



Kāwili Lā'au

The News Magazine of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

Kāwili Lā'au: One who mixes ingredients, drugs or medications; a pharmacist



Inside:

- **CoP joins forces with Big Island health providers in \$16 million project**
- **Congressionally directed \$1.5 million to aid CoP development**
- **Honolulu firm to design CoP's permanent home**



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A Message from Dean John M. Pezzuto

Anyone close to the College of Pharmacy knows the pace at which we've all been operating. With 17 new faculty and staff appointments, no one can say we're standing still. We're making plans on how to put the \$16 million Beacon Community grant to its best use to fulfill our mission of improving health care in Hawai'i. Our faculty is planning new research through the IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) grant with Manoa that will help nurture that project and establish our research capabilities. At this point in our growth, we have gone further than many expected in 2007 when our first class started in Hilo. It's no wonder I'm tired.



But we have a long way to go. Even after our inaugural class graduates in the spring and we have achieved accreditation from the Accreditation Council of Pharmacy Education, our climb isn't over. We'll be striving to be ranked in the top 25 pharmacy schools in the nation, and then after that, we'll be striving to stay on top. That's the nature of a winning team. We will not stop because in the end, it's the students who benefit from our diligence. They're the ones who matter.

So this publication is for them, past, present and future students. Without students, none of this is possible or important.

It's my distinct pleasure to introduce the evolution of *Kawili La`au*, our newsletter-turned-magazine, which until now has been available exclusively online. With this issue, not only can you read about the College of Pharmacy online, but it is also available in print, with even more stories featuring the outstanding faculty, staff members and students that make up our `ohana. It seems appropriate to unveil this new format during the start of the academic year in which our inaugural class will graduate because I'm hoping it will be one of the tools we will use to keep in touch with our first group of alumnus.

Kāwili Lā`au is the Magazine
for the only College of Pharmacy in the Pacific,
the University of Hawai'i at Hilo.
Fall 2010 Volume III, Issue 1

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On the cover: aerial shot of site of College of Pharmacy supplied by the Office of the Chancellor



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College of Pharmacy joins forces with Big Island health care providers in \$16 million federal pilot project

A consortium that was created to use health information technology to provide better health care to Big Island residents, led by the College of Pharmacy at The University of Hawai`i at Hilo, has won \$16,091,390 in federal stimulus funds.

Hawai`i County is one of 15 communities across the nation chosen to serve as pilot communities to develop wide-scale use of electronic medical records through the Beacon Communities program.

Vice President Joe Biden and Health and Human Services Secretary announced the award at a May 4 press conference in Washington D.C. The funds were awarded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which was funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

"Given the geography of the Big Island, getting in to see a health care professional can be difficult for some residents. In order to maximize this precious time with patients, health care professionals need immediate access to up to date information in order to properly diagnose and treat the patient. Integrating our vast network of public and private health care professionals in Hawai`i is vital to ensuring that patients receive the highest quality of care," said Senator Daniel K. Inouye. "Health information helps ensure that patients are receiving care that accounts for every aspect of their medical history."

The College of Pharmacy is the lead applicant organization for the grant from the Hawai`i County Beacon Community Consortium, a group of educators, health care providers and insurers and other community members. The group was formed to strengthen and use health information technology to continuously improve healthcare quality, cost-efficiency and population health in Hawai`i County.

Dr. Karen Pellegrin, Director of Strategic Planning for the College of Pharmacy and Principle Investigator for the grant, said the project would not be possible without tremendous effort and staff time from members of the consortium, whose Board members include leaders from Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA,) Hilo Medical Center,

East Hawai`i Independent Physicians Association (IPA), North Hawai`i Community Hospital, North Hawai`i Outcomes Project, Kona Community Hospital, West Hawai`i Community Health Center, Bay Clinic, Hamakua Health Center, Hui Malama Ola Na `Oiwi, Hawai`i Health Information Exchange, Hawai`i Island Healthcare Alliance as well as Hawai`i Mayor William Kenoi.

"Given an extraordinary level of community engagement and stakeholder leadership at the highest levels, the College of Pharmacy is honored to work alongside these other community leaders," Dr. Pellegrin said. "Our goals are to improve prevention of disease, improve access to appropriate care, and reduce health disparities for Hawai`i Island residents."

The effort will concentrate on the implementation of a region-wide Health Information Exchange and Patient Health Record solution. The system will use secure, internet-based care coordination and tele-monitoring tools to increase access to specialty care for patients with chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, the White House announcement said.



Karen Pellegrin, Director of Strategic Planning and Dean John M. Pezzuto from UH Hilo College of Pharmacy submitted the winning grant.

"This award is monumental particularly for bringing in money to the state and the significant improvement in serving the health care needs of patients in Hawai'i," said CoP Dean John M. Pezzuto. "We're pleased that UHH College of Pharmacy could take a leading role in this initiative that demonstrates the strength of partnerships throughout the state at all levels."

Other grant recipients include Minnesota's Mayo Clinic and Pennsylvania's Geisinger Clinic, both considered national models for high-quality, cost-efficient health care, as well as other newer community-based consortiums from around the country.

"This has put a broad spotlight on the need to improve health care in rural areas where there are known health professional shortages," said University of Hawai'i President M.R.C. Greenwood. "This project

will improve healthcare services and also provide a stimulus for job creation and economic renewal both locally and nationally, and we are very proud that the University of Hawai'i can contribute to this effort."

University of Hawai'i Chancellor Emerita Rose Tseng said she is pleased to join with so many community partners in this important effort to improve health care on the island.

"Many of our island's dedicated medical leaders are coming together to advance this goal and I truly believe that, when we all work together, great things can happen," Dr. Tseng said. "This group will maximize the potential of information technology to lower the cost and enhance the quality of care for our island."

The grant comes through the Obama administration's "Beacon Communities" program, funded through last year's federal stimulus bill.

About the Hawai'i Island Beacon Community Consortium

The Hawai'i Island Beacon Community Consortium was formed by community and stakeholder leadership at the highest levels to improve healthcare quality, cost-efficiency, and population health. Karen Pellegrin, Director of Continuing Education and Strategic Planning for the College of Pharmacy at UH Hilo, is the Project Director for the Beacon grant, and Associate Director is Mike Sayama, Vice President of Customer Relations, HMSA.

