

Ka Lono **Hanakahahi**

"News of People Working Together"

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO

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Building dedication launches new era for Marine Science

by Ken Hupp



Dignitaries take part in the untying of the maile lei.

took up residence in this 10,309-square-foot building in August, begin by counting a more basic blessing.

"This building gives us the laboratories and classrooms we've long needed," said Dr. Walter Dudley, professor of marine geology/oceanography, and marine science chair. "But the biggest advantage is the increased efficiency. Our students get more out of each session, because we can do more each session by having everything centrally located under one roof."


It's a far cry from the program given birth more than 20 years ago with the development of a strong Marine Option Program. Despite its

At a cost of \$2.75 million, you might think the biggest benefit of the new Marine Science Building is the addition of state-of-the-art equipment, classrooms, and laboratory facilities. Those are all important, as everybody who spoke at the building's October 18th dedication pointed out. But the faculty, who

UH Hilo establishes partnership with National Ocean Service

In addition to its new Marine Science Building, the University last month announced a formal partnership with the National Ocean Service — a bureau within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The partnership, established through a memorandum of agreement, not only commits the University and federal parties to greater cooperation in the marine science field, but emphasizes increased public awareness concerning the coral reef ecosystem of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

As a feature of the new partnership, the University has leased commercial space in the S. Hata Building in Downtown Hilo, and in turn the NOS will fund the creation of an interpretive center on the first floor. The facility will provide opportunities for the public to learn more about the islands and coral atoll ecosystems of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

The contract for the interpretive center has been awarded to Lyons/Zaremba, an exhibit-planning firm based in Boston, Massachusetts. The firm is internationally recognized in the design of environmental learning centers and large aquarium facilities. Their work includes exhibit design for the Osaka Ring of Fire Aquarium and the recently opened South Carolina Aquarium in Charleston, South Carolina. They are currently in the design phases for a major environmental center for the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary to be located at Key West, Florida - a partnership of NOS, the National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 

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success, the marine science program was without a home until the new building came along. Prior to this fall, classes were taught in the biology, geology, and chemistry and physics buildings.

"Just putting a lab session together required borrowing materials from several different areas, and a great deal of preparation time," Dudley said. "I would prepare a session the day before, and would have to make subsequent visits the following day, because the room was being used for other science labs, and I was always worried something would happen to the materials."

Louisa Ponnampalam, a sophomore majoring in marine science, seeking a minor in evolution biology, remembers those days.

"Trying to use someone else's facilities that were designed specifically for that discipline, was hard," Ponnampalam said. "Besides being too small and cramped, we were always worried about disturbing their materials or breaking things."

In addition, lab sessions often lacked some of the important instruments necessary for conducting quality research.

"We have had instruments like our Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM), which we had acquired via grants, donations and other means, but could rarely use, due to the lack of proper facilities," Dudley explained. "Now they've become a fixture in our lab sessions, because we can properly maintain and store them."

Mark Hughes of New York has been one of the first beneficiaries of the enhanced research capabilities. Hughes hopes to combine the information gathered from his classes and research to teach others the importance of preserving marine life.

"I am excited that we have a new Marine Science Building that will allow us to work with new tools like dissecting microscopes," Hughes said. "This allows us to perform experiments that we were unable to do before."

The building is also equipped with a wet lab and adjoining preparation room, where the next day's curriculum can be set up while experiments are simultaneously being carried out in the lab. Student-faculty research will be greatly enhanced through the addition of a new state-of-the-art

analytical lab. There, researchers can conduct chemical analyses of marine sediment, water and organisms.

Those facilities will be a great benefit to Joshua DeMello of Kaneohe, who transferred to UH Hilo in the spring of 1999, and is currently preparing for graduate school. For DeMello, who is conducting his senior thesis on fishpond sediments at the Kaloko Honokohau National Historical Park, the timing couldn't be better.

"This new building will definitely help me with my senior thesis and help me advance in my chosen career," DeMello said.

Computers meanwhile, are now at the forefront of marine science instruction, thanks to a new computer lab that can accommodate 24 students. The computer lab will increase the use of computers in laboratory work, student research courses and even lecture sections.

"With digital projectors directly linked to the Internet, we can continually update our presentations, and improve their quality at the same time," Dudley said. "We were previously limited to chalkboards and slide projectors."

The new facilities are a dream come true for Jill Ley, a senior from Hilo.

Ley chose to study marine science due to her life-long appreciation of Hawai'i's marine environment. She's currently conducting studies on ciguatera fish poisoning.

"The many courses I have taken have been very fulfilling, especially those involving lab and field-work," Ley said. "I have enjoyed working with faculty on numerous projects. This new facility has immensely added to my research and learning experience at UH Hilo."

The proverbial bells and whistles however, are not limited to the labs. The digital ceiling projectors found in the computer lab, will eventually become standard features in the two new state-of-the-art classrooms. The larger of the two, which doubles as a lecture hall, can handle up to 40 students.

