

One who mixes ingredients, drugs or medications: a pharmacist



Kāwili Lā'au

The Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo

Spring 2013 • Volume 5, Issue 3



A tribute to our namesake:

Daniel K. Inouye

Dean's Message



People throughout the United States of America, and undoubtedly throughout the world, know the name of Daniel K. Inouye. He is associated with some of the finest and most defining moments in history. Now, we are both humbled and proud that his name is indelibly linked to the College of Pharmacy: The Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy.

How can we live up to such a towering moniker? In short, by doing the same thing we have done since the founding of the College. I arrived in Hilo in 2006 to conduct business with a total staff size of zero. Now, with more than 500 of us working side-by-side on Sen. Inouye's vision of better health care in Hawai'i, we have plugged away each and every day on the myriad of details that make up our history. One day at a time, we planned and persevered through dark clouds that somehow had a way of lifting, often

with our great senator's help.

How shall we go on without him? By trusting the infrastructure he had the wisdom of establishing will provide us with the underpinnings it takes to continue the work we started. We have all put our trust in this system, from the students who enrolled while we were still gaining accreditation, to the faculty and staff who moved thousands of miles to become a part of this with a commitment to success, to the community who embraced and welcomed all the new faces. I give you no reason to expect anything any different.

So with this tribute edition of our magazine, we can share some of our collective memories of this great statesman. Many of us had the privilege of seeing his sincere smile, watching his energetic step, with the cane unnoticeable, as he walked through the crowds, of hearing his booming yet gentle voice. We hope to portray some of that affection here.

But also we want to highlight some of our ongoing work that I am confident made him so very proud. In this edition, we show how we continue to reach out to universities in China through Dr. Rose Tseng and other faculty members to develop new collaborations, both in research and in teaching. Other significant research is progressing in our labs, and students remain active in every aspect of pharmacy, from learning the art of compounding to keeping in touch with local culture.

In addition, we are pleased to feature our student pharmacists who have received several scholarships and awards. It is a great pleasure to acknowledge the ability and accomplishments of our students in such a tangible way. We are very grateful for the generous support provided by partners throughout the community.

At the time of this writing, we are pleased with the support that has been received from the UH System as well as Governor for the construction of our permanent facility. We are hopeful funding will be secured and we will witness another transformational step in the evolution of Hawaii's college of pharmacy: The Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John M. Pezzuto'.

John M. Pezzuto
Professor and Dean



Kāwili Lā'au

Spring, 2013 Volume 5, Issue 3

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the University of Hawai'i at Hilo



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Contents

Named after a giant	2
Words from Pat DeLeon	3
Memories from Rose Tseng	4
Farewell from Delbert Nishimoto	5
Governor Abercrombie shows support	9
China holds promise for collaborations	10
Welcome Dr. Matt Platz	12
Students attend compounding workshop	13
CoP researchers target Pediatric Neuroblastoma	14
Faculty profiles: Oahu	17
Scholarships 2012-13	19
Second-graders learn about Rat Lungworm Disease	36
Historical collection gains Hawaiian artifact	38

Regular Features

Faculty Briefs	39
Preceptor Focus	40
Student Organizations	41
Rotation Report	43
Alumni Report	44

Presenting the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy

The College of Pharmacy at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo has been named the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy in honor of the late U.S. senator after a positive vote in Hilo Feb. 21 by the Board of Regents. Sen. Inouye, who passed away Dec. 17, was Hawai'i's U.S. senator and third in the presidential line of succession after the Vice President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

"Building a high-quality college of pharmacy on the Big Island was part of Sen. Inouye's vision to encourage better health care throughout the Pacific Basin region and throughout the neighbor islands of Hawai'i," Chancellor Donald Straney said. "His vision was that each neighbor island would harbor a center of excellence, that every island should have its own specialty. The specialty for the Big Island envisioned by Sen. Inouye was our own College of Pharmacy."

In 2000, Sen. Inouye was 76 years old and had been Hawai'i's U.S. senator for 37 years when he provided funding of under \$1 million to UH Hilo to begin the quest for a college of pharmacy. Since that time, the College of Pharmacy has met or exceeded all of Sen. Inouye's expectations, said Founding Dean John Pezzuto.

"Every project, every class, every life that's touched by our students, faculty and staff demonstrates how the College of Pharmacy helps to fulfill Sen. Inouye's vision to improve health care in Hawai'i," Pezzuto said. "By naming our college after him, we ensure that his vision lives on in our work. We are very humbled and honored."

Students, faculty and staff at the College of Pharmacy number over 500, two classes of PharmDs have graduated, new degree programs including a PhD have been launched, and statewide economic impact is in excess of \$50 million per year, Pezzuto said. "Educational opportunities in the State of Hawai'i have witnessed a transformation with the addition of our College," Pezzuto said.

In a letter of support to the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), Sen. Inouye credited the College of Pharmacy for "changing many family's expectations for what their children can accomplish."



Pezzuto pointed to several areas where the College of Pharmacy continues to develop research and education while reaching out to rural areas with programs, such as:

- ▶ a project that serves the Marshallese population through wellness and educational clinics.
- ▶ numerous workshops and events to expose students to pharmacy practice and pharmaceutical sciences research, including workshops that link native Hawaiian culture to modern health care practices.
- ▶ The Pacific Pre-pharmacy program, which facilitates the success of local Hawai'i, native Hawaiian and Pacific islander students who are interested in pursuing a degree in pharmacy through the STEP (Steps Toward Excellence in Pharmacy) program, which guarantees acceptance into the Pharmacy Doctorate program once certain criteria are met.
- ▶ the Beacon Community project, which brought in \$16 million of federal funds to Hawai'i that would not have come here without leadership from the College of Pharmacy, is still working to develop better communication among health care facilities spread throughout the Big Island.
- ▶ the \$14.2 million federally funded Pharm2Pharm project is dedicated to providing better follow-up medication care to hospitalized senior citizens in rural areas.

"We believe these projects and the continuing quality of education at the College of Pharmacy help fulfill Sen. Inouye's commitment to nurture rural health care in Hawai'i," Pezzuto said. "The College of Pharmacy is exactly as Sen. Inouye envisioned: an institution that combines western science and the rich cultural heritage of Hawai'i to offer valuable services to our entire community."

A tribute to the late Daniel K. Inouye

By his former Chief of Staff, now Professor of Pharmacy
Pat DeLeon

Since statehood, Hawai'i was represented in the U.S. Congress by Daniel K. Inouye. He possessed a profound vision for the State, one that would ensure that all of its citizens would have access to quality education, meaningful employment, and a truly satisfying quality of life.

He never forgot his family roots and obligation to Native Hawaiians. He appreciated the critical importance of revered role models, emotional support, and providing opportunities for youth to become actively engaged. The neighbor islands were always special. He particularly enjoyed attending their graduation exercises and listening to their hopes and aspirations for the future. In 2003, he participated in the ceremony when the University of Hawai'i at Hilo granted its first honorary degree, to a longtime friend and Native Hawaiian colleague, Henry Kuualoaha Giugni.

He was deeply committed to fostering centers of



Sen. Daniel K. Inouye's former Chief of Staff Pat DeLeon (second from right) is flanked by his son Patrick and daughter Katherine "Kate" at an event with the late Sen. Daniel K. Inouye (left)

excellence and having four-year university campuses, with their advanced educational opportunities, located on every island. He appreciated that those with resources would believe that they never had enough and that even the most sincere educators and administrators were in danger of becoming Oahu-centric in their thinking if they did not live on one of the neighbor islands. Where some saw isolation and a dearth of resources, Senator Inouye saw unprecedented opportunities and exciting challenges.

The College of Pharmacy and the 'IMILOA astronomy center at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo reflect his vision, passion, and dedication. He instinctively understood how

Native Hawaiian youth would come to appreciate and ultimately embrace their native culture, and thereby succeed as proud and accomplished citizens, through their personal involvement in these special endeavors.

In the late 1990s, the leadership of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo undertook an extraordinary expansion in exemplary programs, student body admissions, and interdisciplinary and health sciences education. From 1998 to 2010 enrollment rose from 2,640 to nearly 4,000; new programs included the awarding of 10 additional bachelor's degrees, six masters, and two doctorates; funding was obtained for seven buildings; and the University's total economic activity increased from \$173 million in 2003 to \$270 million in 2010.

The Senator had emphasized that without good health it is very difficult for one to think seriously about the future. By 2000, Chancellor Rose Tseng had begun serious planning for Hilo's newest adventure – the College of Pharmacy. There was a national shortage of pharmacists, especially throughout the neighbor islands, rural American, the Pacific Basin, and Alaska. With her extensive health science background, she appreciated that investing in pharmacy would become the catalyst for significant improvements within all of the sciences on the Hilo campus and would actively encourage undergraduate women to pursue a wide range of scientific careers, another one of the Senator's priorities. Thanks to the Senator, Congressional "earmarks" began in Fiscal Year 2002 and Professor Jerry Johnson and Gerald De Mello brought life to his vision. Feasibility studies, reviews of national data, development of enthusiastic community support throughout the neighbor islands and within the Hawai'i pharmacy community, as well as overcoming not surprising sudden interest by those on Oahu, eventually led to endorsement by legislators and planning approval by the University Board of Regents at its October 2004 meeting in Hilo. At times the Senator had to personally intervene on behalf of Hilo when questions were raised at the highest level of Administration leadership as to whether those in Hilo could meet the challenge.

In 2006, final approval for conferring the PharmD degree was granted by the University's Board of Regents. In the future would be similar successful struggles for authority to confer the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree from Hilo's Nursing program. With the appointment of Dr. John M. Pezzuto as Founding Dean and the recruitment of outstanding faculty, students were admitted in the fall of 2007. In May 2011, the Inaugural Class crossed the stage to receive their degrees and that June the college received its full accreditation. The journey Senator Inouye had long ago envisioned for the Big Island was underway, as Gerald reflected: "Transforming the Big Island from a plantation economy to one that is known for higher education."

The Senator will truly be missed. His vision, however, will live on forever. Aloha.

Rose Tseng remembers Senator Daniel K. Inouye

Senator Daniel K. Inouye actively supported UH Hilo for many years, but many milestones occurred with his help during Chancellor Rose Tseng's tenure during the period of 1998-2010. Now Chancellor Emerita, Dr. Tseng is a professor in the College of Pharmacy and recalled the indomitable late U.S. senator from Hawai'i.

"Of course the credit for all of the growth at UH Hilo during that time is due to the students, faculty, staff and administrators, but I felt we were the general vision of Senator Inouye. I am grateful to have served as Chancellor when he represented our great state," Dr. Tseng said. "His support and encouragement of our university and extended community 'ohana helped develop UH Hilo into a truly comprehensive university."

In addition to providing funding to enable the creation of the College of Pharmacy while Dr. Tseng was chancellor, UH Hilo reached the following milestones:

- The 'Imiloa Astronomy Center of was built and opened, mainly from federal funding facilitated by Senator Inouye
- Enrollment grew from 2,640 to nearly 4,000; Faculty increased from 153 to 258; Total employees increased from 303 to 673.
- New programs were started, including the awarding of ten additional bachelor's degrees, six masters and two doctorates.
- Fiber cable links were available in all buildings and 95 percent of the campus went wireless with 30 multimedia classrooms.
- Funding was obtained for seven buildings: Marine Science, University Classroom, Science and Technology, Student Life Center, Student Services, Hawaiian Language, and Pharmacy Modularity. Additionally, the Northern Hawaiian Education and Research Center in Honokaa, and the Pacific Aquaculture and Resource Center in Hilo Bay front were built. Being constructed is dormitory housing in University Village. Funding for the plans and design of the permanent Pharmacy building were completed (now waiting for final funding.)
- UH-Hilo's total economic activity increased from \$173 million in 2003 to \$270 million in 2010.
- Grant funding increased more than 600 percent from \$3 million to \$20 million per year.



"When I requested to meet with him after I became the Chancellor for UH Hilo in 1998, he personally responded and told me that he should visit me since I was the chancellor and a teacher, and he wanted to call me a sensei," she recalled. "Indeed he did, and I was so honored and humbled by his visit. I remembered thinking that this is a true leader from whom I have yet to learn."

- Private donations increased from \$350,000 to \$6 million per year, a 17-fold increase.
- Top-flight speakers, including Senator Inouye, presented talks at every graduation commencement

Despite his remarkable ability to get things done, Dr. Tseng recalls how humble the senator was. Before she came to Hilo, she remembered watching his speech on TV during the Watergate hearings and was very proud of him as an Asian American.

"When I requested to meet with him after I became the Chancellor for UH Hilo in 1998, he personally responded and told me that he should visit me since I was the chancellor and a teacher, and he wanted to call me a sensei," she recalled. "Indeed he did, and I was so honored and humbled by his visit. I remembered thinking that this is a true leader from whom I have yet to learn."

During that first visit, Dr. Tseng remembers he shared that his name had the kanji, or Chinese character that means "health" – Jian. Knowing that she was a nutritionist, he told her he had wanted to be a surgeon before he lost his arm in the military. Nonetheless, quality health care remained a

critical component of all that he envisioned for Hawai'i.

"That next year, he sponsored and personally attended our University health fair," she said. "Ten years later, I was pleased when he was able to attend the College of Pharmacy health fair."

Sen. Inouye was always trying to show Dr. Tseng he cared about his own health, as well, but not all their conversations were serious. The one dish he kidded her about making was Kao Yuk, a high-fat Chinese dish made with pork belly and taro that he loved though rarely had a chance to eat. One of the last times she saw him, she told him she still wanted to make it for him and his wife, Irene Hirano, whom he always spoke of with the highest regard. Sadly, she never got a chance to do that, but will always think of him when she makes it in the future.

"Sen. Inouye was always very personable and charming," Dr. Tseng remembered. "He made me feel like

I would do anything for him."

Senator Inouye was supportive of the College of Pharmacy from the beginning, but never tried to tell her what to do, she said. He was always very appreciative, always helping behind the scenes.

"When I first heard through Pat De Leon that Senator Inouye might be interested in helping us start a College of Pharmacy, I considered how our mission for professional education and science and health intersects with the greater good for the Big Island and Hawaiians," Dr. Tseng said. "Of course, I answered a solid 'yes.'"

As busy as he was, Senator Inouye was very accessible to Dr. Tseng, and she felt she could call him any time she needed him. "He told me his interest is not one island but all islands. We always received his inspiration, support and encouragement. Senator Inouye was such a great leader. His loss leaves a huge gap."

Farewell from Delbert Nishimoto, Big Island Field Representative to Senator Inouye

Aloha,

I officially retired on February 17, 2013, 60 days after the passing of US Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Hawai'i.

It has been a pleasure and honor to work and serve the Senator and Hawai'i's people. It didn't matter if you were rich or poor, Democrat or Republican, or from which island you came from, he honored the privileged of serving all. We were honored to call our US Senator, "Boss," who taught me so many professional and life's lessons.

My service with the Boss will be amongst my honored and privileged achievements. To say that I served US Senator Daniel K. Inouye and to learn of how he served the people of Hawai'i Island will be memories I will cherish forever.

Mahalo for allowing the Inouye Ohana to be a part of Hawai'i Island; for that we are forever grateful.

Aloha,

A Hui Hou. Until we meet again,

Delbert



Delbert Nishimoto (left) spoke with Dean Pezzuto last summer when Sen. Inouye visited UH Hilo.

Sen. Daniel K. Inouye touched many at CoP

CoP faculty, staff, students, affiliates and supporters are acutely aware of Sen. Daniel K. Inouye's dominant role in the history of the College. Many were fortunate to have crossed paths with him while he toured UH Hilo campus with other dignitaries such as Mayor William "Billy" Kenoi. Several were treated to his charm, finesse and humor during a trip to his offices in Washington D.C. As Dean John Pezzuto said, "UH Hilo College of Pharmacy has worked diligently to earn the privilege of bearing his name: The Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy. We have been required to meet rigorous standards established by the accreditation board for pharmacy schools, but none was more rigorous than the standard set by the Senator himself. He was the best and we strive to be the best. We live by the motto of Queen Kapi'olani: Kūlia i ka nu'u - strive for excellence, the very top of the mountain."





UH Board of Regents meet in Hilo; vote positive to name The Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy

Left to right: UH President M.R.C. Greenwood; College of Pharmacy Dean John M. Pezzuto; Former Chief of Staff for Sen. Daniel K. Inouye Pat DeLeon; UH Board of Regents Chair Eric Martinson; UH Hilo Chancellor Donald Straney admire the planned new home for the newly named Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy. (Photo provided by UH Hilo College of Pharmacy)



Mayor William "Billy" Kenoi testified on behalf of the College of Pharmacy to the Board of Regents before they voted on naming the College after the late Sen. Daniel K. Inouye.



