Construction of Marine Science Building begins; new era launched for department

by Susan Collins

Construction of the new $3 million, 10,000-square-foot Marine Science Building has begun, meeting the needs of UH Hilo’s rapidly expanding marine science program. The new facility will provide a central location for classrooms, labs, and offices, with the space needed to teach the increasing numbers of Marine Science majors. The degree program is third in the number of majors at UH Hilo.

“Oceanography is an integrated science,” said Dr. Walter Dudley, professor of marine geology and oceanography. “Students study biology, chemistry, geology, and physics. Research is fundamental for students in Marine Science, and with the new building all the lab equipment will be set up just for our needs.”

Dr. Karla McDermid, associate professor of marine science, said that the program, now serving 219 majors, was in great need of its own classrooms and facilities.

“This will be a home of our own,” she said. “It will have a wet lab where we can drip seawater, sinks that can handle sand, and a place where no one will complain about the smell of fish.

“We are committed to teaching students about the sea and increasing their understanding of the marine environment,” McDermid added. “This building gives us the space to teach and to pursue new directions.

NASA grant offers tremendous opportunity for students

by Susan Collins

NASA has recently awarded two UH Hilo professors with a $675,000 grant aimed to increase astronomy education. The project is vast in scope, targeting K-12 grade levels up through undergraduate studies, and on into the professional astronomy community here on the Big Island. Principal investigator Dr. Richard Crowe, professor of astronomy and physics, and co-investigator Dr. Alice Kawakami, education chair, now have a big job ahead of them to see that this comprehensive New Opportunities through Minority Initiatives in Space Science (NOMISS) grant project thrives over the next three years.

Designed to simultaneously increase educational opportunities for Hawai‘i’s students, while at the same time creating professional opportunities through developing partnerships between UH Hilo and observatories atop Mauna Kea, the project will ultimately help to open up the galaxies to all of Hawai‘i’s people.

“We are all very excited about the possibilities that this will have for astronomy education both at the undergraduate and K through 12 level,” Crowe said. “With regard to the former, this federal funding should provide a needed boost to the budding UH Hilo astronomy program. In addition, our partnership with Kamehameha Schools and the Department of...
Construction

Continued from page 1

in research.”

The new building will also provide an analytical lab where students and faculty can carry out chemical analyses of marine sediment, water and organisms.

A computer lab will provide access to the latest technology for data processing, statistical analysis, presentation and report preparation, information searching, and communications.

“The new computer facilities will allow us to keep up-to-date with technology,” Dudley said. “The classrooms will have digital projectors that are directly linked to the Internet, giving us immediate teaching tools.” The new building will also house a Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM), used in teaching and research to magnify and view the tiny details of marine specimens.

A lecture hall will offer multi-media audio-visual capability for classes, public forums, guest speakers, and marine science symposia. And a seminar room will double as the department’s library-reading room, as well as a place for meeting, group discussions, and senior student seminars. Moreover, the faculty offices/labs have all been designed to give the six faculty members flexible work space for all their many academic activities, including teaching, advising, research, and service.

“UH Hilo is a University whose mission is undergraduate education and this building supports hands-on learning,” McDermid said.

“Our mission,” added Dudley, “is to support the marine education needs of Hawai‘i and the Pacific Basin. Our program prepares students from the entire region to make a positive impact on the marine environment.”

Construction of the new facility is part of the largest burst of growth in UH Hilo’s history, with over $50 million in Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) currently underway on campus. From its humble beginnings in 1979 when the first oceanographer was hired, the Marine Science program has contributed greatly to the University’s growth into a premier liberal arts university offering unique opportunities in undergraduate field study and research.

With the campus less than 30 minutes away from a variety of marine habitats, including coral reefs, estuaries, sheltered bays and open ocean, the program is designed to take full advantage of the unique living laboratory that the Big Island offers.

“The study of the ocean is especially important for Hilo,” McDermid said. “It is a town closely tied to the sea by early morning fish auctions, ikashibi fishers, ahi boats, mullet nurseries, surfers and paddlers, dolphins and whales, and an active port.