Completing the package is a separate seminar room, which holds about a dozen people, and can also be utilized as a library reading room, in addition to hosting meetings and group discussions.

"This building represents a significant step forward in the development of our program," said Dr. Karla McDermid, associate professor of marine science. "This ties together the



Dr. Walt Dudley (second from left) show guests the various classroom exhibits.

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various disciplines of marine science, with all the elements of our program in close proximity to each other."

The new, centralized location has certainly made the department a more cohesive unit. Faculty members were previously scattered throughout campus, and often communicated via the telephone and email.

"Having everybody so scattered made it hard to communicate," Dudley said. "We now see each other on a daily basis and have done more communicating in one month than was done all of last year."

The daily interaction is a valuable tool for any faculty member. But it takes on even greater value for part-time lecturers like Brent Gallagher, who sees his colleagues less frequently, and appreciates the opportunity to network on a regular basis.

"Today I had a student inquire about a topic, which required some additional research on my part. Because we're all in the same place, I was able to walk down the hall, confer with fellow faculty face-to-face, and get an immediate answer" Gallagher said.

Jackie Holbrooke of Guam has worked extensively with faculty through her participation in a variety of activities, including turtle tagging and research cruises. Holbrooke, who plans to return to Guam, says her learning is being taken to a new level.

"The new building has very much improved my studies here at UH Hilo," Holbrooke said. "I feel very fortunate to be one of the very first to utilize this facility"

And how will the addition of a new building shape the future of an undergraduate program that was already number one in Hawai'i, and one of the best in the country? Chancellor Rose Tseng believes the new building locks in an already dominant position, while paving the way for future development.

"Our location in the Pacific gives us an advantage in oceanography and marine science that other universities can only envy," Tseng said during her dedication remarks. "With a facility to support ocean research, we are better positioned to build on our past successes and engage in future discoveries about the ocean and world around us."

The new classrooms will certainly allow more students to take classes already offered. How many more is uncertain, since one of UH Hilo's advantages over other universities has been the individualized instruction that small classes make possible. Additional sections will be determined by other factors.

"The number of sections is determined by the size of faculty, and right now the program is maxed out with all six faculty teaching their required loads" Dudley said. "In addition to our majors, there are a number of non-majors who want courses, but can't get them because there are only a limited number of spots available. We typically find that all

but a handful of upper division courses fill up by the first day of registration."

The new building has sufficient office space to accommodate the hiring of three additional tenured faculty. Dudley is also hoping to secure improvements to the department's research/education vessel, Four Winds, and development of a residential field station on a piece of property in Puako.

"A presence on the other side of the island would provide exposure to an entirely different marine environment, given its coral reefs and whale activity," Dudley said. "At the same time, we could travel to the deep ocean in a heartbeat. The addition of that component could make us the top undergraduate program in the country, and one of the best in the world."

He emphasized that the marine science program at UH Hilo differs from other universities, which concentrate on preparing students for graduate school. Dudley said the University's vision is much broader.

"Here, we train our students for positions in marine education in our public and private schools. We train students for jobs in marine ecotourism and for marine resource management positions with State agencies," Dudley said. "Some of our students from the Pacific islands return with the expertise they gained here, and are now making an important difference in that vast expanse of the Pacific. Others have successfully gone on to attend graduate schools around the country and into positions with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)."

Dudley ticked off a list of UH Hilo graduates and their accomplishments during his dedication remarks: Mike Childers, instructor and captain of the Four Winds; Jill Sommer, exhibits curator, archivist and Web master, Pacific Tsunami Museum; Joe Tegeder, currently working on a masters at the Stennis Space Center and travelling to Antarctica to work on his thesis in the Ross Sea; Brian Ziglenski, National Marine Fisheries Service in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands; and Noelani Puhawai, who is working on her masters at Washington State University.

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

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New Congress chair determined to reconnect faculty

by John Burnett



Professor of Education Dr. Nina Buchanan has been elected the new Chair of the UH Hilo Congress. Buchanan, who was formerly the Chair of the Congress' Standing Committee for Academic Affairs, replaces Professor of Physics

Dr. Robert Fox, who remains on the policy-making panel, as well as serving as chair of the CAS Senate.

"The Congress is in its third year so it is still a relatively new group, trying to decide how best to serve the University and provide faculty input from all colleges on decisions that need to be made about academics and the curriculum," Buchanan said.

The Congress was created on the behest of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, the body overseeing the University's accreditation. The body has proportional representation by faculty from the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Management, and Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikolani College of Hawaiian Language. There are also representatives from the Library, Student Services, and four student representatives. Additionally, there are ex-officio members such as the Chancellor, the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, the Director of the Library, the CAS Dean and the CAFNRM Dean.

"In looking structurally, we've always had the College of Agriculture and we've never had a body where it had proportional representation with CAS," Buchanan said. "So now we have that. And the transition, thanks to the former chairs of the UH Hilo Congress, has finally, I think, come to the place where we are accepted as the policy making body. So the Colleges are bringing issues through the Congress that affect the whole University.

