Inspiring a New Generation of Waianae Scientists

Studies have shown that early exposure to the medical sciences may contribute to increased interest in health careers. Thanks to one of our NHCOE Native Hawaiian Pathway to Medicine premedical students, Nina Beckwith, NHCOE faculty were invited to Waianae Intermediate School to participate in a “Mini-Career Day” for 7th graders.

As part of the Teach for America program, Nina teaches life sciences at Waianae Intermediate. The ‘Meet the Scientist’ day exposes students to community mentors that have careers in the scientific field. The goals of the event were to, “create a bond between the students and successful community mentors, inspire students to work hard in school and pursue science as a career, and engage students in exploring career options by meeting compassionate, hard working mentors.”

NHCOE’s Drs. Dee-Ann Carpenter and Sasha continued on page 4

Dr. Jamie Boyd Recognized by National Award

In November, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) announced the recipients of its 2011 Community Health Leaders Award. This very competitive award honors 10 individuals who have, “overcome daunting odds to improve the health and quality of life for those in disadvantaged or underserved communities across the country”. Our very own NHCOE Fellow, Dr. Jamie Kamailani Boyd, was one of the select few to be presented with this prestigious award.

RWJF is the nation’s largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to health and health care issues. Now in its 18th year, the RWJF Community Health Leaders (CHL) Award promotes the work of the leaders by raising awareness of their extraordinary contributions and includes a $125,000 prize.

In the past year, Dr. Boyd has had many accomplishments including piloting a new curriculum to eliminate childhood obesity, speaking at the Institute of Medicine in September 2010 about her Pathway Out of Poverty program, as well as writing a manuscript accepted in October 2010 by the Progress in Community Health Partnerships (PCHP) Journal. She has also submitted for consideration a paper entitled “Pathway out of Poverty: A Values-Based College-Community Partnership to Improve Long-Term Outcomes of Underrepresented Students,” to the PCHP Journal. The nursing training program (Pathway out of Poverty) she developed puts disadvantaged students, especially disadvantaged Native Hawaiians, on a career path in nursing, helping them advance from Nurse’s Aides to Registered Nurses.

Dr. Boyd received her PhD from UH Mānoa’s School of Nursing and is a faculty member at Windward Community College (WCC). She joined our NHCOE fellowship in July 2010, and at the same time partnered with senior researchers at continued on page 3
‘Ielo Hawai‘i’

Each grant cycle, NHCOE sponsors fellowships for up to four Native Hawaiians to conduct research on projects that benefit Native Hawaiian health. Dr. Jamie Kamailani Boyd, not only works with us but also has a full time job at Windward Community College, and is an award winning RWJ Community Health Leader, but she is also a student of Hawaiian language.

According to an article in Academic Press: as of 2001, native speakers of Hawaiian amount to under 0.1% of the statewide population. Hawaiian language, along with English, is the official language of Hawai‘i, but with so few native speakers, the language is in danger of dying out. Programs have been developed to reincorporate Hawaiian into the school system like P‘nana Leo, an immersion pre-school, as well the Kula Kaiapuni program for K-12 schools. Unfortunately, without taking a college course, there are not many options for adults to learn Hawaiian. Luckily for DNHH, NHCOE Fellow, Dr. Boyd, is leading us in weekly lessons in Hawaiian language.

Kumu Jamie’s class is open to anyone at DNHH, and the core members have been studying numbers, colors, and basic noun-verb sentences since May 2011. Kumu Jamie utilizes the Ka Ala Leo method for teaching the Hawaiian language. This style immerses the students in Hawaiian language for the first half of the class, no English speaking at all. Forcing students to interpret signs and think in Hawaiian lays the foundation to be able to speak Hawaiian. Kumu Jamie is part of a program whose grand plan is to reintroduce the language to the public on a daily basis. The dream is to be able to hear and use Hawaiian in places like the office and the grocery store everyday.

The class hopes to mahalo the community by sharing pule (prayers) and oli (chants) at conferences or events where DNHH represents the Hawaiian community. Preserving the language further requires that each student then goes on to teach ten individuals, and then those each teach ten, exponentially spreading the use of the language. Mahalo Kumu Jamie for this priceless gift of ‘Ielo!

Sharing Imi Ho‘ola with Singapore
By Dr. Chung-Eun Ha

I participated in the 22nd Federation of Asian and Oceanian Biochemists and Molecular Biologists (FAOBMB) international conference, at the Biopolis complex in Singapore from October 5 to 7, 2011. My presentation highlighted the Imi Ho‘ola program as a successful post-graduate education model that adopted a combination of lecture-based and problem-based learning (PBL) teaching formats. The poster, entitled “Unique Approaches to Medical Education: Imi Ho‘ola Post-Baccalaureate Program at the University of Hawai‘i School of Medicine”, was presented during the “Educating the Next Generation” session.

