Meadowsweet Levi spent the summer as a member of the NASA ground crew responsible for launching Helios, the solar-powered aircraft that broke altitude records last spring. She is also a Kaua’i Community College student.

Natalie Kong assisted with cloning the cells of native Hawaiian plants. She is a Windward Community College student.

Si Leong helped upgrade the computer systems at Atlantis Cyberspace, a company that is exploring new territory in virtual reality games. Leong is a Honolulu Community College student.

These students are learning skills in emerging industries and working with professionals in technologies that barely existed only a decade ago. They exemplify the unique impact that community colleges play in providing students with valuable knowledge and life-changing experiences.

The idea of the community college began in the early 20th century, when national and local leaders realized that a more highly skilled workforce was key to the country’s continued economic strength. In the early years, the colleges focused on general liberal arts studies.

During the 1930s, community colleges began offering job-training programs as a way of easing widespread unemployment. After World War II, the conversion of military industries to consumer goods created new, skilled jobs that required new sorts of training. This created the drive for even more options in higher education.

In 1948, the Truman Commission suggested the creation of a network of public, community-based colleges to serve local needs. Today, there are 1,166 community colleges in the United States, educating more than half the nation’s undergrad-

Continued on page 4.
Welcome to the Year of the Horse

While searching for an appropriate message for this first newsletter of 2002, I came across the following description of the Year of the Horse from the Asian Zodiac. I wanted to share it with you:

"A lively and high-spirited year for all. Life will be hectic and punctuated with adventures. People will find themselves reckless, romantic and carefree. A definite time for advancement. We will find it quite agreeable to keep in step with the delightful Horse."

"This will be a time when decisions and projects will be incorporated at high speed and with efficiency. Action will be the key word. Everything is on the go and we should take care not to drive ourselves too hard. It will be a rewarding but exhausting year."

"Exhilarating yet frustrating at times, this year’s pace will tax our reserve energies and leave us feeling depleted."

About. Listen to your senses. The wind may be changing constantly, but once you have picked up the scent, follow your intuitions.

"Planning and procrastinating will be shoved aside. The impulsive influence of the Horse, coupled with this self-confidence, will dictate our actions and emotions. Industry, production and the world’s economy will be on an upswing. Tempers, too, may be a bit frayed in areas of diplomacy and politics. But good humor will prevail.

"Brace yourselves, the volatile Horse will quicken our pulses and bring tension and stress into our everyday lives. The horse's tempo is fast, his disposition sanguine but erratic. But in spite of everything, we will retain his common sense approach toward money matters. An excellent time to strike out on your own. There will be freedom of movement this year."

"Be brave, bold and shocking!"

Welcome back and best wishes for 2002.
Taking Notice

PROGRAM FOCUSES ON “SEAMLESS” TRANSITIONS

Kathleen M. Jaycox has been named executive director of the program Ka Pilina (connections) and will be responsible for building connections between the UH Community Colleges and the K-12 educational providers. The program, administered through the Chancellor’s Office, focuses on providing seamless access to post-secondary public education for all ages. Ka Pilina’s goals include establishment of a solid curriculum articulation process, coordination of a structure for staff development activities, and facilitating adult basic education and remediation services.

Jaycox was formerly the acting state director for the Employment Training Center.

KAP CC COUNSELOR RECEIVES ROTARY INTERNATIONAL GRANT

Kapi’olani CC counselor Gemma Williams received a Rotary International University Teacher’s Grant to teach career decision making at Bethel College in Butterworth, South Africa. She also taught a psychology class to a group of disadvantaged pastors who needed to complete their AS or BA degrees. Students in the classes came from several South African countries including Botswana Namibia, Zimbabwe and Swaziland.

Through the generosity of the Rotary International, Williams was able to purchase books to start a career center at Bethel College as well. She also spoke to students at Helderberg College in Capetown.

