

One who mixes ingredients, drugs or medications: a pharmacist

# Kāwili Lā'au

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

Spring 2016 • Volume 8, Issue 3



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## A tribute to the late Senator Gil Kahele

Inside: Focus on interprofessional education

# Message from Interim Dean, Dr. Carolyn Ma



Anyone who has had experience as a patient or family member within a hospital has hopefully, had a seamless interaction with all the medical professionals, from the nurses to the physicians, pharmacists, social workers, dieticians and hospital staff. This teamwork may appear effortless, but we who work in the field know it takes a mountain of effort so that the patient can concentrate on getting better. That's why teaching the essential skills of collaboration and communication continue to be integrated into our students' education, and why all the accreditation agencies have deemed it a priority for colleges to have as a part of their curriculum.

Here in Hilo, we're so fortunate to be aligned with other health care educators who can give our students the best exposure to teamwork in a medical setting. When our faculty work on interprofessional education projects with other faculty in the medical, nursing, and social work/public health schools, we not only give students a chance to get hands-on experience, we also can teach by example. I'm pleased we're able to show just a few examples of this collaborative trend here in this issue of Kawili La'au.

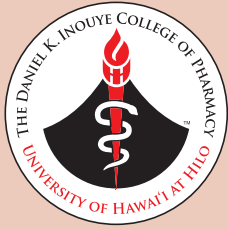
I'm also happy to introduce Dr. Supakit Wongwiwatthanakit who has agreed to serve as our new interim associate dean for academic affairs. With his typical good cheer and positive spirit, he has hit the ground running and in a very short time has received extremely positive feedback. I am grateful for his expertise and support.

While this new "interim" assignment signifies yet another transition for DKICP, you can see in this issue how we continue to meet and exceed expectations by surpassing new milestones. We can never forget that none of these would be possible without people such as the late Senator Gil Kahele. Speaking as a founding member of the executive team, it's almost impossible to remember a time when the senator wasn't by our side, helping us in the halls of the state house, fighting to be recognized as an essential part of the tapestry that makes up the Big Island of Hawai'i. We wanted to honor him in this issue not only by naming him as the recipient of the Advancement of Pharmacy Excellence award, but also with a photo essay that shows the due diligence he paid getting to know our College. I hope you enjoy this special homage.

I was honored to join his family, the community and other significant leaders in Hawai'i at a ceremony on O'ahu. We all had what is known here in Hawai'i as a "chicken-skin moment" when a mist-shrouded rainbow appeared just as his funeral procession pulled up in front of the Capitol. It was a significant moment for a significant life. Mahalo, Gil.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn Ma".

Sincerely,  
Dr. Carolyn Ma  
Interim Dean



## Kāwili Lā'au

Spring, 2016

Volume 8, Issue 3

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**On the cover:** DKICP mourns the passing of Senator Gilbert "Gil" Kahele with tribute to all he accomplished.

# Tribute to Senator Gil Kahele:

## DKICP awards late senator with highest honor

The Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy is presenting the APEX (Advancement of Pharmacy Excellence) award posthumously to the late Hawai'i State Senator Gilbert "Gil" Kahele. The APEX award is the highest tribute DKICP offers to individuals who have made major contributions to the development of the college.

A longtime champion for DKICP, Senator Kahele worked tirelessly and spent countless hours supporting the College to gain funding for the permanent building and keeping the spotlight on the College's accomplishments.

Sadly, Senator Kahele died on January 26. Many politicians and citizens honored him for the great work he accomplished on the Big Island, and many cited his work on keeping the legislature informed about DKICP. It is indeed his legacy to be remembered for the intense passion he showed for the College of Pharmacy.

His presence at the student health fairs, both in Hilo and in his hometown of Miloli'i, was always



more than a token visit from some nameless politician out for votes. He spent time with students, with faculty, and displayed his sincere belief in the College's mission and very presence on the Big Island of Hawai'i. Many Sunday afternoons were spent in attendance at White Coat Ceremonies as well as precious time spent at other celebrations, and the Senator showed unwavering support by actively pursuing funding the building and insisting it remain on the Big Island both for the citizens of Hawai'i and for the students.

Gov. David Ige nominated his son, Kai- i or "Kai" to fill Senator Kahele's

empty seat at the senate, and he was sworn into the Hawai'i State Senate on Feb. 17. Kai Kahele has said that his father fought "tooth and nail" to keep the College of Pharmacy in Hilo, and has indicated that he shares a similar vision as his father.

Through another student, Kai issued a personal invitation to all students, faculty, and staff to attend the senator's "Celebration of Life" on Monday, February 8, at 5 p.m. at the Afook Chinen Civic Auditorium in Hilo. The family set aside a seating section for DKICP, and nearly 50 students and faculty members were able to attend the event in their white coats to show gratitude for all that Senator Kahele has done for the College.

According to Interim Dean Carolyn Ma: Although a sad day for Hawai'i,





for Hilo, and a sad day for our College, Senator Kahele's legacy lives on in our mission and vision to serve the people of this state in terms of pharmacy education, health and research. Our continued compassion and kindness to our patients and to each other will honorably uphold his life's work.

Previous recipients of the APEx award include Gerald De Mello, former director of UH Hilo University Relations; Stephen Hora, former UH Hilo vice chancellor for academic affairs, Jerry Johnson, former dean for UH Hilo College of Arts and Sciences and project manager for the burgeoning College of Pharmacy; Chancellor Emerita Rose Tseng; and Patrick DeLeon, former Chief of Staff to Senator Daniel Inouye.



# Interprofessional Education: Exciting developments to date and the future of healthcare education

By Interim Dean Carolyn Ma

Fifty years ago, health care professionals saw the importance of interprofessional collaboration when they founded the College of Health Sciences and Social Welfare (CHSSW) at UH Manoa that included the Schools of Nursing and Dental Hygiene (SONDH), the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM), Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work and the Office of Public Health Studies. Although not a brick and mortar college, the schools partnered on select research and education initiatives back in 1966 with the goal of increasing interdisciplinary collaboration.

According to the CHSSW Web site: "A primary goal of the CHSSW is to enhance synergies and interdisciplinary collaboration across the units while effectively stewarding state resources. In this collaborative model, each unit maintains its individual autonomy and governance with respective human and fiscal resources (and facilities), while working together to leverage resources and strengthen areas of common interest."

Health care practices, especially in the institutional settings utilize multi-disciplinary teams (physicians, nurses, pharmacists, social workers, dieticians, respiratory therapists and rehab therapy specialists). These groupings of health professionals, often a result of clinical rotation scheduling, strive to provide comprehensive patient care. However, oftentimes the lack of understanding of other health care professions roles and responsibilities, communication, stress and time constraints as well as traditional hierarchal behaviors may challenge even the most patient-oriented teams in their ability to provide the best care.



Carolyn Ma

In the last two years, many of the health profession's education accreditation standards have begun to include specific language that mandates early training in interprofessional education (IPE), which the World Health Organizations (WHO) defines as "when students (or providers) from two or more professions learn about, from, and with each other to enable effective collaboration and improve health care outcomes." The WHO IPE core domains include:

**Values/Ethics:** Maintain a climate of mutual respect and shared values

**Roles and Responsibilities:** Work within roles and responsibilities for all team members to meet health care needs of those served

**Communication:** Communicates to the team members with respect to support a team approach to providing care.

“when students (or providers) from two or more professions learn about, from, and with each other to enable effective collaboration and improve health care outcomes.”

#### **Teamwork and Team-based Care:**

Build team dynamics and relationships; effectively deliver patient-centered care that is safe, timely, efficient, effective, and equitable.

In 2013, Deans Dr. Mary Boland (SONDH), Dr. Jerris Hedges (JABSOM), Dr. Noreen Mokuau (Social Work), and the Office of Public Health Studies affirmed the commitment to the mission of CHSSW, which is: "To serve

society by increasing, disseminating, and sharing knowledge, wisdom, and values relating to the health and social welfare concerns of the people of Hawai'i."

In 2014, Dean Hedges extended an invitation to Dean John Pezzuto to include the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy in the CHSSW and I, who was at that time, Chair for Pharmacy Practice, was appointed to a task force to strategize a 3 to 5-year plan for IPE for the University of Hawai'i. The task force also included Lorrie Wong and Stephanie Marshall (SONDH), Richard Kasuya, Damon Sakai, Kelly Withey, Kamal Masaki (JABSOM), and Lana Kaopoa (Social Work). The initial memorandum made an inventory of all IPE activities currently taking place across all curriculums as well interprofessional collaborative practices. The recommendations included an initial step of a team attending the Annual Interprofessional Collaborative and faculty development.

To that end, this past fall, a

team of five faculty (myself and Drs. Wong (SONDH), Katz (Public Health), Arndt (Social Work) and Withey (JABSOM)) were accepted to attend the Interprofessional Collaborative (IPEC) Institute: Building a Framework for Collaboration, held from Oct. 7-9, 2015 in Herndon, VA. The aim of the program was "to promote and advance development of substantive interprofessional learning experiences

to prepare health professionals for high quality and team-based care of patients."We spent the three days working through the creation of CHSSW's IPE curriculum and other necessary entities.

**Highlights of the plan we created include:**

**Communication:** monthly email to faculty, an IPE web page, and a repository for IPE literature and resources;

**Faculty professional development:**

Beginning with a session at the Health Professions Education Center (HPEC) conference on Feb. 27, 2016 "Interprofessional Education, What's In It For You?"

Interprofessional Education (IPE) kick-off celebration at the Hawaii Health Workforce Summit on September 10, 2016.

