

One who mixes ingredients, drugs or medications: a pharmacist

Kāwili Lā'au

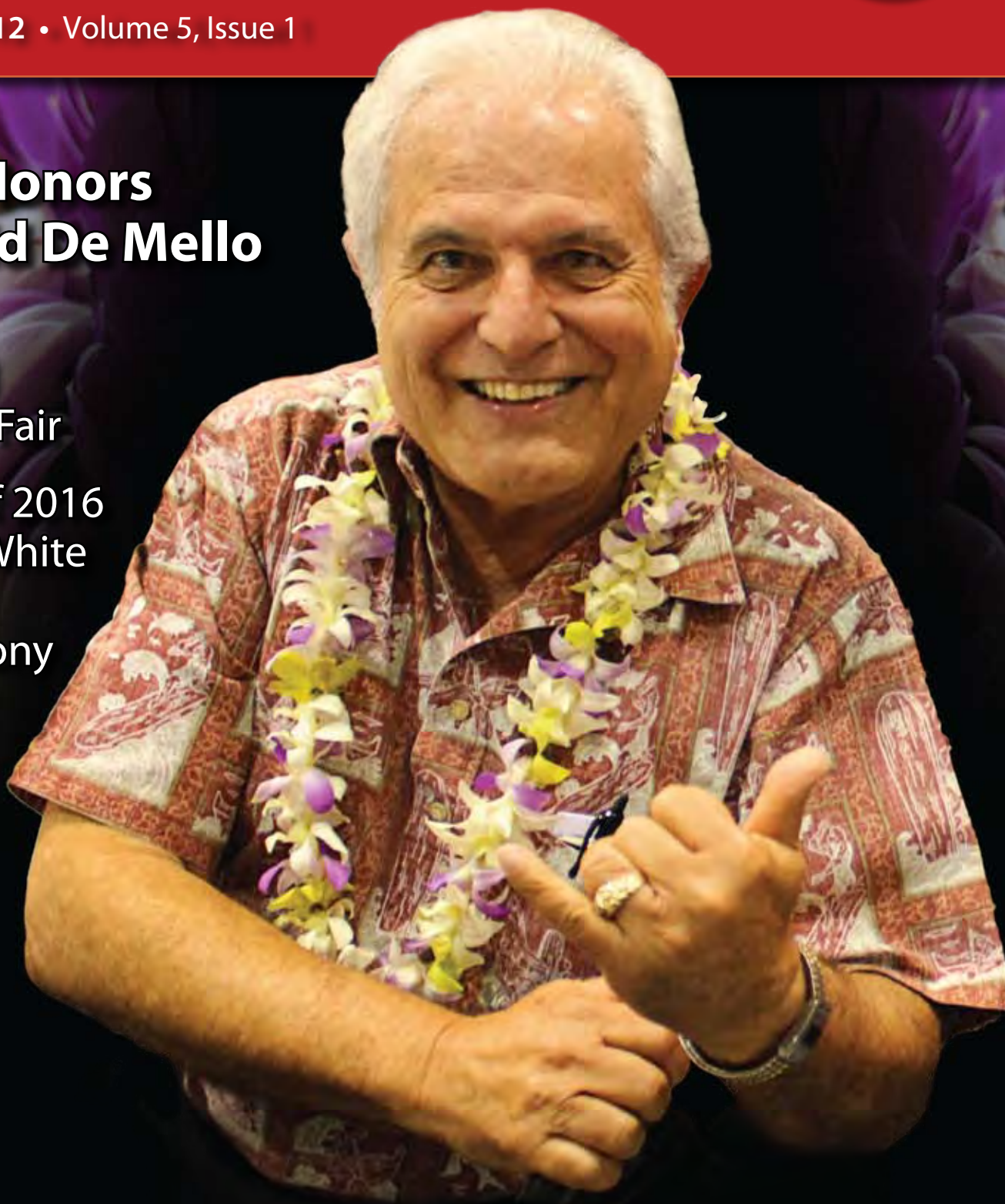
Fall 2012 • Volume 5, Issue 1



CoP Honors Gerald De Mello

Fourth
Annual
Health Fair

Class of 2016
Holds White
Coat
Ceremony



Dean's Message



We have the honor of featuring Gerald De Mello on the cover of this magazine at the same time we are faced with the tribulation of his retirement from the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. On the one hand, I'm happy our friend and colleague had made the decision to spend more time with his family and wish him that old adage, "the best is yet to be." But on the other hand, as one who has shaken his hand over-and-over, I have to say he will be sorely missed.

Nonetheless, giving him the Advancement of Pharmacy Excellence (APEX) Award was a timely happenstance because we were able to make the presentation without the hint of it being a "retirement token." This award is set aside for people who have been most influential in the creation of the College of Pharmacy in Hawai'i and is not given out lightly. With covert assistance from his secretary Myrtle Hara and his wife Claudette, we managed to surprise him at a banquet last spring, and I don't think he would mind if I said I saw a few tears in his eyes. Gerald stood by the College of Pharmacy from day one, never doubted our success, and never wanted to take any credit. His credit is overdue.

If you are unfamiliar with Gerald's role in helping inform the community about the initial plans to start a college of pharmacy on the Big Island of Hawai'i, please take the time to read our historical document *Emergence of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy*, which we announce in this issue. If you don't have a copy, let us know, and we will send it to you. It's safe to say no one would have been better equipped to accomplish what Gerald did on our behalf. We are grateful for his trust, his belief and his friendship, and this issue is another way of documenting our indebtedness.

As you can see by other stories in this issue, progress continues. The accreditation of our residency program puts us one more step towards joining pharmacy schools ranked in the Top 25 in *US News and World Report*. The Class of 2016 is well underway, the health fair continues to attract and engage the community, we have new faculty and highly respected seminar speakers rounding out the education of students and faculty alike.

So enjoy getting to know Gerald while you can, and find out about some of our students and graduates. Looking ahead, watch for the next special edition of Kawili La'au that focuses on the essential research we are conducting that will take us into 2013 and beyond.

As always, thank you for your continued support.



John M. Pezzuto
Professor and Dean



Kāwili Lā'au

Fall, 2012 Volume 5, Issue 1

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



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII
HILO

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ON THE COVER –
Gerald DeMello



Dean John Pezzuto (left) Gerald and Claudette De Mello and their granddaughter, Tia Medeiros.

CoP Honors Gerald De Mello with Advancement of Pharmacy Excellence Award

In a surprise announcement at the CoP's Class of 2012 Commencement Dinner Celebration May 11, Gerald De Mello was presented with the Advancement of Pharmacy Excellence (APEX) award. The APEX award is the highest recognition that can be offered for avid friends and associates who have made significant and indelible contributions to the College. Gerald was recognized for his role in the creation and success of Hawai'i's College of Pharmacy.

"Gerald De Mello was responsible for bringing the legislature and community together to create a school of pharmacy in Hilo from the beginning," said John M. Pezzuto, Dean of the College of Pharmacy. "His commitment to giving education a priority on the Big Island of Hawai'i is nothing short of inspirational. He has mastered the ability to inform powerful forces on Oahu of that mission, and his unswerving loyalty to UH Hilo is something for all to emu-

late. We're fortunate to call him a friend to the College."

Mr. De Mello said it came as a complete surprise. "I have received various types of recognition over the years, but being acknowledged by the College of Pharmacy through the APEX award touches me deeply. I am very honored. Although I will officially retire from the University soon, I plan to continue supporting the College as much as I can. I have always appreciated the many success stories of the College. They exemplify the significant progress we have made on the Big Island," he said. "I know there will be many more success stories to come. I am really looking forward to the groundbreaking ceremony for the permanent facility."

