



COM-FSM SHARKS

The Official Newsletter of the College of Micronesia-FSM



Uniquely
Micronesian

Volume 5, Issue 4

Free Copy

April 2012

Reminders

CHUUK

May 2 Last Day of Instruction
May 3, 4, 7 Final Exams
May 9 Deadline for Final Grades from
Instructors
May 10 Holiday – FSM Constitution Day
May 15 Graduation/Spring Semester
Ends
May 30-31 Registration

KOSRAE

May 3 Last Day of Instruction
May 7-9 Final Exams
May 10 Holiday – FSM Constitution Day
May 14 Deadline for Final Grades from
Instructors
May 17 Graduation/Spring Semester
Ends
May 30-31 Registration

POHNPEI and NATIONAL

May 2 Last Day of Instruction
May 3, 4, 7 Final Exams
May 9 Deadline for Final Grades from
Instructors
May 10 Holiday – FSM Constitution Day
May 15 Graduation/Spring Semester
Ends
May 30-31 Registration

YAP

May 3 Last Day of Instruction
May 7-9 Final Exams
May 10 Holiday – FSM Constitution Day
May 14 Deadline for Final Grades from
Instructors
May 17 Graduation/Spring Semester
Ends

YAP FMI

May 4 Monthly Report Due
May 10 Holiday – FSM Constitution Day
May 11 Last Day of Instruction
May 15-17 Final Exams
May 18 Deadline for Final Grades from
Instructors
May 22 Graduation/Spring Semester
Ends

Accreditation Team Concludes College Visit

Two commissioners from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior College (ACCJC) concluded their visit of the college on April 25, 2012. Dr. Steven Kinsella, chair of the team and Ms. Susan Murata, team member, held an open session with the college community on April 24th, at the Media and Instructional Technology Center where faculty, staff and students attended. The ACCJC will review the College's accreditation status during its June 2012 meeting, after a review of the College's Follow-Up Report and the report that will be submitted by the two-member visiting team. The Commission's decision will be communicated to the College afterwards. Through its June 30, 2011, Action Letter, the Commission placed the College of Micronesia-FSM on



ALO Frankie Harriss introduces the accreditation team to the college community during the open meeting for faculty, staff, & students.

Probation status. Probation is issued when the Commission finds that an institution deviates significantly from the Commission's Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards, or policies or fails to respond to conditions imposed upon it by the Commission.

Chuuk CRE Provides Income-Generating Skills To Mwan Elementary Students

Chuuk CRE continuously seeks potential venues for youth to be creative and enterprising to hone them at early age to be responsible, caring and productive citizens and family members. On March 19-22 at Mwan Elementary School in Weno, 79 students aged 12-17 in grades 6, 7 and 8 spent daily one-hour for each of these activities: culinary arts, sewing and recyclable handicrafts. Culinary Arts Trainer, Mrs. Toni M. Ezra taught these students on how to make banana and breadfruit chips, fried banana rolled in flour and a Japanese fish recipe

called namban. Sewing Trainer, Ms. Arline Mailo trained these students in using scissors, making and cutting dress patterns and sewing with needles instead of sewing machines. To utilize used plastics and styrofoams, trainer Ms. Merly Cholymay demonstrated on how to make fillings for push pillows from cleaning, drying and shredding these recycled items. These skills that these students acquired utilize available local resources that will ultimately enhance their opportunities and capacity to produce value-added products.

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

website: www.comfsm.fm

Editor's Notes

The work on the process for managing the College's online updates and postings is still underway. The developed processes should include information on who at what campus will be responsible for posting updates to the website as well as other media publications. A tentative process was submitted for review and comments were received. These improvements will make the College's website and other media publications as communications hubs where faculty, staff and students think of first to learn more about the College. Eventually, the College's media publications should be the place where community stakeholders go to first to learn about developments at the College, to get an understanding of the college's culture, and perhaps to learn about employment opportunities, as well as the achievements of their friends and family members.

As always, we continue to thank those who contribute to this publication.

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

Special Announcement

College of Micronesia-FSM

Invites you to:

Community Meeting with COM-FSM Board of Regents & Administration

Where: Pohnpei Campus Gymnasium

When: May 24, 2012 (Thursday)

Time: 4:00pm

We are inviting parents, CCM and COM-FSM alumni, employers of our graduates, government, church, community, business and NGO leaders to attend the community meeting.



