A Sun-sational Summer!

TCBES Semesterly Newsletter

TCBES fall 2023 cohort and faculty cut down non native plants with Kumuola Marine Science Education Center at Waiāhole and Kapalaho loko iʻa —located within the ʻili kūpono of Honohononui, the ahupuaʻa of Waiākea, and the moku of Hilo.

E Komo Mai

WELCOME BACK TCBES STUDENTS, STAFF, FACULTY, AND A BIG WELCOME TO THE NEW 2023 COHORT. HAVE A GREAT SEMESTER!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Alumni, new and graduating students
- Faculty awards and recognition
- Graduate students present at conferences
- Faculty research featured in the news and Nature
ALUMNI, NEW, AND GRADUATING STUDENTS

New students for Fall 2023

Antonio Alvarez
Gabriela Benito
Nathaniel Breindel
Kelli Elliott
Nikki Henry
Mina Jensen
Annie Larson
Elizabeth Lough
Lauren Moe
Ian O’Hollaren
Ariel Patterson
Tuimalata Puletiuatoa
Lauren Smith
Andrew Tabaque
Randall Thomas
River Thomas
Christine Tominiko
Mishell Vasquez Morales

Congratulations
to our summer graduate!

Alex Spangler
“Sea to Digital Reality: Analysis of Underwater Photogrammetry Platforms & Augmented Reality”
Advisor: John Burns

What have our alumni been up to?

Avalon Paradea was awarded a Rappa Summer Fellowship with the Hawai‘i Sea Grant College Program based at UH Mānoa under the mentorship of Dr. Beth Lenz, Assistant Director for Diversity and Community Engagement. Their project is titled “Engaging Sci-Art to Enhance Inclusion, Accessibility, and Sustainability in Coastal Communities”.

John Graves was awarded the Grau Fellowship through the Hawai‘i Sea Grant College Program with the Division of Aquatic Resources in O‘ahu, will be working in partnership with local communities and DAR staff to gain experience in designing island-based management strategies and community-based monitoring plans.

Whitney Aragaki was selected to be a part of the inaugural cohort of the Obama Foundation Leaders of USA Program. Read more here.

Angela Beck & Forrest Peterson, both alumni from the 2013 cohort, got married June 2, 2023 at Camp Pālehua on O‘ahu. Ho‘omaika‘i!
2023 Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching goes to...

Nicholas Krueger, an instructor of agriculture at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo, received the 2023 Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching. Read more here.

UH Hilo hosts two conferences on sustainability

Angela Fa‘anunu helped organize sustainability conferences: one in Kona on circular economies (July 17-19), and one in Hilo on Indigenous Hawaiian and Pacific Island perspectives on sustainability (July 19-20). To learn more about these conferences, read here.

UH Hilo faculty member’s flora research featured in Nature

Jonathan Price is part of an international research team that collected plant–trait data from the island of Tenerife (Canary Islands, Spain) to compare against a global data set of plant form and function. He is one of the co-authors of a paper published in *Nature* titled, “Assembly of functional diversity in an oceanic island flora”. Read more about it here.

UH Hilo researchers represented in global ranking.

Matt Platz (Chemisty), Becky Ostertag (Biology), and Shihwu Sung (CAFNRM) are recognized in global ranking as top scientists in their fields. Read more here.

New Dean of College of Natural Health and Sciences

Simon Kattenhorn from the University of Alaska Anchorage will be the new permanent dean at University of Hawai‘i at Hilo’s College of Natural Health and Sciences. Read more here.

TCBES student and others remove 86K pounds of marine debris from Papahānaumokuākea

Ka‘ehukai Grant Goin and a team from Hawai‘i-based non-profit organization Papahānaumokuākea Marine Debris Project (PMDP) remover over 86,000 pounds of ghost nets, plastics, and other debris from the ocean. Read more here.

Two TCBES students and faculty present their research at a conference hosted in Aotearoa New Zealand

Olivia Jarvis, Nai‘a Odachi, and Ryan Perroy presented their research at the 4th International Congress on Biological Invasions hosted in Ōtautahi Christchurch, Aotearoa New Zealand, May 1-4, 2023. Read more here.

UH Hilo biochemist Li Tao finds new cellular clue for cancer treatment

Associate Professor of Biology Li Tao and postdoc Brandt Warecki discover a motor complex implicated in cell division that has great promise for anti-cancer drug designs. Read more here.

New publication

Alumni, Rebecca Ward, and faculty, Matt Knopé, Steve Colbert, and Tracy Wiegner, publish a paper titled “Spatial variation and antecedent sea surface temperature conditions influence Hawaiian intertidal community structure” Read it here.
Faculty research makes the news

Tracy Wiegner’s research on sewage pollution and sea level rise in Hawai‘i is picked up by The Associated Press and Hawai‘i Tribune Herald. Read the article here.

UH Hilo geology students take field trip to California

Steve Lundblad leads geology field trip to California to apply mapping skills learned in the classroom at Death Valley, Mohave Desert, and Sierra Nevada. Read more here.

TCBES Faculty received tenure and promotions

Francis Dumanig, Armando Garcia-Ortega, and Heather Kaluna are UH Hilo 2023 tenure and promotion recipients. Read more here.

TCBES student is awarded The American Association of University Women scholarship

Sofia Ferriera was one of three recipients of The American Association of University Women scholarship for the 2023–24 academic year. Read about it here.

Construction has begun for new USGS research facility on UH Hilo campus.

A new USGS research facility on campus that will monitor volcanoes and support conservation science. Read about it here.

Award winner at Hawai‘i Conservation Conference

Nai‘a Odachi wins Outstanding Graduate Student Oral Presentation for her talk titled, “Hawai‘i Forest Monitoring Efforts and Mortality Patterns Associated with Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death,” Read more here.