Celebrating the Arts on our campuses

Just when you think technology is taking over the planet, a visit to your local UH Community College will quickly reassure you that the Arts are alive and well. In UHCC classrooms, students are introduced to new worlds through art education; at many of our campuses, community theatres and art galleries inspire and delight students and the community; and all campuses hold special events that invite people of all ages to experience the joy of art.

Since the early 1970s, numerous studies by experts in cognitive thinking and education have shown that education in the Arts stimulates a form of thinking based on human imagination and judgment that is not learned through other subjects. Recent reports confirm that, in the modern business environment, the ability to communicate, adapt, diagnose problems and find creative solutions is more important than ever. And these attributes can be nurtured and honed through studying the Arts.

The UH Community Colleges have offered art education in traditional courses such as dance, drama, music, painting and poetry since their inception in 1964. The colleges have also integrated technology and art in some of their recently introduced programs.

For the benefit of students and the community at large, the UHCC campuses offer art galleries, theatres, art sales, craft fairs and a wide range of cultural events.

Students rehearse for the annual Leeward CC Dance Festival, an invitational dance celebration that brings local professional, college and high school dancers together. This year’s festival runs April 27 & 28 at 8 p.m.
Cul ture and arts education are an essential part of the educational experience that is basic to the mission of the UH Community Colleges. For many of our students, the traditional “arts” courses we offer may be their first introduction to the world of art, music, theater, etc. Education in the arts allows students to be creative, to be moved, and to contribute to our culture. It promotes creative thinking and other competencies, often affecting students on a level they may not understand or appreciate until later in their lives.

Arts at our campuses also enrich the lives of the surrounding communities and help to bring the community and the college together. I developed a heightened awareness of this when starting up operations of the Leeward CC Community Theatre back in the early 1970s. Working with many different constituencies internally and externally, I discovered the pleasure as well as the complexity of the world of the performing arts. The faculty and students involved in the performing arts astounded me with their energy and talent. The external world of actors and actresses, ranging from local artists such as Booga Booga (Rap Reiplinger and James Benton) to national performing groups such as the San Francisco Conservatory Theater, brought a new level of excitement to our campus community. Interaction between faculty, staff and students and the theater-going community, potential donor groups, the media, and individuals interested in the arts added depth to our campus experiences. Making the theater available to various community groups contributed to the fun. From pre-school Christmas programs to high school graduations, I soon realized that Leeward CC’s Theatre often represented a young person’s first sojourn onto a college campus.

Yes, the arts on our campuses certainly enriched the life of this chemistry major.

Today, all of our campuses are successful in incorporating art and cultural education into their operations. Art shows; craft fairs; cultural events; courses in music, pottery, painting and dance; performances by dance troupes, theatre groups, schools, ensembles and individuals benefit our students and communities.

Lately, much of the focus in education seems to involve training in new technologies. Albeit, the rapidly changing face of our workplaces and the advancements being made in biotechnology, information technology, and telecommunications call for our constant attention. Yet, these advances are also opening up new opportunities in the arts and the UHCCs are discovering ways to "marry" arts and technology in their curriculum. The new media arts program offered at Kapi‘olani CC, for instance, combines art and design with animation and computer graphics technology. Students of Maui CC’s “Introduction to Computer Graphics” course compose still life images and artistic illustrations to display on the World Wide Web. Digital media at Leeward CC and communication arts at Honolulu CC also merge art and technology so students can develop their creativity and talents while learning skills in some of the latest technological tools.

The UHCCs will always attempt to maintain a balance between arts and technology, and, in doing so, expand both the world of art and the world of technology—both of which enrich the students’ learning experience.

Joyce S. Tsunoda
Senior Vice President, UH and Chancellor for Community Colleges

“Education in the arts allows students to be creative, to be moved, and to contribute to our culture.”

We enrich our communities through the Arts

Joyce S. Tsunoda
In December 1999, Mark Milliron stepped into the role of President and Chief Executive Officer of the League for Innovation in the Community College. The League is an international association dedicated to catalyzing the community college movement. The UH Community Colleges are a board member institution of The League, which hosts conferences and institutes, develops Web resources, conducts research, produces publications, provides services, and leads projects and initiatives with more than 700 member institutions. The League also has 120 corporate partners and a host of other agencies in its continuing effort to make a positive difference for students and communities.

