Hilo-born congressman to deliver keynote address at fall commencement

by Ken Hupp

Hawai’i Congressman Ed Case will be the keynote speaker at the UH Hilo Fall Commencement ceremony on Saturday, December 20 beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the UH Hilo New Gym.

A total of 212 students representing the College of Arts and Sciences (189), College of Agriculture, Forestry & Natural Resource Management (15), and Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke’elikolani College of Hawaiian Language (8) are candidates for degrees or certificates.

Case, born and raised in Hilo, attended Waiakea-Kai and Keaukaha Elementary Schools in Hilo and graduated from Hawai’i Preparatory Academy in Waimea in 1970. He earned a bachelor of arts in psychology from Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts in 1975. Following graduation, Case went to Washington D.C. where he spent the next three years (1975-1978) working for Hawai’i Congressman and U.S. Senator Spark Matsunaga. Case later attended law school and earned his Juris Doctor from the University of California/Hastings College of Law in San Francisco in 1981.

Case worked for nearly 20 years as an associate, partner, and managing partner with the Honolulu law firm of Carlsmith Ball. He also served as a law clerk for State Supreme Court Chief Justice William S. Richardson, and with Hawai’i’s State Department of Labor.

His career as an elected public official began with his election to the Manoa Neighborhood Board in Honolulu where he served from 1985 to 1989. Case was elected to the State House of Representatives in 1994 where he served four two-year terms until November 2002.

As a state lawmaker, Case was recognized as “Legislator of the Year” by Honolulu Weekly in 1995, “New Economy Legislator of the Year” by the Hawai’i Technology and Trade Association in 2000, and “Legislator

Muramoto looks forward to grandchildren, Vegas

by John Burnett

It’s hard to imagine UH Hilo without Jane Muramoto. This is her second go-around as secretary to the athletic director, but she has worked several places in her nearly 33 years of service to the school, including Student Services, the Humanities Division and the Library, among other stops. She has basically run the Athletic Department’s office during the tenure of four AD’s: Joey Estrella; Bob Wilson (interim); Bill Trumbo and currently, Kathy McNally.

Muramoto will retire Dec. 31 after almost 36 years as a state employee, having started out with the former Hilo Hospital before coming to the University.

“I have mixed feelings,” she said. “I’ve been here so long that it just feels different to be retiring. I think I’m ready to do other things. I have two grandchildren on O‘ahu that I would like to spend more time with. I would like to travel. I like crafts. I like going to the fitness center. I love Vegas. I’m ready to venture into other things and do my own thing.”

Muramoto’s grandchildren are both very young, ages two and three months, respectively, the children of her oldest daughter Jody, who is a...
Case
Continued from page 1

of the Year” by Small Business Hawai’i in 2000.

Case won a special election on November 30, 2002 to complete the unexpired term of the late Patsy Takemoto Mink in Hawai’i’s 2nd Congressional District encompassing the neighbor islands and rural O’ahu. On January 4, 2003, he won a second special election to serve the full, two-year term Mink was posthumously elected to in November.

He currently serves as a member of the committees on Education and the Workforce, Agriculture and Small Business. Case most recently traveled to Iraq and other Middle East countries as part of a congressional fact-finding delegation to assess U.S. reconstruction efforts in post-war Iraq.

Lisa Best, a philosophy major, will represent the graduating class as its student speaker. Raised in Alaska, Best graduated from Soldotna High School in 1997. She attended Kenai Peninsula College (KPC) from 1998-2000.

Best carries a 3.75 GPA and was admitted to the Honors Program in Fall 2000. Her campus and community service credentials are extensive: three semesters as president of the UH Hilo Philosophical Society; four semesters as vice president of the Honors Club; and a volunteer for the Ironman Triathlon World Championship in 2001 and 2002.

Her commencement address will focus on the responsibility of graduates to share what they have learned at UH Hilo.

“I have come to the realization that education has intrinsic value,” Best said. “Even though classes have ended, our learning process has just begun. I would like to encourage all the graduates to continue to look for opportunities to learn.”

