



# COM-FSM SHARKS

The Official Newsletter of the College of Micronesia-FSM



Uniquely  
Micronesian

Volume 5, Issue 11

Free Copy

November- December 2012

## Reminders

### CHUUK

January 7 Spring Semester Begins  
January 7 Faculty Workshops  
January 8-10 Registration  
January 14 First Day of Instruction  
January 18 Last Day to Add/Drop Courses  
January 21 Class List Due from Instructors  
January 24 – Feb. 11 Recruitment/  
Entrance Testing at State Campuses/High Schools

### KOSRAE

January 7 Spring Semester Begins  
January 7 Faculty Workshops  
January 8-9 Registration  
January 10 Holiday – Constitution Day  
January 14 First Day of Instruction  
January 18 Last Day to Add/Drop Courses  
January 21 Class List Due from Instructors  
January 24 – Feb. 11 Recruitment/  
Entrance Testing at State Campuses/High Schools

### POHNPEI and NATIONAL

January 7 Spring Semester Begins  
January 7 Faculty Workshops  
January 8-10 Registration  
January 14 First Day of Instruction  
January 18 Last Day to Add/Drop Courses  
January 21 Class List Due from Instructors  
January 24 – Feb. 11 Recruitment/  
Entrance Testing at State Campuses/High Schools

### YAP

January 7 Spring Semester Begins  
January 7 Faculty Workshops  
January 8-10 Registration  
January 14 First Day of Instruction  
January 18 Last Day to Add/Drop Courses  
January 21 Class List Due from Instructors  
January 24 – Feb. 11 Recruitment/  
Entrance Testing at State Campuses/High Schools

### FSM-FMI

January 4 Monthly Report Due  
January 4 Faculty Meeting  
January 7 Registration  
January 10 First Day of Instruction

## Senator Halbert Calls for Courage at COM-FSM 56th Commencement Exercises

The College of Micronesia-FSM held its 56th Commencement Exercises today, at the FSM-China Friendship Sports Center, located at the National Campus in Palikir. At the ceremony, attended by graduating students, dignitaries, staff, administrators, a regent, faculty, family and friends, Senator Dohsis Halbert from the FSM Congress rallied the college leadership and graduating students to always have courage. As the keynote speaker, Senator Halbert encouraged everyone never to give in to obstacles that impede progress, but to always show courage. Senator Halbert also called on the COM-FSM Board of Regents to never give in to challenges that interfere with accomplishing the great mission of the college. The ceremony started at exactly 9:00 a.m. with a procession by the graduating students, members of the college faculty, college administrators, and dignitaries into the celebration venue. Grand Marshall



Graduates From the National and Pohnpei Campuses at the 56th Commencement Exercise.

Professor Emmanuela Garcia, Faculty of the Year from Pohnpei Campus carried the college mace and led the procession. The flag bearers, the graduating students, the college faculty, and finally the college administrators and the dignitaries followed the grand marshal. Besides the flags of the Federated States of

**Continuation on Page 2**

## Yap Campus Holds Fall 2012 Graduation Ceremony

The College of Micronesia – FSM Yap Campus held its 6th Commencement Exercises at Yap Campus on December 20th. Receiving their degrees or certificates were 27 graduates. Ten of the graduates majored in Teacher Preparation, one graduate majored in Liberal Arts, seven graduates majored in Electronic Engineering, three graduates majored in Agriculture and Food Technology, two graduates majored in Health Assistant Training and four graduates majored in Trial Counseling. The ten graduates who received their Associate of Arts degrees in Teacher Preparation Program were Veronica Bendag, Audrey Chifley, Sylvester En, Mark Googag, Bridget Grongrow, Monica Leerbay, Valeria Maduy, Paul Tapang and Owen Tharnagan. Ms. AnnJanette Pugruw was the only graduate that received an Associate of Arts degree in Liberal Arts. The Certificate of Achievement in the Electronic Engineering recipients were Craig Erhienig,



Commencement speaker, the Honorable Sebastian Anefal, Governor of the state of Yap delivers his commencement address

Clethus Faimau, Eric Fethal, Rodrick Filethin, Runny Houmeang, Brandon Ruwasay and Junior Saufmai. For the Agriculture and Food Technology Program, the graduates were Clinton Marlemai, Valentino Orhaitil and Valencio Yangereluwe. The only two graduates in the Health Assistant Program were Emlyne Laigiseram and Sophia Laiyolap. The four students that received Certificate of Achievement in the Trial Counselors Program were Jemina Gilmar, Quintina Letawerpiy, Rosemary Manna and Erick Ruepong.