Prior to coming to the League, Milliron served as the Executive Director of Oracle Corporation’s Global Learning Initiatives, and served as the League’s Vice President and Chief Operating Officer.

The following is an excerpt from Milliron’s 1998 testimony at the U.S. House of Representatives’ Hearing on Community Colleges in the 21st Century.

“Put simply, in the community college, an effective confluence of technology and learning flows only on the riverbed of community. Given this, as community colleges enter the “Learning Age” of the next century, a key challenge will be to develop and adopt the cutting-edge technologies, foster and assess student learning, and insure that our colleges bring communities together using technology, and not divide them against themselves because of technology.

Building on this good foundation, our next challenge will be to better channel our collective energies. We must work more closely with the federal government and corporations to create systems for curriculum transfer, educational/policy reform, public/private partnerships, and pilot programs. For example, we advocate the creation of a National Information Technology Curriculum Consortium to allow corporations, higher education, and government to pool resources and share curriculum more quickly—bringing key work skills and up-to-date information to the student as quickly and as easily as possible. By sharing in these ways, and by maintaining a sense of TLC, community colleges truly can “tackle technology,” and have it serve the needs of the nation as it moves into the “Learning Age.”

The five tracks offered at the Excellence in Education Conference give UH Community College faculty and staff an ideal opportunity to focus on their various roles in the process of learning and explore ways to enhance student learning.

Track I covers areas of new technologies and distance learning.

Track II explores the various changes happening on our campuses and communities, how those changes affect staff and students, and how we cope with or help instigate change.

Track III provides insights and innovations for learning colleges.

Track IV takes an in-depth look at UHCC students and what you can do to help them meet their goals.

Track V looks at the transitions students go through as they move from high school to college to career and some of the partnerships and resources available to them.

Don’t miss out on the keynote address by Mark Milliron or on the wonderful opportunity the Excellence in Education Conference provides to learn more about the innovations and challenges involved in serving UHCC students.
LCC DEAN TO HELP OVERSEE PLANTATION VILLAGE

Leeward Community College Acting Dean of Instruction Doug Dykstra was recently elected President of the Board of Directors of Hawai‘i’s Plantation Village in Waipahu. Dykstra will oversee fund raising, membership drives, and the general operations of the Village. Doug is also completing work as principal humanities scholar on a brochure supported by a grant from the Hawai‘i Committee for the Humanities that provides the historical context for the Puerto Rican Exhibit at the Village. Last year, he performed a similar role in producing a brochure for the Chinese Society Hall and Cookhouse Exhibit.

KAP CC RAD TECHNOLOGY STUDENTS FIRST IN NATION

Students of the Radiologic Technology program at Kapi‘olani CC have again demonstrated the excellence of Kap CC’s program by producing the highest test results in the nation. The 18 students of the class of 2000 achieved a mean scaled score of 89.9 (out of 100) on the national examination of the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists. Though there were others who were not Kapi‘olani CC graduates who took the exam in Hawai‘i at the same time, the overall mean of 88.7 for Hawai‘i was the highest by state in the nation.

HAWAII BUSINESS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION AWARDS

The Hawaii Business Education Association (HBEA) recognized award winners at its 31st annual state conference in January. The HBEA Distinguished Service Award went to the Office of the State Director for Career and Technical Education. Dr. Karla Jones, Director, accepted this award. The Outstanding Post-Secondary Educator Award went to Verna M. Post, Professor, Hawai‘i Community College (see photo at right with HBEA Awards Presenter Paul Rogers). Post has been teaching in the Office Administration & Technology program since 1985. The HBEA President’s Award went to Jean Matsui Hara, Professor of Office Administration and Technology at Leeward Community College, for exemplary support and dedication to HBEA and providing high standards of leadership in business education (see photo at left with HBEA President Lilia Claude). Chevron Products Company was recognized for its partnership and generous sponsorship of the conference and for their continuous support of business education students in Hawai‘i.

