Commencement

On Saturday, May 16, WCC will honor its graduating students at a commencement ceremony at 1 p.m. in Palikū Theatre.

More than 130 students from fall, spring, and summer sessions are eligible to graduate this year.

Due to limited seating, tickets will be required for admission to the theatre. However, family and friends who do not have tickets may view the ceremony by closed circuit television in Palanakila 102.

After the ceremony, there will be a celebration in Palanakila courtyard for the graduates and their guests, hosted by the ASUH-WCC student senate.

Generations walk together

Two students a generation apart will represent their graduating class in saying thanks to WCC.

An artistic and enthusiastic student, Tori Langley said she has enjoyed attending Windward.

"WCC is a good place to grow, and that's exactly what I did," she said. "Not only was it affordable and close to home, but it was a great place for me to figure out what I was passionate about and cultivate it."

Langley said one of the reasons she likes WCC so much is the faculty. "Many professors really made an impact on me. They genuinely want you to be the best that you can be and I love that."

Langley is currently interning with Studio Red, a local cinematography company. She plans to work with them while she is pursuing her bachelor's degree in theatre. "I'd love to have a better job. The economy is bad. You might not want to sit there," she said. "So I know I have to grab it! My dream is to come back someday to teach...I want to give back what was given to me."

Diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis nearly 35 years ago, O’Phelan has persevered and acquired a resume full of accolades.

Her photos have appeared in various books and college newspapers, MidWeek, and the Honolulu Advertiser.

Exhibits at WCC, Leeward Community College, Windward Mall, and the Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce have featured her aptitude behind the lens.

But it’s her spirit and campus service that people mention the most. WCC student and O’Phelan’s tutee since 2000, Leleihualani Kane, credits her attending WCC to O’Phelan’s help.

"I don’t know what I’m going to do without her," she said. Kane has always been impressed by O’Phelan’s resilience, consistency, ability to persevere and “always be happy.”

O’Phelan plans to move on to UH-Manoa in pursuit of a double major in art and communications.

An emotional O’Phelan said, “I will miss my WCC ‘ohana and will always be grateful to all of the faculty and staff who have supported me through my years at WCC.”
Slavery in cocoa leaves bitter aftertaste

by Arlena Nunes
Ka 'Ohana Staff Reporter

Our stomach rumbles with hunger, so you stop by the vending machine on your way to class. In goes your dollar and down drops a tasty bag of M&Ms. You reach into the machine and grab your snack. The result? You may have just purchased a product made by modern-day slaves.

There are many different kinds of slavery—from sex trafficking, in which girls as young as 5 are forced to prostitute themselves to war slaves. But by far the largest area of slavery today is labor slavery.

In June 2001, attention turned to a small country in Africa called Cote d'Ivoire, also known as the Ivory Coast, when Sudarsan Raghavan and Sumana Chatterjee wrote an article for Knight Ridder Newspaper entitled “A Taste of Slavery.” The article tells the tale of Aly Diabate, a former slave who began working on a cocoa bean farm at 12 because he was promised a new bike and $150 a year.

According to Diabate, he never received the bike or the money, but did acquire multiple scars from floggings by the cocoa farmer named “Le Gros” (“the big man”) and his men. Diabate said, “The beatings were a part of my life. Anytime they loaded you with bags and you fell while carrying them, nobody helped you. Instead, they beat you and beat you until you picked it up again.”

After one of the slave children successfully escaped from the farm, he told elders in his community what was happening. They contacted Abdul Makho, the consul general in Mali. When Makho went to the farm with several police officers, he found everything the escaped boy said to be true and medical records showed that the boys had scars and infected lesions all over their bodies.

Makho said of one boy, “… his face showed what was happening. He was sick, he had (excrement) in his pants. He was lying on the ground, covered with cocoa leaves because they were sure he was dying. He was almost dead. … He had been severely beaten.”

This is not just an isolated incident. According to Raghavan and Chatterjee, the Chocolate Manufacturers’ Association, the trade group for American chocolate manufacturers, funded a survey of cocoa bean farms along the Ivory Coast in May 2001.

Though not certain at first of the validity of slavery claims, after examining 2,000 farms, CMA President Larry Graham announced, “Now we are not debating that this is true. We’re accepting that this is a fact.”

According to the U.S. State Department’s Human Rights Report in 2001, chocolate is not the only product produced by slaves. Coffee beans are often grown right alongside cocoa beans and harvested by the same enslaved people.

Action has been taken in the past. Forbes.com reported that two nonprofit companies, Global Exchange and International Labor Rights Fund, brought a lawsuit against Nestle under two federal statutes, the Torture Victim Protection Act and the Alien Tort Claims Act.

Is your shave ice melting?

by Darriel Miller
Ka 'Ohana Staff Reporter

As glaciers continue to melt at an accelerating rate, beachfront property is becoming waterfront property faster than investors and home owners ever imagined. Days like Earth Day were created to educate people about the causes of these events occurring across the globe.

The Earth Day event at WCC included a lecture by Kevin Hamilton, the UH International Pacific Research Center (IPRC) director, called “Our Climate Dilemma: What we know and what options remain.” Using computer models and graphs, Hamilton demonstrated the climate change and atmospheric circulation occurring on the planet.

The main focus was on human impacts that are contributing to the progression of global warming—for example, burning fossil fuels such as coal or oil and deforestation. Both actions result in the release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, which ultimately increases greenhouse gases and causes the temperature to rise.

This exponential growth of temperature and carbon dioxide in the atmosphere will continue as long as humans keep burning natural resources and cutting down forests, he said.

The temperature increase has led to the accelerated melting of the polar ice caps and major glaciers around the world. This decline in ice covering the surface is allowing more of the heat rays from the sun to be absorbed by the planet, instead of being reflected back into outer space.

