

# Hi Ka Lono Hanakahi

*"News of People Working Together"*

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO

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## WASC approves TCBES MS program

by John Burnett

The Western Association of Schools and Colleges has given its approval for UH Hilo to offer a masters of science degree in Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Sciences.

The new TCBES degree offering is a joint venture of the College of Arts and Sciences' Natural Sciences and Social Sciences Divisions and the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Management. The program, which starts this semester, is the result of over two years of planning authorized by Chancellor Rose Tseng in July 2002.

"An MS in Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Sciences is consistent with the mission of University of Hawai'i at Hilo to offer selective graduate programs that are relevant to the needs of the Island and the State," said Dr. Chris Lu, vice chancellor for academic affairs. "This program will leverage the unique and diverse ecosystems in the Big Island and contribute to a sustainable conservation effort for the biological species and their environment."

The current multidisciplinary CAS faculty involved in TCBES degree course offerings include: Drs. Dan Brown and Craig Severance, Anthropology; Drs. Don Hemmes, Sue Jarvi, William Mautz, Cam Muir, Rebecca Ostertag, John Scott and Donald Price, Biology; Drs. Ernest Kho and J.P. Michaud, Chemistry; Drs. Barbara Gibson, James Juvik and Sonya Juvik, Geography; Dr. Jene Michaud, Geology; and Drs. Jim Beets, Marta de-Maintenon, Walter Dudley; Karla McDermid, Tracy Wiegner and Michael Parsons, Marine Science. CAFNRM faculty members involved in degree course offerings are Drs. Kevin Hopkins, Bruce Mathews, and Michael Shintaku. Also on board is Sharon Ziegler-Chong, associate director of the Pacific Aquaculture and Coastal Resources Center. Additional faculty will be hired, funded in part by UH Hilo's EPSCoR grant from the National Science Foundation. Also anticipated are approximately 10 Ph.D. affiliate faculty from federal, state and non-governmental agencies on the Island of Hawai'i. The affiliate faculty will serve on graduate student committees and mentor grad student research projects in conjunction

## SPOTLIGHT

### A matter of perception

by John Burnett



Yoshitaka Miike

"I specialize in intercultural communication, but that does not necessarily mean that I am good at communicating across differences."

That candid admission from Dr. Yoshitaka Miike, assistant professor of communication and a new faculty member this fall at UH Hilo, is a fascinating reflection on one of the most frustrating and misunderstood aspects of our shared humanity, one that is often played for laughs in movies such as *The Gods Must Be Crazy* and *Lost in Translation*.

Miike, who received one of the first M.A. degrees in speech communication in his native Japan and who came to the U.S. six years ago to earn his Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico, has found life here to be a great laboratory experience, especially while becoming familiar with idiomatic American English.

"When I first came to the U.S., I went to buy a sandwich," he said. "I successfully ordered a sandwich in English so I was excited. But then the next question was 'mustard or mayo?' And I couldn't catch it, because we say 'mayonnaise' in Japan. But I didn't know this short term. And he spoke so fast. 'Mustard or mayo?' And I didn't

## TCBES MS Program

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with University faculty.

Quoting the proposal for the TCBES degree authored by a faculty committee spearheaded by Price, who is also the EPSCoR co-director for Hawai'i, "The overall mission of the proposed program is to provide recent baccalaureate graduates and those currently working in conservation biology and environmental science with graduate training that will prepare them for careers as conservation and environmental scientists and managers. The program will also provide students with an excellent foundation for doctoral studies in a variety of theoretical and applied disciplines. The conservation challenges that face tropical ecosystems including Hawai'i are such that solutions require a broad knowledge not only of biology, but of the physical and social sciences."

According to the TCBES program Web site at [www.tcbes.uhh.hawaii.edu/](http://www.tcbes.uhh.hawaii.edu/), program objectives are to:

- Foster knowledge of current trends and issues in conservation biology and environmental sciences including basic and applied research and natural resource problems;
- Provide participants with experiences in conceptual and technical research areas in ecology, evolutionary genetics, geographic analysis, environmental monitoring and assessment in marine and terrestrial environments;
- Promote research and scholarly activities that will enable participants to enter the scientific research community.

According to the Web site, MS graduates of the TCBES program will be able to:

- Perform scientific research in the interdisciplinary field of conservation biology and environmental science;
- Develop skills in natural resource and protected area management;
- Use advanced technological equipment, perform quantitative analysis and interpret complex data;
- Present scientific results in oral and written publications;
- Interpret and critique professional scientific literature.

The TCBES program will provide six teaching assistant positions and six research assistant positions to graduate students. The research assistantships are funded by EPSCoR as are three APT technician positions for TCBES. EPSCoR will also provide partial funding for laboratory upgrades necessary for the TCBES program. Other avenues of funding are also being pursued by TCBES faculty.

