Pharmacy building will be UH Hilo’s top legislative priority

by Ken Hupp

Major capital improvements have topped the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo’s legislative agenda over the past few sessions, and that will hold true again in January when lawmakers convene the 2012 session.

Front and center will be a request for a complex to house the College of Pharmacy, which graduated its first class in May. Given the expected cost and the state’s challenging fiscal climate, lawmakers will be asked for what amounts to a down payment.

“We initially estimated the building would cost on the order of $60 million. But by the time it is built, inflation will take it well north of that figure,” said Chancellor Don Straney during a community breakfast presentation on campus. “So our request at the next legislative session will be for a first phase totaling approximately $30 - $35 million to build the instructional component.”

Straney added that he expects the University will need to generate some of that money on its own. He cited revenue bonds and private donations as two potential sources of funding.

The need for the building is well documented. The Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) awarded the College full accreditation for a two-year period in June. But continuation will depend on the program’s future development, including establishment of a permanent home. Dean John Pezzuto said the site visitation team was disappointed the College hadn’t made further progress to secure funding for the building, which made gaining full accreditation a close call.

“We needed to assure them this is our top priority, and we were confident our solid academic and research programs would warrant construction,” Pezzuto said. “Accreditation is an ongoing requirement, and the next site visit has already been scheduled to check on our progress. So this building is critical for us to fulfill our mission.”

Strengthening Hawai‘i’s future by partnering with Hawai‘i Community College

by Chancellor Don Straney

I recently read a report by Complete College America stating that by 2020, 68% of jobs in Hawai‘i will require a career certificate or college degree, but currently only 41% of adults have a college degree. The gap: 27%. For a strong economy, the report states, the skills gap must be closed. We simply will not have enough skilled workers to meet the needs of our economy unless many more college and university students graduate.

One way the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo is addressing this challenge is by collaborating with Hawai‘i Community College (HawCC). Most importantly, we are working together to examine ways to facilitate seamless transfers between the campuses—for example, by giving students roadmaps to use when they begin their college education at HawCC, they will have a plan on how to achieve baccalaureate degrees at UH Hilo.

One collaborative initiative is the Degree Pathways Partnership program, where HawCC students who opt for the program can be accepted to select UH Hilo programs while still attending the community college. The program increases student access toward attaining a higher degree and gives students optimum access to support in achieving their higher
Pharmacy

Continued from page 1

The building would also consolidate expanding operations, which are presently spread out over five different sites around Hilo in one, centralized location. The College serves as the administration center of the Big Island Beacon Community, whose development was spurred by a $16 million federal grant. And it now offers a Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences as well as an M.S. in Clinical Psychopharmacology in addition to the Pharm.D. program.

“The current physical set-up of the College both on and off campus is more than just an inconvenience,” said University Relations Director Gerald De Mello. “It creates an additional challenge for students to access their education and get the most out of that experience.”

Planning and design has been completed for the complex, which will include classrooms, teaching and research laboratories, offices and other related spaces on approximately 4.5 acres next to the College’s temporary facilities on A‘ohoku Place in the University Park of Science and Technology. The building design was recently featured in Honolulu Magazine, and according to WCIT Architecture President Rob Iopa, will be “one of the most remarkable structures in all of Hawai‘i.”

In addition to its practical application, the University has a compelling economic case to make for the building’s construction. A study by UH Hilo Economics Professor Dr. David Hammes estimated that the College stimulated more than $50.2 million per year in statewide economic activity by the time the inaugural class graduated in May while supporting an additional $15.2 million in earnings. But that may only represent the tip of the iceberg.

“The College of Pharmacy began as a program to prepare Pharm.Ds to run pharmacies,” Straney said. “But it has grown into a program that is preparing the next generation of research pharmacists who will discover the next generation of useful medications.”

Straney said the state’s investment in the building will make it possible to train the scientists to make these discoveries. He believes Hilo can become an incubator for new, start-up pharmaceutical companies to market and produce those discoveries.