Ice melting around the world is beginning to evoke mankind’s common fear, floods. Hamilton’s computer models show evidence that shorelines will recede significantly in U.S. states such as California, Florida and Hawaii by the year 2050. This is an economic concern because those states heavily rely on tourism and beachfront property. With a noticeable difference in beaches already showing, this is a startling reality to Americans who have invested in tourism-related industries or beachfront realty.

Along with the oceans becoming warmer and the shorelines becoming smaller, humanity is also confronted by nature’s fury. “The devastation to New Orleans by hurricane Katrina in 2005 was only a taste of what is to come,” Hamilton said. “Warm waters are the main ingredient for tropical storms, which have the potential to turn into hurricanes. Warmer waters create stronger hurricanes.”

In spite of the apparent apathy towards global warming, there are scientists and politicians who are brainstorming ideas to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and take carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere. These concepts include enhancing geo-engineering, mitigating the excretion of carbon, reducing deforestation and nuclear fission, and utilizing renewable energy sources like wind, solar and wave/tide.

However, there are ideas that are considered fictional or even humorous.
Train to be a veterinary assistant

by Bonnie Beaton
WCC Marketing Director

For animal lovers who want to break into the field of veterinary medicine, Windward now offers the Certificate of Achievement in Veterinary Assisting. Earning this certificate will benefit anyone who is interested in working with animals, either in the setting of a veterinarian’s office, animal shelter or research laboratory.

This is the first veterinary assisting program to be offered in Hawai’i. Until now, veterinarians had to train most of their assistants from the ground up.

The certificate will provide a standardized training program for vet assistants.

Students will learn to effectively communicate with clients and veterinarians, generate invoices and enter appointments, perform routine physical exams and record patient histories.

They will also learn to collect samples and perform clinical laboratory procedures, maintain and trouble-shoot clinical lab equipment and assist with dental cleanings and surgical prep.

The certificate consists of a series of classes (29-30 credits) designed to be completed in two semesters.

Many of the classes can also be counted towards an A.A. degree, so students can work towards the certificate and an associate’s degree simultaneously.

Students who are interested in the veterinary assisting certificate should contact Ross Langston at langston@hawaii. edu or 236-9119, or the Office of University Partners at 235-7324 for more information.

Holy History!
A team approach

by Arlene Nunes
Ka ‘Ohana Staff Reporter

How does religion influence political decisions? What are the historical roots of some of the world’s current conflicts?

If you’re curious about these and other questions, Sarah Hadmack and Malia Lau Kong want you in their learning community this fall.

The two young, energetic instructors are teaching back-to-back courses, Rel 150 and Hist 151, under the title “Holy History — Gods, War and Peace.”

The classes will meet from 9:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays and use a thematic, interdisciplinary approach.

“We believe in building a nurturing community that tries to integrate subjects instead of putting them in separate boxes,” said Hadmack.

Students will have a chance to get to know their classmates, going on field trips and listening to guest speakers.

Upon completion, students will have earned all six credits of the global multicultural focus requirements for the A.A. degree.

“We wanted to take a more holistic view of these subjects,” added Lau Kong. “It’s an approach we think the students will enjoy.”

Recycled textbooks save money

by Bonnie Beaton
WCC Marketing Director

WCC’s Book Buyback helps you go green in more ways than one: recycle your old textbooks and get instant cash.

Starting May 11 and continuing through May 15, the bookstore will be buying your used textbooks back at the National Market Value.

Buybacks will be happening from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. every day except Wednesday, when the bookstore will stay open until 5 p.m.

WCC student Darryl Kaneyuki said, “It was an easy and pain-free experience. I got money! They took all but one book back.” Just make sure to get there early before the line gets long and they reach their buyback limit.

When it comes to finding books for summer and fall sessions, also consider buying your books online.

Purchasing textbooks at the campus bookstore can get a bit pricey. This is partly due to the use of new editions. Used books aren’t bought back if a new edition will be used next semester. Thus, it forces students to buy the book new and at its highest price.

Online book vendors are willing to sell new and used books at a much lower price. For example, “Principles in Macroeconomics” by N. Gregory Mankiw is required for ECON 131. It’s available at the bookstore for about $150. Online, the book can be found for as little as $1 plus shipping and handling, which rarely exceeds $10. That’s a savings of approximately $140.

Helpful sites for buying books include abebooks.com, half.com, and amazon.com. A description of the condition of each book is available, as well as new and used options.

As far as the difference between first and 10th editions, a certain WCC economics teacher quoting a history teacher said, “History doesn’t change much from one edition to the next.”

The Ka ‘Ohana staff wins another ASPA award

WCC’s student newspaper, Ka ‘Ohana, has won another first place national award from the American Scholastic Press Association — marking the 15th time it has received the honor.

Ka ‘Ohana was rated among the top community college papers in the country for its writing, page design and photography.

Ka ‘Ohana editor in chief Patrick Hascall said, “The talent and enthusiasm of the Ka ‘Ohana staff never ceases to amaze me, and it speaks well of the dedication and professionalism of our advisor Libby Young.”

The paper received 935 out of 1,000 points and is, in the opinion of the judges, “an excellent school newspaper, which shows the talent of your editors, reporters, layout designers and advisor,” said the ASPA.

“Nothing is like seeing your words in print, and being rewarded for it,” added Hascall. “We are all very proud to be a part of the Ka ‘Ohana family and its history.”

The newspaper is produced by the students in JOURN 285V, a variable credit lab that can be taken with JOURN 205, basic news writing.

The JOURN 285 course provides training in everything from reporting, editing and photography to desktop publishing, graphic design and preparing material for Web sites.

For details, call advisor Libby Young at 235-7396.
Student government: new plans

“The Accidental Issue: Sometimes Things Fall Into Place” is set for Thursday, May 14 at 7 p.m. in Akoakoa 105.

