UH Hilo hopes to score with EPSCoR

by John Burnett

In the ultra-competitive arena of obtaining research grants, the big dogs usually get to eat from the bowl and the little dogs hope there is a few crumbs and chewed-over bones left at the end of the pecking order that they can sneak away with.

A major exception to that paradigm is the EPSCoR Foundation - the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research - a program administered by the National Science Foundation designed to level the playing field just a bit for smaller schools such as UH Hilo and the UH community colleges system.

Associate Professor of Biology Dr. Donald Price, the EPSCoR Foundation Project Director for UH Hilo, is charged with the challenging task of coordinating a team effort of UH Hilo faculty, mainly from the sciences, with faculty from UH Manoa and the community colleges to procure and divide a sizable annual grant.

“The program, which was started about 20 years ago, is primarily aimed at states which get less money from NSF than other states, such as Hawai‘i,” Price said. “Hawai‘i has just entered into it in the last year. There are about 20 other states.

“What EPSCoR can do for Hawai‘i is to stimulate research, primarily at the university level, that may have effect on the state, and like the acronym says, to try and boost up the competitiveness of the research institutions or organizations.

“We’re getting a lot of people together from Manoa and Hilo and the community colleges on a grant that we will have to write by July. It will bring in - if we’re so lucky as to get it - $3 million a year for three years.”

Like for most grants, the proposal writers have to successfully negotiate an obstacle course of paperwork, according to Price.

“The grant proposal has to be focused on what they call ‘thrust areas,’” he said. “So we have to identify areas that are up and coming...”

SPOTLIGHT

From Michigan with a mission

by John Burnett

Cathy Zenz is on a mission. That mission is to continue making the registration process at UH Hilo as painless as humanly possible. Her extensive curriculum vita in university registration and student records suggests that she is more than capable for the job.

“I’ve been a registrar a couple of lifetimes,” Zenz quipped. Zenz spent 7 1/2 years in her last position as registrar at Western Michigan University. Before that were stints as registrar at the St. Louis University and the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, as well as an associate registrar position at Western Illinois University, where she received her master’s degree.

The Michigan native became a “registration missionary” early on in her academic career. Her epiphany was, to say the least, traumatic.

“I had transferred from a community college to the University of Illinois at Chicago and had a horrible experience as a transfer student,” she said. “The admissions people had goofed up my address and all that.

“Well, back then you had computer cards and you had to have a permit to go into registration...”
areas — that if they invest this much money from NSF the institution or organization will graduate eventually — so to speak, from the program, at least in those specific areas.

“...”

Paradoxically, competition here means cooperation, as well.

“We’re having teams of people that we’re getting together,” Price explained. “We’ve issued a call for ideas from faculty members. And that’s the idea of the EPSCoR program, to get the entire university system to talk to each other about research. So, in Hawai’i, what we’re trying to do is to get UH Manoa to talk to UH Hilo about what we can do together and what kinds of programs we could work at that would be good for both campuses. We need to identify a couple of thrust areas that would be good for both institutions.

“One general theme we’re working on right now is ‘Bio-complexity in the marine and terrestrial environment,’” he added. “That’s just a working title right now — and I call it a theme rather than a thrust since we’re still in the early phases of planning. It’s an area in which UH Manoa and UH Hilo want to work together and could work well together. They don’t always talk to each other, but that’s typical.

“What we’re doing is getting together teams in certain sub-areas that have common interests at UH Manoa, UH Hilo and also the community colleges. The way it is supposed to work at the community colleges is an educational outreach component so the very good research areas at the universities can reach out to the K through 12 teachers and community college instructors. That could be the bio-complexity area, but it could also be other areas we are exploring, such as astronomy outreach.”

And, according to Price, if an institution shows marked improvement in an area due to wise use of EPSCoR research funds, it increases its likelihood of receiving either additional EPSCoR funds or traditional NSF grants in the future.

“One of the real goals of the program is to get people competitive to go back to NSF for money,” he said. “So what we have to think about is programs at Hilo that we could become competitive to go to NSF with. NSF grants are not generally given toward humanities. Social sciences have a chance, but the real target area is the natural sciences.”

Some possibilities have already arisen on how the money can be used should UH Hilo receive an EPSCoR grant.

“We had a workshop on March 2 and a number of things came out of it. For instance, field stations,” Price said. “People would like to do more fieldwork here on the Big Island and also on the other islands. And it’s hard to do that if you’re on campus and can’t get off to do the research. That would certainly help geology, geography, agriculture and marine science.