**Student curriculum development:**

- Development of a required 2.5 hour online foundations course

to be integrated into the first year curriculum for each health professional school

- Development of a mixed modality development course in 2nd year professional year curriculum
- Expansion of simulation experiences that currently include HIPTCS (PY3 year – Communication and Discharge Planning) and HIPSTER (PY4 Critical Care rotation)
- Expansion of clinical opportunities
- Evaluation
- A web based evaluation of understanding of roles of other health professions and self efficacy at working on teams at the beginning and the end of degree granting health professions programs
- Evaluation of each separate learning experience

**Benefits of the proposed IPE**

**program include:** Formalized IPE program for students and faculty with integrated evaluation that can be used

for accreditation purposes by each school

A central IPE Evaluation committee and plan which would help with increased recognition of UH in this developing area of health care education while increasing interest in local health care systems

The five-member team who attended the IPE collaborative presented their strategic plan in early February and it was unanimously accepted and supported.

The next year will be an exciting year for IPE, which we believe will be the vehicle for improving patient care outcomes. Per Dr. Gwen Sherwood, who is a Ph.D. and RN and was a speaker at the IPEC Institute on Interprofessional Education, the end goal is: "...health professionals who work together effectively to deliver patient-centered care and improve population health in a more affordable and efficient manner."

## Research collaboration produces hope for new lung cancer and asthma therapy

Since 2011, Dr. Mahavir Chougule has established collaboration with associate professor Dr. Peter R. Hoffmann from John A. Burns School of Medicine (JAPSOM), University of Hawai'i at Manoa to investigate the role of targeted nanocarriers for the treatment of lung cancer and asthma. Dr. Chougule is associate professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

The researchers have gained funding through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) on their proposal entitled "Targeted Combination Therapy for Lung Cancer," which is funded through 2018.

They also acquired funding through the Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) on work entitled "Targeted Nanocarriers of mTOR siRNA for the Treatment of Lung Cancer." HCF also awarded them the Leahi Fund to research focused on development of nanocarriers for asthma therapy.

"The targeted delivery of therapeutic agents specifically at the disease site will improve the outcome of lung cancer and asthma management and will reduce the required dose and minimize associated adverse side effects," Dr. Chougule said. "The preclinical studies of developed nanoparticles under cell culture and animal models will help to ascertain the efficacy and underlying mechanism of action of these newer therapies."

The pair has published their work in several journals, including *BioMed Research International* and *AAPS PharmSciTech*, and produced a chapter for "Bio-interactions of Nanomaterials," to be printed by CRC Press.

"The long-term goal is to translate the lab findings to clinic," Dr. Chougule noted. "The pharmacological approaches and preclinical mouse studies would form the framework for our future clinical investigations of developed nanoparticles for the treatment of lung cancer and asthma."





From left, Kamuela Werner (graduate research assistant in Department of Native Hawaiian Health, Community Engagement Division), Sheri Koike (administrative staff for the Center), Mona Cardejon (administrative staff for the Center), Cecilia Shikuma, MD (Research Director of the Center, professor, Department of Medicine, JABSOM and director, Hawaii Center for AIDS), Marjorie Mau, MD (Director and Principal Investigator of the Center, Myron P. Thompson Endowed Chair for Native Hawaiian Health, professor, Department of Native Hawaiian Health, JABSOM), Deborah Taira (Director of the Research Training Core for the Center, health economist, associate professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice, Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy), Mariana Gerschenson (Deputy Director of the Center, professor and chair, Cell and Molecular Biology, JABSOM), Emma Walsh (Evaluator), Kazuma Nakagawa, MD (assistant professor of medicine at JABSOM and staff neurointensivist, The Queen's Medical Center)

# Center for Native and Pacific Health Disparities Research utilizes pharmacy expertise to help train health care providers

Deborah Taira represents DKICP at the Center for Native and Pacific Health Disparities Research (the Center), an interprofessional research group of physicians, public health professionals and community leaders on the island of O'ahu. Dr. Taira, who is an associate professor specializing in economics in the Department of Pharmacy Practice, serves as the director of the Research Training and Education Core for the Center.

The Center is comprised of three "cores" that concentrate on biomedical and behavioral research on Cardiometabolic Health Disparities in the Center's priority populations of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Peoples, Filipinos and other Pacific-based Native Peoples (Alaska Natives, New Zealand Maori). Areas of focus include training, research studies and community engagement.

Currently in the twelfth of 15 years of continuous funding awarded by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD), the Center is based in the Department of Native Hawaiian Health (DNHH) at the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM), University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

Examples of Dr. Taira's work has included training in

statistics and data management in excel and storytelling for health care interventions. The group also conducted a fifteen-week training and mentoring in health disparities research for community-based researchers including participants (nurses and physicians) from Waianae Comprehensive Health Center, Waimanalo Health Center, and Papakolea.

"I think it is important for the DKICP to be involved in the Center for Native and Pacific Health Disparities Research because it is part of the mission of the College to improve the health of the people of Hawaii," Dr. Taira said. "While health status in Hawai'i is good overall compared to the mainland, one of the greatest challenges is the persistence of health disparities, particularly those affecting Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. I believe that our working with the center to improve training opportunities in health services and health outcomes research will allow us to help create interventions to address these disparities."

Future plans are to conduct training on social network interventions, [featuring Dr. Thomas Valente from the University of Southern California who has authored several books on the topic.]



# Simulation approach teaches students in multiple disciplines how to work together

Since planning began in 2013, Patricia Juszczak has been the faculty supervisor from DKICP on a project that teaches students in multiple disciplines how to work together with a geriatric patient and family.



The interprofessional education (IPE) project, called Hawaii Interprofessional Team Collaboration Simulation (HIPTCS), involves students and faculty from DKICP and other colleges within the University of Hawai'i at Manoa: the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM), School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene (SONDH), Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work, and the Department of Public Health Sciences.

Ms. Juszczak has since been joined by Dean Carolyn Ma and Dr. Sheri

Tokumar in developing HIPTCS on both the Big Island as well as O'ahu. Many more DKICP faculty have been trained so they may co-facilitate at HIPTCS events, including Drs. Elizabeth Ackerman, Forrest Batz, Cherie Chu, Lara Gomez, Michelle Kim, Camlyn Masuda, Allen Shih, Wesley Sumida, Deborah Taira, Supakit Wongwiwatthananut, and Mr. George Karvas, as well as Dr. Lauren Peck in a PGY2 residency.

In pharmacy, third-year student pharmacists must participate in the IPE event, which is offered once in fall and once in spring semesters. The 3 to 4-hour session gives students the ability to demonstrate an understanding of an interprofessional team approach to care planning.

"Students learn how to work as a team by recognizing how each health professional plays a critical role in developing a care plan that provides quality and effective care for the patient," Ms. Juszczak said.

Prior to the development and implementation of HIPTCS pharmacy students participated in IPE events sporadically and in limited numbers due to the expense of travel to attend in Honolulu. With the introduction of HIPTCS an entire class of up to 90 pharmacy students have been able to participate each academic year.

Offered every year since fall of 2014, the interprofessional team simulation is available via distance technology with pharmacy students in Hilo and other healthcare students at the Translational Health Science Simulation Center (THSSC) at SONDH. Faculties from each healthcare profession co-facilitate students in small working groups. For pharmacy, faculties are split between THSSC and Hilo.

The most recent events took place October 2 and February 5, with 78 students attending. The students gather in breakout rooms at DKICP linked to O'ahu via polycom audio/visual and shared electronic written documentation.

Using an active, problem-based learning scenario, students are able to collaborate to develop a plan of care for a hospitalized geriatric patient with multiple medical problems and high-fall risk, utilizing an interprofessional patient-centered approach. By the end of the session, students are able to demonstrate an understanding of an interprofessional team approach to develop a safe treatment and discharge plan, including conducting a family meeting.

Ultimately all students have a better understanding for real-world collaborations in health care settings and establish appreciation for each other's critical role in patient care.

Based on a 2011 report of an expert Panel IPE collaborative, primary goals for the event are:

- Interprofessional Team Collaboration
- Values for Interprofessional Practice
- Interprofessional Roles and Responsibilities
- Interprofessional Communication
- Interprofessional Teamwork

Students responded to post session surveys asking them to describe the most important impact the simulation experience had on their growth as a team member with the following:

"The most important impact the simulation experience had on my growth as a team member was that working together with other health care professionals can be beneficial to the patient. Experts in different aspects of the patient's care can utilize what they learned or experienced and together the group can find an optimal patient plan."

"Being able to hear the perspectives of other health care professionals and working together to improve the health of the patient."

"Seeing the different approaches of different professions."

"Just to be able to see what each profession had to bring to the table in terms of deciding patient care."

"I really appreciated being valued as a member of the team even if we were a distant site."

"It was interesting to see how we all worked as a team together."

"It's good to use everyone's strengths to provide the best health care."

"Understanding what each member's role is, first hand, helped a lot."

Ms. Juszczak noted more opportunities for IPE are being incorporated into the curriculum at DKICP, one of which was introduced in spring 2016 for second year students and more will be forthcoming for students in all years of the program.

"Plans are for HIPTCS to remain an integral part of the PharmD program with all third-year students participating in exercises prior to starting advanced experiential rotations in the fourth year of the program to develop students who are 'practice-ready and team-ready,'" she said.

# Student pharmacists collaborate with other professions to improve motivational interviewing skills

By Kelli Goo and Quan Truong (Both Class of 2018)

What do pharmacy, nursing practice, and counseling psychology students have in common? They all have a strong desire to improve the health and well-being of their patients and clients. As student pharmacists, we often give advice, make suggestions, or provide solutions when our



Motivational trainer Christine Park and Dr. Forrest Batz

patients approach us with a problem. Although the information is supported by scientific evidence, sometimes what we say is shortly forgotten or ignored. In order to make a lasting impact on the lives of our patients, the desire to change must come from within them. This is where motivational interviewing comes into play.

