



COM-FSM SHARKS

The Official Newsletter of the College of Micronesia-FSM



Uniquely
Micronesian

Volume 4, Issue 2

Free Copy

February 2011

Reminders

CHUUK

SPRING 2011

- March 2: Deficiency Notices Due from Instructors
- March 16: Last Day to Withdraw With "W"
- March 28-30: Course selection for Continuing Students
- March 31: Holiday - Cultural Day

KOSRAE

SPRING 2011

- March 2: Deficiency Notices Due from Instructors
- March 16: Last Day to Withdraw With "W"
- March 28-30: Course selection for Continuing Students

POHNPEI and NATIONAL

SPRING 2011

- March 1: Cabinet Meeting
- March 16: Last Day to Withdraw With "W"
- March 28-30: Course selection for Continuing Students
- March 31: Holiday - Cultural Day

YAP

SPRING 2011

- March 1-2: Yap Holiday - Yap Day
- March 3 Deficiency Notices Due from Instructors
- March 16: Last Day to Withdraw With "W"
- March 28-30: Course selection for Continuing Students

FSM-FMI

SPRING 2011

- March 1-2: Mid-term Evaluations
- March 1-2: Holiday - Yap Day
- March 4: Monthly Report Due
- March 7: Mid-term Deficiency Notices Due from Instructors
- March 27-Apr 9: Recruitment Trips

FSM AHEC to Receive Year Two Operations Funding

The college has entered into another agreement with the University of Guam for year two funding for the Area Health Education Center (AHEC) program from September 1, 2010, to August 31, 2011. The college will receive \$359,866 to fund the operations of the program. Compared to the year one funding, the amount has increased by 30 per cent. With the increase in funding, the FSM AHEC has hired three administrative specialists. They include Silverina Pretrick for Pohnpei, Yvonne Pangelinan for Chuuk and Roslyn Reynolds for the Kosrae. The FSM AHEC faculty and staff are also excited to announce the gearing up of the long awaited Nursing Program. As of date, Kathleen Benjamin, former chief nurse of Pohnpei State Hospital has been hired as the coordinator for the Nursing Program. She is currently working

with Jaqueline Dolberry, a consultant from Linfield College School of Nursing in Portland, Oregon, to develop and implement the Nursing Program at the college. Before coming to COM-FSM, Jacqueline Dolberry served as the Associate Dean for Nursing Distant Learning at Linfield College School of Nursing. Directors for the Guam AHEC and the Hawaii AHEC along with the fiscal officer from UOG visited COM-FSM from January 30, 2011 to February 02, 2011. They were impressed with the accomplishments of the FSM AHEC which includes the Public Health Training Program, the Health Awareness Camps for high school students, and the start up of the Nursing Program at the college. The FSM AHEC team is looking forward to a successful second year.

First Strategic Learning Community Training Takes Place in Pohnpei

By: Bruce Robert and Atarino Helieisar

The IMLS, PREL, LAMP Association Inc and COM-FSM hosted the first Strategic Learning Community training on February 14 – 18, 2011, at the National Campus. Members from the Institute of Museums and Library Services (IMLS), Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL), LAMP Association Inc and the College of Micronesia – FSM took part in the training at the college's Media and Instructional Technology Center. Ms Jane Barnwell and Mr Mathew Bellhouse-King from the PREL office facilitated the training with participants from various offices including the Pohnpei Public Library; FSM Supreme Court Law Library; FSM Department of Education; FSM Congress Library; FSM National Archives, Culture, and Historic (NACH) Preservation; Pohnpei Catholic School Library; Pohnpei State Department of Education; Salapwuk Elementary School



SLC workshop participants showcase their work during the Workshop.

Library; Awak Elementary School Library; Kolonia Elementary School Library; Nett Elementary School Library; Nanpei Memorial School Library; Palikir Elementary School Library; Pohnpei Public Health Library; College of Micronesia-FSM Pohnpei Campus Library and the College of Micronesia-FSM Learning Resources Center. A brief welcoming ceremony preceded the training workshop starting with a prayer by Luciano Mathias and welcoming remarks by the

Vice-President for Instructional Affairs and at the same time Acting President for the College of Micronesia-FSM, Ms Jean Thoulag. Atarino Helieisar, the Pacific Islands Association of Libraries, Archives and Museums (PIALA) President delivered some remarks where he thanked the workshop facilitators, participants, the Learning Resources Center staff, the LAMP Association Inc and the College of Micronesia-FSM for supporting the workshop.