The TCBES offering is expected to increase enrollment at UH Hilo by 20 students this academic year and 40 in subsequent academic years. The TCBES program will offer both thesis and non-thesis masters degree programs. Students choosing non-thesis programs will be required to complete

an internship with a local natural resource agency. Those agencies include US Geological Survey-Biological Resources Division, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, US Department of Agriculture, US Army Pohakuloa Environmental Program, US National Park Service, US Environmental Protection Agency, Nature Conservancy, State Department of Land and Natural Resources, US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, US National Marine Fisheries, State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Health and Kamehameha Schools. These agencies will also be prospective employers of MS degree recipients.

"WASC approval is recognition of the quality of academic programs as well as the outstanding faculty in biology, marine science, geography, and other departments in the University of Hawai'i at Hilo," Lu concluded. "The implementation of the program is an important step forward to fulfilling the comprehensive mission of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo."

*(Editor's note: John Burnett is a public information officer.)*

### Promotion and tenure awarded

Congratulations to the following faculty members who received promotion and tenure:

Promotion:

- Dr. Karla McDermid Smith, professor, marine science
- Dr. Doug Mikkelson, professor, religious studies
- Dr. Bruce Mathews, professor, soil sciences
- Dr. Philippe Binder, assoc professor, physics
- Dr. Raina Ivanova, assoc professor, mathematics
- Dr. Thomas Pinhey, assoc professor, sociology
- Dr. Ruth Robison, director, international student services

Tenure:

- Dr. Kelly Burke, assoc professor, management info systems
- Thora Abarca, librarian, public services

Promotion and tenure:

- Dr. Michael Bitter, assoc professor, history
- Dr. Marta deMaintenon, assoc professor, marine science
- Dr. Michael Parsons, assoc professor, marine science

## Two faculty honored for teaching excellence

by John Burnett



Ronald Amundson



Seri Luangphinit

Two UH Hilo faculty members have been recognized by the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents for their excellence in teaching.

Dr. Ronald Amundson, professor of philosophy and chair of the philosophy and religious studies departments, was awarded the Regents Excellence in Teaching Award. Dr. Seri Luangphinit, assistant professor of English, was awarded the Frances Davis Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. Both Amundson and Luangphinit received their awards at UH Hilo's Spring Commencement ceremony held on May 15, 2004.

"Like many college professors, I chose my profession because I couldn't bring myself to leave college," Amundson said. "The practice of learning is more rewarding than any other job I know, and teaching college is the best way to keep on learning. The BOR Excellence in Teaching Award is a great honor. I owe it to the many students who have continued to be my educators in the years that I have been teaching."

Luangphinit noted that for her, teaching and learning are very much the same process.

"Teaching and learning are not about achieving a final goal of cumulative knowledge; they reflect a longer journey

toward appreciating the infinite capabilities of the mind," she said.

One colleague praised Amundson as "a committed scholar who loves his field of study" and a "people person who enjoys getting to know his students as people, not just warm bodies."

AUH Hilo senior with dual majors in history and philosophy who nominated Amundson credits him as the inspiration for his decision to declare a second major in philosophy.

"Professor Amundson has demonstrated again and again an ability to invoke with enthusiasm the desire for growth and understanding in students," the student noted.

A colleague of Luangphinit's wrote that she has "brought rigor and high standards in the expected level of reading and writing in her classes while developing a strong student following." The student who nominated Luangphinit for the award said that not only is she an excellent teacher, she teaches excellence.

"Her teaching style demands that each student make an honest effort to meet her standards of excellence," the student said. "A grade was never given without a meticulous commentary on how the paper might be improved to meet the standards of graduate program application essays."

A second colleague noted that Luangphinit helped students create an English Club at UH Hilo, which assisted with a variety of University and community service projects, such as the annual UH Hilo Food Drive and renovation of the dormitories' volleyball area.

"Seri models the desirable behavior we would like our students to engage in so they will be involved and be caring citizens of their communities," the colleague concluded.

*The UH Hilo Alumni & Friends held its first golf tournament at Hapuna Beach Golf Course on August 6 to raise funds for scholarships. Lt. Governor Duke Aiona (left) kicked-off the event along with alum Andy Smith. In the middle is Marketing & Alumni Director Yu Yok Pearring. Sponsors included Paul's Enterprises, Pinnacle Investment Group, Hawaiian Rhythms 92.7/Ultimate Media, Sports Line, Pyramid Insurance, Big Island Toyota, Merrill Lynch, Aiona Car Sales, Prudential Orchid Isle Properties, and UH Hilo.*



### Singers wanted for *MESSIAH* concert

This fall a chorus will be specifically organized for the performance of Part I of Handel's *MESSIAH*. The chorus is open to all interested singers from the Hilo community, University faculty and staff, and students. The chorus will meet for four or five rehearsals during October and November to prepare for the concert, which takes place in the Theatre on December 4 and 5.

Previously, the community chorus was part of the University Chorus, which met on Monday evenings. This year, the *MESSIAH* chorus will meet separately and the Monday night chorus will be for enrolled students only. The University Chorus will present an entirely different concert of holiday music on December 6.