The FAOBMB, established in 1972, is one of the four major regional organizations of the international union for biochemistry and molecular biology (IUBMB). The theme of this years conference was “creativity and innovation in life science research, enterprise, and education” and the meeting attracted 300 researchers and educators from 23 different Asia-Pacific countries. The conference provided an opportunity for participants to present new research, exchange information, and discuss current research trends in the fields of biochemistry and molecular biology. By participating in various sessions and plenary lectures, I learned about:

- Postgraduate education and student research achievements in the Asia-Pacific regions
- Identification of human genes and their single nucleotide polymorphisms for lung cancer
- Next generation DNA sequencing applications and technologies in 21st century genomic medicine
- Asian genome projects and comparative personal genomics

It was a good opportunity for me to learn new ideas in my research field, share research experiences with scientists in the region, and seek research & academic collaborations.
“Boyd” continued from page 1  UH M noa to design a $25 million grant to study obesity among 2-8 year old Pacific Rim children. She is currently redesigning a Food Science and Human Nutrition course at WCC to combine nutritional science with Native Hawaiian cultural and gardening traditions.

At the banquet in Washington D.C. where the award was presented, Dr. Boyd was in awe of the attendees. This year, CHL brought back many of the past recipients who have continued to improve their communities with the help of the funds they received by winning this award. There were also a few Hawaiian friends who showed their aloha by driving up to two hours to the award ceremony to give Dr. Boyd a lei.

Congratulations Jamie! We are so proud of you and are always amazed by all that you can achieve. We are looking forward to watching you break down more barriers and reach your goals.

The other 2011 award winners were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Im Ja Choi</td>
<td>Created a nonprofit agency that connects frail Asian elders with home health aides who speak their native languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naomi Cottoms</td>
<td>Created a program that educates residents of Arkansas’ poorest region about health and health care services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisanne Finston</td>
<td>Helping serve up healthy, locally grown fare to New Jersey’s hungry and homeless</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zane Gates</td>
<td>Provides free van-based health care to the working poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chrysanne Grund</td>
<td>Ensures residents of rural communities in western Kansas have access to health care providers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrea Ivory</td>
<td>Raising awareness of breast cancer by early detection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marc Jastrebski</td>
<td>Founded an organization that helps fearful patients avoid restraint and sedation during medical/dental visits and reduces health care costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Nares</td>
<td>Provides transportation and other services to pediatric cancer patients and their families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gabriel Rincon</td>
<td>Founded a nonprofit to educate Latinos about health, increase access to health care</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mala Lapa‘au

‘Olena, commonly known as turmeric, is a Rhizome which is part of the ginger family. It was brought to the Hawaiian islands by the Marquesans. The roots are mostly used for making curry powder.

In ancient Hawai‘i, different parts of the plant was used as dyes, blood purifying drink, to treat stuffy noses and sinus troubles, and to treat ear aches. It is still used today to help with ear aches and sinus problems.

The blooms of *Curcuma longa* L. goes from a white to a yellow and finally to a golden color. ‘Olena is currently in our JABSOM Hawaiian Healing garden.

Please join us in the Mala Lapa‘au
(Native Hawaiian Healing Garden)
Every 2nd Tuesday of the month
3-5:30pm
Friends, family, students, faculty and staff of DNHH are welcome
Snacks and garden supplies are provided

Imi Ho‘ola’s annual holiday picnic was held at Ala Moana beach park where friends, family, and faculty of Imi came together for a day of relaxation. Imi students are pictured above.
Dr. Carpenter showcases the benefits of doing well in school, leading to a career in science, or medicine.

“Waianae” continued from page 1
Fernandes represented some of the medical professionals at the event. More than 400 students gathered in small groups to speak with health professionals, geologists, nutritionists, representatives from HECO, organic farmers from Ma’o Farms, and many others.

“Getting to work hands on with younger kids that are excited about science is great,” Dr. Fernandes commented. The doctors demonstrated a simple diabetes related test to engage the students. Checking nerve sensation is one of the tests that doctors use to look for nerve damage possibly caused by diabetes, and an easy one to perform with students.

We hope that the students continue to work hard in their own lives to achieve their dreams, and maybe one day we will see them here at JABSOM. We also want to give a big mahalo to Nina for inviting us to an event that impacts our youth in such a positive way.

Hawaiian Students in Medicine

Reya Liilii joined NHCOE’s Native Hawaiian Student Pathway to Medicine (NHSPM) in 2010 and received counseling from Dr. Sasha Fernandes to help strengthen her medical school application. We were thrilled to hear that she had been accepted into medical school on the next round of applications.

She shares her story with us: “I was born and raised in Hawai‘i and lived the majority of my life on O‘ahu. I graduated from Kamehameha School-Kapalama in 2006 and received my B.S. in Chemistry from Pacific University in 2010. I am the typical local girl who enjoys going to the beach, eating plate lunches and spending time with friends and family. I am extremely family oriented and have two younger brothers in high school that I think of as my own children.”

She decided to pursue medicine during her junior year of college when her interest in medicine was sparked by a medical emergency of a loved one. “After the incident,” she said, “I met with a variety of doctors and health professionals to determine if becoming a physician was my true career aspiration.” She applied to medical school senior year of college, but was denied acceptance to the four schools she had applied to. She decided to strengthen her application and reapplied during the following year. Fortunately, her efforts were successful and she is now a first year medical student at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York.

She went on to say that, “it is very exhilarating to think of the thousands of learning experiences and interesting people that I will encounter on my path to becoming a physician. Medical school and training will be undoubtedly difficult, but I am excited to learn about medicine and how to be a good effective doctor.”

Congratulations Reya! We look forward to seeing all that you accomplish.