

MESEISET

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COM-FSM CHUUK 12th COMMENCEMENT: CLASS OF 2014 = 46 Graduates

A total of 27, among 46 graduates, participated in the 12th commencement of Chuuk Campus on Thursday, May 15, at the FSM Supreme Courthouse. Among the 46 graduates were the following, by degree or certificate status: (1) AS degree in Teacher Education = 7, (2) AA degree in Teacher Preparation = 34, (3) AS degree in Computer Information Systems = 1, (4) Certificate in Bookkeeping = 3, and (5) Certificate in Secretarial Science = 1.

Valedictorian Aprilyn Lukas of Moch extended gratitude to parents, instructors and staff for their assistance in making graduation a reality for the students at Chuuk Campus. *[For excerpts of her speech, read page 2. For a few photos of graduates, see page 10.]*

Keynote speaker Paul Otoko, representing the FSM National Department of Education on contract to the Chuuk State Department of Education, spoke on "Small Steps to a Bigger Future". He explained that formal education, as good as it may seem, lacks a fundamental step in learning — that students need to upgrade their own cultural heritage and to engage in cultural learning. Φ

STUDENT AWARD WINNERS 2014

A total of 16 students were awarded special recognition at the 12th Commencement Exercise on May 15. Master of Ceremonies Mariano Marcus announced the student winners in various categories for the school year 2013-2014:

- King of Hearts **RALLY MULUDY** and Queen of Hearts **MARBEL SIALES** — who encompassed the goals of the college, advocated good deeds at the college, and were exemplary role models for other students;
- Student Leadership: **Ermilio Aapwil, Coleen Dungawin, Shawn Mori, Arene Setik, and Lily Jean Sos** — who demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities;
- Academic Performance: **Troy Chiwi, Anster Cruz and Joyful Noket** — for achieving the highest grade-point average in the degree program; and **Benson Aitaro, Christmatina Masawa and Marlynn Osawa** — for achieving the highest grade-point average in the certificate program; and
- Outstanding Classroom Participation: **Christopher Felix, Crystal Inchin, and Filemino Kilicho** — for actively participating in classroom discussions, projects, and other requirements. Φ

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VALEDICTORY SPEECH: 12th Commencement Exercise

by Aprilyn Lukas (May 15, 2014)

“Dear parents, those who are here, and those who are unable to be physically here with us, thank you for your unconditional love and support. You need to be congratulated as much, if not more than we the graduating class....

“If not for your love and words of encouragement, we probably would not be standing here today. Countless times we have fallen to our knees, yet you were always there to lift us up and to encourage us to paddle onward. As we have navigated our way through life, we have encountered hindrances, obstacles, and difficulties that we would not have been able to overcome without your presence and voices echoing through our hearts, enabling us to be strong enough to stand back up and continue to move on. You have worked hard to shape us into good citizens with dreams, pride and dignity. Because of you, we have dreams and have accomplished this one small step toward reaching our goals and being able to fulfill those dreams. On behalf of all this year’s graduates, I am pleased to be able to convey these simple words of thanks. We are proud to have you as our parents. You have done an excellent job. There was never a time when we felt as if we were abandoned by you. We are very much attached to you, a part of you always. Your teachings will guide us physically, emotionally, and intellectually whether we are near or far apart. You have made us who we are....

“However, we know that there have been times we have been impolite and have even offended you. We regret this. On behalf of my fellow graduates, I wish to say, We are truly sorry for any pain we have caused you over the years....

“Dear parents, we cannot possibly pay you back for all you have done for us. Thank you for walking life’s path with us and for battling our wars with us. There are no words to fully explain our emotions at this moment. Mom and Dad, you are definitely excellent. Thank you for being our parents, friends, supporters, and role models....

“Faculty and staff of COM-FSM Chuuk campus, you are the best of the best. Look at us, what do you see? You see the fruits that are being harvested from the garden you have been tending over the last few years. At this moment, you see some young men and women in caps and gowns

with glowing faces. You have led us to this moment and this achievement. Thank you a million times. We have become who we are today because — despite our shortcomings — you still yearned and tried to cope with us, bringing us this far. Faculty and staff, we know we have been impolite and gave you headaches. We are very sorry. Today, let us rejoice and be happy for together we have accomplished something. As we go our separate ways, we graduates will always treasure the memories we have made together. We will always remember your willingness to help us through our struggles. Your dedication and love are engraved in the palm of our hands.

“Once again, thank you very much. We love you to the moon and beyond....

“Fellow graduates, congratulations! We have reached a new chapter in our lives. Today we navigate onward under a theme aimed to strengthen us as we sail onward: **SMALL STEPS TO A BIGGER FUTURE.**

Now, I have a question to ask of my fellow graduates and myself: Is this the end? Is this where we are going to stop?

I say, NO!!!!