A rehearsal schedule for the *MESSIAH* concert will be announced shortly. For additional information, please contact Ken Staton at x30718 or [kstaton@hawaii.edu](mailto:kstaton@hawaii.edu).

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# Blessing for North Hawai'i Education and Research Center

by Ken Hupp

A blessing was held last month to celebrate the renovation and construction of the North Hawai'i Education and Research Center (NHERC), formerly the old Honoka'a Hospital.

The event attracted a large cross-section of the community in addition to various county, state and University of Hawai'i dignitaries. The \$1.75 million renovation plan will include construction of classrooms, computer labs for Web-based education, a multi-purpose room and offices.

UH Hilo, in concert with the community, developed the Center concept to provide opportunities in higher education and to come up with new approaches to meeting the challenges of Hawai'i's economy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

"UH Hilo is excited to become a part of the North Hawai'i community as it writes a new chapter in its proud and storied history," said Chancellor Rose Tseng. "We believe there is tremendous potential here, and look forward to working with the community to help build a bright future."

The North Hawai'i region includes the communities of Laupahoehoe, Honoka'a, Waimea, Kohala and Waikoloa. With its central location, the Center will take advantage of the workforce community initiatives established by State Representative Dwight Takamine, the wellness activities in Waimea initiated by Five Mountains Medical Group and the aging population of the North Hawai'i community.

John Kai, University of Hawai'i Board of Regents East Hawai'i member, and a Honoka'a High School graduate, said the Center will provide opportunities his generation and others never enjoyed.

"It was either stay home, which often meant going to work in some aspect of the sugar industry, or leave your home and family to seek opportunities elsewhere," Kai said. "Bringing this Center to Honoka'a will give today's generation and those that follow a choice that we could only dream of."

The area has undergone significant change over the past decade. A combined 1,200 jobs were lost due to the shut-down of large-scale sugar operations. Workers have been sustained in part through job training, outreach programs and grassroots community development. Yet the region has remained largely under-served by higher education.

"This is a truly inspiring story about a community that refused to give up or lose faith in itself despite the devastating demise of the sugar industry," Takamine said. "From the doubling of Hale Ho'ola's long-term care capacity to the development of a comprehensive agricultural plan, the community is creating a new, diverse and dynamic economic base. The Center will become the crown jewel of this effort, by providing an educational component to tie all these ac-

tivities together."

The credit and non-credit programs offered at the facility will serve college students, advanced placement (AP) high school students, adult learners, trade union members, seniors, and displaced workers with in-service training for professionals, ag extension support services and training, and computer classes.

Construction is expected to take anywhere from eight to twelve months. Classes will likely commence by next fall.

*(Editor's note: Ken Hupp is a public information office.)*



*(L-R): HawCC Chancellor Rockne Freitas, Chancellor Rose Tseng and UH Interim President David McClain take part in the blessing ceremony.*



*UH Hilo Chancellor Rose Tseng (middle) congratulates four outstanding awardees at the 2004 End of the Year Celebration and Recognition Ceremony, held on May 6, 2004. They are: (L-R) Alvin Miyashiro, Excellence in Building and Ground Maintenance Award; Karlen Suga, UH Hilo Student Employee of the Year Award; Jackie Pualani Johnson, Excellence in Service Award; and JP Michaud, Outstanding Advisor/Mentor Award.*

# Hats off to...



Kenith Simmons

**Kenith Simmons**, Professor of English, had her poems "Galilee Sweetness" and "Dayyenu" accepted for publication in *Poetica*.

**Linda Marie Golian-Lui**, Library Director, was an invited speaker for the 2004 ALA Diversity Institute in Orlando, FL in June. Her presentation was "Utilizing Thinking Style Preferences for Effective Library Management." Additionally, her review of the book *Librarian Compensation Handbook: A Guide for Administrators, Librarians, and Staff* was published in the July 2004 issue of *Portal: Libraries and the Academy*.



Linda Marie Golian-Lui

**Nina Buchanan**, Professor of Education, was selected nationwide to work in Washington, D.C. in July on the National Assessment of Educational Progress database and learn to use new data analysis tools on complex samples and designs. Also, as a result of collaboration with colleagues from UH Manoa, Buchanan's "Aligning practice to theory: Attitudes of students in re-cultured and comprehensive high schools" detailing recent studies of the West Hawai'i Explorations Academy will be published in A. Maynard (ed.) *The Psychology of Learning in Cultural Context*.



Nina Buchanan

**Peter Mills**, Associate Professor of Anthropology, was appointed by Governor Lingle in July to the Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board for a two-year term. The 10-member Board is responsible for drafting rules, hearing contested cases, and making rulings on the eligibility of historic properties for listing in the Hawai'i Register of Historic Places. Mills has also begun a three-year NSH-funded research project (\$147,977) with **Ken Hon**, Associate Professor of Geology and Co-PI, to non-destructively analyze the geochemistry of stone artifacts with a newly-purchased Energy-Dispersive X-Ray Fluorescence spectrometer. The spectrometer is equipped with a



Ken Hon



Cecilia Mukai

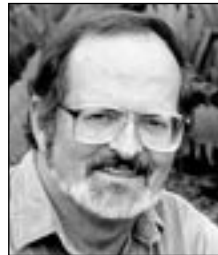
customized sample chamber available nowhere else in the Pacific region that will allow even the largest adzes and poi pounders to be analyzed non-destructively.

