UH Hilo’s Pearman named chancellor of UH West O’ahu

The University of Hawai’i Board of Regents has named William A. Pearman chancellor of the UH West O’ahu campus. The vote was taken during the board’s April 23rd meeting at LEEward Community College. Pearman, who has served as vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Hawai’i at Hilo, since 1994 will assume his new duties on June 1.

“Dr. Pearman’s proven leadership in developing responsive academic programs and budget stability during difficult times, along with his work on UH Hilo’s strategic plan, community partnerships and legislative agenda will be a definite asset to the West O’ahu campus,” said UH President Dr. Kenneth Mortimer.

Pearman joined the Hilo campus in 1994 as chief academic officer, and for 17 months served as interim UH Hilo chancellor and interim UH senior vice president. During that time, he helped forge partnerships with astronomy tenants at UH Hilo’s University Park that augment UH Hilo classroom and laboratory resources and create opportunities for students. The partnership is exploring the feasibility of opening a planetarium at the park to expand understanding of astronomy among school groups and the general public. UH Hilo is also working with an investment group from Taiwan to privately fund construction of additional student housing in conjunction with a commercial complex. Other cooperative ventures involve development of aquaculture facilities, along with programs and training in computer skills, justice administration and applied vulcanology.

Pearman has advocated diversity on campus, collaborative decision making and participatory management. He also supports the use of technology and collaborative efforts to extend educational services off campus.

Before coming to Hawai’i, Pearman served as campus executive of the University of Texas at El Paso.

Biology trio making a difference in and out of the classroom

by Aaron Hanaaki

With so much of our attention focused on classroom instruction, it’s easy to forget that some of the faculty member’s most important work takes place away from the glare of everyday attention. The work they perform in libraries, computer laboratories and out in the field can produce long term benefits for a learning institution. That’s certainly true at the University of Hawai’i at Hilo, where three members of the Biology Department are proving that good research is good business.

Dr. Donald Price has been at UH Hilo since relocating from the Texas A &M University-Commerce campus in 1996. His work has earned him numerous grants and fellowships, including an impressive $425,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health - Minority Biomedical Research Support program for his ‘Genetic Dissection of Behavior in two Hawaiian Drosophila species’.

Price, along with William Mautz and Grant Gerrish have co-authored a grant proposal to the National Science Foundation’s Course Curricu-
officer at Pennsylvania State University, Wilkes-Barre Campus, and provost and vice president for academic affairs at Sacred Heart University in Connecticut. He holds a bachelor’s degree in sociology and anthropology from LaSalle University, a master’s in sociology and anthropology from Fordham University and a PhD in sociology from the University of Pittsburgh. He was recognized as a Danforth Fellow for excellence in teaching and received a Fulbright award to study reinsertion of higher education in Germany. At UH Hilo, he has forged partnerships with universities in China, Taiwan, Korea, Japan and American Samoa.

“I know I speak for the entire UH Hilo family in wishing Bill the very best in his new endeavors,” said UH Hilo chancellor, Dr. Rose Y. Tseng. “The university has benefited tremendously from his countless contributions. Bill’s enthusiasm, dedication and above all, experience will be sorely missed,” Tseng added.

Pearman is a member of numerous professional organizations, including the American Association of Higher Education, American Sociological Association, Eastern Academy of Management, and has authored or co-authored nine books addressing issues related to aging, handicapped conditions, the nuclear power industry and social research. Current civic involvements include service on the boards of the Hawai‘i Island Day Care Center and Sunrise Ridge Civic Association. He has also served as a board member for St. Joseph’s Schools.

UH West O‘ahu is an upper division institution specializing in interdisciplinary liberal arts education in the humanities, social sciences and professional studies. Its mission focuses on teaching, serving non-traditional students (average age of the student population is 32 years) and offering outreach programs to the neighbor islands.

Regents approve new tenants for Research Park

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service is joining astronomical organizations as a tenant in the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo’s Research Park. The University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents, during its April 22nd meeting at Leeward Community College, approved a sublease agreement under which the USDA Forest Service will build an office building, a support building and a shade/head house on four acres within the park as facilities for the Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry.

