



# Kāwili Lā‘au

(To mix ingredients, drugs or medicine; pharmacist)

Fall 2009, Volume 2, Issue 1



Dean John Pezzuto, far right, welcomes J.M. Long Foundation Executive Director Milton Long, foreground with lei, during an Aug. 10 visit to the new College of Pharmacy headquarters. Also in attendance were, from left, Dr. Edward Fisher, Associate Dean; Dr. Ronald Taniguchi, Director of Community Partnerships; Margaret Shiba, Senior Director of Development, Office of Development; Ted LeJeune, Project Manager, Facilities Planning; UH Hilo Chancellor Rose Tseng; Donna Vuchinich, President and CEO, University of Hawai'i Foundation; and second-year pharmacy student Angelina Lovell.

## J.M. Long Foundation gives college \$1 million

The College of Pharmacy is on track to move forward with the building of additional teaching and research facilities thanks to a \$1 million gift from the J.M. Long Foundation.

This gift will support the construction of the initial phase of a health sciences complex. In recognition of this generous contribution, the Board of Regents has approved naming Building B the

Joseph M. Long Pavilion.

Dr. John M. Pezzuto, Dean of the College of Pharmacy, said the donation is essential to help build the college's eminence in pharmaceutical education.

"The College of Pharmacy will enroll its third class of new students this fall while teaching, research, study, administrative and faculty

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## Accreditation council affirms college's status

The national agency that is responsible for providing full accreditation to the University of Hawai'i at Hilo's College of Pharmacy in 2011 has affirmed the college's candidate accreditation status during its June Board of Directors meeting.

The Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education reviewed the College of Pharmacy's interim report, which was submitted March 25. The board considered admission criteria, policies and procedures; faculty and staff continuing professional development and performance review; physical facilities; and practice facilities.

"When we started the College of Pharmacy in 2006, we prepared ourselves for years of meeting a series of steps to achieve full accreditation, which cannot be awarded until the first class graduates in 2011," said Dr. John M. Pezzuto, the college's Dean. "The positive outcome of this review is an important milestone, but it's not the final one. We are

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# Gift

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office spaces are distributed across multiple locations on the UH Hilo campus and the city of Hilo," Dean Pezzuto said. "A permanent home is absolutely crucial in order for the College of Pharmacy to achieve full accreditation as well as to provide an environment that is conducive to quality educational and research opportunities. This gift from the J.M. Long Foundation will help us continue to form the core a new health sciences complex on campus that will allow pharmacy students and faculty to learn and work together in a true community.

"Let me say from the bottom of my heart, thank you to the J.M. Long Foundation for helping us fulfill our pledge to offer our students quality education while addressing the critical shortage of qualified pharmacists in Hawai'i and across the nation."

UH Hilo began the first phase of construction of the health sciences complex in October 2008 with funding of \$6 million from the State

of Hawai'i. The J.M. Long Foundation's support will enable the College of Pharmacy to add Phase 1B: the second lecture hall and student center with adjoining lanai.

The health sciences complex is on 10 acres immediately west of the UH Hilo's main campus adjacent to the 'Imiloa Astronomy Center. The lecture hall will be equipped with networking and distance learning equipment, and will be used on nights and weekends for conferences and other outreach activities. The student center will be a site for student advising and counseling; student group meetings; material storage and activity planning; and hosting of community-related projects. The lanai will be an ideal area for presentations, speeches and receptions.

At full enrollment in the fall of 2010, there will be about 350 pharmacy students. Combined with pre-pharmacy students, that figure will approach 550.

"These numbers have the associated positive economic impact on the community of an estimated \$50.2 million a year," Dean Pezzuto said. "This demonstrates the immediate success that the College



J.M. Long

of Pharmacy at UH Hilo has had in creating opportunities for students who want to pursue a career in pharmacy. It is our obligation to our students to provide an educational and training experience without compromise."

Joseph M. Long, an entrepreneur and co-founder of Longs Drug Stores, created the J.M. Long Foundation, in 1966 as a way of giving back to others from whom he received during his lifetime.

Milton Long, Executive Director for the J.M. Long Foundation from Walnut Creek, Calif., visited the site that will be named for his grandfather two weeks before classes begin there. He said he thought the building reflected the vision of the college's future.

"Obviously, when these buildings are filled with students, it'll look much different," he said.

"Now it will be my goal to direct the Board to the Big Island as much as possible so we can take advantage of the unique location you have."

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# Accreditation

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grateful to the phenomenal effort of many hardworking parties within the university, including our chancellor, as well as from many people in the community. However, now is not the time to rest on our laurels. There is still much work to be done in areas such as securing permanent housing and identifying pharmaceutical locations for our students to gain training, and we still depend on universal support."

In its approval report, the board cited:

- revision of the admissions interview process and the mix of resident and non-resident students enrolled.
- the offering of biannual events for preceptor (professional mentor) support and development and the training to be offered in person and via podcast.
- that the construction of the modular facility to be used by the college is under way and that the state Legislature has

approved funds for the planning and design for a permanent structure for the college.

- the introductory pharmacy practice experience rotations are in place and that work continues to secure sufficient sites for the Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences.

The college is scheduled for an on-site evaluation March 23-24, 2010, to consider the college for its final year with candidate accreditation status before becoming fully accredited the following year.

"In this beleaguered economy, it's nice to have good news about the direction we started so many years ago, especially because we know the College of Pharmacy has had a positive economic impact on our state," said UH Hilo Chancellor Rose Tseng. "Our citizens still need quality patient care services, still need medications. By educating health-care professionals and addressing a shortage of pharmacists, UH Hilo has the ability to help shape the face of health care in our country as health-care policies undergo a major transformation."

## A Message from The Dean

Welcome, Class of 2013!

It may seem hard to believe, but the College of Pharmacy has already passed the halfway point toward graduating its inaugural class, and our third class of students is ready to embark on an exciting four years of study.



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

As you'll see in this edition of our newsletter, we continue to reach out to students on islands near and far in line with our mission to improve the quality of health care in Hawai'i and throughout the Pacific. New partnerships are developing to educate our students in demanding health-care settings, and our faculty continue to be at the forefront of research.

I would like to especially acknowledge the generosity of the J.M. Long Foundation for the \$1 million contribution that will do so much to help the college establish its permanent place on the

Hilo campus. Embarking on a new phase of construction of the health sciences complex will be so exciting for our growing program.

It means so much to us as we continue to make strides in reaching full accreditation status through the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education. Our latest successful review is a significant accomplishment.

Thanks to the welcoming aloha spirit in our islands' hospitals, clinics and resource centers, students are developing the skills that will help them to succeed in their careers while our dedicated faculty lend their expertise to help shape and improve new and existing programs in the community. We want to truly be a resource for our island 'ohana.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our elected leaders on the local, state and national levels, as well as our many champions in the University of Hawai'i system, for their continued support of our mission.

## University of Guam partnership develops

Undergraduates at the University of Guam who want to earn a degree in pharmacy can transfer up to 70 credits to the pre-pharmacy program at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo thanks to a memorandum of understanding recently signed by both universities.

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

The completion of the pre-pharmacy course curriculum is needed for entrance into the professional program.

"Throughout the years of planning the College of Pharmacy, one of our goals has always been to extend our reach to all the islands in the Pacific," said Dr. John Pezzuto, Dean of the College of Pharmacy. "We also are building a base from which to recruit top-notch future doctoral students that will ultimately change the face of health care in the



"It's especially gratifying to see the College of Pharmacy show it is part of our 'ohana and work side-by-side with our partners in the Pacific islands."

**UH Hilo Chancellor Rose Tseng**

region. This is a very good start, and we're excited to be working with the top-notch educators in Guam."