Dr. Jessica Toyama, President of Inaugural Class of 2011, testified to the Board of Regents about the College of Pharmacy.



From left: Jerry Chang, UH Hilo Director of University Relations, Pat DeLeon, former Chief of Staff to the late Sen. Daniel K. Inouye and Dean John Pezzuto spoke before the Board voted on naming The Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy. Dean Pezzuto and Dr. DeLeon provided testimony on behalf of the College.

Governor Abercrombie shows support for CoP

College of Pharmacy Dean John Pezzuto (right) had a chance to thank Gov. Neil Abercrombie for his support at Gerald De Mello's retirement party Nov. 30. Then on Feb. 6, during a tour of UH Hilo, the Governor listened to gratitude from two student ambassadors, Kristina Lo and Jarred Prudencio, and took the time to see Dana-Lynn Koomoa-Lange and Ingo Lange at Waiakea Research Center.



CoP extends reach to Chinese universities for collaborations

The University of Hawai'i at Hilo has extended a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Zhejiang University in China that will expand collaborative research potential and enhance student learning in the College of Pharmacy, said Rose Tseng, chancellor emerita who is now a College of Pharmacy (CoP) professor.

Dr. Tseng spearheaded the original memorandum of understanding (MOU) four years ago while she was still Chancellor. After a delegation of distinguished administrators from the Chinese university met with CoP administrators and faculty in 2011, it was clear to her that further collaboration would be mutually beneficial.

Last September, she and Edward Fisher, CoP associate dean for academic affairs and Lara Gomez, director of clinical education, were invited to China to delve into the way pharmacists are educated and find common ground.

"Health care is a world problem, not just a U.S. problem, so we all need to work together," said Dr. Tseng, who also is CoP coordinator for international affairs and an advisor to the chancellor. "The literacy rate is very high in China, and students are very well trained in math and science, but their educational system is still very traditional and theoretical. Our overall goal is to create a collaborative agreement that will take advantage of the strengths of each of our programs. Since UH Hilo CoP is the only PharmD program in the Pacific,

"We explained what a clinical pharmacist does, how they can help the physicians and nurses, and understand how medications affect the disease state," Dr. Gomez said. "They know the drugs, but they aren't always connecting it to a disease."



Meeting at Zhejiang University were, from left: Dr. Jianqing Gao, director for Department of Pharmacy, professor of pharmaceuticals; Ms. Feibo Yu, director for Department of Human Resource; Ms. Kalin Zhu, director for Department of Undergraduate Education; Dr. Bo Yang, Vice Dean, professor of pharmacology; Dr. Edward Fisher, associate dean for academic affairs, UH Hilo CoP; Dr. Zhong Chen, Executive Dean, professor of pharmacology; Dr. Rose Tseng, professor, CoP, UH Hilo; Dr. Lucy Lou, Vice Dean; Dr. Lara Gomez, assistant professor, UH Hilo; Dr. Joachim Stoeckigt, professor of biology and chemistry.

we have the unique advantage to collaborate in research, teaching and clinical practice training to benefit the entire Pacific area."

Drs. Tseng, Fisher and Gomez flew into Shanghai for a day, and then traveled about 110 miles to Zhejiang University in Hangzhou. The trio went on to Xiamen University, another well-known unique university in the Southeast Coast of China, about 600 miles from Hangzhou. The entire trip lasted 10 days.

"China creates researchers," said Dr. Fisher, who also heads the Master's in Clinical Pharmacy (MSCP) as well as the PhD programs. "Not many pharmacy students go on to become pharmacists there because it's considered a 'tech' job and has low pay."

The level of research is significant, however, and Chinese universities seem to have a lot of funding, he said. The trio met with students and gave them a talk in their new five-story pharmacy facility.

"The Life Sciences building at Xiamen University is the size of Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas. They have 20 buildings, each three times the size of any of our buildings. Their Dean's lab alone was the size of one of our teaching labs."

Unlike CoP's professional PharmD program in Hilo, which takes four years on top of pre-pharmacy prerequisites and includes many hours of clinical experience, a pharmacist in China needs a four-year degree and must pass a licensing exam to practice. There is no clinical program in most pharmacy schools in China.

"We explained what a clinical pharmacist does, how they can help the physicians and nurses, and understand how medications affect the disease state," Dr. Gomez said. "They know the drugs, but they aren't always connecting it to a disease."

Dr. Gomez, a licensed registered pharmacist herself, coordinates the experiential training CoP students receive in hospital and retail settings and has seen the changing role of the pharmacist here. She can see benefits to health care in both countries from the pharmacist being more in control of drug therapy.

The universities also are discussing the possibility of UH Hilo CoP students conducting one of their fourth-year, six-week "rotations," which is experiential training, in China. This option could well be a research rotation, Dr. Gomez said. In a recent Health Care System class coordinated by CoP Faculty Member Mimi Pezzuto, Dr. Tseng lectured "Health Care in China." At the end of the lecture, a quick poll found that students expressed great interest in doing one of their rotations in China.

Faculty and administrators at all three universities have expressed an interest in collaborative research, Dr. Fisher said, and there seems to be quite a bit of interest in natural products. For now, both sides are talking to faculty to determine level of interest and decide the next steps.

Workshops and training to Zhejiang University's own affiliated hospital pharmacists could begin as early as May this year. As Dr. Fisher said, the project is in its infancy, but the potential is tremendous. He said "If we can get some collaborations with high-level people, it would do both countries a lot of good."

Dr. Tseng agreed. "We're breaking new ground for the College of Pharmacy, but it's time for us to pass on what we've learned. We can't change things overnight. Education is different in China, but if we can merge the good parts they have with the good parts we have, it will ultimately help patients."

In addition to showing the Chinese faculty and administration UH Hilo's PharmD curriculum, the team from Hilo wanted to explore other options with the Chinese counterparts, including a "two plus two" undergraduate program, where a student starts in one place and finishes in another. Dr. Tseng tapped into her own relationships with Chinese prominent universities, and continually worked her way to strengthen UH Hilo's exchange programs. In this trip, she said had very productive talks with both Zhejiang University and Xiamen University.

top photo: Xiamen University;
Bottom photo: Zhejiang University



Introducing Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Dr. Matt Platz

As UH Hilo's new vice chancellor for academic affairs (VCAA), Dr. Matthew (Matt) Platz is already a fan of the College of Pharmacy.

"I'm impressed by what's been built at the College of Pharmacy in a short time," said Dr. Platz, who started the position here on Jan. 2. "All of us on campus should celebrate the College of Pharmacy because they are doing research that tremendously benefits the people of Hawai'i. The college also pumps money into the local economy and creates jobs."

Dr. Platz is responsible for everything that goes on in classrooms at UH Hilo. That includes faculty, resources, programming and curricula that makes sense for students, and ensuring UH Hilo does distinguished research in strategic areas.

He has credentials that indicate he can get the job done. He received his doctorate in chemistry from Yale, was on the faculty in the Chemistry Department at Ohio State University (OSU) for 35 years, and was a Department Chair, Dean and Vice Provost. In 2010, he went on leave from OSU and was appointed Director of the Division of Chemistry for the National Science Foundation (NSF).

CoP Dean John Pezzuto, who has met with Dr. Platz, noted that the new VCAA joins UH Hilo at an extraordinary time when research is expanding and said he is optimistic about a scientist with his credentials joining the administration.

"Dr. Platz has an interesting background not only in working with faculty but at the bench," Dr. Pezzuto said. "His publication citations are impressive, and his own extramural funding will help him understand first-hand what many of our faculty are competing against. Federal funding is one of the areas that will help us become a top-25 Pharmacy school in the nation, and we're happy to have him join us in our quest."

So why Hilo? Compared to many four-year public institutions that have been in business for more than 150 years, UH Hilo is relatively young, having only been offering baccalaureate degrees for less than 50 years.

"When I look at UH Hilo, I see a university that is embryonic, that can still control its future and can do cool

new things," said Dr. Platz. "I see amazing potential here. I also see a place where I hopefully can contribute to positive change and transformation."

Citing difficulties in getting jobs done at larger universities, such as the New York and Ohio State University systems, Dr. Platz hopes UH Hilo will be able to avoid the pitfalls experienced by large institutions when establishing new programs.

"I have no doubt this will be a different job from what I expect," he said smiling. "But the emphasis has got to be on quality rather than size. Our faculty has quickly created something wonderful, and I intend to spend this semester with my eyes and ears open and my mouth shut, to meet with as many stakeholders as possible, and to learn as much as I can."

He has been speaking to many other faculty on campus, and said he is happy to find other chemists to talk to. One of those CoP chemists is Dr. Ken Morris, professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, who has been discussing the materials engineering aspects of organic compounds in drugs with Dr. Platz.

"We're looking forward to working with someone of his caliber as a resource for all of our interdisciplinary work, both in terms of his knowledge of chemistry and his experience at NSF," said Dr. Morris, who has collaborated on several projects with faculty throughout UH Hilo as well as at UH Manoa.

Holder of at least 10 patents, Dr. Platz is hopeful that the College of Pharmacy can take the lead expanding



Nishant Gandhi (left), a first-year PhD student in CoP, shows Dr. Matt Platz, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, the setup for the X-ray analysis in the mechanochemistry project in Dr. Ken Morris' lab on campus. Dr. Platz also will bring his expertise in organic chemistry to help with the project.

intellectual property development that can affect the future of research at UH. His own success includes collaboration with former student Dr. Raymond Goodrich, who developed the Mirasol Pathogen Reduction technology, which reduces the pathogens present in platelet concentrates used in transfusion medicine. This technology greatly improves the safety of the blood supply by reducing the chances of transmitting pathogens during transfusions. The U.S. Army is using the technology in Afghanistan, and the developers are hoping it will someday be available in the U.S.

Dr. Platz accepted the job at UH Hilo almost a year before he was able to move from his permanent home in Ohio to Hawai'i, but he was no stranger to the Big Island. He and his wife, Joan, have three adult children, have a condo on the West side, and have been coming here for vacations for the last 18 years. Now they own a home in Hilo and spend their free time snorkeling, hiking and discovering all that's good about living in Hawai'i.

"I'm really happy to be here," he said. "There are a lot of great people at UH Hilo, and I hope we can work together to make a difference."

Students expand pharmaceutical compounding knowledge in workshop on Hilo campus

CoP student pharmacists had an opportunity to expand their knowledge about the art of compounding in an intensive “boot camp” Nov. 9 on the UH Hilo campus. The boot camp is an intensive course covering the latest techniques and technology used in professional compounding pharmacy, normally taught at the Pharmaceutical Compounding Centers of America (PCCA) headquarters in Houston, Texas.

“Pharmaceutical compounding is almost becoming a lost art because many large corporations rely on the easy availability of pre-made drugs and solutions,” Dean John Pezzuto said. “But often the cookie-cutter formula of a standard drug doesn’t work for every patient, so compounding is an important skill to pass on to our students.”

CoP faculty member Mimi Pezzuto, who teaches the compounding course at UH Hilo, learned compounding when she was a student pharmacist at the University of Illinois. As a practicing pharmacist, she compounded specialty dermatologics for several dermatologists. A few years ago, she joined students on a trip to Texas for the Pharmaceutical Compounding Centers of America (PCCA) boot camp, which offers even more instruction about dosage form compounding.

“It was a terrific experience for all of us,” she said. “The students came back to school and told their classmates about it, but not everyone could afford to go to Texas for the workshop every year. I encouraged them to find other options.”

Third-year student pharmacist Keshia Mahi-Leopoldino, vice-president of the National Community Pharmacist Association (NCPA), polled students and discovered 22 other students might like to enhance their basic compounding skills. She pursued PCCA and arranged for the camp to come to Hilo.

Dr. Bindhu Batra, PCCA Director of Pharmacy Education and Certified Pharmacy Technician Jasmine Potter taught the three-day course in Hilo. Students had the opportunity to compound various dosage forms such as gels, lip balms, lollipops, troches (lozenges), transdermal gels, suppositories and capsules using a capsule machine. They taste-tested many different flavorings and learned about multiple options for medication delivery.

“In addition to spending time in the lab, students also participated in classroom lectures, covering a variety of topics including quality assurance, legal issues, and patient case studies,” Mrs. Pezzuto said. “It was a very important and interesting complement to their education.”

Dr. Batra recalled, “We had such a great experience at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo. It was refreshing to meet



Student pharmacists add to compounding knowledge in workshop on UH Hilo campus.

such a wonderful group of pharmacy school students and share our passion for compounding with them. We had the pleasure of teaching 22 enthusiastic future pharmacists about the art and science of compounding. We were thrilled to be able to bring our class to them, and we look forward to more educational opportunities in the future.”

Amanda Wendel, a third year student who was a compounding lab assistant for Mrs Pezzuto and is a research assistant for Dr. Ken Morris, said the experience was extremely valuable. “It was very interesting to learn about dosage forms outside of what is usually seen in retail pharmacy. I learned not just how to make each form, but what medications work well in each and the additional counseling points needed with each form. After completing this training, I decided to continue my exploration into compounding and am currently scheduled for a six-week rotation next year at a compounding pharmacy in Kailua-Kona. While initially hesitant about registering for this workshop, I am very happy I did and would highly encourage other students to take the opportunity. Even if students don’t work in a compounding pharmacy, the information presented in this workshop can still help them serve their patients simply by knowing these other options exist”.

Mrs. Pezzuto said she hopes to repeat the workshop next year.

“The students were thoroughly engaged for an entire weekend,” Mrs. Pezzuto said. “They were able to experience state of the art compounding technique, taught by the most influential and highest quality compounding wholesaler/educator in the US. We are grateful to Dr. Batra and Jasmine for re-creating the PCCA Texas lab, right here in our own compounding lab in Hilo.”

Working Towards a Cure – Pediatric Neuroblastoma



Lisette Yco (left) works with Dr. André Bachmann in his lab in the CoP campus.

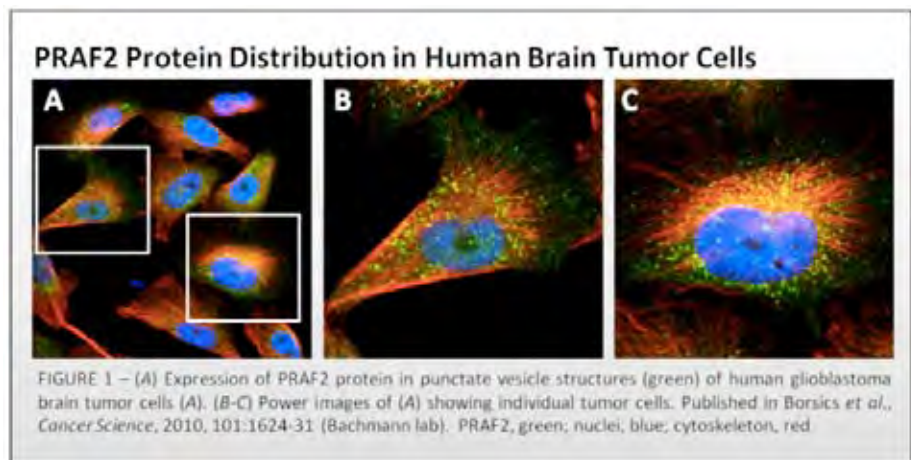
By André Bachmann, associate professor and chair,
Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences

For the past 12 years, our research team has been working towards a cure for neuroblastoma, a highly incurable childhood cancer, which accounts for the majority of cancer death in infancy. Most neuroblastomas are highly invasive by nature. This means, that even before the tumor grows to a detectable size, groups of cancer cells detach from their place of origin and relocate themselves to other organs, forming tumors in multiple locations in the body. By the time the tumor is detected in the clinic, it is often widespread. Therefore, invasive neuroblastoma is only cured at a very low success rate and most relapsed patients succumb to this devastating disease within a few years of diagnosis and before they reach adolescence. Overall, 98% of neuroblastoma patients are diagnosed by the age of 10.