Institute director John J. Ewel told regents the institute’s staff of 43 will focus on reforestation, control of non-native species and forested wetlands and watersheds. Ewel added that collaborative opportunities will be available to UH Hilo students and faculty.

The sublease must still be approved by the state board of land and natural resources, which leases the University Park land to the university. Upon approval, the Forest Service will join the Science and Engineering Research Council, California Institute of Technology, National Astronomical Observatory of Japan and National Science Foundation as tenants with Research Park base facilities for telescopes on Mauna Kea.

In other business, the board authorized UH Hilo to develop and operate an Institute for Agricultural Marketing and Education in conjunction with USDA Agricultural Research Service plans to establish its Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center on the island. The institute, which is contingent on USDA funding, will design and develop a video and Internet infrastructure throughout the Pacific Basin in order to disseminate agricultural education and information.

The Hawaiian EDventure program, an entrepreneurial travel education partnership between the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo and Destination Hilo, has received the 1999 Kahili award presented by the Hawai‘i Visitor’s and Convention Bureau for the best entry in the events and program category. The EDventure program proved to be the big winner going on to capture the coveted “Best of Show” award, symbolic of the top entry among more than 80 contenders in 14 categories. The annual “Keep it Hawai‘i” award acknowledges outstanding efforts and achievements by individuals, organizations, events and attractions that perpetuate Hawai‘i’s culture, history and environment in traditional and inspiring ways to visitors.

The EDventure program, according to Judith Fox-Goldstein, director of the UH Hilo Conference Center and President of Destination Hilo, “is one of the most exciting examples of a thriving visitor industry and educational partnership in the state.” The program’s success is based on expanding partnerships that encourage linkages and networking throughout the island. The magic, according to Fox-Goldstein, comes from a very special group of artists, scientists, educators, students, and our treasured Kupuna who bring Hawai‘i’s uniqueness to life through interactive and inspiring experiences.

“Our visitors feel ‘Aloha’ and, therefore, leave the islands with an impressive view of a culture and history that is larger than life,” Fox-Goldstein said. “Because visitors develop a newly fashioned respect for Hawai‘i’s traditions and people, they return home with much more than a tan and the tropical raindrops that showered their visit. The EDventure program ensures that the meaning of ‘Aloha’ becomes a tangible experience that will always be cherished and remembered,” Fox-Goldstein added.

The EDventure program is based on the philosophy of “experiential education.” This integrated academic and cultural visitor experience, embraced by the entire community, blends science, art, history, music and culture within the framework of Hawai‘i’s history and achievements.

The program, offered to students and visitors from 8 to 80 years of age, encourages people to experience, explore and educate themselves about Hawai‘i’s rich culture and environment. Enjoying the wonders of Hawai‘i’s hands-on, participatory activities provides “once in a lifetime” memories. UH Hilo Chancellor, Dr. Rose Tseng cited the EDventure program as an example of the closer ties she wants to see developed between key elements in the community.

“I am very pleased about this growing relationship, fostered by the university and business community’s commitment to both education and the economy,” Tseng said. “The visitor industry is a driving force in our economy and the EDventure program is a prime example of a work relationship that strengthens both entities,” she added.

Developed by the UH Hilo Conference Center in 1990, the Hawaiian EDventure program is now translated into Japanese and marketed in Japan in cooperation with Japan Airlines. Targeting both the student and visitor generation, the EDventure program’s aggressive marketing plans include expansion into Asia, Europe and Canada.

“Dramatic, exciting and so very rewarding to be affirmed and recognized for work that you truly enjoy,” was the overall consensus of the University Conference Staff. The “Best of Show” recognition was a total surprise and it was an honor to receive this award,” said Program Coordinator Mary Ann Tsuchiyama.

Conference Center veteran Alberta Mehau-Matsu noted that every project the center undertakes is driven by a unique team effort. “It was fitting to have the UH Hilo EDventure staff present to be recognized and to accept this award. We all feel privileged to be part of this amazing effort,” Mehau-Matsu said.

Fox-Goldstein hopes the program’s success will inspire others to support efforts to promote the visitor industry, which she believes has enormous potential.