Claudette De Mello, who was Gerald's high school sweetheart before he went to the mainland to go to college, said she was appreciative of the award recognizing her husband's dedication. Even though his work often has taken

him away "24-7," she knew about his work ethic when she married him 23 years ago.

"He has a great love for UH Hilo and for the Big Island, and he goes over and above on projects he feels passionate about," she said. "Even though he's retiring, he keeps telling me he's still going to help the College of Pharmacy as a community volunteer go forward with getting funding for the permanent building. I understand that."

She said he was additionally happy the night of the ceremony because one of their five grandchildren, Tia Medeiros, was able to attend the ceremony because she had been considering starting the Pre-Pharmacy program.

Hawai'i Representative Jerry Chang remembers Gerald as "one of his older brothers best friends in high school and a really good guy." He said he was pleasantly surprised when Gerald became UHH Government and Community Relations Director, lobbying at the legislature on important issues and projects for UH Hilo.

Rep. Chang, who retired from office in November said, "Looking back at the 24 years I have worked with Gerald, I appreciate all he has accomplished to improve the quality of higher education at UH Hilo and share in his belief that Hawaii needs to prepare our young population to be self-sufficient and gain the skills



Rep. Jerry Chang

to carry them into an ever-changing global society."

Gerald De Mello has been Director of University Relations at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo since 1991. In this capacity, he has negotiated with state and federal officials about bills and funding requests for the university, and has served as advisor and consultant to the Chancellor on policies and procedures.

Chancellor Emerita Rose Tseng, who was UH Hilo Chancellor from 1998-2010, said she trusts Gerald "whole heartedly." Together they worked hard and were known by some legislators as the "Hilo Power Duo" because they were successful in getting many buildings and projects funded.



Dr. Rose Tseng

"Gerald was an invaluable facilitator when I started as Chancellor at UH Hilo. The depth of his knowledge really gave me a running start," said Dr. Tseng, who now serves as professor in the College of Pharmacy. "He had built a solid reputation throughout the state not only for the university but for being a trustworthy, reliable Hilo citizen."

Gerald De Mello also was right-hand man to current Chancellor Donald O. Straney, who moved to Hawai'i in 2010.

"Gerald De Mello was responsible for bringing the legislature and community together to create a school of pharmacy in Hilo from the beginning,"

- John M. Pezzuto

"Gerald's personality and professionalism have played a big role in opening doors and creating opportunities for the University that may not have been possible without him," said Chancellor Straney. "His capacity for getting a meeting at just the right time with key decision makers has often been the key to UH Hilo's success, and with Gerald on the team, UH Hilo has had many successes."

From 1987-1991, he was administrative assistant for the County of Hawai'i to Gov. John Waihee, the nation's first governor of part-Hawaiian ancestry. Before that, Mr. De Mello taught sociology, social problems, sociology of Hawai'i, human behavior and community studies at Hawai'i Community College for 15 years. He has a master's degree in sociology from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, and two bachelor's degrees from Eastern Washington University in Education Social Science and Psychology, respectively.

Previous APEx awards went to Pat De Leon, former Chief of Staff to Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, D-HI; Jerry Johnson, former Dean of UH Hilo College of Arts and Sciences and first project manager for the College of Pharmacy; and Rose Tseng, former Chancellor of UH Hilo. A plaque in their honor hangs in the halls of the College of Pharmacy on the UH Hilo campus. A plaque in the honor of Gerald De Mello now joins them.



Chancellor
Donald O. Straney

Welcome New PhD Students

Four students began work on their PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences this Fall 2012. Clockwise from bottom left: Edward Fisher, associate dean for academic affairs and director of the PhD program, with Joel Vonnahme, Nishant Gandhi, Lissa Tsutsumi and Randall Carpio.



CoP Welcomes Class of 2016 at Fall Orientation Events

A weeklong orientation for the Class of 2016 was held August 13-16, featuring a special reception for the eighty-eight new PharmD students and four new PhD students and their families at the Hilo Yacht Club sponsored by CVS/Caremark.

Students filled Classroom 2 of the College of Pharmacy complex on Monday for an introductory session, presided over by Dean John Pezzuto. Associate Dean Edward Fisher gave an overview of CoP and introduced faculty from both Pharmaceutical Sciences and Pharmacy Practice.

Later that day and throughout the

week, students participated in sessions which aimed to support a smooth transition from undergraduate to professional school while getting to know their classmates, faculty and the UHH community.

That evening, CVS Caremark sponsored a welcome reception in honor of the new students at the elegant Hilo Yacht Club, with striking views of the Pacific Ocean and plenty of food on several buffet stations. Students, parents and faculty all expressed appreciation to CVS for making the evening a memorable event. Dean Pezzuto introduced Dennis Niimi, from CVS, who spoke to the group.

Other events throughout the week included New Student Convocation in the UH Hilo Gymnasium. Many CoP students attended the event, which featured faculty and administrators who welcomed them to the community of learners at UH Hilo.

The Class of 2016 is the sixth incoming class of pharmacy students at UH Hilo, the only College of Pharmacy in Hawai'i and the Pacific region.



(Photos by Tracey Niimi and Maggie Morris)



Photos by Tracey Niimi and Maggie Morris



Hawai'i's College of Pharmacy Reaches New Milestone: Accreditation for Residency Program

A residency program in community pharmacy, giving licensed pharmacists opportunities for further training through Hawai'i's College of Pharmacy (CoP) at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, has been awarded national accreditation.

Pharmacy residency programs are similar to training that allows medical doctors to gain postgraduate training. Accreditation by both the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) and the American Pharma-

cists Association (APhA) is necessary for the program to be considered a validated educational experience.



Dr. Anita E. Ciarleglio

The UH Hilo pharmacy residencies have been conducted on the island of Maui, where Anita Ciarleglio, assistant professor in CoP's Department of Pharmacy Practice, is the project's program director. She began compiling data that met standards for accreditation more than two years ago, along with assistance from Bill Jones, a pharmacist who was the pharmacy residency director for 23 years at the Southern Arizona Veterans Affairs Health Care System in Tucson, Arizona.

"Receiving a three-year accreditation was a coup for us because we're so new," Ciarleglio



The second group of pharmacy residents in 2011-12 were (left to right) Drs. Tehane Ornellas (UH Hilo CoP Class of 2011), Christina Mnatzaganian (University of Arizona CoP 2011) and Erika Miyahira (UH Hilo Class of 2011).



The first residents (left to right) Dr. Sheena Jolson, (Class of 2010, University of Arizona), Dr. Anita E. Ciarleglio, assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Residency Program Director, and Dr. Amy Baker (Class of 2010, University of New Mexico).

said. "It means we can continue to concentrate on patient care while giving licensed pharmacists from all over the country the experience they need to get on with their careers and gives them credentials to compete for jobs."

So far, five pharmacists have gone through the program at Maui Clinic Pharmacy, and are able to get retroactive credit for being part of an accredited program. All have left the program to attain gainful employment as pharmacists. They were Sheena Jolson (University of Arizona Class of 2010), Amy Baker (University of New Mexico Class of 2010), Tehane Ornellas (UH Hilo CoP Class of 2011), Erika Miyahira (UH Hilo Class of 2011) and Christina Mnatzaganian (University of Arizona CoP 2011). Mnatzaganian has joined the faculty of UH Hilo College of Pharmacy.

Ciarleglio called the women who believed in the program while it was still being accredited true trailblazers.

"These women are redefining community pharmacy," Ciarleglio said. "They primarily act as the liaison between the community, the hospital and the physician, and provide a continuity of care that just wasn't there before."

Accreditation for the residency program mirrored the accreditation process for the college, which was awarded last year after the inaugural class graduated from UH Hilo, said Ciarleglio. In a letter to CoP Dean John Pezzuto about the accreditation, ASHP said the Commission arrived at its decision based on a thorough review of the report of the survey and after a site visit in February. The Commission met in August to reach its final decision.