“Another area that people are interested in are genetics or genomics related to the environment. The study of genetics of natural plants and animals, things like that.

“A third area is an analytical lab to study pollution related effects in the environment. We’re thinking about service labs, multipurpose facilities. That’s our hope.”

Price is optimistic that UH Hilo can claim a respectable piece of the economic pie.

“I think UH Hilo can get a good share of the EPSCoR grant money if our proposal is accepted,” he said. “That’s certainly something to be worked out. We’ve had a consultant, Joe Danek, come here who is very knowledgeable about NSF and EPSCoR and Hawai’i pays him a good amount of money to give us advice. He was here at the end of February, just before the March meeting.”

But despite the best-laid plans of mice and men, there are no guarantees and despite the cost of a consultant, nothing is a done deal.

“It is a very competitive program,” Price said. “(Danek) thinks that there will be about five good proposals, and maybe one or two of them will be fully funded. So we have our work ahead of us.

“His idea is that compared to schools in other EPSCoR states, UH Manoa is actually a very big school, compared to state universities in places like Montana and North Dakota. And UH Hilo is principally a smaller second school than you will see in other states. Like Montana, for example, Montana State is their top school and the University of Montana their second school. And here in Hawai’i, there’s a big disparity between UH Manoa and UH Hilo in terms of research capabilities. So his recommendation is to think of it as an institutional program for Hilo and maybe a select program development at Manoa.”

That’s a welcome change of prospects for UH Hilo researchers, who have almost always had to take a back seat in funding to scholars from larger institutions.

“The reason for that is that the EPSCoR program does not want to fund programs that are already competitive, that are already nationally or internationally recognized,” said Price. “So there are programs at Manoa that NSF through EPSCoR would not fund already, such as astronomy, oceanography, things like that. This is a grant program not like other grant programs. In other grant programs, if you’re competitive, and especially if you’re great, you’re much more likely to get the money. Here, if you’re already great, you’re much less likely to get the money.

“That’s a shift in mind sets for most people who write the grants. You really have to think about how to write a grant proposal for this program.”

(Editor’s note: John Burnett is a public information officer.)
UH Hilo alumni receive distinguished alumni awards

by Courtney Albin

Three UH Hilo alumni received recognition last month at the UH Hilo Distinguished Alumni Awards Banquet, held on March 2, 2002 at the Campus Center Dining Room. This year’s recipients are Wayne Miyao, Dr. Martin Dickman, and Maile Andrade. Toshimasa and Harumi Takahashi were also recognized with the Distinguished Service award.

Miyao graduated from UH Hilo in 1968 when it was called Hilo College. He went on to earn his degree in Business Administration at UH Manoa in 1969. A long-time supporter of UH Hilo Athletics, he was inducted into the Vulcan’s Athletic Hall of Fame in 2000. He has since raised $25,000 for an athletic scholarship fund he established at UH Hilo in honor of his parents, Miyoko and Miyato Miyao.

Miyao has had a distinguished career at City Bank. Currently senior vice president for corporate marketing, he started as a management trainee there 30 years ago. His talents have earned him many awards: the Pele Award for Television three times in the past 10 years; and the Pele Award of Merit for Print in 1996 and 2000. He also received the award of Outstanding Member of the Year from the Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce. Most notable among his achievements are the fundraising dinners he chaired to honor various community public servants such as U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye.

Dickman, a graduate of both UH Hilo and UH Manoa, has distinguished himself nationally and internationally as a leader in the field of molecular biology of plant-pathogen interactions.

Dickman’s research was recognized at the University of Nebraska with the Junior Faculty Recognition for Excellence in Research Award in 1991. He was chair and founder of the Genetic Base for Pathogenicity in the Genus Colletotrichum Regional Research Group from 1990-2001, and has been an editor and member of many scientific panels throughout his career.

Andrade graduated from UH Hilo in 1989 with a B.A. in art and Hawaiian studies. While at UH Hilo, she served as president of the Student Art Association and received the Chancellor’s Purchase Award for her work in ceramics. She went on to earn a masters in fine arts from UH Manoa and is currently an assistant professor of art there. She has been a lecturer and consultant for a variety of community and cultural associations. She also conducted workshops for the recent World Indigenous Peoples Conference in Hilo in 1999.

“Thomas” and “Doris” Takahashi are well known to UH Hilo’s international students. The Takahashis have opened their home and hearts to students for over 10 years by helping them fix broken cars and sharing home cooked meals. Post graduation, many students continue to visit the Takahashis and invite them to their weddings, showers, and parties.