UH Hilo works collaboratively with other institutions throughout Hawai'i and the Pacific.

UH Hilo Chancellor Rose Tseng said such agreements help UH Hilo lead efforts to promote science, technology, engineering and math.

"It's especially gratifying to see the College of Pharmacy show it is part of our 'ohana and work side-by-side with our partners in the Pacific islands," Chancellor Tseng said. "This is really a continuation of our long history of extending our reach beyond Hilo."

UH Hilo's Dr. Susan Jarvi, Director of the Pre-Pharmacy Program in the College of Pharmacy,

and Dr. Anthony Wright, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, helped create a list of UOG courses that can transfer to UH Hilo's pre-pharmacy program.

"This MOU is significant in that it provides a guideline for the cooperative promotion of successful educational experiences for students from both institutions. It also provides pre-pharmacy mentoring and advising from faculty and staff on both campuses, including tutoring and counseling," Dr. Jarvi said.

Dr. Jarvi, who will act as primary adviser to students coming to UH Hilo, said the pre-pharmacy program gives students in this region a level of training never before available.

# Geriatric care program takes shape

People who visit Hawai'i County's Aging and Disability Resource Center have begun getting advice on medications from College of Pharmacy experts. A Health Resource Services Administration grant helps support the collaboration that also will benefit the UH Hilo nursing program's efforts to promote geriatric health care.

The Pacific Island Geriatric Education Center project gives \$22,000 each to the College of Pharmacy and the Baccalaureate Nursing Program to increase interdisciplinary geriatric care concepts with community projects. A College of Pharmacy project is to provide counseling at the Aging and Disability and Resource Center.

"We'll be able to reach parts of the community through the Center for Aging and Disabilities that never have a chance to meet anyone from the University of Hawai'i at Hilo," said Dr. John M. Pezzuto, Dean of the College of Pharmacy. "In addition, our collaboration with our colleagues from nursing on this grant allows us to reach inward as well and concentrate on similar health issues."

Cecilia Mukai, an Associate Professor in nursing who has been a practicing registered nurse since 1973, said she envisions further collaboration with the pharmacy program to include geriatrics

coursework.

The Pacific Island Geriatric Education Center proposes to increase faculty expertise in the area of geriatric medicine. Work at the Aging and Disability Resource Center places pharmacy faculty among 11 agencies that provide care and support.

"This collaboration between the County's Office of Aging and the UH Hilo College of Pharmacy is a tremendous step forward for our island," said Hawai'i County Mayor Billy Kenoi. "It improves the quality of life for our elderly residents and their caregivers by having qualified pharmacists available to help them through the maze of medications with which they are often confronted."

The center also is called Kahi Malama, or "a place for caring." It acts as a single access facility that provides help to caregivers and seniors. The center houses agencies such as the Hawai'i County Office of Aging, the local Area Agency on Aging, the ARC of Hilo, the Center for Independent Living, Coordinated Services for the Elderly and the Hawai'i County Nutrition Program. A future tenant will be the State Department of Human Services.

"One of the reasons people are living longer is because of medications, so the contract with the

College of Pharmacy is a natural fit," said Alan Parker, Executive on Aging at the center. "When you start working together, ideas just start popping up."

The center opened in November after three years of planning. Dr. Scott Holuby, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and a licensed practicing pharmacist with a specialty in diabetes, plans to start work at the center soon.

"We can show people how to read medication labels, how to choose over-the-counter drugs and how to use their medications properly," Dr. Holuby said. "My goal is to encourage seniors to use their local pharmacist to help them get the most out of their medications."

Ultimately it will be a rotation site for students, he said. One role of the students will be to help the patients set up medication schedules.

"Our hope would be that this will lead to a geriatric residency opportunity for our students," said Dr. Edward Fisher, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the College of Pharmacy. "It's the perfect opportunity for students to experience the various problems that geriatric patients encounter by observing other agencies in the center."



Hawaii County's Aging and Disability Resource Center is on Kinoole Street in Hilo.

# Student's team designs logo

Jen and Rich Thoma teamed up to formulate with a winning design for the College of Pharmacy's new logo. The winner was announced during the dean's luau in May. Jen Thoma is a third-year College of Pharmacy student.

An invitation went out during the last school year for students, faculty and staff to help establish "a consistent image and message that effectively communicates our mission, vision and values to all stakeholders. The logo should become an indelible symbol of the college."

Jen asked Rich to lend his skills.

"He's a recent graduate of The Art Institute of Seattle, and he's responsible for the art," Jen Thoma said. "My involvement with the school here allowed me to help advise him and tailor the logo to the criteria being judged."

The winning concept then went to the UH Hilo Graphic Services Department for modifications to help it adhere to the UH Hilo brand.

The announcement was a surprise, Jen said.

"They caught me off guard. I wasn't informed that our design had won ahead of time," Jen said.

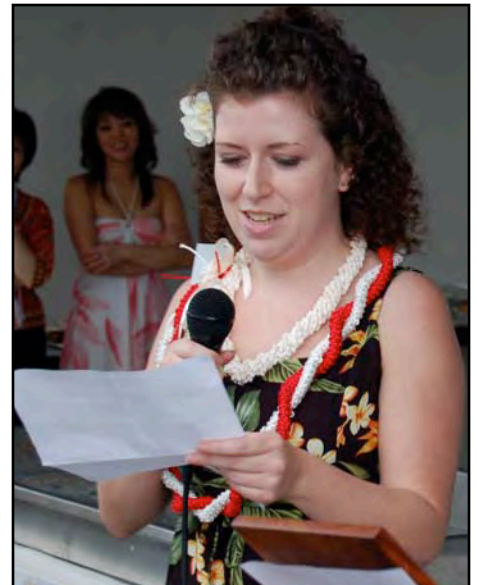
This is an excerpt of the team's

narrative to the judges, which Jen wrote:

"We're presenting to you this logo that embodies the energy of the University of Hawai'i's College of Pharmacy at Hilo. The main image is a stylized version of Kilauea, intermingled with the rod of Asclepius.

"Kilauea is one of the volcanoes that gave birth to Hawaii itself, and as an echo of that grand creation, the College of Pharmacy has been born here as well. It is the active volcano in whose shadow the College of Pharmacy continues to grow through the dedication and fortitude of its staff and students, as does the island of Hawai'i on which it stands.

"The rod of Asclepius symbolizes the healing arts. Asclepius was a practitioner of medicine in ancient Greek mythology; the serpent or snake entwined around it is an image of healing. The serpent sheds its skin and in doing so, it is reborn and healed. Thus, this symbol has long been regarded as the very image of healing the sick through medicine, the charge now laid upon the new generation of pharmacy students, whom are in very good hands here."



Third-year College of Pharmacy student Jen Thoma reads the narrative explaining her team's winning entry in the college's logo design contest.

## DESIGN CRITERIA

Criteria for the winning College of Pharmacy logo entry included:

- Effectiveness in communicating the core mission, values and vision of the College of Pharmacy;
- Effectiveness in differentiating the UHH COP from other pharmacy programs
- Harmony with the UH Hilo and University of Hawai'i system's logo/brand
- Attractiveness



## Campus Visit

Students from UH Manoa Pre-Pharmacy Association Club visited UH Hilo earlier this year in order to find out more about attending the College of Pharmacy. The meeting allowed the UH Manoa students to connect with students on the UH Hilo campus and to ask questions about pre-pharmacy and doctorate students' experiences. Academic Adviser Gina Patrick, third from right, from the College of Pharmacy's Student Services, served as host while the students toured the campus, met with a faculty, staff and students and attended a therapeutics lecture.

