

One who mixes ingredients, drugs or medications: a pharmacist

Kāwili Lā'au



The Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo

Winter 2021 • Volume 13, Issue 1

Trained for the Times

Alumni in the Public
Health Service

▶ PG. 4-8

Aiding Hawai'i
COVID Response

▶ PG. 10 11



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HILO

Dean's Message



Stand ready to do your part

Many of us in the healthcare professions have been doing all that we can to ease the burden caused by this pandemic by helping to control virus spread through testing and promoting safe practices. In past crises, such as H1N1 and locally in Hawai'i the hepatitis outbreak, pharmacy has proved an invaluable front-line healthcare profession, especially as vaccinators.

Beginning last spring, I was privileged to be included on several working groups including the Federal Operation Warp Speed Hawai'i Department of Health Core Planning team, UH Systems Health and Well-being Work Group, UH Hilo's Testing and Tracing Committee and our own unit's vaccine and safety group. This endless schedule of Zoom meetings has shown how pharmacy's involvement spans from federal, state, county and campus to daily operational levels. I am honored to be in the company of those with public health expertise, talent and organization, and to be

part of the massive present day effort of 'getting shots in arms'.

Fast becoming the most commonly used acronym for 2021, POD or 'Point of Dispensing' could also stand for 'People of Determination'. For those individuals queuing up for their vaccine shot, the POD site may appear to be made up of folks working registration, checking temperatures, managing line flow, vaccine fillers, vaccinators and post vaccination monitors. Unseen and not necessarily described in this edition's stories, are the countless people working behind the scenes to make sure the POD happens. They range from public health officials, senior administrators, attorneys, schedulers, national guard, city and county safety officials and so many others who work exhausting hours to ensure a safe and organized process.

Regardless of how we define a POD, our communities owe all planners and workers a great debt of gratitude for their tireless efforts to get us back with our families and friends, to move us to a safe and better new normal, and to stoke our economy. I commend our wonderful faculty and staff for the examples they have set for our students, but I also want to recognize our students for their selfless contributions to helping preserve the health of all residents in our state. Our students truly fulfill the often-heard words of our namesake, Senator Inouye, "As always, I stand ready to do my part." This commitment gives true meaning to choosing pharmacy and healthcare for your career.

Aloha mai,

Carolyn Ma, PharmD. BCOP
Dean



Kāwili Lā'au

Winter 2021
Volume 13, Issue 1

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Kāwili Lā'au is the magazine for the
only College of Pharmacy in the
Pacific region, at the University of
Hawai'i at Hilo



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P4 Tiana L. Ramos and P1 Brennan Buccat were two DKICP students getting practical work experience while volunteering recently to help with the state's vaccination efforts on O'ahu, Leeward Community College POD.

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ON THE COVER: DKICP P1 student Leila Chee prepares syringes of vaccine at a large-scale inoculation POD held in Hilo, Hawai'i, in February. She was one of 48 student pharmacists, along with several faculty and staff, who volunteered to work at the day-long event. (Photo by Peg Zenk Bitter)

Possibilities in the Public Health Service

These DKICP alumni share their career stories.

by Peg Zenk Bitter

Nearly 7,000 public health professionals, including physicians, nurses and nurse practitioners, dentists, veterinarians and more than 1,300 pharmacists comprise the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. They work for a range of federal agencies, including the Indian Health Service (IHS), Food and Drug Administration, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Homeland Security, Environmental Protection Agency and Federal Bureau of Prisons.

The Corps mission is to work on the front lines of public health, fighting disease, conducting research and caring for patients in underserved communities across the nation and throughout the world. In recent years, members of the Corps have provided disaster response leadership and health services during natural disasters including Hurricane Katrina, the Haiti earthquake and Ebola epidemic in Africa. PHS Commissioned Corps officers from several agencies have been deployed to the front line of the COVID-19 pandemic response, and many pharmacy officers are involved in the vaccination efforts.

To enlist as a pharmacist in the PHS Commissioned Corps, U.S. citizenship is required, along with a Pharm.D. degree and a license to practice in any U.S. state or territory. Applicants must be under 44 years of age and be willing to make a minimum two-year commitment. Benefits include help with college loan repayment, career advancement opportunities, mobility to move between government agencies, flexibility to work in a variety of settings, low-cost health and dental benefits, tax-free housing, and a retirement pension plan.

Those benefits and a strong desire to serve others are common reasons these DKICP alumni cited for joining the USPHS Commissioned Corps or working at an IHS facility. Here, they share their stories.



STEPHANIE OGLE
PHARM.D., CPH

Lieutenant, USPHS
senior pharmacist

Alaska Native
Medical Center

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

DKICP ALUMNA STEPHANIE OGLE MADE THE LEAP FROM MICHIGAN TO HAWAII to get her undergraduate and pharmacy degrees at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. And she didn't hesitate to take advantage of a grant that provided some financial incentive for P4 pharmacy students to do a rotation at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage. Ogle enjoyed her ambulatory care work there with the native population and, after graduating with her Pharm.D. in 2014, contacted her preceptor in Alaska about a job. She was

hired by Southcentral Foundation there as a pharmacist working with her Alaska intern license until the state board approved her pharmacist license.

It wasn't until 2016 that she decided to enlist in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. "The benefits were very attractive, including the help with college loan repayment," she says. "It also provides good health insurance at no cost, and offers the option to retire from the Corps after 20 years."

Ogle was also attracted to the idea she could transfer to another location or different job, and have the opportunity to be deployed for a two-week stint, if needed to respond to an emergency. "Originally, I thought I would be here for a few years, then maybe move somewhere else, but my family has come to be very happy here in Alaska," she says. "The native population is so nice to work with. They are welcoming and have a real sense of family. It reminds me a lot of the ohana feeling in Hawai'i."

For several years she worked as a pharmacy analyst, primarily doing informatics, but recently started a new position as senior pharmacist working in the center's detox/rehab facility, consulting with customer-owners, and helping them manage their machines. "We refer to patients as customer-owners because this medical complex is theirs, owned in part by the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, and also because we want to encourage them to take ownership of their own health," she explains.

"The overall approach to healthcare is more diverse here and includes alternative medicines, with the idea of treating the whole body," Ogle says. "The quality of care is very good here. I gave birth to my daughter at this facility and it was a great experience."