All faculty, staff, students and their guests are invited to celebrate the 29th issue of WCC’s award-winning literary and art journal.

The event will feature students reading their work, art displays, a live band, desserts and beverages. Cash prizes will be awarded and books will be given away.

As a special incentive this year, WCC students who attend can enter a raffle to win any of three prizes: 1) a $25 gift card to Borders, and four free movie tickets, 2) a $10 gift card to a local restaurant, the TLC, and outside the Rain Bird Studio in the library, the TLC, and 3) a $10 gift card to a local restaurant.

The Rain Bird staff also encourages faculty, staff and especially students to contribute their art and writing to the next issue, “Windward Style.”

“This is a chance for our college to make a real and lasting contribution to local literature,” said faculty advisor Robert Barclay.

Staff member Eric Kāne added, “We want to create a book that brings to life the essence of everything from Makapu’u to Kahuku.”

Rain Bird is looking for stories, poems, essays, histories, photographs, and any other works of art that embody the dramas, struggles, wonders, comedies or tragedies of our unique side of the island.

The table of contents in -

“We want them to not only be successful at school but have fun doing it!”

Numerous types of programs are being discussed with school administrators, such as a daycare program.

The student government also feels WCC should offer more than just a liberal arts degree to their students.

Two students, Judd and Maka Wolfegramm, have been selected to attend a special leadership academic seminar for President Obama’s First 100 Days in Washington D.C. May 17-24.

“We want to represent WCC and our community in Washington, and it may give us the opportunity to raise our concerns to the leaders at the seminar,” Judd said.

WCC’s student government will have meetings on May 18 and 29 at Hale Akoakoa Room 203 at 9 a.m. Everyone is invited to participate whether you’re a senator or a student.

“We want to represent WCC and our community in Washington, and it may give us the opportunity to raise our concerns to the leaders at the seminar,” Judd said.

“Your voices and participation will have an effect on how we’ll run our campus for the next year,” said Judd. For more information, call 235-7390.

The Common Book

This fall’s selection for WCC’s Common Book, “Freakonomics,” is for the curious of mind who want to explore “the hidden side of everything.”

According to the publisher, authors Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner “study the stuff and riddles of everyday life—from cheating and crime to sports and child rearing—and their conclusions regularly turn the conventional wisdom on its head.

“The authors show that economics is, at root, the study of incentives—how people get what they want, or need, especially when other people want or need the same thing.”

The table of contents includes questions such as:

“What do schoolteachers and sumo wrestlers have in common? Why do drug dealers still live with their moms?”

The Common Book

Explore the hidden side this fall.

Where have all the criminals gone?”

For more information on past or present Common Book programs, visit: www.windward.hawaii.edu/commonbook.

— by Pulama Goodhue

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— by Pulama Goodhue
Mattos: It’s time to bid farewell

by Patrick Hasccall
Ka ‘Ohana Editor in Chief

This semester, Windward Community College will say aloha to a member of its family who has touched the hearts of faculty, staff, students and the community through his tireless efforts to improve the quality of education. English Professor Frank Mattos has decided it’s time for a well-earned retirement.

“I don’t mind being quoted,” chuckled Mattos. “It’s time!”

Sitting on his lanai at Na‘auao surrounded by his plants, Mattos said with a smile that he has had the pleasure of teaching preschool, fourth, sixth and eighth grade, high school and college students throughout his career.

“I’ve been so lucky to have held a teaching position,” said Mattos. “I’ve taught in both the private and the public sectors. I really feel fortunate that I got to do that and experience it.”

Mattos has many fond memories of his career, but when he talks about WCC, it is clear that he holds a special place in his heart for the campus.

“While teaching at Chaminade I was teaching two courses here at night,” said Mattos. “That experience helped me make the decision that I wanted to teach at a community college; it’s a relaxing, family-style atmosphere with a quality of people that has made his stay full and rewarding.

When referring to his experience at WCC he said, “Teaching isn’t all about ‘academic nut’ stuff.”

Mattos speaks highly of the quality of education at Windward and an atmosphere that promotes learning for everyone, no matter what experience students have had in the past.

“I feel that for many students it’s a second chance—the non-traditional students and the high school students who haven’t done well and really want to give it another try,” said Mattos. “I’ve really enjoyed being a part of it.

“One of the reasons I enjoy Windward is the non-traditional students,” said Mattos. “They have such life experience to bring to the classroom, and it adds to the learning and enriches the classroom experience.”

“I think that’s the reason I’ve stayed so long,” he added.

Throughout his stay, Mattos has been very involved working to improve WCC and the students’ abilities to get as much out of their education as possible.

“One of the things I really pride myself in is that I launched WCC into the technological era by implementing computer-assisted writing into English 100,” said Mattos.

“We were the first to implement this in the University of Hawaii system.”

Mattos has also been the coordinator for the Service Learning program for the Windward side for 14 years, an experience he will long remember.

“It’s been a really wonderful, exciting and rewarding experience to work with students, placing them in academic sites and community agencies on the Windward side,” said Mattos. “I feel it has enriched my life and I know it’s enriched students.”

Mattos knows his love for the program will live on through Pam DaGrossa, who he hopes will be his replacement.

Pending the renewal of a third three-year Learn and Serve America federal grant, Mattos feels confident about the program continuing. “Pam is a very active Service Learning coordinator and has been wonderful.”

For some Q & A on Moore’s vision for Hawaiian studies, see page 12

FRANK MATTOS

In 1994 Moore came back to Hawaii to continue college at UH Mānoa where he earned his B.A. in Hawaiian studies and M.A. in political science. Kalawai’a was working on his doctorate and knew he needed to get a job to anchor his skills in serving his community. He applied to Windward Community College and was called back, interviewed and was accepted as an instructor.