“This building will be a living legacy for the University and for Hilo.”

(Editor’s note: Susan Collins is a public information officer.)

Rendition of Marine Science Building.
UH Hilo enrollment steadily increasing each semester

UH Hilo released the official census data on enrollment last month, showing an increase in students for the fifth semester in a row. Numbers show a 3 percent increase over the last academic year, with 2,874 students enrolled this semester, or 84 more than Fall 1999.

“This is a great trend,” said Chancellor Rose Tseng. “I would like to recognize the faculty and staff of UH Hilo whose hard work and dedication to higher education has made this increase in enrollment possible. I thank them for making the high-quality learning environment at this University that has brought us national recognition. We are very happy to see this steady growth.”

US News and World Report nationally recognized the University in September of this year. In the periodical’s annual rankings of colleges and universities throughout the country, UH Hilo was ranked third in the category of top Western public liberal arts colleges. It is the third year in a row that UH Hilo has received this ranking.

Increasing enrollment at UH Hilo is in line with the ten-year strategic plan, which calls for 5,000 students by the year 2007.

In support of this growth the University is currently undergoing $50 million in Capital Improvement Projects (CIP). These projects include the construction of two new buildings, the first in 20 years at UH Hilo. Construction has begun this month on a $4 million Marine Science Building, and last month the University broke ground on a $17 million office/classroom complex.

Governor Ben Cayetano said at the complex groundbreaking, “UH Hilo continues to be a major force in the island’s economy. That’s why we gave it strong [CIP] support. I look forward to UH Hilo becoming the premier small university of the Pacific region.”

Other CIP construction include renovations to existing buildings, and a complete overhaul of the campus’s electrical and communication systems bringing the University into the new high-tech millennium.

Dr. Keith Miser, vice chancellor for student services, sees the steady growth in enrollment as an indicator of the comprehensive development of the University.

“We are very pleased with these enrollment numbers,” Miser said. “They demonstrate that the UH Hilo campus is rapidly becoming a campus of choice for an increasing number of students from Hawai’i. The entire campus is coming together to continue to build a high quality residential learning community, and this energy is being recognized by schools, parents, and potential applicants.”

Numbers show 1,760 students as residents of the island of Hawai’i, and 451 from the outer islands including 233 from O’ahu. Four hundred and eighty-nine students are from the U.S. mainland and U.S. possessions.

UH Hilo is also growing in appeal among international students. Fall enrollment includes 268 students from foreign countries, including 65 from Japan, 57 from Micronesia, and 23 from Palau. Other countries represented include the Marshall Islands, American Samoa, Taiwan, Canada, South Africa, the Philippines and Korea, as well as parts of Europe, South and Central America, the South Pacific and Asia.

Grants update

by Kawika Lovell

What’s All the Buzz About Grants?

One of the Chancellor’s top priorities since her arrival at UH Hilo has been to increase the extramural funding coming to our University. To that end, Rose Tseng has put together a winning team to work with our talented faculty: our new administrative staff (Vice Chancellors Rachel Fordyce, John Whittaker and Keith Miser, and Dean Stephen Worchel). Then the Chancellor created a Research Coordination office chaired by Dr. Dan Brown to work closely with the RCUH-Hilo staff (Kawika Lovell, Terri Chong, Noelani Ho’opai, Paula Gealon and Doreen Koizumi). With the help of this dynamic partnership, she has streamlined administrative hurdles (an ongoing effort) and fostered a new, contagious spirit of collaboration.

What is the Chancellor’s Plan?

Chancellor Tseng wants to build the capacity of our University. In doing so, she believes UH Hilo will help strengthen the community it is a part of. With help from Harold Masumoto, executive director of RCUH, and Dr. Kenneth Mortimer, President of the UH system and Chancellor of UH Manoa, she negotiated the return of 79 percent of all indirect charges back to our campus. This means more dollars from each grant will be used for infrastructure and capacity building. This translates to office furniture and supplies, laboratory and classroom equipment - a general replacement of the old and worn-out with new and state-of-the-art. It also means more indirect dollars from each grant are returned to the Principle Investigator for discretionary uses, such as specialized equipment, computers, and any unforeseen needs that inevitably come up during the life of the award.