"We are committed not only to achieving the specific goals of the Beacon grant, but also to ensuring the sustainability and continuous improvement of a new model of healthcare here," Dr. Pellegrin said. "We have already incorporated the organization that will live on past the Beacon grant funding and that serves as a guide for me as Project Director of the grant."

The Hawai'i Island Beacon Community is governed by a

strong Board of Directors comprised of senior leaders from supporting organizations and community members. Chair of the Board is Ed Montell, a gastroenterologist who has practiced on the Big Island for about 30 years. He is also Vice Chief of Staff at Hilo Medical Center and on the boards of several other healthcare organizations.

"His broad leadership skills and long-standing, personal commitment to improving health here are invaluable assets to this community effort," Dr. Pellegrin said.

Other members of the Board of Directors are Howard Ainsley, CEO, Hilo Medical Center; Earl Greenia, CEO, Kona Medical Center; Michelle Malia Hiraishi, Executive Director, Hui Malama Ola Na 'Oiwī; Susan Hunt, CEO Hamakua Health Center; William "Billy" Kenoi, Mayor, Hawai'i County; Richard Lee-Ching, President, East Hawai'i IPA; John

McComas, CEO, AlohaCare; Christine Mai'i Sakuda, Executive Director, Hawai'i Health Information Exchange; John Pezzuto, Dean, UH Hilo College of Pharmacy; Paul Strauss, CEO, Bay Clinic; Richard Taaffe, CEO, West Hawai'i Community Health Center; Steve Van Ribbink, Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice President, HMSA; John White, CEO, North Hawai'i Community Hospital; Andy Levin, former state Senator, former Chief of Staff for Mayor Harry Kim, Red Cross volunteer, Chair of the Privacy and Security Committee; Lyric Santiago, Practicing Physician, Chair of the Specialty Care Re-Design Committee; Karen Teshima, Community Liaison on Health/Health Care for Mayor Kenoi, Chair of the Community Engagement Committee; and Sharon Vitousek, North Hawai'i Outcomes Project, Chair of the Evaluation Performance Monitoring and Feedback Committee.

ACPE board OKs continuation of candidate status

The University of Hawai'i at Hilo's College of Pharmacy (CoP) is on track to receive full accreditation next year after a positive evaluation by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE).

ACPE is the national agency that sets standards for the education of pharmacists. At their annual June meeting in Illinois, ACPE's Board of Directors reviewed an interim report based on a March 22 visit to Hilo. The board voted to continue the status of candidate for accreditation to CoP's Doctor of Pharmacy program, which will graduate its first class in the spring of next year.

"We have diligently concentrated on meeting every one of the 30 standards set aside by ACPE so we certainly anticipated a positive outcome," said CoP Dean John M. Pezzuto. "But it never pays to be overconfident, and we didn't want to overlook the obvious. There is more work to be done before we are accredited next year, and we are just as dedicated as ever to fulfill our promise to our inaugural class."

The reviewers commended Dean Pezzuto for "assembling a strong leadership team and faculty. The degree of attention that has been given to developing all elements of the mission, including research and scholarship, is particularly notable for a new College at this stage of development," according to the report.

Pre-visit materials met expectations in every category, with special attention recommended mainly in the areas of curriculum and facilities. The College of Pharmacy is currently housed in temporary facilities on the UH Hilo campus, with plans for a permanent building underway.

"The evaluation team notes the existence of a College mission statement and its consistency with that of the University," the report stated. "It is notable that the College is now considering the development of other elements of its mission, including continuing pharmacy education, residency programs, graduate programs, and seeking federal funding to support scholarship

and research."

The evaluation team also noted plans to expand health care initiatives in nursing and physical therapy programs, and recommended support should be provided to ensure that the new programs coordinate well and expand opportunities for interprofessional education with the Doctor of Pharmacy program.

The University administration was commended in the report for providing support, noting that "the College enjoys a strong and supportive relationship with the University and University administration."

"Our College of Pharmacy has been successful since its inception in 2007, and has met all the milestones for ACPE standards, which are exceptionally stringent," said Philip Castille, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. "We're proud that they are part of the UH Hilo ohana."

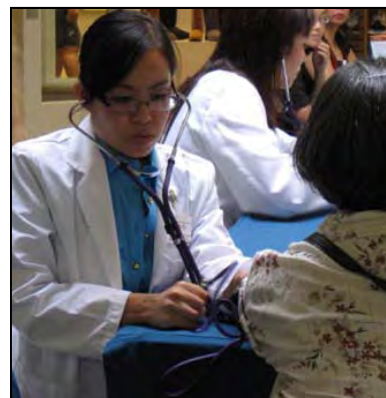
ACPE is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as the national agency for the accreditation of professional degree programs in pharmacy.

Students provide valuable service, gain experience at Honolulu health fair

About 100 people from the community took advantage of expertise from the College of Pharmacy at Kahala Mall's Health and Wellness Fair August 14. Students and faculty were aided by community pharmacist volunteers giving wellness screenings on diabetes and wellness education, asthma control awareness, blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose screening, and provide poison information.

"This is the kind of experience that will prove to be invaluable to our students," said Dr. Ron Taniguchi, the College of Pharmacy's Director of Community Partnerships.

Faculty and students conducted diabetes and wellness education, "brown bag" medication evaluation, asthma control awareness, blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose screening, and provided poison information.



Cindy Trinh, from CoP Class of 2012, monitors blood pressure.

CoP receives \$1.5 million from U.S. Dept. of Ed.

The University of Hawai`i at Hilo's College of Pharmacy (CoP) will begin new health care initiatives in Hawai`i and the Pacific region and gain support for students thanks to a \$1.5 million congressionally directed grant from the U.S. Department of Education.



Sen. Daniel K. Inouye

"I have watched the College of Pharmacy grow over the past few years, and it is very gratifying to see what a critical

difference it is making in Hawai`i and throughout the Pacific," said Senator Daniel K. Inouye.

"Improvement in health care is very important to me and I am very glad we can help the College of Pharmacy fulfill its critical mission. I know the financial support will be put to good use and the College will continue to make us proud."

