

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

Summer 2014 • Volume 6, Issue 4



*Aloha!*  
Class of 2014



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII®  
**HILO**



# Dean's Message



Over the past few weeks we have celebrated many achievements, recognized many awards, and participated in many special events. The end of the academic year is always joyful and festive. But just think (!), only a few short years ago, when the College was in the formative stages, these activities did not even exist. So now, with the momentary tranquility that follows, it seems like a good time to step back and contemplate the significance of our accomplishments.

First of all, I had momentarily overlooked the profound broad-based impact recognition has on students, faculty and staff alike. All of our awards, nominations, and scholarships are appreciated not only by the individuals receiving the honor, but also by their friends, colleagues, and relatives. Considering the keen competition involved in receiving most types of recognition, the overall pride and joy expressed by so many superficially seems to be an anomaly. So I must ponder the question: Is altruism a function of the type of person attracted to our field? Indeed it is. Compassion plays an important role in our profession, and it is such an honor and pleasure to be affiliated with such a magnanimous group of people.

I believe this student-driven edition of our magazine shows that we have our priorities straight. The faculty and staff prove this by their commitment to providing the best experience for our students, and the students display their zeal through active participation in so many extracurricular activities during an extremely intense time of their lives. The reason we are here has always been to serve our students because we know they are our hope for a better future, in Hawai'i, and in global health care.

In prior issues of the magazine, we have reported the key role pharmacists will play in the future of health care, and the growing importance of their participation as members of health care teams. They are worth every second of our time and investment. I hope you can see it in their faces as you look at the photos and read about their graduation events, the award ceremony, induction into the national honor society, and many examples of community interactions. Yes, they're happy, but they mean business, and their professionalism shines through each and every interchange.

It all goes back to why it was so important to start a College of Pharmacy on the Big Island, and I'm especially pleased with our choice for the Advancement of Pharmacy Excellence (APEX) award, Dr. Steve Hora. Without his insight, diligence, and commitment, it is doubtful the first class could have been admitted within one year after my appointment as dean. We are indebted to him, and I am pleased to call him a friend to pharmacy.

Also, we are indebted to our preceptors and volunteer mentors, without whom we could not offer a complete education. While certainly there are many who would be suitable for recognition for going above and beyond to help their future colleagues, we highlight two who have been voted Preceptor of the Year by our students. They are too often unsung, yet never taken for granted.

I am confident our new graduates will "pay it forward" as they enter their careers and express the type of professionalism they showed as students. See for yourself how they banded together to become our fourth graduating class of Doctors of Pharmacy.

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

John M. Pezzuto  
Professor and Dean



## Kāwili Lā'au

Summer, 2014 • Volume 6, Issue 4

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the University of Hawai'i at Hilo



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## Contents

<b>Class of 2014 bids farewell to UH Hilo</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Permanent building gets nod from legislature</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Accreditation report comes in positive</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Residency update from Dr. Carolyn Ma</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Dr. Stephen Hora receives 2014 APEx award</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Spring Awards Celebration</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Scholarships aid students</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Rho Chi holds annual induction ceremony</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>DKICP holds day-long Diversity Symposium</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Students, faculty attend World Indigenous People's Conference</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Pre-pharmacy program recruitment activities</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>HPHA annual meeting</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>DKICP partners with Nā Pua No'ēau-Ke Ola Mau LOMI</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Grants help DKICP researchers continue work</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Eight faculty promoted at Regents' May meeting</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>DKICP H.S. intern places 4<sup>th</sup> in international science fair</b>	<b>32</b>

### Regular Features

<b>Student Organizations</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Faculty Briefs</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Preceptor Focus</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Rotation Report: Sean Pfundstein</b>	<b>36</b>

**On the cover:** DKICP graduates the fourth cadre of PharmDs at UH Hilo. (Main photo by Robbyn Peck)

# Class of 2014 Commencement Day May 17

The Class of 2014, entered the Edith Kanaka'ole Multi-purpose Stadium in Hilo at 9 a.m. May 17 to be bestowed with the right to use the title "Dr." before their names.

Pharmacy graduates were among 724 candidates for degrees and certificates at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo's Spring 2014 Commencement Ceremony. There were 84 PharmD degree's awarded and 77 graduates also earned a Bachelor of Arts in Pharmacy Studies (BAPS).

Thousands of family members, friends, teachers and mentors packed the stadium to watch the carefully choreographed march of the graduates as they took their seats. Many faculty members showed their support and donned the regalia of their alma mater and walked alongside the students.

The event was coordinated by Commencement Committee Chair, Judith Fox-Goldstein, and Commencement Coordinator, Sharay Uemura. The Keaau High School's Cougar Band performed the prelude and accompanied the processional with the traditional "Pomp & Circumstance" march.

Dean John Pezzuto was singled out for his recent award from the national American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) - the Volwiler Award. The keynote address was delivered by Neil "Dutch" Kuyper, President and CEO of Parker Ranch Inc., and Paniolo Power Company.



Students from the professional pharmacy program filled the first three rows in the center of the biggest venue in Hilo. When it was time for the PharmD students to take the stage in their black and green robes, they crossed one by one as their names were called. They first approached Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Dr. Edward Fisher, who took the ceremonial hood from their arms and then approached Dean John Pezzuto, who placed the doctoral hoods over their heads, signifying their success at completing the program. The graduates moved on to Barry Mizuno from the UH Board of Regents and Chancellor Donald Straney, who presented them with their diplomas. Other dignitaries on stage included UH President Dr. David Lassner, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Dr. Matthew Platz and UH Board of Regent Carl Carlson.

Perhaps tens of thousands of photos and flower leis later, the Class of 2014 has now taken its place in the annals of the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy. Congratulations!!!





**Congratulations  
Class of 2014!**



# Graduate luncheon kicks off weekend of events

Dean John Pezzuto welcomed the Class of 2014, who returned to Hilo after a year of APPE, on May 15 during a gathering at the Hilo Yacht Club to celebrate their recent accomplishments.

Mina Pharmacy co-owner, Hany Guirguis, RPh, Certified Clinical Nutritionist, PhD, presented a check for \$20,000, which signifies his fourth annual gift to the College of Pharmacy building fund. "The challenge now is to continue your education and do something that makes you stronger and more competitive," Dr. Guirguis told the soon-to-be PharmD's as he congratulated them. "My advice to you is that you have to do something extra. Find something to specialize in, diabetes, aging. The market is going to be looking for specialized pharmacists."

Dr. Pezzuto along with faculty members Dr. Roy Goo and Dr. Victoria Rupp provided a demonstration of how the graduates will carry and receive their doctoral hoods to complete their graduating regalia at the Saturday Commencement Ceremony.

Dr. Cari Niimi from the DKICP Class of 2011 and President of the UH Alumni Association - CoP Chapter expressed that she looked forward to welcoming the soon-to-be graduates in the future and encouraged their participation in the group.

Class President Sean Pfundstein announced the Class Gift of a \$1,000 scholarship. "This has been a recurring theme in our class," he said. "We've always had plenty of people volunteer for fundraising events."

The following awards were presented to students from the graduating class:

**Brianne Gustilo, Tracy Nakama, Naoto Oki, Jed Sana, Ann Txakeeyang, and Amanda Wendel – AACP Student**

**Community Engaged Service Award:** This national award is "intended to encourage students and faculty to design and build programs of community-engaged service learning, deliver consumer education about medication use, expand access to affordable medications, and improve the public's health."



Madeleine and Hany Guirguis, RPh, Certified Clinical Nutritionist, PhD, owner of Mina Pharmacy, presented a check for \$20,000 to Dean John Pezzuto at the Class of 2014 luncheon.

**Jack Goldsberry, Lilly Achievement Award:** This award recognizes scholastic achievement in the professional curriculum, outstanding leadership qualities and a professional attitude.

**Jed Sana, Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database Recognition Award:** This award is presented to outstanding graduates and residents worldwide who have shown an interest in an evidence-based approach to patient care.

**Daniel Kim, Mylan Pharmaceuticals Excellence in Pharmacy Award:** This award recognizes high academic achievement, professional motivation and a demonstrated ability to communicate drug information.

**Jed Sana, TEVA's Outstanding Student Award:** This award is presented to a graduating senior who consistently demonstrated exceptional qualities throughout his or her academic year.



Dr. Roy Goo explained how to fold the doctoral hood at commencement.



Interim Director of Student Services Daryl Masanda closed the event with a few reminders and invited the Class to practice their photo line-up.



*Class of 2014 at graduation luncheon*



*Dr. Ken Morris (left) presented the award to:*

**Daniel Kim**

**Award:** Mylan Pharmaceuticals

Excellence in Pharmacy Award

**Hometown:** Granada Hills, CA

**Post-graduation:** PGY1 residency, Providence St. Peter Hospital, Olympia, Washington

**Favorite DKICP memories:** I had many great memories, including the birth of my second son, late night study sessions, community service events, attending professional meetings, playing basketball and interacting with all the great faculty and preceptors throughout the years.



**Sean Pfundstein**

Class of 2014 President

**Hometown:** St. Paul, MN

**Post-graduation plans:** Community pharmacist at Walmart in Minnesota.

**Favorite DKICP memories:** Our activities coordinators, Rome and Keith, put together a really fantastic luncheon at the end of P3 year. We had great food, a live band, and a fun "award ceremony" where we gave trophies out for things like cutest couple, most likely to ask a question, and biggest gossip. It was a great way for all of us to spend a little time with each other one last time before fourth year rotations started.



*Dr. Patricia Uber presented the award to:*

**Jack Cameron Goldsberry**

**Award:** Lilly Achievement Award

**Hometown:** Chicago, Illinois

**Post-graduation:** PGY1 residency, VA Eastern Colorado Healthcare System, Denver, Colorado

**Favorite DKICP memories:** Attending countless pharmacy conferences, serving our Hilo community and making great memories with my Lei Street crew.



(From left): Amanda Wendel, Naoto Oki, Ann Txakeeyang, Faculty member Victoria Rupp, Tracy Nakama, and Jed Sana.



Dr. Forrest Batz (left) presented Jed Sana with the Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database Recognition Award and Dr. James Hall (far right) presented him with TEVA's Outstanding Student Award.



### Naoto Oki

**Award:** AACP – Student Community Engaged Service Award

**Hometown:** Osaka, Japan

**Post-graduation:** PGY1 residency, Providence St. Peter Hospital, Olympia, Washington

**Favorite DKICP memories:** Countless class trips, looking after each other for brutal tests, and warm support from faculty. The greatest thing about DKICP is the people.

### Ann Txakeeyang

**Award:** AACP – Student Community Engaged Service Award

**Hometown:** Minneapolis, MN

**Post-graduation:** Pharmacist for Walgreens, Minneapolis, MN

**Favorite DKICP memories:** My most memorable moment during pharmacy school was going to Molokai. I enjoyed learning about the culture and being able to explore an important part of Hawaii's history.

### Amanda Lynn Wendel

**Award:** AACP – Student Community Engaged Service Award

**Hometown:** Coon Rapids, MN

**Post-graduation:** Graduate Intern at Walmart, Albert Lea, MN

**Favorite DKICP memories:** I have so many favorite memories from the past four years, but I think the best was White Coat Ceremony where it became real that I was finally going to be a pharmacist!

## Class of 2014 Graduation Celebration

On the evening of Friday, May 16, the night before officially receiving their Doctor of Pharmacy degrees, the Class of 2014 joined their families, faculty, friends and colleagues for a celebration banquet at the UH Hilo Campus Center Dining Room.

"Your success is our success," Dean Pezzuto stated in front of the 300 people who gathered to honor the grads-to-be. Associate Dean for

Academic Affairs Dr. Edward Fisher served as Master of Ceremonies for the recognition ceremony.

Highlights of the evening were speeches by Class President Sean Pfundstein and Valedictorian Jed Sana. At the end, every classmate present was able to speak on their own behalf, which included many words of appreciation and a few tears, in front of their peers, family and faculty.

The graduating class spent their fourth and last year participating in Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPE). Dr. Laura Ota, Pharmacy Manager at Straub Clinic and Hospital on Oahu, was named APPE Preceptor of the Year. The

Department Co-Chair for Pharmacy Practice, Dr. Carolyn Ma, read the following words on Dr. Ota's behalf, "The real thanks goes to all of the Straub pharmacists and technicians that participate in making the hospital experience as well rounded as possible to expose students to hospital pharmacy operations and practice with the hopes of inspiring some to pursue residency training."