LCC PARTNERS WITH DOE FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

In February, Leeward Community College welcomed 33 Department of Education, Central and Leeward District personnel to its third annual get-together. The gatherings are increasing communication between high schools and the college, and promoting lasting working partnerships. These annual planning meetings also provide valuable data and information about the placement and success of students from each of the high schools. The group came up with a long list of possible “can do” initiatives and activities that will benefit students today and in the future.

MAUI CC BUILDS 100 YARD SUSHI ROLL AT HULA BOWL

Maui CC Culinary Arts students and staff teamed up with Chef D.K. Kodama of the Sansei Seafood and Sushi Bar to create a 300-foot California sushi roll during pre-game festivities at the recent Rivals.com Hula Bowl on Maui. The event was viewed by thousands worldwide on ESPN.

The completed sushi roll stretched 100 yards and used 200 pounds of rice, 150 pounds of crabmeat, 60 pounds each of cucumber and avocado, and 4 pounds of wasabi in an attempt at a Guinness Book of World Records.

Maui CC Food Service Coordinator Karen Tänaka, cafeteria manager Wanda Shin, sanitation instructor Karen Robbins, and chef instructors Chris Speere, Bobby Santos, Don Sprinkle, Lloyd Yokoyama, and Ben Marques worked with more than 50 students from the Maui CC Culinary Program and 25 students from Baldwin and Maui High Schools’ food service programs. Also helping out were Mayor James “Kimo” Apana and a number of Maui CC faculty and staff.

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UH Community Colleges
The realm of the Arts at Hawai’i Community College includes ceramics, photography, oriental brush painting, and modern dance, as well as a strong curriculum in Hawaiian culture.

This solid art curriculum provides important knowledge and perspective for students of all ages interested in any field of study.

Linus Chao and Gordon Lee are just two of the accomplished artists providing Hawai’i CC students with valuable learning experiences in the visual Arts. Chao, whose paintings hang in museums and private collections in North and South America, Europe and Asia, has received recognition for his work locally and internationally. His pieces can be found in the Chinese National Museum of History in Taipei and the corporate headquarters of Hanna-Barbera Productions in Los Angeles. Gordon Lee is also a renowned ceramicist in Hawai’i and throughout the mainland.

Dr. Trina Nahm-Mijo, who teaches psychology, women’s studies and dance at Hawai’i CC, has been at the College since 1979. She has received many awards and grants for her innovative, holistic approach to teaching. She was invited to present a dance she choreographed called “Chunghindae” at the International Conference on Buddhist Women in Cambodia in 1998 and, in 2000, she received the Hung Wo and Elizabeth Lau Ching Foundation Faculty Service to the Community Award.

Hawai’i CC, with its strong roots in the Hawaiian cultural community, also helps promote and coordinate events on the island that bring Hawaiian art and culture to the Big Island. Students in the college’s Hawaiian Studies program may learn of Hawaiian legends, culture, and language from distinguished faculty such as Pualani Kanahele. Kanahele has received the National Heritage Award from the National Endowment for the Arts, been named a Living Treasure by the Office Hawaiian Affairs, and received a Distinguished Service Award from the State of Hawai’i Foundation on Culture and the Arts, and the Distinguished Service in the Arts Award by the National Governors’ Association. *

The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) teams liked what they saw when they toured the UHCC campuses last October. Chancellor Joyce Tsunoda reported to the UH Board of Regents in February that the WASC Two-Year Commission has granted continued full accreditation status to all seven colleges.

Tsunoda stated, “The teams and the commission were aware of the effects of the protracted and severe economic recession on our budgets and how we compensated for budget cuts. As might be expected, however, the reports raised concerns about how long such efforts could be sustained. Each campus was commended for the pride and ‘can-do’ attitude exhibited by faculty, staff and administration,” she added. Along with the accreditation approval, WASC teams recommended that the colleges:

• strengthen institutional research initiatives
• expand the academic program review process
• develop methods to more effectively assess and place students and assess their learning
• develop a comprehensive planning process and budget links

The next regular accreditation review will be in 2006, with interim and mid-term reports to be prepared by each campus on a prescribed two-three year timeline.

