

# Hi Ka Lono Hanakahi

*"News of People Working Together"*

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO

VOLUME 20, NO. 7, MARCH 2005

## University makes push for major capital improvements

by Ken Hupp

Members of the State House Committee on Higher Education and other Big Island lawmakers got a first-hand look at the need for new buildings and improvements to replace outgrown, substandard and unsafe facilities at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo and Hawai'i Community College.

Campus tours preceded January's hearing on the UH Hilo campus, which drew an overflow crowd of students, faculty, administrators and members of the business community. Speaker after speaker urged lawmakers to support the proposals to provide more educational opportunities and strengthen the Big Island's economy.

Chancellor Rose Tseng said both campuses have over-achieved, and despite limited resources are on the verge of something big.

"Together, we are really growing," said Tseng. "This island is really ready to utilize natural resources, and our diversity and our culture to strengthen science and technology to prepare our workforce."

Tseng's comments were later validated when the UH system released its enrollment figures for the spring semester that revealed enrollment up from year ago at both campuses. UH Hilo's student count rose by 99 or 3.2 percent to 3,216. HawCC led all campuses within the UH system with a stunning jump of nearly 8 percent, or 171 students to 2,336.

UHHilo's top capital request is a \$25 million appropriation for equipment and construction of a new Science and Technology Building. The current facilities were built in the 1960s, and Natural Sciences Division Chair Dr. Don Hemmes said they can no longer meet the needs of rapidly growing programs that are attracting significant research funding, or satisfy safety concerns.

"The health and safety conditions there are outrageous, they are outside the law, and I am really concerned about instructors who have offices in chemistry stockrooms because of accidents that may occur under these conditions and long-term illnesses that may result" Hemmes

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## SPOTLIGHT

### Mautz and company take on coqui frogs!

by John Burnett



*William Mautz*

Two UH Hilo biologists are spearheading a National Science Foundation study on the coqui frog invasion on the Big Island. Dr. William Mautz, associate professor and chair of the biology department, and Dr. Rebecca Ostertag, assistant professor of biology, are working with biologist Dr. Paul Klawinski of William Jewell College and ecosystem ecologist Dr. Flint Hughes of the USDA Forest Service on the three-year study, funded by a \$300,000 NSF grant.

"Our goal is to evaluate the ecological impact of these frogs on the Hawaiian forest ecosystem," Mautz said. "Most of the discussion about coqui frogs is about the noise and how it bothers people, but we feel that there is a subtler problem going on with the impact of these frogs on the food web in the Hawaiian forest."

According to Mautz, the researchers originally asked for \$600,000 for the study and are hoping to augment the NSF grant with state funds requested by Hawai'i County Mayor Harry Kim, which are yet to be approved by the legislature.

"We're working out how to do a project for half funding," Mautz said. "Meanwhile, there is

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## Capital Improvements

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said. "We're also outgrowing ourselves. We've just exploded this past decade or so, and we're out of space."

Hemmes warned the situation will only worsen with the addition of new research faculty through the University's EP-SCoR grant, which creates additional demand for office and research space and the new Pharmacy program, which has already enrolled 20 pre-Pharmacy students for next fall.

Cybil Glendon-Baclig, a 1997 graduate enrolled in UH Hilo's Masters in Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science, said the new building would help the University address the limited opportunities that keep more Hawai'i graduates from pursuing post-graduate studies.

"We limit ourselves to higher education because we have deep cultural roots and ties that keep us here at home," Glendon-Baclig said. "If we want to retain our residents here in Hawai'i, educate them, and invest our money in the University and the people here, then I believe we must create the opportunities to do that."

Sharon Ibarra, president of the Kanoelehua Industrial Area Association (KIAA) stressed the economic benefits. Ibarra said UH Hilo fuels the engine that drives the Big Island economy. Yet businesses continue to advertise nationally for qualified people to fill positions.

"By modernizing and enhancing the facilities we can create a higher quality of fuel benefiting the businesses in our community," Ibarra said. "The science and technology complex for UH Hilo will help us provide both our students and businesses with the necessary resources they need to become world class, and also to give our students the opportunity to make a decent living here with their families and the island that they love."

The other major capital improvement request is \$20 million for planning, design and construction of a College of Hawaiian Language Building. The proposal received a big boost when Governor Linda Lingle came out in support of the initiative during her State of the State address.

Several speakers noted that Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language is one of the most rapidly growing colleges at UH Hilo, yet is forced to compete with other disciplines for instructional and support space.

Kainoa Kaumeheiwa-Rego, a UH Hilo Student Association Senator for Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language, said the building will give the College a home by consolidating and centralizing all its resources.

