

Kāwili Lā'au

(To mix ingredients, drugs or medicine; pharmacist)



Summer 2010, Volume 2, Issue 4

BREAKING NEWS

A consortium led by the UH Hilo College of Pharmacy has been awarded \$16,091,390 in federal stimulus funds to use health information technology to provide better health care to Big Island residents. Vice President Joe Biden and

Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced the award at a May 4 press conference in Washington, D.C. More details to come soon in a special edition of Kāwili Lā'au.



U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye welcomes College of Pharmacy students and faculty to his office in Washington, D.C.

SENATORS WELCOME PHARMACY STUDENTS

Hawai'i's U.S. senators have done so much to support the UH Hilo College of Pharmacy. A college delegation took time to thank them in March during a visit to the nation's capital. More than two dozen students and several faculty members traveled to Washington for the American Pharmacists Association Annual Meeting and Exposition.

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U.S. Sen. Daniel Akaka poses with UH Hilo pharmacy students during a visit to his office.

Washington

FROM PAGE 1

In between meetings, workshops and poster presentations, many of the visitors stopped by the offices of U.S. Sens. Daniel Inouye and Daniel Akaka.

The senators were glad to hear about the impact their support has on their home state almost 5,000 miles away.

"It was an honor to meet with many of the future pharmacists who are preparing to enter the work force," Sen. Inouye said.

"They are bright, eager students and will make us proud. The University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy is the only school of its kind in Hawai'i, and I am

certain the students I met will be exceptional pharmacists who will consider Hawai'i's unique cultural, physical and geographic features while providing patient care and proper medication.

"By helping address the nationwide shortage of pharmacists, UH Hilo has the opportunity to help shape the ever-changing health-care community in Hawai'i and around the world."

Sen. Akaka echoed those sentiments.

"The College of Pharmacy is a vital UH Hilo anchor program which boosts the local economy and gives many Hawai'i students a chance to study this important profession without leaving our state," Sen. Akaka said. "After meeting with several UH Hilo pharmacy students during their recent trip to Washington to attend an



Third-year student Lisa Hagiwara talks story with Sen. Inouye.

annual meeting of pharmacists, I am impressed by the caliber of students attending our school."

Dr. Edward Fisher, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, said the national meeting of the nation's largest pharmacy organization gave students an ideal chance to meet with lawmakers.

"Attending the meeting shows the senators that the desire of our students is to become not just good pharmacists, but the next generation of leaders in pharmacy," Dr. Fisher said. "It also lets the faculty who attended know that we have support from our senators."

Dr. Fisher said the visit showed lawmakers that the College of Pharmacy has bright and energetic students, and that "the CoP is doing well not only to educate future pharmacists of Hawaii, but engaging in various other significant activities."

He said it proves the college is well on its way to creating a center of excellence on the Big Island, which is Sen. Inouye's

vision as a longtime college supporter.

Third-year student Lisa Hagiwara said she was impressed with Sen. Inouye's warm reception.

"The visit went extremely well," she said. "He was extremely personable and made us feel very welcome. We initially started in the room where the Senate Appropriations Committee meets, then he took us to his Capitol office. He was very happy to see us.

"Initially, we talked a bit about the progress of the college so far, the accreditation status and of the future programs including dual degree programs and the physical therapy program. He spoke about how he was influential in the start-up of the college, both in terms of getting the seed money to start it, as well as how it ended up in Hilo. He told us a bit about the medical history of his family and what medications he was on. He also mentioned that he had initially intended to be an orthopedic surgeon, but his injury in World War II led him in another direction."

Hagiwara also talked with Sen. Inouye one on one and told him about a personal tie: Her great-aunt and the senator attended McKinley High School together.

"He and my family go way back," she said. "He was excited to be reminded of this connection when I brought it up in the meeting."

She noted that she also has a connection to Sen. Akaka: His wife, Millie, is the niece of Hagiwara's great-grandmother.

Several students also met with U.S. Rep. Mazie Hirono of Hawaii.

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Clockwise from above: More than 30 students and faculty represented the College of Pharmacy at the APhA meeting in Washington. Second-year student Tanya Moore, Dr. Ron Taniguchi and Dr. Ed Fisher await Sen. Inouye's arrival in the Senate Appropriations Committee Room in the U.S. Capitol. Drs. Holuby, Fisher and Taniguchi join Sen. Inouye in his Capitol office. Dr. Scott Holuby meets Sen. Akaka in the senator's Hart Office Building suite.



A Message From The Dean



JOHN M. PEZZUTO
Ph.D., Professor
and Dean

It is with great pride that I bid a temporary farewell to our inaugural class of Pharm.D candidates. Another exciting chapter in their lives begins soon as they embark on their Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience rotations. They will apply the lessons they have learned at UH Hilo in challenging clinical settings so

they can become well-rounded pharmacy professionals. I wish you all the best of luck in the coming months, and I look forward to seeing you next spring when you graduate.

Many of the rotations would not have been possible without the work of Dr. Carolyn Ma, who helped to line up the preceptors and sites for our fourth-year students. Dr. Ma in the past two months has taught us all unexpected lessons about the fragility of life and the resilience needed to overcome obstacles. She was seriously injured in a bicycle accident in March and faces a long recuperation on O'ahu. Within days of her accident, she tried to ensure that her work to provide the best possible learning environment for her students would continue. We wish her well in her recovery and fully expect her to realize her goal of walking with the Class of 2011 during commencement next year.

Dr. Ma's accident happened over the busy spring break, during which we welcomed members of the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education for a final onsite visit prior to considering full accreditation status for the College in June 2011. We will learn of their findings this summer after the board meets, but we are confident the report will be positive.

This newsletter is filled with interesting items about how our students, faculty and staff are making a difference in our Big Island community. Their presence continues to demonstrate our mission of improving the quality of health care in Hawai'i and throughout the Pacific Basin.

Former Surgeon General of the Army visits class



Dr. Ronald R. Blanck

When retired Lt. Gen. Ronald R. Blanck talked to Bob Summers' class of 90 pharmacy students, he gave them a new model of health care that emphasizes prevention.