For more information on commencement, contact Jacqueylyn Pualani Johnson at x47304 or email pualani@interpac.net. For special accommodations, contact Susan Shirachi at x30816 (V) or x47335 (TTY). Requests for special accommodations should be made at least 10 business days prior to the event.

(Reader's note: Ken Hupp is a public information officer.)

Ka Lono Hanakahi is published by the Office of University Relations on the first of the month during the academic year for the faculty and staff of the University of Hawai’i at Hilo. News and submissions are welcome. Deadlines are on the fifteenth of each month for the following first of the month publication. Contact Alyson Kakugawa-Leong, Director Media Relations, College Hall 9; (808) 974-7642 or email alyson@hawaii.edu.

UH Hilo diversity symposium deadline is December 14

Presentations, performances, panels or discussion topics for the January 27, 2004 UH Hilo Diversity Symposium are being solicited from UH Hilo faculty, students, staff and community members. “Dialogue on Diversity: Sharing Research, Promoting Understanding, Discussing Issues” will be held 8am-5pm in the Campus Center. Three copies of a one-page description of what individuals plan to present/discuss at the symposium are due by December 14, 2003 to Dr. Catherine Becker, associate professor of communication.

The symposium will provide a forum to address the ways the University is meeting the goals of its mission statement, which states, “providing an environment that is responsive to the needs of a diverse student population is central to the UH Hilo philosophy.” In the selection of presentation material, symposium organizers will consider all aspects of diversity, including, but not limited to, the traditional core issues of culture, ethnicity/race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, national origin, religion and age.

The keynote address will be given by Dr. Richard W. Brislin, UH Manoa management and industrial relations professor and international cross-cultural communication expert. Brislin has taught numerous courses in intercultural communication and organizational behavior and leadership, and is the author of Intercultural Interactions: A Practical Guide.

The symposium will also feature a presentation by special guest speaker Dr. Paul Pearsall, clinical/educational psychologist and UH Manoa adjunct clinical faculty professor. He will be accompanied by a hula dancer whose performance will exemplify and highlight some of the principle themes of his presentation. Pearsall is a world-renowned speaker, New York Times No. 1 bestselling author, and television personality. He has been designated as one of the most influential scientists of the 20th century by the Oxford University Biographical Society.

Symposium sponsors include the UH Hilo Office of Student Affairs, Department of Communication, Humanities Division, UH Hilo Diversity Committee and a UH President’s Diversity and Equity Initiative grant. Additional sponsors are still being solicited.

Please contact Becker at (beckerc@hawaii.edu) or x47464 with any questions.
Wayne Hamano chair of Chancellor’s Advisory Board

Wayne Hamano, executive vice president, Hawai’i Commercial Banking Division, Bank of Hawai’i, is now chair of the Chancellor’s Advisory Board at UH Hilo.

Born and raised in Hilo, Hamano graduated from Hilo High School and attended UH Hilo for one year. He earned a bachelor’s degree in accounting from the University of Hawai’i at Manoa and graduated from the University of Washington's Pacific Coast Banking School.

Hamano now oversees the Hawai’i Commercial Banking Division at the Bank of Hawai’i and is responsible for managing the relationships with its mid-to-large Hawai’i-based business clients as well as the activities of Dealer Commercial Services. He has served in this role since 1999. Hamano joined Bank of Hawai’i in 1977.

Hamano is on the board of the Nuuanu YMCA and serves on the Metro YMCA’s Finance Committee.

(Editor’s note: Paul Thomas is interim director of development.)

Physicians now on campus

The Student Health Services now has physicians on campus for students.

For the Fall semester, Dr. George Rourke is on campus Mondays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and on Fridays from 9-11 a.m. Dr. Alice Adee is here on Fridays from 3-4:30 p.m. There is no fee to see a doctor, and students are advised to bring their medical insurance card with them, if they have one. This service is available to students only.

President Evan Dobelle approved the establishment of a $7 per semester health fee per student to pay for this service.