College of Micronesia- FSM Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund was created for the purpose of generating income to support the future needs of the College.

To support us, contact the Development and Community Relations Office

You can make a difference!

CONTACT US TODAY

P.O. Box 159, KOLONIA, POHNPEI FM 96941

PHONE: (691) 320-2480

Fax: (691) 320-2479

EMAIL: national@comfsm.fm

website: www.comfsm.fm

Editor's Notes

As reported in earlier editions, the college is currently placed on warning status by WASC and is required to submit a follow-up report that will detail resolutions for the areas cited. The college will be submitting its follow-up report by March 15, 2011. One major area of concern as noted in the commission action letter was the lack of a master plan for the college. A lot of our time was spent helping with the development of the master plan. We are happy to share that the warning from the commission gave us the opportunity to finally develop our plan. We are now a member of the president's cabinet. Most of the information in the campus briefs section is taken from the information sharing by the cabinet. We continue to thank our contributors and encourage others to consider doing the same.

Contact the *COM-FSM Shark* newsletter at P.O. Box 159, Pohnpei, FM 96941; Phone: (691) 320-2480; Fax: (691) 320-2479; Email: newsletter@comfsm.fm

Campus-wide Briefs

COM-FSM Campuses Holds Staff Development Day 2011

Faculty, staff and administrators from all six COM-FSM campuses held Staff Development Day 2011 on February 18, 2011. Faculty, staff and administrators attended presentations and workshops conducted by presenters from within and outside the college on areas relevant to their work. Sessions were organized separately for the administrative, instructional, student services and cooperative research and extension services departments.

Peer Counseling Conducts Valentine's Day Skits

The Peer Counseling Center staff, Dali Waltu, organized a Valentine's Day celebrations through short plays on February 11, 2011, at the National Campus. According to Dali, the purpose of the celebration is to support the peer to peer outreach program and promote the spirit and history of Valentine's Day and its relevance to the lives of students.

Chuuk Campus Installs New Computers in Lab

Chuuk Campus replaced 30 computers with new workstations in one of its labs. This was made possible through the technology fee that is collected from students. This practice is common at all college campuses.

College of Micronesia Land Grant Program Meets for FY 10 Annual Report and 2012-2016 Plan of Work

Stakeholders of the College of Micronesia Land Grant Program met on February 7 – 11, 2011 to complete the FY 2010 annual report and the 2012 – 2016 plan of work. The stakeholders include Palau Community College, College of the Marshall Islands and College of Micronesia-FSM. Researchers and Extension Coordinators from all state campuses attended to assist administrators complete the tasks. Drafts of both documents are now being reviewed for final submission to the US Department of Agriculture.

Japanese Marine Science & Fisheries Students Visit National Campus

Twenty Japanese students from Tokyo University

of Marine Science and Technology visited COM-FSM National Campus on February 23, 2011, as part of their research and exchange program trip to Pohnpei. Accompanied by Professor and Ship Captain Akira Kitazawa and JICA Resident Representative Naoyoshi Sasaki, the students were given a tour of the National Campus. A presentation was then given by Marine Science professor Allain Bourgoignie regarding the fisheries industry between Japan and the FSM.

COM-FSM Observes V-Day Celebration

On February 14, 2011, COM-FSM hosted a V-Day benefit event at National and Pohnpei Campus. V-Day is a global movement that aims to stop violence against women and girls, including rape, battery, incest, and female genital mutilation. At National Campus the College community gathered at the MITC and witnessed the event. Senator Magdalena Walter, Detective Hermis Edmund and Attorney Maristella Jack attended the event as guest speakers. Senator Walter talked about a legislative bill on Domestic Violence pending since 2008. Detective Edmund shared some information on training they received from the New Zealand Police on how to handle reports of violence against women in Pohnpei. Attorney Maristella Jack and professors Mariana Ben Dereas, Leilani Welley Biza, Delihna Manuel Ehmes, Stacy Tadlock and Resida Keller delivered a monologue on the struggles and abuses experienced by women around the world. Lisa Christine Ditchen, an HCOP

student, also performed parts of the monologue. The event was made possible through the efforts and leadership of Rohaizad Suaidi.

Yap Campus Working with Yap DOE on Teacher Training

Yap Campus is currently working with Yap State Department of Education's Professional Development Officer to schedule classes for degree and third-year programs for Yap DOE teachers this summer. A schedule of classes will be finalized after the names of teachers who will be taking classes this summer and fall are received. DOE is working to secure the assistance of FSM TC&I to utilize the Voyager to bring the teachers from the outer islands for the training at the beginning of the summer.

