Dobelle to deliver commencement keynote address

by Courtney Albin

University of Hawai‘i President Dr. Evan Dobelle will deliver the keynote address at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo’s Spring Commencement on Saturday, May 18 at 9:00 a.m. in the UH Hilo New Gym. There are 337 candidates for graduation: 26 from the College of Agriculture, Forestry & Natural Resource Management; 295 from the College of Arts and Sciences; and 16 from Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikolani College of Hawaiian Language, which includes UH Hilo’s first Master of Arts candidate. There are also four candidates from distance learning programs—two from the University Center on Maui and two from O‘ahu community colleges.

Dobelle is the 12th president of the 10-campus UH system and will be the first UH president ever to deliver the keynote address at a UH Hilo commencement. Before coming to UH, he served as president for Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, chancellor of City College of San Francisco and president of Middlesex Community College in Lowell, Massachusetts.

Very early on, Dobelle was involved with public administration. When he was in his 20s, he was elected twice as the mayor of Pittsfield, Massachusetts. In his 30s, he held the rank of ambassador as the United States Chief of Protocol for the White House under President Jimmy Carter. He also served as the state’s Commissioner of Environmental Management and Natural Resources.

Dobelle holds bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees in education and public policy from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and a master’s in public administration from Harvard University. He is a tenured full professor in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at UH Manoa and lectures throughout the world in this

Hiapo Perreira to receive first UH Hilo MA

by Courtney Albin

Hiapo Perreira will become the first student to receive a Master of Arts degree from UH Hilo. Perreira is the first candidate for graduation from the Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikolani College of Hawaiian Language eligible for an MA degree in Hawaiian Language and Literature. This accomplishment also makes him the first student in the nation to receive an MA degree in a Hawaiian Studies field or in any Native American language.

Perreira graduated from Kamehameha Schools in 1992 and received a Bachelor of Arts in Hawaiian Studies from UH Hilo in 1996.

“I have dedicated my life to the preservation and revitalization of the Hawaiian language and culture,” said Perreira. “My interests stem from early high school days when I would seek out kupuna to strengthen my knowledge of Hawaiian language values.”
Alumni association hosts graduation reception

The Alumni Association at UH Hilo is sponsoring a Graduation Reception on May 17 at 4:00 p.m. (immediately following the commencement rehearsal) in the Weight Room behind the UH Hilo New Gym for graduating students and their families. Faculty and staff are also invited to join the celebration.

Faculty and staff are encouraged to promote this event to their graduating students. Refreshments will be served and door prizes will be given.

For more information, please contact the UH Hilo Alumni office at x47501.

Dobelle
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discipline.
Joseph Watts will represent the Class of 2002 as its student speaker. Watts is graduating with a Certificate in Teacher Education. He holds a 3.86 GPA and made the Dean’s List in Fall 2000.

During his undergraduate years, Watts volunteered at the Society for Conservation Biology Conference at UH Hilo and the Ka ‘Aha Hula ‘o Halauaola hula conference at Hawai‘i Community College. He also has tutored at E.B. DeSilva Elementary School. The topic of Watt’s address will cover the beauty of UH Hilo and the many sources of inspiration that have helped the graduating class of Spring 2002 to achieve their goals.

After graduation, Watts plans to teach on the Big Island. He is especially interested in environmental education.

“I want to help make this world a better place, and feel that education is one way to help,” said Watts.

Wayne Miyao will address the graduating class on behalf of the UH Hilo Association of Alumni and Friends. Miyao, who recently received the Distinguished Alumni Award for 2002, is the senior vice president for corporate marketing at City Bank.

Miyao graduated in 1968 when UH Hilo was known as Hilo College. He has long been a supporter of UH Hilo Athletics. He raised $25,000 to endow an athletic scholarship fund in the name of his parents, Miyoko and Miyato Miyao. Because of his many contributions to the program, he was inducted into the UH Hilo Athletic Hall of Fame in 2000.

For more information, please contact Haunani Bernardino, commencement chair, at x47705. For special accommodations, please contact Susan Shirachi-Gonsalves, director of University Disability Services at 933-0816 (V) or x47335 (TTY).