I bet that everyone here says the same. Today marks another beginning for us, a new step, and another stage in our lives, more voyages to be planned and undertaken. There might be obstacles, setbacks, difficulties, fear of failure, hardships. That is life.

We need to continue to learn, to try, to keep on and on and on, never giving up if we want to succeed....

Let this day not be the conclusion of our journey in life. It is a beginning, as the word ‘commencement’ says. We have a variety of dreams and goals beckon to us. Some of us will use this small step of gaining an A.A. degree to help us climb toward a B.A., B.S., master’s, and even a Ph.D. Even if we are not able to continue our formal education in a classroom, the world is full of information, discoveries, and new thoughts, more and more every day. Our instructors have endeavored to teach us how to learn on our own, to want to continue to learn throughout our lives.

(continued on page 7)

GLOBAL WARMING WARNING: King Tides in the Marshalls

“King tides” swept over Majuro Atoll and other Marshall Islands March 3, 2014. Over 1,250 people were evacuated from their homes. Buildings, roads, and shorelines were severely damaged, especially on Majuro. People were injured, but there was no death.

The cause of king tides is global warming, according to climate change experts from the United Nations. *“The intensity and frequency of such occurrences are expected to increase this century,”* explained Tony deBrum, a special assistant to the President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

A king tide is known by another name — surge wave — and is an exceptionally high tide. *[For more information on surge waves, read pages 4-5.]*

The latest king tide in Chuuk occurred 4.5 years ago on Lekinioch Atoll. The high tide swept completely over Lekinioch, destroying homes and taro patches.

DeBrum added, *“Those who live close to the shoreline may have to consider more permanent displacement.”* In other words, he recommended that Marshallese people must begin considering some kind of migration off Majuro and/or out of the Marshall Islands.

The photographs below were taken by witnesses of the March 3rd king tides:



(1) The king tide began, escaping from the lagoon and flooding the shoreline of Majuro. It was unexpected, and people were not at all prepared for this disaster.

Photo Credit: Alson J. Kelen



(2) The initial flood waters crashed relentlessly into homes along the shoreline. There was massive destruction of houses.

Photo Credit: Sophie Yeo



(3) When there was no more king tide, the flood waters remained on land. People saw how their lands were hopelessly destroyed.

Photo Credit: UNOCHA

(continued on page 4)

KING TIDES IN THE MARSHALLS *(continued from page 3)*

(4) Some homes survived the flood waters, but the waters continued to plague the people. By looking at the two boys in the waters, we can see how deep the flood had covered the island.

Photo Source: <http://www.rtcc.org/2014/03/03/marshall-islands-capital-majuro-submerged-by-king-tides/#sthash>



(5) The king tide left a lot of debris on Majuro and also up-rooted trees along the shoreline. Clean-up took several weeks to complete.

Photo Source: Thom Woodrooffe



NEWS REVIEW: Surge Waves

Meseiset reported information on king tides, or surge waves, in an earlier issue (Vol. 1, No. 5, November 2012). The information was an article entitled “Surge Waves” and written by Chuuk Campus students Randy Kaz and Reason Andrew. The same article is reprinted in its entirety on page 5.

Randy and Reason’s article described (1) the causes of surge waves, (2) the destructiveness of these events, and (3) the future of surge waves in Micronesia. The authors presented a disturbing view of their prediction — that surge waves will increase in frequency in the future. They detailed a surge wave in the Marshall Islands in November 1979. Then, 30 years later, there was a second one — December 2009 (the one that struck Lekinioch and, at the same time, Kosrae). Now, 4.5 years after 2009, another surge wave returned to the Marshall Islands (March 2014).

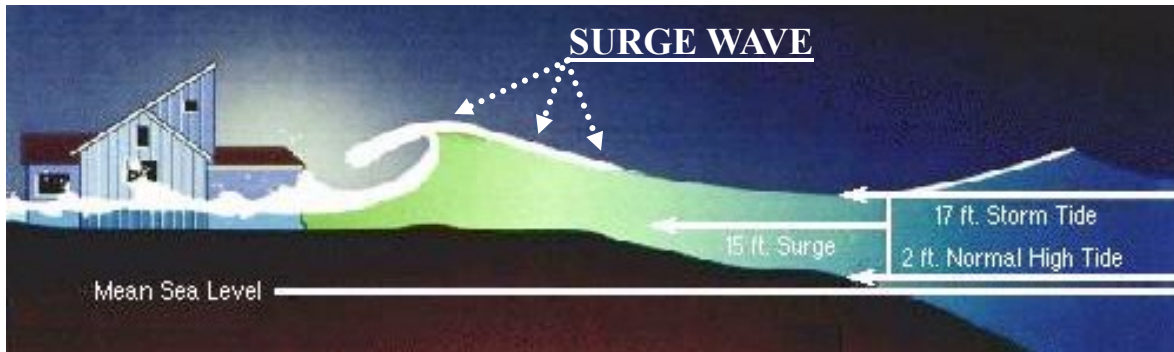
It would appear that the frequency of surge waves in Micronesia is increasing, yes, and the time period between surge waves is getting shorter. Can we become more aware of the dangers of surge waves and begin planning for them?

