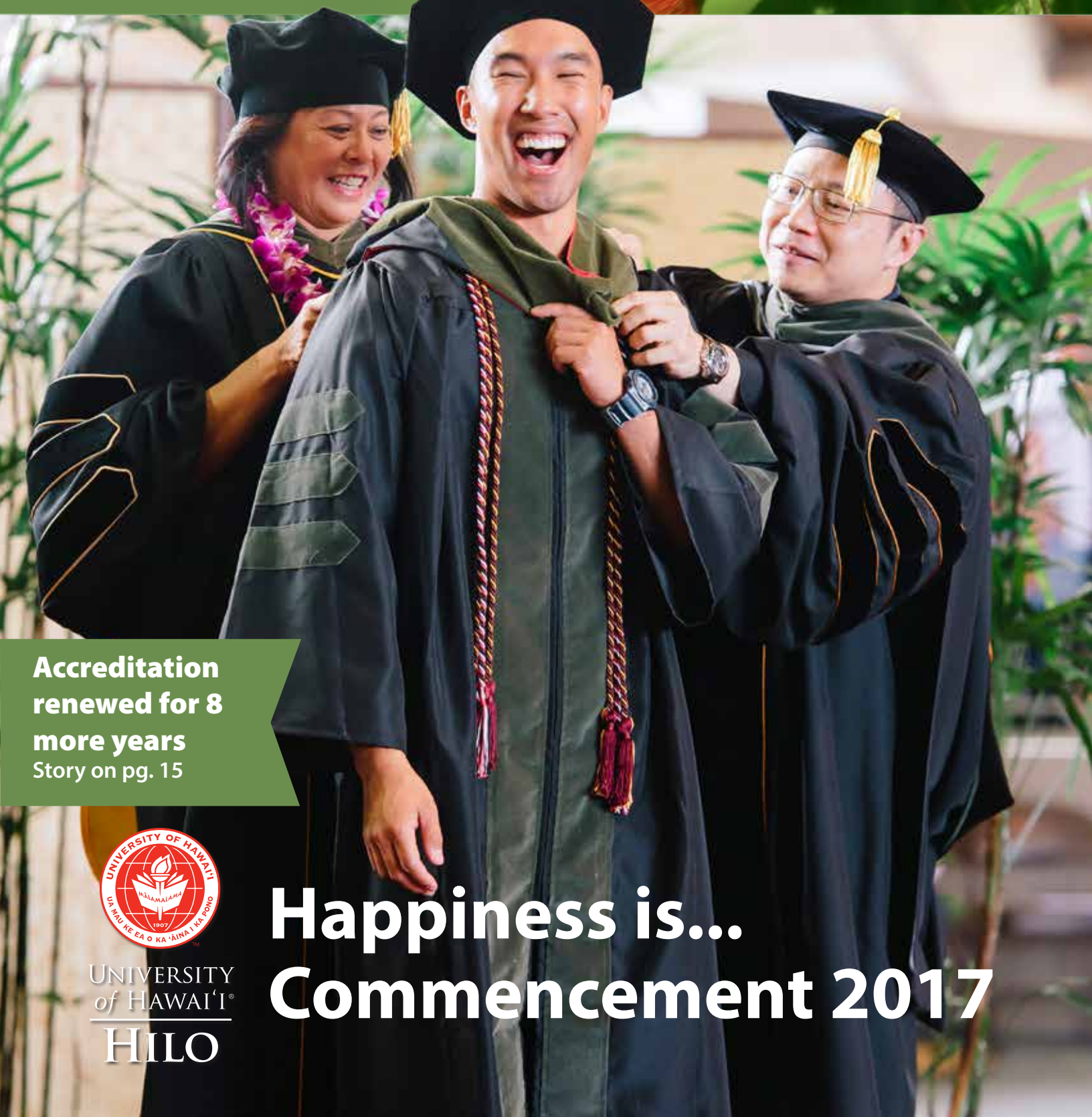


One who mixes ingredients, drugs or medications: a pharmacist

# Kāwili Lā'au

The Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo  
Summer 2017 • Volume 9, Issue 4



**Accreditation  
renewed for 8  
more years**  
Story on pg. 15



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# Happiness is... Commencement 2017

# Dean's Message



Our lives are full of “firsts” – first day of school, first job, first apartment. Each one is significant in that the events are integrated into everyday life so that, eventually, they lose their uniqueness. I don’t believe this will be the case with my “first” commencement exercise as dean of the College.

Although the Class of 2017 will always be special because they were in fact the first class that I had the honor of going through Commencement as dean, I can honestly say that I expect every single class always will be unique. This I know to be true based on the six prior commencements. Every class has distinguished themselves in their own ways, each with a distinct personality and reasons to remember.

As I said in one of the many events we had this spring, all covered here in this edition, this Class of 2017 has proven themselves “resilient.” They survived helping the College prove to the legislature that we deserved their support in the way of funding a new building. They survived a transition in leadership for the college by pulling together and supporting my new team unconditionally. Yet throughout all this, they still succeeded in their academics and experiential rotations, representing incredible role models for the entire student body. This class reports an 86 percent job or residency placement. Without a doubt, I know they will be successful.

Meanwhile, we move ahead with the next steps for our College. Now that we have passed our 10-year mark, we are listening to focus groups of students, faculty and staff, pharmacist preceptors, alumni and our community leaders. Our greatest strengths include our connection and service to the community and their health, our spirit of Ohana (family) and the personal attention our faculty and staff’s have with our students. DKICP alumni numbers continue to grow, and we observe the College as being venerable and compete in the highest standards of the profession. However, our work has only begun to further improve our curriculum, set our standards for excellence and always strive to remain relevant in today’s changing technology and global health and wellness needs.

But right now we are celebrating and the stories here display that happiness. The Class of 2017, the smart and productive post docs on staff, our end of the year awards, a resilient staff member, community outreach and several conventions where we’ve been able to share our brilliance with the rest of the country. Our recent accreditation report is proof that it’s working. I couldn’t be more proud.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn Ma". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Carolyn Ma  
Dean



## Kāwili Lā'au

Summer, 2017  
Volume 9, Issue 4

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the University of Hawai'i at Hilo



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On the cover: Mark Allen Bibera expresses joy when Dean Carolyn Ma, who is assisted by Interim Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Supakit Wongwiwatthananutit, places the ceremonial hood at UH Hilo Commencement May 13. (Photo by Tracey Niimi)

# Aloha Class of 2017



## Commencement 2017

Seventy-nine student pharmacists from the Class of 2017 earned with the right to use "Dr." before their names after the University of Hawai'i at Hilo's Spring Commencement at 9 a.m. May 13 in Edith Kanaka'ole Multi-purpose Stadium in Hilo. Pharmacy graduates were among 889 degrees and/or certificates awarded at the event.

Families and 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 garb of their graduating institution and marched in with the students.

President Tommy Esang Remengesau, Jr, of the Republic of Palau delivered the keynote address. The student speaker was Karla Kapo'aiola Ahn, a performing arts major.

Patently waiting for others getting undergraduate degrees, certificates and master's degrees, students from the professional DKICP program filled the first four rows in the center, the biggest venue in Hilo. When it was time for them to enter the stage, they walked, one by one, as their name was called, first to Interim Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Dr. Supakit Wongwiwatthananut, who took the ceremonial hood from over their arm. Then to Dean Carolyn Ma, who placed it over their heads, signifying



Bob Douglas/UH Hilo Stories

success at completing the program. Then on to Chancellor Donald Straney, who presented them with their diplomas.

Afterwards, it was the parents and families turn to claim time with the new graduates. Many stayed at the stadium to pose for pictures, receive masses of colorful flower leis and make plans for more celebrations.

And now the Class of 2017 can get down to the business of beginning a career as a pharmacist while holding on to the memories of four great years at UH Hilo.

(Photos by Tracey Niimi, Robbyn Peck and Bob Douglas)



# Class of 2017 Dean's Luncheon

Soon-to-be graduates returned to Hilo from their respective rotation sites and celebrated the official kickoff for 2017 graduation celebrations during a Dean's Luncheon held at the Hilo Yacht Club on May 11.

Dean Carolyn Ma welcomed the students and faculty to the beautiful ocean setting. Sponsors of the event were Dr. Hany and Madeleine Guirguis, long-time DKICP supporters, who have attended almost every graduate luncheon since they were begun in 2011.

"We have this specific luncheon since the 2011 inaugural class, and we hold it for several reasons," Dean Ma told the graduating class. "One is for you to reunite with your classmates, to receive your class awards and the last reason and from my perspective is for purely selfish reasons, and that is for the faculty and I to have you solely to ourselves for one last time."

of the new permanent building when they petitioned the legislature and worked in the community.

"The faculty and I are always here for you regardless of the passing years and I hope we will one day, sooner than later, spend some time together in our permanent building."

Dean Ma accepted the Class of 2017 yearbook from President Shaun Lasky. President Lasky also announced a monetary class gift to go towards a contribution for the new permanent building.

After a demonstration of what to expect at Commencement, the following students received the following annual awards:

Hoa Vo was presented with the American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) Senior Recognition Certificate from Dr. Jarred Prudencio, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice.

The certificate is awarded to a graduating senior for making the greatest contribution to the APhA-ASP chapter.

David Khan received the Natural Medicines Graduation Award, announced by Dr. Allen Shih, assistant professor,

Department of Pharmacy Practice. The award is presented to outstanding graduates and residents worldwide who have shown an interest in an evidence-based approach to patient care. David, who couldn't attend the luncheon, will receive one year complementary access to Natural Medicines (formally known as the Natural Standard and Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database).

Hoa Vo also was presented the Lilly Achievement Award from Dr. Supakit



Dean Carolyn Ma



Hoa Vo (left) with Dr. Supakit Wongwiwatthananutit

Wongwiwatthananutit, professor and interim associate dean for academic affairs. The award recognizes scholastic achievement in the professional curriculum and academic achievements made in pharmaceutical research. Hoa will receive the 71st edition of the Physicians' Desk Reference textbook.

Chris Diaz was presented the Mylan Pharmaceuticals Excellence Award from guest representative from Mylan, Stan Sakumoto. This award recognizes high academic achievement and personal motivation of top students in pharmacy colleges or schools throughout the U.S. Chris will receive a custom-framed lithograph entitled "Pharmacy: A Tradition of Healing and have his name listed amongst this year's recipients in professional pharmacy journals during July and August.

Kelsea Mizusawa was given TEVA's



Kelsea Mizusawa



Chris Diaz

She noted the resilience of the class members, who had to adjust to change throughout the tenure of their education.

"As a class you not only moved through the most significant transition this college has experienced but you did this with the spirit of 'malia,' a common Hawaiian name that translates to 'calm, peaceful'."

Dean Ma acknowledged the considerable contributions that the Class of 2017 made on the progress



Dr. Allen Shih accepted on behalf of David Khan

Outstanding Student Award from Dr. Ghee Tan, associate professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. The award is presented to a graduating senior who consistently demonstrated exceptional qualities

throughout his or her academic year. Kelsea will receive a plaque and a \$250 honorarium, and will have her name on a perpetual plaque, which will be displayed at the College of Pharmacy.

Dr. Jarred Prudencio, who is a DKICP alum from the Class of 2015, closed the luncheon by reminding the students that they would soon be eligible to join the University of Hawai'i Alumni Association.

"I have been actively involved for the past year and can personally speak of the impact that the alumni association has," he told the group of future colleagues. "The Alumni Chapter promotes fellowship among members of the association, the pharmacy profession, pharmacy students and members of all recognized allied health care professions. Your support is essential to maintain the outstanding education and clinical preparation that the College of Pharmacy provides to current students."

(Photos by Trenton Aoki, Class of 2017)

## Dean Ma tells grads they are product of 'hoopai'

*[Excerpted from Dean Carolyn Ma's speech at the Graduation Banquet]*

Tonight we celebrate the graduation of our 79 students with a Pharm.D. degree and one student, Nishant Gandhi will receive his Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences. Nishant has already begun his job and so is not able to be here but we certainly celebrate his achievement tonite and wish him the best in his future research career.

Yesterday at the Dean's luncheon, the faculty, staff and I had our few final hours with your graduate, and as always, when we see them after a full year of advanced pharmacy practice rotations, they look very simply, "grown up." You may also, concur with this, and ask, what have you done with my child, or spouse, where is the person who only a short four years ago came to orientation week to begin their studies in pharmacy? Well, the student you see sitting in front of you has been slowly and surely transformed into an exceptional health professional and is a product of a Hawaiian word, "hoopai," to raise up, to inspire, to uplift. You the parents, spouses, family and friends, faculty and staff, have done your job exceptionally well, as these graduates sit here before you today highly trained, articulate and compassionate health care professionals.

Allow me for a moment to breakdown the achievements of this class, who I describe as "resilient." These students have weathered the biggest transition this college has had to withstand, a change in leadership, a class who advocated for the funding of our permanent building, has held numerous health fairs and fundraisers, has among them incredible leaders and mentors for underclassmen and has supported me as their dean. A good many of our graduates will begin their new careers in various types of pharmacy's practices, and 16 of you will begin the highly coveted and rigorous post-graduate residency years. Tonite we all join together to celebrate your hard-earned achievement. So for a moment, I'm sure your graduate would like to acknowledge all who have been a part of this effort for hoopai, so I will ask that

all the family and friends of the graduates stand and be recognized by the students.

Let me assure your families, your graduate has, in choosing pharmacy, made the best choice for a career. Many of you may already know of the contribution that pharmacists and pharmacy researchers play in today's health care. But in case you are not, in the coming years, the profession, especially on a community level, will see the pharmacy practitioner highly involved in management of devastating chronic disease such as diabetes, cardiovascular illness cancer and much more. Graduates, your training has prepared you to continue the quest to gain reimbursement and provider status that will appropriately compensate your skills as medication experts on the front lines of health care. This is your career's task that I charge you with on this eve of your graduation.

On a more personal and heartfelt note, you may have felt at some point during the last four years, while enduring the plethora of lectures, exams, presentations, patient cases and faculty challenges, that getting to this point was a million to one chance.

