



# COM-FSM SHARKS

The Official Newsletter of the College of Micronesia-FSM



Uniquely  
Micronesian

Volume 6, Issue 1

Free Copy

January 2013

## Reminders

### CHUUK

February 1 Deadline for Applications for Graduation  
February 11 Early Warning Deficiency Reports Due from Instructors  
February 22 Staff Development Day – (no class)

### KOSRAE

February 1 Deadline for Applications for Graduation  
February 11 Early Warning Deficiency Reports Due from Instructors  
February 22 Staff Development Day – (no class)

### POHNPEI and NATIONAL

February 1 Deadline for Applications for Graduation  
February 11 Early Warning Deficiency Reports Due from Instructors  
February 22 Staff Development Day – (no class)

### YAP

February 1 Deadline for Applications for Graduation  
February 11 Early Warning Deficiency Reports Due from Instructors  
February 22 Staff Development Day – (no class)

### FSM-FMI

February 1 Monthly Report Due  
February 6 Early Warning Deficiency Reports Due from Instructors  
February 11 Tutoring Start

## Board Issues Actions and Directives after January Meeting

The College of Micronesia-FSM Board of Regents issued Actions and Directives to the college after its January 14 – 15, 2013, meeting. All regents participated in the meeting including Chairman Kasio Mida, Vice Chairman Lyndon Cornelius, Secretary/Treasurer Mary B. Figir, Member Graceful Enlet and Member Churchill Edward. After covering all items on their meeting agenda, the COM-FSM Board of Regents issued the following Actions and Directives:

1. The following were elected as officers for the next year:

Kasio Mida - Chairman  
Lyndon Cornelius – Vice Chairman  
Mary B. Figir – Secretary/Treasurer

2. The minutes of the August 10, 2012, meeting as corrected were adopted.  
3. The Board approved the organizational chart, which indicates the administrative side and the participatory governance side of the



From Left: Regent Mary B. Figir, Regent Lyndon Cornelius, Chairman Kasio Mida, President Joseph M. Daisy Ed.D., Regent Churchill Edward and Regent Graceful Enlet during the January board meeting.

institution.

4. A policy making the online catalog the official catalog of the college was approved.  
5. The travel policy on per diem was revised to read: A person with authorized travel from the college is to receive an advance of 80% of his/her per diem.

**Continuation on Page 2**

## President Daisy Accepts Certificate for Chinese Carpet Donation

COM-FSM President Joseph M. Daisy, Ed.D. received a handover certificate from the People's Republic of China's ambassador for a donation of carpets and mats on January 25, 2013 at the Chinese embassy. The donation of carpets, mats, magic tape and special tool was made by the Chinese Wushu Association, the artists that performed at the National Campus last September on the occasion of the anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between the People's Republic of China and the Federated States of Micronesia. The donations were received by the FSM in September 2012. China's Ambassador Zhang Lianyun to the FSM thanked President Daisy for visiting his embassy to receive the handover certificate and invited him to visit China in the near future. President Daisy expressed his interest in visiting China especially Zhejiang Ocean University, a Chinese university with articulation agreement with COM-FSM. He thanked the ambassador for the



COM-FSM President Joseph M. Daisy, Ed. D. accepts the certificate from His Excellency, Ambassador Zhang Lianyun of the People's Republic of China to the FSM.

generous donation as well as the support that China is giving to the students, faculty and staff of the college. President Daisy also invited the ambassador and his staff to consider visiting the college and to speak to the college community as part of the college's forum lecture series. Also present during the handover certificate signing and presentation ceremony was Second Secretary Wu Hongxing of the Chinese Embassy.

## 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

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

## Editor's Notes

It has been three years since the *COM-FSM Sharks Newsletter* first went into circulation. Since then, this newsletter has served as one of the sources for information about the college for alumni and friends of COM-FSM. While funding constraints at the college has led to the discontinuation of the print edition of this publication, it is our intention to continue this publication but only through its electronic version. Copies will continue to be available on 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

### Board Issues Actions and Directives From Page 1

However, if the traveler has no outstanding travel advance or accounts receivables with the college, he/she may request 100% advance on per diem.