**Ken Hon**, Associate Professor of Geology, was filmed and interviewed for a program on the *Earth's Core* that will air on National Geographic next year. He was also interviewed and assisted with animations for a Discovery Channel production on *Caves in National Parks*. Additionally, Hon presented two papers at the Western Pacific Geophysics meeting in Honolulu: "Continuous Versus Pulsed Inflation: Implications for Emplacement of Flood Basalts" and "Electron Microprobe Investigations of Partial Melting and Crystallization in Hawaiian Lava Tubes: Evidence for Thermal Erosion and the Role of High-Oxygen Fugacity."



Michael West

**Cecilia Mukai**, Director of Nursing, spoke at the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Nurse Educator's Conference in the Rockies held at Breckenridge, CO. Her presentation on "1+1=3 Nursing and Community Partnerships More than Add Up" covered the unique collaborative health care services that nursing students and community agencies are able to provide the Big Island community. Her trip was supported by a travel grant from the UH Hilo Research Council.



Don Hemmes

**Jonathan Dresner**, Assistant Professor of History, chaired a panel at the 2004 Association for Asian Studies Pacific Region Conference held in June in Eugene, OR. He presented his paper on "International Labor Migrants' Return to Meiji-era Yamaguchi and Hiroshima: Economic and Social Effects."



Judith Gersting

**Michael West**, Professor of Astronomy, and his research collaborators at other universities were awarded a total of \$333,000 in support of two upcoming programs of observations

Hats off - continued on page 6.

## Hats off

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John Gersting

that will be made with the Hubble Space Telescope. West was also recently appointed to a three-year term on the Space and Astronomy Grant Selection Committee of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, the Canadian equivalent of the U.S. National Science Foundation. Additionally, he was part of an international team of astronomers that was awarded 25 hours of observing time with the new Spitzer Space Infrared Telescope; this award comes with \$75,000 in research funds to be shared by team members.

**Don Hemmes**, Professor of Biology, was honored at the Annual Meetings in Asheville, NC in July as a Fellow of the Mycological Society of America. This is one of the highest honors bestowed by the Society, and is a tribute to Hemmes' extensive research on Hawaiian fungi, including his book *Mushrooms of Hawai'i*, his teaching of mycology, and his service to the Society where he served on several committees. Previously, the Society awarded him the W.H. Weston Award for outstanding teaching in mycology. At the meetings, Hemmes and the organizing committee made final preparations for next year's Mycological Society of America's annual meeting on the UH Hilo campus in conjunction with the Mycological Society of Japan.

**Judith Gersting**, Chair of Computer Science, taught a National Science Foundation Chautauqua Short Course for College Teachers on "Introduction to Visual Basic.NET Programming" at the University of Dayton in June.

**John Gersting**, Professor of Computer Science, taught a National Science Foundation Chautauqua Short Course for College Teachers on "Managing Persistent Data in the .NET Environment" at the University of Dayton in June.

**Thomas K. Pinhey**, Associate Professor of Sociology, will organize



Shuguang Li

and chair the Illicit Substance Abuse research session at the 2005 annual meeting of the Southwestern Sociological Association in New Orleans, LA in March.

**Chris Lu**, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, was the convener of the keynote session, "How Students Affect College" at the Academic Affairs Meeting of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities held in Albuquerque, NM in July. AASCU is comprised of more than 430 public colleges, universities and systems of higher education throughout the U.S. and its territories. Additionally, Lu was elected as president of the International Goat Association during the Association's International Conference on Goats held in Pretoria, South Africa in July. He will serve a four-year term until the next International Conference on Goats, to be held in Cancun, Mexico in 2008. In the past, Lu served as a member of the editorial board, associate editor, a member of the Board of Directors and vice president for the Association.

**Tracy Wiegner**, Assistant Professor of Marine Science, had "Bioavailability of dissolved organic carbon and nitrogen from pristine and polluted freshwater wetlands" published in *Limnology and Oceanography* 49(5): 1703-1712. The paper was co-authored with Sybil P. Seitzinger of Rutgers University.

**Shuguang Li**, Associate Professor of Mathematics, had his paper on "An improvement of Artin's conjecture for composite moduli" accepted for publication in *Mathematika*. The UH Hilo Research Council helped to support this project.

**Yoshiko Okuyama**, Assistant Professor of Japanese and Linguistics, was selected to present at the International Online Conference on Second and Foreign Language Teaching and Research. Her narrated PowerPoint presentation on "Tracking Technologies and L2



Thomas Pinhey



Chris Lu



Tracy Wiegner



Yoshiko Okuyama



Larry Rogers



Thom Curtis

Hats off - continued on page 7.