Well, tonight I can joyfully express to you all the idioms of success, you've grabbed the brass ring, broken the tape at the finish line, you have found your place in the sun. In our eyes, every one of you stands out as "one in a million." In the days ahead as you re-settle yourselves in your new homes and jobs and residencies, continue your lives with current families and new families to come, you may at times, face career and personal challenges. I hope the foundational values you have utilized in these four years will carry you through the future and trust that you have the necessary skills, talent and intellect to overcome. And what may seem at times insurmountable, it's OK to try and fail, but it's not OK not to try at all.



## Graduation Recognition Ceremony 2017

The night before officially receiving their Doctor of Pharmacy degree, members of the Class of 2017 joined their families, faculty, friends and colleagues for a celebration banquet at UH Hilo Campus Center Dining Hall (Sodexo). They were there on Friday May 12 to forget about pharmacy board licensing exams, forget about deciding what comes next, and to do one thing: celebrate.

The Class of 2017 had the honor to share their moment of celebration with the family of the late Clift Tsuji, who received the Advancement of Pharmacy Excellence (APEX) award (see related story). Rep. Tsuji's sons, Ashley and Ryan, were able to accept the award on his behalf. Representing the legislature were Reps. Chris Todd and Mark Nakashima.

Also sharing in the celebration were honored guests and supporters Jimmy & Jeanne Yagi, Gordon Ching, Hany & Madeleine Guirguis, Dr. Matt Platz and his wife, Joan, Sharon Ibarra as well as Brian, Lori, and Bryce Fukunaga from the Dean's Council.

Dean Ma announced two preceptors who had been voted by the class to be honored. After spending their last year as students conducting the fourth-year Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE) rotation experience, the students



*Valedictorian Caleb Malinski*





Travis Young, APPE Preceptor of the Year



Louis Lteif, Faculty Preceptor of the Year



Class President Shaun Lasky

honored Louis Lteif as Faculty Preceptor of the Year and Travis Young from CVS as APPE Preceptor of the Year. (see related stories in Preceptor Focus).

After Dean Carolyn Ma made those opening presentations, the students took over with inspirational remarks from Class President Shaun Lasky and Valedictorian Caleb Malinski.

In what has become somewhat of a tradition, faculty member Dr. Dana-Lynn Koomoa-Lange performed a meaningful hula with Ashlen Kinilau, Danielle Niimi, and Taumie (Hoku) Richie to send the graduates out in true Hawaiian style. The songs they chose to highlight were Poli'ahu (song by Teresa Bright) and Ka Uluwehi O Ke Kai (song by Hapa).

Highlights of the remainder of the evening followed tradition with a chance for every classmate present to speak on their own behalf in front of their peers, family and faculty.

Director of Student Affairs Daryl Masanda, who served as Master of Ceremonies, closed the evening thanking Pacific Floral Exchange and Chris Iha for their floral and foliage donations, and to all of the faculty and staff who assisted with this annual event. (Photos by Tracey Niimi)



From left: Hawaii'i State Rep. Chris Todd, Gerald De Mello, Carolyn Ma and Hawaii'i State Rep. Mark Nakishima paid their respects to the graduates.



# Key figure in development of college honored with posthumous award



The Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy presented the late Hawai'i State Representative Clift Tsuji with the APEX (Advancement of Pharmacy Excellence) award for 2017.

The award was announced at a graduation event at UH Hilo Campus Center Dining Hall in Hilo May 12. His sons, Ash and Ryan, who were able to attend in person, were 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.

The APEX award is the highest tribute DKICP offers to individuals who have made major contributions to the development of the college.

Rep. Tsuji, who was a valued DKICP supporter, represented House District 2 including Keaukaha, parts of Hilo, Pana'ewa and Wai'ikea. Rep. Tsuji teamed with the late Senator Gil Kahele to provide evidence to the Hawai'i state legislature that DKICP was worthy of funding for a permanent building.

Raised in Papaikou on the Big Island of Hawai'i, Rep. Tsuji was a 1959 graduate of Hilo High School. He completed his post-secondary degrees at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa and the University of Washington, Pacific Coast

Banking School. Rep. Tsuji served in the U.S. Army Reserve, 442nd Infantry, Company B, Hilo, from 1959-1965. He was program director at KIPA Radio, and senior vice president of Central

Pacific Bank for more than 30 years.

He was first elected to District 3 of the House of Representatives in 2004 and was chairman of the Agriculture Committee. Among his many awards he was named the Hawaii Farm Bureau's Legislator of the Year Award in 2015.

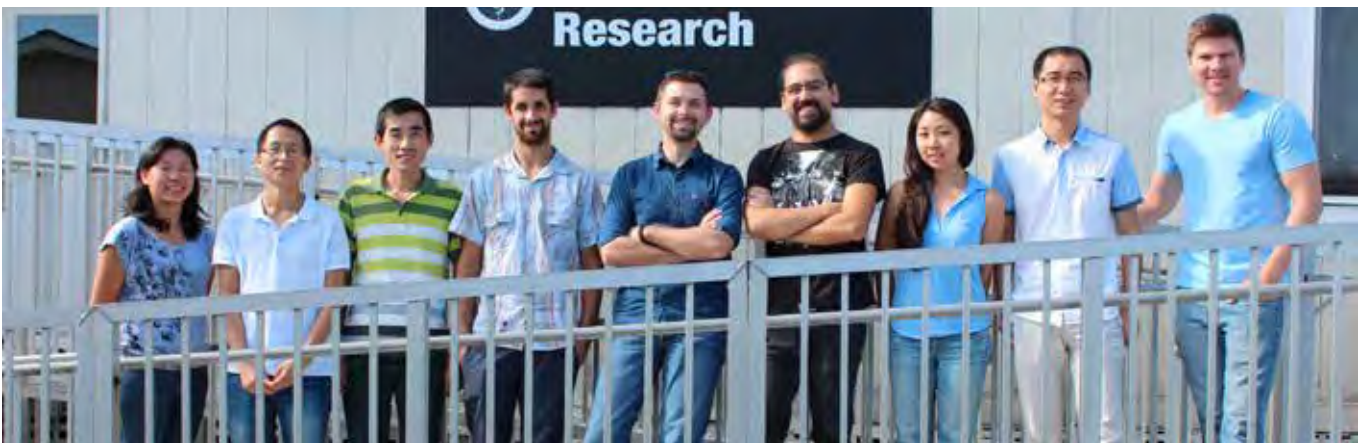
He succeeded Jerry Chang, now UH Hilo director of university relations, to represent District 2 when the Big Island was redistricted in 2012. The pair had worked side by side for many

years.

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, former UH Hilo director of University Relations Gerald De Mello, Dr. Stephen P. Hora and the late Senator Gilbert Kahele.



Ash Tsuji (left), Dean Carolyn Ma, and Ryan Tsuji accept the APEX award on behalf of their father, the late Clift Tsuji.



DKICP researchers include (from left) Christina Wales, You-Sheng Cai, Chun Shun Li, Andrew Burgoyne, Robert McHugh, Italo Espinoza-Fuenzalida, Stephanie Tsang Mui Chung, Mengke Zhang and Allan Prior.

## Pharmaceutical research thrives in DKICP labs

Scientists who have earned their Ph.D.s and wish to gain more experience in an academic setting often take jobs at universities upon graduation as post-doctoral associates, known as postdocs. The postdocs typically are paid through the grants that faculty members have won based on a certain project for a one- to two-year contract, sometimes earning extensions. They provide invaluable expertise and background to the projects, often moving entire families, including children, to wherever the job may take them.

As part of their job, they work in labs, classrooms and offices, and they often present posters or talks at national and international conferences as they represent not only their mentors but the university. Their work is cited in numerous publications and may provide the framework for future research in their own or in other's careers.

DKICP laboratories not only attract international researchers but they give local residents with science backgrounds an outlet for jobs. Currently, DKICP faculty members in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences employ seven postdocs from all over the world, including one researcher who is from Hilo. There also are two lab technicians, one who is from Hilo and another who is working on his Pharm.D. Degree here.

Here's a brief introduction to our pharmaceutical research 'ohana:

**Andrew Burgoyne** works with **Associate Professor Daniela Guendisch**, whose lab focuses on



Daniela Guendisch

targeted drug therapy and diagnostic tools for the central nervous system.

Originally from Cape Town, South Africa, Dr. Burgoyne earned his Ph.D. at University of Cape Town, South Africa. He says he was drawn to DKICP by the opportunity to do research in an exciting part of the world, and includes waves, lava, warm water and honu as incentives.

His research involves the design and development of potential therapeutics for degenerative central nervous system (CNS) disorders such as Alzheimers/Parkinsons because of the lack of available treatments for these debilitating diseases.

In the future he says he hopes to win a Nobel Prize in Chemistry for CNS drug discovery and join industry to continue research in the field of synthetic chemistry.

**You Sheng Cai** works with **Associate Professor Shugeng Cao**, whose lab looks at biologically active compounds from



Shugeng Cao

natural sources.

Originally from China, Dr. Cai earned his Ph.D. from Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica.

He is working with natural products as an important way to find medicine. In the future, he hopes to find active compounds from bacteria and plants.

**Italo Espinoza-Fuenzalida** works with **Associate Professor Dana-Lynn T. Koomoa-Lange**, whose lab investigates the role of proteins in the malignant progression of cancer, and other pathophysiological processes.

Originally from Chile, Dr. Espinoza-Fuezalida earned his Ph.D. from the University of Manchester in England. He was drawn to work at DKICP by the publication record of both Dana and Ingo Koomoa-Lange, who is an instructor for DKICP. He also is interested in engagement with the public here and, "of course," he says... Hawai'i.



Dana Koomoa-Lange

He is researching different aspects of drug resistance in neuroblastoma, a type of cancer quite common in children. He says he believes better drugs or therapies could be designed if scientists can understand why certain types of tumors are more resistant to anti-cancer drugs than others.

Also currently working on a science blog in Spanish, he explains scientific concepts and encourages readers to question themselves about all the info they receive on TV or over the internet.

He would like to continue work in academia once the grant is finished and also would like to teach and conduct science outreach.

**Chun Shun Li** is a post-doc in **Dr. Cao's** lab. Originally from China, Dr. Li earned a Ph.D. from the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

He came to work at DKICP because of the good environment and free research atmosphere.

His research looks at active metabolites from microbes. Because the Hawaiian islands are completely separate and have plenty of organisms, including

fungi and bacteria, he says he believes the less studied microbial organisms are good for drug discovery.

In the future, he hopes to keep working on the current project and get more active compounds.

**Robert McHugh** is a laboratory manager and research assistant in **Professor Susan Jarvi's** lab, which looks at host-parasite and parasite-parasite interactions and influences on transmission and virulence of infectious disease.



Susan Jarvi

He grew up in Hoover, Alabama and received a bachelor's degree in biology with an emphasis in cellular and molecular biology, and a minor in chemistry from Troy University in Troy, Alabama. He is currently a DKICP student pharmacist, planning to graduate with a Pharm.D. degree in 2018.

While working at Reedley College in California, his fiancée (now wife – Alexandria McHugh, Class of 2017) was accepted to the Pharm. D. program at DKICP so he came with her. He accepted a job in the Jarvi lab as lab manager in January 2014.

He has been working on the State Wide Survey (SWS) of avian malaria (*Plasmodium relictum*) using generation sequencing techniques to look at the sequences of four different genes (three in *P. relictum* and one in the avian host) across the Hawaiian islands. He believes this research is key since Hawai'i is unique in the world for its avian species and their evolution isolation from avian malaria, and notes "Because we know when avian malaria was introduced to Hawai'i we can watch how these native species respond to this new selective pressure and watch how the parasite responds in return to its hosts new defenses. Some native Hawaiian avian species seem to have developed resistance while others have not. A greater knowledge may help us and others to develop strategies to safe guard against the loss of more unique avian species to malaria."

Also a member of the Rat Lungworm working group, he helps

research *Angiostrongylus cantonensis* and works both in the lab and through community outreach to help educate the members of our community. The group works with national and international collaborators on a variety of fronts to determine infection rates, diagnostic methods, strategies to prevent infection, and research into the parasite's life cycle. He says he believes that, considering the consequences of global climate change and an ever increasing global population, it is urgent that we develop strategies to prevent infection by this parasite as potential rates of exposure are surely to increase, leading to an increase in life long health care costs and decrease in the quality of the lives of those infected.

Future plans include continuing work on infectious disease research, possibly in drug discovery and running clinical trials. He says he would like to think that his work in some small way will help improve the lives of others long after he is gone, and likes to quote American children's rights activist Marian Wright Edelman when she said, "Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it."



*Dianqing Sun*

**Allan Prior** works with **Associate Professor Dianqing Sun**, whose research focuses on the design and synthesis of novel small molecule and natural product based anti-infective and anti-cancer agents.

Originally from Durban, South Africa, Dr. Prior earned his Ph.D. from Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas. He was drawn to UH Hilo by an interesting research program and environment, as well as the Hawai'i location.

His research looks at anti-bacterial compounds (organic and medicinal chemistry) in the development of new drugs to combat drug resistance to current anti-bacterial drugs.

In the future, he plans to work on medicinal chemistry research in the pharmaceutical area.

**Stephanie Tsang Mui Chung** works with **Associate Professor and Department Chair Linda Connelly**,



*Linda Connelly*

whose research focuses on gaining a better understanding of the signaling that leads to metastasis of breast cancer.

Dr. Tsang grew up in Hilo and earned her Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She says she was happy to have the chance to return home to be with her family after being away for so long on the mainland.

In the lab, she is researching novel molecular mechanisms of breast cancer metastasis. She says she believes the study of breast cancer is a very important issue for women, and that research is the foundation driving advances in cancer treatment.

In the future, she hopes to work towards a second paper in the lab.

**Christina Wales** is a laboratory technician in **Associate Professor Aaron Jacob's** lab, which investigates the role of cell stress in disease processes (e.g. cancer)



*Aaron Jacob*

and responses to drug therapy (e.g. drug resistance, adverse effects).

Originally from Oahu, she graduated from UH Manoa with a bachelor's degree in animal science and a second bachelor's degree in biology from UH Hilo.

Work in Dr. Jacob's lab includes mentoring undergraduates Rachel Gristock and Mikayla Jones (recent graduate of UH Hilo class of 2017), and student pharmacist San Ly (Class of 2019). One of their projects involves investigating the role of the transcription factor, c-Myc, in apoptosis, to try to elucidate the biochemical pathways cancer cells that overexpress c-Myc die. A second project focuses on the role of Heat Shock Factor 1 in Pulmonary Fibrosis in order to investigate the role of Heat Shock Factor 1 and collagen formation in pulmonary fibrosis.

