Dreams of scientific discovery

South China Agricultural University

CTAHR partners to assist Iraq’s agriculture
A
other month has passed and we still have no new update on our budget crisis! As they say: no news is good news; I must admit this is indeed true. Now that the state teacher’s union has accepted a 21-day furlough for their 12-month employees, an equivalent of 7.9% salary reduction, most people agree that salary reductions in the form of furloughs will be included in the final UHPA contract; most likely at 5% as proposed in the “last, best and final offer.” Any salary reduction will translate into more funds available for our operations. Vice Chancellor Kathy Cutshaw gave a presentation on the UHM budget briefing September 23 to summary what we know. Doug Vincent has put together a primer on this subject for HNFAS staff, and he has agreed to share his piece with us. We will continue to monitor further development and get back to you next month.

CTAHR has a number of international projects, including the Iraq AHEAD project lead by Samir El-Swaify and Ekhlass Jarjees. We talk about their project’s progress to date in this issue. CTAHR also hosted 22 visitors from the South China Agricultural University this past summer. Staff from the Student Affairs and our office worked very hard to put together a 4-week program for them, and twenty-five CTAHR faculty provided lectures. We plan to expand this program further next summer. You can learn more about this new program from links included in the article.

Dr. Scot Nelson is our main story this month. Scot is an extension plant pathology specialist in our Plant and Environmental Protection Sciences Department. He is located in the Komohana Research and Extension Center in Hilo. Scot publishes a series of extension bulletins on Hawaii Plant Diseases, which you can access at his website:

http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/nelsons/Hawaii%20Plant%20Disease.htm

Scot very elegantly describes his work on identification of a new pathogen that caused black flag disease in noni, which took him 10 years to complete! Research is a lonely journey; his story luckily has a happy ending. Passion for our work is what carries us to pursue scientific discovery. Scot’s story demonstrates how patience and perseverance are so critical in our research; however, the payback is great. He is sharing this new knowledge with our local growers to help manage their crops and I am sure you will enjoy his story.

It is with great sadness that we have learned of the passing of Harriet Iwamura, former secretary to the Dean. Since we are in the promotion and tenure season right now, Harriet will be especially missed. She spent numerous after work hours to make sure each dossier was properly prepared, and to catch minor errors missed by the faculty and department to avoid potential negative impact on their promotion and tenure. Funeral information is included in Doug’s note.

On the last page of this CRN, check out some of our outreach efforts on television.

If you have not had your flu shot, please consider getting it today. Washing your hands, and covering your mouth when sneezing are also important practices to follow. Keep healthy!
Perhaps the greatest thrill a researcher can experience lies in exploring uncharted territory and planting his flag into the land of new ideas. To be able to lay a claim to new knowledge as an intellectual explorer is the promise made to all who enter the disciplines of science. Each successful scientist eventually achieves this goal and thereby cements a stone to the edifice of facts in which civilization resides. To be one who applies a new method where others have failed, or one who discovers a new form of life hitherto unnoticed are challenges sought by every earnest biological researcher. Here is a brief description of my own journey into this realm.

I serve as Associate Specialist in Plant Pathology on the island of Hawaii and work with a great variety of plant disease problems for a wide array of crops. During the past decade my program has focused on diseases of noni (*Morinda citrifolia*), ‘awa (kava, *Piper methysticum*), banana (*Musa spp.*), tropical fruits, coffee (*Coffea arabica*), koa (*Acacia koa*), and palms.

My job is to develop and deliver plant pathology educational programs and materials for farmers and the general public in Hawaii and throughout the tropics. We have authored a variety of publications, including a book, book chapters, research articles, Extension articles, websites, newsletters, blogs, and image galleries, and have developed other products including an online Hawaii host-pathogen database and an illustrated glossary of tropical plant pathology. We employ a range of innovative and creative means for information delivery in order to foster a vibrant presence on the Internet. We also use more traditional methods of imparting information, such as presentations, lectures, workshops, plant clinics, conference participation and farm visits. The two primary foci of my research program are to develop sustainable disease management practices and to describe new diseases and pathogens for our important crops and develop effective management strategies for them. Below is a description of a research project for each of these two foci, and provide of how...
Noni leaves infected by *Phytophthora morindae* hang like limp, moist, black flags from branches.

we were able to tread new ground as we explored the tropical universe that is Hawaii.