"We want to get broad involvement from across the campus on issues that affect everyone," she added.

Buchanan has been a Congress member since its inception.

"It's been interesting because we've had to carve out a role for the Congress distinct from that of the college senates," she said. "It has been especially important to define the relationship to the CAS Senate because that body was accustomed to making all the major academic decisions on campus."

Each College retains its Senate, so it can be a delicate balancing act, according to Buchanan.

"Any program that affects all the Colleges, for example, general admission to the University - that would be an issue about which the Congress would make policy," she said. "We also are consulted when there are faculty members needed to serve on committees. For example, Congress was recently asked to recommend faculty to represent us on the Librarian search committee.

"We have a very supportive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (Bill Chen). He has been very conscientious in consulting us about the issues because faculty involvement is important," she added. "Unfortunately, I think, sometimes, faculty involvement boils down to a couple of people who volunteer to do everything and after a while, those few are the only people really involved.

"In Congress this year, we're setting up processes by which we can get more faculty involved," Buchanan explained. "We will continuously consult faculty and solicit their input. In addition, when faculty representatives are needed to serve in a variety of positions, the Congress will ask for volunteers and make sure that new faculty are as involved as those who have traditionally done the jobs. This year's Congress success will be measured by the number of faculty involved and included in academic decision-making.

"I'm very optimistic that we can get more faculty involved," she added. "I think that has been a real weakness in the past. Senior faculty become disconnected from the whole because 'somebody else is always doing whatever it is that needs to get done, so I don't need to' and junior faculty don't have an opportunity to become connected and view themselves as an important part of the University as a whole. I'm hoping that by getting more people involved, we'll strengthen the faculty morale and build a better working atmosphere for everyone."

Buchanan has praise for the work of her predecessor.

"Dr. Fox did an excellent job last year moving us along, tackling some hard issues, setting up the standing committees and making sure that there were accurate records of Congress action," she said. "He made sure that the congress was recognized and respected. That required a political know how that I don't have.

"I believe my strength is in getting people involved, respecting their involvement and trusting them to do the work that's assigned," she added. "I know we have an incredibly talented faculty, so it's exciting to be able to work with them and for them.

"My goal is to begin to get all faculty members feeling connected to the University, so that every faculty member will take responsibility for the University, as a whole."

Buchanan says the Congress has its work cut out for it and she's looking forward to the Congress accomplishing what needs to be done.

"We have to revisit and revise the strategic plan for the University," she said. "And in that, we'll be getting input from faculty, staff, the community and looking toward the future and deciding what it is that we want UH Hilo to be."

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

Curtis instrumental in providing counseling for September 11 aftermath



Dr. Thom Curtis, assistant professor of sociology, had the opportunity to do what many on campus could only wish for following the events of September 11. Responding to an official request from the American Red Cross, the University granted him permission to travel to the mainland as part of the massive, nationwide relief effort.

Curtis is a veteran Disaster Mental Health Specialist and has responded to many disasters throughout the country over the past 12 years. Shortly after the terrorist attack, he was asked to fly to Dallas, Texas to supervise a special hotline set up for United Airlines and American Airlines flight crews. The normal channels for emotional support of airline employees had been overwhelmed in the aftermath of the tragedy, so the Red Cross was asked to provide crisis counselors for the pilots and flight attendants. The hotline was staffed around the clock by 25 Red Cross Disaster Mental Health workers who had been imported from all over the country.

Services like the hotline are often established at a distance from the disaster site so that already-thin community resources are not further depleted. Of working on the hotline, Curtis commented, "The individual members of airline flight crews are remarkably brave people. For many it was after they made four or five trips subsequent to September 11 that the stress of the whole situation started to wear them down. To a person, the flight attendants expressed the desire to keep flying in order to demonstrate that 'the evil people who did this haven't won.'"

After spending nine days in Dallas, Curtis was reassigned to New York City. He and another clinician were assigned to the burn unit of New York Presbyterian Cornell Hospital. The 10 most seriously burned survivors from the World Trade

Center were being treated in this unit. His job was to provide emotional support to the families of these critically injured patients.

"This was without a doubt, the most emotionally draining disaster work I have ever done," Curtis said of his time spent with the families. "The people in the waiting room were incredibly strong and optimistic. Day after day, entire families showed up to support not only their loved one, but also the other families who were in the same circumstance. The families came from very different predisaster environments. They bonded together as one giant family regardless of ethnic, racial, economic, educational or religious backgrounds."

As an American Red Cross Disaster Services volunteer, Curtis has been involved with several other air catastrophes, including the 1997 Korean Airlines crash in Guam and the 1999 Big Island Air crash on Mauna Kea. In addition to responding to natural and technological disasters around the country, he has published research regarding family violence in the wake of natural disasters. He is licensed as a marriage and family therapist in Hawai'i and Utah.

Curtis arrived back in Hilo on October 8 after spending almost three weeks on the mainland. The first class he taught the evening of his return? SOC 494: Sociology of Disasters.