▲ Stephanie Ogle and Jill Gelviro (at left) both DKICP alumni, are members of a local women's leadership group within the USPHS Commissioned Corps.

▲ Careers in the USPHS have allowed these DKICP graduates to live and work in a variety of locations around the country.



DAVIS HANAI
PHARM.D.

Lieutenant Commander,
USPHS
clinical pharmacist
Chemawa Indian
Health Center
SALEM, OREGON



DAVIS HANAI SAW GOOD CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE IN THE U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE COMMISSIONED CORPS and applied at the beginning of his P3 year to its early commissioning program.

“I was guaranteed a job after graduation, and was even paid well during my P4 year. I just had to be willing to go to a high-need area of the country,” he recalls. “I was given five location options that I could rank, and I got my second choice, which was working as a staff pharmacist for the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) at its Medical Center in Ft. Worth, Texas. There, I was focused on the medical aspects of patient care.”

After three years in Texas, Hanai took his next BOP position as chief of pharmacy at the Federal Correctional Institution in Sheridan, Oregon. “This was a smaller setting, similar to a community pharmacy, where we did more ambulatory care and I got managerial experience,” he says. “I was there for close to three years.”

He says his family enjoyed living in Oregon so when he was ready for a work change, he was able to move to a clinic in Salem, Ore., that’s part of the

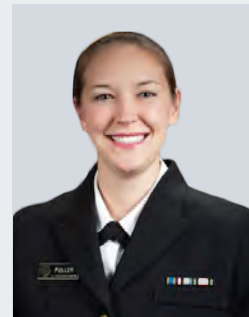
▼ Hanai and family enjoy Oregon’s weather variations and lower cost of living, compared to his native O’ahu.



Indian Health Service. “It’s really nice to have the flexibility to make geographic moves and moves within and between agencies, while maintaining your benefits and retirements. And like the military, USPHS offers a good retirement system. I could technically retire with a basic level of benefits after 20 years of service.”

With each position change, Hanai says he has been able to expand his professional skills. “For the student who is interested in many things, the framework of the U.S. Public Health Service, and its many agencies, is a real plus.”

The lower cost of living in many places on the continental United States was initially eye-opening for the Oahu native. “It was so much more affordable to live in Texas and now even Oregon than it would be on Oahu, and that’s made it financially easier for my family, as well.”



RAEANNE FULLER
PHARM.D.

former Lieutenant, USPHS
clinical pharmacist
Kaiser Permanente
Clinic
MARTINEZ, CALIFORNIA



AS A NATIVE AMERICAN FROM THE TUOLUMNE BAND OF ME-WUK INDIANS, RaeAnne Fuller took advantage of college scholarships in return for working to help underserved populations upon graduation. The U.S. Public Health Service provided the ideal framework for meeting that obligation.

Fuller signed up after graduating from the UHH Pharmacy College in 2012 and was able to do a residency through the Indian Health Service at Phoenix Indian Medical Center (PIMC) in Arizona. Her year there provided experience in in-patient and out-patient care, pediatrics, pharmacy management and pharmacy-run clinics for vaccine administration, smoking cessation, latent TB, cardiovascular risk reduction, and anticoagulation management. She took a full-time position there after residency, and became a co-director of the anticoagulation clinic, but was also rotated through other departments and enjoyed being a team player.

After three years in Arizona, she wanted to be closer to family in California and left the PHS to work



▲ RaeAnne Fuller and husband Anthony Thai, both DKICP alumni, have enjoyed living in and visiting different parts of the western United States.

at San Francisco General Hospital’s out-patient clinic, and married College of Pharmacy classmate and Bay Area native Anthony Thai. After a year, Fuller was able to secure a position near her tribe, at Adventist Health Sonora. “There I worked in out-patient care, managing long-term car patients’ medication lists and closely monitoring their use of psychotropic medications. I worked closely with nurses.”

Eventually, her role grew and she became responsible for developing and overseeing all medication safety for the hospital. She worked for and directly reported to hospital administrators, while still working with the long-term care patients. “I felt like my residency at PIMC, and the managerial training I got there, really helped prepare me for that role,” says Fuller.

Almost two years ago, she and her husband decided to settle in the East Bay and start a family. They now have twins – a girl named Riley and a boy named Ronan. She works for Kaiser Permanente as an ambulatory care pharmacist. “I manage patients started on antidepressants to treat their depression, and I find it really rewarding when patients feel significant improvements in their lives.

“Even though I wasn’t able to continue in the Public Health Service, I would definitely recommend considering it as a career option,” she adds.



ANGELINA LOVELL
PHARM.D.

out-patient pharmacist
Alaska Native
Medical Center
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA



AS A RETURNING STUDENT WHEN SHE WENT THROUGH UHH PHARMACY COLLEGE, Angelina Lovell was not able to consider enlisting in the Public Health Service when she graduated in 2012. “I was just beyond the age cutoff, but I was definitely interested in living and working somewhere other than California, where I grew up,” she says.

In her P4 year, she jumped at the chance to do her rotations in Alaska, and was able to take advantage of a stipend offered to attract more students there. After graduation, she stayed in Alaska and made it her home, working in retail pharmacy for Walgreens for eight years.

“That type of work is so fast paced and physically demanding,” she says. Looking for a change, she started to pick up additional part-time work at the Native Medical Center in Anchorage, and really enjoyed it.

The opportunity for full-time employment opened up there in 2019 and she was quick to accept the position. “I really like working with the staff and patients there, and feel like my quality of life has improved, as well,” she says. “I work wherever they need me – sometimes in out-patient pharmacy, other weeks in the ER overnight, and sometimes filling mail-order prescriptions. I enjoy the variety.”

Lovell spent much of her early years going to college part time and working in various positions at Kaiser Permanente in California, including several years as a pharmacy clerk. “I was always impressed with the kind of care and training KP provided. But the quality of patient care in the Indian Health Service system is exceptional,” she notes. “Everyone goes to such lengths to ensure patients are well cared for.

“Unlike in the retail setting, I’m now allowed to take time with each patient,” Lovell adds. “That results in fewer errors, and makes for a much better patient experience and a more pleasant place to work.”

SEVEN QUESTIONS FOR

Rear Admiral (ret) Pamela Schweitzer, Pharm.D.



