

# MESEISET

Volume 3, Number 2

January 13, 2014



## TODAY BEGINS SPRING SEMESTER

That is right. Today is the first day of instruction for our Spring Semester 2014. So, are we ready for a great new semester?

Students are making their New Year’s resolutions — to be successful. How will they succeed? This is a simple question. COM-FSM President Joseph Daisy has the simple answer, “*Study, work hard, be prepared, and finish your degrees.*” If you do not believe it, just ask any recent Chuuk Campus graduate.

The faculty/staff are making their own resolutions — to help students study, to help students work hard, to help students be prepared, and to help students finish their degrees. If you do not believe it, just ask Alton Higashi, Danie Mamangon, and Ben Bambo.

Three administrators are jointly making the same resolution — to retain students at Chuuk Campus. The three are Campus Dean Kind Kanto, Instructional Coordinator (IC) Mariano Marcus, and Acting Student Services Coordinator (SSC) Memorina Yesiki. If you do not believe it, just ask them to explain the word RETENTION.

In truth, all of us share another resolution — to join together as one — one Chuuk Campus Community (CCC). Let us commit ourselves — each and every one of us — to make CCC a great place to study and work. Enjoy, everyone! ϕ

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### **MESEISET DISCLAIMER POLICY**

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# MY PERSONAL PHILOSOPHY

(an assignment in EN 208)

by Nenson Cholymay

Name of Philosophy = **HAPPINESS**

There are two kinds of happiness – one is social, and the other is personal. The source of the first happiness is the social group to which a person belongs. The source of the second happiness is the mind and heart of that person.

## Metaphysics

- Anthropology
- Theology

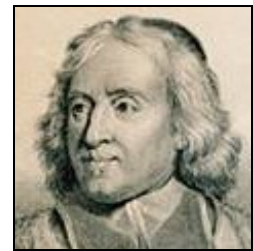
Man seeks happiness. Since he lives in a society, he receives happiness from the other members of that society. Also, since he is an individual, he receives happiness from himself.

## Epistemology

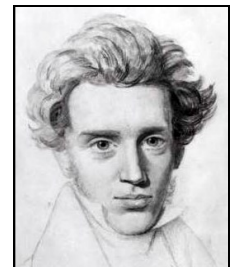
- Empiricism
- Logic and Reasoning
- Intuition
- Undisputed Authority

Two philosophers help me in developing my personal philosophy. The first is the English philosopher Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679), and the second is the Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard (1813-1855).

According to Hobbes, a person must bring the greatest amount of happiness to the greatest number of people. So, if he succeeds, society will thank him. He will experience much happiness from that society. According to Kierkegaard, a person takes “the leap of faith” in reaching his own individual goals and therefore achieving his own sense of satisfaction. That satisfaction is self-produced happiness. In effect, the social happiness is very anthropological based on the logic and reasoning found in society. The personal happiness is very theological based on intuition found in the person himself.



*Hobbes*



*Kierkegaard*

## Axiology

- Ethics
- Aesthetics

So, for a person to be happy, he experiences the trust of people and, at the same time, experiences the feeling of self-responsibility. There are, of course, many ways for people to extend gratitude and trust to you. You must do good and rightful things for them, and they will give you gratitude and trust. There are, too, many ways for you to accept responsibility in doing good and rightful things for yourself. When you fulfill your responsibilities, you will feel happy deep inside of yourself. Both kinds of happiness are necessary for any person to live on earth.

*(continued on page 3)*

**WORD SEARCH: 10x10 ACROSTIC**

by Derick Daunny, Rinda Kaz, and Terphina Sadlin

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

There are 21 words in this 10x10 acrostic. Find and circle all of them, as listed below:

- ADULT
- AMERICANS
- APPLY
- CHUUK
- COPRA
- HEAVY
- HISTORY
- JAPAN
- MISSION
- NATION
- NATIVE
- PALAU
- PEOPLE
- RADIO
- RAILWAY
- SAIPAN
- SECURITY
- SHOOT
- SPAIN
- SUMATRA
- TAUGHT

**MY PERSONAL PHILOSOPHY** — (continued from page 2)

Value Systems

- (1) social vs. personal
- (2) society and individual

In Chuuk, social happiness is more important than personal happiness. In other words, society and culture often force people to sacrifice their own personal happiness for the happiness of a family, clan, or community. In effect, it is hard for a person to find personal happiness in Chuuk. He must often do things secretly in order to achieve personal happiness.