In addition, the Class honored Dr. Roy Goo, Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice, as Faculty Preceptor of the Year. His words that night reflected his sincerity, sense of humor, and also conveyed a little bit about why the students chose him.





## In Dr. Roy Goo's words:

This is a huge honor and means a great deal to me. This award says "Faculty Preceptor of the Year." When I think about the title of preceptor, it is a person who is responsible for teaching and providing an example for students to shape them into better pharmacists and hopefully better people. However, it really is quite the opposite. It is the students who give us more than we can ever hope to give them. My students teach me new things every day and it is my students who have really made me a better pharmacist and a better person. This year especially has made a huge impact on who I am as a person and a preceptor and I want to share a few of the lessons I learned:

1. I learned that it takes a huge amount of character and commitment to grow hair like Keith Acab (a member of the Class of 2014).
2. I learned that the only way to deal with a rough week on rotations is to buy a new pair of shoes.... and a girl can find a place to do that even on Kauai.
3. I learned that it is indeed possible to plan an entire trip around a J.Lo song.
4. I learned that everything is better when it has Hello Kitty on it.

I am going to miss this class a lot, but perhaps what I will miss the most is seeing the pain in your eyes when I call you out in lecture and ask you questions. So for old time's sake I will do it one last time.

I have the [class] composite here and I will pick someone totally at random...Shadi, please answer the following question: Which of the following statements best describes me: A) Faculty Member; or B) P1 Pharmacy Student."

[Editorial note: To the great amusement of his classmates, their families and faculty, it was obvious Shadi Obeidi, Class of 2014, was not selected at random and was in fact able to answer correctly.]



Staff who worked diligently on making the graduation events memorable included (from left) Tracey Niimi, Kristy Nakamura, Daryl Masanda, Cara Suefuji and Kristi Kaniho, COP Personnel Coordinator.



Three generations enjoyed celebrating the graduation events with (from left) graduate Denise Kobashikawa, who will be working at RiteAid in Boston, Ginny Davis of Long Beach, Calif. and Diane Davis of Honolulu.

# DKICP to begin plans for construction of permanent building

**O**n April 25, State House and Senate Budget conferees reached final agreement to fund a permanent building to house the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy (DKICP) on the campus of UH Hilo.

Last year, the state Legislature did not respond favorably to a request of \$38 million for the building, and the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) found the college “noncompliant” in one of 30 criteria for accreditation and faced probation at the next evaluation. This year’s proposal scaled down the building plans and requested \$33 million from the state, which was approved, and accreditation has been secured once again.

But the quest for a permanent building began long before the first student pharmacists were enrolled at UH Hilo in 2007. Hundreds of supporters, which included faculty, staff, students, parents and community members, wrote letters and visited the legislators during the years when funding was being considered.

“It’s this sort of dedication that led us to where we are. If I look back at this experience, I don’t think we’d be as unified as we are without having gone through this process,”

according to Founding Dean John Pezzuto. “We all had to work together, which made us recognize our strengths and correct our weaknesses. I am deeply appreciative and cognizant of the amount of time people have spent helping us, people with no obvious return of their investment except the belief that a college of pharmacy is a positive thing for the Big Island and for Hawai‘i. I honestly don’t know how to thank them all except to assure them the future of the college is unmistakably secure.”

The original building design was approximately 80,000 sq. ft. with the laboratories left unfinished to be built-out with private funds. The new plan is to continue utilizing existing modular buildings and to construct a new permanent facility including laboratories adequate to consolidate all of four Big Island core functions at one single site.

In the new building, the first floor will include areas for student services and activities; the second floor will include research laboratories. The complete structure will occupy around 40,000 sq. ft. of space. The modular buildings will continue to serve their current or related functions of



Since funding for planning and design was provided by the state legislature in 2009, the building is “shovel ready.” Construction is slated to take place at the corner of Nowelo and Komohana Streets, immediately adjacent to the current modular facility. Governor Neil Abercrombie has mandated this construction project will be subject to a Project Labor Agreement (PLA). Stay tuned to Kawili La‘au for updates.

classrooms, teaching and research laboratories, and offices.

DKICP recently graduated its fourth class of PharmD students, and has programs that include a PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences, Masters in Clinical Psychopharmacology (MSCP), Bachelor of Arts in Pharmacy Studies (BAPS), Residency in Community Pharmacy, and Postdoctoral training. Graduation and licensure rates are 97 percent. Through successful bids for federal funding from the

\$16.2 million Beacon Community grant and the \$14.3 million from Health and Human Services for a rural health care project, DKICP demonstrated value to the entire state on every island, Pezzuto said. These funds would not have come to Hawai'i without the College of Pharmacy. In addition, the annual economic activity generated by the College for the state is estimated to be about \$50 million per year with tax revenues to the state treasury at about \$2.5 million.

“ Throughout all of the immeasurable time spent working on funding, I can safely say the pharmacy education we provided to our students has never faltered. Although one of our goals is to become a top 25-ranked school of pharmacy, our students already receive a better education than many highly ranked programs provide. Nobody is more committed to providing a quality pharmacy education than DKICP and with this permanent building, we have reached another milestone. Our students can be justifiably proud to say they are a graduate of the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy. ”

– Dean John Pezzuto



## ACPE extends accreditation

The Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) has determined that the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo is now compliant with all standards and accreditation has been continued. The Board has affirmed accreditation through June 30, 2015 with a focused evaluation scheduled for the week of October 13 this year.

# Western States Pharmacy Resident Conference

## Today's Vision: Tomorrow's Reality

By Dr. Carolyn Ma, Associate Professor, Co-Chair,  
Department of Pharmacy Practice

I had the privilege of attending the Resident's Western States Conference this year held in San Diego, CA, "*Today's Vision, Tomorrow's Reality.*" Held in the various geographic areas of the U.S. (Eastern, South West, Great Lakes, MidWest, South Eastern, Ohio, Western), the conference is the forum where graduating residents present their research project to residency preceptors and their peers.

It's been 20 years since I attended Western States as a preceptor, even longer attending as a resident. Although the location and the forum has changed, other factors do not. I remember the exhilaration of reuniting with fellow classmates with whom you can commiserate and share stories of residency, although for me, it's about seeing our former students who are finishing up their residency year and attending this conference.

This year, I ran into Anthony Thai, Rae Ann Fuller and Daniel Hu from the class of 2012. But ultimately, on a resident's mind for a good majority of time is the endless wait for the nauseating, sweat filled 15 minutes when you are the spotlight speaker, followed by the breath-stopping few minutes of post presentation Q and A. There is guaranteed to be Q and A as preceptors who are assigned as room moderators and peers assigned to review a presentation are directed to ask questions if the audience does not raise questions.

Invariably though, the over-practiced presentation goes on without a hitch, questions answered clearly, and well within the time limit. Then the overwhelming feelings of joy and relief and the audible sighs of relief rise above the clapping.

Our DKICP residents (PGY1 Melissa Yoneda Class of 2013 and Shanelle Shimabuku Class of 2013, PGY2 Critical Care Resident Michelle Zacchetti) and the other five Hawaii residents presented their outstanding work and delivered excellent presentations on the last day which made our celebratory dinner even more eventful!

*Dr. Carolyn Ma (left) met with DKICP graduates who also completed a residency: Shanelle (Class of 2013), Anthony Thai (Class of 2012), RaeAnn Fuller (Class of 2012), Alexa Perez (Class of 2012), Tina McDonald (Class of 2013), Melissa Yoneda (Class of 2013) and Michelle Zachetti.*

Two of our alumni also presented: Dr. Tina McDonald, Class of 2013, The Queen's Medical Center and Dr. Alexandra Perez, Class of 2012, The Queen's Medical Center

It's always a pleasure to announce the residency placements from the 2014 graduating class who will move on to a post-graduate residency program. Congratulations to:

### PGY1 Placements

#### Class of 2014

Dr. Jack Goldsberry, VA Medical Center, Denver CO  
Dr. Daniel Kim, Providence Hospital, Olympia, WA  
Dr. Audrey Kumasaka, Veterans Administration, Honolulu, HI  
Dr. Kyle Kumashiro, The Queens Medical Center, Honolulu, HI  
Dr. Michelle Kim, DKICP/Hawaii Pacific Health, Lihue Kauai, HI  
Dr. Naoto Oki, Providence St Peter Hospital in Olympia, WA.

#### Class of 2012

Dr. Meng Fei Lee, Broward Health, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

### PGY2 Placements, Class of 2013

Dr. Marcus Kouma, Infectious Diseases at North Texas VA  
Dr. Christine Nguyen, Ambulatory Care at San Diego VA

### DKICP Residents for 2014/2015

UH Hilo and our experiential sites are looking forward to meeting the Class of 2014/2015 DKICP residents who will include:

#### PGY1 DKICP/Hawai'i Pacific Health

Michelle Kim, DKICP '14  
Goldie Leh, UCSF '14

#### PGY2 DKICP/The Queen's Medical Center

Barry Nakaoka, PharmD (Creighton University Class of 2013, PGY1 Creighton University, Omaha, NE)

#### PGY2 DKICP/Pharmerica

Lehua Kay, PharmD (Pacific University Class of 2012, PGY1 St. Joseph's Medical Center, Tacoma, WA)



# DKICP honors key figure in development of college with APEx award

The Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy presented Dr. Stephen P. Hora with the APEx (Advancement of Pharmacy Excellence) award for 2014. The APEx award is the highest tribute DKICP offers to individuals who have made major contributions to the development of the college.

Dr. Hora was present to accept the award at the 2014 Spring Awards Ceremony at Sangha Hall in Hilo May 7.

“Over the years, a few people who are not members of the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy have strongly influenced our growth and development,” said Dean John Pezzuto. “We have been pleased to acknowledge some of them through presentation of the APEx Award.”

Dean Pezzuto called Dr. Hora one of the unsung heroes of the College, without whom the College would not have been able to admit the first class in 2007.

“When we had nothing other than an hope and a dream to admit the first class of pharmacy students within a one year period, you can perhaps imagine all of the bureaucratic obstacles that needed to be hurdled,” Dean Pezzuto said. “Every single thing we now take for granted needed to be created, from scratch, and it needed to be created in a system that is highly resistant to change. We owe him a great

“ When we had nothing other than an hope and a dream to admit the first class of pharmacy students within a one year period, you can perhaps imagine all of the bureaucratic obstacles that needed to be hurdled.” Every single thing we now take for granted needed to be created, from scratch, and it needed to be created in a system that is highly resistant to change. We owe him a great debt of gratitude for being there for us and making all this happen. ”

– Dean John Pezzuto



*Dr. Stephen Hora (left) received the APEx award from Dr. Edward Fisher at the Spring Awards Ceremony.*

debt of gratitude for being there for us and making all this happen.”

During the formative years of the College, Dr. Hora served as Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at UH Hilo. He is currently director of the National Center of Excellence for Risk and Economic Analysis of Terrorism Events at the University of Southern California (USC), and is research professor in the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering and School of Planning, Policy, and Development, also at USC. Prior to coming to Hilo in 1985, he worked at Texas Tech University, where he was associate professor of business administration as well as associate dean for research

He has a bachelor’s degree in general management and a Doctor of Business Administration, both from USC. He is an expert in decision and risk analyses with particular interest in the analysis of adaptive adversarial behavior and terrorism. Most prominent has been his research into the use of experts to quantify risk and decision models.

Dr. Hora was presented with a koa plaque imprinted with his likeness, and a duplicate plaque will be displayed in a prominent place in the College of Pharmacy. Previous recipients of the award include former Dean for UH Hilo College of Arts and Sciences and project manager for the burgeoning College of Pharmacy Jerry Johnson, Chancellor Emerita Rose Tseng, former Chief of Staff to Senator Daniel Inouye Patrick DeLeon, and former UH Hilo director of University Relations Gerald De Mello.

# 2014 Spring Awards Celebration

For the third year, the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy held the 2014 Spring Awards Celebration May 7 at Sangha Hall in Hilo. Previous ceremonies have been held on the Hawai'i Community College campus and at the Pezzuto home.