Requests for special accommodations should be made at least 10 business days prior to the event.

Perreira
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In addition to his full-time course load, he also worked full-time throughout his college and graduate years. His jobs ranged from program director and curriculum developer to lecturer and graduate assistant for such Hawaiian development programs as: ‘Aha Punana Leo; Hale Kuamo’o Hawaiian Language Center; and Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke’elikolani College of Hawaiian Language.

After receiving his BA from UH Hilo, Perreira pursued the Kahuawaiola Teaching license in Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke’elikolani College of Hawaiian Language. He wanted to continue studying Hawaiian literature and culture but at that time the MA program was still in development. Helping to bring the MA program to life became his passion. When he became part of the program’s first cohort, he felt a very close bond to the program because he had been a part of its beginning.

The MA in Hawaiian Language and Literature program requires that the student travel to a foreign country to study the history, legal and social status of a minority language in that country. Perreira and his cohort traveled to Europe to study the status of the Catalan and Basque languages in northern Spain. The group met with Spanish government officials, education administration, and teachers at a K-12 school and at a university. The cohort also visited the Basque Culture Center, where the Basque language is being researched and the lexicon department is studying the language in order to create new words for the language.

“I was really interested in the research that was going on at the culture center, because I have been involved with the same type of research with the Hawaiian language,” Perreira said. “Creating new words in the Hawaiian language allows teachers in immersion schools to speak completely in Hawaiian, even when teaching subjects such as mathematics.”

Perreira’s master’s thesis is a cultural analysis of the ancient Hawaiian literary epic about the mystical hero, Kawelo, serialized in a Hawaiian language newspaper in 1905-1906.

“I wanted to look at what makes Hawaiian culture Hawaiian, versus a universal practice,” Perreira said. “For example, the word ‘aloha’ is used universally but it is considered Hawaiian. I think it’s important to know what it is that makes the meaning and use of the word Hawaiian.”

His thesis is 438 pages long and is written entirely in Hawaiian. “It was important for me to write my thesis in Hawaiian to show that scholarly work can be done in Hawaiian,” he said.

So what is in the future for Perreira?
“Of course, I will never stop teaching. Also, UH Hilo is at the forefront of offering a PhD program that would enable me to continue my studies and I would like to be a part of bringing such a program to the campus,” he said. “But for now, I am going to go to lunch with my friend and then sleep for about three weeks.”
Coffman retires to cats and church

by John Burnett

Some people become fixtures on campus; it seems they have been and will be here forever.

Such is the case with Jean Coffman, director of financial aid, who for 25 years seemed as much a part of the campus as College Hall. But there comes a time for everyone to leave, and for Coffman, that time will be May 31 when she retires.

“I’m looking forward to getting more involved in church activities, taking care of my 10 cats and working as an ‘animal mom’ with animal organizations, things like that,” Coffman said about her retirement plans.

Coffman, who is originally from a small town in southern Illinois, is a Marine Corps veteran who came to Hawai‘i with her attorney husband, who has since passed away. She started work at UH Hilo on January 2, 1977.

“When I came here, Hawai‘i Community College had just come up,” she said. “We integrated them into UH Hilo and then, of course, they separated and we dropped from an enrollment of about 4,800 to the upper 2,000s. Now they’re talking about integrating again.

“I’ve seen two big building booms here. Dr. (Edwin) Mookini (chancellor from 1975-78) was here. He had worked on capital improvement projects and getting the learning resource center going — the Edith Kanaka‘ole Hall. He didn’t get to see them built before he passed away (in 1979 of a heart attack), but he did all the groundwork for it.

“Then, when Dr. (Kenneth) Perrin (former chancellor) and Dr. (Bill) Pearman (former acting chancellor) were here, they did quite a bit for the campus, and now we’re seeing some of the results. You see these growth spurts, and they happen after the time period of the administration that put the wheels in motion for them. You wonder if the people responsible will ever see just what they’ve accomplished.”

Coffman, who received her bachelor’s degree from Chaminade and her masters in educational administration from UH Manoa, had not planned to make a career at UH Hilo.

“The years went by so fast,” she said. “I had only planned to stay for three to seven years, but before I knew it, 20 years had passed.”