When she completed her Pharm.D. degree in the late-1980s, Pam Schweitzer intended to practice ambulatory care pharmacy, and she did for the first 10 years of her career. Her professional desire to work with underserved communities and a personal desire to see more of the country led her to join the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) and take her first assignment with the Indian Health Service as a clinical pharmacist at the Pine Ridge Indian Hospital in South Dakota.

Twenty years later, in 2014, she stepped into a four-year term as the country's Assistant Surgeon General and 10th Chief Pharmacist Officer of the USPHS. As Chief Pharmacist Officer, and the first female in that role, she provided leadership and coordination of more than 1,300 PHS pharmacy officers in 13 agencies, and worked with the Office

of the Surgeon General and the Department of Health and Human Services.

Now retired from the Corps, Schweitzer recently talked about her continued enthusiasm for the work of the PHS and the significant role she sees pharmacists playing in improving healthcare delivery across the country.

Q: Is there an early work experience that helped to impact your career?

A: Six months into my first IHS assignment at the Pine Ridge Indian Hospital in South Dakota, I was asked to head up health promotion and disease prevention initiatives for the local community. That experience really helped to shape my views about how to approach healthcare. I learned to lead from behind, by listening to what local leaders and residents said they needed, then planting those ideas with key decision makers and getting other folks involved along the way.

Q: What was one of your biggest professional challenges?

A: Trying to solve problems in areas you're not an expert in can be intimidating. When I worked at Indian Health Service, one of the projects I was working on was pharmacy billing. That required working with Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in Baltimore, MD, to make regulatory changes, which was somewhat new to me. Later, I managed a national information technology (IT) project that dealt with transitioning from paper to electronic medical records, and implementing the Medicare Part D drug benefit, but at the

time I didn't know much about IT. In both cases I had to jump in and learn about things, and get up to speed fairly quickly. That's been a common theme throughout my career. You have to be willing to learn new things.

Q: What was most rewarding about being Assistant Surgeon General and USPHS Chief Pharmacist Officer?

A: In that role I had the chance to work with several different government agencies, national organizations, as well as the Department of Health and Human Services. I was able to be involved in many healthcare initiatives then and was able to contribute ideas and help solve problems that improved the end results. While at the CMS, I helped to implement the Affordable Care Act.

Q: Is there a more personal career achievement that you're proud of?

A: I've always tried to mentor junior officers and help them advance their careers. I started a women's leadership support group as a way for female Corps officers to find support as well as encouragement, and to help them balance their careers as officers with the needs of their families.

There are now local support groups around the country.

Q: What do you see as pharmacy's role in the future of U.S. healthcare?

A: The scope of pharmacy practice has certainly expanded in the past decade, and the COVID-19 pandemic has only increased opportunities for pharmacists. Reimbursement for pharmacist services continues to be challenging and complex, due to a different set of rules for each payer. The insurance industry does not always recognize pharmacists as providers of clinical services. However, there is definitely an opportunity with state Medicaid programs to reimburse clinical and prevention services provided by pharmacists.

We need to be engaged in healthcare reform and make sure we are included in language or regulations that include public health and multi-disciplinary healthcare teams.

Q: What's one of the most important skills you learned in Pharmacy school?

A: I learned how to communicate and connect with patients, caregivers and healthcare professionals. That has served me well throughout my career, whether working with students, patients, hospital administrators or government regulators.

Q: Do you have any advice for student pharmacists?

A: Be engaged in your profession. Join professional associations to meet new people and stay connected to your college through alumni associations. Networking is not only important from a career standpoint but it can be very rewarding meeting others in your profession.

Upon graduating, you will have a strong base of knowledge and skills. Challenge yourself to continuously be learning throughout your career.

Take the opportunity to move somewhere for residency or early in your career, if you can. You'll have valuable experiences living and working somewhere different. And you can always go home later.



White Coat Ceremony held virtually

As always, first-year student pharmacists recited the Oath of a Pharmacist as part of the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy's annual White Coat Ceremony, held Sunday, October 18, 2020. But this year's ceremony took on a more subdued tone, with family and friends watching the event on screens as it was livestreamed via the DKICP YouTube channel.

Because of COVID-19 protocols, only P1 students were in attendance in the large hall on the first floor of Hale Kiho'ihoi, along with Dean Carolyn Ma, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Lara Gomez and DKICP Director of Student Affairs Daryl Masanda, who served as master of ceremonies.

Dean Ma explained that the induction ceremony signifies the rite of passage for student pharmacists entering their first year in the professional program, and that it affirms their commitment to uphold the values of their profession and dedication to serving their patients.

Students were addressed via video by several speakers including Bonnie Irwin, University of Hawai'i at Hilo chancellor; Hawai'i County Mayor Harry Kim; and keynote speaker Lucinda Maine, Ph.D., RPh, executive vice president and CEO of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy.

The ceremony also recognized PGY1 pharmacy resident Thi Hong Vu, who is continuing his training with DKICP faculty on O'ahu, and graduate student Emilio Quarta, who is beginning his research journey in the Ph.D. program at DKICP.

The following students then received their white coats:

Meara Michi Abad	Tomomi Kohno
Ann-Janin Bacani	Kauilani Lonzaga
Crystal Beardsley	Gladys Hope Lorenzo
Carly Bell	Josephine Lui
Brennan Palani Buccat	Jordan Millwood
Kylie Bungcayao	Chan Hong Min
Tyler Justin Caliva	Molly Moran
Judhea Mae Campollo	Skye Pyo
Leila Chee	Jeff Michael Regalario
Dyani Chock	Nicole Regpala
Kathy Dang	Ryu Sakakura
Devangi Dave	Ruby Ann Sales
Corey Duenas	Jasmyne Sato
Cheyenne Garretson	Dillon Solliday
Olatunji Gbadebo	Kailani Timmons
Tyler Godinet	Hien Trang Tran
Chase Ibia	Daniella Wallace
Kiera Javillonar	Gabriel Won
Teva Kealoha Meyer	Megan Woolsey
Erin Kim	



◀ At a recent large-scale vaccination POC in Hilo, student pharmacists Jeff Regalario and Dillon Solliday prepare and reconstitute Pfizer vaccine by diluting it with sodium chloride, mixing it and then filling syringes.

storing the vaccine to transporting and dispensing it.

DKICP Assistant Professor Nicole Young has worked on the state team's Healthy Advisory subcommittee.

