

*One who mixes ingredients, drugs or medications: a pharmacist*



# Kāwili Lā'au

Summer 2012 • Volume 4, Issue 4



CLASS OF 2012

**E HO'OMAIKA'I**

*( We congratulate you)*

# Dean's Message



People laugh when I tell them I notice a change of seasons in Hawaii. When we enter fall, I feel a chill in the air, and I am still happy to see spring arrive. It's not the unrestrained glee of cold climates, where spring is a time of relief and hope. The difference in seasons is much more subtle. The trade winds are a bit warmer, there are even more flowers blooming, and it stays light just an hour or so longer.

But the hope is unmistakable. That hope is reflected during all the events of our graduating class, the Class of 2012, who believed in us even before we were fully accredited. It's a positive time for us at the College of Pharmacy. We have achieved our early goals and are working on the next, which includes continuation of accreditation and continuing our quest to secure funding for a new building. We are a cohesive team in our optimism.

The community continues to let me know they are happy with our progress and wish us continued success. Governor Neil Abercrombie was warm and positive at a recent event here when he met with some of our faculty and students, Senator Daniel Inouye expressed continued support during another visit. Big Island Mayor Billy Kenoi has been one of our strongest supporters, and surprised us at graduation events with the depth of his knowledge of what we do.

I'm sad to say all these warm feelings come to a screeching halt when we pick up the local newspaper in Hilo. The stories the news editor chooses to focus on and places on the front page, often above the fold, have been presented in consistently misleading and intentionally damaging ways. Just the week before graduation, when the Class of 2012 was struggling to get everything done in time for commencement and prepare for their licensing exam, the local newspaper ran a story on the front page with a negative headline about the previous class. The story itself presented the information in blocks, without even attempting to make a balanced report. It was clear the headline and the first paragraph were written before they talked to us. Some of our students were devastated due to the report. I'm happy to say all maintained their integrity and loyalty, as evidenced by some letters to the editor.

Their treatment of Rose Tseng, our former Chancellor and now CoP professor, has been nothing short of unprofessional. With clear-cut bias, the stories assigned by the news editor and usually written by the same reporter show a bullying, discriminatory stance instead of the support I would hope for in a community newspaper. A community where Rose Tseng has contributed her heart and soul, to say nothing of the millions of dollars she has attracted.

Community is the key word here. We at CoP have worked very hard to be a part of the community, through our health fairs, through our student experiences, through service, through our significant economic impact. We work hard and we want to make Hawaii a better place.

I will remain optimistic the local newspaper will someday pick up on positive forces in the community like CoP. But they were content to pass up stories announcing a \$1 million gift from the Long Foundation, a \$1 M grant from the Department of Education, and the economic study that showed CoP's positive addition to the state of Hawaii, as well as a recent graduate's sacrifice as a bone marrow donor, to name a few. I wonder what other stories in the community they may be missing or, worse, misrepresenting. What we have seen are sensationalistic front page headlines that often don't reflect the content of the stories.

Since cancelling my subscription, my ad hoc non-scientific survey has revealed most people purchase the paper to keep up with obituaries and collect discount store coupons. Nonetheless, biased and unbalanced stories in a local paper are annoying and hurtful. As a result, I have asked our Editor, Maggie Morris, to write a column in future editions of Kawili La'au entitled "Fact Check." We will address specific cases of unfair coverage, and show what the other side really would be. We won't be able to get the truth to everyone, but at least we can reach members of the CoP community who read this magazine.

Happy reading. We truly appreciate your continued support and aloha.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. Pezzuto". The signature is stylized and cursive.

John M. Pezzuto  
Professor and Dean



## Kāwili Lā'au

Summer, 2012 Volume 4, Issue 4

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UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII  
**HILO**

## Contents

Presenting Class of 2012	2
A Photo Shoot in the rainforest	6
Graduation Celebration Dinner	7
Dan Hu: Bone marrow hero	8
Luncheon honors graduates	9
2012 Spring Awards Ceremony	10
CoP greets Gov. Abercrombie	12
Senator & Mrs. Inouye tour campus	13
Postdoctoral Symposium 2012	14
CoP collaborates with K-12 teachers	16
Faculty Seminar Series: Dr. Giselle Sholler	17
First Rho Chi members gather at UH Hilo	18
Merrie Monarch Parade	20

### Regular Features

Student Activities Report	21
Faculty Briefs	22
Preceptor Spotlight	24
Rotation Reports	26
Alumni Update	28
Dean's List	29

ON THE COVER –

*The Class of 2012 showed their resilience and sense of humor when it rained on their formal group photo shoot.*

# Class of 2012 is prepared to enter professional life

Eighty-two student pharmacists entered the Edith Kanaka'ole Multi-purpose Stadium in Hilo at 9 a.m. May 10, and 82 left just a little before noon after being bestowed with the right to use "Dr." before their names.

Pharmacy graduates were among 727 candidates for degrees and certificates at University of Hawai'i at Hilo's Spring 2012 commencement. While 82 were present at commencement, the number of students earning PharmDs was 88.

Hawai'i Lt. Governor Brian Schatz delivered the keynote address, and other Hawaiian politicians, including Senators Daniel Inouye and Daniel Akaka, sent messages of encouragement to the graduates.

Families and friends, teachers and mentors, packed the stadium to watch the carefully choreographed march of the graduates as they took their seats. Many faculty members showed their support and donned the garb of their graduating institution and marched in with the students.

The event was coordinated by the highly skilled Commencement Committee Chair, Judith Fox-Goldstein, and the music was the traditional "Pomp and Circumstance," deftly produced by the Hilo High School Viking Band.

Patiently waiting for others getting undergraduate degrees, certificates and master's degrees, students from the professional CoP program filled the first four rows in the center of the biggest venue in Hilo. When it was time for them to enter the stage, they walked, one by one, as their name was called, first to Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Dr. Edward Fisher, who took the ceremonial hood from over their arm. Then to Dean John Pezzuto, who placed it over their heads, signifying success at completing the program. Then on to Chancellor Donald Straney, who presented them with their diplomas. Other dignitaries on stage included keynote speaker, Hawai'i's 11th Lt. Gov. Brian Schatz, Dr. James Gaines, Vice President for Research, UH System as well as Carl Carlson

Jr. and Barry Mizuno from the UH Board of Regents.

Afterwards, it was the parents and families turn to claim time with the new graduates. Many stayed at the stadium to pose for pictures, receive masses of colorful flower leis and make plans for more celebrations.

And now the Class of 2012 can get down to the business of beginning a career as a pharmacist while holding on to the memories of four great years at UH Hilo.





Photo by Robbyn Peck

# Graduation Day 2012



*Traditional leis helped distinguish a graduation ceremony in Hawai'i and honored the new PharmDs.*



**CoP CLASS OF 2012**

Ismail Abdolahi  
 Justin L. Arias  
 Kelsey C. Atebara  
 Jake W. Bachino  
 Chaz K. Barit  
 Jacob K. Blair  
 Lauren E. Brunke  
 Thomas A. Bui  
 Candice M. Carbaugh  
 Irene Chaisri  
 Lawrence Y. Chan  
 Bernie J. Cheng  
 Billy H. Cheng  
 Megan M. Ching  
 Irene Chiu  
 Aaron C. Chun  
 Derek A. Dominguez  
 Kelly A. Dorek  
 Jana K. Enokawa  
 Catherine J. Fadrowsky  
 Jenna M. Fujimoto  
 RaeAnne G. Fuller  
 Carol Lynn G. Goo

Kyle T. Higuchi  
 Richelle Y. Hirata  
 Lee Q. Hoang  
 Daniel Y. Hu  
 Alice S. Hwang  
 Brian T. Jacoway  
 Peter S. Jo  
 Christopher W. Jones  
 Marisa Joy K.  
 Kaluhiokalani  
 Susan J. Kang  
 Daralyn M. Kawamoto  
 Paul S. Kim  
 Christine A. Knecht  
 Kari K. Kurihara  
 Paige A. Kurosawa  
 Kelly P. Kwok  
 Amber C. Laird  
 Meng Fei Lee  
 Linh N. Lieu  
 Alicia Loh  
 Daniel K. Loo  
 Angelina M. Lovell  
 Eric R. Lum