Students should call x47636 to schedule an appointment.

Happy Holidays

Holiday concert features premiere of Advenir

On Saturday, December 6 at 7:30 pm, the UH Hilo Theatre presents several performing ensembles in an exciting evening of seasonal music. Tickets, priced at $18 general, $15 seniors/faculty/staff, $10 youth and $7 UH Hilo/HawCC students, are available school days from 11:00 - 4:00 p.m. at the UH Hilo Theatre Box Office. Credit card reservations can be made by calling the Box Office at x47310 during those hours or online at http://performingarts.net/Theatre.

The concert features the world premiere of Advenir, a new composition for chorus and orchestra by local musician/composer/educator Michael Springer. Springer is a Hilo resident, a graduate of UH Hilo with a degree in music and is presently the choral director at Kamehameha Schools on the Big Island.

Advenir is a setting of several ancient carols, newly harmonized and conceived by Springer. This world premiere performance features the University Chamber Singers, the University/Community Chorus, the Kamehameha High School Chorus, the UH Hilo Dance Ensemble, directed by Celeste Anderson Cloud, and the Ho’ulu Pila Chamber Orchestra. Over two hundred performers will participate in this exciting premiere.

The second half of the concert will be Handel’s great oratorio Messiah. The Chamber Singers, the University/Community Chorus and the Ho’ulu Pila Chamber Orchestra will be joined by members of the Kona Symphony Chorus and four professional soloists to present Part I of Messiah. Soloists for this concert are: Melanie Robinson, soprano; Louise South, contralto; Bernaldo Evangelista, tenor; and Tim Carney, baritone. The concert will conclude with the exciting “Hallelujah Chorus” from Messiah.

The concert will be conducted by Maestro Ken Staton, visiting associate professor of music at UH Hilo.

(Editor’s note: Larry Joseph is Theatre manager.)
Hats off to...

Karla McDermid, Associate Professor of Marine Science, and Brooke Stuercke, research associate, had their paper, “Nutritional composition of edible Hawaiian seaweeds” published in Journal of Applied Phycology.

Kenith Simmons, Professor of English, had her poem “B’rei Sheit” accepted for publication in Lilith.

Manu Aluli Meyer, Associate Professor of Education, has a manuscript on “Hawaiian Hermeneutics and the Triangulation of Meaning: Gross, Subtle, Causal” that will be published in the Canadian Journal of Native Education.

Seri Luangphinith, Assistant Professor of English, was awarded $4,983.30 by the UH Diversity and Equity Initiative Committee for an upcoming series of public lectures and workshops on the cross-cultural flow of racial images. “Going Global: Racial Identity and Transnational Culture” is slated for March and April 2004 and will coincide with the 100th anniversary of the extension of the Chinese exclusion act.

Raina Ivanova, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, had her article on “Higher-order Jordan Osserman Pseudo-Riemannian Manifolds” published in Classical and Quantum Gravity. The paper was selected by the editorial board of the journal to be one of the Highlights of 2001-2002. The paper was co-authored with P. Gilkey and T. Zhang.

Terrance Jalbert, Associate Professor of Finance, recently had “Comparative Valuation and the Effect of the Bush Tax Proposal” published in Business Valuation Resources. The paper is co-authored with William Dukes.


Thomas Pinhey, Assistant Professor of Sociology, and N. Ree Weels, Missouri Southern State University, presented a paper on “Athleticism, Physical Aggression, and the Sexual Activity of Asian-Pacific Adolescents in Guam” at the annual meeting of the Mid-South Sociological Association in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Michael Marshall, Associate Professor of Art, received a grant of $3,815 from the 2003-2004 Diversity and Equity Initiative proposal of “BarbaraO: In Conjunction,” which will expand the current Cinema from Africa and the Diaspora film series. Actress BarbaraO, best known for her portrayal of Yellow Mary in Julie Dash’s Daughters of the Dust (1992), will be at the Campus Center for a three-day residency in April 2004.