Her interest both in cats and in her faith — she attends Kino‘ole Baptist Church - happened while she was here in Hilo. And according to Coffman, both interests are interrelated.

“I got my first cat, Benji, about 19 or 20 years ago. He was a beautiful little black and white kitty. And I never thought I would get so attached, but I fell in love with him. Here’s this little four- or five-week old kitten lying in the crook of my arm, looking up at me and afraid to move a muscle for fear of waking me up. And he was so dedicated. You think cats are independent, but he just wanted to please me. He won my heart.

“Before I got to know cats, somebody dumped another cat off on me. It was wild and it attacked me. Benji came in and protected me from that cat. The wild cat then tore him up. I felt so badly, I was going to take that cat to the Humane Society. I got him into a cage and put him into the car.

“My kitty, Benji, just begged and pleaded for me to let the other cat go,” she added. “He then got behind the rear wheel of my car and was letting me know ‘if you’re going to take that cat away, you’ve got to run over me first.’

“I wondered how Benji could forgive another cat who had clawed him up that way. The answer was that he had a great deal of compassion. He was sent to me to teach me compassion and love. It was right after that I recommitted my life to Christ and went back to church.”

Coffman says that she will miss both her co-workers and the students when she leaves. She also said that despite her job being mostly paperwork — which she says she will not miss — she realizes that the paperwork is for the purpose of helping students, which makes it all worthwhile.

“I like it when I know there are more ways to get funding for our students,” she said. “Because our students from this island are usually from low-income families and there’s such a great need to get that money for them. Being able to do that is satisfying. It’s nice to be able to feel that you have helped someone to get an education.

“Especially when graduation comes, I get all excited,” she added. “I’m so excited about seeing the names of those who applied for financial aid on the list of graduates. I know they don’t have a clue who I am, but I’m really excited for them because I do follow what they’re doing here on campus.”

(Editors note: John Burnett is a public information officer.)
Pacific seaweeds finally receive recognition; prestigious gathering on campus this month

by Courtney Albin

While Atlantic seaweeds are well-studied and categorized in minute detail, Pacific seaweeds are often overlooked or grouped into a broad biogeographical category that not only includes the entire Pacific Ocean, but also much of the Indian Ocean. However, Dr. Karla McDermid, UH Hilo associate professor of marine science, studies the seaweeds of the Pacific and finds great diversity.

McDermid is not alone in her quest to study the seaweeds of the Pacific Basin. Seaweed experts from Australia, Chile, China, Japan, Guam, Thailand, Fiji, Vietnam and other Pacific Basin countries also share her passion.

It is important to study these seaweeds since many genera have recognized economic value or potential value for food, commercial products, industrial ingredients, and pharmaceuticals. Out of roughly 7,300 known species of seaweeds, 500 are being used as food, fodder, chemicals and about 20 species are being farmed.

Though much is already known, experts still have a great deal more to learn about the seaweeds of the Pacific Basin. In 1985, a workshop on the taxonomy and diversity of economically valuable Pacific seaweeds was held by Dr. Isabella Abbott of UH Manoa. Top economic seaweed experts gathered together for intense phycological training, research and discussion.

After the initial workshop held in Guam, seven more workshops followed biennially. Previous taxonomy of economic seaweed workshops have been held in China, California, Japan, Oahu, Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam.

This year, UH Hilo has the privilege of hosting the ninth workshop on the taxonomy and diversity of economic seaweeds in the Pacific Basin. From May 22-29, invited seaweed experts from the Pacific Basin will join UH faculty and marine botany graduate and undergraduate students in UH Hilo’s new Marine Science Building for a week of research, training, discussion, seaweed collecting trips and guest presentations.

“This is the first time Hilo has hosted the taxonomy of economic seaweed workshop, and I think it is going to put Hilo on the map for seaweed research,” said McDermid.

The group’s first goal will be to clarify the taxonomy of known economically valuable seaweeds that occur in the Pacific. A few of the genera that the group will be studying include: Gracilaria, better known as ogo or limu manaua; Sargassum or limu kala; Halymenia or limu lepe?ula?ula; Laurencia or limu lipe?epe?e; and Dictyota or limu alani. Studying these genera of Pacific seaweeds may help find species for which there are new biomedicinal, aquacultural, or other commercial uses.