**Mengke Zhang** works with **Associate Professor Leng Chee Chang**,



*Leng Chee Chang*

whose 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 Raf Kinase inhibitors from *Streptomyces* species and endophytic fungi.

Dr. Zhang earned his Ph. D. from Huazhong University of Science and Technology located in Wuhan, Hubei province, China. He came to Hawai'i to work with Dr. Chang at the advice of his major professor in China.

His research projects focus on the area of biology-driven natural product drug discovery. Currently, he is studying ironweed, which is a widely used traditional herbal medicine whose components have been effective in a previous study in killing breast cancer and brain tumor cells and blocked the development and growth of these cancers in the previous study.

Dr. Zhang was working in a hospital in China before coming to Hilo and plans to return to China to continue work as a pharmacist and researcher.

# Spring Awards Ceremony highlights achievements, fun

Students and faculty were in the spotlight at the 2017 Spring Awards Ceremony on May 3 at Auntie Sally's, which recognized scholarship recipients, organizations and leaders. Six professors and one preceptor were also recognized for teaching excellence awards.

Dean Carolyn Ma began the evening by thanking the Student Services Office and announced the first awards for the evening for the student-voted Teacher's of the Year.



Dr. Daniela Guendisch and Dr. Chad Kawakami

## Student Choice Award for Teaching:

Class of 2020: Dr. Linda Connelly and Mr. George Karvas

Class of 2019: Dr. Aaron Jacobs and Dr. Roy Goo

Class of 2018: Dr. Daniela Guendisch and Dr. Chad Kawakami



Dr. Aaron Jacobs and Dr. Roy Goo

## Faculty Service Award

Dr. Wes Sumida

The new award is intended to honor a faculty member who goes beyond what is expected in their service to the community, the university or DKICP. Dr. Sumida has exemplified outstanding service to the community, primarily through inter-professional activities done in conjunction with the Department of Native Hawaiian Health. He spent countless hours in the community involving students in cultural learning activities, including the Papakolea Health Fairs, Pu'u Kohola health screenings in Kawaihae, Ka'ala Farms



Dr. Linda Connelly and Mr. George Karvas

service activities in Waianae, and Kalaupapa Cultural Education visits.

## Faculty Preceptor of the Year

Louis Lteif (See related story)

Dr. Supakit

Wongwiwatthananutit, interim associate dean for academic affairs acknowledged the following groups:

## Preceptor of the Year

Travis Young, CVS (see related story)



Drs. Louis Lteif (left) and Wes Sumida



Vicky Nguyen, Karen Christian, Matt Chen, Kelli Goo, Jessica Lee, Kevin Phu, Mat Eng, Kara Paulachak, and Preston Young.

## DKICP Student Ambassadors

The Ambassador program started in 2011 and these students play a vital role representing our school to prospective students and the community. They also participate in events such as open forums, campus visits, and have assisted with online recruitment activities.

From the Class of 2018:

Matt Chen, Karen Christian, Mathew Eng, Kelli Goo, Jessica Lee, Vicky Nguyen

From the Class of 2019:

Cathlyn Goo, San Ly, Kara Paulachak, Kevin Phu, Preston Young

## DKICP UH Hilo Student Association (UHSA) Members

Gurinder Kaur, DKICP Senator; Tin Le, Graduate Senator; Trish Huynh, Senator at Large; Lauren Glover Alejado, Senator at Large



Tin le, Gurinder Kaur, Trish Huynh, and Lauren Glover Alejado.

The UH Hilo Student Association (UHSA) senators play an instrumental role in representing the interests of the College of Pharmacy to the UH Hilo community. With our senators advocating for DKICP needs, we have been successful in gaining funding for students to travel to conferences, co-sponsorship of events, the purchase of health fair related supplies, and seed money for organization fundraisers.

Assessment Coordinator Dr. Paula Zeszotarski presented an award to the highest scoring student in the Pharmacy Curriculum Outcomes Assessment exam.

## Pharmacy Curriculum Outcomes Assessment (PCOA) Highest Achievement

Quan Truong, Class of 2018

The National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP), which administers the NAPLEX or Pharmacy licensing exam, also oversees the Pharmacy Curriculum Outcomes Assessment (PCOA) exam. The PCOA provides data on students' knowledge in four major content areas, and high-scoring students demonstrate broad knowledge of both the scientific and



Quan Truong (left) with Dr. Paula Zeszotarski



Kelli Goo (left) with Dean Carolyn Ma

clinical aspects of the pharmacy curriculum.

Dean Ma presented the final awards:

**USPHS Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Practice Award**

Kelli Goo, Class of 2018

The Assistant Surgeon General RADM Richard S. Walling and the pharmacists of the U.S. Public Health Service established the United States Public Health Service Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Practice Award as part of the effort to encourage pharmacy students to become active in public health. This annual award recognizes pharmacy students who have demonstrated a commitment to public health and public health practice.

**Student Organization of the Year**

Delta Lambda Chapter of the Phi Lambda Sigma Pharmacy Leadership Society

This award recognizes one organization each year that has demonstrated exemplary

and impactful efforts. PLS focuses its mission into the leadership and professional development of all DKICP students. In addition to regular leadership and professional development events, this year this organization organized the first-ever student involvement mixer, leaders in pharmacy guest speakers event, and were ranked as a Top 9 Finalist for a prestigious Chapter of the Year Award out of 122 Chapters nationwide.



Phi Lambda Sigma Pharmacy Leadership Society - Jeff Tang, Kelli Goo, Matt Chen, Vicky Nguyen, Chris Nakagawa, and Lam Le.

organization each year that has demonstrated exemplary

**Kahele Student Leader of the Year**

Matt Chen, Class of 2018

The Kahele Student Leader of the Year award is named for

famed DKICP supporter, the late Senator Gilbert Kahele. Begun last year, it is given to a third year DKICP student who has demonstrated strong commitment to the College's pillars of education, scholarship & service through involvement in student organizations and/or projects.

Rounding out the evening was the annual talent show, dubbed "Hilo's Got Talent." Faculty members Mr. George Karvas, Drs. Linda Connelly and Aaron Jacobs judged a total of five acts, including a hula performance and singers.



Dean Carolyn Ma (left) with Matt Chen

Emcee Tracey Niimi, student support specialist, wrapped up the night expressing thanks to all who shared a dish and contributed to the special evening. (Photos by Tracey Niimi)



# Generous support from donors make education possible



Rene Scott Chavez and Ha Tran

Scholarships are critical to the successful completion of professional training for many student pharmacists at DKICP. Throughout the last 10 years, the number of these funding opportunities has increased dramatically.

Many scholarships are announced in the spring, but there are usually even more

awards granted later in the school year. Two award recipients that were announced after last year's banquet are Ha Tran (Class of 2018), who received the Walgreens Multilingual Scholarship; Rene Scott Chavez (Class of 2019), who received the Walgreens Diversity and Inclusion Excellence Scholarship; and Mari Cid (Class of 2017), who received the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) Foundation's Partners in Pharmacy Scholarship.



Clement Tran Tang, Kevin Lei, Nathan Sunada, and Matt Chen

The scholarships for the upcoming academic year of 2017-18 named at the annual Spring Awards banquet were as follows:

## Recipients of the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy Merit Award are:

### From the Class of 2018

Cierra Gauvin	Christopher Nakagawa
Kerri Nakatsu	Carli Owan
Miyuki Miller	

### From the Class of 2019

Dennis Le	Kara Paulachak
Nancy Wong	Athena Borhauer
David Pham	

### From the Class of 2020:

Mary Lui	Jared Toba
Robyn Rector	Joshua Dillon
Taylor Hori	Stacey Nguyen



Mahina Sato, Karen Christian, Jeff Tang, and Vance Hill

### UH Hilo CoP Alumni Association Scholarship:

Rachel Randall (Class of 2019)

The UH Hilo DKICP Alumni Association chapter established a scholarship to recognize students who exhibit academic merit and leadership that promotes DKICP and who have a strong interest in participating in DKICP Alumni Association chapter activities. This year's scholarship is supported by the DKICP Alumni Association chapter, Dr. Elwin Goo and other donations made by DKICP supporters.

### Aloha Shoyu Pharmacy Scholarship:

Carli Owan (Class of 2018) and Kelsey Trujillo (Class of 2020).

Brian Tanigawa, President of Aloha Shoyu, had a longtime career as a pharmacist before taking over as president of the Aloha Shoyu Company, which is one of Hawaii's leaders in soy sauce sales. Under his leadership, the company established the Aloha Shoyu Pharmacy Scholarship in 2012.

### Elwin & Valerie Goo Endowed Excellence Scholarship:

Chelsea Aipoalani (Class of 2018)

Elwin and Valerie Goo are longtime supporters of DKICP. Elwin retired in 2008 as the Chief of Inpatient Pharmacy at Tripler Army Medical Center, and is one of DKICP's Champions of Pharmacy. Elwin and Valerie established the Elwin & Valerie Goo Endowed Excellence Scholarship in 2011.

### Grace Mizuko Miyawaki Pharmacy Scholarship:

Cathlyn Goo (Class of 2019)

Grace Mizuko Miyawaki was a hospital pharmacist who retired as the Director of the Inpatient Pharmacy Department at Kuakini Medical Center. Grace established the Grace Mizuko



Kelli Goo, Robby Cayetano, Shaina Saiki, Chelsea Aipoalani, Amber Masulit, Rachel Randall and Rene Scott Chavez.



*Joshua Dillon, Robyn Rector, Taylor Hori, Jared Toba, Mary Lui, and Stacey Nguyen.*

Miyawaki Endowed Scholarship in Pharmacy in 2009 in memory of her parents, Jitsuo and Sawa Doi Miyawaki.

**Haga Family Endowed Scholarship:**

Amber Masulit (Class of 2019)

Michi Haga-Miller established the Haga Family Endowed Scholarship in 2009 in memory of her father Tokushichi Haga who was an iisei, or first generation Japanese immigrant who came from Fukushima, Japan to work on a sugar plantation in Hawai'i.

**Hawaii Independent Pharmacies, Inc. Endowed Excellence Scholarship:** Robby-Sean Cayetano (Class of 2018)

Rene Scott Chavez (Class of 2019)

Taumie Richie (Class of 2020)

Shaina Saiki (Class of 2020)

Kelli Goo (Class of 2018)

The Hawaii Independent Pharmacist, Inc. was established in 1987 to unite all independent pharmacies across the state of Hawaii to engage and participate in group purchasing of merchandise generally sold in drugstores and other related activities. Upon the dissolution of the organization in 2011, the members voted to allocate its remaining assets to the establishment of the Hawaii Independent Pharmacies, Inc. Endowed Excellence Scholarship at the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy.

**Edwin and Georgiana Kam Endowed Excellence Scholarship:** Kevin Lei (Class of 2019) and Clement Tran Tang (Class of 2019)

Edwin and Georgiana Kam were born and raised on Oahu. Georgiana purchased and managed City Pharmacy from 1980 for nearly 30 years until she sold City Pharmacy to Longs/CVS in 2008. The Kams established this scholarship in 2012 hoping to encourage students with an entrepreneurial spirit and passion to pursue their particular area of interest in innovative pharmacy practice.

**Mr. Nagakatsu Kumao Otsuka and Dr. Raymond Masashi Otsuka Memorial Scholarship:** Matt Chen (Class of 2018) and Nathan Sunada (Ph.D. student)

Dr. Anthony Otsuka who retired from the DKICP Pharmaceutical Sciences Department in 2015, established the Mr. Nagakatsu Kumao Otsuka and Dr. Raymond Masashi Otsuka Memorial Scholarship to honor his father and Grandfather by providing scholarship assistance to students at DKICP.

**The Inaugural Class of 2011 Scholarship:** Matt Chen (Class of 2018)

Before graduating, our college's Inaugural 2011 Class Council presented a gift to the college by establishing the Inaugural Class of 2011 Scholarship to support DKICP student pharmacists following in their footsteps. This year's scholarship is also supported by funds in the JM Long Foundation and Community Health Center Scholarships.

**The UH Hilo Class of 2013 Scholarship:** Erik Ferreira (Class of 2018)

Before graduating, the DKICP 2013 Class Council presented a gift to the college by establishing the UH Hilo DKICP Class of 2013 Scholarship to support DKICP student pharmacists following in their footsteps.

**CVS Health Foundation Pharmacy School Scholarship:** Gam Phan (Class of 2019) and Vance Hill (Class of 2019)

The CVS Health Foundation Scholarship is awarded to students who demonstrate interest in a career in community pharmacy practice.



*Cierra Gauvin, Chris Nakagawa, Kerri Nakatsu, Nancy Wong, Dennis Le, Athen Borhauer, Kara Paulachak, and David Pham*

**Safeway Pharmacy Scholarship:** Kamala Lizama (Class of 2020)

The Safeway Pharmacy Scholarship is awarded to students who demonstrate interest in a career in community pharmacy practice.

**John M. and Mimi F. Pezzuto Excellence Scholarship:** Karen Christian (Class of 2018), Lauren Sato (Class of 2018) and Jeffrey Tang (Class of 2018)

Longtime supporters of DKICP, Dr. Hany Guirguis and Adele Etinas, who were co-owners of Mina Pharmacy, established the John M. and Mimi F. Pezzuto Excellence Scholarship in 2015 to recognize DKICP's founding Dean and his wife for their contributions to the creation of our college.

**The American Association of University Women (AAUW), Hilo Branch Scholarship:** Heather Ah Cook (Class of 2020) and Katherine S. Post (Class of 2018)

AAUW has assisted women and girls in the community for more than 65 years to achieve self-realization through education. AAUW's mission is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.



# ACPE awards full accreditation for eight more years

The Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy (DKICP) at UH Hilo has graduated to the next step in national recognition by gaining full accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) for the first time for an additional eight years.

ACPE is the national accreditation body that evaluates all colleges of pharmacy in the nation. They sent the results after the June 21-24 Executive Board Meeting in Chicago to Chancellor Donald Straney and DKICP Dean Carolyn Ma.