*
Students of Communication Arts 150 at Honolulu Community College recently had an opportunity to mix their creative processes with some real life design and production experience when they took on the job of creating image and promotional materials for the Pacific Center for Advanced Technology Training (PCATT). PCATT is the new consortium of the UH Community Colleges dedicated to offering affordable training and services in the latest technologies. Though courses are offered at all UHCC campuses, PCATT’s administrative offices are housed at Honolulu CC. And, that is all it took for Honolulu CC students Glenn Coloma, Darlene Fukuda, Jackie Mau, Rod Pavez, Tomoko Takushi, Renee Tamanaha and Michael Vernon, under the direction of Assistant Professor Sandy Sanpei, to step up to the enormous task of creating the “look” for PCATT. The students took PCATT from concept to completion, creating a logo, business cards, stationery, a promotional brochure, and a schedule of classes. They also designed graphics for PCATT’s trade show display and other identity items.

The development of logos and the design and production of communication graphics involve an important creative process and are an essential element in learning theories of communication arts. The CA150 students managed to set up photo shoots, write copy, handle printing production and meet some very tight deadlines. Students not only stretched their creativity, but also developed some valuable real world experiences through the process.

On March 29, PCATT will host a grand opening celebration at its systemwide headquarters on the Honolulu CC campus.

ACT CENTERS TO OPEN AT UHCCS

Grand opening celebrations for ACT Centers at Honolulu CC and Maui CC are set for March 29, 2001. (Hawai‘i Community College will open its center at a later date.) With this event, the UH Community Colleges are joining more than 150 two-year colleges nationwide who have committed to establishing ACT Centers.

Many prominent training program publishers are working with ACT to provide state-of-the-art courseware through the ACT Centers network. Training programs available through these two new Hawai‘i centers will be in areas such as adult literacy/employability skills, computer basics, information technology, industrial technology skills, management, and professional development.

As ACT Centers, the UH Community Colleges will have an enhanced role in analyzing workforce training needs in the community, identifying skill gaps for those entering and those now in the workforce, delivering job-specific training in many categories and evaluating the results of training efforts.

A majority of training programs will be Web-based, enabling individuals to take a course from a computer at work or at home.
KOA GALLERY TO HONOR CLARENCE LEE

March 23 marks the Eighth Annual Koa Award celebration held at Kapi'olani CC’s Koa Gallery. It is an annual honorary dinner and exhibit for artists who have had a lifelong dedication to visual and fine arts. This year, the honor will go to Clarence Lee, a Honolulu graphic designer who was commissioned in 1992 to design a Lunar New Year stamp for the Year of the Rooster. It was such a success that he was commissioned to do the entire Chinese zodiac the following year. Lee joins a list of talented artists who have been honored at the annual Koa Awards dinner, which brings members of the local artistic community together and serves as the primary fund raiser for the gallery. Clarence Lee will auction a full set of his stamps at the dinner this year.

The first Koa Award honored Lucille Cooper, who created a waterfall fountain on the Kapi'olani CC campus. Other awardees include Toshiko Takeda, John Young, Satoru Abe and Tadashi Sato.

Success of Koa Gallery rooted in community support

When Kapi'olani CC introduced the Koa Awards eight years ago, it marked a change in the basic purpose of the college gallery. The role of the gallery expanded to serve the whole community, not just Kapi'olani CC students. Providing service to the community fits the mission of the college and, according to gallery Director David Behlke, is “an effort to present the quality of work a student should strive toward in a career in the fine arts.” Student and faculty exhibits are still an important part of the gallery’s schedule, but by bringing in artists from throughout Hawai’i, the gallery has also become an integral part of the local contemporary fine arts scene.

Behlke has taken art beyond the gallery as well, placing exhibits in the Ka‘ikena Dining Room, the library, the Bistro, and other areas, trying to ensure that “art is all over campus all the time!” In the library, March 7 through April 14, Sacred and Secular Objects of Adornment, jewelry from the private collection of Phuong Tran, will feature beads from Tibet, shell leis and coral beads from the Pacific, African trade beads and more.

March 5 through March 27, Clarence Lee’s work will be shown as a solo show in the gallery. March 30 through April 12 features the student art show, followed by Master to Apprentice II: Folk Arts, an exhibit commissioned by the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts.

