Three UH Hilo grads successfully navigate amazon.com

by John Burnett

Three University of Hawai‘i at Hilo computer science graduates have accepted technical positions with the e-commerce giant amazon.com. The three are Leile Maly, Neal Flaherty and Crystal Kaneshiro.

“We are very, very proud of them,” said Dr. Judith Gersting, professor of computer science and chair of the computer science/engineering department. “These are three young people who graduated last May and moved to Seattle. One of them moved there right after graduation; the other two moved in August.

Maly was the first in the door at amazon.com.

“Leile had two telephone interviews with amazon before he left here,” Gersting said. “Their interview process is very stringent. After the first telephone interview, he was given a programming assignment to write. The guy said, ‘I’m going to e-mail the specifications for a program and I want it back in two days. So he had to write some code for them.

“That got him into the doorway to the second telephone interview. When he got to Seattle, he had an on-campus interview, which is a five-week process that involves technical interviews and a group interview. The group interview is designed to see how people work together.”

Marcia Heller is exactly what one would expect Chancellor Rose Tseng’s private secretary to be: pleasant; efficient; businesslike and professional.

If she seems just a tad petite to be the gatekeeper to the campus’s chief executive, don’t let that fool you. There is more to her than meets the eye. Much more. Make that a half-ton of gleaming chrome and steel more.

While Heller enjoys hobbies you might expect from a private secretary — painting, gardening and cooking — she has one you might not expect. She and her husband, Richard, both ride Harley-Davidsons.

“My husband got back into biking because someone gave him a motorcycle,” Heller explains. “Then one day there was a brand-new Harley in our garage. After a couple of years of riding around in back of him, I was persuaded to take the safety course that’s conducted at the Coast Guard facility on O‘ahu. I passed it on the first try and got my license. In the meantime, my husband bought a Sportster for me. I didn’t particularly like that one, so he got me another bike. So I had two bikes for a little while.”

The Hellers’ love of two-wheeling on the open road helped Marcia to reconnect to her Big Island roots.

Enjoying Seattle’s snow: Crystal Kaneshiro, Leile Maly and Neal Flaherty.

Marcia Heller on wheels

by John Burnett

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Three UH Hilo Grads

Continued from page 1

hour process which he said was quite grueling. Of the three, he had the most pertinent work experience and he got hired. After he got hired, Amazon’s human resources department called and they were so impressed with his education and his background they asked him if he had any friends from the same program. And he said, ‘Well, yes, I have these two other people right here.’

“Then (Flaherty) went through the same interview process and he got hired,” Gersting added. “He said that in his interview, he had to do a proof by induction over the phone, which is heavy-duty mathematics. It’s a little hard to see how one could handle that in a phone interview. That was impressive and he got hired.”

As the saying goes, things happen in threes, and the door remained open for Kaneshiro, the daughter of UH Hilo Bookstore Manager Clifford Kaneshiro and Maly’s significant other, but not without a bit of scrambling on the Internet retail giant’s part.

“The manager for whom she would have worked said that she was not qualified for the same job description, but the manager was so impressed that they created a job position for which she was qualified and hired her,” Gersting explained.

“What was so neat is that each of these people called us after they got their jobs and just bubbled over with excitement.”

Gersting said that the three were among the top computer science majors in the Spring 2003 graduating class at UH Hilo. She said that all three credited the professional development portion of UH Hilo’s computer science curriculum, as well as the technical training, for Amazon’s decision to hire them.

“Our program follows national curriculum recommendations put together by the national computing societies, the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) and the IEEE Computer Society,” she explained. “Those are the two major professional organizations for the computing field and they put out a joint curriculum recommendation that they revise every now and then, putting out what they think a quality undergraduate computer science curriculum should look like, and we pay pretty close attention to that.

“We have a class called professional seminar and part of that class is devoted to career planning and job hunting,” she added. “We create an artificial position and write a newspaper ‘help wanted’ ad for that hypothetical job. They have to write a cover letter and submit their résumés, which we critique. And then they have a mock job interview process. We have another faculty member who comes to the class and does a mock interview. The student gets about 15 minutes in the interview and the other people in the class critique the interview, what they did right, what they did wrong. Our campus Career Center here also runs some workshops on interviewing, résumés, and so forth, but we in the Computer Science Department, that’s part of the professional seminar course that they all have to take.