"This building will provide students and faculty with readily, comfortable and better equipped classrooms," Kaumeheiwa-Rego said. "As a student, I see this proposal as an opportunity not only to further my own education, but to insure the education of my fellow Native Hawaiian students as well as the generations to come."

College of Hawaiian Language faculty and students also drew strong support from other faculty who said the proposed building was an idea whose time had come.

"As someone whose own teaching and research draws on the strengths of Ka Haka 'Ula, I wholeheartedly support the call to further develop and expand their effort, which cannot be accomplished with the limit on resources that the College currently faces," said Dr. Seri Luangphinit, assistant professor of English.

"They have become a model for language recovery, cultural survival, and cultural identity recovery," said Dr. Craig Severance, professor of anthropology. "This is a program that is putting UH Hilo and the UH system on the map."

Lawmakers also heard testimony on a \$12 million request for design and construction to expand student services through the addition of a new Student Services Building. Speakers described the building as the core of support services, and noted that a high percentage of students are first generation, who need help and support in adjusting to a college environment.

Dr. Keith Miser, vice chancellor for student affairs, said the student services expansion will consolidate services presently scattered, alleviate the current overcrowding brought about by UH Hilo's recent growth, and make operations more efficient by combining similar offices under a single roof.

Key to UH Hilo's future development will be an updated long range development plan, which University officials are seeking \$750,000 to conduct. Vice Chancellor for Administrative Affairs Dr. Bill Chen said an updated plan is essential as UH Hilo nears its targeted enrollment of 5,000 spelled out in its long range strategic plan.

"Our last plan was more than 10 years ago, but at that time we did not have the kind of growth we are experiencing," Chen said. "We need to plan for where the expansion of these programs are going to take place."

Rounding out the UH Hilo wish list was a \$3.6 million request for renovation of the UH Hilo Campus Center, including additions to the dining facilities, a bookstore and meeting rooms. And \$600,000 for planning and construction of street lights at the main entry to the University and China-U.S. Center.

University Relations Director Gerald De Mello said the hearing presented an important opportunity for University officials to make their case before lawmakers who will be asked to consider more capital improvement requests now that the state's financial picture has brightened.

"This could be a pivotal year for us," De Mello said. "If we can obtain these items and begin work on the China-U.S. Center, we will have reached the transformational stage of becoming a comprehensive university."

One item not included in the University package is student housing. That may come as a surprise to some, considering that a shortage of bed space has been blamed for last fall's less than expected increase in enrollment.

"The lack of housing on campus is a big problem," said UH Hilo Housing Director Miles Nagata. "Last fall we had 350 students on the waiting list. But due to our housing shortage, 200 students who applied for admission and were accepted never enrolled."

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## Alexander & Baldwin gift to aid recruitment efforts

by Margaret Shiba

UH Hilo's marketing and recruitment efforts recently received a big boost with the presentation of a \$5,000 award from the Alexander & Baldwin Foundation. Russell Chin, Big Island manager for Matson Navigation Company, a subsidiary of Alexander & Baldwin, Inc. in Hilo, presented a check to the University in January.

This is the seventh consecutive year that the A&B Foundation has supported UH Hilo with a private grant. For the past few years, the funds have been used to help the campus increase its recruitment of students from Hawai'i Island and the rest of the state, as part of an effort to build enrollment to a target of 5,000 students. Thanks, in part, to support from the A&B Foundation, student enrollment at UH Hilo has been growing steadily, achieving a remarkable increase of 25 percent over the past seven years.

In 2005, support from the A&B Foundation will help underwrite the cost of producing a new recruitment brochure for neighbor island students, as well as offering two high school counselor visitation days on the UH Hilo campus. Expanding the pool of students applying to UH Hilo for the 2005-06 academic year will be especially important, given the expected addition of new dormitory space when the China-U.S. Center opens.

Mahalo to the A&B Foundation for its support of UH Hilo and the sustained marketing and recruitment efforts that are so essential to maintaining the momentum of campus growth! ☺

*(Editor's note: Margaret Shiba is director of development.)*



(L-R): Margaret Shiba, Russell Chin, and Yu Yok Pearrng.

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UH Hilo currently has 622 bed spaces on campus, with temporary community housing arrangements that account for an additional 300. University officials believe they'll need approximately 2,500 units on campus to accommodate a targeted enrollment of 5,000. The China-U.S. Center housing would provide an additional 760 bed spaces upon its targeted completion in 2006, but that would still leave the University more than 1,100 spaces short of what is needed. While housing shortages are nothing new, the proposed remedies are, as University officials look to alternate sources of financing to solve its housing problems.