NHEA CONVENTION ANNOUNCED

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Are you interested in issues related to Hawaiian education? Do you teach Native Hawaiian students? Are you a Native Hawaiian in the education field? Would you like resources to help you in your classrooms?

This convention is open to all educators—Hawaiian and non-Hawaiian, from early childhood to post-secondary education, administrators, kupuna, parents and college students. For a registration packet, please contact: G. Ku'ulei Reyes Tengan, NHEA Program Coordinator (email: nhea@alum.dartmouth.org) or call the UH Conference Center at 956-8204.

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Music is also an area of the arts in which Kaua’i CC has much to offer. The Kaua’i CC Music program is dedicated to involving both traditional students, older students, and the entire community in the various music classes and activities.

The program offers courses needed to fulfill degree requirements as well as courses that enrich the life, such as the Kaua’i CC Chamber Singers, the Jazz Ensemble, the College Orchestra, and the Stage Band. Often, students who have taken an elementary level course in voice, keyboard, or music theory find that they enjoy making music so much that they seek out other opportunities for performance.

Professor Waihang Lai is known for his watercolor, oriental brush painting, and, more recently, his computer art. He has been a master in the delicate technique of watercolor for many years. In this electronic age, he brings the same depth of perception to the computer, which he views not only as a powerful sketchpad, but also an innovative artistic tool.

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The competition was anything but starchy at Windward CC’s Third Annual All College Any-Kine Pasta Cook Off on February 13. Prizes for most original hot and cold pasta dish, best presentation, and “most best” pasta dishes were awarded. Media celebrities (l to r) Guy Hagi (KHNL), Ron Mizutani (KHON), J.B. Nueva (I-94’s) and Dana Helfand (MidWeek) were on hand to rate the noodle dishes. A silent auction was also held with items such as antiques, art, and even homegrown produce for sale to benefit Windward CC’s staff development fund.
CULINARY TEAM WINS BRONZE IN KONA

The Maui Chefs and Cooks Association Maui Community College Culinary team 2001 recently returned from Kona, Hawai’i with a bronze medal and commendations for their culinary skills in competition at the American Culinary Federation Western Regional Conference.

“All in all, the team did an excellent job adjusting to tough conditions and gained a lot of experience by competing. They also met other students and chefs from across the western states and learned about the industry by attending seminars,” says team coach Darryl Dela Cruz.

In order to compete at the regional level, the team needed to qualify by winning the state finals held in Kona in October 2000. Team members were Randi Cua (team captain), Erica Dela Cruz, Jonathon Mizukami, Hiromi Higashida, and John Meriales. For the competition, the team prepared entrees such as Asian spiced consommé with taro ravioli stuffed with mustard cabbage and chicken; nut-crusted lamb rack with kabocha pumpkin mash, bell pepper terrine with a poha berry sauce; lilikoi Bavarian cream, poached pineapple, strawberry sauce.

And, while the Maui CC students were in the kitchen, the Kapi’olani CC students showed off their culinary knowledge, capturing fourth place in the Baron H. Galand Culinary Knowledge Bowl, a culinary version of the game show, “Jeopardy,” which kicked off the opening of the conference’s trade show.

Career & Technical Education Week honored

UH Community College staff and administrators joined high school students and state and federal career and technical education agency representatives at the Mayor’s Office in February to receive a proclamation from Mayor Jeremy Harris that declared February 11 through 17 as Career and Technical Education Week on O’ahu.

LCC DAYS AT PEARLRIDGE ARE A CROWD-PLEASER

Since October 2000, Leeward CC faculty and staff have taken interactive educational displays and demonstrations to Pearlridge Shopping Center on the first Saturday of each month to share the joy and value of life long learning with the community.