Curtis stands in front of one of the many places he assisted with providing disaster relief services.



Hats off to...



Terrance Jalbert

Terrance Jalbert, Assistant Professor of Finance, wrote a paper entitled "Pass-Through Taxation and the Value of the Firm," which was accepted for publication in the *American Business Review*. He also presented two papers, "Insider Trading Around Bank Failures" and "An Alternate Method for Teaching the Time Value of Money," at the annual meeting of the American Society of Business and Behavioral Sciences, which were accepted for publication in the conference proceedings.



Ron Gordon

Ron Gordon, Professor of Communication, was invited to serve a second three-year term on the editorial board of the research journal *Human Communication*, published at the University of Kansas.



Catherine Becker

Catherine Becker, Assistant Professor of Communication, was invited by Dr. Robin Clair of Purdue University to publish a discussion of Becker's book, *Moving Between the Lines*, in a forthcoming collection on ethnography to be published by SUNY Press. Becker has also published a review of *Writing the New Ethnography*, by H.L. Goodall in the most recent issue of *The Social Science Journal*, 38, 3.



Hirokuni Masuda

Hirokuni Masuda, Assistant Professor of Japanese, had his paper on "The protolanguage hypothesis & superstructure: A creolistic insight into the language evolution" accepted for presentation at the Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics, to be held in January 2002 in San Francisco. The conference will be conjoined with the 76th annual meeting of the Linguistic Society of America.

Manu Aluli Meyer, Assistant Professor of Education, gave the keynote address at the Native American Indian



Manu Aluli Meyer

Education Association Conference held in Montana on October 29. She spoke on "Indigenous Education: A Hawaiian Perspective." Meyer also delivered the keynote speech on "Hawaiian Philosophy, from Ancient to Renewal" at the National Administrators of Student Personnel Association (NASPA) on Maui on November 1.



Michael West

Michael West, Associate Professor of Astronomy, and his colleagues Patrick Cote and John Hughes, both of Rutgers University, have been jointly awarded a five-year NASA Long Term Space Astrophysics Grant for \$590,000. The grant is in support of their research project on "A Multi-Wavelength Determination of the Dark Matter Distribution and Baryonic Velocity Ellipsoids in the Virgo and Fornax Clusters."



Robert Chase

Robert Chase, Director, Hawai'i SBDC Network Rural Development Center, received the 2001 Minority Small Business Advocate of the Year Award from the U.S. Small Business Administration. In addition to being the winner from the Island of Hawai'i and the State of Hawai'i, he won the award for Region IX, consisting of Arizona, California, Guam, Hawai'i, and Nevada.



Jim Mellon

Jim Mellon, Director of Student Development, last month qualified for, competed in, and finished the Ironman competition held in West Hawai'i. Additionally, the Student Support Services Program grant proposal which Mellon wrote was funded for \$1.1 million or five more years by the U.S. Department of Education. The proposal scored in the top 10 percent of the 1,000 proposals submitted and was therefore awarded an additional year of funding. ☺

UH Hilo winning the “numbers game”

by John Burnett

Baseball’s beloved mock academician, the “Old Professor” Casey Stengel, used to be fond of telling both players and reporters, “Numbers don’t lie. You can look it up.” There’s also the school of thought that says, “Figures lie and liars figure.”

The truth is, as usual, somewhere in the middle. A perfunctory look at the Fall 2001 enrollment figures would suggest that UH Hilo is the slowest growing institution in the University of Hawai’i system. But those numbers, which show a total enrollment of 2,912 students and a 1.4 percent growth over the enrollment figures for the previous fall semester, have to be evaluated within a broader context to be understood, according to Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Dr. Keith Miser.

“When we think of enrollment at a University, it’s usually in the context of several semesters,” he said. “We’ve been increasing in enrollment from one-and-a-half, two-and-a-half to three-and-a-half percent per semester for the last six semesters. So it’s part of a trend.

“Universities grow slowly and over that period of time, they end up being larger. If they decline in enrollment, it’s usually the same way, over a period of time. So we’re very pleased and believe that it is significant that we have been growing gradually over the last six semesters.

“That’s against the notion that almost all the other schools in the University of Hawai’i system have been declining, except for this fall semester,” he added. They’ve stabilized, whereas we’ve been growing that entire time.

“I think the important thing that we see in our growth is that it’s a trend and it’s been a trend in an opposite direction of the University of Hawai’i system until this semester.”

Systemwide, the rate of growth in Fall 2001 over the Fall 2000 semester is 3.6 percent. Kaua’i Community College shows the largest increase at 10.4 percent, with UH West O’ahu sporting a 9.4 percent growth spurt. UH Manoa had a 2.6 percent increase with 17,601 students. Hawai’i Community College posted the smallest yearly gain systemwide, with a 0.9 percent increase.

UH President Dr. Evan Dobbelle believes that the systemwide increase after several down semesters for most campuses is a harbinger of things to come.