## 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: [fundcomfsm@gmail.com](mailto:fundcomfsm@gmail.com)

website: [www.comfsm.fm](http://www.comfsm.fm)

## Editor's Notes

We at the Development and Community Relations Office are pleased that the publication of this newsletter is contributing to the promotion of meaningful dialogue at the college for the past year. As well, we are grateful for the college community's warm reception and implementation of the 50/Plenty Christmas Raffle. The raffle was the first college wide fund raising activity undertaken by the college. Recommendations were made by campuses to consider starting the raffle early this year. As many of you may know, this newsletter and the college catalog will no longer be available in their printed formats. Electronic copies will be made available and uploaded to the college website. As usual, we always welcome your inputs and comments.

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

## News & Information

### 56th Commencement Exercise From Page 1

Micronesia and the four FSM states of Kosrae, Pohnpei, Chuuk, and Yap, the procession also featured flags from Japan, United Kingdom, Palau, Sri Lanka, Canada, India, Romania, United States of America, China, Germany, Philippines, Fiji, Kiribati, American Samoa, Cameroon, and Lithuania. These flags represent the diversity of the college community. Vice President for Student Services, Mr. Ringlen P. Ringlen, gave the welcoming remarks after the invocation by Pastor Epel Ilon and the singing of the Micronesian Anthem.

"As an institution of higher education, no event in the college is as important as commencement exercises. For our students it is a time to recognize and celebrate their academic accomplishments. For the families of our students, commencement provides yet another point of pride. For all of us and for our faculty most especially, commencement is an opportunity to acknowledge our work and success in educating the young men and women who represent the future hopes, dreams and aspirations of the FSM. We believe in what we do here at the college. Thank you all for believing

and working with us to transform lives through this institution," said Vice President Ringlen. He said that the college is grateful for the restoration of \$700,000 to its FY 2013 Budget by FSM President Mori and FSM Congress and called for their support in the years to come. As well, Mr. Ringlen said the college is also grateful for broad participation it received while reviewing its mission, that the college's strategic plan was developed through broad collaboration, that a proposal from BECA will contribute toward the development to the college's facilities master plan, and that those who attend the 56th Commencement Exercise took part in the celebration of the college's most important event. The college was fortunate to have the University of Guam (UOG) Dean of the School of Education, Frankie Santos Laanan, Ph.D, who joined Vice President Dereas and presented the graduates to the Board of Regents Chairman Mr. Kasio Mida for his conferral of degrees and certificates of achievements. The College of Micronesia-FSM and the University of Guam entered into an agreement in 2002 and developed



Flag bearers, raising the flags of the different nationalities for faculty & staff's of COM-FSM.



Senator Halbert as he delivers his commencement address.

a partnership BA program in Elementary Education and is offering it at COM-FSM. Dean Laanan's participation at the ceremony signifies the existing partnership between UOG and COM-FSM.

## Campus-wide Briefs

### COM-FSM Professor Contributes to Encyclopedia with UOG Dean

Robert Andreas, Professor of Education at the College of Micronesia-FSM, and Dean Sellmann of the University of Guam, have co-authored an article entitled "Pacific Island Environmental Philosophy" for the Encyclopedia of Sustainability: The Americas and The Pacific, Vol. 8. The article explicates the environmental philosophy and long standing sustainability practices and customs of Pohnpei and makes generalizations to other Pacific island cultures. Employing elements of permaculture and living on the edge, they describe Pacific island eco-systems as "edge" phenomena where conflicting environmental factors produce vibrant and sustainable cultural and agricultural practices.

Professor Andreas is a UOG alum.

### Micronesian Studies Program Participates in Connecting Moana Project

Social Science Instructor Delihna Ehmes attended a workshop on a project called "Connecting Moana" in Nadi, Fiji. Moana is a term used by Europeans to refer to the indigenous peoples of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. The French Pacific Fund, funds the project for an initial period of six months, as a seed grant for what is hoped will be a regional curriculum development project continuing throughout 2013 and 2014. The Moana project focuses on exciting developments in teaching and learning about Pacific histories. The outcome will be a first-level undergraduate eHistory course in Pacific 'pre-History' focusing on the deep and complex histories of Oceania prior to European contact. It will be an online course, available in English and French, with an entirely

independent, student-centered learning pedagogy, and with access to all universities in the region. The workshop participants included lecturers from all over the Pacific region. The second phase of the project will take place in March of next year in Noumea, New Caledonia.

