

CTAHR alumni & friends

E-bulletin from the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources



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News & Events

NICE PLACE TO BE ON A RAINY DAY

Despite the drizzle, an enthusiastic crowd came out in large numbers to Hilo's Komohana Research and Extension Center for their open house on Oct. 30. Three featured speakers demonstrated the art of processing fresh peppercorns to make your own gourmet pepper blend (Master Gardener KT Egley), the art and science of grafting fruit trees (Mike Nagao, TPSS), and the intricacies of cacao and chocolate manufacturing (Skip Bittenbender, TPSS). Ray Uchida (ADSC), Janice Uchida (PEPS), Scot Nelson (PEPS), and Brian Bushe (PEPS) helped baffled gardeners in the plant diagnostic clinic and soil pH booths, while 4-H displayed baby chicks and helped kids make Hawaiian-style jack o' lanterns from papayas and anthuriums. The plant sale held by the Master Gardeners was also a big draw—and the weather was just right to get those plants started. Check out video coverage of the open house here: <http://www.bigislandvideonews.com/2010/11/01/ctahr-holds-open-house-touts-ne>



FARM TO TABLE—TO SENATE?

The Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation recently met for its 63rd annual convention; Interim Dean Sylvia Yuen (left) was their luncheon speaker for the first day, while Wayne Iwaoka (HNFAS) and farm-to-table pioneer Chef Alan Wong spoke on the second. During its Fellowship Night, the HFBF recognized Senator Daniel K. Inouye (middle) for his many years of steadfast support to Hawai'i's agriculture. Pictured on the right is John Gordines, farm manager of CTAHR's Kaua'i Agricultural Research Center.



Grants & Awards

RED FOR GREEN

The anthurium 'Tropic Lime,' developed by a team of CTAHR researchers, recently won a red ribbon in the 2010 Outstanding Varieties Competition sponsored by the Society of American Florists (SAF). The beautiful green flower was entered by Hilo's Green Point Nurseries (the Nurseries' founder, Harold Tanouye, is here pictured with his grandson Jon). Besides its bright verdancy, 'Tropic Lime' has excellent vase life



(about 27 days) and tolerates bacterial blight. It was developed by the CTAHR team of Heidi Kuehnle (TPSS), Haruyuki Kamemoto (TPSS, Emeritus), Tessie Amore (TPSS), John Kunisaki (TPSS, retired), Janice Uchida (PEPS), and Joanne Lichty (TPSS). Haruyuki established UH-Manoa's anthurium research program in 1950 to develop disease-resistant and novel anthuriums for the flower industry. Tessie now manages this highly successful program, which has released more than 40 new commercial varieties since 1963, helping the anthurium to become the state's most valuable cut-flower crop, with a farm-gate value of nearly \$3 million in 2009. Eight other CTAHR anthurium varieties have received ribbons from the SAF since 2004: blue ribbons for 'Marian Seefurth' (2009), 'Tropic Sunrise' (2007), and 'Lavender Lady' (2004); red ribbons for 'Tropic Ice' (2009), 'Mauna Loa' (2008), 'Hokuloa' (2007), 'Kalapana' (2005), and 'Tropic Fire' (2004).

KEEPING THE WATER FLOWING

The Irrigation Association Education Foundation organizes a Student Essay/Video Contest every year—the theme of this year's (seventh annual) contest was "The Role of Irrigation in Sustainability." Twelve NREM students entered their projects; William Conner won the essay contest in the Turf/Landscape category with an essay on rainwater catchment and graywater recycling, while Arlen McCluskey and Nancy Niklis won the video category with a video on taro irrigation in Hawai'i. William, Arlen, and Nancy, along with their teacher, Ali Fares, have won an all-expenses-paid trip—airfare, housing, meal stipend, conference registration, and classes—to the association's annual conference in Phoenix, AZ, where they will be recognized for their achievement. Of the twelve students who entered, however, their excited teacher avers, "As far as I am concerned, they are ALL WINNERS!"