The congressionally directed grant has been issued for a two-year period beginning Sept. 1.

"Thanks to this congressionally-directed support provided by the Department of Education, we will be able to significantly accelerate the pace of fulfilling our mission of improving health care in Hawai`i and the Pacific region," said CoP Dean John M. Pezzuto.

"The new educational opportunities provided by this support are extraordinary. The activities described in the application are not easy but we will keep our promises. These are the types of actions that

make a top 25 ranked College, and that's what we intend to be."

CoP will use the congressionally directed grant to accomplish 10 key objectives:

1. Provide support for Pacific Island students toward completion of Pre-Pharmacy academic requirements. Specific goals are to continue current collaboration with administrators/educators/advisors at the University of Guam and American Samoa Community College as they further develop Pre-Pharmacy Programs.
2. Create a guaranteed admissions program for students from underserved communities. The Steps Towards Excellence in Pharmacy (STEP) program provides students from underserved communities and populations the opportunity, guidance and mentorship to achieve their academic potential with successful completion of the PharmD Program at the UHH CoP.
3. Support a Pacific region-based advanced pharmacy training. Fourth-year pharmacy students will perform six week clinical rotations in Guam, Saipan, American Samoa, and Alaska.
4. Develop community partnerships and further engagement opportunities.
5. Manage critically important conferences and administer continuing education.
6. Continue development

and foster a general pharmacy practice residency program that will provide advanced clinical pharmacy training in general pharmacy practice as well as specialty areas in the institution, ambulatory care and community pharmacy practice settings.

7. Leverage technology to advance pharmacy practice in rural settings, including Health Information Technology education for pharmacists.

8. Establish joint pharmacy initiatives to enhance rural healthcare education. Funds would be used to conduct a needs assessment in Hawai`i and Wyoming, both of which have similar health care challenges, in order to identify ways to improve healthcare in rural areas in these states.

9. Continue development of a physical therapy program. No such program currently exists in the State of Hawai`i.

10. Development of a simulation and chemistry platform to train pre-pharmacy, pre-engineering, and PharmD students. The overall goal is to provide hands-on experience in how new drugs are evaluated for activity and characterized to determine how they are best incorporated into dosage forms.

UH names Honolulu group to design permanent home for College of Pharmacy

The University of Hawai`i named WCIT Architecture of Honolulu to design the building that will become the permanent home to the College of Pharmacy. WCIT is working with the science and technology branch of SmithGroup to plan the structure that is intended to anchor the UH Hilo Science and Technology Park.

The building will be located at the corner of Komohana and Nowelo Streets, in close proximity to CoP's temporary headquarters on South Aohoku Place. The site will bring together teaching, research, study, administrative and faculty office spaces that are currently distributed across seven different sites on the UH Hilo campus and the Hilo community.

"This building will be the visual cornerstone of one entrance to UH Hilo, so it needs to reflect our place and pay respect to our location on the Big Island of Hawai`i," said Gerald DeMello, director of university relations at UH Hilo. "We have every confidence in this team of architects to be able to honor the traditions of our host culture. We expect nothing less than the kind of building that will serve the island 'ohana as well as provide a base to build a one-of-a-kind, top-rated pharmacy school."

In October, Governor Linda Lingle released \$5.5 million for the planning and design of a permanent building, and the state legislature approved the funding earlier last year. UHH is in the process of finding funding for construction of the building, which has an anticipated cost of \$66 million. If all goes as planned, the building will be complete in three and a half years.

"By the time this year's new pharmacy students graduate in 2014, we could be planning new research and developing classes in a new building for the next generation of pharmacists," said CoP Dean John M. Pezzuto. "With input from our faculty and administrators, advisors and supporters, we're putting together a plan that will help us meet our goal to be a top-25 ranked College of Pharmacy. We're very grateful to the legislature for approving the funding for this portion of the design and planning. We know there's a lot of hard work ahead, but this is a very exciting time in our history."

Debra Fitzsimons, Vice Chancellor for Administrative Affairs, said she is delighted to witness the tremendous growth and progress of the College of Pharmacy.

Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Philip Castille said, "In the new College of Pharmacy



Dean Pezzuto met with lead architect Rob Iopa from WCIT Architecture during a kick-off meeting in Hilo

building, UH Hilo students will have access to high level technology in the classroom like never before. This type of education and research experience can only serve to offer the best preparation for the job market, and we're excited to be on the forefront of creating one of the best health sciences facilities in the nation."

Space needs call for a 60,000 gross square foot building that will include two 120-seat lecture halls, 14 study rooms, a compounding/dispensing laboratory, a laboratory for simulation mannequins with an additional six beds to create mini-patient ward, a working dispensing pharmacy to service student pharmacy needs on campus and to serve as experiential practice site for Pharmacy students, an Institutional Pharmacy with sterile preparations laboratory, fully equipped research laboratories, a vivarium, and office space for the administration, 47 faculty, postgraduate students, residents and post-doctoral associates.

"We know architecture, we know Hawai`i," said Rob Iopa, lead architect on the project and president of WCIT Architecture, an international architecture firm specializing in luxury resort, residential, and mixed-use design and development. "Our partners at SmithGroup draw on more than five decades of laboratory planning and design. We will be looking at trends in health sciences while remaining respectful to the community at large. Our group has perfect balance and all of the expertise required to bring this project to fruition."

Orientation 2010

Welcome Class of 2014



Safeway supports CoP students



Eric Congdon, Regional Pharmacy Manager for the Northern California Division of Safeway Inc. and Dean Pezzuto at the Dean's Welcome Reception.

CoP faculty and staff had the opportunity to meet with the 90 new Pharm.D. students and their families at a dinner at the Dean's Welcome Reception at Imiloa's Sky Garden restaurant August 23. Safeway Inc. donated \$2,000 to the College of Pharmacy for scholarships, and an additional \$1,000 to support the first-year orientation event.



Chemical & Engineering News features Dean Pezzuto's lab

Research from College of Pharmacy Dean John M. Pezzuto was highlighted in an article in Chemical and Engineering News, one of the most highly respected sources for scientific news. The article focuses on the work Pezzuto has done in the area of cancer chemoprevention.