Each recipient was presented with an award plaque.

(Editor’s note: Courtney Albin is a public relations intern in the Office of University Relations.)

Student exchanges/programs to be featured during April Focus on UH Hilo

The April telecasts of Focus on UH Hilo will feature a variety of topics centered around student services, exchanges and study opportunities. The program is hosted by Chancellor Rose Tseng and airs Wednesday evenings from 8:00 - 8:30 p.m. on Channel 54.

Dr. Ruth Robison, international student advisor, will discuss study abroad opportunities during the April 3rd telecast. She will also preview this year’s International Nights extravaganza, scheduled for April 12-14, at the UH Hilo Theatre. Robison will be joined by Pat Williams-Clayburn, interim national student exchange and study abroad director, who will discuss national student exchange opportunities.

The April 17th telecast will feature Dr. Keith Miser, vice chancellor for student affairs, who will discuss the latest developments in student services. Joining Miser will be Cathy Zenz, the new registrar.

Focus on UH Hilo highlights UH Hilo programs, up and coming developments and the University’s partnerships with various community organizations.
New partnership to boost study of human physiology

by Ken Hupp

The study of human physiology at UH Hilo is poised to go places it hasn’t gone before. But the vehicle of exploration won’t be the Starship Enterprise, although some of the instruments may conjure up images first seen on Star Trek.

The research will be conducted with the assistance of a 35-foot Winnebago mobile home equipped with a variety of human physiology measurement devices. Dubbed the Holo Ola, or “rolling health” in Hawaiian, the unit will provide a creative learning environment and innovative model for promoting physical activity, well being and general health in Hawai‘i.

The initiative is the result of a cooperative partnership between the College of Arts and Sciences and Labman Hawai‘i Inc., a non-profit exercise physiology and sport science organization focusing on human performance, physiology, training and health related education.

Led by Dr. Douglas B. Hiller, orthopedic surgeon, and chief of surgery at North Hawai‘i Community Hospital, Labman’s team is comprised of Dr. Susan Sanderson (board-certified endocrinologist), Denis Yamada, certified athletic trainer and physician’s assistant (director) and Laura Dierenfield (research coordinator). Hiller, who has worked with Olympic teams and Kona’s Ironman Triathlon, in addition to his practice, has maintained an active research career, which caught the eye of Dr. Stephen Worchel, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Worchel and Hiller had been looking for ways to pursue joint interests, combining Hiller’s private initiatives with existing programs and research interests at the University. The Labman partnership is expected to greatly enhance the University’s development of a human physiology program and a new minor in Occupational Health and Safety in the Pacific Basin.

“To open the door for our students to learn about physiological correlates of stress, how to measure it, and potentially learn how to use this laboratory to do training and reduce stress is an unusual and exciting opportunity for our students,” Worchel said.

The first Labman study in 1983 simulated the Hawai‘i Ironman in the laboratory with Kenny Glah and other Ironman legends. Labman has since emerged as an active research lab on the Island of Hawai‘i, with distinguished partners throughout the world.

“Labman Hawai‘i is fortunate to have received help from a visionary donor who sought to provide the Winnebago as a tool to reach out to Hawai‘i’s residents in their respective communities, build relationships and promote cooperation in understanding human performance,” said Yamada, founder of the Winnebago project. “We want to increase access to Hawai‘i’s diverse environments, its people, and study issues specific to each community’s needs. Partnering with UH Hilo will provide learning experiences for students and faculty, making direct contributions to the overall pursuit of knowledge.”

The vehicle, which is currently being outfitted on the mainland, is expected to arrive here in early May. Worchel says the beauty of the unit is its ability to go out to many locations throughout Hawai‘i (from mountain to ocean), and provide a resourceful tool in a real time laboratory environment.

“For years I’ve looked at physiological correlates of crowding and psychophysiology measures. Due to the cumbersome nature of the equipment, I would have to bring people into the laboratory at the University,” Worchel said. “But you couldn’t escape the obvious issue of whether your findings generalize beyond the laboratory. Now we have a facility that can go out and take measurements where people live outside the University.” The mobile physiology lab is also expected to become a valuable teaching tool, as a virtual classroom on wheels. The interactive communication system will enable the unit to both receive and transmit courses from remote locations.

“The Mobile Lab Project brings the highest technology to the most remote neighborhoods for the benefit of the community, students and researchers involved,” Hiller said.