“In addition to that, one of the major features of our program that I think was beneficial to them is that we have a capstone course that is a one-year software engineering sequence where the students build a software for a client,” Gersting explained. “They do the entire thing starting with the stakeholder’s document, what the client wants, through the design, through the analysis, through the coding, the testing and the development. Everybody has a role to play.

“It’s an extremely labor-intensive course for them. And that experience looks very good on a résumé, and also gives them a chance to say, ‘I did this on this team project. I know what it takes to work on a team.’ Because everybody works on a team these days. You don’t have these little nerdy computer folks sitting off by themselves in a corner anymore.

“I think it speaks very highly of the fact that these students were prepared enough to qualify for these positions, particularly in these economic times when such jobs are hard to come by,” she said. “And they did this entirely on their own in the sense that Leile just put in his application over the Web like I assumed thousands of other people did. The other two kind of had an in after Leile got hired, of course, but it wasn’t like their uncle worked at Amazon or anything. They just had a good background and they presented themselves well in the interview process because they had a broad background based on our program. I think that’s the nicest part of it. That they were able to get a job at such a well-known company at a time when it’s very difficult to get a job.”

(Editors note: John Burnett is a public information officer.)

Love is in the air for Majors Day Fair

The UH Hilo Advising Center is hosting its second Majors Day Fair with “Love Your Major” on Thursday, February 12 from 11:00 am-3:00 pm on the Library Lanai.

“Departments have the opportunity to showcase and publicize their programs to let students know what courses and career opportunities are available in a specific field,” said Karlen Suga, a peer advisor. “One of the purposes of Majors Day is to give students who have not declared a major and those considering a second major or minor an opportunity to see what is available to them.

“Students from local high schools and Hawai‘i Community College are also invited so they may explore what UH Hilo has to offer them,” she added.

For more information and/or to reserve a table, please contact the Advising Center at x47688 or e-mail uhhadvis@hawaii.edu.
Four for Vulcan Hall

by John Burnett

The Class of 2003 inductees to the City Bank-University of Hawai‘i at Hilo Hall of Fame is a diverse group, with two former volleyball stars, a basketball standout and a journalist who chronicled their exploits as well as those of other Vulcan athletes and coaches for a quarter-century.

Glennie Adams, Cynthia (Whitworth) Galieto, Nelson Wong and Hugh Clark have been selected for induction into the Hall’s 11th class of honorees. Adams and Galieto were both players in the early days of the volleyball program, the heyday of Coach Sharon Peterson, when the Vulcans were one of the top small college women’s volleyball programs in the nation. Wong was an undersized, team-oriented, tough rebounding forward whose value to his team could not be measured by his statistics. And Clark, the retired neighbor island bureau chief of the Honolulu Advertiser, was the scribe whose stories of their winning ways elevated then-Vulcan basketball coach Jimmy Yagi from quiet local boy to Hawai‘i hoops icon and the Vulcans themselves from small college basketball fledglings to statewide media darlings.

Clark said there were two events in particular he witnessed that he considered defining moments in Vulcan history. One was when former Vulcan point guard and City Bank-UH Hilo Hall of Famer Bill O’Rear hit a long, game-winning shot off the wrong foot against Franklin College of Indiana, to catapult the Vulcans into the second round of the NAIA National Tournament in Kansas City in 1978.

“We were coming back to the hotel about midnight, Kansas City-time,” Clark reminisced. “I think we got the last bus out of the parking lot. (Former Hawai‘i Tribune-Herald Sports Editor) Fred Reedy and I were standing because there were no seats left. And behind us was a guy from George Fox College (Head Coach Sam Willard) who looked as glum as any hound dog I’ve ever seen. He had predicted about 13 months before that Hilo would never get to the nationals again. He would see it to.

“They not only got there, but they won. I’ve seen a lot of winning shots, but that’s the one winning shot I will probably remember for life. It wasn’t pretty, but it was thrilling.”