Motivational interviewing is an effective counseling style for eliciting a behavioral change and helping patients to find their own personal motivation. On Saturday, January 16, Dr. Forrest Batz coordinated an interprofessional education Motivational Interviewing Training event at UH Hilo. Under the guidance of motivational trainer Christine Park, with support from a dozen facilitators, pharmacy, nursing practice, and counseling psychology students spent the day learning and working together as a team to discuss and practice motivational interviewing skills. Students from all three programs were able to improve their counseling techniques and apply them to



Student pharmacists describe their role in health care to counseling psychology students.

situations seen in practice.

The training showed the advantages of using an interprofessional and interdisciplinary approach to improving patient outcomes. Student pharmacist, Jeffrey Tang, said “The Motivational Interviewing Training was a great experience! We were able to network with other professionals from different islands as well as learn how the (members of) different professions work with their patients.”

Although the students were from different fields of health care, each profession was able to apply the principles learned during the day-long training. Student pharmacist, Miles Roberts stated: “The training taught us how to approach a patient in future counseling situations. I focused my thoughts on how motivational interviewing would be useful in helping a patient who is struggling with smoking cessation. We could even use it to counsel on healthy lifestyle changes for patients with diabetes or hypertension.”

The motivational interviewing training was a day well spent, and we look forward to future interprofessional education opportunities.

## Pacific Islands Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program brings together health care professionals to help aging population throughout Pacific region

DKICP Interim Dean Carolyn Ma and Dr. Camlyn Masuda are part of a team of University of Hawai'i physicians, pharmacists, nurses and social workers working throughout Hawai'i on a three-year project designed to improve health outcomes for older adults by improving collaboration among the health care team.

Funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Pacific Islands Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program serves all islands in Hawai'i as well as Guam, American Samoa, the Marshall Islands and Palau.

The organizational lineup includes Dean Ma, Project Director Dr. Aida Wen, University of Hawai'i, John A. Burns

School of Medicine (JABSOM); Associate Director Dr. Kamal Masaki, JABSOM; Dr. Cheynie Nakano, JABSOM; Dr. Lauren Okamoto, JABSOM; Dr. Lovedhi Aggarwal JABSOM; Michelle Bray, UH School of Nursing; Bum Jung Kim, JABSOM Department of Social Work; Katherine Kim, JABSOM; and Valerie Yontz, UH-Manoa Office of Public Health Studies and Department of Public Health Sciences

Multiple projects include working with community organizations and clinical sites to insert geriatric training and develop methods of evaluation that will help monitor the impact on patients. The goal is to transform primary care clinical training sites, with a focus on rural and underserved populations, into two primary care training sites per year.

One of those sites is the Physician Center at Mililani, which currently has training for family medicine residents and pharmacy students. Dr. Masuda, who is an assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice, is the pharmacist preceptor in Mililani. She supervises and directs student pharmacists in performing medication reconciliation, updating immunizations and making recommendations for medication therapy in elderly patients.



*Participants in the grant implementation, which includes nurses, social work, medical students and pharmacy students, met at Mililani.*

Pharmacists and student pharmacists review patients' medication lists for drug interactions or modifications due to age, based on the "Beer's Criteria," which are lists of potentially inappropriate medications for older adults who are not receiving hospice or palliative care.

The first Medicare wellness clinic was held at the Physician Center as part of the project on Feb. 12. DKICP student pharmacist Eric Sanders (Class of 2016), assisted with performing medication reconciliation and updating

immunizations for the patients that attended our Medicare wellness clinic. He also developed a template for future pharmacy students helping with the project to review during each visit to help identify any medication problems or medications to avoid/decrease dose in the elderly.

Dr. Masuda said she believes that working with nursing and social work students will provide a different perspective to managing patients, while helping to identify any social or lifestyle problems or issues that may also affect medication adherence or selection of appropriate medications.

Administrators of the project plan to collect data at the Mililani clinic in order to refine program activities in future clinics throughout the project plan. The project is funded through June 2018 with expansion this next fall to other clinics including Kokua Kalihi Valley (KKV) a federally health qualified clinic in Honolulu and in the final year to include the Hawai'i Island Family Medicine clinic in Hilo.

## Project ECHO blends medical education with care management in innovative training program

Dr. Elizabeth Ackerman is one of the pharmacist representatives for Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes), a multi-disciplinary project that uses videoconferencing to connect and share information with teams of rural health care providers consisting mainly of physicians across the state. She is participating in the Project ECHO Endocrinology group. Dr. Ackerman is assistant professor in DKICP's Department of Pharmacy Practice.



*Elizabeth Ackerman*

Also representing DKICP is Dr. Laurie Uehara, a post-graduate year one (PGY1) resident who is training at Straub Clinic and Hospital on Oahu. Dr. Uehara is the pharmacist representative for Project ECHO's Behavior Health Group working alongside psychiatrists, psychologists, nurse practitioners, social workers, and case managers across the state.

Project ECHO is an innovative telehealth model that was launched in New Mexico as a way for physicians to

reach Hepatitis C patients in rural areas. It has since spread to be a model in 22 states and 5 countries, and has expanded its scope to treat many diseases and specialties. The Hawai'i State Rural Health Association serves as the lead agency for ECHO Hawai'i, where tele-clinics are held each week for 1.5 hours for 12 sessions. Participants have the option to join using their computer, tablet, or even smart phone.

Topics of discussion include diabetes, hormone replacement therapies, osteoporosis and thyroid disorders. Behavioral health topics include bipolar disorder, anxiety, and substance use disorder. Drs. Ackerman and Uehara offer education on each of the topic areas from a pharmacy standpoint.

ECHO Hawai'i Steering Committee includes Dr. Kelley Withy, professor, Complementary & Alternative Medicine and director, Hawai'i/Pacific Basin

AHEC, John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM), University of Hawai'i; Dr. Daniel Saltman, associate clinical professor, JABSOM, Internist, Waikiki Health Center; Anne M. Chipchase, Community Advocate, 'Ohana Health Plan; Gregg Kishaba, Rural Health Coordinator, Office of Primary Care & Rural Health, Hawai'i State Department of Health; Deborah Birkmire-Peters, program director, Pacific Basin Telehealth Resource Center, Telehealth Research Institute, JABSOM; Robin Pilus, Census Bureau field representative, National Health Survey, community healthcare worker; and Napua Spock, public health administration, representative, Hawai'i State Rural Health Association.



*Laurie Uehara*

For more information on Project ECHO® Hawaii visit <http://www.echohawaii.org>. For more information on the Hawai'i State Rural Health Association visit <http://www.hawaiiastateruralhealth.org>

## Natural products chemist teams with marine biologists on grant

Dr. Shugeng Cao, associate professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, is part of a multi-disciplinary group that will conduct research on the accumulation of undesirable organisms on marine surfaces. The project is funded by a grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

The grant will support research to understand the mechanisms by which marine biofilm bacteria—bacteria that live in slime films on the surfaces of all objects submerged in the sea—induce the settling of larvae of marine invertebrate animals.

With this grant, a UH research team will focus on a small



tube worm, *Hydroides elegans*, that settles onto marine surfaces in warm ocean waters around the world where they form masses of hard, calcified tubes.

The team, led by professor Michael Hadfield at the Kewalo Marine Laboratory, Pacific Biosciences Research Center in the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology at UH Mānoa, also includes larval biologist Brian Nedved (Kewalo Marine Laboratory), microbiologist Rosie Alegado (Daniel K. Inouye Center for Microbial Oceanography: Research and Education, Department of Oceanography, Sea Grant) at UH Mānoa.

## New programs offer opportunity to specialize

The University of Hawai'i at Hilo has approved two new programs that will allow students earning their PharmD degree to earn specialization certificates at no additional cost or time.

Student pharmacists will be able to earn the Healthcare Leadership certificate, giving them a basic foundation in business administration with a concentration in health care leadership. Students also will have an opportunity to earn a certificate in Health Science Research, giving them an education in research methodology.

"These certificates offer avenues not available at many other colleges," said Matthew S. Platz, vice chancellor for academic affairs. "They enrich the pharmacy program by helping Pharm.D. students become more competitive in the job market. It's a very exciting direction for our College of Pharmacy."

The new certificates are available to all PharmD students who have passed their first year as long as they have maintained a 3.0 GPA, said Karen Pellegrin, director of strategic planning and continuing education at DKICP. The coursework for each certificate will utilize existing courses along with new or modified subjects that allow the program to run concurrent with work on the PharmD degree.

"Through collaboration with the College of Business and Economics, the Healthcare Leadership certificate leverages our existing courses that are business oriented," Pellegrin said. "Students who complete this program will have a better understanding of the business side of the healthcare industry and, thus, will likely have a competitive advantage in the job market."

The Health Science Research certificate gives PharmD students experience implementing a research project, said Deborah Taira, associate professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice.

"This program aligns student coursework to support research activities in both academic departments of pharmaceutical sciences as well as pharmacy practice," Taira said. "This will help our students be more competitive for postgraduate residency programs, which are increasingly required for jobs in clinical and academic settings."

Both certificate programs have courses that are already required courses in the PharmD program, Pellegrin said. In addition, both certificate programs require students to use their PharmD elective credits for certificate courses.

"This is just another way to give value added to the already valuable PharmD degree," Pellegrin said.

Both certificates will be available to students who begin the PharmD program in the fall of 2016.



# UH Hilo names interim associate dean of College of Pharmacy

Supakit Wongwiwatthananutit will serve as interim associate dean for the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy (DKICP) while the University of Hawai'i at Hilo conducts a nation-wide search to fill the vacant position. Former Associate Dean Edward Fisher announced his departure from UH Hilo in December, effective Jan. 1.



Wongwiwatthananutit, who is known as Dr. Supakit by the students, has been on faculty in the Department of Pharmacy Practice at DKICP since 2008, first as assistant professor, then was promoted to associate professor in 2011. A patient-oriented researcher who is a licensed pharmacist in Hawai'i, Illinois and Thailand, he has been active in mentoring student leaders in pharmacy, and is the advisor for the

college's Rho Chi Society, the academic honor society in pharmacy. He also has taken the lead in establishing agreements with four universities in his native Thailand, and initiated and coordinated the membership of DKICP into the prestigious US-Thai Consortium.

