opens this month with a blessing and grand opening ceremony on Friday, November 12, 5-7 p.m. in Campus Center 307. The University community is invited to attend.

The Center will provide a gathering place for students to study together or individually, use computers, and hold meetings and events. Faculty, staff and the larger community will also be able to use it when films, speakers, workshops, presentations, and performances are held throughout the year.

Spanning 1,150 square feet, the facility has the ability to expand outdoors by opening onto the existing lanai on the Library side of the Campus Center. In addition to a food preparation area, the Center features various resources such as desktop and laptop computers with wireless internet access, a flat screen TV, a large screen for films and presentations, and a library of Pacific-related books and films.

The $2 million, two-year project has been financed by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The Campus Center has also reaped some benefits courtesy of the federal grant, including replacement of the third floor roof complete with a new photovoltaic system, a more energy-efficient air conditioning system, new flooring on the third floor, a new space for the Student Activities Council, and the installation of new electronic locks on all third floor entryways.

“The Center is in many ways a gift to Pacific Islander students,” said Jim Mellon, assistant vice chancellor for student affairs/dean of students and
Rural Health Center

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Information technology, care re-design, and payment reform.

“With over $20 million in current grant funding and a solid staffing base, we will hit the ground running,” Pellegrin said. “I have no doubt we will help to improve the way we think about and practice health care. I know the citizens of Hawai‘i will see real benefits from our work.”

Pellegrin said the Center is in the process of hiring faculty members with public health, biostatistics and pharmacy administration/outcomes research expertise, plus an assessment coordinator and an administrative assistant. She added that the Center will provide “unique opportunities for pharmacy students to be involved in solving rural health care problems in Hawai‘i.”

While the population of Honolulu County, Hawai‘i’s metropolitan core, has increased by 8 percent since 1990, the other counties have seen population increases of 42 percent in that time frame. The population spike is most pronounced in Hawai‘i County, which has grown by 48 percent since 1990. Such growth puts added strain on the limited resources of the healthcare system in rural areas. According to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, in 2008 almost $112 million was spent on hospitalizations in the state of Hawai‘i that might have been prevented with timely and effective ambulatory care. This problem is greater on the rural Neighbor Island where the per capita rate of hospitalizations is much higher than in Honolulu.

“Rural communities in Hawai‘i experience many of the same problems as other rural communities in America,” said Dr. John Pezzuto, CoP’s dean. “There is a shortage of physicians, pharmacists and other clinicians, and hospitals struggle to stay financially viable. These challenges are more complex in the remote island state of Hawai‘i.”

“The Center will be an important means for UH Hilo to contribute to improving the health status of our region,” Chancellor Straney concluded.

Campus closures reminder

The University community is reminded that in response to a directive from President MRC Greenwood, campuses across the University of Hawai‘i System will be closed on non-instructional days during specific time periods. The 2010 - 2011 campus closures are as follows:

Thurs., November 25 - Sun., November 28, 2010 (Thanksgiving Break)
Saturday, December 18, 2010 - Sunday, January 2, 2011 (Winter Break)
Saturday, March 19, 2011 - Sunday, March 27, 2011 (Spring Break)

These closures are in accordance with the collective bargaining settlement and with the need to reduce energy costs to meet the University’s budget shortfall. Certain critical or time-sensitive functions or specialized facilities will continue to operate.

For more information, please see: http://hilo.hawaii.edu/campus_closures/index.php

Pacific Island Student Center

Continued from page 1

the grant’s project director. “UH Hilo has a long history of providing educational opportunities for students from the Pacific, and this fresh, new resource continues and strengthens that tradition. It is ultimately designed to increase retention and graduation rates by providing a welcoming and much-needed space for students to engage more deeply in the campus community.”

Mellon added that the Center will draw upon the Pacific tradition of “way finding” to assist students with navigating their way through the University and beyond. Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Luoluo Hong sees the Center as an important value-added component to the students’ educational experience.

“We at UH Hilo have always recognized the special responsibility we have to serve the communities of the Pacific region,” Hong said. “This new Center is both a symbolic and real affirmation of this commitment, and a celebration of the contributions that Pacific Islander students make to our campus learning community.”

The Center is also designed with faculty, staff and others not from the Pacific in mind, to serve as a space on campus for the entire UH Hilo community to learn about the unique cultures, histories, experiences, challenges and contributions of Pacific peoples. It will not only enhance student life and build community on campus, but support academic programs such as the Pacific Islands Studies certificate program when it hosts visiting speakers and lectures.