### Yap Campus Students Celebrate End of Fall Semester

Students at the College of Micronesia-FSM Yap Campus celebrated the end of fall semester 2012 and final exams week with a student fun night on Friday, December 14, 2012. The fun night was planned and coordinated by Yap Campus SBA officers and some students. Over 130 students attended the event, including some Yap High School and elementary students. Some parents also attend the fun night as chaperones for their young children. The event started around 6 pm and ended shortly after 11

pm. The program featured several local bands, hula dances, hip-hop dances, a skit by SDA students, a beauty pageant and a fire dance

### Yap Campus has 100% Completion of the Online Accreditation Basics Course

Congratulations to all faculty, staff, and administrators at Yap campus for modelling professional behavior with their commitment to life-long learning and the commendable accomplishment of being the first of our campuses to have every single employee successfully complete the ACCJC Online Accreditation Basics Course.

### More Information Online



[www.comfsm.fm](http://www.comfsm.fm)



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



College of Micronesia-FSM  
(Official)



College of Micronesia Alumni



## News & Information

### COM-FSM Receives \$26,350 From U.S. Embassy To Offer NGO Course Project

U.S. Ambassador Doria Rosen presented a check from the U.S. Embassy for \$26,350 to the College of Micronesia-FSM to begin offering a 100 level college course in NGO Management at the college. The Ambassador made the presentation during her visit to the college on December 6, 2012. The need for the non-governmental organization (NGO) management course was identified after a meeting between former U.S. Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Peter Prahar and representatives of FSM NGOs. In May 2012, at a roundtable meeting with local NGO leaders, Ambassador Prahar noted a high level of excitement and enthusiasm for continued engagement with the U.S. Embassy in Kolonia. The Ambassador was impressed, and noted that the meeting was one of the best meetings he had participated in during his tour of duty in the Federated States of Micronesia. The course will target NGO staff and volunteers and will become a required COM-FSM course for students studying in the health, agriculture, and social science fields. The program will be available as a for-credit and non-credit course. Individuals completing the course will have increased skills and understanding of how NGOs make an impact and create change. It is hoped



U.S. Ambassador Doria Rosen (right) awards the check to COM-FSM President Joseph M. Daisy, Ed.D.

that the course will increase the talent and the human resources available, and thus increase the capacity of NGOs to engage with the local community, and government sector. As a partner with the U.S. Embassy, the college is providing both in-kind and monetary matching financial commitment in the amount of \$15,000, and long-term responsibility for offering the course. The U.S. Embassy is funding the initial cost of establishing this program. Other partners include the Micronesian Conservation Trust, and Unitec (Auckland, New Zealand) who will serve in an advisory role. Unitec will also offer students who complete the College of Micronesia-FSM program opportunities to receive further training through the Unitec NGO Management Certificate program.

### Glenn Wakai of Reach Out Pacific Visits College of Micronesia-FSM

State Senator for Hawaii and President of Reach Out Pacific, Glenn Wakai, visited the college's National Campus on December 4th to build relations with the college. According to Senator Wakai, he would like to extend the services of Reach Out Pacific to the college by sending resources to the college as he is currently working on a grant to secure funding for Apple iPads to be used by Professor Dana Lee Ling's classes. Mr. Wakai will be working directly with Apple on this activity. On behalf of the college, President Joseph M. Daisy, Ed.D. assured Mr. Wakai that the services of Reach Out Pacific could be beneficial to the college's long list of needs. To name a few, the president mentioned the need for replacing equipment in the Weight Room, obtaining instruments for the Music Room, obtaining beds, study tables and lockers for the Residential Halls, and replacing the Dining Hall tables and chairs. President Joseph Daisy, Vice President for Instructional Affairs Mariana Ben Dereas, Dean of Academic Programs Karen



From Left: COM-FSM President Joseph M. Daisy, Ed.D., VPIA Mariana Ben Dereas, Dean of Academic Programs Karen Simion, Hawaii State Senator Glen Wakai, LRC Director Jennifer Hainrick and Bruce Robert poses for a photo with National Campus Students.

Simion, Director of Learning Resources Center Jennifer Hainrick Helieisar, Librarian Bruce Robert, Professor Dana Lee Ling, Webmaster Shaun Suliol, and Development and Community Relations staff Juan Paulo Santos met with Senator Wakai on behalf of the college. Glenn Wakai is the President of Reach out Pacific (REPAC), a nonprofit organization that was established in 2006 to improve healthcare and education throughout the Pacific. Since 2006 they have been active in sending medical supplies, library materials and educational supplies throughout Micronesia.

## Recognition Wall

1998  
to  
2012

Bronze Circle  
\$100 - \$999

- Bruce & Twila Springer
- Bruce Robert
- Caitlin Wilgocki
- Carol Gitzendanner
- Carrie Lynn Boylan (Pohnpei Computer Consulting)
- Cavanagh Eperiam
- Cecilia F. Dibay
- Charles & Andrea Hillyer
- Charles Musana-Manyindo
- Charles Robinson
- Christian & Barrie Michelsen
- Christina Salii

To be continued on the next issue...