"This is affirmation of the significance of maintaining excellence in all ways at UH Hilo," said Chancellor Straney. "As DKICP passes the 10-year anniversary as the only College of Pharmacy in the Pacific Region, we can celebrate with all stakeholders, both at the University level and in the community to recognize the hard work that has gotten us this far."

DKICP was found to be "compliant" or "compliant with monitoring" in all 25 standards set by ACPE with no "partial" or "noncompliant" findings. In a prior ACPE evaluation in 2015, DKICP was granted full accreditation for two years with the provision that it was "contingent on continuous progress" and monitored by ACPE.

ACPE accredits all pharmacy programs in the U.S. through a three-step process: pre-candidate status for programs that haven't enrolled students, awarded to UH Hilo in June 2007; candidate status, awarded to a program with students enrolled pending graduating its first class; and full accreditation, for which UH Hilo achieved in May 2011 when the first group of Pharm D. students graduated.

The positive assessment was determined by a combination of a site visit as well as a self-study, 110-page report. The report was a broad-based endeavor of faculty, staff, students, preceptors, administrators and community members in the Dean's Advisory Council.

The ACPE survey team, representing faculty and administration from several notable pharmacy schools, practitioners in the field, and the ACPE accreditation staff, conducted the on-site evaluation in Hilo and Honolulu during the week of March 7-9. Team members were Wendy Duncan, interim dean and provost, California Health Sciences University College of Pharmacy; Anthony Provenzano, member of ACPE Board of Directors; Susan Stein, associate dean and professor, Pacific University School of Pharmacy, College of Health Professions; Joseph Steiner, dean, University of Woming College of Health Sciences; and Jeffrey



Wadelin, associate executive director, ACPE. Observing the work of the evaluation team was Kerri Okamura, Hilo, Hawai'i, representing the Hawai'i State Board of Pharmacy.

According to the report, particular attention was made to the progress and changes that have occurred since the last focused on-site evaluation occurred during the fall of 2014. It cited the appointment of a new dean as well as new chairs for each of the College's departments.

The report to the Board noted that, while research is still regarded critical activity for faculty, the College has revisited its mission and vision so that "evaluative expectations have been revised to more realistic levels."

Other changes noted in the report include progress on construction for the College's permanent building.

"As we all recall, accreditation was at risk previously when we couldn't prove support for a permanent building," Dean Ma said. "This time when the survey team visited, they could see concrete evidence that building has begun, and that we have a clear future. We are forever appreciative to the members of our College, the community and the legislature who rallied behind us."

Citing "good support" from the University, the report showed the team was encouraged by future developments in interprofessional education, which includes working with members from medicine, nursing, pharmacy, social work and public health.

The accreditation term granted for the Doctor of Pharmacy program extends until June 30, 2025.

"After the site visit, Dr. Wadelin described us as DKICP 2.0: no longer 'new,' but established and undergoing refinements," Dean Ma said. "I wholeheartedly agree."

# UH Hilo recognizes DKICP faculty for excellence

Several members of the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy were honored at the 2017 End of the Year Awards and Recognition Celebration held on Tuesday, May 9.

Dr. Lara Gomez, director, clinical education, Department of Pharmacy Practice, was awarded the Koichi and Taniyo Taniguchi Award for Excellence and Innovation. (See Dean Ma's introduction speech below.)

Gomez is responsible for experiential education, which makes up 30 percent of the doctor of pharmacy curriculum, and prepares students for their Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiential rotations, where they spend their entire fourth year at different practice settings. Gomez and her staff

work with over 300 students. They also train and guide some 200 non-faculty preceptors in Hawai'i, the South Pacific, continental U.S. and overseas. These preceptor training sessions are led by interdisciplinary preceptors from pharmacy, nursing and medicine to provide robust experiences that teach everything from handling a difficult patient to the most current laws in pharmacy practice.

Drs. Leng Chee Chang and Dianqing Sun, associate professors, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Dr. Supakit Wongwiwatthananut, professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and interim associate dean, Academic Affairs, received the Award for

Excellence in Scholarly/Creative Activities. (See Dr. Karen Pellegrin's letter of recommendation below.)

Chang, Sun and Wongwiwatthananut have collaborated with the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center and universities in Thailand on their nearly decade-long research on "Natural Product-Driven Drug Discovery from Vernonia cinerea (VC)." Their research showed significant bioactivity from VC with no serious adverse effects and discovered new VC-derived compounds that suppress cancer growth and show anti-inflammatory activity. Their work has been recognized in numerous publications while earning them grant funding and a recent patent award.

## Dr. Lara Gomez The Koichi and Taniyo Taniguchi Award

### In the words of Dean Ma:

As Dean of the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy, it is with great pleasure to present the Koichi and Taniyo Taniguchi Award for Excellence Recognizes creativity in teaching, scholarship and artistic production at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo to one of our faculty who has been an integral part of the college since 2009. Her job on a day-to-day basis accounts for over 30 percent of the curriculum and is the experiential portion of the Doctor of Pharmacy Program. Her responsibilities include managing more than 150 experiential sites in Hawai'i, South Pacific, Alaska, continental U.S. and Thailand. She oversees the scheduling of rotations for all four years of students and is the "go to" person for our faculty and community preceptors when they or students face challenging situations. What is even more exceptional about this recipient is that in addition she also prepares the students for their rotations



(From left): Dean Carolyn Ma, Dr. Lara Gomez, Toby Taniguchi and Chancellor Donald Straney at the presentation of the Taniguchi Award to Dr. Gomez. (Photo by John Oshima)

by creating innovative boot camps prior to their release to the outside world. These boot camps are run with originally created videos for students on behavior, professionalism as well as trainings such as immunization and pharmacy law.

Also on an annual basis, she creates and conducts pharmacy preceptor trainings, utilizing innovative learning techniques with videos with students/preceptors video scenarios and interprofessional learning and teaching. Most recently she has created online

learning modules for our preceptors who work around the clock, which is a way for them to gain the education they need to be effective preceptors.

It was my pleasure, along with our Chairs for Pharmacy Practice and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Drs. Roy Goo and Linda Connelly, to nominate this person who is normally a rather quiet and reserved person, but has, to my recollection some unexpected

boisterous moments. One is, as a former Waiakea High cheerleader, if you mention Waiakea High, she will yell, "go warriors"! and secondly, as an avid Wheel of Fortune fan, she was a finalist TV contestant for the Wheel of Fortune a few years ago when the show was filmed in Kona. And I'm happy that she didn't win the jackpot and had to come back to work. But certainly, if life at the college of pharmacy may seem at times

like the game of Wheel of Fortune we hit the jackpot with her.

I am extremely happy that our nominee, Dr. Lara Gomez, is to receive this award that recognizes creativity in teaching, scholarship and artistic production. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Lara Gomez, Director of Clinical Education from the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy.

## Drs. Leng Chee Chang, Dianqing Sun and Supakit Wongwiwatthananutit

### Award for Excellence in Scholarly/Creative Activities

The team of Dr. Leng Chee Chang, Dianqing Sun and Supakit Wongwiwatthananutit were given the University of Hawai'i at Hilo's Award for Excellence in Scholarly/Creative Activities based on a letter of nomination from Dr. Karen Pellegrin, director of strategic planning/continuing and distance education for DKICP. The following is how she assessed their performance according to the award criteria:

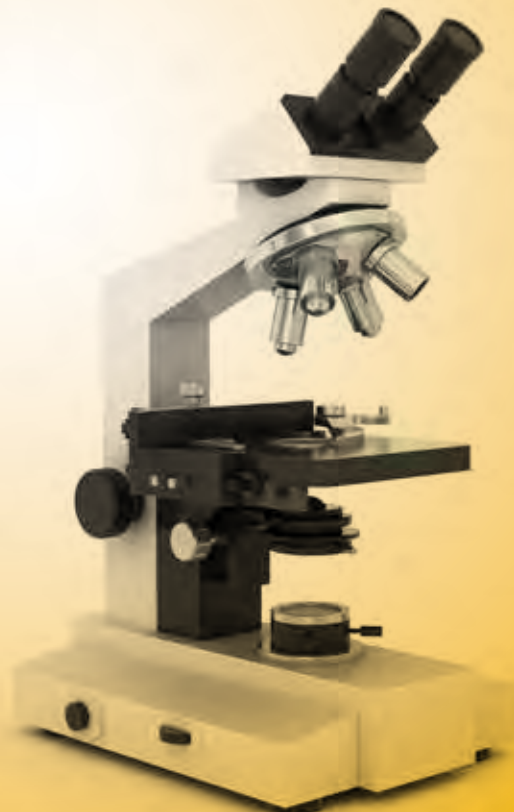
**Quality of scholarly and/or creative activities:** This team has four peer-reviewed journal publications in this research program, including in journals with impact factors of 2.4, 2.5, and 5.6, the latter of which is published by the American Chemical Society, one of the largest scientific societies globally. The quality of this work is also reflected in the patent, provisional patent, and invention disclosure through the University of Hawaii Office of Technology Transfer and Economic Development.

**Consistent and well-established pattern of endeavors over an extended period of time:** This team has been consistently productive in this drug discovery program for over 8 years, including grant funding, peer-review publications, national and international conference presentations, and the development of intellectual property.

**Recognition accruing to the University of Hawai'i as a result of these activities:** The research team's efforts have recently supported the successful award of a prestigious and highly competitive R01 award from the National Institutes of Health to the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center. In addition, the intellectual property from this drug discovery program is now filed with the University of Hawai'i, which accrues recognition as the home institution of this work.



(Left to right) Chancellor Donald Straney, Drs. Dianjing Sun, Leng Chee Chang and Supakit Wongwiwatthananutit with nominator Dr. Karen Pellegrin. Drs. Leng Chee Chang, Dianqing Sun and Supakit Wongwiwatthananutit.





## Merrie Monarch Parade

The weather cooperated this year as student pharmacists and members of the pre-pharmacy club, some with family members, participated in the 54<sup>th</sup> annual Merrie Monarch Festival Parade, held on April 22 this year. Mr. and Ms. Pharmacy, Felix Rasgo and Amber Masulit, rode on the float, which was pulled by a truck donated by Kona Trans. Kalo plants were provided by Lance and June Niimi, parents of Tracey Niimi who is a student support specialist for DKICP.

Krishelle Kamakeeaina-Mendoza and the Class of 2019 led DKICP's participation and float this year. According to Krishelle: "The theme of the float this year was completely different from previous years. This year's theme was Hāloa. It brings in the cultural aspect as well as (traditional) medicine where both are essential to our profession. Hāloa, in the plant form, is used medicinally and nutritionally. It is also the older sibling of Hāloa, in the human form. This human Hāloa is the ancestor of the Hawaiian race. Older and younger siblings have responsibilities to each other. I thought this relationship transcribes to patients and pharmacists or health care professionals as well."

Albert Shiotsuka, owner of Kona Trans, a local moving company in Hilo, donated the use of their truck and Damien Julius approved the use of the warehouse for the students to prepare the float during the week before the parade. Freight Dispatcher Ray Velez facilitated the project, and helped enlist the time of a driver, Adelbert Tallett, to help out the day of the parade.

"Kona Trans was absolutely instrumental in the success of our participation this year," said Student Support Specialist Tracey Niimi. "They went over and beyond anything we could have asked for, and we are grateful for their support."

(Photos by Tracey Niimi)



# Lemonade

## Char Cockett puts a positive spin on a tragic event and colleagues rush to help

The tiniest babies born at Hilo Medical Center (HMC) have a bit better chance to survive thanks to Char Cockett and several of her friends and supporters at the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy (DKICP).

Char, who has been on staff for the associate dean of academic affairs since the beginning of the College, has donated her handcrafted knit beanies to the local hospital in memory of her son, Calsey Santos. At just 31 years old, Calsey tragically was killed in a car accident on the Saddle Road a little more than five years ago.

Convinced she would never get the hang of it, Char learned to knit just last year. Fellow staff members Donna Ohora and Paula Zeszotarski persuaded her to join them in knitting sessions and she discovered she had a knack for it. Paula shared a pattern for little, basic beanies. Armed with size 5 circular, double-pointed needles, she soon had a couple dozen of the little yellow bonnets, but she had no idea what to do with them.

"I thought, now what?" she recalled, and then it came to her. "Calsey was my youngest, my baby, and he loved to wear beanies. So I called HMC and

asked if I could donate my beanies. They were very responsive and excited."

Soon, Elena Cabatu, who is the community relations manager at HMC, scheduled an interview with Char and she also arranged for a video to be posted on HMC's home page and social media websites (see it at <https://youtu.be/ncDTEe7j6KQ>.) HMC also is playing the video around the hospital.

"We saw the importance of highlighting Char's donation because of the holistic benefit to everyone involved. Her story is a great example to our community about turning a tragedy into a source of strength and I really appreciate her reaching out to us," Elena explained.

Char's family members are her biggest fans, and her Mom, Jane Awa, and sister, Arlene Masulit, have been supplying yarn and unconditional support. Once word got around the College that Char was involved in this project, big-hearted co-workers began coming to her aid with donations of money and yarn. Supakit Wongwiwatthananutkit who is interim associate dean for academic affairs, Chris Iha, the secretary to the dean, Jennifer Aguiar from Pharmacy Practice,

Reed Yoshiwa, the janitor, and Donna Ohora, the College's librarian, have all



*Baby Aria (whose Mom is DKICP's own Christina Method, a clinical support specialist) models the baby beanies knitted by Char Cockett. (Photos by Tracey Niimi)*

given to the cause. Even people outside the College have jumped to help, including Donna's mother, who lives in Canada, has been sending her yarn. And Lisa Rantz, executive director for the Hilo Medical Center Foundation, has donated a large bag of yarn after visiting the mainland.

Each beanie takes four hours to make. Char is busy putting together her next donation, and is planning to present it to the HMC's obstetrics ward on Calsey's birthday, August 22.

"Knitting has helped me emotionally and has kept my anxiety level down. It's hard and a daily struggle missing my Cals," Char said. "Knitting has helped to keep me calm."