As Randy and Reason concluded their article, they offered foreboding advice, “Flee or die!” This kind of advice is obviously pessimistic, but it may well be the best advice to offer us. Φ

SURGE WAVES by Randy Kaz and Reason Andrew

Something bad happened on December 8, 2008, in the Lower Mortlocks and Kosrae. It was a high wave – only one wave – that hit the islands, rushed inland, and destroyed houses and taro patches. It was a surge wave, sometimes called a tidal surge, not a tsunami, not a tidal wave. Let us explain three things about surge waves. The first is the cause. The second is the destruction. The third is the future.

First, when global warming increases the temperature of the ocean water, that is the time for a surge wave. However, several events must happen at the same time. There has to be a full moon during the daytime. There has to be a strong sea breeze. It also has to be when there is a high tide. Remember – a surge wave occurs suddenly and only one time. One wave rises high and crashes onto the shoreline. Look at the diagram below.



Source: http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/HAW2/english/surge/surge_big.jpg.

In late 1979 there were three separate surge waves at Majuro in the Marshalls. They occurred on three separate days – November 27, November 28, and December 4. One surge wave rose 20 feet high and swept over 80% of the low island. Look at the pictures below of the destruction on Majuro.



Source: Spennemann, Dirk H.R. (2002). "The waves of 1979. Erosion on Majuro Atoll — A Photo Essay" (2002). Internet website <http://marshall.csu.edu.au/Marshalls/html/Environment/MajuroErosion79.html>

On December 8, 2009, a surge wave hit the Lower Mortlocks, especially Leginioch, and Kosrae. The worst-hit on Kosrae was Tafunsak Village. Look at the picture (on the right, taken from an Internet source) of the destruction on Kosrae.

According to Internet sources, surge waves will increase in the future. It means that Micronesia will also experience more surge waves in the future. The problem is that we cannot predict the exact day and time of the next surge wave. All we can do right now is to get ready for the unknown. Flee or die! ■



STUDENT WRITINGS **on GETTING OLDER**

(EN 201, Introduction to Literature)
(Instructor Deva Senarathgoda)

*Growing older feels really scary.
As we are at the age of sixty —
Up to seventy —
We are in despair,
We are scared to death.
And we have not been going to our teens,
Because that is how life is.
To everything there is an end.*

by Janeva Joseph



Growing older makes your hair white.
The old people walk around
With the stick in their hands.
Growing older makes you weak,
Lose your teeth and lots of hair.
You talk like a baby,
You eat like a baby.
Old people dress like they do not even know
How to dress up.

by J-Ritz Jack



*Growing older everywhere:
I see white hair everywhere,
Lying, hiding everywhere.
White, white, white hair everywhere.
On the head and on the face,
I see white hair everywhere.
I see wrinkles everywhere,
Spreading, covering everywhere.
Wrinkle, wrinkle, wrinkle everywhere.
On the face and everywhere else,
I see wrinkles everywhere.*

by Enseleen Sirom

Every day and night
I always think about getting older.
Growing older makes my heart get weaker.
It makes me cry,
Because I know that I will not be able
To spend more time with my family
And play with the kids
And help them prepare food.
Growing older makes me think a lot,
Wondering if I can be replaceable
With someone just like me.

by Dalinda Jack

*Sometimes I forget that life is like stairs.
Age is like a coconut growing up.
When we were babies,
We did not know anything.
When we were teens, we do everything,
Because we were growing up.
When we are older
It is like the first step of stairs.
Life is not easy every day and every night.
Every time I look at myself,
I thank the Lord for the days and nights
That he has given me
To grow up so fast and slow.*

by Rose Amando

Remembering the youth moment —
The thick, black eyebrow and hair —
For now, they are gray.
Remembering the youth moment —
The legs that stand for hours —
For now, they are no longer standing.
Remembering the youth moment —
The back that is sexy and straight —
For now, it is wrinkled and bent.
Remembering the youth moment —
The face that attracts everybody —
For now, it has wrinkles and only looks
Attractive to little ones.
Remembering the youth moment —
Fun is what I do —
For now, I am just sitting,
Growing older.

by Crystal Inchin

11x11 WORD SEARCH from SS 150 (History of Micronesia)