Denise H. Matsuoka  
 David S. McBride  
 Amanda J. Meholchick  
 Tilden-Christen M.  
 Miguel  
 Meghan A. Mitchell  
 Tanya A. Moore  
 Hugh T. Nguyen  
 Brian K. Niimi  
 Soang H. Nong  
 Craig M. Nutter  
 Ana M. Park  
 Alexandra M. Perez  
 Van-Quynh T. Phan  
 Gena M. Pini  
 Jeffrey G. Retter  
 Shantelle R. Robinion  
 Anthony S. Rowley  
 Lauren E. Ruffino  
 Robert Scales  
 Narges Shansab  
 Amy H. Song  
 Amber R. Sullivan-  
 Friezner

Roseann H. Svec  
 Chad Y. Tamashiro  
 Bryceson P. Tanaka  
 Anthony Thai  
 Henry V. Tran  
 Stacey H. Tran  
 Tammy B. Tran  
 Cindy M. Trinh  
 Anh K. Truong  
 Sally T. Van  
 Megan C. Venegas  
 Brian K. Vo  
 Chee Vue  
 Jeremy T. Watson  
 Jessie Wong  
 Stephen B. Wong  
 Wendy A. Yamasaki-  
 Herring  
 Allison A. Yamashiro  
 Marina Yeh  
 Yuh-Ping Yen

# Rainy day in Hilo town

The Class of 2012 made history being the first class to have their group photo taken at the federal building on Waianuenue Avenue, about a mile from campus. The day was one of those days in Hilo with intermittent showers, but organizers decided to take a chance and call the photo shoot at the original location. It did rain, but they were prepared with College of Pharmacy umbrellas and the photos show that the Class of 2012 (as well as professional photographer Robbyn Peck) are good sports.





# Food, fun, a few tears at Graduation Celebration Dinner

Even rainy Hilo weather couldn't dampen the spirits of members of the CoP Class of 2012 as they entered Sangha Hall the night before officially receiving their Doctor of Pharmacy degree. They were there on Friday May 11 to forget about final exams, forget about deciding what comes next, to celebrate with their families, friends and colleagues, and faculty.

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Dr. Edward Fisher served as Master of Ceremonies for the graduation celebration, where more than 500 people gathered to honor the grads-to-be.

After a bountiful buffet, Dean John Pezzuto welcomed everyone and congratulated the new graduates. A highlight of the evening was a visit from the mayor of Hawaii County, William "Billy" Kenoi, who took time out of his busy spring schedule to

express his appreciation and gratitude for the good that the College of Pharmacy has accomplished on the Big Island.

Students showed an elegant slide show of the graduates, documenting the fun, hard work and camaraderie displayed by the Class of 2012. At the end, Dean Pezzuto said he was very moved by the presentation, and remarked "it even brought a few tears to my eyes" as the departing class would no longer be students, but alumni.

Another highlight was the announcement of Fred Cruz, RPh as Preceptor of the Year for the Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE) rotation. Dr. Cruz is Director, Pharmacy Operations, Hawaii at CVS Caremark, where several of the graduates conducted part of their fourth-year rotation experience. APPE for the fourth-year students begins in the summer after their third year and includes a minimum of 1440 hours of pharmacy experiences. Students participate in six different types of rotations, including hospital practice, acute medicine, ambulatory care clinic, and retail practice.

A special honor was bestowed onto Gerald De Mello, Director of University Relations, who was taken by surprise when he was named recipient of the Advancement of Pharmacy Excellence (APEX) award. The award distinguishes

those key people who are credited with the creation and success of the College of Pharmacy. Gerald worked often behind the scenes to bring together the legislature and the community in support of starting a College of Pharmacy on the Big Island, and has tirelessly strived to gain funding for the permanent building.

But the main stars of the evening were the new graduates attending the celebration. Each was given traditional Hawaiian lei before advancing to the stage to make a few remarks, some gleeful, some thankful, all emotional as they made preparations for one final, big day together.



# New pharmacy graduate shows aloha spirit to help others



**A**t a time when many graduates planned parties and gathered with friends, a student who received a doctorate in pharmacy this year was trying to help save the life of a two-year-old boy.

Dr. Daniel Hu, Class of 2012 in UH Hilo's College of Pharmacy, missed the Celebration Dinner on May 2 because he was found to be a bone-marrow donor match for a little boy battling leukemia.

Several other UH Hilo College of Pharmacy students have signed up with various registries to become donors to help save lives, but Hu is one of the first whose DNA matched someone in need. He had signed

up with the National Marrow Donor Program and was notified two weeks before graduation.

"I've been realizing lately that the more I talk about it, the more awareness there is for the registry," said Hu, who grew up on the Big Island. "It's a good way to get their cause out there and it could be a way to inspire more people to register."

He had to travel to San Diego for the peripheral blood stem cell (PBSC) transplant, a non-surgical procedure that included 10 injections in five days. The final injection was Neupogen (filgrastim), a drug that mobilizes stem cells from the marrow into circulation. He described the procedure as painful though not unbearable.

"I took some acetaminophen and toughed it out, it's just part of the donation procedure and probably not as painful as having to do the marrow donation," he said. "The nurses were great, super friendly, they took really good care of me. The hospital fed me and made sure I wasn't driving myself home. Also, the registry and my coordinator, Renee Chung, were really considerate and made sure my trip was as comfortable as possible."

"Only about 1 in 540 donors will go on to actually donate," Chung said. "We are grateful for Dan and others like him who make the time for this unique life-saving opportunity. Registration involves just a mouth cheek swab, so we encourage more young adults like Dan to get involved and possibly save a life."

The registry won't release any information beyond age, gender, and the type of illness the patient has until at least a year has passed and if both parties desire further contact, Hu said.

"This heroic act epitomizes the caliber of all of our students in the College of Pharmacy, who have demonstrated over and over that they care about the community in which they live," Dean John M. Pezzuto said. "Through countless health fairs and events that raise money for health care organizations, they have shown they deserve the respect and appreciation of the whole island."

For more information on the National Marrow Donor Program, see <http://marrow.org/Home.aspx>.

**"I've been realizing lately that the more I talk about it, the more awareness there is for the registry," said Hu, who grew up on the Big Island.**



# Luncheon by the ocean recognizes graduates

Soon-to-be graduates returned to Hilo from their respective rotation sites and celebrated the official kickoff for 2012 graduation celebrations during a luncheon held at the Hilo Yacht Club on May 9.

Dean John Pezzuto welcomed the students and faculty at this beautiful ocean setting and introduced Mina Pharmacy owner Hany Guirguis, RPh, Certified Clinical Nutritionist, PhD. Dr. Guirguis gave a speech of encouragement and presented a check for \$20,000 to signify his annual gift to the College of Pharmacy building fund.



Mina Pharmacy owner Hany Guirguis (center) presented a check for \$20,000 to signify his annual gift to the College of Pharmacy building fund to Dean John Pezzuto (left) and Associate Dean Dr. Ed Fisher.



(left to right) Ben Chavez, assistant professor, Pharmacy Practice; Alice Hwang, winner of the 2012 National Medicines Comprehensive Database Recognition Award; Ken Morris, professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences; Wendy Yamasaki Herring, winner of the 2012 Mylan Excellence in Pharmacy Award; Mimi Pezzuto, instructor, Pharmacy Practice and Pharmaceutical Sciences; Candice Carbaugh, winner of the 2012 Natural Standard Research Collaboration Award.

Wendy Yamasaki Herring was presented the 2012 Mylan Excellence in Pharmacy Award by Dr. Ken Morris, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. The award is given for academic achievement, professional motivation and a demonstrated

ability to communicate drug information.

Candice Carbaugh was presented the Natural Standard Research Collaboration Award by Mrs. Mimi Pezzuto, instructor, Departments of

Pharmacy Practice and Pharmaceutical Sciences. The award is given to an exemplary 2012 graduating class member for perpetuating multi-disciplinary, evidence-based research practices, healthcare communications or information.

Alice Hwang was given the National Medicines Comprehensive Database Recognition Award by Dr. Ben Chavez, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice. This award is presented to an outstanding graduating pharmacy student who has shown an interest in evidence-based approach to patient care, in particular when considering natural medicines.

Class President Marisa Joy K. Kaluhiokalani and Class Gift Coordinator Catherine J. Fadrowsky announced the class gift of a scholarship to Christine Lucas, Class of 2013. She was selected by the CoP Awards Committee to receive the CoP Class of 2012 Scholarship because she exhibited both academic merit and community service to promote the spirit of the CoP.

The event concluded with photos and social exchanges. The students were then back to NAPLEX review and preparations for graduation.



# 2012 Spring Awards Ceremony

Students, faculty and staff gathered May 2 for an end-of-the-year celebration at The College of Pharmacy 2012 Spring Awards Ceremony at Sangha Hall. Formerly called a luau or spring fling, the annual event represents a platform for honoring outstanding faculty, preceptors and students in a casual communal setting of food, music and fun.