Career Fair/Interview Day Helps Students Prepare for Life after Graduation

CoP's Office of Student Services and the CoP Chapter of the University of Hawai'i Alumni Association (UHAA CoP) co-sponsored a Career Fair on campus on Oct. 5 and Interview Day in Honolulu on Oct. 6.

Participants at the Career Fair included Fred Meyer Pharmacy, CVS, US Navy, Kmart, Safeway, Target, Walgreens, Rite Aid, Hilo Medical Center and UHAA CoP Chapter of the Alumni Association. Representatives were present to speak to first, second and third-year students about internship and career opportunities.

Alex Guimaraes, Student Pharmacist, Class of 2016, expressed his appreciation: "Thanks for all your work in putting together the career fair. It was really fun and I was able to make a lot of valuable connections and get more information about internships and residencies that the various companies offer. I appreciate your efforts."

Interview Day took place at Kapiolani Community College in Honolulu at their beautiful dining facility with breathtaking views of the Pacific. Additionally, a representative from Rite Aid held an information session on Oahu on October 3 at the Gold Bond Building with 18 fourth-year

students to discuss employment possibilities with his company.

Comments from interviewers indicated appreciation for how well the students were prepared to interview because they had done research on companies and were engaging.

Thank you very much to Pualei and her team from the UHAA – CoP Chapter for helping to co-sponsor this event.

Thanks, Liz Heffernan, Director, CoP Student Services



Fourth Annual Health Fair Attracts Community, Students

By Tracey Niimi

More than 100 College of Pharmacy students, faculty, and staff worked together to provide over 20 educational booths and various health screenings at the Fourth Annual UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Health Fair Saturday, October 6. The annual was co-sponsored this year by the UH Hilo Student Association and UH Hilo Student Activities Council.

Donations were provided by R. Weinstein Pharmaceuticals and Medical Products, Sodexo, Island Naturals, Basically Books, Prince Kuhio Plaza, Subway, Yoga Centered, and UH Hilo Student Organizations such as American Pharmacists Association (APhA), Phi Delta Chi, National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) and Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP)

There were many organizations that volunteered their time to be present at the fair including the Narcotics Enforcement Division (NED) Drug Take-Back Program, Bone Marrow Donation Match, UH Hilo Women's Center, UH Hilo Counseling Services, UH Hilo Student Life Center IMUA Fitness, Hawai'i Cataract and Laser Institution, Hawai'i Island HIV/AIDS Foundation, and Senior Medicare Patrol Hawai'i.

More than 100 people received free health screenings which included diabetes screenings, cholesterol screenings, blood pressure screenings, BMI screenings, and medication counseling. Other onsite activities included a Kids Poster Contest, various fitness class demonstrations by UH Hilo Student Life Center IMUA Fitness Instructors, and a healthy food demonstration by Sodexo.



"Our health fair is now a tradition during national American Pharmacists Month, which is celebrated annually during October," said Carolyn Ma, chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice who created the inaugural health fair in 2009. "It serves as another reminder to our students about the importance of their chosen profession for the community. Those who come to campus will witness first-hand the value these student pharmacists add throughout the State of Hawai'i."

(Photos by Tracey Niimi and Maggie Morris)





CoP's Class of 2016 Unites for White Coat Ceremony

Provided by University of Hawai'i System reports

The class of 2016 at Hawai'i's College of Pharmacy at University of Hawai'i at Hilo is on its way. The first-year students at the only fully accredited pharmacy college in the Pacific region participated in an important rite of passage Oct. 14, the White Coat Ceremony. Approximately 450 people attended the event, which was sponsored by Walgreens. Speakers included CoP Founding Dean John Pezzuto; William Alexander Evans, Preceptor pharmacist from PharMerica; Bill Hose, Market Vice President from Walgreens; Representative Jerry Chang, Chair of the House Higher Education Committee; Patrick K. DeLeon, Former Chief of Staff, Office of U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye; William "Billy" Kenoi, Mayor County of Hawai'i; and Donald O. Straney, Chancellor, UH Hilo.

An important announcement was made at the event about the college, which was founded in 2006. The announcement was met with a loud and long applause.

"I'm very pleased to announce for the first time that the last graduating class had a pass rate of 94 percent," said College of Pharmacy Dean John Pezzuto, referring to the national exam that every pharmacist must pass to be licensed. And then he added "I hope whoever is standing here four years from now will be able to announce a 100 percent pass rate."

The student pharmacists know there is a lot of work ahead for the next four years and were challenged and encouraged at the ceremony by every speaker, including Hawai'i County Mayor Billy Kenoi.

"Never ever doubt yourself," said Kenoi. "You got here already. All you got to do is keep doing what you did to get you here in the first place. You already know how to succeed. That's why you are here."

They then recited the "Oath of a Pharmacist" as they affirmed their commitment to professionalism, respect, integrity and caring.

"I think it hit me when the associate dean made his opening speech," said first-year student pharmacist Moani Hagiwara after the ceremony. "I kind of got a little chicken skin. A chill went through my body."

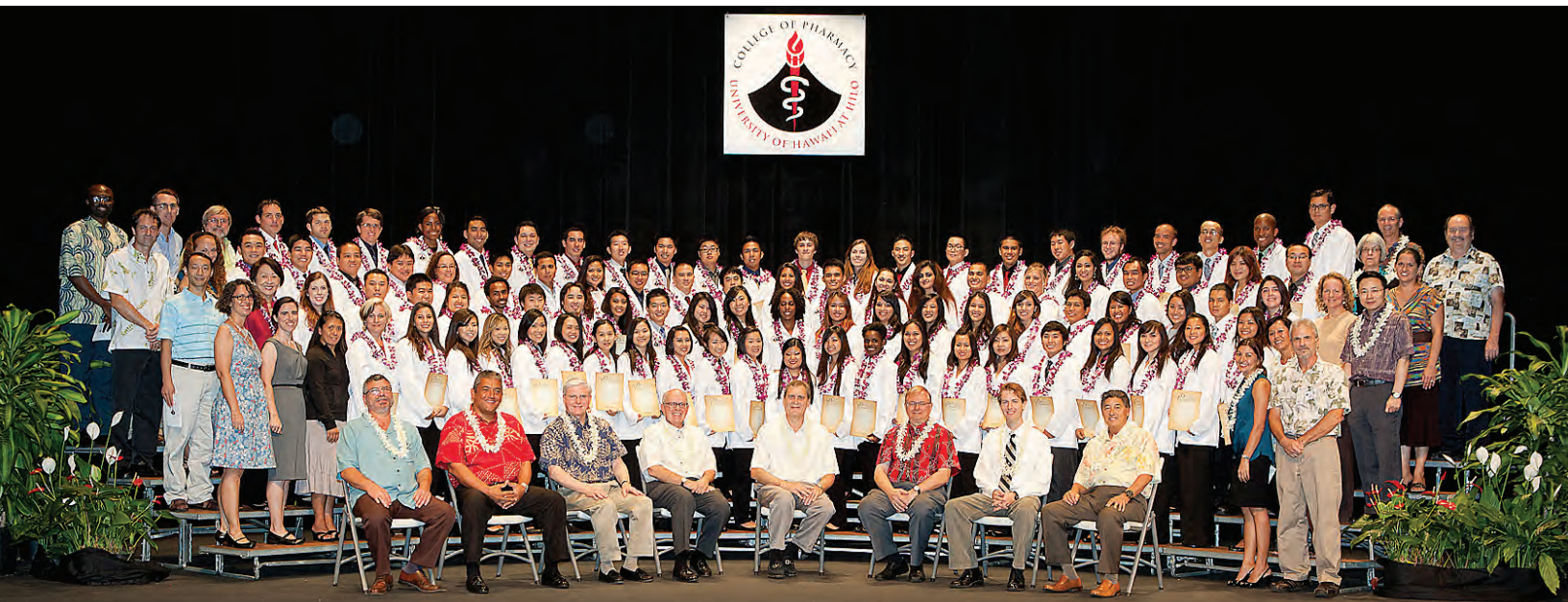
"Couple of seconds before I walked on the stage and I saw the procession line and shaking everybody's hand and realize then, this is really it," said fellow student pharmacist Kyle Cabison. "My palms started getting a little sweaty, heart-beat got a little faster."

