

MESEISET

Highlighting Student Work at Chuuk Campus



Meseiset

By Kind Kanamoto Kanto, Acting IC Coordinator, Chuuk Campus

MESEISET is a Chuukese term for the condition when the wind is blowing from one direction while the ocean current is flowing from the opposite direction, resulting with multi-directional waves. A boat caught in this water condition has difficulty advancing. We are caught in a Meseiset, and we want to remind all of us that we

should strive to advance rain or shine, in smooth or rough waters.

In this publication, the Chuuk Campus Community is happy to share with the COM – FSM College Community and the Chuukese community at large some samples of the work produced by our students for their classes. With this, we

want to show pride in our students when they show interest in their studies, and put in a little effort and dedication. At the same time, we hope to use this as a means of encouragement for our students. Our students possess skills and knowledge, with Meseiset as a catalyst we hope to ignite a fire of interest in writing in our students.

The True Perception of COM-Chuuk

by Atina Ruben (Expos I, Spring 2010)

In bigger countries, there are thousands of colleges, often with three or more located in the same city! However, here in our small islands of Chuuk there is only one public college: COM-FSM, Chuuk Campus. Thus, many leave our islands in search of education, yet many fail to truly perceive what this one really is: a priceless gift.

Located on the main street of Weno, the COM-FSM, Chuuk Campus is a small, yet quaint, community college that overlooks the vast Pacific Ocean. This breathtaking view alone adds points to campus' originality. Our gate gives the allure of privacy; while, at the same time, the openness of the grounds draws many students together. Pandanus and coconut trees dot the campus giving shade from our tropical sweltering heat. Classes are conducted in long, rectangular buildings. Painted an aquamarine blue, they complement the scenery well. Inside, the rooms are small enough to carry the lecturer's voice, yet spacious enough for students to mingle if the need arises. Furnished with solid chairs and desks, blackboards, ceiling fans, and the equipment necessary for the instructor, the classrooms are well

provisioned. Outside, students are able to relax on the benches under the coconut trees, in the open student center, or sit on the seawall overlooking the ocean. Students have the feeling of being in the islands, yet they are still in a college setting. In the library, students are able to complete their assignments or curl up on the leather sofas with a good book in hand; moreover, computers are readily available for student use. A computer station is also available for those needing to type, email, or browse the web. In addition, for those working in groups, there is a study hall in which the group can assemble in order to work on their projects without disturbing others. A bookstore is also on hand for the distribution of a variety of school supplies, such as textbooks, calculators, notebooks, thumb drives, and many other school supplies. Also, readily available to the students are a nurse's station, a counselor's office, and a snack bar. Fully furnished, the college is quite a haven.

Moreover, the college surpasses all with its loving staff. One big difference in attending a college outside of the islands is the familiarity of the are simply instructors. There is

always an imaginary line between the closeness of a staff member and faculty with its students. In cities abroad, with so many students enrolled in the colleges, instructors a student, be it due to breach of conduct or simply too little time. Here in the islands, you will see the instructors putting in 110% of their time. During lectures, teachers allow their pupils to ask questions, insert their opinions, or simply let the students give their opinions. There is even an allotted time set apart in order to counsel a student. In addition, they either interact with students in between classes in the library, at the snack bar, or while walking on the sidewalk. For example, while rushing to class one day, one of the instructors stopped me in order to tell me a joke. Although late, I was glad for the laugh, and it put me in a good mood all day long. The instructors understand the necessity of having a mutual relationship with the students. They truly care, and that is so very hard to see elsewhere.

Above all, COM-Chuuk Campus shows it one dominating purpose, that of creating a better future for ders. With a bleak future for many islanders, COM-Chuuk Campus

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opens the door to so many opportunities. It stands here to show islanders another path. Like a jewel in the ashes, it beautifies the small island. It enables the poor to acquire knowledge without heavy financial burdens that hinder learning

Designed partly for helping those less fortunate, it is open to all who are looking for another opportunity, another chance to be somebody else. An accredited school, it has agreements with many other colleges; therefore, students are able to continue their education. It opens up the door to successful lives, wealth, and fame. As the saying goes, "Educate a man, and he will prosper".