KAUA’I CC GETS ELECTRIC TRUCK

Mr. Dave Williams of Hanalei, Kaua’i donated an electric Chevrolet S10 pick-up and 20 batteries with an average range of 50 miles. Gregg Matsuo, who manages Kaua’i CC’s alternative energy division, was very excited to receive this gift, stating, “The alternative energy division includes an electric drive demonstration program. The program contains on/off road electric vehicles such as electric bikes, utility carts, and trucks. The truck will help students to understand battery capacity, charge profiles, and the technology transfer.”

HONOLULU CC SENDS BOOKS TO FANNING ISLAND

During the Christmas break, Honolulu Community College student, Cheryl Jarrell, on behalf of Honolulu CC’s Phi Theta Kappa honor society, sailed to Fanning Island to deliver school supplies to the island’s children. There are three primary schools on Fanning Island with about 100 students in each and one government secondary school.

According to Lena Low, Honolulu CC’s Phi Theta Kappa advisor, the tiny atoll about 1200 miles south of Hawaii’i, has lost many jobs recently with the demise of the island’s copra industry.

The Phi Theta Kappa group did not forget the children of Hawaii’i either. Locally, all Phi Theta Kappa chapters at all UHCC campuses took part in the Hawaii’i Toys for Tots campaign.

HONOLULU CC PROF LOOKS AT EARLY CHILDHOOD ED IN PACIFIC

Honolulu CC Professor Miles Nakanishi attended the Outer Pacific Headstart Directors’ Cluster in October. He presented workshops on curriculum and other early childhood topics to Headstart staff in the Pacific and explored possibilities for Honolulu CC to provide early childhood training and education for staff of the Headstart programs in Palau, Yap, Guam, Saipan, Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae, Marshall Islands, American Samoa and other Pacific Islands.
UHCCs review strategies for future graduates. According to the National Profile of Community Colleges: Trends & Statistics, Phillipe & Patton, 2000, “Community colleges have become educational marketplaces where student choices and community needs influence course offerings.”

The UH Community Colleges have matured along with their counterparts across America. As student needs have changed, the ever-evolving community colleges have also changed. Students come from more diverse backgrounds, with a wider range of goals. They expect fast, effective learning.

The UHCCs still enroll students in many of the same fields they offered when they first opened their doors in 1964. Fire science, health sciences, automotive repair, and liberal arts remain popular educational programs that help Hawai‘i meet the needs of its businesses and industries. But even traditional programs have changed dramatically. Twenty years ago, an automotive repair student wouldn’t have been anywhere near a computer. Now, cars have elaborate computer systems; their diagnostics and testing are done with computers as well. So, the auto repair student learns about computer systems.

Short-term, high-tech training to upgrade skills is also in demand. These students know what they want and are selective in when and where they want it.

Keeping abreast of changing technology and changing student needs requires new equipment and resources for the campuses; it also requires faculty to constantly update their skills and teaching methods. Demands for skilled workers in new areas of health, in biotechnology, and computer technology have stimulated the growth of new programs.

In addition to academic flexibility, the UHCCs respond to the needs of their diverse student body by offering special services for single parents, for international students, for Native Hawaiian students and others who might need specific assistance to achieve their educational goals.

The UHCC’s commitment to its open door policy, quality education and easy access have driven many of the system’s changes.

All seven campuses frequently review their missions and goals, their strategic plans, and organizational structure. Throughout last fall, faculty and administrators talked and strategized about the UHCC’s commitment to “total quality education,” and the issues and challenges that could impede their progress.

Presently, campus representatives are collaborating with colleagues on their vision and updating the UHCC system-wide strategic plan. The goals of the strategic plan will also be one of the major topics of the UHCC’s annual Excellence in Education Conference in March.

According to UHCC Chancellor Joyce S. Tsunoda, “The UHCCs will always put students first, continue to pursue excellence in teaching, and remain responsive to the needs of the State.” But, being the open door to higher education for more than half of Hawai‘i’s college students requires the faculty, staff and administration to be flexible, adaptable and ready for change. Open communication with the community, among students, faculty, and staff and within the business community is vital.

Considering their many innovations, their new programs and partnerships, and the level of energy at the UHCCs, it appears that Hawai‘i’s open doors to quality higher education are ready to meet the challenge.
Members of the Kapi’olani CC International Café volunteer every second Saturday of the month with Ke Akua La’au ‘o ke Kai, helping the Hawaiian elders or kupuna replant seaweed, limu manaua, at Oneula Beach Park in Ewa.