The other defining moment for UH Hilo athletics was when Peterson’s Vulcans rose from the loser’s bracket to win the double-elimination AIAW Division II national volleyball championship in a match over favored Texas Wesleyan at Colorado College in 1981. The Vulcans had already won the NAIA title that year, but Texas Wesleyan had middle blocker Patty Dowdell, a 6-foot-2 former Olympian.

“They were beat,” Clark said about the Vulcans that fateful tournament. “They were whipped. They were tired. They were sick. That team had all the signs of being ready to go home. And somehow, they managed in the semis to beat Northern Arizona, who had a very decent team with a good middle blocker.

“I thought, ‘Well that’s nice. At least they’ll get to the finals.’ And then they came back and found energy that I didn’t know they had, considering that it was cold outside and they were pretty well spent. And they just played a marvelous match. It was the best volleyball match I’d ever seen.”

Adams, who garnered All-American honors for the Vulcans in 1979, is head volleyball coach and assistant athletic director at Chaminade University in Honolulu. A 1983 UH Hilo graduate, she is a former assistant to Peterson at UH Hilo and was head coach at University High School, where her players included future Vulcan Hall of Famer Tanya Fuamatu. Recognition for Adams seems seriously belated, as she was inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame in 1990.

“Glennie was a brilliant player before she blew her knee out,” Clark said. “She had such court awareness, a knack for being in the right place at the right time. She also moved very well and jumped quite well for her height.

“After the injury, she wasn’t the same player. She was still a contributor, but it was all brains and courage. She was always a student of the game, though, and that’s obviously helped her in her coaching career.”

Wong, an All-NAIA District 29 cager who played for Coach Bob Wilson’s Vulcans from 1987-91 and who is now a teacher and head high school boys’ basketball coach at Kamehameha Schools’ Ke‘auu campus, said that his inclusion in the Hall is “just gravy.”

“I’m flattered,” he said. “The experiences, the memories, the friendships I gained and ultimately, the free education I got, was a gift and a reward in itself.

“You look back at the deep history of the basketball program and you can point out a lot of guys who are just as deserving, so to get my name called is very gratifying.”

Perhaps the ultimate measure of Wong’s intelligent and determined playing style was summed up best by Tony Sellitto, former coach at rival Hawai‘i Pacific University.
Hats off to...

Michael West, Professor of Astronomy, and three co-authors published an invited review article entitled, “Reconstructing Galaxy Histories from Globular Clusters” in the January 1, 2004 issue of the science journal Nature.

Dan Landis, Affiliate Professor of Psychology, gave the keynote address at the Interknow Euroworkshop II conference sponsored by the European Union in Regensburg, Germany last November. He also gave three invited lectures at the University of Regensburg. Additionally, Landis’ The Handbook of Intercultural Training (3rd edition) was recently published by Sage. Co-authors are Janet Bennett and Milton Bennett.

Wayne Miyamoto, Professor of Art, has work featured in The Boston Printmakers Members Exhibition, Small Prints, which can be viewed at http://www.bostonprintmakers.org/media/smallprint.html. His work is also included in the Members Portfolio of the Society of American Graphic Artists, New York.

Thomas K. Pinhey, Assistant Professor of Sociology, sociology student Somer L. Hall and Todd Belt, assistant professor of political science, had their paper “Body Mass and Violent Behavior in an Asian-Pacific Adolescent Population: A Test of the Reflected Self-Appraisal Hypothesis” accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the Hawai‘i Sociological Association.

David Hammes, Professor of Economics, has been invited to present a paper, “On Calculating Damages in Hawai‘i – Personal Injury and Wrongful Death,” at the Sixth Annual Winter Meetings of the National Association of Forensic Economists being held this month at the Hilton Waikoloa Village.


Ron Gordon, Professor of Communication, had a peer-reviewed paper on “The Wisdom Circle Process: Community, Story, and Spirit” accepted as a chapter in the 27th volume of the International and Intercultural Communication Annual, to be published this fall by Sage Publications in cooperation with the National Communication Association. The paper summarizes the use of the wisdom circle process in the interpersonal course at UH Hilo. The theme of the Sage volume is “Dialogue Among Diversities.”