Thus, the true perception of COM-Chuuk Campus should be one of a delightfully charming place filled with caring staff and an exceptional goal. Representing an amazing gift, it stands ready for many to receive its benefits. Therefore, I pose this question: Do you accept this gift? Or do you, too, lack the true perception to appreciate the value of this priceless gift?

My Life

by Betty Aten Reyes (Expos I, Summer 2011)

To figure out how one sees his or her life is to overlook the experiences that person has lived through and his/her nature. The way I see my life is with entertainment, crazy moments and so much more. I have spent it running around all over the place, enjoying certain moments of it, and just trying to live it to the fullest. I have always tried to live by my motto: “live like there is no tomorrow; love like you have never been hurt before; and laugh as much as possible”. In my life, there has been entertainment and routine, fantasies and dreams, and lastly traveling. My life is try like a traveling circus.

First, I see my life as a traveling circus because of the entertainment that I have lived. I like not only to give entertainment to people, but to myself as well. I have enjoyed performing, mostly dancing and singing. Everything that I have gotten involved in, I to make sure I have some humor in it, even if it is in a speech. As a child, I began performing by dancing Polynesian and Micronesian dances for parties and events. Later I took a job as a dancer for tourists at Blue Lagoon. In high school, I started getting into the performing arts program, so I danced, sang, and acted. I traveled to distance places like Europe, the Middle East, and Asia to perform. Just like a circus, these were places to enjoy and laugh.

My family would say that I am like a clown. I try to keep as much people entertained and happy as much as possible. I love to laugh and keep people laughing. I wish I could actually have made it as a comedian. I am goofy in almost anything that I do, giving others something not only to remember, but also something

to look forward to. I love hearing the cheers each time I have performed. I would have actually enjoyed working in a circus, dancing or training horses. I keep myself out there and upbeat at almost every moment that life has given me. I make life seem as if it is one big entertainment zone. I still try to keep it going, so life will not seem so boring to me if I kept doing the same routine over and over, just like a routine being performed repeatedly at the circus. You have to change it up every once in a while so you can keep your audience interested and wanting more.

Secondly, in a circus they give you a field of fantasy and dreams. They take what seems unreal and make it reality, for instance the bearded lady, the wolf man, the strong man, and other mystical beings and fortunetellers. I like living life like a fantasy, and I try to blend what does not seem possible with the possible. Since I was little, I have always believed in fantasies and dreams. I have always tried to live like them. I have strongly believed in a greater love that some people say is not really there. However, sometimes fantasy does get in the way of reality. I do believe everyone should have some fantasies in life because reality can get unbearable. Like my son who seems so much like a dream that sometimes it is hard for me to believe that he is actually here with me, just something so beautiful that has been created and given to me. I believe in mystic beings. I also believe in superstitions and follow some of them. Some things out there are hard to explain and do not need understanding, like God for example; people believe in Him and praise Him but none has seen Him. I would like to

pass on these beliefs to my son and my younger siblings. It is nice to believe in something out there; it is nice to have inspiration and it is nice to hold onto something to help you get by in life.

Lastly, I also see my life as a traveling circus because of the traveling that I have done. I have traveled almost all over the place, which I am happy to have done. I enjoyed every place I have traveled to whether it was for a show I had to do or just visiting that place. I have traveled to Europe, the Middle East, various parts of Asia, and the islands of Polynesia. Like a circus, I would go and do shows, either religious or charity events, or competitions. I perform best in the dance department. One of the things about traveling is the food in different places. Like a circus, every place has different varieties of food or snacks to give out. A circus travels from place to place, giving joy to children, families, and the people in that area. I try to give and get experiences for and from each place that I visit.