Elina Fred, a communication and accounting major from Kosrae, Federated States of Micronesia, treasurer of the International Student Association and political science club president, says the Center will help the University foster and promote diverse, hands-on learning experiences.

“A lot of learning occurs inside the classroom, but even more occurs outside the classroom,” she said. “The Center will be a great source for students to learn more about the different cultures in the Pacific from its material resources and the interactions between and among the patrons who will use it.”

According to the latest data available in 2009, UH Hilo had the largest percentage of Pacific Island students in the entire UH System. The University’s Fall 2010 opening enrollment totaled 136 students from Pacific Island nations, or 3.3 percent of the overall student body. Most come from American Samoa and Micronesia, the cultural group of islands scattered throughout the North Pacific.

(Editor’s note: Ken Hupp is a public information officer.)
WASC update

by Drs. April K. Scazzola and Phil Castille

On September 17, our three vice chancellors and accreditation liaison officer met at WASC headquarters with WASC vice presidents Dick Osborn and Teri Cannon and with Jamie Wilkins, substantive change coordinator. Ralph Wolff, president of WASC, stopped by to welcome the UH Hilo team and bring us up to date on coming changes at WASC that will impact UH Hilo over the next five years.

In its review of accreditation procedures, WASC will keep the same four standards it has had since 2000 and the same focus on student success and student learning:

1. Are institutional purposes and educational objectives appropriate, clearly defined, and broadly understood?
2. Are core functions operating effectively?
3. Do available resources, as well as effective organizational and decision-making structures, sustain the institution’s operations and support achievement of its educational objectives through its investment in human, physical, fiscal, and information resources?
4. Does the institution conduct sustained, evidence-based, and participatory discussions about how effectively it is accomplishing its purposes and educational objectives?

UH Hilo is one of about 20 institutions that are now scheduled to begin conducting their next institutional review. At the same time WASC will be transitioning to a new, streamlined review schedule/process.

Here is UH Hilo’s schedule:

- **July/Aug 2013**: the Institutional Proposal and Capacity and Preparatory Report (CPR) are due, with much data and documentation showing what the institution has accomplished since the last site visit—in our case, the Special Visit of October 2009
- **Oct 2013**: site visit: a smaller team and a shorter, focused visit
- **Dec 2014**: Educational Effectiveness Report (EER) due, with lots of data and documentation about student success and student learning
- **Mar 2015**: site visit

The 2013 due date does not mean that we can take a breather. We learned from the WASC officers that momentum must be sustained. WASC will keep raising the bar and will continue to require institutions to document student success and student learning as well as the resources, policies, and practices that support students.

The focus is tightening on learning outputs partly because the federal government is pressing for institutional accountability and documentation of student achievement. Three areas are of special importance and will require UH Hilo to heighten our efforts:

1. **Student learning outcomes**: We will need to provide the results of departments and GE documenting student learning down to the individual course level. In addition, WASC now expects institutions to have college and institutional learning outcomes and to be tracking achievement of these outcomes to show that students are taking away the learning we expect.
2. **Program review**: We have successfully completed one full cycle of program review and are starting the second. WASC expects that our program review process will continue to function efficiently and to produce observable improvements in programs and in student learning in those programs.
3. **Graduation and retention rates** and other measures of student success, including the educational effectiveness of the co-curriculum (out-of-classroom learning activities). We will be expected to show steady improvements in these rates.

Next steps: The Accreditation Steering Committee will shortly be producing a timeline for actions through Spring 2015. The Committee will then evaluate UH Hilo’s performance in Educational Effectiveness, General Education, and Program Review using the rubrics that have been guiding WASC institutional reviews for the past three years. The timeline and evaluation will be shared with the University community by early Spring 2011.

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**UH Hilo Blood Drive is Nov 22**

The Blood Bank of Hawai‘i and UH Hilo will be holding their annual on-campus Blood Drive on Monday, November 22, 8-4 p.m., in Campus Center 301.

The UH Hilo student-athletes will be soliciting volunteer blood donors throughout the week of November 15-19 on the Campus Center Plaza and Library Lanai from 10:30 am-12:30 pm daily. Tommy Hamilton, UH Hilo Blood Drive co-chair, will sign up volunteers at the Student Life Center.

