



## College of Natural & Health Sciences

Weekly Update • 15 November 2023

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### Message from the Dean

Aloha CNHS faculty and staff:

Please mark your calendars for an important all-college meeting with the three Vice Chancellors on **Monday Dec 4th in STB 108**. This meeting will provide interim VC Kawa'ae'a (Academic Affairs), VC Rapoza (Administrative Affairs), and interim VC Holland (Student Affairs) the opportunity to share their ideas and discuss re-envisioning our campus through our [UHH strategic plan](#) and [system strategic imperatives](#). The VCs aim to build our collective efforts and campus profile by strengthening the alignment between our values, practices, and identity as UH Hilo that moves us from a deficit to a strength-based position – learning, life, and aloha.

Two meeting times are available, broken down by department/unit as follows:

1:00-2:00 pm: Geology, Kinesiology & Exercise Science, Marine Science, Mathematics, Nursing  
 2:00-3:00 pm: Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Physics & Astronomy, Dean's office, PISCES

These meetings will be in-person only. Please attend during the hour assigned to your unit to ensure we have sufficient capacity during each meeting; however, if you are unable to attend during your assigned time slot due to teaching or other obligations, feel free to attend at the alternate time. We acknowledge that these times won't work for everyone in the college; apologies to those for whom neither time is possible to attend.

In preparation for these meetings, please consider the following questions:

1. How do we re-envision our campus from a deficit position to a strength-based position?
2. Where do you see your college's greatest strengths to contribute to the change?
3. What actions can we collectively undertake within and across colleges and services to further elevate what we offer or should offer? (e.g., grants, sharing/cross-teaching between colleges, collaboration between colleges, the way we teach/assess, the kinds of courses we teach, intern/hands-on experience, job marketability, etc.).

Everyone is encouraged to share their thoughts and experiences to assist our university leadership as we work together to keep UH Hilo a university of choice and excellence.

Finally, a reminder to [share with us](#) any fun, exciting, or important news or other informational items to share with the college for inclusion in the Weekly Update. Thank you to all for your dedication and noteworthy efforts on behalf of CNHS and its students.

Mahalo,  
Simon



Recent Physics & Astronomy alums Allison Padilla (left) and Callie Crowder (right) holding pictures of their respective Mars mission rovers (Nov 2023).

### CNHS Spotlight: Alumni Excellence

During a visit to San Diego, California, CNHS Dean Simon Kattenhorn interacted with recent graduates of the Physics & Astronomy department who have both gone on to do great things. Callie Crowder (BS, 2017) and Allison Padilla (BS, 2022) both work for Malin Space Science Systems in San Diego as part of Mars rover mission team members.

Callie works as a Mission Operations Specialist with the uplink and downlink teams for the Mastcam-Z cameras on the Perseverance rover, specializing in multispectral and stereo observations for scientists researching the geological context, chemical composition, or atmospheric changes on Mars. A typical day for Callie involves analyzing a previous sol's data and creating sequences to send back to Mars. Some of her favorite sequences involve taking large mosaics of the beautiful Martian scenery or capturing engineering videos of Perseverance's sibling and the only helicopter on Mars, Ingenuity. "My role on the Mars 2020 Perseverance Rover mission is a credit to the opportunities I had while attending UH Hilo," said Callie. "Smaller class sizes helped to grow lasting networks with the professors and peers in similar degree programs. The proximity to some of the best astronomical observatories in the world allowed me to make connections within the field of astronomy before I even graduated. My Senior project was to work on the integration and commissioning of the new UH Hilo 0.7m telescope with Dr. Pierre Martin. Not only did this experience help me understand concepts we learned in class but it also fueled my interest in space technology which has continued to grow since I graduated."

Allison works at Malin as a Missions Operations Specialist. She operates two cameras on the Curiosity Rover (link shows a selfie image that Allison sequenced). Here are two additional images she sequenced with the Mars Hand Lens Imager (MAHLI) and the Mars Descent Imager (MARDI). Her role within the MAHLI team is to determine what targets to image close up and in high resolution and how to image these targets. MARDI's primary purpose was to document Curiosity's descent and landing into Gale Crater on Mars, but is now used to take end-of-drive imaging of the surface below the rover. "The caring community of professors and students at UH Hilo gave me the foundation needed to work my way into space exploration and land my role at Malin Space Science Systems," Allison explained. "The small class sizes not only made learning more accessible but also allowed me to form meaningful connections with professors and peers and the opportunity to actively engage in a variety of enriching experiences. Serving as a tutor, astronomy lab assistant, and an officer of the University Astrophysics Club gave me the space to collaborate among a community of fellow student enthusiasts. My active involvement in extracurricular activities were made possible by professors who guided and mentored me throughout my academic journey."

Congratulations to both Callie and Allison on their amazing career journeys so far and for exemplifying UH Hilo alumni excellence!

### Other News

- **Geology:** More outreach efforts! Staff member Darcy Bevens represented the Geology department in the Girl Scouts STEM event this past Friday Nov 10th in Hilo. The UHH table was developed in cooperation with the Center for the Study of Active Volcanoes which is based on the UHH campus.
- **Geology:** Prof Steve Lundblad and several UH Hilo geology majors joined a Hawai'i Volcano Observatory team to conduct precise surface leveling in the Koa'e fault zone on Friday Nov 10th, collecting data in anticipation of future magma movement in this region of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park.
- **Biology/Physics & Astronomy:** Please pass along to your students that a new [Robotics Club](#) is being formed by one of our Biology majors with a kick-off meeting next week Wednesday Nov 22 at 5 pm at the Library Lanai. Interested students should RSVP.

### Updates

- **Registration Overrides:** Spring registration is underway. In some cases, students require registration overrides. For courses with an assigned instructor, we ask the instructor to submit these overrides themselves using [MyUH](#) as we are understaffed in the dean's office. Please refer to this [Faculty/Staff Resources site](#) for more information. For courses listed as Staff, requests should be submitted directly to department chairs/directors for approval and they can forward the request to [Yolanda Andres](#) in the dean's office for processing.
- **TCBES Research Seminar Series:** Mon Nov 13 at 4 pm: Dr. Erica Newman (Univ. of Texas at Austin) "Towards a dynamic macroecology" Online only [via Zoom](#) (passcode TCBES).
- **UH Scholarships:** If you know of students in financial need, please let them know about the [UH system scholarship](#) options for the 2024-2025 academic year. These include need and merit-based awards, scholarships based on specific majors, geographic location, campus, and other criteria. The deadline to apply is 4 pm on March 1, 2024.
- **2024 UH Hilo Annual and Biennial Campus Awards:** Chancellor Ivie recently sent out a request to [submit nominations](#) for these seven awards, due by 24 Feb 2024.

### Dates and Deadlines

- CPC committees send tenure and promotion recommendations to chairs: **11/17/2023**
- Thanksgiving Day: UHH is closed: **11/23/23**
- Non-instructional day: **11/24/23**
- Deadline for Spring 2024 Lecturers to return signed appointment letters: **11/30/23**
- Deadline for applications for sabbatical leaves starting on June 1, 2024: **12/1/23**
- Summer 2024 Special Topics and Experimental Course Approvals Due: **12/1/23**
- Summer 2024 draft schedule posted: **12/2/23**
- All College meeting with UHH Vice Chancellors: **12/4/23**
- Bookstore deadline to submit IDAP requests: **12/6/23**
- Fall 2023 last day of instruction: **12/7/23**
- Fall 2023 finals week: **12/11/23-12/15/23**
- Fall 2023 Commencement: **12/16/23**

Do you have any fun, exciting, or important news to share with the college? [Share it with us!](#)



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