Internships could begin as early as this fall. Worchel envisions students working in concert with Labman employees and faculty to develop various grant proposals, which could lead to the creation of new courses. He fully expects the partnership to grow and expand, so it can be linked with multiple programs, departments, and faculty members.

“I could see faculty and students interested in Psychology, Nursing, Health and Physical Education, the Human Physiology Program we’re developing, and the Minority Biomedical Research Support Program making use of this facility,” Worchel said. “There might even be opportunities for our Education Program to make use of it, by looking at the physiological measures of stress in the classroom for teachers. I really don’t see any limitations on what could happen.”

Well, almost no limitations. As the partnership evolves, Worchel may find it necessary to regulate its activities. But that seems like a small price to pay for the obvious benefits.

“Partnerships like this really put into action the notion of using the island as a living, learning laboratory for our students and faculty,” Worchel said. “It creates a link between the University and the public, which is something I think we need to do more of.”

(Editor’s note: Ken Hupp is a public information officer.)
Bachelor of Arts in geology established at UH Hilo

The UH Board of Regents recently announced the establishment of a bachelor of arts degree in geology at UH Hilo, effective Fall 2002. The announcement was made at a meeting held on March 15, 2002 at UH Hilo.

“The Geology Department currently offers a bachelor of science degree in geology with a strong mathematical component, designed for students planning to pursue graduate degrees,” said Chancellor Rose Tseng. “The bachelor of arts degree in geology will attract students who plan to pursue teacher certification, natural resource management, scientific/technical writing, and other fields combining a strong liberal arts background with science training.”

Students in the B.A. track will take most of the same geology courses as students in the B.S. track, but the B.A. students will take fewer supporting courses in math, chemistry, and physics. Calculus and calculus-based physics are required of the B.S. students to prepare them for graduate school, not to prepare them for geology courses, Tseng added.

“The new degree will make the study of geology more accessible to such students, and allow UH Hilo to make more effective use of the Big Island as a living laboratory,” Tseng explained.

The B.A. track also differs from the B.S. track in that it offers a wider exposure to various earth science disciplines. Such breadth will be particularly valuable for students planning on careers in secondary education.

The expected outcome of the two geology tracks is a 25 percent increase in geology majors and fuller enrollment in geology courses. The program currently has roughly 25 students.

“We are very excited to be able to offer two degree tracks,” said Jene Michaud, chair of the geology department. “The Big Island is a wonderful place to study geology, and with two tracks, we can prepare geology majors for a wider variety of careers.

“What makes this feasible is the fact the new degree does not require any new courses or increased resources,” she added. “The two-track system will simply make more efficient use of existing resources.”

“The new B.A. in geology will prepare students with a broader background and allow them to be entrepreneurs in exploring and expanding the educational, tourism and business activities related to the uniqueness of geological features on the Big Island of Hawai‘i,” said Dr. Christopher Lu, vice chancellor of academic affairs.

International nights return to UH Hilo

The UH Hilo International Student Association is sponsoring International Nights 2002 on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 12-14, at the UH Hilo Theatre.

The performances on Friday and Saturday nights begin at 7:30 p.m. The Sunday matinee begins at 2:00 p.m. and features a combination of performances from the two previous nights. Admission is $6 general and $3 for students, children, and seniors. Tickets may be purchased at the UH Hilo Theatre Box Office.

International Nights has been a tradition at UH Hilo for over 25 years, featuring performances from Japan, Okinawa, Pohnpei, Chuuk, USA, Yap, West Africa, the Marshall Islands, Tahiti, the Philippines, Mexico, Palau, Tonga, France, Korea, Kosrae, Samoa and many other countries.

“Students from these diverse cultures make up the UH Hilo and Hawai‘i Community College campuses,” said Dr. Ruth Robison, UH Hilo director of international student services. “These students will come together to share their cultures by showcasing their cultural costumes, dances, and music. The event will be an unforgettable experience for audience and performers alike.”

For more information, please contact Robison at x47313.
Hats off to...

Alice Kawakami, Associate Professor of Education, had her article on “Ke A`o Hawai`i (Critical Elements for Hawaiian learning): Perceptions of Successful Hawaiian Educators” appear in the 2001 issue of the Pacific Educational Research Journal. The article was co-authored by K. Kanani Aton of the Institute for Native Pacific Education and Culture.

Thomas K. Pinhey, Assistant Professor of Sociology, recently had a paper accepted for publication in Pacific Studies. “Marijuana Use Among Asian-Pacific High School Students in Guam” was co-authored by John Carpenter (California State University, Bakersfield), Michael P. Perez (California State University, Fullerton), and Randall L. Workman (University of Guam).