Did it Work?

You be the judge. Since formally establishing this...
CSAV extends public outreach projects to grade school students

UH Hilo’s Center for the Study of Active Volcanoes (CSAV) has started visiting classrooms around the island for a third consecutive year under a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Staff and student helpers teach 4th graders about earthquakes and tsunamis, 6th graders about lava flow hazards, and 8th graders about hurricanes and flash floods.

“The presentations last from 45 minutes to an hour and include a brief lecture, demonstrations, audience participation, and video,” said CSAV Educational Specialist Darcy Bevens. “This is followed by hands-on activities for the students, such as making waves in a tsunami tank, or watching model houses get inundated from a baking soda-and-vinegar volcano.” The dynamic models capture the students’ attention, and lead to analysis of the relative hazard from being downhill of a volcanic vent or on the shoreline during a tsunami.

Yume McQuade is coordinating CSAV’s federal grants, both in managing the office and participating in school visits and seminars. McQuade graduated with a BA in geography from UH Hilo and has a background in natural hazards mitigation.

Grants update
Continued from page 3

partnership on April 17, 2000, faculty and RCUH-Hilo have processed $13.3 million in contracts and awards, and submitted an additional $6.5 million in grant proposals through the month of August.

In September alone, the following PIs were awarded grants totaling $1.8 million:

Rick Castberg: DHHS $60,000
Alternatives to Youth Incarceration

Michael West: NSF $58,578
RUI: Galaxy Construction and Deconstruction

Michael West: HST $24,564
Galaxy Recycling in Cluster

Maria Haws: USDA $350,000
Best Practices in Shrimp Farming

Dawna Coutant & Judith Fox Goldstein: DHHS $660,000
Family and Community Violence Prevention Program (Ka Pouhana)

Richard Crowe & Alice Kawakami: NASA $675,000
NoMISS: New Opportunities through Minority Initiatives in Space Science

In October, faculty have submitted over $5.6 million in grant proposals and the following PIs have been awarded grants totaling over $1.5 million:

Bill Chen: DOE $1,178,710
Strengthening Institutions

Stephen McLean: USDA $100,000
Institute for Agriculture Production and Marketing Education

Kevin Hopkins: EDA $276,000
PACRC - Additional Award (total for this project is now $1.99 million)

Congratulations to all of you!

Want in on the Action?

If you have a good idea for a research or training project, please do not hesitate to contact the great team at RCUH-Hilo: 933-0898, or visit our new offices in the Institute for Astronomy building in University Park.

(Editor’s note: Kawika Lovell is Director of Administrative/Client Services for the RCUH-Hilo office.)
Education will outreach to more local and native Hawaiian students and encourage them to consider careers in astronomy or space science."

It will be Crowe’s job to handle the undergraduate and scientific side of the project, while Kawakami will focus on developing the educational program in Hawai’i’s K-12 classrooms. "This grant is aimed at encouraging local kids to get interested in observational astronomy,” Kawakami said. “My job will be to work with teachers from both public and private schools, including Kamehameha Schools and the Department of Education, on developing programs to get young students fired up about astronomy so that they are ready and excited when they enter high school.

“We are especially interested in combining the cultural aspects of science and astronomy into these programs,” she said. “We would like to connect Hawaiian children with their heritage of celestial knowledge. The goal is to make observational astronomy second nature to Hawai’i’s students, and to do that you have to start when they are young.”

Meanwhile, Crowe will put his attention toward developing the scientific programs, especially with regard to UH Hilo degree candidates gaining educational accessibility to the observatories atop Mauna Kea, including opportunities for paid internships.