“With careful care and cultivation, I think we can become a thriving economic hub that not only educates the world, but also feeds it and keeps it healthy,” Straney said. (£)

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

Partnering

Continued from page 1

education goals, for example advising from both HawCC and UH Hilo faculty to keep students on track.

Two UH Hilo degrees currently offered in the HawCC-UH Hilo pathways program are Administration of Justice and Business Administration. Currently in discussion for the pathway program are HawCC’s Digital Media Arts degree, which would lead into UH Hilo’s BA in Art, and HawCC’s Tropical Forest Ecosystem and Agroforestry Management program leading into UH Hilo agricultural degrees.

Also proposed are degree pathways integrated into a $3.38 million, five-year cooperative grant program aimed at increasing transfers from the community college to the University. Left to right: Michele Paduqqo, program specialist, Hālaulani-HawCC; Noe Noe Wong-Wilson, program coordinator, Hālaulani-HawCC; Lorre Brandt, peer mentor, UH Hilo anthropology major; Kaimoa Ariola, grant partner and interim director at UH Hilo Kīpuka Native Hawaiian Student Center.

Staff stand under the sign at the Hālaulani Project Office, located at Hawai‘i Community College’s Manono campus. The office was jointly developed by UH Hilo and HawCC to administer a cooperative grant program aimed at increasing transfers from the community college to the University. Left to right: Michele Paduqqo, program specialist, Hālaulani-HawCC; Noe Noe Wong-Wilson, program coordinator, Hālaulani-HawCC; Lorre Brandt, peer mentor, UH Hilo anthropology major; Kaimoa Ariola, grant partner and interim director at UH Hilo Kīpuka Native Hawaiian Student Center.
Prominent Honolulu firm to design new student housing

by Ken Hupp

Planning can now begin in earnest for the first new student housing units to be built on campus since the Hale Kehau Residence Hall opened in 1989. A team from UH Hilo and UH System has selected Mitsunaga and Associates, Inc. (MAI) of Honolulu to plan and design Phase I of what is now being named University Village.

MAI brings to the table more than 30 years of experience in architectural, engineering and construction management services to government and private clients throughout Hawai‘i and internationally. The firm’s notable projects include the Kamehameha Middle School Redevelopment, Kapolei High and Middle School and the UH Baseball Stadium.

“Mitsunaga and Associates has designed some truly outstanding and dynamic educational institutions,” said University Relations Director Gerald De Mello. “We look forward to putting that expertise to work on behalf of this important project.”

The new housing will be built on part of a 33-acre parcel across from the main Kawili Street entrance and is expected to add between 250 to 300 beds to the University’s housing inventory. It will be financed through a $32 million appropriation of G.O. and Revenue Bonds approved by the legislature.

“The broad theme of what we are talking about is balancing a student’s need for privacy with being part of a larger community,” explained Miles Nagata, executive director, Housing and Dining Services. “On one hand, it will be a space they can call their own. On the other, it will be a variety of spaces for impromptu interactions, casual conversation, to study, play or just to hang out and maybe some kind of grab-and-go convenience retail outlet.”

Specific details will be worked out during the planning and design process, which is now underway, and will take into account a recently conducted survey on what students would like the units to include. Meanwhile, significant preliminary work has already been undertaken.

“Our engineering consultant is conducting topographical studies along with soil sampling and determining cost factors for grading, the entry way and a covered, elevated pedestrian overpass,” said Brian Minaai, UH associate vice president for capital improvements. “That will be the last component to come in, but it’s very critical because it will provide a safe, convenient way to get students from the new housing complex onto the main campus to attend classes, access the dining hall or participate in various activities.”

Minaai estimates the overpass could be built for about $1.2 million. The pedestrian overpass is expected to resemble the system that connects the Honolulu International Airport terminal to its parking facility. The UH Hilo version is expected to run from the new residence hall to the Campus Center pavilion and include features such as a bike path and wheelchair access.