See Char talk story in a video filmed by Nā Leo TV for inclusion in their new Tv series called 'Ike Pono at <https://videoplayer.telvue.com/player/v8ChcAR1AGw0J53eFhPiLqBUul6KHLI2/media/274942?autostart=false&howtabssearch=true&fullscreen=false>



# Research projects take center stage at Western States Conference 2017

By Drs. Bryce Fukunaga, Aryn You and Nicole Young

The Western States Conference (WSC) for Pharmacy Residents, Fellows and Preceptors is a time for pharmacy residents and fellows to formally present their research, learn about the projects of their peers, and grow their professional network. The Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy's (DKICP) Post-Graduate Year 1 (PGY-1) residents, Bryce Fukunaga and Aryn You, and Post-Graduate Year 2 (PGY-2) Critical Care resident, Nicole Young, attended the conference at Paradise Point, San Diego, California this past May 2017.

First time attendees, Drs. Fukunaga and You, presented their research projects, which focused on the use of vancomycin in patients hospitalized with pneumonia. Vancomycin is an antibiotic mainly used for methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) infections. In patients with pneumonia, the prevalence of MRSA is very low and vancomycin is often unnecessary. Some patients may receive a nasal MRSA PCR test, which can indicate that the patient has a very low likelihood of MRSA pneumonia. This test can aid the de-escalation of vancomycin within 72 hours. Both projects looked at the primary outcomes of mortality rate and length of hospitalization. Dr. You's focus was on patients who received vancomycin compared to those who did not and Dr. Fukunaga focused on patients who were MRSA negative and were de-escalated off of vancomycin.

Dr. Young presented to a full room



(From left:) Nicole Young, Eric Sanders, PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Director at The Queen's Medical Center Selma Yamamoto, Aryn You, Bryce Fukunaga, Carolyn Ma

on her project, "Cost-effectiveness of phenytoin and levetiracetam for seizure prophylaxis in traumatic brain injury patients." While the use of phenytoin is supported by the Brain Trauma Foundation guidelines due to available evidence, the use of levetiracetam is becoming more widely used because of growing evidence in its effectiveness and the potentially lower risk of side effects. The rationale for a cost-effectiveness study is that phenytoin is associated with a lower cost, but comes with the cost of drug level monitoring and the cost of potentially more side effects than levetiracetam. This study was a retrospective study that looked at the incidence of seizures and adverse drug reactions in patients who received either phenytoin or levetiracetam for seizure prophylaxis after sustaining a traumatic brain injury. Using the seizure, adverse drug reaction and successful seizure prophylaxis regimen outcomes, along with cost data, the cost-effectiveness from the hospital perspective was calculated using a decision analysis

model. There were many pharmacists in the audience interested in the outcomes due to also experiencing the use of both drugs at their institution.

All of the UH Hilo-DKICP alumni attending WSC were able to meet, have coffee, lunch or dinner together, and show support by sitting in each other's presentations. The UH Hilo alumni who were also showcasing their work included: Dr. Walter Domingo, PGY1 at Stanford Hospital and Clinics, presenting "Transition of care pharmacist impact on patients with myocardial infarction," Dr. Leilani Isozaki, PGY1 at Loma Linda University Medical Center, presenting "Best practice alerts for potentially inappropriate medications," Dr. Jairus Mahoe, PGY1 at University of California, San Diego Health System, presenting "Impact of pharmacist intervention on vaccinations in a community pharmacy," Dr. Bert Matsuo, PGY1 at Loma Linda University Medical Center, presenting "An evaluation of safety and efficacy of continuous intravenous ketamine," Dr. Eric Sanders, PGY1 at The Queen's Medical Center, presenting "Risk factors for hypoglycemia in hospitalized diabetic patients," Dr. Katrina Spinola, PGY1 at Tripler Army Medical Center, presenting "Implementation of an ambulatory care clinical pharmacy technician," and Dr. Eric Tsuji, PGY1 at Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc. - Hawaii, presenting "Standardize to simplify: Implementing an antimicrobial IV to PO procedure."



Nicole Young, a DKICP PGY2 resident at The Queen's Medical Center in Honolulu, presented her research at the Western States Conference for Residents in Pharmacy in San Diego on May 22-24. The conference was held so that pharmacy residents and fellows could come together to formally present their major projects, learn about the work of their peers, and grow their professional network.



Dean Ma (center) met with several alumni who are residents, including (from left): Drs. Bert Matsuo (Class of 2016, residency at Loma Linda), Bryce Fukunaga (Class of 2016, residency at DKICP), Aryn You (Class of 2016, residency at DKICP), Walter Domingo (Class of 2016, residency at Stanford Health), Eric Sanders (Class of 2016, residency at The Queens Medical Center), Nicole Young (Class of 2015, residency at DKICP), Jairus Mahoe (Class of 2016, residency at UC San Diego), Leilani Isozaki (Class of 2016, residency at Loma Linda)



## Networking in Honolulu

Dean Carolyn Ma (left) and fourth-year student pharmacist Zi Zhang represented DKICP as members of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) at the Hawai'i Tourism Center's 'Elele Banquet held in Honolulu March 30. The 'Elele program, launched in 2014 as a business ambassador program, serves the local community by pursuing mutually beneficial meetings for the Hawai'i Convention Center and the Hawaiian Islands.



## Governor Ige takes time to meet DKICP visitors

On March 31, about 30 students toured the State capitol building in Honolulu and were introduced at the Senate chamber. Several had the opportunity to meet Governor David Ige. From left: Gerald De Mello, Mary Cid (Class of 2017), Dean Carolyn Ma, Gov. Ige, student pharmacists Cindy Khamphaphanh (Class of 2018), Athena Borhauer (Class of 2019), Wilson Datario (Class of 2020), Associate Professor Wesley Sumida.

## Equipment donation expands opportunity for students

Thanks to a generous donation from Option Care in Honolulu, students have more opportunity for hands on training with equipment used in the compounding of sterile preparations.

According to Clinical Education Coordinator Patricia Juscak, "We are very grateful that Brent Wolford, RPh, Director of Operations thought of DKICP with transferal of a sterile isolator being withdrawn from use by Option Care. Sterile isolators are currently used in hospital and specialty pharmacy practice settings so it is great to have this state of the art equipment for the students to use in pharmaceuticals compounding lab and hospital simulation activities."

The sterile isolator, valued at \$13,343 and housed in the Pharmacy Practice & Compounding Laboratory building in the clean room pharmacy simulation lab, is being used for the PHPS 506/L pharmaceuticals lab course.





## Putting the pieces together

Construction is progressing on the permanent home for the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy on South A'hoku Street in Hilo next to the College's temporary modular buildings. Local Big Island construction company Isemoto Contracting Co., which received the contract for the building last year after beating out five other bids, began digging at the site last fall. Photos are supplied by the Hawai'i Department of Accounting and General Services, who oversees the project for the University of Hawai'i.





**Dr. F. David Horgen** (left), professor of chemistry with the Department of Chemistry/Biochemistry at Hawai'i Pacific University in Kaneohe, Hawai'i on O'ahu presented a seminar titled "Applications of Natural Product Libraries from Marine Algae, Invertebrates, and Microbes" on DKICP campus April 28. Dr. Horgen's host was Dr. Leng Chee Chang (right), associate professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

**Dr. Rao Jaladanki**, associate professor with the Department of Surgery at University of Maryland School of Medicine and Baltimore Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Baltimore, Maryland presented a seminar titled "Novel Signaling Regulating Intestinal Epithelial Restitution" on DKICP campus April 11.



**Dr. James West** (right), associate professor with the Department of Biology and Chemistry at The College of Wooster in Wooster, Ohio presented a seminar titled "Capturing the Moment: A Chemical Strategy for Identifying Thiol-Based Redox Partnerships in Cells" on DKICP campus April 3. His host was Dr. Aaron Jacobs, associate professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences.



# Health initiative shows people how to lead longer lives

## DKICP helps Hawai'i to become 'Blue Zone' certified

By Niaz Nafisi (Class of 2018)

In May, the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy has earned Blue Zones Project Approval as a worksite that helps East Hawai'i become a Certified Blue Zones Project Community.

So what exactly is the Blue Zones Project? The Blue Zones Project is a health movement started by author and National Geographic Fellow Dan Buettner and a team of researchers who traveled to the communities of the world where, more often than not, people live to be more than 100 years old. These communities of centenarians were named Blue Zones of the world. Buettner and his team found five cities around the world who continually lead longer lives: Okinawa, Japan, Sardinia, Italy, Nicoya, Costa Rica, Icaria, Greece, and Loma Linda, California.



Nikki Lew and Niaz Nafisi (both from Class of 2018) with campus's favorite pup Kumu

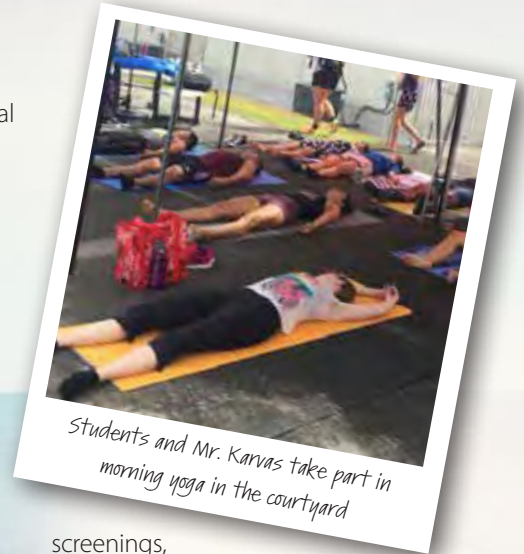
As more research was done, it was found that these communities, although scattered amongst continents, all share the same secrets for longevity, the nine parameters named the Power 9. The Power 9 include: know your purpose, feeling a sense of belonging, taking time to down shift, stop eating when you are 80% full, choosing a largely plant-based diet, move naturally, such as gardening and walking to work instead of pumping iron,

drink alcohol moderately and regularly, put loved ones first, and engage in social circles that support healthy behaviors. This Power 9 parameter is based on research from the Framingham Studies that show smoking, obesity, happiness and even loneliness are contagious. As the results of Buettner's research gain recognition, more communities have the opportunity to get involved.

DKICP became involved in the fall of 2014 with four students who wanted to bring the movement to their peers to witness a ripple effect of health and wellness in their academic community. East Hawai'i had recently been presented as a new Blue Zones site, a community where healthier living has been promoted all around town. Local businesses, restaurants and grocery stores have been part of the movement, as well as the the city of Hilo itself. Construction zones have been scattered all over town as new infrastructure has been put into place. New sidewalks and crossing walks have been constructed in Hilo to make walking and biking to work and school an easier and safer option for the community.

To celebrate the efforts of health and disease prevention at the start of this project in 2015, the 2015-2016 team planned a campus wide Blue Zones Health Day. It became the first event on campus planned by students, for students. Funded originally entirely on donations from campus organizations including APhA-ASP, A.L.O.H.A Project, NCPA, Rho Chi, Phi Lamda Sigma, the classes of 2017, 2018, and 2019 and both professional fraternities on campus, Kappa Psi and Phi Delta Chi.

Donations went entirely to the project to present the first annual Blue Zones Health Day in the spring of 2016. The day started with morning yoga and Zumba in the courtyard, followed by plant based food demonstrations, health



Students and Mr. Karvas take part in morning yoga in the courtyard

screenings, and everyone's favorite smoothie bike. Students were even given the opportunity to be part of building a garden on campus for everyone to use, as a space to take a breath or put their green thumbs to good use. A healthy lunch was provided as students participated in an official Blue Zones talk about the benefits of the Power 9 and how to incorporate them into everyday life.

As the Blue Zones Project continued to have more of an impact on campus, the project gained funding from the college in addition to student-run organizations and the Blue Zones Health Day was able to expand. The 2nd Annual Blue Zones Health Day was held on April 15 this year, and involved students, staff, faculty, friends, and family with the sole purpose of reminding everyone on campus that it's the little changes in health and wellness that will lead to longer lives. WikiFresh joined students this year in celebrating health and wellness with a live cooking demonstration. A how-to-hula workshop was added this year, as well as a high intensity training session with trainers from Hawaii Urban Training.

Faith Hicks (Class of 2019) was one of five students who served on the 2016-2017 Blue Zones Project Advisory

Committee (BZPAC), the group that runs the show on DKICP campus. "Blue Zone encompasses a 'whole health' lifestyle that promotes healthy and all-around good living," she says. "This is the ultimate goal of all health professionals for their patients." And she is exactly right, it's a "positive domino effect." Students so often write off wellness once exams start (and seemingly never stop.) With marathon study sessions, workshops, practicals, work, research, community outreach, and personal social agendas the importance of wellness is commonly overlooked. The Blue Zones Project on campus works to remind us that taking time to ourselves, down shifting, moving naturally, and being more aware of what we eat are all little changes that matter.

"The BZPAC has promoted ideas such as healthy eating, being active and relaxation techniques that mentally and physically effect the body, for our own good. As future pharmacists, we should incorporate these ideas in our lives and the lives of our patients," says Hicks, who is chair of the '17-'18 BZPAC. "As student pharmacists are trained to help their patients to achieve a healthier way of living, it is imperative to understand what a more mindful, healthier lifestyle entails.

The BZPAC also highlights little changes everyone can make to incorporate mindfulness into every day. Organizations were encouraged to sell plant based and Blue Zones approved meals during food-sale fundraisers, stretching was incorporated into breaks between lecture hours, and everyone was encouraged to park further to add extra movement into their days. In addition, this year Student Health and Wellness Programs from lower campus brought DKICP students a Relaxation Station. Students were able to stop by before or after class, even during break time to engage in stress management techniques, mindful coloring, breathing exercises, and even how to make a stress

ball and sand zen gardens. Ten minutes in the Relaxation Station helped students break away from any tension from their heavy school loads, to help reset their focus.

Behind the scenes of this project include a mass of paperwork and progress tracking. The goal at the beginning of this project was to get our college healthier and happier, as well as become a Blue Zones certified worksite. Students were surveyed at the beginning about their personal wellness status and again at the end of this last Spring semester. Baseline was obtained and results are currently undergoing analysis.