Our laboratory recently made some headway in repurposing a well-tolerated drug (DFMO/eflornithine) from bench to bedside and our translational research advanced to phase I and

phase II clinical trials. This consortium effort is directed by pediatric oncologist Dr. Giselle Sholler (Van Andel Institute/DeVos Children's Hospital) and carried out through her Neuroblastoma and Medulloblastoma Translational Research Consortium (NMTRC) that counts over 13 Children's hospitals of which 7 hospitals have opened the phase II DFMO trial across the United States. Several relapsed patients that otherwise had exhausted alternative therapeutic options responded positive to the DFMO treatment which fueled the interest in both research and medical community and fueled the interest of NANT, a NMTRC-independent consortium, to perform a phase I DFMO study.

In addition to the translational efforts with DFMO, our group also investigates a novel protein called PRAF2 (prenylated Rab acceptor 1 domain family, member 2). We were first to report this protein and created a PRAF2-



specific antibody, demonstrating that the native PRAF2 protein is expressed in punctuate vesicle-like structures in the cytoplasm and at perinuclear regions of various cancer cells (Figure 1, showing brain tumor/glioblastoma cells). PRAF2 is a 19-kDa protein with four transmembrane-spanning domains and highly expressed in small intestine, lung, spleen, pancreas, and most significantly, in the brain. Importantly, overexpression of PRAF2 is observed in tumor tissue samples of breast, colon, lung, and ovary, compared to matched normal tissue samples. We also found that PRAF2 is overexpressed in neuroblastoma tumors and serves as a predictive marker that directly correlates with the overall survival probability of neuroblastoma patients.

The other two members of the human PRAF protein family (PRAF1 and PRAF3) have been more extensively studied, and their biological functions have been characterized. While PRAF1 (also known as Yip3) acts as a GDI displacement factor (GDF) in the regulation of vesicle transport-associated Rab proteins (small GTPases), PRAF3 (also known as GTRAP3-18) negatively regulates glutamate transport by interaction with the neuronal glutamate transporter EAAC1.

Several studies have also associated PRAF1 and PRAF3 with several well-known cancer signaling pathways, suggesting that PRAF1 and PRAF3 take on tumor suppressor-related functions. In contrast, our own studies showed that PRAF2 has oncogenic potential and removal of PRAF2 from neuroblastoma cells by RNA interference resulted in intense reduction of cancer cell growth. Moreover, PRAF2-deficient cells were also impaired in their ability to migrate and invade surrounding cells suggesting a role for PRAF2 in metastasis.

Much of our work with PRAF2 was performed by postdoctoral researcher Dr. Tamas Borsics and graduate student Lisette Yco. Lisette has been in my laboratory since 2001 while working at the NCI-designated University of Hawai'i Cancer Center. Back then, Lisette entered my lab as an undergraduate (UH student assistant), and after graduation with her bachelorette degree joined my lab again as a research technician, followed by graduate studies towards a M.S. degree. Her research thesis focused on PRAF2 and was recently published (Yco et al., *International Journal of Oncology*, 2013, in press). After we moved our lab from Honolulu to the College of Pharmacy in Hilo in 2010, Ms. Yco decided to accept a lab manager position that was open in my laboratory, and in January 2013, commenced her graduate studies towards a Ph.D. degree with us via the Molecular Biosciences and Bioengineering Program (MBBE). She continues to pursue her work on PRAF2 in order to elucidate the functional properties of this unique new protein class that has clear importance in the development and metastasis of neuroblastoma and other forms of cancer.

Lisette is extremely dedicated and shows great enthusiasm for her research project. In addition, she contributes to several other research topics in my laboratory and bears great organizational talent. She is well on her way to becoming a successful independent scientist with a bright future in science. Her Ph.D thesis focuses on how PRAF2 participates in vesicle transport, how it communicates with other vesicle-associated proteins (such as small GTPases Rab, Rac, and Rho), and how all this contributes to neuroblastoma tumorigenesis.



Dr. André Bachmann is associate professor and chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Much of his research is providing new insights into neuroblastoma and other pediatric forms of cancer. Dr. Bachmann has advanced his laboratory research with DFMO to the clinic and a phase I and phase II clinical trial with relapsed neuroblastoma patients is underway, in collaboration with Dr. Giselle Sholler from the Van Andel Institute and the DeVos Children's Hospital in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Dr. Bachmann earned his master's degree in microbiology and PhD in Biology from the University of Zurich, where he also worked as a postdoctoral researcher. He came to UH Hilo in 2010 after working for 10 years at the UH Cancer Center. In the classroom, he teaches a course on "Cancer Prevention" for PharmD students and a course on "Cancer Biology" for PhD students.

Does the red wine pill work?

(CoP Dean John Pezzuto, who is widely recognized for the discovery of resveratrol, was a featured speaker when the world's leading resveratrol researchers gathered for a conference in Leicester, UK, in early December. The following is a wrap-up by Ole Vang, associate professor at Roskilde University in Denmark.



Is there any real truth to the rumour that resveratrol (the “red wine pill”) works? This red wine pill has been in the media spotlight the last 15 years, where most indications were that resveratrol can prevent or even cure lifestyle diseases, such as cancer, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases. There is still no simple conclusion, but the results presented at the Resveratrol2012 International Conference showed that resveratrol in most cases has the same effects in humans as have been shown previously in experimental animals. And among the conference’s conclusions is that there is sufficient evidence for animals that resveratrol reduces the risk of cardiovascular disease as well as a number of diabetes-related disorders.

“Can resveratrol be recommended for the prevention or treatment of human disease or to improve human health?” This was one of the key questions that a small group of resveratrol researchers set out to answer following the Resveratrol2012 International Conference at Leicester University in early December this year. Prof. Ole Vang, President of the conference Scientific Committee and molecular biologist at Roskilde University, Denmark, says: “The short answer is that there is not yet scientific evidence to recommend a general intake of resveratrol for prevention of lifestyle diseases.” But he also adds that “the area has evolved a lot since 2010 when we had the first resveratrol conference in Denmark. Since 2010, more than 20 studies where resveratrol has been studied in humans have been published. But only two of these studies have measured the effect of administration of resveratrol in the relatively small quantities for up to one year. It is results from these long-term studies that we look forward to seeing; these have the best chance to tell us something about the preventive properties and possible side effects of resveratrol”.

So while working group of the Resveratrol2012 conference could not recommend the use of resveratrol in humans because of the absence of a number of key studies, Ole Vang happily concludes: “Although these studies in people are greatly lacking, we are well on the way”.

When it takes so long to produce definitive results, it is because the researchers want to be both certain and safe. As Ole Vang puts it: “There are many half-truths in the media where it is alleged that resveratrol or other natural substances can prevent various diseases. These claims are often based only on experiments in cell cultures or animal studies. Trials in humans are necessary so we can be absolutely sure of positive effects in humans. Our conclusions have to be built on evidence, not hunches”. Therefore, Ole Vang looks forward to following the development of the resveratrol field over the next two years until the next Resveratrol international conference in December, 2014, to see how much stronger the recommendations will be then.

The Resveratrol 2012 international conference took place at the University of Leicester, Stamford Court, Manor Road, Leicester, UK, from December 5-7, 2012.

Conference website <http://www.resveratrol2012.eu/>, describes the program and final conclusions are available: (http://www.biopeople.dk/fileadmin/filer/David/INGRIDMisc/Resveratrol2012/Conclusions_of_the_working_group_Resveratrol2012.pdf)



Different Types of Pharmacy Practices on Oahu



*By Carolyn Ma, PharmD, BCOP,
Associate Professor and Chair*

With the anticipation that the inaugural class of 2011 was to soon begin their advanced pharmacy practice experiential (APPE) rotations in the summer of 2010, I began the effort to place Pharmacy Practice faculty at several major

institutions on Oahu beginning in early 2010.

By the time the inaugural class students arrived on Oahu in the summer of 2010, many were amazed to find an entire Oahu office facility set up with polycom and internet! From humble beginnings as a windowless 1000 sq. feet office space in late 2009, the Gold Bond Oahu office is now over 3000 square feet that overlooks the ocean and Honolulu Harbor and houses six Pharmacy Practice faculty, a UHH Native Hawaiian Admissions recruiter and a PGY2 Critical Care resident.

The facility includes private offices, cubicle office space, kitchen facility, a large classroom and a conference room, both of which have polycom capabilities. From the polycom classroom, the Oahu faculty can beam lectures to the main CoP campus and also hold weekly ambulatory care and medicine experiential seminars for APPE fourth-year students. First and second-year students who come to Oahu for summer rotation also utilize the facility for their rotation seminars.

The following are the various types of unique clinical practices from some of the Oahu faculty:

Dr. Sheri Tokumar, PharmD, BCPS, The Queens Medical Center (QMC)

The Queens Medical Center is the largest community teaching hospital in the State of Hawai'i. This 500+ bed hospital is also the major trauma center for the state. Sheri began her practice in March of 2010 and works as a clinical pharmacist in the neuroscience intensive care unit. She participates in patient care rounds with the neuroscience

intensive care team on a daily basis. As an indispensable member of the team, she suggests medication therapy management and monitors all medication therapy.

In addition, Sheri is preceptor for not only her specific elective medicine type rotation, but she also serves as the experiential site coordinator for all the students who rotate through QMC which is the largest rotation site for the CoP.

This year, Sheri was instrumental in beginning a Post Graduate second year residency in critical care in partnership with QMC with plans for accreditation after this inaugural year. We successfully placed our inaugural class graduate ('11) Cherie Chu in the position after she completed her PGY1 residency.

One of Sheri's main duties includes helping the QMC pharmacist staff develop their student rotations. Necessary for the success of our experiential program, the pharmacy department managers have also worked very closely with Sheri to assure excellent quality rotations for our students while enhancing patient care. Sheri's experience in teaching and ability to manage a high volume of students has helped QMC become a premier site that handles both IPPE and APPE students. During the summer rotations there can be as many as 15 students in the medical center at any given time. Rotations include emergency medicine, surgical intensive care, medical intensive care, neuroscience intensive care, trauma, cardiology, mental health, long term care, oncology, acute medicine and pharmacy administration.

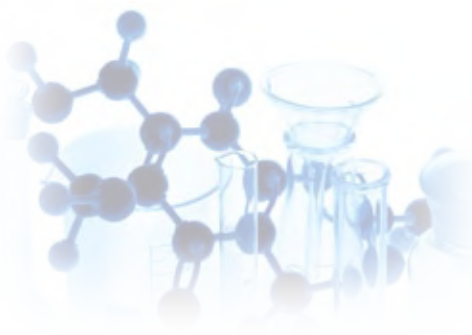
Ben Chavez, PharmD., BCPP, BCACP, JABSOM Physicians Clinic at Mililani

Dr. Chavez began his practice in the summer of 2010 in the ambulatory care setting at the Physician's Clinic at Mililani. This site is the clinic for the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) Family Practice Residency program.

Ben holds clinic with his experiential APPE students and focuses mainly on chronic disease management such as diabetes, hypertension and hypercholesteremia. In addition, Ben is board certified in psychiatry and mental health and sees these types of patients if his time permits. Ben is adjunct clinical faculty for JABSOM and also mentors medical students in their longitudinal medicine seminar.

One very interesting practice site for Ben and his students is participating in a clinic put on by JABSOM call the Next Step Shelter located in a warehouse on Honolulu Harbor. One night each week, Ben and his pharmacy students work together with physicians and medical students to provide care to the homeless population. The clinic sees an average of about 10 patients each night, half of which are follow-ups from the previous week. The patients are given medications for a multitude of conditions including upper respiratory infections, skin conditions like cuts/scrapes and but bites, and chronic medical conditions such as hypertension and diabetes. Patients may return for

Scholarships



Akio Yanagisawa **UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Merit Scholarship Award**



Akio was born in San Francisco and grew up in New York. He graduated from John Jay Senior High School and

earned a Bachelor of Science in Economics with a concentration in Finance from Binghamton University. After working in various sectors of the fashion industry in New York and Chicago, he changed his career focus to Pharmacy. During his transition, he was awarded "Best Organic Chemist of the Year" from the Oahu chapter of the American Chemical Society and presented a research poster on the creation of a chemical assay system evaluating biodiesel production quality. He has been named to the Dean's List every semester since his matriculation to the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy. He is currently the Treasurer of the Hawai'i Student Society of Health-System Pharmacy, the Class of 2015 Representative to the Admissions Committee and the Academic Committee Chair of Kappa Psi, a professional pharmaceutical fraternity. He has also been active in various health fairs including the National Kidney Foundation Health Fair. Akio will be graduating in May 2015 and hopes to pursue a career in hospital pharmacy.

Hai "Alan" L Huang **CVS Caremark Scholarship**



Alan was born in Swatow, China and moved to Vallejo, California at a young age. Barely able to speak English,

Alan struggled through elementary school. However, through hard work and perseverance he graduated with honors from Vallejo High School in 2005. He completed his undergraduate studies at the University of California at Berkeley and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Molecular Toxicology. Alan continued his pursuit for excellent upon admission to the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy where he was elected Class Delegate for the Class of 2014 and officer of the American Pharmacist Association Academy of Student Pharmacists. Alan has also been active in the community by taking part in The Hawai'i Meth Project and leading the creation of a Natural Product & Dietary Supplement booth at the annual College of Pharmacy Health Fair. Alan currently works as a pharmacy intern in Walmart Pharmacy and hopes to use the knowledge he has gained in the classroom and in the workplace in order to help the people in his community.

Alex Guimaraes **UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Merit Scholarship Award**



Alex is from the small town of Gallup, New Mexico where he graduated from Gallup Catholic High School. He

attended the University of New Mexico as a Presidential Scholarship recipient and graduated with his Bachelors of Science in Psychology and Bachelors of Arts in Biology. During his senior

year of undergraduate education, he concurrently enrolled in graduate school at the University of New Mexico, R.O. Anderson School of Management, 3-2 MBA program. He completed his MBA with a focus on human resource management and strategic planning right before starting school at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy. Alex is an active member of the National Community Pharmacist Association (NCPA) Hawai'i student chapter serves as the P1 liaison and business plan committee chairperson. He is also a member of the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) and Phi Delta Chi, a Professional Pharmacy Fraternity. Alex will be graduating in May 2016 and hopes that his unique educational background will help bridge the gap between administration and health care practitioners.

Alison Kobayashi **UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Merit Scholarship Award**



Alison was born in Honolulu, Oahu and raised in Wailuku, Maui. She graduated from H.P. Baldwin High School

and completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Microbiology. Since beginning her studies at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy, Alison has made the Dean's list every semester and participated in leadership roles for health fair events such as the annual College of Pharmacy, Hilo Medical Center and Veteran's Affairs health fairs. She also volunteered for the American Heart Association's Annual Heart Walk and American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. Alison is a member of APhA, ASHP and serves as an activities coordinator officer for the Class of 2013. Alison will be graduating in May 2013 and is currently applying for an ambulatory care residency.

Andrea Brauer
UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Merit Scholarship Award



Andrea grew up in Fremont, California. She attended the University of California, Davis where she received her

Bachelor of Science in biology with an emphasis in molecular and cellular biology. Upon graduation, she worked in a plant pathology lab where she studied, and co-authored a paper, on fungal pathogens affecting the California forests. Since starting at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy, Andrea has received a UH Hilo CoP Merit-Based Scholarship Award, and a scholarship from the Cancer Monthly Magazine. Andrea is the President of Hawai'i Student Society of Health System Pharmacy, represents her class on the College of Pharmacy Curriculum Committee, and has helped to organize College of Pharmacy Health Fairs and other community outreach events. Andrea will be graduating in May 2015 and plans to become a clinical pharmacist

Andy Le
UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Merit Scholarship Award



Andy Le was born in Thousand Oaks, California and was raised in the nearby city of Simi Valley, California. He

graduated from Royal High School and later earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry from University of California – Los Angeles (UCLA). Since beginning his studies at the University of Hawaii at Hilo College of Pharmacy, Andy has made the Dean's List every semester. He is also the President of the Rho Chi Honor Society, Vice President of Phi

Delta Chi, a professional pharmacy fraternity, and a member of APhA and AMCP. He has been involved in many events every year including the Miloli'i Health Fair and UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Health Fair. Andy believes that academic achievement is very important for the future of the college and tutors different subjects for P1 and P2 students through Rho Chi. Andy will be graduating in May 2014 and hopes to work in a pharmaceutical where he can help to ensure the safety and efficacy of drugs before they are made available to the general public..