Dean Pezzuto has been funded continuously by the National Institutes of Health for more than 30 years. He is well known for his work using natural products for medicinal purposes, most notably for the discovery of resveratrol, the compound found in grapes and wine that is thought to have cancer preventative and many other biological activities. He leads a team of scientists from Purdue University, the University of Illinois at Chicago, the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Most recently, the work has concentrated on deep-ocean microorganisms as a source of new drugs.

"Instead of focusing on ways to treat cancer after it has taken over, we are looking for new drugs to prevent cancer," Dean Pezzuto said. "Through our collaborative effort, and with support provided by the National Cancer Institute, we are able to discover

new uses of substances that have always been on the planet."

Dean Pezzuto's research is also the subject of an article that will appear in the fall edition of Kaunana, the University of Hawai'i's research publication. See the C&EN article at: <http://pubs.acs.org/cen/science/88/8825sci1.html>.

The story also was accepted for publication in the print issue and appears in the June 21 edition of C&E News.



Dean Pezzuto's lab this summer included Tamara Kondratyuk, Dean Pezzuto, Ihsan-ul-Haq, Bethany White, Eun Jung "Amy" Park and Laura Marler.



Dr. Anna Barbato, Assistant Professor in Pharmacy Practice who works at the Hawai'i Island Family Health Clinic met Lt. Gov. James R. "Duke" Aiona Jr. when he presented a check there July 1.

CoP partner HIFHC gets state funding

Assistant Professor in Pharmacy Practice Dr. Anna Barbato met Lieutenant Governor James R. "Duke" Aiona Jr. when he presented a ceremonial check for \$140,000 to support the multi-disciplinary physician training program at the Hawai'i Island Family Health Clinic (HIFHC).

HIFHC opened in April 2009, with Hilo Medical Center as the sponsoring hospital for the residency program from the John A. Burns School of Medicine. The College of Pharmacy has been one of the collaborating partners from the beginning, staffing a licensed pharmacist to counsel patients there.

Collaborating partners also include: UH Manoa's School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene; UH Hilo School of Nursing; and UH Manoa's Department of Psychiatry.

CoP welcomes Rose Tseng to faculty upon return to Hilo

When Chancellor Emerita Rose Tseng returns from her travels to China, she will take on a new job title at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo: Professor in the College of Pharmacy.

"We're excited to be able to extend our relationship with Dr. Tseng, who has earned her place as a founder of the College of Pharmacy and who now can help form our future," said CoP Dean John M. Pezzuto. "In addition to making important contributions to our curriculum, we're planning for more extensive international relationships. Without doubt, our students will benefit by her vast experience as a leader and mentor."

Dr. Tseng, who left her post as Chancellor at UH Hilo last month, was honored June 30 at a farewell reception on campus held by the University Conference Center.

Dr. Tseng accepted an honorary "white coat" from Dr. Edward Fisher, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the College of Pharmacy. The coat signifies the white consultation coat pharmacists wear, which also serves as a rite of passage in a ceremony for students entering their first year in the professional program.

"This coat represents professionalism, respect, integrity and caring, and I can't think of any scientist who deserves to wear it more than Dr. Tseng," Dr. Fisher said. "As the first Asian female to head a four-year university in the U.S., she has already served as a positive role model to many students and faculty. We're so happy to allow more students to be exposed to her warmth, kindness and intellect and to be continuously inspired by her."

Dr. Tseng takes her place next to other distinguished, internationally known faculty in the College of Pharmacy, including Luolou Hong, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, who received an academic appointment and tenure at the May meeting of the Board of Regents in Honolulu.



Dr. Edward Fisher presents an honorary white coat to Chancellor Emerita Rose Tseng.

Prior to joining UH Hilo, Dr. Tseng was chancellor for the West Valley- Mission Community College District in California and is a former Dean of Applied Sciences and Arts, Director of Health, and Director, Professor and Chair of Nutrition and Food Sciences, all at San Jose State University.

A registered dietitian, she holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Kansas State University and majored in chemistry and engineering at National Cheng Kung University in Taiwan, which named her an outstanding alumnus. She earned her master's and doctoral degrees in nutrition from the University of California at Berkeley. She recently received an honorary doctorate from Josai University in Japan and China Medical University in Shang Yeng and International Technology University in Silicon Valley.

"I look forward to this new beginning in my scientific career with just a hint of neophyte nervousness," Dr. Tseng said. "Then I remember that the College of Pharmacy is only four years old, and every other faculty member there has gone through a similar transition. I know I'll be in good company."

STEP program helps underserved Pre-Pharmacy students

A new program in the College of Pharmacy will provide financial, advisory and mentoring support for up to five undergraduate students per year who plan to continue on at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo to earn a Doctor of Pharmacy degree.

The STEP (Steps towards Excellence in Pharmacy) program is an intensive, three-year scholarly preparatory program to address underserved students' educational, social and economic needs. Applicants to the STEP program have diverse backgrounds and are highly motivated to achieve their goal of becoming a pharmacist.

"By helping underserved populations, we can reach students who come from an environment that may have inhibited them from ever going to college," said Susan I. Jarvi, Director of the Pre-Pharmacy Program and Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences. "This aid will continue in their professional development because after they successfully complete the STEP program, they will be ensured a seat in the College of Pharmacy."

Priority is given to applicants with strong ties to the State of Hawai'i and the U.S.-Affiliated Pacific Islands, Dr. Jarvi said. Acceptance into the STEP program will be determined by the Admissions

Committee of the College of Pharmacy.

STEP Program students are ensured a seat in the UH Hilo Pharm. D. Program upon successful completion of the STEP Program.

"This is a very important 'bridge' program to help students conquer the maze of academia that often inhibits them from succeeding," said Philip Castille, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. "The College of Pharmacy has put together a very impressive program that has the potential to change the lives of many families in Hawai'i."

Mentoring will be in the form of advising and learning specialists, as well as three faculty members in the pre-pharmacy program, Dr. Jarvi said. The College of Pharmacy STEP program is modeled after the successful Imi ho'ola Program at the John A. Burns School of Medicine on UH-Manoa.