Dean Ma and Kalei Rapoza, University of Hawai'i at Hilo interim vice chancellor for administrative affairs, have also participated in the Hawai'i County group Community First, which includes officials from county government, island hospitals and clinics and retail community pharmacies, and who is working to coordinate and improve communication to the community about the virus and vaccination rollout.

STUDENTS GET INVOLVED

When COVID-19 testing clinics became more accessible last summer and fall, Young and Jarred Prudencio, another DKICP experiential coordinator, worked with the Hawai'i State Department of Health to schedule students to work at on-campus testing events. Student pharmacists assisted with collecting screening paperwork, checking vital signs, managing traffic flow and sanitizing all resources between each person.

Once vaccines started to become available late last year, DKICP faculty and staff worked with DOH and University of Hawai'i officials to coordinate student and faculty volunteers at



▲ Left: DKICP student Kailani Timmons inputs patient information into the national CDC website as the vaccine is given, while Tyler Caliva produces a time stamp to track the required 15-minute post-vaccine wait period. Right: Students prepare vaccine syringes at a recent Hilo POC.



▲ In January, pharmacy students volunteered at one of the state's vaccination POCs held at UH Mānoa on Oahu.

Vaccination Volunteers

DKICP faculty, staff and student pharmacists help in planning and implementing Hawai'i's COVID-19 vaccination program.

by Peg Zenk Bitter

Immunizing the U.S. population against COVID-19 is likely the largest vaccination campaign ever attempted. Within the state of Hawai'i, it has required planning and coordination by state public health, emergency management and healthcare providers.

Key faculty and administration from the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy have been involved from

the start of the state's planning efforts. Dean Carolyn Ma has served on the state's Pandemic Response Core Planning Team, which includes representatives from local, state and federal levels, as well as private sector partners. The team has developed a detailed operational plan that provides statewide logistical guidance on everything from securing and

various vaccination POCs (point of dispensing), starting over the winter break on Oahu, and also on Maui and Hawai'i Islands beginning in the new year. UH medical and nursing students have also been active volunteers at these POCs, which are being hosted at UH campuses on Oahu and Maui.

"Many of our students, from P1s to P4s, have been helping during breaks and on weekends, and many P4s continue to volunteer during their spring rotation blocks this semester," says Young.

On Hawai'i Island, 48 DKICP student pharmacists have been

helping at vaccination sites in Hilo, including several recent large-scale vaccination POCs, where 2,000 doses were administered per event.

MORE HANDS-ON LEARNING

The pandemic has impacted the way most students are learning, but for those preparing for a career in a healthcare profession, it has changed where and how they learn, notes Dean Ma. "It's a time for more hands-on learning, and we're seeing that our students are well-prepared to step up and contribute to this nationwide effort."

"The pandemic has created many challenges for our students but these events have given them opportunities to be on the front lines in responding to it and serving their communities," says Ma. "They have an important role to play in this unprecedented public health endeavor."



◀ At COVID-19 testing conducted at the University of Hawaii at Hilo campus, pharmacy students, including Tiana Enos-Dano, helped by collecting paperwork, checking vital signs and sanitizing equipment.

Health Fair

ANNUAL HEALTH FAIR REACHES PUBLIC IN NEW WAYS

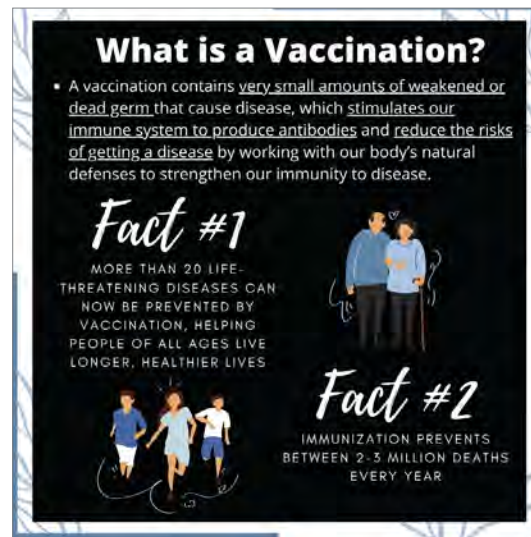
by Lina Nguyen and Jessica Song

Due to the pandemic, the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy postponed the annual October Health Fair event for the community. The committee decided to move the annual October event to March this school year, develop informative posts on several social media outlets, and use other alternatives to reach out to the public.

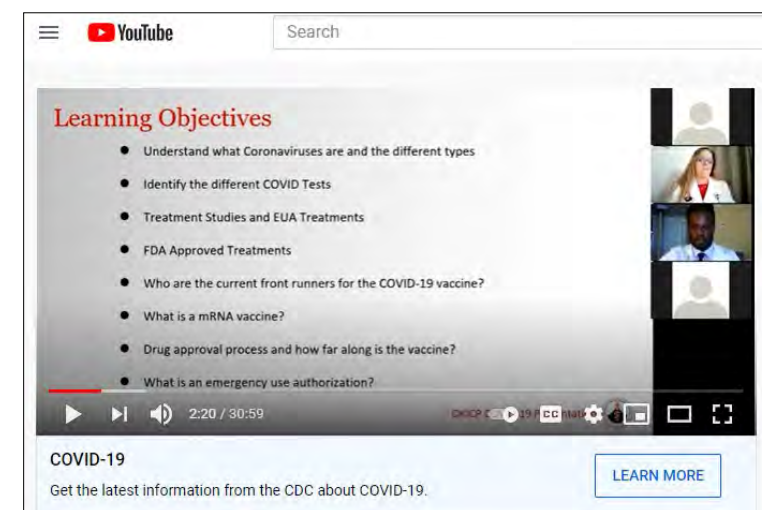
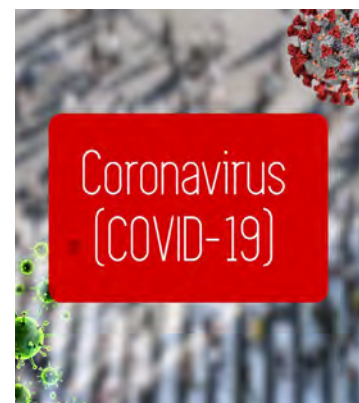
Throughout October, we posted information about COVID-19, flu vaccines and flu myths. More social media posts about hypertension, diabetes and asthma will be shared with the public throughout the month of March. We have also created videos for the public regarding the change of events and informative videos on blood pressure and blood glucose.