Patti Urso, Assistant Professor of Nursing, presented a poster on “Augmenting Tobacco Cessation Outcomes with Telephone Delivered Interventions” at the American College of Nurse Practitioner Symposium held in Cincinnati, OH last month.
The little university that could

by David “Kawika” Lovell

One of Chancellor Rose Tseng’s top priorities since her arrival at UH Hilo has been to increase the University’s extramural funding. Toward that end, Chancellor Tseng has put together a winning team to work with our talented faculty and staff: 1) a RCUH-Hilo Office (Research Corporation of the University of Hawai‘i) directed by David “Kawika” Lovell, 2) an Office of Sponsored Research coordinated by Dr. Dan Brown (to include the University Research Council), and 3) an EPSCoR Office (Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research) – all reporting to Dr. Chris Lu, vice chancellor for academic affairs. With the help of this dynamic partnership, Chancellor Tseng has streamlined administrative hurdles and fostered a new, contagious spirit of collaboration.

To make the business of grant administration work properly, Chancellor Tseng needed a money management engine like RCUH to overcome the numerous bureaucratic hurdles inherent to the University system. RCUH is a service agency, independent of the state system and hires personnel and procures goods and services on behalf of its clients. RCUH has the flexibility to function more like a business because of its exemption from state statutes relating to procurement and personnel. RCUH has its own personnel, payroll, accounting, and disbursing systems. This makes it possible for RCUH to process transactions expeditiously, which is exactly what was needed to jump-start the business of grant-seeking and grant-getting.

Chancellor Tseng assessed the UH Hilo Research Status in Fiscal Year 1999 for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. What she found was quite significant: 1) it was difficult for faculty to submit grants, thus, there was very low participation in grant activities; 2) consequently, UH Hilo received a low dollar volume, or about $3-4 million per year average; 3) this resulted in a low return of overhead and hence, there wasn’t enough money to do anything about UH Hilo’s poor research infrastructure; 4) most current awards were more education and training oriented, thus providing almost no overhead at all; 5) there was no institutional emphasis on research or scholarly activity; 6) UH Hilo’s talented faculty were underrepresented in national research.

Despite good intentions, the old system was difficult to deal with. Prior to Chancellor Tseng’s arrival:

- The UH Fiscal Agent, the Office of Research Services (ORS), is located on O‘ahu. The requirement to provide hard copies of each proposal would often cause considerable delays when proposals had to be modified. It became costly in terms of time and money to fly to Honolulu to resolve problems, which was a common occurrence. As a result, many proposals missed their deadlines and were never funded, discouraging future faculty participation.
- Purchase orders were placed through our own UH Hilo Business Office, which had to obtain approval from the ORS at UH Manoa and the UHM Business Office. Faculty had to get three separate approvals in addition to all of the initial approvals from the department chair, dean, vice chancellor and chancellor just to start the paperwork. This resulted in delays of up to four or more months.
- Vendors often complained that it took anywhere from four to six months to get paid. In many cases, payments took as long as a year or more. Many vendors stopped accepting state purchase orders.
- Hiring project staff often took anywhere from four months (for a rush job) to a year. UH Hilo was legally bound to use the civil service system, which required jobs to conform to state position standards. However, these standard positions rarely met the unique needs of the research environment.
- Paying project staff took anywhere from four to six months before they would receive their first paycheck. In addition, the 10-year retirement vesting requirement often left employees without any retirement benefit before the project ended.

Since Chancellor Tseng’s arrival, these accomplishments are in place:

- The Fiscal Agent, RCUH, (similar to ORS) is located on campus and proposals can be modified without significant delay. The high cost to resolve problems in terms of time and money has been eliminated.
- Accounts are setup online with 24-hour access over the Internet. Purchase orders are placed online and approvals are handled the same way.
- Vendors are paid within two weeks of invoice.
- Hiring project staff is accomplished online and supporting documents are forwarded to personnel in Manoa. Typically, a project may hire permanent staff within 20 days and temporary staff within a week. Project staff is exempt from the civil service system and become RCUH employees, which allows their position descriptions to meet the unique needs of the research environment.
- RCUH employees can expect to be paid on the first payday after being hired. They also have a great benefits package, including a vested retirement after only one year with RCUH.
Since formally establishing the partnership during the 1999-2000 fiscal year, faculty have already been awarded $50 million in funding — over a 300% increase! To look at this significant transformation from an administrative perspective, the following is a comparison of before Chancellor Tseng’s arrival and after to include her implementation of the various partnership components:

The return of overhead has also increased dramatically. 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 grant. This is a look at the significant increase in returned overhead:
The community benefits as well. Each grant needs personnel to manage or implement the activities, which results in employment opportunities:

- Personnel hired through UH Hilo grants during FY 2003
  - Regular positions 67
  - Student positions 106
  - Other positions 164 (temporary, intermittent, and specialize services hires)

Each grant also requires the purchase of equipment and supplies to conduct the research or administrative activities, resulting in dollars spent locally:

- Purchase Orders to local vendors statewide
  - $11,816,175
  - which translates to -
  - $22,214,408 (using impact dollars formula from DEBDT study)

If you have a good idea for a research or training project, please do not hesitate to contact the RCUH team at x30898, rcuh@uhh.hawaii.edu, or visit them in the Kukahau’ula building in University Park, Room 105.

(EDITOR’S NOTE: David “Kawika” Lovell is director, RCUH Hilo Office.)

Spotlight
Continued from page 1

pharmacist with Kaiser Hospital in Moanalua. Her second daughter, Shan, has just signed on as a CPA with Kapi’olani Medical Center for Women & Children’s Pali Momi clinic after working eight years for the national accountancy firm Ernst & Young. Her youngest daughter, Kara, is finishing her rotation hours at Tripler Hospital after going to pharmacy school for two years at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California.

“That’s why I can retire now,” Muramoto laughed.

All three of Muramoto’s daughters played tennis at Waiakea High School. Muramoto does not play tennis herself, but said that she would like to take up golf in her retirement.

“I would like to take Kallen Miytaki’s class,” she said. “Running a one-person office, it gets busy, but I have choices now. I also wouldn’t mind volunteering for other things that I couldn’t do because I was running the office. I don’t mind doing the other things, like helping with the (Taylor Made/Waikoloa Intercollegiate) golf tournament and some other things that come up.

“The University has been wonderful; it’s a good place to be,” Muramoto added. “There are a lot of opportunities. A lot of employees have taken classes for free and have gotten their degrees. I’m one who didn’t take advantage of those opportunities, but I’m still thinking of taking classes, like Japanese and maybe some other things just for my own self.”

In the three-plus decades that Muramoto has served the University, both the campus and its operations have undergone major changes.

“When I started in 1971, all the offices were in College Hall,” she said. “The provost was there, Chiyono (Kinoshita, retired private secretary to the chancellor) was there. We were all there in one little place. We all had multiple jobs because our supervisor was in charge of Housing, so we did all that, too.

“But we’re more specialized now. And because we’ve grown so much, I don’t even see people I used to work with. Athletics is so far away that I kind of miss that camaraderie that we had at College Hall because we were all together and we did everything together. Things are different now, with more students and more buildings. We are all separated because of the growth.”

But Muramoto added that working in the Athletics Department has been a source of some lasting friendships, as well.

“Working with students keeps you young,” she said. “It’s challenging. I still keep in contact with some of the students who have worked for me in the offices. And when Joey was both baseball coach and AD, I got to know a lot of the players because they had to go through my office to see him. I’ve been to several of their weddings.

“I was at Don’s Grill not too long ago and a guy was staring. I thought he was staring at my daughter, but he came up to me and said, ‘You’re Jane, yeah?’ I couldn’t place his face. He told me that he had worked for me as part of his financial aid. He had changed so much. He’s a fireman now with a family.

“It’s very rewarding to see them grow.”