One of the classes he is putting together is an Introduction to the Hawaiian Kingdom. It will look at the origins, creation and structure of the kingdom of Hawai‘i and how it all came together.

This class looks beyond all the positive and negative critiques of the kingdom, to how it actually came about.

Another class will be Introduction to Hawaiian Land Tenure. This class will focus on the whole period of the land commission and the Great Mahele.

It will include learning to trace back land and utilize the State of Hawai‘i archives.

The third class, Hawaiian Social Movements, will be looking at movements over the last few decades.

Kalawai’a will also have his part in the development of the Hawai‘i Music Institute. “One of my responsibilities is to help coordinate the continuation of the Hawai‘i Music Institute,” Moore said.

“Right now HMI is still in the process of proposal writing.”

“We are going to attempt to move forward with either a summer institute or something in the fall. Developing the curriculum aspect where Hawai‘i Music Institute is actually a part of Windward Community College will take more time.”

HMI’s purpose is to perpetuate island music, help aspiring musicians succeed in the music business and create a venue where professional and aspiring musicians can come together to share information, talent and performances.

As for the timing, “It’s sort of like walking into the middle of a conversation,” Kalawai’a said. “I’ve stepped into the process of discussing everybody’s visions and bringing in people to have that larger vision manifest itself. I’m putting together some classes that fit my own strengths and I’m really interested in seeing me do that.”

Kalawai’a’s attitude is if this job is meant to be, everything will fall into place. “I am really happy to be here and I can’t wait to see how everything goes.”

See page 12 for Q & A on Moore’s vision for Hawaiian studies.
Vilasomes, ancient civilizations and archaeological digs involve visions of speleobringing heroes trumpeting around the world in search of treasures. Though he doesn't carry a whip and pack a Smith & Wesson on his hip, Professor Floyd McCoy is WCC's "Indiana Jones." Sitting in Smiles, McCoy looks like a typical college professor prepping for his next lecture, surround-

By Patrick Haskell

**Get your passport to discovery & adventure**

What should I do this summer? 2009 is an unforgettable year for travel. Is it your time to experience something truly special? Do you want to travel to a new country? Do you want to travel to a new country while learning about a different culture? Are you interested in volunteering abroad? Do you have a passion for adventure? Do you want to learn about the world while having fun?

Opportunity erupts in Hilo

WCC has signed a partnership agreement with UH Hilo to help students complete their bachelor's degree on the Big Island.

The program offers students the opportunity to be admitted to the program and receive advising from the UH Hilo personnel while completing their WCC coursework.

The program is designed for students to earn a bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts at WCC and then transfer to UH Hilo to complete their bachelor's degree.

If you are interested in learning more about the program, please contact Professor McCoy or the WCC Student Services Office.

Freeing going global

Are you interested in learning about the world while having fun? Do you want to travel to a new country and learn about a different culture? Are you interested in volunteering abroad? Do you have a passion for adventure? Do you want to learn about the world while having fun?

Art Academy University, San Francisco

Art Academy University, San Francisco, is the largest private school of fine art in the world. The university offers a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in fine art with concentrations in painting, drawing, sculpture, printmaking, and digital media. The university also offers a Master of Fine Arts degree in fine art with concentrations in painting, drawing, sculpture, printmaking, and digital media. The university is located in San Francisco, California, and offers a variety of classes and workshops.

Dionne Ross, Ka 'Ohana Staff Reporter

Teachers: A place to sleep, somewhere to eat.

If there is a certain area you are interested in learning about, you can find a place where you could volunteer or intern. By volunteering abroad, you will learn how to be independent in another culture. Besides that, it gives students the chance to figure out how it all ties together.

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In case you've ever wanted to travel the world, volunteering abroad can be a great option. It is a way to learn about different cultures and make new friends. It is also a way to see new places and experience new things. It is a way to learn about the world while having fun.

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If there is a certain area you are interested in learning about, you can find a place where you could volunteer or intern. By volunteering abroad, you will learn how to be independent in another culture. Besides that, it gives students the chance to figure out how it all ties together.

Art Academy University, San Francisco, is the largest private school of fine art in the world. The university offers a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in fine art with concentrations in painting, drawing, sculpture, printmaking, and digital media. The university also offers a Master of Fine Arts degree in fine art with concentrations in painting, drawing, sculpture, printmaking, and digital media. The university is located in San Francisco, California, and offers a variety of classes and workshops.

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Some say it’s crazy while others say it’s a way to get their adrenaline fix. But if you’re looking for an experience you’ll never forget, try jumping out of an airplane at 10,000 feet. I spent a recent Sunday afternoon out in Mokule‘ia at Skydive Hawai‘i with my friend Randall Sato for an adventure I most certainly will remember.

Friendly faces greeted me as I stepped into the building, but the mood suddenly changed when I saw the waiver letting me know in bold letters that injury or death may occur.

As a first-time jumper, you’ll be strapped up to an experienced tandem master who’ll let you experience the thrill of skydiving safely.

After reaching the peak of your flight, you’ll realize you’re no longer rising. They slide the door open and a huge gust of wind will take your breath away as your heart starts pounding harder through your chest. A simple “ready, set, go” and you’re out. In what will feel like the shortest minute of your life, once you leave the plane, the rush you get is indescribable as you’re falling faster than 100 mph.

Above the clouds, the view of the North Shore is amazing, especially when there’s nothing blocking your view as there would be in an airplane. Even if you were born and raised on O‘ahu, the view is picture perfect from a bird’s-eye view.

Chris Sanders, an instructor with 20 years of experience, says that skydiving is “an addiction.” And I have to agree.

I asked Sanders if each jump is as exciting as the first, and he answered quickly saying, “Hell, yeah.” Of course, there are risks. Injuries and death may occur.