The evening included a dinner sponsored by Dean John Pezzuto. Unable to attend due to a commitment to accept an award for his research in Italy, his executive secretary Chris Iha read a statement to the College expressing his appreciation and congratulations.

*In his words:*

Mimi and I truly regret not being with you this evening to celebrate your achievements and awards. Perhaps you have heard – this seems to be my year for awards too. The American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, the AACP, has recognized me as the 2014 recipient of the Volwiler Award. This is a great honor since it is the highest recognition of research achievement. This award will be presented at the annual meeting in July. More recently, I was selected by the Cantine Due Palme to be honored with its "Premio Speciale Cantine Due Palme" award. The award is presented by the winery to "eminent personalities who made outstanding contributions in the field of research and culture." This award will be presented this week at a ceremony in the exclusive Selvarossa Conference Room, located in Puglia, Italy.

So, yes, I am sacrificing myself in a vineyard in the south of Italy right now. But, believe it or not, I would much rather be celebrating with you. I did not accept these awards for self-aggrandizement. My hope is these awards will make the college stronger, prouder and more widely recognized. I know the awards you will receive this evening are well deserved and make me very proud. I congratulate each and every one of you. I am also very proud of the faculty who will be recognized this evening for excellence in teaching, and offer my congratulations. And, of course, to our special guest who will receive the APEx award, Steve Hora, I offer heartfelt thanks for being so instrumental in our developmental years.

And now, since I am currently at a vineyard in southern Italy, I will take the opportunity to use a word that you will rarely hear from me: Okole. Do you know what that means? It means BUTT, behind, backside.

But in a different context, please raise your glass as I say: Okole maluna. Randy, our dear friend from Grapes, can tell you what that means. It means Bottoms Up.

Once again, congratulations. I hope the fond memories of this night will stay with you forever.

Awards that night included the Advancement of Pharmacy Excellence (APEx) (see adjoining story), which was given to Dr. Stephen Hora, who was named for his role in helping to create a college of pharmacy at UH Hilo.

Other awards went to:

## **Teachers of the Year (voted by students):**

Class of 2017 selected Drs. Linda Connelly and Forrest Batz

Class of 2016 selected Drs. Aaron Jacobs and Roy Goo

Class of 2015 selected Drs. Aaron Jacobs and Christina Mnatzaganian

## **IPPE Preceptor of the Year:**

Ken Ooka, Pharmacist, Safeway, Hilo

## **Recognition of Ambassadors:**

Class of 2015: Jeremy Daube, Brian John, Kristina Lo, Jarred Prudencio, LaTasha Riddick,

Class of 2016: Walter Domingo, Allan Higa, Blake Johnson, Anissa Marzuki, Jynelle Tangonan

## **Recognition of Senators:**

Jairus Mahoe, Class of 2016

Natalie Savona, Class of 2015

## **Student Organization of the Year:**

A Life of Healing and Awareness, the ALOHA Project

## **Student Leader of the Year:**

Ericson Ganotisi, Class of 2015

Scholarship winners were also announced (see adjoining story).

Also for the third year, the students presented a talent show. The judges deliberated and decided to award two winning acts. The winners were Jin Bae Pak and Mina Ibrahim performing "Love is an Open Door" from the movie "Frozen," and Bryan Huynh, Kristina Lo, Stephanie Sumner, Annie Hu, and Ericson Ganotisi performing "The Class of Destiny."

Dr. Edward Fisher, associate dean for academic affairs, closed the ceremony and offered thanks to everyone for celebrating the students' achievements and bringing a dish. He congratulated everyone who was involved in coordinating the event, especially members of the office of student services and the student volunteers from each class for setting up, serving food, and assisting with clean-up. Floral arrangements were donated by Floral Resources.

Student Ambassadors



Teachers of the Year



Student Senators



Organization of the Year: The A.L.O.H.A. Project



Student leader Ericson Ganotisi (left) with Student Support Specialist Tracey Niimi.



Winners of the Talent Show

# Scholarships 2014-2015

The following students are recipients of scholarships for the 2014-15 academic year:

**Edwin and Georgiana Kam Endowed Excellence Scholarship:**

Kelly Ishizuka, Class of 2015

**Elwin & Valerie Goo Endowed Excellence Scholarship:**

Anissa Marzuki, Class of 2016, and Samantha Hanabaga, Class of 2016

**Grace Mizuko Miyawaki Pharmacy Scholarship:**

Jairus Mahoe, Class of 2016

**Haga Family Endowed Scholarship:**

Lindsey Takara, Class of 2015

**Hawaii Independent Pharmacies, Inc. Endowed Excellence Scholarship:**

Jarred Prudencio, Class of 2015, and Micah Kim Han, Class of 2016

**The Community Health Center Success Scholarship in Pharmacy:**

Edwina Leung, Class of 2015

**UH Hilo CoP Alumni Association Scholarship:**

Shaun Lasky, Class of 2017

**Walgreens Diversity and Inclusion Excellence Scholarship:**

Francine Amoa, Class of 2015

**Walgreens Diversity Scholarship:**

Ericson Ganotisi, Class of 2015

**Walmart Scholarship:**

Brian John, Class of 2015

**Merit Award recipients:**

Class of 2017: Lena Asano, Caleb Malinski, Kelsea Mizusawa, Kim Roseman, Lillian Tran, Brenda Yuen

Class of 2016: Walter Domingo, Alexander Guimaraes, Okezie Irondi, Leilani Isozaki, Thao Le, Tina Liu, Joson Perreira, Eric Tsuji

Class of 2015: Brianne Blakesley, Andrea Brauer, Jeremy Daube, Davis Hanai, Jennie Lim, Kristina Lo, Jill Villarosa, Akio Yanagisawa



Named scholarship awardees are (from left) Jairus Mahoe, Kelly Ishizuka, Shaun Lasky, Lindsey Takara, Micah Kim Han, Ericson Ganotisi, Jarred Prudencio, Anissa Marzuki, Francine Amoa, Edwina Leung. Not pictured are Brian John and Samantha Hanabaga



Merit scholarship awardees are:  
Backrow: Akio Yanagisawa, Andrea Brauer, Eric Tsuji, Okezie Irondi, Walter Domingo, Caleb Malinski, Kelsea Mizusawa, Kim Roseman  
Front Row: Jennie Lim, Jill Anne Villarosa, Kristina Lo, Brianne Blakesley, Leilani Isozaki, Tina Liu, Lillian Tran, Brenda Yuen. Not pictured are Lena Asano, Alexander Guimaraes, Thao Le, Joson Perreira, Jeremy Daube, and Davis Hanai.

## On giving to DKICP

If you'd like to contribute to these scholarship funds or any other project in the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy, 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](http://www.uhfoundation.org/GiveToPharmacy). For more information on the UH Foundation, see <http://www.uhfoundation.org/giving-opportunity/strong-and-growing>



# DKICP student pharmacists inducted by national honor society

The Delta Iota chapter of the Rho Chi Society from the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy inducted 19 new members at an initiation banquet, held at UH Hilo's Campus Center Dining Hall April 8. The dinner was sponsored by Walgreens.

Rho Chi is the only academic honor society in pharmacy. Inductees must be full-time students who have completed not less than one half of the required professional didactic coursework and ranked in the highest 20 percent of their class.

Christopher Jerry, the president of the Emily Jerry Foundation, was the keynote speaker.

His attendance was co-sponsored by the Hawai'i Pharmacists Association. Mr. Jerry told the student pharmacists that he doesn't blame the pharmacist-in-charge who was convicted and incarcerated after a preventative medical error killed his 2-year-old daughter eight years ago. He blames the system, and hopes by letting people know about how medication errors occur, lives will be saved.

Dr. Supakit Wongwiwatthanakut, faculty adviser and associate professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice, presented the initiation of the chapter members, which included the DKICP original candle lighting ceremony, recital of the pledge and passing out the new member Rho Chi pins. He also presented 20 Rho Chi recognition certificates of achievement in honor of students who attained the highest scholastic achievement in each didactic course and a certificate of appreciation in honor of a student who provided the outstanding contributions made towards the goals of the chapter for the calendar year 2013. Mrs. Mimi Pezzuto spoke to the new members on behalf of Dean John Pezzuto, who was unable to attend.

New members from the Class of 2016 include: Walter Domingo, Alexander Guimaraes, Okezie Irondi, Leilani Isozaki, Micah KimHan, Thao Le, Quynh Le, Uoc Le, Tina Liu, Shanon Makanui, Sarah Osellame, Joson Perreira, Yolette Quach, Eric Sanders, Mireya Talavera, Christopher Thai, Eric Tsuji, and Brandon Tuzon. One new faculty member was inducted that



Dr. Supakit Wongwiwatthanakut (left) and Ms. Nancy Huang, District Pharmacy Supervisor at Walgreens Hawai'i



Mr. Christopher Jerry was the keynote speaker.

night: Dr. Julie Luiz Adrian, assistant professor in veterinary pharmacy in the Department of Pharmacy Practice.

DKICP received a favorable vote to begin the chartering process at the National meeting of Rho Chi held during the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) annual meeting in 2012.

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*Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and former National Rho Chi Secretary Dr. Edward Fisher petitioned to establish the nationally recognized chapter at UH Hilo as soon as DKICP became eligible. He said it was important because all top-ranked pharmacy schools have chapters of the Rho Chi Society.*

*Rho Chi was established in 1922 and is a member of the Association of College Honor Societies. The Rho Chi Society encourages and recognizes excellence in intellectual achievement and advocates critical inquiry in all aspects of pharmacy. The Society further encourages high standards of conduct and character and fosters fellowship among its members. The Society seeks universal recognition of its members as lifelong intellectual leaders in pharmacy, and as a community of scholars, to instill the desire to pursue intellectual excellence and critical inquiry to advance the profession.*

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# DKICP 2014 Diversity Symposium attracts more than 100 participants

By Dr. Forrest Batz, Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice

The 2014 Daniel K Inouye College of Pharmacy Diversity Symposium was held on Saturday, April 26 on the UH Hilo campus. The day-long symposium, which was sponsored by the UH Hilo Diversity Committee and DKICP, drew more than 100 UH Hilo students, faculty, local health professionals and members of the community.

Themed around the social determinants of health and diversity in approaches to addressing them, five exceptional guest speakers presented a variety of perspectives and approaches to addressing healthcare needs unique to Hawai'i.

Matthew Nagato opened the symposium with a screening his film, *Ola- Health is Everything*, which documents health, hope and the power of communities to heal themselves. Mr. Nagato, communications director for the Hawaii Primary Care Association, speaks regularly on system transformation, health care reform, and innovation. Following the film, Mr. Nagato led an extended discussion with the audience.

The next speaker, Dr. Keawe Kaholokula, discussed the social determinants of health from a research-based perspective. Dr. Kaholokula, associate professor & department chair, Department of Native Hawaiian Health, John A. Burns School of Medicine, is a behavioral scientist, licensed psychologist and recognized expert in the field of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Peoples health. Dr. Kaholokula discussed data that validate the fundamental perspective from which *Ola* was conceived and presented.

Symposium attendees were next honored by a presentation on Hawaiian healing with local Kupuna, Kumu Dane Silva and his wife, Pam Silva. Kumu Dane discussed inflammation as an underlying cause of many chronic health conditions, along with a variety of Hawaiian and other healing approaches he uses in his practice to address chronic inflammation. Born and raised in East Hawai'i, Kumu Dane is director and founder of Hale Ola Hawaiian Healing Center, a lomilomi practitioner and teacher of traditional healing and integrative medicine. Pam Silva, a retired nurse and hospice case manager, is involved in wellness research, herbal medicine and disease prevention. Following Kumu Dane's presentation, attendees walked to the nearby Kipuka garden where they were treated to a hands-on demonstration and discussion of traditional and contemporary uses of Hawaiian medicinal plants.

Dr. Roy Goo, DKICP assistant professor in the



Dr. Forrest Batz (right) introduced Kumu Dane Silva to the attendees of the Diversity Symposium.



Department of Pharmacy Practice, took the stage with a discussion on rural pharmacist training and the importance of establishing a relationship with each patient as key to successful patient health outcomes. Dr. Goo is based at Wilcox Memorial Hospital on the island of Kauai, where he maintains a rural hospital-based pharmacy practice that serves as a primary clinical training site for DKICP student pharmacists.