"Public-private partnerships are becoming more commonplace with each passing year," Nagata said. "When you look at all the proposed capital improvements on the table, student housing seems to be the most likely item to attract private sector financing."

UH Hilo will issue a Request for Qualification/ Proposal to seek a developer to design, construct, finance and potentially manage Phase I of a residence hall complex on 16 acres of land on Nowelo Street below the Mauna Kea Astronomy Education Center.

Planners envision 600 to 1,000 bed spaces spread out over a combination of two-bedroom suites, along with one- and two-bedroom apartments.

The project thus far is proceeding on schedule, with last month's approval by the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents to establish developer qualifications and solicit development proposals. Tentative plans call for BOR approval of a developer, land lease and all pertinent documents by the end of the year, with anticipated occupancy in August 2008. ☺

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

## Dottie Thompson to be honored at Hawaiian Family afFAIR

Dorothy Mae Elizabeth Soares Thompson, better known as "Dottie" Thompson, will be honored for her work of perpetuating Hawaiian culture at Nā Pua No'ēau's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Hawaiian Family afFAIR, to be held on Saturday, March 12 on the UH Hilo campus beginning at 9 a.m.

"Through her leadership and the support of many people, she has created a venue for showcasing our Hawaiian culture through the world-renowned Merrie Monarch Hula Festival," said Dr. David Sing, director, Nā Pua No'ēau. "Her efforts have been an important part of preserving a crucial piece of Hawaiian culture. Equally significant is that the preparation of the event brings families together to perpetuate their culture.

"The work she and the Merrie Monarch 'Ohana does is a symbol of what is unique and special about Hawai'i and Hawaiians. Their work truly reflects this year's Hawaiian Family afFAIR theme-Building 'Ohana Through Culture."

It was in 1968, after the County of Hawai'i and the Chamber of Commerce suspended the Festival that Thompson volunteered to chair the event to keep it alive. She enlisted the help of George Naope to take care of the court and pageantry and Albert Nahale'a to handle the music. The Festival soon progressed from the Miss Aloha Hula and Wahine Group competition to include a Kane Group, an extension from a four-day to a weeks celebration, from a one-night contest to a three-night competition, and a change of venue from the Afook-Chinen Civic Auditorium to the Edith Kanaka'ole Tennis Stadium to accommodate the increase in spectators and participants alike. All of these extensions and inclusions were conducted under the masterful direction of Thompson.

"There have been many awards given to her, this woman of pure Portuguese descent," Sing said. "But suffice it to say that her greatest contribution to the State of Hawai'i has been in the promotion, perpetuation, and spirit of the Native Hawaiian culture and arts, especially of the Hawaiian hula, through the celebration of the Merrie Monarch Festival."

This year's event will also have a Healthy Baby Contest sponsored by Bay Clinic and Meadows Gold Dairies Incorporated and a Healthy Food Contest sponsored by Hui Mālama Ola Nā 'Oiwī. Various educational, health and social service agencies will also be on hand as well as arts and crafts booths.

The Hawaiian Family afFAIR, which is free, provides Hawai'i Island families an opportunity to learn about the resources available throughout the community.

For additional information, please call x47678.

## Celebrate National Women's History Month!

The University community is invited to join the celebration of March being National Women's History Month by attending the following events:

- Tuesday, March 8, 3 p.m., UCB 127: "Do No Harm: Forced Labor, Human Trafficking, and 'Sexual Slavery,'" a talk presented by Dr. Nancie Caraway, director of Women's Human Rights Projects at the Globalization Research Center, UH Manoa.
- Tuesday, March 8, 10 a.m., Library Lanai: International Women's Day
- Monday, March 14, 11 a.m., CC 301: "Women's Voices: A Poetry Reading with Manulani Meyer, Carrie Blankfield, and Kenith Simmons"
- Tuesday, March 29, 10:30 a.m., UCB 127: Reception for Nontombi Naomi Tutu
- Tuesday, March 29, 7 p.m., CC Dining Room: "The Power of Talking Story from a Global Perspective" presented by Nontombi Naomi Tutu, an international recognized speaker and daughter of Leah and Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, winner of the Nobel Prize for Peace for his work in ending apartheid in South Africa. Ms. Tutu is currently the associate director for the Tennessee State University Internal Programs.

National Women's History Month is co-sponsored by the Women's Studies Program, the UH Hilo Women's Center, the Office of the Chancellor, a SEED grant, Student Affairs, the UH Commission on the Status of Women, GLO, the Psychology Club, Political Science Club, UHSA, SAC, International Students Organization, and AAUW Hilo. ☺

## Conservation biology/political science to be featured on March telecast

UH Hilo's first masters degree in natural sciences and political science programs is featured this month on *Focus on UH Hilo*. The program is hosted by Chancellor Rose Tseng, and airs Wednesdays from 8:00-8:30 p.m. on Channel 55.

