

CHACHALANI



Guam Community College PDF Newsletter

Campus Happenings ❖ President's Message ❖ Upcoming Events

Meet the President



Several hundred students gathered in the MPA on Feb. 22 and 23 to meet with GCC President Dr. Mary Okada. After Okada gave an update with regard to the campus physical plans and what students can expect during the upcoming accreditation visit, students voiced their concerns over matters such as extended hours for the LRC and Student Lounge, a possible ROTC program, more space for Automotive, parking and parking fees, whether the master plan includes plans for a day care or nursery. Okada's staff took down students' comments and concerns, and some have already been addressed – such as the hours for the LRC and the Student Lounge. Other suggestions are being examined for their feasibility with regard to budget and other constraints.



Parade of Shoes

The GCC Foundation raised over \$6,000 on the night of Feb. 10 at Riverside in Hagatna with it's Parade of Shoes! Hosted by President Okada and Hit Radio 100's Rick Nauta, contestants signed up to see who had the funkier, most scintillating, sinful, playful, or bombshell pair of shoes! The overall winner was GCC student and COPSA president Ariane Nepomuceno – congratulations Ariane, and congrats to Lolita Reyes and her DAR staff for a great FUNdraiser! (see more photos on page 9!)



THE SEARCH IS ON FOR THE 2012 DISTINGUISHED ALUM!

Know anyone who has demonstrated the highest level of professional achievement and service to the community – and who graduated from a GCC program or the former VoTech High School (OR earned at least 30 credit hours at GCC or the former GVTHS) at least five years ago? The Office of Development & Alumni Relations is searching for GCC's next Distinguished Alumnus. Nominations are open through 5 PM, March 30th. The award will be announced at the GCC 35th Anniversary Gala at the Hyatt Regency Guam on May 5th. The nomination form is available at www.guamcc.edu. For more info, contact Lolita Reyes, assistant director of DAR. at 735-5611, or email alumni@guamcc.edu.

From the President

One of my favorite duties as president of GCC is meeting with our students. On February 22 & 23, several hundred of you showed up to hear about our important Accreditation visit coming up very soon (and I was impressed with how many of you know what an SLO is!), listen to our plans for expansion, and to relay to me your comments and concerns about the College. As students, you are the reason we exist, and giving you what you want and need to succeed in the workforce is our primary goal here at GCC. That's why the hours of the LRC and the Student Lounge are now expanded, and why we are looking to support additional student services. Thank you for meeting with me this month. And thank you to those of you who attended our Parade of Shoes fundraiser – it was a great success and a chance for all of us to show off our newest high heels and infuse money into the GCC Foundation! We are all very busy with teaching, learning, and making preparations for accreditation. It is a challenge to do what we do every day given our budget constraints, however the dedication I see from our faculty, staff, and administrators, and the effort I see from our students with regard to their devotion to their studies, makes me proud to work at GCC. Keep up the great effort, everyone!



L to r: Jason Katigbac, AGA president-elect, Doris Flores Brooks, Public Auditor; Joy Bulatao, AGA Scholarship committee co-chair; Vince Duenas, AGA president; Dr. Mary Okada, GCC president; Regina Delacruz; scholarship recipients Floregine Delacruz and Guiyong Murday; Yinbo Ada, Lolita Reyes, GCC asst. director, Development & Alumni Relations; and Carmen Kwek Santos, GCC Vice President of Finance and AGA member. Not shown: Pilar Pangelinan, GCC accounting associate professor.

AGA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The Association of Government Accountants Guam Chapter presented \$1,000 scholarships each to accounting majors Floregine Delacruz and Guoying Murday at the AGA monthly meeting on Feb. 29. Both students plan to pursue four-year degrees in Accounting and get their CPA license. Guest speaker at the meeting was President Okada, who called the scholarships a symbol of the importance of partnerships GCC has with professionals and organizations such as the AGA in our community.