# The value of on-the-job experience

College of Pharmacy students are gaining valuable experience behind the retail counter and in health-care settings while they earn their doctorates in pharmacy.

Students are working in health-care facilities such as Hilo Medical Center, Pahoa Family Health Center and Hale Anuenue Restorative Care Center, and in the Veterans Administration long-term care home. Dr. John M. Pezzuto, Dean of the College of Pharmacy, said the college will place additional pharmacists and faculty supervisors, or preceptors, at various sites throughout the state, which will enhance health care while easing its increasingly prevalent economic burden.

"We are delighted to help the state while educating our students at the same time," Dean Pezzuto said.

"We also are extremely pleased about the great partnerships we have established throughout the state."

The program is part of the experiential program that Dr. Carolyn Ma, Associate Professor and Chair for Pharmacy Practice and Director of Experiential Education, helped develop when the college enrolled its first students in 2007.

"Our curriculum is very different from any other College of Pharmacy



Pahoa Family Health Center nurse Aurora Ministero, left, and College of Pharmacy student Tess Blankenship go over a patient's chart.

in the past," Dr. Ma said. "Previously, students didn't get a chance to develop foundational clinical skills until their fourth year. We moved it up so they're better prepared by the time they graduate and to help us meet accreditation standards."

Pharmacy students at UH Hilo jumpstart their careers during their first year by getting retail and hospital experience, observing pharmacists and patients, learning about medicine and gaining some patient contact skills from the registered pharmacists.

"Support from the retail side in Hilo has been tremendous," Dr. Ma said. "The pharmacies are small and extremely busy, but the pharmacists have been very interested and helpful in teaching these future colleagues."

Second-year students begin building skills through primary care providers and community health care in Hilo, Keaau and Pahoa at Bay Clinic, Kaiser, Hui Malama and Kauka Express as well as at Ka'u Hospital in Pahala.

Dean Pezzuto said the relationship between the College of Pharmacy and the retail and hospital pharmacies is an example of how the college is doing something about the health-care crisis as well as filling a need in future job markets.

"The bonus for students spending time at these sites is that the pharmacist in charge not only trains the students but has the chance to evaluate their future potential as employees," Dean Pezzuto said. "We are looking forward to expanding this training as our students enter their third and fourth year. We want to prepare our inaugural class of 2011 to be ready to hit the ground running, ready to take part in improving health care in Hawai'i and throughout the Pacific."

## College wins OK to award CME, CPE credits

The College of Pharmacy was approved by two different organizations to offer courses to professionals to earn credits in continuing medical education and continuing pharmacy education.

CME status was awarded by the Hawai'i Medical Association, which is recognized by the national Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education as the intrastate accrediting agency for organizations and institutions that provide CME activities for physicians in Hawai'i.

CPE status is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education. The ACPE is the national agency in charge of accrediting

professional degree programs in pharmacy and providers of continuing pharmacy education.

All pharmacists in the United States are required to take pharmacy continuing education classes in order to renew their licenses every two years. In Hawai'i, all licensed pharmacists must complete a minimum of 30 hours of continuing education that has been approved by ACPE during each two-year period.

CME and CPE programs will cover the same broad range of topics in medicine and patient care, said Dr. Karen Pellegrin, Chair of the Continuing Education Executive Committee and Director of Strategic

Planning for the College of Pharmacy.

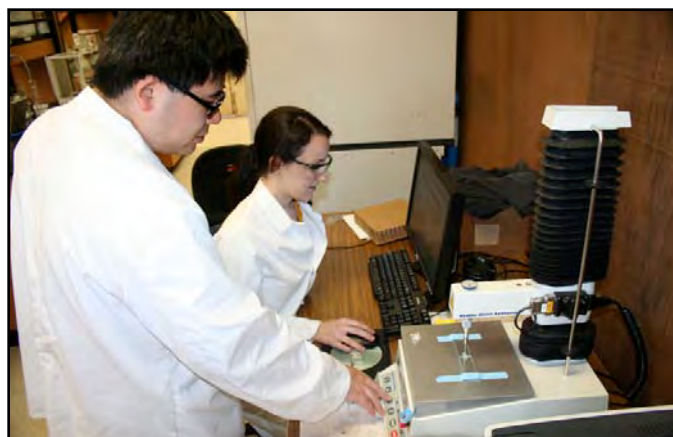
"This will be a good opportunity for us to promote interdisciplinary teamwork as physicians and pharmacists take classes together," she said. "But in some cases, we'll have pharmacy-specific programs, as in our preceptor training which is designed to support the educational needs of the healthcare professionals who contribute to the experiential training of our pharmacy students."

The ACPE also awarded the College of Pharmacy candidate accreditation in July 2008.

To receive future announcements about continuing education events, e-mail [karen3@hawaii.edu](mailto:karen3@hawaii.edu)

# Shared space, common goals

Pharmacy and chemistry faculty and students work together on analytical instruments in a cutting-edge research laboratory.



Second-year College of Pharmacy students Paul Kim and Lauren Ruffino have been getting research experience this summer in Dr. Ken Morris' pharmaceuticals lab.

Collaboration between the College of Pharmacy and UH Hilo's Department of Chemistry gave students from both units more opportunities to work with high-end analytical equipment this summer.

Dr. Charles Simmons, Associate Professor of chemistry and director of the Minority Biomedical Research Support X-ray Diffraction Laboratory, is sharing room in his lab for Dr. Ken Morris' Powder X-ray Diffractometer. Morris acquired the approximately \$280,000 instrument when he joined the College of Pharmacy as a Professor last year. The shared space has given rise to several joint projects and provided training for students on the same equipment used by the best private and public laboratories worldwide.

"Though we anticipate ample facilities in the planned College of Pharmacy building, we need to establish our research programs now to ensure future success and to provide opportunities for our students," Dr. Morris said. "Analytical instrumentation such as this is essential for my continued research in pharmaceutical materials science that has been my focus for some 30 years. Without Dr. Simmons' generosity, it would have been difficult or impossible for me to so rapidly establish a laboratory and achieve the success we've already had. We are now collaborating on a range of projects that, hopefully, should benefit both UH Hilo and our community."

The instrument also is being put to use on research by Dr. Ken Hon, Chair of the Geology Department.

The Powder X-ray Diffractometer is used to look at the internal structure and properties of bulk material in everything from food and drugs, polymers, geological samples and semiconductors, Dr. Morris said. He is using this equipment for an NSF project that will help determine how to design tablets.

Tablets are typically made up of drug crystals, which are delivered as molecules when the tablet dissolves. Dr.



Dr. Charles Simmons, seated, associate professor of chemistry and director of the Minority Biomedical Research Support X-ray Diffraction Laboratory, is sharing room in his lab for Pharmaceutics Professor Dr. Ken Morris' Powder X-ray Diffractometer.

Morris and his team of three pharmacy students are helping to discover how compression into a tablet changes the internal arrangement of molecules in order to predict how easily they can be made into tablets.

"To be able to design a tablet, you need to know how strong the crystal is," Dr. Morris said. "The students are learning research from the ground up. They now know how to grow and characterize their crystals and then how to test the strength of their creations in the x-ray diffractometer. Then, they will compare their results to the computer simulations to see if we really understand what's happening."

All of the students working in the Morris lab this summer will be second-year pharmacy students in the fall. Lauren Ruffino is originally from New Orleans. She has had some experience working in a microbiology lab, but this is her first job in a lab working with drugs. She is testing the strength of aspirin crystals.

Paul Kim of California didn't have any experience in a research lab before entering the pharmacy program. With a bachelor's degree in political science, Kim worked in the legal sector, where his interest in pharmaceuticals was sparked when he worked on a patent litigation involving drugs.