Dr. Don Price, associate professor of biology and Dr. Michael Parsons, associate professor of marine science, are guests on the March 2<sup>nd</sup> show. Price and Parsons will discuss the Masters of Science in Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science (TCBES) program, now in its second year.

The guest lineup for the March 16<sup>th</sup> program includes Dr. Rick Castberg, professor of political science. Castberg will discuss various political science programs and activities, including student internships and the Model United Nations.

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

# Hats off to...



Kelly Burke

**Kelly Burke**, Associate Professor of Management Information Systems, had his paper on "The Impact of Firm Size on Internet Use in Small Businesses" accepted for publication in the journal, *EM D Electric Markets* for the special issue on Information Systems in Business Management, out this summer.



Harald Barkhoff

**Harald Barkhoff**, Assistant Professor of Health and Physical Education, received a grant of \$52,000 from BundesInstitut fuer Sportwissenschaft D German National Institute of Sport Science to develop and test new sport psychological diagnostic measurements for athletes in high competitive sports. The grant was co-written with Wolfgang Schlicht, Ralf Brand, Harald Hochwald (University of Stuttgart), and Felix Ehrlenspiel (University of Potsdam). Additionally, Barkhoff's paper on "Self-concept and body concept in regard to competitive achievement of elite athletes in artistic roller and figure skating" was published in *Self-concept, motivation and identity: Where to from here?* The paper is co-authored with Elaine M. Heiby of UH Manoa.



Kenith Simmons

**Kenith Simmons**, Professor of English, has her poem "Equanimity" in the current issue of *Malamalama* magazine. Her poem "Metta Practice" is in the current issue of *Insight Journal*.



Regina Titunik

**Regina Titunik**, Associate Professor of Political Science, had a chapter on "Democracy, Domination, and Legitimacy in Max Weber's Political Thought" published in *Max Weber's Economy and Society: A Critical Companion*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2005.

**Anneliese Worster**, Assistant Professor of Education, was invited back for the third time to teach this summer at the University of New Hampshire's summer institute for environmental education, a month-long institute for graduate students. The program facilitates inquiry and placed based



Anneliese Worster



Randy Hirokawa

education: the fusion of land, language, community and spirituality.

**Randy Hirokawa**, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, had the following recent publications: "Dialogic voices in talk about drinking and pregnancy," *Journal of Applied Communication Research*, co-authored with Leslie Baxter, John Lowe, Peter Nathan, and Liz Pearce, all faculty members at the University of Iowa; and "A look at groups from the functional perspective," *Theories of Small Groups: Interdisciplinary Perspectives*, Thousand Oaks, Ca: Sage Publications. Co-authors are Andrea Hollingshead (Univ of Illinois), Gwen Wittenbaum (Michigan State Univ), Paul Paulus (Univ of Texas at Arlington), Debra Ancona (MIT), Karen Jenn (Univ of Leiden) and Kay Yoon (Univ of Illinois).



Jon Cauley

**Jon Cauley**, Professor of Economics, will have his paper "The Design of Supranational Structures" republished in an edited book on political transaction costs by a group of young scholars at Sun Yat-san University of China. The paper anticipated the shrinking Global Village with its attendant and increasing interdependencies created by technological advance and other factors. The 1977 paper was initially published in *International Studies Quarterly*. It is co-authored with Todd Sandler.



Michael West

**Michael West**, Professor of Astronomy, is Principal Investigator of a new \$119,585 grant from the Space Telescope Science Institute to support a research project on "The Ghosts of Galaxies: Tidal Debris and the Formation of Clusters" that uses the Hubble Space Telescope to study the destruction of galaxies in extreme environments. Additionally, West spent five days in Ottawa in January as a member of the Space and Astronomy Grant Selection Committee of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. NSERC is the Canadian equivalent of the U.S. National Sci-

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## Hats off

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Thomas K. Pinhey



Todd Belt



David Miller



Bill Mautz

ence Foundation.

**Thomas K. Pinhey**, Associate Professor of Sociology, had his paper on "Fishing and Fiestas in Guam: An Exploratory Note on the Reinforcement of Cultural Traditions" published in *Pacific Studies*. The paper describes the patterns of fish distribution for Guam's extensive Asian-Pacific population and elaborates the relevance of the distribution of fish for the retention and maintenance of long-standing cultural traditions. The paper was co-authored with Donald H. Rubinstein and Stephen M. Vaughn from the University of Guam.