“The business of higher education increases in demand when the economy falters,” he said. “Before September 11, we had economic tremors, so now we are planning for an even greater surge while most other businesses in Hawai’i decline.”

Dobbelle unveiled a plan to reporters in Hilo on October 17 to get private developers to build new dorm rooms accommodating up to 3,000 more new students both on- and off-campus. Dobbelle foresees a day when Hilo will be thought of first as a college town and would like to start construction

soon for the day that happens. Paraphrasing the disembodied voice in the movie *Field of Dreams*, he posed the question, “Why wouldn’t they come?” He called the school’s current 10-year-goal of 5,000 students by 2007 realistic, as long as concentrated recruitment efforts are made.

“He believes, and we agree with him, that the whole system should be growing faster,” Miser said. “There should be more graduates of Hawai’i high schools coming to school in the University of Hawai’i system instead of going to the mainland to school or not going to school at all. So we’re heavily recruiting in Hawai’i and we’re recruiting some in the mainland states.”

Incoming freshmen numbers at UH Hilo show the biggest increase, from 406 to 445, a 9.1 percent jump. Continuing and returning students showed small declines in numbers, while transfer students showed a slight rise.

The average high school GPA of incoming freshmen is 3.24. The average SAT verbal score is 488 and the average SAT is 505 for a 993 combined. Geographic origins of the new freshmen showed 42 percent from the Big Island, 38 percent from out-of-state, with the remainder coming from the Neighbor Islands. Fifty-eight percent are women; 42 percent are men. The largest racial group is Caucasian at 36.12 percent, with Hawaiians making up nearly a quarter of the incoming class.

“I believe the College of Hawaiian Language has helped with our enrollment of Hawaiian students,” Miser said. “We also have excellent outreach programs for Native Hawaiian students, such as the Hawaiian Leadership Development Program (HLDP). We have had the largest percentage of Native Hawaiian students on our campus for some time and we are proud of that fact.”

Another thing Miser points to with pride is that two-thirds of the incoming freshmen class are first-generation college students in their families.

“It’s been that way for quite a while,” he said. “Our mission and the character of our school is to be a gateway institution for many students and families. We’re very proud that we as an institution are an instrument that hopefully brings a better life to these students and their families, as well.”

Miser, like Dobbelle, is optimistic of future growth.

“We are seeking options for additional on-campus housing right now,” he said. “One project, if it moves forward, would be the creation of the U.S.-China Center right near the campus. It would have a residential facility that would house 300 or 400 students. We’re also looking at other options, such as creating new housing on campus.”

Dobbelle has convinced Governor Ben Cayetano to seek funding from the state legislature for a new 6,000-seat, multipurpose arena with a \$55 million price tag. The request also included \$13 million for maintenance at the UH Hilo campus.

“Hilo needs to be built out in every way,” Dobbelle said. “I’ll raise (projected enrollment) to as high a level as it can go. There’s no reason to limit it.”

Institutional research: learning how we're doing

by Dr. April Komenaka

Eight months after joining UH Hilo, Lynne Stamoulis, our Director of Institutional Research, is in the midst of compiling and interpreting data that has been accumulating over the years, and integrating new data from studies that UH Hilo is just beginning to conduct.

Lynne has just completed reviewing the latest alumni survey and is feeling good about being part of the University that evokes such enthusiasm among its graduates.

"Alumni write about excellent, caring faculty who inspired them to do their best and to set high goals, who transformed their lives. They praised the library and student services. They loved the small classes and the opportunities to collaborate hands-on research with their professors."

The survey, sent to 1,500 alumni who graduated before 1999-2000, asks recipients to rate their overall undergraduate experience at UH Hilo, their learning in specific skill areas, their satisfaction with the job preparation they received here, their employment status and careers. Ten percent responded.

The survey also suggests ways in which the experience of students can be improved. Among alumni suggestions: provide more extra-curricular activities; offer a broader range of courses and sections of high-demand courses; set higher standards for students; align course work more closely with what is expected in the real world.

The Alumni Survey is one of a number of data sources that Lynne is drawing on as she works on a challenge that the entire UH Hilo community must address: student retention.

"Retention is our biggest challenge," Lynne says, echoing many who have studied admissions, enrollment and dropout patterns at UH Hilo over the years. "It reflects many things, from the quality of teaching and the availability of programs and courses, to financial pressures on individual students.

"We can look at different kinds of retention. For example, what percent of the students who entered UH Hilo as freshmen in the Fall of 2000 are back again in the Fall of 2001? And graduation rate is a special kind of retention measure: what percent of students who entered UH Hilo intending to earn a bachelor's degree here actually stay and earn that degree?"

Lynne plans to go beyond simply describing retention patterns.

"I want to find out what kind of student is happy here. What are their expectations, values and attitudes?"

Accreditation update

by Dr. April Komenaka

The findings and recommendations of our 2000-2001 WASC self study are providing the basis for our 2001-2004 self study and, more important, are focusing us more clearly than ever on excellence in undergraduate teaching.