Richard Crowe, Professor of Physics and Astronomy, and Norman Purves, Instructor of Physics and Astronomy, are listed among the many co-authors of a recent paper published in Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society. Three UH Hilo astronomy majors are also listed as co-authors of the paper due to their significant contributions to the observing: Roberto Avila; Erin Brassfield; and Robert “Z” Knight. Photometric measurements of the Beta Cephei variable star Nu Eridani were conducted over a week during November 2002. Sixteen other students were also acknowledged.
UH Hilo faculty member receives Fulbright Scholar award

An art faculty member at UH Hilo has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant for the spring 2004 semester, according to the United States Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.

Andrew Grabar, associate professor of art, will lecture and conduct research on postmodern interpretations of tantra at the Tribhuvan University in Kirtipur, Nepal. Grabar is one of approximately 800 U.S. faculty and professionals selected for the 2003-2004 academic year through the Fulbright Scholar Program.

“The Fulbright is one of the most prestigious recognitions of scholarly and professional excellence,” said UH Hilo Chancellor Rose Tseng. “It is an amazing achievement for Andy as well as confirmation of the quality of our faculty at the University of Hawai’i at Hilo.

“The Fulbright Scholarship is also providing Andy the opportunity to further our body of knowledge on a spiritual concept that to Westerners is generally shrouded in mysticism,” Tseng added. “As a Fulbright Scholar, Andy is in a position to help further mutual understanding of Nepalese and American cultures.

“We are extremely excited for Andy, and proud of him as well.”

Recipients of Fulbright Scholar awards are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement.

Get ready for International Nights 2004!

One and all are in for a grand time when the International Student Association presents International Nights 2004 on February 27 and 28 at 7:30 p.m. in the UH Hilo Theatre.

The countries or cultures in this year’s performances include: Hawai‘i; Palau; Okinawa; USA; China; Marshall Islands; Samoa; France; Philippines; and Chuuk.

Tickets are priced at $6 general admission, $3 students, children and seniors and can be purchased at the Theatre Box Office or by calling x47310.

International Nights is co-sponsored by the UH Hilo Student Association and the Student Activities Council.

For more information, please call x47313.

Dancers delight audiences at last year’s performances.

Job fair on campus next month

UH Hilo and Hawai’i Community College students and alumni seeking full-time employment, an internship or summer employment are invited to UH Hilo’s annual Spring Job & Internship Fair, to be held on Monday, March 8 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Library Lanai. Approximately 50 to 60 employers are expected to participate.

Employment seekers are advised to bring multiple copies of their resume and to dress professionally.

Employers interested in recruiting at this event should contact the UH Hilo Career Center at 974-7687 for information.

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.
Hall of Fame and International Nights previews highlight February Focus on UH Hilo

Vulcan athletic standouts and international student activities are the topics for February’s telecasts of Focus on UH Hilo, a program hosted by Chancellor Rose Tseng. The program airs Wednesday evenings from 8:00 – 8:30 p.m. on Channel 55.

Athletic Director Kathleen McNally will appear on the February 4th show to announce the newest inductees into the UH Hilo Athletic Hall of Fame, who will be officially inducted during special ceremonies later this month.

The February 18th telecast features Dr. Ruth Robison, director of International Student Services, who will be joined by international students. They will give a preview of International Nights 2004.

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

Spotlight
Continued from page 1

roots. Although she was born on O‘ahu, her mother is from the Big Island.

“She was born in a little town in North Kohala called Niulii,” Heller says. “It’s one of those old plantation villages that doesn’t exist anymore. They moved away from there to Captain Cook when she was a youngster. But we still had family here, so I’d come over in the summertime and stay with my uncle and aunt and we’d go on the weekends in his jeep down the lava fields to go fishing in Kona.

“A couple of years ago, my husband and I started coming back to the Big Island to go on the Labor Day motorcycle ride, the one that’s put on here by Ellsworth (Fontes, a custom motorcycle builder-mechanic in Hilo) and by Harley-Davidson in Kailua-Kona,” she adds. “That got us thinking about moving to the Big Island eventually. And when this position became available, I thought, ‘This is it. Now is the time.’”