"Today's preventive care allows longer life, but with more illness-requiring more costly care," said Lt. Gen. Blanck, who is the retired Surgeon General of the Army and commander of the Army Medical Command.

Lt. Gen. Blanck was a visiting lecturer at the "Essentials of Managed Health Care" class on Feb.

11. He told the students, faculty and staff that the most efficient use of the medical care dollar is to systematically link technology with prevention.

Dr. Blanck began his military career in 1968 as a medical officer and battalion surgeon in Vietnam. As the top physician in the Army, he oversaw more than 46,000 military personnel and 26,000 civilian employees throughout the world.

The graduate of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine is board certified in internal medicine. He joined the University of North Texas Health Science Center in August 2000 after retiring from the Army.

He is a partner and Chairman of the Board of Martin, Blanck & Associates. The company, formerly Martin & Associates, does health care consulting for the private sector and the government. He retired as the President of the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth on June 30, 2006. As president, Dr. Blanck headed an academic health center that includes the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, School of Public Health and School of Health Professions.

The "Essentials of Managed Health Care" class focuses on health care systems. It is required for third-year pharmacy students.

CVS-Longs provides goody bags

CVS-Longs representatives Deanne Kaopua, Cara Tsukamoto from Honolulu and Dennis Niimi and Kenji Karimoto from the CVS Kea'au store distributed goody bags to each of the 265 College of Pharmacy students April 28.

The reusable bags were filled with snacks, body care products, hand sanitizer and additional items, and were welcomed as the students prepared for finals.

A note from Carolyn

Dr. Carolyn Ma, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Pharmacy Practice, suffered serious injuries in March when she was struck by a vehicle while riding her bicycle on the Big Island. Since then, she has been recuperating on O'ahu.

To all of my CoP, UH Hilo, experiential site preceptors, friends and family,

The last eight weeks have been quite overwhelming, not just with coping with a "life's moment that changed my life" but simply with the incredible amount of cards, flowers, gifts, prayers, e-mails and visits I have received. I am so humbly grateful for your love and support, and the simple expression of *mahalo* seems inadequate. But I will say it anyway: *Mahalo nui loa*. Held in the strength of your prayer and positive energy, I continue to improve daily with great spirit and determination.



I have been discharged from the acute-care setting and will remain in Honolulu to continue my rehabilitation with the necessary health-care providers who are currently handling my medical needs. I have been actively working on maintaining my strength and range of motion as well as re-learning how to function in my activities of daily life. In a few weeks, when my pelvis bones and all other bones heal, I will be able to start the basic steps of learning to stand, walk and write again. Every day, I am able to celebrate a small triumph of basic function and these steps help to keep me motivated.

To the students, my colleagues and faculty, the experience of being a patient for these eight weeks has reminded me how important not only the skills of your professional expertise are, but even more so, the skills of compassion, communication, listening, patience and mindfulness are even more important to display to your patients. Small words of encouragement, a genuine smile and serving as a cheerleader for your patients mean more than you will ever know.

To the class of 2011, congratulations on finishing your PY3 year and, like my rehab, now the real work begins! WHAT! I have every confidence that you will all be spectacular and magnificent on the patient-care front line. I will try to control my pride in you when I see you on rotations and look forward to walking with you at commencement.

To the class of 2012, please have an exciting summer in your medicine rotation. I know you will take advantage of all the opportunities and kudos on being 50 percent done with pharmacy school! I will look forward to teaching you oncology and pain management next year. I definitely have some new pain problems I can give you as lessons recently learned.

To the class of 2013, you made it through PY1! All your hard work has paid off and you get a summer off. I will look forward to seeing you at the modular buildings in the fall.

I hope all of the students had good luck on finals. I am extremely proud of you and your achievements. Your concern and compassion for my well being is truly touching and demonstrates that you have chosen correctly as a health care professional.

To my CoP colleagues who are helping me in the areas in which I am unable to devote my attention and energy right now: you are all magnificent and I am grateful.

My life is truly a step at a time now and I know I will be supported by your continued prayers and well wishes. Please know that I think of all of you daily and hold you in the light.

With love and light,

Carolyn

Inaugural class to begin rotations

Pharmacy students in the inaugural class soon will be leaving the classroom and won't return to UH Hilo until graduation in the spring of 2011.

The students who began pursuing a Pharm.D in 2007 are set to begin the final stage to earn their doctorate: Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences, also called rotations. And for the first time, several will be earning their experience in Alaska.

"Including Alaska as a rotation site opens doors for our students to get training unlike they've gotten so far," said Dean John M. Pezzuto, who, along with Dr. Carolyn Ma, chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice, and other CoP faculty and staff, met in March with members of the Southcentral Foundation from Anchorage to begin the arrangements. "We're looking forward to working with pharmacy professionals in Alaska, as well as on all four major islands in Hawai'i: the Big Island, Kauai, Maui and O'ahu. Students also have opportunities to get experience in Guam, American Samoa and Saipan, as well as many states throughout the mainland. It promises to be a well-rounded final year for our students."

Rotations for the fourth-year students begin in the summer after their third year of pharmacy school and include a minimum of 1440 hours of pharmacy experiences as required by the Accreditation Council of Pharmacy Educators, the national accreditation board that oversees pharmacy schools.

Students will participate in six types of six-week rotations. Mandatory rotations include hospital practice, acute medicine, ambulatory care clinic and retail practice. They may take an additional two electives to fulfill the Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience requirements

"For the first time in their academic career, students are really on their own when they leave for these senior rotations," said Dr. Lara Gomez, Clinical Education Coordinator for Pharmacy Practice. "Preceptors, who are pharmacy professionals in the field, are there



From left, Drs. Ron Taniguchi, Anthony Wright and Bob Borris of the College of Pharmacy; Dr. Ted Mala, M.D., Director of Traditional Healing and Tribal Relations for Southcentral Foundation in Anchorage, Alaska; Dr. Marjorie Mau, M.D., Professor, Department of Native Hawaiian Health, John A. Burns School of Medicine in Honolulu; Katherine Gottlieb, CEO and President, Southcentral Foundation; Kevin Gottlieb, Chief of Staff and Vice President of the Resource and Development Division, Southcentral Foundation; and College of Pharmacy Dr. Carolyn Ma and Dean John Pezzuto met in March to discuss fourth-year rotations. Below, Katherine Gottlieb presents a gift to Dean Pezzuto.



to offer guidance, but this experience helps students utilize drug information and clinical skills. It prepares them for the real world."