**Todd Belt**, Assistant Professor of Political Science, had a paper on "The Three Faces of Negative Campaigning: The Democratic Implications of Attack Ads, Cynical News and Fear Arousing Messages" accepted for publication as a chapter in the book *Feeling Politics: Affect and Emotion in Political Information Processing*, edited by David P. Redlawsk. The paper was co-authored with Ann Crigler and Marion Just.

**David Miller**, Professor of English, has been appointed to a three-year term to the Editorial Board of the National Education Association's Higher Education Journal *THOUGHT AND ACTION*. Miller served on this journal's Editorial Review Panel from 1995-98 when it was a quarterly; it has since been reorganized as an annual journal and has established a new editorial entity.

**Bill Mautz**, Associate Professor of Biology, and Yehudah Werner of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, have the article, "Behavior of the terrestrial nocturnal lizards *Goniurosaurus kuroiwae kuroiwae* and *Eublepharis macularis* (Reptilia: Eublepharidae) in a thigmothermal gradient" accepted for publication in the *Journal of Thermal Biology*. Werner spent a sabbatical year at UH Hilo in 2000. ☺

## String quartet, dance festival highlight March Theatre events

The Hawai'i Concert Society presents the St. Petersburg String Quartet on Sunday, March 6 beginning at 7:30 p.m. One of the world's leading string quartet, the St. Petersburg was founded as the Leningrad Quartet by Alla Aranovskaya and Leonid Shukaev, both graduates of the Leningrad Conservatory.

The Quartet has a number of awards from international chamber music competitions, including First Prize at the All-Soviet Union String Quartet Competition, the Silver Medal and a Special Prize at the Tokyo International Competition of Chamber Ensembles, First Prize and both Special Prizes at the Vittorio Gui International Competition for Chamber Ensembles in Florence, Italy, and First Prize and the "Grand Prix Musica Viva" at the International Competition for Chamber Ensembles in Melbourne, Australia.

On Friday, March 18 at 7:30 p.m., Dance Vision features live performances and digital video by Halau O Kekuhi, Wailana Simcock, Kea Kapahua, Valery Richardson, and the Performing Arts Learning Center. The event is a festival of dance and films that evoke childhood curiosity and ancestral remembrance, filmmaking partnered with dance artistry from traditional to contemporary. Presented by the UH Hilo Theatre, Dance Films Association, Hilo Palace Theater and Dance Artist Eva Lee.

Tickets are available online at <http://uhhtheatre.com> or at the Theatre Box Office, which is open noon to 6 p.m. on instructional days. ☺



# UH Hilo graduates highly successful in hometown Micronesia

by Jim Mellon

What do a state senator, national congressman, public defender, forester, conservation officer, teacher, college professor, immigration and labor officer, physician, ecologist, statistician, budget analyst, small business owner, and disaster coordinator have in common? These are all positions currently held by UH Hilo graduates from Micronesia who have returned home to take on challenging careers and contribute toward their home countries' development.

UH Hilo has a long history of serving students from the Micronesia region. Reaching out to Hawai'i's Pacific neighbors to promote and provide higher educational opportunities stem back to the 1970s through initiatives, efforts and support led by Dr. David Sing and Barbara Heintz in Student Affairs, Professors Craig Severance and Rick Castberg, and John Kofel (former vice chancellor for academic affairs). In the late 1980s, former Chancellor Ed Kormondy visited many of the islands to formally establish relationships with colleges, educators, and potential students.

As a result of these efforts, Micronesian students have flocked to UH Hilo to pursue a baccalaureate degree. The relative proximity of Hawai'i to the islands, along with the small campus and small town atmosphere, affordable tuition, informal "recruiting" of relatives and friends in Hilo, and the level of support services have made UH Hilo an attractive choice for students who want to further their education.

According to Dr. Craig Severance, about 70 students from the region were enrolled at UH Hilo in the mid-1970s.

"We started getting more children of politicians during the Compact negotiations (1980-1985), as political leaders visited the students to educate them about the compacts and saw the campus," said Severance. "Those parents seem to have seen UH Hilo as a good place in contrast to Honolulu with all its costs and diversions." Currently about 125 Micronesian students are enrolled at UH Hilo.

More recent efforts have been undertaken to maintain relationships and sustain ties with the region, which are critically important in a culture that values face-to-face communication and personal relationships highly. In December, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Keith Miser, along with myself and Carmen Perez-Frayne, program specialist with the Pacific Aquaculture and Coastal Resources Center, visited the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Marshall Islands (RMI).