This year's festivities featured a talent show. Audience members knew something was coming when the deans of the college and the department chair chanted "Ooga-Chaka Ooga Chaka," and launched into a rendition of "Hooked on a Feeling" by Blue Swede, a Swedish band from the mid-70s. Dean John Pezzuto, Associate Deans Edward Fisher and Robert Borris, and Pharmaceutical Sciences Chair André Bachmann sang a different version, with the following lyrics: I can't stop this feeling, Deep inside of me, Class, you just don't realize, What you do to me. When you hold books, In your arms so tight, You let me know, Everything's all right, I...I'm hooked on a feeling, I'm high on believing, That you'll dispense to me. Pills as sweet as candy, Their taste is on my mind, Class, you got me thirsty, For another glass of wine. Got a bug from you class, And I sure need a cure, I'll just stay a victim, If I can for sure. All the good drugs, That you will dispense, Keep it up class, yeah, you fixed me up, I ...I'm hooked on a feeling, I'm high on believing, That you'll be dispense to me, I...I'm hooked on a feeling.

Other talent featured a compilation song of OMG, Airplanes, Coming Home and Self Back Home by first-year

students Bryan Huynh, Jin Pak and Annie Hu; First-year student Nichole Wilson played the song "Synrinx" on the flute. First-year student Stephanie Sumner performed a style of martial arts called Wushu Long Fist to the song "Endless Love;" Second-year student Amanda Nicolas sang "Killing Me Softly;" and the winners of the evening were Margaret Kang, Andy Nguyen, Reece Uyeno and Christopher Ayson, who performed "My Life in Pharmacy School," a song medley.

Many scholarships also were announced (a formal list will be distributed in the fall).

Awards announced include:

## IPPE Preceptor of the Year

Alex Evans, Pharmacist in Charge at PharMerica in Hilo, for Pharmacy Practice Experiences (IPPE)

## Teachers of the Year:

### Class of 2013

Pharmacy Practice: Candace Tan  
Pharmaceutical Sciences: Aaron Jacobs

### Class of 2014

Pharmacy Practice: Roy Goo  
Pharmaceutical Sciences: Kenneth Morris

### Class of 2015

Pharmacy Practice: Mimi Pezzuto  
Pharmaceutical Sciences: Linda Connelly



### Student Organization of the Year

This year's recipient for the Outstanding Student Organization of the Year is the UHH-CoP chapter of the National Community Pharmacist Association. Christine Lucas accepted the award for the group, which won \$100 towards their organization activities.

### Student Leader of the Year

Christopher Lai Hipp was "Student Leader of the Year" and won \$100 towards academic needs.



### Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Practice Award

Lt. Trevor Lidge, Lieutenant Commander with the US Public Health Service presented the award to Prabu Segaran. The award was established to recognize pharmacy students' contributions to public health pharmacy practice

### Special Recognition, College of Pharmacy Ambassadors

The following students were recognized for exceptional service and commitment. Class of 2014: Miho Aoki, Maurina Bartlett, Steven Nishimoto and Henry Truong. Class of 2013: Cheryl Lopez and Mike Tsuji.

### Special Recognition, CoP Senators, University of Hawaii at Hilo Student Association (UHSA)

Dan Hu, 2010-2011 Senator; Reece Uyeno, 2011-12 Senator; and Anqi Liu, 2011-2012 graduate student senator were recognized for spending a substantial amount of time working to secure funds for the new CoP building by speaking to Representatives and Senators and initiating letter-writing campaigns.



*Associate Deans Robert Borris and Edward Fisher (from left) and Pharmaceutical Sciences André Bachmann (far right) sang backup for Dean Pezzuto on a special pharmacist version of "Hooked on a Feeling" to kickoff the talent portion of the College of Pharmacy 2012 Spring Awards Ceremony.*



*Judges for the talent show included faculty and students.*

## CoP greets Gov. Abercrombie



Governor Neil Abercrombie (center) visited Hilo for the new student residence hall groundbreaking ceremony on Kawili Street and was greeted with a CoP mug and umbrella from (left to right) Karen Pellegrin, Director of Strategic Planning/Continuing Education; Amanda Wendel, Class of 2014; Sean Pfundstein, Class of 2014; and Ken Morris, Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

## CoP faculty present research at national conference



Daniela Guendisch (left to right), Aaron Jacobs and Dianqing Sun, all assistant professors in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences presented posters on their research and met with Dean John Pezzuto at the NIH, NIGMS Fourth Biennial National IDEA Symposium of Biomedical Research Excellence (NISBre) in Washington, D.C. June 25-27.

## Senator and Mrs. Inouye tour UH Hilo; CoP among highlights



*U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye, and his wife, Irene Hirano Inouye, toured the UH Hilo campus on July 1 and were joined by Hawaii County Mayor William "Billy" Kenoi (left to right), Dean John Pezzuto, Senator Inouye, Jarred Prudencio from CoP Class of 2015, Mrs. Inouye, Davis Hanai from CoP Class of 2015, Amanda Wender from CoP Class of 2014, CoP PhD student Micah Glasgow, Professor of Pharmaceutics Ken Morris, Sean Pfundstein from CoP Class of 2014, UH Board of Regent Barry T. Mizuno, and UH Hilo Director of University Relations Gerald De Mello.*



*Third-year pharmacy student Amanda Wender told her own story about moving to Hilo to University of Hawaii Regent Barry Mizuno, Senator Daniel Inouye and Mayor William "Billy" Kenoi. (not pictured: Mrs. Irene Hirano Inouye)*

# Post-docs display expertise at 2nd annual research symposium

Information contributed by Assistant Professors Linda Connelly and Dana-Lynn Koomoa-Lange, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences

The second annual Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences Post-Doctoral Research Symposium was held May 4 on campus at the College of Pharmacy.

The keynote speaker was Lawrence J. Marnett, Professor of Biochemistry, Chemistry, and Pharmacology and Director, Vanderbilt Institute of Chemical Biology, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee.

Dr. Marnett also was the post-doctoral mentor for Assistant Professor Aaron Jacobs. His talk was titled "Probing Mechanisms of Cancer Survival With Lipid Electrophile Stress." At the conclusion of his presentation, CoP faculty and staff as well as the seven inaugural students in the PhD program in Pharmaceutical Sciences had the opportunity to ask several questions.

Assistant Professors Linda Connelly and Dana-Lynn Koomoa-Lange organized the symposium for the second year, with assistance from Ben Clark, a senior post-doctoral researcher.

This year's symposium featured 15-minute presentations from 11 post-doctoral researchers. Awards were given to the following based on presentation style: First Place: Dr.

Michael Weichhaus, "Osteoprotegerin production by breast cancer cells: regulation by NF-kappaB and role in metastasis"; Second Place: Dr. Buddhini Samarasinghe, "Heat-shock and Autophagy in Cancer: Novel Role for DGK iota"; and Third Place: Dr. Dovi Kellman, "Antioxidant activity of Hawaiian and Icelandic Lichens."

Also presenting were: Drs. Ben Clark, Li Feng, Yael Lampert, Isabelle Tomassoli, Xufen Yu, Swapan Pramanick, Amy Park and Ingo Lange.

All of the talks were based on work that has been done at the College of Pharmacy in the past year. The idea of the symposium is to give the post-docs an opportunity to experience presenting to a large audience in order to prepare them for presentations at national and international meetings.

The PhD students were asked to examine each of the presentations and provide a written summary. This allowed them to gain insight into the aspects to include in a short research presentation suitable for a scientific meeting.

All of the presenters were given a gift bag provided by Fisher Scientific and Dean John Pezzuto sponsored provision of bento lunches.