"It's a mixture of being overwhelmed and happy at the same time I guess," said student Necole Miyazaki.

Proud family and friends greeted the students after the ceremony for cake and leis.

"It feels really good," said student pharmacist Allan Higa who was covered with lei. "Now I feel like I'm getting on the pathway of becoming a pharmacist. And I feel like I'm part of the community and I'm obligated to serve them."

"I'm very excited," agreed Hagiwara. "I grew up here on this island too, so it's a little bit of home pride as well. It's exciting to have it here especially."



White Coat Ceremony 2012 - October 14, 2012

Remarks from Dean Pezzuto's Speech

As Dean of Pharmacy, here and at Purdue, I have had the honor of addressing about 12 classes of student pharmacists at White Coat Ceremonies. I understand the importance of this event to everyone who has decided to spend their Sunday afternoon here instead of at the beach. One thing I have learned over the years is that shorter is better.

In our announcements, we refer to today's event as a "rite of passage into clinical practice for students entering their first year in the professional program to affirm their commitment to professionalism, respect, integrity and caring." Think about that. A commitment to professionalism, respect, integrity and caring.

Do you know what I think is odd about this? These are things we cannot really teach you. These are intrinsic qualities that you have come to us with. So who have been the most important teachers in your life? I can only guess, but if you think about it at a quiet time, you will know. Perhaps it is your parents or relatives or friends or siblings. Whoever it is, I can tell you one thing. Today they are very proud of you. The fact of the matter is we are all proud of you. And we are happy the sum total of your life experience has led you here to be part of the Class of 2016. You are our future.

So now that you are here, what we can teach you is what you need to know in order to be the world's expert in medications. The first class of student pharmacists at UH Hilo asked me what happens if the College doesn't gain professional accreditation. In return I ask them if they had any serious questions. Yes, of course we have gained full accreditation.

And then they asked what about passing the national board exam in order to become licensed. I could not answer that question. It was up to them.

Do you remember during orientation when I told you to start studying to pass the NAPLEX exam? I said today would not be too soon. I have said the same thing to all five classes before you. So now I am pleased to tell you that 94% of last year's graduating class passed the NAPLEX on the first try. A 94% pass rate is very respectable and speaks very well for our program and our students. But four years from now, I hope whoever is standing here will say the pass rate is 100%. You can do it. We are counting on you to become a licensed pharmacist on the first try. But you have to pay attention.

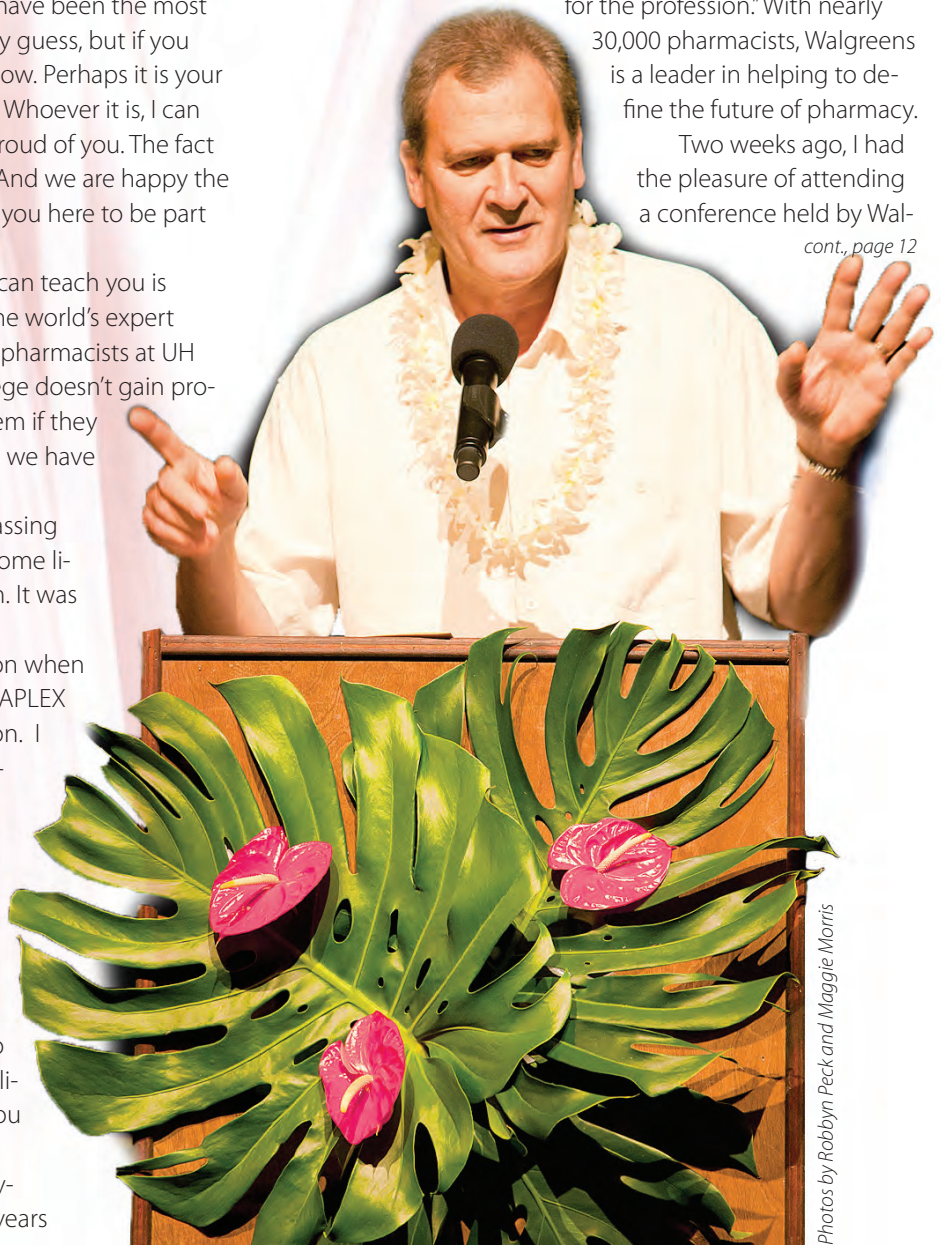
As hard as it is to believe, I found myself in your situation many hundreds of years

ago. Coursework was not difficult for me, I could get by with a passing grade without hurting myself. But I was lucky enough to be exposed to the kind of faculty you have the opportunity to work with here at HUH Hilo. They inspired me to realize I could make a difference. I came to the conclusion I would not wake up and waste one more day without doing something that could potentially make a difference in the world, even if it was to one single person. You will come to the same conclusion if you open yourself up to the endless possibilities of pharmacy education here on the Big Island.

We all wonder how the profession of pharmacy will be shaped over the next few years. This is a very complicated question but we all agree with Robert Beardsley, the president of the ACPE, who said "the status quo is not an option for the profession." With nearly 30,000 pharmacists, Walgreens is a leader in helping to define the future of pharmacy.

