

Ka Lono **Hanakahiki**

"News of People Working Together"

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO

VOLUME 22, NO. 8, APRIL 2007

"Ocean Day Hawai'i" is PACRC's coming-out party

On Saturday, April 28, the Pacific Aquaculture and Coastal Resources Center and the UH Hilo Marine Science Department, in partnership with the UH Sea Grant, are co-hosting "Ocean Day Hawai'i," a community outreach event to raise awareness of current issues concerning ocean resources, safety, and conservation in community members and school-age children.

The family-friendly event will be at PACRC, on Kalaniana'ole Avenue in Keaukaha. Admission is free with ample parking onsite. Children ages 15 and under must be accompanied by an adult.



Sharon Ziegler-Chong

"The focus of this event is to educate people about current ocean conservation, research and management efforts," said Sharon Ziegler-Chong, PACRC associate director. "Representatives from various groups will provide information and activities related to the 'what' and 'why' behind management and research efforts in the State and region and actions that the public can take toward protecting our oceans through topics such as marine mammal conservation, water quality in our coastal waters, conservation enforcement, tsunami safety and coral reef studies. University researchers and students will be present to display their ongoing aquaculture and marine resources research on such topics as *wana*, Hawaiian black-lip pearl oysters and other species."



Misaki Takabayashi

Ziegler-Chong, a co-coordinator for the event with Dr. Misaki Takabayashi, UH Hilo assistant professor of marine science, said that the idea for Ocean Day Hawai'i came from the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992.

"Events are held worldwide on various dates celebrating our oceans and encouraging people to become involved with their conservation," Ziegler-Chong said. "Misaki felt it was an idea worth adapting to Hawai'i

SPOTLIGHT

UH Hilo music to Vu's ears



Tam B. Vu

For those old enough to remember the fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975, there are images indelibly etched into the collective consciousness, such as a crying young mother emerging from a sea of humanity on the roof of the besieged U.S. Embassy

and selflessly handing her baby to a U.S. Marine as the helicopter he is aboard readies to lift off. Written on the woman's plaintive face is the hope that her child will have a better life --one that she, unfortunately, will be unable to share.

The story of Dr. Tam Bang Vu, assistant professor of economics at UH Hilo's College of Business and Economics, may not be quite so dramatic, but it is compelling, nonetheless. Born in Hanoi, the nation's capital, at a time when the country was still divided into North and South Vietnam, she was a child of privilege, and a gifted musician.

"My father, an opposition leader, joined the coalition government led by Ho Chi Minh, the first president of Vietnam, first as its education minister and later as its justice minister," she said. "As the justice minister, he vehemently insisted that the Ministry should be independent of the Communist Party rules. Unfortunately, in the end he lost his lonely battle within the government and had to resign from the post."

Because of her father's disagreement with the

PACRC

Continued from page 1

as part of our university outreach efforts. Conservation of the ocean, one of the most valuable environmental assets in Hawai'i, can only effectively happen with pooling resources and efforts together from researchers, managers, and members of the public. The coastal location of PACRC and its ongoing ocean and coastal research projects made it the ideal site to hold this event.

"From the PACRC perspective it is also an opportunity to introduce our new facility to the community," she added. "The event has a growing number of sponsors, with support from Hawai'i Sea Grant and Hilo Jaycees and other local businesses and groups, as well as educational booths manned by representatives from a wide range of agencies who share the common vision of conserving our marine environment and resources."

According to Ziegler-Chong, the first phase of construction at PACRC, which provided much of the basic infrastructure for the marine and aquaculture research being done there, has been completed, and tours of the facility will be part of the event.

"We have two wells, saltwater and freshwater, and accompanying underground water, drainage and air systems, two research greenhouses, outdoor small tank facilities, an administration building with a small conference room, a water quality lab, an open-air, covered presentation area, and two large cement tanks that remain from the site's water treatment days and have been refurbished for research," she said. "A sister site at the UH Hilo Panaewa Farm houses a series of quarantine facilities and capabilities for integrated aquaculture-agriculture projects."

PACRC is currently involved with 50-plus projects worldwide focused on aquaculture, coastal resources management and environmental conservation, Ziegler-Chong noted.