In addition to research, the founding BZPAC started the journey to help the Big Island become a nationally recognized Blue Zones worksite, a worksite where students were the employees and the College was the place of work. Implementation of changes on campus was done creatively and with the limited resources that were available. The national Blue Zones Project provides a list of requirements every certified worksite must implement to gain certification. Examples include providing healthy options when food is being sold, having a walking path and promoting the use of it on breaks and after class, making sure that path is posted in a high foot traffic area. The list consists of forty-six different opportunities, each given a certain number of points based on how much of a difference its implementation makes. For example, encouraging standing meetings is appointed two points, while having an engagement plan is nine points. In total, the checklist has 144 points available and 72 have to be met in order to gain certification. After two years, countless hours of brainstorming, planning, and implementing, the BZPAC was able to take the steps necessary to attain the minimal requirements to reach certification.



We are excited to share the news that DKICP has earned Blue Zones Project Approval as a worksite that helps East Hawaii become a Certified Blue Zones Project Community and we hope the ripple effect will continue. One of the final tasks on the certification list for a worksite is the launch of our personal wellness committee. The Blue Zones Project stands as the start of the initiative and as a new academic year approaches, the name of the committee will be shifting from the Blue Zones Project Advisory Committee to Hul'i Li'i. Hul'i Li'i is a Hawaiian phrase that means "little changes" and the logo is the blue forget-me-not flower. The color blue to remember where these efforts stemmed from, and the forget me not flower was chosen for its letters- to remember "fitness, mindfulness, and nutrition."

We are excited our passion for healthy living has had a direct impact on peers and the community. It's the little changes that can lead to not only longer lives, but happier, and healthier ones too. It all starts with little changes.

For more information about the Blue Zones Project and how you can get involved go to <http://hawaii.bluezonesproject.com>.

# Faculty Briefs

**Julie Adrian**, associate professor, veterinary pharmacy, Department of Pharmacy Practice and **Tamara Kondratyuk**, laboratory



manager and associate specialist in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, were authors in a paper entitled

“Evidence supporting the conceptual framework of cancer chemoprevention in canines” published in *Scientific Reports*. Co-authors were John Pezzuto, Kenneth Morris, Richard Van Breemen and Eun Jung Park.

**Shugeng Cao**,

associate professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was the lead author on an article entitled “Anti-proliferative ambuic acid derivatives from Hawaiian



endophytic fungus *Pestalotiopsis* sp. FT172” published in *Phytochemistry* 2017, 140, 72–82. Co-authors were C.S. Li, B. Yang, and J. Turkson. Dr. Cao also was lead author on a paper entitled “Verbenanone, an octahydro-5H-chromen-5-one from a Hawaiian-Plant Associated Fungus FT431” published in *Tetrahedron Lett.* 2017, 58, 2290–2293. Co-authors were C.S. Li, A.M. Sarotti, and J. Turkson.

**Aaron Jacobs**, associate professor,



Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, along with research technician Christina Wales and UH Hilo undergraduate students Rachel

Gristock and Mikayla Jones, presented two research projects entitled “Regulation of extracellular matrix gene expression and biosynthetic pathways in pulmonary fibroblasts by HSF1” and “Regulation of MAP kinase signaling by c-Myc mediates the apoptotic response

to vinca alkaloids” at the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in Chicago April 22-26.

**Susan Jarvi**, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented updates on rat lungworm research and education projects



completed in her lab on March 7 to the Hawai'i County Council, on May 1 to the Hilo Medical center Foundation Board and on May 2 to the Kiwanis Club of Hilo. She served as a judge at the Hawai'i Chapter of the American Society of Microbiologists on April 15 and at the INBRE SRE Symposium held on April 25 at John A. Burns School of Medicine. On April 25, she appeared on PBS Insights along with other guests discussing rat lungworm disease. She attended and presented “Human exposure to *Angiostrongylus cantonensis* on east Hawaii Island” with co-authors Stefano Quarta, Praphathip Eamsobhana, Kathleen Howe, Steven Jacquier, Robert McHugh, Kuikei Kramer, and McKayla Meyers at the American Association of Immunologists held in Washington DC May 12-16, for which she received a travel award from the organization to be able to attend.

**Reid Kubo**, Information Technology Specialist, is the new supervisor for the IT department effective June 1, 2017.

**Alanna Isobe**, DKICP preceptor from Safeway, has won the Immunizer award from the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) for her work as the top immunizer for the HepC outbreak that occurred in the islands this past year. She is regional pharmacist manager for Safeway on Kapahulu in Honolulu.

**Karen Pellegrin**, director of strategic planning, continuing/distance education, was an invited speaker at the Quality Innovation Network National Coordinating Center, Campaign for



Medication Management Learning and Action Network webinar, May 25. Her talk was entitled “Reducing Medication-Related Hospitalizations with Advanced Medication Management.”

**Dianqing Sun**,

associate professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences, published a paper entitled “Solid-phase synthesis of cyclic hexapeptides



wollamides A, B and desotamide B” in *Tetrahedron Letters*, with coauthors LS Tsutsumi and GT Tan. In addition, Dr. Sun gave a talk entitled “Synthesis and antibacterial evaluation of macrocyclic diarylheptanoid derivatives” at the 13th Sino-US Chemistry and Chemical Biology Professor Conference in Nantong, China, June 18-20, 2017. Dr. Sun was also invited to visit Soochow University, Suzhou, China, June 27-29, 2017, and presented a seminar entitled “Natural product-inspired new antibacterial agents” in College of Chemistry.



**Deborah Taira**, professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice, was co-author on two manuscripts: 1) “Racial/Ethnic Differences in Those Accompanying Medicare Patients to the

Doctor: Insights from the Medicare Current Beneficiary's Survey” in the *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*; 2) “Relationship Between Medication Adherence and Total Healthcare Expenditures by Race/Ethnicity in Patients with Diabetes in Hawai'i” in the *Hawai'i Journal of Medicine and Public Health*.

## Projects with new federal funding

**Dianqing Sun**, associate professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, has received funding by the IDeA program at the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIH-NIGMS) for his project entitled “Development of Macrocyclic Hexapeptide Wollamide B Analogs as New Antituberculosis Agents.” This one-year federally funded project will involve the development, synthesis and evaluation of macrocyclic wollamide B analogues, and may result in the development of novel antituberculosis drugs.

**Deborah Taira**, professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice, is a co-investigator on a project entitled, “Does Free Medicines Coverage Improve Diabetes Self-Care and Outcomes for Diverse Populations?” that was funded by the NIH National Diabetes & Digestive & Kidney Diseases. The R18 grant, which supports research designed to develop, test, and evaluate health service activities, and to foster the application of existing knowledge for the control of categorical diseases, will cover 10% of her time for four years.

## Specialized preceptor newsletter launches

The Experiential Office has announced the May launch of their newsletter to and for preceptors, called *The Quarterly Dose*.

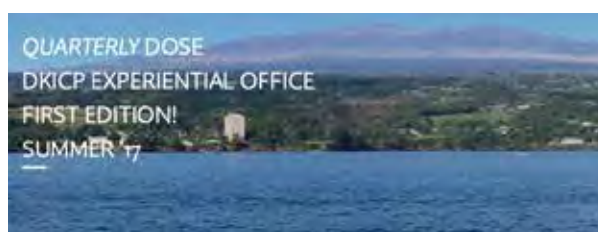
The online, three-page document is designed to engage with the preceptors on a regular basis. It also gives the opportunity for preceptors to earn 0.25 hr Continuing Education Unit.

Lara Gomez, director of clinical education, said that the bulletin serves as a fulfillment to part of the strategic plan, and hopes to engage

the volunteer mentors in useful dialogue.

“Our approach is a little more personal because we know our audience very well,” Dr. Gomez said. “We can provide specific information on current trends in experiential education, and hopefully get feedback on how we can help them in the teaching of our student body.”

The plan is to send out *The*



*Quarterly Dose* in May (at the beginning of new IPPE/APPE cycle), August (when the new school year starts), November (before the holidays) and late February (when the last block of rotations is occurring.)

## UH BOR approves promotion for Dr. Kondratyuk

The University of Hawai'i Board of Regents has approved a promotion for Dr. Tamara P. Kondratyuk to associate specialist at their June 1 meeting at the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center on O'ahu. The designation is effective August 1.

Dr. Kondratyuk earned her master's degree in biochemistry from Kiev State University, USSR and her Ph.D. in biochemistry from Moscow State University, USSR. She worked as a postdoctoral fellow in medicinal chemistry at Klinikum Der Friedrich-Schiller University, Germany as well as in molecular biology in the Department of Biochemistry at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana where she joined the research group of DKICP Dean Emeritus John Pezzuto.

Dr. Kondratyuk published 46 papers in peer-reviewed journals and supported research in the field of natural product drug discovery since joining the University of



Hawai'i at Hilo 10 years ago. She has established close collaborations and provided service in different bioassays guided fractionation along with mechanistic studies to several faculty members. She has participated in the development of pharmaceuticals compounding lab, an important part of the curriculum. She helped establish the Ph.D. program and has been a member of the Ph.D. committee since 2009. Dr. Kondratyuk organized a Ph.D. course for graduate students called “Cell Cycle Progression and Apoptosis” and volunteered several times to provide hands-on pharmacy activities for K-12 students for Na Pau No'eau. In the future, she would like to create a bioassays lab and develop strong collaboration inside DKICP as well as with researchers she has worked with in multiple natural drug discovery projects.

# IN MEMORIAM

## Dr. Raymond Tseng



Dr. Raymond Chi-Jen Tseng, husband of Chancellor Emeritus Dr. Rose Tseng, passed away in Los Altos, Calif. on April 11. Ray often worked alongside Rose to gain approval of the College of Pharmacy from its inception. The couple continued supporting the growth of the College until Rose's retirement in 2010, when they relocated to California. Born on Hainan Island, the southern most province of the People's Republic of China, Ray earned his Ph.D. in engineering from UC Berkely. In his career, he made major contributions at IBM, and eventually retired as the director of reliability engineering at Komag Inc., a manufacturer of computer hard disks in Milpitas, Calif. His support and good nature were invaluable to the growth of the college, and he is deeply missed by all who knew him. (Maggie Morris Photo)

## A personal journey to become a pharmacist

By Trish Huynh (Class of 2019)



If you had asked me ten years ago whether or not I would consider pharmacy as a career of choice, my answer would have been "no thanks." However, ten years ago, my grandfather was diagnosed with

stage four hepatocellular carcinoma. Hepatocellular carcinoma is a malignancy of the liver and usually seen in patients with chronic liver disease.

When the news was verbally delivered, it didn't hit me as I was unsure of what the extremities were associated with the onset of the disease. I innocently accepted the news and assisted my family in caring for my grandfather. Because there is a language barrier within my family, it was my duty to take him to his doctor's appointments, pick up his medications, monitor his lab values and read his weekly doctor's notes. However, one year into his diagnosis, my grandfather's health had significantly deteriorated and the oncologist gave me the toughest deadline that I have ever heard. He told me, "your grandfather has six months left". At that moment, I felt like every part of me was shattered. Although my head was clouded by fear and sadness, I decided to pick every piece of myself back up and told

myself that I would not let a deadline prevent me from loving and caring for my grandfather any less than I already have. My family and the oncologist came to a mutual agreement to discontinue my grandfather's chemotherapy treatment and he was placed on Sorafenib, indicated for the treatment of unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma.

I was my grandfather's biggest supporter and the next six months were miraculous; my grandfather adhered to his medication regimen and this was apparent through the improvements seen in his health-- both physically and mentally. Six months turned to one year, and one year turned to nine unforgettable years. I started believing in the effectiveness of medication and the importance in maintaining good health. I started college and pursued a bachelors of science degree in biological sciences. During my time in college, I thoroughly enjoyed my science based courses-- especially organic chemistry and molecular pharmacology. I started connecting all of the medication on my grandfather's shelf with what I was learning in the classroom. Finally, I decided to pursue a career in pharmacy and my grandfather was my biggest supporter. Unfortunately, shortly after starting my second year of pharmacy school, my grandfather passed away. Distraught and frustrated because I was 2,500 miles away



from home, I was able to convince myself that he was in a much better place where he was no longer in pain.

I can confidently say that my grandfather was the ultimate reason why I chose a career in pharmacy. As a pharmacist, I want to educate the community about medication adherence and its effectiveness when used correctly. I hope to eventually work with the geriatric population and specialize in dispensing and counseling older patients about their medication regimen. I believe that medication adherence can change any living deadline even with a disease as severe as stage four hepatocellular carcinoma. The power of living a healthy, balanced life both mentally and physically can greatly extend this time course by months or even years. Therefore, as a student pharmacist, I hope to share my story and educate the community about the importance of medication adherence.

## Big-hearted students raise money for AHA



The American Pharmacist Association – Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) presented a check for \$276.64 to Ann Oshiro-Kauwe, Big Island Regional Director at the American Heart Association, on Feb. 23. Each year, the group sponsors a competition among each class, faculty and staff member to raise money for heart disease research through an Annual Penny Wars. According to the American Heart Association, heart disease and stroke cause one in three deaths among women each year, killing approximately one woman every 80 seconds. “Fortunately, we have the power to change that because 80 percent of cardiac and stroke events may be prevented with education and action,” said San Ly (Class of 2019). “We can contribute by spreading awareness and fundraising for research.” (Photo by Cara Suefuji)

## The 7th Annual IPC Independent Pharmacy Conference

IPC

By XuanLam Le (Lam Le)  
(Class of 2018)

The Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy (DKICP) had the honor of being invited to attend the 7th annual IPC (Independent Pharmacy Cooperative) Independent Pharmacy Conference. Kerri Nakatsu, Goody Cacal, Kaylee Hoang, and Lam Le represented DKICP at the conference, which was held at the beautiful Hyatt Gainey Ranch in Scottsdale, Arizona April 6-9.

IPC was founded in 1983 and is based in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin. The company is the largest group purchasing organization (GPO) for independent pharmacy owned by independent pharmacy. CEO Don Anderson told us that IPC wants to continue to support student pharmacists and that IPC’s goal is to inspire the next generation of independent pharmacy owners.

IPC hosted and sponsored more than 50 students from 13 pharmacy programs at the seventh annual IPC

Independent Pharmacy Conference. The three-day conference was filled with an abundance of activities for students and independent pharmacy owners such as guest presenters, trade show exposition, and much more.

The conference presented student pharmacists with opportunities to learn about what an independent pharmacy



7<sup>th</sup> annual IPC conference

business entails, and network with successful store owners. Students also had the opportunity to meet industry experts (such as McKesson) and pharmacy vendors through the conference. The event also gave students and pharmacy owners the opportunity to earn continuing education (CE) hours through their wonderful CE sessions embedded inside the schedule.