“The workshop will also be the perfect training ground for undergraduate and graduate students to learn the proper techniques for accurate identification and insightful interpretation from experts in the field,” said McDermid.

At the end of the week, research findings will be presented and a manuscript of the findings will be published by Sea Grant and distributed nationally and internationally. A total of 107 papers have been generated from the research findings at the workshops over the years.

Hawai‘i Sea Grant, UH Hilo Seed Grant, and California Sea Grant are providing funding for this year’s workshop.

For more information, please contact McDermid at 933-3906.

(UHI educator wins prestigious small business award

by Ken Hupp

Dr. Youngki Hahn, professor of economics and director of international affairs at UH Hilo, has been named a 2002 recipient of the Minority Small Business Advocate of the Year Award by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

Hahn was instrumental in developing the ways and means for micro minority businesses to become established as a founder and first director of the Center for Business and Economic Development (CBED). He has conducted extensive studies on a variety of subjects, including Energy Conservation Programs for Small Business in Hawai‘i, Kaua‘i and Maui County (1986-89), Establishing Enterprise Zones in Hawai‘i County (1987), and Aquaculture Industry Development for Hawai‘i: A Feasibility Study (1993).

Hahn has also been actively engaged in assisting Big Island Korean ginger-root farmers in their marketing and financial endeavors since 1990, as both a mentor and advisor. For the past 15 years, he has served as a consultant and provided assistance to contractors, developers, farmers and retailers statewide.

“This award is a tremendous honor, which is bigger than any one person,” Hahn said. “Promoting small business is a team effort involving many individuals, and I am pleased to share this honor with all the people who took part in these initiatives. I am especially pleased because it brings well-deserved recognition to UH Hilo, which made it possible for me to undertake the activities which resulted in this award.”

Hahn was honored last month for his achievement during two recognition events.

“The entire UH Hilo family joins me in congratulating Dr. Hahn for earning this prestigious award that recognizes his hard work and entrepreneurial spirit,” said Chancellor Rose Tseng. “This accolade truly defines his character as a community leader and distinguished faculty member.”

The SBA awards recognize small business owners and advocates for their achievements and contributions in a variety of categories, including Small Business Person of the Year, Young Entrepreneur of the Year, Small Business Exporter, and Home Based Business Advocate. The Minority Small Business Advocate recognizes excellence and achievement in promoting minority small business interests.
Accreditation update

by Dr. April Komenaka

As the academic year draws to a close, your accreditation self study co-chairs are taking stock of campus progress toward the goals that grew out of our 2000-2001 self study. The University is still undergoing accreditation review by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, and we are in the process of making the adjustments necessary to meet WASC’s new quality standards, which are based on WASC’s two “core commitments”: institutional capacity and educational effectiveness.

UH Hilo has done very well in getting organized to improve what WASC calls “institutional capacity.” We have put into place plans and activities that will enhance “our capacity to shape our future and to sustain the changes that will be necessary along the way.”

· The Strategic Plan is being revised and updated to focus UH Hilo’s priorities more sharply on student learning. The draft plan was reviewed by the UH Hilo Congress last month; the administration will outline key initiatives for implementation by May 2002; all campus Strategic Plans will be submitted in final form to the UH system in October 2002.

· The Congress’s Committee on the Budget is at work with administration and faculty. Charged with increasing transparency and greater faculty participation in the budget process, the committee is posting on the Congress Web site the current campus budget, a description of campuswide budgeting process, and other budget-related information of interest to the entire campus. Committee representatives will be present at campus-level budget discussions.

· The Congress has approved a revised set of program review guidelines and processes which focuses on evidence of student learning, schedules feedback from administration and governance bodies, and provides for external review. It also links program review to budgeting. CAFNRM and CAS Natural Sciences departments will be the first to use the new procedures.

· The University Web site, already a major source of information about UH Hilo’s operations, policies, and scheduled events, is becoming more widely used as the central campus information resource and vehicle for communication among administration, faculty, and students.