Angela Li
CVS Caremark Scholarship



Angela was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii. She graduated from McKinley High School and received her

Bachelor's of Arts in Mathematics from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. She is currently enrolled in the University of Hawaii at Hilo College of Pharmacy and takes an active part in community events such as the annual AHA Heart Walk, Relay for Life, and College of Pharmacy Health Fair. Her involvement in these events gives her the opportunity to help and interact with the community. Angela will be graduating in May of 2013 and hopes to stay in Hawaii to work as a retail pharmacist. Her goal is to make use of her bilingual Chinese skills to help promote health awareness and give back to her community.

Antonio Verduzco
CVS Caremark Scholarship



Antonio was born in México, and raised in Manteca, California. He graduated from Manteca High School and

completed his undergraduate studies at San Joaquin Delta College and University of the Pacific where he earned an Associate in Arts degree in Natural Sciences and a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry, respectively. Since beginning his studies at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy, Antonio has made the Dean's List every semester and has played an active role in community events such as the College of Pharmacy Health Fair, Miloli'i Health Fair, and American Heart Association's Annual Heart Walk. In addition to his studies, Antonio is a member of Phi Delta Chi, a Professional Pharmacy Fraternity and Treasurer of APhA. Antonio will be graduating in May 2015 and plans to continue his career in Hawai'i or California as a retail or community pharmacist where he will have the opportunity to interact and give back to his community.

Behnam Rostami
UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Merit Scholarship Award



Behnam was born and raised in Tehran, Iran where he graduated from Kharazmi High School. After moving to the

United States in 2006, he attended Collin College and The University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) to study Biology. During his undergraduate studies, he has made the Dean's list at Collin College and received multiple scholarships from Collin and UTD. Since beginning his studies at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy, Behnam has made the Dean's List every semester and has played an active role in community events such as the American Heart Association's Annual Heart Walk, the College of Pharmacy Health Fair, and several Salvation Army events. He is also an active member of APhAwhile and serves as the Class of 2014 Student

Council Treasurer and Intramural Sports Liaison. Recently, he was inducted to the Rho Chi Honor Society and serves as the tutoring co-chair. He has worked as a Pharmacy Technician and Pharmacy Intern for a community retail pharmacy. Behnam will be graduating in May 2014 and plans to pursue a career as a retail pharmacist in Hawai'i.

Cassie L Kim
CVS Caremark Scholarship



Cassie was born and raised in Mililani, Hawai'i. She graduated from Mililani High School and received

her Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Washington. Currently, she is in her fourth year at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy. Cassie has served as treasurer and is a member of the American Pharmacist's Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists. She is also a member of the professional pharmacy fraternity Phi Delta Chi. In addition to her involvement in student organizations, Cassie has worked in a community pharmacy while attending pharmacy school. She hopes to pursue her career in community pharmacy in Hawai'i after she graduates this May.

Cheryl Lopez
UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Merit Scholarship Award



Cheryl Lopez was born and raised in Wailuku, Maui. She graduated from Baldwin High School and completed

her undergraduate degree at UH

Manoa where she earned a Bachelors of Science in microbiology. Since beginning her studies at the University of Hawai'i College of Pharmacy, she has made the Dean's list and has been active in the community. She served as a leader for various student organizations including APhA-ASP and Phi Delta Chi, a professional pharmacy fraternity. She was also selected to be College of Pharmacy Student Ambassador. She currently works as an executive intern for a community retail pharmacy. Cheryl will be graduating in May this year with hopes of establishing her career as a pharmacist in Hawai'i.

Chi B Ngo
J.M. Long Foundation Pharmacy Scholarship



Chi was born and raised in Santa Clara, California. She graduated from Lynbrook High School and continued her

studies at the University of California in San Diego, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmacological Chemistry with a minor in Art History. Since moving to Hilo and beginning her studies at University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy, she has been involved with community events such as the College of Pharmacy Health Fair, Aloha Project and the Pacific Islander Mobile Screening Clinic. She is a member of APhA and Kappa Psi, a professional pharmacy fraternity, and is also a pharmacy intern at Long's Drugs/ CVS. Chi will be graduating in May 2015. After completing her studies at the College of Pharmacy, she hopes to continue as a retail pharmacist so that she may continue serving her community.

Chris Kamei
UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Merit Scholarship Award



Chris was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawai'i. He graduated from Roosevelt High School and received a Bachelor

of Science degree in Microbiology at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He is currently in his fourth year of study at the University of Hawaii at Hilo College of Pharmacy. Since beginning his studies at the College of Pharmacy, Chris has made the Dean's list every semester. He is also active in multiple student organizations including ASHP, HSSHP, and Phi Delta Chi, a professional pharmacy fraternity where he has held several leadership positions. Chris is also an intern pharmacist at a community retail pharmacy. Chris will be graduating in May 2013 and plans to work as a retail pharmacist.

Christopher I. Lai Hipp
College of Pharmacy Alumni Association Scholarship



Chris was born in Honolulu, Hawai'i and graduated from Moanalua High School. He attended Kapiolani Community

College and UH Manoa, graduating with a degree in Medical Laboratory Science. He then attended San Francisco State University, graduating with a degree in Cell & Molecular Biology and Chemistry. While in San Francisco, Chris was actively participating in HIV vaccine research at the University of California, San Francisco. In 2006, he returned to Hawai'i to pursue graduate studies at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, Department of Tropical Medicine & Pharmacology. While at the UH

Hilo College of Pharmacy, Chris has held numerous leadership positions including president of the Hawai'i Student Society for Health-Systems Pharmacy, Class of 2013 Liaison, chair of the Marshallese Mobile Screening project, and a student member of the executive board of the Hawai'i Pharmacists Association. He is currently a member of ASHP, HPhA, and the Society for Critical Care Medicine. Chris was the 2011 recipient of the ASHP National Pharmacy Student Leadership Award as well as the College of Pharmacy's Student Leader of the Year in 2012. Chris will be graduating in May this year and plans to continue on through a residency program focusing on Critical Care.

Christine A Lucas
College of Pharmacy Class of 2012
Scholarship



Christine Lucas was born and raised in Hilo, Hawai'i. She graduated from St. Joseph Jr.-Sr. High School, completed her pharmacy pre-

requisites at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, and is currently in her fourth year at the College of Pharmacy. Christine has been an active member of the NCPA student chapter since her enrollment at the College of Pharmacy. She has previously served as the chapter secretary and president-elect, and finished her term as president in May 2012, when the chapter was awarded the College of Pharmacy's first ever Student Organization of the Year Award. She was elected class delegate in her P1 year, and continues to represent the Class of 2013 in that role. These leadership positions have enabled Christine to be involved with organizing community events such as the College of Pharmacy Health Fair, and the American Cancer Society Relay for Life where she recently

led the College of Pharmacy's top-contributing team as co-captain. In addition to these activities, Christine works as a pharmacy intern at Walgreens. After she graduates in May 2013 she will pursue a career as a retail pharmacist with hopes of one day opening her own pharmacy.

Daniel Kim
UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Merit
Scholarship Award



Daniel Kim graduated from Sabino High School in Tucson, Arizona and received his Bachelor of Science

degree in Biology from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. He is a member of the American Pharmacist Association and American Society of Health System Pharmacy. He has served as vice president of the student chapter of the National Community Pharmacists Association and founding vice president of the student chapter of the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy. As a member and leader in these organizations, Daniel has had the opportunity to lead various functions and events such as the Brown Bag Medication Counseling Booth at the annual College of Pharmacy Health Fair and lead a team in making a business plan for the NCPA national competition. He also recently represented the College of Pharmacy at the National Clinical Skills Competition held at the ASHP midyear meeting. Danie was also invited to be a member of the Rho Chi Honor Society and has been on the Dean's list every semester while working as an intern at a community retail pharmacy. Daniel will be graduating in May 2014 and hopes to be accepted to a residency program.

Daniel Leong
UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Merit
Scholarship Award



Daniel was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawai'i, graduated from Kalani High School, and completed his undergraduate

studies at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in biology. He has made the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy Dean's List every semester maintaining a 4.0 GPA. Daniel is a member of NCPA and participates in the ALOHA project where he counsels community members on optimizing their health. He will be graduating in May 2015 and plans to continue his education by learning about eastern medicine and treatments in order to better advise his patients about their therapy options.

Darian Oshiro
JM Long Foundation Pharmacy
Scholarship



Darian was born and raised in Mililani, Hawaii. He graduated from Mililani High School in 2009 and spent two

years of undergraduate studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa where he was enrolled in the Pre-Pharmacy Program. Darian started off his studies at the University of Hawaii at Hilo College of Pharmacy by making Dean's List in his first semester and has since continued to perform well in school. Along with his studies, Darian is the fundraising committee chair of Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity and has been the graphic designer for the Class of 2015's T-shirt fundraiser for the past

two years. Darian is set to graduate in May 2015 and plans to continue his career here in Hawaii as a retail pharmacist where he will be able to give back to the community which has given him so much.

Davis Hanai

UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Merit Scholarship Award



Davis has lived on four Hawai'i islands: Kaua'i, Maui, Oahu, and now the Big Island. He grew up mostly

in Oahu and graduated from Roosevelt High School. Davis has a Bachelor of Arts in psychology and also a Bachelor of Science in nursing from UH Manoa. He worked for three and a half years at Queen's Medical Center in Honolulu in an inpatient child/adolescent mental and behavioral health unit as a nurse. He decided to go back to school for pharmacy because he has always been fascinated with the mechanisms of action of medications and wanted to become a more effective practitioner. Davis loves to participate in community service and is the co-chair of the ALOHA project which is a collaborative project between nursing and pharmacy students to provide free health screenings and education to community members. He is also currently the vice president for HSSHP. He has been on the Dean's List every semester and credits his success to hard work and being pampered and supported by his wonderful wife. Davis will be graduating in May 2015 and would like to work in a pediatric clinical setting in the future.

Dayna Wong

Haga Family Endowed Scholarship



Dayna was born and raised in Hilo, Hawai'i. She attended Waiakea High School and completed her undergraduate

studies at Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon where she earned a Bachelor's of Science degree in Chemistry. Dayna is currently in her third year at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy and is a member of the Class of 2014 where she has achieved being on the Dean's List every semester. She is also a part of the American Pharmacists Association student chapter and has participated in community events such as the American Heart Association's Annual Heart Walk and UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Health Fair. In addition to all of her extracurricular activities, Dayna has worked as an intern at Long's Drugs since 2011. Dayna's future plans are to practice pharmacy either in Hawai'i or on the West Coast of the United States where she will be able to work among other health care professionals to provide quality care.

Denise Kobashikawa

Safeway Pharmacy Scholarship



Denise was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii and graduated from Maryknoll High School. She completed

her undergraduate studies at the University of Southern California where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention. Since beginning her studies at the University of Hawaii at Hilo College of Pharmacy, Denise has been active with AMCP (Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy) and is

now serving as the club's president. Denise will be graduating in May 2014 and plans to continue her career in the field of health promotion and disease prevention, where she will have the opportunity to interact and give back to the community.

Diem Le

UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Merit Scholarship Award



Diem was born and raised in Thua-Thien Hue, Vietnam. At the age of eight, she and her family immigrated to

the United States and have lived in California ever since. Diem graduated from Gardena High School and went on to attend college at the University of California, Los Angeles, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science in biochemistry. Since beginning her studies at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy, Diem has made the Dean's List every semester and has been active in community events such as the College of Pharmacy's Annual Health Fair and the American Heart Association's Annual Heart Walk. Diem is also a member of the Rho Chi Honor Society and works as an intern pharmacist for a community retail pharmacy. Diem will be graduating in May 2013 and plans on pursuing a career in retail pharmacy.

Edwina Leung

Community Health Center Success Scholarship



Edwina was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawai'i. She graduated from Henry J. Kaiser High School and was a 2009 Chancellor Scholar at the University

of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy.

of Hawai'i at Hilo. While a student in the Pre-Pharmacy Program, Edwina made the Dean's List every semester and took an active role in school as both a staff writer for the university student newspaper and president of the Pre-Pharmacy Club. Outside of school, Edwina has devoted much of her time to giving back to the community, volunteering at retail and hospital pharmacies and working for non-profit organizations. In addition, she is an active member of APhA and NCPA. Edwina is scheduled to graduate with the UHH CoP Class of 2015. Her professional goal is to continue her career in Hawai'i and serve her home community as a pharmacist.

Ericson Ganotisi
Hawai'i Independent Pharmacies, Inc. Endowed Excellence Scholarship



Ericson was born in the Philippines but raised on the Island of Maui. He graduated from Maui High School and completed

his undergraduate studies at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology. Since beginning his studies at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy, Ericson achieved being on the Dean's List and has been voted Most Outstanding NCPA Student Member of the Year by his colleagues. He has also devoted much of his time to serving the community by participating in community events such as the KTA Health Fair, College of Pharmacy Blood Drive, UH Hilo's Malama Kanaloa Ocean Day Festival, and the College of Pharmacy Health Fair. In addition to his studies, Ericson also serves on the executive board for the American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists as the Vice President of Membership, the National Community Pharmacists

Association Student Chapter as the President-elect, and serves as chairperson for various committees within these organizations. Ericson will be graduating in May 2015 and plans to continue his career in Hawai'i as a retail pharmacist, where he will have the opportunity to give back to the community and continue the College of Pharmacy's tradition of education, scholarship, and service.

Jack Goldsberry
UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Merit Scholarship Award



Jack was born and raised in and around Chicago, Illinois. He graduated from Lake Central High School, and

completed his undergraduate studies at Purdue University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmaceutical Science, and started to work through a Master's degree in Regulatory Affairs and Quality Compliance. He was then accepted and went on to work at Abbott Laboratories in the Professional Development Program. In his free time he helped to create two non-profit organizations that provide clean drinking water to communities in Liberia, Africa. Since beginning his studies at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy, Jack has played an active role in the community through his leadership in supporting local health fairs. He has made the Dean's List every semester and has represented the College of Pharmacy at many professional pharmacy conferences around the country. Jack is an active member of APhA-ASP, ASHP, AMCP, and Phi Delta Chi, a Professional Pharmacy Fraternity, and works as a pharmacy intern for a community retail pharmacy. Jack will be graduating in May 2014 and plans to continue his pharmacy career in Hawai'i.

James Yi
CVS Caremark Scholarship



James was born and raised on the island of Guam. He graduated from John F. Kennedy High School and completed

his undergraduate studies at the University of California, Los Angeles where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. Since beginning his studies at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy, James has made the Dean's List three times and has played an active role in community events such as the American Heart Association's Annual Heart Walk, the College of Pharmacy Health Fair, the KTA Health Fair, the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life and Phi Delta Chi's Miloli'i Health Fair. In addition to his studies, James was an officer in the Class of 2014 Student Council where he was the class liaison. James will be graduating in May 2014 and plans to continue his career as a retail pharmacist, where he will have the opportunity to interact and give back to the community.

Jarred Prudencio
Grace Mizuko Miyawaki Pharmacy Scholarship



Jarred Prudencio was born and raised in Hilo, Hawai'i. He graduated from Waiakea High School

in 2009, and was awarded the Chancellor's Scholarship to UH Hilo, where he completed two years of undergraduate studies with a Pre-Pharmacy focus before being accepted to the UHH College of Pharmacy. Jarred is currently in his second year at UHH CoP and has achieved being on the Dean's List every semester since starting at UH Hilo in 2009. He works

as a Pharmacy Intern Shiigi Drug, a local pharmacy, and has been there since January 2007, previously working as a pharmacy clerk/technician. Aside from academics, Jarred is a member of APhA, is an Ambassador for the College of Pharmacy, and sits on the Board of Directors for the CoP chapter of the UH Alumni Association. He participates in health fairs and other community outreach events, such as the What About Tobacco (WAT) Program where he helps educate elementary school students on tobacco awareness. As of now, Jarred plans on going into either retail/community pharmacy or compounding pharmacy, and is looking forward to doing more rotations in different fields to broaden his experiences in pharmacy.

Jaymie Kanda
J.M. Long Foundation Pharmacy Scholarship



Jaymie was born and raised in Kaneohe, Hawai'i. She graduated from James B. Castle High School, and

completed her undergraduate studies at Pacific University where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology with a cellular and molecular emphasis. During the past two years at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy, Jaymie has made the Dean's List every semester and has played an active role in community events such as the College of Pharmacy Annual Health Fair and the What About Tobacco Youth Prevention Program. Jaymie is involved in extracurricular activities as a student representative for the College of Pharmacy's Assessment Committee, APhA, and as a pharmacy intern for Longs Drugs. Jaymie will be graduating

in May 2014 and plans to continue her career in Hawai'i as a retail pharmacist where she can focus on preventive care and disease management in the community.