“Tourism is everyone’s business,” she said. And the EDventure program is just one more example of our commitment to make Hilo, and the Big Island, the EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL CAPITOL of the world,” she added.
UH Hilo United Way Campaign sets new record

The University of Hawaii at Hilo’s (UH Hilo) United Way Campaign sets a new record, raising $24,061 or 96.2% of its $25,000 goal, surpassing last year’s total of $22,505. The 1998/99 campaign showed that UH Hilo raised $24,061 or 96.2% of its $25,000 goal, which was 6.9% higher than last year’s total.

The campaign was co-chaired by Dr. Hank Hennessey, Haunani Bernadino and Lisa Mendoza. Hennessey is a dedicated volunteer, who said the United Way provides an efficient vehicle for channeling money to a wide variety of very deserving causes.

“We serve on the panel that reviews United Way Agency applications for funding, and I can tell you that the needs they serve are very real,” Hennessey said. “I think that the university’s people are aware of the extent of the Big Island’s needs, and their generosity shows it,” Hennessey added.

How do you follow up an impressive fundraising performance that produced more than $2,000,000 for the Hawaii Island United Way? For volunteer leaders at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, the answer was simple: Raise the bar, by appreciating to chancellor, Dr. Rose Tseng. UH Hilo volunteers raised more than $2,000,000 in a record performance.

Dr. Hank Hennessey, Vice Chair, 1999/2000 Hawai'i Island United Way was tapped for his expertise as a wetland biologist to identify habitats on the windward side of the cross island highway’s route.

“My task was to interpret the federal law that protects wetlands in the context of Hawai‘i’s unique biota,” Gerrish stated. “From my findings, I concluded that parts of the o‘i‘o rainforests in those areas met the criteria for protected wetlands,” he said.

Gerrish’s findings proved critical, since past evaluations resulted in little recognition of wetland boundaries. Gerrish still had to identify the functions and values of the wetlands, so that measures could be designed to evaluate the loss that might occur due to the road being realigned and rebuilt.

He also had to sell his plan to the US Environmental Protection Agency, US Army Corps of Engineers and US Fish and Wildlife Service, the three agencies that oversee the protection of wetlands.

“Recommended they evaluate the wetlands as part of the rainforest ecosystem, rather than as independent resources,” Gerrish said. “And it was accepted by all three agencies,” he added. At press time, Gerrish was busy preparing for a three-day workshop on “Vegetation Monitoring for Conservation Management”.

The event, is jointly sponsored by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the University of Hawaii, and the University of California, San Diego.

“Vegetation Monitoring for Conservation Management” will be held from June 30 to July 2 at the University of Hawaii at Hilo campus.

The event will provide an opportunity for researchers and managers to discuss collaborative approaches to vegetation monitoring for the conservation of biodiversity.

Dr. William Mautz arrived at UH Hilo nearly three years ago from the University of California-Irvine, where he had been a member of the medical school’s research faculty. His work focused primarily on lung biology and the health effects of air pollution, but he also had his side interests. “During graduate school at Cornell University and UCLA I studied comparative physiology and ecology of reptiles and amphibians,” Mautz said.

Even though my primary focus was in other areas I continued to do research in this field while at Cal-Irvine,” Mautz added. He currently teaches classes in human anatomy, physiology and general biology. One of his major projects is an investigation of the effects certain chemicals have on the respiratory systems of reptiles and vertebrates. The study entitled “Comparative Biology of Respiratory Tracts” was supported by a $200,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health-MBRS.

Mautz will work with students to examine the effects of two important air pollutants, sulfur dioxide and ozone, which can be found in abundant supply on an island with ongoing volcanic eruptions. Mautz says he’s pleased with the direction of the department and speaks highly of his colleagues and students alike. “I very much enjoy the collegiality of the Biology Department, and I am impressed with the students here at UH Hilo,” Mautz said. “Everywhere I look, I see wonderful potential for developing programs here,” he added.