COM-FSM Student Publishes Research Article on Blind Tree Snakes of Ant Atoll

Student Jesse Panuel published a research article on blind tree snakes of Ant with the title Distribution, Abundance and Habitat Preference of an Undescribed Species of Blind Snake (Serpentes: Typhlopidae) on Ant Atoll, Federated States of Micronesia. The publication was coauthored by Dr Don Buden. The work was done as part of an independent study under the SC 260 Biology class and supported by Professor Brian Lynch's summer 2009 grant. Other students conducted other research projects.

COM-FSM National Campus Social Sciences Club Cleans PCS

Student members of the National Campus Social Sciences Club cleaned up the Pohnpei Catholic School campus as part of its community service activity on February 5, 2011. Many of the club members are also alumni of PCS. The club's purpose is not only for social activities but also for educational activities such as field trips to historical sites and community services that will enhance their understanding about

becoming good and productive citizens of their islands.

College to Submit Follow-Up Report by March 15

A follow-Up Report will be submitted by the college to ACCJC on March 15, 2011. The college is currently on warning status and is required to submit this report, which responds to the six recommendations made by ACCJC. In efforts to resolve the recommendations, the college now has a new Master Plan. The current draft of the report is available online at <http://www.comfsm.fm/dev/accreditation/COM%20Follow-Up15March2011%20Draft.pdf>

US Embassy Turns Over New Bus to Pohnpei Campus

A key turnover ceremony for the new Pohnpei Campus bus was held on Wednesday, February 23, 2011, at 10:00 am in front of the administration building. VPAS Joseph Habuchmai received the key for the college from Deputy Chief of Mission, Lori Dando from the U.S Embassy. The 26-seater bus was partially funded by the USDA Rural Development Office through their matching grant program.

Phi Theta Kappa Continues to Expand at COM-FSM

On February 11, 2011, an informal ceremony was held to induct twelve new members into the Phi Theta Kappa International Honors Society. Society members benefit from activities such as participating in international conventions. The society will be represented at the upcoming convention in Seattle, Washington, by students Steen Harris, Dayn Darin Iehsi, Fitzgerald Weilbacher and staff Lucia Donre Sam.



Japanese students touring the National Campus.

More Information Online



www.comfsm.fm



<http://com-fsm.blogspot.com/>



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College of Micronesia Alumni

News & Information

COM-FSM Entrance Test (COMET) FAQ's

Continuation From Volume 4 issue 2

3. What are the parts of the COMET?

The COMET has three sections which are the essay, the math, and the reading comprehension sections. The essay section takes 40 minutes and the test taker is given a writing task and asked to write an essay of at least 450 words that includes an introduction, a body, and a conclusion. The Math Section is a one hour test that includes 40 test items with multiple choice answers. The math section tests basic math, algebra, geometry and problem solving skills. The reading comprehension section of the COMET is the Gates McGinitie AR level reading test. The reading comprehension section has 45 vocabulary test items and a set of 11 short reading passages. After each reading passage there are several questions. There are a total of 48 reading comprehension questions. The vocabulary part takes 20 minutes and the reading passages part takes 35 minutes.

4. Who can take the COMET and when is the test offered?

- If you are high school graduate or GED holder, you can take the COMET test at any of the testing times offered throughout the year at each of the 4 state campuses. The test is usually given three times a year- February, June, and November.
- If you are a high school senior you can take the COMET during the second semester of your senior (12th grade) year. The test is given usually in early February for high school seniors.

5. What is the Admissions Criteria?

Admission Type	Essay	Reading Comprehension
Degree	34-50	9th grade up
Achieving College Excellence (ACE) *A Pre degree developmental series of courses	28-33	7th to 8.9th grade
Certificate	20-27	5th to 6.9th grade
Non-Admit	Below 20	Below 5th

6. How is COMET scored and who scores the COMET essays?

All test answer sheets and essays are sent to the Office of the Vice President for Instructional Affairs (VPiA) at the National campus. The math and reading comprehension answer sheets are machine checked. The COMET essays are sent to the VPSS office and then corrected by a team of college faculty members who are trained to read and score the essay based on a scoring "rubric". The rubric has 5 categories worth 0-5 points for each category for a possible overall total of 25 points. Every essay is read and scored separately by two essay readers. The scores from the two readers are then added together for the final "essay score". The final combined essay scores

range from 0-50 points. The college determines potential admission status of the students as either regular college degree admit status, ACE developmental status, certificate program, or non-admit status.