· The director of institutional research is working with other members of the University community to analyze the factors affecting student retention to obtain a better understanding of how we can meet the varying needs and expectations of our student body.

We have also been making some progress toward meeting our educational effectiveness goals, but much more needs to be done.

What’s already happening:

· A comprehensive academic assessment plan was developed in 2000-2001 and was accepted, with revisions incorporating feedback from the campus community, by the UH Hilo Congress in April 2002. It provides for administrative commitment to assessment in all units, a standing assessment committee, a standing general education committee, and departmental assessment of student learning.

· Institutional Research Director Lynne Stamoulis and the UH Hilo Congress are regularly announcing results of institutional student surveys and knowledge/skills tests.

· The VCAA will be receiving current mission statements and curricular goals from all academic units in May, and assessment plans in December.

Among the tasks that are in progress or that will need to be undertaken in 2002-2003:

· greater emphasis on teaching excellence and innovation and on student learning outcomes in program reviews and personnel reviews, recognition of excellent teaching in University publications and publicity, and increased faculty development opportunities, such as workshops on good teaching practices.

· wider use by departments of the results of student surveys to strengthen curriculum

· systematic collection of course syllabi and establishment of minimum guidelines for information to be provided in syllabi. Syllabi are considered to be contracts between professor and student, and are also a widely used source of information about campus trends in curriculum and teaching.

· assessment of General Education skills and knowledge. The campus assessment plan provides for general education assessment and a standing general education committee. The committee will be formed by the Congress shortly.

The good will and cooperation of the whole campus community will be needed to meet these goals and to sustain the progress we’ve already made. Have a happy and productive summer, and come back ready for an energetic 2002-2003!

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

Jerry Calton, Associate Professor of Management, is the coordinator and a presenter in a workshop session on “Integrative Social Contracting Theory and Global Citizenship Standards,” to be held at the International Association for Business & Society annual meeting in Victoria, B.C. next month.

Hirokuni Masuda, Assistant Professor of Japanese and Linguistics, has been invited to give a talk on “Pidgin is what we were born with: Seating creolistics at the heart of linguistic science” in September at UH Manoa as part of the Charlene Sato Center for Pidgin, Creole, and Dialect Studies lecture series. The discussion will focus on the contribution of pidgin and creole linguistics to the general inquiry of human mind and behavior. Masuda will defend that the research in the field should be integrated into evolutionary biology, cognitive psychology, and brain science.

John Gersting, Professor of Computer Science, had his article “Cardiovascular Interactions Tutorial: Architecture and Design” published in the Journal of Medical Systems. The article was co-authored by Carl Rothe (Indiana University).

Christian Weisser, Assistant Professor of English, recently had his article on “Composition Goes Public: Social Theory and the New Writing Classroom” accepted for publication in Reconciling Public and Private Rhetorics (Southern Illinois University Press). Additionally, Weisser presented a paper on “Public Writing and Rhetoric: A New Place for Composition” at the Conference on College Composition and Communication held in Chicago, IL in March.

Peter Mills, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, had his new book, Hawai‘i’s Russian Adventure: A New Look at Old History published last month by UH Press. Mills re-evaluates the significance of Russian Fort Elisabeth on Kaua‘i (built in 1816) with respect to its role in Hawaiian culture, and concludes that the site was as much a Hawaiian heiau as it was a Russian fort. Mills recently had another article, “Social Integration and the Ala Loa: reconsidering the significance of trails in Hawaiian exchange” accepted to the peer-review journal Asian Perspectives. He also gave a presentation to the UC Berkeley Anthropology department last month on “Historical Archaeology in the Hawaiian Hinterlands.”

Thomas K. Pinhey, Assistant Professor of Sociology, had his paper on “A Research Note on the Fighting Behavior of Asian-Pacific Males in Guam: Do High School Extracurricular Activities Matter?” accepted for publication in the Social Science Quarterly. The paper was co-authored by Michael P. Perez (Cal State Fullerton) and Randall L. Workman (University of Guam).