Travel is not to be authorized for persons with unliquidated travel advance unless arrangement to clear the account has been made with the Business Office and approved by the President.

6. A facilities use fee was established to provide supplemental funding to support the operations and maintenance of college facilities at all campuses/sites effective Fall 2013.

7. An operations budget of \$12,195,467 for FY 2014 with a request for \$3,800,000 appropriation from the FSM National Government was approved for submission to the FSM National Government.

8. An FSM-FMI budget of \$755,110.44 for FY 2014 was approved for submission to the FSM National Government.

9. FY 2014 operating budgets for the following auxiliary enterprises were approved:

Bookstore - \$ 84,951

Cafeteria - \$213,477

10. The COM-FSM Board of Regents budget in the amount of \$105,000 for FY 2014 was approved for submission to the FSM National Government.

11. The Board amended the FY 2013 budget by approving \$173,361 in supplemental funding as requested

12. The Board approved the inclusion of a section on "Ethical Violations" in Section IV.B, BOARD OPERATIONS Board Ethical Conduct, in the Board's Policy Manual. A review of the Board's bylaws resulted in also adding the new section to Article V, Statement of Ethical Conduct, in the bylaws.

13. The Board approved the Board Development and Education Proposal.

14. The Board approved the Board of Regents' Two-Year Action Agenda (2013-2015).

15. The Board approved the Board of Regents Strategic Institutional Outcomes



*The Board of Regents together with the administrators of the college met during the board meeting last January.*

and Input for the COM-FSM Vision.

16. The Board approved Mr. Floyd K. Takeuchi, Fr. Francis X. Hezel, Mr. Jerry Kramer, Dr. Gerard Finin, and Ms. Christina Stinnett to serve as the initial Board of Directors for the College of Micronesia-FSM Foundation.

17. The next Board meeting will be held the first week in March in Guam.

## Campus-wide Briefs

### Yap Campus Welcomes Students for Spring 2013

The College of Micronesia-FSM Yap Campus welcomes new, returning and continuing students and wishes everyone a successful semester. The campus held its three-day registration for Spring 2013 from January 8 -10, 2013, and an extra day on the 11th. Late registration and add/drop took place during the week of January 14 - 18, 2013. At the close of late registration on January 18th, 186 students registered for the spring semester with a total of 2156 credit hours. A total of 164 were continuing students, 16 were new students, and 6 were returning students. Of the 186 total registered students, 82 were males and 104 were females. The first day of instruction for Yap Campus was January 14th. The last day to withdraw from courses with a "W" is March 22nd, and the last day of instruction for Spring 2013 is May 15th.

### Kosrae Campus Holds Financial Aid Workshop for Students

The College of Micronesia-FSM Kosrae Campus completed its Spring 2013 Financial Aid Workshop for students during the week of January 21 – 25, 2013. The workshop, facilitated by Financial Aid Office Student Services Specialist Eileen Nena, was conducted for both continuing and returning students. The focus of the workshop was the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy. The policy includes two standards of measurement, which include qualitative and quantitative measurement, Pell Grant eligibility timeframe, and other documents needed including the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The workshop was conducted at the Kosrae Campus computer laboratory and attended by more than fifty students.

### SBA holds welcoming party at National Campus

The student body association at the college's National Campus held a welcoming party on January 25th for



*SBA officers headed by SBA President Sebastian Tairuweepi addresses the students during the welcoming party.*

students. The Welcome Back To The Home Of The Sharks party was held at the FSM-China Friendship Sports Center and attended by about 300 students. At the beginning of the welcoming party, Campus Security Chief Warren Ching welcomed all the students and discussed safety and other issues relating to campus rules and regulations. According to Student Body President Sebastian Tairuweepi,

the purpose of the party was to "build a sense of unity in diversity,"

he said. Mr. Tairuweepi commented that the event also served as another opportunity for students to mingle, have fun, get to know each other, and enjoy their college years at COM-FSM. A survey was

also conducted during the party where students were given the opportunity to voice their concerns at the

college. President Tairuweepi said that most students commented on the needs for more fun activities for Residence Hall students, campus safety, transportation and food related issues.