## Hats off

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David Hammes

Learner Behaviors in CALL" is available for other conference presenters' critique until September 25.

**Larry Rogers**, Professor of Japanese, translated and had published in journals short stories by three Japanese writers: "The Prostitute" in *Critical Asian Studies*; "The Kitchen God" in *Zyzyva*; and "Camellia Hall" in *Chelsea*. He did this while on sabbatical this past spring. Also, he received a travel grant from the UHHilo Research Council for drama-related research in Tokyo this summer.

**Thom Curtis**, Associate Professor of Sociology, had his article "Fatal Aviation Incidents in Rural Communities: Response Preparation Strategies" published in the September edition of the international journal *Traumatology*. The article proposes a model based on the experiences of emergency responders in the wake of sightseeing tour and ambulance crashes in Hawai'i over the past five years.

**David Hammes**, Professor of Economics, had his article "Thomas Edison's 'Except One': The Monetary Views of Arthur Kitson Revisited" accepted for publication in *The Journal of Economic Studies*, vol. 31, no. 6, December. The paper was co-authored with D.T. Wills.

**Seri Luangphinit**, Assistant Professor of English, presented "Worlds Apart: Rethinking Indigene and 'Other'" at the Enemies of Empire Conference at the University of Limerick in Ireland in June.

**Wayne Miyamoto**, Professor of Art, presented work in the 54<sup>th</sup> Artists of Hawai'i annual exhibition at the Honolulu Academy of Arts, July 1-Aug 1. Juror Janet Koplos of the periodical *Art in America* selected 96 works by 61 artists for the exhibition. ☺



Seri Luangphinit



Wayne Miyamoto

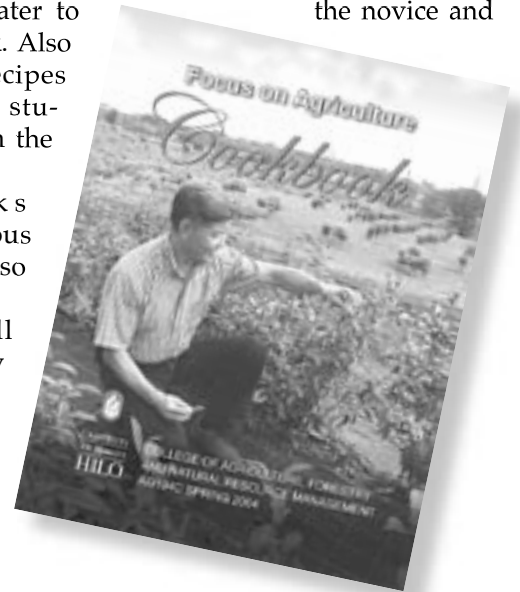
## Ag cookbook on sale

Orders for the Ag 194C Focus on Agriculture Cookbook are now being taken at the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Management. Hawai'i Island residents may pick up a copy for \$12.00 or it can be mailed Statewide for \$15.00 per copy, which includes shipping and handling.

The cookbook is a result of the Spring 2004 semester's Thursday evening TV cooking class hosted by Dr. Jack Fujii. Chefs and other personnel from various restaurants in the State were invited to demonstrate preparation of various dishes, using locally produced agricultural products. The cookbook contains a good mixture of ethnic recipes sure to satisfy and cater to experienced cook. Also included are recipes contributed by students enrolled in the course.

Cookbooks from the previous semesters are also available.

Please call x47393 with any questions. ☺



## MKAEC update to kick-off fall Focus on UH Hilo

*Focus on UH Hilo* begins its fall series of telecasts this month with an update on the Mauna Kea Astronomy Education Center (MKAEC). *Focus on UH Hilo* is hosted by Chancellor Rose Tseng, and airs Wednesday evenings from 8:00 to 8:30 p.m. on Channel 55.

Center Director Dr. Marlene Hapai will appear on the September 1st telecast. Hapai will update viewers on the development of the Center, complete with images from the construction site and June's blessing and open house. The guest lineup for the September 15<sup>th</sup> telecast is presently being confirmed.

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

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## Mauna Kea Astronomy Education Center receives exhibit donation from the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan

by Paula Thomas

On Tuesday, August 3rd, Dr. Hiroshi Karoji, director of Subaru Telescope, presented a check for over \$9,000 to UH Hilo to support the creation of an exhibit at the Mauna Kea Astronomy Education Center. The new exhibit will trace the evolution of telescopes as it was first used by Galileo to the most modern and sophisticated telescopes that are featured on Mauna Kea.

Dr. Karoji was accompanied by Dr. Tesuharu Fuse (not photographed) who is both a research fellow and a public relations staff person. The gift to the University is one way Subaru Telescope, and the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan that supports it, give back to the Hilo community. The donation marks the fourth such gift for UH Hilo.

MKAEC is currently under construction and will be an

interpretive center for the science of astronomy as it relates to celestial navigation and the Hawaiian culture.