Campus-wide Briefs

Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho) Scholarship Program 2013

An opportunity to study in Japan under the Japanese Government Monbukagakusho Scholarship Program for undergraduate and specialized training college students during academic year 2013 is now available. Application submission deadline is set at June 29, 2012, and the examination date is set for July 7, 2012, starting at 8:45 am.

Application forms are available at the Embassy of the Government of Japan in the FSM. You may contact Counselor Genichi Terasawa at telephone number (691) 320-5465/6366.

Japanese Language Program for Overseas Students Accepting Applicants

The Japanese – Language Program for Overseas Students (Outstanding

Students) 2012, offered by the Japan Foundation, is now accepting applicants. The program is intended to offer outstanding Japanese language students from the FSM an opportunity to visit Japan and to deepen their knowledge about the Japanese language and culture. The visit to Japan will begin on August 29, 2012, and end on September 12, 2012. Students should submit their applications on or before 5 pm, on May 18, 2012. An exam will be given at the Embassy of Japan at 5 pm, on May 22, 2012, for all applicants. Applications are available at the College of Micronesia-FSM office of the Vice President for Instructional Affairs. Call 320-2480 or email mben@comfsm.fm.

College Holds Health Fair at National Campus

The College of Micronesia-FSM held annual Health Fair Day on April 18, 2012, at the

College's National Campus. The theme for the fair was "Prevention Through Education". The main objective for the fair was to educate the College Community



COM-FSM nursing students participate in the health fair.

on a variety of health-related topics through presentations and dissemination of information and other activities. Dr. Paul Dacanay, a Public Health Program instructor, gave a special presentation on the theme. Health care providers took part at the fair where they shared information about their programs as well as providing services such as screening/testing for diabetes, hypertension and obesity, testing for eye/vision problems, immunization updates/ influenza/ pneumonia vaccinations,

demonstrations on healthy food/diet preparation and

aerobic exercise best practices.

**Pell Grant
Eligibility for
Summer 2012**
Students who have used up their Pell Grant entitlement for Summer 2012

will receive assistance from the Supplemental Education Grant (SEG). However, the SEG may only cover 60 to 80% of Summer 2012 expenses. Each student should pay for the remaining balance. For more information, please consult with the Financial Aid staff at your campus.

More Information Online



www.comfsm.fm



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



College of Micronesia-FSM
(Official)



College of Micronesia Alumni

News & Information

COM-FSM Quality, Sustainability, and Success: A Framework for Planning and Action

By: President Joseph M. Daisy, Ed.D.

Libk me pwoohng a loabl soh.
—from Some Ponapean Proverbs

I'm told that proverb translates as "Outside it is night but not inside." It was supposedly referring to one who could master himself in a difficult situation. We are in a difficult situation, but I believe we have the inner strength to become its master. In the short time as president, I learn and continue to learn each day, the ways in which the college is successful, and the ways in which the college needs to become stronger, more effective and efficient, and to improve, to ensure the academic and operational components of COM-FSM are of high quality.

In this regard, much of my education is in part thanks to you. Through our engagement and through our frank and candid discourse both the strengths and areas for improvement have been revealed. For your contribution to informing me as president, please accept my thanks. Only through continued reflective dialogue and communication with each other, and with our external constituents can we foster a culture of inquiry, a culture of assessment, and embed in our learning community a culture of continuous improvement.

As I continue to be honored to serve you as president, my service and my responsibility to lead this college depends on our commitment to work together to "confront our challenges and create our future." In the investiture remarks shared with you on February 6, 2012, it was my intent to provide the community with a pathway for the college to achieve the goals to which we aspire. Any good map needs clear markers. In this presidential white paper I am setting forth those markers to guide us along our way.

Our Mission and Our Future

The College of Micronesia-FSM is a uniquely Micronesian and globally-connected, student-centered institute of higher education committed to developing the Federated States of Micronesia into a stronger, more economically independent nation, one recognized as a leader in the Western Pacific region and across the globe. In order to fulfill that Mission the college must define its own vision for quality, sustainability, and success and thereby serve the FSM by providing an educated citizenry to ensure the nation's quality, sustainability, and success. To this end—and in order to refine, define, renew and establish new principles that will guide the college through 2025—we will together engage in a college and stakeholder-wide Vision Summit in August of 2012. This Vision Summit will begin the process of developing our new strategic plan: *Wasahn Kamarain: 2013-2017*.