7. How does the college use the COMET scores?

The combined total COMET test scores are used to make decision on accepting and admitting students into the regular associate degree college programs, ACE, vocational certificate programs, and placement into math developmental courses. If the student decides to attend the college, the COMET test scores are also used by the college to place under prepared students into the appropriate developmental English and math courses.

8. How are the results reported and shared? How can I get my test results?

After the scoring is completed, the office of the VPiA provides the scores to the "Recruitment, Admissions and Retention Committee" which reviews the students' scores and makes recommendations based on their COMET scores who to accept. These recommendations are forwarded to the college president who authorizes the letters of acceptance. A letter of acceptance is sent to a student informing the student if he is eligible to attend COM-FSM and under what admissions status- as a degree level student or a certificate program, or as developmental education program student. Letters to the individuals are sent to high schools and state campuses to assist in delivering the letters to the students. For the February high school testing, the college compiles the data on scores and does an analysis of the COMET score statistics for all the test takers in the February testing session including all high schools and campuses. This information is put into a report that is shared with state campuses, all high schools in the FSM, the directors of education in each state, and the FSM Secretary of Education. Each high school principal is given a report on the scores of the students from their high school. If an individual wants to see his/her score, he can contact the local COM-FSM campus student services office.

9. If I attended another college and want to transfer into COM-FSM, do I have to take the COMET to be admitted?

No, you do not have to take the COMET in advance to be admitted to COM-FSM as a transfer student if you have been officially enrolled at another accredited college. You can be admitted as a transfer student from the other college if you can provide a transcript from that college. While you may be admitted as a transfer student, depending on your course work and level at the previous college, you may be asked to take some or all of the COMET test sections to determine best placement into appropriate level courses.

To be continued on Volume 4 Issue 3

Recognition Wall

Thank you for contributing to our Endowment Fund!

1998
to
2009

Gold Circle
\$10,000 - \$24,000

- Pohnpei Campus (Founding Day 2010)
- Pohnpei Campus (Founding Day 2008)
- Pohnpei Ace Hardware
- Nihco Store
- Pohnpeian Students (Founding Day 2000)
- Pohnpeian Students (Founding Day 1999)
- San Francisco Opera
- The Peace Foundation

GENERAL EDUCATION GOALS

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION : CRITICAL THINKING AND PROBLEM SOLVING : QUANTITATIVE AND SCIENTIFIC REASONING : ETHICS AND CULTURE : WORKFORCE READINESS

CCAA

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Please fill out our survey on SurveyMonkey



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/G7RC596>

CCM/COM-FSM Alumni Association (CCAA)
P.O. Box 159
Pohnpei FM 96941
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Our Mission

Historically diverse, uniquely Micronesian and globally connected, the College of Micronesia-FSM is a continuously improving and student centered institute of higher education. The college is committed to assisting in the development of the Federated States of Micronesia by providing academic, career and technical educational opportunities for student learning

Human Resources

Employment Opportunities at COM-FSM

National

Instructor - Nursing

Instructor - English

Pohnpei

Education Specialist (Gear-Up)

Student Services Specialist II (Gear-Up)

Business Advisor/Trainer (PBDC)

Yap

Instructional Coordinator

Student Services Specialist II (UB)

Instructor - English

Yap FMI

Instructor - Marine Engineering

Chuuk

Maintenance Program Specialist I

For more information check our website: <http://www.comfsm.fm/jobs/>

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Contribute TODAY to the Endowment Fund

Alumni and community support for the College of Micronesia-FSM and its initiatives is imperative to its success and financial sustainability. This support enables the college to build its endowment for the future needs of the college, to support new programs, technologies, infrastructure development and maintenance faculty/staff development and scholarships.

☐

YES! I want to contribute to the College Financially.

\$ _____ COM-FSM Endowment Fund	
\$ _____ Student Scholarship	
<input type="checkbox"/> Timothy Jerry	<input type="checkbox"/> Gene Ashby
<input type="checkbox"/> COM-FSM Endowment Scholarship	<input type="checkbox"/> Others: _____
\$ _____ Other: _____	

☐

NO. I don't want to contribute now.

Send Slip and Donations to: COM-FSM Endowment Fund
Attention: Development & Community Relations
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Are you a CCM or COM-FSM Alumni? ☐ YES ☐ NO

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