(Editor's note: Paula Thomas is with the Office of Development.) 📷



Dr. Karoji, director of Subaru Telescope, presents a check to Chancellor Rose Tseng to support a new exhibit at the Mauna Kea Astronomy Education Center. Also pictured are Paula Thomas, Office of Development (left), and Dr. Marlene Hapai, director of the Mauna Kea Astronomy Education Center.

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## Spotlight

Continued from page 1

understand, so I said, 'I beg your pardon.' Then this person raised his voice and spoke much faster. 'Mustard or mayo?' And that made me more confused. But some people have the idea that if somebody doesn't understand, then you should speak louder."

Miike, who comes to UH Hilo after teaching at Denison University in Ohio, will teach Intercultural Communication and Communication in the Global Workplace as well as Intro to Communication this fall. His command of spoken American English is excellent by any reasonable standard, more than enough to earn an advanced degree in Communication in a non-native language, but Miike still finds occasional resistance from students, especially in the introductory public speaking courses that are required of all students.

"Sometimes it's difficult for me to teach public speaking because of the students' reactions," he mused. "I am not a native speaker of English, so some students have said, 'Why do I need to learn from you how to speak in English or how to deliver a speech in English?'"

"Perception is always an interesting thing to study, why people perceive things the way they do. This is one of the most important areas in the investigation of intercultural communication."

Miike said that despite the occasional misunderstandings, his experiences in the U.S. have largely been both educational and enjoyable. He is looking forward to the unique cultural communication research opportunities Hawai'i affords, such

as Hawaiian epistemology. He is also delighted that there are Japanese-American colleagues among the faculty and staff at UH Hilo, a first in his academic career. He is especially grateful to Dr. Steven Miura, an associate professor of communication.

"He has helped me a lot to make my transition easier," Miike explained. "He also understands many cultural aspects of my expectations. He really can read my mind. This will probably be the easiest transition that I will make in the United States."

But even with the racially and culturally diverse populace of Hawai'i, Miike still encounters the occasional cross-cultural misunderstandings, sometimes in ways he hadn't anticipated.

"It's always a challenge to go to a new place and start over," he said. "Hawai'i is very interesting. Sometimes people think I'm a tourist from Japan and speak Japanese to me. If you go to Hilo Hattie's and places like that, they speak some Japanese. Then I start speaking English. And then they go, 'Oh, you speak English.' But that's okay. I expect that kind of interaction."

"What was surprising to me was when I was speaking to Japanese tourists," he added. "And I assumed they knew that I was Japanese. But then, after a while, they told me, 'You speak good Japanese.' I never thought that when I left Japan for the United States six years ago, I would be considered non-Japanese, especially by Japanese. That was an interesting experience. I don't think that I could experience that sort of interaction in other parts of the United States."

For Dr. Yoshitaka Miike, life has presented itself with another research opportunity to explore. 📷

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## College of Business and Economics news

by Dr. Marcia Sakai

It's time for the new academic year to begin and normally the time to gear up, but CoBE has been engaged in several projects over the summer and it seems that the pace never really slowed down!

Students of the 2004 CoBE Sustainable Tourism class, with support from the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Management and the Hawai'i Forest and Communities Initiative, presented "Ho'oulu ka'Aina Aloha," or to "Nurture the Abundance of the Land with Love." The interpretive pictorial exhibit, inspired by John Kekua, was based on the traditional ahupua'a mountain-to-the-sea environmental management concept.

Students partnered with Jack Jeffrey of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife, Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge and Larry Katahira from the Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park Hawksbill Turtle Recovery Project to present the display. The exhibit was hosted by Restaurant Kaikodo in August.


CoBE and the Hilo Medical Center collaborated on the development and delivery of a workshop series focused on change management skills for nursing managers. The 16-session series spanned two months and involved Professors Hank Hennessey and Emmeline dePillis and guest professor Edward Fess.

Professor Kelly Burke and Kelvin Sewake, an extension agent with CTAHR Komohana, jointly delivered a computer skills workshop for agriculturalists as part of a USDA grant received by the University of Hawai'i and UH Hilo's CAF-NRM to build human capital capacity in Hawai'i's agriculture industry. Under the theme of the Hawai'i Agribusiness Incubator, the project seeks to double the value and value-added of agriculture-based products in Hawai'i's economy by providing access to business skill building and developing a strategic marketing plan for Hawai'i's agriculture.

Lastly, the Association for the Advancement of Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) accepted the CoBE's 2004 Self Evaluation Report and confirmed the site team's scheduled visit, which will take place October 28 and 29 on campus. The team members will talk to administrators, faculty, students and the College advisory council to collect on-site information for the purpose of final analysis and development of a report to the AACSB Initial Accreditation Committee.

The faculty and staff of CoBE have worked for seven years to arrive at this stage of accreditation and are keenly anticipating the team's visit. As well, our administration, people in Student Affairs, the Library, Academic Computing, and Marketing and Alumni Relations have all contributed to this effort. The team has expressed specific concerns related to the timetable for hiring a College dean, adequacy of CoBE facilities and staff resources, and job placement assistance

to students. We are developing a planning response to these issues in cooperation with other UH Hilo units. A final decision on the initial accreditation is expected by the end of February 2005.