"The college will be undergoing constant scrutiny by the national accreditation board, so it's key that the leadership maintains the level of excellence already established," said Matthew Platz, vice chancellor for academic affairs. "Dr. Supakit is admired and respected by students and faculty alike because of his personable style and work ethic, but he has the academic background to help lead in this curriculum-based position during this key time."

He earned his bachelor's degree in pharmacy from Prince of Songkhla University, Songkhla, Thailand. He went on to receive his Pharm.D. summa cum laude at the University of Illinois at Chicago, as well as his master's degree in science and his Ph.D. from Purdue University. He is certified in Tobacco Intervention Skills by the Hawai'i State Health Department and in Pharmacy-Based Immunization Delivery for a Faculty Trainer by the American Pharmacists Association (APhA).

"Dr. Wongwiwatthananutit possesses a strong and demonstrated commitment to a high quality professional and graduate education, student success and retention, and faculty recruitment and development," said Interim Dean Carolyn Ma. "He has facilitated and coordinated department

program guidelines and reviews, worked on diversity initiatives and staff recruitment and retention, professional development, and faculty mentoring for DKICP. He is most definitely a leader in our College."

Within DKICP, Wongwiwatthananutit has chaired the Ph.D. Curriculum Committee, Promotion and Tenure Committee, Assessment Committee, Department/Division Personnel Committee, and various Faculty Search Committees.

His experience throughout 13 years in supervising and mentoring students includes being the major and/or co-advisor for research projects, thesis, and dissertation works with 29 graduate students, 24 Pharm.D. students, and two postdoctoral fellows including minority and underrepresented students (e.g., Native Hawaiian, Native American, Hispanic). He also mentors junior faculty members within the DKICP in designing and implementing instructional innovation courses/rotations and transforming this scholarship of teaching and learning into presentations and publications in prestigious journals including the American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education and the Currents in Pharmacy Teaching and Learning.

He has won Excellence in Teaching Award multiple times, most recently in May 2015. He is the author of more than 50 research and review articles in peer-reviewed professional journals, has authored and coauthored nine books, and has presented more than 30 podium/poster abstract presentations in professional meetings.

Wongwiwatthananutit is the recipient of over 25 research grants from several agencies for his work, and has been the winner of numerous awards for his research efforts, including the Nagai Award for Pharmacy Practice Research, Jenkins-Knevel Award for Excellence Research in Pharmacy Practice, and Outstanding Poster Presentation Award for Pharmacy Practice in the Research Conference in pharmaceutical sciences. He was recently awarded a US Patent with his co-inventors, one provisional patent application, and one invention disclosures from the compounds derived from *Vernonia cinerea*. He has also served as editorial board member for four international journals, journal reviewer for 14 journals, and several well-known book reviewers in the area of pharmacy, tobacco cessation, and evidence-based practice for health professionals.

"Dr. Wongwiwatthananutit's extensive and effective experience as a faculty member makes him well qualified to be appointed as the Interim Associate Dean of Academic Affairs," Ma said.



## Psychopharmacology conference features science behind medical marijuana

A researcher on the science of medical marijuana was a featured speaker to a packed house as part of a conference at the Outrigger Reef on



Speakers at the Psychopharmacology Conference included (from left): Drs. Kevin Hill, director of the Substance Abuse Consultation Service at McLean Hospital, Harvard Medical School; Karen A. Miotto, director, UCLA Addiction Psychiatry Service, associate professor, Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences, UCLA and Jon Streltzer, program director, Addiction Psychiatry, John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM), University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry, JABSOM.

the Beach Hotel, Waikiki on O`ahu Feb. 3-5. The conference, which attracted more than 60 participants, was targeted toward health care providers, but members of the public also attended.

Dr. Kevin Hill, author of "The Unbiased Truth About The World's Most Popular Weed," discussed recent statistics, why marijuana is complicated and marijuana myths and what he says is the science behind them. Dr. Hill is the director of the Substance Abuse Consultation Service at McLean Hospital, the largest psychiatric hospital affiliated with Harvard Medical School. He also is on faculty in the Department of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School.

His presentation was part of the 2016 Psychopharmacology Conference presented jointly by the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy (DKICP), the University of Hawai'i at Manoa John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) and the American Association of Professional Nurses (AAPN). The main topics for the three-day seminar were depression, substance abuse disorders and medical marijuana.

"As the State Department of Health in Hawai'i begins considering applications for medical marijuana dispensaries, we were fortunate to access a leading national clinical and research expert on a topic that's certainly not new to Hawai'i," said Karen Pellegrin, DKICP director of continuing

education and strategic planning. "Many people, professionals and lay people alike, are looking for answers in order to understand the science behind its use. Dr. Hill is well qualified to provide some substance to the conversation."

Additional speakers included:

Dr. Brett Lu, attending physician of treatment-resistant and geriatric psychiatry consult clinics at Queen's Medical Center and associate professor in the Department of Psychiatry at UH-Manoa. Dr. Lu talked about pharmacogenomics, new procedures for depression treatment and provide a general workup for difficult-to-treat depression.

Dr. Karen A. Miotto, director of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Addiction Psychiatry Service and associate professor in UCLA's Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences. Dr. Miotto gave an update on alcohol pharmacotherapy and discuss challenges in treating prescription medication-use disorders.

The event was eligible for APA CE, ACPE, and CME Credit. For more information on Continuing Education events, see <http://pharmacy.uhh.hawaii.edu/ce/>

# Pharmacy's psychopharmacology program gains APA approval

The Master of Science in Clinical Psychopharmacology (MSCP) program offered through the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy (DKICP) at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo has been granted American Psychological Association (APA) designation. The designation is valid for three years.

DKICP applied for the recognition to APA's Designation Committee for Postdoctoral Education and Training Programs in Psychopharmacology for Prescriptive Authority, referred to as the RxP Designation Committee. The purpose of designation is to afford public recognition of education and training programs that meet certain minimum standards.

"This classification supplies our MSCP program with substantial credentials to actively compete on a national level with other programs throughout the country," said Carolyn Ma, DKICP interim dean. "We have already distinguished ourselves as the first MSCP program in the U.S. that is operating entirely within a college of pharmacy. This APA designation shows we know what we're doing."

DKICP's MSCP program is open to eligible candidates who already have earned a doctoral degree in clinical



AMERICAN  
PSYCHOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

psychology with an active license to practice psychology. This post-doctoral training prepares the student for professional advancement to become a clinical psychopharmacologist, for which Program Coordinator Judi Steinman said pharmacy faculty is uniquely suited to train.

"With the increasing number of patients being prescribed psychotropic drugs, it's critical for psychologists to have this type of training," said Steinman, who was responsible for preparing the justification for the program to gain APA designation. "We're excited to take the lead in attracting this group of professionals to UH Hilo, and look forward to increased interaction with many other departments."

The APA established this process to designate postdoctoral education and training programs in psychopharmacology as a response to advances that have occurred in psychopharmacology education and training and prescriptive authority legislation in recent years.

The designation sets a criteria of standards that must be met in order to be recognized by the APA as approved post-doctoral training, and makes DKICP part of an elite group of institutions to gain this approval, Steinman said.

## Future student pharmacists tour campus

*By Jennifer Aguiar, Clinical Education Support Specialist, Department of Pharmacy Practice*

On February 16, four Kamehameha Hawaii Campus High School juniors joined the DKICP campus for their annual career shadow day.

Each year I find enjoyment in the increasing number of Hawaiian students who are excited to become pharmacist. The opportunity to be able to stay close to home, stay near their ohana, and be able to achieve a doctorate degree in pharmacy, has increased their interest in a pharmacy career for many Native Hawaiians.

This year our fourth-year pharmacy student, Necole Miyazaki, with the help of her classmate Kimberly Victorine, crafted an exciting and educational career day for the students. From taking a mock call-in prescription, counting, labeling, and compounding mock medications, the Kamehameha students got a taste of what a pharmacist does in a retail setting. They also had the chance to garb up and experience how it feels to work in a sterile environment.

The overall day was a huge success, but the biggest reward is knowing that Native Hawaiian students could be the key in helping close the gap in health disparities among the Native Hawaiian population. While remaining steadfast in their Hawaiian values, they will become educated in medication and disease management. They will be able to



*From left: Jesse Albrechtson, Cienna-Lei Daog, Necole Miyazaki (DKICP Class of 2016), Rainan Awai and Kaimilani Kipapa (Photo by Jennifer Aguiar)*

intertwine their traditions and pharmacy knowledge to help their communities, and be able to relate to the culture and give trusted advice.

I am deeply humbled and proud to be a part of this process. Holo i mua!



*(From left in front): Drs. John Mercer, Robert Langer and James Kenyan met with interested faculty from the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences that included (from left in back): Drs. Shugeng Cao, Ghee Tan, Susan Jarvi, Leng Chee Chang, Karen Pellegrin, Ingo Koomoa-Lange and Aaron Jacobs. (Photo by Tracey Niimi)*

## DKICP attracts consortium to scope out areas of research

Representatives from a consortium with federal funding for research paid a visit to the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy at UH Hilo on Dec. 19 to explore areas of collaboration and discover ways they can leverage existing resources for future research.

The Mountain West Clinical Translational Research - Infrastructure Network (CTR-IN) "identifies and facilitates the development of researchers" in seven states, including Hawai'i, Alaska, Montana, New Mexico, Wyoming, Idaho and Nevada. CTR-IN has been funded since 2013 by a grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) through the National Institute of General Medical Sciences under the Institutional Development Award (IDeA) program.

