

MESEISET

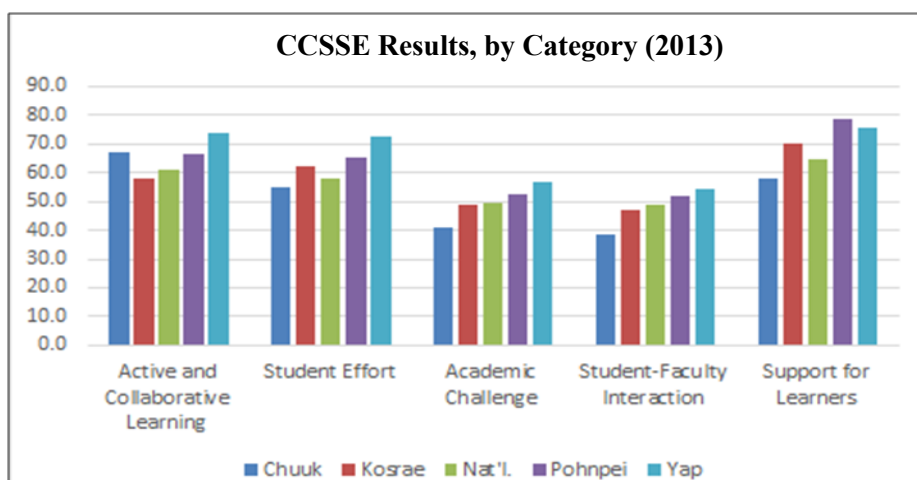
Volume 5, Number 4

October 4, 2017

CCSSE Student Assessment Survey

Okay, students, get ready! This semester you will have the chance to tell us how you perceive the good and the bad on campus. You will take a survey called “CCSSE Student Assessment Survey” in late November or early December.

CCSSE stands for “**Community College Survey of Student Engagement**”. It lets students tell us what we are doing in five broad areas: (1) **active and collaborative learning**, (2) **student effort**, (3) **academic challenge**, (4) **student-faculty interaction**, and (5) **support for learners**. Taken together, these five areas contribute to student success. In future issues of Meseiset, we will examine each area in greater detail.



For now, look at the bar graph (left). It explains how well each COM-FSM campus in 2013 helped (or did not help) students succeed in the five areas (or categories). **Chuuk Campus was the worst** — in 4 of the 5 areas. We did not do well. Take “student-faculty interaction” — fewer than 40% of our students perceived positive results for themselves. It means that more than 60% did not. Now, in 2017, we need to do better.

In two categories, Chuuk Campus was terrible — academic challenge and student-faculty interaction. Dean Kind Kanto had a sober reaction to the graph, “*We aren’t doing enough for students. We have to shape up — all administrators, staff, and faculty. Let’s not victimize the students by what we fail to do.*”

There are ways to raise the percentages in the five categories. For instance, this Fall 2017, we will sponsor activities such as the Academic Talent Showdown, Fishing Derby, and the monthly Campus Clean-Up and Beautification to strengthen student-faculty interaction. However, if staff and faculty lack participation, if they demonstrate a “don’t care” attitude, then CCSSE may well reveal that we are not competent and committed employees.⓪

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Chuuk Campus News

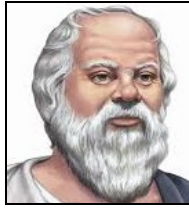
THE FIVE CORE VALUES OF COM-FSM

We the administrators, staff, faculty, and students of Chuuk Campus value the higher-education community in which we work and serve. We embody **five core values** and must demonstrate them through the following **35 best practices**:

Excellence <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete all duties and assignments.• Hold yourself accountable to high performance standards• Aim to meet or exceed standards of best practices.• Set goals and endeavor to exceed them.• Be positive and encouraging.	Learner-Centeredness <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dedicate time for learning.• Use every assignment as a learning opportunity.• Explore your curiosity.• Continuously assess your knowledge, skills, and abilities.• Collaboratively share information and skills.• Be transformative, think outside the box.• Learn from failures to continuously improve.	Commitment <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be dependable by being present and on time.• Dedicate your time, energy, and enthusiasm.• Contribute your best and inspire others to do the same.• Give back when you can.• Connect, participate, and be involved.• Work to make a difference.• Anticipate what is needed and do that work without being asked.
Professionalism <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be honest and transparent.• Accept responsibility for your actions.• Maintain confidentiality.• Do no harm, be ethical.• Develop logical plans and foresee consequences.• Act in the best interest of the college and the communities you serve.	Teamwork <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Respect yourself and others.• Engage and contribute wholly to all team activities.• Offer your assistance and guidance when necessary.• Actively listen.• Pursue an understanding of diverse points of view and ideas.• Respond respectfully when others disagree with your views.• Recognize the needs of others.• Actively build working and learning relationships.• Appreciate your colleagues.• Share and use resources responsibly.	