"A large thrust of many of those projects is community capacity building and training of youth and adults into scientific fields," she explained. "Now with the completion of this first phase of our facilities in Keaukaha and



PACRC site

Panaewa, several graduate students from UH Hilo's Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science program are conducting research projects. PACRC's Pearl Research and Training Program, under the direction of Dr. Maria Haws, is launching its research on-site as part of its ongoing collaboration with partners in Hawai'i and the Pacific. We are now at a place where we are starting to work with community and school groups for educational tours and longer programs, such as a program this summer with Na Pua No'eau. We are excited about the opportunity to build educational and training programs with this community and State that has supported us as we have gone through what seemed to be a never-ending construction process."

There will also be educational presentations by Sea Grant, the National Oceanographic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Pacific Tsunami Museum, Hawai'i Division of Aquatic Resources and other public and community groups, as well as fun and educational hands-on activities for people of all ages and food and beverages available for purchase.

"Ocean Day planning has been met with great enthusiasm from different sectors of our community already, and we have received general and raffle prize support from KTA Super Stores, Kilauea Lodge, Blue Hawaiian Helicopter Tours, Basically Books, Dominos, Aloha Airlines, Big Island Federal Credit Union, Oceanic Time Warner Cable, McDonalds of Hawai'i, and others," Ziegler-Chong said. "This is the first public event in Hilo that solely focuses on ocean conservation in particular. It follows the tradition of Earth Day for which UH Hilo/HawCC already has a great public event. It should be a really fun day."

And there is some serious food-for-thought that Ziegler-Chong would like "Ocean Day Hawai'i" guests to take home with them.

"We would like everyone to continue this awareness for environmental issues to focus on the liquid side of our planet," she concluded. "That is the first step in a communal effort of any kind. We would love for everyone who came out for the day to go home knowing that everything we do in our everyday living directly or indirectly affects how ocean and its creatures will live in the future." ♻️





Pictured from left to right: Farrah-Marie Gomes, Greg Doran (HLP Board Member), Gary Kaneshiro (HLP Board Member), Mike O'Donnell (Dean of CCECS), Larry Kafchinski (HLP Board Member)

Scholarship fund established for NHERC

by Farrah-Marie Gomes

Last month the Hamakua Land Partners presented a \$1,000 check to UH Hilo's North Hawai'i Education and Research Center (NHERC) in Honoka'a. The Hamakua Land Partners, which originated with Hamakua Energy Partners, has a community-based advisory board and provides funds for various needs through organizations in the Hamakua community. The scholarship funds are available to students seeking higher education and in need of financial assistance.

This worthy community partner has 'stepped up to the plate' in a time of need to help start a scholarship fund for North Hawai'i residents taking college credit classes on-site. It is hoped that this award is only the first of many contributions from community organizations and businesses that will enable the Center to assist those with college aspirations but lacking the financial means to currently pursue higher education.

The University of Hawai'i Foundation has used the \$1,000 to establish the NHERC Scholarship Fund. The University's Financial Aid Office will administer the funds and award scholarships following standard University, need-based criteria and procedures. The NHERC Scholarship Fund is somewhat unusual in that it will serve students of very diverse ages and backgrounds.

NHERC attracts local high students and currently has almost a dozen Running Start youth enrolled. Community members are also eligible and attend these classes. Some students travel from as far away as Waikoloa while others come from sugar plantation and health care backgrounds in Hamakua. The commonality shared by most of the students is the twin difficulties of attending classes in Hilo and financing their education. With a scholarship fund now available, the NHERC has a greater capacity to fulfill its primary mission of making higher education available to this region previously underserved by the UH System. ☺

(Editor's note: Farrah-Marie Gomes is interim director, NHERC.)

"Cancer Care A to Z" next month

"Cancer Care A to Z" is the theme of the 2007 Pulama I Ke Ola Healthcare Conference hosted by the UH Hilo Baccalaureate Nursing Program, to be held on May 17 and 18 on campus. Co-hosts for this fourth annual conference are Hospice of Hilo and the American Cancer Society.

The Pulama I Ke Ola Healthcare Conference promotes the belief that life is precious. The two-day conference will include presentations on research and practices related to cancer care. Special attention is placed on issues impacting the health of people living in a multi-cultural environment such as Hawai'i.

The opening speaker will be Dr. Diane Thompson who will speak on "Quality of Life with Cancer." Thompson is director of the Cancer Center Program at the Queen's Medical Center and is clinical associate professor at the John A. Burns School of Medicine on O'ahu. Her expertise includes psychiatric oncology, affective disorders in the medically ill, and psychopharmacology.