Completion of Phase I will help the University close the housing gap that is potentially turning away approximately 300 students each year who apply but don’t enroll when they’re unable to secure a housing commitment. The lack of housing is also preventing UH Hilo from becoming the premier residential campus in the UH System as designated in the strategic plan approved by the Board of Regents in 1997.

Once new units come on line, renovations can begin on existing residence halls located in the central part of the campus to create a freshman village, where first-year students would be required to live on campus. The recently released Division of Student Affairs Strategic Plan identifies creating more opportunities for students to be housed on campus as a top priority, citing extensive research on factors that contribute to student success and engagement. Studies have found that students spend 80% of their time outside the classroom and University officials believe engaging them during that period is essential to their success.

“The most important period in a college student’s life is the freshman year,” said Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Dr. Luoluo Hong. “If a new student feels a connection with the campus and does well academically in that first year and returns as a sophomore, the likelihood of their...
Hats off to...

**Keola Donaghy**, Assistant Professor, Hawaiian Studies, had his paper, “Puana ‘iā me ka ‘Oko’a: A Comparative Analysis of Hawaiian Language Pronunciation as Spoken and Sung,” published in *Language Documentation and Conservation*.

**Terrance Jalbert**, Professor, Finance, recently had his co-authored paper “When do Costa Rica Government Banks Respond to Reserve Requirement Changes?” accepted for publication in *International Journal of Business and Finance Research*.

**Chris Frueh**, Professor, Psychology, co-authored the following with his students: “Prevalence and features of panic disorder and comparison to posttraumatic stress disorder in VA primary care,” *General Hospital Psychiatry* 2011; 33:482-488, and “The role of cognitions in imagery rescripting for posttraumatic nightmares,” *Journal of Clinical Psychology* 2011; 67:1008-1016.

**Susan Jarvi**, Associate Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented co-authored posters on “Major histocompatibility complex (Mhc) class II gene diversity and tolerance to avian malaria in Hawaiian honeycreepers (Drepanidinae)” at the American Association of Immunology Meeting held in San Francisco, CA, and “Coevolution, co-infection and pathogen diversity in the Hawaiian avian disease system” at the Evolution of Life on Pacific Islands and Reefs: Past, Present and Future symposium, UHM East-West Center on O‘ahu. Both were held in May. She also presented a co-authored talk on “Impacts of Avipoxvirus co-infection on diversity of Plasmodium relictum in the Hawaiian avian disease system” at the International Meeting on Malaria and Related Haemosporidian Parasites of Wildlife, Shepherdstown, WV, and was an invited participant in the International Rat Lungworm Workshop on O‘ahu. Both were held in August.

**David Sing**, Director, Na Pua No’eau, gave a keynote address on “Defining and Measuring Hawaiian Education Success” at the World Indigenous Peoples’ Conference on Education, Cusco, Peru, in August.

**Faith Mishina**, Assistant Professor, Spanish, presented a paper on the “Inverted Model of Simon Bolivar” at the National Association of Hispanic and Latino Studies Western Regional Conference, San Diego, CA in September, which was accepted for publication in the *Journal of Intercultural Disciplines*, Vol. XI, this fall. Additionally, her article on “The Labyrinthine Aesthetics of Gabriel Garcia Marquez in Autumn of the Patriarch: The Forging of the Postcolonial Reader” was presented at The Second International Conference at Harvard in May and accepted for publication in the *International Journal of Arts and Sciences*, Vol. 4 (14), this fall.

**Eric Heuer**, Assistant Professor, Psychology, had his paper, “Neonatal hippocampal lesions in rhesus macaque alter the monitoring, but not maintenance, of information in working memory” published in the *Journal of Behavioral Neuroscience* last month.

**Bryan Kim**, Professor, Psychology, co-authored an article on “A Multiculturally-infused Model of Graduate Advising Relationships” that was published in the *Journal of Career Development*.