In addition to meeting with potential students at various

schools and community colleges, one of the primary purposes of the trip was to meet with alumni to begin to cultivate an alumni culture of support, pride and engagement for the University. Graduates in Palau have had an alumni social group for several years, and with the growing number of alumni in the rest of the region, it seemed like an opportune time to encourage the formation of alumni groups in the FSM and RMI. "We're trying to create in people a consciousness that



now is as good a time as any to show pride in the University as we build for the future," said Kevin Takamori, associate vice president of alumni relations for the UH Foundation.

To date, approximately 150 Micronesian students have graduated from UH Hilo, the

*UH Hilo delegation (Carmen Perez-Frayne, Keith Miser, and Jim Mellon) visit the Micronesia Plant Propagation Research Center in Kosrae, FSM, to discuss possible internships with UH Hilo students.*

majority of whom have returned to their home nations. What most impressed the UH Hilo delegation during their recent visit was the impressive array of leadership positions that graduates hold and the outstanding reputation that the University has in the islands.

People often express concern about a 'brain drain'—concern over international students who come to the U.S. to study but never return home-- but that doesn't seem to be the case with Micronesians who complete their degrees at UH Hilo.

Take Stevick Edwin, for example. Edwin is a state senator on Pohnpei—the youngest ever in the state's history. Sheldon Riklon, the first Marshallese citizen to graduate from a U.S. medical school (John A. Burns School of Medicine), is a physician in Majuro. The Marshall Islands also has outstanding leaders in Yumiko Crisostomo, the nation's coordinator for global change assessment and monitoring, Bruce Bilimon, a budget director in the Ministry of Finance, and Richard Bruce, the dean of Student Services at the College of the Marshall Islands.

On Pohnpei, the capitol of the FSM, Bradley (Naiten) Phillip is the marine protected area coordinator for the highly successful Conservation Society of Pohnpei, while Johnny Hadley is the deputy assistant secretary for the FSM Department of Foreign Affairs. Mariana Ben heads the Micronesian Studies program at the College of Micronesia. On neighboring Kosrae, Andy George leads the newly formed Conservation and Safety Organization, an NGO aimed at preserving Kosrae's natural resources. Steve George, a public defender,

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## UH Hilo Graduates

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completed a law degree at the University of the South Pacific, while Erick Waguk is the State Forester.


On the island of Chuuk, Flora James, a former MBRS participant at UH Hilo, earned an MPH from UH Manoa and is currently on the faculty of the College of the Northern Marianas in Saipan. Roger Arnold teaches at the Chuuk extension campus of the College of Micronesia. Sabrino Asor went on from UH Hilo to earn a law degree and is now chair of the Ways and Means Committee of the FSM Congress. In Yap, Thomas Foruw manages the state's statistics office while his brother Francis Ruegorong, who earned a master's degree from James Cook University in Australia, is an agriculturalist. Teresa Filepin is the state director of the Upward Bound Program.

Clearly, these recent graduates are contributing a great deal to their home nations and communities.

"UH Hilo should be proud of their accomplishments and of the important role that the University has played over the years in human resources development in the region," said Miser. In fact, community leaders such as Kosrae State Governor Rensley Sigrah, Hiteo Shrew, the Speaker in the Kosrae State government, and Heinrich Palik, an educator on Pohnpei, have praised UH Hilo for the graduates it produces, citing the quality education they have received and the outstanding work they perform.

Another purpose of the trip was to revise and update Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with the region's colleges. The MOU with the College of Micronesia-FSM has expired and, although students can still transfer credits to UH Hilo, new curricula at the College such as a third-year certificate program in business need to be reviewed and possibly articulated with UH Hilo. An MOU with the College of the Marshall Islands—a college which has just more recently begun to send more and more of its graduates to UH Hilo—was discussed during the visit. UH Hilo also has an MOU with Palau Community College and plans to develop one with the College of the Northern Marianas.

The final purpose of the trip involved informing college officials and various agencies and organizations of UH Hilo's efforts to promote science education and to encourage students to consider pursuing degrees in the sciences. Pacific Islanders are targeted in PIPES (Pacific Internship Programs for Exploring Science), a conglomeration of internship programs in the broad areas of environment, conservation, and natural sciences. For example, the UH Hilo delegation met with the director of The Nature Conservancy on Pohnpei—the headquarters for the entire northern Pacific—and discussed potential partnerships and linkages with this important organization.

One of the PIPES internships is specifically designed for islanders—the Micronesian and American Samoan Student Internship Program (MASSIP). For a decade, selected UH Hilo undergraduates from the region have gone home for the summer to participate in an environmentally related internship. Andy George, Bradley Phillip, and Francis Ruegorong, for example, are former participants in the program, and their experiences assisted them in obtaining careers in conservation in the region. 