Last year, the UH Hilo Blood Drive donated 129 units of which 47 were from first-time donors.

Interested donors may call the Blood Bank of Hawai‘i at 1-800-372-9966 to schedule an appointment. For more information regarding the drive, call Coordinator Joey Estrella at x47700.
Hats off to...

Jason Adolf, Assistant Professor, Marine Science, along with co-PIs Brian Perry, Assistant Professor, Biology, Marta DeMaintenon, Professor, Marine Science, Mazen Hamad, Assistant Professor, Chemistry, and Steven Lundblad, Assistant Professor, Geology, were awarded $396,208 by the National Science Foundation for a proposal on “MRI: Acquisition of a Hitachi S-3400N-II Variable Pressure Scanning Electron Microscope with an Analytical Quantitative Element Detector for the University of Hawai’i at Hilo.” The new scanning electron microscope (SEM) will replace UH Hilo’s 20-year-old instrument located in the Marine Science Building SEM Laboratory, and is the only SEM on Hawai’i Island.

Faith Mishina, Assistant Professor, Spanish, attended an International Conference at Harvard University, Cambridge, MA in May and presented her paper, “The Reader’s Struggle with the Multi-faceted Metaphor of the Labyrinth in Garcia Marquez’s Chronicle of a Death Foretold.” Her paper has been accepted for publication in the International Journal of Arts and Sciences.

Adam Pack, Associate Professor, Psychology & Biology, presented a lecture on “Hawai‘i’s humpback whales: New insights from below the surface” at UH Hilo’s North Hawai‘i Education and Research Center in Honoka‘a in September. It was the first of a new annual lecture series on marine mammals organized by Pack and NHERC staff.

Chris Frueh, Professor, Psychology, co-wrote with three junior investigators he has mentored, “How does telemental health affect the group therapy process? Results from a randomized noninferiority trial,” Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology 2010; 78:746-750.

Marcel Tsang, Professor, Agricultural Engineering, and the “Quarantine First Responders” were recently recognized as the State Team of the Year by Governor Linda Lingle for their work concerning Hawai‘i’s agricultural pest and quarantine issues. The team of researchers was selected as the State Team of the Year honoree in the 2010 Governor’s Awards, which included 52 group and individual nominees. “Quarantine First Responders” is comprised of Tsang and UH Manoa’s College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources researchers, led by Dr. Arnold Hara.

Keola Donaghy, Assistant Professor, Hawaiian Studies, presented “He Ahupua’a Ke Mele: A Traditional Land Division and The Hydrologic Cycle as a Conceptual Metaphor for Hawaiian Language Composition” at the Humanities of the Lesser-Knowns Conference held at the University of Lund, Sweden. He was also invited to present “Ka Haku Hua’olelo ‘Enehana: Lexicon Creation, Implementation and Issues for Technology Use in the Hawaiian Language” at the Indigenous Language Institute Symposium on Native Language Terminology Development in New Mexico.

UH Hilo Strategic Planning: Pre-planning is over….
what happens next?

by Sian Millard

The pre-planning phase of UH Hilo’s strategic planning is drawing to a close. This phase involved gathering views on UH Hilo from those who know it most intimately – our faculty, staff, students and local community. There was a survey consultation, attracting 500 plus respondents, and face-to-face ‘listening tours’ with over 30 groups and approximately 500 participants in total. See www.hilo.hawaii.edu/strategicplan/preplanning for further information. A very big thank you to all who have been involved and who have given their time to take part in these efforts.

We are now poised to start the next phase, and that began with appointment of the Strategic Planning Committee. An excellent response of 80 nominations were received, and 17 members from such a high number of quality submissions were selected by Chancellor Straney. Members of the Committee will be at the forefront of developing the 2010-2015 Strategic Plan on your behalf – and they will do so in consultation and partnership with you. In developing the plan, the SPC will ensure that it is:

• Aligned with the broader UH System Strategic Plan, objectives, outcome measures, and presidential initiatives
• Realistic within the University’s current and anticipated human resource and budgetary resources
• Based on key evidence from internal and external sources (including WASC accreditation evaluations) and an analysis of the University’s current situation, the situation within the broader local and state community, and higher education trends, mandates and best practices
• Based on effective consultation with UH Hilo stakeholders – faculty, staff, students, alumni, local community and others, including actively seeking input on the mission and vision of UH Hilo and identified priorities, goals and potential strategies

Development of the plan will not always be easy, and we have some challenges ahead of us to resolve, but in working together we can solve these challenges, determine who we are and develop a strategic plan that will guide us for the next five years.