(Editor's note: Dr. Marcia Sakai is director, CoBE.) 

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## UH Hilo's accreditation reaffirmed through 2014

UH Hilo received notice from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) over the summer that its accreditation has been reaffirmed until 2014.

A letter to Chancellor Rose Tseng dated June 25, 2004, from Ralph A. Wolff, executive director of WASC's Accreditation Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities (WASC Senior), stated that the 10-year extension, the longest accreditation period that is granted by the Commission, was at the recommendation of WASC Preparatory Review and Educational Effectiveness Review teams that visited UH Hilo in March 2003 and March 2004, respectively.

"The commission was extremely pleased with the progress we have made in growth and expansion, especially our transformation from a liberal arts college to a comprehensive university, which they regard as a model for others," said Tseng, who also serves as one of WASC Senior's 20 elected commissioners. "Very rarely as a commissioner do I see such praise, and our favorable review is a credit to the efforts of our students, faculty and staff who all contributed to achieve this goal."

According to the WASC action letter, "the team commended the University for its bold vision of service to the Hawaiian community and for its progress in transforming its mission to transform itself from a liberal arts college to a comprehensive university that serves the workforce needs of Hawai'i. The team found that the University has taken previous Commission concerns and recommendations seriously and has achieved substantial progress in a number of areas during both reviews."

"Chancellor Tseng and the entire 'ohana at UH Hilo are to be congratulated for this successful visit," said UH Acting President David McClain. "The continued efforts and progress made by UH Hilo are a benefit not only to those the campus serves, but to the entire state, providing a model of transformation for the entire university system to follow."

The campus was also commended for "the number of steps it has taken to respond to its very diverse student population, including faculty development efforts to heighten their understanding of cross-cultural differences, the creation of cross-disciplinary courses and programs sensitive to Hawaiian students and the work of student affairs within the cul-

Accreditation- continued on page 10.

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## Accreditation

*Continued from page 9*

tural contexts of the University's students," noting also that "the program of study in Hawaiian language and literature is recognized worldwide and is a model for the study of the culture of indigenous people."

"The Board of Regents is pleased with the success of our Hilo campus and commends Chancellor Tseng, faculty, and staff for their efforts," said UH BOR Chairperson Patricia Lee. "The board will continue to support UH Hilo's efforts to serve the needs of its students, the Big Island community and the state of Hawai'i."

There were certain areas for improvement that were highlighted by the report and action letter. Recognizing UH Hilo's "emerging mission and the evident high interest in its programs, as demonstrated by its enrollment growth," the commission encourages the campus and the UH system to expand its funding base, and also encourages the BOR to

support that expansion. It cited concerns with the campus' institutional faculty governance and organizational structures, particularly in regards to faculty groups, and requested the campus monitor the operations of its senates and faculty congress and evaluate their effectiveness. It also expects that the campus will move ahead with developing and implementing a plan to improve the diversity of its faculty and staff, and to engage faculty more broadly and actively in assessment of student learning outcomes.

A special visit from a WASC team to assess the areas for improvement that have been highlighted is scheduled for spring 2008.

The next institutional proposal from UH Hilo to WASC will be due October 15, 2010. A Capacity and Preparatory Review is set for spring 2013 and the Educational Effectiveness Review is scheduled for spring 2014. ☺

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## A "peak" at progress

*by Dr. Marlene Hapai*

Hawai'i Island is known for five volcanoes making up its prominent -- as well as -- lower mountain peaks. These mountains are described poetically in many Hawaiian songs and scientifically by geologists who chart their cycles of swelling, erupting and dormancy. Kohala, Mauna Kea, Mauna Loa, Hualalai and Kilauea volcanoes have created and continue to create this beautiful island we call home.

So why is an entomologist sharing this with you? Because in the University Park of Science and Technology, the Mauna Kea Astronomy Education Center's first peak is taking shape.

This peak, representing Mauna Kea, will house the Center's planetarium. It is the first of three peaks to go up in the architectural design that will feature Mauna Loa and Hualalai as well. The goal of the Center is to bring the mountain to the people here in Hilo, so through its unique design, we are doing just that. However, it is not just the outside, but the other features to be added that will fulfill this mission. The planetarium is designed to present both prepared and live shows, and if there is something exciting happening on Mauna Kea, plans are to bring it to our audience in Hilo.

As the Center continues to take shape, its exterior landscaping will fea-

ture plants brought in the original canoes and other native plants. This entrance to the Center will help to introduce the cultural link between the early Polynesians and their voyage to Hawai'i with not only the provisions needed to get here and survive, but also with the astronomy that influenced their journey. Once inside, this theme will continue with an atmosphere of culture and science appropriately enriching each venue to highlight the origins and voyages of yesterday and today's Hawaiians and scientists, in personal and interactive ways.