In early January, a live webinar was held via Zoom about vaccines and treatments for the COVID-19 virus. It was created and presented by two student pharmacists, Debra Towell (P2) and Olatunji Gbadebo (P1), with support from Dr. Roy Goo. They explained some basic information about coronaviruses, the different types and how they're identified, vaccine options and the drug approval process for current vaccines. They also answered viewer questions after their presentation.

There was a huge online turnout for the event, with participants asking a lot of questions.



Information on COVID-19 and vaccinations was posted on several social media sites last semester.



The webinar can be viewed at: <https://youtu.be/8fZzHyif4ig>

HSSHP & AMCP

STUDENTS LEARN THROUGH COMPETITIVE EVENTS

by Samantha Okubo

All but one of the events held by the Hawaii Student Society of Health Systems Pharmacy & Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy last semester were virtual. Here's a recap of the group's activities:

INFORMAL SOAP SESSIONS

HSSHP & AMCP partnered with Rho Chi to host Zoom meetings that covered what a SOAP is, explained each section's elements, how to format the SOAP and get pertinent information, and presentation techniques. After explaining all these components, participants divided into two teams and each team went through a practice case where they quickly utilized all the elements they just learned.

Formal SOAP sessions: Again, HSSHP & AMCP partnered with Rho



▲ The patient simulator room provides students with hands-on experience.

Chi for this event. Using the Zoom meeting format, students presented their SOAP case professionally. Most were in teams of four people, and P1 students were encouraged to sign up with a team of P2 and P3 students who could serve as mentors.

CLINICAL SKILLS COMPETITION

For this competition, teams of two members have two hours to review patient data and make recommendations. Teams have one hour to prepare

their oral speech and a 30-minute break. Each team then has two minutes to present their plan to the judges, followed by eight minutes of question and answer time. Afterward, there is individual and group feedback. The group scoring the highest wins the local competition and goes on to compete on the national level at ASHP Midyear Meeting.

SIM MAN ACTIVITY

For this, participants went into the patient simulator room where students read the patient's case, asked questions, assessed the patient, made a diagnosis and determined the medication needed to treat the condition.

Guest Speaker of the semester: Dr. Danita (Henley) Narciso gave students insight into pharmacy professions outside of retail settings. Dr. Narciso is a DKICP inaugural class alumna now working as a clinical pharmacist at Wilcox Medical Center on Kaua'i. She also regularly is a preceptor to DKICP students. Participants asked many questions and learned a lot from her.



Students assess the patient (left), discuss SIM man's case and make a diagnosis (right).

Kappa Psi

VARIETY OF TOPICS COVERED IN FALL SPEAKER SERIES

by Raul Flores

For many organizations across the world, 2020 threw a curveball to daily activities and operations, and also to any plans or traditional services. This past semester, Kappa Psi and University of Hawaii at Hilo Student Association (UHHSA) partnered in hosting a Fall Speaker Series to bring unique and qualified presentations to the College of Pharmacy and UH Hilo, in a virtual platform.

Presentations allow students to learn more about topics that they are passionate about, as well as things they may have never have considered or thought of. Due to physical distancing and limited in-person events, Zoom and GoToWebinar became a space to network with professionals across the United States.

The speaker series was led by Mercedes Dennis Graves (Kappa Psi member and UHHSA Senator for the College of Pharmacy), Raul Flores (Vice Regent for Kappa Psi) and Roanne Deabler (Graduate Senator at Large for the UH Hilo).



▲ Mercedes Dennis Graves and Raul Flores were featured in a national campaign video for The National Latino AIDS Awareness Coalition.

The organizations partnered to bring five events from October to December. These included:

- **LGBTQ+ 101 for Healthcare Professionals**
- **Your Financial Pharmacist – What to know when you graduate**
- **Zoom Fatigue & Burnout from a TED Presentation Speaker and Clinical Psychologist**
- **A discussion with The National Latino AIDS Awareness Coalition (NLAAD)**
- **LGBTQ+ Adults & Health Disparities**

Our brothers, Mercedes and Raul, were also featured in a national campaign video for NLAAD! We were excited to bring these discussions and important topics to the students as a way to alleviate the stress from school and adjusting to a virtual environment and look forward to more endeavors in the Spring.



Above left: Social media ads for three of the five fall speaker series events.

IPhO

SPEAKERS SHARE CAREER EXPERIENCES AND INSIGHTS

by Yan Yee Ho

To kick off a new semester, the Industry Pharmacists Organization (IPhO) decided to switch gears and promote virtual events to give pharmacy students more exposure to the field of industry. In Hawai'i, there aren't many industry opportunities available so we wanted to make it a priority to introduce students to pharmacists' role in industry. We invited three speakers with careers in different branches of the industry field to share their journey and experiences with our students.

The Director of Medical Affairs Program Elio Evangelista talked about an enriching opportunity for students to help them stand out among other applicants and to expand on their professional development. He presented information regarding the process to earn a Medical Affairs Competency Certificate (MACC), which is a self-paced course to help students develop critical and strategic thinking skills for medical affairs operations in the clinical and commercial fields. Some pharmacy schools have already implemented this certificate program in their curriculum.

Students also got a glimpse of the field of regulatory affairs and marketing from DKICP alumni Dr. Nicholas Nguyen and Dr. Ethan Slusher. Dr. Nguyen shared with us his journey from pharmacy student to his career as a Regulatory Affairs Manager at Gilead Sciences, a major



▲ Top left: Dr. Elio Evangelista
top right: Dr. Ethan Slusher
bottom: Dr. Nicholas Nguyen

biopharmaceutical company focused on the discovery, development, and commercialization of innovative medicines. This experience was eye-opening for students, who learned about the interprofessional skills required to become a regulatory affairs pharmacist, as well as their responsibilities in the drug development process.

Dr. Slusher, a recent graduate and past President of IPhO, provided tips on how to prepare for APPEs, and gave members a peek into his daily life working as an Associate Consultant at Eli Lilly. His presentation motivated the members when he revealed that he was able to get a job offer from his APPE rotation and encouraged students to do their research and go the extra mile to learn about the different areas that industry pharmacy has to offer.

▼ Students attend a virtual speaker event with Dr. Nicholas Nguyen.