**A new disease and pathogen of noni – black flag, caused by *Phytophthora morindae***

Noni is an important medicinal canoe plant that became widely naturalized throughout the Hawaiian Islands. The plant enjoyed broad use in traditional treatments for human medical conditions throughout the Pacific. In the late 1990s, a number of new noni farms were planted on the island of Hawaii as worldwide demand and prices for noni juice escalated. Buyers in the nutraceutical markets were eager for increased supplies of noni products.

In the winter of 1999, a noni farmer in Opihikao in the lower Puna district on the island of Hawaii submitted blackened noni plant leaves and blighted noni fruits to our Agricultural Diagnostic Service Center in Hilo. Clinician Brian Bushe requested my assistance with diagnosis of the disease and to generate crop management recommendations for the grower. Initially, we suspected a possible bacterial disease etiology because only bacteria emerged in cultures derived from samples originally submitted by the grower. And, blackened leaf veins are a characteristic symptom for some bacterial plant diseases.

I decided to make a visit to the Opihikao noni farm to collect additional diseased noni plant samples and to obtain an accurate diagnosis, to document the types of disease symptoms present on noni plants at the farm, and to survey the area surrounding the farm for additional disease symptoms on naturalized plants in the forests. What I saw and discovered at the farm in 1999 was to propel me on a 10-year research quest that finally culminated in July of 2009.

When I arrived at the farm, there was a field of noni trees displaying symptoms of severe foliar blight. Blackened leaves hung from diseased trees limply as quiescent, mournful flags. Soft, blackened fruits and leaves littered the ground. All photosynthetic tissues, including green stems, were symptomatic. The main leaf veins were blackened in some cases. Leaves could
have brownish black spots. This might be a bacterial disease, I thought. Only a bacterium could cause those leaf vein symptoms! But, there were noni fruit “mummies” hanging from trees, dry and shrunken and covered with masses of fungal spores. Might this be a fungal disease?

Driving back to Hilo that day, I peered into the forests of the kipukas adjacent to the coastal highway between Opihikao and Kalapana. There, in mixed stands with kukui nut and pandanus, were scores of naturalized, blighted noni trees. I ventured into the forest and collected additional photographs and diseased plant samples and brought the materials back to my lab for careful analysis. I had rarely seen a disease on any plant so completely devastating as this disease, and I was determined to understand its etiology.

Back at my laboratory in Hilo, we incubated symptomatic plant tissue within moisture chambers. In 1-2 days, a whitish, sporulating growth formed on infected tissues. My microscopic examination of the material revealed lemon-shaped sporangia typical of the plant pathogenic genus, Phytophthora. I suspected that this could be the pathogen causing this noni disease and set about to culture it, test its pathogenicity to noni, and identify it.

I was able to culture the organism and through plant inoculation experiments demonstrated its pathogenicity to noni. Identifying the organism proved to be problematic as its morphology could not be firmly aligned with characteristics of any known species of Phytophthora. Other colleagues in UH-CTAHR (the late Minoru Aragaki, retired W. S. Ko) examined cultures. We came to the tentative conclusion that the noni pathogen was actually Phytophthora botryosa. But, I was bothered by a Taiwanese mycologist’s statement that the culture I sent to him shared morphological characteristics with two known Phytophthora species, one of which was Phytophthora botryosa.

We eventually sent cultures of the pathogen to CABI Biosciences in England for morphological and genetic analysis. Our goal was to compare the noni pathogen with known Phytophthora species in their collection.
The results: they found no match, morphologically or genetically, with any species. Unfortunately, the data did not establish a new species, as the CABI collection of species available for genetic analysis was incomplete.

We required access to a complete library of *Phytophthora* species and the cooperation of a molecular biologist to establish that the noni *Phytophthora* was a new species. But, it was not yet possible to fulfill these needs, as the molecular phylogeny of *Phytophthora* was still in its infancy. Eventually, a few years later, we were able to enlist the collaboration of USDA scientist Z. Gloria Abad, who is the lead scientist at the Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory in Beltsville, Maryland.

We established that both morphologically and genetically, the noni pathogen causing black flag disease is a new species. We named it *Phytophthora morindae*; the publication describing this new species is now in press in the journal *Mycologia* [http://www.mycologia.org/cgi/content/abstract/08-209v1] and will be published soon in an upcoming issue.

Although it took 10 years to realize my goal and I encountered a number of setbacks not described here, the joy of this journey of discovery was both intense and extremely rewarding. In the interim, we were able to identify appropriate management practices which allow farmers to now avoid the complete crop loss that can accompany this disease.

**The first grafted *Acacia koa***

*Acacia koa* is beset by a deadly wilt disease in Hawaii. Koa wilt, caused by *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *koae*, is a fungal disease that can kill young trees within 5 years after planting. No koa types have immunity, although some *Acacia* species may.