Chancellor to appear on Statewide Television

University of Hawai‘i at Hilo Chancellor, Dr. Rose Y. Tseng will appear on two of Honolulu’s morning news programs during the month of May. Dr. Tseng is scheduled to appear on KITV’s Good Morning Hawai‘i with Paul Udell, Kathy Muneno and Tiny Tadani on Tuesday, May 11. She will also be interviewed by Bernadette Baraquio on the Channel Two Morning News with Leslie Wilcox and Ron Mizutani on Tuesday, May 25. Both appearances are tentatively scheduled for 6am.

Continued from page 1

Dr. Hank Hennessey
Haunani Bernadino
Lisa Mendoza

Speakers announced for Spring Commencement

Outgoing University of Hawaii’s Board of Regents member Stanley Roehrig will be the keynote speaker at the UH Hilo Spring Commencement ceremony, scheduled for Saturday, May 15, 1999 at 9 a.m. in the new UH Hilo gym. Roehrig, is a prominent Hilo attorney who previously served in the State Legislature, where he chaired the House Judiciary Committee. As a regent, Roehrig has been a strong advocate for UH Hilo.

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Regina Titunik, Assistant Professor of Political Science, has been selected for inclusion in the fifth edition of Who's Who Among American Teachers and was one of sixteen scholars invited by the Liberty Fund to participate in a colloquium on Civility and Liberty in the Writings of Edward Shils held in Savannah, Georgia this past March.

Wayne Miyamoto, Professor of Art, has been invited to participate in the “Invitational” XIV Premio Internazionale Biella Per 1’ Incisione, Exhibition that runs through May 23 in Torino, Italy. The exhibit will travel throughout the country to the cities of Bologna, Turin, and Mondovi until April 2000. Miyamoto also has works on display in the “Hands across the water: Heads across the sky” exchange exhibition featuring prints from Hawai’i and Australia through May 14 at Leeward Community College, on Oahu. The winner of the 1999 U.U. Diversity Sparks Fund Award, he played the role of host last month to Visiting Artist Robert Jahnke, and still found time to serve as a juror for the Kala Ki‘i Congressional Art Awards. In May, Miyamoto displayed during the 1999 Pacific Rim International Print Exhibition that runs through May 23 to the UH Hilo website. Just visit the UH Hilo news page at www.uhh.hawaii.edu/news and browse through the current edition of Ka Lono Hanakahi or read about the latest developments at the university, including stories you won’t read about in the local newspapers. The project is the brainchild of Dr. Bill Chen, Director of Technology and Distance Learning and Computer Specialist and Webmaster Sunny Walker. Chen has been a big proponent of the Internet, which he says has given UH Hilo exposure to a vast new audience.

“The UH Hilo website was designed by one of our computer science graduates, Ian Campos during Spring 1998,” Chen said. “Over the last six months, we have added many features, such as the University catalog, admissions, financial aid, and registration information. The Internet is the quickest way for us to get information out to our students and parents,” according to Chen. Walker has been keeping track of the web activity, and notes that the university site has attracted a great deal of traffic along the information super highway.”

“The core UH Hilo site averages around 15,000 hits per day,” Walker said. “Most of our traffic comes from the Virginia based America On line and the UH system. But we also receive considerable traffic from California, Oregon, Minnesota, Canada, Japan and the United Kingdom,” Walker added.

And what’s the most popular category? The UH Hilo catalog wins that contest hands down! During the two month period, between December 15, 1998 and February 15, 1999, 1,841 copies were downloaded. It’s clear from these figures that UH Hilo is attracting a great deal of interest beyond the Island and State of Hawai‘i. The latest additions to the web page, promise to bring new meaning to the term “distance learning.”

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International Nights ’99

The UH Hilo Japanese Ensemble under the direction of Dr. George Durham performs festival music during last month’s International Nights ’99 at the UH Hilo Theatre. The two night event, sponsored by the International Student Association featured performances from groups representing 22 nations.

Hats off Continued from page 4

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Marlene Hapai, Professor of Natural Sciences/Biology, returned recently from a Fall 1998 Sabbatical Leave. During that time she wrote most of the first draft for her book entitled “Integrating Science and the Arts”. She also spoke at both the University of Vermont and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst about her book “BugPlay!”, the use of insects in the classroom and the Natural Sciences Major and Certificate programs at UH Hilo.

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