### 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

### President Daisy Attends Solar Project Handover Ceremony at Palikir

COM-FSM President, Joseph M. Daisy, Ed.D. represented the college at the "Project for Introduction of Clean Energy by Solar Electricity Generation System" handover ceremony held at the FSM Capital on January 25th. Other dignitaries present during the ceremony were His Excellency Manny Mori, President of the FSM; His Excellency Eiichi Suzuki, Ambassador of Japan to the FSM; Honorable John Ehsa, Pohnpei State Governor; and Mr. Felciano Perman, Pohnpei Utilities Corporation General Manager. The handover ceremony was held to mark the completion of the installation of solar panels at the FSM capital and at the College of Micronesia-FSM National Campus. The Government of Japan funded the project. In his remarks, Ambassador Suzuki stated that the "project has been implemented based on the Cool Earth Partnership which was declared by former Prime Minister Fukuda at the Davos Forum in January 2008. It was then strengthened and committed at the PALM 5 in May 2009 providing the financial and technical support of the Pacific Island Countries," he said. On behalf of the Government of the FSM, Secretary Lorin S. Robert expressed appreciation to the Government of Japan for the project. He commented that the location of the project on the roof of the President's Office and at the College of Micronesia-FSM "shows strong commitment to GEM—Green Energy Micronesia," he



From Left: COM-FSM President Joseph M. Daisy Ed.D., Secretary for FSM Department of Foreign Affairs Lorin Robert, His Excellency Eiichi Suzuki Ambassador of Japan to the FSM, Pohnpei State Governor John Ehsa, and His Excellency Manny Mori, President of the FSM



Governor John Ehsa passes the key to COM-FSM President Joseph M. Daisy Ed.D. during the Solar Project Hand Over Ceremony.

said. The construction of the solar panels at the college's National Campus also provides roofing for the campus front parking lot. The ceremony ended with a sake barrel breaking ritual, a customary Japanese celebratory ceremony.

### Students Hopeful as Spring Semester Begins

Students at the college's National Campus expressed their excitement as they look forward to completing their studies at the college. Janice Ioanis, a third-year student majoring in Public Health and Yasko Weilbacher, a third-year student majoring in Elementary Education are already expressing their hopes of completing their studies as well as helping other students at the college. Ms. Weilbacher said she only has three courses to complete during this semester before fulfilling her dream of becoming an elementary school teacher. Ms. Ioanis, who is also the secretary for the National Campus Student Body Association is an active member of the college's Peer Advisors. "Getting involved with the SBA and with the Peer Advisors is a very good experience for me while I'm here at COM-FSM," she said. She believes that through these organizations, she is able to "meet



National Campus students Janice Ioanis and Yasko Weilbacher gets ready for their class.

new friends especially fellow students from the other FSM states. As a member of the Peer Advisors, I'm glad that I'm able to help my fellow students with some of their concerns while they are here at the college," she commented. Janice and Yasko are like other students who are also excited as they are transforming their lives at the college.

## Recognition Wall

1998  
to  
2012

Bronze Circle  
\$100 - \$999

- Christine Lih Ieolani, Leo 'Dash' & Andrew PO'Omeika'i
- Chuuk Delegation to Mega Conference
- Chuuk State Dept. of Education
- Chuukese Students (Founding Day 1996)
- CNMI Delegation to the 1996 PREL Conference
- Construction & Power Source FSM, Inc.
- Copymaster Hawaii, Inc.

