It’s that time again...time to work those muscles; no...not your biceps or abs—your brain.

Beginning earlier than past years, students were back on campus to begin another collegiate session toward their aspirations. As they began to adapt, add/drop week transpired with little, or no, complication as both the “seasoned” and “newbie” majors of the Digital Media Arts program acclimated themselves to the days and times set forth for their courses of interest.

Kicking off our semester orientation was our first monthly Feastin’ Friday held on 18th January, 2013; this event was sponsored by our very own DMA Peer Mentor, Napua Nakila.

Inspired by a previous DMA Educational Specialist, Mililani Hughes, Napua has chosen to continue what she believes to be a “DMA tradition” of providing a meal with the intention of perpetuating peer associations and overall objective of gathering a “meeting of the minds.” As she has stated, “I believe this gives our students the opportunity to talk story and possibly feed off of each other’s creativity. Networking, from my perspective, is just one of the many factors that can foster success.”

As the first weeks ensue, we look forward to an interesting semester to observe and experience what our students creatively produce.

GO DMAers…!!!
Carlton Stout

Graduating with Dean Honors in the Spring of 2012, Carlton holds an Associates Degree in Art as well as a minor in Journalism.

During his instruction at HawCC, Carlton had interned with Kea’au Youth Business Center (KYBC) where his responsibilities ranged from website design to video production.

With his final year on campus, he acted as director & script writer for the video production of the Bay Clinic commercial which locally aired on broadcast TV. Shortly thereafter, Carlton continued his work with Bay Clinic by redesigning their website.

Developing his business right here in Hilo, Digital Blue Design, (www.digitalbluearts.com) Carlton sustains his work in digital media arts including video production, website/print design and business services. “My passion is mixing art, digital media and the needs of people to make something grow...be it either a business ad, personal project, or organization event,” states Carlton.

Carlton’s most recent work involved a Kickstarter success story, HEX3 Jaja, that offers a pressure sensitive stylus for the iPad. He has sought out to design and develop training manuals, animations and videos to promote the product.

Outside of work, Carlton’s favorite hobby is creating digital fine art, “I enjoy working and living in Hilo as I hope to promote and encourage more people and business here to understand and embrace the benefits of digital media arts.”

Kayla Leong

has been trial and error. I am an animator, not a graphic designer.”

She continues to mention how insightful her instructors are, in addition to their detailed critiques, which Kayla attributes to her improved pieces. Furthermore, she claims that although she is not fooling herself, Hawaii doesn’t exactly have a large demand for animators, so it will be up to her to either create that need or continue on until she finds herself a position.

Any words of wisdom for our present DMAers? Kayla says, “If you plan to be a DMA major, take it seriously. This field is not the ‘easy A’; this must be your passion...your life. If you’re a graduate...persevere. Want to continue your education? Great! Start your own business? Do it...you daredevil, you! As for me, I may have left the Big Island with a certificate yet, will return with an Associate’s.”

Joshua Allan St. Fuentes

A 2012 graduate of the DMA program, Joshua is recently a senior at the University of Hawaii-Hilo campus as a double major in both Philosophy and Communications. Soon thereafter, he seeks to pursue his Master’s.

On campus, Joshua photographs various events and is presently working on a film. He writes artist opinions pieces for a culture magazine in Mexico city offering a perspective from the American Tropics. “I have a friend of mine who is an editor and he translates everything for me into Spanish,” says Joshua. ‘Ole!

When asked about his future, Joshua smiles (with a slight shrug), “I really have no idea what my future holds; I live in the moment.”
**A Familiar Face Returns**

Violet Murakami is no stranger to campus. Though she is presently instructing the Art 293: Internship course this Spring semester, she has been one busy bee.

Last fall (during her sabbatical) she took off for Japan and donned a pilgrim's garb to go on the 88 temple pilgrimage on the island of Shikoku; a trek that spans over 900 miles. On the way, she visited Naoshima Island, famous for its contemporary art museums including Chichu Art Museum which houses a number of site-specific installations by James Turrell, Walter De Maria, and paintings by Claude Monet among others.

Designed by architect Tadao Ando, the museum is partially underground. It also is home to the famous Benesse Art House Complex as well as numerous outdoor sculptures by artists from around the world. In addition, she researched places to visit in Tokyo in preparation for the Study Abroad class she will be offering this coming summer; a class previously offered in 2006: the ART 269 Study Abroad: Animation Studio Tour class. The class will visit a number of art schools that offer Digital Media and Animation courses as well as the Ghibli Museum of Miyazaki Hayao and other animation studios in Tokyo and Osaka.

**Kea’au High School Students Visit**

28th January, 2013–

Kea’au High School students visited the DMA lab for a “tour” of the DMA program. Their visit began with exposing them to a day in the life of the ART 112 course, which involved meeting students currently enrolled in that course. Here they learned about their respective motivations to pursue DMA while being exposed to some of the projects and learning processes undertaken in this introductory course. The demonstration encompassed a wide range of interests, skill levels and backgrounds represented among DMA students, while showing, in practice, some of the significance and expectations to both consider and prepare for in relation to their academic experiences at Hawai‘i Community College.

Afterwards, the KHS student’s visit featured presentations and explanations of other work that one would undertake in pursuit of earning the Certificate of Completion, including electives such as ART 126 (3D Graphics), required courses ART 202 (Digital Imaging), ART 209 (Image in Motion), and others ultimately leading to the culminating ART 293: Internship. Discussions covered essential topics with the inclusion of DMA curriculum, co- and extra-curricular activities coordinated by the program, examples of special projects and internship experiences engaged by students in the program, in addition to other significant aspects of being a HawCC DMA student.