Professors Nelda Quensdell, Ulla Hassegar, Kahi Wight, Iwalani Koide, Robin Fujikawa and their students also take part. The goal of the ongoing project is to pass a bill to make the ocean area near Oneula Beach Park into a limu sanctuary.

The kupuna have much wisdom and knowledge to share with Hawai’i’s young people. International Café members, international students and faculty members involved feel honored to be a part of this process.

The International Café members and other international students, along with professor Morelli of UH, and other friends also visited Leahi Hospital over the holidays to share good cheer, smiles, songs and, most importantly, gratitude to the seniors in long-term care facilities.

Janet Matsuzaki and Tomoe Takahashi performed a sign language accompaniment to a song from “Mulan.” Morelli and Shintaro Yara played classical guitar while others sang a Chinese New Year song. The group also sang Japanese and American songs with the seniors while Linda Fujikawa played the koto, a Japanese harp. Kapi’olani CC’s International Café has grown to over 90 members, helping the college’s newcomers and international students succeed by helping each other, listening, studying, sharing the hardships and fun together.

A student learns to weave limu into braided grass.
**Biomed award to benefit UHCCs and state**

The University of Hawai‘i has been awarded a $5.9 million grant from the National Center for Research Resources of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to establish a Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network (BRIN). The BRIN is an alliance among higher education and research institutions with the common goal of enhancing biomedical research capacity in Hawai‘i.

The principal investigator is UH Mānoa Interim Chancellor Deane Neubauer and the program director is Dr. Martin Rayner, Interim Director of the Pacific Biomedical Research Center.

At the public announcement of the award, Rayner explained that there will be two parts to the development of the network in Hawai‘i. One will be the educational track in which educational partners will expand and develop their resources and programs. The second part of the grant will be devoted to creating an effective, collaborative research track. He also stated that the award “provides the potential for a new, clean industry” to be developed in Hawai‘i.

As an education partner in this award, the University of Hawai‘i Community Colleges will work to see their role as “bridges” to education and careers in biomedical sciences expand.

According to Francis-Dean Uchima, Assistant Professor of Biology at Hawai‘i CC, the UHCCs are already working on mini-grants to access BRIN funds for the purchase of instrumentation and tools for the classroom, to provide faculty training, and for facility upgrades; they are also developing an NIH grant in partnership with BRIN and will be developing internship opportunities with the other BRIN partners.

**CarQuest donates proceeds to ETC and Honolulu CC**

CarQuest Vice President Warren Kaminaka and his CarQuest Car Show organizers presented a check for $25,000 to UHCC Chancellor Joyce Tsunoda in November. The funds are donated to the three automotive-related programs at Honolulu Community College and the Employment Training Center. This is the third year in a row that CarQuest has made the contribution to the UHCCs.
A s general manager of Embassy Vacation Resort on Kaua‘i, Lyle M. Otsuka knows the importance of hospitality in all phases of Hawai‘i’s visitor environment. From front desk operations to back of house services, Otsuka’s work ethic and enthusiasm have guided him through varied experiences to his current position at one of Kaua‘i’s largest and most prestigious vacation ownership properties.

Otsuka’s interest in the hospitality industry was inspired by his Moloka‘i High School counselor, Mr. Young. As he prepared to graduate in 1971, Otsuka was offered a scholarship to the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa for volleyball. He felt he was not ready to move to the big city or to attend a large university. So Young suggested Maui Community College, just across the channel from his own Moloka‘i home.

“It was a time when tourism was booming and the Ka‘anapali resort area was up and coming. When Mr. Young suggested hospitality as a career, being 17 at the time, I immediately imagined myself as a “beach boy” out in the sun and surf all day, and I was sold.”

Of course, Otsuka never became a beach boy but, at Maui CC, he easily made the transition to higher education and gained valuable skills through the newly offered program area.

“Maui CC Professor Ron Daniels gave me great perspective of the hotel industry, as he was a hotel veteran turned professor. He became not only my teacher, but also my mentor,” Otsuka stated.