The principal investigator for the grant is Dr. Robert Langer, a physician and epidemiologist who holds faculty appointments at the School of Medicine at the University of

Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) as well as at the School of Allied Health Sciences. He also serves as the associate dean for clinical and translational research at the medical school.

Also on the team visiting were Drs. John Mercer, the executive associate dean in the Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition Sciences, and James Kenyan, professor and associate dean of research in the Department of Physiology and Cell Biology, both from UNLV.

This was the first visit to UH Hilo from the team. Interaction with the University of Hawai'i until now has been with the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) at UH-Manoa and with medical school Dean Hedges and Interim Dean Ma's collaboration, both schools are hopeful for an extension of CTRN-IN's involvement with UH professional health programs.



# Future health care professionals give nod to DKICP faculty

Students from HOSA – Future Health Professionals presented a faculty appreciation certificate at the DKICP faculty meeting Feb. 10. The group, which was celebrating its national HOSA week, consists of undergraduates and high school students interested in a career in health care.

“DKICP faculty has dedicated their time and energy to build future healthcare professionals and leaders to better our community’s health and wellness,” said chapter president Lark Jason Morin Canico. “The dedication of our DKICP faculty keeps HOSA members inspired to excel in our studies and to pursue a degree in the medical profession so we too can make difference in our community.”

HOSA, which has 53 members at UH Hilo, is comprised of students of different majors and concentrations including pre-nursing, pre-pharmacy, chemistry, biology, communication, kinesiology, psychology, pre-med, and undeclared students who joined HOSA to explore the medical pathway. Graduate students and middle school/intermediate level also are eligible to join the HOSA organization.

“UH Hilo HOSA is a very strong organization that does a great deal to encourage students to do community service,” said Dr. Judi Steinman, instructor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and co-adviser of the group along with Dr. Cecilia Mukai, professor of nursing.

HOSA’s community outreach includes activities such as community clean ups, community events and the Hawai’i Blue-Zones project, which is a wellness program sponsored by HMSA. Along with showing faculty on campus their appreciation, activities during HOSA week included food drives, a scavenger hunt, costume party and potluck.



“Our monthly meetings and banquets give members the opportunity to network with each other and other professionals,” Canico said. Steinman was the keynote speaker for the winter UH Hilo HOSA banquet.

HOSA also is a Career Technical Student Organization that is active in attending Regional, State, and International Conferences / Competition.

According to Canico: “During the conferences, we compete in medical related events that can coincide with our career choice in addition to attending workshops and educational symposiums.

Drs. Steinman and Elizabeth Ackerman, assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice, were presenters in the 2016 Hawai’i HOSA State Leadership Conference in Honolulu Feb. 25.

“I see the group as a logical gateway to recruiting students to the pharmacy school and allied health professions,” said Steinman, who will be traveling to Nashville in June with the UH Hilo HOSA team members who won first, second or third place in the state competition, including Justin Fujiwara, Devin Tanaka, Leslie Arce, Rachel Felix, Ridge Cabaccang, Sheldon Cabudol, Kelly Gani, Kahaku Lum Ho, Shane Naeole, Alohalyn Espejo, Rheeliza Pira and Jerold Cabel.



Members from the student-led undergraduate and high school organization HOSA-Future Health Professionals who gathered at the February faculty meeting were (from left): Courtney Guirao, HOSA Week Chairperson, Ridge Cabaccang, general member, Judi Steinman, HOSA co-Adviser and DKICP faculty, Lark Jason Morin Canico, HOSA president, Roxanne Paragas, HOSA Week chairperson and Kelly Gani, HOSA vice president.



## Holidays combine business with pleasure

DKICP celebrated the holidays with a party at Nani Mau Gardens, courtesy in part from a generous donation from members of the Executive Committee. The party took place after the December faculty meeting. As Interim Dean Carolyn Ma said: "The holidays are a time to celebrate the abundance in our lives and be thankful for those who have supported us during the year. I am thankful for all of you in our DKICP 'ohana and the privilege to serve as your interim dean." (Photos by Tracey Niimi)



# Local pharmacies team with students on Operation Diabetes

By Miles Roberts (Class of 2018) and Rhea Castro (Class of 2017)

Operation Diabetes is a subset of DKICP's APhA-ASP student organization. This operation focusses on educating the community about diabetes through A1C screenings at locations around the Big Island.

The two local pharmacies that have partnered with our group are Walgreens and Shiigi Drug. We typically plan one event at each location each month. We also work with KTA at some of the health screenings they conduct around Big Island at various locations.

Usually four individuals from our group plan one and a half to two hours at each location per screening and spend their time testing local community members' A1C levels. These levels are useful because they give an average level of the percentage of sugar in an individuals' bloodstream over the past three months. The patient doesn't have to be fasting to get an accurate reading and each patient is able to learn about what values indicate a possible diagnosis of diabetes.

In the past three months we have conducted three screening events and screened 32 community members. Of those individuals, we were able to help refer four of them to their primary care provider to further investigate their risk for



diabetes.

Beyond just the numerical statistics, Operation Diabetes has educated individuals to live healthy lives through motivational interviewing techniques. We have connected with individuals on a personal level and made differences in their lives. Without the help of LEF funding we wouldn't be able to accomplish these great achievements and develop our student members as future health professionals.

# Operation Vaccination helps keep community healthy

By Katrina Kutter (Class of 2018) and Shaun Lasky (Class of 2017)  
Operation Immunization Co-chairs

The American Pharmacists Association- Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) Operation Immunization recently capped another successful season of administering flu vaccinations and providing education to members of the community.

Through our partnership with Walgreens, student pharmacists were able to give 237 flu shots at 16 clinics to patients in primarily underserved locations such as the Pahoia HOPE Services Homeless Drive and Narcotics Anonymous meetings. We were able to increase our numbers from the 149 shots we gave last year last year, and we are already planning additional events for next year to reach even more people.



Katrina Kutter gives fellow Operation Immunization cochair Shaun Lasky his yearly flu shot

In addition to providing vaccinations, Operation Immunization has spent their time educating the community on vaccine preventable diseases such as human papilloma virus (HPV), measles, shingles, and pneumonia. This year also saw the creation of a new educational board addressing common myths and misconceptions about vaccines, as there are a lot of people who have heard misinformation and may be vaccine hesitant.

We specifically would like to thank Drs. Erin Samura, Kanani Nagahama, and Ken Everly (a DKICP alum), along with Dr. Supakit for their time and availability to precept for us at these events! Mahalo!

# ASHP midyear conference in New Orleans attracts thousands

By Arnold Sano (Class of 2016)

Excitement, overwhelming, and full of hope: These are the words I would use to describe my experience at the 50th American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Midyear Clinical Meeting and Exhibition, which was held Dec. 6-10 at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, Louisiana (NOLA). This meeting has been called the largest in the world for the pharmacy profession, with more than 20,000 attendees. This was my first time I have been to a ASHP conference and I had no idea what to expect.

Earlier in the week, my classmates Leilani Isozaki and Eric Sanders participated in the Clinical Skills Competition to represent our school. Then the following days involved student workshops, student poster sessions and residency showcase.

There were a good number



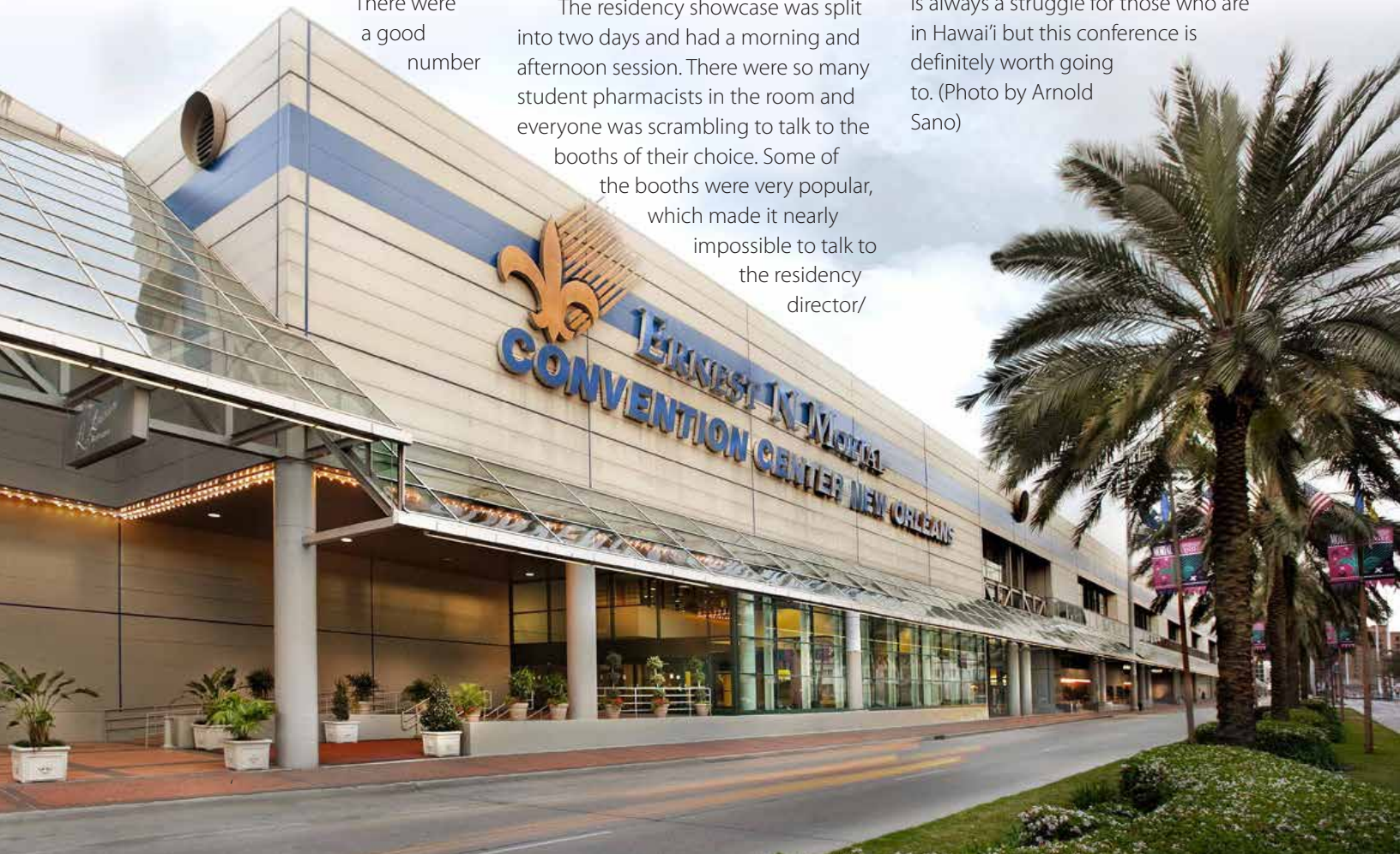
of us who had a poster to display at the student poster sessions. There was a wide variety of research presented from health care cost to drug research. Doing research is part of the residency program so it would be a good skill to have if you are considering doing a residency. The poster session went well for everyone and now the focus shifted to the residency showcase. This is where the overwhelming part came into play.