Jed Sana
UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Merit Scholarship Award



Jed Sana was born and raised on Guam. He graduated from Simon Sanchez High School and completed his

Bachelor of Science degree in biology and teaching credentials at Hawai'i Pacific University. He participates in many community events and is the on-site coordinator for the Pacific Islander Mobile Screening Clinic. He is the treasurer of the Rho Chi Honor Society and currently works as a pharmacy intern at a community retail pharmacy. He will graduate in May 2014, and plans to return to Guam to practice pharmacy.

Jennie Lim
UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Merit Scholarship Award



Jennie Lim was born and raised in Reno, Nevada. She graduated from Sparks High School and the University of

Nevada, Reno where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree with Distinction in Biology and minors in Health Care Ethics and Biochemistry. Jennie was awarded the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship for all four years of her undergraduate studies. She was actively involved in her community as a mentor for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northern

Nevada and as a tutor for the Advanced Via Individual Determination (AVID) program. Since beginning her studies at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy, Jennie has made the Dean's List every semester and is actively involved in the community by volunteering for events such as Teen Health Camp Hawai'i and Get Fit Hawai'i. In addition to her studies, Jennie is an active member of Phi Delta Chi, a professional pharmacy fraternity, and an officer for NCPA. Jennie will be graduating in May 2015 and plans to practice as a retail pharmacist.

Jeremy Daube
UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Merit Scholarship Award



Jeremy was born and raised in Southern California and received his Bachelor of Science in biology from California

State University Channel Islands. He has experience conducting research and working as a certified pharmacy technician in the state of California. Jeremy is currently interested in the clinical side of pharmacy, and is an active member of the Student Society of Health System Pharmacists (SSHP) as well as the American Pharmacists Association (APhA). His current projects include the creation of a Top 200 drug application for both PC and Mac operating systems to assist both students and professionals. Additionally, he served on the mentorship committee for the Class of 2015 and is a student ambassador where he enjoys promoting the college and interacting with potential applicants and incoming students. Jeremy will be graduating in May 2015.

Jillian Wewers

JM Long Foundation Pharmacy Scholarship



Jillian Wewers was born and raised in Oak Grove, Minnesota and moved to Keaau, Hawaii when she was 15. She

graduated with honors from Keaau High School and completed her prerequisites for pharmacy school at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. Since being accepted to the College of Pharmacy at UH Hilo, Jillian has made the Dean's List every semester and is also active in community events including the College of Pharmacy Health Fair, the American Cancer Society Relay for Life, and the American Heart Association's Annual Heart Walk. In her free time, Jillian enjoys working with other classmates in planning class events including events for the mentor/mentee program and for Phi Delta Chi, a professional pharmacy fraternity. She has also had the opportunity to attend APhA conferences where she networked and met other pharmacy students from other parts of the nation. Jillian will graduate in May 2015 and plans on continuing her career in Hawaii as a medication therapy management (MTM) pharmacist in a community pharmacy setting. As a MTM pharmacist she hopes to improve health outcomes and reduce medical costs for the community.

Jizan Evangelista

J.M. Long Pharmacy Scholarship



Jizan was born in Saudi Arabia and was raised on the island of Guam. She graduated from George Washington High School in 2004, and earned a degree

in Biology from the University of Guam in 2008. Since her acceptance into the UH Hilo College of Pharmacy in 2010, Jizan has made the Dean's List every semester. Jizan has been an active member in the community by participating in health fairs such as the annual UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Health Fair where she has assisted in booths such as Diabetes Education and Body Mass Index. She has also volunteered for the Pacific Islander Mobile Screening Clinic and the Get Fit Hawai'i Health Fair Screening Clinic. In addition to her academic achievements and community involvement, Jizan is a member of the UH Hilo Rho Chi Chapter, an academic honor society in pharmacy, and has been working as an intern in Kmart Pharmacy in Guam for the past year. Jizan will be graduating in May 2014 and plans to continue her career in Guam as a retail pharmacist where she will be able to apply her knowledge and experience and give back to the community.

Joanne Daproza Sablan

UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Merit Scholarship Award



Joanne was born and raised on the island of Saipan of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

(CNMI). She received her primary education on the island and attended the island's only community college for almost two years. Joanne later moved to Guam where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in biology at the University of Guam in 2010. She graduated Magna Cum Laude with a cumulative GPA of 3.89. At the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy, Joanne has been on the Dean's list with a cumulative GPA of 3.92 and was awarded the Merit Scholarship for school year 2012-2013. Joanne hopes to return to the CNMI after graduating in May 2014.

Joson Perreira

UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Merit Scholarship Award



Joson Perreira was born and raised in Hilo, Hawai'i. He graduated from Pahoa High School, and completed his undergraduate

studies at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in computer science with a minor in Hawaiian Studies. Since beginning his studies at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy, Joson has made the Dean's List and has played an active role in community events such as the College of Pharmacy Health Fair, the Hilo Medical Center & National Kidney Foundation Health Fair, and Na Pua No'eau Super Enrichment Saturday. In addition to his studies, Joson is an active member of APhA, HSSHP, and Phi Delta Chi, a professional pharmacy fraternity. He is also a member of his class student council where he serves as treasurer. Joson will be graduating in May 2016 and plans to pursue a career as a clinical pharmacist specializing in psychotherapeutic medication.

Jozelle Gabriel

Edwin and Georgiana Kam Endowed Excellence Scholarship



Jozelle is from Kapolei, Hawai'i and graduated from Kapolei High School. She continued her education at

Hawai'i Pacific University where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. Since beginning her studies at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy, Jozelle has made the Dean's List every semester. She is an active member of APhA and Phi Delta Chi Professional Pharmacy Fraternity and has served on several different

planning and service committees within these organizations. She has been involved in various community events, such as the Big Island AIDS Walk and multiple health fairs. She also volunteers weekly at UH Hilo's Student Health Center. Jozelle will be graduating from the College of Pharmacy in May 2015. She plans to stay in Hawai'i and work as a retail pharmacist, where she will have the opportunity to serve the community that has supported her throughout the years.

Kaylene Peric
UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Merit Scholarship Award



Kaylene was born in Torrance, California and raised in Midland, Michigan. She graduated from H.H. Dow

High School and completed her undergraduate work at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. Since beginning her studies at the University of Hawai'i Hilo College of Pharmacy, Kaylene has been an active member of the American Society of Health Systems Pharmacists as well as the Rho Chi Honor Society. She has also participated in athletics for UH Hilo including tennis and cross country. Kaylene will be graduating in May 2013.

Keith Acab
CVS Caremark Scholarship



Keith was born in the state of Washington. He completed his undergraduate studies at Highline Community

College. Prior to admission to the UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Keith worked as a pharmacy technician for five years. Since being enrolled

in the college he has demonstrated a strong interest in leadership roles by taking office in his Class of 2014 Student Council and as an officer within the professional fraternity Phi Delta Chi. Keith has also chaired health screenings and educational booths at many CoP health fairs and other outreach projects. He has also been captain for recruiting and fundraising every year for the annual Hilo Heart Walk where his team raised more than \$4000 in two years for the American Heart Association. He is currently an active member of APhA-ASP and Phi Delta Chi and continues to increase his involvement within the college and community each year. The retail experience he has received as a student intern has grown his passion in practicing as a retail pharmacist. He strives in developing his skill set as he learns and understands more about the demands of the pharmacy profession as being one of the most accessible health care providers.

Kelly Ishizuka
College of Pharmacy Alumni Association Scholarship



Kelly was born and raised on Oahu. She graduated from Punahou High School, and completed her undergraduate

studies at the University of Southern California, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biological Sciences. Since attending courses at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy, Kelly has achieved being on the Dean's List every semester and has played an active role in community events such as the What About Tobacco (WAT) Program, the ALOHA Project, and various health fairs during the year. In addition to her studies, Kelly is the Class of 2015 Treasurer, a member of APhA, a member of HSSH, and the UHH CoP Alumni Association Board of Directors. She also works as

a pharmacy intern for Longs Drugs. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, and playing sports. Kelly will be graduating in May 2015 in hopes to continue her career in Hawai'i, where she will have the opportunity to give back to the community where she grew up.

Keri Oyadomari
UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Merit Scholarship Award



Keri Oyadomari was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawai'i where she graduated from Iolani High School in 2005. She

graduated from the University of San Diego with a Bachelor of Arts degree in biochemistry. Since beginning her studies at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy, Keri has made the Dean's List every semester and participated in community outreach events. She is also an active member of AMCP, APhA, and Rho Chi Society, an academic honor society in pharmacy. Keri will be graduating in May 2014 and plans to pursue a pharmacy career in Hawai'i.

Koon Ting
National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) Foundation Pharmacy Partners Scholarship



Koon was born and raised in San Francisco, California. He graduated from Lowell High School, and

completed his undergraduate studies at the University of California at Berkeley where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Molecular and Cell Biology. As an undergraduate, Koon worked in a laboratory and was very interested in developing novel delivery mechanisms to deliver

pharmaceutical drugs to combat disease. He was also active in the community volunteering time to community clothing and canned good drives and elderly assistance programs. Koon understands the immense value a community pharmacy provides and enjoys working with the community in Hawai'i by volunteering time to work with children. Koon is now in his third year at the UH Hilo College of Pharmacy and has made the Dean's List every semester for the past two years. He will graduate in May 2014 and plans to pursue a career in community pharmacy.

Kristi Anne Nishek
Aloha Shoyu Pharmacy
Scholarship



Kristi was born and raised on the island of Kauai and graduated from Waimea High School. She did her undergrad

studies at Kauai Community College and at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. She has made the Dean's list at Kauai Community College and at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo from 2008-2011. Kristi has played an active role as a student at the college of pharmacy where she currently serves as the President Elect for APhA and the Webmaster for NCPA, as well as being a member of the chartering class of Kappa Psi, a pharmaceutical fraternity. She is also very involved with the community. This past summer she gave presentations at the high schools on Kauai with a project called Generation Rx, in which she talked to the students about the dangers and misconceptions of the misuse and abuse of prescription medications. Kristi will be graduating in May 2015 and plans to continue her career in Hawai'i as a retail pharmacist where she will have the opportunity

to interact with people from her community and she will be able to make a positive impact on the health and lives of those in the community.

Kyle Kumashiro
UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Merit
Scholarship Award



Kyle Kumashiro was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawai'i. He graduated from Iolani High School and attended the

University of Hawai'i at Manoa as a pre-pharmacy student. Since beginning his studies at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy, Kyle has made the Dean's List every semester. In addition to his studies, Kyle is an active member and student leader in the Rho Chi Honor Society, the Hawai'i Student Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists, and the University of Hawai'i at Hilo Student Association. He also participated in scholastic and community service events including a national clinical skills competition and local health fairs. Kyle will be graduating in May 2014 and plans to pursue a career in pharmacy as a clinical pharmacist.

LaTasha Riddick
UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Merit
Scholarship Award, Walgreens
Diversity Scholarship



LaTasha Riddick was born and raised in New Jersey. She graduated from Oakcrest High School in Mays

Landing, NJ and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology at The College of New Jersey. Since beginning her studies at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of

Pharmacy, LaTasha has served as the Vice President of the Class of 2015, a Professional Development Co-Chair of the Hawai'i Student Society of Health System Pharmacy, and the Worthy Alumni Liaison of Phi Delta Chi Professional Pharmacy Fraternity. She is also an ambassador at the College of Pharmacy and participates in health fairs and other free health screenings. LaTasha currently conducts research on Rat Lungworm Disease and provides prevention education to elementary school students and people in the community. She has achieved the Dean's List honor every semester since she began her pharmacy studies. LaTasha will be graduating in May 2015 and plans to pursue a Pharmacy Practice Residency to become an infectious disease specialist.

Melissa Yoneda
Edwin and Georgiana Kam
Endowed Excellence Scholarship



Melissa was born and raised in Hilo, Hawai'i. She is a 2006 graduate of the Kamehameha Schools Hawai'i Campus. Her

education continued at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, where she received the Chancellor's Scholarship. After the first year of her college education, she transferred and completed the pre-pharmacy prerequisites at Western Oregon University before being accepted to the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy. After beginning her pharmacy education, Melissa has made the Dean's List and participated in various health fairs as well as other community service activities. Besides her studies, Melissa is a member of the American Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists. Melissa will be graduating in May this year and plans on applying to a residency program.

Madison Karr

J.M. Long Foundation Pharmacy Scholarship



Madison is a second-year pharmacy student who will be graduating from the UH Hilo College of

Pharmacy in May 2015. She previously studied biochemistry at Arizona State University. Being born and raised in Arizona, Madison was eager to move to Hawai'i, meet new people, and experience new things. She quickly became involved with organizations on campus and around town such as NCPA, Phi Delta Chi, the ALOHA Project, and Hawai'i Island HIV/AIDS Foundation, all while keeping her place on the Dean's List. Her membership in these organizations drives her extensive involvement in the community. Her experiences and hard work have proven worthy by earning scholarships from the J.M. Long Foundation, the Zonta Club of Hilo, and an internship with CVS/Caremark. Madison's ultimate goal is to own her own pharmacy and specialize in the treatment of AIDS patients.

Marcus Kouma

UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Merit Scholarship Award



Marcus Kouma was born in Hemet, California where he attended West Valley High School, graduating in 2001. He then

attended the University of California at San Diego, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in cognitive neuroscience. As a student at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy, he has made the Dean's List each semester and was the chartering treasurer of the Rho Chi Honor Society Delta Iota Chapter.

Outside the classroom, he has been an active member of the College of Pharmacy community serving on several administrative committees and was President of the Hawai'i chapter of the American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists. He will graduate in May 2013 and plans to pursue acceptance into a residency program.

Margaret Kang

Elwin and Valerie Goo Endowed Excellence Scholarship



Margaret was born and raised on the island of Guam. She graduated high school from the Academy of Our Lady of Guam

and completed her undergraduate studies at UC San Diego where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Cognitive Science specializing in Neuroscience. Since attending UH Hilo College of Pharmacy, Margaret balanced and maintained a strong academic life with a passion for helping and playing an active, leadership role in school organizations. She served as the APhA-IPSF Liaison for APhA, the Committee Coordinator for ASHP, the Secretary for Phi Delta Chi, a Professional Pharmacy Fraternity, and also as the Class of 2013 Activities Coordinator. By being involved, she has helped organize and participated in many community events, such as, the first APhA World Aids Day Awareness event, the first APhA/NCPA Vampire Cup (blood drive), the American Heart Association's Annual Heart Walk, the College of Pharmacy Annual Health Fairs, KTA Wellness Health Fairs, PDC Miloli'i Health Fairs, and the ASHP/HMC Diabetes Health Fairs. Margaret will be graduating in May 2013 and plans to continue her career in Guam where she will have the opportunity to interact, educate, and give back to the people of her home community.

Mariko Katagiri

J.M. Long Foundation Scholarship



Mariko was born in Sakura City, Japan and grew up in Japan, Guam, and California. She graduated from St. John's

School in Guam and completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Santa Barbara, California where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Sciences. Since beginning her studies at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy, Mariko has made the Dean's List every semester. Mariko has been an active participant in community events, such as the American Heart Association's Annual Health Walk and Merry Monarch Parade. She has also helped with the diabetes and cholesterol screenings at many events such as the College of Pharmacy Health Fair, Imiloa Kapuna Day Health Screening, and Puna Covenant Church Blood Sugar Screening. In addition to her studies, Mariko is a member of APhA, secretary of Rho Chi Society, and works as a pharmacy intern for Longs Drugs/ CVS Pharmacy. Mariko will be graduating in May 2014 and plans to continue her career in Hawai'i or California as a retail pharmacist, where she can continue to build strong relationships and help improve the quality of life for people in her community.

Matthew Sasaki

UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Merit Scholarship Award



Matthew Sasaki is from Mililani, Hawai'i and attended Maryknoll High School in Honolulu, Hawai'i.

Prior to pharmacy school he attended the University of Iowa where he

earned a Bachelor of Science degree in microbiology. Matthew is an active member of APhA-ASP, Phi Delta Chi Professional Pharmacy Fraternity, ASHP, and has been an officer in APhA-ASP and Phi Delta Chi. He has also been on the Dean's List every semester. Matthew will be graduating in May this year and plans to enter a residency program.