The Work Begins Today

Now we must take up the hard work of those promises made. We must deliver on the promises that we make through our college's Mission. We must now operationalize our core values, the values to which we reaffirmed our commitment on February 6, 2012. This task we must achieve together. Please be mindful that "each of us, regardless of our position, yet because of our profound responsibility to this college and the students we serve, has a deep and abiding obligation to create its future."

Our Journey and Our Destination

This "presidential white paper" sets forth a roadmap of our work for the balance of this calendar year and more broadly for years to come.

First and foremost, we must take immediate steps to more fully comply with ACCJC/WASC standards and demonstrate the proficiency of our Institutional Effectiveness efforts.

The ACCJC Rubric for Evaluating Institutional Effectiveness is a key tool to use in that effort. But we must strive to move *beyond* those standards, finding those *best practice* methods within higher education that are the *best fits* for our students and our circumstance here in the Pacific. We should also pursue other U.S. and international measures of assurance. Above all, we must maintain our focus on student success, our commitment to measuring of student outcomes and continuously improving student performance to meet the needs of the *FSM*.

Pride and Progress

We have not been standing still. Much work has been completed by the entire college community. We have seen the effective and fruitful work resulting from our relatively new participatory governance structure. We have witnessed a significantly improved level of participation in the deliberations of our college-wide committees. Our curriculum committees have reviewed and revised course syllabi and articulated student learning outcomes consistent with the ACCJC's Student Learning Outcomes Rubric. We have completed a number of other plans that address the college's needs, both present and future.

We have improved telecommunications capacity to support the work of governance committees; the college has completed phase one of its program prioritization; the Board of Regents and the college have improved the level of engagement of external stakeholders through quarterly (town hall style) community meetings; and we have established a physical resources contingency fund to address unanticipated needs.

For all that, we recognize the collective efforts of faculty, staff and administration and thank each and every one who has brought us so far in such a short time. These accomplishments have been meaningful and are a vital foundation for our ongoing quest for continuous quality improvement at COM-FSM.

Yet, while we acknowledge how far we have come, we still have much to do. While the efforts of the college to embrace the Standards of Accreditation as an integral part of the college's commitment to quality and to improvement is well underway, and planning began long before I joined you as president, the planning process needs further guidance and focus. This is most starkly evidenced by the ACCJC's most recent Action Letter.

Next Steps

We have further still to go to demonstrate to ourselves and to the ACCJC that we have reached the Proficiency level of Institutional Effectiveness in the areas of program review, planning, and student learning outcomes. Once that is accomplished we must maintain our recent momentum and move rapidly to achieve the Continuous Quality Improvement level. We must re-dedicate ourselves to reaching these goals through the following steps:

1. Formally assessing our recent round of planning, program review, and SLO efforts to demonstrate that we have completed a full planning cycle.
 - Conduct an immediate and comprehensive assessment of the most recent Strategic Plan, its components, processes, and outcomes. This assessment will inform our on-going planning work and must be completed by the end of May 2012, with recommendations for action by COM-FSM governance bodies and stakeholder groups and must then be reported to the ACCJC before its June 2012 meeting.
 - Complete a review of the status of Student Learning Outcomes at COM-FSM. That review will form the basis of a report due to the ACCJC in October 2012 and also serve as an important evidentiary base for our Master Plan for Integrated Assessments (MPIA), which will include broad, purposeful institutional dialogue about SLOs, the alignment of course SLOs with program and degree SLOs, and special emphasis on authentic assessment.
2. Insuring that we engage in an ongoing, robust and purposeful dialogue about institutional effectiveness. That discussion must be based on evidence and informed by widely disseminated, data-informed analyses.
 - Complete the current dialogue about institutional effectiveness, communications and governance, especially by revising our recent communications survey (April), re-issuing it (April 2012), engaging the college community in a review of its results May 2012, and implementing recommended changes (June – August 2012).
 - Put in place the recommended changes as we begin the new academic year next fall. By December 2012 we should have the next round of assessment in the form of a follow-up communications survey. Then the cycle will begin again as we will have closed the second assessment loop.
 - Engage all stakeholder groups in a continuing cycle of dialogue based on the findings of our assessments.
3. Engaging in a systematic and regular review of the allocation of resources to assure that we fulfill our mission and maintain institutional effectiveness. In light of the significant financial constraints we face as a result of the JEMCO decrement, more than ever before it will be essential for us to integrate our finances with our planning process. An ongoing, transparent financial planning process which informs our integrated planning process will enable us to prioritize our broad educational objectives and effectively deploy our human, physical, technological and financial resources.
 - Review immediately the alignment of our operational and financial plans for FY 2013 and if necessary re-prioritize these plans. We must also carefully review the financial resources in our plan implementation through FY 2015.
 - Institute program reviews for all non-academic areas beginning in FY 2013 and link the results of academic and non-academic program reviews to resource allocations that will achieve our institutional learning outcomes.
4. Maintaining a focus on student success and improving student outcomes
 - Provide ongoing, regular, and structured opportunities for a purposeful and robust dialogue about student learning.
 - Fully align Student Learning Outcomes with those at the program and institutional levels.
 - Provide evidence of ongoing and systematic assessment of Student learning Outcomes and use that evidence for continuous quality improvement.
5. Setting concrete goals to reach Proficiency level for all three ACCJC Institutional Effectiveness Rubrics by December 2012 and Continuous Quality Improvement level by Dec. 2013
 - Assure that results of all program reviews are integrated into institution-wide planning by August 2012.
 - Assess, review, and refine program review processes by August 2012.
 - Assure that Learning Outcomes are specifically linked to program reviews by December 2012.

Our Future in Our Hands

On February 6th, 2012 we joined together for the first time. We reaffirmed our commitment to teaching and learning, our commitment to research and scholarship, our commitment to the mission, and our commitment to our core values.

Let us continue this journey with dedication and focus to confront our challenges and create our future; a future ensuring quality, sustainability and success for COM-FSM, the students we educate and the nation we serve.

This we will do, and in this we will succeed. To succeed, we must all work to ensure that we are upholding the mission of the college and working toward the collective vision that we set for the institution. We must assess and continuously improve our institution's quality and work to achieve greater success of our students.

We will undertake this work together. We must all participate. We must communicate well. This is the job that has been entrusted to us by our community and our nation on behalf of our students and their families.

News & Information

Pohnpei Campus Completes 6th Annual Exhibit

The College of Micronesia-FSM Pohnpei Campus completed its 6th Annual Exhibit last April 23 -27. The annual exhibit is an event in which students from respective programs at Pohnpei campus showcase the skills learned to the community. The main purpose of the event is to promote the importance of technical and career education and, more importantly, to recruit potential students into the certificate and degree programs that are currently available at Pohnpei campus. This year's event included showcases from the Agriculture & Food Technology (AFT), Hotel Tourism Management (HTM), and Technology & Trade (T&T) programs. On April 23 and 24, students and graduates from the programs visited the high schools to present and share their experiences with the high school seniors. On April 26 and 27, exhibits of on-campus programs were open to guests, students, parents, and the community. Exhibits included: fiber optics-connector termination and fusion splicing, car audio demo, simple circuit assembly, food and beverage management, cabinet and furniture making, building maintenance and carpentry and many more.



Top & Below: Students demonstrate on how to set-up car audio and repair damaged electronic devices.

Bottom: HTM hosted high school students and gave lectures about the programs offered by HTM



First Annual GEAR UP Science Fair and Expo 2012

The GEAR UP-Pohnpei program (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) housed at COM-FSM Pohnpei campus and addressing student academic outcomes announces that it will hold its 1st annual Science Fair and Expo 2012 at the Pohnpei Campus gymnasium on May 19, 2012, from 2-4pm. The Science Fair and Expo 2012 is funded by the Direct Aid Program of the Australian Embassy in Pohnpei and allows over 360 8th graders from Saladak, Sekere, Awak, Nett, Kolonia, and Ohmine schools to participate in the science research project. Currently, students are doing literature and internet research during GEAR UP computer classes on Pohnpei campus on Saturdays and during its after-school program Mondays through Fridays. The Australian funded "Middle School Science Program and Expo" will allow the students "hands-on" research and to feel like "real scientists", as they will be able to test their theoretical hypothesis. Student groups will compete against their classmates at