Further updates on progress and details of consultation events will be issued periodically throughout the process, and you can also keep up-to-date by visiting the strategic planning website at www.hilo.hawaii.edu/strategicplan. If you have any questions, please contact me at x33297 or email uhplan@hawaii.edu.

Members of the SPC are:

* Kelly Burke (Professor, Management Information Systems)
* Maria Haws (Assistant Professor, Aquaculture)
* Jackie Johnson (Professor, Performing Arts)
* Mazen Hamad (Assistant Professor, Chemistry)
* Errol Yudko (Associate Professor, Psychology)
* Karen Pellegrin (Director, Cont/Distance Education and Strategic Planning)
* Pila Wilson (Professor, Papahana Mokuna Kalai‘ike)
* Thora Abarca (Librarian, Edwin Mookini Library)
* Kainoa Ariola (Director, Advising Center)
* Harry Yada (Director, Real Property)
* Jim Cromwell (Director, Admissions)
* Marcia Sakai (Dean, CoBE)
* Elizabeth Stacy (Associate Professor, Biology)
* Gail Makuakane-Lundin (Executive Coordinator, Student Development Programs)
* Devaki Drozario
* Tracey Niimi (alternate member)
* Barry Mark (Ameriprise Financial Services Inc)

(Editor’s note: Sian Millard is the institutional strategic planning coordinator.)
The Folks You Meet In Longs
coming to UH Hilo

The UH Hilo Performing Arts Center and Performing Arts Department presents four performances of *The Folks You Meet In Longs*, written by Lee Cataluna and directed by Professor Jackie Pualani Johnson. The performances will be held at the PAC Thursday–Saturday, November 4–6, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, November 7, at 2 p.m.

In a series of sometimes comic, sometimes somber monologues set inside a Hawai‘i Longs Drug Store, Lee Cataluna continues her theatrical exploration of the human condition with an emphasis on local color. Customers and employees alike take turns discussing everything from product purchases to boyfriends and girlfriends, abusive spouses and mortal enemies.

Some two dozen characters, including Verna (Puna’s answer to Martha Stewart), Rhondalei Alvarado, “D.J. Stankmaster” Cabingabang, Crazy Auntie Cookie, Officer Wolverton Kahunaele and Uncle Choochie Nawai, tend inadvertently to reveal their own personalities while discussing the character flaws of others. As character Cheryl Moana Marie Sakata says, “This is my whole life. This is the rest of my life. Zippys, Foodland, Longs.”

Director Jackie Pualani Johnson and the diverse cast of UH Hilo students and community members bring this often poignant, always hilarious script to life. All seating is reserved. Tickets are $10 General, $7 Discount, $5 UH Students/Children, and are available at the UH Hilo PAC Box Office Tuesday–Friday 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., or by calling x47310. To order online, visit artscenter.uhh.hawaii.edu.

New logo, URL transition underway

Faculty and staff are reminded that UH Hilo has begun the process of initiating the use of its new logo and URL domain name. “This will bring us in line with the UH System and introduce an updated look to our image and brand,” explained University Relations Director Gerald De Mello in relation to the logo. “The transition process will take around 1-2 years before all aspects of our operations will bear the new logo. Meanwhile, all existing materials bearing the flame logo can still be utilized until existing inventory is exhausted.”

Visit the University of Hawai‘i System graphic standards website for downloads of the logo as well as information on its use and applications. All new print materials (e.g. business cards, letterheads, promotional pieces, etc.) will be designed with the new standard logo.

http://www.hawaii.edu/offices/eaur/campusgraphics.php?campus=hilo

Contact the Graphics Department at x47571 with any questions or concerns.

The University’s new URL, hilo.hawai. edu, will become the official domain name and should be used for all future communications, according to Webmaster Sunny Walker. He added that the old domain name www.uhh. hawaii.edu will continue to work through the transition period.

Any questions related to the URL transition should be directed to x33908.

Ka Lono Hanakahi is published by the Office of University Relations during the academic year for faculty and staff of the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo. News and submissions are welcome with priority given to current faculty and staff members. Deadlines are on the fifteenth of each month for the following first of the month publication. Contact Alyson Kakugawa-Leong, Director Media Relations, (808) 974-7642 or alyson@hawaii.edu.
The BOMB looks to make an impact

by Michael Pankowski

More than a decade into the 21st century and UH Hilo shows no signs of slowing what has been an extensive period of consistent growth. Such a feat has many implications for the planning and administration of UH Hilo resources, yet student organizations get little attention as they, too, must evaluate how they allot their own resources.