Applicants must be accepted to UH Hilo or meet all UH Hilo admissions requirements. For more information see: <http://pharmacy.uhh.Hawai'i.edu/STEP> or call 808- 933-3162.



Dr. Susan I. Jarvi

Agreement with American Samoa to aid future pharmacy students

The University of Hawai'i at Hilo has signed an agreement with American Samoa Community College (ASCC) to help students in the Pacific Pre-Pharmacy Program to successfully apply to UHH College of Pharmacy.

"This is further proof of our commitment to extend our reach beyond Hilo and we're looking forward to working with educators and students in American Samoa," said CoP Dean John M. Pezzuto. "It is a true collaboration in the sense that it gives American Samoa more opportunities to fill critical shortages in the health care field while strengthening our capabilities to improve health in the entire region."

The agreement between UH Hilo and ASCC is designed to clear the way for course transfer between academic programs and courses at both institutions, help ASCC students fulfill the Pacific Pre-Pharmacy Program requirements to apply to the College of Pharmacy and to provide advising on both campuses.

"ASCC regards UH Hilo as an important partner in offering programs to island students that are

unavailable on the ASCC campus," said Irene Helsham, Dean of Academic Affairs at ASCC. "Additionally, our collaboration will help students make wise decisions in plotting their coursework because they will know what classes will transfer and receive mentoring and advising along the way."

UH Hilo's Susan Jarvi, Director of the Pre-Pharmacy Program in the College of Pharmacy, and CoP faculty members Dr. Linda Connelly and Dr. Gary Ten Eyck will act as primary advisors to students coming to UH Hilo.

"Because we are the only school of pharmacy in the Pacific area, the pre-pharmacy program gives students in this region a level of training never before available," Dr. Jarvi said. "The teams at both institutions have the same goal, which is to give students in American Samoa every chance to succeed at becoming a pharmacist."

Dr. Jarvi said last year's agreement with Guam served as a guideline for the cooperative promotion of successful educational experiences for students from all institutions. Currently there are eight students from Guam enrolled in the College of Pharmacy.

Three key figures in CoP history honored with Advancement of Pharmacy Excellence awards

Three key people who are credited with the creation of the College of Pharmacy at The University of Hawai'i at Hilo have been named to receive the Advancement of Pharmacy Excellence (APEX) award for 2010.

Patrick DeLeon, Chief of Staff to Senator Daniel Inouye; Jerry Johnson, former Dean, UHH College of Arts and Sciences and UHH Chancellor Emerita Rose Tseng will be honored at the annual White Coat Ceremony, Oct. 17.

"In creating the new UH Hilo College of Pharmacy, we have been blessed with avid support throughout the community and State," said CoP Dean John M. Pezzuto. "Now we are proud to recognize three of our biggest supporters with the APEX award. Without them, there may not have ever been a College of Pharmacy. Their vision, dedication and commitment has provided a sense of 'ohana that is in the very genetics of our College, and we can't express enough gratitude for having that kind of faith in our success."



Pat DeLeon

Pat DeLeon has worked for Hawai'i Senator Daniel Inouye since 1973. He served as President of the American Psychological Association in 2000 and advocated for improving mental health care in underserved areas as well as closer relationships between psychology and law. He was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies in 2008, and has served as editor

or reviewer on several top-tier journals, including *Psychological Services* and *American Psychologist*. He received his doctorate in clinical psychology from Purdue University, his master's in public health from the University of Hawai'i and his juris doctor degree from The Columbus School of Law at The Catholic University of America.

Jerry Johnson served as Dean for UHH College of Arts and Sciences until 2000, when he became project manager for the burgeoning College of Pharmacy. He came to Hilo in 1971 at the then Hilo College as a psychology faculty member, department chair, MBRS Program Director and Assistant Dean. Dr. Johnson served as a member of the board of the Western Psychological Association (WPA) for three

years, and was Program chair for the two WPA Annual Conferences held in Hawai'i. He served as Sport Psychologist for USA Triathlon for three years, working with National Team members preparing for the World Championships. He led a five-year battle to save the Honoli'i surfing area in Hilo from a hydropower development that would have destroyed the surfing break, culminating in a victory before the Hawai'i State Supreme court. An avid surfer and paddler, Dr. Johnson completed the Ironman Triathlon in 1983 for his 40th birthday. He received his bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Denver, and his master's and doctorate in social and personality psychology from The University of Hawai'i at Manoa.



Jerry Johnson

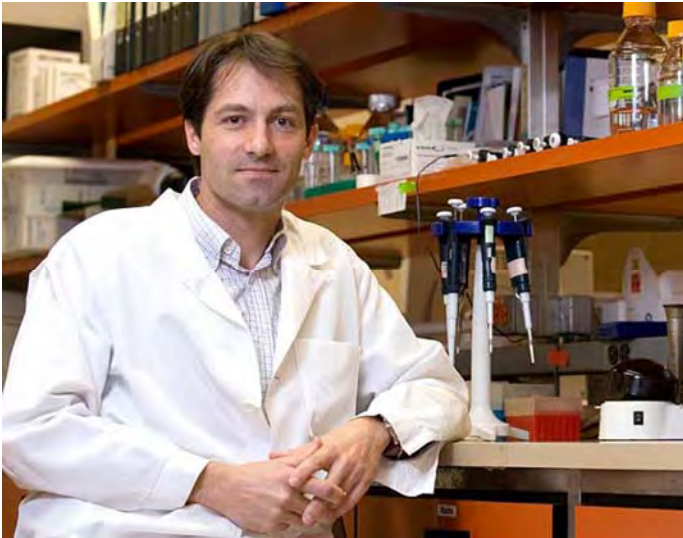
Rose Tseng left her post as Chancellor of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo in June. Upon completion of a year-long sabbatical in China, she will join the College of Pharmacy as a faculty member. Prior to joining UH Hilo, Dr. Tseng was chancellor for the West Valley-Mission Community College District in California and is a former Dean of Applied Sciences and Arts, Director of Health, and Director, Professor and Chair of Nutrition and Food Sciences, all at San Jose State University. A registered dietitian, she holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Kansas State University and majored in chemistry and engineering at National Cheng Kung University in Taiwan, which named her an outstanding alumnus. She earned her master's and doctoral degrees in nutrition from the University of California at Berkeley. She recently received an honorary doctorate from Josai University in Japan and China Medical University in Shang Yeng and International Technology University in Silicon Valley.