(EDITOR’S NOTE: John Burnett is a public information officer.)
In early October, a PBS Hawai‘i film crew launched its ambitious effort to document the many facets of Mauna Kea. Hawaiian spirituality, as well as other cultural issues, ecological issues and astronomical concerns surrounding Hawai‘i’s tallest and most treasured mountain peak will be addressed in a forthcoming one-hour documentary produced by PBS Hawai‘i (KHET-11) titled, “Mauna Kea: Standing in the Calm.”

On the first of several planned shoots, the film crew spent nearly a full week concentrating, in part, on broad visuals of the mountain, said PBS Hawai‘i Vice President Ed McNulty, the documentary’s producer.

“We shot from various places along the Saddle Road, from the Hilo side, from above the reservoirs in the Kohala Mountains — at various times of the day and in varying light. We shot close-up as well, including sunsets from the summit and the full moon rising. We shot in the silversword sanctuary and in the mamane forests... I must say that it is some of the most beautiful footage I’ve been associated with in my 25 years in television.”

“We’re coordinating with PBS Hawai‘i on this production,” said Bill Stormont, director of UH Hilo’s Office of Mauna Kea Management. “One of our main goals is to have something to replace the outdated video that is currently shown at the Visitor Information Station.” The focus of that 1989 film, “Mauna Kea: On the Verge of Other Worlds,” was astronomy at the summit of Mauna Kea, which is considered the world’s finest terrestrial base for celestial observation.

“So much has happened since then,” Stormont said. “Since 1990, for instance, the Keck, Gemini, and Subaru observatories and the Smithsonian Submillimeter Array have been added. And there’s also more of an understanding of the significance of the cultural and environmental resources surrounding the mountain. The community is far more aware of these things, has become more aware over the course of the last 15 years. And we need to address that.”

The film’s director is Roland Yamamoto, who also directed “Mauna Kea: On the Verge of Other Worlds.”

“Roland’s done a great deal of cultural work in his career here,” said McNulty. “He’s produced and directed the Merrie Monarch (telecast) a couple of times. He and Lynne Waters produced a series of three one-hour pieces for us several years ago called ‘The Hawaiians.’ He directed that piece as well. It’s like the project of a lifetime for him, as it is for me.” Videographer Ken Libby is shooting the documentary in Sony Digital High Definition format, a first for PBS Hawai‘i.

McNulty said that about a third of the videography has already been done. The production phase of the project is being spread out to accommodate seasonal changes on the mountain.

“We’d love to be able to shoot the summit with and without snow, as well as other seasonal changes,” McNulty said. “We still have more to shoot on the cultural and environmental aspects of the mountain, and we will also be focusing on astronomy and entomology on our next visit.” Simply put, the focus of the documentary is the mountain itself.

“Its story will be told through cultural practitioners, astronomers, entomologists and others that work or live in the shadow of the mountain,” McNulty stated. The production is slated for completion in summer 2004 for airing in the fall.

“We’re going to air it, of course, and it will be offered to PBS nationally at the same time,” McNulty explained. “However, I believe the real value of it will be after the airing, in educational venues such as the Visitor Information Station, of course, possibly the Mauna Kea Astronomy Education Center, and in schools — that kind of thing.”

“We really look forward to having the documentary produced and viewed, for many reasons,” summarized Stormont. “Mauna Kea is so unique, and revered in so many ways, and each of these aspects commands a respectful, artistic, and sound treatment.”

(Editor’s note: Arnold Hiura is outreach-public relations officer, OMKM.)
Accreditation update

by Dr. April Komenaka

UH Hilo is beginning the last stage of the institutional review for reaffirmation of accreditation by the Senior Commission of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

For the past two years, UH Hilo has been moving steadily along the paths laid out by the 2000-2001 preliminary self study, establishing standing committees and sustainable procedures and policies that will promote both institutional effectiveness and educational effectiveness over the long term. Our preparatory review report provides the details of the many changes that have been underway.

Following on our own 2002-2003 preparatory review, the July 2003 recommendations of the WASC site team have provided additional impetus to our efforts. The current review of educational effectiveness has produced a report on the institution’s gradual transformation, taking stock of emerging processes, policies, and practices, and the effects of these institutional changes, and assessing the prospects for continuing progress over the coming years.