the school science fair. They will present their projects and answer a variety of questions posed by two judges; their teacher and an outside volunteer judge. The top performing groups from each classroom will advance to the Expo. It is estimated that 100 students with the best research projects will compete in a science fair expo on May 19, 2012. At the expo event, judges will go from group to group posing questions and listening to remarks. Students will be judged according to their ability to effectively communicate and present their science projects. Once completed, the team of judges will determine the top three science projects. Students will receive a variety of awards and prizes. GEAR UP program is funded by the US Department of Education and aims at preparing students to enter and succeed in the post-secondary education. If you would like to know more about GEAR UP program, please visit us at Pohnpei Campus or call at 320-3795.

Recognition Wall

Thank you for contributing to our Endowment Fund!

**1998
to
2010**

**Silver Circle
\$1,000 - \$9,999**

- Pohnpei Campus Students (Founding Day 1999)
- Pohnpei Campus Students (Founding Day 2000)
- Pohnpei Campus Students (Founding Day 2006)
- Pohnpei Computer Consulting
- Pohnpei Rotary Club
- Pohnpeian Students (Founding Day 1997)
- Rabiton Kanada

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>

CCM/COM-FSM Alumni Association (CCAA)
P.O. Box 159
Pohnpei FM 96941
Email: jsaimon@comfsm.fm

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
Student Services Aide
Administrative Assistant II

Yap

Extension Agent I [Home Economics]
Agriculture Agent

Chuuk

Health and Nutrition Agent III

National

Instructor-Japanese Language
English Instructor



Name: **Mr. Hiroki Noda**
Title: IT Technician I
Campus: Kosrae
Tel: (691)370-3191
Email: hnodea@comfsm.fm

Mr. Noda graduated from COM-FSM with the following credentials:

- 2004 Certificate in Electronics Engineering Technology and an AA degree in
- 2005 Advanced Certificate in Electronic Engineering Technology Electronics
- 2006 Associate of Applied Science in Telecommunications Technology
- 2010 Associate of Applied Science in Electronics Technology

He also attended a 40 hour training at Honolulu Community College on Office equipment troubleshooting, repair and maintenance in 2006.

He has been working on a part-time basis at COM-FSM Kosrae Campus since 2006 as an office equipment repairman until March of this year. During the same period, he has also served as a tutor and computer instructor for students at the campus and the Upward Bound Program.



Name: **Mrs. Morehna Rettin-Santos**
Title: HRM Specialist
Campus: National
Department: Administrative Services
Tel: (691) 320-2482 Ext. 156
Email: msantos@comfsm.fm

Mrs. Rettin-Santos began her relationship with the college in 1989 as a counselor. In 2002 she assumed the directorship of the Student Support Services Program until 2010 when the program phased out. She went on to served for a brief period as Coordinator for the COM-FSM/SAMHSA project until she was hired to fill a student services specialist position under the new GEARUP Program. Her work experience outside of the college include more than 7 years of directorship of the Micronesia Bound Inc.

At the college, Mrs. Rettin-Santos has worked on several committees including Personnel Committee, Staff Development Committee, Student Services Committee, and Sponsored Program Committee. Twice [2008 & 2010] she received the Staff of the Year award at the National Campus

Bachelor's Degree in Sociology, 1990, Eastern New Mexico University.

Development & Community Relations

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

Joseph Saimon

DCR Director
jsaimon@comfsm.fm

Juan Paulo Santos

Administrative Specialist
jpsantos@comfsm.fm

or Call us at 320-2480 ext. 125 / 152



Name: **Mr. Asher Hallens**
Title: Computer Lab Monitor
Campus: National
Department: Instructional Affairs
Tel: (691) 320-2480 Ext. 106
Email: mtuala@comfsm.fm

Mr. Hallens graduated from COM-FSM Pohnpei Campus in 2009 in Electronic Technology.

His previous work experience include working at Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corporation and Pohnpei Land Commission.

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:

☐ Mr.

☐ Ms.

Employer:

Title / Position:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone: ()

Fax: ()

Email:

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