Maurina Bartlett
UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Merit Scholarship Award



Maurina Bartlett is originally from San Luis Obispo, California. After she graduated from Mission College Prep Catholic

High School in 2005, she worked as a pharmacy technician while working on her undergraduate degree. In 2010, she graduated from UCLA with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Mathematics and Applied Science. Since beginning at the University of Hawai'i College of Pharmacy, Maurina has been a part of several professional organizations on campus. Every semester she has been on the Dean's List and is an active member of the Rho Chi Honor Society. At the 2012 APhA Annual Meeting she competed in the National Patient Counseling Competition. This past November she presented a poster at the ASHP Mid-Year Student Showcase. She has been very active in community health screenings, participating in events such as: Operation Heart, HSSH/ National Kidney Foundation Health Fair, Aloha Project, UHH Health Fair, Lady's Night Out and Get Fit Hawai'i. She has also educated Hawai'i's youth about the danger of smoking tobacco in the What About Tobacco Prevention Program and has enforced the risks of prescription drug abuse. During breaks between semesters, Maurina works at a nonprofit pharmacy in San Luis Obispo catering to low-income

and homeless patients. She will be graduating in May 2014 and plans to apply to a residency program.

May Yu
UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Merit Scholarship Award



May was born and raised in San Francisco, California. She graduated from Galileo Academy of Science

and Technology, and completed her undergraduate studies at the University of California, Davis where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Sciences. Since beginning her studies at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy, May has made the Dean's List every semester and has played an active role in community events such as the UH Hilo College of Pharmacy's Annual Health Fair, American Heart Association's Annual Heart Walk and Health Fair, and National Kidney Foundation's Diabetes Health Fair. In addition to her studies, May is an active member of ASHP-HSSH, APhA, and Rho Chi, an academic honor society in pharmacy. May will be graduating in May this year and hopes to pursue a career as a pediatric pharmacist.

Michelle Le-Fisher
CVS Caremark Scholarship



Michelle was born in Fairfax, Virginia and raised in Honolulu, Hawai'i. She graduated from Roosevelt High School, and

completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Sociology. Over the course of her studies at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy, Michelle has maintained

her commitment to the community through events such as the American Heart Association Heart Walk, the American Cancer Society Relay for Life, the World AIDS Day Project, and the College of Pharmacy Health Fair. In addition to her studies, Michelle is a member of APhA, ASHP, and works as a pharmacy intern for Walgreens Pharmacy. Michelle will be graduating in May 2013 and plans to pursue her career in Hawai'i as a retail pharmacist where she will have the opportunity to continue promoting health and wellness within the community.

Miho Aoki
UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Merit Scholarship Award



Miho was born and raised in Hilo, Hawai'i and a 2006 graduate of Waiakea High School. She received her

Bachelor of Arts in Biological Science and a minor in East Asian Languages and Cultures from the University of Southern California. Right after graduating from USC, she moved back to her hometown where she is currently enrolled as a student at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy. She has been on the Dean's List every semester and in addition to her studies, she participates in several extracurricular activities. She is the Class of 2014 Secretary, a College of Pharmacy Ambassador, and an active member of APhA. These organizations have allowed her to give back to the community through different projects and events that are planned throughout the year. One of her most favorite events include the College of Pharmacy's annual health fair where pharmacy students are able to provide free health screenings and educate the community. Miho will be graduating in May 2014 and plans to work to improve health care in Hawai'i.

Mylan Phan
**College of Pharmacy Walmart
Scholarship**



Mylan was born in Monterey, California. She graduated from Silver Creek High School and completed

her undergraduate studies at the University of California at Davis where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. Since beginning her studies at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy, Mylan has been trained in many areas that will make her a successful pharmacist including smoking cessation, immunization, diabetes testing, blood pressure readings, asthma devices, and suicide ideation. Mylan has played an active role in the community by participating in community events such as the College of Pharmacy Health Fairs, HSSHHP Health Fair, American Heart Association's Annual Heart Walk, Relay for Life, 11th Annual Hui Mālama Ola Nā'Ōiwi Ladies' Night Out Event, and many more. Mylan is also a member of APhA and ASHP. In addition to her extracurricular activities, Mylan has achieved being on the Dean's List for several semesters by obtaining a GPA greater than 3.5. Mylan will be graduating in May 2013 and plans to build her career as a community pharmacist in California where she can optimize patient care through her drug expertise.

Naoto Oki
CVS Caremark Scholarship



Naoto was born in Osaka, Japan. Upon completion of Kitano High School in Japan, he came to the United States

and obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in biochemistry from the University of California, Los Angeles. Being one of several international students in the UH Hilo College of Pharmacy, he has been proactively involved with the curriculum and community events. This included various health fairs, the Hilo Heart Walk, meetings with ACPE for accreditation, helping with new student orientation, Pacific Islander Mobile Screening Clinic, and many other College of Pharmacy events. Naoto is also the Vice President of the Class of 2014, IPSF Liaison for APhA, a member of HSSHHP, works as an intern for Longs Drugs, and assists in research for "Biological Evaluation of Endophytic Fungi Isolated from *Morindacitriflora*" under Dr. Leng Chee Chang. Naoto will graduate in May 2014 and hopes to pursue a career in retail pharmacy.

Nicole Ku'ulei Tabandera
**Good Neighbor Pharmacy
Scholarship, UHH CoP Inaugural
Class of 2011 Scholarship**



Nicole was born and raised in Hilo, Hawai'i. She graduated from Waiakea High School with 22 concurrent

college credits through the Running Start program. In the fall of 2006, she attended the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, majoring in Conservation Biology. Before completing her bachelor's degree in Biology, Nicole was accepted at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy (UHH CoP). Since her admission to the UHH College of Pharmacy, Nicole was able to maintain a grade point average above 3.0 while actively playing a role in various community events such as the UHH CoP Health fair, National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA), Thanksgiving Food Drive, diabetes

screening at the Relay for Life in Hilo, and UHH College of Pharmacy Blood Drive. Nicole has also been an active member of NCPA, P1 Liaison for the Class of 2014 during her first year, NCPA's President Elect in 2011 and is currently the President of NCPA. Nicole is an active member of the American Pharmacist Association (APhA) participating in Compounding for Kids and health screenings all while she works as a research assistant at UH Hilo CoP Waiakea Research Station. Nicole will be graduating in May 2014 and plans to continue her career in Hilo, Hawai'i as a community Pharmacist--specializing in compounding where she will have the opportunity to connect and give back to her community.

Nicole Young
CVS Caremark Scholarship



Nicole was raised in a military family and lived around the globe before officially calling Pearl City, Hawai'i her

home in 2007. She graduated high school after home schooling, and received a Bachelors of Arts in Microbiology from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. She began her studies at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy with plans to become a compassionate pharmacist that actively serves in the community. Nicole is currently a member of APhA and is working as a student assistant in a faculty research laboratory. Some of her favorite things to do when not studying is being involved in community events, such as the American Heart Association's Annual Heart Walk and the College of Pharmacy Health Fair. Nicole will be graduating in May 2015.

Reece Uyeno
Hawai'i Independent Pharmacies,
Inc. Endowed Excellence
Scholarship



Reece was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawai'i. After graduating from Mid-Pacific High School,

Reece went on to earn a Bachelors of Arts in Biology from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. Since beginning his studies at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy, Reece has participated in community events such as the Phi Delta Chi Milolii Health Fair and the Hilo High School Teen Health Camp. In addition to his studies, Reece is a member of APhA, ASHP, Phi Delta Chi, and served as the University of Hawai'i at Hilo Student Association College of Pharmacy Senator. Reece will be graduating in May 2013 and plans to continue his career in Hawai'i as a retail pharmacist, where he will have the opportunity to give back to the community.

Shadi Obeidi
J.M. Long Foundation Pharmacy
Scholarship



Shadi was born and raised in Anchorage, Alaska. He graduated from Dimond High School

and completed his undergraduate coursework at the University of Alaska Anchorage. His transition to the graduate program at the University of Hawaii at Hilo College of Pharmacy made him active in community events such as the College of Pharmacy Health Fair, the American Heart

Association's Annual Heart Walk, and the Miloli'i health fair. In addition to pharmacy school, he is a member of APhA, Phi Delta Chi, and is the University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UHHSA) College of Pharmacy Senator. Shadi will be graduating in May 2014 and plans to continue his career in Alaska as a retail pharmacist where he will have the opportunity to best serve his local patient population.

Shanele Shimabuku
Walgreens Diversity Scholarship



Shanele was born and raised in Hawai'i on the island of Maui. After graduating from H.P. Baldwin

High School, she attended the University of Washington where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. Shanele is currently in her last year at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy where she has taken on leadership roles in student organizations, including APhA-ASP and ASHP. She has also had an inspirational role in the creation of the Pacific Islander Mobile Screening Clinic, which provides access to free health screenings and medication consultations to underserved populations. Through her experiences at UHH CoP, she has gained valuable knowledge both inside and outside of the classroom which has enabled her to better understand the integral role that pharmacists have in the health care setting. Shanele will be graduating in May this year and hopes to remain in Hawai'i to work in a pharmacy setting that will enable her to play a vital role in influencing the health care for her patients and community.

Stacie Takahashi
J.M. Long Foundation Pharmacy
Scholarship



Stacie was born and raised in Kahului, Hawai'i and is a 2007 graduate of Maui High School. She attended Drake

University in Des Moines, Iowa and Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon for her undergraduate studies. Stacie is now in her third year at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy. She is currently a member of APhA, ASHP, and Phi Delta Chi, a Professional Pharmacy Fraternity, and has participated in the American Heart Association's Annual Hilo Heart Walk and several community events and health fairs in Hilo and on Maui. Stacie is also working as a pharmacy intern at Walgreens and has been working there since 2009. After graduating in May 2014, Stacie plans to remain in Hawai'i to work as a community pharmacist and looks forward to giving back to the community that has generously supported her.

Steven Nishimoto
College of Pharmacy Class of 2012
Scholarship



Steven was born and raised in 'Aiea, Hawai'i. He graduated from 'Aiea High School and later attained a B.A. in

Interdisciplinary Studies: Linguistics at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. His undergraduate studies focused on Eastern Asian languages such as Japanese and Korean. Steven took on a dynamic role ever since his admission to University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy's PharmD program, excelling both inside and outside of the classroom. He attained Dean's List every semester, gaining membership

to the prestigious Rho Chi Honor Society. He is active in many projects and community events as a member of APhA and ASHP. He also worked as a pharmacy intern at Longs Drugs before focusing more on academics. As a third-year student pharmacist, Steven is currently serving as APhA's Historian, Community Outreach Chair for ASHP, Student Ambassador for the College of Pharmacy, and Tutoring Co-Chair for Rho Chi. Steven will be graduating in May 2014 and plans to move on to residency. After his PGY1 residency, he wishes to work in a clinic either in Hawai'i or California. He hopes to make a deep, more intimate impact in patient care as an ambulatory care pharmacist.

Tasha Medeiros
Haga Family Endowed Scholarship



Tasha was born and raised in Hilo, Hawai'i. She graduated from Waiakea High School and pursued her undergraduate studies in Biology at Cypress College and California State University-Fullerton. Tasha is currently a fourth year student at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy and will graduate with her Doctor of Pharmacy degree in Spring 2013. She will also earn her Bachelor of Arts degree in Pharmacy Studies this Spring from the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. Tasha has earned Dean's list honors both semesters during her third year in pharmacy school. She has worked as a pharmacy intern at Wal-Mart Hilo while attending pharmacy school. Tasha plans on pursuing a career as a retail pharmacist after graduating in May 2013, where she will be able to serve the local community and provide them with quality healthcare.

Thao Le
UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Merit Scholarship Award



Thao was born and raised in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam. She graduated from Nguyen Thuong Hien High School. Thao completed her undergraduate studies at University of California, San Diego with a Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmacological Chemistry. Until now, Thao has just finished her first semester at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy and achieved an outstanding academic record. She has got straight As' and made the Dean's List her first semester. In addition, she has played an active role in community events such as the Hilo Medical Center - Kidney Foundation Health Fair and College of Pharmacy Health Fair. Moreover, she is an active member of Hawai'i Student Society of Health Systems Pharmacy. She also volunteers in Dr.Wright's lab doing research in antibacterial activity of macro- and micro-organisms found on the Big Island of Hawai'i such as marine algae and betel nuts. Thao will be graduating in May of 2016 and plans to continue her career as a clinical pharmacist where she will have the opportunity to give back to the community and pursue life-long education. After becoming a clinical specialist, she also plans to become a pharmacy professor who can use her education and experience to teach the future pharmacist's generation.

Tina Liu
UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Merit Scholarship Award



Tina was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawai'i. She graduated from Roosevelt High School and completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. She graduated from Manoa as a Cum Laude Graduate in 2011 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Biology. Since beginning her studies at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy, Tina has made the Dean's List for the Fall 2012 semester and is also an active member of APhA. In addition to her studies, she has been working as a Certified Pharmacy Technician for a community retail pharmacy. Tina will be graduating May 2016 and hopes to continue her career in Hawai'i as a retail pharmacist.

Tina McDonald
UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Merit Scholarship Award, Walgreens Diversity Scholarship



Tina McDonald was born on the island of Oahu, Hawai'i but moved to Montana as a child. She graduated from C.M.Russell High School and later went on to obtain her Bachelor of Science in cell biology and neuroscience at Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana. Since beginning her studies at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy, Tina has been active in the community, participating in College of Pharmacy events such

as health fairs and teaching tobacco prevention to elementary students. In addition to her studies, Tina is an active member of ASHP, HPhA and Rho Chi, a Professional Pharmacy Honor Society, and has worked as a pharmacy intern and lab assistant throughout school. Tina will be graduating in May 2013 and plans to continue her career by completing a PGY1 residency. Tina plans to use this training to help establish progressive hospital pharmacy practices in rural communities of Hawai'i.

Tracy Nakama
UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Merit Scholarship Award



Tracy attended public schools in Kaneohe on Oahu and Wailuku on Maui and graduated from Castle High School

in Kaneohe. She received a Bachelor of Arts in English from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah and a Professional Diploma in Secondary Education from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. After teaching English in west Honolulu, she became a student at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy. She has been on the Dean's List and has received academic scholarships. Public service is important to Tracy, so she takes great pleasure in volunteering at health fairs, screenings, and educational events as a member of the ALOHA Project, the What About Tobacco? Project, the Marshallese/Pacific Islander Mobile Screening Clinic, NCPA, AMCP, and APhA. Tracy will be graduating in May 2014 and hopes to continue to support underserved communities.

Tracy Ng
J.M. Long Foundation Pharmacy Scholarship



Tracy was born and raised in San Francisco Bay Area, California. She graduated from Mills High School and

attended the University of California, San Diego for two years, majoring in Pharmacological Chemistry, where she made the Provost's Honor List four out of her six quarters at San Diego. She then transferred to the University of Hawai'i at Hilo to pursue a Bachelor of Arts in Cellular/Molecular Biology, making the Dean's List for both semesters before being admitted into University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy. Since beginning her studies at the College of Pharmacy, Tracy has continued to make the Dean's List every semester while participating in many community events such as the College of Pharmacy Health Fairs, Hawai'i Teen Health Camp and What About Tobacco presentations. In addition to her academics, Tracy is a member of Phi Delta Chi, a Professional Pharmacy Fraternity, serves as the 2012-2013 NCPA secretary and works as a pharmacy intern for Safeway. Tracy will be graduating in May 2015 and plans to continue her career in California as a retail pharmacist where she will hope to further interact and give back to the community.

Trina Tran
CVS Caremark Scholarship



Trina was born in Vietnam and came to the US when she was 9 years old. She graduated from Benjamin Franklin

High School, and completed her undergraduate studies at the

University of California Los Angeles where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. Since beginning her studies at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy, Trina has made the Dean's List every semester and played an active role in community events such as the American Heart Association's Annual Heart Walk and the College of Pharmacy Health Fair. Trina is a member of APhA, secretary of AMCP, actively participates in the ALOHA project, and is currently pledging for Kappa Psi, a Professional Pharmacy Fraternity. Trina will be graduating in May 2015 and plans to continue her career as a retail pharmacist where she will have the opportunity to interact and give back to the community.

Victor Lin
UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Merit Scholarship Award



Victor was born and raised on the island of Guam. He graduated from John F. Kennedy High School and completed his

undergraduate studies at Stanford University where he majored in Human Biology. At the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy, Victor has made the Dean's List every semester and proudly serves as the Class of 2013 President. In addition, he is an active member of APhA, ASHP, and Phi Delta Chi, a professional pharmacy fraternity. Each year, he volunteers in many community events including the Hilo Heart Walk, Relay for Life, and various health fairs throughout the islands. Victor enjoys traveling and has gone to Guam, San Francisco, and New York City during his P4 year experiential rotations. Victor will be graduating in May this year after which he plans to pursue a career as a community pharmacist in Hawai'i.