*From the Desk of the Accreditation Liaison Officer
Dr. Ray D. Somera*

Being prepared for our Accreditation visit means we can readily explain our use of data to make informed decisions, at all levels of college functioning. It means we can showcase the continuous improvements in our courses, programs, and the entire institution, that we are continually engaged in the program review process, and that we care about our accreditation reaffirmation because it ultimately means whether we can keep our jobs, whether our students can avail of financial assistance, and whether we can secure federal grants to supplement our limited financial resources. We have all worked hard for this – from the Self Study Committee chairs and members, to our entire faculty, staff, and even our students, who readily know our assessment terminology (ILO, SLO). Let's show this team that we are prepared, and that we deserve six more years of an accredited institution!

FACULTY SENATE BRIEF

March 2012

Guam Community College

Keep up the excellence in teaching and helping students reach their course/program SLOs. The ACCJC comprehensive is right around the corner on March 19-22nd so be sure to welcome the team and show them our campus/island pride. Also remember to collect artifacts or displays if you haven't already for the Program and Course Assessment/Service Learning Showcase on March 14-28 in the MPA.

Here's a list of recent business occurring at our Faculty Senate (FS) meetings:

Late last semester the new Travel Policy was reviewed by FS and approved by the College Governing Council (CGC). A copy of the new policy is on MyGCC.

The Committee on Faculty Ethics (CFE) was formed and members convened for the first time this semester following our College's Code of Ethics and procedures.

On 1/17/12 FS voted to support The Committee of Department Chair's (CDC) recommendations for faculty evaluation and approved final edits of the Learning Outcomes Committee's Lab/Credit Analysis.

On 1/26/12 FS addressed the CDC's request for a tuition assistant program for faculty and employees at the CGC meeting. Members were amenable to this idea and are currently researching what other colleges offer.

Marsha Postrozny,
Faculty Senate President

“Accounting for the Future”

Nearly 70 students gathered at the annual GCC accounting conference, “Accounting for the Future,” on Feb. 3 at the Hyatt Regency Guam. Assistant U.S. Attorney Mikel Schwab, who recently completed courses at GCC to earn his associate degree in accounting, spoke to the students about forensic accounting and its importance to the legal system.



National EMT registry exec visits GCC

GCC is moving forward with efforts to offer a nationally-certified Emergency Medical Technician program and on February 16th welcomed William E. Brown, Jr., RN, MS, NREMT-P, executive director of the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) to the campus. A former paramedic educator, Brown answered questions regarding the National Registry requirements, standards, and scopes of practice at a meeting with GCC academic personnel, members of Guam’s EMS Commission, personnel from the Guam Police and Guam Fire Departments, as well as officials from the U.S. Navy, in the AALG Allied Health Center.



Culinary students adjust to fees, sell V-Day treats

A handful of students showed up to the GCC public hearing on the adjustment in tuition and fees for the Culinary Arts program on Feb. 6-7. The program reduced the tuition to \$130 per credit hour, but instituted a lab fee of \$200 for each course. Students took the adjustment in stride, perhaps because they were busy preparing for their Valentine’s Day tuxedo strawberries fundraiser. The students sold their strawberries at the Micronesia Mall Payless on Feb. 14, taking in a little more than enough to break event. Thanks to Payless for allowing our students to sell that day!



GCC nursing, medical assisting students help out

Recent GCC LPN graduates from the class of 2011 volunteered their time at the Bone Marrow Drive at GPO on Feb. 11, and Medical Assisting students manned a booth at the Micronesia Mall on Feb. 21 for Payless employees’ health screening.



A student's reflection on the Homeless Count

The following was written by Rebekah Oh, a student in John Armstrong's Sociology class. She is one of several dozen GCC students that participated in the Point In Time Count of the island's homeless on January 27th.

The Unconnected Bridge

After eagerly searching for homeless people, our team finally met a first homeless grandpa named George, who lives in the abandoned mayor's building in Merizo. I honestly admit that I was terrified to approach him at the beginning. Whenever he looked at me, I put my eyeballs to the other side since his eyes looked as if they were conquered by demons or something... Maybe, it was alcohol that he is addicted to. All I can remember is that I was so SCARED of him. After all, our team members were saying that the main reason he became homeless is that the Vietnamese war, that he participated (in), destroyed his life. I remember meeting one extremely rude and mean Vietnamese war veteran. I didn't understand him and hated him at a time, but by looking at George that day, I thought to myself that our society needs generous understanding about the veterans. Furthermore, I was able to understand my dad a little more, recalling the time when he once told one homeless guy not to buy alcohol with some dollar bills he gave him.