"I was surprised at the kind of drugs that are being made and it made me really think about my career choice," Kim said. He said he hopes the experience in the lab will make him more competitive for an internship or research associate position after he earns his Pharm.D in 2012.

Daniel Hu of Kurtistown also hadn't had any experience working in a research lab and, at first, didn't realize he was going to be paid when he applied for the research position in Morris' lab. Hu said he was just naturally interested in pharmaceuticals.

"Working in a research lab will give me an idea of whether I want to continue with research in the future much the same as my work at the hospital pharmacy during my first year of study," Hu said.



Elisabeth Pezzuto, the dean's daughter, spends time with Elizabeth Ryan, Research and Special Projects Coordinator.

UH Hilo Chancellor Rose Tseng, left, Dean John Pezzuto and Karen Pellegrin, Director of Strategic Planning, address luau guests.

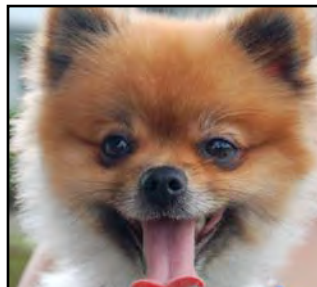
# PHARMACY LUAU

For the second year, Dean Pezzuto and his wife, Mimi, opened their home to College of Pharmacy students, faculty and staff to celebrate the end of a successful school year. There was plenty of food as well as recognition of student and faculty achievements. It's one of the college's most important events, Dean Pezzuto said.

"The number-one reason we are here is for the benefit of our students. As Dean of the college, many of my responsibilities take place outside of the classroom," he said. "So even though I am always working for the benefit of our students, I don't have the opportunity to see them as frequently as I would like. The luau gives us at least one opportunity to visit in a relaxed atmosphere and to recognize our great pride in their accomplishments, diligence and success. In addition, during the course of the festivities, we are able to recognize the tremendous contributions of our faculty and preceptors, as well as the continuing commitment of our administration, most notably, Chancellor Rose Tseng. I always emphasize the importance of hard work and long hours of study — doing whatever it takes for a newly founded school to become a highly ranked school. But at least on Luau Day, my wife and I are pleased to host the CoP 'ohana and just have some fun."



Third-year students Tiffany Santore, left, and Elissa-Marie Kahahane perform a hula at the luau. In the background are Elisabeth Pezzuto and Class of 2011 President Jessica Toyama, who were among the other dancers.



From left, third-year student Wilson Nyasa brought his son along for the fun. Second-year student Lauren Ruffino's dog, Polly, was a crowd-pleaser. Second-year student Megan Venegas gets some kalua pig in the buffet line.



# Instructors of the Year

College of Pharmacy students selected four faculty members to be named Instructors of the Year. Each received recognition at the dean's year-end luau. Here's why they were singled out, in the students' own words.



## Dr. Daniela Gundisch, Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences

"Dr. Gundisch wins students over by having a sense of humor and realizing that what she is teaching can be difficult for people to understand. She then teaches in a way that is for our benefit but not for our survival — not with an ego of her knowledge but compassion to share it."

— Cody Walker, Class of 2011

## Dr. Scott Holuby, Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice



"It is very apparent to our class that Dr. Holuby is passionate about student learning and is determined to see us leave this college as knowledgeable and outstanding pharmacists. He repeatedly encouraged us to make appointments with him to review our exams and even met with students on the weekends when necessary. ... He did not hesitate to volunteer his weekends to assist our class at community service events. It is this dedication and willingness to go beyond his responsibilities as an instructor that make Dr. Holuby an exceptional member of the UH Hilo faculty."

— Jessica Toyama, Class of 2011

## Dr. Ken Morris, Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences



"Dr. Morris is a joy to have in the classroom and is a great asset to our College of Pharmacy. He teaches with such passion and enthusiasm so much that his positive energy and thirst for knowledge is infectious to all who surround him. He is generously accommodating to his students, eagerly fielding our endless questions and was even kind enough to provide supplement video lectures when he was ill. Dr. Morris is an exceptional teacher — one who inspires his students to push forward through the trials of pharmacy school, and one who is truly deserving of this honor."

— Alexandra M. Perez, Class of 2012

## Mimi Pezzuto, Instructor, Department of Pharmacy Practice



"Mrs. Pezzuto is a compassionate person who wants us to succeed in all aspects of life. She is always willing to go the extra mile to help her students, and she is a positive role model for women in pharmacy. Mrs. Pezzuto is an incredible teacher, pharmacist and mother, and she brings all three of these together to help us grow into the most well rounded professionals."

— Amanda Meholchick, Class of 2012

## Preceptor of the Year: Dr. Nelson Nako



Dr. Nelson Nako, left, received a plaque from Dr. John M. Pezzuto, Dean of the UH Hilo College of Pharmacy, and Dr. Carolyn Ma, Associate Professor and Chair for Pharmacy Practice and Director of Experiential Education.

The College of Pharmacy recently named Dr. Nelson Nako its Preceptor of the Year. Dr. Nako is the Pharmacy Director at Hilo Medical Center.

A preceptor is a professional pharmacist who is trained to mentor students while they earn their doctorate in pharmacy.

Dr. Carolyn Ma, Associate Professor and Chair for Pharmacy Practice and Director of Experiential Education, said the soft-spoken pharmacist is well-deserving of the honor for his enthusiastic support of the program and willingness to guide first-year students.

"Dr. Nako is the epitome of the phrase 'Actions speak louder than words,'" Dr. Ma said "He knows

every student in our program. He has precepted all of them over the past two years."

He also earned praise from health system leaders.

"On behalf of his more than 900 colleagues at Hilo Medical Center, I congratulate Nelson Nako for being named Preceptor of the Year," said Howard Ainsley, East Hawai'i Regional CEO of Hawai'i Health Systems Corp. "Nelson has been a valued pharmacist at Hilo Medical Center for more than 24 years. I thank him for sharing his wisdom with the students of Hilo's own College of Pharmacy and I wish him all the best in continuing to help producing quality pharmacists for our state."

# Off-island preceptors welcome students

The College of Pharmacy offered its second annual spring preceptor training on Oahu and Maui to student mentors in the pharmaceutical profession. Rotations that started in June marked the first time pharmacy students from Hilo were able to receive the experiential phase of their education off the Big Island.

More than 60 preceptors came from major hospitals such as The Queen's Medical Center, Kaiser Permanente, Kapiolani Women and Children's Hospital, Pali Momi Medical Center, Castle Medical Center and Maui Memorial Hospital.

The training prepared preceptors to receive the third-year class in a two-week clinical pharmacy/hospital rotation. The rotation is part of the Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience, which is a major portion of students' work toward earning

their doctorate in pharmacy, also called a Pharm.D.

"Students in their first and second years have received experience in local health care facilities such as Hilo Medical Center, the retail stores in Hilo, Hale Anuenue Restorative Care Center and in the Veterans Administration long-term care home," said Dr. Carolyn Ma, Associate Professor and Chair for Pharmacy Practice and Director of Experiential Education. "Support on the Big Island has been amazing. The experiential training will give students more options to consider when they see additional facets of the pharmacy profession on the other islands."

In 2007, the College of Pharmacy seated its first class, which is entering its third year of study in Hilo. During their first year of study,

students gained retail and hospital experience by observing how pharmacists, nurses and physicians interact with patients, learning about drugs and gaining patient contact skills. In their second year, students become more comfortable with patients, and can take blood pressure as well as give immunizations.

