WASC to make October accreditation visit

by Ken Hupp

The University of Hawai‘i at Hilo hosts a three-day visit this month from members of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). The five-member delegation accompanied by a WASC liaison will be on campus October 22-24, reassessing the University’s accreditation standing that was reaffirmed in 2010 and concludes at the end of the 2014-2015 academic year.

The team, headed by Dr. Leroy Morishita, president of Cal State East Bay, will interview various individuals including the vice chancellors, academic deans, faculty groups and leaders as well as students on a wide range of issues identified in the Lines of Inquiry presented last November.

“Their inquiry essentially boils down to a simple, key question,” said Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO) Dr. Seri Luangphinith: “How well is UH Hilo meeting WASC core standards?”

Key areas of interest include progress made in understanding and assessing Core Competencies, efforts to improve retention, how student success is defined, strategies to increase enrollment, operational efficiency and revenue, strategies to improve faculty recruitment and retention, and efforts to ensure quality and rigor in online courses. The team has also requested an update on the Applied Learning Experience, or ALEX program, and the effectiveness of the institution’s community engagement.

Luangphinith emphasized that the accreditation review should not be viewed as an adversarial relationship but an opportunity to help identify and solve problems as they come up.

“WASC’s goal is to ensure that the western region is in larger compliance with national compliance laws, such as ensuring that schools provide high-quality instruction given the scale of federal financial aid,” Luangphinith said. “So this visit is really about making sure we meet a wide range of public demands for accountability.”

WASC is also concerned with making sure institutions report their status in a transparent and timely manner. On that count, UH...
Hilo appears to be doing very well. The accreditation team wrote that the University’s institutional report and all supporting documentation that formed the basis for the Lines of Inquiry was well developed and organized, making review of UH Hilo a clear and concise process. “The UHH report is remarkably transparent and forthcoming, regarding the challenges faced by the institution,” WASC noted. “The team feels this effort represents the institution’s desire for a collaborative and engaged accreditation review.”

While the University has been candid about the challenges UH Hilo faces, Luangphinith feels it also has a good story to tell regarding the progress made in addressing them. She notes her pilot group has gone beyond meeting the required standards from the 2008 Handbook of Accreditation and has strived to implement mandates from the 2013 version.

“We’ve pushed through the first major comprehensive ‘Core Competency’ Assessment at the senior level involving every College with a baccalaureate degree, which is something other schools have not really achieved yet,” Luangphinith said. “We also addressed major concerns about certain graduate degrees and Distance Learning courses, and implemented many WASC recommendations on governance and establishment of an Enrollment Management Implementation Team (EMIT) per their last report.”

Faculty, staff, students and alumni will have an opportunity to meet with the Accreditation Review Team during a forum with time, date and location to be determined. WASC members may also reach out across campus to randomly ask opinions of passer-bys.

The team is expected to disclose its general findings on the final day of its visit. A more detailed report will be sent to the commission for approval, then forwarded to the University early next year.

(Ken Hupp is a public information officer.)
Dr. Keiki Kawai‘ae‘a, director of Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language, will deliver the keynote address at the National Indian Education Association’s (NIEA) 45th annual convention and trade show. The event will be held October 15-18 in Anchorage, Alaska.

Established in 1970, NIEA is recognized as the premiere organization for advancing comprehensive educational opportunities for American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians throughout the United States.

Kawai‘ae‘a and two family members, daughter Kananinohea Māka‘īmoku, and granddaughter, Hāweo‘ulakaumaka Māka‘īmoku, will speak on the final day of the 2014 convention when organizers honor this year’s theme of Building Education Through the Generations by highlighting the work of Kawai‘ae‘a and her family. As one of the founding families of the Hawaiian language immersion movement, the Kawai‘ae‘a’s have played a critical role in its development and implementation, and have been principal agents in the re-establishment of Hawaiian medium education.

Kananinohea is a graduate of Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language and a teacher at Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u School. Hāweo‘ulakaumaka, age 6, is a second-generation Hawaiian speaker like her mother, a graduate of the Pūnana Leo and a second grader at Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u.

“This is a big honor for Hawai‘i and all the work done on Hawaiian language revitalization,” Kawai‘ae‘a said. “I have also been told that this is the first time the NIEA has asked a three-generation panel to address the convention, which makes it even more exciting.”