After our team members carefully surveyed the veteran grandpa, we moved to the place where dozens of substandard houses were located. Although the houses looked as if one blow of wind would destroy everything away, many of them did have access to the power and water. The residences of some houses were actually over-weight indicating that they have enough to eat. The more surprising fact was that there were fancy Toyota Camry and Nissan Cube parked next to the poor-looking houses. I felt like a huge hammer was striking my brain so hard that I became nearly speechless. I really had no clue what it is that made them homeless but have fancy cars and smart phones. The head of one household said he works at the port authority, but isn't it basic sense that the housing condition comes first before the fancy cars or smart phones?

On the other hand, I also met some jobless residents of substandard houses. They were the ones whom my teacher referred to when I was young - they simply don't help themselves. They actually refuse to be the members of the society. When my team members and I asked one of the residents what blocked her from getting a job, she said, "You know, it's Guam. It's rare to find jobs on Guam." Are there any ways to bring them back to hope? How can we do that? Is just feeding them, giving them money or public assistance enough? It looked like to me that they need some spiritual boost first.

Many of us have misconceptions about homeless people that they are too poor to help themselves, but I realize that we can be wrong. In various cases and various households, there must be thousands of different stories that turned them to be homeless. There are thousands of other people who think totally different than we do, and our job is to minimize the gaps of misconception of each other. My judgment about homeless people only sounds harsh because I do not understand them enough, but when I get to know them closely and know all their stories and background, I'm sure I will find the way to understand and have the generous opinion about them. The world seems bigger to me now.



GW students earn NCRC

Sixteen George Washington High students recently passed the National Career Readiness Certificate test under the WorkKeys program administered by GCC in partnership with the Guam Department of Labor. They were chosen by the GW administration to take part in the school's KeyTrain/Work Keys pilot program that promotes students' work readiness. "It was very beneficial," Nathaneal Herring, 17, a GW senior, said of the test. "It gives you a better perspective on what your strong points are." The NCRC is a nationally recognized testing system that verifies problem solving, critical thinking, reading for information, locating information, and applied mathematics skills.

NAPA visits JFK Automotive Class

Officials from NAPA Auto Parts on Guam and in California visited GCC CTE Automotive programs at JFK and the four other public high schools to talk to students about careers in the automotive industry. "We have quite a lot of graduates working at NAPA," said Christopher Dennis, Automotive Department chair. His goal is to bring GCC's program to a level where students feel they can receive a state-of-the-art automotive education right here on Guam. NAPA is also donating automotive supplies for the refurbishment of a 1970 classic El Camino "Blue Ghost," donated to the GCC Foundation by M80 company in honor of the College's upcoming 35th Anniversary celebration on May 5th.



Taking the Cake!

Students in the ProStart program at Simon Sanchez High School swept the annual cake decorating competition held at the Micronesia Mall on Feb. 11. Pictured L to R: competition judges Chef Arthur Zantua and Chef Paul Kerner; first place winners Marivic Capati, Leyann Lusung, and Mac Dimla; 2nd place winner Maria Ganigan; and 3rd place winners Regine Olarte and France Pili.

Overall, I enjoyed the College & Career Exploration Day.



College & Career Exploration Day

Nearly 300 seniors from all five Guam public high schools visited GCC on Feb. 10 for College and Career Exploration Day. Sponsored by the College Access Challenge Grant Program in order to raise awareness about college readiness and promote GCC, students visited the Automotive, Construction Trades, Cosmetology, Culinary Arts, Electronics and Allied Health programs, and heard from department chairs about their respective programs and the advantages of earning an associate degree or certificate. Special thanks to COPSA members for being tour guides and answering the students' questions about attending GCC!