Two weeks ago, I had the pleasure of attending a conference held by Wal-

cont., page 12



Photos by Robbyn Peck and Maggie Morris



cont. from page 11

greens in Chicago. I can tell you what they are doing is very exciting and innovative. And Walgreens also gave us some advice on how to better prepare our student pharmacists for the profession. Obviously, you need to be the world's expert on medication therapy, but you might be surprised about other recommendations. One key point is communication skills. The ability and willingness to effectively interact with patients. Another is having some business sense, and understanding the complexities of things such as Medicare Part B and Medicare Part D. Keep these things in mind as you progress through the program.

Over the years, Walgreens has been a superb partner with our College of Pharmacy. As you know, they have contributed to our building fund and they have provided scholarship support every year. They have also provided very unique financial support for promoting diversity in the profession.

I have been thinking of an unusual word lately: Anthropomorphic - The attribution of a human form, human char-

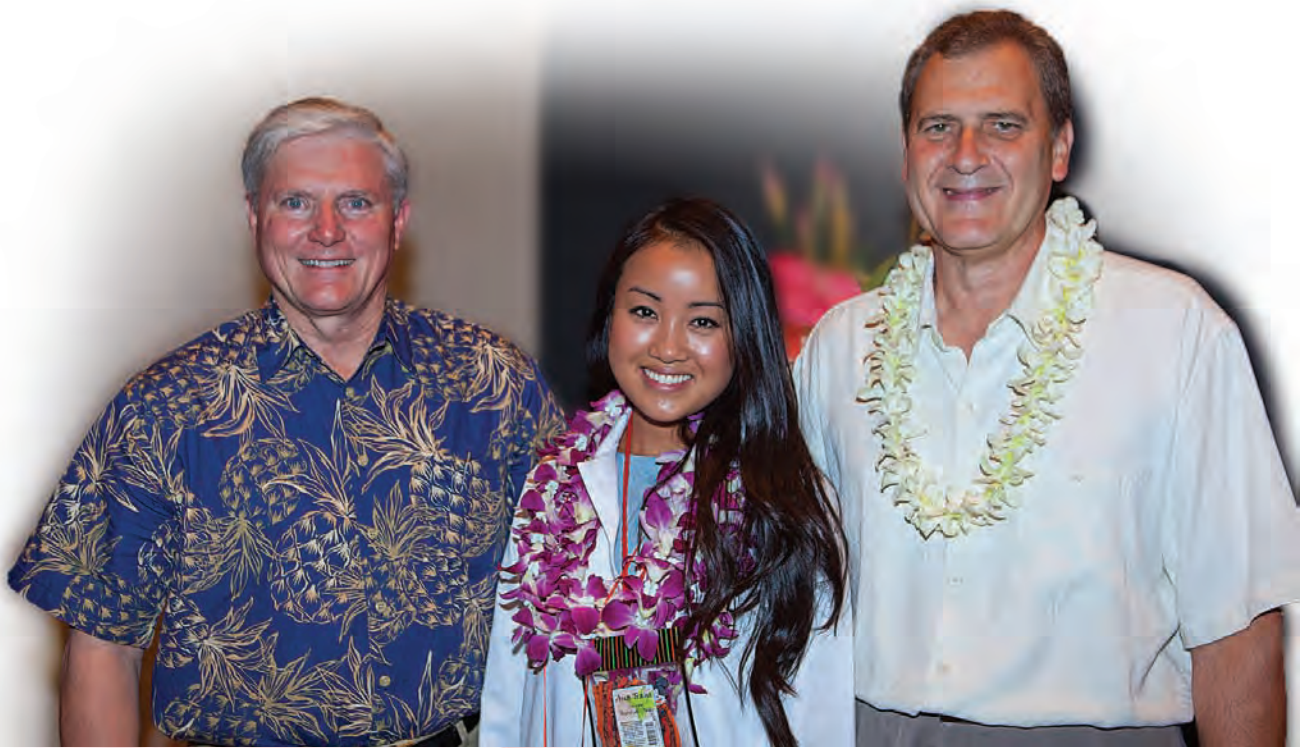
acteristics, or human behavior to nonhuman things. And that anthropomorphic thing, of course, is the college of pharmacy. I think of the college as being born in 2006. In 2006, like with any baby, we had all the best hopes and dreams and aspirations in the world.

So how is our baby doing? In many ways, even better than our dreams. You know what we have accomplished. Our graduates are doing well, we have gained full accreditation, we have started graduate and residency programs, we have built our research infrastructure.

We serve as Hawai'i's only college of pharmacy and we do it well.

But now, the baby is approaching adolescence. So what comes with adolescence? Did you say acne? Well yes, we can see a blemish or two, and the main blemish is that we need a permanent building. You have seen renderings of our building and the renderings are magnificent. We have selected the site.

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As Winston Churchill said “We shape our buildings, thereafter they shape us.”

We have shaped our building. The state of Hawai‘i has supported us in the funding of the design, which blends beautifully with the future of UH Hilo. And now, construction of the building will allow us to emerge from adolescence and reach maturity. We have no choice. Living with a teenager is

an amusing experience but you reach a point where it must come to an end. That time is now. I know we have a great deal of support in this room. It is greatly appreciated. I will just say we have done our part and now it is time for the State to step up and help us move toward our destiny of becoming a top-ranked college.

So eventually the building will help to shape us. In the meanwhile, what is shaping us more than anything? One thing I really like about UH Hilo is the Vulcan image. Someone told me this has something to do with volcanoes. I am from New Jersey. I don't know anything about volcanoes. But I grew up with Star Trek so I know what a Vulcan is. According to Vulcan.com, “Vulcans create and advance a variety of world-class endeavors and high impact initiatives that change and improve the way we live, learn, do business, and experience the world.” I like that definition.

So in a few short years you will be able to boldly go where no pharmacist has gone before. You will be a Vulcan pharmacist.

Congratulations to you all.



Special Note from Liz Heffernan, CoP Director of Student Services:

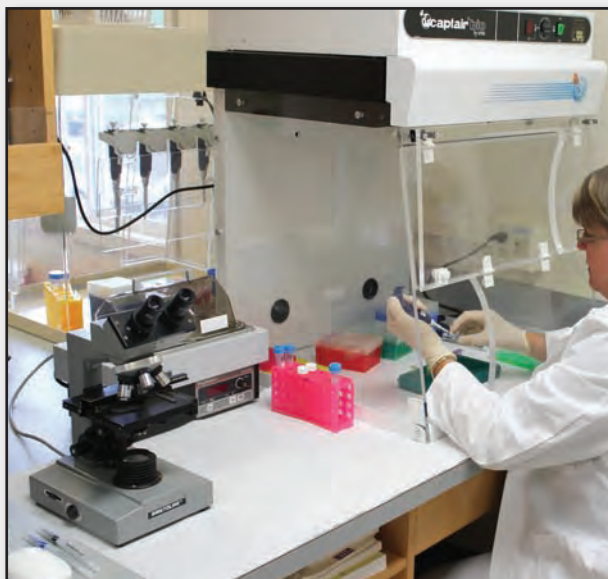
Over 75 people were involved in this year's White Coat Ceremony, dedicating time and/or resources to make this rite of passage for the Class of 2016 possible. This is an amazing number of individuals to step forward in support of a common vision and speaks to the wonderful commitment and truly supportive community of which we are a part. I am deeply touched by the good will of our students, staff and faculty, and the members of UH Hilo and Hawai‘i Island who graciously and enthusiastically offered their time and assistance. These efforts undoubtedly helped to create a memorable day for all of the students in the Class of 2016.



Photos by Char Awa Cockett and Tracey Niimi

New Seating

This summer, workmen poured concrete and enabled the center of the temporary modular complex for the College of Pharmacy to become an extra place for students, faculty and staff to gather.

