

# **Atmospheric Observatory Opens on PCC Campus**



(left to right): PCC President Dr. Patrick U. Tellei, Senator Sandra S. Pierantozzi, Dr. Markus Rex, Senator Surangel Whipps Jr., Honorary Consul of Germany to Palau Thomas Schubert, and PCC Director of Development Tchuzie Tadao

On Friday, January 15, 2016 an opening ceremony for the Strato-Climate Atmospheric Observatory in Palau was hosted at the Assembly Hall of Palau Community College (PCC). In a Memorandum of Understanding with the Alfred Wegener Institute (AWI) in Germany, the college agreed to be the site for the Palauan atmospheric observatory as part of the StratoClim Project.

Honored guests at the opening ceremony included United States of America Ambassador to Palau Her Excellency Amy J. Hyatt, Minister of State Billy G. Kuartei, Minister of Community & Cultural Affairs Baklai Temengil, Honorary Consul of the Federal Republic of Germany to Palau Thomas Schubert, Senator Sandra S. Pierantozzi (Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic to Palau), Senator Surangel Whipps Jr. (Honorary Consul of South Korea to Palau), Senator Mason N. Whipps, Honorary Consul of the Philippines to Palau Eric Whipps, and Honorary Consul of India to Palau Robert Scaria. StratoCLIM, CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

#### Memorial Service for Mrs. Garcia

On Friday, January 15, 2016 Palau Community College (PCC) hosted a memorial service in honor of its late Tourism & Hospitality Instructor, Mrs. Soledad Garcia. The memorial service was held at the Palau Tourism & Hospitality School of Excellence (PTHSE). Invited to the service were Mrs. Garcia's family, her close friends, former colleagues, and the PCC faculty & staff members. The service opened with a prayer by Ms. Justa Polloi. She was followed by a performance from the PCC Music Club. The music club had compiled a number of Mrs. Garcia's favorite songs to perform for the evening. Opening remarks were given by PCC President Dr. Patrick U. Tellei. In his remarks, PCC President Dr. Tellei highlighted the many years that Mrs. Garcia had spent in Palau. She had lived in Palau during important & historical moments. Service, continued on page 4



Former Tourism & Hospitality Instructor Victoria Maui, and a close friend of Mrs. Soledad Garcia, giving the eulogy at the memorial service

Palau Community College is an accessible public educational institution helping to meet the technical, academic, cultural, social, and economic needs of students and communities by promoting learning opportunities and developing personal excellence.

Female Dorm Residents' Retreat Held



Group photo of the students enjoying their retreat at Ngeremlengui

At the end of the Fall 2015 Semester, the Palau Community College (PCC) Dormitories under the Student Life & Housing Division organized a retreat for its female residents. The retreat was an opportunity for the students to explore a different part of Palau. It was also an opportunity for the students to learn more about each other while away from an academic environment and foster friendships.

The female dormitory residents' retreat was held at the PCC Cooperative Research & Extension (CRE) Research and Development (R&D) Station at Ngermeskang, Ngeremlengui. The students were accompanied by PCC Director of Student Life & Housing Hilda N. Reklai, Dormitory Manager Hulda Lukas, Dormitory Resident Assistant Alice Faletam, Academic Advisor/ Counselor Shelley R. Ueki, and Student Activities Specialist Lisa T. Sulog.

Activities organized for the retreat included volleyball games, swimming, musical chairs, Tug-O-War, and relay races. In the evening, the students watch movies. The students also participated in community work by collecting trash along the roadsides and around town. At the end of the retreat, they participated in a raffle drawing and won a variety of prizes.

PCC-CRE Vice President Thomas Taro was the guest speaker for the retreat. In his presentation, PCC-CRE Vice President Taro addressed the issues that Palau will face due to climate change. He highlighted the food production projects being conducted by CRE that could help Palau address food security in the future.

The PCC Dormitories and students would like to thank the college as well as the people who contributed to the retreat's success!

Palasia Hotel Donates \$2,000 to MVS



(left to right): PCC-CRE Vice President Thomas Taro, Palasia Hotel Owner Alan Seid, and PCC President Dr. Patrick U. Tellei

The Palau Palasia Hotel recently donated \$2,000 to the Micronesian Voyaging Society (MVS). The donation was received on behalf of the society by PCC President Dr. Patrick U. Tellei (a member of the society) and PCC Cooperative Research & Extension (CRE) Vice President Thomas Taro. It was presented on behalf of Palasia Hotel by Mr. Alan Seid. MVS is a group that promotes and supports non-instrument navigation methods historically practiced in Pacific island cultures.

## Airai Water Resource Task Force Meeting



AWRTF members (left to right): Chairman Clinton Freese, PCC President Dr. Patrick U. Tellei, Lomisang Ngirmelau, Vice Chairman/ PCC Dean of Students Sherman Daniel, and Techur Rengulbai

On January 06, 2016 the Airai Water Resource Task Force (AWRTF) held a meeting at Palau Community College (PCC). During the meeting, the members discussed information regarding Airai State and its water supply. Members of the task force are Clinton Freese (Chairman), PCC Dean of Students Sherman Daniel (Vice Chairman), PCC President Dr. Patrick U. Tellei (member), Mr. Lomisang Ngirmelau (member), and Mr. Techur Rengulbai (member).

## BITSAND PIECES...

## Tan Siu Lin PCC Library

#### **Hours of Operation**

Monday to Thursday	7:30 <sub>ам</sub> - 7 <sub>рм</sub>
Friday	7:30ам - 5рм
Saturday	9ам - 6рм
Sunday	CLOSED

For more information, call: 488-3540

#### Available to Interested Readers: Fine Gardening Magazine



"<u>Fine Gardening Magazine</u> brings you breathtaking design ideas, helpful techniques, and the know-how to get great results in your own garden. In every issue we offer expert know-how on design, plants, techniques, and more. In fact, <u>Fine Gardening Magazine</u> is the only gardening magazine that provides a full set of instructions for every inspired idea we show you."