## GENERAL EDUCATION GOALS

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



How about we get  
to know each other  
better?

Please fill out our survey  
on SurveyMonkey



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

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Association (CCAA)  
P.O. Box 159  
Pohnpei FM 96941  
Email: [jsaimon@comfsm.fm](mailto:jsaimon@comfsm.fm)

## News &amp; Information

## College Breaks Ground for Piggery

On Monday, November 19, representatives from the college and U.S. Ambassador Doria Rosen participated in a groundbreaking ceremony for a new U.S. funded dry litter piggery at the College of Micronesia-FSM National Campus. The piggery will serve as a demonstration site to assist farmers with learning new methods for decreasing adverse environmental impacts caused by raising pigs. USDA

Natural Resources and Conservation Services estimates that there are over 3,000 piggeries on Pohnpei. The impact of these piggeries can be found in local streams and rivers after farmers wash the daily pig waste into nearby water sources, making the rivers unsafe for swimming. E. coli, cholera, and leptospirosis are serious illnesses which may be caused by swimming in water contaminated by pig waste.

Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease that affects humans and animals. It is caused by bacteria of the genus *Leptospira*. In humans, it can cause a wide range of symptoms, some of which may be mistaken for other diseases. Some infected persons, however, may have no symptoms at all. Without treatment, leptospirosis may lead to kidney damage, meningitis, liver failure, respiratory distress, and sometimes even death. Pohnpei law requires all piggeries to be built at least 50 feet from the nearest stream, river, or shoreline. The number of the piggeries not in compliance with the existing law is unknown. Dry litter piggeries do not use water to wash pig pens, and can help alleviate the problem of pig waste contaminating Pohnpei's fragile ecosystem. Dry litter piggeries use wood chips to line the floors of the piggeries. The waste materials are then composted, producing high temperatures, which destroy leptospirosis and other harmful bacteria. The finished compost can then be put on crops, as a safe and sustainable fertilizer. The issue of pig waste pollution in fresh



Acting President Joe Habuchmai Breaks Ground with US Ambassador Doria Rosen and VPCRE Jim Currie.

water sources has brought the entire diplomatic corps together with all local Embassies (Peoples Republic of China, Japan, Australia, and the U.S.) promoting environmentally sound and sustainable pig farming practices. The Embassy of Japan provided the Pohnpei State Government with two large wood chippers to assist in production of wood chips, and the Embassy of the Peoples Republic of China assists local farmers by installing biogas plants to create reusable energy using pig waste. A number of other projects are currently under consideration, and other members of the international donor community are considering funding projects to reduce pollution caused by pig waste. There are currently four dry litter piggeries projects in operation or in the process of being built. AusAID has funded an operational dry litter piggery at the Sei Farm. The IWRM (Integrated Water Resources Management) has funded a piggery project in Nett as part of the Nett Watershed Management Intervention along the Nanpil River. The latest piggery project is at the college's National Campus and is funded by the U.S. A private sector farmer using his own funds initiated a fourth project. The current project on the National Campus is expected to be completed and operational by the end of December.

## Chuuk Campus Holds Health Education Workshop for Students

The college's Chuuk Campus held a workshop focusing on health and drugs with the theme "Drug and Young Youth Substance Abuse," on November 20th, at Chuuk Campus. The activity was planned and organized by the Student Health Clinic and the student body association. The students participated in the workshop as groups representing the different regions of Chuuk. Representatives from the Mortlock Region said the opening and closing prayers. The opening speech was delivered by a representatives from the

North West Region while the closing remarks was delivered by representatives from the Southern Namoneas Region. The Faichuuk Region students assisted the peer advisors and distributed necessary documents and information during the workshop. The Community Educator from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health (SAMH) program presented on the effects of drug use in the lives of teenagers. The students also held four discussion groups focusing on topics such as alcohol, tobacco, betelnut and marijuana.