Some of the displays and demos included: Chemistry Magic; Not All Aliens are from Outer Space—A close up look at alien species to Hawai’i including Boa constrictors, brown tree snakes, and Miconia leaves; Math is Fun—learn shapes and angles with origami; Exciting Science and Fascinating Physics—Your Eyes will say WOW and your mind will ask HOW; The events include counseling/financial aid tax tips and Leeward CC giveaways on the hour. The monthly events continue through April.
LCC Theatre serves up imagination and innovation

Each year Leeward Community College’s Theatre produces a season of 18-22 major events, blending national and international professional artists with student productions, local performing arts groups and a host of community events. These activities, scheduled nearly 325 days a year, touch all members of the community, from teachers and students, to families and local artists. The Theatre’s dynamic programs include:

- A stellar season of public events by national and international professional artists such as the Peking Acrobats, Garth Fagan Dance (shown in photos), Smuin Ballet/SF, Kodo, David Parsons Dance, and the Kronos Quartet;
- Daytime drama, dance, music and world cultures performances for more than 35,000 O'ahu school children each year;
- Lectures, demonstrations and workshops in area high schools by visiting professional artists, at no cost to the schools or students;
- An array of student drama and dance productions by the Leeward CC Drama and Dance programs including an annual invitational dance concert that brings local professional, college and high school student dancers together;
- Co-sponsorship of productions by local arts and organizations providing technical support and reduction of rental costs, for example, Honolulu Theatre for Youth and the Hawaii Ballet Theatre;

Since its opening, the Theatre has presented more than 2400 artists from 25 countries, from Australia to Zimbabwe, helping students develop new communication skills, build their self-esteem, and learn to appreciate different cultures. The hands-on experiences provide excellent positive role models and encourage our children and local artists to dream and aspire to great things.

Studies prove that the arts improve a student’s overall academic performance: SAT scores for students who studied the arts more than four years were 59 points higher on the verbal and 44 points higher on the math portion than students with no coursework or experience in the arts.

Leeward Community College (LCC) Theatre has served over 1.9 million people as the only major arts presenter and education center in Leeward and Central O'ahu since it opened in 1974. Its mission is to serve as a catalyst for new insights, connections and learning through the presentation, production, and collaborative sponsorship of contemporary, world, and multi-ethnic performing arts. Its goal is to build a community that is culturally literate and imaginative, with residents who are critical thinkers and inventive problem solvers.

ETC finds new education link in Bridges program

Staff and students at the Employment Training Center are quickly realizing the “win-win” situation being created by the new student workers on their campus. The student workers are part of the new Bridge to Hope program, a pilot state-funded program for positions that pay student wages for working students who receive TANF (welfare) benefits. The students are referred to the First to Work program to make it easier for them to continue their education while earning their work credits.

The new welfare reform laws require recipients to work. However, Hawaii legislators are aware that individuals need education and training to increase their earning power and end their reliance on welfare. Bridge to Hope provides jobs on campus that are related to the student’s training goals. The work experience they gain, combined with ETC training, improves their job placement capabilities.

The Bridge to Hope student workers rely on faculty and staff to act as mentors or work supervisors to learn the skills and operations of the area in which they will work. In turn, the participating faculty or staff receive the extra helping hands for their department or office. In almost all cases so far on the ETC campus, the Bridge to Hope workers have received very positive reviews from their supervisors and mentors.
Art’s on the move at Maui CC

The ceramics and art that were on display in the Maui CC library in February gave visitors a glimpse into the bright future that is shaping up for students interested in Arts education at Maui CC. The dynamic ceramic pieces created by students in Jennifer Owen’s “Hand Building with Clay” class showed the enthusiasm and creativity that abound in the art department. Students in Michael Takemoto’s “Painting” and “Introduction to Visual Arts” classes also exhibited their skill and creativity in the beautiful two-dimensional artworks on display.

The library exhibit is just one way that the two art faculty are moving art beyond the classroom. Owen and Takemoto are developing new ways to ensure that art is made available in more areas of the students’ and community’s lives. New collaborative efforts with various departments and programs are beginning to take shape.

For instance, in Fall 2000, Owen’s students joined students in Bud Clark’s philosophy class to make flower arrangements. The art students made Ikebana containers while the philosophy students gathered items from nature. The classes met together to create flower arrangements.

Owen is also working with the culinary arts program to create new pieces for the Class Act Restaurant. Students are creating unique triangular ceramic dishes that culinary students will use in their food presentations once renovation of the restaurant and culinary education facility is completed.