STUDENT ESSAYS ON ANCIENT GREEK PHILOSOPHERS

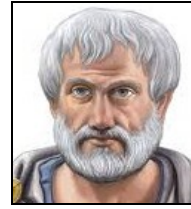
[NOTE: In EN 208 (Philosophy) students wrote essays on the following question: “Among the three ancient Greek philosophers — Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle — which one is your favorite. Why?” Here are the unedited and unabridged essays by three students.]



Socrates (469-399 BC)



Plato (428-347 BC)



Aristotle (384-322 BC)

(1) PLATO by Christine Grace Robert

Among the three Greek philosophers — Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle — I choose Plato as my favorite. Plato was a smart young man who was influenced by Socrates’ teachings. He became interested in Socrates’ teaching that he decided to devote himself to philosophy. I choose him because I come to like his ideas or teachings on moral virtues, myth of the cave, and nature of justice.

First, Plato’s idea or teaching about moral virtues. Plato mentioned about government leaders given advice to have moral virtues so that they can give “true happiness” to each citizen. Meaning that leaders have to have a clean mind, heart, and soul in the action/work they do to bring peace and happiness to their people. For example, if the government leaders are innocent and honest in every work they carry out, then the people will find peace and fairness. Another example can also be the COM instructors and the students. The instructors should be truthful to their work so that the student can gain knowledge and be successful.

Second, Plato shared his symbolic idea on the Myth of the Cave. The Myth of the Cave is concerning human perception; he used two words enlightenment vs. ignorance. Plato is trying show the difference between the truth that people actually see and the truth that they heard about or imagined. For example, a prisoner in a cave who has never seen or been outside of the cave and only see the darkness, he is ignorant of the outside world. Another example, COM-FSM students are shy and do not want to seek knowledge, they decided to remain stupid and live in the dark. This is also called ignorance of knowledge.

Third, Plato’s ideas or teaching about the Nature of Justice. Plato explained that justice is equity or fairness. The leaders along with the state and people have to be fair to each other in order to have a just state and equality among people and leaders. For example, the government and the leaders do not have to separate their people because of wealth, but instead to give the people equal rights to find justice. Additional example is how Chuukese degree student try and apply for a job. Managers or owners or the departments play favoritism among people and decided to hire their relatives instead of those who deserve the job. They are not being fair to each other and cannot find justice with themselves and their job.

To conclude all these that have been said, the reason why I choose Plato is because his ideas or teaching. His ideas and teachings are interesting such as his ideas/teachings on moral virtue, myth of the cave, and nature of justice. Moral virtue is dealing with a clean or pure mind, heart, and soul in order to bring true happiness to the people. Myth of the Cave is about choosing among enlightenment, seeing the truth about the world, or ignorance, hearing or imagining the truth about the world. Nature of justice is fairness among state, leaders, and people. Plato shared some goods quotes and the one I like among his quotes and I quote, “wonder is the feeling of a philosopher, and philosophy begins in wonder”.☺

We can easily forgive a
child who is afraid of the dark;
the real tragedy of life is
when men are afraid
of the light.

-Plato

(continued on page 4)

STUDENT ESSAYS ON GREEK PHILOSOPHERS — (continued from page 3)

(2) PLATO by Angela Mori

“Those who are able to see beyond the shadows and lies of their culture will never be understood, let alone believed by masses” is a quote from Plato, an ancient Greek philosopher, whose philosophy I like more than the other two ancient Greek philosophers, Socrates and Aristotle. I like Plato’s philosophy because he allowed women to attend his school, the Academy, and because through his philosophy I also learned about Socrates and his philosophy, also because his Myth of the Cave gave me an understanding of how Chuukese live life in this day.

Accepting women to attend his school, Plato has set a good example for every man to follow, which is accepting woman as an equal. Throughout history women were not acknowledge, which meant they can’t vote, run for offices and state their mind. All there is for the women to do was do chores and shoot out babies. Women can do better than men. Physically, they can do as much as the men can. Well, babies weren’t created like how God created Adam and Eve,

Those who are able to see
beyond the shadows and lies
of their culture will never
be understood, let alone
believed by the masses.