About 6 years ago I became interested in grafting koa onto resistant rootstocks to manage koa wilt. However, the scientific literature revealed that no success in grafting koa had been realized. A new or different grafting method would have to be applied for any success to be possible.

I have been involved with the UH-CTAHR coffee grafting work, having taught and advocated the method to Kona coffee farmers and having a research project on the topic. With this method, young coffee scions are severed at the seedling stage just below the cotyledons and grafted onto nematode-tolerant rootstock seedlings. I thought that it might be possible to apply this seedling graft method to *Acacia*.

Using seeds acquired from *Acacia koa*, *Acacia mangium*, and *Acacia confusa* from trees growing on the Big Island, Cheryl Jones and I quickly discovered that the seedling graft procedure allowed us to successfully graft koa onto koa, *A. mangium* and *A. confusa*. This was the first time this method had been applied to *Acacia* species and was the first time koa had ever been grafted.

We grew the grafted plants in pots in Hilo and about 4.5 years ago transplanted one (*A. koa* grafted onto *A. mangium*) into a pile of rocks atop a pahoehoe lava flow adjacent to UH-CTAHR’s Komohana Agricultural Complex. Koa plants do not usually survive past 10 years of age in Hilo at this elevation, due to root-knot nematodes and plant health problems. The plant depicted on the cover of this magazine is healthy, but is stunted and suffered greatly from attack by black twig borers during a drought in 2006.

Only time and experimentation will determine if this grafting method allows cultivation of koa in areas where koa wilt is established. For the time being, we are satisfied to have possibly helped this magnificent monarch of Hawaiian forests.
Seeds of *Acacia* species used in grafting experiments.

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**Scot C. Nelson**

**Hometown:** Raleigh, North Carolina  
**Joined CTAHR:** 1992  
**Educational History:** Ph.D., Plant Pathology, North Carolina State University, 1992; M.S., Plant Pathology, Texas A&M University, 1988; B.A. History, Pennsylvania State University, 1979.  
**Specialization:** Plant Pathology  
**Current Work:** Plant pathology extension and research  
**Languages Spoken:** English, Spanish  

**Recent Publications**


**Recent Grants**


Revitalizing Iraq’s agricultural science and technology: the first 5 years

By Samir A. El-Swaify, Emeritus Professor and Director
Ekhllass Jarjees, Manager
Hawaii-Iraq Agricultural Higher Education Partnerships
Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management

Iraq’s enormous oil wealth dominated the country’s economy, policies and politics for several decades. However, as was the case throughout history and the glory of the Fertile Crescent, Iraq remains predominantly an agricultural nation. The country is endowed with an abundance of natural resources and impressive potential for sustainable agriculture. This sector is the largest source of employment and second largest contributor to the gross domestic product.

Unfortunately, beginning in the early 1980’s the health of Iraq’s agricultural industries and institutions suffered isolation from the global science mainstream. The capacity of formerly prestigious universities to generate knowledge and deliver the necessary education was negatively impacted by serious losses of well qualified scientists and wide-spread destruction of infrastructure including libraries.

To address this problem, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) announced a national competition to revitalize Iraqi universities in partnerships with U.S. universities (mid 2003). This competition, titled “Higher Education and Development (HEAD)”, attracted proposals from over 45 universities. The proposal by the CTAHR/UH team (Samir El-Swaify, Ekhllass Jarjees, Catherine Chan-Halbrendt, Ali Fares and Sahar Zaghloul, with assistance from Brian Turano as the Grants Specialist) was among the five approved with a funding level of $3.8 M. Since our focus was to revitalize Agricultural Higher Education and Development, the project’s acronym was logically AHEAD! UH/CTAHR’s partners in Iraq were the University of Mosul College of Agriculture and Forestry (UM/CAF) and University of Dohuk College of Agriculture (UD/CA). AHEAD’s purpose was to emphasize capacity building at both partner universities via:

- strengthening academic programs in agricultural sciences by rebuilding expertise, human capital and curricula, and
- rehabilitating the infrastructure necessary for supporting effective teaching and research programs.

Successes of the AHEAD partnerships were well noted by other universities in Iraq, a fact that led to the development of follow-up initiatives. The most prominent of these is the Kurdistan Agricultural Higher Education and Development (KAHEAD) funded by the Iraq-Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) to the level of $5.6 M over four years ending in December, 2010. A distinctive feature of KAHEAD is embracing the Land Grant concept by including Extension.
programs that are separately housed in the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA).