NCPA

DRUG TAKE-BACK LED FALL EVENTS

by Rebecca Wu

Although COVID-19 unfortunately prevented most community service outreach activities, the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) put on numerous events throughout the semester to

enhance student engagement and development. Events ranged from community drug take-back efforts to engaging weekly student posts.

Our first event was the National Drug Take Back with DEA held October 24, 2020, at Hilo Medical Center. We collected five boxes of unused and expired medications – a total of 68 pounds. This was added to the state total of 1,026 pounds at

the time of the event. This opportunity allowed us to connect with the community and educate them on the importance of safe disposal practices.

Throughout the semester, several guest speakers educated our members on different aspects of pharmacy. They included Dr. Mark DeWoskin, McKesson’s vice president of pharmacy retail operations, and Dr. Jake Blechta, independent compounding pharmacy owner. Both speakers shared insightful information about their daily work and benefits of their career pathways.

After listening to Dr. DeWoskin’s presentation about independent pharmacy ownership, one student commented “The presentation gave me new knowledge and insight about the different areas of financing and things to consider when opening up an independent pharmacy.”

We also hosted a fundraising event that consisted of making Thanksgiving goodie bags that students of the college could buy for fellow classmates to show they were grateful for each other.



▲ NCPA members helped with a drug take-back event open to the community and held at Hilo Medical Center last October.

Phi Delta Chi

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECTS CONTINUE, DESPITE COVID-19



by Brandi Hughes & Cherry Ann Aki

▲ Phi Delta Chi members delivered holiday gift donations to a local church.

Since 2013, Phi Delta Chi has been hosting Operation Christmas Child (OCC) as part of one of the biggest Christmas projects in the world. This project consists of filling gift-wrapped shoeboxes (with toys, toiletries, clothes, etc.) for children in need around the world, including in the Philippines, Peru, Rwanda, and Ukraine.

This event is usually held in person as a fun group activity, but due to the pandemic, the event was held virtually through Zoom, with participants getting shoeboxes and wrapping paper beforehand via a drive-thru pick up on campus. During the Zoom event, participants wrapped their shoeboxes and participated in an ugly sweater contest and various Christmas themed games.

This year members of UH Hilo’s American Medical Student Association (AMSA) also participated in our event.

With the help of both organizations, we were able to collect a total of 65 shoe boxes, which dropped off at the Hilo Missionary Church to be shipped out across the globe.

Another community service tradition that had to be changed this year due to COVID-19 was our outreach to the homeless through the Hilo Missionary Church. We usually feed the homeless around Hilo Bayfront once

a month and hand out small bag of toiletries. Since we couldn’t go out to distribute these, we held a donation drive within our fraternity, collecting toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, soap, lotion, razors, face masks, hand sanitizers, blankets, jackets and bottled water. These were then given to a local church for distribution to the homeless.



▲ A total of 65 shoeboxes filled with toys, clothes and other gifts were collected for Operation Christmas Child.



Rho Chi

By Zhian 'Andy' Lin and Vicky Huang

JOURNAL CLUB POLISHES ANALYTICAL SKILLS

In September, third-year pharmacy students Samantha Okubo, Ashley Fukuchi and Andy Lin participated in the first journal club of the semester, which was hosted by Rho Chi. Journal clubs allow students to critically evaluate recently published articles, apply the knowledge they learned in the classroom to arrive at a conclusion, and present their recommendations to their peers as well as faculty members.

Samantha analyzed an article that studied the association between administration of systemic corticosteroids and mortality among critically ill patients with COVID-19. Andy and Ashley looked at the effects of using dexamethasone to treat hospitalized patients with COVID-19. DKICP faculty members Dr. Supakit Wongwiwatthananut, Dr. Guendisch, Dr. Shugeng Cao, and Dr. Camlyn Masuda attended this journal club session and were able to provide their expertise.

In October, second-year pharmacy students Daijiro Oshitari, Alyson Soranaka, Brandi Hughes and Rosalie White participated in the second journal club of the semester. Daijiro and Alyson analyzed an article that compared once-daily single inhaler triple and dual therapy, while Brandi and Rosalie looked at the effects of remdesivir in the treatment for COVID-19. DKICP



faculty members Dr. Wongwiwatthananut, Dr. Guendisch, Dr. Cao, and Dr. Dianqing Sun attended and offered their insights.

QUIZ BOWL MAKES STUDYING FUN

Every semester, Rho Chi conducts four Quiz Bowls for first-year pharmacy students. Subjects include information from two of the Drug Action exams and two of the Self Care exams. Drug Action, which introduces students to medicinal chemistry and pharmacology, is a class that P1s take during the fall and spring semester.

Quiz Bowl Co-Chairs Vicky Huang, Kara Tsuzaki and Yan Yee Ho hosted a lecture-style review

and, along with Rho Chi members Andy Lin and Melanie Sacros, delivered a presentation with practice questions to more than thirty of the first-year pharmacy students.

MOCK INTERVIEWS HELP PREP PRE-PHARMACY STUDENTS

Rho Chi's Pre-Pharmacy Co-Chairs Thein Huynh and Angelyn Park collaborated with Phi Lambda Sigma to organize mock interviews for the University of Hawaii students who are enrolled in the pre-pharmacy program. The event provided these students with an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the interview process at DKICP.

▲ Zoom-based mock interviews were developed to help pre-pharmacy students prepare.

Three pre-pharmacy students were given a short presentation containing tips for a successful interview, e-mail etiquette, and CV review. Rho Chi members Thein Huynh, Angelyn Park, Andy Lin, Vicky Huang, Melanie Sacros and Roanne Deabler, along with Phi Lambda Sigma members Patricia Stevens, Jessica Song, Tiana Enos-Dano, Ashley Fukuchi and Paige Cajudoy facilitated the mock interviews and provided feedback to the pre-pharmacy students.

Phi Lambda Sigma

FALL SYMPOSIUM FOCUSES ON LEADERSHIP

By Ashley Fukuchi & Jessica Song

Phi Lambda Sigma held its annual Fall Symposium on November 21, 2020, virtually for the first time through the Zoom video conference platform. This semester, we aimed to bring a diversity of guest speakers to share their experiences and insight on healthcare, research and leadership through different lenses of the healthcare profession.