Students will have more patient interaction during these experiences, she said, and they will perform many of the tasks that will be required once they become licensed pharmacists. That includes filling prescriptions up to the final check, giving immunization, taking part in projects and interacting with other students in the health-care profession.

Dr. Gomez worked with Dr. Ma, who is recovering from a serious bicycling accident, to arrange the preceptors and the sites for the 84 fourth-year students.

One student going to Alaska is Madelina Jimenez, who was born and raised there. She will do a hospital and neonatal intensive care unit

rotation at Providence Medical Center in Anchorage, ambulatory and medicine rotations at the Elmendorf Air Force Base Pharmacy, for ambulatory and medicine rotations, and a retail rotation at Target.

"The rotation I am most excited for is an elective ambulatory care rotation at the Alaska Native Medical Center, which is a hospital run in a unique way through the Indian Health Services," said Jimenez, whose grandparents live in Hilo. "I hope to consolidate all that I've learned the last three years of pharmacy school and apply it, so that I can be comfortable on the day I graduate and be an asset to the pharmacies where I work."

Another student returning home after living in the U.S. for 15 years is Angelina Eustaquio, who is from Guam. She will be rotating through the Guam Memorial Hospital, the ambulatory clinic Seventh Day Adventist and Guam Rexall

"I hope to get to know the local pharmacy community and get a better picture of the kind of pharmacy where I want to practice," Eustaquio said.

After completing their rotations and receiving their Doctor of Pharmacy at the May 2011 UH Hilo commencement, the graduates must pass a national exam and register in the state where they will begin their professional careers.

Law allows student credit for work in U.S. territories

The Hawai'i State Legislature passed a bill April 23 that allows student pharmacists working in U.S. territories to apply those hours toward their licensure.

The law came about through the combined efforts of UH Hilo College of Pharmacy faculty and students, legislators from Hawai'i Island and key committee chairs, the Board of Pharmacy and individual and corporate supporters.

Previously, only the hours of practical experience performed in a pharmacy in one of the 50 states were eligible to count toward the 1,500 hours required for licensure as a pharmacist.

Now, students who perform their rotations in places such as Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, Guam and American Samoa, and outside of traditional pharmacy settings, will be able to apply those hours toward licensure.

"We worked long and hard with the all parties on this project for over a year, so it was quite timely that this bill would become law just as our students are beginning their fourth year experiential program," said Dr. Ron Taniguchi, Director of Community Relations for the College of Pharmacy. "This is a clear sign from the Legislature that they believe in what we're doing and support our College."



Senator's Staff Visits

Jennifer Sabas, left, Hawai'i Chief of Staff for U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye, and Delbert Nishimoto, Field Representative for Sen. Inouye, meet with College of Pharmacy Dean John M. Pezzuto in March to get an update on the College and other programs.



Blood Drive

Dr. Ken Morris, Professor of Pharmaceutics in the College of Pharmacy, is prepped to donate blood by Mele Langi, a nurse from the Honolulu Blood Bank of Hawaii, at the Jan. 19 blood drive on the UH Hilo campus. Students from the College of Pharmacy sponsored and coordinated the drive, which collected 119 pints of blood. As many as three patients can be helped with one donation to the Blood Bank of Hawaii, which serves 11 hospitals on O'ahu and eight hospitals on neighbor islands.

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Walgreens' commitment helps us take our place alongside the top pharmacy colleges in the country in the critical business of educating students about the multicultural population we all serve

— **Dr. John M. Pezzuto**,
College of
Pharmacy Dean

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Dana Psomas, left, Walgreens District Manager, and Nancy Huang, Walgreens District Pharmacy Supervisor for Hawai'i, present a \$10,000 check to College of Pharmacy Dean John M. Pezzuto.

Walgreens funds diversity efforts

The College of Pharmacy has received \$10,000 from retail pharmacy giant Walgreens to fund a diversity initiative at UH Hilo. This gift will fund a program to heighten student understanding of native Hawaiian culture, as well as one scholarship for a pharmacy student who has made efforts toward raising awareness or educating others regarding diversity in pharmacy practice.

"We're very appreciative to Walgreens for their continued support and plan to put the money from the diversity initiative to good use to further foster an appreciation of our Hawaiian culture," said College of Pharmacy Dean John M. Pezzuto. "Walgreens' commitment helps us take our place alongside the top pharmacy colleges in the country in the critical business of educating students about the multicultural population we all serve."

In 2009, Walgreens began the program to donate \$1 million annually toward diversity initiatives at all of the pharmacy schools across the country. This is the second year the UH Hilo College of Pharmacy was awarded the gift from Walgreens.

"I'm very happy to see the College of Pharmacy utilize the richness of the Hawaiian and local culture to teach the respect and wealth of ideas that is engrained in our very

history," said Gail Makuakane-Lundin, Director of Kipuka Native Hawaiian Student Center.

With this new initiative, Walgreens said it hopes more students will be encouraged to consider the contributions they could make as front-line health professionals in America's neighborhood drugstores.

The College of Pharmacy was officially launched in 2007 and was awarded candidate accreditation status by the Accreditation Council of Pharmacy Education in July 2008.

"It's been amazing to see the progress UH Hilo has made in the last three years to develop this first home-grown, world-class College of Pharmacy for students here in Hawai'i and throughout the Pacific," said Nancy Huang, Walgreens district pharmacy supervisor for Hawai'i. "We continue to look for the best pharmacists who can help us deliver great retail, specialty and clinical services to our patients. It's good to know there will be a new generation of pharmacists in the pipeline ready to serve Hawai'i's growing aging population and its complex pharmacy needs of the future."