The residency showcase was split into two days and had a morning and afternoon session. There were so many student pharmacists in the room and everyone was scrambling to talk to the booths of their choice. Some of the booths were very popular, which made it nearly impossible to talk to the residency director/

residents. This session is very important for fourth-year students who are considering a residency because it gives you a sense of whether or not you really want to apply there or not. I was able to cross a few off of my list after visiting the booths. You can also perhaps write it in your letter of intention that you have actually spoken to the residency director/residents.

Overall my experience at the ASHP midyear was very positive and I would recommend everyone who is interested in doing a residency to attend the conference. The atmosphere there is amazing and seeing/learning about the advancement made in our field was truly inspirational.

The field of pharmacy is still growing and has the potential to become something great. Traveling is always a struggle for those who are in Hawai'i but this conference is definitely worth going to. (Photo by Arnold Sano)



# Kappa Psi welcomes new members

By Kevin Meno (Class of 2017) and Lauren Simpson (Class of 2018)  
Epsilon Psi Historians

This semester marks a very special time of the year for our chapter with the welcoming of our newest brothers, the Epsilon class. With the introduction of the newest members of our family comes an increase in helping hands for community service and promotion of the values our fraternity holds to the utmost importance.

In January, the Epsilon Psi chapter was proud to initiate 23 new Brothers into Kappa Psi. Our new Brothers have accomplished a great deal with much work and dedication. From learning about the history of our fraternity to creating close ties with one another, they have attained a status that only the truly passionate and diligent have come to receive. The Epsilon class has completed their pledging journey and now embark on the greater journey of being a Brother and making great contributions to the chapter. We would like to thank all the active Brothers who have put in a lot of time and hard work to make this pledging process run smoothly.

Being a Brother allows us to help make changes to better the community. As a collective whole, we can promote wellness and

really help those around us, even on a small scale. This semester, Brothers have volunteered their time to Hilo's Adult Day Center, Sanctuary Ocean Count, and our campus blood drive. At the Adult Day Center, Brothers helped with building maintenance to keep the center in safe condition. This is especially important due to the large population of elderly people, physically/mentally challenged adults, and staff people that frequent the center's services. As part of the Sanctuary Ocean Count, Brothers helped keep track of migrating humpback whales that frequent the waters around Hawaii. The numbers of adult whales and calves are monitored, along with various whale behaviors. Finally, Brothers helped assist at this semester's campus blood drive by directing donors and providing refreshments.

In addition to community service, Brothers have been busy raising money for the chapter and for charity. With the hard work of Fundraising Chair Amber Uto, Epsilon Psi has held food sales, car washes, and is even selling special Kappa Psi license plates! Kappa Psi Brothers have also partnered with Phi

Delta Chi to jointly raise money for Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Hawaii in an interfraternal fundraising effort in our first annual Greek Week. Brothers from both fraternities battled for domination in kickball and tug-of-war, crawled, hopped and ran their way through an obstacle course, baked a number of sweet treats for a charity bake-off and had their faces pied in an effort to raise over \$2500. A big thank you to Interfraternal Chair Vivian Tran for helping coordinate this successful event and to all who participated!

The Brothers of Epsilon Psi chapter of Kappa Psi will continue to promote excellence and service this semester. There is much work to be done, but that has never deterred any brother of Kappa Psi. We wish the best to our fourth year brothers on rotations and our graduate brothers near and far! One for all and all for one! (Photo by Kevin Meno)



# Annual blood drive gives students a chance to help out

By Lam Le (Class of 2018)

Every two seconds, someone in the United States needs blood and 1 in 7 people entering the hospital will use blood, according to the Blood Bank of Hawai'i. A single blood donation takes about 45 minutes and requires one pint out of the ten pints in an average adult. Each pint of blood can save three lives. This simple act of giving can make a huge difference not only for Hawai'i's patients, but also for all their loved ones.

On January 28, DKICP's National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) student chapter hosted this year's Annual Blood Drive in lower campus at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. This event is a tradition to NCPA as they continue to work with the Blood Bank of Hawai'i and save lives for the past few years. Preparation starts in early fall semester, as this is one of NCPA's biggest events each year.

Many helping hands were involved not just from NCPA or the Blood Bank of Hawai'i staff, but as well as collaborative efforts made by other student organizations: Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity, Inc. and American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists.

On the day of the blood drive, student pharmacists oversaw the food/refreshment table and welcomed donors and walk-ins as they made their way to the entrance of the blood drive, while the Blood Bank of Hawai'i staff carried out



pre-screening checks and collected blood from donors.

With the Blood Bank of Hawai'i staff and student pharmacists' hard work and dedication, it was indeed a successful drive with 111 donors registered, 18 were first-time donors, and 83 units of blood were collected.

This year marks the first time eDonor (an online appointment system) was utilized. The diverse group of donors ranging from the DKICP student pharmacists and staff, UH Hilo's student body and staff, and members of the Hilo community is what made the drive successful. NCPA is graciously thankful for the opportunity to work with the Blood Bank of Hawai'i to save lives. NCPA's student pharmacists continue to serve their community through providing valuable public service and improve Hawai'i's health through education, awareness and prevention. (Photo by Lam Le)

## National officer visits UH Hilo

By Mari Cid (Class of 2017)

This semester, the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) Student Chapter at the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy (DKICP) received a visit from a national officer of the Student Leadership Council of NCPA.

Fourth-year student pharmacist Patrick Andrew Stolz made his first ever visit to Hawai'i to come to the beautiful city of Hilo and find out what the NCPA Student Chapter at DKICP could do to grow. Patrick Stolz along with President Mari Cid (Class of 2017), David Nguyen (Class of 2017), and Lam Le (President-Elect) had meetings with both Interim Dean Carolyn Ma and faculty advisor George Karvas about how NCPA can expand from the perspective of the faculty.

Patrick Stolz and company also met with DKICP's NCPA Executive Board. Board members were given a chance to ask questions pertaining to their positions about events and ideas that are executed with NCPA chapters on the mainland in hopes of being inspired to implement new ideas in Hilo. Lastly, Patrick Stolz was introduced to the NCPA general body



From left, David Nguyen (NCPA Vice President, Class of 2017), Lam Le (NCPA President Elect, Class of 2018), Mari Cid (NCPA President, Class of 2017), Patrick Stolz (NCPA SLC Officer), and Dean Carolyn Ma.

where he was able to speak more about NCPA on a national level and the vast opportunities students have in NCPA both on a chapter and national level.

The NCPA Student Chapter has always had a strong presence at DKICP and as the role of a pharmacist continues to grow throughout the years, NCPA grows along with it. As a the voice of the community pharmacist, we strive to represent and advocate all matter pertaining to our practice. With the visitation of Patrick Stolz, our NCPA Student Chapter is newly inspired and motivated to expand and contribute to the mission of support our student pharmacists.

# Fourth annual compounding boot camp gives students taste of different dosage forms

By Mari Cid (Class of 2017)

The Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy's National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) Student Chapter presented its fourth annual Professional Compounding Centers of America (PCCA) Remote Compounding Boot Camp on February 27-28.

PCCA is a nationally well-known compounding pharmacy company that offers this introductory course on compounding. The NCPA Student Chapter was delighted to have two



returning representatives from PCCA, Drs. Bindhu Batra, and Madison Peach, as instructors for this course.

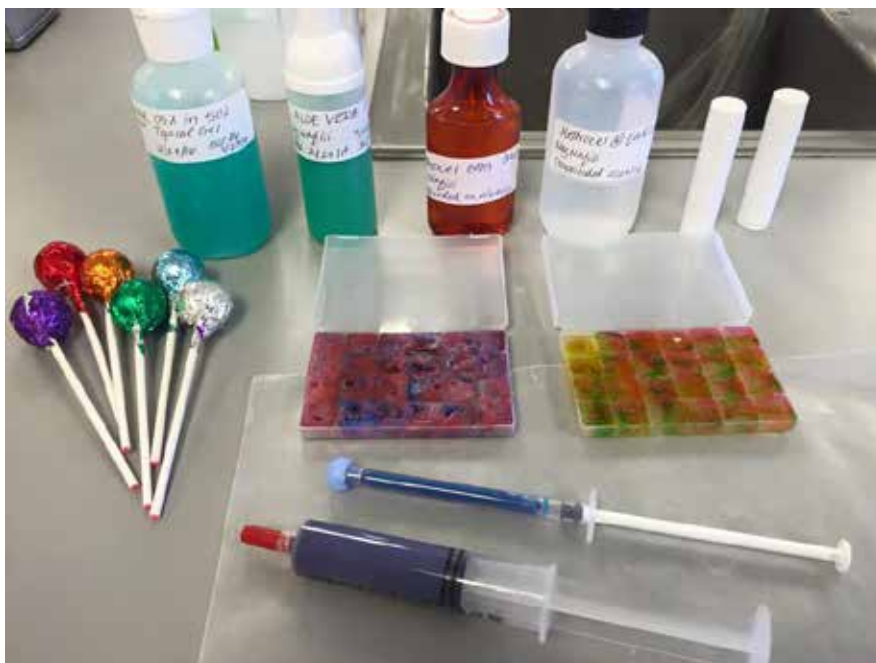
During these two full days of bootcamp, 25 student pharmacists were exposed to the field of compounding pharmacy through lectures, hands-on laboratory experience, real-life applications, patient cases, patient counseling, and given insight to a career path in this niche field of pharmacy. By the end of this compounding boot camp, each student pharmacist took home eleven different

dosage forms they each made, ranging from lollipops, lip balm, troches, and topical foams and gels.