## CONGRATULATIONS!! 50/Plenty Raffle Winners!

### National Campus

**1ST PRIZE:** Manuel Amor

**2ND PRIZE:** Ryan Roque

**3RD PRIZE:** Gasma Hadley

**4TH PRIZE:** Jester Sackryas

**5TH PRIZE:** Keith Taliugyan

### Yap Campus

**1ST PRIZE:** Becky Leemed

**2ND PRIZE:** Paige Urtin

**3RD PRIZE:** Javen Defngin

**4TH PRIZE:** Martin Ruwniyol

**5TH PRIZE:** Joe Falmed

### Pohnpei Campus

**1ST PRIZE:** Cindy Edwin

**2ND PRIZE:** Engly Ioanis

**3RD PRIZE:** Moses Russel

**4TH PRIZE:** Grilly Jack

**5TH PRIZE:** James Washington

### Chuuk Campus

**1ST PRIZE:** Mariano Marcus

**2ND PRIZE:** Terensio Konman

**3RD PRIZE:** Stephen Thomas

**4TH PRIZE:** Florante Ygana

**5TH PRIZE:** Kersweet Eria

### Kosrae Campus

**1ST PRIZE:** Lalabo Jun

**2ND PRIZE:** Gretta S. Sigrah

**3RD PRIZE:** Dokowe George

**4TH PRIZE:** Beaker Jerry

**5TH PRIZE:** Melvina Bingham

*Thank you for  
Supporting the  
Colleges  
Endowment Fund!*

## 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

#### Pohnpei

Student Services Specialist III  
Vocational Instructor-Automotive Mechanic  
Researcher [Agronomy]  
Maintenance Worker I  
Extension Assistant [Nutrition]

#### Yap

Agriculture Agent  
Extension Agent I [Home Economics]

#### Chuuk

IT Technician II  
Research Assistant

#### Kosrae

Mathematics Instructor  
Science Instructor

#### National

Instructor - Art



Name: Ringlen Ringlen  
Title: Professor  
Division: Social Science  
Campus: National  
Tel: 320-2482 #112  
Email: [ringlen@comfsm.fm](mailto:ringlen@comfsm.fm)

Professor Ringlen spent 14 years in the administration of Student Services Department until he transitioned into the Social Science instructor position today. During his tenure as Vice President, he served numerous times as acting President, two times as interim President and also taught part time under the Division of Languages and Literature. His experience prior to the college includes working at PICS as a teacher and at the FSM Government as a diplomat.

MA in Education Counseling, 1981, University of Oregon  
BA in Business Administration and Economics, 1973 Graceland College



Name: Morgan Jonas  
Title: Director of Gear Up  
Campus: Pohnpei  
Program: Gear-Up  
Campus: Pohnpei  
Tel: 320-2756  
Email: [morganj@comfsm.fm](mailto:morganj@comfsm.fm)

Morgan Jonas has been with the College for 14 years since he began at Kosrae Campus in May 1998 as the Director of the Upward Bound Program. The program was not refunded when it ended on December 31, 2012. The College has another similar US funded program based at Pohnpei Campus, Morgan Jonas has filled the position effective January 1, 2013.

BS in Education, 1980, Western Oregon State College  
AS in Education, 1974, Community College of Micronesia

### Development & Community Relations

For Contributions to the COM-FSM Sharks Newsletter Please Submit to:

#### Joseph Saimon

DCR Director  
[jsaimon@comfsm.fm](mailto:jsaimon@comfsm.fm)

#### Juan Paulo Santos

Administrative Specialist  
[jpsantos@comfsm.fm](mailto:jpsantos@comfsm.fm)



Name: Mike Abbe  
Title: CRE Coordinator  
Campus: Chuuk  
Division: CRE  
Tel: 330-2913  
Email: [mabbe@comfsm.fm](mailto:mabbe@comfsm.fm)

Mike Abbe is a returning employee of the College. He was previously employed at CRE Chuuk Campus in 2011 as a Community Resource Development Agent until he resigned last year.

His previous management experience includes the following:

- Deputy Assistant Secretary of Customs and Tax Administration at the FSM National Government for more than 6 years.
- Deputy Director of Department of Planning and Statistics at Chuuk State Government for close to 5 years after having served close to 3 years as a Project Director
- Close to 6 years as Executive Director, Coordinator and Inspector under the Mid-Mortlock Social and Economic Development Authority.

BA degree in Bible and Theology, 2010, Appalachian Bible College completed 3 years at Lake Michigan College studying drafting and design.

Cut along the dotted line and mail it in an envelope along with donations to the College of Micronesia-FSM

## 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.

☐

**YES! I want to contribute to the College financially.**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ COM-FSM Endowment Fund

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

☐

**Send me the newsletter.**

Send Slip and Donations to: COM-FSM Endowment Fund  
Attention: Development & Community Relations  
P.O. Box 159, Pohnpei FM 96941

Are you a CCM or COM-FSM Alumni?

☐ YES

☐ NO

First Name:

Last Name:

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☐ Ms.

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Title / Position:

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Fax: (     )

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Your email is used to communicate with you about the College of Micronesia-FSM