In conclusion, with the way I live, my life is like a circus. I try to put as much laughter in it as possible. I try to keep the entertainment going for people around me and myself. I have traveled and taken entertainment with me. I live a life full of fantasy, make believe, and dreams. My life is like a traveling circus.

My life is like a traveling circus.

The Value of the Ocean to Me

by Aitong Enlet (Literature of the Sea, Spring 2012)

I value the Ocean as I would a precious gem created by the angels, which lasts forever. It shines in the morning and it gleams in the night covered with calm breezes coming from different directions. I recall the ocean as “The Provider” — it provides both land and sea creatures, food and other materials such as pounders (for breadfruits). The beauty of the Ocean is definitely seen when the sun sets in the late afternoon, and when the moon shines at night. This beauty is far beyond that of the queen of Egypt who was once called Cleopatra.

Furthermore, the Ocean is many things that we just do not realize. I’ve heard rumors about the

creation of the Ocean that if it hadn’t been for the big water fall in paradise we wouldn’t have lived to see our Ocean. Yet I still doubt this. The Ocean in Micronesia (Chuuk) is also the calmest when compared to those of other countries. I’m just glad I’ve had the chance to sail between the islands in the lagoon and outside of it. I’ve spent hours sitting in a fiberglass boat facing the very edge of the Ocean, with the birds flying just a few inches above the sea surface searching for food. Lying in the drifting boat, facing the sky, I feel relaxed. Sometimes I cannot even recall when I fall asleep and which way I’m floating. However, by the time I wake up everything is back to normal. The birds keep singing their amazing songs first thing in the morning, just as the ocean sings every time it hits the shores and

sea walls. It releases its energy source every time the sun is in the middle of the sky.

Finally, but not the least, I value the Ocean not for what I’m after, but for itself. The truth is that I’m not comfortable with the way we treat the Ocean these days. For it may come to a time when there won’t be anything left that can survive in the Ocean, and what can we do? Nothing! Except, if it is still possible, we can change or adopt ways to save our Ocean. By the way, if the Ocean was a lady, I’d say that I’ve fallen in love with her. Throughout the years, I have lived a miserable life, but thanks to the Ocean, I’ve finally gotten the chance to fall and drown in “Love”.

Reaction Paper to the Movie *Helen Keller in Her Story*

by Joachim Pangelinan Castro (Advanced Reading, Summer 2011)

Helen Keller is similar to every other blind and deaf girl living on this earth, but Anne Sullivan proved that anything is possible. Anne enabled Helen to prove to the world that miracles can happen, and although it took time, it was possible.

An aspect of the movie that really caught my attention was the part when Helen was given the opportunity to travel the world and talk to other disabled individuals. It was amazing how she traveled to Japan and was so famous there. To my understanding, Japan and the United States did not enjoy good relations at that time, but despite that, Japan still looked up to this blind and deaf woman with so much fame and influence. Being able to travel the world and just

speak without seeing or hearing is something of a miracle and an inspiration for everyone.

It came to my attention that even if Helen was unable to hear or see, she insisted on carrying out her everyday life on her own, following her own schedule. She was able to wonder the forest alone, to walk to her kitchen without the help of others, to entertain herself in ordinary ways, and to carry out the task of grooming herself. It was so obvious that there were many others of her kind out in the world at the same time, but I bet that they could not carry out the tasks that Helen set her mind to without the assistance of some other individual.

It is sad, yet a miracle, for me to watch the true story of how a blind and deaf individ-

ual was able to live her everyday life just like everyone else. Thinking of her leads me to appreciate the gifts that God has granted me, the gifts of seeing and hearing. It makes me feel that I should not misuse these gifts, but to appreciate them. I know that Helen would take these important gifts seriously, but I know that because she was unable to have them for herself she gave the world a message that expresses how much we should appreciate them.

Despite the fact that Helen Keller was unable to hear and see, she tattooed my heart with inspiration. It is beautiful to discover that something that seems so impossible can really happen. Like the Nike quote, "Impossible is Nothing!" I realized that it is a blessing for someone disabled to become so famous.