Jerry Calton, Associate Professor of Management, will serve as co-chair of the Social Issues in Management (SIM) Division Professional Development Workshop at the national Academy of Management meeting in Denver, CO in August. The workshop will show how social network analysis and the concept of “social capital” embedded in relationships can be applied to study the community responses to the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

Rick Castberg, Professor of Political Science, was again invited to serve as a visiting expert at the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute in Tokyo. During his two weeks at the Institute in February, he presented two papers on police and prosecutorial reform, which was the topic of the month-long seminar. He also critiqued papers presented by the 25 senior law enforcement and prosecutorial participants from Asia, Africa, and Latin and South America. Additionally, Castberg presented a paper to the Sapporo chapter of the Asia Crime Prevention Foundation. Two of the papers he presented at his first stay at UNAFEI in 1999 are being translated into Japanese for publication in a United Nations publication.

Manu Aluli Meyer, Assistant Professor of Education, was the keynote speaker at the International Conference on Conflict Resolution held at UH Manoa last month. Her topic on “New Paradigms for a New Age” was based on her own understanding of culture and the shifting practice of philosophy. She also was a panel presenter representing a Hawaiian perspective in research during the Indigenous Scholars Conference held at the University of Alberta, Canada, March 13-16.

Judith Gersting, Professor of Computer Science, served as co-chair for the Thirty-Third Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education held in the Cincinnati area February 27-March 3. The conference had a record-breaking attendance and included representation from 18 foreign countries. The event was co-chaired by Renee McCauley from the College of Charleston.

Hirokuni Masuda, Assistant Professor of Japanese and Linguistics, has been invited to review the presentation proposals for the 12th Annual Meeting of the Society for Text & Discourse in conjunction with the Society for the Scientific Study of Reading, which will be held June 27-30 in Chicago. The ST&D is an interdisciplinary conference for scholars working in the discourse area from the perspective of psychology, computer science, and linguistics, among others.

Keith Miser, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, represented UH Hilo...
Hats off
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George Jacob

at the February meeting of the Consortium for Belize Educational Cooperation (COBEC) held in Belize City. COBEC is comprised of 15 U.S. institutions and 8 Belizean colleges and schools and works to foster student and faculty exchanges, recruitment of students and research projects. Miser also received the COBEC award for outstanding service as the outgoing chair of the organization.

George Jacob, Project Director, Mauna Kea Astronomy Education Center (MKAEC), attended the American Association of Science Museum Directors’ Annual Meeting in Raleigh, NC last month. The convention was held at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Science and included field visits to the Museum of Life & Science in Durham, which houses the Apollo Lunar Lander, Mercury Capsule and the NASA Aerospace Exhibit. The MKAEC was discussed at a model of inclusivity and community partnership in aiding the creation of a center where science will infuse seamlessly with culture.

Wayne Miyamoto, Professor of Art, has his intaglio print, “Conundrum,” displayed in conjunction with the “5th American Print Biennial” at the University of Richmond Museum, Virginia. The exhibition was juried by Richard S. Field, curator emeritus of Prints and Drawings, Yale University Art Gallery. The work is featured as a purchase award from the last biennial and is currently part of the permanent collection of the University of Richmond Museum. Additionally, Miyamoto participated in the “23rd Paper in Particular National Exhibition” at Columbia College, MO February 3 - March 3, 2002. The exhibition was juried by Ken Kerslake, Professor Emeritus, University of Florida, who selected 90 works on paper from over 700 submissions.

OSH minor not minor at all
by John Burnett

In this brave new world of high costs and even higher risks associated with doing business in Hawai‘i and the Pacific, UH Hilo is unveiling a new minor this fall in Occupational Safety and Health that should be a hit with students from several disciplines.

CAS Dean Dr. Stephen Worichel spearheaded the efforts to obtain funding to offer the interdisciplinary minor at UH Hilo.

“We got a grant,” Worichel said. “And when I say ‘we,’ I’m in as the principal investigator / program director - but it was a really strong cooperative effort with at least five faculty members. In psychology we have Jerry Johnson and Dawna Coutant, in anthropology we have Dan Brown, in chemistry we have J.P. Michaud, and in nursing we have Kay Daub. And I’m hoping to get more people involved.

“The aim was when we applied for the grant from the Center for Disease Control (CDC)/National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to develop a minor that would be housed in psychology and would emphasize the behavioral side of occupational safety and health in the Pacific Basin.