In addition, student pharmacists received a certificate of completion for this introductory compounding course, which makes them eligible for additional future advance compounding courses provided by PCCA.

Through this compounding boot camp, student pharmacists learned to personalize their compounds from the dose, flavor, dosage form, and excipients to fit the needs of the specific patient. Students are given a chance to network with these compounding pharmacy professionals from the institute of PCCA, who are dedicated to educate and inspire students to a career path in compounding pharmacy, which in turn develops high-quality and well-rounded student pharmacists at the DKICP.

The PCCA Compounding Boot Camp is a great opportunity for student pharmacists to expand their perspective on the pharmacy in terms of practice and career path. NCPA and PCCA continue building a great relationship and continue to support the students at DKICP. (Photos by Mari Cid)



# Student Council Updates

### **Class of 2017**

The 2015 Annual Winter Formal was another successful Class of 2017 Student Council fundraising event. Chaired by AJ Jose, Hannah Shin, and Melissa Giachetti, the Hilo Naniloa Hotel was transformed into a winter wonderland oasis with handmade starfish, wood centerpieces, and floating snowflakes. The 113 students and friends in attendance enjoyed pupus, refreshments, and music by our own IT specialist Reid Kubo. As with past Winter Formals, the highlight of the night was the “Mr. and Mrs. Pharmacy” competition with two contestants representing each class. All participants tactfully answered questions about life in pharmacy school and displayed their talents, but it was Garret Hino (Class of 2018) and Leigh Heffner (Class of 2019) that took home the crown! Overall it was an amazing time of fun and relaxation that gave students an opportunity to unwind from the academic life all while supporting the Class of 2017. This year's Winter Formal raised more than \$3000 and will be used towards a gift from the Class of 2017 for the new permanent building.

### **Class of 2018**

Near the beginning of the school year, the Class Council of 2018 held the annual Mentor Potluck event at the Student Life Center Pool. The mentor/mentee program was designed entirely by students for each incoming class to provide a P2 mentor for any P1 student who wishes to participate. The mentors act as a guide and resource for their mentee as the first-year class adjusts to their new life at DKICP. The 2018 Class Council carefully matched all participating second-year student pharmacists with first-year counterparts through surveys that were filled out by participants through categories such as hobbies, interests, and professional goals. This culminates in the Mentor Potluck, which allows the pairings to meet and relax after experiencing their busy first week of school.

This year's event was another success and featured a “P1 Survival Guide” produced by the 2018 Council's very own Goody Cacal, who is also General Manager of UH Hilo's Vulcan Video Productions. In the video various students from the Class of 2018 provided their tips and advice for a successful first year. The Mentor Potluck is planned to happen again next year and allows the previous mentees to return the favor and become mentors to another new incoming class.

### **Class of 2019**

The Class of 2019 has spent months preparing for the annual Relay for Life event at UH Hilo's main campus, was held March 11. Relay for Life is a nationwide event that celebrates all those who are affected by cancer through ceremonies, activities and fundraising in an effort to bring awareness and help fund research via the American Cancer Society. College students and community members form teams to work towards a fundraising goal in addition to participating in fun competitions, including competing for the coveted “Mr. Relay” title.

Team captains this year were Nicholas Tsoi and Cami Kanahale from Class of 2019 and Kerri Nakatsu from Class of 2018, with the theme “Snow White.”



# Faculty Seminar Series



## Dr. Hongbin Yan

Dr. Hongbin "Tony" Yan (right), Chair and Associate Professor, Chemistry Department, Brock University, Canada presented a seminar entitled "Small cyclic oligonucleotides: chemistry and implications in immunology and bacterial biofilm formation" on December 21. His host was Dr. Dianqing Sun. (Photo by Lissa Tsutsumi)



## Dr. Hyung Sik Kim

Dr. Hyung Sik Kim, professor with the School of Pharmacy at Sungkyunkwan University in Suwon, South Korea, presented a seminar entitled "Reprogramming of Cancer Cell Metabolism Through SIRT Modulators" on February 1.



## Dr. Mary Mihalyo

Dr. Mary Mihalyo presented a seminar entitled "Pharmacology of Palliative Care" at DKICP's UH Hilo campus on Wednesday December 2. Dr. Mihalyo is CEO of Delta Care Rx, a nationwide Hospice Pharmacy Benefit Manager, and an assistant professor of pharmacy practice at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA. Her seminar was presented in collaboration with KTA Pharmacy and Hospice of Hilo. (Photo by Lara Gomez)



## Dr. Julian Hurdle

Dr. Julian Hurdle (left), associate professor with the Center for Infectious and Inflammatory Diseases at Texas A&M Health Science Center in Houston, presented a seminar entitled "Relationship Between Heme, Pharmacokinetics and Metronidazole Resistance in Clostridium Difficile Infections" on March 1. His host was Dr. Diaqing Sun (right), associate professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences.



**Elizabeth Ackerman**, assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice, and **Karen Pellegrin**, director of strategic planning and continuing education, received funding from the University of Hawai'i's Research and Training Revolving Fund (RTRF) Allocation to determine the economic impact of Hepatitis C virus (HCV) and related complications within the state of Hawai'i.



**Mahavir Chougule**, associate professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was a co-author in an article entitled "Targeting the mannose receptor enhances tumor response in a mouse lung cancer stem cell model." Published in *PLoS One*. 2015, in Press. Co-authors were Andey T, Patel A, Marepally S, Spencer S, and Singh M. Dr. Chougule presented research entitled "Tumor targeted nanocarriers for the treatment of lung cancer" and chaired a themed technical session at the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Nanomed (IEEE-NANOMED) conference in Honolulu November 15-18.



**Patricia Jusczak**, clinical education coordinator, Interim Dean **Carolyn Ma**, and Interim Associate Dean for Academic Affairs **Supakit Wongwiwatthanakul** were co-authors on an article entitled "Evaluation of Simulation Intravenous Admixture Training for Students Enrolled in an Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience" published in the *Bulletin of Health, Science and Technology*, Volume 13, Number 2, 2015.



**Dana-Lynn Koomoa-Lange**, assistant professor, and **Ingo Koomoa-Lange**, instructor, both in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, published an article entitled "Scrophularia orientalis extract induces calcium signaling and apoptosis in neuroblastoma cells" in the *International Journal of Oncology*. Coauthors were Moschny, J, Tamanyan, K, Khutsishvili, M, Atha, D and Borris, RP.



**Karen Pellegrin**, director of strategic planning/ continuing education, was an invited speaker at the University of Southern California conference on "Optimizing Medication Safety and Healthcare Quality: Best Practices and Collaborations for Public Health, Geriatrics, and Mental Health," in Los Angeles February 11-12. Her presentation was titled "Pharm2Pharm: Hospital Pharmacist Hand-off to Community Pharmacy."



**Judi Steinman**, MSCP program coordinator and instructor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was co-author of "Clinical Psychopharmacology With Aloha: Interdisciplinary Approaches Used in the University of Hawai'i Postdoctoral Training Program" and the author of "Graduate of MSCP University of Hawai'i Highlight: Dr. Lyndsey Miller," which were published in the winter edition of *The Tablet*, a newsletter for the American Society for the Advancement of Pharmacotherapy. Also, Dr. Steinman has been appointed editor of the *The Tablet*.



**Deborah Taira**, associate professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice, was co-author on several published manuscripts including: 1) "The Burden of Diagnosed and Undiagnosed Diabetes in Native Hawaiian and Asian American Hospitalized Patients," in the *Journal of Clinical & Translational Endocrinology* in December; 2) "Inpatient Hospitalization Costs: A Comparative Study of Micronesians, Native Hawaiians, Japanese, and Whites in Hawai'i" in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*.



**Wesley Sumida**, associate specialist in the Department of Pharmacy Practice was a coauthor along with **Deborah Taira** and **Ronald Taniguchi**, former interim chair of Department of Pharmacy Practice and director of community partnerships, on an article entitled "Prescription drug pricing" published in the *Hawai'i Journal of Medicine & Public Health*.



John Pezzuto

The University of Hawai'i Board of Regents granted emeritus status to **John Pezzuto**, who was the founding dean of the College from 2006-2015 and **Ken Morris**, who was professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences from 2008-2015. According to University policy, the title is intended "to honor well qualified and respected retired UH faculty members, vice presidents and chancellors" as well as "to recognize and retain the expertise of retired faculty, vice presidents and chancellors as valued University resources."



Ken Morris

# Experiencing professional life in Washington, D.C.

By Anissa Marzuki (Class of 2016)

Venturing to the East Coast in January is definitely not an ideal scenario, but having the opportunity to experience an internship with the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) made the drastic weather change worth the knowledge I gained.