Walgreens also recently completed a \$50,000 pledge, to support the building fund for the UH Hilo College of Pharmacy, the only pharmacy college in the Pacific region.

Relay For Life

The College of Pharmacy team was the top fundraiser in March at the 4th annual UH Hilo Relay For Life event, collecting pledges totaling \$2,650. The Hawaii Student Society of Health-System Pharmacists came in third with \$2,055.15 raised.

The 12-hour walk took place at the UH Hilo Campus Center plaza.

Third-year student Adrienne Au took the second-place spot in individual fund-raising with \$625, with first-year student Rosa Quan close behind with \$605.

Fifty-three pre-pharmacy students surpassed their fund-raising goals with pledges totaling about \$1,100.

"It was a highly successful community event," said Erika Miyahara, a CoP team captain and committee chair. "This momentous occasion helped raise money for cancer research and awareness as well as recognize survivors and remember loved ones that are affected by cancer."

She said students' goal for upcoming years is to "continue to be dedicated and 'Relay for Life' until we find the cure for cancer!"

Third-year student Ashley Fukumae also served as a committee chair.

The UH Hilo chapter of Phi Delta Chi, the professional pharmacy fraternity, recorded a 95 percent participation rate of its members in the event.

"It was a great opportunity for us to show our support for such a great cause," said Chris Kamei, the local chapter's Professional and Service Committee representative. "Many of us know someone who has been affected by cancer and we all empathize with them. This event allowed us to pay our respects to those who we have lost and give support to those who are fighting this horrible disease."

Kamei said the chapter manned a booth that offered cancer awareness fliers and a poster board of information about skin cancer.

"It was great to see and meet so many people throughout the night," Kamei said. "From speeches which were emotional and motivating to each of individually made luminarias, it all came together for a memorable night. We look forward to participating in many more of these events and continue our support for the fight against cancer."



Delve into the history of a family drugstore



By **MIMI PEZZUTO**
Pharmacy
Practice
Instructor

Hawaiian Airlines magazine *Hana Hou!* recently interviewed me for a future story about a historical collection we have at the College of Pharmacy, generously donated by the Wessel family of Hilo. Everyone should be able to relate to this story, as the records reflect the culture of the times: they're filled with Hawaiian, Japanese, Chinese, Scottish, Filipino, Puerto Rican, German and English surnames. The families' descendants are still here.

For the majority of the last century, every town or neighborhood in a city had at its center a drugstore that was the unofficial gathering spot for the people of the neighborhood. One such place on the Big Island was Hilo Drug Company, at the corner of Kamehameha and Waianuenue avenues, on the north end of the bayfront in Hilo Town. This classic, small-town pharmacy, complete with soda fountain, lunch, tobacco and cosmetic counter, was a hub of activity in the bustling, sugar cane plantation-era years.

Workers from surrounding businesses filled the booths at lunchtime for a quick bite. Hayley

Roemer, owner of Koehnens Furniture, remembers the delicious pies and sandwiches, all made in the kitchen basement. He told me, "After school, we would walk to the drugstore for ice cream sundaes and soda. Everyone we knew was there — it was like one big family."

The Hilo Railroad depot was makai to the store, with arrivals at 7 a.m. and the last train out at 10 p.m., taking workers to and from plantation jobs, and tourists on the sightseeing trip of a lifetime. The location of the store made it accessible to locals

COLLECTION, NEXT PAGE



College of Pharmacy faculty member Mimi Pezzuto and her historical collection are the subjects of a photo shoot with Honolulu-based photographer Olivier Koning, who has credits in *Honolulu* and *Hawaii Business* magazines. The photos will be used in a story for *Hana Hou!*, the Hawaiian Airlines magazine.

Collection

FROM PAGE 10

and visitors: plantation workers, ships' crews and passengers, GIs, fishermen and pilots.

The railroad ran up and down the spectacular Hamakua Coast, to the north of Hilo. The trip was made up of a thrilling ride over waterfalls, countless bridges and three hairpin gulches, even tunneling through lush vegetation and cane fields. When the passengers returned to Hilo at 9:45 p.m., they could count on Hilo Drug Company to be open for a late night snack.

The black-lettered exterior sign remains today, proudly facing Hilo Bay, on elegant cream-colored glass tiles: "HILO DRUG COMPANY, 1895," on the corner where Cronies Bar and Grill is now.

Imagine going to the drugstore in Hawaii at the turn of the 20th century:

Just about everything was compounded by hand in enormous Wedgwood mortars and pestles.

Imagine going to the drugstore in Hawai'i at the turn of the 20th century: Just about everything was compounded by hand in enormous Wedgwood mortars and pestles. An apprentice pharmacist pulverized various plants, herbs and flowers, clays and chemicals into a fine powder for the pharmacist, who then compiled a final preparation, exactly as it

had been done in the profession for more than 3,500 years.

Hilo Drug Company began as an operation by two men from the mainland; business manager E.B. Barthrop and pharmacist C.E. Cawley, who wanted to open the first general drugstore on the island. Prior to 1895, there were other small dispensaries, such as the office of "first physician of Hilo" Dr. Charles Wetmore, (and an early stockholder in Hilo Drug Company), or the plantation infirmary dispensaries, but no general drugstores. It was located on Front Street (now Kamehameha Avenue) until moving a few stores down to the much larger corner location.

Hilo Drug Company was in business from 1895 to 1971. Harry Wessel came to Hilo Drug Company in 1912 as a pharmacist from San Francisco. As a member of the faculty of the College of Pharmacy, I had the honor of meeting his son, Macy, now in

his 80s, who donated the entire leather-bound prescription history, along with the store's antique prescription compounding items, to our college. From these documents, a student in the 21st century can learn how drugs evolved in the past 100 years and how health care has changed.

As I look through the thousands of records of prescriptions going back to 1894, Hilo Drug served many, compounding every conceivable veterinary and household item: the plantations for bulk prescriptions for their employees; the famous Dr. Wetmore and his physician daughter; ships' captains and passengers; the titular Bishop of Panopolis; and countless townspeople, immigrants and tourists.