Dr. Goo, Mr. Nagato and Dr. Kaholokula engaged in a spirited question and answer session with the audience, in which they took turns addressing questions from their unique areas of expertise.

Students from the Ho'okahua and Ke Ola Mau programs gained experience presenting posters as the final activity of the day. Christian Dye, Tamiah Johnson, Trace Kaimana Kalei, Ashlen Kinilau, Mailani Puli, Dillon Tacdol and Danielle Takeshita presented laboratory research posters representing their work. Student pharmacists Joshua Day, Davis Hanai, Jairus Mahoe, Shanon Makanui, Bert Matsuo, Joson Perreira and Eric Tsuji also presented pharmacy practice project posters.

Attendee feedback shows that the symposium this year was eye-opening and inspiring. The first DKICP Diversity Symposium was held in the early summer of 2013. With the successful completion of the 2014 event, DKICP looks forward to making the Diversity Symposium an annual event.

# Reflections from the WIPC:E conference

**D**r. Dana-Lynn Koomoa-Lange, assistant professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, represented DKICP and Uluākea and, Ho'okahua, a faculty development program facilitated by the Office of the Chancellor and the Kīpuka Native Hawaiian Student Center, at the 2014 World Indigenous Peoples' Conference on Education (WIPC:E) in Honolulu May 19-24. Jairus Mahoe (Class of 2016) and Trace "Kaimana" Kalei, a prepharmacy student, both in the Ho'okahua program, also participated in the workshops and kipaepae, a welcome ceremony at the conference.

## ***In the words of Jairus Mahoe (Class of 2016)***



The temperature felt like it neared a million degrees as the midday sun beat down upon the famous Waikiki Shell. The thousands that traveled from all over the world now battled the Waikiki heat, seeking refuge in the shades cast by trees and tents scattered throughout the venue. As participants got sprayed down

with complementary sunscreen, a cool summer breeze would occasionally blow through, bringing momentary relief. But new friendships blossomed in this sweltering heat; a gentleman from Hilo found sanctuary under the umbrella of a lady from Aotearoa.

Blood-red kiheis cloaked the sea of people on stage, who all hailed from diverse backgrounds. The keynote speaker, Dr. Taupōuri Tangarō, captivated the audience with a tale of the goddesses, Hi'iaka and Pele, through story, chant, and hula. A tale of which had a deeper meaning of education and enlightenment.

The World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education (WIPC:E and pronounced "wip-see") 2014 was a week-long international conference that brought together travelers from throughout the Pacific and beyond. Its aim was to perpetuate indigenous cultures through indigenous education. Thousands of people attended seven days of events, which included various speakers, performances, rituals, workshops and excursions. For myself, it was an eye-opening experience in which I was able to listen to peoples of different cultures other than the ones I have grown accustomed to, as well as share my personal experiences.

Uluākea, a program developed by Tangarō in collaboration with Kīpuka to inspire faculty to transform UHH into a Hawaiian place of learning, was showcased at one of WIPC:E's workshops. As a student, not a faculty member, I was privileged to be a participant in this program, and at WIPC:E, I was able to discuss my involvement. Fellow participants from the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy in Uluākea, Dr. Dana-lynn Ko'omoa-Lange and Dr. Forrest Batz also expressed their knowledge in the matter. By the end

of the hour-long workshop, we were talking story in small groups and finishing up a hands-on activity called *hei* or the creating of ritual string figures. Our final farewell was met with a round of applause and warm embraces.

On a separate occasion, I was able to tour Hawai'i's only medical school, the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM). It was an interesting experience touring not only their māla, which was filled with plants used for lā'au lapa'au (medicine), but to tour the facilities and hear the stories about the school and it's becoming was inspirational as well. Half a century ago JABSOM was not there. And today, it is on the forefront of healthcare in Hawai'i. Some of the early stories reminded me of our own Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy.

Although there were numerous events, experiences and encounters during the conference, the underlying constant was perspective. The ability to imagine what it was like to be in another's shoes, listening to their stories and trying to understand their history was probably what appealed the most to my interests. Maybe one day I will be the one sharing my story about my history, and there will be attentive eyes and ears focusing on my words.

## ***In the words of Trace "Kaimana" Kalei***



Mahalo nui loa to Aunty Gail Makuakāne-Lundin, Dr. Dana-lynn Ko'omoa-Lange and the Ho'okahua and Uluākea programs for an incredible week at the 2014 World Indigenous Peoples' Conference on Education (WIPC:E). This event, which serves as the world's largest forum on native peoples and education, was last held in Hawai'i

fifteen years ago. This year, we were fortunate enough to partake in this awesome feat of community interaction, cultural exchange, and international collaboration. Held at Kapi'olani Community College on O'ahu, this week-long event welcomed over three thousand attendees and furnished an array of interactive workshops, talks and activities.

*continued on page 18*

Led by Dr. Taupōuri Tangarō and his 'ohana, the Uluākea program along with many other affiliates of the University of Hawai'i Hilo helped to greet and welcome attendees at the opening day ceremony. Performances of chant, dance and song were offered to hundreds of onlookers. Carrying a message of courage and internal growth, the performances were met with applause and cheers from the crowd.

Uluākea also held a workshop where we discussed our aim to incorporate culture and indigenous knowledge into educational practices here in the university system. After a short question and answer session, we performed a he'i, the traditional Hawaiian practice of string figures. Participants eagerly took up their circular strings and the challenge of learning this sacred art. There were shouts of laughter (and a few of disappointment) coming from the room as the group

attempted to navigate their way through countless knots, jumbled messes and finger gymnastics to create perfectly formed figures depicting the heavens. In the end, we had a great time creating connections and drawing commonalities with people from different cultures and places across the world.

As someone who has never been particularly open to public speaking, or has never been a part of a large-scale performance, this conference was a terrifying experience. However, it allowed myself and others the opportunity to step out of our comfort zones and to share our stories and listen and learn from others. Mahalo to those who made this whole WIPC:E week a reality and to those who continue to encourage growth in education and carry this message of aloha.



*Hula performance brought Hawaiian cultural experience on stage at WIPC:E.*

## Students present research at INBRE symposium

UH Hilo students working in DKICP labs presented research at a Biomedical Sciences and Health Disparities Symposium for the Student Research Experience (SRE) Program at the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) Medical Education Building on April 4. SRE is part of the IDeA Networks for Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE), funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Dr. Susan Jarvi, associate professor and director of the Pre-Pharmacy Program said DKICP funds about five students per semester to work through the INBRE program.

"The experience allows them the opportunity to experience research first hand to help them determine if they would like to become Biomedical Researchers," said Dr. Jarvi, who also is SRE campus coordinator for UH Hilo.

Michael Severino, a pre-pharmacy student who is getting a bachelor's degree in business administration, won first place in the Undergraduate Division for his presentation entitled "qPCR Detection of Rat Lungworm (*Angiostrongylus cantonensis*) DNA in Blood and Tissue Samples from Experimentally Infected Rats (*Rattus rattus*)." Severino, who works in Dr. Jarvi's lab, is working toward coupling his degree in business with a career in the pharmaceutical industry.

Other students who participated are Andrew Reinhart



From left to right, front to back: Dr. Dana-Lynn Koomoa-Lange (DKICP), Michael Severino (UH Hilo student), Jelyn Hearter (HCC student), Ava Greenwood (UH Hilo student), Dr. Susan Jarvi (DKICP), Dr. Isabelle Tomassoli (post-doctoral associate working in DKICP), Mailani Puli (UH Hilo student), Tim Parent, (UH Hilo student), Yeva Zobova (HCC student), Dr. Daniela Guendisch (DKICP), Andrew Reinhart (DKICP Class of 2014) and Maricia Save (UH Hilo student).

(DKICP Class of 2014); as well as undergraduates Ava Greenwood from the Departments of Math and Chemistry, who works in Dr. Aaron Jacobs' lab; Tim Parent from the Department of Chemistry who works in Dr. Daniela Guendisch's lab; and Mailani Puli and Maricia Save, both from the Department of Biology who work in Dr. Koomoa-Lange's lab.

## Pre-Pharmacy Program heats up during spring recruitment

By Dr. Linda Connelly and Susannah Welch

April 2014 was a busy recruitment month for the Pre-Pharmacy Program as professor Linda Connelly and Susannah Welch, pre-pharmacy advisors, visited O'ahu and Kaua'i to promote the DKICP.

They visited Kaua'i Community College, Kapi'olani Community College, Leeward Community College, and UH Mānoa to give presentations to prospective students and academic advisors. The presentations focused on the academic pathway to pharmacy school and the support



offered by the Pre-Pharmacy Program, and highlighted the many benefits of attending the DKICP. After the presentations, Dr. Connelly and Ms. Welch allowed time for one-on-one advising to discuss students' individual coursework progress and their options in greater detail.

At UH Mānoa, in addition to the presentations, the pre-pharmacy duo hosted a training session for the peer advisors at the pre-Health/pre-Law Advising Center (PAC). The training covered the pre-Pharmacy prerequisite courses and gave insights into the DKICP application process to assist the PAC advisors in providing support and assistance to pre-Pharmacy students at UH Mānoa.

On Kaua'i, Dr. Connelly and Ms. Welch also visited both Kaua'i High School and Kapa'a High School to inform students about the academics and career of pharmacy. During the high school visits, they were accompanied by DKICP faculty member Roy Goo and DKICP alumni Paul Narciso, Danita Narciso, and Michael Taylor.

During these talks, students participated in hands-on activities related to pharmacy such as creating a 'dream drug' to treat a disease of their choice. Other activities tested students' knowledge of the roles and workplaces of pharmacists and asked them to identify drug-related plants and over-the-counter medications. The high school students had the opportunity to ask questions and the DKICP graduates shared their educational and work experiences.

The visits were part of ongoing outreach efforts by the Pre-Pharmacy Program to inform prospective students about the career of pharmacy and the option to pursue a degree in pharmacy at the DKICP.

# Faculty, students represent DKICP at HPhA annual meeting

With more than 12 student research posters presented, faculty speakers, and three faculty members on the Board of Directors, DKICP was well represented at the Hawai'i Pharmacist Association (HPhA) annual meeting in Honolulu April 5-6.

The meeting was held at the Ala Moana Hotel. Dr. Carolyn Ma, associate professor and co-chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice and out-going HPhA president, was recognized with the HPhA Leadership Award and the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) Pharmacy Leadership Award.

Co-sponsored by both HPhA and the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy, Christopher Jerry, President and CEO of the Emily Jerry Foundation, was the keynote speaker at the meeting attended by 135 pharmacists, technicians and pharmacy students. Mr. Jerry also spoke at the Rho Chi Pharmacy Honor Society induction ceremony at the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy in Hilo the following week. His story of the tragic death of his two-year old daughter reinforced the need for patient safety in medications and pharmacy practice.

Dr. Julie Adrian, DVM, associate professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice, spoke on "Common

Canine Diseases and the Pharmacist's Role".

"I think it is important for pharmacists to be aware of canine diseases and other animal diseases that are zoonotic, or transmissible to humans, such as Leptospirosis, which presents with 'flu-like' symptoms," Dr. Adrian said.

Drs. Eryn Kishimoto (Assistant Specialist) and assistant professor Candace Tan from the Department of Pharmacy Practice, coordinated the third Annual HPhA Poster Presentation Session. Poster reviewers included several pharmacy practice faculty.

"This was a great opportunity for all those in the pharmacy or pharmacy-related fields to share their work with their colleagues, and I was very proud of our students for their professionalism and knowledge of the field," Dr. Kishimoto said. "It was essential knowledge for them to be able to take part in the interactions and relationships between the college, students and graduates as well as faculty and preceptors, and the HPhA community."

Pharmacy resident research presentations were also given by three DKICP Pharmacy Practice residents: Drs. Shanele Shimabuku and Melissa Yoneda for their PGY1 projects at Hawaii Pacific Health and Dr. Michelle Zacchetti for her work in her PGY2 Critical Care residency at The Queen's Medical Center.