Third-year experiences will help students become even more comfortable with patient interview skills and the various components of pharmacy practice in the acute hospital setting. The experience will help to prepare the students and preceptors for the more extensive Advanced Pharmacy Practice rotations that will comprise the entire curriculum for the fourth and final year, which the first class will begin in 2010.

## Diabetes health fair is another opportunity for hands-on learning

Several College of Pharmacy students spent a spring Sunday working with patients at the Taking Control of Your Diabetes Conference and Health Fair at the Hilo Hawaiian Hotel.

Students worked under the supervision of Dr. Scott Holuby, Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice, on health screenings that included checks of blood pressure and blood glucose levels.

"It's important for students to take advantage of every opportunity to improve their ability to interact with patients," Dr. Holuby said. "Each time the College of Pharmacy takes part in an event like this, we make our presence known in the community while introducing people to tomorrow's health-care professionals."

Students left with as much knowledge as the attendees.

"The diabetes health fair showed me how diabetes is best

managed as a team that includes the patient, a support network and health-care professionals," said third-year student Adrienne Au. "By providing blood pressure and glucose screenings, we were able to help patients interpret their results and understand the importance of regular monitoring."

The daylong conference offered the latest information to people with Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes, those at risk of developing the disease and family and friends in their support networks.

Taking Control of Your Diabetes is a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating and motivating people with diabetes as well as their loved ones to take a more active role in their condition in order to lead healthier and happier lives. The group has presented more than 100 conferences and health fairs throughout the U.S. since its inception in 1995. It is based in California.



Pharmacy students Adrienne Au, above, and Peter Jo, at left, check blood glucose levels of diabetes patients.



UH Hilo College of Pharmacy visitors to American Samoa in June are Dr. Scott Holuby, left, Dr. Carolyn Ma, Dr. Anita Ciarleglio and third-year students Daniel Navas and Robert Esteban.

# Pharmacists on a mission

Faculty members and two third-year students head for American Samoa to help at a hospital and spread the word about the profession.

## FAGA'ALU, American Samoa —

There's only one place in this small, far-flung U.S. territory for its 60,000-plus residents to fill their prescription needs.

Dr. Evelyn Ahhing-Faiiuaso oversees it all as the Chief of Pharmacy for the Lyndon B. Johnson Tropical Medical Center. She's one of only two pharmacists on this group of islands 2,600 miles southwest of Hawai'i and is the only one licensed in the U.S. That distinction presents tremendous challenges for her.

"There's such a great need for pharmacists in our setting," said Dr. Ahhing-Faiiuaso, who is a native of American Samoa. "There are not enough to serve our population."

That's where the University of Hawai'i at Hilo hopes to step in. Three College of Pharmacy faculty members and two third-year pharmacy students recently spent a week in American Samoa to assess the hospital's pharmacy needs, educate medical staff and encourage island students to pursue a pharmacy career.

"My hope is to promote pharmacy to students here so they take up the



Eleven pharmacy technicians help in the pharmacy's day-to-day operations.

profession," Dr. Ahhing-Faiiuaso said, "and to return back home and serve our community."

Dr. John M. Pezzuto, Dean of the College of Pharmacy, said the team's work is another way to promote the college's mission to improve the quality of health care in Hawai'i and throughout the Pacific.

"Hawai'i is blessed to have the only

## WHAT I EARNED



Dr. Carolyn Ma

In this second visit, many people recognized me and welcomed me back with genuine enthusiasm. From my time here with the June Jones Foundation to our own pharmacy mission, everyone treated us with such heartfelt kindness and graciousness. I am beginning to become very fond of this community and of new friendships. The health care providers at the hospital do an incredible job with what they have, and I really admire and respect them for their dedication.

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Navas speaks with pharmacy technicians including Cynthia Tuimavave. At right, Esteban watches Senior Pharmacy Technician Monica Yandall label a medication.



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College of Pharmacy in the entire Pacific region,” Dean Pezzuto said. “It is critical that we extend our reach throughout the Pacific Basin.

“Our objective is not only to provide service for our friends in American Samoa, but to establish durable partnerships.”

Dr. Carolyn Ma, Associate Professor and Chair for Pharmacy Practice and Director of Experiential Education, first visited the hospital in March to determine how UH Hilo’s burgeoning pharmacy program could help the territory now and in the long term. The college has begun a pre-pharmacy initiative at American Samoa Community College through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

Dr. Ma said she was impressed by the hospital’s successes despite its limited resources.

“The health-care providers at the hospital do an incredible job with what they have, and I really admire and respect them for their dedication,” Dr. Ma said.

**FAST FACTS**

Lyndon B. Johnson Tropical Medical Center is the only hospital in the U.S. territory of American Samoa.

- **Completed:** 1968
- **Beds:** 128
- **Major departments:** Medicine, pediatrics, surgery, OB/GYN
- **Other features:** 8-bed combined ICU, labor and delivery unit, NICU/newborn nursery, four-suite OR/PAR, 14-station ESRD dialysis unit, 24-hour emergency/family practice clinic.

Source: LBJ Tropical Medical Center

Dr. Ma also is a member of an interdisciplinary health-care team from the June Jones Foundation, whose summer mission overlapped the College of Pharmacy’s work in American Samoa.

Dr. Ma and Drs. Anita Ciarleglio and Scott Holuby, Assistant Professors in the Department of Pharmacy Practice, also

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Dr. Ma is interviewed by an island broadcaster for a local television news program.



**WHAT I EARNED**



**Dr. Anita Ciarleglio**

“The biggest challenge I perceived during my time in American Samoa involved finding a way to provide good care under less-than-ideal circumstances. While our health-care system is certainly not perfect, we here in Hawai‘i and those on the mainland take many aspects of health care for granted. After observing the challenges that the Samoan people face daily in caring for their health, I believe that we must continue to strive to ensure that all people in our country have access to good basic medical care as well as access to the medications that they need. The involvement of pharmacists in this process is vital to its success.”

Dr. Ciarleglio discusses hypertension and asthma treatments during a workshop with pharmacy technicians.



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offered continuing education classes for pharmacy staff, physicians and nurses. Topics included diabetes, hypertension and asthma, which are all prevalent in American Samoa, as well as the prevention of medication errors. The faculty attended rounds to lend their therapeutic expertise in pharmacokinetics and drug therapy management to providers, patients and families regarding their medications and to learn more about hospital functions.

"There's such a huge potential for pharmacy services, but they truly need more pharmacists who are familiar with the culture and sensitive to the needs of the Samoan people," Dr. Holuby said. Dr. Ciarleglio agreed.

"We want to promote pharmacy as the beautiful profession that it is," Dr. Ciarleglio said. "It's a fine way to give back to one's community and serve others."

Dr. Ma's other purpose on this mission was to evaluate a potential partnership between the college and the hospital to place students in fourth-year, advanced pharmacy practice experiential rotations while encouraging island residents to consider a pharmacy career.

"It became apparent from this visit that certainly the LBJ medical center would welcome and benefit from fourth-year students to help build their inpatient pharmacy services, and also that our students could help promote the pharmacy profession at the intermediate, high school and community college levels," Dr. Ma said.

The pharmacists became local celebrities during the visit. They were interviewed for a local newscast and hospital public-access broadcast, and their photo appeared in the local newspaper. Residents stopped them in restaurants and while touring the island to thank them for their work and encouragement.



Esteban, Dr. Holuby and Navas wore lava-lavas, a traditional Polynesian article of clothing, during their hospital visits and talks.

College of Pharmacy students Robert Esteban and Daniel Navas were selected for the medical mission and also will receive elective credits for their efforts. Both are third-year students on track to graduate with the college's inaugural class in 2011.