“So while it would be here at this University, the aim is to focus on issues that are common throughout the Pacific Basin, with a lot of emphasis on small business,” Worichel explained. “We also want to focus on occupations that don’t generally get focused on such as agriculture, fishing, construction and tourism — that have significant safety and health issues but oftentimes get overlooked in terms of federal programs because they’re diverse and because oftentimes each business only employs a small number of people — although the occupation itself employs a lot of people.

“We have a two-year grant from NIOSH in the neighborhood of $370,000 to start this program. This is the planning year and what we’ve done so far is to get the skeleton of the program and get it passed through the psychology department and through the CAS faculty senate,” Worichel added. “We’ve set up an advisory board that will meet in May, and the advisory board is a national advisory board so we have

OSH - continued on page 8.
“Birds of Paradise” off to a flying start!

by Judith Fox-Goldstein

The Conference Center recently launched its new, short-study travel program “Birds of Paradise,” the newest rendition of the award-winning Hawaiian EDventure program.

Led by UH Hilo EDventure naturalist Claudia Ziroli-Coyl, community birding expert Dan Lindsay, and famed birding photographer Jack Jeffries, the birding enthusiasts traveled to Kaua’i to trek through the Koke’e forests, Hanalei, Kilauea Point and other prime birding sites on the Garden Isle. Enthusiasm soared as 41 species were spotted with one of the rarest of Kaua’i’s birds, the Puaiohi making an appearance deep in the Alakai swamp.

Transitioning to Hilo and Kona brought accolades from the birders as they were graced with 30 minutes of viewing an Osprey hunting for fish and perching with its 12-inch catch! Palila graced Mauna Kea and a lavender Waxbill was sited on the flanks of Puu wa’a wa’a as the group descended into Kona. Over 65 native and introduced species were sighted and logged. “Check off another siting for our life list!” was the mantra heard echoing on the slopes.

According to Conference Center Director Judith Fox-Goldstein, “UH Hilo really made a name for itself with this outstanding birding program.” In spite of initial marketing challenges, (“Birds” was advertised in the September 2001 issue of Audubon Magazine), the program was successfully launched in February, and six additional programs are currently being developed.

OSH
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people in public health from California, Arizona and Texas as well as local members from this island as well as from Manoa. It’s really an exciting board of some of the most recognized experts in the field.”

Getting the grant, creating new courses and cross-listing others is all a part of the process, but undertaking the new minor is hardly a minor undertaking. The University also has to upgrade infrastructure to facilitate studies in the new area.

“Related to that, we’ve got money for new books in the library and journals, so we’re just going through the ordering process to enhance the library facilities in that area,” Worchel said. “We’ve got $30,000 in student scholarships for next year.

“So the aims are to build on the strengths of our existing faculty and create an interdisciplinary program that serves the needs of the Island of Hawai’i and the Pacific Basin. What makes this unique throughout the entire country is that it’s one of - if not the only - undergraduate minor in this area. We intend to train people to go on to graduate school in the area and/or go into communities and have background and understanding in issues of safety and health on the job site.

“There are no prerequisites for the minor although there will be prerequisites for some of the courses that those in the minor will take - in other words, you can’t take the advanced courses until you’ve taken the introductory courses in the field. But in terms of coming into the minor, we hope to get students from a lot of different disciplines.

“It makes sense for a lot of majors,” he said. “On the behavioral side, both sociology and psychology are excellent majors to have this as a minor. From the hard sciences it makes sense for people in the medical field, nursing and chemistry, with issues of toxicology and related matters. Also, people who have interest in business could certainly use this as an addition to their knowledge base that would make them more valuable to prospective employers and give them a leg up on being hired after graduation.”

Worchel said that an OSH minor is a rare opportunity at the undergraduate level.

“In many schools of public health, OSH is a graduate degree and you can get master’s or doctoral degrees in it,” he said. “And traditionally, that’s where the course work has been. What we’re doing is taking something that students usually only get a chance to receive in graduate school and offering an entry into it at the undergraduate level.”

It also makes sense for UH Hilo to offer OSH since UH Manoa closed the doors on its school of public health.

“I think that emphasized the need for us to do something,” Worchel concluded. “The public school there was largely focused on graduate degrees, so we’re not even competing with what they used to do. But had they still had the degree, it still would make sense for us to have this minor. But the fact that they no longer have that area covered at Manoa opened the door for us to go in and fill a need that in no way competes with what Manoa has, but is complementary to what they’ve offered.”
The future of journalism at UH Hilo

by Courtney Albin

Although UH Hilo does not currently have a journalism program, events over the past few years may lend new light to the issue of creating such a program.