College of Pharmacy achieves accreditation to offer continuing education for psychologists

The UH Hilo Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy (DKICP) has received approval as sponsor of continuing education (CE) for doctoral-level psychologists from the American Psychological Association (APA) Continuing Education Committee.

“With this designation, DKICP becomes the only organization in Hawai‘i that can offer CE to three licensed health care providers: psychologists, physicians and pharmacists,” said Karen Pellegrin, director of continuing education/strategic planning for DKICP. “This is especially gratifying as we enter the age of interprofessional healthcare.” The College received accreditation to offer CE to pharmacists as well as physicians in 2009.

The CE credit is a requirement for psychologists to remain licensed. DKICP becomes the fourth APA-approved center in Hawai‘i along with Hawai‘i Center for Psychology, Hawai‘i Psychological Association and Tripler Army Medical Center. The approval is good for two years.

Representing all three professions, DKICP will present the first interdisciplinary CE course in Waikiki October 1-3. The workshop is called “Pharmacotherapy in the Age of DSM-5,” referring to APA’s Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.

To receive future announcements about CE events, email copce@hawaii.edu.

President Lassner on campus Oct. 30

Faculty, staff, and students are invited to meet with UH President David Lassner at an Open Forum on Thursday, October 30, 11-11:45 a.m. in UCB 127. President Lassner is visiting UH Hilo and Hawai‘i Community College as part of his first official visit as UH president.

President Lassner will be meeting with various campus organizations throughout the day, and everyone is encouraged to attend the Open Forum.
Hats off to...


Bryan Kim, Professor, Psychology, is the lead author of “Communication Styles, Cultural Values, and Counseling Effectiveness with Asian Americans,” currently in press with *Journal of Counseling and Development*.


Jon Goebel, Assistant Professor, Art, directed the 2nd University of Hawai‘i Summer Art Institute – Hilo program this past summer, which served 14 students from the mainland and Hawai‘i during its six-week session. He was also awarded third place at “The Art of Making,” juried by Jill Wakelin and exhibited at The Makery in Hilo over the summer, and recently exhibited in “Bite, Burn Scratch,” an invitational organized by Denise Karabinus at the Honolulu Museum of Art School.

Chris Reichl, Professor, Anthropology, was awarded a Degree of Honorary Doctor by Thai Nguyen University in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Reichl was recognized for his “outstanding and significant contributions to the promotion of the international academic collaborations” of the university.

Todd Belt, Professor, Political Science, presented a paper, “Leader or Follower? The Presidency in an Online World,” at the American Political Science Association meeting in Washington, D.C. in August.

Call for nominations: 2015 UH Hilo Distinguished Alumni & Service Awards

The UH Hilo Alumni and Friends Association is currently accepting nominations to honor individuals for their outstanding achievements and contributions.

Each year, the Association grants one or more Distinguished Alumni Awards to individuals based on the nominee’s professional accomplishments, community service, and service to the University. Nominees must have completed at least 50% of his/her educational program at UH Hilo. For those who attended UH Hilo prior to 1973, person would need one year at UH Hilo.

The Distinguished Service Award is given to those whose contributions to UH Hilo (financial or service) have benefited the University in numerous and significant ways. Nominees must have demonstrated consistent contributions to the University over a reasonable period of time, and whose contributions have had a positive impact on the students and/or the University.

UH Hilo’s 15th Annual Distinguished Alumni and Service Awards Banquet is set for February 28 at Nani Mau Gardens. The public is invited to attend; proceeds help sponsor alumni outreach activities and the Alumni Scholarship Fund.

Nomination forms can be found at http://hilo.hawaii.edu/alumni/distinguished-alumni.php.
Committed to Community

by Farrah-Marie Gomes

In addition to providing access to UH Hilo credit and non-credit classes in Honoka’a, the North Hawai’i Education and Research Center (NHERC) continues to respond to community needs in the local area and beyond. Organized in 2006 under the College of Continuing Education and Community Service (CCECS), NHERC actively participates in outreach and community service events around Hawai’i Island.

Most recently, NHERC staff assisted with a community emergency response when more than 50 students and staff at Honoka’a High School were affected by a chemical exposure that resulted in full evacuation and shut down of the school. Select NHERC staff had previously participated in a community emergency preparedness drill with Hale Ho’ola Hamakua, so they felt confident about their ability to assist when they got the call requesting help. This recent emergency and the community’s response to it highlight the reason why NHERC is grateful to be a part of the North Hawai’i community.