The conference includes a host of speakers from multiple disciplines, including nursing, social work, and psychology. Talks on Cancer Care Logistics, Compassionate Care, Navigating the Future—Survivorship, and Clinical Trials with Cancer Care are part of the program. The conference ends with an interactive session on celebrating life with expressive arts. Auntie Aloha, a comedienne for Maui, will perform at the evening presentation and dinner reception entitled, *Laughter as Medicine*.

The unique format of the conference offers pathways for healthcare professionals and high school students considering a career in healthcare. The professional program has been approved by the Hawai'i Nurses Association Continuing Education Committee for satisfaction of continuing education and provides practitioners with updates on current issues and trends affecting health care. The youth program promises to be a meaningful learning experience for students. Students will be exposed to healthcare issues and given the opportunity to interact with professionals on an informal basis. High school students, including those that may not be able to attend the conference, are invited to participate in poster and essay contests for monetary awards.

Cancer Care - continued on page 9.

Mookini Library hosts Hawaiian immersion language preschoolers

The UH Hilo Edwin H. Mookini hosted a group of special visitors from the Hilo branch of the Aha Punana Leo Hawaiian immersion language pre-school on March 2. The children, or *kamali'i*, learned about the Library's services and resources while enjoying a tour of the main floor conducted by Hawai'i Community College Librarian Lari-Anne Au.

The students, or *haumana*, gathered in the Hawaiian Collection where Librarian Helen Wong Smith described the various resources in the Collection. Those treasures included the room's prints, which Kumu Kalani Wilson utilized as she told the story of Captain James Cook's arrival at Kealakekua Bay and subsequent demise to a captivated audience.

Library staff received a special gift of thanks, or *makana*, from the students who performed their school song, "Hele Au i ka Punana Leo." They were also presented with an autographed photo of the students for the Library's collection. 📷



PAC April performances

The UH Hilo Performing Arts Center features Expressions Dance Company performing *Virtually Richard3* on Tuesday, April 3, at 7:30pm. Tickets are reserved seating and range from \$23-\$30 with discounts available to qualified persons.



Expressions Dance Company

Expressions Dance Company, internationally renowned for their powerful performances throughout Europe and Asia, has established a worldwide reputation for originality, energy and exhilarating dance, creating works in which speech, dance and visual media combine and confront each other.

Choreographed by Maggi Sietsma, a master of the art of staging choreography and dramatically structured narration, *Virtually Richard3* is inspired by one of Shakespeare's most powerful works, *Richard III*. It stars Dan Crestani, a finalist in the 2002 and 2003 Australian Dance Awards for best male dancer.

Juan Carmona Grupo – Virtuoso Flamenco Guitar hits the stage on Saturday, April 21 at 7:30 pm. Tickets are reserved seating and range from \$15-20 with discounts available to qualified persons.



Juan Carmona Grupo

Carmona obtained his degree as a concert musician, awarded by the celebrated National Conservatory of Music in Paris and, at the age of 26, became the first professor of flamenco guitar holding a state-awarded diploma.

In 1988, he was awarded first prize in the Jerez de la Frontera International Competition, and was a finalist in the Union and Cordoba Guitar Competition. In 1989, he obtained a diploma from the Jerez Flamenco Foundation, awarded by guitarist Manolo Sanlúcar. In 1990, he won the Villa Médicis Hors Les Murs award, the Don Antonio Chacon trophy awarded by his "peña flamenca," and in 1992 the Lavoisier award. Finally, in 1994, he achieved the ultimate laureate: first prize in the Madrid Paco de Lucia Competition.

More recently, the guitarist has been commissioned to compose a Flamenco Rhapsody, performed by the Potsdam Philharmonic Orchestra and the Juan Carmona Grupo in Germany in May 1999.

The Box Office is open Monday – Friday from 2-6pm on school days. Call x47310 or order online at <http://artscenter.uhh.hawaii.edu>. 📷

Hats off to...



Robert Fox

Robert Fox, Professor, Physics, and **Nina Buchanan**, Professor, Education, have accepted appointments to the State Leaders Council of the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools. They will deliver a paper on "International School Choice" on April 27 at the Council's first meeting, to be held in Albuquerque, NM.