## Participating Postdocs and Topics

**Benjamin Clark**, "Anthocyanin and Flavonoid Analysis in Anthurium cultivars"

**Buddhini Samarasinghe**, "Heat-shock and Autophagy in Cancer: Novel Role for DGK iota."

**Li Feng**, "Design, Synthesis and Biological Evaluation of Olympicin A-inspired 4-Chromanone and Chalcone Analogues"

**Yael Lampert**, "Antifungal activity on the eggs of Hawaiian coquí frogs: possible roles of associated bacteria"

**Ingo Lange**, "Sepiapterin Reductase Interacts with Ornithine Decarboxylase Resulting in Modulation of Neuroblastoma Proliferation"

**Isabelle Tomassoli**, "The twin drug approach for novel nicotinic acetylcholine receptor (nAChR) ligands"

**Xufen Yu**, "Discovery, Synthesis, and Evaluation of 2-Phenylindoles as Nitric Oxide Synthase Inhibitors and Potential Cancer Chemopreventive"

**Dovi Kellman**, "Antioxidant activity of Hawaiian and Icelandic Lichens"

**Michael Weichhaus**, "Osteoprotegerin production by breast cancer cells: regulation by NF-kappaB and role in metastasis"

**Swapan Pramanick**, "Phytochemical Study of the native Hawaiian plant ohia lehua"

**Amy (Eun Jun) Park**, "Anti-proliferative effect of 6-(3-aminopropyl)-9-methoxy-3-nitro-5H-indeno[1,2-c]isoquinoline-5,11(6H)-dione in PC-3 cells"





*Dr. Aaron Jacobs, Assistant Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences (left), with Dean John Pezzuto and Lawrence J. Marnett, Professor of Biochemistry, Chemistry, and Pharmacology and Director, Vanderbilt Institute of Chemical Biology, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee. Dr. Marnett was Dr. Jacobs' post-doctoral mentor.*



*Postdoctoral associates (postdocs) at UH Hilo CoP for 2012 are: (left to right with the professor they work with and their graduate university): Michael Weichhaus, (Linda Connelly), Robert Gordon University, UK (1st place at Postdoc symposium); Swapan Pramanick, (Robert Borris), Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India; Amy Park, (John Pezzuto), EwhaWomans University, South Korea; Yael Lambert, (Gary Ten Eyck), Bar Ilan University, Israel; Dovi Kelman (Anthony Wright) Tel Aviv University, Israel (3rd place at Postdoc symposium); Xufen Yu (Dianqing Sun), Chinese Academy of Science, Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry; Ingo Lange (André Bachmann), Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany; Isabelle Tomassoli (Daniela Guendisch), Université de Besançon, France; Li Feng, (Dianqing Sun), Phillips University, Marburg; Buddhini Samarasinghe, (Aaron Jacobs), University of Glasgow, UK (2nd place at Postdoc symposium); Ben Clark, (Robert Borris), The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia; Andrea Bandino, (André Bachmann), University of Torino; and Lars Michaelis, (Daniela Guendisch), University of Magdeburg.*

# Local K-12 teachers partner with CoP to teach expanded engineering principles

Educators from the Hilo-Laupahoehoe-Waiakea Complex continued to learn about teaching engineering concepts during a four-day workshop May 29-June 1 at the College of Pharmacy.

The workshop was the second one offered under a National Science Foundation Engineering Research Center (NSF-ERC) outreach grant to K-12 teachers in the complex, led by Ken Morris, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Locally, the program is a collaboration between the Hawai'i Department of Education and CoP in an effort to give more students an understanding of engineering concepts to help them explore and possibly choose exciting careers that will help meet the expanding needs of Hawai'i.

Levelle Burr-Alexander, Associate Director, K-20 Partnership, at the Center for Pre-College Programs at New Jersey Technical Institute (NJIT) led the design and delivery portion of the course for the NSF-ERC.

Complex Area Superintendent Valerie Takata and system wide STEM resource teacher Bess Jennings invited faculty members from science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines to attend the course, which combined classroom instruction with hands-on laboratory exercises.

Janice Harvey, Community Outreach and Education Programs Leader at the Hawai'i "Journey through the Universe" project at the Gemini Observatory, helped link the CoP driven effort with her network after eight years of collaborative projects with the school system.



*STEM teachers from the Hilo-Laupahoehoe-Waiakea Complex attended a four-day workshop on engineering concepts at CoP May 29-June 1*

"What an incredible opportunity for the teachers," Ms. Harvey said. "I'm so pleased with our Journey partnership and hope it continues on for years."

Andrea Wilson, K-8 teacher at Kalaniana'ole Elementary School, took the one-day course in December and returned for the more extensive workshop this summer.

"I believe we need to give younger students opportunities to get involved in STEM activities because that's where the jobs are," she said. "At least we need to give them options."

The program is funded through a grant from the National Science Foundation Engineering Research Center on Structured Organic Particulate Systems (NSF-ERC-SOPS), with UH Hilo as an outreach partner.

**"I believe we need to give younger students opportunities to get involved in STEM activities because that's where the jobs are," said Andrea Wilson, K-8 teacher at Kalaniana'ole Elementary School.**

## Local high school students get exposure to pharmacy during summer

CoP welcomed 45 incoming ninth grade students from the Waiakea High School Science Summer Bridge Enrichment Program on June 29.

"Students were invited to the Summer Bridge program if they showed initiative and potential, in addition to good high school assessment scores," said Liz Heffernan, CoP Director of Student Services. "This program is designed to boost students' confidence in science, math, and language arts while emphasizing college and careers."

The students spent time learning about pharmacy through hands-on activities. Clinical Education Coordinator Leslie Rodriguez engaged students behind the counter of a mock pharmacy where they learned to fill a prescription while simulation specialist Rob Moore explained the use of the patient simulator, which is complete with sound and human responses. Laboratory Manager



Waiakea student: Miayah Turner (left), who will be in the ninth grade this fall at Waiakea High School, learns compounding from Dr. Tamara Kondratyuk, CoP laboratory manager.



Waiakea High School students Treyson Cruz (left), Taylor Gilmore-Johnson and Maka Marote have a chance to see how the patient simulator works.

Tamara Kondratyuk involved students in learning how pharmacists use compounding in the lab, and Dana Lynn Koomoa-Lange, assistant professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, explained how Hawaiian plants might be used

to cure cancer. Additionally, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Edward Fisher discussed the non-medical use of prescription drugs.

Teachers from Waiakea High School who attended were Layne Takahashi, Liane Martin and Robin Fujioka.

### Faculty Seminar Series

Dr. Giselle Sholler, MD, Chair of the Neuroblastoma and Medulloblastoma Translational Research Consortium (NMTRC), spoke at CoP's Faculty Seminar Series on the UH Hilo campus on June 13. The title of her talk was "NMTRC Targeted Clinical Trials for Neuroblastoma." Dr. Sholler was a guest and colleague of Dr. André Bachmann, Professor and Chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, who is working with her on the drug DFMO, or alpha-difluoromethylornithine, as a treatment for the pediatric cancer neuroblastoma. Through his translational research over the last 10 years, Dr. Bachmann has introduced the concept of using the ODC-inhibitor DFMO for neuroblastoma treatment and started collaboration with Dr. Sholler in 2008. Shortly thereafter, the researcher-physician team began a phase I study with DFMO/etoposide in relapsed neuroblastoma patients, which is about to be completed. A phase II study has recently opened for patient enrollment in more than 10 U.S. children's hospitals to study the chemopreventive effect of DFMO in neuroblastoma patients in remission with high risk for relapse. Dr. Bachmann serves as a NMTRC co-investigator and committee member on both clinical trials. Dr. Sholler is an Associate Professor at the Van Andel Research Institute in Grand Rapids, MI and works as a Pediatric Oncologist and Director of the Pediatric Oncology Therapeutic Discovery Group at Spectrum Health Medical Group at the Helen DeVos Children's hospital. NMTRC, which was founded by Dr. Sholler, includes 13 children hospitals in the United States. (Photo by André Bachmann.)



# CoP inducts members in first Rho Chi chapter in Hawai'i

The University of Hawaii at Hilo College of Pharmacy (UH Hilo CoP) held the first chapter induction ceremony April 17 for the Delta Iota chapter of Rho Chi Society, the academic honor society in pharmacy.

UH Hilo CoP received a favorable vote to begin the chartering process during the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) annual meeting March 9-12 in New Orleans.

"All top-ranked pharmacy schools have chapters of the Rho Chi Society, and this is just another example of how we are becoming more competitive on a national scale," said Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Dr. Edward Fisher, who petitioned to establish the nationally recognized chapter at UH Hilo. "Our students take this honor seriously."

The Rho Chi Society is a national organization that encourages and recognizes excellence in intellectual achievement and fosters fellowship among its members. Further, the Society encourages high standards of conduct and character, and advocates critical inquiry in all aspects of pharmacy.

Dr. Fisher is a former Rho Chi National Secretary with a long history with Rho Chi. A member since 1979, he has been a member of several committees throughout the years, including the Task Force on Initiative Future Academicians Program, the Faculty Advisor Award Committee, the National Office Development Committee, the Strategic Planning Committee and the Clinical Scholarship Committee.

He said students can expect to make many national professional contacts through membership in the organization.