“In order for the UH Hilo astronomy program to grow, we need curriculum development in the area of instrumentation instruction, and this is where the observatories can be the key,” Crowe explained.

Many pieces of the puzzle must fall into place for this goal to be realized. Although the grant provides for a $50,000 research-grade spectrograph, there are some logistics to work out to make it accessible to students. This includes acquiring a 4-wheel drive vehicle to get classes to the summit, including the summer, when both undergraduates and teachers are involved, and finding a place to house everybody once they get to Mauna Kea.

Also in the works is the expected transfer of ownership of the Institute for Astronomy’s 24-inch Air Force telescope to UH Hilo, which would give the University a presence on the summit, as well as an educational resource for astronomy curriculum and summer programs.

Crowe is also exploring other avenues to secure teaching facilities atop Mauna Kea.

“It’s a common misconception that UH Hilo’s students have routine access to the observatory facilities,” Crowe said. “But both the Northern Gemini Telescope and the Infrared Telescope Facility (IRTF) support this grant project and are committed to working with UH Hilo to develop a partnership to the benefit of undergraduates and of the community.”

NASA wants more people aware of astronomy,” Crowe added. “By including minority students in educational programs, these children will then someday have a stake in what happens up there [on Mauna Kea]. This grant will provide a new link, through UH Hilo astronomy, between the observatories and the community.”

University Park and Animal Science highlights November Focus on UH Hilo

Developments in animal science and high technology will be among the topics of discussion during the November telecasts of Focus on UH Hilo on November 1 and 15. The program, hosted by Chancellor Rose Tseng, can be seen from 8-8:30 p.m. on Channel 4.

Dr. Bill Chen, director of the Office of Technology and Distance Learning, will join Jim Kennedy of the Gemini North Telescope Project on November 1 for a discussion on the University Park for Science and Technology. The November 15 program will examine some of the programs being offered by the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Management, with a guest line-up expected to include Assistant Professor of Animal Science Dr. David Almond, and a UH Hilo student from the pre-veterinarian program.

Focus on UH Hilo highlights University programs, up and coming developments and the University’s partnerships with various community organizations.

“Explore Your Future at UH Hilo” set for Nov. 29

In collaboration with Waiakea High, Hilo High, and Saint Joseph High Schools, the UH Hilo University Relations and Admissions Offices are planning an inaugural “Explore Your Future at UH Hilo” college night for Wednesday, November 29 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Campus Center Dining Room.

“Recent positive publicity and obvious physical growth have stimulated the minds of many in Hilo’s community,” said UH Hilo Marketing Director Yu Yok Pearring. “The purpose of this event is to invite prospective high school students, parents, prospective transfer students, and the community in general to learn more about our University.

“We are asking all Colleges and departments to showcase their programs and for administrators, faculty, staff and current students to come out and meet with prospective students and parents,” she added.

For additional information, please call x47501 or x47414.
**Hats off to...**

**Jon Cauley**, Professor of Economics, has been asked to be a reader for the *Chinese Economic Review*, which is considered by many to be the best Chinese economic journal published in the West. The journal is published in cooperation with the Chinese Economists’ Society by Elsevier Science Inc. and edited at Cornell by Bruce Reynolds.

**Bob Watson**, Associate Professor of Political Science, delivered a series of speeches on American politics, the presidency, and first ladies as the Dow Visiting Scholar at Saginaw Valley State University in Michigan in mid-October. In September he traveled to Reno for the business meeting of the Executive Council of the Western Social Science Association. His review of *August at the University of Waikato*, Executive Council of the Western Sociological Society’s Conference held in Reno for the business meeting of the association* at the New Zealand Psychology, presented a paper entitled “Economic Transition and Empowerment in a Rural Homeowners Association” at the New Zealand Psychological Society’s Conference held in August at the University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand.

**Cheryl Ramos**, Instructor of Psychology, presented a paper entitled “Economic Transition and Empowerment in a Rural Homeowners Association” at the New Zealand Psychological Society’s Conference held in August at the University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand.