The Hawai'i Pharmacists Association is a professional organization representing pharmacy practice in the State of Hawai'i. The Board of Directors a voluntary commitment of service. This upcoming year's board will include Drs. Sheri Tokumaru (Institution) Roy Goo (Outer Island), and Carolyn Ma (Past President)

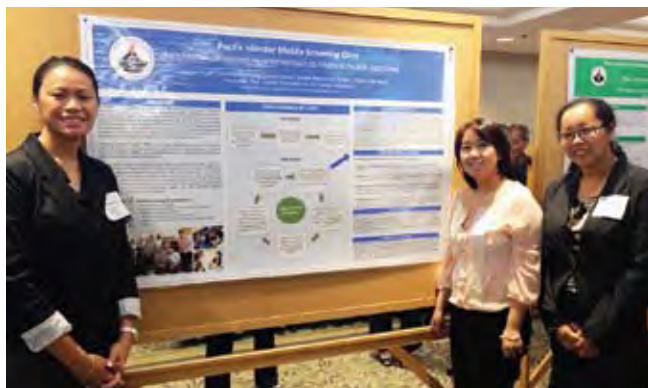
(right) Student pharmacists Yolette Quanch and Thuy Vi Le discuss poster with HPhA President Wendy Zarella



(far right) Dr. Cherie Chu, discusses her poster with student pharmacists (from left) Trina Tran, Ericson Ganotisi, Nicole Young, and Chi Ngo.



(Photos by Dr. Eryn Kishimoto)



UHH DKICP Students posing with their poster (from left to right: Francine Amoa, Chi Ngo, and Le Du)



(From left) Straub Pharmacy staff Joy Matsuyama, Brande Ribillia, Laura Ota with Dr. Shanele Shimabuku.

# DKICP participates in Nā Pua No'ēau summer program

By Dr. Dana-Lynn Koomoa-Lange, assistant professor,  
Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and  
Rachel Hualani Loo, MA, Ke Ola Mau - Health Careers Pathway  
University of Hawaii at Hilo Site Coordinator, Nā Pua No'ēau

This summer, 28 Native Hawaiian middle and high school students from the Nā Pua No'ēau-Ke Ola Mau Learning Opportunities in Medicine Institute (LOMI) visited the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy (DKICP) and participated in hands-on activities related to Pharmacy practice and Pharmaceutical Science research.

This marks the fifth summer that DKICP faculty and students have partnered with the Nā Pua No'ēau-Ke Ola Mau LOMI. LOMI is a two-week summer residential program, situated at both UH Hilo and UH Mānoa campuses, created to provide intense and in-depth opportunities to: examine traditional and western methods of medicine; gain exposure to various Hawaiian health professionals in the community and, inspire Native Hawaiian students toward a health career.

The visit was hosted by UH Hilo Pre-Pharmacy students: Tamiah Johnson, Mailani Puli and Kaimana Kalei; DKICP PhD students, Micah Glasgow, Nathan Sunada; and DKICP Pharm.D. students Joshua Day and Jairus Mahoe, who all receive academic, cultural and financial support through the Nā Pua No'ēau-Ke Ola Mau Scholars college program. Davis Hanai, a fourth-year PharmD student on academic rotation also assisted. The LOMI visit to DKICP was coordinated by Ke Ola Mau UH Hilo Site Coordinator, Rachel Hualani Loo and DKICP faculty member Dr. Dana-Lynn Koomoa-Lange while the activities were led by Drs. Forrest Batz, Linda Connelly, Aaron Jacobs, Tamara Kondratyuk and Dana-Lynn Koomoa-Lange.

During this visit, LOMI students learned about methods for chemical extraction from Native Hawaiian plants and performing cytotoxicity assays with Dr. Koomoa. Other activities included learning about ongoing cancer research conducted by Doctors Connelly and Jacobs, as well as participating in a demonstration from Dr. Kondratyuk on compounding. Additionally, Dr. Batz spoke to students about natural medicines. Lastly, LOMI students were given the opportunity to ask both DKICP students and faculty questions about their personal, educational and work experiences. Dr. David Sing, Director of Nā Pua No'ēau, affirms the importance of maintaining connections between our Native Hawaiian students and the health professionals



Dr. Tamara Kondratyuk led a compounding activity for the students from the Nā Pua No'ēau-Ke Ola Mau Learning Opportunities in Medicine Institute (LOMI) students, and was assisted by student pharmacists Josh Day, Jairus Mahoe and Davis Hanai. (Photo by Ku'ehu Mauga)

in the community, "If we truly intend to diversify health care it is critical that we begin with connecting health care and the professions to the health needs of the families and communities of the participating Native Hawaiian students. We believe that the early introduction of the experiences of healing and healthcare specific to the needs of their family will empower some of these students to take on the kuleana as a healthcare professional and with the active partnership with the DKICP, no doubt there are future PharmDs and PhDs in our program."

The Nā Pua No'ēau Ke Ola Mau Health Career Pathways Program is a K-college program geared towards increasing the number of Native Hawaiian students in health professions. The LOMI summer program is just one of the many Nā Pua No'ēau-Ke Ola Mau Health Careers Pathway events held for Native Hawaiian students throughout the state. The college component of the Ke Ola Mau Pathways Program, the Ke Ola Mau Scholars Program, supports Native Hawaiian students attending either the University of Hawai'i at Hilo or the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, who are majoring in a healthcare field. Eligible students may receive stipends to assist with community service or internships and/or research projects in respective healthcare fields.

For more information on the Nā Pua No'ēau Ke Ola Mau Health Careers Pathway Program and upcoming events, please see the Nā Pua No'ēau website at [nnp.uhh.hawaii.edu](http://nnp.uhh.hawaii.edu).

# Merrie Monarach Parade 2014

Thousands of spectators cheered for the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy during the Merrie Monarch procession April 26. The parade drew people from all over the world to celebrate the art of ancient and modern hula and learn about Hawaiian culture. Dozens of students in the pharmacy and pre-pharmacy programs joined several faculty members on the route through downtown Hilo, passing by the Royal Court. This year, the students fashioned a float out of pill bottles shaped like a pharmacy and wore handmade costumes. (Photos by Tracey Niimi and Fatemeh Kordkheili and Arnold Sano.)



## Workshop on indigenous Hawaiian healing attracts community

The Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy was host to a free workshop open to the public by Hui Mālama Ola Nā 'Ōiwi with Kahuna Ikaika Dombrigues. His lectures focused on native Hawaiian herbs, spiritual healing and Lomilomi Ha Ha methods used for healing purposes in our Indigenous Hawaiian cultural practices. Hui Mālama Ola Nā 'Ōiwi is the Native Hawaiian Health Care System for Hawai'i Island, federally funded by Health Resources Services Administration.





# Earth Day 2014

[Submitted by Kristy Nakamura, admissions counselor]

In honor of Earth Day, the DKICP Office of Student Services and class presidents, Sean Pfundstein (2014), Daniel Watanabe (2015), Okezie Ironi (2016) and Shaun Lasky (2017) organized a campus beautification project on April 22. Students, staff and faculty brought their garden gloves and displayed their campus pride by pulling overgrown weeds alongside the modular buildings. Volunteers included from the Office of Student Services: Daryl Masanda, interim director and academic advisement specialist; Kristy Nakamura, admissions counselor; Cara Suefuji, academic support specialist; Tracey Niimi, student support specialist; from the Office of Academic Affairs: Dr. Edward Fisher, associate dean; Char Awa Cockett, secretary to the associate dean, and Dr. Paula Zeszotarski, assessment coordinator; as well as faculty members including Dr. Ghee Tan, associate professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Jennifer Aguiar, assistant clinical education coordinator, Department of Pharmacy Practice. In addition, members from the Class of 2017 also planted herb and flower seeds alongside the Joseph M. Long Pavilion Lecture Hall.



## A.L.O.H.A. Project reaches out to Oahu, Lana'i and Maui

By Jairus Mahoe, Walter Domingo, Carlo Tiano



From left, Jairus Mahoe (Class of 2016), Walter Domingo (2016) and Nicole Young (2015) prepare for patient screening on Lana'i.

The word *aloha* has more than one meaning, such as *hello, goodbye, love, compassion, and kindness*. The A.L.O.H.A. stands for *A Life of Health and Awareness*, and the students of The A.L.O.H.A. Project live by that motto. The Class of 2015 student pharmacists, Davis Hanai and Ericson Ganotisi, initiated The A.L.O.H.A. Project, a student organization at the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy that offers complimentary health screening and lifestyle counseling to the community. These tests, typically done at a clinic or in a physician's office, are offered to help participants better understand their health, attain personal goals, inspire healthier living, and answer any questions regarding their wellbeing. Blood sugar, blood pressure, cholesterol, and Body Mass Index screenings as well as diet and lifestyle counseling are routinely done at all of The A.L.O.H.A. Project events which were exclusively held on the Hawai'i island; mainly in Hilo, with occasional community outreach events at other locations such as Waimea, Waikoloa and Kona. During this past year, The A.L.O.H.A. Project continued to expand their screening and counseling services to communities on other islands, such as O'ahu, Lana'i, and Maui.

Altogether, nine student pharmacists (a small representation of The A.L.O.H.A. Project organization), Alysia Osugi, Kelly Ishizuka, Nicole Young, Krista Kido, Jairus Mahoe, Carlo Tiano, Samantha Hanabaga, Sarah Osellame, and Walter Domingo set out at an early 4:00 am Saturday morning to embark on a two-day, two-island journey, taking The A.L.O.H.A. Project to our neighbor islands of Lana'i and Maui.

First stop, Lana'i City, a small town on the island of Lana'i. Although the day started earlier than a typical Saturday morning, spirits were high and students were excited to experience the island of Lana'i and meet the locals. For most, this was their first time on the island.

A shuttle from the Lana'i airport dropped the students off at Dole Park. A few minutes from the park was the Senior Center, where The A.L.O.H.A. Project set up and provided their services to community members. Dr. Jolson, a pharmacist from the Maui Clinic accompanied the students

*continued on page 24*

and supervised screenings and patient consultations. Doors opened at approximately 11:00 am, with the first appointment arriving a few minutes later. Over the next four hours, students provided A1C, cholesterol, and blood pressure screenings to multiple community members. Dr. Jolson, with a few students, also thoroughly consulted individuals on the medications they have brought in from home. During these sessions, patients, students, and the pharmacist shared and gathered information to resolve any concerns or misunderstandings regarding the medications. At the end of the day, the students successfully provided their services to the small, beautiful city of Lana'i, and with bags packed and supplies safely stored away, students set off to their next stop.

On the second day of The A.L.O.H.A. Project's two-day, two-island trip, students settled on the island of Maui to offer health screenings and consultations at the Mina Pharmacy located on the first floor of the Queen Ka'ahumanu Center, a two-story shopping mall situated in the central Maui town of Kahului. On that busy Sunday afternoon, The A.L.O.H.A. Project set up their stations; tables and chairs were set up in a slightly crowded room in a corner of the store; blood pressure cuffs and stethoscopes sprawled on one table and cholesterol and glucose screening supplies spread out on another. The event promptly started at 10:30 am, where the first community member was screened. Community members intermittently made their way to receive health screenings until the conclusion of the event at 1:00 pm.

Within two-and-a-half hours, the students of The A.L.O.H.A. project took their knowledge and skills that they gained and honed through numerous events and experiences on the Hawai'i Island and offered that knowledge and those skills to the island of Maui; the community and the students involved both benefitted greatly from this partnership.

Student representatives of The ALOHA Project set out on an outer island excursion to accomplish one mission: to provide people with the knowledge and tools to lead a healthier life. Through The A.L.O.H.A. Project, awareness is spread and with that awareness, empowerment. As members of the community participate in The A.L.O.H.A. Project, they are not simply given measurements, numbers, and suggestions; instead, they gain knowledge, a better understanding of how their lifestyle is impacting their health. They gain support from the members of The A.L.O.H.A. Project, students whose minds are set on bettering the lives of others. They gain control, control of their own health, and a realization that they have the power to change their lives.

The A.L.O.H.A. Project will continue to reach out to local communities, near and far, in hopes of promoting healthcare and wellness. As members of The A.L.O.H.A. Project, it is our goal and mission to improve the overall quality of life for ourselves, our 'ohanas, our communities, and our Hawai'i. We look forward to hosting our upcoming events and encourage those interested to drop in. Until next time, *aloha*.