We were honored to be joined by five guest speakers:

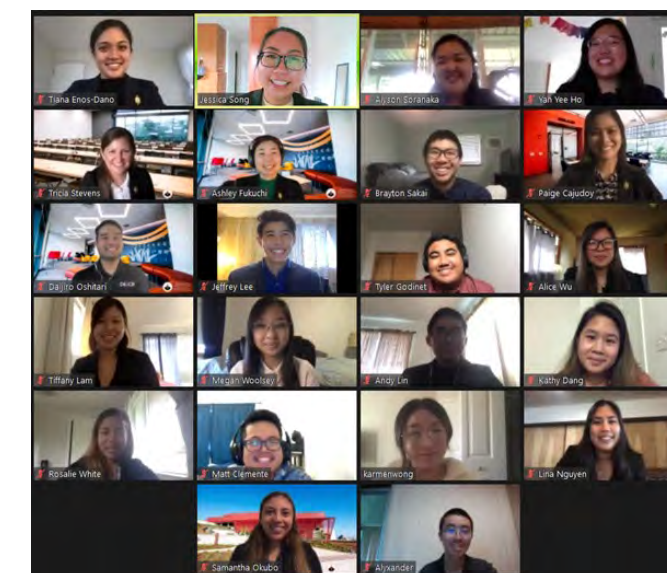
Devashri Prabhudesai, MSc, shared her unique experiences as a clinical research coordinator and medical writer, explaining her daily duties and responsibilities in conducting large-scale Stage III and Stage IV clinical trials and medical writing.

Sheri Tokumaru, Pharm.D., BCCCP, provided an inspirational segment on curling, where she encouraged student pharmacists to take the initiative to step out of their comfort zone and aspire to be proactive in everything that they do.

Gurinder Kaur, Pharm.D., past alumni and recent PGY1 resident at Loma Linda Hospital, shared her own personal experiences in the residency process and provided insight on her typical day as a pharmacy resident.

Henry Quach and **Karmen Wong**, current P4 students, were on APPE rotations. Henry talked about his rotation sites in both Hawaii and California, as well as his interest in doing a residency at a hospital. Karmen shared her perspectives and passion for industry pharmacy, as well as elaborated on her fellowship application process with industry pharmacy leaders such as Eli Lilly.

Attendees were able to gain diverse perspectives and appreciation of healthcare leadership and innovation through these guest speakers.





Julie Adrian, DVM, associate professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice, was invited to present “How Are Veterinarians Contributing to the Opioid Crisis in America?” during the 2020 UC Davis Pre-Health Conference, October 2020.



Shugeng Cao, Ph.D. and associate professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, co-authored an article that appeared in the October 2020 issue of *Nature* 586(7827):64–69, entitled “Discovery of enzymatic Alder-ene reaction and origins of catalytic selectivity”.

He was also co-author with F Wang, AM Sarotti, G Jiang, JC Huguet-Tapia, SL Zheng, X Wu, C Li, Y Ding, a paper entitled “Waikikiamides A-C: Complex Diketopiperazine Dimer and Diketopiperazine-Polyketide Hybrids from a Hawaiian Marine Fungal Strain *Aspergillus* sp. *FM242*”, published in *Org Lett.* 2020, 22, 4408–4412.



Abhijit Date, Ph.D., M.Pharm. and assistant professor, co-authored a paper with postdoctoral research associate Sudipta Mallick and former postdoctoral research associate Pratikumar Patel that was featured on the cover of the October 2020 issue of the publication *ACS Infectious Diseases*. Their paper was titled “Pharmaceutically acceptable carboxylic acid-terminated polymers show activity and selectivity against HSV-1 and HSV-2 and synergy with antiviral drugs.”



Ingo Ko'omoa-Lange, Ph.D. and assistant professor, received the Hawai'i Community Foundation Medical Research Program grant from the Victoria S. and Bradley L. Geist Foundation. The \$50,000 grant will be used in his research, which is focused on examining novel roles of the immune system to influence the progression of Neuroblastoma, a solid tumor that occurs mainly in infants and children.



Karen Pellegrin, Ph.D., MBA, and director of continuing education, strategic planning and the Center for Rural Health Science, is PI on a grant award (\$149,961) from the National Science Foundation, Smart and Connected Communities

Planning Grant with Co-PIs and Co-Investigators Shihwu Sung, Mazen Hamad, Ryan Perroy, Travis Mandel, Matt Platz, Sue Jarvi, Daniela Guendisch, Tracy Wiegner, and Grady Weyenberg.

She is also co-author of the peer-reviewed publication “Understanding the Socioeconomic and Geographical Characteristics of Beneficiaries Receiving a Comprehensive Medication Review” in the *Journal of Managed Care and Specialty Pharmacy*. 2020 Oct;26(10):1276–81. Co-authors were J Chou, CE Cooke, B Zarowitz, A Hanlon, A Lozano, and NJ Brandt.



Dianqing Sun, professor and chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, has received a Department of Defense (DoD) grant subaward (~\$376,000) from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC). This 3-year

DoD grant, entitled “Development and Evaluation of Inhibitors of the *C. difficile* Enzyme, FabK, as Microbiome-Sparing Antibacterials”, is funded through June 30, 2023, and is in collaboration with Dr. Kirk Hevener (the PI) at the College of Pharmacy at UTHSC and Dr. Julian Hurdle at the Center for Infectious and Inflammatory Diseases at Texas A&M Health Science Center.

Dr. Sun was also invited to serve on two NIAID/NIH grant review panels to review NIAID Emergency Awards (R01/R21) grant applications for Rapid Investigation of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) and Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in 2020. He also served as a panelist for the National Science Foundation (NSF) in January 2021.



Supakit Wongwiwatthananut, professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice, was a primary and corresponding author on a publication entitled “Effects of compulsory versus voluntary methods for youth offenders

in a pharmacist-based smoking cessation program” published in *Interprof J Health Sci (IJHS)*, with coauthors S Dumrongpiwat, N Wongwiwatthananut, M Khlaisang, S Suwanmajo, S Krittiyanunt, T Songsak and T Aoki.

He also served as a co-author on the research project entitled “Development and validation of a life satisfaction instrument in human resource practitioners” published in *J Open Innov Technol Mark Complex*, with coauthor K Na-Nan.

MIA TAYLOR

Through advocacy of team-based care, she has helped to expand the practice of pharmacy at the Queen's Clinically Integrated Physician Network.

Early in her nursing career, Hermina Taylor, known as Mia to friends and colleagues, began working with infectious disease treatment and prevention. Her efforts regularly focused on the most vulnerable populations that often are more susceptible to them.