-Plato-

Plato

If women are expected to do
the same work as men, we must
teach them the same things.

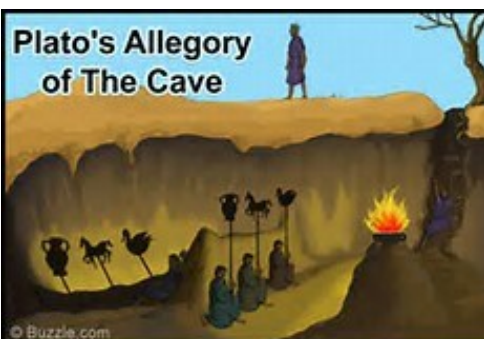
right? The mothers have to endure the pain of carrying the baby in the womb for nine months or less and giving birth. Mentally, women were better than men, as the brain-based research findings recently stated, “women were born smarter than men”. We, the women of Chuuk were disciplined to follow our “culture” and we are to be punished if we don’t. We tend to walk in darkness because of this so-

called culture of Chuuk, and if we retaliate our parents were there to discipline us by punishment.

From what I have learned Plato is very fond of his teacher, Socrates. Most of his works were about Socrates. Socrates never wrote down any of his ideas, it was through the Dialogs from Plato that Socrates’ ideas were made known. Yes, Plato and the other wealthy men under Socrates’ wing treated him well, not everyone in the Athenian society liked him. Some of his teachings lead him to his death. No one would be willing to do what Plato did, dedicating his works to his late teacher.

The Myth of the Cave by Plato is a story of men living in a cave. The only thing that these men could see was the shadows on the wall. One of the men broke free from the chains and followed the light. He tried telling the others to join him to see the real world but they wouldn’t so he stayed back with them. The light the man saw when he was freed is true knowledge and the darkness of the cave is stupidity. As for Chuukese, they are still in that cave, which means they are still stupid; they can’t understand anything even if they know there is no use, because some people have tried leading them to the light but they still want to live in that darkness. For example, my philosophy instructor, he has seen the light and he is still trying to lead his students there, but being the Chuukese they are, they wouldn’t listen to him. They, like other Chuukese still want to live in that darkness.

I hope students study about these philosophers, and truly know the meaning of their philosophies. Even though I only picked one philosopher, it doesn’t mean that I don’t like the others, I do, because all the philosophers have great ideas to share, but Plato seeing woman as a man’s equal, dedicating his works to his teacher and his meaning behind the story Myth of the Cave is what made me choose him over the others.☺



[EDITOR'S NOTE: The two essays by Christine Robert and Angela Mori refer to Plato's Myth of the Cave (also known as the Allegory of the Cave). To read the cartoon version of the allegory, go to page 5.]

ALLEGORY OF THE CAVE

FROM PLATO'S *REPUBLIC*, BOOK VII

"BEHOLD:

HUMAN BEINGS IN
AN UNDERGROUND
DEN.

HERE THEY
HAVE BEEN
FROM
CHILDHOOD.

THEY CANNOT MOVE,
AND CAN ONLY SEE
BEFORE THEM,
BEING PREVENTED BY THE
CHAINS FROM TURNING ROUND
THEIR HEADS.

AND YOU WILL SEE,
IF YOU LOOK,
THE WALL ON WHICH
THEY SHOW THE PUPPETS.

DO YOU SEE THE FIGURES
WHICH APPEAR
ALONG THE WALL?

HOW COULD THEY SEE
ANYTHING BUT THE SHADOWS
IF THEY WERE NEVER ALLOWED
TO TURN THEIR HEADS?

TO THEM,
THE TRUTH WOULD BE NOTHING
BUT THE SHADOWS.

NOW, LET US SEE WHAT WOULD NATURALLY HAPPEN IF
ONE OF THE PRISONERS WERE RELEASED.

WILL HE NOT BE PERPLEXED?

HE WILL
SUFFER GREAT
PAINS.

AND IF HE WERE TO BE DRAGGED
UP AND OUT OF THE CAVE,
HE WILL BE PAINED
AND IRRITATED.

HIS EYES WILL
BE DAZZLED.

HE WILL HAVE TO
ADJUST HIS SIGHT
ON THE SURFACE.

BUT SOON,

HE WILL SEE THE STARS,
AND THE MOON,
AND THE GLORIOUS
SPANGLED HEAVENS.

