Students Continue Assistance with Turtle Monitoring Program

Students and faculty members from Hawaii Preparatory Academy were part of a team monitoring hawksbill sea turtles in September at Kamehame near Pahala.

The monitoring program was started in 1989 by the National Park Service to protect endangered hawksbill turtles and their nests at beaches along the southern end of the Big Island. These rare animals have been observed nesting at Halape and Apua Point within Volcanoes National Park and at Kamehame and several other beaches outside the park’s boundaries. The nesting season lasts from early June to late September, with the last of the hatchlings emerging sometime in late November.

HPA’s participation in the program began when Assistant Headmaster Marc Rice joined a team of researchers headed by George Balazs of the National Marine Fisheries Service and Larry Katahira of the National Park Service to place satellite transmitters on two hawksbill turtles.

Two weeks later, Rice, along with students Maren Vitousek-Bemis and Dawn Gilday and HPA student activities director and videographer George Watson, went to Kamehame to videotape various aspects of the monitoring program. The results of their efforts will be an educational video for schools and the public.

“We hope that programs like this will enable us to better understand the biology and ecology of this endangered species so that we can save the few hawksbill turtles left in Hawaiian waters and allow the expansion of their populations,” Rice said. “We think it is important for students to be able to participate in conservation programs like this.”

"Spoon River" Opens Season

The Performing Arts department presented “Spoon River Anthology” November 16-18 at Gates Performing Arts Center.

The cast included Diana Ahegema, Robbie Adams, Nick Davis, Lissa Duerr, Nicole Herlevic, Leo LaBranche, Vanda Luce, Sarah Morlock, Colleen O’Malley, Cathy Sakimura, Achahn Schultz, Mike Stewart, J.R. Storment, Sarah Theiss, Laura Von Holt, and Ted Young. The play was directed by Sheryl Moore with musical direction by Barbara Kopa. Lighting and set design were by Tom Penny.

H.P.A. has been chosen as one of 12 schools in the U.S. to perform at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland in the summer of 1996. The Saturday night performance began with a fundraising reception featuring desserts and coffee by Waimea Coffee and Company, with proceeds going to defray the cost of participating in the Edinburgh festival.