There are several reasons why a program does not currently exist at UH Hilo. First, in previous years, it had not been clear whether there was a need for a journalism program on campus. Second, there has been some confusion about which department would host a journalism program. Finally, and perhaps most important, the state of the economy has forced extreme budget cuts throughout the university system, leaving very little room for consideration of a new program.

Last month, the UH Hilo/Hawai‘i Community College Board of Student Publications hosted its second successful student journalism symposium. Over 50 students and 20 journalism professionals statewide attended. During the two-day event participants had many opportunities to speak with the professionals who gladly shared their insights and experience. The students attended workshops, critique sessions, keynote addresses and interacted with the professionals during breaks.

The success of the journalism symposium shows that there is an interest in journalism among Hawai‘i’s students. In fact, a majority of the students that attended the symposium came from Big Island high schools and statewide community colleges, prime targets for UH Hilo recruitment.

The journalism symposium gained faculty support for bringing a journalism program to UH Hilo. Dr. Ron Gordon, chair of the communication department, said, “The symposium rekindled my enthusiasm and inspires me to want to bring a journalism program to UH Hilo.”

The journalism symposium also highlighted the willingness of journalism professionals to work with the university and the students. All were eager to attend the event and advise the participating students one-on-one. These professionals are local resources just waiting to be tapped.

Gordon also discussed the possibility of starting off small by initiating a journalism certificate program. A certificate program would only require that a part-time lecturer be hired to teach the basic journalism courses that needed to be offered. The rest of the certificate requirements could be fulfilled with interdisciplinary studies. Gordon suggested that “students could earn their journalism certificate with courses from communication, English, political science, religious studies, Hawaiian studies, and other disciplines beyond journalism coursework alone.”

Dr. April Komenaka, chair of the English department, agreed that a journalism certificate would be a good way to begin a journalism program. The English department already has a journalism course in the catalog and would support more courses if both lecturer funds and qualified lecturers were available, and English 100 and other service courses as well as English major courses were adequately staffed.

By starting out small with a journalism certificate program instead of a full-blown journalism degree, funding becomes less of an issue. As interest in the journalism certificate program grows the number of students attending UH Hilo grows. This will make it more feasible to spend money to support a journalism program.

If the excitement for journalism, stimulated by the Board of Student Publications’ journalism symposiums continues to grow, UH Hilo may very well have a journalism program in the near future.

From Michigan (continued from page 1)

And because they had goofed up by address, I couldn’t get my permit. And because I couldn’t get my permit, I couldn’t get into registration. And I kept going back to try to correct my address, because they had input it wrong, so I couldn’t get my classes.

“I went through that experience a couple of terms. They’d change my address and make it incorrect a different way. So I finally ripped up my computer cards, handed them to the registrar and left that institution. I finally got an apology and their assurances that they had changed my records. Well, there was no way that I was going back there. I stayed out of school for a while, and then I went to work at a community college and worked in counseling and guidance.

“Then, when I went back to school, I was going to make sure that whatever university I worked for, somebody with some common sense would make it a better place,” she added. “It’s been a crusade.”

Perhaps the poor incompetents at UIC who put Zenz through the labyrinth of administrative snafus can take solace in the fact that their incompetence was the impetus that influenced a bright young woman to enter a career in their own field.

Zenz has assumed control of a registration office that ran smoothly for the past two-plus decades under the quiet command of Patrick Omori, who retired last December. There is little time to deal with a learning curve, however, as technological changes in educational administration come along fast and furiously.

“The UH system has just purchased a new student records software system and it’s being implemented to integrate all the different campuses of the UH system,” she said. “So
Collaborations work!

by Judith Fox-Goldstein

The Conference Center and Marine Science Department have put their resources together to develop a captivating marketing poster for the Marine Option Program. Funded through an EduTourism grant from the Hawai‘i Tourism Authority, the Conference Center responded to an increased request from visiting universities and educational tour groups for more information on marine science on the Big Island and at the University.

According to Marine Science Chair Dr. Walt Dudley, “the poster has been placed in conspicuous places around the University and always gets rave reviews. CCECS is now mailing the poster with their summer advertising to colleges and universities around the country, and I have been giving the poster to our own students as a reward for work particularly well done.” The poster has also been distributed to numerous tour groups and to perspective students and their families.