As chair of the UH Hilo Board of Media Broadcasting (BOMB), senior Steve Martin recognizes that “when so many people see us they [may] get things confused with so many things going on, [and] unless you have some clear, organized fashion of assimilating information, it’s going to be chaotic.”

Maintaining some semblance of control was the reason a Chartered Student Organization (CSO) like BOMB got its start in 2004. The success of the student-run radio station, University Radio Hilo (URH), and continued enrollment increases gave students the incentive to create an organization that could “provide a solid foundation for future student broadcast media development,” according to UH Hilo’s Campus Center Director Ellen Kusano. Appropriately, the BOMB’s mission was developed to administer, maintain, and help realize media facilities where students could get real-life, hands-on knowledge, experience, and information through relevant media outlets.

BOMB members often reflect on their mission statement to focus concerted efforts for the student body. In an attempt to take advantage of burgeoning social networks, Martin says that the BOMB recently started to work on “amending [their] charter so [they] can actually have…BOMB-approved programs such as the Internet Initiative and a BOMB-endorsed YouTube channel.” The BOMB feel media-minded students can participate in these groups to accumulate valuable insight into the digital age of information dissemination.

An equally important part of the BOMB’s mission is to direct energy toward improving the quality of life for UH Hilo and Hawai‘i Community College through appropriate media conduits. The YouTube channel, for example, is a project designed to create a venue where students, as well as faculty and staff, can take advantage of a commonly known electronic audio and video outlet.

The Internet Initiative has been similarly conceived under the BOMB umbrella to become a center for general student announcements and website development. Right now it is run by students for students, but there is no reason the future cannot bring a more inclusive element that would allow faculty and staff to reach out to the students and vice versa.

Helping communication and instruction be more effective between faculty, staff, and students is an objective sometimes beleaguered by the status quo. Many times people find comfort in the way things are done so there is little incentive to take on new ideas.

Tim Eakins, UH Hilo’s CSO advisor, wisely counsels his charges to understand that “[you’ve] got to crawl before you can walk…[you’ve] got to walk before you can run.”

For additional information on the BOMB, call x47499 or stop by CC 210.

(Editor’s note: Michael Pankowski is a student intern with the Office of Media Relations.)

Cultural heritage/Hawaiian language featured on Nov’s TV show

Culture and language will be the topics of discussion during the November telecasts of Focus on UH Hilo. The show airs Wednesday evening during the instructional year from 8:00 – 8:30 p.m. on Channel 55.

The lineup for the November 3rd program includes Farrah Marie Gomes, director of the University’s North Hawai‘i Education and Research Center (NHERC). She will discuss the Center’s latest developments including a planned Cultural Heritage Program.

The November 17th program features Dr. Kalena Silva, director of Ka Haka Ula ‘O Ke’elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language, and Keiki Kawai‘ae’a, assistant professor of Kahuawaiola Teacher Education Program. They will discuss the accreditation recently awarded the College’s Hawaiian Mauli Ola Education System by the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium (WINHEC).

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 on a future program should contact UH Hilo’s Marketing and Alumni Office at x47501 or x47643.
Campus Events

November

1  “I” removal deadline: student to instructor
   Last day to apply for credit-by-exam for fall
2  Holiday: Election Day
3  Focus on UH Hilo, 8 p.m., Channel 55
4, 5, 6  Folks You Meet in Longs, 7:30 p.m., PAC, Admission
5  Graduate Form 3: Thesis/dissertation to committee deadline
7  Folks You Meet in Longs, 2 p.m., PAC, Admission
11  Holiday: Veteran’s Day
12  Pacific Island Student Center grand opening,
    5-7 p.m., CC 307
15  “I” removal deadline: instructor to Office of the Registrar
    Last day to submit credit-by-exam results to Office of the Registrar
17  Focus on UH Hilo, 8 p.m., Channel 55
19  Graduate Form 3: Thesis defense/dissertation deadline
22  UH Hilo Blood Drive, 8-4 p.m., CC 301
25  Holiday: Thanksgiving Day – campus closed
26  Non-instructional day – campus closed