B	A	I	S	E	N	O	R	C	I	M
N	E	G	E	D	R	A	W	O	T	A
A	S	A	O	G	O	C	H	L	T	G
P	N	C	C	N	N	H	A	O	L	E
A	W	I	I	H	Y	K	L	N	A	L
J	E	O	M	T	C	L	E	Y	R	L
M	A	L	L	A	O	O	R	D	P	A
R	A	C	D	L	L	C	M	U	O	N
O	T	R	A	D	E	S	R	B	C	M
T	U	E	S	D	A	Y	R	A	E	W
S	H	E	K	O	S	P	A	I	N	R

Find 28 words in the puzzle above, five letters or more each, and circle all of them, as follows:

AGONY	ANIMALS	ATOLL	BEACHCOMBER	COLONY
COPRA	CURLY	DECRY	DUBAI	HAOLE
JACADS	JAPAN	MAGELLAN	MICRONESIA	MODEKNGEI
NACRE	NARCOTICS	PADDLE	SOKEHS	SPAIN
STORM	SYRUP	TOWARD	TRADES	TUESDAY
WEARY		WHALER		YELLOW

VALEDICTORY SPEECH, by Aprilyn Lukas (continued from page 2)

This is life-long learning; one is never too old to learn. Learning and being willing to continually learn is what separates the successful from the average person....

“Fellow graduates, I understand that we may have some negative feelings about what the future holds...but we have experienced these before and have overcome them. If we have done it, we can

continue to do it and we can always do better. Believe me, our success lies in our own hands. If you want to be successful, believe in yourself and what you can do.

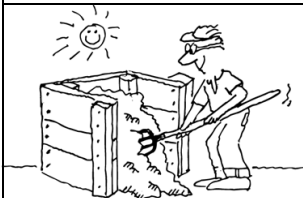
“If you want to be somebody, be relentless in your strivings, learn to fight the battles you will face.

“Be strong; be brave; and succeed....” Φ

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT: Part 3

by CRE's Lolita Ragus and Werfina Sonis

[EDITOR'S NOTE: In Parts 1 and 2, Lolita and Werfina discussed the 3Rs: recycle, reuse, and reduce. The focus was on (1) composting organic waste and (2) recycling and reusing certain waste materials, such as plastics, paper, glass, and metal waste (aluminum and steel).



Reduce



Recycle

Reuse



Step 5. If all communities on Weno adopt “waste segregation”, the dumpsites will be significantly reduced. You will be part of this great movement to improve the environment and clean up our neighborhoods.



Remember — waste dumpsites are the homes of rats, flies, and other vermin. They spread diseases, such as cholera and typhoid.

Step 6.
Be part of the solution,
not of the problem.



STUDENT WRITINGS

on NIGHT TIME

(EN 201, Introduction to Literature)
(Instructor Deva Senarathgoda)

Night time, lonely time,
I try to sleep but my eyes just can't cooperate.
Oooh, how beautiful the night is.
Can you see the elements around you?
Can you see them?
Can you feel them?
I lie down on my bed,
I look up into the sky.
I see the moon and it's bright.
Can you see them?
Can you hear them?
Can you feel them?
As I lie down on the ground
Next to my soul mate,
I long for the angel to come
And cover me with both wings.

by Stella Kesemochen

*Sleepy night time —
A time to relax and think.
No responsibility, no distraction.
The moon looks down and watches over me.
After a day of struggle, night is always best,
Relaxing when bugs sing at night.*

by John Berdon

I'm here, all alone, thinking about myself.
I try to think who I really am.
I don't belong to myself,
I try to forget who I really am.
I am myself, and
Myself is...I am.
All day, all night, I think about being a person.
Then, I remember
When I listen to the gospel of God,
I am a real person.
I am an image of God.

by Rose Amando

*At night time she can't go to sleep.
Dreaming of you makes her scream at night.
When she screams
She visualizes you standing, looking down
On her beautiful face.*

by Dalinda Jack

The moon beam of light
Stretches out to the stars.
The horizon's end of starlight
Keeps moving far.
Loneliness is the night
For the stars and the moon.

by Coleen Dungawin

*Night time is time to be free and rest.
Many boys and girls enjoy the night time:
It's time to hang out with friends
And time to hang out on a date,
Time to rest your mind and body
And time to think a lot of something:
And night time is a time to be free and rest.*

by AnnaMaria Refalopei

It is bed time, kids.
Come, it's getting dark.
Now it's night time, stop playing.
The shadows on the wall are very strange:
It comes closer to the kids.
Hmmm, hmmm, hmmm:
Hahaha, hahaha, hahaha!
The kids fall into their beds —
And fall asleep.

by J-Ritz Jack

*The night is quiet and dark.
Hotness is gone, coldness has begun.
Night people are at the park,
Counting stars, feeling the breeze,
Covering their feet before they freeze.
Children are getting sleepy,
While listening to a bedtime story,
For the night has begun.*

by Crystal Inchin



G R A D U A T I O N



CLASS OF 2014 Spring Semester



Photo Credits: Edson Asito

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