Major epidemics and outbreaks — locally and from abroad — are evident in the pharmacy records, such as tuberculosis, bubonic plague, leprosy, smallpox and influenza. Many prescriptions in the records contain the treatment of the times, with such toxic components as arsenic, mercury, lead, strychnine and chemicals used in industrial processing. At the time, the toxicities weren't recognized and were prescribed to cure everything from syphilis to cancer.

Not long after the store had moved to its new corner location, a second-floor fire forced the rebuilding of the store. The tsunami of 1946 destroyed the buildings and railroad depot on the makai side of Kamehameha Avenue, but not Hilo Drug Company. Macy Wessel remembers how lucky they were that the store hadn't been destroyed, and how they were able to save refrigerated inventory by moving it to Hilo Hospital. Fortunately, there were only 6 inches of water on the main floor, and 2 feet of water in the flooded basement.

In the 1970s, as the decline of the sugar plantations and downtown as the major shopping destination began, Hilo Drug Company closed its doors. In 1971, it scaled down to a new location and much smaller store, now known as CVS-Longs Ponahawai Pharmacy.

Those who grew up in Hilo remember with fondness the corner drugstore that was so much a part of their lives.

As medications now are manufactured rather than compounded, the corner drugstore has changed. But thanks to the Wessel family, our students have a chance to learn from the history of the family drugstore. And hopefully we can instill the importance of maintaining the community 'ohana in the many different pharmacies where they will practice.

Students thank veterans and families with free health fair



Pharmacy students from the Hawaii Chapter of the American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists put their skills to work at the inaugural Veterans Health Fair on April 17 at Yukio Okutsu Veterans Home.

The students offered free services and education to residents and their families in the areas of diabetes and wellness, blood glucose, cholesterol, blood pressure, asthma and COPD and stroke, as well as diet, nutrition yoga and exercise.

Mimi Pezzuto, a member of the College of Pharmacy faculty and adviser to the group, said third-year pharmacy student Jill Gelviro came to her with the idea of organizing a health fair at the veteran's home.

"The fair had a great turnout and shows the power of how one person can make a difference in a community," Mrs. Pezzuto said. "But all the students stepped up and demonstrated how well they can interact with the community on a professional level. The reaction from residents and staff was extremely positive, and we're hoping this can become an annual event that will give our students hands-on training while helping our veterans and their families stay healthy."

The health fair was to be a small project with simple disease-state education for patients, said Gelviro, who is Vice President of the APhA-ASP Hawaii Chapter. But with the assistance of third-year student and event co-chair Ambrish Patel and veterans home staff coordinated by Director of Recreational Services Momi Snider, the students said they were able to bring the event to a higher level.

"This project with the veterans home was a way for us to show our



Second-year student Ana Park, above left, and third-year student Jill Gelviro, top, provide free health services at the Yukio Okutsu Veterans Home in Hilo.

gratitude to our veterans by providing pharmacy services," said Gelviro, who is an Air Force veteran and served in Operation Iraqi Freedom. "It is easy to see how this special population may not get the opportunity to attend our annual health fair on campus, so we decided to bring a health fair to them."

John Johnson, Administrator of the Yukio Okutsu Veterans Home, said the home had never been able to offer anything like this before but the response has been positive and they're hoping to continue the relationship.

"Student pharmacists at UH Hilo are a powerful addition to our community," Johnson said. "We are grateful to benefit from their knowledge and commitment, and we are proud of their accomplishments."

Other College of Pharmacy faculty participants were Drs. Forrest Batz, Anna Barbato and Lara Gomez. Student participants were, from the Class of 2011: Jill Gelviro, Cari Niimi, Cherie Chu, Rochelle Oledzki, Bradley Miyashiro, Ambrish Patel, Eugene Talatala, Robert Esteban, Pua Akana, Ceslee Fukuhara, Adrienne Au, Veneta Tsonev, Danita Henley, Paul Narciso and Ryan Trombley; from the Class of 2012: Aaron Chun, Megan Venegas, Jacob Blair, Ana Park, Tilden Miguel, Anthony Thai, RaeAnne Fuller, Tammy Tran, Lauren Ruffino, Cindy Trinh, Eric Lum, Stephen Wong; from the Class of 2013: Chris Lai Hipp and Prabu Segaran; and Pre-pharmacy students Meleana Labisores, Christina Wales, Nicole Egdamin, Hyun Park and Kallie Shiba.



Ryan Mashiya, a third-year student, takes a woman's blood pressure at a College of Pharmacy/Hilo Medical Center tent. At left, the College of Pharmacy teams join the crowd before the walk begins.

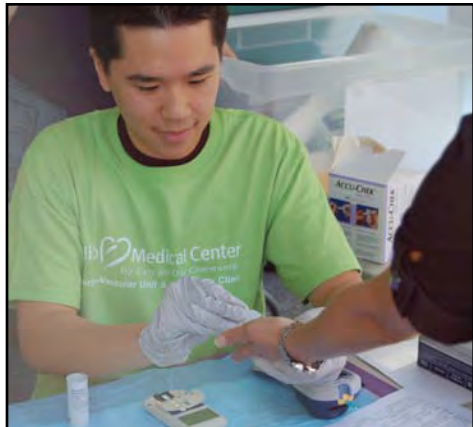
Classes step up at Heart Walk

Two College of Pharmacy teams surpassed their fund-raising goals for the American Heart Association on Feb. 20 at the 13th annual Start! Hilo Heart Walk and Health Fair at Liliuokalani Gardens and Isle Park.

The Class of 2012 team raised \$2,320 while the Class of 2013 raised \$1,820. The Class of 2012 had the fourth-ranked fund-raising team overall.

Students also provided health screenings and promoted the College at a community education tent in cooperation with Hilo Medical Center. Hundreds of walkers from Hilo-area groups started the course at 8 a.m. to raise awareness of heart disease and stroke — two of the state's top killers.