Nina Buchanan

David Hammes, Professor, Economics, and **Terrance Jalbert**, Professor, Finance, participated in and contributed a chapter to "Feasibility Study: Geothermal Direct Use Kapaoho/Pohoiki Area," funded by the United States Department of Energy, and the County of Hawai'i, Department of Research and Development. The lead organization on the project was Okahara and Associates of Honolulu and Hilo.



David Hammes

Susan Jarvi, Associate Professor, Biology, published "Molecular sexing and sources of CHD1-Z/W sequence variation in Hawaiian birds" in the journal *Molecular Ecology Notes* (6, 1003-1005, 2006), authors Jarvi and M.E.M. Farias. The paper describes the applicability of multiple PCR-based tests for sexing Hawaiian birds and includes methodology for identifying the sex of one of the last remaining po'o-uli. "Genetic analyses of captive `alala (*Corvus hawaiiensis*) using AFLP analyses," Jarvi and K.R. Bianchi, USGS-Pacific Island Ecosystems Research Center, Honolulu, HI Open File Report OF2006-1349, 2006, was recently released and summarizes the level of genetic variability present in the captive, endangered `alala as determined by amplified fragment length polymorphism.



Terrance Jalbert

Bryan Kim, Associate Professor, Psychology, has been elected as a vice president of the Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development. He will oversee the area of Asian American and Pacific Islander affairs. The AMCD is a division of the



Sue Jarvi

American Counseling Association, which is the world's largest private, not-for-profit organization for professional counselors.

Ron Amundson, Professor, Philosophy, has been invited to a special seminar devoted to his 2005 book, *The Changing Role of the Embryo in Evolutionary Thought*, at the biannual conference of the International Society for the History and Philosophy of Biology in Exeter, England, this summer. The seminar will feature eight scholars who will critically comment on the book. The book will be available in a paperback edition this summer.



Bryan Kim

Harald Barkhoff, Assistant Professor, Health and Physical Education, recently presented his paper, "Daily Self-Monitoring Data Collection & Feedback through CAMI (Computer Assisted Mobile Interview) in Health & Sport Psychology" at the Fulbright Academy of Science & Technology 2007 Annual Conference: Implementing the U.N. Millennium Development Goals, in Panama City, Panama. The paper is co-authored with H. Hochwald (Univ of Stuttgart). Additionally, he was selected with nine attendees among the 130 conference participants to serve on a Future of Fulbright Strategic Planning meeting during this conference.



Ron Amundson

Todd Belt, Assistant Professor, Political Science, and UH Hilo student Natalie Brown presented the paper "The Impact of National Tragedies on Support for the President: The Cases of September 11th and Hurricane Katrina" at the Western Political Science Association conference. Belt also presented the paper "Non-Traditional Political Ideologies of the Homeless and Their Relation to Preference for Social Services Provision" at the same conference.



Harald Barkhoff

Drew Martin, Assistant Professor, Marketing, had "Developing Grounded Theory on Tourism Behav-

Hats off - continued on page 6.

Hats off

Continued from page 5



Todd Belt



Drew Martin



Wayne Miyamoto



Seri Luangphinit

ior: Exercises in Building Propositions from Emic and Etic Interpretations" accepted for publication by the *Journal of Business Research*. Martin is also associate editor of an academic journal, *International Journal of Culture, Tourism and Hospitality Research*.

Wayne Miyamoto, Professor, Art, is currently featured in a solo exhibition of prints and works on paper, "Anthropomorphic...The Sensation of Time and Change" at the University of Houston-Clear Lake, Houston, TX until July 1, 2007. He has been invited as a visiting artist at the University of Houston and will also serve as Distinguished Visiting Artist for the annual Visual Arts Scholastic Event in Houston sponsored by the Texas Arts Education Association this month.

Seri Luangphinit, Associate Professor, English, serves as editor of *Ku Kilakila: Writing from the Big Island*, which is a follow-up to *Making Waves*. *Ku Kilakila* features UH Hilo and HawCC students as well as professional writers, including Juliet Kono. The book is funded by the UH Hilo Board of Student Publications, the Office of Student Excellence, Equity and Diversity, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. The release date is April 23, 2007.