**John Kusinski**, Professor of Music, was appointed to the adjunct faculty at the University of Alaska-Anchorage this past spring where he developed a new distance education music appreciation course for the Department of Music and the Center for Distributed Learning. Last month, he conducted a motivational seminar/workshop, which took place at the Kilauea Military Camp for the Waiakea High School Concert Band retreat, sponsored by UH Hilo alumnus Corey Maesaka. As guest clinician Kusinski presented “The Magic in Music: Prescriptions for Peak Experiences,” which recommended strategies for maximizing readiness, rehearsal, and performance techniques for instrumentalists reaching out to self-actualization through magical real-time music experiences. Kusinski remains on sabbatical leave for Fall 2000.

**Christian Weisser**, Assistant Professor of English, will have his book *Natural Discourse: Toward Ecocomposition* from State University of New York Press published in Summer 2001. The book is a monograph that explores the intersections between rhetoric and composition theory and...
ecological systems theories. Weisser’s first book on ecocomposition with SUNY Press is a collection (co-authored with Sidney Dobrin of University of Florida) entitled Ecocomposition: Theoretical and Pedagogical Perspectives, which is scheduled for publication next month.

Dan Brown, Professor of Anthropology, William Mautz, Assistant Professor of Biology, and Charles Simmons, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, received a National Institutes of Health Minority Biomedical Research Support grant of $2,278,487 to continue and expand biomedical research at UH Hilo. Brown’s group will investigate physiological stress and blood pressure among Filipino immigrants to Hawai‘i, while Mautz’s group will study the effect of air pollutant compounds on the respiratory system, and Simmon’s group will focus on synthetic chemical models of blood oxygen carrier compounds using x-ray diffraction.

Peter Mills, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, accepted an invitation to join the editorial board of the Rapa Nui Journal, published by the Easter Island Foundation. In August, Mills organized the Hawaiian Archaeology session of the Easter Island Foundation’s “Pacific 2000” conference, which was held in Kamuela, and presented a paper “Speaking up for Small Fish in the Big Pond: Establishing a Mission for UH Hilo in Pacific Archaeology,” which will be published in a special volume by the Foundation this year.

Wayne Miyamoto, Professor of Art, presents work in “Contemporary Printmaking, an Invitational Exhibition,” Art Gallery at Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA, through December 10, 2000. He is also participating in Artists of Hawai‘i 2000, the 50th Anniversary Exhibition, Honolulu Academy of Arts, through November 26, 2000.

Andrew Grabar, Assistant Professor of Art, participated in the American Drawings Biennial 7, Muscarelle Museum of Art, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA, in June. Grabar is currently participating in the 50th Annual Artists of Hawai‘i, Honolulu Academy of Arts through November, and the 20th Mini Print International de Cadaques, Taller Galeria Fort, Barcelona, Spain, and was included in the traveling show at the Wingfield Arts and Music Festival, Wingfield, England, Canet de Mar, Barcelona, Spain, and Galerie L’Etang d’Art, Bages, France.

Tommy Hamilton’s Pie Challenge Winners

The victorious crew tagged “Free Association” edged out a boisterous student crew to claim the homemade pecan pie offered by UH Hilo’s Housing Resident Life Programmer at the Fall 2000 Housing Canoe Challenge.

The exciting grudge match was the culminating event to the regatta held Saturday, October 14, 2000 at Hilo Bay. Fourteen crews of students, faculty & staff including a crew from Subaru Telescope braved Hilo’s infamous liquid sunshine.

“Free Association” crew members (l-r): Abraham Barcena (steersman & University Canoe Club Coach), Don Price, Jerry Johnson, Steve Worschel, Leon Hallacher and Bill Higa.
The students and faculty of UH Hilo’s Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke’elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language will be sharing the gifts of mele and hula with the members of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs (AHCC) at their 41st annual convention to be held in Hilo November 9-12.