Several personnel in the program assisted with presentations, joined discussions with KHS students and replied to questions, including Meidor Hu (DMA Program Coordinator and Faculty), Steve Parente (DMA Instructor), Napua Nakila (DMA Peer Mentor), Jackie Johns (DMA Lab Monitor and Tutor) and Bert Klunder (DMA Educational Specialist). Mahalo nui loa to Terence Moniz, Layne Luna and other personnel at KHS who made this student visit to the HawCC DMA program possible – we look forward to seeing these students again in the future!
Niklas Hays, one of our latest graduates from the DMA program, recently gave a presentation at the 11th annual Hawai‘i International Conference on Education (HICE), which took place in Honolulu in early January. Over 1300 education professionals, scholars and students from more than 37 countries attended the four day conference, which featured a range of presentations on a wide variety of topics covering all types of education efforts, issues and contexts.

Niklas, who had never attended a conference like this before, described the event as, “an amazing experience,” and seized countless opportunities to connect with HICE attendees. DMA Educational Specialist, Bert Klunder, who accompanied Niklas to support his networking and presentation efforts, explained that “Niklas made every effort to get the most out of this experience, and it was wonderful to witness his natural approach toward cultivating relationships with new colleagues from around the world. He represented the DMA program very well, and his presentation generated a lot of interest in our program and in his own evolving approach toward the work of digital arts.”

Niklas created a unique multi-media poster-style presentation focused on the topic of making digital media arts study more meaningful for students in all types of situations. He demonstrated the value and importance of making the development of personal voice, artistic vision and the essence of raw creative talent more central to digital arts education than merely approaching the work of this domain primarily as a technical trade.

Niklas called for teachers in these fields to develop effective ways to authentically and actively, “inspire original art in a counterfeit culture,” through truly creative digital media study, stating that, “the excitement of new technologies does not come from the tools themselves, but rather what they can do for us.” His core message was well received among the many HICE attendees who saw his presentation, which generated a great deal of positive feedback, including comments from professional educators who called his presentation “impressive” and “moving.”

Very soon, Niklas will move to California in anticipation of transferring to a film studies program at one of several university campuses he has applied to, including the University of California San Francisco and the University of California San Diego. We wish him well in his new adventures, and look forward to hearing about his continued success on the mainland.
Director/co-writer/producer of the animated science fiction feature film “Strange Frame: Love & Sax,” GB Hajim is no stranger to hard work. During his recent visit (26th Jan) to the Art 293 class, he spoke of his experiences regarding this extensive multi-year project.

Hajim, who sought to complete most of the production on the Big Island, recruited and trained a number of students from local high schools and colleges (including Ashley Abalos and Kayla Leong from the HawCC DMA program) to be actively involved in the collaborative work of creating this award winning animated film in his small production facility.

One of the goals driving the coordination strategy of this unique production effort was to contribute to the development of new opportunities locally on the Big Island for talented youth who otherwise could only engage this type of work off island. This and other unique aspects of the Strange Frame project make it an uncommonly original and innovative collaboration, much to the delight of many in the industry who have offered rave reviews of the final product.

Strange Frame, named Best Feature Film and Dragon*Con 2012, features a star-studded cast (including Tim Curry, Claudia Black, George Takei and many others) and noteworthy technical contributions from Grammy Award winning sound engineer Charles Brotman (who facilitated the recording of initial dialog at Palm Records), Academy Award winning mixer Gary Rizzo of Skywalker Sound (who completed the surround sound experience of the film), and other industry professionals from around the world who helped make the film possible. Special screenings of the film on the Big Island will take place on February 15th at the Palace Theater in Hilo and on March 8th at the Honoka’a People’s Theater, with an additional screening scheduled in Honolulu on March 11th at The Venue. For more information, visit www.strangeframe.com.

“Here in East Hawai’i, there aren’t many opportunities for our talented, artistic, and technically-capable kids. Often, they have to choose between staying with their families, whom they love, and resigning themselves to working entry-level jobs or giving up everything they cherish to pursue a career elsewhere, and I don’t think that’s a fair choice.”
Almost a year later, the Hawaii Community College Native Hawaiian Species mural (located on the HawCC cafeteria main wall) is finally headed towards completion. Made possible by a grant from the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry and additional support from Alu Like, volunteers have been coming together every Friday afternoon to add a touch of their talent to this vivid cultural piece.

Originally headed by Tobias Brill, art instructor here on campus, the mural’s main artistry is greatly commanded by the hands of Bevin Kilfoyle; it is (as seen above) her concept design that was chosen to portray the simplicities and indigenous species of Hawaii nei. Because of Bevin’s perpetual dedication, the splash of brilliance can be admired to all who roam our campus.

You are probably thinking… “what is left to complete?” Well...I can answer that question. With the finish line in sight, a border of the ‘ulu (breadfruit) plant will encase the artwork, in addition to the far right section where, upon the designated lava rock wall area, the names of all who had their hand in the project will be inscribed by means of petroglyph-type writings.

Still interested in getting involved? Stop on by...introduce yourself and mention, “how can I help? What will it take for me to participate?” You will see that, not only will you be greeted with a smile but, you will be thanked for your time and efforts before you even begin. Not only will you be a part of something that will stand the test of time here on our HawCC campus but a little bit of you will be instilled in something that will forever connect you to (what could be considered) a once in a lifetime amazing project.

Come pick up a brush and see you there!