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

# COM-FSM Board of Regents Holds Community Meeting in Pohnpei

The College of Micronesia-FSM Board of Regents conducted a community meeting on January 16th to update the community on the major highlights at the college and to receive community input. The meeting was held at the Pohnpei State Governor's conference hall at 2 – 3 pm and was attended by 49 people including four regents, the college president, several college staff, parents of COM-FSM students and COM-FSM alumni. Regent Churchill Edward, the Pohnpei representative on the board, opened the meeting and greeted the participants in Pohnpeian. He welcomed the guests and explained the purpose for community meetings. Vice Chairman Lyndon Cornelius expressed appreciation for the members of the community who participated in the meeting. He introduced the other regents present including Graceful Enlet representing Chuuk, Churchill Edward representing Pohnpei, Mary Figir representing Yap, and COM-FSM President Joseph M. Daisy, Ed.D. He shared that the board attended a workshop to better understand their function as board members and later considered issues during their January board meeting, accreditation being the most important. Regent Cornelius expressed his hopes that the meeting would be beneficial to the members of the community and encouraged questions and concerns from them. President Daisy shared that it has been a year since he became president of the college. He said that during the past year both internal and external constituents have pulled together to work toward bringing the college out of its accreditation sanction and that a completion of several initiatives have secured another year for the college to continue to work toward resolving its accreditation concerns. The president said that another major report is due in March and will be followed by a visit from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges. He commented that while the news is good in that the college is moving in the right direction, there is still a lot of work to be done. President Daisy said that it would be another intense year of work for the college. He called for extraordinary support and courage of the nation's leaders to provide the funds to support the accomplishment of the college's mission and continued improvement. He expressed that in spite of the economic challenges, the college remains optimistic of the leaders' support for the college considering the appropriation of \$700,000 from FSM Congress to restore the first funding decrement to the college. The president pointed out that the college held successful visioning summits at each campus with broad based participation, the results of which will contribute toward the development of the college's next strategic plan. As well, the college is continuing to address its communication challenges to fulfill its mission and gain the support of the nation's leaders. President Daisy noted that favorable feedback was received on his presentation at



Regent Churchill Edward welcomed everyone during the community meeting. Surrounding him were COM-FSM President Joseph M. Daisy, Ed.D., Regent Lyndon Cornelius from Kosrae and Regent Graceful Enlet from Chuuk.

the State National Leadership Conference. As well, a space utilization study will be completed to better inform the college's facilities master plan and to provide guidance for maximizing the use of the college's facilities. Advisory committees are being formed to reach out to the community to help make the college's programs stronger. The president further shared that in order to reach donors beyond the FSM, the board is moving ahead to develop a foundation that will secure U.S. tax-exempt status for donors. While the foundation may take a year to be fully established, the president attributed its planning and development to the board's visionary thinking. The president also shared that a student engagement survey will be conducted to help faculty and staff understand why students choose to attend the college and their level of satisfaction with the services they receive. Senator Magdalena Walter expressed appreciation to the college for holding community meetings to share information on issues from the college leadership. Mr. Kester James, the Pohnpei State Senior Citizens Program Coordinator inquired whether older people could go back to college and on the college's position on the World Park initiative. President Daisy responded by saying that anyone is welcome to return to COM-FSM including older people. On the issue of the World Park, Vice President for Cooperative Research and Extension Jim Currie said the college is collaborating with World Park initiative by providing technical information. The college also has a memorandum of understanding with Michigan State University, the consultant for the World Park planning efforts. Senator Ishmael Lebehn asked whether the college could provide non-credit courses needed by the community and whether it could increase its vocational program offerings. The Vice President for Instructional Affairs Mariana Ben Dereas shared that there is a recent program prioritization effort at the college as well as the development of an Educational Master Plan with the focus on success and employability of students while in school and after completing their education at the college. She said that



College Alumni Kester James asked questions during the community meeting.



Parents, alumni of the college, and concerned citizens attend the community meeting.