Consistent with the goal of integrating assessment of student learning outcomes and continuous improvement into the day-to-day operations of the institution, the responsibility of following up on recommendations is in the hands of standing committees. The UH Hilo Congress will work with the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs to shape and implement appropriate plans and policies.

- The proposal for the 2001-2004 review was sent to WASC on October 15. The UH Hilo community, as well as UH Hilo and UH system administrators had the opportunity to review earlier drafts. You can see the final proposal at www.uhh.hawaii.edu/~accred.

- The UH Hilo Congress is reviewing a draft academic assessment plan. The Congress's Academic Policy Committee will report back to the Congress on its recommendations, and the VCAA and the Congress will implement campus assessment.

- The Congress is also coordinating review of revised program review procedures and guidelines, based on recent changes in UH system and BOR policies and on new WASC expectations for academic program review. The Congress's Academic Policies Committee is involving department chairs, deans, assistant deans, and division chairs in its review. The proposed procedures and format can be found at www.uhh.hawaii.edu/~accred.

- The Congress is in charge of the review and revision of our current Strategic Plan 1997-2007. The timing is excellent: this year President Dobelle is asking all campuses in the system to revisit their missions and their strategic and academic development plans.

- The Self Study Assessment Committee will continue to serve through the Fall semester and until a standing campus assessment committee is established as part of the campus assessment plan. Current projects include:

- administering assessment grants to fund departmental assessment projects, such as purchase of standardized tests and workshops for multi-discipline training in assessment. A link to application information can be found at www.uhh.hawaii.edu/~accred.

- surveying department and program chairs on the status of assessment awareness and practice. This will produce a progress report on assessment over the past year and add to information gathered in last year's series of interviews.



Institutional Research

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Once we know, our recruiting could be targeted toward those students.

"What kind of student stays to graduate? The Alumni Survey suggests that it's typically the student who has built academic self-esteem at UH Hilo by meeting challenges, the one whose academic ability teachers have had faith in, who has been encouraged by professors to go on to advanced study or to challenging careers," she explains.

"Feedback like that lets faculty know that students want them to set high standards and help them to meet those standards."

Lynne believes faculty should do their own research as part of designing stronger, more relevant curricula and teaching strategies. She is putting together the elements for an interactive Web page that would enable even a reasonably inexperienced faculty person to tap into data bases generated by UH Hilo and the UH system, as well as national organizations such as the National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES) and the National Education Longitudinal Survey (NELS).

"You'd be able to see how your program is doing in terms of resources and student performance, compared with other programs in the system and at peer institutions.

"The UH system has a tremendous amount of data, some of it down to the level of specific programs at each campus. And UH Hilo has its own body of data. In addition to alumni surveys, Student Affairs has been doing entering student surveys, graduating student surveys, and, since Spring 2001, the National Survey of Student Engagement.

"We can use the results of these surveys and departmental assessment studies to identify and work on our weak points and to discover and build on our strengths."

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



October Food Festival a hit!

Sodexho Campus Services celebrated its 25th year of service with UH Hilo with an October Food Festival held last month on the Library Lanai. The University community enjoyed food samples — including the latest in new products — provided by a variety of local vendors from Hilo and O'ahu who have serviced Sodexho over the years. The celebration also included a "Chili Cook-Off!" — won by the gang at Ke Kalahea — with "celebrity" judges Chancellor Rose Tseng, Vice Chancellor Bill Chen, Housing's Miles Nagata, Human Resources' Kerwin Iwamoto, University Relations' Gerald DeMello, and Vice Chancellor Keith Miser.



CSAV provides flood footage to Army Corps of Engineers

by Darcy Bevens

In November of 2000, the Big Island experienced some of the worst flooding anyone could remember in the Hilo, Puna, and Ka'u districts. In an effort to document the flood, the Center for the Study of Active Volcanoes (CSAV) began a campaign to borrow the original home video footage that residents had shot while the flood was taking place, and make digital copies for future use.

CSAV is in the process of creating a documentary about the flood that will be distributed to schools, libraries, Blockbuster's free shelves, and public access television.

But in September, the County called to ask if we could splice together some footage that showed just the Waiakea Stream during the flood. The Army Corps of Engineers is considering ways to divert some of the water and needed to see what the flood looked like in action. So with the help of Dave Whilldin, we put together a 20-minute tape that covers Hoaka, Kupulau, Haihai, Kawailani, and Komohana Gardens. The County said the tape was a hit, and the Corps has asked for a detailed log of locations, which we have kept.

The footage is extraordinary. Some of the best shots were taken by Media's own Al Honda; in fact, it was at Media Services that the idea for collecting footage from residents originated.

Some of the flood footage will be shown at the "After Dark in the Park" program on November 13th at Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park Visitor Center. UH Hilo Geologist Dr. Jene Michaud will present an overview of the Big Island flood at 7:00 pm. The public is invited to attend.

(Editor's note: Darcy Bevens is an educational specialist with CSAV.)