*(Editor's note: Jim Mellon is director of student development.)*



*From left to right are: Bill DeMent, MKAEC Construction Manager; Dr. Walter Steiger, former MKAEC Interim Director; Dr. Marlene Hapai, MKAEC Director; Satoshi Shidate, Dr. Norio Kaifu, Mariko Hibi, Shigeru Tanimoto, Masahiko Hayashi, and Akihiko Naito.*

## Visitors from "Voyage Through Space"

*by Dr. Marlene Hapai*

Last March, through the encouragement and funding of the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ), Chancellor Rose Tseng, UH Hilo astronomy faculty, Drs. Michael West and Richard Crowe, MKAEC Interpretive Planner Cheryl Braunstein and I visited Mitaka, Japan, home of NAOJ, to view a prototype of a 4D (3D + time) astronomical experience that its astronomers had been working on for two years. This youthful team, products of the video game generation and led by Dr. Echiro Kokubo, had not only the energy and educational background to present astronomical findings in a scientifically accurate way, but the experience to immerse learners in a thrilling environment that made learning both exciting and fun.

The Hilo visitors, with no idea of what to expect, filed into a laboratory that had been converted into a theater-like space, donned 3D glasses and quickly understood why NAOJ had preferred not to send a file over email for us to decide if this was something to consider for our new Center. Music filled the room. The molten young Earth, boiling in front of us, bright orange in color and close enough to touch, was suddenly struck by another large object causing many smaller particles to fly outward and in time come together to form the moon we know today. The action encompassed us. We were part of the moon's formation. Astronomical evidence, plus today's computer simulation capabilities took us back to that period in time as if we were there.

On January 24, visitors from NAOJ, Japanese Ministries, and Subaru Telescope staff here in Hilo were given a tour of the Mauna Kea Astronomy Education Center, which is presently about 70 percent complete. Entering the 12,000-square-foot exhibit hall, they were able to envision where their theater would be and how it fit into the entire voyaging experience. Guests included Director General Dr. Norio Kaifu of NINS, National Astronomical Observatory of Japan, Mr. Satoshi Ashidate, director and Ms. Mariko Hibi, planning unit staff, of the Research Institutes Division, Science and International Affairs Bureau of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Mr. Shigeru Tanimoto, director of the NAOJ Mitaka Business Office and

*Visitors - continued on page 9.*

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## Visitors

*Continued from page 8*

Dr. Masahiko Hayashi and Mr. Akihiko Naito from Subaru Telescope in Hilo.

The Voyage Through Space theater, a gift in the form of a long-term loan to the Center, valued at close to \$1 million, is totally funded by NAOJ. This is the first major investment made by any of the observatories for this Center that will serve as a means of highlighting the science done by the observatories in the University Park of Science and Technology as well as others on Mauna Kea. The Center will also focus on the Hawaiian culture associated with Mauna Kea and the continuing voyages of Hawaiians in their culture today, bridge science and culture, and serve as a means of motivating and inspiring youth to consider careers in the sciences.

So come late this Fall, hold on to your seat, don your 3D glasses and be one of the first to voyage through space, compliments of the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan and the Mauna Kea Astronomy Education Center! You, too, will get to experience the moon from our young Earth, view the surfaces, rings and storms on planets within our Solar System as you glide by, and view our galaxy and a multitude of other galaxies as you enjoy a feeling of being a part of this place we call our Universe. 🍷

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

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## Spotlight

*Continued from page 8*

legislation to support coqui eradication that also includes research, so I'm working to bolster the funding of our project back up by trying to get some state funding. The research component is of the natural history of the frogs with the idea of discovering something about their biology that might be able to be exploited for eradication purposes."

Mautz, Ostertag and company's research will focus on a large population of the dime-sized frogs in lower Puna.

"We're interested in areas of the Puna district that's dominated by the albizia tree," Mautz explained. "If you drive from Pahoa toward Kapoho, you go through this area where there are gigantic trees on either side of the road that form a closed canopy overhead, out by Lava Tree State Monument. That's the albizia tree. It's an invasive species here in Hawai'i and it seems to foster coqui frog populations at a high density. We've got preliminary data that indicate that the population density of these frogs in some of these habitats is greater than it is in their native habitat in Puerto Rico. We can run the numbers with the extent of what we already know and find out that there are two frogs for every square yard of forest in some places. That's a huge population density.