Detailed work plans were developed after on-site “ground-truthing” and consultation visits with Iraqi partners. Accomplishments of the AHEAD and KAHEAD projects encompassed 10 scopes:

1. **Graduate degree training at UH**: 13 graduate students have been sponsored so far at several CTAHR departments.
2. **Graduate research fellowships at UH and regional partners**: 10 selected PhD students at Iraqi universities were awarded grants to conduct dissertation research at UH and regional partners.
3. **Sabbatical leaves for senior faculty**: 17 faculty received scholarships at UH and regional partners.
4. **Professional development, strategic planning and skill enhancement workshops**: Over 326 Iraqi faculty enrolled in 18 workshops covering the major agricultural disciplines, experimental design, technology transfer, grant writing and library management. 13 CTAHR faculty coordinated or contributed to these workshops.
5. **Mini-grants**: Over $250K were awarded to 21 faculty to work on selected commodities and key areas of importance for managing agriculture.
6. **Sponsored participation in out-of-country scientific conferences**
7. **Providing modern instrumentation for specialized teaching and research**: Over 600 high priority items were procured in order to restore or enhance partners’ infrastructure.
8. **Enhancing literature retrieval and library capabilities**: 21 New and updated TEEAL (the Essential Electronic Agricultural Library) systems, each containing a digital library of 136 top agricultural journals from 1993–2009 were provided to major universities. In addition, important textbooks were acquired for their libraries. Access to the UHM library system’s collection was facilitated by a dedicated project’s librarian.
9. **Building computer and electronic communication capabilities**: Over 100 computers and 2 broadband systems were provided to UM/CAF and UD/CA.
10. **Leveraging funds from non-project sources**: Partnership success was and continues to be instrumental in attracting funding and/or strategic donations from various new sources. Those funds allowed renovating the former presidential palace in Mosul to accommodate a Learning Center for UM/CAF and donating over 187,000 textbooks to major Iraqi universities.

11. **Success in attracting additional grant funds**: We teamed up with Texas A&M University (TAMU) in a consortium to use our past and current experiences for providing agricultural subject matter expertise to Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT) members in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Major challenges continue to be faced during the course of program implementation. These include Iraq’s security and political uncertainties, slow logistical support in shipping and visa processing for students and scholars, banking and fund transfer barriers. Additional difficulties are posed by UH regulations for managing large international projects and housing shortages for accommodating visiting scholars. Nevertheless, the projects have made substantial positive impacts for which CTAHR can be proud.
You may have seen on the news about the recent budget briefing by UH-Manoa’s Vice Chancellor for Administration, Finance and Operation Kathy Cutshaw. It was standing room only in Hemenway Hall.

The takeaway messages are:

- UH-M is taking a $66 M (or a 25%) cut in our state general (G) funded budget. This is greater in terms of percentage, and in terms of amounts than the rest of the UH system put together.
- For this fiscal year and beyond, our G-funds, which goes to pay salaries, have been reduced from $264M in FY2009 to $198M in FY2010 (the current year). These are “permanent” cuts.
- The good news is that with tuition increases and enrollment increases for Fall Semester, our tuition dollars (Special fund) or S-dollars have increased from $100M to $119M.
- The bad news about tuition dollars is 1) not all of it can be used to offset cuts in G-funds. Fifteen (15) percent of tuition dollars must be plowed back into scholarships. There are other restrictions and 2) when tuition (S-funds) dollars are used to pay personnel – it not only means payment for the actual salary but it also has to cover the fringe benefits. So S-fund dollars do not have the same ‘buying’ power as G-funded dollars.
- For this fiscal year, the UH-M administration developed a plan in June of 2009, as we were approaching the new fiscal year to help offset the budget cuts that were coming. Initially, the plan would be that the cuts would be offset by $14.7M in federal stimulus package dollars; an increase in tuition revenue by $14M, collective bargaining agreements or furloughs, would reduce faculty and staff salaries by $14.2M and a 4% cut to schools, colleges and to the administration, amounting to $23.2M. This would cover the $66M cut in G-funds.
- The June 2009 plan could not be implemented because the furloughs and/or collective bargaining reductions in salaries were blocked or not agreed to. To compensate for the absence of these cuts, additional cuts had to be made. A small portion of the shortfall, ~$3M was made up, through executive pay cuts and moving some staff from G-funds to other funds (RTRF). The rest of the burden was placed on schools and colleges. So instead of an across the board cut of 4%, it ballooned, at least for CTAHR, to a 10% cut in our G-funds. Most Schools and Colleges received a 10% cut, some did not. In her budget message to the campus on August 12, 2009, Chancellor Hinshaw indicated that UH-Manoa would be guided by the following principles relative to these budget cuts – to “maintain our major instructional programs to the fullest extent possible, because of their crucial relationship to increasing student success…the further reductions in Arts and Sciences programs will be limited to 2.5%, while the level of reductions in other campus programs will be 6%”. She also exempted a limited number of programs from the cuts because of the campus-wide impacts. The Hawaii‘inuakea School of Hawaiian Knowledge was exempted from the cuts because, “as our newest school, it is still becoming established and is critically important to fulfilling our commitment to our Native Hawaiian Community.” Other programs exempted from cuts were facilities and maintenance and campus security.
- There is still a $4.4 M shortfall yet to be accounted for.
- There are still unknowns affecting the overall budget:
  - Retirements – if the rates of retirement increase, then the impact on the loss of G-funds may be mitigated somewhat.
  - Collective Bargaining Agreements – if agreements are made, with salary reductions, the impact on the $66M cuts will be reduced by approximately $14.2M according to Cutshaw’s figures.
State Economy – if the economy improves and tax revenues increase, then the impacts may be mitigated.
Enrollment – if enrollment continues to increase, the increased tuition revenues will increase.
Legislative action, although not likely to affect this fiscal year – the legislature could raise taxes and increase revenue that way.