William Engen
**UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Merit
Scholarship Award**



William Engen is a P4 student at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo in the College of Pharmacy. He grew up in California and

received his Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry from San Francisco State University. As a professional student, William's academic achievements have been recognized with the Dean's List distinction every semester. Currently, William works in the labs of Dr. Mazen Hamad and Dr. Ken Morris, conducting research on the chemical instability and degradation mechanisms of levothyroxine. As a member of APhA, HPhA, and HSSHP, William takes an active role in community events such as the College of Pharmacy Health Fair and the American Heart Association Heart Walk. In addition, William has served as the chartering Vice President of the UH Hilo Chapter of the Rho Chi Honor Society, and was instrumental in the chartering of the local chapter. He will be graduating in May 2013 and plans to pursue a pharmacy residency in clinical practice.

Yan Lin
**UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Merit
Scholarship Award**



Yan was born and raised in Canton, China and moved to the United States in 2003. She graduated from high school

in China and obtained her GED in Los Angeles Lincoln High School. Yan completed her undergraduate studies at the University of California San Diego where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry. Since beginning her studies at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy, Yan has made the Dean's List every semester and has played an active role in community events such as the health fairs at KTA, Veterans' home, Hilo Medical Center and the UH Hilo College of Pharmacy. In addition to her studies, Yan is an active member of APhA and the secretary of HSSHP. She also works as a pharmacy intern for a community retail pharmacy. Yan will be graduating in May 2014 and plans to continue her studies in a pharmacy residency program.

If you'd like to contribute to these scholarship funds or any other College of Pharmacy project, please contact the UH Foundation – UH Hilo Office at (808) 933-1945. Or, if you would like to make a gift online, please go to: www.uhfoundation.org/GiveToPharmacy



CoP helps teach elementary children about Rat Lungworm Disease



A CoP researcher has developed a fun-filled activity book to teach children about a serious health topic associated with cleaning and cooking vegetables in the tropical Hawaiian environment.

Susan Jarvi, associate professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, is distributing a book and poster about Rat Lungworm Disease (*Angiostrongylus cantonensis*) to elementary school children in Hilo. But she wants everyone in Hawai'i to know more about the rare parasitic infection that can cause paralysis, coma or death.

"There's a real need for better education of the public and research that no one else is doing if we want to decrease risk of infection," said Dr. Jarvi, who has been conducting research on ways to detect the virus in the blood as well as testing possible vaccines and evaluating vegetable washes that may be the most effective in killing the *A. cantonensis* larvae that causes the damage.

The disease-causing organism reproduces in rats and is transferred to slugs and snails. Eating raw snails and slugs, intentionally or unintentionally, infects people, and the larvae can hide in salads or other uncooked vegetables. Symptoms that appear at the onset of the infection can appear similar to other infections and make it difficult to diagnose.

"The activity book project is just a start of our efforts to reduce rat lungworm infection on the Island of Hawai'i through educational and research approaches," Dr. Jarvi said. "This year we are concentrating on integrating Rat Lungworm Disease education into the Department of Education (DOE) curriculum in second grade, but on a larger scale we intent on integrating it into the curriculum in multiple grades."

Dr. Jarvi has been working with several K-12 teachers, including Dr. Pascale Creek Pinner, a science teacher at Hilo Intermediate School, who helped decide to focus first on

students in grades 2, 5, 7, and 10.

"DOE science standards align nicely with this topic in these grades," said Dr. Pinner, who has been named Hawai'i's State Teacher of the Year.

The activity book, designed and illustrated by local artist Hopper Sheldon of Hopper's Art, is called "The Mystery of Rat Lungworm Disease." It contains 22 pages of information, coloring, puzzles and clues that are designed to help elementary-age children learn to what to look for in their gardens and vegetables and what to do if they spot something suspicious on their food.

The publication was produced by members of the CoP Rat Lungworm Working Group, including Dr. Jarvi, Kathleen Howe, Steven Jacquier and LaTasha Riddick, with assistance from Akio Yanigasawa and Jill Villarosa for initial presentation to second grade students in three Hilo elementary schools (Ha'aheo, Kaumana and Kalaniana'ole). The group is currently working on a teacher guide, including a video and materials to post on the website: <http://pharmacy.uhh.hawaii.edu/rlw/>

Hoping to take the activity to book to as many second-grade classrooms as possible, Dr. Jarvi is continually contacting teachers on other islands and searching for feedback. In November and December, she participated in informational sessions on Maui, Molokai, Oahu and Kauai, funded by a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) grant to Dr. R. Cowie and J. Hollyer, from UH Manoa. Development and publication costs of the activity book and poster for second graders are being provided by the UH Hilo College of Pharmacy, and research efforts for some projects supported by the Hawaii Community Foundation, USDA and the UH Hilo Research Council.

Members of the UH Hilo CoP RLW working group include: Dr. Sue Jarvi; CoP students Ann Txakeeyang, LaTasha Riddick, Akio Yanigasawa, Erik Sanders, Sarah Osselame, Jill Villarosa, and Kevin Wang; Pre-pharmacy students Michael Severino and Matt Chen; undergraduate students Crystal Yamamoto, Karis Amano; and Kay Howe, Steven Jacquier,, Laura Shiels, Kirsten Snook and Peggy Farias from the College of Pharmacy. Collaborators include Drs. Will Pitt, Aaron Shiels and Rob Hollingsworth (USDA).

Rat lungworm disease is relatively rare, with only 32 probable or confirmed cases reported by the State Department of Health in Hawaii over the past five years. This can be compared with automobile accidents, which have taken the lives of 290 people over the same period. Nonetheless, the disease can be devastating and it is hoped this project will help drive the incidence to zero, Dr. Jarvi said.

For further information, please contact Dr. Sue Jarvi, (808) 933-2954, jarvi@hawaii.edu.

Alum returns to Hilo to enlighten pre-pharmacy students

A CoP alumnus talked to pre-pharmacy students about what it's like in the real world as a pharmacist at their orientation class on Jan. 25.

Dr. Daniel Loo, who is originally from Hilo, graduated from CoP in 2012. While a student, he worked at the Hilo Safeway Pharmacy and currently works at the Kona location.

"Daniel was a part of the first UH Hilo Pre-Pharmacy class, so it was very exciting to have him return and talk to our current students now that he is a pharmacist," said Linda Connelly, assistant professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and pre-pharmacy faculty adviser.

Relating some of his own experiences as a student, Dr. Loo told the undergraduates to develop good study habits now because it will help



them when they become a student pharmacist. He also joked, "Hard work and energy drinks is what got me through" but followed that up telling them his favorite part of the job is helping people.

"His overall message to our future pharmacy students was that pharmacy school is challenging, be prepared to work hard," said Susannah Welch, Advising Specialist, Office of the Pre-Pharmacy Program. "He told them to develop good study habits and be prepared to make sacrifices. But he also said being a pharmacist is great,

Dr. Daniel Loo (back row fifth from left), Class of 2012 CoP graduate and Safeway Pharmacist, spoke to the Pre-Pharmacy Orientation class Jan. 25 about what it's like to be a pharmacist.

it's fun, it's worth it. It's a rewarding career in which you get to make a positive difference and help people."

Dr. Loo was the first CoP graduate who has come to speak to class, Ms. Welch said. Other guest speakers have included fourth-year student pharmacists Tasha Medeiros and Jack Fernandez, as well as CoP faculty and visitors from KTA Pharmacy and Hilo Medical Center.



Student pharmacists focus on caregivers at ADRC workshop

CoP student pharmacists presented a program to caregivers from around the Big Island at a caregiver conference called "Caring for You As You Care for Others" Feb. 1. The event, jointly sponsored by CoP and the Hawai'i County Office of Aging, was held at the State of Hawaii Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC), 1055 Kinoole St., Hilo. Gov. Neil Abercrombie sent a commendation along with a multicolored certificate. "Our students absolutely shone and the caregivers from around the island were highly complimentary," said Katherine Anderson, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice. (Photo by Dayna Wong, Student Pharmacist, Class of 2014)



CoP historical collection gains stone artifact

James "Kimo" Luluhiwalani Awai III (left) passed on a ko'i stone artifact to Patricia Jusczak, clinical education coordinator in the Department of Pharmacy Practice, so that the tool used in Hawaiian medicine could be housed at the College of Pharmacy historical collection.

Kimo, who also goes by "kumu" for "teacher," said the tool has been in his family for nine generations and was first used around the time of King Kamehameha II. Kimo's grandmother, Mabel Kaonohiopaokani Ahuna (Awai), used the ko'i before him in her role as a Kahuna La'au Lapa'au, or Hawaiian master/teacher of herbal medicine. Kimo translated "kahuna" as "keeper of many secrets."

"The tool is the equivalent of the pestle, in the mortar & pestle set we use in pharmaceutical compounding," said Ms. Jusczak, who invited Kimo as a guest lecturer to the first-year culture course in the fall for a class on the Native Hawaiian perspective. "We're honored at the generous nature of this gift and hope we can do justice to the story it tells to our own future generation of pharmacists."

The stone was originally found on Mauna Kea, Kimo said. He notes how the shape fits all hands equally well, and is used to transform Hawaiian salt and various plants into healing medicine. He said he likes to let students hold it and note the "healing life force" when holding it.

"I am not giving it up, I am passing it on," Kimo said. "I know where the stone came from, it represents the past, is now in the present and moves on to the future."

"I am not giving it up, I am passing it on," Kimo said. "I know where the stone came from, it represents the past, is now in the present and moves on to the future."

Thanksgiving 2012

Once again, John and Mimi Pezzuto along with their children John Henry, Elisabeth and Michael invited the entire College of Pharmacy faculty, staff and students to their Hilo home for Thanksgiving dinner. Of particular, thankful interest to all who attended was a special announcement from the Dean, who told them that Governor Neil Abercrombie had included the funding for our permanent building in his executive budget for 2013. (Photos by Tina Fatemeh Kordkheili, Class of 2016)



Faculty Seminar

Dr. Chung S. Yang, (left) Professor II and John L. Colaizzi Endowed Chair in the Department of Chemical Biology, and the Director of the Center for Cancer Prevention Research in the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy at Rutgers University had a chance to talk with CoP faculty member Mrs. Mimi Pezzuto before his lecture at CoP's Faculty Seminar Series on Tuesday, December 4, 2012. His seminar presentation was entitled, "Cancer Prevention by specific forms of tocopherols (vitamin E)." CoP Dean John Pezzuto was Dr. Yang's first graduate student.



Spring 2013 Faculty Briefs

Julie Ann Luiz Adrian, DVM, assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice, has an article entitled "Equine Color Genetics and Deoxyribonucleic Acid Testing" accepted by the *Journal of Veterinary Science and Technology*.



Katherine Anderson, PharmD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice, fulfilled the requirements for qualification as a Fellow of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists. ASCP Fellowship is a special honor bestowed upon pharmacists who meet the highest standards in Senior Care Pharmacy and have demonstrated an extraordinary level of service and dedication in professional practice activities. Dr. Anderson also presented research entitled "Brief Screening Method for Identifying Barriers to Effective Diabetes Management" at the annual American Pharmacists Association (APhA) conference March 1-4 in Los Angeles. The abstract will be e-published in the March/April 2013 issue of the Journal of the American Pharmacists Association (JAPhA) at www.japha.org, along with a second poster, "Prevalence of Diabetes and hypertension among Marshallese Identified in Pharmacist-Led Health Screenings in Hawaii." This is a collaborative Pacific Islander Mobile Screening Clinic student poster effort, with Ann Txaeyang as the lead author. An additional student poster entitled "Brief Assessments Used to Identify Prescription Literacy Deficits among Hawaii County Residents" featuring preliminary research results was presented at the UHH ALEX Student Research conference by a student team led by Yan Lin on February 9th.



André Bachmann, associate professor and chair, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, has two publications in press: "PRAF2 mediates cell proliferation and metastasis in neuroblastoma," *International Journal of Oncology*, with coauthors Yco LP, Geerts D, Koster J.; and "DFMO inhibits migration and invasion downstream of MYCN and involves p27^{Kip1} activity in neuroblastoma," *International Journal of Oncology*, with coauthors Koomoa DT, Geerts D, Lange I, Koster J, Pegg AE, Feith DJ.. Dr. Bachman also was the lead author on "Activity Enhancement of Synthetic Syrbactin Proteasome Inhibitor Hybrid and Biological Evaluation in Tumor Cells in Biochemistry" published in *Biochemistry*, with co-authors Archer, C.R., Groll, M., Stein, M.L., Schellenberg, B., Clerc, J., Kaiser, M., Kondratyuk, T.P., and Dudler, R.



Leng Chee Chang, assistant professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was the lead PI in an article published in *J. Nat. Prod.*, January 14, 2013, entitled "Biologically Active Withanolides from *Withania coagulans*." Coauthors were Dean John Pezzuto, Ihsan-ul-Haq, Ui Joung Youn, Xingyun Chai, Eun-Jung Park, Tamara P. Kondratyuk, Charles J. Simmons, Robert P. Borris, and Bushra Mirza.



Russell Molyneux, PhD, affiliate faculty, co-authored "The Alkaloid Profiles of *Sophora nuttalliana* and *Sophora stenophylla*" for publication in *Biochemical Systematics and Ecology*. He also organized and chaired the 2012 Kenneth A. Spencer Award Symposium in Honor of Prof. James N. Seiber (University of California, Davis) at the Fall 2012 American Chemical Society (ACS) National Meeting in Philadelphia. The ACS Spencer Award is given for "Outstanding Achievement in Agricultural and Food Chemistry" and consists of a medal and \$6,000 honorarium. Dr. Molyneux was himself the 2006 Spencer Awardee.



Preceptor Focus



By Maria Gretel G. Tomita, Pharm.D.

Target 2410 Honolulu West
Executive Team Leader – Pharmacy

Target Pharmacy received the J.D. Powers award for highest ranking customer service satisfaction 5 years in a row from 2007 to 2011. It is Target Corporation's focus on customer service that makes Target a unique and wonderful place not only to shop but also to work. Having worked for Target Pharmacy for 8 years, I appreciate the challenge to maintain a high level of satisfaction from our guests. The attention we give to our pharmacy guests is the essence of our healthcare field. Retail pharmacists are the last point of contact a patient has with a healthcare professional prior to consumption of their medications. It is vital that we take time to answer questions and ensure understanding of their treatment.

I have been a preceptor at Target for the past 7 years. I enjoy introducing students to life at Target. It is truly a unique experience because of the level of interaction students have with guests. Students are challenged to utilize their drug knowledge and counseling skills. It is their opportunity to spend time with patients to educate them on the proper use of medications and equipment. Students focus on learning over-the-counter medications and develop confidence in making recommendations. Students

are also given the opportunity to learn pharmacy laws, inventory control, and third party processing, to review drug-drug interactions and therapeutic duplications, to administer vaccinations, and to interact with other healthcare professionals.

Target also offers a ten week summer internship for pharmacy students. This internship program is a leadership program. It challenges the student to learn about all workcenters, develop leadership skills, and learn the business side of pharmacy. Pharmacy summer interns can make a huge impact on spreading awareness of pharmacy services among the store team and with our guests. Interns will undoubtedly leave the program with a greater understanding of themselves as individuals and as leaders.

I began my career at Target as a part time staff pharmacist. Ten months later, I became the Executive Team Leader of Pharmacy (also known as pharmacy manager). What Target stands for is what has driven me to want to contribute more to the company and aim for higher goals. Target has provided me with the tools, the support, and the training I need to be an effective leader. The company continues to be innovative and move forward with the times, and it is exciting for me to grow with the company in terms of management skills and, most importantly, patient care.



CoP Student Organization Roundup

American Pharmacist Association – Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) Hawai'i Chapter

APhA's Operation Heart Project organized a college-wide penny war to raise money for the American Heart Association. The penny war was a competition between the Class of 2014, 2015, 2016, and the CoP Faculty and Staff. Each group had a dedicated donation jar in the Student Lounge where donations were accepted. Each penny in a jar was +1 point. All other types of currency counted as negative points. For example, a nickle was minus -5 points, dimes -10 points, quarters -25 points, one dollar -100 points. After a fierce week long penny war, APhA was able to donate over \$700 to the American Heart Association. They also decorated the College of Pharmacy campus in red and encouraged everyone to participate in National Wear Red Day on February 1, 2013.

Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy Student Chapter

AMCP hosted a meeting with guest speaker Marcella Seto Chock from Pfizer Global Medical Research & Development to speak about her pathway through her pharmacy career. AMCP also launched their P&T (Pharmacy and Therapeutics) program in fall 2012 and held their P&T competition in December. Members will be traveling to AMCP Nationals in April 2013.

UHH CoP Chapter of National Community Pharmacist Association (NCPA)

NCPA hosted their annual University of Hawai'i at Hilo Blood Drive in partnership with the Blood Bank of Hawai'i on January 22, 2013. A 110 participants from the UH Hilo community donated blood during the event where members of NCPA assisted in signing in participants and provided snacks for those who had donated.

NCPA held the following fundraisers in fall 2012:

Trick-or-Treat for Unicef: In this month long event, NCPA collected monetary donations to go towards the UNICEF charity. Representatives from

each class collected money and held a friendly competition between each class to see which class could raise the most money. In the end, they raised \$546.25 to be donated towards Unicef.

Student Lounge Food Sales: In this week-long event, student members made dishes and bake desserts to be sold to fellow students and faculty members. They generated \$676.00 from this fundraiser.

T-shirt fundraiser: Chapter t-shirts were sold to members to help raise funds for our chapter and promote our student organization when we wear our shirts at service events. So far, \$204 was raised from selling chapter t-shirts.

NCPA also participated in:

Hilo JAYCEES County Fair: In participation with lower campus at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, we hosted a Compounding for Kids booth, in which we compounded silly putty as a fun interactive booth for county fair attendees, as well as promoted our student chapter and the profession of pharmacy.

Thanksgiving Food Drive: In this event, our student chapter collected canned foods and non-perishable food items from each class of students to be donated towards the Hilo Salvation Army. In the end, we were able to donate 468 canned food and non-perishable food items that were delivered to the Hilo Salvation Army the day before Thanksgiving.

Hawai'i Student Society of Health-Systems Pharmacy (HSSHP)

Fall 2012 was a busy semester for HSSHP and its members. They volunteered at three community health fairs, KTA Health Fair, Ladies Night Out, and the National Kidney Foundation Health Fair in partnership

APhA-ASP activities

Several CoP students wore red on Feb. 1 when the American Pharmacist Association – Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) Hawai'i Chapter decorated the College of Pharmacy campus in red and encouraged everyone to participate in National Wear Red Day.



with Hilo Medical Center (HMC), providing health screenings for A1C, cholesterol and urinalysis. They had their highest turn-out yet for our their Clinical Skills Competition sending our finalists, Kyle Kumashiro and Daniel Kim, to compete at ASHP Midyear in Las Vegas. HSSHP had four guest speakers, starting with faculty member Dr. Barbato, who provided insights on careers in ambulatory care and hosted a case study workshop. The semester ended with the good fortune of having residency program directors, Dr. Selma Yamamoto from Queen's Medical Center, and Dr. Paige Shimamoto with Colonel Garman from Tripler Army Medical Center, come to speak about their residency programs and the application process.

Rho Chi Society Delta Iota Chapter

The Rho Chi Honor Society is planning on inducting 38 new members from the Class of 2014 and Class of 2015 this coming April. Members have been continuing to conduct tutoring sessions during fall and spring in various subjects for students in their first and second years at the College of Pharmacy.

Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity Epsilon Psi Chapter

The Epsilon Psi Chapter of Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity was officially chartered this past January. Chartering members and special guests celebrated their chartering ceremony at the Hilo Hawaiian. Kappa Psi members were also able to interact with the children at HOPE services during the holiday season by reading stories, working on arts and craft projects, and singing carols with the children.

Phi Delta Chi Professional Pharmacy Fraternity Gamma Theta Chapter

Phi Delta Chi provided blood pressure and body mass index screenings in conjunction with the Five Mountains Group's Get Fit project, which is a 10-week program encouraging

participants to set their own personal fitness and stress reduction goals. University of Hawai'i at Hilo nursing students were also brought in to participate during the 10-week program.

Members from Phi Delta Chi participated in Kalaniana'ole School's Career Day for their 5th, 6th, and 7th Graders. Using Prezzi, which is an alternative and interesting way to do a powerpoint presentation, members shared information on career paths in pharmacy as well as what is required to get into pharmacy school.

Each month, members have continued to visit the New Hope Church in Hilo to help them sort, package and deliver food to over 100 families in need.

Operation Christmas Child, a Samaritan's Purse event held once a year, members collected boxes and wrapped Christmas presents filled with gifts for children ages 3 to 13. By working with Big Island Toyota, Phi Delta Chi was able to get 30 boxes with pre-paid shipping. Phi Delta Chi paid for an additional 20 boxes to donate a total of 50 boxes of presents that was delivered to children all over the world. Phi Delta Chi was told that their donation was included as in a shipment to Indonesia. Janine Masri, President of Phi Delta Chi said, "this was probably one of everyone's

favorite new events. We had about 40 people who got together to wrap the presents together, hang out, and listen to Christmas music. It was pretty festive, considering its not very cold or wintry out and everyone really outdid themselves buying gifts to give to this charitable cause."

They are also planning their annual Health Fair for the Milolii community in April 2013 where they will be providing healthy living information booths as well as free health screenings.

UHH Student Chapter of American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS)

The University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UHH) Student Chapter of AAPS was officially chartered in fall 2012. The UHH Student Chapter of AAPS will be devoted to furthering the goals and objectives of AAPS by providing a local forum for graduate and postdoctoral students at UHH who are interested in the Pharmaceutical Sciences. Their focus is to incorporate UHH's distinctive location in the Pacific Rim, unique environment and diverse student interest as the driving forces to further the AAPS goal of propagating scientific knowledge to the public and scientific communities at the local, regional, national and international levels.



Two CoP Students helped with the Na Pua No`eau Teen Health Camp Hawai'i on February 2, 2013 at UH West Oahu. Hawaiian students and families grades 8-12 attended the event that showcased various health career pathways. Jason Okazaki, Class of 2013, and Roxanne Sewake, Class of 2014, were present to share information about the pharmacy profession, as well as their knowledge and experience as a student pharmacist at UH Hilo. (Photo provided by Maile Sing, Admissions Office)

Rotation Report:

Victor Lin, Class of 2013,
Duane Reade Pharmacy in New York,
NY

Imagine a pharmacy with a sushi bar. Now, add a juice bar, fresh food section, hair salon, nail bar, shoe shine, virtual makeover machine, 100-flavor soda machine, holographic door-greeter, and of course, a doctor's office. This might sound unbelievable, but this is Duane Reade's 22,000-square-foot flagship store located at the Trump Building on 40 Wall Street. This was also where I did my APPE retail rotation.

While interning at Walgreens in Hilo one day, I remember walking into the pharmacy, and my co-workers were chattering about a glamorous new Duane Reade that was all over the news. Having visited New York the summer prior to my P3 year, I was familiar with Duane Reade because it is virtually on every block in Manhattan. I learned that Walgreens acquired this regional drugstore back in 2010. I was also surprised to discover that Duane Reade had atypical stores featuring beers on tap and Doctors on Premise. Naturally, when it came time to list my APPE site preferences, Duane Reade came to mind.

For my APPE rotations, I wanted to travel far and wide while garnering pharmacy experience. My first two choices were easy - I knew I wanted to go home to Guam, and I also knew that I wanted to go to the specialty Walgreens in San Francisco where Anthony Thai, Class of 2012, wrote about in a previous Rotation Report. However, my third choice was somewhat more challenging. I wanted to go to New York, but I knew it would be expensive. Fortunately, I had a friend offer me a place to stay. I discussed my plans with Dr. Gomez, and she was able to work her magic. The next thing I know, I am set to work at one of the most advanced retail pharmacies in the world.

So, how different is this Duane Reade pharmacy? First of all, the pharmacist is positioned at a desk **outside** of the pharmacy, available to answer any patient questions. It's been said that pharmacists are the most accessible health care professionals in America, and this radical new work setting seems to tout that as its philosophy. Second of all, the pharmacist verifies prescriptions through photos taken during the filling process. Filling stations are equipped with cutting edge technology that the techs and interns use to fill and take pictures of the medications being dispensed. This advancement frees the pharmacists from routine work to provide more face time to patients. Last of all, the



Fourth-year student pharmacist Victor Lin worked in the Trump Building in New York City for one of his final year rotations. (Photo by Victor Lin)

demographics of the patients at 40 Wall Street, as you can imagine, are drastically different from that of Guam, Hawai'i, and San Francisco where I worked previously. The patients there are predominantly younger, working professionals who live in the fast-paced New York City life. It was fascinating to learn of the medication needs of this particular patient population.

Since its acquisition, Duane Reade now uses the Walgreens system to process prescriptions. It was gratifying to know that I could contribute to the pharmacy team without much of a learning curve. With a little help from the very friendly pharmacy staff on how to use the camera system, I was performing the same tasks an intern would be at any retail pharmacy. My preceptor and pharmacy manager, Dr. Dana Behlke, would give me tasks to complete each day which included making calls to doctors and calls to patients about medication adherence. She gave me a crash course in New York pharmacy law, which I found

very interesting. She also invited me to sit outside with her to help field questions from patients. This opportunity definitely tested my OTC knowledge and helped me be more confident in counseling patients. Sure, it wasn't always fulfilling asking questions like, "Where's the bathroom?" However, I still enjoyed helping and interacting with patients.

My rotation in New York also allowed me to explore the city while I wasn't at work. It was clear that this great city is a vibrant metropolis and a melting pot of people from all walks of life. I was able to experience great food, make new friends and develop a greater appreciation for life in general. My time here culminated with the arrival of Hurricane Sandy when I spent a week in the dark, trekking to different parts of the city to remain connected to the rest of the world. It was unthinkable how much damage was caused by a storm that came and went overnight. While my friends and I were fortunate, many others were not. I witnessed firsthand the resilience of New Yorkers as well as the humanity of a group of people facing disaster together.

Enduring the tragedy of Hurricane Sandy definitely allowed me to reflect on the better times I had in New York. I truly enjoyed my experience at Duane Reade and would highly recommend it to my fellow underclassmen. Although I had a place to stay in New York to defray the cost of Big Apple living, it's an experience worth having. Students from other pharmacy schools are always envious that I was able to travel for my P4 year, and that's one thing I realized that sets the UH-Hilo College of Pharmacy apart from others. Of course, none of this would be possible without the support of my friends and family. Lastly, I would like to thank Dr. Gomez and my preceptor, Dana, for this eye-opening experience, one that I won't soon forget.



Alumni Report: Dr. Dan Hu, Class of 2012

I remember when they printed my first set of business cards, back when I was in my second year of pharmacy school. They said, “Daniel Hu, Student Pharmacist.” I

thought they were the greatest thing ever, another step towards being a pharmacist. Fast forward two years, and I’m picking up a new set of business cards. They look pretty similar to the old ones; a plain white card, no raised lettering or watermark, but they say something new: “Daniel Hu, PharmD; FDA OMH Disparities Fellow.” If you’re interested in knowing more, I can tell you all about it.

After graduating in 2012 with my Pharm.D I took a position as the first Disparities Fellow with the FDA Office of Minority Health. Dr. Deb Juarez is my UHH CoP faculty advisor. It’s really interesting how things turned out – after hearing of my research experiences as an undergrad and during pharmacy school, people used to tell me, “Hey, you should think about doing a fellowship,” and I’d think to myself, A fellowship, what is that exactly? At the time, it wasn’t really something that I had considered. But the idea was planted in my mind. Later, I heard of the opportunity for a fellowship with the FDA OMH and UHH CoP, and I thought, I want to know more about this now. I gave Dr. Juarez a call and we talked for a long time about what was being planned, and I really liked the projects planned for the fellowship and its goal of helping minority populations. I decided to submit an application and the rest is (recent) history!

The work that I do follows the FDA OMH mission in “addressing the reduction of racial and ethnic health disparities and in achieving the highest standard of health for all”. My projects have several goals: to describe health care disparities experienced by minority populations, to seek to identify interventions that are either currently underway or which might be initiated to reduce these disparities, and to make a contribution to reducing health care disparities. I review literature dealing with interventions to improve medication adherence in minority populations. My research involves searching and analyzing the existing literature, conducting interviews with persons who are knowledgeable in these areas, and summarizing this information in a way that will contribute to the body of knowledge. I’ve been conducting qualitative research through this fellowship (my

research background is in quantitative research) and it’s been a very interesting learning process, especially the process of navigating through the beginning stages of submitting and IRB proposal to gathering the data, and later analyzing and reporting the results. A lot of this work is still under way, however presently one of my manuscripts is undergoing an internal review by the FDA before I submit it for publication, so keep your eyes open and perhaps you’ll find it in the journals soon! I’ll also be flying to Maryland to visit the FDA White Oak campus next month to meet FDA OMH personnel and other FDA offices.

I’ve also had additional experiences outside of my fellowship which include teaching roles as a guest lecturer to the P1 and P3 cohorts as part of their didactic learning experiences on- and off-campus. I have to admit that I really enjoy it... and that I’ve come to have a much deeper appreciation for the amount of hard work our professors put into our education when I was in pharmacy school!

People often ask me what my plans are after my fellowship ends in June. I’d like to remain in Hawai’i, which is where I’m from, and I’ve never lost my interest in the clinical aspect of pharmacy. But who knows what the future holds? All I can say is that I feel that I have been very fortunate in my experiences thus far. The College of Pharmacy was a place where I learned a lot and I am very thankful for my education. Through my work with the FDA OMH and with the UHH CoP I’ve been able to apply my knowledge while continuing to learn new things. I love what I do. I’m excited to see what the future will bring.

TO ALL ALUMNI: Let us know what you've been doing since graduation. E-mail: morrismm@hawaii.edu, along with a current photo if you wish.

CoP Dean's List, Fall 2012

The following University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy students have achieved a GPA of at least 3.5 and have been named to the Dean's List for the 2012 fall semester. The class of 2013 is performing clinical rotations and therefore this designation does not apply.

Class of 2014

Miho Aoki, Maurina Bartlett, Jizan-Anne Evangelista, Jack Goldsberry, Hai Huang, Jaymie Kanda, Mariko Katagiri, Daniel Kim, Audrey-Marie Kumasaka, Kyle Kumashiro, Andy-Long Le, Dana Lee, Yan Feng Lin, Janine Masri, Janelle Matsukawa, Tiffany Mizo, Tracy Nakama, Kenneth Navarrete, Steven Nishimoto, Shadi Obeidi, John Opoku-Ansah, Keri Oyadomari, Sidney Pham, Thao Phan, Andrew Reinhart, Behnam Rostami, Joanne Sablan, Jed Sana, Caroline Sousa, Stacie Takahashi, Koon Ting, Hana Tran, Christopher Tsue, Ann Txakeeyang, Dayna Michelle Wong

Class of 2015

Brianne Blakesley, Andrea Brauer, Chao Cox, Jozelle Gabriel, Davis Hanai, Daniel Hasegawa, Mina Ibrahim, Kelly Ishizuka, Tiffany Khan, Traci Kusaka, Daniel Leong, Jennie Lim, Wei Lin, Kristina Lo, Chelsea Murobayashi, Tracy Ng, Eric Ngo, Alysia Osugi, Jessica Parker, Jarred Prudencio, LaTasha Riddick, Lindsey Takara, Trina Tran, Jill Anne Villarosa, Nichole Wilson, Akio Yanagisawa

Class of 2016

Julianne Aquino, Allen Bagalso, Kyle Cabison, David Choe, Chau Dang, Yen Dao Barnes, Walter Domingo, Ornella Fassu, Jerilyn Gudoy, Alexander Guimaraes, Samantha Hanabaga, Okezie Irondi, Leilani Isozaki, Blake Johnson, Camilla Kim, Micah KimHan, Nancy Le, Quynh Le, Thao Le, Uoc Le, Albert Lee, Katherine Lee, Tina Liu, Shanon Makanui, Anissa Marzuki, Necole Miyazaki, Joseph Nguyen, Raymond Okaniwa, Sarah Osellame, Joson Perreira, Yolette Quach, Eric Sanders, Huong-Thy Ta, Mireya Talavera, Christopher Thai, Carlo Tiano, Eric Tsuji, Brandon Tuzon, Kevin Wang



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