We want to say thank you to IPC for a wonderful opportunity that we will never forget! The conference has really opened our eyes into the world of independent pharmacy. IPC gave us a network that we can go to if we have any questions about independent pharmacy. We cannot wait to bring back the experience that we have gained and to share it with our college of pharmacy. With the help of IPC, we hope to bring the owners’ panel to the DKICP campus in fall of 2017. The 7th Annual IPC Independent Pharmacy Conference has definitely inspired us to become the next generation of independent pharmacy owners.



(From top): Lam Le (Class of 2018), Kaylee Hoang (Class of 2019), Kerri Nakatsu (Class of 2018). (Photo by Goody Cacal, Class of 2018)

### Kappa Psi

# Community projects dominate spring semester

By Tyler Peterson (Class of 2020)  
Epsilon Psi Historian,

The spring 2017 semester was quite an eventful one for the Brothers of Kappa Psi as we were fortunate enough to be able to give back our community in a number of ways. Throughout the semester we were able to help out with the 2017 Sanctuary Ocean Count. On a few of weekend mornings, Brothers spent a few hours together helping by counting whales and identifying their behaviors. We also had the opportunity to help maintain the beautiful Liliuokalani Gardens by participating in the pond's de-mucking and raking up leaves. Brothers got down and dirty and helped clear foliage around the pond in order to help restore the park's natural beauty. A third community service, which also took place at Liliuokalani Gardens, was the 6th annual AIDS walk. This was a two-mile walk around the park to raise funds for the Hawaii Island HIV/AIDS Foundation – we were able to raise \$335.00!

With a good dose of help and friendly competition from our fellow



Brothers at Hilo's 6th annual AIDS Walk (Photos by Tyler Peterson).

professional fraternity, Phi Delta Chi, we were able to help raise funds for Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS), a non-profit organization dedicated to help children succeed and thrive in life. For the first time ever, we were able to put on an Easter Day event in which both fraternities, in collaboration with Big Brothers Big Sisters and Meadow Gold, we helped provide many fun games and entertainment for children. Activities included putty making, egg dyeing, mask making, and of course, an egg hunt. All supplies and equipment were donated by each organization

that participated in the event, which we were very thankful for.

One of our more "profitable" functions though, was our car wash, in which we raised \$751.25 towards BBBS. Other events to raise money for BBBS included Brolympics, which was a spin-off of the traditional Greek Week. In this event, participants from Kappa Psi and Phi Delta Chi competed against one another to raise funds and bragging rights. Some of the activities included were a 3v3 basketball tournament, tug-o-war, kickball, and a bake-off. At any point during Brolympics, Brothers from both fraternities also had the chance to donate money towards BBBS. In total, we raised \$1,128.79 for Big Brothers Big Sisters and we couldn't be any happier!

This semester was a great one for Kappa Psi. We were able to give back to our community, grow closer together, and help one another become better future pharmacists. We also had to say goodbye to our graduating Brothers of the Class of 2017. We will miss their company but also congratulate them and wish them the best as they move onto the next chapter of their lives. We're excited to enjoy our summer vacation and gain some experience at our summer rotations. But we are also getting ready to make this next academic year another productive one.



Kappa Psi Brother Vivian Tran (left) and Phi Delta Chi Brother Khoa Le (right) creating putty at the Kappa Psi-Phi Delta Chi Easter Day event.



# Participation in AstroDay connects with kids in community

By Jonathan Lam (Class of 2020)

AstroDay was a great opportunity for the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) to come out and share our efforts as well as connect with the community. It was a big event where families and anyone interested in astronomy and education can come and participate in scholarly discoveries. We held a silly putty compounding demonstration for the kids, letting them create their own putty using household items. We aimed to help spark the children's imagination and their passion for science. It was a successful day with up to 300 children participating in our silly putty demonstration. We hope to continue our event with AstroDay in the coming years!



# Hospice of Hilo celebrates life with the aid of student pharmacists

By Cathlyn Goo (Class of 2019)

Members of the Phi Delta Chi (PDC) Professional Pharmacy Fraternity volunteered at the 13th Annual Hospice of Hilo Celebration of Life, which was held April 30. This four-and-a-half-hour event included a two-mile walk around Wailoa State Park, live entertainment and food concessions to raise funds for Hospice of Hilo, and a lantern floating ceremony at sunset to honor lost loved ones.

PDC members worked three different shifts throughout the day - morning, afternoon, and evening. The morning shift helped to set up the event, assisting with decorations and food booths. The second shift split up into small groups of two or three people with some people giving out water, some helping with decorating lanterns, some cheering at the end of the two-mile walk,



and some helping set up the wooden boats for the lanterns. The last shift helped to break down and clean up the event.

A few volunteers also went to the Hospice of Hilo after the event to help unload all the supplies and materials that were used that day. Despite the rainy weather, PDC members still dedicated their Sunday to lend a hand – for a total of thirteen hours – and helped to see through such a successful and significant event.

# Annual Spring Leadership Symposium helps student pharmacists plan for future

By Shannon Trinh (Class of 2019) and Vivian Tran (Class of 2018)

The members of the Phi Lambda Sigma Pharmacy Leadership Society (PLS) Delta Lambda Chapter at DKICP presented students and faculty with the annual Spring Leadership Symposium on Saturday, April 29. The goal of the symposium was to provide students with an opportunity to learn about various aspects of leadership, from finding one's own leadership style to learning about time management as well as interview skills and tools to be competitive post-pharmacy school.

During the Symposium, Mr. Tracey Niimi opened up with an interactive exercise about professionalism. There were many laughs during his exercise. In all seriousness, students of DKICP perceive their peers as genuine, dependable, honest, and many more words were used to describe professionalism. Not only do those words ring true, Mr. Niimi stressed the importance of professionalism and how to embody that.

Mr. Niimi's exercise was the perfect opening for a workshop by Dr. Wesley Sumida, PLS faculty advisor and one of our special speakers, Ms. Lorna Festa, which was titled "Your Best Self." Before the workshop, students were encouraged to contact their peers, faculty, family, etc. and request a response regarding what strengths they saw in that student and to provide an example. Each student would then compile all their strengths, find patterns within them, and compose a self-portrait, or description of themselves that included these strengths. The aim of this workshop was to give each student an opportunity to see their strengths from the perspective of others, which proved to be eye-opening for some of those who participated. As mentioned during the Symposium, Alex Hilo a second year pharmacy student said, "this exercise has allowed me to gain a lot of confidence. I didn't see these strengths in myself and it was really nice to read what people saw in me."

This activity was incorporated with an article published in the Harvard Business Review titled "Pioneers, Drivers, Integrators, and Guardians," which put a spotlight on different personality profiles and how they all can work together, despite their differences, to create team chemistry.

Students had the chance to take part in various workshops and activities, such as a working lunch, which included student organization planning, President's Roundtable, and Treasurer's Training. After lunch, students had the opportunity to sit down at the Pharmacist's Roundtable to gain insight from Dr. Louis Lteif, Dr. Jarred Prudencio, and Dr. Eric Tsuji about residency and general questions about careers in pharmacy. It was very insightful since each presented on a different specialty of pharmacy from infectious diseases, ambulatory care and Post Graduate Year 1 (PGY1) pharmacy practice residency.

Finally, Mr. Allen Chung, President of C Three Consulting, LLC, presented an "Interview Skills" workshop where he used his experience as president of a human resources consulting practice to provide students with advice on what he believes makes a successful interview. He was able to layout a framework for students to use during interviews to answer questions. Mr. Chung encouraged students to be genuine and real when answering the questions from the interviewer. He emphasized the importance of finding a company that best suits your personality because if answers are tailored a certain way in order to get hired, you will eventually realized how the job is not the best fit for you.



Dr. Wes Sumida (left) and Lorna Festa



PLS Leadership Symposium



Mr. Allen Chung

Despite the long day, PLS hopes that all attendees were able to gain some valuable insight that might benefit them as a student pharmacist but also as a leader. PLS would like to thank all faculty, guests, and students who participated in the symposium and helped to make it happen. The faculty's continuous support and dedication to our school and our profession is greatly appreciated.

We hope everyone has an enjoyable summer and we look forward to seeing everyone again in the Fall!



## Rho Chi makes top 5 Most Improved Chapter at APhA annual conference

*By Paolo Truong (Class of 2018)*

The Rho Chi Society - Delta Iota Chapter was recognized as one of the Top 5 finalists in Most Improved Chapter at the Rho Chi Annual National Meeting, which was held during the American Pharmacist Association (APhA) Annual Conference in San Francisco on April 26. This achievement was based on the chapter's performance during the 2015-2016 academic year.

The Rho Chi Society is an academic honor society that strives to promote intellectual excellence and recognize scholastic achievement. The chapter was recognized for its increased activities such as the development of Journal Club events throughout the year and amount of tutoring hours offered.

During the meeting, Rho Chi members from across the country came together to discuss the current status of the organization and voted on the inauguration of three new chapters.

The Rho Chi Society National Meeting was one of the events that Rho Chi members attended as part of a four-day annual conference hosted by APhA. DKICP student pharmacists Paolo Truong, Megan Olaguer, Quan Truong and Trenton Aoki were given LEF funding to attend this



conference. Rho Chi members who also were able to attend thanks to alternate funding by different organizations included Vicky Nguyen, Halena Tran, Rene Scott Chavez, Kara Paulachak and Joann Phan.

The students were immersed in various professional development workshops and motivational talks. Fellowship and residency information sessions were also available to expand student's knowledge on various career paths open to them after they graduate from pharmacy school.

Class of 2018 student pharmacist Megan Olaguer described the event by saying it was "an opportunity to network with other student pharmacists and attend a few educational sessions, which broadened my horizons."

## Student senators lobby for needed supplies

UH Hilo Student Association (UHSA) Senators Gurinder Kaur, Tin Le, Trish Huynh and Lauren Glover Alejado (all from the Class of 2019) successfully advocated for the college to receive some new supplies and equipment for the student lounge on DKICP campus, all provided by UHSA. Much needed and appreciated items included a microwave, an Apple iMac, printer paper and desk supplies such as staplers, scissor, scotch tape and paper clips.

## Rotation Report

# Northern Navajo Medical Center, Shiprock, New Mexico

By Dr. Beth Earles (Class of 2017)  
(This article also was published in the University Point of Contact (UPOC) newsletter, a publication of the United States Public Health Service)



My name is Beth Earles and I wrote this account while I was a fourth-year student pharmacist from the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy at the University of Hawai'i. When the time came to choose my six-week block rotations a year ago last November, a fellow classmate suggested exploring Indian Health Services sites. I'd visited a lot of America by this time, but hadn't been to New Mexico or really explored the Southwest. When I read about the Northern Navajo Medical Center (NNMC) ambulatory care rotation, I jumped at the opportunity.

I've lived in Hawai'i for 15 years. I've been in the health care industry for most of my 30-year work career. I wanted to compare and contrast what I knew about the Hawaiian culture with the American Indian culture (i.e. day-to-day living, health concerns, accessibility of health services); the intent being to see what ideas and concepts I could bring back to Hawai'i that would help my community. Public Health and social services aren't as prevalent in Hawai'i as they are elsewhere in the country.

The Northern Navajo Medical Center in Shiprock, New Mexico is the largest medical facility within the Four



At Four Corners Monument in Teec Nos Pos, AZ, Beth Forbes stands with Liana Chowdhury, Amber Goodloe and Robert Anderson.

Corners region, providing services to the Native population in New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Colorado. My rotation at NNMC was Ambulatory Care. Since a significant amount of these programs are run and maintained by Public Health

Service pharmacists and personnel, I had the opportunity to observe and participate in many different disciplines: mental health consultations, epilepsy appointments, pain clinic and diabetes wellness classes, and Coumadin clinic, just to name a few. I interacted with the patients during their evaluations and gave medication recommendations to the provider. Participating in these visits made me feel like a valued, integral part of the healthcare team. In addition to my ambulatory duties, I spent a week on the inpatient/hospital floor attending patient rounds, learning about inpatient medication dispensing and inventory, and practiced my discharge counseling. I provided outpatient counseling at NNMC as well as in remote satellite clinics such as Toadlena and Sanostee. These very small facilities provide more than just basic medical care; staff members who represent the different departments travel to these field clinics to help ease the transportation burden on their patients. I did get to let out my creative side too, while participating in the NNMC Employee Health Fair. My classmate, Amber Goodloe and I created a "Take Back Prescription Drug" poster providing information to employees and patients on how to properly dispose of medications available to the community.

While soaking up all of my new professional experiences, I was able to cross items off my bucket list. Mesa Verde National Park and the Anasazi Pueblos in Colorado were breathtakingly beautiful. The Petrified Forest with its Petroglyphs and Route 66 was amazing. I'm a history buff, so these glimpses into the past were phenomenal. I even attended a Navajo Rug auction! My rotation at NNMC was one of the most rewarding of my last year of school. It was an eye-opening experience and very educational for me as a Pharmacy Intern, as well as a health care professional. ALL of the staff –pharmacists and technicians – reinforced and added to my educational knowledge. Each person contributed in some way to the fundamental changes of my opinions concerning the pharmacist's role in healthcare and helped me hone my intentions of how to better serve my community in Hawai'i. I strongly encourage all pharmacy students to do an Indian Health Services rotation. It could turn out to be a life-altering experience.

# Psychiatric elective gives fresh perspective

By Niko Pogorevcnik  
(Class of 2018)

As I write this, it is the half-way point of my first fourth-year rotation at Hawai'i State Hospital on O'ahu. I anticipate a casual yet honest mid-rotation evaluation to take place in the coming week.



Starting off the rotation, I didn't know exactly what to expect. Luckily the pharmacy team at Hawai'i State Hospital has been very welcoming and supportive towards my learning goals. There are three main reasons why I chose this elective: 1) To gain exposure to the residency experience through my preceptor (current PGY-2 resident) and the practice site. 2) I find psychiatric drugs fascinating, especially after completing the fourth and final IT module this past spring. 3) When else will I have the opportunity to rotate in a forensic psychiatric hospital!