Just one month prior to the chemical exposure emergency, NHERC helped coordinate the First Annual Hamakua Sugar Plantation Days Festival. Held on historic Mamane Street in Honoka’a, the festival commemorated 20 years since the closure of the Hamakua Sugar Company. The objectives of the festival were to increase awareness of plantation era history and strengthen community identity. The NHERC Heritage Center developed an exhibit that showcased plantation workers in their former jobs. Additionally, slideshows were created using some of the plantation photographs in the NHERC Heritage Center’s collections. Those slideshows were showed in the Honoka’a People’s Theater at three different times throughout the day. Community feedback about the inaugural festival was so positive that the NHERC Heritage Center has already submitted a County Product Enrichment Program (CPEP) grant to support the planning and implementation of the Second Annual Hamakua Sugar Plantation Days Festival next year.

Luckily, the North Hawai’i community was not as significantly impacted by Tropical Storm Iselle as some other communities around Hawai’i Island. Recognizing this, the NHERC was quick to join in the relief efforts to support those communities who were more severely impacted. The Center served as a drop-off site for residents in the local area who wished to donate toiletries, drinking water, towels, blankets, tarps, batteries and non-perishable food for residents in Puna. Efforts are ongoing as the focus has shifted to packing boxes and supplies in anticipation of possible evacuations due to the lava flow.

Being organized under CCECS provides NHERC the opportunities to reach out and engage with community members on different initiatives. We not only exist in and provide services to the community, but we also meaningfully participate and contribute in as many ways possible and appropriate.

For more information about NHERC, visit: http://hilo.hawaii.edu/academics/nherc/ or follow us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/uhh.nherc.

(Farrah-Marie Gomes is interim dean, CCECS, and director, NHERC.)

Student Affairs’ Dedication

Kekoa Harman from Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke’elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language presides over last month’s blessing of UH Hilo’s new Student Services Center.
Sodexo Dining Services offers exciting October events

Calling all foodies! October is the most exciting month for University Dining Services! October 1st brings Local First Wednesday with menu specials featuring 100% locally sourced foods. Hamakua Mushrooms, Kekela Farm and Kulana Beef and Pork are just a few of the Hawai‘i Island food producers that bring their fresh offerings to our kitchen where our chefs cook up delectable dishes for you. Make sure to stop by the Campus Center Dining Room on October 1st and support our local sustainability efforts.

Beginning on October 20th, University Dining Services will begin its Dining Survey. Last semester, UH Hilo’s dining survey results ranked in the top 25 sites across the Sodexo campus services division. In the “Overall Satisfaction” category, Dining Services scored over 90% positive results, compared to the national average of 73%. Good job, Sodexo employees! We always strive to bring our best to the UH Hilo community!

The most exciting event for October is the Annual Food Festival on Thursday, October 30 on the Campus Center Plaza from 11-1 p.m. This food extravaganza offers opportunities to taste-test a wide variety of foods and beverages offered by our food and drink suppliers. Last year, Suisan, Naked Juice, Monster, Pepsi, and many other vendors were on site to personally prepare and serve hundreds of participants.

University of Hawai‘i at Hilo Speaker Series

The UH Hilo Faculty Congress and the College of Continuing Education and Community Service (CCECS) have partnered to provide a UH Hilo Speakers Series, which launched last month. The purpose of this series is to engage and give back to the people of Hawai‘i Island by showcasing the research and educational activities of the island’s scholarly community on a monthly basis. The speaker series is free and open to the public, and takes place on the third Wednesday of each month from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in UCB 100.

“The response from presenters and community members alike has been fantastic,” says faculty coordinator Emme-line de Pillis. “There’s a real desire on the part of the community to partake in the discovery that happens here.”

The first lecture was held on Wednesday, September 17 and featured research ecologist Dr. Flint Hughes of the USDA Forest Service Institute for Pacific Islands Forestry, and Springer Kaye, manager of the Big Island Invasive Species Committee (BIISC), speaking about community-based efforts in the management of albizia trees.

This month’s lecture features Dr. Mitchell Anderson, senior Mathematics Department member at UH Hilo, on Wednesday, October 15. In addition to his University duties, he is one of three primary authors of the Common Core High School Mathematics Curriculum for Hawai‘i, and was a driving force behind its inception. Hawai‘i DOE adopted the curriculum for use across the State in 2013-14 for both Algebra I and Algebra II. It is anticipated that the geometry curriculum will be adopted in 2015-16. Anderson has also had considerable input into developing the Smarter Balanced Consortium’s national exam (SBAC), which is to be administered to all 11th graders across multiple states beginning this academic year.