"And although the coqui is small, it's a predator species," he added. "We have figures that show that coqui frogs will take about 200 kilograms of bugs and spiders for every

hectare of land, and that includes beneficial species of arthropods, like spiders that eat mosquitoes and other insects. So we expect a major destruction of the food web, but we just don't have detailed information on that and that's what we want to study."

One reason for the population explosion is that the coqui have no known predators in Hawai'i, while in Puerto Rico, there is a species of snake and several bird species that eat the noisy creatures. Mautz believes another reason is the albizia itself.

"Our hypothesis is that the albizia tree forest, which invades ohia tree forest and replaces ohia tree forest in Hawai'i, in turn, sets the stage for the invasion of coqui frogs," Mautz explained. "Because the coqui frog does really well in albizia forest, we expect to see coqui frogs expanding in albizia forests and achieving higher population density than in ohia forests. We expect to see a lower density of coqui in 'ohia forests, but they might have a significant impact on the arthropods there, as the number of species and the abundance of arthropods is smaller in the ohia forest. So that's the big unknown. What is the effect of the coqui on the invertebrates that live in the forest? And that's what we don't know. It will all be brand-new exploratory research."

Mautz said that one possible upshot of the coqui frog explosion could be a lack of spiders to control the mosquito population, which has been blamed for dengue fever outbreaks in the islands the past few years. Another could be a ready supply of food for the brown tree snake, which has wreaked havoc on Guam and which agriculture officials fear may establish a foothold in Hawai'i.

"A lot of people are disputing that the coqui frogs are a problem," Mautz said. "They say, 'Well, we can get used to the noise.' They live with it in Puerto Rico and they love the frogs in Puerto Rico. While that may be true, my biggest fear is with two frogs per square yard of forest, that's just a paradise, a cornucopia of food for a frog-eating predator such as the brown tree snake. The brown tree snake will eat all manner of frogs, lizards and birds.

"Right now, especially on O'ahu, we occasionally get a brown tree snake coming into the islands aboard an airplane from the West Pacific. There may already be brown tree snakes loose in the forest that nobody knows about, but not in enough density to start a population explosion. But if you get a breeding pair or a female brown tree snake carrying young in a place that has two frogs per square yard, you'll have a population explosion of brown tree snakes before you know it.

"We need research because we need to find a better way than what we have identified as possible ways to eradicate the frogs." 🍷


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



## Campus Events

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### March

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|--------|--|--------|--|
| 2      | <i>Focus on UH Hilo</i> , 8 p.m., Channel 55   | 14     | "Women's Voices: A Poetry Reading with Manulani Meyer, Carrie Blankfield, and Kenith Simmons," 11 a.m., CC 301   |
| 4      | Last day to withdraw from courses with "W"<br>Vulcan baseball vs. Florida State Univ., 6 p.m., Wong Stadium, Admission   | 16     | <i>Focus on UH Hilo</i> , 8 p.m., Channel 55   |
| 6      | St. Petersburg String Quartet, 7:30 p.m., Theatre, Admission   | 18     | Vulcan baseball vs. Univ. of California, 6 p.m., Wong Stadium, Admission<br>Dance Vision, 7:30 p.m., Theatre, Admission  |
| 7      | Vulcan baseball vs. Florida State Univ., 3 p.m., Wong Stadium, Admission   | 19, 20 | Vulcan softball vs. Univ. of Minnesota-Morris, Noon, UH Hilo Field<br>Vulcan baseball vs. Univ. of California, 1 p.m., Wong Stadium, Admission   |
| 8      | International Women's Day, 10 a.m., Library Lanai<br>"Do No Harm: Forced Labor, Human Trafficking, and 'Sexual Slavery,'" by Dr. Nancie Caraway, 3 p.m., UCB 127 | 21-25  | Spring Recess  |
| 9, 10  | Vulcan baseball vs. Meijo Univ., 6 p.m., Wong Stadium, Admission   | 25     | Holiday: Prince Kuhio Day; Good Friday<br>Vulcan softball vs. Chaminade Univ., Noon, UH Hilo Field   |
| 11     | Vulcan baseball vs. Meijo Univ., 3 p.m., Wong Stadium, Admission   | 28     | Last day to apply for credit-by-exam for spring<br>"I" removal deadline: student to instructor   |
| 12     | Hawaiian Family affAIR, 9 a.m., UH Hilo campus<br>Vulcan softball vs. BYU-Hawai'i, Noon, UH Hilo Field   | 29     | "The Power of Talking Story from a Global Perspective," by Nontombi Naomi Tutu, 7 p.m., CC Dining Room  |
| 12, 13 | Vulcan baseball vs. Meijo Univ., 6 p.m., Wong Stadium, Admission   |        |  |