Sanders said that he once blew out his knee on a landing. But he tells those with second thoughts to “relax and have fun.” Nothing ever goes perfectly, but if you’re looking for an experience like no other, this is the best way to do it.

After a minute of free falling and breaking through the freezing cold clouds, things will settle down. The parachute releases and pulls you back as you come to an abrupt slowdown in speed.

Removing the goggles, you really get to enjoy the beauty of O‘ahu.

Different instructors will do different stunts as you fall. Some do 360-degree spins while free falling, and others will spin you around while your parachute is out.

As you approach the ground, the fear will finally set in as you start wondering, “Am I safe?”

The instructor will tell you to lift up your feet as high as you can while you approach the unforgiving ground where you’ll fall like a feather or slide down like you’re a baseball player.

I asked Sanders what happens if people don’t feel like jumping when they get up there and he said, “Everybody goes. As soon as they let go of the bar, we take them out.” Why go back if you’ve come that far?

Students 18 years and older with a valid school ID get a discount of $100. The regular price is $225. There are also military and group discounts.

For more information, visit skydivehawaii.com or call 637-9700.

Randall Sato experiences free fall for the first time with his tandem master over Mokule‘ia.

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**America’s reality obsession**

*by Lance Sabado
Ka‘Ohana Staff Reporter*

Reality TV has become so popolar that a report by John Patterson indicated that over 70 percent of the American population watched reality TV occasionally or on a regular basis.

In fact, recent press releases read: “American Idol” remains the most watched primetime show after eight seasons and “Britain’s Got Talent” star Susan Boyle gets 20 million hits on YouTube—further showing that reality TV has taken over cable television, mass media and American audiences.

But what is reality TV? Reference.com defines reality television as “a genre of television programming that presents purportedly unscripted dramatic or humorous situations, documents actual events, and usually features ordinary people instead of professional actors.” Simply put, it is television that captures everyday people doing dramatic or comedic things.

Brent Anbe, film industry development specialist for the Hawaii Film Office, has his own definition of reality TV.

“It’s a television show whose main goal is ratings, which equals advertising, which equals money. Much is staged, pre-planned, and scripted for both competition and non-competition based shows.”

He adds, “People watch these shows to be entertained and not to be educated.”

Whether entertaining or educational, clinical psychologist and psychology teacher at WCC, Bobbi Carlson, has some opinions on the adverse psychological effects of watching reality TV.

“People who watch too much reality TV become desensitized to the rawness of people’s emotions,” she explains.

“Normal people are not expected to act normal on these shows. You literally have to align yourself with people who are nasty to come out on top. Lies, and manipulation can pay off,” Carlson adds.

Likewise, A. Merkow, a well-known blogger on reality shows on TV.com, criticizes reality shows. He says, “With reality shows on TV nowadays, you will notice that many people’s lives are affected by this. Many people actually run their lives based on reality shows on television.”

Nevertheless, hundreds of TV shows have been produced within the last decade, and many more are being introduced to TV producers at this moment.

Annette Hill writes about this in her book, “Reality TV: Factual Entertainment and Television Audiences.” In it, she quotes Larry Namer the co-founder of E! Entertainment as saying to viewers, “Reality television is television, it’s not a fact.”

However, reality TV TV had humble beginnings. The first marked instance of reality formatting came from MTV’s The Real World” back in 1992. The basis of the show was to record the lives of seven strangers living in a house rent-free.

Although the show ranked fairly low in viewership, it introduced the reality format to major networks like ABC, CBS, and NBC. Then, shows like “Big Brother” and “Survivor” similarly took random people and put them in a microcosm to co-exist.

With the pressure of this living situation, the drama—which played out through obscure language, sexual activity and violence. Today, however, almost every major network airs a reality show of some sort.

ParentesTV.org writes about this in a recent study. “These programs are set up to cash in on the conflict and sexual interaction captured by the ever-present cameras. Reality-based entertainment programs aren’t going away anytime soon. We can expect them only to become more common, and sadly, increasingly outrageous.”

Sean Hauki-Williams, a full-time working father and avid reality TV watcher is proud to be part of the hype. He says, “It’s the new thing, everybody’s into it.”

He describes his first glimpse of reality TV.

“I was hooked. For the first five seasons of The Real World, I never missed an episode. Then I was obsessed with Big Brother,” Hauki-Williams says.

Still, Carlson worries about the trend. She asserts, “TV has gone downhill in the last 20 years.”

In the end, though, the reality just might be that television and real life will soon be one and the same.
Finding your niche

by Mark Brislin

Incoming Ka ‘Ohana Editor to Chief
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

Some students enter college knowing exactly what they want to do, but I wasn’t one of them.

Instead of going with some clear career direction, I was hoping college would help me find a direction. And I’m pretty sure that’s what I did.

I learned a lot of things in high school, but very little of it had to do with school. I did barely enough to pass most of my classes and ended up slinking out of high school with a pathetic GPA, and no idea of what I was going to do with my life.

One great thing about college is that it offers a wide variety of potential careers to students. One could even argue that it is a good thing to require students to take classes in many different areas because there are more possibilities for someone to strike their interest. Somewhere along the way instead of viewing school as something I had to get through, I decided I might as well try to enjoy the ride and actually learn something.

It helped that I found classes at WCC that I enjoyed taking, such as philosophy and sociology. I may have never made it through my first few years of college if I didn’t fill my electives with those courses. Philosophy and sociology almost force students to think about things in a different way, and even if you don’t always agree with what you’re learning, it helps to strengthen reasoning about opinions and beliefs, and even create new ones.

It also helped that I stumbled onto something that I could be happy doing for a living and an excellent teacher who helped me learn the trade. Working at Ka ‘Ohana gave me a reason to write and an outlet to share that writing.