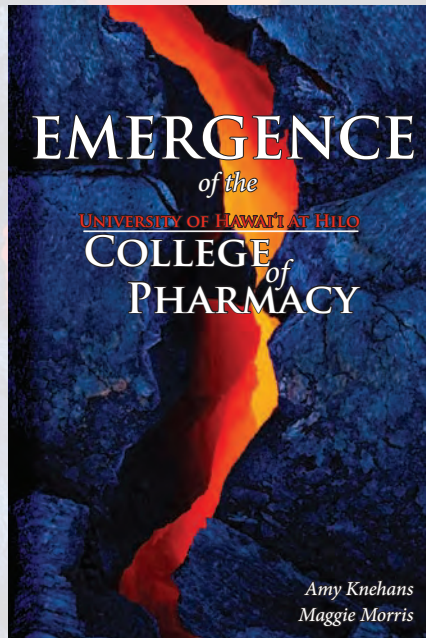


Mahalo

Susan Jarvi, associate professor and Director of the Pre-Pharmacy Program, demonstrates some laboratory equipment that was donated to the College of Pharmacy by the family of John Dixon along with several other pieces of laboratory equipment, including an ABI PRISM 310 Sequencer, a Bristoline 4 objective microscope, an Applied Biosystems Geneam PCT 9700 and several other necessities for the lab. Dr. Dixon has been professor of Psychology in the College of Arts & Sciences.

College of Pharmacy Unveils Book that Chronicles History of its Creation

*H*awai'i pulls you in as though the gravitational force is stronger here. Many are beckoned only to find it is wilder than they are willing to accept. Many more, such as those who built the College of Pharmacy at the University of Hawai'i, make it their home. From the nucleus of a concept emerged an institution that would add an essential component to improve the health of the people of the islands in the Pacific: training students to become licensed pharmacists. These professionals would be able not only to work alongside other health care personnel but will fill in the gaps left by an overworked, understaffed system. – Maggie Morris in *Emergence of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy*.



The College of Pharmacy (CoP) has documented the history of creating the first college to train pharmacists in the Pacific region in a hardcover book published this summer called *Emergence of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy*.

CoP librarian Amy Knehans and Maggie Morris, editor of the CoP magazine *Kawili La`au*, scoured the archives for every milestone and event that led to the creation of the college. Besides chronicling the newsworthy details of the first five years, the book gives first-hand accounts from people who supported building a pharmacy school in Hilo from the beginning, such as Senator Daniel K. Inouye, former Chancellor Rose Tseng, Director of University Relations Gerald De Mello, and Hawai'i State Representative Jerry Chang. In an excerpt about Founding Dean John Pezzuto:

"In the beginning at UH Hilo, the slate was essentially blank. The canvas was clear. The landscape was barren. The ultimate challenge of the dean would be to shape the college and establish an ideology. As is the case with an artist, sculptor or architect, the end product would be tangibly unique based on the talent and intuition of the selected individual. The College of Pharmacy had been conceived but existed in an embryonic state. The growth and development, the nurturing and grooming, everything that remained to establish the vibrancy, integrity and longevity of the entity, was held in abeyance."

Jerry Johnson, former Dean of UH Hilo College of Arts and Sciences, was in the trenches along with former CoP Director of Community Partnerships Ron Taniguchi, and they were able to fill in the blanks on creating something from nothing for most of the events prior to admitting students in 2007. "In Hawai'i, the informal steps can mean more than the formal steps to get things done," Johnson said as he outlined the myriad procedures. "We had to convince [UH

administration] there was a local need, there's a national need, and that UH Hilo can do it."

Pat DeLeon, now retired Chief of Staff to Sen. Inouye, wrote in his foreword: For years the campus on the Big Island of Hawai'i was viewed by many who were genuinely interested in furthering higher education as little more than a refuge for those in academia who, for whatever reasons, simply could not "fit in" at the Manoa flagship campus... Notwithstanding, enlightened national educational leaders, including U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye and then-Chancellor Rose Tseng, knew that with patience, persistence, and targeted resources a bright future was definitely possible for all of the citizens of Hawai'i.

The book also contains nearly 100 photos, as well as a timeline and an appendix that includes student composite photos of the first four classes, a Map of Student Residency, Testimony Presented before the House, Minutes of the Regents' Committee, Graduate Survey, Organizational Charts, Economic Impact Report, CoP's Strategic Plan and an Honor Roll of Donors.

"It has been an honor to be involved in creating such a work," Knehans said. "I really enjoyed listening first hand to the personal perspectives from key supporters of the college. I learned a great deal about the history of the island as well as the UH system. The college has come a long way in a short time."

Emergence is freely available online at http://pharmacy.uhh.hawaii.edu/news/press/CoPHistory_WEB.2.pdf. Hard copies may be obtained by contacting the editors at knehans@hawaii.edu or morrismm@hawaii.edu.

Faculty Seminar Series

Dr. David Kingston, University Distinguished Professor in Bioorganic and Natural Products Chemistry at Virginia Tech, spoke at CoP's Faculty Seminar Series on UH Hilo campus Oct. 3. The title of his talk was "Adventures in the Chemistry and Biology of Taxol, a

Famous Anticancer Natural Product."

Dr. Kingston researches the chemistry of biologically active natural products related to cancer, the discovery of new anticancer agents from plants, and biodiversity conservation and drug discovery in tropical rainforests.

He noted he was one of the early chemists who worked on the anticancer drug Taxol in the 1980s when "...nobody was very interested, which meant we couldn't get funding, until 1989." Now, the drug is used to treat patients with lung, ovarian, breast, head and neck cancer.

In 1990, he helped develop the chemistry to synthesize a form of Taxol, and he said he's always finding new and exciting things about the drug. "It's a complicated molecule so it's a lot to get excited about," he said.



Lab manager Tamara P. Kondratyuk explains how the Pezzuto lab uses robotic liquid handler from Perkin Elmer to Dr. David Kingston, visiting Hilo from Virginia Tech while on tour with PhD students Samreen Saleem and Talya Ogas and postdoctoral associate Eun-Jung (Amy) Park.

Chancellor's Fall Welcome

Chancellor Donald Straney introduced new faculty and staff, and announced others who were recently awarded tenure and promotion at UH Hilo's 2012 Fall Welcome event in UCB Room 127 August 21. From left, Darlene Lehua Miller, institutional support fiscal specialist; Katherine Anderson, assistant professor of pharmacy practice; Karen Pellegrin, awarded tenure and promoted to full specialist, and Rachel Loo, Steps Toward Excellence in Pharmacy (STEP) project specialist.



Fall 2012 - Faculty Briefs



Julie Adrian, DVM, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice, is the primary and corresponding author for a recently accepted publication in the *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry* titled "Proximate Analysis, In Vitro Organic Matter Digestibility, and Energy Content of Common Guava (*Psidium guajava* L.) and Yellow, Strawberry Guava (*Psidium cattleianum* var. *lucidum*) Tree Parts and Fruits as Potential Forage."



Katherine Anderson, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice, presented a poster at the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP) annual conference in National Harbor, MD, entitled, "Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA), Medi-Cog, and Pillbox Loading Accuracy." Dr. Anderson is a Certified Geriatric Pharmacist and Fellow of the American Society of Consultant pharmacists. She was the first ASCP Foundation Practice Innovation awardee for developing the Medi-Cog, a cognitive/pillbox skills screen used to predict patient accuracy in organizing medications. This year the Medi-Cog was selected for publication in the ASCP/MedPass Senior Care Pharmacy: Resources & Tools for Building a Successful Practice.