My Life

By Atina Ruben (Expos I, Spring 2010)

What do you see when you look at me? Just another Micronesian girl? Should I be judged solely on my ethnicity or gender? I write to tell you about the true me. My name is Atina and this is my story.

I was born on January 5, 1990, the youngest child of seven. Having Christian parents, I was raised properly. My paternal grandparents reared me until I was of age to attend school. They taught me to respect God and my elders and to love others. Reminiscing now, I can see that I gained knowledge only achievable through the process of living with the elderly. I was not spoiled but I was loved. Growing up, I loved playing with my friends and exploring the small island. Because we did not have many toys, we invented games using ordinary objects.

At the age of six, I came to Weno to attend kindergarten. I was smart and graduated with the honor of being first in my class. Upon hearing that we would be stationed in the States, I again visited my grandparents to say goodbye, not knowing that I would be saying goodbye to my grandfather forever. That summer of 1997, my grandpa, my main support and friend, died.

At the age of seven, I went to the States. At first, it was hard. With only my parents, a younger sister, and a brother, we had little income. I ache to recall those first days filled with struggles and hardships. It was only through the grace of God we were able to

survive. One good thing, though, this ordeal taught us love and commitment. Knowing that all we had was each other, we cared and supported each other deeply. As time passed, however, my older sisters and brother came up, and the days of hardship were long gone.

Growing up in the States, my mind grew to a more advanced stage, not only educationally, but morally as well. What I never had in the islands was readily available to me in the States. I lived like a typical American girl growing up. I went to school, spoke the language, wore trendy clothes, and did the ordinary things Americans do; however, at my roots, I was still an island girl. Knowing how it feels to have little, I was more humble, especially with expenses. My lifestyle was also different. Although I had fun, friends, dates, and boyfriends, I still heeded my parents' advice. I was not perfect, but I avoided doing things that would bring them shame or disappointment. With four older sisters and two brothers, I was also watched carefully. Being the youngest did have its benefits. I lived a carefree and relaxed life in the States, yet I knew that it was not the real me, so during my sophomore year, when my parents announced that they were moving back to the islands, I went along. Like them, I knew that it was time for me to interact with my own people.

In the summer of 2006, I arrived back on Weno. I was exhilarated at being back in the islands. I attended Berea Christian School, and it was there that I would say I was fully

complete. I made friends who were like my sisters and brothers, and I came to truly know God. Although I was raised in the Christian perspective, I never truly had peace. This was due to the fact that I had not developed a true relationship with our Lord and Savior. This relationship, I would say, is the best result of my coming back to my island; the laxity and serenity I also find enjoyable. Although, until now, I am still trying to find myself. Having touched the outside world, I have seen greater things, yet I know how meaningless they are, too. I still have ambitions and goals, wishes and dreams, waiting to be reached or fulfilled. I, too, want to be somebody.

In conclusion, I am still living. I am still finding my way in this world. On the verge of womanhood, at that age of 20, I, too, am finding a place in this world. So, just another Micronesian girl? Maybe. Yet I know this. My name is Atina, and I am a child of God.