**Michael Marshall**, Professor, Art, received a UH Hilo Research Council award for faculty travel to present “New Studio Works” in a two-person exhibition with sculptor John Schwartzkopf at the Atrium Gallery in St. Louis, MO. The show ran September 16 – October 22.
Hats Off
Continued from page 4

Kirsten Mollegaard, Assistant Professor, English, and her graduate student attended an international conference on Places, People, and Stories at Linnaeus University, Kalmar, Sweden, in September and gave a presentation on “Landscapes of Destruction and Creation: Storytelling in Kalapana, Hawai‘i.” The conference featured scholars from around the world to discuss their research on the relationship between people and landscape.

Misaki Takabayashi, Associate Professor, Marine Science, had a manuscript accepted in the peer-reviewed journal, *Coral Reefs*. Her research was a collaboration with a TCBES graduate and researchers at the Hawai‘i Institute of Marine Biology. Their discovery identified that the single-celled algae traditionally thought to only survive in symbiosis with corals, can live freely as plankton in the ocean.

Housing
Continued from page 3

obtaining the bachelor’s degree is greatly increased.”

Conceptually, the Village would be a place where first-year students could come together, share common experiences, and learn from each other and from faculty through developmentally appropriate learning and living opportunities. Among the options being considered are teaching the University 101 Freshman Experience course within the Village and placing freshmen into living-learning community cohorts based on academic, social or lifestyle interests.

The level of interest in the cohort approach may become known when the first living-learning community opens its doors. Lawmakers approved approximately $4 million in funding to match a Title III grant to renovate, upgrade and build an addition to the Hale Kanilehua residence hall, which will create 20 more beds and establish a scholar-in-residence. Renovations are scheduled to begin next summer and will reduce the University’s housing capacity by 50 beds until the project is completed following the 2012-2013 school year.

While closing the housing gap is expected to accelerate UH Hilo’s enrollment growth, there is a growing school of thought that the freshman village could also be a draw. Since a positive and meaningful living environment and success in college go hand-in-hand, the freshman village in theory would help recruit students while improving retention and satisfaction rates.

“This is pretty exciting stuff,” De Mello said. “As we grow, Hilo grows. But our growth also adds the geographical, educational, social, recreational and cultural opportunities that a University has to offer a community.”

UH Hilo part of new climate science center

The Pacific Island Climate Science Center was established last month, a consortium led by UH Hilo, UH Manoa, and the University of Guam. The announcement was made by U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Ken Salazar.

The center will be part of a network of eight regional centers being established by the Department of the Interior and will provide land managers in federal, state and local agencies with access to the best science available concerning climate change and other situations impacting the nation’s natural and cultural resources.

“This partnership will focus on the impact of climate change on the unique biodiversity in the Pacific region,” noted Dr. Donald Price, who is the lead for UH Hilo as director of the Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science (TCBES) graduate program. “A longer-term goal of the center is to build stronger collaborations between the university and the federal, state and non-government agencies in Hawai‘i and the Pacific.” Price is joined by Kevin Hamilton, director of the International Pacific Research Center at UH Manoa and Frank Camacho, executive director of the Center for Island Sustainability at the University of Guam.

The Pacific Island Climate Science Center will involve both university and federal personnel.
Taking action: implementing UH Hilo’s 2011-2015 Strategic Plan

by Chancellor Don Straney

Over the past few months I have been working with the Vice Chancellors to develop a coordinated and consistent approach for implementing our strategic plan. I have asked all the Vice Chancellors to lead and facilitate the development of an implementation plan for their unit. In this context, unit refers to the four major university divisions – Academic Affairs, Administrative Affairs, Research and Economic Development and Student Affairs – and the Chancellor’s Office. I have asked that completed unit implementation plans be submitted to me by the end of June 2012.

As you know, there are six goals in our new strategic plan, each with several priority and/or supporting actions. In order to set the basis for implementation, we identified units that would take the lead on implementing actions and how we would determine our progress. I know that each of the major parts of the University will approach implementation a bit differently. We have, therefore, developed common guidance for the overall process so that there is consistency as well as a common template for the unit plans. For more information on the common guidance and to see a copy of the template, please visit http://hilo.hawaii.edu/strategicplan/implementation. If you have questions on how implementation planning will work for your unit, please contact the VC for your area or me.