Two work groups at the administration level were working on similar issues, but in parallel – the Prioritization Committee and the Budget Workgroup. The Budget Workgroup was formed in January 2009 to look at short term budget solutions and the Prioritization Committee was formed in July 2008 to look at long term investment strategies. Their efforts have now been combined, to form the **Budget Prioritization Workgroup (BPW)**. The BPW, co-chaired by Vice Chancellors Kathy Cutshaw and Reed Dasenbrock, meets every Friday.

Note: This is adapted from an email sent by Doug Vincent to HNFAS faculty and staff on 9/24/09.

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**Harriet Iwamura**

By Doug Vincent
Department Chair, HNFAS

Harriet Iwamura, former CTAHR Dean’s Secretary passed away on Saturday, September 19, 2009. This is my personal reflection about Harriet. I had the honor of working with Harriet for over 15 years, and especially, the last 7 years while I was in the Dean’s Office. I first met Harriet when she was Secretary for the Associate Dean/Associate Director for Research. When Charles (Chuck) Laughlin was named Dean of CTAHR, Harriet became his secretary. The pairing was electric. Harriet became very close to Chuck and Barbara Laughlin, ranging from Chuck’s confidant and teacher as he adapted to Hawaii, to lunch time mah jong partner. When Chuck left us for USDA, they kept close. When Chuck was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer, Harriet was devastated, yet continued to send him thoughtful gifts from Hawaii to raise his spirits. Harriet also organized CTAHR to fold a 1000 origami cranes to give to Chuck and Barbara Laughlin, in the Japanese tradition of Senbazuru, where if a 1000 origami cranes are folded, the crane will grant a wish, such as recovery from illness. This epitomized Harriet’s warmth and aloha spirit. Harriet also served Interim Dean Mike Harrington and Dean Andy Hashimoto, until her retirement in November, 2008. Harriet was joyful, caring, giving of herself, and she had a wonderful self deprecating sense of humor. Her engaging laugh made working in Gilmore very special. Harriet graduated from McKinley High School and CTAHR’s Ruddy Wong and Naomi Kanehiro were classmates.

Harriet’s family has informed us that funeral services will be held on Saturday, October 10, 2009 at 4:00 pm, at Hosoi Garden Mortuary, 30 N. Kukui Street, Honolulu.
South China Agricultural University (SCAU) is located in Guangzhou, China. SCAU celebrates its centennial this year. Over the last hundred years SCAU has grown into a multi-disciplinary, comprehensive university with majors in agriculture, engineering, liberal arts, basic sciences, economics, management, law, education, history and philosophy. It is now adopting a multi-level and multi-approach schooling system and intends to develop into an advanced multi-disciplinary agricultural institute with distinctive tropical and subtropical features. As the name implies, agricultural science is the focus. At SCAU undergraduate and graduate programs are developing concurrently, with teaching and research as the two major missions. SCAU currently has twenty-two colleges. There are more than 2,900 faculty and staff at SCAU, with a student body of almost 40,000, including about 4,000 graduate students.