It's time to take a peek at the new peak coming up in Hilo. This building will definitely be a landmark for Hilo, and be a special place for educational and social activities that bring our community together.



*(Editor's note: Dr. Marlene Hapai is director, MKAEC.)* ☺

*The heavy structural steel framing of MKAEC's planetarium cone is now complete and the structural steel work in the exhibit hall is underway.*

## Athletics adds golf

by Kelly Leong

The Vulcan Athletic program will be adding another sport this year, and has turned to an old-hand to develop the program.

Having coached the men's golf team from 1981-91, Jim Demello has been asked to develop the initial Vulcan women's golf program. Demello is no stranger to golf scene and the junior golf program in Hawai'i where the program expects to draw its core of athletes.

"I'm kind of excited especially to see if I can make a difference," DeMello said. "I'm not going after the best of the best. I'm going for the middle of the high school crop because the best have more opportunities to go away to school. So what I'm trying to do is provide the other girls in the middle the opportunity to play college golf and go to school."

DeMello led the UH Hilo's men's team to seven NAIA District titles and four NAIA National tournaments, including eighth place finishes in 1983 and 1986. His first women's squad includes 2003 Hilo High School graduate Kristen Higa, 2004 graduates Kiilani Matsuyoshi (Kauai HS) and Breena Kadekaru (Moanalua HS), and UH Hilo student Mineko Kanamoto, a returning student from Japan. Higa, Matsuyoshi and Kadekaru have played in the Hawai'i High School State tournament.

"This being our first season in college golf for women, I think that we have four girls that understand the game, know the rules, know the etiquette and will represent the University very well," DeMello said. "It's just a matter of them getting used to the grind of college golf."

Along with UH Hilo, other members of the Pacific West Conference – Brigham Young University-Hawai'i, Chaminade University, Hawai'i Pacific University, Montana State University-Billings and Western New Mexico University – will also sponsor women's golf.

(Editor's note: Kelly Leong is sports information director.)

### Business/Ag offices moved

Please be aware that the Business Office is temporarily housed in PB 11, and the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Management is temporarily located in Campus Center 306-307 until renovations to their old offices are completed. Phone numbers have remained the same.

## Sakamoto named UH Hilo Administrative Affairs' Employee of Quarter



Irene Sakamoto

Irene Sakamoto, a personnel clerk in Human Resources and Administrative Affairs, was named UH Hilo's Employee of the Quarter in July. Sakamoto has been employed in the UH System since 1991 and is the second recipient of this award.

"She is always here to help us with an inviting smile," wrote one nominator. "Irene is always willing to listen to questions or hear concerns. If she doesn't know the answer, she will openly say that she is not sure but will always offer to find the answers and get back to us."

"Irene is kindly referred to as 'the nurturer,'" said another nominator. "She simply is a very pleasant, hard working person. Just as Irene always checks the office plants, cleaning, trimming, watering, Irene also gives that same care when it comes to our employees' personnel needs."

In addition, Sakamoto is described as "a saint when it comes to patience and tolerance" who "pays attention to details" and as a fast worker "who even walks fast." But, the highest kudos is for Sakamoto's diplomacy.

"If there is a delay in processing of personnel documents with the UH System, she always makes the call to the UH System Office of Human Resources to find out what is going on, where our request is in the process, and if there is anything else needed from us," a nominator explained. "Not only does this give us a better understanding, but many times within a few days our request gets completed. It's not just that she makes the call, but also the diplomatic way she handles things."

"She is truly a team player and does not seek glory for herself or blame for others. "She is a dedicated employee to Human Resources and Administrative Affairs. We are very fortunate to have Irene as part of the Administrative Affairs team."

"It is a real honor to be the recipient of this award," Sakamoto said at the award presentation. "In reality, this award belongs to all of you for your many contributions to the success of the University."

Full-time Administrative Affairs employees are eligible for the award, which includes \$100 in cash, a \$25 meal card from Sodexo, and a reserved parking stall for the calendar quarter. Employees are nominated by the Vice Chancellor for Administrative Affairs and/or the department directors. Nominating criteria includes sustained superior performance on the job, and excellence in service to the University community and general public.

Kirk Mikami, a cashier with the Business Office, was the recipient of the first UH Hilo Administrative Affairs' Employee of the Quarter.



## Campus Events

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### September

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| <p>1 Dr. Marlene Hapai, "Focus on UH Hilo," 8 p.m., Channel 55</p> <p>6 Holiday: Labor Day</p> <p>10 Last day to exercise credit/no credit</p> <p>12 Last day to withdraw from courses without "W"</p> <p>15 "Focus on UH Hilo," 8 p.m., Channel 55</p> <p>24, 25 <i>Hawaiian Myths and Legends</i> presented by IONA Contemporary Dance Theatre, 7:30 p.m., Theatre, Admission</p> <p>25 Vulcan volleyball vs. BYU-Hawai'i, 7:15 p.m., New Gym, Admission</p> | <p>27 Vulcan volleyball vs. Western New Mexico Univ, 7:15 p.m., New Gym, Admission </p> |
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