In other societies and cultures, personal happiness is more important than social happiness. For instance, Americans seek personal happiness – trying to achieve their own individual goals in life. That may be one reason why many Chuukese migrate to America. These Chuukese migrants are not only looking for better education, better health, and better jobs. They are also looking for personal freedom to be happy, without the Chuukese society and culture telling them what to do to be socially happy. If we want to help our own Chuukese people in our own Chuukese society and culture, then we must find a balance between social happiness and personal happiness. This balance may be hard to find, but it is important that all of us try to find the balance. φ

## WHAT THE MAYA CAN TEACH US

SS 170 (World History)

by Phinaendyrose Amando and Marivic Preciado

The ancient Maya people had an amazing culture, and they can teach us today. The problem is that the culture and the people are gone. So, we can learn only by studying their lost culture.

The Maya people began their culture about 4,000 years ago in Mexico. It lasted until about 500 years ago. When their civilization had ended, they left an advanced legacy, as seen in the ancient Maya cities. Their greatest legacy was the round stone calendar, as shown below.



In 1948 a Mexican archeologist Alberto Ruz found the stone calendar hidden in a Maya temple. He and other researchers discovered that the calendar had exactly 365 days a year in a cycle of 5,126 years (beginning in August 3114 B.C. and ending in December 2012 last year). Then, beginning on December 21, 2012, the calendar repeats another cycle of 5,126 more years. So, you need only one calendar for at least 10,252 years.

It is fascinating to learn that ancient Maya astronomers had figured out the perfect number of days in a year for 5,126 years — better and more accurate than any calendar made by modern Europeans. Today, our modern calendar makes a mistake of one day every 4 years!

*(continued on page 5)*

## ANASAZI HOUSING PROJECT

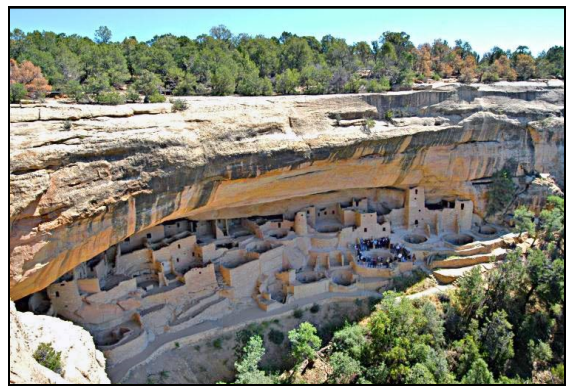
SS 170 (World History)

by Scholastica Patis

The ancient Anasazi people of North America had a fantastic legacy. It was the way in which they built their homes.

Before the time of Jesus Christ, the Anasazi people lived in an area of Southwest United States. Today, this area includes parts of Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico.

They lived in cliff dwellings. Look at this picture. Their houses were built into the cliffs. When I first looked at this picture, I



said to myself, “Wow, that’s amazing. I wish I could live in a wonderful cliff dwelling like

*(continued on page 5)*

## SCRAMBLED WORDS

Below are 9 scrambled words. All of these words are found in this issue of Mesei-set. Some are easy, some are hard.

If you get 8-9 correct, you must be a super-genius! Try your luck!

- (1) A A M Y =
- (2) A E G I L N N R =
- (3) D E N S T T U =
- (4) C E M O O T U =
- (5) C E G I L N N O S U =
- (6) A A A I N S Z =
- (7) H H I L O O P P S Y =
- (8) A A E H M N R S S T =
- (9) A A C C D E I I N O R T T =

[Answers are found on page 5]



**WHAT THE MAYA CAN TEACH US**

*(continued from page 4)*

The Maya lived thousands of years ago, and yet they were smart — talented, skillful, creative, and inventive. Why were they so smart?

The two of us tried to do more research to find data on the ancient Maya educational system — to understand how the people learned science, such as astronomy. We found nothing on the Maya educational system. However, we did learn something else — that the Maya people had their own unique writing system, a remarkable agriculture system, a new number system with base 20, and massive architecture.

In an Internet essay, anthropologist David Freidel explained that the Maya combined political leadership, social and economic development, and the study of the natural environment in order to build such a great civilization.

Okay, we thought, the ancient Maya people had an organized civilization for the good of all. So, that is how the ancient Maya people became smart. Makes sense, right?

Nowadays, we the Chuukese are not as smart as the ancient Maya. We have extremely limited talent, skill, creativity, and inventiveness. Why? Because we do not know how to organize our social, economic, and political development as a common good for all.

In the case of the Maya, the calendar might have been a symbol of learning/sharing. In the case of Chuuk, navigation might have been a symbol of learning but not much sharing. Only a few Chuukese learned navigation.