Walter Dudley, Professor, Oceanography, gave the keynote address at the recent annual meeting of the Pacific Risk Management Ohana (PRiMO), held in Kihei, Maui. The PRiMO organization is directed by the Pacific Services Center of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and members include the National Weather Service, USGS, FEMA, EPA, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, the NOAA Coastal Services Center, Emergency Management offices in Guam and American Samoa, Hawai'i State Civil Defense and each County's Civil Defense Agency.



Walter Dudley





Ken Staton



Kay Daub

Ken Staton, Associate Professor, Music, and 20 members of the UH Hilo Orchestra last month played as the pit orchestra to two sold out, standing-room-only audiences at the Maui Arts and Cultural Center for Honolulu's Hawai'i Opera Theatre's (HOT) production of *Madame Butterfly*. The affiliation between UH Hilo and HOT will likely result in more collaboration between the two artistic organizations.

Kay Daub, Associate Professor, Nursing, had "Pheochromocytoma: Challenges in Diagnosis and Nursing Care" published in *Nursing Clinics of North America*, March 2007. 

Ka Lono Hanakahi is published by the Office of University Relations on the first of the month during the academic year for 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 of Media Relations, Beaumont Cottage, (808) 974-7642 or email alyson@hawaii.edu. 

Distinguished alumni event raises over \$7,000 for scholarships

by Ken Hupp

An overflow crowd of nearly 400 people attended the UH Hilo Distinguished Alumni and Service Awards Banquet and helped raise more than \$7,000 for scholarship awards. The event was held on Friday, February 23 at the Hilo Hawaiian Hotel.

The annual event honors outstanding individuals who have made significant contributions to the University, local community and world-at-large. In addition to honoring alumni and various friends of the University, the event helps raise funds for the Alumni and Friends Association scholarship fund through a silent auction. Combined with the annual alumni golf tournament in October, the proceeds will fund at least three \$1,000 scholarships and help the Association meet its future scholarship goals.

The first three scholarship awards were presented in fall 2005, and are given each year to students who are immediate relatives of UH Hilo alumni or returning UH Hilo graduates intending to pursue undergraduate or graduate degree programs at UH Hilo. A total of six such scholarships have been awarded to date. Individuals interested in applying for a scholarship can obtain an application form from the UH Hilo Financial Aid Office.

Receiving Distinguished Alumni Awards this year were Maurice Kaya, chief technology officer for the State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, Russell Okata, executive director of the Hawai'i Government Employees Association, and Yukio Takeya, president and

principal broker of Ala Kai Realty.

Distinguished Service Awards were presented to State Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, and Derek Kurisu, executive vice president of Perishable Operations at KTA Superstores.

This year's event also included the first-ever presentation of the Alumni Award for Distinction in Military or Public Service. The award was presented posthumously to Army Sergeant Steve Sakoda, who died in the line of duty last year during deployment to Iraq.

Anyone interested in submitting nominations for the 2008 Distinguished Alumni and Service Awards, or seeking additional information, may contact the Marketing and Alumni Office at x47501 or x47643.



(L-R) Maurice Kaya, Yukio Takeya, Stella Hottendorf (Steve Sakoda's sister), Chancellor, Lorraine Inouye, Derek Kurisu, Russell Okata.

Pre-engineering program at UH Hilo once again

The UH Hilo Computer Science and Engineering Department will restart its Pre-Engineering program, which was dropped in the 1980s. A shortage of engineering students nationwide has prompted its revitalization in hopes of attracting more Hawai'i students into engineering fields. Dr. John Gersting serves as the Pre-Engineering faculty advisor.

"Engineers apply scientific and mathematical principles to design, create, and operate useful devices, structures, or processes in an efficient and economical manner," commented Dr. Judith Gersting, chair of the computer science and engineering department. "Many branches of engineering exist within this broad definition." Examples include:

- **Electrical Engineering:** Electrical engineers deal with the capture and transmission of energy and information (fuel cells, solar panels, hydroelectric plants, satellite transmission, TV, cell phones).
- **Mechanical Engineering:** Mechanical engineers har-

ness power and mechanical forces to develop all sorts of machines (supersonic jets, automobiles, robots, artificial organs). They also design and build heating and cooling systems, manufacturing facilities, and machine tools.

- **Civil Engineering:** Civil engineers design and supervise construction of visible infrastructure items (bridges, highways, airports, skyscrapers, waste-water treatment facilities).
- **Systems Engineering:** Systems engineers help integrate many different components of a project to see that they work together smoothly and still meet performance, scheduling, and cost goals.