**"The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything."
Albert Einstein**

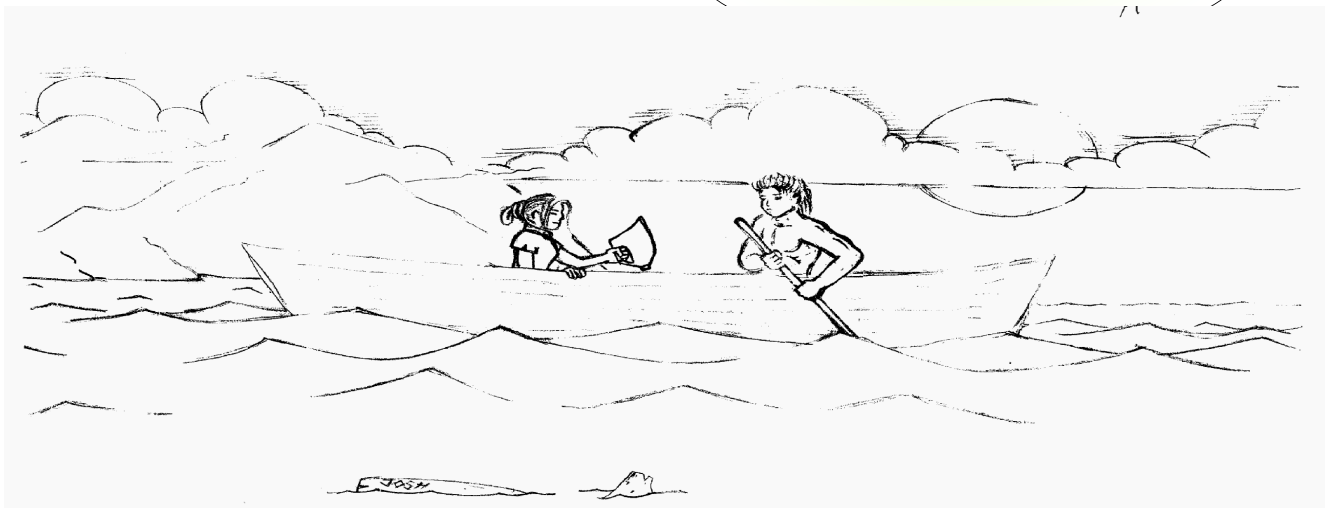
Highlighting Student Work

February Topics:
Christmas Past and Present
Reactions
Our College Community
COM-FSM, Chuuk Campus events & news

Language and
Literature Department

Contributing to *Meseiset* is easy and open to everyone. You may submit a news article about events and activities. You may also submit a paper done for any class which you or your professor thinks has value to our learning community. Accompanying photos and/or illustrations are also welcome.

Contributions should be submitted to the editors in the Language and Literature Department by the 20th of each month.



Contributions to My Community

by Riann Ande (ACE, Spring 2012)

Reading the CNN news article *Young Heroes* about three young people who wanted to change the world really inspired me. These young people made a difference. One of them really inspired me the most; this was a nine-year-old girl by the name of Rachel Beckwith. Rachel wanted to raise \$300 to help provide clean water for people in need. She asked her friends and family to donate to this water charity, instead of buying gifts for her birthday. These people were not rich people. They are just regular people, just like us. This article made me ponder three questions. First, have I ever done anything to help my community? Secondly, what am I doing to help right now? Thirdly, what will I do in the future?

Have I ever done anything for my community? Basically, I have never done anything; nothing to compare with Rachel. For example, in my community several people don't have enough food and water for their families.

Others don't have homes of their own, so they either live with relatives, friends, or anyone they can. They are jobless and uneducated. If I compare myself to Rachel and the two boys in the article, I am nothing like them, because though I've seen these problems, I haven't helped them or tried to even think of a way to help them.

Am I now doing anything for the people in my community who are in need? Well, to be honest, I've not even thought of contributing to my community before this. The truth is, at this time I only think about myself and my family and how to provide for our needs. Helping the community is pretty much number two on my list. However, as I think about the young people in the article, it is a lesson for me. I should be like them, considering others, no matter how young and poor I think I am. I should be at least showing them that I do care and love them by giving them food, water, and clothing.

What will I do to help my community in the future? There are a lot of things I want to contribute to my community, but there are two major things I want to contribute the most. First, I want to raise money to at least buy a water tank so that people will come and get water. The second thing is to share clothing. For example, I've seen kids running around naked. Some youngsters even go to the garbage pit to look for clothes and things like bottles, food, and reusable objects. I will ask my relatives to help with some clothes that I can distribute to the community, especially those who need clothes.

These are the two major things I want to help my community with, in order to help them with their lives. Therefore, I will encourage those who have these kinds of problems in their own communities to help their neighbors in need. It doesn't matter if you are old or young, rich or poor. Your life is in your hands; helping others is one way to make the world a better place for all of us.