We conclude that the Maya legacy of the stone calendar represents how successfully they organized themselves for the common good. Now that traditional navigation in Chuuk seems to be dying, we conclude that the Chuukese have failed to organize, or integrate, themselves socially, economically, and politically. Maybe there is still hope for Chuuk’s future if we study the past better. φ

**ANSWERS TO SCRAMBLED WORDS**

(page 4)

ANSWERS: (1) MAYA, (2) LEARNING, (3) STUDENT, (4) OUTCOME, (5) COUNSELING, (6) ANASAZI, (7) PHILOSOPHY, (8) HARASSMENT, (9) ACCREDITATION

**ANASAZI HOUSING PROJECT**

*(continued from page 4)*

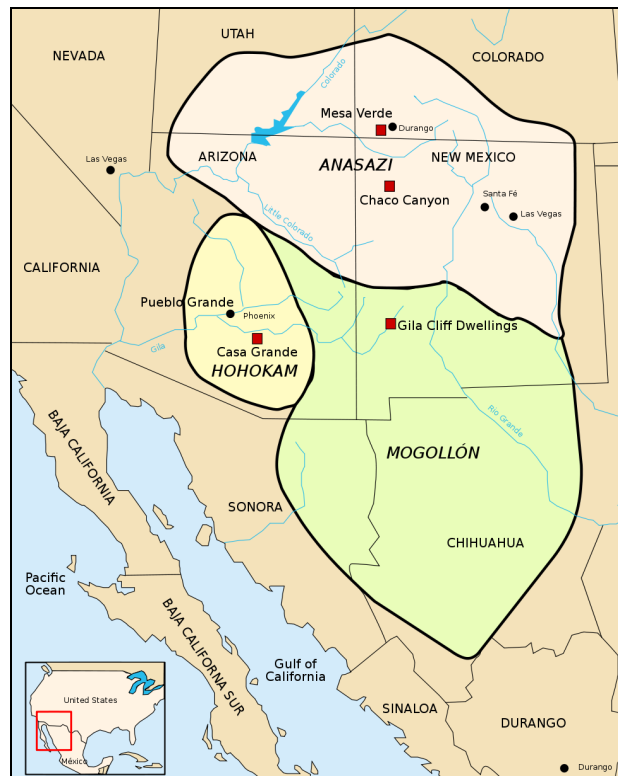
*for the rest of my life!”*

Think about one thing — the Anasazi cliff dwellers had a fantastic security system. No one could attack them so easily. Then, think about the security systems for our homes in Chuuk. We have to hire security guards to protect residences,



stores, and offices from thieves who break in and steal. We have to figure out solutions to our problem of illegal entry into buildings.

Sorry for ending my essay without offering good solutions for the bad things happening in Chuuk. I just want to share something about the “Anasazi housing project”. φ



## **BREADFRUIT vs. RICE, FRESH FISH vs. TURKEY TAIL**

by

Atson Atnis, Jayann Chipulo, Flynn Fredy, Jenolyn Hartman,  
Dalinda Jack, Robert Meika, Scholastica Patis, and Marivic Rheenah Preciado

Editor's Note: In early December last year eight students were discussing an issue about local food vs. imported food and sharing their opinions. The issue (plus question) was as follows:

*A growing number of Chuukese people pound breadfruit, not to eat, but to sell it. They earn money from this sale, go to stores, and buy rice. Other Chuukese catch fresh fish, not to eat, but to sell it. They earn money from this sale, go to stores, and buy turkey tail. Why? Why not just eat the breadfruit and fresh fish?*

**ATSON:** We are losing our culture. We eat tons of imported food from the outside world. We are getting used to this because we have adapted to this change.

**JAYANN:** So, yes, we are westernized. Even our children prefer to eat rice and turkey tail, rather than pounded breadfruit and fresh fish. The problem is that parents keep on feeding their children imported things, not local food.

**FLYNN:** Sure, parents are teaching the next generation to change. But there's another reason: they want to show off.

**MARIVIC:** I agree — to some of us Chuukese, especially poor ones, they watch the rich buy lots of imported food in stores. The poor do not have much money, so we work hard to pound breadfruit and catch fish, earn money, then buy store items to pretend that we are rich too.

**SCHOLASTICA:** Showing off has become an important activity in Chuuk. To some of us, turkey tail and rice look better than fresh fish and pounded breadfruit. We can make believe that we are just like rich people.

**MARIVIC:** Poor people are jealous that the rich can have whatever they want, and so they prepare local food for sale just to show off that they can also buy imported food.

**FLYNN:** But both rich and poor buy imported food which isn't good for their health. Breadfruit is better than rice, and fresh fish is better than turkey tail.

**ATSON:** Something is wrong here. For instance, take Americans in Chuuk. They don't eat turkey tail which comes from the outside world, and yet the Americans, most foreigners here, don't eat turkey tail. They know better.

**FLYNN:** That's true. Foreigners know that turkey tail is bad for our health, and so they don't want to eat turkey tail.

**ROBERT:** Too many of us say that imported food tastes better than local food.

**JAYANN:** Young children definitely belong in this group of Chuukese — they like the taste of imported food.

**JENOLYN:** We are the new generation, and we have also changed the way we taste food.

**DALINDA:** Sure, I like the taste of turkey tail — and pizza. It's not that I hate the taste of fresh fish, but I just want to enjoy different and more kinds of tasty food.