Rose Tseng

A plaque in their honor will hang in the halls of the College of Pharmacy on UH Hilo campus.

Honolulu Cancer Center researcher heads Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences



Award-winning molecular biologist André S. Bachmann joins the University of Hawai'i at Hilo's College of Pharmacy as a tenured Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, effective Sept. 1. He also will remain a member of the Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i and an Adjunct Associate Professor with the John A. Burns School of Medicine.

Dr. Bachmann has been teaching and conducting research at the National Cancer Institute-(NCI) designated Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i on Oahu since 2001. In 2006, he received an NCI grant award and two grant supplements to study the pediatric cancer neuroblastoma, with the goal to identify better treatment options, in particular for patients with relapsed/refractory disease. As a direct result of his research, the first neuroblastoma clinical trial with his novel treatment option (DFMO/etoposide) opened nationwide in 2010, and his achievements were recognized with the 2010 Inaugural Weinman

Innovator Award for Translational Research.

In addition to his translational work, he also assembled an international team of scientists and together they discovered a new class of active molecules that block the growth of cancer cells. The breakthrough study was reported in 2008 in the

scientific journal Nature.

Dr. Bachmann received a master's degree in microbiology in 1994 and a doctorate in natural sciences and mathematics (biology) in 1998 from the University of Zurich in Switzerland.

During his Ph.D. dissertation, he received a distinct scholarship award from the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) and conducted two years of his thesis research at the University of Hawai'i Pacific Biomedical Research Center (PBRC). At PBRC, he discovered that the novel natural product phaseolotoxin exhibits anticancer activity in leukemia.

After completion of his doctorate, Dr. Bachmann conducted a two-year postdoctoral fellowship at the Institute of Medical Virology of the University of Zurich where he studied chemokine receptors and HIV/AIDS. In 1999, he returned to the U.S. and worked for a Hawai'i-based biotech company in the area of Dengue vaccine development.

In addition to his research and

teaching activities, Dr. Bachmann is an editorial board member of seven scientific journals including the AACR journal Molecular Cancer Therapeutics, and he is an Associate Editor of the journal Pharmaceutical Biology, where CoP Dean John M. Pezzuto is editor-in-chief.

Dr. Bachmann has published 30 articles in peer-reviewed science journals such as Nature, Cancer Research, Proceeding of the National Academic of Science USA, Clinical Cancer Research, Oncogene, and Molecular Cancer Therapeutics. He is currently writing two book chapters on the clinical application of polyamine inhibitor based drugs in neuroblastoma and other types of neurological cancer.

He has two patent applications pending and two exclusive licensing agreements with biotechnology firms. He reviews research grants for the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Defense, and other grant organizations.

On the teaching side, Dr. Bachmann has supervised six post-doctoral associates and trained a total of 18 graduate and undergraduate students in his lab. He also attracted two international graduate students from Europe and hosted seven students in his lab from various local high schools.

For his efforts in education, he received the 2007 National Mentor Award by the Siemens Foundation (Iselin, New Jersey) for successfully supervising two high school students who went on to win \$50,000 and second place in the national contest.

Faculty and Staff Notes



•**Ghee Tan**, Assistant Professor in Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Postdoctoral Associate

Fred Sebisubi published "Antimalarial activity of *Aspilia pruliseta*, a medicinal

plant from Uganda," in *Planta Medica*, one of the leading international journals in the field of medicinal plants and natural products. Co-authors were S. F. Musoke, O. Odyek, W. W. Anokbonggo, J. Ogwal-Okeng, E. J. Carcache-Blanco, C.-Y. Ma, and J. Orjala.

Drs. Tan and Sebisubi also published a review chapter entitled "Natural Products with Promising Antimalarial Activity" in *Natural Products*, an online encyclopedia, edited by J.M. Pezzuto and M.J. Kato, Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems (EOLSS), Developed under the Auspices of the UNESCO, Eolss Publishers, Oxford, UK.



•**Liz Heffernan**, Director of Student Services, participated in a panel discussion at the annual meeting for AACP in Seattle entitled "Paperless Admission Process." Other participants were C. Stumm; L. Fox; T. Hennessey; and J. Walter.



•**Susan I. Jarvi**, Associate Professor and Director of the Pre-Pharmacy Program, published "Taqman Real-Time PCR Detects Avipoxvirus DNA in Blood of Hawai'i `Amakihi (*Hemignathus virens*)." in the journal PLoS ONE. Co-authors were M.E.M. Farias, D.A. LaPointe, C.T. Atkinson, C. Czerwonka, and R. Shrestha.



Dr. Jarvi also presented poster sessions at two meetings: XVIII International Poxvirus, Asfvirus, and Iridovirus Symposium. Arizona State University, Sedona, Ariz., June 5-10 and the Gordon Research Conference, Biology of Host-Parasite Interactions, Salve Regina University, Newport, Rhode Island, June 27-July 2.

•**Amy Knehans**, Pharmacy/Health Science Librarian, was inducted as Chair-Elect of the Libraries/Educational



Resources Section of AACP at the annual meeting in Seattle, and is serving as a member of New Pharmacy Faculty Research Awards Program (NPF-RAP) REVISION Task Force.



•**Mok T. Chong**, Assistant Professor in Pharmacy Practice, presented his research work on "Clinical Outcomes of a Diabetes Self-Management Education program for patients with diabetes mellitus in the Micronesian community in Hawai'i" at the 10th Asian Conference on Clinical

Pharmacy (ACCP) meeting in July in Singapore. He also initiated future opportunities for UHH CoP to collaborate research and teaching in the Asia-Pacific region.

Dr Chong, who already has a Pharm. D. and an MBA, also received a Ph.D. in Practical Ministry degree from Heritage University and Seminary, Kissimmee, Florida on May 21.

•**Ben Chavez**, Assistant Professor in Pharmacy Practice, published "The safety and efficacy of methylphenidate and dexamethylphenidate in adults with attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder" in the 2010 Journal of Central Nervous System Disease.