At Ka ‘Ohana I learned to report, edit and design pages while working with a team of smart people. I didn’t always enjoy doing all those things, but I gained a lot of valuable experience that I would later be glad that I had.

I’m a big believer in learning through doing. You can read a hundred books on something, but you’ll never know if you can do it unless you actually try. Working on college newspapers helps provide valuable experience, not only to students interested in journalism, but to anyone who wants to learn how to produce a product a whole team can be proud of.

I think the secret of making it through college is mostly just persistence. Sometimes college can be a grind. Some of the work may seem boring and require a lot of time. But sometimes you may actually love it, and finding that something you love can help carry you through.

Trust me on this: If I can make it to my bachelor’s degree (and it looks like I finally will if I can hang on for another year), then pretty much anyone else can too. Hang in there!

Windward Ho’olaule’a set for Sept. 26

Planning is already under way for the 9th annual Windward Ho’olaule’a Saturday, Sept. 26, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on WCC’s campus.

The free community event has become one of the biggest on the Windward side with top-name entertainment, food, crafts, WCC exhibits, keiki games and a silent auction to benefit the college’s Advancement Fund and student scholarships.

A job fair is also being added to help residents weather the tough economic times. The event is a partnership between the Kaneohe Business Group and the college to showcase WCC and the Windward side.

“Our theme this year is E Pū Like Kākou, (Let’s Come Together as One),” said chair Herb Lee, KBG board member, director of the Pacific American Foundation and long-time WCC supporter.

“We wanted to send a message of hope, that we’re one community and need to support each other,” he said.

This year WCC faculty, staff and students are taking the lead for several of the key committees.

If you’d like to help or know of someone who wants to participate as a vendor, contact any of the following:

• WCC booths – Bonnie Beaton, beatson@hawaii.edu
• Arts and Crafts – Judy Oliveira and Lance Uyeda, judy.anno@hawaii.edu or lkyeda@hawaii.edu
• Food – Gus Cobb-Adams, gusca@hawaii.edu
• Silent Auction – Carla Rogers, crogers@hawaii.edu
• Entertainment – Ron Loo, rloo@hawaii.edu
• Job Fair – Mike Moser, tmosser@hawaii.edu
• White Elephant – Paul Briggs, pbrigg@hawaii.edu
• Used book sale – Brian Richard-son, richards@hawaii.edu

For other questions, call Libby Young at 235-7396.

Bunny’s journey

by Bunny Yutaka

Ka ‘Ohana Staff Reporter

My parents, both of my siblings and some of my closest friends have college degrees. As for me, I have yet to declare a major, and I’m set to graduate from WCC next semester.

Why is it so hard for me to decide what I want to do with the rest of my life and stick with it? Apparently, I’m not alone in this quest for academic identity. Counselors say it’s quite common for the average college student to feel this way.

For those of you who found your calling early in life, consider yourself lucky. Many studies show that the majority of college students change their major at least once and, according to the U.S. Department of Labor, the average college graduate changes jobs once every three years and changes career fields two or three times in a lifetime.

When I first attended WCC, I visited the Career Center and took a self-assessment test that categorized my personality, interests, and work values and then matched them up with different occupations that fit my profile.

I always knew I liked meeting new people and I liked to travel. One suggestion was that I pursue a career in tourism, but for obvious reasons that wasn’t the smartest economic choice for me.

Finding a career that interests me turns out to be the easy part; funding it is the hard part. I needed to reevaluate my options. Grants will cover only so much tuition before student loans start looking good, so I better pick something that I’ll enjoy doing while paying off the loans.

April’s Career Fair at WCC helped me focus my ambitions on nursing, even if it meant returning to WCC for an extra semester to fulfill the science prerequisite.

Steven Chigawa at WCC’s financial aid office introduced me to different scholarships that offer preference to nursing and other health care professions. As a nurse, I’ll meet new people and have the opportunity to travel in a career that is in demand virtually everywhere. I’ll also have a job that will help me comfortably pay off future student loans.

I know what the future holds, but my time at WCC has made my career journey much clearer.

KBG now accepting scholarship applications

The Kaneohe Business Group is accepting scholarship applications for the 2009-2010 school year.

If you are planning a career in business, nursing, or education, and are a Hawaii resident, plan to enroll at least half-time at WCC and have a 2.5 GPA, you are encouraged to apply.

Applications are due at WCC’s Financial Aid Office by June 15. For more details, go to the financial aid section of WCC’s home page.

Last year seven WCC students were named recipients of scholarships provided by KBG and the Windward Ho’olaule’a as well as by Kamehameha Schools for students of Hawaiian ancestry.
Family changes lives of foster children

by Patty Yonehiro
Ka 'Ohana Assistant Editor

D iapers, bottles and late nights walking the floor were over for Lee Totten. She raised her four children and never expected to do it again.

After having a dream and hearing guest speakers at church talk about the need for people to get involved with foster care, Totten and her husband volunteered as facilitators in their Kahaluu community.

Eventually, they became the adoptive parents of seven foster children, six of whom had special needs. All of the children’s birth parents were drug abusers.

Totten was told by the doctors, because the children were drug exposed, they felt like ants were running up and down their skin. “Sometimes we had to wrap them in blankets and swaddle them really tight so they could feel that tightness, that closeness,” Totten explained in a way that many made you feel it too.

Swallowing back her emotions, she described their early years. “Those were the most difficult times. When they cried, I cried. Their pain was my pain. That was the hardest.” She recalled days and nights they spent walking the floor with each of them. Totten said the one child without physical disabilities still had difficulties because she had been abandoned.

“She was perfect in every way (but) her parents were drug abusers. The police found the three-month-old screaming, alone in her crib, after neighbors reported their concerns. “She cried, cried, cried... That’s all she understood. It was so bad our family would have to take turns trying to comfort her. That was the most difficult.”