Esteban and Navas shared their educational journeys with a crowded classroom of community college students and encouraged them to follow a similar path, beginning at their school.

"I hope I gave students the impression that they are able to make a difference in their communities, as well as their own lives, through education," said Esteban, a 32-year-old student from Honolulu.

Navas, 36, of Honolulu, hopes he has piqued the interest of Samoan students so that one day they will help their islands.

"Understanding the culture is essential in

**WHAT I EARNED**



**Dr. Scott Holuby**

There is a tremendous need for pharmacy services all around the world, and we — as the College of Pharmacy — can do a lot to promote the value of pharmacists and improve the quality of health care for patients everywhere.



**Robert Esteban**

Pharmacy practice is part of something more than itself, and its practice, believe it or not, defines the success of our health care.

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communication and effective patient care," Navas said. "The situations I encountered here are real and complicated, and need real solutions despite limited resources."

The need for pharmacists here is great, Dr. Ahhing-Faaiuasoo said, especially native-born people who understand the Samoan language and the islands' traditions. She received a bachelor's degree in pharmacy in 1987 and a doctorate in 2003. She took over the pharmacy here in 2007 after gaining experience in retail pharmacy and at Tripler Army Medical Center on Oahu.

The scarcity of pharmacists here doesn't lessen the demand for services. Residents don't have the convenience of a neighborhood Longs Drugs or a supermarket pharmacy when they need a prescription filled. Ahhing-Faaiuasoo said her pharmacy fills about 600 prescriptions each weekday. It is staffed seven days a week, including holidays. On a recent weekday in the pharmacy waiting area, the five wooden benches that resemble church pews were filled with patients, from fussy toddlers in

small sports jerseys wriggling on their young mothers' laps to calm elders in traditional Samoan dress.

Dr. Ahhing-Faaiuasoo has little time to consult with doctors on medical wards about inpatient needs, and hopes that one day pharmacists will be able to offer more clinical services to the hospital staff.

The pharmacy's efficiency in spite of a limited supply of medications and dearth of licensed personnel impressed Dr. Ciarleglio.

"It is quite obvious that Evelyn has made staff education a primary goal," Dr. Ciarleglio said. "The pharmacy staff works like a well-oiled machine to fill an amazing number of prescriptions with an emphasis on patient safety."

Dr. Ahhing-Faaiuasoo is excited about the potential benefits for her hospital and the College of Pharmacy as the partnership evolves.

"An affiliation with UH Hilo would bring the current standards of pharmacy practice into our setting," she said, "and with the limited resources we have, we can meet them halfway with ongoing teaching for the students who will be spending time here."

## WHAT I EARNED



Daniel Navas

Being a pharmacist in an underserved environment may offer multiple challenges but can be extremely rewarding. There is a tremendous need for health-care professionals in American Samoa. Those trained individuals who come here do make a positive difference and lives.



Esteban and Navas came upon the rusted remains of a shipwreck while touring 'Aunu'u Island, which is a 10-minute boat ride from the main island of Tutuila. About 600 people live there.

## On board with the June Jones Foundation

The College of Pharmacy's work in American Samoa evolved from Dr. Carolyn Ma's collaboration with the June Jones Foundation. The foundation, a nonprofit organization founded in 2004 by Southern Methodist University Head Football Coach June Jones, sponsored its second annual football academy and medical mission in Pago Pago in June.

Ellie M. Taft-Southcott Reinebold, the Director of the June Jones Foundation Medical Mission, invited Ma to join a multidisciplinary team. Taft is the wife of SMU Assistant Football Coach Jeff Reinebold. At the same time, the College of Pharmacy began a pre-pharmacy initiative at the American



American Samoa Gov. Togiola Tulafono, second from left, greets Navas, Dr. Ma and Esteban at a reception for the June Jones Foundation.

Samoa Community College.

Dr. Ma and third-year students Robert Esteban and Daniel Navas

spent their first days on the island at Lyndon B. Johnson Tropical Medical Center, where they helped to unload and distribute more than \$400,000 worth of medical equipment and supplies provided by the foundation. They also attended official events, including a dinner with Gov. Togiola Tulafono and visits with relatives of Paramount Chief Uluao "Freddie" Letuli Olo Misilagi, who was known as the "Father of the Knife Dance."

The football academy is a free two-day clinic open to all young American Samoans and football coaches. Jones and several past and present NFL players of Samoan descent including San Francisco 49er great Jesse Sapolu and the "Throwin Samoan" Jack Thompson led it.

# Dr. Evelyn Ahhing-Faaiuasos

Stepping in to make a difference  
in her South Pacific home.



Dr. Evelyn Ahhing-Faaiuasos is finally home.

The pharmacy chief at American Samoa's only hospital has spent the past two-plus years restructuring and expanding the pharmacy to better serve the needs of the island territory's 65,000 people. But the path to return to her native land has been an odyssey in itself.

She left American Samoa at age 18 in 1977 when she joined the Army, and got her first taste of the pharmacy profession as a technician during her four years of active duty. After that, she initially pursued a degree in finance before realizing that pharmacy was her true calling.

"I enjoy being able to reach out to people," she said. "It's about the relationships that we build."

She attained a bachelor's degree in pharmacy in 1987 from Creighton University in Omaha, Neb.

Her first pharmacy job was at Lyndon B. Johnson Tropical Medical Center in American Samoa. She said she quickly realized the challenges the hospital pharmacy — and she — faced.

"Even as a new pharmacist, we really need to grow and be real

professionals," Dr. Ahhing-Faaiuasos said. "It was difficult. We were so much behind even at that time. I did not have the experience."

After about 18 months she left for the U.S. mainland, where she found a job in retail pharmacy at Costco. In 1996, the company transferred her to Honolulu, and she became the pharmacy manager at the Salt Lake store. She received a doctorate in

pharmacy in 2003.

Dr. Ahhing-Faaiuasos returned to American Samoa in 2004 with her husband and four daughters to care for her ailing mother. The hospital tried to recruit her then, but another commitment ultimately sidelined those efforts.

She had kept her ties to the military, joining the ROTC at Creighton to help pay for her education. She was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1986 and spent much of the next decade or so as a reservist in adjutant general roles before shifting to a pharmacy spot in 2000.

In 2005, she was called to active duty.

"I was activated, and I lost my Mom," Dr. Ahhing-Faaiuasos said. "I left two weeks after her funeral."

She was assigned to Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, where she worked as chief of outpatient pharmacy for two years. She returned home as her active-duty stint was ending, and another twist sealed her future: LBJ's pharmacist suffered a stroke, and the hospital asked her to help during their

emergency.

"I saw that there was truly a need to come back home," she said. "Just the fact that in the two weeks I was here to cover I saw that there's so much to be done as far as medication therapy. A pharmacy is operated by procedures and standards for patient safety, but we were so far from it. I saw a lot of things that could be changed.

"I saw the need that I could be a vehicle to make improvements."

She has changed the prescription filling workflow to reduce dispensing errors, built better relations between the pharmacy and physicians and developed policies so that physicians write prescriptions only within the scope of their practice. Inventory control has become more stringent, and she is encouraging her technicians to become certified through online courses with the University of Alaska.

Dr. Ahhing-Faaiuasos continues to balance work and family with military duties. She's now a major in the Reserves, slotted as an emergency preparedness liaison office attached to the 9th Theater

Support Group at Fort Shafter Flats in Honolulu. She is assigned to American Samoa, and is committed to Reserve duties one weekend a month and two weeks a year. She hopes she can continue to improve her hospital's pharmacy, and hopes the UH Hilo College of Pharmacy can play an active role. "As students come to LBJ, we are encouraging a lot more teamwork," she said, "and ultimately better patient care."