Speaker Series - continued on page 7.
Adopt-A-Beehive with Alan Wong showcases at the Hawai‘i Food and Wine Festival

As part of the Hawai‘i Food and Wine Festival, “Paina on the Pier” was held at the Honolulu Fish Auction on Friday, September 2 for chefs to meet local food growers and producers, bringing together over 20 farmers and over 200 chefs, as well as retailers and restaurants. The popular event helped to highlight one of the goals of the Hawai‘i Food and Wine Festival, and to increase awareness for local sustainability by supporting the use of locally grown, caught, and produced food.

The Adopt-A-Beehive with Alan Wong program, a partnership between the University of Hawaii at Hilo and Chef Alan Wong, and coordinated by UH Hilo’s Dr. Lorna Tsutsumi, was invited to participate. The program supports UH Hilo’s beekeeping activities, connects with the community, and emphasizes the importance of honeybees as a vital component in achieving local and global sustainability. The program provided samples of comb honey harvested from the UH Hilo hives in Panaewa and creamed honey made with UH Hilo honey and fresh lilikoi juice.

Also showcasing products from his farm was Mike Crowell (co-owner) from Wailea Agricultural Group. The program is collaborating with Wailea Agricultural Group by bringing some of the UH Hilo beehives to his farm where fruit production has doubled since the arrival of the bees.

Faculty Congress will take the lead role in setting criteria for selection of speakers and topics as well as recruitment of speakers. CCECS will assist with planning, logistics, and promotion. CCECS Interim Dean Farrah-Marie Gomes shares that “partnerships like this speaker series allows the University and community to engage on levels that many have expressed interest in in the past. We are thrilled to be a part of this exciting new venture.”

If anyone is interested in being a speaker or would like to suggest a speaker, contact de Pillis at depillis@hawaii.edu.

Dr. Flint Hughes and Springer Kaye before their presentation on albizia trees.

Mike Crowell of Wailea Agricultural Group, Top Chef finalist and Chef Marcel Vigneron, and Dr. Lorna Tsutsumi
Interim Athletic Director Tim Moore announced last month the selection of two new Vulcan head coaches.

Interim coach Kallen Miyataki has been appointed Baseball Coach and Patti “Peejay” Brun was selected as Softball Coach.

“Kallen’s experience in the Hilo community will prove valuable in the long-run in developing our baseball program,” Moore said. “Coach Miyataki maintains impressive recruiting ties in Hawai‘i, West Coast, and Alaska and is well respected in the collegiate baseball community”.

This will be Miyataki’s third fitting in a UH Hilo coach’s uniform following a three-year period as the associate head coach (2004-06) and 14-year stint as assistant coach (1988-2001).

His coaching career began as an assistant at Moanalua High School on O‘ahu before a graduate assistant position at UH Manoa (1985-87) took Miyataki to the collegiate level. He served one year as an assistant coach (1988) before joining former Vulcan Baseball Coach Joey Estrella’s staff.

“Peejay” Brun joins UH Hilo after spending eight years at Texas State University-San Marcos as assistant coach. She brings with her over 12 years of coaching on the NCAA Division I level, which includes four years as Siena College’s Head Coach from 2002-06. Her coaching career began as an assistant coach at Moanalua High School (1995-96) on O‘ahu. A four-year player at UH Manoa, she was selected 1994’s NCAA Woman of the Year-Hawai‘i.

“Peejay has the combination of collegiate coaching experience and local knowledge that I am looking for to build a successful Vulcan program,” Moore said. “She has a track record that shows she is a winner and we are fortunate to add a person of her caliber on our coaching staff.”

Campus Events

October

1 Priority deadline to apply for spring 2015 graduation

*Local First Wednesday* presented by Sodexo, CC Dining Room

4 *Emel Mathlouthi*, 7:30 p.m, PAC, Admission

15 UH Hilo Speaker Series with Dr. Mitchell Anderson, 6:30 p.m., UCB 100

17 Last day to drop a class online with “W”

18 *Guru of Chai*, 7:30 p.m., PAC, Admission

22-24 WASC accreditation visit

30 *Annual Food Festival* presented by Sodexo, 11-1 p.m., CC Plaza

Open Forum with President David Lassner, 11-11:45 a.m., UCB 127