**"All top-ranked pharmacy schools have chapters of the Rho Chi Society, and this is just another example of how we are becoming more competitive on a national scale."**

– Dr. Edward Fisher

"I still have a plaque in my office from more than 15 years ago when I was nominated Adviser of the Year at Oklahoma State University," he recalled. "Our local chapter was very active that year as we created a permanent scholarship by getting donations from Rho Chi graduates. I was shocked and honored when I heard about it at the National Meeting of Rho Chi held at the National Meeting of APhA. It's something I hold dear and would like other Rho Chi members to experience."

Students must be full-time students who have completed not less than one half of the required professional didactic coursework and rank in the highest 20 percent of their class.

At the induction ceremony, held in UH Hilo Campus Dining Hall, Dean John Pezzuto made the opening remarks. Keynote speaker Dr. Carolyn Ma from the Department of Pharmacy

Practice congratulated the students for achieving the honor of being a Rho Chi member. She joked that although she never qualified to join when she was in pharmacy school at No. 1-ranked University of California-San Francisco, "that was probably because they didn't have someone like me giving tough exams." As adviser, Dr. Supakit Wongwiwatthanakut presented the initiation of Chapter Members, which included the traditional candle lighting ceremony, recital of the pledge and passing out the new member pins.

New members include:

Class of 2011: Lisa M. Hagiwara, Erika M. Miyahira, Casey Ogata, Enoch J.G. Ronduen, Jonathan Tam and Jessica P.M. Toyama.

Class of 2012: Candice M. Carbaugh, Lawrence Y. Chan, Bernie J. Cheng, Megan M. Ching, RaeAnne G. Fuller, Carol Lynn G.Y. Goo, Richelle Y. Hirata, Paul S. Kim, Daralyn M. Kawamoto, Tanya A. Moore, Alexandra M. Perez, Bryceson P.M. Tanaka, Sally T. Van and Wendy A. Yamasaki-Herring.

Class of 2013: Christopher S. Ayson, William J. Engen, Christopher A. Kamei, Alison L. Kobayashi, Marcus A. Kouma, Diem H. Le, Victor W. Lin, Shih-Chia Lu, Tina Marrie K. McDonald, Matthew G. Mullahy, Ahmad A. Musheiness, Jason A. Okazaki, Kaylene M. Peric, Tyler J. Prescott, Matthew A. Sasaki, Prabu R. Segaran, Modaniet Young and May Yu.

Also, full-time faculty who instructs in the PharmD program are eligible to apply. Those who were inducted that night were: Drs. Katherine Anderson, Forrest Batz, Ben Chavez, Lara Gomez, Luoluo Hong, Deborah Taira Juarez, Carolyn Ma and Anthony Wright. Dean Pezzuto and several other faculty formerly have been inducted into Rho Chi.

# An Important Milestone

*The following is an excerpt from Dean John Pezzuto's speech to first Rho Chi members at UH Hilo.*

As you all know, just a few years ago, this college was little more than a hope and a dream. We started in 2006, with essentially one person, and now we have grown to a faculty staff and student body of around 500. What a nice accomplishment for Hawaii and the little town of Hilo. Based on what I know now, I would say this is a phenomenon. On behalf of the college and the university and the community as a whole, thank you all for your hard work, perseverance, and success.

As a scientist, I understand the importance of growth. In studies where you treat rats with a drug, for example, some of the most important things to measure are growth and body weight. Why? It is because if these things are good, you know many other things are good. So yes, having grown to a population of about 500 tells us that many things have been accomplished and many things are good. You know many of the critical milestones we have passed. Graduation of the first class, gaining full accreditation, starting PhD, MS and residency programs, building our research and educational infrastructure, to name a few.

And tonight we will witness another milestone. One for our history book. A new chapter of the Rho Chi Society has been established at UH Hilo and tonight you will be inducted as the first members of this chapter. Congratulations to you all. We should thank Dr. Fisher for taking the lead in having this chapter established, and Supakit for serving as faculty advisor for the group.

And as we cross this important milestone, we need to continue looking forward and remember where we are going. You have heard me say it before, but I will say it once again, we are headed toward becoming a Top 25 college of pharmacy.

And what will it take to become a top 25 school?

Yes, we need a permanent building. Thanks to your help, and the help of many others, the building is currently in the state budget. We will know where we stand in about two weeks.

But I can tell you being a top school means much more than a permanent building. UCFS, widely regarded as the number one college of pharmacy in the United States, does not have a single building. What is most critical? It is our intellect. And here I stand with some of our most intellectual student pharmacists who will soon be inducted as charter members of the Rho Chi Society.

So, in other words, our future reputation depends on you. When you go out into the work force, you should be proud to say: hell no, I am NOT from UC San Francisco. I am from UH Hilo. I am a Vulcan pharmacist. I am one of a kind.



# Merrie Monarch Parade

Thousands of spectators cheered for the College of Pharmacy during the Merrie Monarch procession April 14. This was the fifth year CoP was represented in the parade, 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 route through downtown Hilo, passing by the Royal Court. Reusable bags for candy were donated by KTA. (Photos by André Bachmann and Robbyn Peck)



Photo by Robbyn Peck

# Kappa Psi hits the ground running with community service projects

By Davis Hanai, Class of 2015  
Co-Chair, Community Service, Kappa Psi

Despite having the hurdle and disadvantage of only forming in the Spring 2012 semester, Kappa Psi at UHH has been able to complete and begun work on many community service projects aimed to benefit the people of the Hilo community and strengthen the bonds with community organizations.

To most first-year students of Kappa Psi, our biggest project involved the Hawaii Island Adult Care (HIAC) located under the UHH CoP Annex at Rainbow Drive. As a first-year rotation site, many students fell in love with the clients at the daycare, reminding many of us of our grandparents, parents, aunties and uncles. We decided we wanted to spend more time with Hilo's kupuna and companionships with these members of the community often neglected. With over 70 combined volunteer hours (and at least 25 more planned before the end of semester) with the clients at HIAC, Kappa Psi members have really taken to heart the idea that "Hilo is our community" for the next few years and are even more motivated to do the most good for the community while we are here.

Members enjoyed spending time "talking story" to the clients and staff at HIAC so much, we decided we wanted to "adopt" HIAC as the target of our philanthropic efforts this semester. As we were a small group of individuals, we decided on a goal of raising \$1,000 dollars on behalf of HIAC, which would go far in purchasing program supplies and making general repairs to the building. Members worked hard to organize a fundraiser that would even include the fourth-year students, family members, and faculty/staff. Members tried to think "outside of the box" in setting up a paypal account (something we had not seen in previous fundraisers) to allow family members and relatives to support our efforts. We were able to receive an offer of a \$1,000 matching funds by an organization very supportive of the community: KTA Superstores. With an outpouring of support from faculty, staff, students and their families, we were able to raise \$1,261 after three weeks of fundraising! This also occurred during the midst of two other very important fundraisers for the Hilo Heart Walk and Relay for Life.

With the success of our organization's first real community service event, members were enlivened to plan and coordinate more philanthropic missions, including working on someday creating a student clinic based out of UHH (a long term goal for many members of Kappa Psi),

creating a relationship with HOPE services (which has seven homeless shelters throughout the island of Hawai'i), which may include: a donation drive, financial tutoring to adults, reading to children, medication safety class.

Kappa Psi outreach to community organizations has paid off. We are now involved in a wellness fair planned by KTA. We will also be sending members to help with a Teen Health Camp aimed to foster interest in medical fields amongst high schoolers on the Big Island. KTA members are planning on being involved with the BJ Penn Youth Foundation, which aims to teach sportsmanship, community service, and integrity to teens (often labeled and stigmatized as "troubled") through the common interest of martial arts.

Other projects in the works include: Working with HEAD start to provide education to pregnant/single mothers; Habitat for Humanity projects.

Kappa Psi aims to be innovative and creative in our ways to approach community service and philanthropy. Although many organizations have made a big impact and are deserving of the student organization of the year award, to choose Kappa Psi would do wonders for moral of our small group of motivated individuals. The biggest hurdles we have had to overcome have been being the newcomer and questions of "why is Kappa Psi needed?" The one common interest all members of Kappa Psi share is our dedication to community service. This is the main pillar upon which we are based. It would be great to show our members that despite being new and not having and many connections/relationships with pre-existing organizations/events, we still can be a force in the community as long as we stay dedicated to our goals. It would also be a great way for us to recruit like-minded individuals who want to make a difference in the community.



# Summer 2012 Faculty Briefs



**Julie Adrian**, DVM, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice, co-authored “The new cooperative medical system in China: a cure for all?” in the *International Journal of Healthcare Information Systems and Informatics*.