Lyle M. Otsuka
General Manager
Embassy Vacation Resort
Graduate of Maui Community College

The hands-on training opportunities and the importance placed on networking with business professionals also helped Otsuka gain confidence in his abilities. “I joined the college’s hotel industry club and participated in the work study program, which opened up many opportunities in the industry after college. In fact, I got a great job offer at a travel industry management dinner I attended on O‘ahu as a student. I was seated next to the general manager of the Royal Hawaiian Hotel and various other GMs.”

In 1973, after Otsuka graduated with an Associate in Science degree in hotel operations, he began working at the Napili Kai Beach Club. He found another mentor in Jim Shefte (current VP and GM of Napili Kai Beach Resort) who provided a great opportunity to learn the industry from an accounting perspective. According to Lyle, “My degree helped me get a good start and I continued to expand my knowledge through learning about various areas of the business and through involvement in the community and in the hospitality industry.”

His career successes include starting up the adventure/eco-tourism operations at Moloka‘i Ranch and re-opening the Lawai Beach Resort after Hurricane Iniki. He attributes much of his success to those around him. “People have great ideas. When you give them the space and time, they accomplish great things,” Otsuka says.

His willingness to get involved and “learn as he goes” are evident in Otsuka’s long list of affiliations. He has served as Chair of the Kaua‘i Chamber of Commerce, President of the Rotary Club of Po‘ipu Beach and on the board of the Maui Visitors Bureau. He currently serves on the Po‘ipu Beach Resort Association and the Hawai‘i Visitors and Convention Bureau–Kaua‘i Chapter.

Otsuka says that he has been blessed with many friends and acquaintances who provided guidance and help. Today’s youth need that same support from industry professionals. “The hospitality industry has changed since I began my career; still, there are many opportunities for students. Our industry continues to diversify and now includes “vacation ownership” which is a new growth and career area for students. It just takes mixing a commitment to succeed with a little hard work and great things can happen.”
The Pacific Center for Advanced Technology Training (PCATT), a consortium of the UH Community Colleges focused on offering high tech training, is now just over one year old, and is already recognized as the best technology training organization in Hawai‘i.

PCATT’s list of courses continues to grow along with awareness of the Center in Hawai‘i and across the Pacific.

Beryl Morimoto, PCATT’s Program and Marketing Director, listed these latest accomplishments:
• PCATT has been selected to be a Microsoft IT Academy Program Regional Center. PCATT is among an elite group of only 12 institutions throughout the United States that has successfully obtained Regional Center status. As a Regional Center, PCATT will provide program support to Microsoft IT Local Academies.
• PCATT was the first Cisco Academy in the world outside of the Cisco headquarters to offer Semester Eight of the Cisco training program.

Morimoto also pointed out that The Hawai‘i Technology Trade Association has been a major supporter of PCATT, and has been instrumental in the growth of international and corporate ties.

During October and November 2001, PCATT, in partnership with the Honda International Center, hosted ten instructors from Human Resource Development Services of Korea. The instructors learned Web development, graphic design, networking, router configuration, Javascript, and multimedia. The participants were engineers and technical educators from vocational colleges in Korea, learning skills to bring back to their colleges in Korea.

Their training was enhanced with site visits to local companies to observe technology applications and in-class observations to see how classes are conducted in the United States. They also enjoyed cultural activities with the assistance of faculty volunteers at Honolulu CC.

This is the second group from Human Resource Development Services of Korea to request technical training in Hawai‘i. Korean participants and their Hawai‘i counterparts enjoyed the training experience.
Seven UHCC building and grounds maintenance workers were nominated by their campuses for their hard work and dedication to the University and its physical facilities. Congratulations to Avelina Corpuz, Windward CC; Leilani Ing, Leeward CC; Yu Tao Huang and Glen Okumura, Kapi‘olani CC; Larry Luis, Thorence Pascual and Dana Hiapo, Honolulu CC for their good work of demonstrating sustained superior performance in a maintenance, landscaping, custodial, shop or trucking job.