EXTENDING EXTENSION

Julia Zee (HNFAS) has been asked to serve an additional year on the USDA NIFA Nutrition and Health Committee for Program Planning and Guidance. Established in 2008, the committee provides important stakeholder input to USDA NIFA and is comprised of Extension nutrition and health professionals representing all regions and over a dozen states across the U.S. Its mission is to provide



expert opinions to NIFA national program leaders regarding future national health and nutrition policies and programs, in order to strategically position the Cooperative Extension System for the future. Julia, who is also a Hawai'i County's Extension Educator and State Extension Nutrition and Health Program Leader, is one of the original committee members and has served as secretary and on the Evaluation Indicators subcommittee.

Spotlight on Our Community

MAKING LEARNING MEANINGFUL

CTAHR people get to do fun things! Recently 24 of our students and staff embarked on the seventh annual Meaningful Experience adventure. This year, the group started with a visit to CTAHR's Waimanalo Research Station, where they learned about organic farming and corn and taro varieties—everyone harvested corn and dryland taro—and were taught indigo dyeing by Japan's master clothing dyer and designer to the royal family, Tokunari Fujibayashi. Mr. Fujibayashi and Eri Takebayashi, an APDM student, showed



the students how to design their own handkerchiefs using indigo dye. Then the group headed to Coconut Island's Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology by boat, where they were met by Clyde Tamaru (MBBE). "Bo" Alexander taught the group about the 'opakapaka's life cycle, and then Kim Holland explained about internal shark tagging, and sting rays' and other marine creatures' behaviors. Everyone was impressed (and perhaps relieved) to see the juvenile tiger shark in captivity, a rare sight. Finally, Kuulei Rodgers introduced the group to anthropogenic impacts on coral reefs and had them participate in a fish-measuring activity. All in all, an exciting and fulfilling learning experience. The group wishes to offer many thanks to all of the gracious hosts and instructors who took time out from their busy schedules to share their passion and expertise.

ALUMNAE ACHIEVEMENTS

Erica (Oshiro) Kubota was one of the first USDA Multicultural Scholars Program scholars in CTAHR in 1995. She graduated with a B.S. in Food Science and Human Nutrition in Spring 2000. She then worked as a graduate assistant in CTAHR's Academic and Student Affairs office, while at the same time pursuing a master's degree in teaching. She taught at Pearl City High School for three years in its math and science



department, then in 2006 returned to CTAHR as an Instructional and Student Support Specialist in the Academic and Student Affairs office. She now coordinates the college's Student Ambassador Program to recruit the best and brightest into the college. She tells us, "After I was offered the scholarship and entered CTAHR, my life changed. I would never have been able to attend college if it were not for the scholarship." See below for another achieving alumna.

CTAHR PRODUCTS THAT LOOK GOOD ON HOLLYWOOD STARS

What do Desperate Housewife Eva Longoria and *Twilight* vampire Ashley Greene have in common? They've both been spotted wearing dresses by Fighting Eel, a local clothing company co-founded by FCS alumna-made-good Lan Hai Chung. The clothing has been featured on the bodies of many other Hollywood stars and local fashionistas, and on the pages of numerous local and national fashion and lifestyle mags. It gets high marks for CTAHR-style sustainability—much of it is made from renewable bamboo, and those in the know say it's also tops for Island-style wearability and comfort—much more comfortable than you'd think wearing a fighting eel would be!

ALOHA FOR ALLENE

Allene Chun, our Student Services Specialist, is retiring after 29 years of dedicated service to the college. CTAHR has established a fund at UH Foundation to honor her and continue her legacy of generosity by creating the Allene Chun Scholarship for undergraduate students at CTAHR. We would like to raise sufficient funds to establish an endowment (a minimum of \$35,000) so that the scholarship can be



awarded in perpetuity; it's hoped that this scholarship will eventually touch many lives and leave a lasting impression on many, just as Allene has done. If you'd like to make a donation, please send your check made out to UH Foundation, with "Allene Chun Scholarship" in the memo section, to UH Foundation, P.O. Box 11270, Honolulu, HI 96828-0270. To make a donation online, please go to www.uhfoundation.org/AlleneChunScholarship.