Co-authors were M.A. Sopko and H. Caberwal. Dr. Chavez also has a case report he wrote with T. Reilly in press to be published in the Journal of Clinical Psychology. entitled "Manic and psychotic symptoms following subcutaneous leuprolide in a male patient with no prior psychiatric history."

Dr. Chavez also presented three poster sessions at the July conference for the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) in Seattle.



•**Aaron Jacobs**, Assistant Professor in Pharmaceutical Sciences, published a paper in the May 18 issue of the ACS Journal, *Accounts of Chemical Research* entitled "Systems analysis of protein modification and cellular responses induced by electrophile stress."

Dr. Jacobs also gave an invited talk at the Fall 2010 National Meeting of the American Chemical Society in Boston.

Faculty/Staff Notes (continued)



Karen Pellegrin was appointed as Research Affiliate/Associate Psychologist in the Department of Cell and Molecular Biology, John A. Burns School of Medicine at University of Hawai'i at Manoa.

Dr. Pellegrin also was an invited speaker for the 2010 East Hawaii IPA annual CME symposium, where she spoke about "Improving healthcare and population health status through advanced use of IT. She was an invited speaker for the 2010 Hawaii County Mayor's Healthcare Conference, Waikoloa, Hawaii, and also an invited speaker for the 2010 Hawaii County Mayor's Healthcare Conference, in Waikoloa, Hawaii.

•**Anthony D. Wright**, Associate Professor in Pharmaceutical Sciences, published "Cytotoxic Cembranes from Indonesian Specimens of the Soft Coral *Nephthea* sp" in July's issue of *Marine Drugs*. Co-authors were H. I. Januar, E. Chasanah, C. A. Motti, D. M. Tapiolas, and C. H. Liptrot. Dr. Wright

also has three papers accepted and/or in press: 1) "Efecto antihelmíntico in vitro de plantas sobre larvas infectantes de nemátodos gastrointestinales de ruminantes," to be published in December in *Archivos de medicina veterinaria*. 2) "Callophycin A, A Cytotoxic Tetrahydro-*b*-carboline from the Red Alga *Callophycus oppositifolius*." To be published in *Phytochemistry Letters*, 2010. 3) "Anti-malarial, anti-algal, anti-tubercular, anti-bacterial, anti-photosynthetic, and anti-fouling activity of mainly diterpene isonitriles and formamides from the Tropical Marine Sponge *Cymbastela hooperi*." To be published in the 2010, *Organic and Biomolecular Chemistry*.



Dr. Wright also presented three posters at the 51st Annual Meeting of the American Society of Pharmacognosy, in St. Petersburg Beach, Florida, July 10-14.

Class of 2014 to take oath of profession

Ninety pharmacy students from the class of 2014 will recite the "Oath of a Pharmacist" in front of their peers, professors, community and families at the College of Pharmacy White Coat Ceremony Sunday, Oct. 17. The event, which is free and open to the public will be held at 2:00 p.m. at the UH Hilo Performing Arts Center.

The ceremony is a rite of passage for students entering their first year in the professional program to affirm their commitment to professionalism, respect, integrity and caring. The class of 2014 is the College's fourth class of students.

In addition to UH Hilo Chancellor Donald O. Straney and College of Pharmacy Dean John M. Pezzuto, the students will be addressed by community leaders including Senator Daniel Inouye's Chief-of-Staff Pat DeLeon, Mayor William "Billy" Kenoi and Representative Jerry Chang.

The American Pharmacist's Association states that the presentation of the white coat to new students represents their passage into the pharmacy profession with all the opportunities and responsibilities associated with professionalism. Such ceremonies have become a tradition at many schools of pharmacy, medicine and other health care professionals throughout the country.

'Ohana Health Plan comes to the aid of CoP



The College of Pharmacy received a \$1,000 donation from the 'Ohana Health Plan at a check ceremony 4 at the Health Fair and Medication Management Event at Prince Kuhio Plaza August 14. From left to right: Anne Chipchase, Director of Community Outreach for the 'Ohana Health Plan, State Representative Clift Tsuji, Dr. Edward Fisher, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, and State Representative Jerry Chang.

New Faculty and Staff Appointments

Julie Ann Luiz Adrian, Assistant Professor, Pharmacy Practice, received her bachelor's degree from the University of Hawaii at Hilo and her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Oklahoma State University. She most recently was Assistant Professor of Animal Science, College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resources Management at UH Hilo.

Joy Aito, Information Technology Specialist, earned her bachelor's degree in Computer Science from UH Hilo, and also a bachelor's degree in Business Administration (Finance) from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. She comes to CoP from Hawaii Community College, where she was an IT Specialist in the Academic Computing Unit.

Benjamin Chavez, Assistant Professor, Pharmacy Practice, earned his associate degree from Florida Atlanta University and his Pharm.D. from the University of Florida. He comes to CoP from Monmouth Medical Center in New Jersey where he was Clinical Assistant Professor at Rutgers State University.

Mahavir Chougule, Assistant Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences, earned his bachelor's degree in Pharmacy at Amravati University, Amravati, India, his master's and his Ph.D. in Pharmacy at the M. S. University of Baroda, India. Most recently, he was a Research Associate (Post-Doctoral Fellow) at Florida A&M University.

Roy Goo, Assistant Professor, Pharmacy Practice, earned a pre-pharmacy degree and Doctor of



Dean Pezzuto introduced several of the new appointees to UH Hilo faculty and staff members at a reception on campus during the first week of fall semester.

Pharmacy from University of the Pacific. Prior to joining CoP, he was a Consultant and Staff Pharmacist at Pharmerica in Lihue, Kauai.

Elizabeth Heffernan, Junior Specialist (Student Services Director), has a bachelor's degree in biology from George Washington University and a master's degree in International Administration from the School for International Training. Prior to accepting this position, she was CoP's Student Services Director (APT).

Hiiaka Kahalewai, Project Specialist STEP Program, Pre-Pharmacy, has a bachelor's degree in Asian/Pacific Studies and International Studies from Loyola Marymont University. Prior to joining CoP, she worked in recruitment and administration for the U.S. Census Bureau.