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## DKICP APhA-ASP Chapter Makes Their Mark at 2015 Annual Meeting and Exposition

By Edwina Leung and Francine Amoa, Both from the Class of 2015

Students from the DKICP American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Academy of Student Pharmacists (ASP) chapter made the national scoreboard at this year's annual meeting by winning the "Be the Change" Award as Most Informative video. The 90-second Pharmflix, "Hawaii Pono" by APhA-ASP members Jarred Prudencio, Bryan Huynh, and Christopher Ayson, captured the burden of disease that Native Hawaiian and Pacific islanders face with high blood pressure and other related heart diseases.

APhA also offers students the opportunity to present at the annual meeting. Submitted abstracts of the research and findings were reviewed and selected to be represented. This year, DKICP had four unique posters accepted and showcased at this year's meeting: "Stall Drugs: Assessment of Student Satisfaction with Drug Information Posters in Lavatory Stalls" by Lindsey Takara with co-author Dr. Forrest Batz, associate professor,



On behalf of the DKICP team, Jarred Prudencio (center) accepted the award for Most Informative Video at the APhA annual meeting.



Nineteen student pharmacists from DKICP were able to attend the annual APhA-ASP meeting in Orlando, Florida. [Photo by Edwina Leung]

Department of Pharmacy Practice; "Factors Influencing Consumer Purchase of OTC drugs in American Samoa" by Francine Amoa; "Impact of Delivering Tobacco Prevention Presentations on Student Pharmacists" by Jarred Prudencio, Natalie Savona, Dr. Forrest Batz; and "Impact of a Tobacco Presentation on Elementary Students" by Natalie Savona, Jarred Prudencio and Dr. Forrest Batz. Their posters were up on display and viewed by many pharmaceutical companies, student pharmacists, and other health care professionals.

Attendees sat in on the House of Delegates sessions, which perform a major role in developing policy for the association. With Anissa Marzuki representing DKICP, the House serves as a forum for discussion of key issues and articulation of positions reflecting input from a broad cross-section of pharmacy.

APhA-ASP members were presented with the unique opportunity to attend student-based workshops to refine leadership skills as well as collect ideas from other chapters to improve events for their own chapter. Workshops attended include the Operation Heart, Operation Diabetes, Generation Rx, and Leadership Training Series meetings.

Every year, DKICP APhA-ASP chapter sends a

representative to compete in the National Patient Counseling Competition. The competition entails a simulated medication counseling session, and this year Leilani Isovaki competed to represent our chapter.

Students enjoyed the APhA exposition, which is a one-of-kind marketplace to visit and explore with over 150 exhibiting companies. Attendees met with industry leaders and representatives as they demonstrated new products, discussed exciting new services, and answered any questions. Many of the third year student pharmacists are headed off to rotations, and served as a great opportunity to explore what world of pharmacy has to offer them.

This year's theme was "The Power & Promise of Pharmacy" and was held Orlando, Florida from March 28-31. Nineteen student pharmacists from DKICP attended the annual meeting, and the college is proud of the hard work their students put into the future of their profession. They represented the college and its APhA-ASP University of Hawai'i at Hilo chapter well at the 2014 APhA Annual Meeting. The college looks forward to seeing greater participation and attendees at the APhA 2015 annual meeting, to be held March 27-30 in San Diego.

## Maui students visit UH Hilo campus

On March 19th, approximately 30 students from Maui College's Upward Bound program visited the DKICP campus. The TRIO Upward Bound educational program prepares low-income first-generation, high school students for college. The group received an overview of pharmacy and admission requirements from Admissions Counselor Kristy Nakamura. In addition, Student Ambassadors Kristina Lo and Jarred Prudencio demonstrated how to make flavored lip balms while explaining some compounding techniques, and also provided a campus tour. (Submitted by Kristy Nakamura. Photo by Tracey Niimi.)



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## Phi Lambda Sigma presents business etiquette dinner

By Co-chairs Madison Karr & Natalie Savona (Both from the Class of 2015)

Phi Lambda Sigma Honorary Leadership Society was the host to more than 50 UH Hilo students for a Professional Development Business Etiquette Dinner at the UH Hilo Campus Center Dining Hall on April 15.

The event provided 38 student pharmacists from the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy with the opportunity to learn proper etiquette for a business meeting or interview over a meal, appropriate conversation topics and communication skills, and network with other professional

students with similar interests and aspirations.

Professional members of the Big Island community from various fields joined in the fun as well, learning new etiquette tips and providing an opportunity for the students to put what they were learning into practice. The professionals sat at the dinner tables with students, shared their experiences and knowledge and allowed the students to practice and receive feedback on their new skills.

Throughout the night a four-course meal was served while Penelope Paik, Chief Strategist of Civility International, Inc., presented information and instruction on proper etiquette. The evening concluded with smiles, handshakes, and the exchange of business cards.

With overwhelming words of support and satisfaction from students, professionals, and presenters alike, the first of what they hope to be many Business Etiquette Dinners hosted by Phi Lambda Sigma was an absolute success.



Ms. Penelope Paik (standing) instructs Jairus Mahoe (left, Class of 2016), Shanon Makanui (Class of 2016) at the Phi Lambda Sigma business etiquette dinner. (Photo by Arnold Sano, Class of 2016)

# Kappa Psi members recognized at regional conference

By Edwina Leung

**T**wenty-six brothers from The Epsilon Psi Chapter of Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity, Inc. represented the Daniel K Inouye College of Pharmacy (DKCIP) at the semi-annual Pacific West Province Conclave on March 22, 2014 in Tucson, Arizona. The Pacific West Province includes nine collegiate chapters and six graduate chapters that span Hawai'i, California, Nevada, and Arizona.

The dedication and hard work that DKCIP students put into Kappa Psi were recognized by the entire region at this conference. In the past six months, Epsilon Psi brothers contributed more than 600 hours of community service in several ways. Members have been involved in HOPE Services, Habitat for Humanity, and donation drives. Epsilon Psi has collaborated with HOPE Services multiple times this year by providing health screenings, donating hygiene products, and promoting First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move Campaign to HOPE services children. March also marked the second year Epsilon Psi has worked with Habitat for Humanity. Over twenty five members travelled across the Big Island to help put a new coat of paint on a new home. Despite the rain, Epsilon Psi worked diligently to finish the job by the end of the day. The chapter has also organized multiple donation drives this year including toys during the winter season, hygiene products for HOPE services, and monetary donations for the victims of typhoon Haiyan. Epsilon Psi's hard work culminated in receiving the first ever Philan-

Trophy award in the region.

Additionally, members dedicated to representing the Epsilon Psi helped the chapter earn the Pacific West Traveler's Award. This award recognizes the chapter that sends the most members to Province. Epsilon Psi chapter has consistently been awarded this award ever since the inception of the chapter through continuous exhibition of pride and effort in the representation of the chapter at province.

Several other members contributed personally to the success of the chapter. Le Du was elected into the position of Satrap (President) of the entire Pacific West region. Akio Yanagisawa and Tony Hyunh represented the chapter as delegates. Stephanie Gregorio was in charge of chapter sales and helped the chapter secure funds that will be used towards funding for Epsilon Psi's own province meeting in Spring 2017. Tiffany Khan and Kelly Ishizuka coordinated the community service events which earned the Chapter the Philan-Trophy award. Members also represented Epsilon Psi in Legislative, Auditing, Province Planning, Finance, Resolutions, Awards, and Leadership committees.

Overall, the Spring 2014 Pacific West Province Conclave was a success for the DKCIP chapter of Kappa Psi. Despite being chartered for only a little over one year, Epsilon Psi has managed to rise as a top Kappa Psi chapter both regionally and nationally.



# DKICP team raises funds for Relay for Life

The DKICP relay team raised a grand total of \$1,701.88 for the American Cancer Society, placing fifth out of 24 teams in the Relay for Life fundraiser held in Hilo March 14-15.

"Through our donation, we are making a difference in the lives of those affected by cancer and bringing us one step closer to finding a cure," said Bert Matsuo and Jynelle Tangonan, student pharmacists, Class of 2016. "There was a great turn out this year and we appreciate every single person who took time to work, do a few laps and keep us up for the entire night."

## Special Shout Outs:

### Supply Providers:

Kimberly Victorine, Shanon Makanui, Jairus Mahoe, Katrina Spinola, and Tracey Niimi

Thank you to our fundraising team, the Class of 2017 Council and Mina Ibrahim.

### Creators of games, headbandz, ribbons, and picture frames:

Kasia Quintal, Kimberly Victorine, Hannah Shin, Walter Domingo and Mark Bibera

### Set up and decorating crew:

Jerilyn Gudoy, Brenda Yuen, Daryl Sakado, Nick Ferreira and Hannah Shin

### Clean up and breakdown:

Tony Huynh, Mark Bibera, and Shanon Makanui

### Master Chefs:

Nick Ferreira, Daryl Sakado, Caleb Malinski, and Kelsey Chang  
Gaming Crew:  
Mark Bibera and Audrey Fung.

### Manicure Crew:

Jerilyn Gudoy, Joyce Tapuro, Sami Chang, and Katrina Spinola

### Photographers:

Arnold Sano and Maddie Fu. Thank you to Kimberly Victorine's mom for feeding us sushi rice and rolls.

### Power Walkers:

Thank you to ALL of our dedicated walkers (students, faculty and DKICP team supporters) that showed up, especially our All-Star walker-Shanon Makanui and Ryan who did a total of 50 laps each!

Last but not least, we want to especially thank our Misster Relay representative for The DKICP Pharmacy Team - Micah Kim Han for being such a great sport during the pageant show. You did an amazing job entertaining the crowd and making our team look awesome. You looked gorgeous during the event and I know for sure next year you will definitely win the crown.

*DKICP Students joined together to support and help raise funds for the American Cancer Society by painting nails, selling food, playing games, and offering a photobooth. (Photo by Jynelle Tangonan, Class of 2016)*



# Student pharmacists represent UH Hilo at Rho Chi annual meeting

By Eric Tsuji, Class of 2016

Seven members represented the Delta Iota Chapter of the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy (DKICP) at the annual meeting of the Rho Chi Society, held at the American Pharmacist's Association's (APhA) annual meeting in Orlando, Florida on Saturday, March 29, 2014. The annual event brought together representatives from every Rho Chi chapter across the nation including graduate members of the society.

The student pharmacists attending from second-, third-, and fourth-year classes, made it one of the most represented chapters at the meeting. Faculty Advisor and Rho Chi member Dr. Edward Fisher also was in attendance.

For the new members of Rho Chi, it was a great experience to network with other Rho Chi chapters

and bring fresh ideas to cultivate the Delta Iota chapter. Discussions included chapter activities, future directions of the society, and the acceptance of new college chapters, which brings the total number of collegiate Rho Chi chapters to 119.

The attendees of the annual meeting were also granted a rare opportunity to hear from William E. Evans, PharmD, Director and Chief Executive Officer of the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and Professor of Pediatrics and Pharmacy at the University of Tennessee Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy, who delivered the keynote address. Dr. Evans was presented with the prestigious Lecturer Award and spoke of how his experiences as a member of Rho Chi helped him succeed through his career.

With a new perspective and goals for the new academic year, the Rho Chi Society Delta Iota chapter members look forward to continuing the chapter's development and apply their experiences from the annual meeting to establish new and exciting activities, as well as continue to build on current efforts. Attending the national Rho Chi Society meeting was a great experience and we look forward to attending future meetings and representing the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy on the national stage.

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## Faculty Seminar Series



Dean John Pezzuto was host to **George Bondar**, head of North American Operations at Life Chemicals, LLC in the classroom at DKICP campus on March 19. Mr. Bondar presented his research seminar entitled "Screening Compound Libraries, Computational Chemistry and Custom Synthesis Services by Life Chemicals."

**Dr. Robert Verpoorte** spoke on "Metabolomics: Gateway to discoveries" at the faculty seminar series April 29 on campus at DKICP. Dr. Verpoorte is the head of the Division of Pharmacognosy, Section Metabolomics, Institute Biology Leiden, Leiden University, Netherlands. He has been in academia for almost 40 years, and is the author and co-author of



more than 600 scientific papers, 3 books, and 4 patent applications. He is the Editor-in-Chief of *Journal of Ethnopharmacology* and *Phytochemistry Reviews* and Executive Editor of *Biotechnology Letters*. He serves on the editorial board of 21 journals. His research interests are biosynthesis and metabolic engineering of plant secondary metabolism, metabolomics, medicinal plants, and, isolation and identification of biologically active natural products.