The College will be participating noncompetitively in the convention’s traditional ‘Ahamele, a song competition of a cappella choral music. The event will be held on Friday, November 10, from 8:00 to 10:00 PM, in the Crown Room of the Naniloa Hotel. Faculty and students will share mele and hula while the judge’s scores are being tallied.

Judges for the ‘Ahamele are traditionally chosen from the community in which the convention is being held, and helping this year will be: Dr. Kalena Silva, College director, as a music judge; Larry Kimura, Hawaiian studies professor, as a language judge; and Haunani Bernardino, College professor, as overall judge. Also sharing with the judging are Namaka Rawlins, Director of the ‘Aha Pūnana Leo immersion pre-school, as a language judge; and musician Arnold Peneueta as a music judge.

“The convention was last held in Hilo over 15 years ago,” said Bernardino. “The Hawai‘i Council of AHCC is hosting this year’s convention here in Hilo. About 300 members will be coming from clubs all over Hawai‘i, as well as from Nevada, California, Colorado, and Alaska.”

The first Hawaiian civic club was established in 1917 in Honolulu. The AHCC focuses on perpetuating the Hawaiian culture, with special emphasis on education. The Association has supported Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke’elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language in many ways, illustrated this year by the passing of a resolution calling on the UH system and the Hawai‘i State Legislature for continued support of the development plans for the College.

It is with a spirit of thanks for AHCC’s support that the College is sharing mele and hula with the club members.

Students and faculty will first perform “Mele Kāhea No Ke Kulanui O Hawai‘i Ma Hilo.” Written by Kimura and Silva, this mele welcomes students into a learning environment, and is always recited before Hawaiian language classes at UH Hilo.

Bernardino’s Hawaiian Studies students will perform “Nani Hawai‘i Kāhikohiko,” a mele written by her that sings the praises of kapa-making. Helping the students through what Bernardino calls “the proper” process of preparing for this presentation are Dalani Kauhiou and Eric Enos from Ka‘ala Farm, a Hawaiian program in Wai‘anae, O‘ahu.

As part of the experience, every student gathered and prepared the bark used for the kapa, and also selected from a streambed their own pöhaku, a rock for the anvil on which to beat the bark into cloth. They also gathered and made their own kā lä‘au, the sticks that will be used in the hula. The gathering of these tools was carried out in the most respectful of ways asking permission of the trees and of the earth to share their gifts.

“The process shows the students a greater range of Hawaiian values,” explained Bernardino. “This event is the perfect platform to teach what is expected in life beyond the classroom. There is a protocol in doing things. The students learn to focus with a clean mind and a clean spirit. If you are distracted, the kapa will reflect that distraction. We teach that how you are on the inside is reflected on the outside.”

Joining in “Nani Hawai‘i Kāhikohiko” will be members of ‘Āinahau O Kaleponi, a Hawaiian civic club from California that Bernardino, Kauhiou, and Enos have shared mele with in the past.

“Ka Wahine Lei ‘Ula” will also be performed, a mele written by Bernardino about the 1880-81 volcanic eruptions that threatened to enter Hilo town but were stopped by the intervention of High Chiefess and Governor Ruth Ke‘elikolani, of whom the College was named for her devotion to traditional Hawaiian culture.

And “Pulelo Ha‘aheo,” the mele for UH Hilo, will be sung, words by Professor Kauanoe Kamana, Dr. William Wilson, and Silva, with music by Bernardino.

Also sharing in the evening’s performances are Kaipo Frias, Hawaii Community College instructor, and his Hawaiian Studies students who will open the ‘Ahamele.

The event is open to the public, free of charge to all AHCC members, with a $10 donation requested of non-members.
A major theme of the UH Hilo self study is “educational effectiveness,” which is gauged by assessing student learning and achievement. WASC has strongly recommended that UH Hilo expand its assessment activities, and a number of UH Hilo departments can serve as models in that they already define the essential learning expected in their graduates, systematically gather evidence that has been achieved, and use that information to improve their programs.