"We are so proud of our students when they demonstrate their dedication to the Big Island community," said Dr. John M. Pezzuto, Dean of the College of Pharmacy. "They take such an active role in these events and showcase their knowledge and skills as tomorrow's health-care leaders."



Second-year student Anthony Thai checks a visitor's blood glucose level.



Pharmacy students round a corner at Liliuokalani Gardens.

Fifth-graders get a glimpse of the profession

Potential pharmacists got a chance to learn the age-old art of making pharmaceuticals during a class led by College of Pharmacy students at St. Joseph Elementary School.

The hands-on demonstration was modeled after a Compounding for Kids course developed by the American Pharmacists Association, the largest association of pharmacists in the United States. Five pharmacy students who are APhA members, along with their instructor and adviser, Mimi Pezzuto, visited Kathy Borris' fifth-grade science class to give the UH Hilo version of lotion compounding from the pharmacy compounding course.

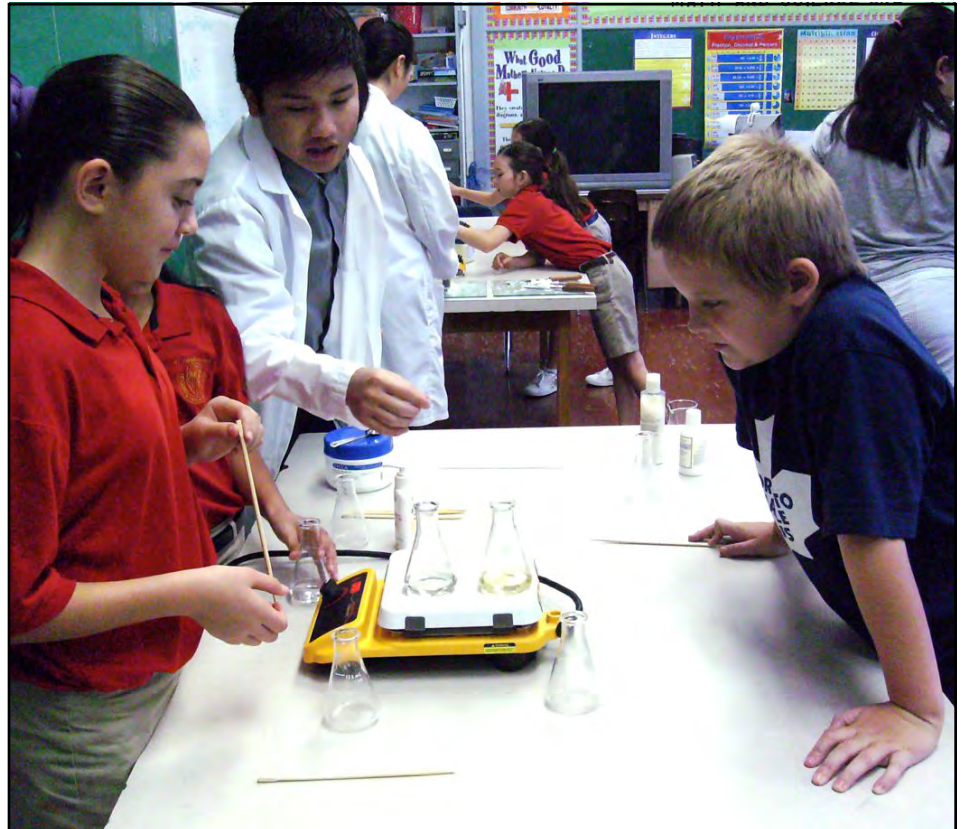
"Many people think of a pharmacist as an expert on medications made somewhere else, but part of our training is learning to create dosage forms that can deliver customized dosages of drugs," Mrs. Pezzuto said. "Most medications today are mass produced and regulated, which is critical for quality control and serving the entire population. We couldn't practice without it. But we teach our students that the knowledge and art of compounding is important because it individualizes health care."

The elementary school students learned to make lotions by combining oil and water with an emulsifier, or binder, and heating them to a certain temperature. They added scents, such as rose, gardenia and jasmine, put the product in pump dispensing bottles and learned the importance of labeling their over-the-counter product, which they were able to take home.

"The fifth-grade students learned about emulsions and the differences between a physical and a chemical change," Mrs. Borris said. "The pharmacy students were professional and fun. An exciting and educational experience was had by all."

First-year pharmacy student Cheryl Lopez and second-year students Aaron Chun, Amanda Meholchick, Ana Park and Megan Venegas participated.

Mrs. Pezzuto also showed the students one of several antique



Fifth-graders Mahealani Haegels, left, and Zachary Jordan from St. Joseph Elementary School in Hilo learn about compounding pharmaceuticals from second-year College of Pharmacy student Aaron Chun. The hands-on demonstration was part of a program presented by five Pharmacy students and their instructor and adviser, Mimi Pezzuto.

prescription books that were donated to the College of Pharmacy by the Wessel family of Hilo. The century-old book displayed hundreds of prescriptions, each of which were compounded by hand from dozens of chemicals and ingredients such as plant drugs and extracts, as well as elements like sulfur and mercury. She said the book illustrated the importance of compounding and gave examples of how pharmacists used the technique in real-life situations.

"The fifth-graders dove in and were enthusiastic and interested," Mrs. Pezzuto said. "The parents came up to me and told me their children came home excited about science."

Steve Nemeth, a science teacher at Hilo High School, said the demonstration made an impression on his son, Mark, who is one of the

fifth graders.

"The students had fun building the compounds and the class gave them a sense of ownership," Mr. Nemeth said. "It taught them problem solving and scientific method. They discovered they could take a couple of ingredients and make something totally different."

Mark Nemeth said he liked labeling the lotion.

"We got to put whatever we wanted on the label," he said, so he chose several sample warning and side effect messages for his lotion. "Now I know labels let me know what's inside."

Mrs. Pezzuto trained the pharmacy students so they could learn the approximately one-hour program to take it to other schools throughout the Big Island.

For more information on the program, call (808) 933-3866.

Pre-pharmacy events

UH Hilo's Pre-pharmacy Program is a comprehensive preparatory program of study toward admittance into the College of Pharmacy. Students at the high school and university levels who are interested in pursuing a doctor of pharmacy degree regularly visit the campus and community events to learn more about UH Hilo's programs.