Our new plan has significant support from our University campus. Its development was based on input from our faculty, staff, students and community, and as such it is very much our strategic plan. But a strategic plan is more than a document; the document is simply the vehicle for communicating what we’ve said we’ll do. The mission, vision, goals and actions in the plan articulate the strategy, which will guide our work as a university. We are now at the point where we translate ideas into actions.

Implementing a strategic plan runs the risk that we will become focused on details and lose sight of the broad principles that motivated the plan in the first place. Keep in mind what the actions you implement should accomplish:

- Positively impact our students by:
  ◊ Helping to graduate more women and men who are prepared to succeed in their lives outside of the university, and providing an improved learning and living environment that encourages improved retention.

- Positively impact our faculty and staff by:
  ◊ Improving the working environment through better communication, streamlined processes and procedures, increased professional development opportunities and better supported teaching and research activities.

- Positively impact on our local community by:
  ◊ Actively working with community partners on joint projects and initiatives, ensuring that UH Hilo produces high quality graduates that are able to meet local workforce needs, and encouraging community members to engage in University-based activities.

One final note. Although we will be doing implementation planning over the coming year, we will also be doing implementation. The process of planning does not overrule the activity of action. I encourage you all to participate in the planning processes and to help put our strategic plan into action for the benefit of our entire University and surrounding community.

Vulcan kickball benefit aids children’s cancer research

The Vulcan softball program is hosting a benefit kickball tournament on Saturday, November 19 for CureSearch for Children’s Cancer on the UH Hilo softball and baseball fields and invites faculty, staff and students to participate. The soft registration deadline is Monday, November 14.

“To date, we have received a lot of interest and enthusiastic responses, especially from members of the University, but not a lot of teams are signed up,” Vulcan Softball Head Coach Jamie Wallin said. “The goal is to raise $2,000 for cancer research and we need everyone’s help in order to accomplish this.

“If each team raises $100 or $150 and we get 20 teams, then we’ve done our part,” she added. “There is no fee to participate. Anybody can participate. What we want to do is encourage the participating teams to get their families, friends, classmates, professors to donate on behalf of the organization.”

More details can be found at http://www.kick-it.org/events/uh-hilo-softball.

Kick-It is a grassroots program that raises money for children’s cancer research by inspiring people across the country to play kickball. Proceeds benefit CureSearch to fund research at the Children’s Oncology Group, a group of medical professionals who treat children with cancer at over 180 hospitals in the United States.

For more information or to form a team, contact Wallin at walljin@hawaii.edu or Simone Brandalise at simoneab@hawaii.edu or call 974-7703.
NHERC Heritage Center blessing and grand opening

The North Hawai‘i Education and Research Center invites the University community to the blessing ceremony and grand opening of its Heritage Center on Wednesday, November 16 at 10 am in Honoka‘a.

“NHERC first opened in 2006 and has continuously expanded. The NHERC Heritage Center is the third phase of construction for the Center,” noted NHERC Director Farrah-Marie Gomes.

“The vision for the NHERC Heritage Center is to have an active educational facility that will foster pride and perpetuate the diverse heritage of Hamakua and North Hawai‘i while providing the community with a foundation to thrive in the future. The Heritage Center will also train students and community members in curatorial practices, museum exhibit development and heritage management,” she added.

The NHERC Heritage Center will also collect, research, interpret, celebrate and disseminate the history and heritage of Hamakua and North Hawai‘i and engage the community and its visitors by documenting the past and present to better understand and appreciate Hawai‘i’s diverse heritage.

“The Heritage Center is composed of three entities,” Gomes said. “One room is an archives and storage space with a public area for research. Since around 74% of the historic documents in our State are stored on O‘ahu and most archives with temperature and humidity control are in Hilo and Kona, we will meet the needs of North Hawai‘i to keep our cultural resources in our area to be easily accessible to the community. With the help of volunteers, we are starting to collect and catalog oral histories, photographs and documents pertaining to Hamakua and North Hawai‘i."

