Officials Dedicate, Name Gates Performing Arts Center

Alumni and friends of the school gathered on campus June 6 for the dedication of the Gates Performing Arts Center.

The building is named for Charles C. and Hazel R. Gates, parents of LeBurta Gates Atherton, longtime member of the HPA Board of Governors. At the dedication, Board Chairman Duncan MacNaughton officially named the structure, observing that the Gateses were “committed to benefitting the society that had benefitted them.” He then introduced Mrs. Atherton as the “principal dreamer in this project.”

The 16,000 square foot building houses a 375-seat auditorium, a 2,782 square foot stage area for theatre and music productions, dressing rooms, a large covered area for set construction, and a lobby that can double as a student art gallery and a site for receptions.

The lobby features custom-made koa display cases donated by the HPA Parents Association. At the dedication, the cases were filled with Hawaiian artifacts from the collection of Theodore Vredenberg given to the school by the Hind family. A garden at the entrance to the Center, planted by alumni on Alumni Weekend, honors Father Tom Kunichika, a former HPA chaplain.

The brief ceremonies to bless and name the structure were followed by the singing of “Hole Waimae” by an alumni choir and a tour of the facility. Guests were then invited to be Gates’ first “performers,” taking part in a luncheon served on the stage.

Good Work! Solar Car, Turtle Taggers, Swimmers Do Well

Hananama III and the HPA solar car team are racing through Europe this summer—and taking prizes along the way. In the Swiss Tour de Sol, the HPA vehicle finished first in the solar car division, the only American car to complete the 382-mile, 7-day event. The team earlier took second-place in the photovoltaic class in the three-day, 160-kilometer Solar Cup Denmark. That race also made the team the first ever from Hawaii to officially complete or place in a European event for alternate-fueled vehicles. The final race is the German Tour de Ruhr in mid-July. Members of the team include Cutter Brown, Glenn Pogue, Greg Stephen-Hassard, Cassie Quaintance, Benjamin Bennett, Neil Stork, and Alex Hughes.

Students and science teachers at HPA this spring set a new record for the capture and tagging of green sea turtles in their continuing work with the National Marine Fisheries Service. The turtles, 85 of them, were all “youngsters,” ranging from 14 to 115 pounds in weight, according to George Balazs, sea turtle scientist with the NMFS. Two young hawksbill turtles were also captured and tagged.

Hui Ho‘au O Na Kamali‘i, an HPA sponsored community age-group novice swim team, took second place in the County Championships this spring in Hilo. This is the third year that the team has placed second in the annual competition. HPA students on the team included Cinnamon Clarke, Felisa Ednie, Nicole Haggar, Hannah Hind, Sofie Jensen, Suki Jensen, Chelsey Kadota, Shani Keith, Caitlin Kimura, Brian Krochina, Kanoe McTavish, Laurel Pelkey, Robin Pelkey, Kalei Rapoza, Kulu‘ua Rapoza, Jenny Salmon, Kimber Salmon, Ryan Salmon, Thomas Sanford, Tai Soo, and Sean Vitousek.

Waimea fourth grade students set up shop on the mall at Parker Ranch Center this spring to help people put their sentiments into poetry for Mothers’ Day.

The pupils, working with HPA parent Lorraine Mecca, first learned how to express their thoughts in poetic rhyme and meter making use of Macintosh computers.

Then, in mid-May, they took themselves and their computers to town to demonstrate their new-learned skill for shoppers at the center.