Maui CC production to feature original student play

On March 4 and 5, 2001, Maui Community College will stage an original dramatic production, written by and starring Maui CC student Kathryn Eager. Entitled “Rain,” this thought-provoking drama focuses on the question of euthanasia and raises important philosophical questions regarding the “right to die.”

“What I love about the script is that it’s so balanced,” Maui CC Drama instructor Craig Gardner said. “Kathryn has written a beautiful play that poses questions we all will face at some point.”

Directed by Gardner and featuring Maui CC drama students in the cast and backstage, “Rain” will be presented in one of Maui CC’s larger lecture halls. “When Kathryn signed up for our Playwriting class, I had no idea she would actually complete such a polished script in one semester,” Gardner added. Her future in the theatre is very bright... and she’s still a teenager.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Excellence in Education Conference
March 9, 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
See article on page 9 for details.

San Francisco Opera Singers presented by Kaua‘i CC and the Kaua‘i Concert Association
Saturday, March 10, 7:00 p.m. For more information, call 245-8270.

The Internet & Learning—What Have We Discovered and Where Are We Headed?

Miss Garden Isle Scholarship Pageant
Kaua‘i CC Performing Arts Center, Sat., March 17, 7:00pm. For information, call 245-8270.

Higher Education in the 21st Century: Challenges and Changes
Windward CC’s Hale Kuhina, Thurs., March 22, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Free. For information, call 235-7400.

Cincinnati Percussion Group presented by Kaua‘i CC and the Kaua‘i Concert Association
Saturday, March 10, 7:00 p.m. For more information, call 245-8270.

The Tau Dance Theater
LCC Theatre, March 30 & 31, 8:00 p.m. $15/$10. Order tickets on-line at: http://alaike.lcc.hawaii.edu/theatre/ or call 455-0385.

Bailes de Jose Performance
Kaua‘i CC Performing Arts Center, Sat., March 31, 7:30 pm. For information, call 245-8270.
Windward CC gearing up for new facilities

By Libby Young, Windward CC

Works by “Living Treasure” and UH art professor Murray Turnbull. Visual commentaries on the horrors of war, paper towel art, poster art—all are exhibits that Windward CC Art Professor Toni Martin has brought to the community through the college’s Gallery ‘Iolani. Now Martin is looking forward to moving into a new 1,700 square foot space this fall with the opening of Windward CC’s visual and performing arts center. “It’s all about making art more accessible to people as an integral part of their lives,” Martin said.

In addition to the art gallery, the new state-of-the-art facility will have a 300-seat theatre and generous space for painting, photography, ceramics, music and other creative arts and humanities classes. The college also expects to offer after-school and summer workshops, film festivals, Hawaiian music concerts, theatre productions and expanded classes.

“We want this to become a real community resource,” said Interim Provost Angela Meixell. “People are excited about what this facility could mean for the Windward side.”

Both Martin and English Professor Lillian Cunningham have won the statewide Hung Wo and Elizabeth Lau Ching Award for Community Service. Martin was recognized for the more than 50 exhibits she has coordinated since 1991 and for bringing art programs to public school classrooms and to the Hawai‘i State Hospital. Cunningham has led Windward CC’s popular monthly writing retreats for aspiring and seasoned writers who gather on a Saturday morning to flex their creative muscles. Windward CC has also joined with Starbucks Coffee to sponsor “Star Poets,” a poetry competition for students in grades 3-12 statewide. The contest offers cash prizes and book grants to the students and their schools as well as a chance to be published in a Star Poets journal.

The college offers other ways for the community to sample the arts through non-credit ceramic courses, Friday figure drawing sessions and a slack key guitar course.

With the new theatre, Windward CC is also looking toward expanding as a venue for Hawaiian music and dance. “We have so many talented people on this side of the island and across the state,” Meixell said. “It seems like a natural fit to create programs that will help aspiring musicians perpetuate the uniqueness of our Hawaiian heritage.”

For Windward CC Drama Professor Ben Moffat, the theatre will be a dream come true. The new facility will provide a versatile space, with the ability to convert from a traditional stage to a more intimate theatre-in-the-round.

“The potential for making Windward CC a real gathering place for the arts is tremendous,” Moffat said. ✿