Heller left her employer of 18 years, International Management Services, where she was administrative assistant to the CEO and addressed human resource issues for the company. Richard Heller, who sells and repairs major appliances on O‘ahu, expanded his business to the Big Island. Marcia, ever the gracious one, says she enjoys her new post.

“It’s great. It’s very interesting and challenging. Unfortunately, I’ve not been able to meet a lot of people, but at least I get to talk to them over the phone,” she says. “The Chancellor is a very exciting person to work for. She’s involved in so many things. I can’t believe her energy. She goes into overdrive.”

The couple, who has no children, is “still settling in.”

“We’re looking to finish the purchase of our house in Hilo,” she says.

Heller adds that her husband is working on fixing and restoring a classic motorcycle for her. She’s also hoping to purchase a 2004 Sportster in the not-too-distant future. Although it would seem ironic that a couple who loves motorcycles would move to the rainiest city in the United States, Heller says that like her, there’s more to the perceived irony than meets the eye.

“Do you know that most of the time when we came over for Labor Day in the past, it rained on us in Kona, not in Hilo?” she muses. “There are so many beautiful days in Hilo. If you’re using a motorcycle as your basic transportation, it would be a hassle, having just a bike. But as a pleasure ride, you have a lot of opportunities here with beautiful roads and scenery. There are a lot of places we can go that we haven’t gone to yet.

“Our goal is to go down every single street that we can. I don’t know where we’ll end up, but we’ll enjoy the view and the journey in the meantime.”

Vulcan Hall
Continued from page 3

“There’s not a coach in the district who wouldn’t love to have Nelson Wong on his team,” Sellitto said during an interview on Hilo’s KPUA Radio in 1991.

Galieto, a Waiakea High School graduate who played for the Vulcans from 1980-’83, is now a park ranger at Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park in Kona and the head junior varsity and an assistant varsity coach for the girls’ volleyball team at Keakalakehe High School. She was a member of four national championship teams, including both the NAIA and AIAW titles in 1981.

“I’m definitely very excited,” Galieto said about her selection, adding that Vulcan volleyball made her “more humble, more patient and more aggressive about things that I want for my family and in my career.”

Clark recalls Galieto as “very dedicated, committed.”

“She was not a great volleyball player her freshman year,” the “dean emeritus” of Big Island reporters said. “She had some height, so she was useful at the net. But she loved it. She was a very good collegiate volleyball player.”

The induction luncheon is Saturday, February 21, 11:30 a.m. in UH Hilo’s Campus Center Dining Room. The honorees will also be introduced that evening at half-time of the Vulcans’ basketball game against Montana State-Billings in the Hilo Civic Auditorium.

For more information, call Vulcan Athletics at x47520. 0
An exciting month at the Theatre!

by Larry Joseph

This month, the UH Hilo Theatre has several exciting multicultural upcoming events scheduled every weekend.

On Saturday, February 7, Fiddler’s Four will be in concert beginning at 7:30 p.m. The group is a string quartet with a difference. The three most accomplished American fiddler players of the era have combined forces - with one standout cellist - to create a tour de force of American vernacular music.

Call it Cajun, call it old-timey, call it jazz or new music. Regardless of the label, one thing is for sure: it’s a new vernacular in American string band music! Whether they are playing and singing infectious dance tunes, sophisticated jazz sounds or Acadian two-steps, this all-star group will have you out of your seat by the conclusion of the performance. Band members include Michael Doucet (Cajun – Beausoleil), Darol Anger (“chambergrass” – with David Grisman quartet), Bruce Molsky (Appalachian), and Rushad Eggleston (Cello).

On the following Saturday, February 14 at 7:30 p.m., Huun Huur Tu will appear in concert.

Deep in the heart of northern Asia, tucked between Mongolia and Siberia, amid dense taiga forests and grassy steppe, lies Tuva. Inside this inaccessible land, a unique form of harmonic overtone singing evolved, called xöömei, (of which there are many styles) in which two or three different pitches are produced at once. The sounds often mimic nature – singing birds, thundering herds of horses, winds whipping through the forest trees. The songs relate tales from the lives of herdsmen and hunters, from their love lives to their travels to their daily routine.