Totten expressed gratitude for the support of many nurses, therapists, social workers, tutors, guardian ad litem and other affiliated organizations. Mostly, she credits God and her whole family with the success of this heartfelt undertaking.

“My family was really good. We sat them down and had a talk... but my youngest at the time said, ‘Any ways Mommy, if we don’t like them, we can always take them back!’” Totten was quick to correct the idea.

That was more than 17 years ago, and there are still children and families in crisis with an urgent need for foster/adoptive parents and community involvement.

Locally, recent statistics show 2000 children are in foster care due to abuse or neglect. However, over the past five years, since 2003, the number has decreased by more than 40 percent.

Totten said passionately how she believes in the old saying, “It takes a village to raise a child.”

“I try to make good decisions with the resources I have... Ghandi said, ‘Be the change you want to see in the world.’”

Their home grew, as did their hearts and minds. To love, care for and encourage as well as promote the development of children like these seems extraordinary, but Totten’s calm and gentle demeanor makes it seem quite ordinary.

Totten said, “Many things have changed since my time...mostly for the better... but there is still more that needs to be done for the emotional well-being of foster children.”

May is National Foster Care Month. Could you find room in your heart and home to make a difference for a child or family in need? For more information online see fostercare.org or contact the State of Hawai‘i Department of Human Services.

Kahekili landscaping project

by Patty Yonehiro
Ka 'Ohana Assistant Editor

The plant species are in on Kahekili Highway, but some people have asked, “Why was the project started in the first place?” According to Tami Mori, the state’s spokesperson for the Department of Transportation, the work came about because of “requests from the community and neighborhood boards.”

When asked why landscaping hadn’t been done at the start of the project, Mori said, “Meetings were held before highway construction and the original community meetings did not show plants to be a high priority.” Aesthetic concerns did not arise “until after the (road’s) completion.”

Although the landscaping project originated in 2001, the state could not proceed with construction until funds became available.

Mori explained, “The money could only be used on the work it was originally allotted for. (And) funding for this project came mainly from federal money.”

“Eighty percent of the cost was covered by federal funds and 20 percent came from the state.”

The improvements include median and sidewalk planters, sprinkler systems, modified drainage, improved highway lighting and paint.

According to WCC agriculture Professor David Ringette, “The plant selection of fan palms, naupaka, and creeping figs (are) a hearty choice fit for survival.”

Mori explained, “We did the work to meet the concerns of the community. The State tries its very best to give communities what they want.”

The purpose or benefit of work like this is to improve community pride and have a “positive effect on property value for business and homeowners.”

“Eighty percent of the road’s improvement in -”

According to Hawai‘i tradition, sister-brother unions produced the highest-ranking offspring, known as “niaupio.” Kahekili was the child of Chief Kekaulike and his sister, Keke’iapō’ōnui. He was the 25th ruling chief of Maui and his rule lasted for 27 years.

Kahekili was known as an expert strategist, and his prowess in battle was legendary.

During his lifetime, he ruled all of the major Hawaiian islands except Hawai‘i.

His name is said to be a contraction of Kāne Hekili, the god of thunder, who was blackened on half his body. Perhaps this namesake is the reason that Kahekili was tattooed from head to foot on half of his body.

Kame‘eiamoku and Kamanawa, whom we know as the royal twins on the kingdom of Hawai‘i’s seal, were the loyal and trusted brothers of Kahekili.

When Kamehameha was a young man, Kahekili asked his brothers to dedicate themselves to his life and welfare. They instructed him on matters of warfare and political strategy that contributed to the successful campaign of united the Hawaiian Islands.

Kahekili’s reign came to an end in 1793, when he died of natural causes.

Chief Kahekili: The man

by Pulama Goodhue
Ka ‘Ohana Writer

Y ou see this name every day, but do you know what it means? Kahekili Highway is named after the great Maui chief Kahekiliunu‘ahumanu who, according to noted Hawaiian historian Samuel Kamaka, was the biological father of King Kamehameha Pai‘ea.

According to Hawaiian tradition, sister-brother unions produced the highest-ranking offspring, known as “niaupio.” Kahekili was the child of Chief Kekaulike and his sister, Keke’iapō’ōnui. He was the 25th ruling chief of Maui and his rule lasted for 27 years.

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The not-so-sweet reality

These statutes allow victims of human rights abuses living outside the United States to sue U.S. companies for violations of international law.

Nestle eventually signed an agreement with non-profit organizations promising to be slave free by 2005. Unfortunately, the deadline came and went with little progress made.

According to their company web site, Hershey’s is another corporation that buys much of its cocoa from the Ivory Coast. Thus, products such as Kit Kat, Reese’s Peanut Butter Cups, Kisses, Milk Duds, York Peppermint Patties and even Muma Loa chocolates are almost certain to contain slave-tainted chocolate.

The website acknowledges that there is a concern for child labor and slavery, but that they have examined the issue and find that there are lots of farms that don’t use slaves. However, they also admit, “...establishing a clear picture of working practices on such a large number of farms is extremely difficult.”

For everyday consumers, the key to ending slavery is not to simply stop eating chocolate and drinking coffee.

Megan Brauckmann, a humanitarian worker in Africa, believes that poverty is the driving source of slavery. She said, “The desperation is so great that most of them are willing to do anything for what they think will be a steady income.” Consequently, boycotting could leave slaves in even deeper economic despair.

Instead, consumers can demand that large corporations pay workers fair wages as well as make certain living conditions are healthy and that farms treat workers well. To do this you can send letters, emails, petitions, videos and so on to corporations and members of Congress, letting them know you want only slave-free products and that if the situation doesn’t change, you’ll be taking your business elsewhere.