The other two rooms house exhibit spaces. A permanent exhibit room focuses on ancient Hawaiian, plantation era and paniolo history of the Honoka‘a area. The other room is a changing exhibit room that will feature short-term exhibits of local interest. A Peace Corps exhibit in conjunction with the blessing of the Heritage Center will be featured on November 16 to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Peace Corps and honor the people who helped with the training program in Waipi‘o Valley.

“We also have numerous student-directed study and volunteer opportunities at the NHERC Heritage Center,” Gomes said. “Students may gain credits through the Anthropology Department learning about museum methods and heritage preservation. Volunteers are needed to catalog artifacts and documents and to help with exhibit installation and monitoring.”

For information on these opportunities, contact NHERC Heritage Center Coordinator Dr. Momi Naughton at 775-8890.

The College of Pharmacy class of 2015 recited the Oath of a Pharmacist in front of family, faculty, peers and community at the White Coat Ceremony Oct. 16 in the UH Hilo Performing Arts Center. The ceremony is a rite of passage for students entering their first year in the professional program to affirm their commitment to professionalism, respect, integrity and caring. Speakers included UH Hilo Chancellor Donald Straney and Patrick H. DeLeon, retired Chief of Staff for Senator Daniel K. Inouye. Also speaking was Nancy Huang, Walgreens district pharmacy supervisor for Hawai‘i, Representative Jerry Chang and CoP Preceptor of the Year Miles Nakatsu, RPh, from Ululani Pharmacy. The event was sponsored by Walgreens.
**UH Hilo Blood Drive is Nov. 21**

UH Hilo and the Blood Bank of Hawaii hold its annual Blood Drive on campus on Monday, November 21 in Campus Center 301 beginning at 8:45 a.m.

UH Hilo student-athletes will solicit volunteer blood donors during the week of November 14 on the Campus Center Plaza and the Mookini Library Lanai from 10:30-12:30 p.m. daily. Tommy Hamilton, assistant director of campus recreation, will also sign-up donors at the Student Life Center from 5-8 p.m. that week.

Last year, the UH Hilo Blood Drive donated 89 units, 29 of which were from first-time donors.

Appointments can also be made by calling the Blood Bank of Hawaii at 1-800-372-9966. Parking passes will be provided to outside community donors driving onto campus.

For more information, contact UH Hilo Blood Drive Coordinator Joey Estrella at 974-7700.

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**Athletics’ newest addition**

Athletics now has a marquee to not only announce Athletic events, but general University events as well. Located at the entrance of the Athletics complex, anyone wishing to add an event to the message board may submit information to the Sports Information Office at kellyl@hawaii.edu. Priority will be given to Athletics and Student Affairs’ events.

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**Campus Events**

**November**

1. “I” removal deadline: Student to Instructor
   Last day to apply for Credit-by-Exam for fall

4. Graduate Thesis/Dissertation to Committee deadline
   *Focus on UH Hilo, 8 p.m., Channel 55*

4, 5. *Go, Dog. Go!, 7:30 p.m., PAC, Admission*

6. *Go, Dog. Go!, 2 p.m., PAC, Admission*

11. Holiday: Veteran’s Day

11, 12. *Go, Dog. Go!, 7:30 p.m., PAC, Admission*

13. *Go, Dog. Go!, 2 p.m., PAC, Admission*

15. “I” removal and change of grade deadline: Instructor to Office of the Registrar
   Last day to submit Credit-by-Exam results to Office of the Registrar

18. Graduate Thesis Defense/Dissertation deadline
   *Focus on UH Hilo, 8 p.m., Channel 55*

21. UH Hilo Blood Bank of Hawaii Blood Drive,
   8:45-3:45 p.m., CC 301

24. Holiday: Thanksgiving

25. Non-instructional day