AND WHEN
HE REMEMBERS
HIS OLD HABITATION,
WOULD HE NOT
PITY THEM?

IF REPLACED
IN HIS OLD SITUATION,
WOULD NOT HIS EYES
BE FULL OF DARK?

MEN WOULD SAY
THAT UP HE WENT
AND DOWN HE CAME
WITHOUT HIS EYES.

THEY WOULD THINK HIM
RIDICULOUS.

NO,
IT WAS BETTER TO
NOT THINK OF ASCENDING.

LET HIM BE PUT
TO DEATH."

AND IF ANY WERE TO TRY
AND LOOSE ANOTHER,

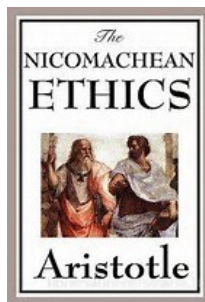
STUDENT ESSAYS ON GREEK PHILOSOPHERS — (continued from page 4)

(3) ARISTOTLE by Alton Ruben

Among the three Greek philosophers, I choose to write about the third guy name Aristotle. I say he is the third guy because he came after Socrates and Plato, so to me he is the third Greek philosopher. I chose to write about him because, first I like his philosophy of his book Nicomachean Ethics. Second his biography and the third reason is his quote “*Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all*”. These are the reasons why I admire him. There are also some good things about him but let us just talk about these three.

Okay, now let’s start with his Nicomachean Ethics. As I read through the handouts and came upon his Nicomachean Ethics I know right there he is a very good father, not only to his son but to everybody else. The lessons in his book for his son are all about doing good things and being good. We are not only supposed to know the good but we also have to act the good. A good father is not afraid to show what he does and want his children to be. So, giving the son good lessons and showing it to everybody is the meaning of a good father.

Continuing down, let’s support Aristotle biography. Aristotle was a talented student of Plato, and Plato was a student of Socrates. As we look at the lineup of the philosophers we know right there that the third student will collect all ideas and knowledge from the first two. I would say that Aristotle is combining three brains in one head. Let’s try and say it this way to be understandable, a father teaches his son some things, also giving him ideas to use, then the son, has a son and the knowledge and ideas he collect from his father with some new ones would be passed

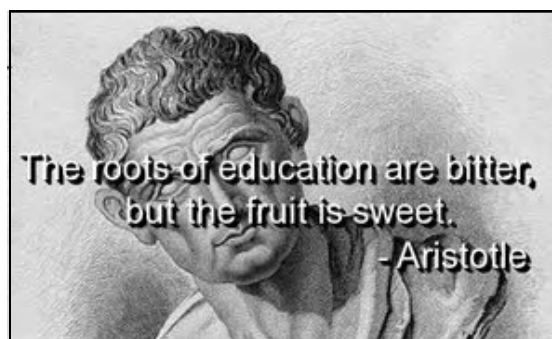
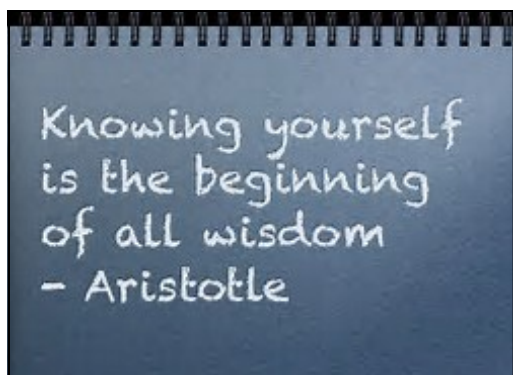


down to his son, meaning the grandson would add his own ideas and knowledge to the ones he learned from his father and grandfather.

Lastly, I’d like to talk now about his quote. His quote says “*educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all*”. I admire Aristotle’s quote it really touched me inside. I say it’s true

because it will be a waste of time if only the mind is educated but not the heart. Most teachers here in Chuuk are like this, they only educate the minds of their students forgetting to educate their hearts. For example, a teacher will just tell you to remember his/her lessons without telling you how to cherish the lesson and use it wisely. I’m saying a teacher should also tell students to care for the lessons taught.

I would like to conclude this by saying that Aristotle is a really wise man. He’s a good father that cares for everybody also wanting people to be good. He also has a mind of three wise men. Reading and writing about this philosopher makes me feel numb because of his philosophy, it’s making me strive to what I have been aiming for. He is giving me courage to work harder than today because of his word “*the roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet*”. People have to work hard and never give up is what Aristotle is saying to us. ☺



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