_Huun Huur Tu_, aka The Throat Singers of Tuva, have been the emissaries of Tuvian throat singing since the early 1990s, giving concerts throughout the U.S. and Europe, amassing more devoted fans at each recital. This group of four members – Sayan Bapa, Kaigal-ool Khavolyg, Anatoli Kuular and Alexei Saryglar – are again on tour. Each performer is an expert in a different style of throat singing, and accompanies himself on one or more indigenous instruments, such as mouth harp, stringed lutes and fiddles, and/or percussion.

On Saturday, February 21, the Chinese ensemble group, _Silk Road_, will perform a unique presentation. Showtime is 7:30 p.m.

Led by virtuoso pipa player and Mandarin educator, Qiu Xia He, this trio has been playing Chinese folk songs with Western performance techniques throughout Canada and the US Northwest for over 10 years. The group was featured as part of the Canadian Parliament’s Sound and Light Show and just returned from a concert in London where they had been invited by the BBC. Other instruments used are the erhu and the Chinese guitar.

Tickets for all events may be purchased on instructional days from 11:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the UH Hilo Theatre Box Office. There are discounts for UH faculty/staff.

(Editor’s note: Larry Joseph is the Theatre manager.)

UH for a day

Chancellor Tseng and UH Hilo student leaders are greeted by Governor Lingle at “UH Day at the State Capitol” held on January 22. UH Hilo’s exhibit showcased plans for the proposed Student Life and Event Complex and the Science and Technology Building.
Campus Events

February

1  Vulcan baseball vs. Hawai'i Pacific Univ., 11 a.m., Wong, Admission
2  Vulcan basketball vs. BYU-Hawai'i, 7:15 p.m., Civic, Admission
3  Focus on UH Hilo, 8 p.m., Channel 55
4  Fiddler's Four, 7:30 p.m., Theatre, Admission
5  Majors Day Fair, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Library Lanai
6  Huun Huur Tu, 7:30 p.m., Theatre, Admission
7  Vulcan softball vs. Montana State Univ-Billings, Noon, UH Hilo Field
8  Vulcan softball vs. Concordia Univ, Noon, UH Hilo field
9  Holiday: Presidents' Day
10  Vulcan basketball vs. Western New Mexico Univ., 7:15 p.m., Civic, Admission
11  Focus on UH Hilo, 8 p.m., Channel 55
12  Vulcan softball vs. Chaminade Univ., Noon, UH Hilo field
13  Vulcan baseball vs. BYU-Hawai'i, 2 p.m., UH Hilo courts
14  Huun Huur Tu, 7:30 p.m., Theatre, Admission
15  International Nights 2004, 7:30 p.m., Theatre, Admission
16  Vulcan softball vs. Chaminade Univ., Noon, UH Hilo field
17  Vulcan basketball vs. Western New Mexico Univ., 7:15 p.m., Civic, Admission
18  Vulcan tennis vs. Hawai'i Pacific Univ., 11 a.m., UH Hilo courts
19  Vulcan tennis vs. Hawai'i Pacific Univ., 9 a.m., UH Hilo courts
20  Vulcan tennis vs. BYU-Hawai'i, 2 p.m., UH Hilo courts
21  Vulcan tennis vs. BYU-Hawai'i, 10 a.m., UH Hilo courts
22  Vulcan Hall of Fame luncheon, 11:30 p.m., CC Dining Rm, Admission
23  Vulcan basketball vs. Montana State Univ.-Billings, 7:15 p.m., Civic, Admission
24  Silk Road, 7:30 p.m., Theatre, Admission
25  Vulcan tennis vs. Hawai'i Pacific Univ., 11 a.m., UH Hilo courts
26  Vulcan tennis vs. Hawai'i Pacific Univ., 9 a.m., UH Hilo courts
27  Vulcan baseball vs. UCLA, 6 p.m., Wong, Admission
28  Vulcan baseball vs. UCLA, 3 p.m., Wong, Admission
29  International Nights 2004, 7:30 p.m., Theatre, Admission
30  International Nights 2004, 7:30 p.m., Theatre, Admission