Drs. Holuby, Ciarleglio and Ahhing-Faaiuasos review the medications listed in a premature baby's chart in the LBJ Tropical Medical Center pediatric ward.

## Faculty and Staff Notes

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• **Dr. Linda Connelly**, Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, will work on strengthening the pre-pharmacy program, and will teach in the pre-pharmacy and Pharm.D programs, including the physiology part of PHPS 509 Pathophysiology for first-year students in the spring. Dr. Connelly hopes to continue research on the role of the tumor microenvironment in the development and progression of breast cancer and the links between inflammation and tumorigenesis. She moved to Hilo from Nashville, Tenn. where she was a research fellow/instructor at Vanderbilt University. She received a bachelor's degree in biochemistry from the University of Glasgow and her Ph.D. in molecular pharmacology from Wolfson Institute for Biomedical Research at University College in London. She has won several awards, including the Wellcome International Prize Travelling Research Fellowship, the Medical Research Council Ph.D Studentship and the Davidson Prize for Biochemistry from the University of Glasgow. She grew up in Dunoon, a town on the west coast of Scotland. When not at work, she likes to travel, particularly to visit her parents in Scotland and her sister in New Zealand. She also likes to swim, run ("quite slowly") and ride her bicycle.



• **Dr. Aaron Jacobs**, Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, will teach pharmacology in Integrated Therapeutics I-IV. Dr. Jacobs focuses current research on identifying the role of individual, heat shock-regulated genes in this adaptive response, and examining their contribution in disease processes such as cancer and neurodegeneration. Future work will incorporate the study of natural compounds for their effects on heat shock gene expression, as well as other pathways that mediate cellular adaptation. He comes to

Hilo from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn., where he was a research associate in biochemistry, studying the effect of oxidized lipids on cellular function and viability. He received a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of California at Irvine, and his Ph.D. from UCLA. Dr. Jacobs grew up in Huntington Beach, Calif., and enjoys surfing and bodyboarding. He has an interest in classic cars, and likes mechanical work and restoration. He also is an avid collector of vintage postcards.



• **Dr. Dianqing Sun**, Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, will teach medicinal chemistry in Integrated Therapeutics and Introduction to the Pharmaceutical Sciences. Dr. Sun moved to Hilo from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, where he was a research associate in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences of the College of Pharmacy. Dr. Sun received his Ph.D. in organic chemistry from the University of Memphis, and received his post-doctoral training in medicinal chemistry at the University of Tennessee. He is a member of the American Chemical Society (Medicinal Chemistry) and American Society for Microbiology. He has published more than 10 research articles in peer-reviewed journals. His research focuses on the discovery and development of novel antimicrobial agents using classical organic synthesis, high-throughput and combinatorial chemistry approach, followed by traditional medicinal chemistry optimization of the emerging lead compounds. In his spare time, Dr. Sun likes to spend time with his wife, Xinyan, who has a dual master's degree in chemistry and international business administration, and their 3-year-old daughter, Alanna. He enjoys going to the gym, playing tennis, swimming and snorkeling.

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**



## Faculty and Staff Notes

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• **Robert Summers**, Director of Pharmacy Innovation and Facility Planning, will be responsible for facilities as well as strengthening the college's relationship with the community. He comes to Hilo from Overland Park, Kan., where he was a strategic market director for Johnson & Johnson, charged with leading market share and revenue growth for five product lines. He received a bachelor's degree in pharmacy from the University of Kansas and is a licensed pharmacist in Missouri and Kansas. He is working on an MBA in health-care management from Capella University in Minneapolis, which he hopes to complete by next year. He has accumulated more than 20 years of experience cultivating relationships and driving a broad range of product initiatives within the managed care, diagnostic and pharmaceutical industries. His expertise lies in cultivating relationships with providers, hospital and community organizations to build long-term, strategic business alliances. When not at work, he enjoys hiking, watching movies, doing yard work and spending time with his wife, Mary. They have four sons — two in the Army and two in college. He enjoys woodworking and restoring old cars, having restored a 1965 Ford Mustang, a 1931 Ford Model A and a 1963 Chevrolet Corvette.



• **Dr. Susan I. Jarvi**, Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, joins the College of Pharmacy after serving as director of the pre-pharmacy program for the past three years and as co-director of the Pacific Pre-Pharmacy Program for the past year. She also is director of the Genetics Laboratory of Infectious Diseases and Avian Studies at UH Hilo. Dr. Jarvi received her Ph.D. in biology from Northern Illinois University in 1989, her M.S. degree from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in 1986 and a bachelor's degree in education from Fitchburg State College in 1983. She completed post-doctoral research studies at the Beckman Research Institute at the City of Hope National Medical Center from 1990 to 1993 and at the Molecular Genetics Laboratory of the Smithsonian Institution from 1993 to 1995. She

continued as an associate research scientist with USGS-BRD (Pacific Islands Ecosystems Research Center) and the Smithsonian Institution from 1995 until she was hired by the UH Hilo Biology Department in 2000. She previously served as chair of biology from 2006 to 2009. In her spare time, Dr. Jarvi likes to spend time with her family at their home in Ninole.



• **Dr. Tamara Kondratyuk**, Laboratory Manager, manages the laboratory exercises that will be conducted by pharmacy students. She received her Ph.D. in medicinal chemistry and molecular biology from Moscow State University in 1992 with postdoctoral work in Germany prior to serving as a senior scientist at the Institute of Biochemistry Academy of Science, Kiev. Prior to accepting a position at UH Hilo, she served as research scientist at Purdue University, first in the Department of Biochemistry and then in School of Veterinary Medicine and College of Pharmacy. With many years of laboratory experience, Dr. Kondratyuk will apply the scientific methods as integral to good teaching. In her spare time, Dr. Kondratyuk enjoys gardening, reading and cooking.



• **Maggie Morris**, Public Information Officer, is writing and directing external communications for the College of Pharmacy. She most recently was a writer at Purdue News Service in West Lafayette, Ind., where she managed the news output from the School of Veterinary Medicine, Krannert School of Business, the Black Cultural Center and the Latino Cultural Center, as well as the Board of Regents academic news. She received a bachelor's degree from Eastern Michigan University and a master's degree in journalism from the University of Arizona. After working as a sports editor/general assignment reporter at newspapers in Tucson, Ariz., and Princeton, N.J., she advanced to the editorial desk as an editor and project manager at the Wall Street Journal's wire service in New Jersey. With a keen interest in the future of newspapers, she is researching new ways the field of journalism will have to grow. She likes snorkeling and playing poor golf, and tries to surround herself with people who make her laugh.

## Faculty and Staff Notes

• College of Pharmacy faculty presented some of their research June 27-July 1 at the 50th anniversary meeting of the American Society of Pharmacognosy in Honolulu. **Dean John M. Pezzuto** chaired the session for the society's research achievement award and, together with **Drs. Robert P. Borris, Leng Chee Chang, Tamara P. Kondratyuk, Kenneth R. Morris, Ghee T. Tan, Anthony D. Wright** and Research Technician **Laura Marler**, nine research posters were presented. Post-doctoral Associate **Eun-Jung Park** gave a lecture highlighting progress on a UH Hilo-based program project funded by the National Cancer Institute. **Dr. Edward Fisher**, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, estimated that more than half of the conference attendees received information from the booth manned by Academic Advisor **Gina Patrick**. ASP is a professional group of scientists who are dedicated to the promotion, growth and development of all aspects of those sciences related to and dealing with natural products. Members represent more than 60 countries. The Honolulu meeting attracted a record number of attendees. "The conference was a huge success scientifically and socially and the perfect venue of the UHH College of Pharmacy to show off its recent scientific achievements," Dr. Wright said. "The positive feedback from delegates to all UHH College of Pharmacy attendees, concerning the level of scientific achievement in such a short space of time, was remarkable." The conference attracted many scientific visitors to a side trip to Hilo, including John T. Arnason, professor, University of

Ottawa; Helene Guinaudeau, professor emeritus, University of Angers; James McAlpine, ASP past president; Gordon Cragg, National Cancer Institute; Roy Okuda, ASP past president and 2009 meeting organizer; Cindy Angerhofer, the AVEDA Corp.; Joe-Ann McCoy, director, Medicinal Germplasm Repository, Bent Creek Institute, N.C.; and Jason Biggs, University of Guam.