During the late 1980s and early 1990s, the HIV/AIDS crisis highlighted the barriers that many people had to getting high-quality healthcare, she recalls. “I was asked to help start up an HIV/AIDS clinic in Grand Rapids, Mich., and it was baptism by fire. But we quickly learned that the disease required a multi-disciplinary approach. Doctors and nurses had to work with social workers and pharmacists to help properly manage care for HIV/AIDS patients.”

Taylor went on to work as an infectious disease nurse practitioner, providing inpatient and outpatient care for a large health system and contracted care in the public health sector, addressing treatment of diseases including hepatitis C and tuberculosis. To deliver the best care for patients, healthcare professionals were developing team-based models.

Since relocating to Hawai'i in 2013, implementing those types of models has been a major focus of her work at both St. Francis Hospice, where she worked in palliative care, and at The Queen's Medical Center on Oahu, where she managed the transitional case management program and developed clinical programs for The Queen's Clinically Integrated Physician Network.

Since 2018, she has been director of community and post-acute care

services for The Queen's Health Systems. In that role, she has been helping to develop a system-wide continuum of care for patients, and developing community partnerships to improve patient access to high-quality care and resources.

“Here at Queen's we're transitioning to multidisciplinary, team-based care, and pharmacy is a huge part of that,” says Taylor. “Our healthcare teams now regularly include social workers, psychologist and pharmacists, working with doctors and nurses.”

She's been an important advocate for pharmacy, encouraging physicians to fully utilize other teammates and, in doing so, make better use of their own time. Relying on pharmacists to help patients learn about and monitor their medications is a great example, she notes.

Taylor has welcomed P4 student pharmacists from the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy on their rotations. Each semester, students gain valuable experiences in the team-based settings at the hospital and its affiliated clinics.

“We want to recognize Mia for all that she's done to expand the practice of pharmacy at The Queen's Health Systems and for allowing the regular participation of our student pharmacists at The Queen's Clinically Integrated Physician Network,” says Roy Goo, Pharm.D., DKICP associate professor and pharmacy practice department chair. “She is wonderful to work with, and she truly has been a champion of pharmacy.”



EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

- RN diploma, 1986, Mercy Central School of Nursing, Grand Rapids, Mich.
- B.A., Psychology and Sociology, 1994, Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, Mich.
- M.S. in Nursing, 2001, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich.
- RN and APRN Licensure in Hawai'i and Michigan

Fall 2020 Dean's List

The following students from the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo have been named to the Dean's List for the 2020 Fall semester:



CLASS OF 2022

Liana Ang	Kazumi Fujitani	Jane Lakritz	Brian Petrone
Germain Atmospera	Ashley Fukuchi	Tiffany Lam	Jenny Phong
Caroline Boule	Laura Hardaway	Zhian Lin	Cody Porter
Bryson Cadiz	Leia Hasegawa	Kyle Nakagawa	Melanie Sacro
Paige Cajudoy	Yan Yee Ho	Danh-Ronald Nguyen	Lillian Tran
Roanne Deabler	Viky Huang	Trisha Nobriga	Kara Tsuzaki
Tran Dinh	Christopher Kaneko	Angelyn Park	Shumin Wu
Tara-Ann Dumlao	Cleighton Lagmay	Yun Soo Park	

CLASS OF 2023

Chrystal Cardoza	Kathleen Millard	Kalen Niimi	Rosalie White
Mi Huynh	Stephanie Mojumdar	Brayton Sakai	Sung Mi Yoon
Tu Le	Selena Joy Morita	Tiana Tran	
Johnson Le	Steve Moua	May Ann Vicente	
Hyeji Lee	Matthew Neumann	GaYeon Wang	

CLASS OF 2024

Meara Michi Abad	Devangi Dave	Tomomi Kohno	Daniella Wallace
Ann-Janin Bacani	Corey Duenas	Gladys Hope Lorenzo	Gabriel Won
Carly Bell	Cheyenne Garretson	Josephine Lui	
Brennan Palani Buccat	Olatunji Gbadebo	Chan Hong Min	
Kylie Bungcayao	Tyler Godinet	Skye Pyo	
Judhea Mae Campollo	Chase Ibia	Jeff Michael Regalario	
Dyani Chock	Teva Kealoha Meyer	Nicole Regpala	
Kathy Dang	Erin Kim	Hien-Trang Tran	

NAME A BRICK, INSPIRE A LEGACY

The Legacy Path provides alumni, family and friends of the The Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy the chance to show their support for the college and the pharmacy profession.

When you buy an inscribed brick on the DKICP Legacy Path, which leads up to the main entrance of our new home, you establish a permanent link to the history of the college. And you pave the way for future generations to remember it. Show your UH pride or make a lasting tribute to a loved one today, and leave a legacy for tomorrow.

- The Legacy Path is located at the UH Hilo Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy, and begins at the entry garden and extends up the walkway to the main entrance.
- Bricks are installed in Spring and Fall. We will let you know when your brick is installed.
- Each rust-hued brick is approximately 4½ by 9 inches.
- Inscriptions can be up to 3 lines of 16 characters/spaces per line. (Include spaces and punctuation in the count.)
- Special requests will be accommodated if possible. Submit orders together for adjacent bricks.
- Participation is open to all alumni, parents, friends and supporters.
- The full amount of your gift is tax deductible.



I want to be part of the DKICP Legacy

Please reserve my brick in the:

- Kawili La'au Kipuka: \$500 per brick
- Oath of a Pharmacist Path: \$750 per brick
- DKICP Gateway: \$1000 per brick
- Alumni & 'Ohana Legacy Circle: \$1500 per brick

Purchaser: _____

Alumni Class Year if applicable: _____

- Friends & Family
- Other

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Inscription: 3 lines, 16 characters each (including spaces and punctuation)



To reserve multiple bricks, please submit forms together.

Payment Information

- Check/Money Order
(payable to UH Foundation. Add "DKICP Legacy Path" on bottom of check.)

For credit card payments visit
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 or submit payment with form to:



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Attn: Nadine Hara
200 W. Kawili Street
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

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- ▼ *Students have adjusted to new forms of learning during the pandemic, including observing COVID-19 safety and distancing protocols while on campus. The actual assignments completed in the compounding lab remain the same, though, for DKICP students Jenny Phong and Ola Gbadebo.*