The teaching of culture in the language classroom

by Dr. Yoshiko Okuyama



Cultural knowledge is part of language proficiency. Fluent speakers of the Japanese language, for instance, understand cultural connotations in everyday speech.

Japanese is a language that expresses the speaker's intention rather indirectly. One example of cultural inference is the intricate system of 'give-and-take.'

It requires the use of different verbs for 'to give' (ageru, yaru, kureru, morau, sashiageru, itadaku), depending on the interlocutors' social statuses as well as 'who' is giving to 'whom.' Important rules about giving and receiving observed by the members of this hierarchical society are interwoven into these many verb forms. The speakers just have to know which verb of 'to give' is appropriate in a particular social context. Such knowledge is termed ones socio-cultural competence in the field of second language acquisition.

As for me, an intriguing realization after years of teaching Japanese is that when we teach the language at a deeper level, we go beyond the mere instruction of grammar and vocabulary. We inevitably touch upon a culture-specific view of the speech community while explaining the complex rules of the Japanese language. In other words, we reveal, either by accident or on purpose, the 'secret' of how Japanese speakers perceive the world. If we avoid teaching the world view which is hidden, or encoded, in lexical and syntactic features of the language, what are we teaching? In this regard, I believe that language instruction should provide an oppor-

tunity for learners to develop not only linguistic understanding but also cultural appreciation in and outside of the classroom.

Kumu Na'ilima Gaison teaches Hawaiian from a very similar perspective. To him, teaching the language without emphasizing its cultural values and wisdom is analogous to showing a body without its life. Taking his HAW 100A this semester, I strongly relate to his cultural approach to Hawaiian language instruction. The pedagogical principle that Kumu Na'ilima explains to the class is that of Ka Haka 'Ula O ke'elikolani College of Hawaiian Language. He and his colleagues emphasize three types of 'piko' as sources of knowledge. The first piko is the soft spot of a baby's head, through which cultural traditions are handed down from ancestors. The second piko is the baby's belly button, from which the baby absorbs nutrition in the mother's tummy. The last piko is the reproduction system that gives life to the next generation, allowing the transmission of cultural wisdom on to the offspring. With this philosophy in mind, Kumu Na'ilima teaches Hawaiian in cultural contexts through which we learn how the world is perceived by the Hawaiian speech community.

There are well over 6,000 languages spoken in the world. This, however, does not include the languages that were once spoken, yet disappeared. Two-thirds of the languages have already gone extinct, and many more are on its way to becoming extinct. When a language passes away, its world view - its wisdom and cultural values - dies with it. In our effort to save a language through education, we must preserve its culture as well. If we don't teach our culture to the next generation, what kind of language are we really saving? A 'skeleton' language?

(Editor's note: Dr. Yoshiko Okuyama is Assistant Professor of Japanese.)



Natural sciences/astronomy education featured in November's Focus on UH Hilo

Focus on UH Hilo will highlight two programs in natural sciences and a new educational initiative during the month of November. The program, hosted by Chancellor Rose Tseng, can be seen Wednesday evenings from 8:00 - 8:30 p.m. on Channel 54.

Dr. Walter Dudley, professor of marine geology/oceanography and chair of the marine science department, will appear on the November 7th telecast. Dudley will talk about recent developments in the marine science program, including the dedication of the new Marine Science Building. Also appearing will be George Jacob, the new director of the Mauna Kea Astronomy Education Center. Jacob will discuss plans for the premier interpretative center, which will occupy a 10-acre site in the University Park for Science and Technology.

The November 21st telecast will feature Dr. Cecilia Mukai, associate professor, chair and director of nursing, who will discuss the latest developments and initiatives in her program.

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



10th annual BIIBT on tap

by Kelly Leong

It seems as if it were only yesterday when Vulcan Athletics hosted a three-game round-robin event tabbed as the Big Island Invitational Basketball Tournament. The only people who knew about it were the fans in the stands and the participants on the court.

But as the years progressed, the tournament got bigger and better, as collegiate basketball and Hilo became synonymous with the Thanksgiving Weekend.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the event that has brought NCAA Division I basketball to Hilo. Whether you read the Los Angeles Times or New York Times, the Kansas City Star or Chicago Tribune, or watch one of the many sports channels, fans across the nation know that some of the best Thanksgiving basketball games are in our own backyard.

This year's reach will be just as far with teams representing the University of Wisconsin, LSU, Colorado State University, Weber State University, Mercer University, South Carolina State University, the University of Hawai'i, and UH Hilo.