Catherine Becker, Assistant Professor of Communication, and eight students in her Organizational Communication class received funding from the President’s Initiative on Equity and Diversity and The Associated Students of the University of Hawai‘i to present their class research on diversity at UH Hilo at the Showcasing Diversity: Research from a Multicultural Perspective Conference held at UH Manoa last month.

Lincoln Gotshalk, Assistant Professor of HPE, had his article on “Creatine Supplementation Improves Muscular Performance in Older Men” appear in the March issue of Medicine &
Science in Sports & Exercise, vol. 34, no. 3. Gotshalk is currently doing an investigation of a study of creatine supplementation and muscular performance in older women at UH Hilo.

**Alice Kawakami**, Associate Professor of Education, and **Suellyn Henke**, Assistant Professor of Education, received a Human Relations Grant to strengthen the Teacher Education Program (TEP) and develop initiatives to support beginning teachers. The title of their project was “Self-Evaluation of Teacher Candidates and Practicing Educators about Teacher Performance Standards: A Basis for Teacher Education Program Improvement and Continuing Professional Development.” As part of the grant, Henke and five TEP alum — all first-year teachers — presented a symposium at the February Hawai`i Educational Research Association Conference in Honolulu, entitled “The Real World: First Year Teachers Perspectives on Standards and Professionalism.”

**Wayne Miyamoto**, Professor of Art, recently participated in the 74th Annual Exhibition of the Honolulu Printmakers at the Academy Art Center, Honolulu Academy of Arts. He received the Fine Arts Associates Award for his work in intaglio. Additionally, Miyamoto's print was selected by Tama Art University in Tokyo for the university’s permanent collection, and this month he serves as the juror for the All Hawai`i Juried and Invitational Exhibition at the East Hawai`i Cultural Center in Hilo.

**Michael Marshall**, Associate Professor of Art, is currently participating in the All Hawai`i Juried and Invitational Art Exhibition at the East Hawai`i Cultural Center in Hilo. Additionally, Marshall recently completed the VHS production of “These Words:” Quincy Troupe with Moussa Bangoura Live at the UH Hilo Theatre. The tape was included in the Poets House 2002 Poetry Publication Showcase last month in New York City and will become part of its permanent collection. Poets House is a literary center and poetry archive.

**Judith Fox-Goldstein**, Director, Conference Center, was invited to speak at the “Sustainable Travel & Tourism Think Tank” held at the East-West Center last month. Her presentation on “`Ohana Aloha” offered a model for sustainable and responsible tourism that integrates culture, arts and science in a community-based program.

**Richard Crowe**, Professor of Astronomy, and Mavourneen Wilcox, Institute for Astronomy research assistant and UH Hilo alum, were members of a team listed on a recent article in Astronomy and Astrophysics concerning the light variability of Gamma Doradus stars, a new class of pulsating yellow giants. This was the fifth paper published from this particular observing campaign initiated several years ago.

**Paul Haberstroh**, Assistant Professor of Marine Science, recently presented research results with some of his students at the Ocean Sciences Meeting in Honolulu on the environmental impact and status of the Aimakapa and Kaloko Hawaiian fishponds in the Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park. The event was a joint meeting of the American Geophysical Union and the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography.
MKAEC’s exhibition planning gets underway

UH Hilo’s Mauna Kea Astronomy Education Center (MKAEC) project director recently secured the release of $3.891 million in federal educational earmarks to commence work on 26,000 square-feet of exhibition planning and gallery design that will provide the functional basis for facilities planning. Additional funds of $8 million for the first phase of construction will be released later this year.

To be located on a 9.1-acre lot in UH Hilo’s University Park of Science and Technology, the $28 million, 42,000 square-foot MKAEC will be a world-class interpretive center, which will include gallery space, a planetarium with omni-projection capabilities, and cutting edge exhibitry to showcase the uniting of science and culture in an immersive experience like no other.

The work on interpretive planning, with 24 members of the Big Island community serving as content advisors, had commenced last November with UH Hilo professors Dr. Michael West and Larry Kimura overseeing the Astronomy and Hawaiian Content development process. The five thematic treatment areas embrace Hawaiian Heritage, History of Astronomy, Popular Astronomy, Advanced Astronomy and Space Exploration.