One thing I liked most about the rotation is the structured work schedule in concurrence with a laid-back atmosphere. Objectives for the rotation are crystal clear and discussed up front. Students have weekly topic discussions with the pharmacists on various psychiatric disease-states. To fully prepare for these topic discussions you will need to look up pertinent information on the disorders using a template for guidance (i.e. epidemiology, pathophysiology, pharmacologic treatment with dosing, etc.) You will present one journal club to preceptors, and present a final, 30 minute, presentation on a topic of your choice. My final presentation will be on Serotonin Syndrome. The presentation takes place in the hospital auditorium; nursing, psychiatry, and other hospital departments may also be in attendance.

As for the actual pharmacy in the hospital, it is relatively modest in size. The work environment is dynamic and learning-friendly for the student. Situations come up frequently where the pharmacist will ask for your input on certain subjects; if you don't have an answer you will have to research and get back to them. A few memorable questions I was asked include: a psychiatrist asking for a recommendation for a schizophrenic patient prescribed Risperdal and Abilify and still exhibiting symptoms. Another question arose on how to manage the interaction between warfarin and an SSRI (i.e. Lexapro). Aside from my set responsibilities, day-to-day activities vary. I have been involved in a variety of experiences including: researching specific pharmacy-related topics (e.g. current literature on splitting unscored tablets), attending meetings (e.g. hospital procedures and protocol on choking, ABS conference call), observing and assisting with patient classes on schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and medication adherence and being involved in clozapine REMS monitoring and education.

I know the rotation is already almost half way done, but I remain excited for the rest of it. I am looking forward to the two more topic discussions (one on depression and one on my choice of topic), a journal club, and my final presentation.



## Preceptor Focus:

# Faculty Preceptor of the Year 2017:

*Dr. Louis Lteif,*

*Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice*

Dr. Louis Lteif was voted Faculty Preceptor of the Year by the fourth-year students and presented with the award at both the Spring Awards Ceremony and the graduation banquet. Born and raised in the Middle Eastern country of Lebanon, he matriculated at the Lebanese American University and received his Pharm.D. in 2012. He then practiced in retail setting before pursuing a Post-Graduate Year 1 (PGY-1) pharmacy practice residency at Howard University Hospital in Washington, DC. Dr. Lteif's interests lie in infectious diseases, which led him to complete a PGY-2 infectious diseases residency at Howard University Hospital as well.

Dr. Lteif joined DKICP as an assistant professor of pharmacy practice in January 2016. He teaches didactic lectures on a variety of topics including respiratory and infectious diseases, evidence-based medicine and applied pharmaceutical care. His research interests comprise antimicrobial resistance and use optimization, where he collaborates in a statewide approach to combat antimicrobial resistance and misuse through the Hawai'i Antimicrobial Stewardship Collaborative (HASC). His practice site

is at Hilo Medical Center (HMC) where he functions as the Antimicrobial Stewardship Pharmacist providing experiential opportunities for both Introductory and Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (IPPEs and APPEs).

Dr. Lteif's interests and passion for teaching debuted when he was co-precepting student pharmacists during his residency years. One aspect that is truly unique to precepting is the ability to interact with and know the students on a more personal level. He discovered most students open-up and are more comfortable during IPPE or APPE rotations as opposed to the classroom setting. "The more relaxing environment allows for a smoother interaction and facilitates learning for students in addition to allowing more reserved students an opportunity to speak up and demonstrate their abilities."

He says the other satisfying aspect of precepting is the ability to help students progress from learners to entry-level independent practitioners. "By modeling, coaching and mentoring students, preceptors have the ability to infuse personal expertise and insights that are detrimental in helping students translate classroom learning into real-life practice. It is very rewarding to



see students tackle cases appropriately and learn the major concepts and approaches pertaining to acute care patients in general and Infectious Diseases cases in particular over the course of the rotation."

Lastly, he says preceptors have opportunities to tailor rotations and experiences to each student specifically through unique tasks and activities regardless of which pathway they decide to embark within the pharmacy field upon graduation.



# Preceptor of the Year 2017:

*Dr. Travis Young*

*Pharmacy manager, Target, Hilo*

**D**r. Travis Young was voted Preceptor of the Year by the second- and fourth-year students and presented with the award at both the Spring Awards Ceremony and the graduation banquet.

Originally from Oahu, the 2004 Kamehameha Schools Kapālama graduate received his bachelor's degree as well as his Pharm.D. at the Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon in 2008 and 2011, respectively. His first pharmacy experience as an undergraduate was at Longs Drugs on Bishop Street in downtown Honolulu. Since 2011, he helped to open the pharmacy at Target in Hilo, which transitioned to CVS in 2013, and has been pharmacy manager there since 2015.

In his own words about being a preceptor at DKICP:

Precepting students allows me to give back to my Big Island community and my community of future pharmacists. I have been very fortunate in my own journey to

become a pharmacist and have had great mentors and preceptors through my years prior to and during pharmacy school. I feel grateful that I am able to provide a learning environment for pharmacy students who are eager to learn about their future profession and give them guidance and provide them with the ways and whys of what we do in retail pharmacy.

I've enjoyed the students who have come through our pharmacy over the past six years since Target opened in Hilo. They bring the hunger to learn, which makes my job as a preceptor come easy. They ask great questions that allow me to expand my own thinking. They come with the knowledge of the latest guidelines and newest drugs on the market. I always remind them: you don't have to know it all, but you need to know how to look it up if you're unsure of the answer.

All in all, precepting is a great opportunity for both the pharmacy students and myself. I hope to continue to provide a positive and effective place to learn for the students of the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy.

## ALUMNI UPDATE

### Dr. Susanne Youngren-Ortiz

*Ph.D. graduate, 2016*

**D**r. Youngren Ortiz was among the first Ph.D. graduates in pharmaceutical sciences at DKCIP. She is the first Ph.D. to give us an update on her career since graduation. Originally from Merrillville, Indiana, a town in the greater Chicago area, she received a bachelor's degree in pharmaceutical sciences with specialization in Industrial and Physical Pharmacy and minors in both statistics and chemistry from Purdue University's College of Pharmacy. She currently works at Akorn Pharmaceuticals located in Vernon Hills, Illinois.

It has now been a year since I have earned my Ph.D. and began working as a formulation scientist at Akorn Pharmaceuticals. Akorn specializes in the development and manufacture of branded and generic sterile injectables, ophthalmics, oral solutions, topicals, and inhalation products.

As a formulation scientist, I am involved in research and development (R&D) studies, technology transfer, pilot batch manufacture and evaluation, as well as writing of Abbreviated New



Drug Application (ANDA) documents. I work with a team that also includes project managers, regulatory affairs specialists, analytical scientists and process engineers.

The products that I am currently developing include injectable solutions and lyophilized (freeze dried) powders for injection. I have also made contributions to company wide formulation development practices by co-authoring a document that directs formulation development in an effort to harmonize R&D activities across all

Akorn locations.

*Dr. Youngren Ortiz can be reached at [youngrenortiz@gmail.com](mailto:youngrenortiz@gmail.com).*



*Susanne Youngren-Ortiz participated at DKCIP Health Fairs when she was a Ph.D. student.*

# Spring 2017 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 2017 spring semester. The Class of 2017 was on experiential rotations during their final year of study and were therefore ineligible for this didactic qualification.



## Class of 2018:

Chelsea Aipoalani	Kelli Goo	Christopher Nakagawa	Lauren Skorheim
Tiffany Alberg	Kelsy Kam	Kerri Nakatsu	Andrew Skorheim
Ciara Butts	Jui-Yu Kao	Vicky Nguyen	John James Taman
Goody Cacal	Jonathan Kataoka	Phuong Nguyen	Ha Tran
Robby-Sean Cayetano	Macie Kim	Phuong An Nguyen-Huu	Quan Truong
Matt Chen	Krystle Kiyuna	Megan Olaguer	Paolo Vinh Tuan
Jane Choi	Katrina Kutter	Marina Ortiz	Truong
Karen Christian	Bernice La	Carli Owan	Amber Uto
Mathew Eng	XuanLam Le	Jessica Penaranda	Zebedee Walpert
Sara Evanko	Tram Le	Tran Pham	Candace Woo
Erik Ferreira	Jessica Lee	Joann Phan	Seungyeun Yoo
Jennifer Fujio	Nicolette Lew	Niko Pogorevcnik	
Cierra Gauvin	Miyuki Miller	Caroline Rhee	
	Niaz Nafisi	Lauren Sato	

## Class of 2019:

Sydney Barney	Faith Hicks	Tyler Millar	Clement Tran Tang
Deniz Bicakci	Vance Hill	Jennifer Nguyen	Shannon Trinh
Athena Borhauer	Tyler Hirokawa	Kelsey Noetzelmann	Nicholas Tsoi
Rene-Scott Chavez	Preston Ho	Kara Paulachak	Ashley Uehara
Torrence Ching	Kaylee Hoang	David Pham	Nancy Wong
Katrina Downey	Kelly Kofalt	Gam Phan	Veronica Wong
Samantha Gonzalez	Logan Kostur	Rachel Randall	Krystin Yasay
Cathlyn Goo	Kevin Lei	Jessica Regpala	Carrie Yeung
Leigh Heffner	San Ly	Lindsey Reinholz	
	Kate Malasig	Desiree Shouse	

## Class of 2020:

BJ Isaac Acosta	Taylor Hori	Andrew Nguyen	Samantha Texeira
David Cao	Su Hyon Kwon	Kathleen Nguyen	Andrew Thai
Brandi Chun	Kamala Lizama	Brent Ocker	Jared Toba
Wilson Datario	Tracy Lopez	Rachel Paragas	Johnny Tran
Joshua Dillon	Mary Lui	Tyler Peterson	Kelsey Trujillo
Jensine Melody Domingo	Vincent Manalo	Felix Rasgo	Kyle Tsubota
Courtney Elam	Jarin Miyamoto	Robyn Rector	Thi Hong Vo
Amelia Furlan	Shahrazad Mohammadi	Taumie Richie	Stacie Waiamau
Jhoana Paula Gonzales	Tony Moua	Shaina Saiki	Brooke Zarriello
	Stacey Nguyen	Reid Shimada	

## Class of 2018 who have been on the Dean's List every semester since first year:

Chelsea Aipoalani	XuanLam Le	Joann Phan	Ha Tran
Sara Evanko	Kerri Nakatsu	Lauren Sato	Quan Truong
Jennifer Fujio	Vicky Nguyen	Lauren Skorhei	Paolo Vinh Tuan Truong
Cierra Gauvin	Carli Owan	John James Taman	Seungyeun Yoo



# Champions of Pharmacy



Mr. Kelvin Sewake has been named a Champion of Pharmacy for Summer 2017.

As interim associate dean and associate director for extension at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), Mr. Sewake has statewide responsibility for all of the college's extension programs.

Mr. Sewake began his career in the Hilo office of the Cooperative Extension Service in 1985, after receiving both his bachelor's and master's degrees in horticulture from UH-Manoa, CTAHR, in 1982 and 1984, respectively. His first responsibility was serving Department of Hawaiian Homes agricultural lessees. In 1989, he shifted into a new position providing educational programs for the cut flower industries in East Hawai'i. In his new position, he provided technical assistance to growers and shippers in all aspects of farming from

propagation, horticultural production, pest management, postharvest handling, and marketing. He advised statewide industry organizations, including the Hawai'i Floriculture and Nursery Association and the Hawai'i Tropical Flower Council, as well as several local industry organizations where he provided leadership support in their efforts and also facilitated their goals and action plans. Between 2005 and 2007, he served as Interim Hawai'i County Administrator and Hawai'i County Administrator with responsibilities for three Extension offices, eight experiment stations, and approximately 70 Big Island faculty and staff. Currently, as the Interim Associate Dean & Associate Director for Extension, his role has expanded to all four counties, overseeing all agriculture and human resource programs in extension.

Mr. Sewake is the father of DKICP alum, Roxanne Sewake, Class of 2014, who married fellow PharmD Jason Okasaki (Class of 2013) in the summer before her final year of pharmacy school. But, he says his enthusiasm for the UH Hilo College of Pharmacy began even before the College began admitting students in 2007, years before his daughter thought about entering the program. Being in the agricultural profession, he was always thinking about new opportunities for Hawai'i's farmers. One idea was the development of a potentially new Hawaii industry based on plant pharmaceuticals, which was gaining global importance as people desired more natural health products. He recognized that good health was so vital to Hawai'i's people and therefore, it would be fantastic to have a highly professional pharmacy college in Hilo that might possibly partner with CTAHR to work on plant pharmaceuticals.

How Mr. Sewake came about being an active College of Pharmacy supporter started one day when his daughter Roxanne and her boyfriend at the time Jason, came home and implored his help because the College needed a permanent building or it would stand to lose its accreditation. So, he wrote some testimonial letters to legislators, but his effort was to no avail. Subsequently, a small group of business leaders was organized to provide broader community support with the goal of obtaining funding for a permanent building and Mr. Sewake was ultimately asked to chair this group called the Friends of the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy (FDKICP). The FDKICP worked diligently and obtained the much needed community support, acquiring and submitting to the Hawai'i State Legislature more than 1,000 testimonial letters of support and more than 2,000 signatures on a petition asking to provide funding for the permanent building. Through the cooperative, steadfast, and strong collective support from many people involved in the process, the Hawai'i State legislature eventually provided the funding necessary for the construction of the permanent building, which is underway today. He credits the successful establishment of the pharmacy program to many people. Mr. Sewake stated, "On behalf of the FDKICP, I would like to express our deepest aloha and appreciation to our legislators, to our UH Hilo administrators, to our College of Pharmacy administrators, faculty, staff, and students and their families, and to our community in this huge endeavor and to wish the College all the success in the future. Mahalo nui loa to all!"

With this award, we recognize his unwavering support and guidance throughout our existence, and are grateful for his continued affiliation.



Proud father Kelvin Sewake with his daughter Dr. Roxanne (Sewake) Okasaki, Class of 2014.

# MAKE A DIFFERENCE



## In your community and in the life of a student pharmacist

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**Please contact Malia Peters, [Malia.peters@uhfoundation.org](mailto:Malia.peters@uhfoundation.org), or (808) 956-6311 to learn more.**

**[www.uhfoundation.org/givetopharmacy](http://www.uhfoundation.org/givetopharmacy)**



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