A nearly-final draft of the report has been posted on the UH Hilo Web site since late November, and UH Hilo faculty, staff, administrators, and students have been invited to review it and send along corrections and comments to the Accreditation Steering Committee. The final report will go WASC in mid-December. A site team of senior faculty and administrators from other universities in the WASC region will visit campus March 17-19, 2004 to follow up on details and to meet with members of the campus community.

Key points of the report:

* The new Strategic Plan 2002-2010, the new program review process, changes in faculty governance and university organization, new policies and procedures regarding such matters as budgeting and faculty hiring and faculty diversity—in light of how these bear on our ability to deliver quality education.

Various efforts to “become a learning organization”: how institutional research is beginning to change the way we do things, how we are enhancing and rewarding teaching, and how academic support and student support services ensure continuous improvement into their practices.

* Our struggles to develop “a collective vision of educational attainment.” While progress is being made, particularly through the program review process, gaining faculty buy-in continues to be a challenge to the institution. The chapter outlines such projects as the development of new General Education hallmarks and assessment and a concerted effort to address the long-standing problem of inadequate math skills, and describes the strategies that have enabled four programs to continue to deliver quality education to their students in the face of such challenges as understaffing and staff turnover. (The secret of their success: a strong sense of mission; involvement of all faculty in departmental projects; continuous review of student learning; and active commitment to continuous program improvement.)

(Editor’s note: Dr. April Komenaka is co-chair, UH Hilo Self-Study Steering Committee.)

Alumni news

by Yu Yok Pearring

Alumni and Friends Social Get-Together

The UH Hilo Association of Alumni and Friends will be having its first social gathering for the purposes of networking, meeting new friends, and catching up with old ones (or former students).

Please come and join us on Friday, December 5 at Restaurant Kaikodo at 5:30pm. Cost is $25 with no-host cocktails. Seating is limited. Please email (alumni@hawaii.edu) or call x47501 with your RSVP by Dec. 1.

Reception for Graduating Students

A reception for ALL students graduating this December will be hosted by the UH Hilo Association of Alumni and Friends. For those who are in contact with graduating students, please inform them of this reception, scheduled for December 19 at the New Gym immediately following the commencement rehearsal. Great food and door prizes! Faculty and staff who wish to join in celebrating the students’ graduation are most welcome to join in the fun. An RSVP is appreciated.

Nomination for Distinguished Alumni Award

Please be reminded that the deadline for submitting nominations for UH Hilo’s Distinguished Alumni Award is December 31, 2003. This award ceremony will be held in Spring 2004. Information on nomination criteria as well as a nomination form can be obtained from our Web site:

http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu/~alumni/

(Editor’s note: Yu Yok Pearring is director of marketing and alumni.)
Campus Events

December

1  Last day to apply for Spring 2004 semester  
2  2004-05 Financial aid info session, 10 a.m., CC 306-307  
   2004-05 Financial aid info session, 2 p.m., CC 306-307  
3  2004-05 Financial aid info session, 2 p.m., CC 306-307  
   Focus on UH Hilo, 8 p.m., Channel 55  
4  2004-05 Financial aid info session, 1 p.m., CC 306-307  
6  Advenir, 7:30 p.m., Theatre, Admission  
11 Last day of instruction  
   Holiday Party, 3-5 p.m., Campus Center Dining Room  
   Great Leaps Dance Concert, 7:30 p.m., Theatre, Admission  
14  Vulcan basketball vs. California State Univ-Monterey Bay, 7:15 p.m., Civic, Admission  
16  Vulcan basketball vs. Wayne State Univ, 7:15 p.m., Civic, Admission  
17  Vulcan basketball vs. Milliken College, 7:15 p.m., Civic, Admission  
15-19 Final examinations  
20  UH Hilo Commencement, 9 a.m., New Gym  
22 Final grades due at Registrar’s Office  
   Fall semester ends  
25 Holiday: Christmas