Talent has never been a short order. In its first year, the

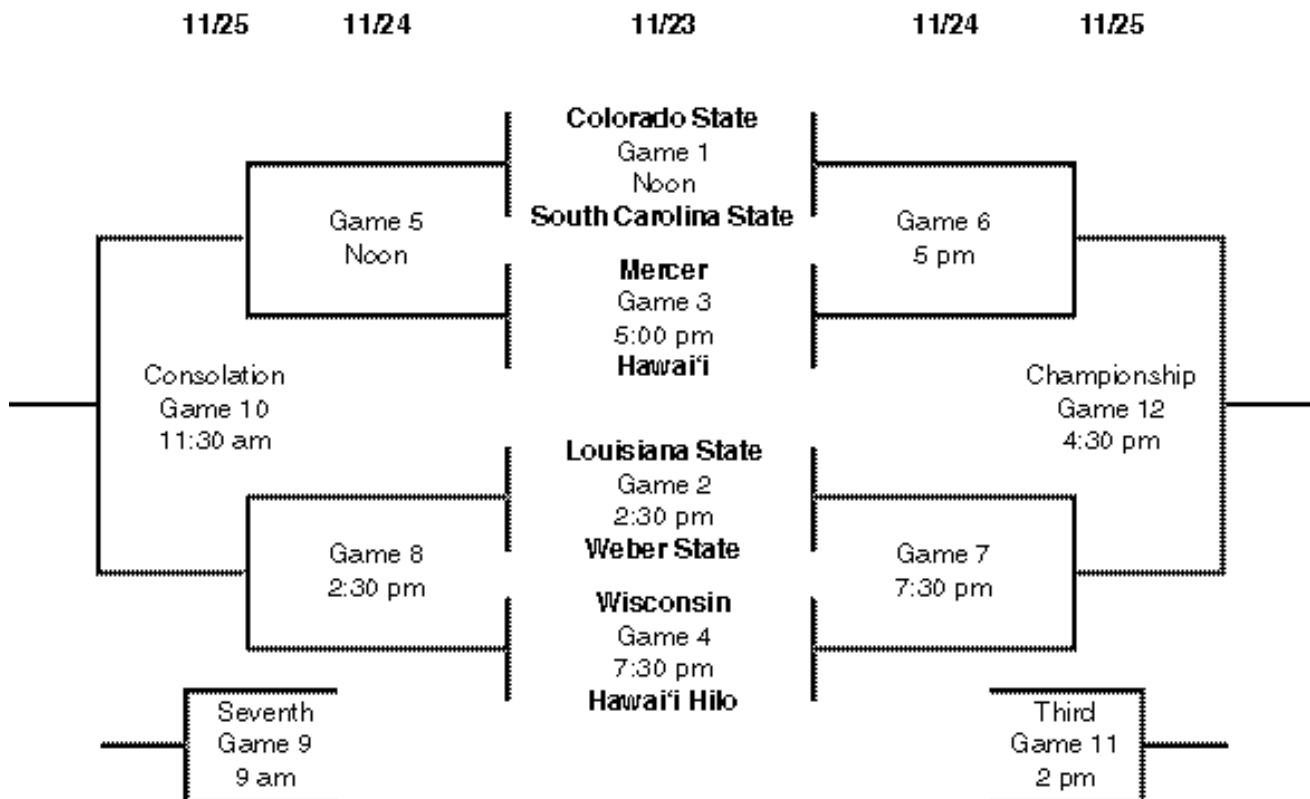
University of Iowa brought in a shot-blocking sophomore who astonished fans by his ability to change shots. Two years later, Acie Earl was drafted by the Boston Celtics.

History has repeated itself many times in this tournament as well. There was the '94 Connecticut team that featured five future NBA players. There were Cincinnati's Kenyon Martin in 1999 and Pacific's Michael Olowokandi in 1998 who were the top picks in their respective drafts. There were also relatively unknowns such as Valparaiso's Bryce Drew and Iowa State's Fred Hoiberg who were under the watchful eyes of NBA scouts. The list goes on.

Tickets for this year's event are \$20 per day or \$50 for a three-day pass. An even better deal is the \$30 faculty / staff All-Sports pass that covers the basketball season and all of its tournaments as well as the 2002 baseball season.


Stop by the Athletic Department Ticket Office to purchase your tickets, or call x47606 for additional information.

(Editor's note: Kelly Leong is the Sports Information Director.)



Campus Events

November

2	Vulcan volleyball vs. Montana State University-Billings, 7:15 p.m., New Gym, Admission	22	Holiday: Thanksgiving Day
6, 7	Vulcan volleyball vs. Western New Mexico University, 7:15 p.m., New Gym, Admission	23	Non-Instructional Day
12	Holiday: Veteran's Day	23, 24, 25	Vulcan basketball in 10th Annual City Bank/Aloha Airlines Big Island Invitational, Civic, Admission
13	"I" Removal Deadline: Instructor to Records Office	26	Last Day to Submit Credit-by-Exam Results to Records Office
	Last Day to Apply for Credit-by-Exam for Fall	29	Vulcan basketball vs. San Francisco State University, 7:15 p.m., Civic, Admission
	King Kalakaua's Telescope, A Contemporary History of Astronomy on the Big Island, 3:30 p.m., IfA Bldg. Auditorium	30	Last Day to Apply for Spring 2002 Semester 
16	Vulcan basketball vs. Univ. Of Nebraska-Kearney, 7:15 p.m., Civic, Admission		