Patricia Juszczak, Assistant Specialist (Clinical Education

Coordinator), earned her bachelors degree in Pharmacy from Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and completed the masters program in Hospital Pharmacy from Northeastern University. Most recently, she was Assistant Director of Pharmacy at Portsmouth Regional Hospital in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Kristy Nakamura, Instructional and Student Support (Admissions Counselor), has a bachelor's degree in business administration from UH Hilo. Her last position was Secretary for the Department of Pharmacy Practice, CoP.

Anthony Otsuka, Instructor in Pharmaceutical Sciences, has a bachelors degree in chemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a master's and PhD in chemistry at the University of California, San Diego. His last position was as Professor of Genetics at Illinois State University.

New Faculty/Staff Appointments (continued)

Yaw Owusu, Assistant Professor, Pharmacy Practice, earned his Pharm.D. from Temple University. Prior to joining CoP, he completed residencies at Baylor University Medical Center and at the University of Texas at Austin.

Christina Phifer, Instruction & Student Support (Pre-Pharmacy Advising Specialist), earned her bachelor's degree in environmental science from Humboldt State University. She comes to CoP from a position at Radio Shack.

Elizabeth Ryan, Institutional Support (Research Grant Coordinator), earned her bachelor's degree in history from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Prior to accepting this position, she was Research and Special Project Coordinator for CoP.

Candace Tan, Assistant Professor, Pharmacy Practice, has a bachelor's degree in biological sciences and a Pharm.D. from the University of Southern California. She comes to CoP after completing her residency at the USC School of Pharmacy.

Sheri Tokumanu, Assistant Professor, Pharmacy Practice, has a Pharm.D. from the University of Michigan. Her last position was a Clinical Assistant Professor/Clinical Pharmacist at the Medical Intensive Care Unit at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Andrea Yugawa, Institutional Support (Administrative and Fiscal Support Specialist), attended Chabot Community College. Prior to joining CoP, she worked for the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii.

Dates for your calendar...

October 16: Second Annual College of Pharmacy Health Fair

October 17: Class of 2014 White Coat Ceremony

October 22: Student Career fair in Hilo

October 23: Student Interview day in Honolulu

May 14: Inaugural Class of 2011 Graduation

For more information on any of these events, call 808-933-2909.

Dean's Academic Honor List

The following College of Pharmacy students achieved academic excellence during the 2010 Spring Semester by attaining a grade-point average of 3.50 or greater in full-time, didactic course work:

Class of 2011

Codianne, Natalie Grace
Toyama, Jessica Patti, Michiko
Mashiyama, Ryan Akio
Oledzki, Rochelle Renae
Ogata, Casey Kyoko
Tsonev, Veneta P
Hori, Ashley Leiko
Fukuhara, Ceslee Kameyo
Mano, Kela
Chu, Cherie Hsiu Lan
Mar, Annie Mong Nor
Schwarz, Amber Lynne
Loney, Ellen Ann
Miyahira, Erika Mariko
Braithwaite, Jason Jay
Duong, Krystin Anh
Cai, Dan Feng,
Chun-Dela Cruz, Zoe Kuulei
Ronduen, Enoch, John Ganir
Hagiwara, Lisa Mei
Nakatsu, Nelson Takeshi
Harvey, Eiko Murakami
Njinuwo, Wilson Nyagassa
Tam, Jonathan Michael
Kim, Oh Young
Niimi, Cari, T.
Fukumae, Ashley Ann
Navas, Daniel A.
Gelviro, Rovigel Jugos
Zbyski, Jennifer Jeanne
Sabbah, Ben

Class of 2012

Cheng, Bernie Jen Hao
Yamasaki-Herring, Wendy Ann
Hirata, Richelle Yoshimi
Kang, Susan J
Thai, Anthony
Ching, Megan Masayo J.M.
Goo, Carol Lynn Gah Yan
Niimi, Brian Kazumi
Kawamoto, Daralyn Miki
Carbaugh, Candice M.
Laird, Amber Carol
Fuller, Raeanne Georgette
Cheng, Billy, Hsiao Ming
Van, Sally Thi
Wong, Jessie
Kurihara, Kari Kimie
Perez, Alexandra Marie
Venegas, Megan Cho
Knecht, Christine A.
Tanaka, Bryceson Paani Masaru
Brunke, Lauren E.
Fujimoto, Jenna Mieko
Tran, Tammy B.
Yamashiro, Allison Akemi
Svec, Roseann Holly
McBride, David Silas
Lieu, Linh Ngoc
Yeh, Marina
Moore, Tanya A.
Kim, Paul S.
Arias, Justin Lee

Class of 2013

Okazaki, Jason A.
Sasaki, Matthew A.
Segaran, Prabu Raman
Kouma, Marcus A.
McDonald, Tina Marrie, Kelly
Lin, Victor Wang
Prescott, Tyler Jon
Peric, Kaylene Mariko
Young, Modaniet
Mullahy, Mathew George
Le, Diem Hong
Adkins, Kurt W.
Lu, Shih-Chia
Kamei, Christopher Akio
Yu, May
Opunui, Chanel K.
Engen, William J.
Shimabuku, Shanele Shizuka
Ayson, Christopher Salvador
Kim, Flora Song
Lam, Stephanie Kit Ying
Walker, William J.
Fernandez, Jackwayne S.
Lee, Elizabeth
Lupas, Daniel
Quan, Rosa M.
Lopez, Cheryl Magbual
Latif, Alex E.
Kitamori, Todd H.
Kobayashi, Alison Lehua
Yoneda, Melissa Kori
Veilleux, Irving Rob
Lucas, Christine Ann-Fukumi
Kang, Margaret Park
Chan, Gina G.
Jun, Byoung Hak

KĀWILI LĀ`AU
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Hilo, HI 96720

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STUDENT PHOTOS WANTED

Kāwili Lā`au invites students to celebrate the beauty and uniqueness of our island home by contributing photos to our magazine. Photos selected by the Editor will be displayed in *Kāwili Lā`au*.

To be eligible, you must be a current student in the College of Pharmacy. Digital images should be in color and be formatted to 300 dpi and no smaller than 450 by 338 pixels.

To participate, send jpeg file to morrismm@hawaii.edu