“Set in the cultural context of Hawai‘i’s unique heritage, the Center will elevate knowledge and appreciation toward exploration, perseverance, teamwork and ingenuity pursued by space engineers, astronauts, and contemporary astronomers who have ventured to voyage among the stars to find their origins, explore life and seek a continuum with the spirit of navigation pursued by early Polynesians,” explained Project Director George Jacob.

Seven teams will engage concurrently, working in close cooperation to take the project to its fruition by late 2004. While a research team works on Content Development and Interpretive Planning, the Exhibition Design team will focus on concepts, schematics, fabrication and installation details. A separate effort will coordinate the architectural design and construction, estimated to cost $15 million.

“We are in the willful act of conceiving a cradle of education that breathes life to a creative process of inspired thinking — an institution that infuses a sense of place and an acknowledgment of history,” said Jacob in explaining his vision that echoes Senator Daniel Inouye’s efforts in making this endeavor a reality.

Database to track international students has serious implications

The terrorist attacks of September 11 have brought about some fundamental changes in the way non-citizens coming to the United States, including international students, are processed by law.

The federal government had already gone to work on a tracking system for international students since the passage by Congress in 1996 of the Illegal Immigrant Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act (IIRAIRA). This act, also known as Public Law 104-208, mandated the development of an electronic tracking system as part of the Coordinated Interagency Partnership Regulating International Students (CIPRIS).

After 9-11, the USA Patriot Act became Public Law 107-56, which added air flight schools, language training schools and vocational schools to the schools which must comply with Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) requirements. The law also appropriated $36.8 million for SEVIS implementation and expansion by INS prior to a 1/1/2003 statutory deadline.

Here at UH Hilo, staff from the Office of International Student Services, Admissions, Records and the Computing Center have attended workshops on planning SEVIS implementation on campus. International Student Services Office Director Ruth Robison has been named coordinator and spokesperson for UH Hilo’s SEVIS Task Force. Also on the panel are International Admissions Counselor Pat Grossman, Registrar Cathy Zenz and Computer Specialist Aaron Yokomura.

“We are required by law to keep certain information on students present in the US on F-1 student visas,” Robison said. “Their names, date and place of birth, country of citizenship and local address... INS wants a street address, not a P.O. Box. They want to know where this person is sleeping. We
Faculty receive grant to develop undergraduate research opportunities

Donald Price and Sharon Ziegler-Chong have been awarded a National Science Foundation - Research Experiences for Undergraduate Site Program grant to provide research opportunities for undergraduate students in Tropical Ecology, Evolution and Natural Resources Management at UH Hilo. The $270,000 funding is for three years.

“The study and conservation of natural resources in insular areas are necessary for and critical to the preservation of the myriad, unique ecosystems present,” noted Price. “This is of immediate concern in Hawai‘i, with its high levels of endemism, geographic isolation, and biodiversity. In order to continue and increase the number of future researchers focusing on these ecosystems, it is important to capture the interest of undergraduates.

“The Island of Hawai‘i, with its diversity and high representation of almost all ecological niches found in the archipelago, presents an excellent living laboratory in which to train these future researchers,” he added.

This program represents a collaboration between UH...
Hilo and state and federal research organizations conducting research on the Island of Hawai‘i, to develop an undergraduate research opportunity program focused on tropical conservation biology. UH Hilo, with its growing student enrollment in sciences (more than 20 percent over the last four years alone), and diverse student base, is committed to providing valuable research opportunities for undergraduates with faculty mentors at UH Hilo available in Biology, Marine Science, and Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resource Management.

The Island of Hawai‘i is also home to numerous agencies and offices that have ongoing conservation biology research programs. The US Department of Agriculture Forest Service, the US Geological Service Biological Resources Division, the National Park, and others work together on many research projects and are willing to provide additional research opportunities for undergraduates.

The mentors for this year’s program are: Dr. Susan Cordell (US Forest Service); Dr. Marta DeMaintenon (UH Hilo-Marine Science); Dr. David Foote (USGS-BRD); Dr. Sue Jarvi (UH Hilo-Biology); Dr. Paul Haberstroh (UH Hilo-Marine Science); Dr. Maria Haws (UH Hilo-PACRC); Dr. Karla McDermid (UH Hilo-Marine Science); Dr. Cam Muir (UH Hilo-Biology); Dr. Rebecca Ostertag (UH Hilo-Biology); Dr. Mike Parsons (UH Hilo-Marine Science); and Dr. Michael Tanabe (UH Hilo-Agriculture).