Mahavir Chuogule, assistant professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was invited to join the editorial boards of *Journal of Pharmacogenomics & Pharmacoproteomics* and *Journal of Biomolecular Research & Therapeutics*. In addition, students working with Dr. Chuogule presented the following research:

- 1) "Preliminary study of Transdermal permeation of Magnesium cream formulations across skin" at XIIIth International Magnesium Symposium in Mérida, Yuc. México, Oct. 16-19; and
- 2) "Modeling and Validation of Material Properties of Crystalline Particles: formation and stability under stress, Engineering Research Council meeting, IAB conference, National Science Foundation Engineering Research Center on Structured Organic Particulate Systems, New York, Nov. 7012.



Anita Ciarleglio, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice, served as program chair for the American Heart Association's "Go Red for Women" luncheon Nov. 17 at the Fairmont Kea Lani on Maui. The event included health screenings and education, learn and live sessions, social boutiques and a three-course heart healthy lunch.



Linda Connelly, assistant professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented research entitled "Subtype specific effects of inflammatory signaling on osteoprotegerin expression by breast cancer cells" at the European Association for Cancer Research Conference on "The Tumor Microenvironment", Dublin, Ireland, in September. Co-authors on the poster were M. Weichhaus and D. Geerts. Dr. Connelly also was co-author on a paper published in the *Journal of Visualized Experiments* with associates from Vanderbilt University W. Barham, T.S. Sherrill, and F.E. Yull entitled "Intraductal injection of LPS as a mouse model of mastitis: signaling visualized via an NF-kappaB reporter transgenic."



Deborah Juarez, Associate Professor, Pharmacy Practice published two manuscripts. "Impact of Sustained Hemoglobin A1c Control on Health Care Costs" in *Journal for Healthcare for the Poor and Underserved* (August 2012). "Factors Associated with Three Years of Poor or Highly Variable Glycemic Control Among Diabetic Patients in Hawaii" was published in *Preventing Chronic Disease* (Sept 2012). It can be found at http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2012/12_0065.htm. Co-authors for both were Sheri Tokumaru, PharmD and Roy Goo, PharmD of Pharmacy Practice and Tetine Sentell, PhD, James Davis, PhD, and Marjorie Mau, MD.



Amy Knehans, Health Sciences Librarian, has been elected as Chair-Elect/Program Chair and Credentialing Committee Liaison of the Hawai'i-Pacific Chapter of the Medical Library Association, a national nonprofit, educational organization of more than 1,100 institutions.



Faculty members and Dean John Pezzuto

published the following: 1) Evaluation of Flavonoid and Resveratrol Chemical Libraries Reveals Abyssinone II as a Promising Antibacterial Lead in *Chem.Med.Chem.* 7:1541-1545, 2012 with co-authors Sun, D., Hurdle, J.G., Lee, R., Lee, R., Cushman, M. and Pezzuto, J.M. 2)

Anti-inflammatory sesquiterpene lactones from the flowers of *Vernonia cinerea*. *Bioorg.Med. Chem.Let.*, 22: 5559–5562, 2012 with co-authors Youn, U.J., Park,E-J., Kondratyuk,T.P., Simmons, C.J., Borris, R., Tanamatayarat,P., Wongwiwatthanankit, S., Toyama, O., Songsak,T., and Chang, L.C. 3) Activity Enhancement of Synthetic Syrbactin Proteasome Inhibitor Hybrid and Biological Evaluation in Tumor Cells in *Biochemistry*, 51:6880-6888, 2012 with co-authors Archer,C.R. ,Groll, M., Stein, M.L., Schellenberg,B, Clerc, J., Kaiser, M., Kondratyuk, T.P., Dudler, R. and Bachmann, A.S. and 4) Discovery, Synthesis, and Evaluation of 2-Phenylindoles as Nitric Oxide Synthase Inhibitors and Potential Cancer Preventive Agents in *Org. Biomol. Chem.* [Epub ahead of print], 2012 with co-authors Yu, X., Park, E-J., Kondratyuk,T.P., Pezzuto, J.M. and Sun, D.



Dianqing Sun, assistant professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a \$50,000 grant from the Leahi fund of the Hawai'i Community Foundation to develop novel natural product-inspired antitubercular agents for treating pulmonary tuberculosis. In addition, Dr. Sun published 1). "Synthesis of 2-Arylindole Derivatives and Evaluation as Nitric Oxide Synthase and NFκB Inhibitors" in *Organic & Biomolecular Chemistry* with coauthors X. Yu, E.-J. Park, T. P. Kondratyuk, and J. M. Pezzuto. 2). "Synthesis and Structure–Activity Relationships of Lansine Analogs as Antileishmanial Agents" in *ChemMedChem* with coauthors M. Pieroni, S. Girmay, R. Sahu, B. L. Tekwani, and G. T. Tan. 3). "Evaluation of Flavonoid and Resveratrol Chemical Libraries Reveals Abyssinone II as a Promising Antibacterial Lead" in *ChemMedChem* with coauthors J. G. Hurdle, R. Lee, R. Lee, M. Cushman, and J. M. Pezzuto. 4). "Microwave-assisted Synthesis of Macrocycles via Intramolecular and/or Bimolecular Ullmann Coupling" in *Tetrahedron Letters* with coauthors L. Shen and C. J. Simmons. Dr. Sun also received a Faculty Travel Grant from American Chemical Society (ACS) Division of Organic Chemistry so that he could present a poster entitled "Microwave-assisted synthesis of macrocyclic diaryl ethers via intramolecular Ullmann reaction" at the 244th ACS National Meeting held August 19-23, 2012 in Philadelphia, PA.



Ghee Tan, assistant professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was co-author in a paper entitled "Synthesis and structure-activity relationship of lansine analogues as antileishmanial agents" in *Chem. Med. Chem.* Co-authors were Pieroni, M., Girmay, S., Sun, D.-Q., Sahu, R., Tekwani, B. L., and G. T. Tan.



Rose Tseng, Chancellor Emeritus, professor and CoP Coordinator for International Affairs, was a keynote speaker at a special forum of "The World Women University Presidents Forum" August 15-16 at the Women's University in Africa in Harare, Zimbabwe. Dr. Tseng has been a speaker and on the planning committee in most of the past conferences, presented yearly since 2001 by the Communication University of China. The overall conference attracts more than 800 women university presidents from 60 countries. Other speakers at the forum included presidents from New Zealand, China, South Africa, Nigeria and Uganda. Dr. Tseng's trip was the organizing committee of the "World Women University President Forum," headed by President Liu Ji Nan, President Emerita and Honorary President of Chinese Communication University.



Anthony Wright, associate professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, published: 1) The importance of structure validation of internal standards in quantitative analytical chemistry methods and metabolomics in *PLoS-ONE*, 2012, <http://dx.plos.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0042061> with co-author D. Kelman. 2) A Great Barrier Reef *Sinularia* sp., yields two new cytotoxic diterpenes in *Marine Drugs*, 2012, 10, 1619-1630 with co-authors J. L. Nielson, D. M. Tapiolas, C. H. Liptrot, C. A. Motti. He also presented several workshops and papers: 1) Recent technique on marine biotechnology research, at 1st Annual Indonesian Marine Biotechnology Seminar and Workshop University of Diponegoro, Semarang, Java, Indonesia, October 5-6; 2) An invited lecture in the National Academy of Agricultural Science, Department of Agrofood Resources, Suwon, Republic of Korea, October 15 entitled "Correlation between tea-leaf age and chemical content and shade levels." 3) Two presentations at the University of Guam/University of Hawai'i Partnership (U54), Year 4 Joint Planning Workshop University of Guam, Guam November 28 – 30.