• Instructor **Mimi Pezzuto** and **Dr. Edward Fisher** were Hawai'i state delegates at the American Pharmacists Association conference April 3-6 in San Antonio. They each received charters for student groups, and several students presented an informational booth at the conference.

• **Drs. Edward Fisher** and **Supakit Wongwiwatthananukit** presented continuing education courses at the Pūlama I Ke Ola Healthcare Conference, May 21-22. The conference was sponsored by the University of Hawai'i at Hilo Baccalaureate Nursing Program.

• **Dr. Anthony D. Wright** presented an invited lecture and two posters related to his research on marine natural products at the World Oceans Conference May 11-14 in Manado, North Sulawesi, Indonesia.

• **Dr. Ron Taniguchi** was appointed faculty delegate and **Dr. Edward Fisher** was administrative delegate to the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy conference in Boston July 18-22. **Drs. Carolyn Ma** and **Sue Jarvi** presented posters at the meeting. Also attending were Instructor **Mimi Pezzuto**, **Dr. John Pezzuto** and the Pharmacy/Health Sciences librarian, **Amy Knehans**.

• **Dr. Ron Taniguchi**, Director of Community Partnerships, taught the first Pharmacy Law and Ethics course at the College of Pharmacy in the spring semester with the help of the following guest lecturers: Barbara Kashiwabara, PharmD, director of pharmacy services, Kaiser Permanente; Jan Henry, executive director, PharMerica; Greg Edwards, inspector, Food & Drug Branch, Department of Health; Keith Kamita, chief, Narcotics Enforcement Division, Department of Public Safety; Lee Ann Teshima, executive officer, PVL Division, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs; Elwin Goo, PharmD, and Kent Kikuchi, R.Ph, Hawaii Board of Pharmacy members; Roy Yamauchi, RPh, consultant, SynergyRx; S.Y. Tan, M.D., J.D.; Todd Inafuku, R.Ph, CVS/Caremark (Longs) Government Affairs; and Dr. Forrest Batz, Pharm.D, assistant professor of pharmacy practice. "The time and effort they invested in preparing lectures, delivering them, and in some cases preparing test questions were of invaluable assistance," Dr. Taniguchi said.

• **Dr. Carolyn Ma** has been elected to the Board of Directors in the Hawai'i Pharmacists Association for the 2009-2011 term. Ma was sworn in at the March annual meeting. HPhA is the state chapter of the Pharmacists Association, which includes American Pharmacists Association and American Society of Health Care Pharmacists. It is composed of pharmacists from retail, hospital and industry, pharmacy students, pharmacy technicians and academia who promote health and the optimal use of medication to benefit the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific region.

## Student Notes



• **Cherie Chu** of Honolulu was named the 2009 recipient of the Edmund E. Ehlke scholarship from the Hawai'i Pharmacists Association. The

scholarship is in honor of Ed Ehlke's contribution to the promotion of Pharmacy Practice in hopes that this student will continue Ed Ehlke's legacy. The scholarship was made possible via the financial support of AmerisourceBergen. Brian Fukunaga of AmerisourceBergen presented the scholarship at the HPA annual meeting March 28 at Marriott Ihilani Resort. She is beginning her third year in the College of Pharmacy. Highlights of her achievements include volunteering for The Queen's Medical Center and Kuakini Health Systems, for which she was recognized for over 100 hours of volunteer service; serving as activities coordinator for the student government; representing the College of Pharmacy in the Merrie Monarch Parade; and maintaining a 3.78 grade point average.

• **Zoe Chun-Della Cruz** of Kahaluu, O'ahu, was a 2008 recipient of the 'Imi Na'auao scholarship from the Kamehameha Schools. 'Imi Na'auao means "search for knowledge." The Kamehameha Schools award the



scholarship in order to provide Hawai'i residents with greater opportunities for post-high school education. She was awarded \$15,000 for two years

as long as conditions of the merit-based scholarship are met, including completing 150 hours of community service throughout the school year while maintaining a 3.5 grade point average. She is a graduate of University Laboratory School, operated by the University of Hawai'i Curriculum Research & Development Group. She is a single mother raising two children and is entering her third year of pharmacy school. Kamehameha Schools was created to improve the well-being and capabilities of Native Hawaiians. The system operates K-12 campuses, 30 preschool sites, and provides educational opportunities through summer enrichment programs, community education programs, financial aid and post-high scholarships.

• **Garret Hand** of Denver was chosen for one of only six nationally available positions in the Health Services Collegiate Program with the U.S. Navy. The program is designed to recruit applicants from medical fields such as pharmacy, medicine



and dental care for service in the Navy after finishing school. The third-year pharmacy student signed active duty papers in April with a

rank of officer candidate/petty officer first class, and was advanced one rank to officer candidate/chief petty officer in June for academic performance last semester. As an incentive for signing up before he graduates, he will receive active-duty pay and benefits during his last two years of pharmacy school. While finishing school, he must meet a physical and GPA requirement, and keep the Navy informed of his academic progress. After he graduates, he must complete three years of service in the Navy.



• **Jessica Toyama** was given the Akeakamai Post-Baccalaureate & Graduate Leadership Recognition award at the Ka Lama Ku

Student Leadership Recognition Awards on April 28. The awards are sponsored by UH Hilo Campus Center Leadership Development Program and the UH Hilo Fee Board. She is a third-year pharmacy student.

## Orientation begins for Class of 2013

As the inaugural College of Pharmacy Class of 2011 gets ready to start its third year Aug. 24, the Class of 2013 will be going through orientation on UH Hilo campus beginning Aug. 16.

"The incoming classmates will gain knowledge of the expectations and survival strategies needed for success in the Pharm.D program, spend time getting to know the campus, become oriented to Hilo's diverse community, complete the in-depth screening

process for rotations at Hilo Medical Center and sizing for the Oct. 17 White Coat Ceremony," said Liz Heffernan, Director of Student Services.

"The agenda also includes a dean's reception and several social functions with the upperclassmen and other students new to the Hilo campus," she said. "This gives them a chance to form a social network, get acclimated and even have fun before they hit the ground running on the first day of classes."

# Merrie Monarch Parade



Students head up Pauahi Street in Hilo as the parade begins.

Dozens of College of Pharmacy students as well as pre-pharmacy students showed their pride in their school by marching in the annual Merrie Monarch Parade in April. It's all part of the annual Merrie Monarch Festival, Hilo's premier event that draws a crowd from all over the world to enjoy the art of ancient and modern hula and learn about Hawai'ian culture. The 2009 event was its 46th year. This is the College of Pharmacy's second year of participation.



Second-year student Chaz Barit, above, looks cool despite the day's heat and humidity. Class of 2011 President Jessica Toyama, right, carries treats for children along the parade route.



Pre-pharmacy students shield themselves from the intense sunshine.



Dr. Tony Wright snaps a photo of pharmacy students, faculty and staff before the parade starts.