The program entails a summer component and a continued effort during the academic year. Nine students will be selected for 10-week research experiences during the summer. This year, over 70 students have applied to this program from UH Hilo, UH Manoa, and throughout the mainland.
Chancellor’s end of year celebration May 2

The University community is invited to attend the Chancellor’s Celebration and Recognition Ceremony, to be held on Thursday, May 2 at 3:00 p.m. in the Campus Center Dining Room.

Over the years, a number of awards have been created to recognize achievements attained by University personnel. This year, Chancellor Tseng will present the Excellence in Service Award, the Pulama ‘Ike Award, the Distinguished Service Award for Improving Student Life, and the Excellence in Building and Grounds Maintenance Award.

The Excellence in Service Award will be presented to a faculty or professional staff member for his or her outstanding contributions to the University community.

The Pulama ‘Ike Award will be given to an individual who has made significant contributions in developing and promoting the mission and spirit of the University.

The Distinguished Service Award for Improving Student Life will go to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to student life beyond the boundaries of his or her official responsibilities.

The Excellence in Building and Grounds Maintenance Award will honor a building and grounds maintenance employee who has made significant contributions to the University.

Dr. David Miller and Coreen Ishimaru are the co-chairs for this event. Please contact Ishimaru at x47345 with any questions.

UH Hilo is good neighbor away and at home

by Ken Hupp and Kristen Power

UH Hilo is proving that good neighbors are not limited to their immediate geography as students, staff and faculty set out recently to lend a helping hand to their own community and beyond.

The community outreach included the first ever projects under the new Break Thru Adventures (BTA) program established at UH Hilo last summer. Timothy Kane, student life programmer and new student orientation and service learning coordinator, became acquainted with Break Thru Adventures while at the University of Vermont, and initiated the program at UH Hilo.

“The concept of Break Thru Adventures is to develop drug and alcohol-free activities to promote empowerment, environmental sustainability and cultural appreciation,” Kane said. “We did seven different trips at the University of Vermont, focusing on a variety of projects, including Habitat for Humanity, working in soup kitchens, environmental work, and a relief effort to Miami, following Hurricane Andrew. So the choices are really unlimited.”

The natural beauty of Hawai‘i made environmental service a natural choice for UH Hilo’s service learners, who partnered with two community organizations on Moloka‘i. The inaugural trip took place during spring break with 12 students and staff.

The service-learners joined members of “Nene O Moloka‘i” to help restore the nene habitat. Restoration activities included the removal of alien plant species, the propagation of endemic plant species, and overall restoration of the dune area where the nene roost.

The second project took the service-learning team on a hike down 1,700 feet to Kalaupapa National Historic Park. Service at Kalaupapa included beautification of a grotto, in addition to cleaning and preparing the historic church built by Father Damien at the original site at Kalawao. The activities also included an overnight stay at the park, which is rarely permitted.

“This was a great experience for students, staff and faculty alike,” Kane said. “Through these projects, participants received nine days of incredible travel, service work and cultural exchange in a drug and alcohol-free environment.”

Closer to home, a very diverse group of students representing clubs and programs campuswide took part in this year’s Good Neighbor Day, held on Saturday, April 6. The students, joined by staff and faculty, teamed up with the Boys and Girls Club in Hilo to improve their facilities by painting the gym walls.

The event drew more than 60 volunteers, who were welcomed by Chancellor Rose Tseng during a morning reception on the Library Lanai.

“I want to thank all the students, staff and faculty who participated in Good Neighbor Day 2002,” Kane said. “The Boys and Girls Club of Hilo was delighted with the results of our work, which left their gymnasium looking like new. Once again, the UH Hilo community has demonstrated its commitment to being a good neighbor.”

(Editor’s note: Ken Hupp is a public information officer. Kristen Power is a student assistant with the Service Learning Program.)
## Campus Events

### May

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