Students can complete the first two years of their engineering program at UH Hilo. This two-year program can serve as preparation for transfer to many civil, electrical, or mechanical engineering programs.

For additional information, call x47450.

Nominations being sought for Taniguchi Award

by Ken Hupp

KTA Superstores and K. Taniguchi Ltd. have established a new award to recognize faculty and staff at UH Hilo who show special promise in the areas of teaching and scholarship. The Taniguchi Excellence and Innovation Award, which includes a \$2,000 cash prize, is funded by the Koichi and Taniyo Taniguchi Memorial Fund for Excellence and Innovation.

"The objective of this award is to invest in faculty development," said Barry Taniguchi, president of KTA Superstores and K. Taniguchi, Ltd., who established the fund in 2004 to honor the founders of KTA Superstores. "Education makes all things possible, and it all starts with the faculty."

UH Hilo has been evolving into a comprehensive university offering a high quality option for local undergraduate education. Officials believe attracting and retaining superior faculty is the key to sustaining the University's academic excellence.

"The quality of our faculty is critical to attracting the best and brightest students from Hawai'i and elsewhere to attend UH Hilo," said Chancellor Rose Tseng. "A first class faculty lends prestige to our academic programs, and their presence helps us attract more outstanding faculty, as well as high caliber students."

Nominations are currently being accepted for the award, which will be presented annually for the first time this year at UH Hilo's spring commencement. Any full-time UH Hilo faculty or staff member is eligible. Teams consisting of two or more faculty or staff may also be nominated, and students may be part of a team, provided it is led by a faculty or staff member.

"We're very pleased any time we have the opportunity to recognize the achievements of our University community," said Dr. Stephen Hora, interim vice chancellor for academic affairs. "What makes this award unique is its prestigious association with the Taniguchi name and legacy of excellence and innovation in the Hawai'i business community."

Nominations may be submitted by any faculty, staff, student, or administrator at UH Hilo, and may include self-nominations. Nominations must include a written narrative that describes the application and why it is innovative, explain how the application has been used to enhance student learning or advance scholarship or research, document the effectiveness of the application and explain the assessment process that was used to document results, and describe the life span of the application and identify possible uses in the future.

Eligible innovations should currently be in place and operational at UH Hilo. Such innovations may include the design of a new course, the development of a creative new curricular approach, or the production of special software or methodological techniques for scholarship and research.

Complete nomination packets consisting of a letter of nomination and descriptive narrative must be turned into the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences by April 15, 2007. Nominations will be reviewed by a committee comprised of representatives from the four degree-granting colleges and the College of Continuing Education and Community Service (CCECS).

For more information, contact CAS Dean Dr. Randy Hirokawa at x47300 or randyh@hawaii.edu. ☎

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



Eighteen Keaholoa STEM Program interns traveled to Kaho'olawe February 28-March 4, 2007 with Dr. Misaki Takabayashi, Dr. Rebecca Ostertag, and Drew Kapp, Keaholoa project specialist. They were part of a group of 62 guests of PKO, Protect Kaho'olawe Ohana, a grassroots organization "dedicated to the island of Kaho'olawe and the principles of Aloha 'Aina throughout Hawai'i nei."

Spotlight

Continued from page 1

powerful Ho, Vu at age 15 was expelled from the prestigious Hanoi Conservatory of Music, where she was studying to become a concert pianist. Determined to leave Vietnam so she could continue her education and “enjoy more freedom and justice,” Vu came to the U.S. in 1982 when an aunt on her mother’s side offered to sponsor her so she could pursue a B.A. in music at the College of Charleston in South Carolina. She applied for and received political refugee status, allowing her to remain in the U.S. permanently.

“I was young, alone, had little communication with my family, and had to support myself entirely,” she recalled. Vu, who has no family in Hawai‘i, said that the years between 1982 and 1993, when then-President Bill Clinton lifted the embargo on Vietnam, were especially difficult for her.

“During the first five years, it took 5-6 months for my letters to reach my parents,” she explained. “From 1988-1992, it took about 3-4 months. Nowadays, it takes just two weeks.”