Dr. Linda Connelly, far left, Assistant Professor and Faculty Adviser for the UH Hilo Pre-pharmacy Program, served as host to 19 students from UH Manoa Pre-Pharmacy Association along with their adviser, Joseph Menor, far right, when they visited UH Hilo on March 12 to find out more about attending the College of Pharmacy. The meeting allowed the UH Manoa students to connect with students on the UH Hilo campus and to ask questions about Pre-Pharmacy and doctoral students' experiences.

Six eleventh-grade students from Kamehameha High School's Health and Wellness Academy learned about UH Hilo's Pre-pharmacy Program and the College of Pharmacy during a March 2 visit to campus. The students are interested in careers in pharmacy and were taking part in Kamehameha School's Career Shadows Program. The Native Hawaiian high school's program is designed to provide a workplace learning opportunity for Native Hawaiian students to career shadow with a certified health professional within their career of interest. Pictured are students Calvin Ho'ohuli, left, Serina Ah Choy and Brithany Ariga; Dr. Scott Holuby, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice; students Keala Pacheco, Jordan Namauu and Daylan Siemann; and Dr. Linda Connelly, Assistant Professor and Faculty Adviser for the UH Hilo Pre-pharmacy Program.



Pre-pharmacy students Marina Mehau-Sanchez, seated at left, Meleana Labisores and Amanda Nicholas explain the requirements for admission to the UH Hilo College of Pharmacy to visitors at the Na Pua No`eau 19th annual Hawaiian Family afFair. The event focuses on the education, health and well being of island families. Other pre-pharmacy students involved in the event were Nicole Egdamin and Kaile Shiba, as well as Dr. Sue Jarvi, Director of Pre-Pharmacy, Dr. Gary Ten Eyck, Faculty Adviser and Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Tina Phifer, Advising Specialist.



Merrie Monarch Festival

Well, it rained on the parade, but that didn't stop thousands of soggy spectators from cheering on the College of Pharmacy during the Merrie Monarch procession in April. The parade capped off the 47th annual festival, which drew people from all over the world to celebrate the art of ancient and modern hula and learn about Hawaiian culture. Dozens of students in the pharmacy and pre-pharmacy programs joined several faculty members on the parade route through downtown Hilo, passing by the Royal Court. By the time the parade ended, the sky began to clear and the sun broke through.





Tiffany Santore leads students in a special hula performed for the guests.

LUAU

Students got to take their minds off studying for finals for a few hours during an end-of-year luau in May. The dean opened his home to about 300 people from the College of Pharmacy as well as special guests.



College of Pharmacy Dean John M. Pezzuto presents special recognition awards to UH Hilo Chancellor **Rose Tseng**, left, and **Pat DeLeon**, Chief of Staff for U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye, in appreciation for their longtime support for the College of Pharmacy.



Dr. Scott Holuby, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, talks about the support pharmacy students have received from **Dr. Lucy Bucci**, Medical Director of Hawai'i Island Family Health Center. Dr. Bucci was named a Preceptor of the Year along with **Marq Sims** of CVS-Longs Ponahawai Pharmacy.



Left photo: **Dr. Supakit Wongwiwatthananutit**, left, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, and **Dr. Eugene Konorev**, Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, were selected by second-year pharmacy students as Teachers of the Year. **Right photo:** **Dr. Lara Gomez**, left, Clinical Education Coordinator, and **Dr. Linda Connolly**, Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, were selected by first-year students as Teachers of the Year. Third-year students selected **Dr. Doug Adriance-Mejia**, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, and **Dr. Aaron Jacobs**, Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, as Teachers of the Year.

Scholarships

The following students were announced at the luau as recipients of scholarship awards.

Target

- Victor Lin
- Rae Ann Fuller
- Jackwayne Fernandez
- Tanya Moore
- Angelina Eustiquio

Walgreens

- Jennifer Zbylski

Grace Miyawaki

- Tiffany Santore

Good Neighbor Pharmacy

- Eiko (Amy) Harvey
- Bernie Cheng

Safeway

- Rachel Hirata
- Ceslee Fukuhara

Walmart

- Elise Kahahane

UH Hilo

Achievement

- Ryan Mashiyama
- Jessica Toyama
- Prabu Segaran
- Marina Yeh
- Henry Tram

Haga Family

- Melissa Yoneda
- Nelson Nakatsu

Faculty and Staff Notes

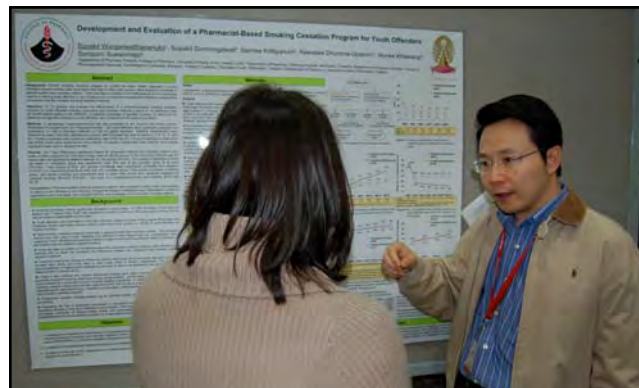
• **Dr. Linda Connelly**, Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Faculty Adviser for the Pre-pharmacy Program, was selected as a recipient of an American Association for Cancer Research Minority-Serving Institution Faculty Scholar in Cancer Research Award for participation in the 101st AACR annual meeting in April in Washington. Dr. Connelly presented a poster titled "Macrophage specific regulation reveals both pro- and anti-tumor effects of NF-kappaB during mammary tumor progression."

• **Russell Molyneux**, Affiliate Faculty, was corresponding author on a paper published in the *World Mycotoxin Journal* titled "Aflatoxigenesis induced in *Aspergillus flavus* by oxidative stress and reduction by phenolic antioxidants from tree nuts." He also was corresponding author on a paper published in the *Journal of Agricultural Food Chemistry* titled "Rapid analytical method for the determination of aflatoxins in plant-derived dietary supplement and cosmetic oils." In March, he served as Organizer and Chair of a one-day session at the American Chemical Society meeting titled "Contemporary Food Safety Issues: Mitigating Risks from Production to Processing."