Judith Fox-Goldstein credits the original design of the poster to Susan Yugawa and the Graphics team. The poster most recently appeared at the National Science Teachers Association Conference, which took place in San Diego last month. The Conference Center’s exhibit was entitled “Big Island, Big Science” and portrayed Hawai‘i’s 11 climate zones and the opportunity for experiential science research and teaching. Over 10,000 attendees participated in the conference.

Another iteration of the poster was designed for the hi-tech community in association with the Kama‘aina Come Home project, with more variations in the development stage.

For more information on the Conference Center, please call Fox-Goldstein at x47555 or view http://conference.uhh.hawaii.edu.

(Editor’s note: Judith Fox-Goldstein is director, conference center.)
Accreditation update: one year to WASC preparatory review visit

by Dr. April Komenaka

- March 4. The UH Hilo Congress approved the revised campus Academic Assessment Plan, having completed its review and revision of the document. The plan is now posted at the Congress Web site in PDF format: http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu/~congress/Academic_Assessment_Plan.pdf.

A number of the provisions are already in place. Among these: annual allocation of funds to support program assessment projects; departments are reviewing their mission statements and curricular goals; and new academic program review guidelines are in place that are consistent with system, BOR, and WASC expectations and that include strong feedback requirements.

Congress will add—and appoint the members of—a standing Assessment Support Committee and a standing General Education Committee. Among its many responsibilities, the Assessment Support Committee will “promote assessment activities, review and recommend funding for assessment proposals, [and] arrange for assessment training for departments.” The GE Committee will have the responsibility of coordinating “GE courses across campus with particular attention to the goals of General Education [and promoting] the infusion of GE skills and knowledge throughout the curriculum.”

Chancellor Rose Tseng and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Chris Lu are strong supporters of the plan and are committed to carrying out the administrative responsibilities outlined in the plan.

- March 12. Dr. Peter Ewell, senior associate for the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) and a nationally regarded expert on assessment and “deep learning,” spent the day working with different campus groups. Meeting with program chairs from the colleges and Student Affairs in the morning, Ewell outlined the recent history of accreditation and public accountability and described a number of simple strategies by which academic departments can document the learning achievements of their students.

Over lunch, Ewell discussed strategies for enhancing educational effectiveness with campus leaders and administrators. Later, Ewell met with the Interim Assessment Committee and governance representatives to consider how UH Hilo can develop a “culture of evidence” and practices which will ensure continuous improvement in learning and teaching.

- March 14. Dr. Judith Wexler, associate director of WASC-Senior, our accrediting commission, met informally with the chairs of the UH Hilo Congress and CAS Faculty Senate, the Dean of CAS, and members of the self-study steering committee.

Wexler’s visit was well timed: we are preparing our first, preparatory report to WASC on UH Hilo’s compliance with the new WASC standards. Wexler brought details of WASC’s emphasis on “authentic student work” as the best basis for program self-assessment and continuous improvement.

Departments with senior seminars, internships, and capstone courses are already collecting such authentic work. What’s needed next, Wexler pointed out, is systematic description and review of these documents, comparison with program learning goals, and program modifications that ensure that students will meet those goals ever more closely.

WASC is working hard to redefine its relationship with the institutions it is charged with reviewing, Wexler said.

“We want to make the accreditation review process an opportunity for institutions to really look at themselves in terms of the mission and goals they set for themselves, considering the special context in which they operate and the students they serve. Essentially, we want to encourage institutions and programs to adopt practices of continuous self review and continuous improvement.”

(Editor’s note: Dr. April Komenaka serves as co-chair of the UH Hilo Self Study Steering Committee.)
## Campus Events

### April

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Last Day to Apply for Credit-by-Exam for Spring 12, 13 International Nights 2002, 7:30 p.m., Theatre, Admission</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“I” Removal Deadline: Student to Instructor 14 International Nights 2002, 2 p.m., Theatre, Admission</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>The Closet, 8 p.m., Theatre 20 Vulcan softball vs. Hawai‘i Pacific University, Noon, UH Hilo Field</td>
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<td>6, 7</td>
<td>Vulcan tennis vs. Chaminade University, UH Hilo courts 25 Chamber Singers Spring Concert, 7:30 p.m., Theatre</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>“I” Removal Deadline: Instructor to Records Office 27 11th Annual Hawaiian Family afFAIR, 9 a.m., Campus Center and Library Lanai</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Last Day to Submit Credit-by-Exam Results to Records Office</td>
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