Lauren Ruffino Etienne



Editor's Note

L Lauren Etienne, who was known as Lauren Ruffino when she was part of CoP Class of 2012, was working 12-hour shifts in New Orleans Children's Hospital in September when Hurricane Isaac descended on the Gulf Coast. At the time, she said she was probably as safe as she could be in the city because her house in another neighborhood didn't have power and there was a leak in the roof. Five days later, all was well in her

part of town, though much of the city was out of power through the weekend. She said it was sad to see some areas surrounding New Orleans that had flooded badly because the flood walls were not finished being updated. But life goes on in New Orleans, and Lauren and her husband, Justin, are expecting a baby March 20.

In her words: Lauren Ruffino Etienne

Upon my return home to New Orleans I immediately started working as an intern at Children's Hospital and started studying for the NAPLEX and MPJE. I had some time to study since Louisiana licensure requires more hours than I had at the time. After passing both exams, all I had to do was wait for the Board of Pharmacy to license me and I immediately transitioned from intern to pharmacist.

I started at Children's Hospital after doing two of my fourth-year rotations there. I chose that hospital because it is a respected hospital in the community so I thought it might be a good experience. I did not anticipate loving it as much as I do, especially since the idea of working with such a delicate and understudied patient population scared me a bit. However, it did not take long for me to decide that I wanted a job there and I worked to ensure that I was at the forefront of their minds when a position opened.

I've been a fully licensed, and employed, pharmacist for about a month at the time of this writing, and I am very happy as I settle in to my new duties. The majority of my job involves order entry, checking technician work, and sterile compounding. A unique aspect of my position is that I am also one of the two pharmacists who work directly with the research department on investigational drug studies. Investigational drugs are particularly important at this hospital because we treat children, and we are a premier hospital for pediatric cancer treatment. Most of the drug studies we host are investigational cancer treatment protocols but we also host a number of investi-

gational studies outside of oncology.

Managing our investigational drug inventory can be challenging because many different pharmacists dispense the medications, and the preparation and documentation of each delivered dose is typically quite extensive and confusing. This clearly leaves plenty of room for error, but proper staff training avoids most of these errors.

In my day-to-day work involving order entry and sterile compounding, I encounter many issues unique to pediatrics. For example, many of the patients are less than a month old and weigh only a few kilograms, making it necessary to alter the concentration of IV medications. A child who weighs a few kilograms cannot handle the volume of fluid typically recommended for administration of the IV medications they are prescribed, making it necessary for us to alter the concentration. This sometimes requires creative thinking and careful research to find an appropriate concentration and rate of administration for a particular medication.

Another interesting part of working with children is the amount of compounding we must do for oral medications. We have a huge inventory of oral solutions and suspensions, including 20-30 that we compound ourselves on a daily basis. Not only is this necessary for oral administration of medications in children, but it makes tube administration of meds easier for nurses since they do not have to crush meds for this purpose.

I feel that I have found my home at this hospital and there are many ways that I believe my education at UHH CoP has put me ahead of other new graduates. The amount of time spent learning how to read and interpret orders is one way I am ahead of the curve. I was surprised to find out that many colleges do not breach this topic beyond the student's exposure at a hospital rotation, and as remedial as the task seems I think it makes a difference when in practice. My work with Dr. Ken Morris has given me a better understanding of the investigational world, and my work in that department during my rotations is really what convinced them to hire me. Additionally, the focus on sources of drug information has been surprisingly helpful to me. I have found that much of the dosing and administration information I've learned is not very reliable in this specific patient population, but it has been incredibly useful to know where to look to find the kind of information I am looking for. Those are just three of the many reasons I am eternally grateful to the faculty and staff at UHH CoP.

I am very happy with my decision to attend school in Hilo, and I am very happy with the path my career has since taken. The past four years involved a lot of hard work, but I am thankful for every moment of my experience in Hilo and I can honestly say that it has all paid off.



Student Rotation Report: Pediatric Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children

By Stephanie Lam, Class of 2013



When it came time to choose our preferences for fourth-year rotations, my intention was to select sites that would give me well-rounded experiences to supplement our didactic curriculum and to prepare me for a pharmacy residency program. With those goals in mind, I decided on a pediatric elective since it is a subject that was not heavily covered in school and I had heard from previous

UH-Hilo students that this rotation was a worthy challenge. Fortunately, my schedule worked out so that I was able to have my second block at the Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children in the pediatric intensive care unit (PICU).

During the six-week rotation I followed pharmacists Dave Fudge, my main preceptor, and Catherine Gelfgren. My responsibilities as a pharmacy student were typical of other acute medicine rotations; I attended daily rounds in the PICU with the attending physician, resident physicians, and charge nurse while providing drug monitoring and drug information services. The remainder of the day was used mostly to write patient care notes and review topics independently or with a preceptor. On occasion, I was able to debrief the clinical pharmacist in the general pediatric ward when a PICU patient was to be transferred to his unit. This debriefing experience provided me with valuable practice in my SOAP note and presentation style, as well as being able to communicate the course of a patient's care and my recommendations for follow-up to another pharmacist.

What was understandably the most challenging part of this rotation is the patient population. Although pediatric patients are affected by many of the same diseases as adults, there are limited therapeutic options, specialized doses, and differences in pharmacokinetics to take into consideration.

However, this unique population also gave me exposure to disease states that are more commonly seen in children (e.g., diabetic ketoacidosis with new-onset type 1 diabetes and status asthmaticus), as well as rare genetic diseases (e.g., cystic fibrosis, Hunters syndrome, and Pallister-Killian Mosaic syndrome). I was privileged enough to learn the many different approaches to treatment, including off-label or experimental options, and especially the choice of pharmacologic agents used by physicians who are very specialized in this field of medicine.

The experiences I am most grateful for from this rotation are the unique patient education opportunities and the peer case review. Pharmacy was consulted quite a few times during my rotation to provide patient education, majority of which were for newly diagnosed type 1 diabetes. While I have had some practice with diabetes education, this was the first I had done for a pediatric population, which initially proved to be difficult since many of the younger children are fearful of needles. Consequently, I learned empathy and effective techniques for teaching both patient and parents on proper care and the importance of adherence. The pediatric rotation is concluded with a peer case review, where I was given a couple of hours to analyze a patient case and make recommendations for therapy.

Following the write-up portion is the presentation to a panel of clinical pharmacists and a question and answer session. Although this experience was the most terrifying one I have had on rotations so far, I appreciated this learning opportunity the greatest. This activity tied together what I had learned over the six weeks, put my knowledge to the test, and provided me with good practice for a case review should I be asked to do one on an interview for residency in the future.

Overall, this pediatric rotation turned out to be just as interesting and challenging as expected, and I am glad that I decided on this elective. I am also appreciative of the entire Kapiolani pharmacy staff for allowing me this great learning opportunity. In the future, I hope that many other UH-Hilo pharmacy students will consider this rotation and find it as rewarding as I did.

Alumni Updates

- Holly Svec, Class of 2012, and her family is living in El Paso Texas. She earned licensure by the state of Texas and is a pharmacy manager for Kmart. She says "The people I work with and the customers I deal with are very very nice. I feel very blessed. I miss my beloved Hilo and everyone at school!"
- Three new pharmacists from CoP's Class of 2012 started as post-graduate year-one (PGY1) residents on Oahu beginning July 1:
Dr. Marissa Kellett, is a resident at Kaiser Permanente;
Dr. Chaz Barret, is working at Veterans Administration-Oahu;
Dr. Brian Niimi is a resident at The Queens Medical Center.
- Dr. Cherie Chu, alumna from the CoP's inaugural Class of 2011, is conducting her post-graduate year-two pharmacy residency critical care (PGY2) at The Queens Medical Center, supervised by Dr. Sheri Tokumaru, assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice, based in Honolulu. Dr. Chu completed an acute care year-one pharmacy residency (PGY1) at Banner Baywood Medical Center and Heart Hospital in Mesa, Arizona.



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