Guangdong province in southern China has a very similar climatic environment to our own. Since tropical fruits and flowers in both places are facing similar challenges, such as invasive species, it makes sense that both universities will benefit from exchange and collaborative programs. Our formal relationship with SCAU was established in 1991 with a MOU signed by Dean Ned Kefford and President Al Simone. A renewal was signed by Senior VP Alan Teramura in 1999 for five years. Although the MOU expired in 2004, exchanges have not stopped and several SCAU faculty members have spent their sabbatical leaves in CTAHR laboratories. CTAHR faculty members, such as Drs. Robert Paull (TPSS), Jim Brewbaker (TPSS), Qing Li (MBBE), and John Hu (PEPS), and Jinzeng Yang (HNFAS), have also visited their collaborating SCAU faculty members during the last several years. A three-member delegation (Drs. Qing Li, Sylvia Yuen,

Dr. CY Hu (left in green shirt) and Dr. John Hu (middle in blue shirt), take a moment with SCAU students.
and Robert Paull) visited SCAU in 2005 and a renewal MOU was signed by Dr. Hashimoto during his visit to SCAU in 2007.

SCAU initially proposed to establish a summer study program for their undergraduates in Hawaii during our visit in 2007, However, it did not materialize until this year. I began to work with the SCAU international office in January to set up a program. With the able assistance provided by the CTAHR Academic and Student Affairs Office, we were able to complete the planning and execution of the summer program. Twenty students (nine juniors, nine sophomores, and two freshmen) and two faculty escorts arrived on July 10. They stayed in Frear Hall (which they liked very much), and ate in the cafeteria (which they endured) for four weeks. They departed on August 6, with teary eyes. We have designed this program to highlight the breadth of our program by showcasing as many faculty member as we can. Although many faculty were traveling during the summer time, we were successful in recruiting twenty five CTAHR faculty to present a lecture in the summer program. Three of the nine junior students have decided to pursue their graduate study at CTAHR, and have already contacted specific faculty members as major professors. We hope to see them joining the CTAHR family next year. We anticipate additional refinements and expansion of this summer program in future years. We hope to expand our relationship further to include research collaborations with these students as a catalyst. We also would like to include students from other sister universities in future years, so stay tuned.

Related links:
South China Agricultural University: [http://english.scau.edu.cn](http://english.scau.edu.cn)
SCAU news release on CTAHR Summer Program: [http://english.scau.edu.cn/News/t20090917_40749.htm](http://english.scau.edu.cn/News/t20090917_40749.htm)
CTAHR website on Summer Study Program for SCAU students: [http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/scau](http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/scau)

Professor Whittington shares her wisdom on money matters.
Guiding principles for managing the T-STAR program

By Po-Yung Lai
Special Program Director for Grants and Contracts

The opportunity that the Dean has provided me to work for CTAHR again after being away for 12 years is much appreciated. Assuming the responsibilities of the Special Program Director from Dr. Douglas Vincent is a challenge. This task would not be fulfilled without the cooperation and assistance from the entire faculty and staff of CTAHR and other institutions in the Pacific region. To ensure that the responsibilities entrusted to me are properly carried out, there are a few guiding principles adopted for my approach to handling or managing the T-STAR and other related programs. The principles are:

1. **Accountability**
   - Since I am entrusted with the important responsibility of managing the T-STAR and other related programs, I should be held accountable to the Dean and C.Y. Hu, who is my immediate supervisor. In addition, I should also be held accountable to the stakeholders, the entire faculty and staff of CTAHR, and other institutions in the Pacific region, in my handling of the grant programs.

2. **Fairness**
   - The recent worldwide financial downturn has seriously impacted the dwindling resources available for research communities. Many international organizations are faced with this hardship; therefore, more attention and efforts are being placed on competition for funding from these organizations. Because of the scarcity of funds, competition for funding will be keen. Thus, assisting faculty in accessing the seed money provided under the T-STAR program and using it as leverage for competing funds available elsewhere has become ever more important. As such, I pledge to exercise fairness in handling and processing grant applications by following the guidelines established for the program.

3. **Transparency**
   - I am a firm believer of being transparent in managing the T-STAR program. I also believe that decisions made on the final selection of proposals to be funded may not be fully agreeable to faculty, but communication between my office and faculty on the proposal selection process should not and will not be a barrier; thus becoming reasons for complaint from faculty. This is a commitment that I would like to pledge to the entire faculty.