Pohnpei Campus offers several applied associate degree and certificate programs in career and technical areas. She noted that non-credit courses are developed and offered upon request. An example is the recent public health courses that started last summer. Pohnpei Campus Acting Dean Grilly Jack further explained about a stigma that is attached to the word vocational as they are used in the high schools. The word vocational discourages students from enrolling in vocational programs. The current terminology that the college uses is career and technical education. He said that the college currently offers nine certificate and associate of applied science degree programs. The programs are accredited and articulated with the U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship Program. Mr. Jack shared that the college has established advisory councils for the career and technical education programs to solicit community participation and ownership by informing the college of community training needs. The Pohnpei State senators who were present during the meeting expressed their support of the college. President Daisy mentioned that other Pohnpei leaders were also vocal in their support of the college following the SNLC and so was Governor Ehsa during their courtesy call on him earlier. President Daisy extended an invitation to all to visit the college. Regent Enlet closed the meeting by expressing sincere thanks for the community members in attendance, which shows community interest in the future of the college. He concluded the meeting by stating that when it comes to moving forward, places and institutions do not move. It is the people that move. He invited everyone to move forward with his or her support of the college. The college's vice presidents present during the community meeting were Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness and Quality Assurance Frankie Harriss, Vice President for Instructional Affairs Mariana Ben Dereas, and Vice President for Cooperative Research and Extension Jim Currie.



## 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

Education Specialist  
Student Services Specialist II  
Student Services Aide

#### Yap

Agriculture Agent  
Extension Agent I (Home Economics)

#### Chuuk

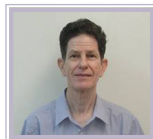
Environmental Science Instructor

#### Kosrae

Mathematics Instructor  
Science Instructor

#### National

Marine Science Instructor  
Assessment Coordinator  
Instructor – Business  
Mathematics Instructor  
Music Instructor



Name: Dr. Monty William Vierra  
Title: Instructor - English  
Division: Languages & Literature  
Campus: National  
Tel: 320-2480 #224  
Email: [mvierra@comfsm.fm](mailto:mvierra@comfsm.fm)

Dr. Vierra have travelled all the way from Poland where he has been teaching for the past two years. He has also worked in other foreign countries such as Taiwan, South Korea, and Japan. In the U.S., he has worked as an editorial assistant for a university journal, tutored ESL students, and co-taught college courses while a student. Throughout his career, he has produced more than 10 publications in print and on-line in the areas of Language & Literature.

PhD Degree in English, 2009, Idaho State University  
MA Degree in Humanities, 1995, California State University  
BA Degree in Humanities, 1981, Thomas Edison State College  
TESL Certificate, 2009 from Idaho State University



Name: Gregory Adam Navitsky  
Title: Instructor - Art  
Campus: National  
Division: Education  
Tel: 320-2480 #115  
Email: [greg\\_navitsky@yahoo.com](mailto:greg_navitsky@yahoo.com)

Mr. Navitsky came last year July as a World Teach Volunteer. He was a teacher at PICS High school until he came on board at the college as an Art Instructor. He brought with him more than 9 years of teaching in Japan, two years of living in Spain, and a wide range of work experience from the US.

MA Degree in International Education Administration, 2009, Endicott College  
BA Degree in Fine Arts in Studio Art, 1997, Tufts University

### 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: Maria Christina Madison  
Title: Instructo - English  
Campus: National  
Division: Languages & Literature  
Tel: 320-2481 #224  
Email: [mmadison@comfsm.fm](mailto:mmadison@comfsm.fm)

Ms. Madison arrived on Pohnpei with her daughter Mia on January 17th from Florida. She is the founding editor of an online literary and art magazine, "The Manila Envelope", <http://www.themanilaenvelope.com>. She has also published a number of poems and articles in print and online, under her partial birth name, Christina Querrer. Her poetry book was published by Dancing Girl Press entitled "The Art of Exporting" <http://www.dancinggirlpress.com/exporting.html>. She also has published essays and poems in various anthologies to include Pinoy Poetics: A collection of Autobiographical and Critical Essays in Filipino and Filipino-American Poetics edited by Nick Carbo (Meritage Press, San Francisco & St. Helena, 2004), and Babayan: An Anthology of Filipina and Filipina-American Writers.

MFA in Creative Writing National University, 2010  
BA in Creative Writing from Eckerd College, 2007 (with minor in Visual Arts)

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: \_\_\_\_\_

☐

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Attention: Development & Community Relations  
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Are you a CCM or COM-FSM Alumni? ☐ YES ☐ NO

First Name:

Last Name:

☐ Mr.  
☐ Ms.

Employer:

Title / Position:

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