## DKICP researcher wins award to work on beating childhood cancer



**D**KICP post-doctoral associate Dr. Ingo Koomoa-Lange has received a Young Investigator Award Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation (ALSF).

His proposal is entitled "Molecular Mechanism and Development of Therapeutic Strategies Targeting MYCN-induced Calcium Signaling

in Advanced Neuroblastoma." Dr. Koomoa-Lange said the proposed research will further new strategies for treatment of pediatric neuroblastoma, a cancer that has eluded effective treatment.

The Scientific Advisory Board of ALSF selected this proposal to receive \$100,000 for two years. The grant funds part of Ingo's salary and allows him to hire a technician and purchase lab supplies. The grant includes a mentorship component to be fulfilled by Dean John Pezzuto.

"The impact of this research on the lives of infant and child cancer patients promises to be high," Dr. Pezzuto said. "The proposed research has a direct impact on future treatment of neuroblastoma, because the research focuses on a fundamental mechanism of cancer growth, migration and invasion —the foundational role of calcium channels in the spreading of cancer throughout the body— and its inhibition by novel compounds targeting a recently discovered calcium channel."

According to ALS, the national fundraising movement to help find a cure for all children with cancer "emerged from the front yard lemonade stand" of 4-year-old cancer patient Alexandra "Alex" Scott, who died in 2004.

"The Young Investigator Award is such a wonderful opportunity to gain independence at an early stage as a young scientist," Dr. Koomoa-Lange said. "I am excited about investigating the impact of calcium signaling on malignant progression of neuroblastoma which will hopefully lead to the discovery of novel targets for treatment."

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## Pharmaceutical sciences faculty receives NIH funding to find 'magic bullet platform' to target cancer cells

**D**r. Mahavir Chougule, assistant professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, has been awarded a National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant for a project that he hopes will save healthy tissues from the ravages of anticancer drugs in lung cancer patients.

Dr. Chougule has been awarded \$300,000 for four years from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences in the Department of Health and Human Services for his research entitled "Targeted Combination Therapy for Lung Cancer."

"Research on lung cancer is particularly critical in Hawai'i since the incidence of lung cancer deaths is highest among Pacific Islanders, as well as African Americans and American Indians/Alaska Natives," said Dean John Pezzuto, who has been continuously funded by NIH for more than 30 years.

Current treatments are effective at destroying cancer cells but also damage the healthy tissue, Dr. Chougule said.



His lab is developing a method to deliver drugs to the just the cells that cause cancer

"We are designing a new generation of nanoparticles with what we are calling a 'magic bullet platform' that could recognize the location of cancer cells and selectively deliver anticancer drugs to inhibit the cancer growth while sparing normal healthy tissues," Dr. Chougule said.

The long-term goal of the project is to advance this novel delivery concept to the clinical level.

"With this funding, we are able to establish one of the first nanotechnology-based, extramural-funded lung cancer program in the state of Hawai'i," Dr. Chougule said.



# UH Board of Regents distinguishes eight DKICP faculty

Four faculty from the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy received promotions from assistant professor to associate professor with tenure at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, two were promoted from associate professor to full professor, and two were awarded tenure from the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents at their May 15 meeting.

## Faculty members receiving promotions from assistant professor to associate professor with tenure are:



**Dr. Forrest Batz**, Department of Pharmacy Practice. Dr. Batz is a graduate of the University of California, San Francisco School of Pharmacy and

completed a clinical pharmacy residency at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Tucson, Ariz. Recognized by students for teaching excellence, Dr. Batz's teaching and research interests include the contemporary use of natural medicines, tobacco prevention and cessation, safe drug disposal and enhancing delivery of PharmD curriculum. Dr. Batz is a member of the Hawai'i Pharmacists Association, American Pharmacists Association, and American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy.



**Dr. Leng Chee Chang**, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Dr. Chang holds a master's degree in natural products chemistry from the

University of Malaysia, Sabah, Malaysia

and a Ph.D. in Pharmacognosy from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She was an Intramural Research Training Fellow at the Laboratory of Bioorganic Chemistry, NIDDK, National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. Selected by students for a teaching excellence award, her research interests include the isolation, identification, and biological evaluation of compounds from higher plant and microbial origin, particular compounds useful as chemotherapeutic agents, as well as STAT3 inhibitors from *Streptomyces* species and endophytic fungi. Dr. Chang's lab is also studying other possible drugs, cancer chemopreventive and antidiabetic agents from higher plants with ethnopharmacological and traditional medicine uses.



**Dr. Dianqing Sun**, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Dr. Sun received a master's degree in organic chemistry from East China Uni-

versity of Science and Technology in Shanghai, China and a Ph.D. in organic chemistry from the University of Memphis in Tennessee. He was a Postdoctoral Fellow in Medicinal Chemistry at University of Tennessee Health Science Center. Elected by students for teaching excellence award in 2011, Dr. Sun's laboratory focuses on the design and synthesis of novel small molecule and natural product-inspired antibacterial and anti-cancer agents. The chemical approaches include classical organic synthesis, parallel and high-throughput chemistry, solid-phase organic synthesis, followed by traditional medicinal chemistry optimization of the emerging lead compounds.



**Dr. Ghee Tan**, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Dr. Tan received her bachelor's degree in Pharmacy from the National University of Singapore and holds a Ph.D. in Molecular

Pharmacology from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Under the auspices of a National Research Service Award

(NRSA), she underwent postdoctoral training in HIV vaccine development at the Public Health Research Institute of New York in association with New York University. Her current research focuses on pre-clinical drug discovery and development for infectious and chronic diseases, with particular emphasis on Global Health concerns. Plants and endophytic microorganisms are being explored as sources of new drug leads for malaria and cancer, with the ultimate goal of discovering new disease targets for intervention. The ethnopharmacological validation of medicinal plants is also being carried out as an avenue to provide cheaper alternatives for low-income countries.

## Faculty members promoted from associate professor to full professor are:



**Dr. André Bachmann**, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Dr. Bachmann holds a master's degree in microbiology

and a Ph.D. in biology, both from the University of Zurich, Switzerland. He was a Postdoctoral Fellow in Molecular Oncology & Medical Virology, also at the University of Zurich, Switzerland. He studies polyamine inhibitors that affect the proliferation of cancer. His laboratory's research is focused on providing new insights into a devastating form of pediatric cancer called neuroblastoma and has translated from the bench to the clinic. Dr. Bachmann's lab also develops natural-product inspired drugs that inhibit the proteasome, which led to a patent and start-up biotech company. Finally he studies a vesicle-associated protein called PRAF2, which is a prognostic marker in neuroblastoma. Dr. Bachmann collaborates with international research teams around the world and is a member of the NMTRC clinical-trial consortium for children with neuroblastoma and medulloblastoma.

*continued on page 32*



**Dr. Susan Jarvi,** Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Dr. Jarvi holds a master's degree in veterinary and animal sciences (genetics)

from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and a Ph.D. in biology from Northern Illinois University, DeKalb. She was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Beckman Research Institute of the City of Hope National Medical Center Duarte, CA, and at the Molecular Genetics laboratory of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC. Her research interests include host-parasite and parasite-parasite interactions and influences on transmission and virulence of infectious disease. Dr. Jarvi's lab is also interested in continued development of educational curricula to incorporate rat lungworm education into the public school system, and educating the general public about rat lungworm disease in Hawai'i. Her lab continues to conduct multiple rat lungworm-related research studies. She also serves as

director of the Pre-Pharmacy Program and is campus coordinator for the UH Hilo and HCC SRE-INBRE program.

Faculty members receiving tenure are:



**Dr. Deborah Taira Juarez,** associate professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice. Dr. Juarez holds a bachelor's degree in economics from Amherst

College, a master's in Public Affairs from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University, and a doctorate in health economics from the Harvard School of Public Health. She has ten years of experience at the Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) as research manager analyzing administrative data. Her research focuses on understanding and reducing health disparities, particularly involving Asian and Pacific Islander Americans.



**Dr. Carolyn Ma,** associate professor and co-chair, Department of Pharmacy Practice. Dr. Ma received her PharmD degree from the Univer-

sity of California at San Francisco and completed a Clinical Pharmacy Residency at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and an Oncology Pharmacy Specialty Residency at The Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Ma practiced as a Board Certified Oncology Pharmacist at the Queens Medical Center in Honolulu and was Vice President for Clinical Program Development for Am Med International in Hong Kong, a start-up company that builds cancer clinics in Asia. She is currently in charge of operations for the DKICP O'ahu, Maui and Kaua'i Pharmacy Practice and Experiential department, residency program and international partnerships. She serves as a Director for the Hawai'i State Board of Pharmacy and is Past President for the Hawai'i Pharmacists Association.

## DKCIP High School Intern Honored at International Science and Engineering Fair

Hilo High School sophomore and DKCIP research intern Keanu Dean Pinner placed fourth place in Biochemistry at the May 2014 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), held in Los Angeles, CA. Keanu had secured a place in the prestigious competition after placing 1<sup>st</sup> place overall at the February 2014 Hawai'i District Science and Engineering Fair, where he was also honored with the KTA Food Sciences Award. Keanu's research, which was mentored by DKCIP faculty Drs. Robert

Borris and Aaron Jacobs, investigates the abundance of Kava (Hawaiian: 'awa; *Piper methysticum*) secondary metabolites in different plant tissues, including: leaves, stems, and roots. The roots of Kava are safely and traditionally used in several Pacific cultures to prepare a beverage with both cultural and medicinal significance. Although rare, incidents of hepatotoxicity (liver damage) have occurred when commercially processed extracts have been used in Western societies, leading to a ban on imports in the European Union. Keanu's hypothesized that the inclusion of non-traditional plant tissues (leaves, stems, and aerial roots) in commercially processed samples along with an ethanol-based

(rather than a traditional water-based) extraction process led to higher levels of potentially toxic metabolites, thereby causing liver damage. Keanu's work is ongoing, and he plans to work with Dr. Jacobs in the coming year on the potential anticancer properties of Kava extracts.



Keanu Dean Pinner and Dr. Aaron Jacobs are evaluating the hepatotoxicity of different Kava extracts. (Photo by Dr. Pascale Creek Pinner)

## Faculty Briefs

**Dr. Julie Adrian, DVM**, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice, published an article entitled "Image Quiz: Fragile, hyperextensible skin in a dog (cutaneous asthenia in a dog (Ehlers-Danlos syndrome)" in *Veterinary Medicine* in May.



**Dr. André Bachmann**, professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, had research entitled "Withaferin A inhibits STAT3 activation and induces cell death of neuroblastoma cells" presented at the 23rd Pediatric Pharmacy Advocacy Group (PPAG) Annual Meeting in Nashville, Tenn. on May 2. Third-year student pharmacist and co-author Tanya Gates was invited to present the research. Other co-authors were Lisette P. Yco, UH Manoa PhD graduate student in the MBBE graduate program who works in Dr. Bachmann's lab, and Dr. Gabor Mocz, professor, Pacific Biosciences Research Center, University of



Hawai'i at Manoa. Dr. Bachmann also received a grant from the Hawai'i Community Foundation to study the optimization of pediatric neuroblastoma treatment through bimodal anti-tumor therapy using SPR and ODC inhibitors.

**Dr. Leng Chee Chang**, assistant professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, published an article entitled "Potential anti-inflammatory phenolic glycosides from the medicinal plant *Moringa oleifera* fruits" with co-authors Sarot Cheenpracha a, Eun-Jung Park, Wesley Y. Yoshida, Chaz Barit, Marisa Wall, John M. Pezzuto, Leng Chee Chang, in the journal *Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry*



**Dr. Carolyn Ma**, associate professor and co-chair, Department of Pharmacy Practice, was honored with the Hawai'i Pharmacists Association (HphA) Leadership Award and the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) Pharmacy Leadership Award. She was presented plaques at HPhA's annual meeting in April.