4. **Emphasis of Productivity**
   - Productivity is an important yardstick used to measure accomplishments of a program. The T-STAR program is no exception as it is required to demonstrate measurable productivity and/or accomplishments in order to justify and safeguard its continued funding from Congress. I will work with faculty to ensure that T-STAR funded projects are productive and their intended objectives are adequately accomplished.

I look forward to working with you to facilitate the preparation and selection of proposals for funding under the T-STAR and other related programs. (http://www2.ctahr.hawaii.edu/t-star/)
The grant season to start soon!

By Sharee Pepper
Grant coach

The following list includes some current funding opportunities that may be of interest to CTAHR faculty. If the deadline is too short for this year, it is still a good indication of the likely due date for next year. Let us know if we can be of any assistance with developing and editing your grant application.

For information on submitting grants electronically on grants.gov the following publication may be useful. USDA, CSREES Grants.gov Application Guide – A guide for the preparation and submission of CSREES applications via grants.gov.

Agriculture, Rural and Community Development Grants

$ - USDA, CSREES - Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Competitive Grants Program (Note: includes prior NRI grants)
Deadline: all have expired (use as guide for 2010)

$ - USDA, Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) - Farmer Rancher Grant (FRG)
Deadline: Dec 04, 2009
https://wsare.usu.edu/grants/RFA/FRG_10.pdf

$ - USDA, Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) - Professional + Producer Grant (PPG)
Deadline: Dec 04, 2009

$ - USDA – CSREES, AFRI – Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Soil Processes
Deadline: January 16, 2010
http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/soilprocessesafri.cfm

$ - USDA, CSREES, AFRI - Plant Biology: Environmental Stress
Deadline: January 29, 2010
http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/plantbiologyenvironmentalstressafri.cfm

$ - USDA, CSREES, AFRI - Microbial Biology: Microbial Associations with Plants
Deadline: February 16, 2010
http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/microbialbiologyplantmicrobeassociationsafri.cfm

$ - USDA, CSREES, AFRI - Plant Biology: Growth and Development
Deadline: March 2, 2010
http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/plantbiologygrowthanddevelopmentafri.cfm

$ - USDA, CSREES, AFRI - Animal Genome: Genetics and Breeding
Deadline: March 5, 2010
http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/animalgenomegeneticsandbreedingafri.cfm

$ - USDA, CSREES, AFRI – Integrated Solutions for Animal Agriculture
Deadline: March 16, 2010
http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/integratedsolutionsforanimalagricultureafri.cfm

$ - USDA, CSREES, AFRI - Biology of Weedy and Invasive Species in Agroecosystems
Deadline: April 20, 2010
http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/weedyandinvasivespeciesafri.cfm

$ - USDA, CSREES - Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program
Sustainable Agriculture Tours
Deadline: Open until funding is exhausted
http://wsare.usu.edu/grants/docs/RFA_SAT.pdf

$ - Farm Foundation Grants
Deadline: Applications accepted on an ongoing basis

Education

$ - USDA, Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) - Professional Development Program Grant (PDP)
Deadline: November 03, 2009

$ - NSF - ADVANCE: Increasing the Participation and Advancement of Women in Academic Science and Engineering Careers (ADVANCE)
Deadline: November 12, 2009

$ - NSF - East Asia and Pacific Summer Institutes for U.S. Graduate Students (EAPSI)
Deadline: December 8, 2009
$ - USDA, CSREES - Secondary and Two-Year Postsecondary Agriculture Education Challenge Grants Program (SAECP-001053)
**Deadline: December 15, 2009**

$ - NSF –Tribal Colleges and Universities Program (TCUP)
**Deadline: December 20, 2009**

$ - NSF - Research Initiation Grants to Broaden Participation in Biology (RIG BP)
**Deadline: January 11, 2010**

$ - NSF - Undergraduate Research and Mentoring in the Biological Sciences (URM)
**Deadline: March 2, 2010**

$ - Human Frontier Science Program – Short Term Fellowship Program
**Deadline: rolling – applications accepted year round**
http://www.hfsp.org/how/appl_forms_STF.php

$ - NSF – Active Funding Opporunities
**Deadline: Multiple**
http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_list.jsp?org=NSF&ord=date

### Environment, Water, Energy, Invasive Species Grants

$ - NOAA Broad Agency Announcement (for special projects)
**Due September 30, 2009 (closes but applications accepted on a rolling basis)**
NOAA Office of Education:
National Marine Fisheries Services
National Environmental Satellite Data Information Service
National Ocean Service

$ - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Coastal Programs
**Deadline: September 30, 2009**

$ - PND Honor the Earth Seeks Funding Proposals for Building Resilience in Indigenous Communities Initiative
**Deadline: September 30, 2009**
http://www.honorearth.org/building-resilience

$ - SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund Offers

### Funding for Wildlife Conservation
**Deadline: December 1, 2009**
http://www.swbg-conservationfund.org/grantInfoA.htm

$ - USDA, CSREES – Air Quality
**Deadline: March 5, 2009**
http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/airqualityafri.cfm

$ - National Forest Foundation: Community Assistance Program Local Forest Partnerships Fund
**Deadline: proposals accepted on a rolling basis throughout year**
http://www.natlforests.org/consp_05_cap.htm

### Families, Youth and Children Grants

$ - Applications Invited for State Farm’s Youth Advisory Board Service-Learning Grants Program
**Deadline: October 2, 2009**
http://www.statefarmyab.com/apply.php

$ - USDA, CSREES – Children, Youth & Families at Risk Sustainable Community Projects
**Deadline: October 23, 2009**
http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=49366

$ - CHS Foundation
Rural Youth and Leadership Development
**Deadline: rolling – applications accepted year round**
http://www.chsfoundation.org/programs/ryld.htm

### Financial Grants

**Deadline: rolling – applications accepted year round**
http://www.mmifoundation.org/GrantSeekers.asp

$ - Hitachi Foundation: Business and Communities Grants Program
Grants Address Economically Isolated Communities
Interested organizations may submit an online inquiry to provide information about project ideas at any time and the Foundation’s will determine if it fits their priorities.
http://www.hitachifoundation.org/grants/guidelines/index.htm

### Health, Nutrition, Food & Biomedical Grants

$ - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) - Centers for Agricultural Disease and Injury Research, Education, and Prevention (U50)
**Deadline: November 30, 2009**
Faculty publications

**Greg Bruland (NREM)**

**Ashley Stokes (HNFAS)**

**Lori Yancura (FCS)**

**Jinzeng Yang (HNFAS)**
**Sweeeet! - CTAHR scores 82 grants for $11.6M!**

Awards to CTAHR from 03/21/2009 to 09/25/2012 as reported by UHM Office of Research Services

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Last Name</th>
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<th>Department</th>
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<td>Alvarez,</td>
<td>Anne M</td>
<td>Department of Plant and Environmental Protection Sciences</td>
<td>Ralstonia Solanacearum Race 3 biovar 2: Detection, Exclusion, and Analysis of a Select Agent Pathoge</td>
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<td>Bruland,</td>
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<td>Using Diffuse Reflectance Spectroscopy to Quantify and Predict Soil Carbon Content in Agricultural S</td>
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<td>Identifying Tropical Plant-Derived Sources of Dietary Iron: Linking Tropical Food Production and Con</td>
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<td>Population Dynamic and Pollination Ecology of the Threatened Haleakala Silversword</td>
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<td>Construction of a High Density Genetic Map of Pineapple for Genome Sequencing and Marker-Assisted Se</td>
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Beefing Up the Taste of the Hawaiian Range

Written by Ramsay Wharton - rwharton@kgmb9.com
September 16, 2009 06:25 AM

14th Annual Meala'i: Taste of the Hawaiian Range & Agriculture Festival

Mark your calendar for the 2009 Meala'i's Taste of the Hawaiian Range and Agriculture Festival. Come and toast our 14th anniversary on September 18, 2009 at the Hilton Waikolola Village Resort on the beautiful Kohala Coast of Hawaii Island. As usual, the Taste itself will open to the public at 6:00 p.m. and run "til it's all gone or to 8:00 p.m., whichever comes first.

Indulge your appetite and show your support of local agriculture as the finest culinary talents in Hawaii showcase the bounty and diversity of Hawaii Island's agricultural products. Featured chefs will create extraordinary dishes using locally grown range-fed meats utilizing every part from the tongue to the tail. In addition, lamb, pork, mutton, and goat will be prepared, all complemented by fresh fruits and vegetables from Hawaii Island farmers. Exceptional food products like Kona coffee, specialty teas, micro brewed sodas, ice cream, candies, measses, and other prepared foods will round out the evening's fare.

For ticket information, click here.
For main food event, Taste of the Hawaiian Range, $40 presale, $60 at the door
For cooking demonstration, $10 presale, limited to 100 people.
For more information, on tickets contact University of Hawaii at Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) Cooperative Extension Service at (808) 981-5195.
Or go to the website at: www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/taste

The Waimanalo Field Day videos are here:

Watch the videos for Taste of the Hawaiian Range:
http://kgmb9.com/main/content/view/21152/110