**Katherine Anderson**, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice, presented a poster at the American Geriatrics Society Annual Conference in Seattle May 4 entitled, “Using cognitive screens to predict pillbox organizational skills.”



**André Bachmann**, associate professor and chair, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, gave a presentation at Dell’s Children’s Medical Center Of Central Texas, in Austin entitled “DFMO/eflornithine in neuroblastoma: Latest progress and advancement to a phase II clinical study” May 16-17, 2012. The meeting was the Annual Neuroblastoma and Medulloblastoma



Translational Research Consortium (NMTRC) conference, of which Dr. Bachmann is a consortium member for and co-investigator on both phase I and new phase II clinical trials with DFMO. Dr. Bachmann also spoke at St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital in Memphis, TN. The title of his talk was “Advancement of DFMO/etoposide to a FDA-approved phase I/II clinical trial.”

**Ben Chavez**, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice, organized a peer-reviewed abstract submission and poster session at the Hawaii Pharmacists Association (HPhA) annual meeting April 28-29. Chosen abstracts were published in the June issue of the *Hawaii Medical Journal*. Dr. Chavez also presented a poster session with Paula Zeszotarski, entitled “Perceived utility of a distance learning system in a professional university by students and faculty” at the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Annual Meeting, Kissimmee, Florida in July.



**Mahavir Chougule**, assistant professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received \$8,600 for his seed



grant proposal entitled “Development of targeted nanocarrier system for the treatment of lung cancer” from the UHH Research Council. Dr. Chougule also was co-author on a paper published in *The European Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences* entitled “Pharmacokinetic evaluation and In Vitro-In Vivo

Correlation (IVVC) of novel methylene-substituted 3,3’ diindolylmethane (DIM).”

**Liz Heffernan**, Director of Student Services, was first author on two poster abstracts: 1) “Applicant Trends in Seat Deposit Forfeits for Colleges & Schools of Pharmacy” with co-authors Kristy M Nakamura, Cara R Suefuji, and Darius T Kalvaitis, which she presented at the 2012 AACP Annual Meeting in Kissimmee, Florida, in July; and 2) “An Innovative Exploration of Kalaupapa’s Distinctive History Impacts the Cultural Perspectives of Student Pharmacists in Relationship to Patient Care” published in the June 2012 Hawaii Journal of Medicine and Public Health. This poster was also presented at the 2012 Hawaii Pharmacist Association (HPhA) Annual meeting. Co-authors are Darius Kalvaitis, Prabu Segaran, and Edward Fisher. Ms. Heffernan also published a poster abstract “Marshallese Mobile Screening Clinic” in the Hawaii Journal of Medicine and Public Health, with lead co-author Shanele Shimabuku and co-authors Cassie L. Kim and Chris Lai Hipp. This poster was also presented at the 2012 Hawaii Pharmacist Association (HPhA) Annual meeting.



**Susan I. Jarvi**, associate professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Director of the Pre-Pharmacy Program: 1) was awarded a grant from the Avian Health and Disease Program USFWS for a project entitled “A statewide targeted pathogen surveillance study: Diversity of Avipoxvirus and avian malaria (*Plasmodium relictum*) in native Hawaiian forest birds” (May 2012). Coinvestigators include Carter Atkinson and Erik Vender Werf; 2) was awarded a Medical Research grant from the Hawaii Community Foundation entitled “Efficacy of a vaccine against *Angiostrongylus costaricensis* to *A. cantonensis* in rats from Hawaii” (June 2012). Collaborators include Antonio Osuna, Director, Instituto de Biotecnología Universidad de Granada, Spain, Will Pitt USDA-APHIS; 3) was awarded a UHH Research Council Seed grant award entitled “Development and optimization of quantitative PCR and ELISA tests for the detection of Hawaii *Angiostrongylus cantonensis* (rat lungworm) in blood using a rat model (May 2012); 4) received a travel award from the American Association of Immunologists to attend the annual meeting in Boston





May 4-8 where she presented a poster entitled: Vaccination of endangered Hawaiian geese (Nēnē, *Branta sandvicensis*) against West Nile Virus using a protein-based vaccine (WN-80E). Co-authors include Darcy Hu, Kathleen Misajon, Beth-Ann Collier, Teri Wong, Michael M. Lieberman; 5) presented a talk at the American Society of Microbiologists-Hawaii Chapter with post-baccalaureate student Kay Howe April 21 in Honolulu entitled: Reducing *Angiostrongylus cantonensis* infection on the Island of Hawaii through an integrated educational and research approach. Co-authors include Peggy Farias, Robert Hollingsworth, William Pitt, and Steven Jacquier; 6) has a paper entitled "Vaccination of captive Nene against West Nile Virus using a protein-based vaccine (WN-80E)" that was accepted by the *J of Wildlife Diseases* (May 2012). Authors include: Jarvi S.I., D. Hu, K. Misajon, B.A. Collier, T. Wong, M. Lieberman.

**Deborah Juarez**, associate professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice, presented two posters at the 2012 International Society of Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) annual meeting in Washington, D.C. on June 5: 1) "Factors Associated with Three Years of Poor or Highly Variable Glycemic Control Among Diabetic Patients in Hawai'i"; 2) "Impact of Sustained Hemoglobin A1c Control on Health Care Costs." Co-authors for both were Sheri Tokumar, Pharm. D. and Roy Goo, Pharm. D. of Pharmacy Practice and Tetine Sentell, Ph.D., James Davis, Ph.D., and Marjorie Mau, MD. She was also invited to give a talk entitled "Costs of Obesity" at a "Weight of Hawai'i: The Need for Obesity Prevention and Policy" symposium June 22 hosted by Governor Abercrombie, M.R.C. Greenwood, President of the University of Hawai'i, and Loretta J. Fuddy, Director of the Hawai'i State Department of Health. The symposium features three speakers from the Institute of Medicine, is part of a national campaign to reverse the obesity epidemic, and is a follow-up to the HBO special, *The Weight of the Nation*.



**Eugene Konorev**, assistant professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a grant in the amount of \$49,993 from the Ingeborg V.F. McKee Fund of the Hawaii Community Foundation. The grant will fund research on "Inhibition of Cardiac Vascular Network Formation by Targeted

Anticancer Drug Sorafenib" from May 16 this year to Nov. 15, 2013.

**Carolyn Ma**, associate professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice, was accepted by the scientific committee to give an oral presentation at the 12th Annual Asia Clinical Pharmacy Meeting on July 8 in Hong Kong. The title of her



talk was "University of Hawaii at Hilo College of Pharmacy students participate in Hawaii Asthma Friendly Pharmacy Project for Hawaii Department of Health."



**Ghee Tan**, assistant professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was selected for the Teacher Recognition Award by the national organization, Graduate Women in Science (GWIS) and the Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity (SEED) program of UH Manoa. She was recognized at the 55th Hawaii

State Science and Engineering Fair (HSSEF) held at the Hawaii Convention Center in Honolulu April 4 for mentoring Hilo High School 12th grader, Shalila de Bourmont.

**Anthony D. Wright**, associate professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was co-author on an article entitled Update of Spectroscopic data for 4-Hydroxydictyolactone and Dictyol E isolated from a *Halimeda stuposa* and *Dictyota* sp., assemblage, in *Molecules*, 2012. Dr. Wright also wrote an editorial in *J. Marine Sci. Res. Development* entitled "Marine Natural Products: Value, Sustainability, Funding, and the Future." Working in his summer lab are Patrick R. Wright from University of Freiburg in Germany, Benjamin Zee from Washington State University, Nicole Tabandera, CoP Class of 2014, and NK Suleman from the University of Guam.



**Paula Zeszotarski**, assessment coordinator, presented a poster session with Lara Gomez, director of clinical education; Candace Tan, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice; and Supakit Wongwithananikut, associate professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice, entitled "Impact of a Capstone Course on Students' Performance in the Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE)" at the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Annual Meeting, Kissimmee, Florida in July.

# IPPE Preceptor of the Year 2012: Alex Evans

**D**r. Alex Evans was named Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences (IPPE) Preceptor of the Year for 2012. CoP Clinical Education Coordinator Pat Juscak presented the IPPE Preceptor of the Year Award to Dr. Evans at the Awards Ceremony dinner in May.

He is “Pharmacist in Charge” at PharMerica in Hilo. PharMerica provides long-term care pharmacy services, with locations throughout the country.

Dr. Evans moved to Hawaii from North Carolina in April 2011. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and received his Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he was the recipient of the CR Walgreen excellence in pharmacy scholarship.

