



NEWS from JOHN A. BURNS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

February 2007

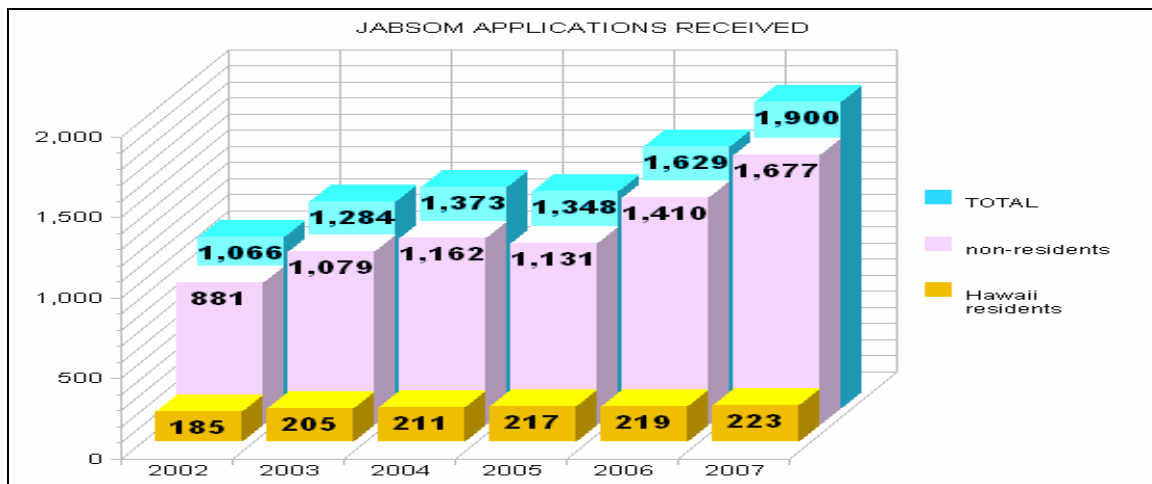


A record-high 1,900 applicants are seeking 62 available student slots at the University of Hawaii's John A. Burns School of Medicine.

The number of applications for the next class starting in the 2007 fall semester is the most ever received at the Medical School – almost 300 more than the previous high.

The School's brand-new facilities in Kaka'ako, JABSOM's pioneering problem-based learning curriculum, and the attraction of Hawai'i are the top attractions cited by prospective medical students.

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A message from the Dean

An important part of our mission as a medical school is to engage and serve the community in which we live. This newsletter shows you how our students and staff at the John A. Burns School of Medicine give back to our community in many ways.

And it may show why there's such growing interest in JABSOM among so many prospective medical students in Hawaii and rest of the country.

*Gary K. Ostrander
Interim Dean*



Med students make civic contributions



Kristine Layugan first dreamed of becoming a medical doctor when, as a youngster, she trailed on the heels of an aunt who worked as a nurse.

“I was fascinated by a job where you can see dramatic improvements in people’s health,” says Kristine, whose parents emigrated from the Philippines. The Moanalua High School graduate is now a first-year student at JABSOM and one of three recipients of a Weinman Fellowship. The award covers tuition and fees for all four years of medical school for students who plan to practice in Hawaii.



Fourth-year medical student **Peter AhChing** hosts a half-hour program, “Hawaii Health TV” every Thursday at 9 p.m. on Olelo’s Channel 52. The show educates viewers about common medical conditions and health care topics – recent shows focused on diabetes, ice (methamphetamine) addiction, and quitting smoking. Hoku Award winner Thomas Enos of the Typical Hawaiians adds Hawaiian music to the weekly program.



Second-year med students are supposed to study medical discoveries – not make them. But JABSOM’s **Stephen Chun** has gained international attention for recognizing an unusual medical condition called the “Broken Heart syndrome” for the first time in Hawaii. The syndrome strikes as chest pains and apparent signs of a heart attack, often in someone who recently suffered the death of a loved one. If it’s misdiagnosed, the victim could be administered anti-clotting medical that can cause severe bleeding.

JABSOM applications hit new high

(Continued from Front Page)

“Word is spreading among students in Hawai’i and on the mainland that JABSOM offers a top-quality medical education in world-class facilities,” says Satoru Izutsu, Chairman of Admissions for JABSOM.

The 1,900 applications are from 223 Hawaii residents and 1,677 non-residents. School policy sets a ceiling of six non-resident students per year.

The number of applications spiked in the past two years, with the opening of JABSOM’s new \$150 million Kaka’ako facility.

JABSOM staff gain national honors



Kekuni Blaisdell, MD, is honored with an endowment and lectureship in his name. JABSOM's Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence also hosted an inaugural conference named after the emeritus professor and first chair of the Department of Medicine. The conference was made possible through an endowment by Dr. Osamu Fukuyama, cardiologist and 1976 JABSOM graduate.



Seiji Yamada, MD, Clinical Associate Professor of Family Practice, is recipient of the 2006 Humanism in Medicine Award from the Association of American Medical Colleges, one of 53 national honorees. He assists JABSOM students as adviser in many community activities, such as the Global Health Interest Group.



Benjamin Young, MD, Director of the Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence, has been chosen chairman of a national council to promote diversity in the health professions. Council members are concerned about severe cuts in federal funding to the Centers of Excellence and Health Careers Opportunity Programs, which promote diversity through pipeline and mentoring initiatives.



Librarian makes select list

JABSOM Health Sciences Librarian **A. Lee Adams** was chosen for the American Library Association Emerging Leaders program for 2007.

Lee is one of 100 recently graduated librarians selected for the national honor, and will participate in two leadership workshops on the Mainland.



Ideas for future newsletter items are welcome. Send them to gregqt@hawaii.edu.

JABSOM in the news

Medical Wonders

Of the 62 members of the freshman class at the University of Hawai'i medical school, 11 are graduates of Kamehameha Schools



JABSOM's Kamehameha Schools graduates were featured on the cover of the December 2006 issue of "Imua", Kamehameha Schools' alumni magazine. Photo courtesy IMUA



Thursday, December 28, 2006

AIDS clinic gets late reprieve

The Hawai'i AIDS Clinical Trials Unit, which conducts research and provides front-line care to hundreds of HIV/AIDS patients, has gotten a temporary reprieve from a federal funding cut that would have forced it to close at year's end.

The National Institutes of Health has agreed to provide \$640,000 in "bridge" funding to allow the unit to operate awhile longer, said program director Dr. Cecilia Shikuma.



Thursday, January 18, 2007

Volunteers help test a vaccine aimed at protecting patients from cervical cancer

Hawaii played a big part in clinical trials of a vaccine to protect women from cervical cancer the past five years, according to a Honolulu investigator.

Evidence showed women who got the vaccine were protected from a sexually transmitted human papillomavirus infection, said Dr. Michael Carney, University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine gynecologist-oncologist.