• **Dr. Anna Barbato**, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, and first-year student **Prabu Segaran**, are among 65 faculty/student recipients of the 2010 American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Wal-Mart Scholars Program. The program provides \$1,000 travel scholarships to faculty/student pairs from member institutions to attend the 2010 AACP Annual Meeting and the Teachers Seminar in Seattle, July 10-14.

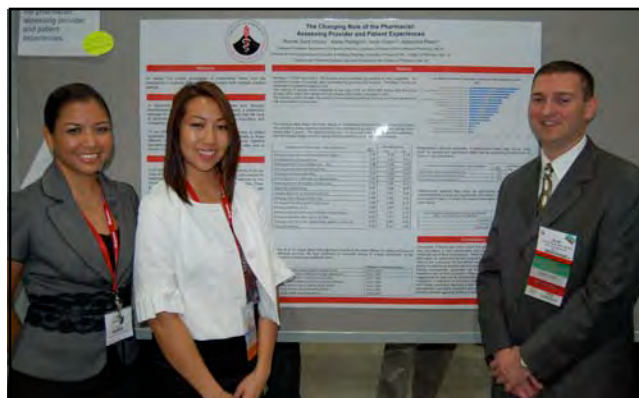
• **Dr. Dianqing Sun**, Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was invited by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences to attend University of Kentucky/NIGMS Internet Grant Writing Program in May in Lexington, KY.

• **Dr. Supakit Wongwiwatthananukit**, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, had a research paper on "Comparative Efficacy and Safety of Low-dose Pitavastatin versus Atorvastatin in Patients with Hypercholesterolemia" accepted for publication in the March issue of the *Annals of Pharmacotherapy*. He also has two papers titled "Efficacy of *Vernonia cinerea* for Smoking Cessation" and "Effectiveness of Oral Maintenance Terbutaline Therapy after Threatened Preterm Labor" published in the *Journal of Health Research*. Co-authors for the first paper were P. Benchanakatkul, S. Suwanamajo, W. Weerrachai W. and T. Songsak. Co-authors for the second paper were R. Dhummaupakorn and K. Kaenboon.



AP A Posters

Dr. Supakit Wongwiwatthananukit, above, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, presented posters on "Development and Evaluation of Pharmacist-Based Smoking Cessation Program for Youth Offenders" and "Comparative Efficacy and Safety of Low-dose Pitavastatin versus Atorvastatin in Patients with Hypercholesterolemia" at the 2010 American Pharmacists Association Annual Meeting & Exposition in March in Washington. Below, **Dr. Scott Holuby**, right, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, also presented a poster at the APhA meeting titled "The Changing Role of the Pharmacist: Assessing Provider and Patient Experiences" with second-year students **Alexandra Perez**, left, and **Irene Chaisri**. **Dr. Karen Pellegrin**, Director of Strategic Planning for the College of Pharmacy, was a study-co-author.



• **Dr. Karen Pellegrin**, Director of Strategic Planning, was a guest on the "Bytemarks Café" show March 17 on Hawaii Public Radio.

• **Dr. Ken Morris**, Professor of Pharmaceutics, was interviewed for a documentary on Engineering Pharmaceuticals that was broadcast on National Public Radio stations throughout the country in April.



Student honorees from the classes of 2011 and 2012.

Honorees

Class of 2011

Cherie Chu
 Natalie Codianne
 Amber Duncan
 Ceslee Fukuhara
 Lisa Hagiwara
 Ashley Hori
 Oh-Young Kim
 Ellen Loney
 Annie Mar
 Ryan Mashiyama
 Erika Miyahira
 Casey Ogata
 Rochelle Oledzki
 Enoch John Ronduen
 Quinn Taira
 Jonathan Tam
 Jessica Toyama
 Veneta Tsonev

Class of 2012

Lawrence Chan
 Bernie Cheng
 Megan Ching
 Raeanne Fuller
 Carol Lynn Goo
 Richelle Hirata
 Susan Kang
 Daralyn Kawamoto
 Paul Kim
 Kari Kurihara
 Amber Laird
 Tanya Moore
 Brian Niimi
 Alexandra Perez
 Bryceson Tanaka
 Henry Tran
 Sally Van
 Wendy Yamasaki-Herring
 Marina Yeh

Top students honored

The top 37 students from College of Pharmacy classes of 2011 and 2012 received awards at a banquet April 16 at the Hilo Yacht Club.

The banquet was made possible thanks to a gift from Target. According to Roger Thomas, Target Team Leader, the company applauds excellence and was pleased to partner with the College of Pharmacy in hosting this first-time event.

Dean John M. Pezzuto addressed the 100 students, family, faculty and staff in attendance. He congratulated the awardees and recounted the tremendous progress of the College over the past few years. He also reminded the audience that all College of Pharmacy students are true pioneers aspiring to excellence. The group also heard from Luoluo Hong, UH Hilo Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, and Rob Parke, Target District Team Leader.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Victor Yanchick, the Immediate Past President



Dr. Yanchick

of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy and Dean of Virginia Commonwealth University. He spoke about the pursuit of excellence and leadership in pharmacy.

"Excellence carries a commitment in everything that you do to become a leader," Dr. Yanchick said. "Perpetuate excellence by making it a way of life."

Dr. Edward Fisher, College of Pharmacy Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, said the banquet serves as a precursor to anticipated membership next year in Rho Chi, the national academic honor society in pharmacy. The honored students are potential members of Rho Chi.



Kāwili Lā'au (To mix ingredients, drugs or medicine; pharmacist) is published four times a year by the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy. It is distributed to staff, donors and other friends of the College. Comments should be addressed to: **Kāwili Lā'au**, UH Hilo College of Pharmacy, 200 W. Kawili St., Hilo, HI 96720. E-mail: pharmacy@hawaii.edu

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