I had initially decided to pursue a rotation with APhA when the Director of Student Development came to conduct a chapter visit with DKICP, the spring of my second year. She shared a great deal of information about the association and spoke about the numerous opportunities available within the national office for student pharmacists. I jumped at the chance to earn a rotation spot in their extern program for fourth year. APhA has fourth-year externs in a number of areas including, Board of Pharmacy Specialties, Student Development, Governance, and Government Affairs.

My interest gravitated towards Government Affairs because, as a DKICP student, I was involved in the policymaking process for the APhA-Academy of Student Pharmacists policy proposal each year. Additionally I served as the Chapter Delegate for two years voting on behalf of the chapter during annual meetings, APhA2014 and APhA2015, on issues important to student pharmacists and the practice of pharmacy. So I gravitated towards the rotation that would give me hands on experience with the provider status bills in Congress (H.R.592 and S.314 – Pharmacy and Medically Underserved Areas Enhancement Act).

While on rotation I went to several meetings in Washington, D.C. They ranged from health care coalition presentations, Pain Care Forums, Hill visits – with staff members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee (a key committee with respect to provider status and health care legislation), and most importantly I met with staff from Senator Brian Schatz's office as well as with Senator Mazie Hirono herself (see photo). I also got the opportunity to contribute to educational manuals and materials for APhA, items that will be shared with pharmacy residents and state health officials.

I put in a great deal of effort to be as involved as I could with the rotation. I offered help to other practice areas outside of Government Affairs and I attended numerous meetings. I did anything I could to help out – no matter how big or small the task. I also learned a lot about association management from the rotation. APhA is the largest pharmacy association with over 60,000 members across all practice areas of pharmacy, such as nuclear pharmacy and federal pharmacy. They represent a wide range of interests. It was interesting to see how few people make APhA run and how hard everyone works to make sure that students and practitioners alike have their views shared with Congress,



(From left): Amy Shook Talana (University of Florida), Anissa Marzuki (DKICP), Senator Mazie Hirono, Michelle Carrasquillo (University of Florida), and Matt Schneller (University of South Florida)

have their accomplishments extolled, and to make sure they have the education and tools they need to become the best practitioners.

In addition to earning an externship, I had to arrange living accommodations and transportation as well. Thankfully Washington, DC has great public transportation – buses, trains, car-share programs, and bike-share programs. I mostly took the bus to and from work because it was the most economical. I stayed for six weeks at an AirBnB, which is not the most cost effective option, but it worked out the best for me. I even communicated with my host that I was a student on a limited budget and she sent me a code so that I ended up saving \$1000 on my rental, over the course of the six weeks. Food is readily available, since both take out options and grocery stores were easily accessible. The prices are comparable or lower than those found in Hawaii. There was a great deal of entertainment options because all the Smithsonian and National Historical sites are free. Something I wish I had done prior to leaving Hawaii was to communicate with Senator Hirono's office. All the Senate and House offices for your respective states can help to arrange White House or Congressional tours. You just have to tell them about three months in advance and all of the information is available on their respective websites.

All in all, I would highly recommend the rotation to anyone interested in learning more the opportunities pharmacists have. By block 6 I thought I would have narrowed my career options, but my rotation at APhA has only expanded the possibilities. I have been told time and again that it's a good problem to have a lot of options.

# Fundraising with Common Scents

*Dr. Zoe Chun-Dela Cruz  
Class of 2011*

My parents put us in everything – soccer, volleyball, hula, basketball, track...everything! No matter what the sport or organization, we always fundraised, and it was fun. Whether it was zealously wearing my colorful AYSO soccer uniform with my teammates and selling chocolates outside of Safeway, or washing cars at the Kahala Chevron for high school volleyball, or participating in a health fair giving flu immunizations during pharmacy school – fundraising was always a time for bonding not just with my teammates, classmates and hula sisters, but with the community. It was a chance to build camaraderie with people you wouldn't have ever expected to cross paths with.

Today I look around and notice the disintegration of interaction with some modern fundraising methods, and I am saddened. I see people selling doughnuts in the hot sun in the middle of highways – I see people holding out nets as an invitation for a donation. It sets an example for today's youth that the world of fundraising is as two-dimensional as simply asking people for money at their car windows and getting it. No product. No services offered. No interaction exchanged. I realized that today's fundraising has become a parallel economy with begging.

As a result, I have formulated an alternative approach to fundraising in my company, Common Scents, that can build a strong tie with organizations and the community, restore the fun in fundraiser participation and, of course, raise a healthy profit for organizations.

I'm pleased to report our handmade soap fundraising program has helped many organizations raise funds throughout the state. Not only do our soaps smell amazing, they are made with natural ingredients each formulated with health benefits, natural scents that people might not otherwise be exposed to. And I learned this process while earning my PharmD degree at UH Hilo.

This is just another example of putting a pharmacy degree from UH Hilo to work for you in unexpected ways. Aloha. Feel free to contact me at [mail@hicommonscents.com](mailto:mail@hicommonscents.com).



# ALUMNI CORNER

Dear College of Pharmacy Graduates:

One of the great pleasures of being the Interim Dean of the UH Hilo Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy is hearing from our alumni. For some of you, an amazing five years may have passed as we plan our first inaugural class reunion, the Class of 2011. I think of all of you often when recalling our earliest days of the College when speaking to our current students, recruiting faculty and when our staff just needs an energy boost. I tell them about your pioneering spirit, endless energy and most of all your trust and courage that helped us to build this exceptional school. Although many of you are well along your exciting pharmacy careers, raising families and enjoying a life without exams and studying, we want to hear from you! I hope you will consider a number of activities to help your alma mater.

Firstly, I encourage you to fill out our employment data information sheet by completing the online "Stay in Touch" form at <http://pharmacy.uhh.hawaii.edu/alumni/stayintouch.php>. Where have you been and what types of amazing jobs are you working? Stay in touch!

Secondly, we ask if you may be interested in helping us by being a recruitment extender for the areas in which you are working or live. We may also have an APPE student who is having a rotation in the area who may partner with you to go to a local college or high school. Our Student Affairs office will gladly provide you with necessary materials and support. Please contact Kristy Nakamura-Fujii ([kristyna@hawaii.edu](mailto:kristyna@hawaii.edu)) if you are interested.

Thirdly, I'd like you to consider "paying it forward" to your alma mater. Many of you recall the excitement in 2009 when the College moved onto UH Hilo campus into the modulars so you can understand the importance of moving into our permanent building, which we anticipate will be completed by the Fall of 2018. As you know, we received funding for the building,, we are in the final stages of signing a contractor, but there is still work to be done. There may be opportunities for philanthropic gifts in this respect, but also consider that many of our student organizations provide many health fairs and screenings on a monthly or even weekly basis. Perhaps you or your class as a whole would consider a modest donation that would help to provide supplies for one of these fairs, fraternities or professional organizations that you participated while you were helping to build our school. I know the students would be grateful for this memorable service to your College.

We want to provide the most accurate information of our 400+ graduates to the Regents of the University of Hawaii, the UH Hilo Chancellor, and our pharmacy school accrediting agencies. At the most recent UH Board of Regents meeting, a Board member announced to the UH Hilo Chancellor Donald Straney that DKICP is "the crown jewel" of the UH system. Our young college has some outstanding statistics that can help recruit new students; we need to make sure they are well known and prominent to the people who can help us.

I am so proud of our graduates and all that you have done to help this school for the people in the state of Hawai'i and the Pacific region. I am most touched by the work that you do every day to care for the health of our patients. I hope to hear from you via this online form, or even better, drop me an email at [cjsma@hawaii.edu](mailto:cjsma@hawaii.edu); I'd love to personally connect.

My Best,



Carolyn Ma, PharmD,BCOP  
Interim Dean  
Email: [cjsma@hawaii.edu](mailto:cjsma@hawaii.edu)

# Fall 2015 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 the 2015 fall semester.

**Class of 2017:** Sean Abreu, Trenton Aoki, Lena Asano, Maro Babayan, Robert Bautista, Mark Allen Bibera, Megan Calderwood, Rhea Castro, Nicole Chin, Terri Anne Corpuz, Ronnijean Delenia, Christopher Diaz, Andy Diep, Audrey Fung, Gibe Gelan, Melissa Giachetti, Dann Hirayasu, David Khan, Mickey Ku, Shaun Lasky, Jaclyn Lee, Lauren Levine, Caleb Malinski, Sean Menda, Kevin Meno, Kelsea Mizusawa, Lauryn Mow, Loc Ngo, Angela Nguyen, Kimberlee Roseman, Ryan Shiroma, Nadine So, Jaime-Rose Tangonan, Hoa Vo, Brenda Yuen, Zi Zhang



**Class of 2018:** Chelsea Aipoalani, Goody Cacal, Robby-Sean Cayetano, Matt Chen, Jane Choi, Karen Christian, Mathew Eng, Jennifer Fujio, Cierra Gauvin, Jui-Yu Kao, Macie Kim, Krystle Kiyuna, XuanLam Le, Jessica Lee, Miyuki Miller, Christopher Nakagawa, Kerri Nakatsu, Vicky Nguyen, Megan Olaguer, Carli Owan, Joann Phan, Lauren Skorheim, John James Taman, Ha Tran, Paolo Vinh Tuan Truong, Quan Truong, Seungyeun Yoo

**Class of 2019:** Deniz Bicakci, Athena Borhauer, Rene-Scott Chavez, Torrence Ching, Samantha Gonzalez, Vance Hill, Tyler Hirokawa, Preston Ho, Sean Janeway, Logan Kostur, Dennis Le, Kevin Lei, Kate Malasig, Tyler Millar, Veronica Morales Colon, Jennifer Nguyen, Thu Nguyen, Kelsey Noetzelmann, Kara Paulachak, David Pham, Gam Phan, Rachel Randall, Jae Sung Shim, Clement Tran Tang, Shannon Trinh, Nicholas Tsoi, Ashley Uehara, Nancy Wong, Veronica Wong, Carrie Yeung, A Ram Yoon