The group was honored at an awards ceremony on December 18 at Orvis Auditorium. Celebrating with the honorees are Darren Wastell, Windward CC; Vice Chancellor Michael Unebasami; Chancellor Joyce Tsunoda; Leeward CC Provost Mark Silliman; and UH Regent Ah Quon McElrath.

Kapi‘olani Community College received a President’s Equity and Diversity grant of $5,000 to help plan and implement a Samoan Scholarship Conference at Leeward CC. The event is set for January 21, 2002, Dr. Martin Luther King Day. Saini Lilo-Maia-Doktor, Kapi‘olani CC lecturer in geography, the conference coordinator, reported the conference will focus on UH programs where Samoan students have succeeded, such as the Radiologic Technician and Respiratory Care Programs, UH Law School, Medical School, etc.

The conference will also focus on the development of a financial aid network to operate through local Samoan community organizations. Kapi‘olani CC reports there is currently $8,700 available to open a Samoan scholarship fund. The college hopes to have $10,000 by the conference date.

Preparing today’s students for tomorrow’s careers!

February 11-17 is Career and Technical Education Week

Each year, the Association for Career and Technical Education creates a theme around which Career and Technical Education Week promotions can be built. This year’s theme, “Preparing today’s students for tomorrow’s careers,” emphasizes the many changes that continue to occur in career and technical education.

The University of Hawai‘i Community Colleges will celebrate alongside Hawai‘i high schools, training institutes and other career-building agencies at Pearlridge Shopping Center on February 16 and 17.

There will be entertainment, educational displays, demonstrations and plenty of information for anyone seeking to learn more about opportunities in Hawai‘i in career and technical education.

The Association for Career and Technical Education is the largest national education association dedicated to the advancement of education that prepares youth and adults for careers.
Students and professors of Hawai‘i Community College’s 12-credit learning community program entitled: “Reclaiming Communities: Restorative Justice for Hawai‘i Island (RJLC)” put into practice what they learned throughout the fall semester during what was said to be a history-making event.

Approximately 300 students, faculty, staff, Big Island residents, and government officials came together to brainstorm, voice opinions, and offer solutions to the Big Island’s most pressing social, economic, health, and safety related issues at the college-sponsored Town Meeting. It was also a unique way to celebrate Hawai‘i Community College’s 60th Anniversary. The Big Island’s most influential leaders were in attendance, including State Senators Lorraine Inouye and Russell Kokubun; State Representative Helene Hale; County Council members Julie Jacobson, James Arakaki, and Gary Safarik; Mayor Harry Kim and members of his cabinet. These political leaders sat face-to-face with students and citizens as active participants in a process which defined the problems and some of the steps needed to fulfill the community’s vision of the Big Island’s future.

Members of Hawai‘i Community College’s Students with Disabilities Support Group, “Kōkua ‘Ohana,” shared aloha and some Christmas spirit with Big Island Mayor Harry Kim. They sang at the Manono campus, at WalMart and at Prince Kūhiō Plaza. The students also got to discuss the cost of transportation for persons with disabilities. The mayor commented that he wished he could “Take them around the world to share the spirit of aloha.”

Though transportation continues to be a barrier for students with disabilities, thanks to Roberts Hawai‘i, the community excursion was a great success.

Members of ASUH-Hawai‘i CC (front row) present certificates to students and faculty of the RJLC for their Town Meeting event commemorating Hawai‘i CC’s 60th anniversary.
Two Hawai‘i Students Receive Int’l Scholarships

Japan’s Consul General Ikuhiko Ono has announced that two students from Hawai‘i have been selected by the Monbukagakusho (Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture, Government of Japan) as recipients of scholarships to study at Japanese professional training schools (Senshu Gakko) under the 2002 Japanese Government Scholarship program. Congratulations to Cortney Higa of Leeward CC who will study tourism and hotel management in Japan and to Bradley McBee of Maui CC who will study electronics in Japan.

According to Consul General Ono, only two students were selected from the United States and both are from the UH Community Colleges.