Despite the loneliness and economic hardship she experienced, Vu thrived in her new environment, earning her B.A. from Charleston, plus an M.A. in piano performance at the Manhattan School of Music. She worked as a music and math tutor to support her studies and then became a concert pianist and music teacher.

“I started to work as a music instructor for Charleston School of Music in 1991, then became vice director in 1993, then became owner and director from 1996 to 2002,” she said. “During this period, I was also selected to join the performing artist roster of the South Carolina Commission of the Arts and received numerous grants from the commission to perform and to write a book on Vietnamese traditional music.”

Vu’s book, *An Anthology of Vietnamese Traditional Music*, was published in 1997. She continued to teach and perform, as well, including in her homeland.

“Since President Clinton lifted the embargo on Vietnam, I have been able to regularly visit my family, perform at the conservatories in Hanoi and Saigon and contribute to scholarship fundraising for talented students in Vietnam,” she said.

Vu spent 2002-06 at UH Manoa earning her Ph.D. in economics. In her final year at the Manoa campus, she also lectured, teaching Intermediate Macroeconomics and World Trade. Her major area of research is the macroeconomics of Asian economies.

“The prospective ASEAN+3 Free Trade Agreement (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, China, Korea, and Japan) will make this region the largest free trade region in the world,” she noted.

Vu came to UH Hilo in August 2006 and is teaching introductory and intermediate macroeconomics, as well as economic development. She also serves on the instructional committee at CoBE and the committee for the extension of

teaching in West Hawai‘i.

“I love Hilo with its wide-spread residential subdivisions,” she said. Vu also admitted that her favorite thing about Hilo is the coqui frog, which many consider a nuisance.

“They are cute creatures, and they sound symphonic,” she explained.

Vu also likes the students at UH Hilo, whom she says range from “very sweet” to “very demanding.”

“Once I was able to communicate with them, they trusted my guidance and made great efforts to contribute to my lectures and to the success of my classes,” she said.

Vu also said that she would like to play a recital for the students and faculty at UH Hilo. Perhaps she will play her favorite piano piece, Beethoven’s *Concerto Number Five* (not to be confused with his iconic *Fifth Symphony*), which is nicknamed *Emperor*.

“It is as tragic and passionate as Beethoven himself, and always comes out triumphantly despite all misfortune,” she said. “I have been using it as my spiritual guide throughout all these difficult years of my life.”

While her adult life has been peripatetic, perhaps Vu will be able to find the harmonious life she seeks by transplanting her roots in Hilo.

“Initially, I missed South Carolina and the wonderful friendship I had established there with my music students,” she said. “Now, the UH Hilo students have filled my life with love and concerns so I have almost forgot South Carolina already.”

“I know I sound emotional, but that is what a musician is all about. Or should I say, an economist-musician?” ☺

Cancer Care

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Health care professionals can log on to www.uhh.hawaii.edu/depts/nursing/pulama or contact Joan at the Nurse CARE project office at 933-1661 for more information, conference fees and registration. High school students should see their career counselor for conference fees, registration, and contest rules. There is a discounted conference fee for those registering by April 27, 2007 and a limited number of scholarships are available.

Community partners include Pacific Islands Geriatric Health Center, Hawaii/Pacific Basin AHEC, and the Independent Physicians Association (IPA). ☺



Campus Events

April

2	"I" removal deadline: instructor to Registrar's Office	17, 18	Vulcan softball vs. Dixie State College, Noon, UH Hilo Field
3	Expressions Dance Company, 7:30 p.m., PAC, Admission	21	Vulcan softball vs. Chaminade Univ, 1:30 p.m., UH Hilo Field
6	Holiday: Good Friday		Juan Carmona Grupo, 7:30 p.m., PAC, Admission
	Vulcan baseball vs. Hawai'i Pacific Univ, 3 p.m., Wong Stadium, Admission	22	Vulcan softball vs. Chaminade Univ, Noon, UH Hilo Field
6, 7	Vulcan softball vs. BYU-Hawai'i, Noon, UH Hilo Field	28	Vulcan softball vs. Hawai'i Pacific Univ, 1:30 p.m., UH Hilo Field
7	Vulcan baseball vs. Hawai'i Pacific Univ, 11 a.m., Wong Stadium, Admission	29	Vulcan softball vs. Hawai'i Pacific Univ, Noon, UH Hilo Field 
9	Last day to submit credit-by-exam results to the Registrar's Office		