College Access program tops 1,336 students

"Excellent. It's the first time I've heard of this." That's what parent Evelyn Nededog said about the College Access Challenge Grant Program during orientation on Feb. 1. Nededog was one of nearly 60 middle and high school parents and students gathered in the MPA to learn about the federally funded CACGP, which provides students and their parents with information and resources that turn postsecondary education into a reality for students that are often the first in their family to go to college. This month's orientation session brings to 1,336 the total number of middle and high school students that are taking advantage of the CACGP this school year.



Project AIM Orientation

Project AIM held its orientation for new GCC students on Feb. 10. The program, which helps first-time college students to succeed, welcomed 57 new and continuing students to the program, which offers tutoring and other assistance to students. A total of 176 students are participating in Project AIM for the 2011-2012 academic year. Call 735-5595 for details!

Procurement Training

Students in GCC's first Procurement course listened to their instructor, attorney John Thomas Brown, introduce the legal aspects of the procurement process on Feb. 3 in the AALG Allied Health Center Lecture Hall. The 18-hour course, offered through the Continuing Ed Office, is designed for both government officials and individuals working in the private sector that do business with the government of Guam.



CE launches Project HATSA



RAPIDS training

That's "Registered Apprentice Partnership in Data Systems," the federal government's way of tracking apprentices in GCC's Apprenticeship program. Terry Guerrero, GCC Apprenticeship admin assistant, helps employers such as Lyndon Carino of Pacific Human Resource Services, Inc., access the RAPIDS system during the course of training for their apprentices. PHRSI is one of over 70 employers that have joined the Apprenticeship program.

Author, Author!

On Feb. 17, Savant Books announced the release of Reilly Ridgell's latest novel, "The Isla Vista Crucible." It tells the story of three college roommates caught up in the frenzy of political activism, riots, and race relations during the tumultuous 1969-70 school year. "It was the end of the sixties," says Ridgell, "and the future was not clear at all. The social unrest created by the Vietnam War affected everybody, even those who tried not to get involved. And it's not all that different today." Congrats Dean Reilly, who is also the author of the widely used textbook, "Pacific Nations and Territories," and co-author of its elementary level version, "Pacific Neighbors."

More pictures from the GCC Foundation fundraiser "PRESIDENT'S PARADE OF SHOES!"



MATH & SCIENCE BABIES

GCC's Math and Science Department has been busy this month adding two future scientists and/or mathematicians! Congratulations are in order for the arrival of Michael Arthur Loerzel Jocson on Feb. 21 to John Jocson and Adrienne Loerzel, and Carl Torres III on Feb. 28 to Carl and Jamie Torres.



FINO' SIHA PARA FIBRERU/MA'IMO'

Chamorro Words for February

Osg - to obey, to follow.

Yanggen un **osge** i mañaina-mu, maolek i hinanao-mu. Your journey is good if you obey your parents.

Tano'an - homeland

Mattu gui' tatti gi i **tano'an**-ña Guahan. She/He came back to her/his homeland Guam.

Ka'lak - lively and healthy, pretty, colorful

I uchana ha na' fan **ka'lak** i tinanom siha. The rain made the plants look so healthy and colorful.

Kahaya - at peace, at ease

Man **kahaya** i mangafa anai mattu tatti safu i guinaiyan-ñiha ginen i gera. The family felt at peace when their loved one came back safe from the war.

Nunok - hide

U **nunok** i mângga gi i homhom na lugat ya umâsa. I hid the mango in a dark place to ripen.

Liko' Tâsi - harbor, bay

Mata'chong siha gi i **liko' tâsi** ya ma attan i minachom atdao. They sat down by the bay and watched the sunset.

Sahuma - in hale, deep breath

Ha **sahuma** i taftaf ogga'an na mânglo'. She inhaled the early morning breeze.

Ginen i Ofisinan Go'ti yan Adahi i Fino'ta Chamorro yan i Ofisinan Guinahan Cho'cho' Taotao

Upcoming at GCC:

March 14 Chuuk Upward Bound visit to GCC

March 16 Accreditation Briefing & Campus Cleanup

March 19-22 Accreditation visit by 11-member team from ACCJC – SLOs here we come!!

March 23 – ProStart Competition in MPA

April 20 - Electronics Skills Challenge in MPA