For example, the Computer Science faculty can document the effectiveness of their program since they have been using outcomes assessment techniques for over 10 years. Assessment in this program begins with a description of exactly what constitutes an excellent education and follows up by assessing what students know and are able to do when they graduate.

The department can thus document that the UH Hilo student who graduates with a Bachelor’s degree in Computer Science will have an excellent education in the major aspects of the field and in problem-solving, team projects, and communication.

Department Chair Judy Gersting describes the various methods they use to assess the program:

- Computer Science seniors and juniors have taken the ETS’s Major Field Achievement Test each spring since 1988, usually performing at or above national norms on the test overall and on each of the four subareas. In 1999, UH Hilo student scores put UH Hilo in the 94th percentile of the 131 institutional scores making up the national norm;
- For the past six years, the department has corresponded with individual graduates. Alumni hold good positions in companies like Hewlett Packard and IBM, as well as newer outfits like the Maui High Performance Computing Center. Alumni credit their strong preparation in theory, problem-solving, and teamwork with enabling them to compete successfully with graduates of larger, better-known universities;
- Computer Science faculty continuously review and revise the curriculum to make sure that it conforms to the national curriculum recommendations of the professional computing societies (Association for Computing Machinery and Institute for Electrical and Electronic Engineering-Computer Society). Adjustments are also made in response to input from alumni and to student performance in the Major Field Test; and
- As juniors or as seniors, CS majors take CS 460-461, a yearlong course in Software Engineering. Working in teams, students develop a project from conception and design through implementation, management, and presentation in both oral and written forms.

“The course where it all comes together—in a setting as close as we can make it to the actual setting and relationships students will encounter in the working world,” Gersting explains.

It’s clear that the department takes very seriously the first of its two primary goals: to produce majors qualified to enter the workforce at a good level with good companies.

The department is also committed to meeting primary goal two: to meet the Computer Science needs of those UH Hilo programs whose students require computer training. It offers CS 100 for students seeking a general understanding of computer technology and software, CS 101 for Business majors, and CS 102 for students in the natural sciences.

In these courses, students acquire discipline-specific software skills by solving problems appropriate to their fields. In CS 101, they master components of Office 2000 by playing roles in a simulated shopping mall; in CS 102, as members of a simulated research vessel.

“We want to keep improving our service courses, and with feedback from the departments and students, we will certainly try to do so,” Gersting says.

The Computer Science Department presents almost a “textbook case” of how to use assessment methods to achieve program improvement. Give Gersting a call or an email if you’d like to take a look at the Computer Science Department’s detailed, course-by-course plan for student outcomes assessment, or its mission statement, or the advising worksheet, or its annual report to the Chancellor.

You can reach Gersting at 974-7450 or at gersting@hawaii.edu.

(Editor’s note: Helen Rogers is co-chair of the UH Hilo Self Study Steering Committee.)

The “A” Word!

by Dr. April Komenaka

Assessment means finding out how well your students are learning in your curriculum, and using that feedback to make that curriculum work even better.

Assessment is not something somebody does to you; it’s something you do for yourselves and your students.

Assessment includes clear program goals for student learning, courses that help students to meet those goals, means of documenting student success and student needs, and continuous program review and planning — and an administrative system that supports and rewards good assessment, review, and planning.

(EDITOR’S NOTE: Dr. April Komenaka is co-chair of the UH Hilo Self Study Steering Committee.)
## Campus Events

### November

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<td>Vulcan volleyball vs. Chaminade University, 7:15 p.m., New Gym, Admission</td>
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<td>Vulcan volleyball vs. Chaminade University, 2 p.m., New Gym, Admission</td>
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<td>“I” Removal Deadline: Instructor to Records Office</td>
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<td>Last Day to Apply for Credit-by-Exam for Fall</td>
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<td>Vulcan basketball in 9th Annual BIIBT, Civic, Admission</td>
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<td>Last Day to Submit Credit-by-Exam Results to Records Office</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>“Explore Your Future at UH Hilo,” 6:30 p.m., Campus Center Dining Room</td>
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