He is currently interested in public health and is working with CoP librarian Amy Knehans to develop a resource for clinics in the developing world to have access to drug stability information in tropical environments. He says this would improve their ability to set proper beyond-use dates based on their climate and would hopefully improve inventory control and reduce costs.

He has a particular interest in compounding pharmacy, and has taught workshops on sterile compounding techniques for both UH Hilo as well as PharMerica. He also has taught workshops on USP 797, a federal regulation that governs a wide range of pharmacy policies and procedures.

Dr. Evans precepts students for Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences (IPPE) and

Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPE). During the APPE practice experiences, students will receive training in sterile compounding, clinical pharmacokinetics, and geriatric pharmacotherapy, and gain valuable experience in long-term care pharmacy.

Being a preceptor to students is the best way for a pharmacist to make an impact on the profession and on the community, Dr. Evans says. “It allows us to not only impact the lives of our patients but the lives of future pharmacists and their patients as well. In addition, precepting pushes us to become better pharmacists.” He says he loves to teach and is also interested in learning theory and methods to improve his own teaching.

When not involved in his pharmacy career, Dr. Evans likes to scuba dive, play the piano and cook. Don't be surprised to find him playing jazz piano around town with many of the wonderful musicians living on the island of Hawaii.



*Photo by Daniel Kim*



# APPE Preceptor of the Year 2012: Fred Cruz

## In his words...

**Fred Cruz**, RPh, Director, Pharmacy Operations, Hawaii at CVS Caremark, was named Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE) Preceptor of the Year for 2012.

I remember back almost 35 years ago when I was getting ready to graduate from pharmacy school at the University of Houston and was doing my internship rotations. It was as if though I was going to be starting a new job every six weeks and questions running through my head were: Will traffic be bad? What time should I leave the house? Where will I park? Who will greet me first? Will the staff be pleasant or unkind? Will my preceptor be willing to teach me how to be a good pharmacist or am I going to be a bother to him or her? Will I be smart enough for the rotation and impress the staff or will I make too many mistakes for them to talk bad about me? Will it be busy and make the day go by fast or will it be slow and be a long, drawn out day? Going in on the first day with butterflies in my stomach on the first day, I found my internship rotations to be one of the best experiences I have ever had.

Eight of my ten preceptors were some of the best mentors that I could have had and it was because of the other two that I promised myself to never be like them, nor would I ever make any interns feel like they were a bother to me or my staff for that nature. If I was ever to be a preceptor in the future I would be sure and make them all feel welcome and be sure to stop and answer their questions, no matter how busy I am.

My relationship with UH Hilo Pharmacy School has been nothing but the best for my staff and for me at Careplus pharmacy. It has truly been rewarding to see the interns when they begin their rotation and ask them if they know what “specialty” pharmacy is all about. All of them have said they have no idea. However, by the end of their rotation when they tell me that they are glad they signed up for the rotation and learned a whole lot, at that point I know that my staff and I have succeeded in making the experience for them one of the best they have had.

In addition to being the Pharmacist in Charge and one out of five pharmacists on staff, my specialty is HIV. Having been a specialist in HIV for over 15 years, I am able to tell the interns what it is they need to know about HIV and what points are of most importance in counseling patients regarding their medications.

One of the most important aspects of the rotations is



*Lara Gomez, Director of Clinical Education, presented the APPE Preceptor of the Year Award to Fred Cruz at the Graduation Celebration dinner.*

allowing all of my interns to be able to attend all of the HIV dinners sponsored by the pharmaceutical companies and getting to meet all of the key physicians and providers of HIV in the state of Hawaii. Many have come across the names of the physicians in some of their other rotations but finally getting to meet them in person and see my interaction with them and the trust they have in me as an HIV specialist is one of the points I want the interns to take home with them.

I want them to realize what an integral part they as future pharmacists can be in taking care of clients and making a difference in their quality of life. The interaction I have with the clients as their pharmacist is also what I want all of the interns to take home with them, the fact that they the clients will confide in me, much more than they would their own physicians.

Having been awarded the “Preceptor of the Year” award this year has been an honor for me. I would be remiss, however, if I don’t recognize my entire staff at Careplus who are all dedicated and committed to teaching and making the interns experience a rewarding one. I would like to especially recognize Karie Terada, who stepped up and helped me with coordinating the rotations for the Interns and ensuring that they kept stimulated throughout their entire rotation.

This coming year I have been asked by UH Hilo to give a four-hour lecture on HIV, which again I am truly honored. This will be especially rewarding to me as I will be able to teach all of the students about HIV and the current issues with the disease. I have been truly rewarded with the opportunity to hopefully show these young new pharmacy students what a difference they will make in people’s lives in the future as well as be great “preceptors” if the opportunity should ever arise for them as well.

**CVS**  
**CAREM R<sub>x</sub>**

# UH Hilo pharmacy students begin rotations on Kauai; make a huge impact

By Roy Alan Goo, PharmD  
Assistant Professor, Pharmacy Practice

This summer Kauai became a major site for introductory pharmacy practice experiences (IPPE) and advanced pharmacy practice experience (APPE) rotations, hosting five fourth-year students and nine third-year students. In the few short months that students have been working through Wilcox Memorial Hospital (WMH) they have already begun to make a huge impact on the community with the implementation of several groundbreaking initiatives.

In May, Kaylene Peric and Melissa Yoneda, both fourth-year students, worked with representatives from the Department of Health (DOH) and the Community Alliance for Mental Health to develop two community driven workshops held at Kauai Community College. The Third Annual Consumer, Family and the Youth Alliance Mental Health Conference focused on increasing community understanding of the role of medication therapy in the management of mental disorders such as depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder as well as attention deficit and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. There were an estimated 200 people in attendance, including members of the community, caregivers as well as other healthcare professionals. The workshops ended up being such a huge success that the DOH requested similar workshops for Hilo, Kona and Maui. As a result of the workshops developed by Melissa and Kaylene, Dr. Candace Tan helped two additional fourth-year students present similar workshops at an event at Chiefess Kapiolani Elementary School in Hilo.

Third-year students Jack Goldsberry and Jimmy Stevens completed a medication-use evaluation for Procrit, a treatment for anemia resulting from chronic kidney failure, to assess provider and pharmacy compliance with recent FDA safety statements, which recommend more conservative dosing for this agent. Results of their study were presented to the hospital administration and were used to refine a pharmacy driven monitoring protocol for Procrit and other ESAs.

In June, Mariko Katagiri and Maurina Bartlett, third-year students, joined the fourth-year students to run a booth at the two-day Nursing Competency Fair, where they helped to educate approximately 200 nurses on the proper way to dispose of hazardous medications and how to handle a "code orange." The hospital staff commented about the student's level of professionalism and competency. Sharon Contrades, MSN,

RN-BC, the clinical education manager, said the students did an excellent job and sent out a personal thank you to the students for their role in ensuring the competency of the entire nursing staff at WMH.

Perhaps the largest contribution that the students have made to WMH is the initiation and implementation of an antibiotic stewardship program. Everyday Melissa and Kaylene reviewed the medication records of all the patients admitted to WMH and identified patients which patients were either on multiple intravenous antibiotics, broad spectrum antibiotics or expensive agents such as daptomycin or linezolid. These patients were consolidated on a list that was distributed to the Infectious Diseases (ID) team, which was comprised of the UHH COP faculty member, the ID physician and the infection control nurse. Twice a week the fourth-year students worked up and presented each patient to the ID team along with pertinent recommendations. Over the course of the one-month trial period, more than 50 recommendations were made including antibiotic dosage adjustments, discontinuation of unnecessary agents and conversion to oral dosage forms.

Both the third- and fourth-year students who rotated through Kauai will be presenting their contributions at several conferences this upcoming year in the form of professional posters and articles. The student contribution to Kauai is a perfect example of the impact that pharmacy students can have on a rural community and the role that students play in improving quality of care and community involvement.



Third-year pharmacy student Mariko Katagiri presented information to Wilcox Memorial Hospital hospital staff on Kauai at a two-day Nursing Competency Fair in June.

# Rotation Reports: Student Perspectives from Wilcox Memorial Hospital

**Melissa Yoneda**, Class of 2013

- Dr. Goo provided us with many opportunities during our acute medicine rotation at Wilcox Memorial



Hospital. During our rotation we were able to participate in the Antibiotic Stewardship program, give

a presentation on mental health disorders and medications, conduct a medication use evaluation, educate nurses at the Nursing Competency Fair on proper disposal of hazardous medications and procedures for spills, make interventions regarding antibiotic regimens and anticoagulation therapy, calculate Vancomycin dosing, Coumadin counseling, and precepting third-year students.