Like Kevin Bales said in his book “New Slavery,” slavery is an “economic relationship.” Buying fair-trade certified products is one way to encourage abolition because it ensures that farmers are being properly paid. If poverty is alleviated, slavery will likely follow. Another way to make an impact is by telling others about the issue. As American abolitionist Frederick Douglass said, “I expose slavery in this country, because to expose it is to kill it. Slavery is one of those monsters of darkness to whom the light of truth is death.”

In Hawai‘i, some of the stores that offer slave-free and fair-trade coffee and cocoa products include Down to Earth, Seattle’s Best Coffee, Dunkin’ Donuts, Safeway and Kailua Candy Company. Fighting slavery involves certain sacrifices, but for Brauckmann it’s worth it. “Having traveled through Third World countries, dark little faces clutter my memory. The thought of the hands of those children I played with being the hands that warily work in fields to satisfy my cravings and desire for convenience is enough to make me think about how I’m spending money and whose life is on the other side. “There are real lives on the other side of my consumer purchases, and I am responsible for being informed and choosing freedom.”

For more information about today’s slavery and ways to help, visit antislavery.org.

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www.hpu.edu/transfer
by Pulema Goodhue
Ka ‘Ohana Writer

Q: Ma kou wai kualii, mai waa ‘o me ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i? (Did you grow up speaking Hawaiian?)
A: ‘Aole, ‘a‘ole, i ko‘u wai kualii ua noho waa ma (No, no, when I was younger I lived in New York, so there’s no Hawaiian language there. As a matter of fact, outside of my family I didn’t know any other Hawaiians around us.)

Q: ‘I‘ina ‘ou wai kualii, ua noho waa ma ‘o me ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i? (How has learning the Hawaiian language altered your life?)
A: ‘I‘ina ‘ou wai kualii, ua noho waa ma ‘o me ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i? (What drove you to learn the language?)

A: The 1993 celebration (when there was) a really strong movement for everything Hawaiian.

People were really press- ing for Hawaiian language to expand because they were trying to end Hawaiian lan- guage at UH Mānoa in ’94.

Q: Peha i ho‘oholiki i ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i i kou e na ‘olelo mau haumana? (How has the Hawaiian language altered your life?)

A: Well, it’s a part of ev- erything that’s going on with all of us, reclaiming our Hāwai‘i lives and our Hawai‘i history. So for me it was a great part of my understand- ing of my family and the things around me.

You realize all the place names and street names around you are actually re- ally packed with history and meaning. It actually changes the way you see the things around you.

Q: Ia we ka aha ke mea mau haumana e ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i? (To you, why is it important for people to learn the Hawaiian language?)
A: I think it’s because it reveals for you a lot more of where you are in this world as a Hawaiian. There’s a lot of pride in it too. I love watching ‘Aha ‘Olelo Ola” (morning news show on KCMB9), and all of the other Hawaiian language programs that are starting to come up.

More people are starting to speak it. It’s really not only important in terms of history, but also where we are going to go down the road.

Q: He aha kou makemake me ka ‘ikepili e ha‘awi nei ‘oe i kou mau haumana? (What do you hope to do with the knowl- edge you give to students?)
A: As a Hawaiian Studies instructor, it is my job to inspire students to be excited about education and all things Hawaiian.

(We can) move into oth- er realms of education and broaden what we can do as a people in terms of leadership, business, and the way we look at things in this world. That’s why it’s my job, that’s my primary kuleana.

Q: Ia we ka aha ke ko‘o‘omake nei ka ‘Olelo Hawai‘i? (Do you think the Hawaiian language is on the verge of extinction?)
A: It’s the strongest it’s been in over a hundred years, and it’s only getting stronger.

Kalawai’a Moore’s views on learning the Hawaiian language

Change FROM PAGE 1

“Kalawai’a Moore’s views on learning the Hawaiian language”

"It is ready for someone to take it to the next level.”

Meixell’s time at WCC

Meixell’s time at WCC started nine years ago, when she was hired as interim provost. After becoming acting provost two years later, she was named chancellor in the same year.

Accordingly, Meixell has been at the forefront of a lot of changes during her tenure as chancellor. Since 2000, enrollment has grown about 25 percent. Also, she’s seen a substantial increase in the school’s budget, making WCC “financially better off.” Most importantly, though, she’s wit- nessed a major difference in the community involvement with the college.

“The community has taken ownership of the college and they take pride in it,” says Meixell.

Along with the budget in- crease and enrollment growth, Meixell has witnessed the development of new facilities. Since she’s been here, WCC has gone through some major im- provedments, adding two new buildings and working out the plans for a new library.

“The aesthetics have defi- nitely changed and the school looks better,” she says. Although community involvement and aesthetic improvements have helped the college, Meixell still feels there’s more to be done.

“WCC is going to have to come into the (new) century—more by distance, online, giv- ing students what they need when they need it. We need to do more focused associate degrees like other colleges. People need to know where they’re going and that they’re going to have a job,” Meixell asserts.

Meixell does speak highly of her faculty. “They do not just teach and go home. They do events, committees and ex- tra things for students. It’s been a pleasure to work with them.”

Her staff members have nice things to say about her as well. “She has always been open, accessible, honest, dependable, a good listener, and true to her word,” says Kay Beach, business technology teacher with the Employment Training Center.

Beach adds, “From the time she served as the Employment Training Center’s state director, her professionalism, passion, and joy has revolved around what we can do for students”

Floyd McCoy, WCC’s geol- ogy and oceanography profes- sor, says simply of Meixell, “She’s done a super job as chancellor and interacting with the community.”

Meixell is ready to transi- tion into the next phase of her life. Her new role will be the interim state director for career and technical education in Hawai‘i.

However, she does plan on retiring in a couple of years. She’s even bought a new house in Arizona to settle into with her husband and two sons. And though this may be a big change for her, Meixell is always up to the challenge of a big “move.”