**Dr. Supakit Wongwiwatthananut**, associate professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice, was issued a provisional patent entitled "A Novel Stat3 Inhibitor Derived from *Vernonia cinerea*" through the University of

Hawai'i Office of Technology Transfer and Economic Development (UH-OTTED), Tech ID #1610-8575 along with Co-Inventors Leng Chee Chang, associate professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Ui Joung Youn, and James Turkson. Dr. Wongwiwatthananut also was the lead and corresponding author on one publication entitled "Comparative Efficacy and Safety of Different Doses of Ergocalciferol Supplementation in Patients with Metabolic Syndrome" published in *International Journal of Clinical Pharmacy*. Co-authors were Sansanayudh N, Phetkrajaysang N, and Krittiyanunt S.



## Grant promotes study of rat lungworm disease



**D**r. Susan I. Jarvi, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences and director of the UH Hilo pre-pharmacy program, was awarded a grant from the Hawai'i Community Foundation entitled "A pilot study to evaluate prevalence of rat lungworm infection in

East Hawai'i." The funding is \$50,000 for two years beginning June of this year. Co-investigators include Karen Pellegrin, director of strategic planning and distance education for DKICP; Claudio Nigg, UH Manoa Cancer Center; Dan Domizio, Puna Medical Center; Praphathip Eamsobhama Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University, Thailand; and Alberta Corpuz, Clinical Labs. Dr. Jarvi also was awarded a grant in the amount of \$13,000 from the UH Research Council for a

proposal entitled "Catchment water as a potential source of infection by *Angiostrongylus cantonensis*, the rat lungworm parasite on the east side of Hawai'i Island." The parasite is carried by the slug (shown above).

She also received a travel award from the American Association of Immunologists to attend the annual meeting in Pittsburgh, May 2014 where she presented a poster entitled "Efficacy of a vaccine for *Angiostrongylus costaricensis* against rat lungworm disease caused by *A. cantonensis* in wild Hawaiian Rats (*Rattus rattus*)" with co-authors: William Pitt, Antonio Osuna, Margaret Farias, Laura Shiels, Kay Howe, Steven Jacquier, Michael Severino, Aaron Shiels, Karis Amano, Blaine Luiz, Daisy Maher, Maureen Allison, Zachariah Holtquist, Neil Scheibelhut.

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## McKesson donation helps support hands-on learning activities

*A generous \$2,500 donation from McKesson Corporation will provide supplies needed for hands-on workshops and training for pharmacy students at DKICP. During the past few years, the Office of Experientials and the Department of Pharmacy Practice have incorporated hands-on training into the curriculum, including immunization training, IV admixture/sterile preparation, device counseling, and diabetes management. The students benefit greatly by being able to practice and demonstrate real life skills, which would not be possible without the supplies and materials needed to do so, said Jennifer Aguiar, assistant clinical education coordinator. The supplies purchased through the donation enrich this invaluable learning environment. We are grateful to Mr. Ed Escalante from McKesson Corporation and Dr. Sheri Tokumaru, assistant professor in pharmacy practice, who facilitated this donation. (Photo by Jennifer Aguiar)*



# Preceptor Focus



## **Ken Ooka, RPh**

IPPE Preceptor of the Year  
Pharmacist at Safeway, Hilo, HI

### *In his own words:*

I was born in Mount Holly, New Jersey and raised in Willingboro, NJ.

After high school, I attended Rutgers University's College of Pharmacy and graduated in 1999 with a degree in pharmaceutical sciences.

Following licensure, my first job was with a retail/supermarket chain, Edwards Supermarkets/pharmacy (part of the Giant chain of supermarkets). After leaving Edwards, I joined Neighborcare pharmacy, a long-term care provider pharmacy in Whippany, NJ. At that time, Neighborcare held the contract for all of the state's long-term care and assisted living facilities, in addition to several privately and publicly-owned care institutions.

Prior to Safeway, my longest career in pharmacy was in Livingston, NJ where I worked as a multi-discipline trained hospital pharmacist at Saint Barnabas Medical center - a 600+ bed facility with a specialized heart center, renal transplant Ctr, burn ICU, CTICU, Cancer Center, pediatrics and PICU. The facility also housed one of the state's leading L&D's and 60+ bed NICU. After being cross trained in staffing all areas, I became one of the lead IV pharmacists and the second-in-charge of the NICU satellite.

While at St Barnabas, I decided to diversify my education and abilities; thus I attended the New School University in NYC where I received a Masters Degree in Digital media and communications. Originally, I intended on using these new skills in the medical communication; however state of our nation's economy thwarted my plans as the job market dwindled.

Still yearning for a change, having always had strong familial ties to the islands, I moved to Hawai'i and resumed my pharmacy career as pharmacy manager at Pharmerica and eventually settled down at Safeway.

My wife, Hannah Canosa, and I had two sets of twins: Olivia and Gloria - born 6/29/09; Isabella and Sofia - born 12/12/11.



## **Laura Ota, Pharm D**

APPE Preceptor of the Year  
Straub Clinic and Hospital

Dr. Laura Ota has been the Pharmacy Manager at Straub Clinic and Hospital since 2012. Prior to this time she served as the Pharmacy Manager at Hawaii

Medical Center East/West campus.

Dr. Ota received her PharmD degree from Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Sciences and a bachelor's degree in biology and psychology from the University of California at Davis.

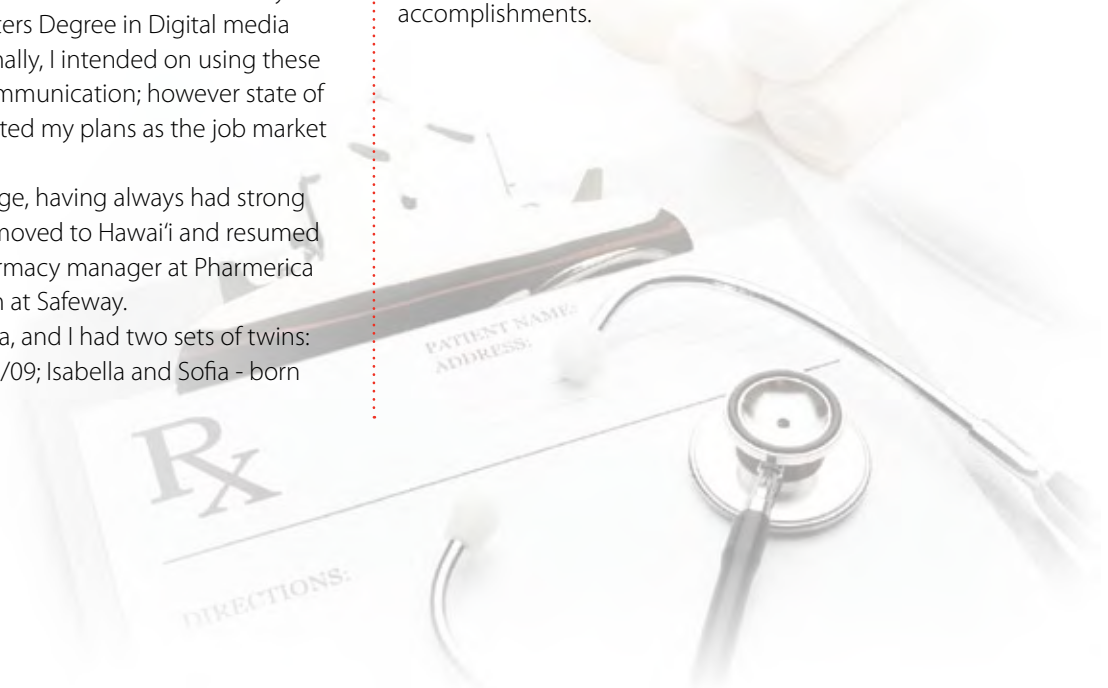
She completed a Pharmacy Practice Residency at the University of Florida, Shands Jacksonville and a PGY2 Residency in Drug Information at the University of Florida, Shands Gainesville.

### *In her own words:*

At Straub Clinic and Hospital, we attempt to coordinate and tailor each students experience based on individual goals while also providing exposure to hospital-based pharmacy practice.

Each pharmacist and pharmacy technician is extremely committed and is an integral part of the hospital rotational experience. Each student also contributes to the growth and development of our department.

We are extremely thankful for this relationship with the DKICP and are proud of our former students and their accomplishments.





## Rotation Report: Sean Pfundstein, Class of 2014

For a good portion of my time in Hilo, I worked in the lab of Dr. Kenneth Morris as a research assistant, and got a chance to work on a wide variety of research projects with him. When it came time to select my fourth-year rotations, I asked to do an Academic/Research rotation with him as well, in his lab at Hilo.

A research rotation is a very different experience than most other rotations. In the hospitals, clinics, and pharmacies that most rotations occur in, the pace and subject matter of

the work you do varies wildly depending on the patients you are working with on any given day. For this research rotation, I had one main research subject (the viability of a new way of combining two over-the-counter medications into one novel dosage form) that constituted the majority of my time, with a few other small projects here and there. This project involved both physical experimentation and a great deal of literature review on projects and methods with similarities to my own, as well as reviewing and employing skills I hadn't used since my first year as a student pharmacist, or even my undergraduate chemistry work.

Like most rotations, working with a research faculty member will give you as much experience as you are willing to put into it, but has the added advantage of being easily modified to whatever you and your preceptor agree on. When I told Dr. Morris I was interested in giving a lecture, he gave me a Pharmaceutics slide set that he felt was outdated and had me update it and give the lecture to the first-year students myself. Getting to see the field of pharmacy from both an industry and academic perspective made this one of my favorite rotations, and would be a particularly good fit for anyone interested in some of the alternate fields in which a pharmacist can work and make a difference.

## The Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy names Spring 2014 Dean's List

The following students from The Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo have been named to the Dean's List for Spring semester, 2014. The Class of 2014 was performing clinical rotations and therefore this designation does not apply.

### 2015

Brianne Blakesley\*, Andrea Brauer\*, Richard Cleave, Chao Cox\*, Le Du, Jozelle Gabriel\*, Davis Hanai\*, Daniel Hasegawa\*, Kelly Ishizuka\*, Brian John, Tiffany Khan\*, Traci Kusaka\*, Daniel Leong\*, Wei Lin\*, Kristina Lo\*, Chelsea Murobayashi, Tracy Ng\*, Darian Oshiro, Alysia Osugi\*, Jessica Parker, Jarred Prudencio\*, Garrett Rhodes, Lindsey Takara\*, Trina Tran\*, Jill Anne Villarosa\*, Nichole Wilson\*, Akio Yanagisawa\*

(\* denotes achieving Dean's List every semester since first year)

### 2016

Amy Anderson, Allen Bagalso, Lance Cabanting, David Choe, Chau Dang, Walter Domingo, Ornella Fassu, Bryce Fukunaga, Sisay Kenfe Girmay, Jerilyn Gudoy, Alexander

Guimaraes, Samantha Hanabaga, John Hoang, Melissa Iida, Okezie Ironi, Leilani Isozaki, Blake Johnson, Micah KimHan, Thao Le, Quynh Le, Uoc Le, Nancy Le, Tina Liu, Melissa Monette, Raymond Okaniwa, Sarah Osellame, Joson Perreira, Kasia Quintal, Eric Sanders, Arnold Sano, Huong-Thy Ta, Andy Takahata, Mireya Talavera, Jynelle Tangonan, Christopher Thai, Carlo Tiano, Eric Tsuji, Brandon Tuzon, Kimberly Victorine, Kevin Wang, Andy Wong

### 2017

Sean Abreu, Trenton Aoki, Lena Asano, Robert Bautista, Megan Calderwood, Christopher Cao, Rhea Castro, Nicole Chin, Ronnijean Delenia, Christopher Diaz, Andy Diep, Nicholas Ferreira, Audrey Fung, Dann Hirayasu, David Khan, Shaun Lasky, Lauren Levine, Caleb Malinski, Sean Menda, Kevin Meno, Kelsea Mizusawa, Lauryn Mow, Loc Ngo, Phuc Nguyen, Kimberlee Roseman, Nadine So, Lillian Tran, Deandra Viluan, Hoa Vo, Brenda Yuen, Zi Zhang

## **Kāwili Lā'au**

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