Participating in the Antibiotic Stewardship program was a unique and awesome experience for me. It consisted of rounding with Dr. Roy Goo, Dr. Jimmy Yoon, an infectious disease doctor, and Mary Wheaton, an infection control nurse biweekly. Each day we would go through patients' charts and create a list of patients who were on multiple IV antibiotics or on expensive antibiotics.

At our biweekly rounds, we would discuss the appropriateness of patients current antibiotic regimens, as well as make interventions. We also presented and discussed the different classes of antibiotics. Through this program, I learned to work up and identify pertinent information from the patient charts, evaluate their conditions, and

make recommendations. This program also expanded my knowledge of the spectrum and uses of antibiotics. If it were not for Dr. Goo, Dr. Yoon, and Mary Wheaton, I would not have been able to experience an opportunity like this.

Besides participating in the Antibiotic Stewardship program, we were able to impact the community on Kaua'i by giving a presentation on mental health disorders and medications. Our presentation mainly focused on depression and antidepressants, but covered general points on medication therapy. The purpose of our presentation was to highlight the importance of medications and communication with health care providers, as well as the side effects and unique aspects of therapy. Through this presentation we were able to educate the public on the importance of medications in mental health disorders.

**Kaylene Peric**, Class of 2013

- Prior to my first block, I had never been to Kauai and didn't know what to expect for my acute medicine



rotation. I knew Wilcox was a small, rural hospital and wondered if I would see a lot of diverse disease states, or be a part

of as many pharmacy interventions as would be seen at a larger institution in a more populated area. But, the experience at Wilcox proved me wrong.

The amount of trust doctors and other health care members have

in pharmacists and how our role affects patient care was obvious. Dr. Goo included us in opportunities both within the hospital and in the community.

Two highlights for me were participating in the start of an antibiotic stewardship program with an Infectious Disease doctor, and presenting the role of medications in mental health disorders at a conference held at the community college.

We also evaluated the hospital's usage and potential cost savings of the antibiotic carbapenem class formulary change. We not only studied safety and efficacy differences between agents, but also considered the stability, storage, and administration of medications that must be taken into account specific to Wilcox.

Looking back, I realize the reason why we as pharmacy students were able to contribute and participate in many different activities was in part because Wilcox is a smaller institution. But it also was because clinicians trust and value the knowledge of our preceptor, Dr. Goo.

The teamwork attitude amongst the health care professionals and staff members was similar to a family. I left Kauai with a different view on rural health care systems and gained a lot out of the six weeks that other locations may not offer. I was able to see a hospital's impact not only on admitted patients, but also on the community as a whole.

# ALUMNI Updates

**Jason Jay Braithwaite**, Class of 2011, recently finished his PGY1 Pharmacy practice residency and just started a PGY2 Pharmacy Administrative Residency based out of Intermountain Healthcare's corporate office in Salt Lake City. Intermountain has 23 hospitals and 24 outpatient clinic pharmacies as well as central fill and central distribution facilities. He is finishing master's degree in Pharmacotherapy Outcomes Research and Health Policy with a focus on comparative effectiveness research and expects to graduate in May 2013.

He works on Staff Cardiac Intensive Care Unit on weekends. He and his wife live in Layton, Utah with their two daughters, Lily, 2 years old, and Nora, who is 4 months old.

**Jill Gelviro**, Class of 2011, joined Carolyn Ma for an academic rotation in June. She also accepted the position of ambulatory care clinical pharmacist at the Southcentral Foundation's Anchorage Native Primary Care Center in Anchorage, Alaska. Many fourth-year pharmacy students from across the nation, including UH Hilo, select this site for their Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE) rotations.

**Trenton D. Teruya**, Class of 2011, is working at Foodland Pharmacy in Aiea, Hawaii on Oahu.

**Daniel Hu**, Class of 2012, has been hired as Health Disparities Fellow for the next year beginning July 1 in UH Hilo College of Pharmacy, funded by the Food and Drug Administration's Office of Minority Health.

[Editor's Note: All CoP alumni are welcome to submit to this section. E-mail: [morrismm@hawaii.edu](mailto:morrismm@hawaii.edu).]

*[The following is an excerpt from a letter to Dr. Carolyn Ma, reprinted with permission.]*



I can't believe it's April already and another class is graduating from UHH CoP. I remember all the years there, uncertain of the future and what I can make of myself. Even last year as we walked for graduation, took the NAPLEX in a speedy hurry to compete for jobs, applied and interviewed and felt despair, I would never have thought to be so blessed and be where I am today.

So where am I? Well, I am proud to boast that I am among the few clinical pharmacist consultants for Omnicare LTC. Pretty good for starting out a career, don't you think? The things this job encompasses, if there were time to tell!

I just wanted to say thank you, to you and all the staff members for your dedication to us students despite the frustrations of being a new school. I hope students like me, among the many others that are impacting patients lives and physician's practices every day, make the frustrations worth it. I often use skills we learned during those didactic and rotation years that I would never have thought we'd ever use. The biggest example, being a shy and nervous individual and having to go through all those presentations, I now deliver quarterly reports and conduct psychotropic interdisciplinary meetings confident and assertive. And let me tell you confidence makes a HUGE difference on persuading prescriber's decisions on pharmacy recommendations. Although my road in learning is endless as a pharmacist, I'm glad it started with UHH CoP.

I hope many of us former students contact you and have stories that make you proud. Again, thank you for being such a wonderful professor and adviser to us.

Best Regards,  
Krystin Duong, PharmD, Class 2011

# CoP Dean's List, Spring 2012

The following University of Hawaii at Hilo College of Pharmacy students have achieved a GPA of at least 3.5 and have been named to the Dean's List for the 2012 spring semester. The class of 2012 was performing clinical rotations and therefore this designation does not apply.

## Class of 2013 (\* indicates achieving Dean's List every semester for the past three years):

Kurt Adkins, Christopher Ayson, Gina Chan, Kira Chung, Phuongquynh Doan, William Engen\*, Jackwayne Fernandez, Ryan Gaspar, Nargis Hassan, Christopher Kamei\*, Margaret Kang, Alison Kobayashi\*, Marcus Kouma\*, Aaron Lani, Diem Le\*, Victor Lin\*, Cheryl Lopez, Shih-Chia Lu, Brynn Macumber, Tina Marrie McDonald\*, Tasha Medeiros, Mathew Mullahy\*, Ahmad Musheiness, Jason Okazaki\*, Chanel Opunui, Steven Osgood, Kaylene Peric\*, Mylan Phan, Tyler Prescott\*, Rosa Quan\*, Matthew Sasaki\*, Nicole Schauer, Prabu Segaran\*, Jordan Shibata, Takeshi Shikuma, Shanelle Shimabuku, Reece Uyeno, Irving Veilleux, William Walker, Jonathan Williamson, Melissa Yoneda, Modaniet Young\*, May Yu\*

## Class of 2014:

Miho Aoki, Maurina Bartlett, Jeffrey Christley, Joanne Daproza, Jizan-Anne Evangelista, Jack Goldsberry, Brianne Gustilo, Rachel Jardin, Jaymie Kanda, Mariko Katagiri, Daniel Kim, Michelle Kim, Kyle Kumashiro, Andy-Long Le, Dana Lee, Yan Feng Lin, Sharon Lum, Janine Masri, Janelle Matsukawa, Tracy Nakama, Steven Nishimoto, Shadi Obeidi, Naoto Oki, John Opuku-Ansah, Keri Oyadomari, Sidney Pham, Behnam Rostami, Jed Sana, Caroline Sousa, Stacie Takahashi, Koon Ting, Hana Tran, Christopher Tsue, Ann Txakeeyang, Dayna Michelle Wong,

## Class of 2015:

Brianne Blakesley, Andrea Brauer, Chao Cox, Jozelle Gabriel, Davis Hanai, Daniel Hasegawa, Kelly Ishizuka, Brian John, Madison Karr, Tiffany Khan, Traci Kusaka, Daniel Leong, Jennie Lim, Wei Lin, Kristina Lo, Chelsea Murobayashi, Tracy Ng, Eric Ngo, Alysia Osugi, Jarred Prudencio, LaTasha Riddick, Natalie Savona, Lindsey Takara, Trina Tran, Antonio Verduzco, Jill Anne Villarosa, Jillian Wewers, Nichole Wilson, Allison Yamashita, Akio Yanagisawa