**JENOLYN:** Taste is like any other change in Chuuk. If we can prefer imported food, clothing, or anything else imported, we can develop a preference for imported taste too.

**ROBERT:** One more thing — some of us, like me, claim that we feel full when we eat imported food. In effect, we slow down eating our own local food.

**ATSON:** What's happening to us? We get used to turkey tail and rice, we rely more on these imported items, we learn new tastes. We all want to be rich, or at least to show off and pretend to act like rich people, making people pound breadfruit to sell it and buy rice. The same for catching fresh fish to sell it and buy turkey tail. We are really changing from good health to bad.

**JAYANN:** In the future, we will discover a lot of suffering. Adapting to outside cultures may have started this change, but we like the change now. I suggest that we the Chuukese find ways to remain proud of our own culture, our own local food such as pounded breadfruit and fresh fish.

**JENOLYN:** Modernization of our culture does not always bring positive change.

**DALINDA:** We need to learn how not to eat money. That's our job — for ourselves and the next generation.

**SCHOLASTICA:** Can we re-start now? φ

## POEMS TO FEEL A TREE

by Chuuk Campus students (Instructor Deva Senarathgoda)

### **TROPICAL GREEN**

by Lewis Billimon

You look around and green is all you see  
From top to bottom and side to side.  
Everything comes and goes but still you be.  
The wind breezes and some may take flight.  
You are always around to keep me cool  
And right at home.  
I can always count on you  
For you never leave me alone.

### **SUNSHINE GREEN**

by Nisten Yasu

Young flower of an old,  
Shiny color, and beautiful  
Smells so good, feels so soft,  
Attractive-looking on a sunny day,  
Soft-touching every time.  
Rainy day falls down, and die.

### **TO A TREE**

by inthefansus risin

You spread your hands out, shading me from the sun.  
Your beauty catches my sight, filling my desire.  
The way you sway with the wind makes a joyous sight.  
When you have grown you fall,  
But still will you always bring a smile,  
For you have taught me that —  
No matter where the wind tosses you,  
You shall always get back up and sway some more.

### **BEFALLEN:**

#### **No Turning Back of Time**

by Bekaleen Aikichy

Sheets are falling from the trees —  
Life is like the sheets.  
There are times I fall like the sheets  
Where there is no way to escape.  
Life cannot turn back time,  
And life is like the sheets.

### **DRIED TREE LEAF**

by D.M. Sorim

Dried leaf falling down from the tree,  
The tree where it is supposed to be.  
Dried leaf accomplishing its purpose  
Now lies on the ground  
and crunches under my feet.  
Dried leaf falling like a bee —  
The breezy air makes it easy to flee.

**POEMS TO CELEBRATE THE SEA**

by Chuuk Campus students (Instructor Deva Senarathgoda)

**BEAUTY OF THE SAND**

by Robert Meika

The beauty of the sand fills the shore —  
The sand is white as plain paper.  
The sand swims into the sea.  
The sand roars as the wave hits.  
The sand is soft and easy to wash away,  
And the sand is the stars to count.

**PROTECTIVE ARMS**

by Linnia Ruben

Like a bird  
That protects his little ones —  
The ocean spreads his wings  
With faithful arms that protect  
The beauty that lives in it,  
That stays a thousand years.

**SEASHELL**

by Fillimon Heldart

I feel that you do not talk to it  
Because it is an animal.  
I like the seashell, beautiful animal.  
If you throw it back into the sea,  
It will never come back.  
Seashell my animal is very important.  
I use it as decoration —  
Seashell different among all animals in the ocean.

**SEASHELLS**

by Ruthrose Remit

Seashells beautiful and white  
On a bright shiny day —  
Seashells look beautiful and neat  
Every day.  
Regardless of the weather,  
Seashells make me smile  
When they are scattered on the land.

**BIRDS AND THE SMOOTH SEA**

by Jordan Chol

Standing on the seawall,  
I look out at the sea.  
I feel very cold —  
The wind blowing onto me.  
The sea is very smooth,  
Clean as glass.  
The horizon straight as a string.  
Other people stand with me  
And watch the birds  
Flying and playing  
As they eat  
And enjoy the sea  
Too.

**PEARL**

by Teinin Sam

Every day I look bright — like a bright light  
And I shine like sunshine.  
People smile when I shine for them  
And they look bright when I give them bright.

**OCEAN JEWEL**

by Andrea Nimwes

This seashell is as white as pure love.  
It is my favorite —  
His eyes are like a seashell,  
His skin as smooth as the seashell.  
Seashell is a way of happiness —  
Happiness is what I feel  
When I found my seashell.