LCC Student Wins in National Literary Competition

Leeward Community College student Ms. Myriah S. Connolly won third place in the Annual National League for Innovation Student Literary Competition for 2000-01 for her one-act play “Impossible Connection.” This competition is held annually for Innovation League member community college students throughout the U.S. and Canada. Connolly’s play is published in “The Twice-Bloomed Wisteria,” the magazine that includes all of the winning entries.

Student Successes Abound!

Kaua‘i CC Starts Spring Semester with Flair!

Kaua‘i Community College welcomed over 600 8th graders from Kaua‘i’s private and public schools for an open house tour of the campus and its facilities on January 8, 2002. Staff and students volunteered as guides to take the group around campus.

Provost Peggy Cha welcomed the students and chaperones, ASKCC Vice President Casey Codianne briefed the students on college life, and emcee Mia Ako sent them off on the tour with a reminder to “think about what you want to be when you grow up!” The students enthusiastically visited and interacted with faculty who put on demonstrations and exhibits of what their program had to offer. Within the next year, many of those visiting eighth graders will be deciding what courses they will need to take in high school to prepare them for college.

Events at the UH Community Colleges

January

Samoan Scholarship Conference
January 21, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Leeward CC, in partnership with Kapi‘olani CC and other partners. For information, call Bob Franco at 734-9285.

Unity of Kaua‘i presents A Season of Peace concert
January 23 at 7:30 pm. For ticket information, call 634-6890.

The Kaua‘i Concert Association presents The Falla Guitar Trio
January 25 at 7:00 pm. Tickets $15 adults. For outlets, call 245-SING.

February

The Second Hand. A cutting-edge theatrical presentation presented by UH Outreach College. Tickets and info: 956-6878. Feb. 2 at 7:30 pm and Feb. 3 at 2:00 pm, LCC Theatre. $20/$15/$25 at the door.

UH Outreach College presents an ‘Ukulele Concert featuring Jake Shimabukuro, Gordon Mark, Benny Chong and Byron Yasui, February 15 at 7:00 pm., $12 regular; $10 seniors & students. Call 245-8270 for information.

Lavay Smith and Her Red Hot Skillet Lickers
Swinging to rave reviews since starting at the Blue Lamp in San Francisco in 1989. www.lavay-smith.com. Feb 9 at 8:00 pm at LCC Theatre, $22.50/$18.

Laurie Anderson in Concert
Hawai‘i premiere of new solo work. A singer-songwriter of crushing poignant. Feb. 23 at 8:00 pm at LCC Theatre, $35/$25.
Exploring Coconut Island...swimming in the open ocean with giant sea turtles...conducting underwater coral reef surveys...These are just a few of the activities in which students in the University’s Marine Option Program can participate.

MOP is a system-wide ocean studies undergraduate program offered to any University of Hawai‘i student who enjoys the water—not just students interested in marine-related careers. It is an experiential program in which students learn about the marine environment and work with marine scientists in many areas of interest.

“The program provides an excellent chance for hands-on experience,” said Letty Colmenares, Windward CC’s MOP coordinator. “All it takes to become a MOP participant is a simple application and the desire to learn about a whole new world that surrounds us.”

Requirements for the MOP include nine credits in marine-related courses and completion of an MOP skill project. This can range from water quality assessments of a Hawaiian stream to painting a mural of an underwater scene.

Three MOP alumni and Windward CC graduates recently visited the Windward campus and told how MOP helped them achieve their goals. Ku'ulei Rodgers said she went back to school for her GED and then came to Windward CC while juggling responsibilities as a full-time mom. Rodgers is now a distinguished coral reef researcher and has been working at the Hawai‘i Institute of Marine Biology on Coconut Island for nine years.

“I came to WCC without any direction for what I wanted to do. The MOP program gave it to me,” said Rodgers. “The MOP program was really instrumental to where I am now.” Rodgers has been an active leader in the Coral Reef Assessment and Monitoring Program or CRAMP. CRAMP is Hawai‘i’s first integrated, statewide monitoring program of coral reef environments.

With a bachelor’s degree in marine biology soon to be approved at UH-Mānoa, MOP is expected to become more active in recruiting new students and assisting in future projects.