#### Academic Calendar: Spring 2016

#### **February 19 (F)** Last Day for Removal of Grades

February 29 - March 04 (M-F) Mid-Term Examination Period

#### March 16-18 (W-F) Students' Spring Break

#### Article Correction for Last Issue

**Mesekiu's News Volume 18, Issue 03:** Article on PAGE 2 entitled "Palasia Hotel Donates \$2,000 to MVS" improperly states that the donation was received on behalf of Palasia Hotel by Mr. Alan Seid. It should read that the donation was PRESENTED on behalf of Palasia Hotel by Mr. Alan Seid. *Mesekiu's News* is re-featuring the article and apologizes for the error.

#### **News/Stories Wanted**

*Mesekíw's News* welcomes stories/ articles/announcements from students, faculty, and staff. Submission deadline is Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. in hard and/or electronic copies to tchuziet@palau.edu or tchuziet@gmail.com.

Articles from MOC/PCC Alumni are also welcomed.

Please call *488-2470/2471* (extensions *251*, *252*, or *253*) for more information.

## StratoClim CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The ceremony began with remarks from Honorary Consul Schubert. He recognized the German scientists and experts currently in Palau installing & operating atmospheric observatory: Mr. Ingo Benigna, Mr. Winfried Markert, and Ms. Katrin Müller. He was followed by the welcoming remarks of PCC President Dr. Tellei.

A presentation by Dr. Markus Rex followed. Dr. Rex is the Senior Scientist of the AWI Helmholtz Center for Polar and Marine Science. In his presentation, Dr. Rex explained how a pilot study had determined the air around Palau as the cleanest in the world. Due to this fact, Palau is the ideal location for conducting studies on how climate and air from our region affect the composition of the stratosphere globally.

Having an atmospheric observatory in Palau will lead to in-depth understanding of the stratosphere which will fill the current gap in global observational networks. Information on atmospheric composition of the tropical West Pacific warm pool is also very limited and the Palau Atmospheric Observatory will provide much needed data.

Minister Temengil followed Dr. Rex with her special remarks followed by the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Senator Pierantozzi, Honorary Consul Schubert, Dr. Rex, and PCC President Dr. Tellei were invited to cut the ribbon. After the closing remarks of Honorary Consul Schubert, the audience was invited to visit and examine the atmospheric observatory located next the PCC Cafeteria.

The atmospheric observatory is equipped with instruments that measure the stratospheric ozone & aerosol, the distribution of water vapor, and the abundance of other trace gases in the atmosphere. It is a part of the StratoClim Project that is composed of thirty-two (32) atmospheric research institutions from eleven (11) European countries. Data collected from these observatories will improve the representation of atmospheric processes and our overall understanding of climate change. This project is funded by the European Union.

## PCC-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!

Palau Community College (PCC) would like to inform its students that two (2) scholarships are currently available. THERE IS NO DEADLINE. Call the PCC Development Office at (tel):488-2470/2471 ext. 252 or 253 for more information.

**Sandra S. Pierantozzi PCC-Based Scholarship:** Mr. Marcello Pierantozzi and his wife, Mrs. Sandra S. Pierantozzi, are committed sponsors of the Pierantozzi PCC-Based Scholarship. Each school year, Mr. & Mrs. Pierantozzi donate \$1000 in support of the post-secondary educational pursuits of two (2) full-time, Palauan PCC students. Each is rewarded \$500 for the school year (\$250 per semester.

**David W. Shipper Memorial Scholarship**: The family of the late David W. Shipper are proud to sponsor this scholarship in his honor. David Shipper was an attorney who practiced in Palau for many years. In addition to having his own practice, Mr. Shipper also served as Assistant Attorney General to the President and Senior Legal Counsel working with international clients on immigration, human rights, and international business issues. The selected recipient of this scholarship will receive \$250 per semester.

### PCC CAMPUS PROFILES

WILLIAM T. MITCHELL ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

"You don't get ahead by taking shortcuts. If you work hard and focus, you will succeed."



William T. Mitchell is the Associate Professor for Communications at Palau Community College (PCC) where he has worked for over ten (10) years. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management from the Florida Agricultural & Mechanical (Florida A&M) University and a Master's Degree in Management from Webster University. Associate Professor Mitchell was also a Captain and an Infantry Officer for the United States Marine Corps. He is a member of the PCC Faculty Senate Association (FSA). Hobbies that he enjoys include bicycle riding, boat-sailing, walking, camping, and fishing.

#### Alumni Notes

#### **JOE ANASTACIO** (Class of 2014) ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE - INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

"Attend PCC because it gives you the opportunity to learn and apply skills that will help you contribute to your community.'



Ice graduated in 2014 with an AS Degree in Information Technology. He is continuing his education in the field of Computer Science at the University of Hawaii in Hilo. In addition, Mr. Anastacio works as a Communications/ Data Specialist at the UH Hilo MAAP & PALS and Research Assistant at university's Pacific Islander Student Center.

Mesekíu's News Palau Community College Community P.O. Box 9 Koror, Palau 96940

ALUMNI NOTES showcases MOC & PCC alumni who are positive role models and contribute to the quality of life in their local communities.

If you are that Alumna/Alumnus or know someone who is, please contact the PCC Development Office at telephone numbers 488-2470/2471 (extensions 251, 252, or 253).

We would like to feature you in future Mesekín's News issues.

#### Service CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Former Tourism & Hospitality Instructor, and a close friend of Mrs. Garcia, Ms. Victoria Maui gave the eulogy. The eulogy outlined Mrs. Garcia's childhood to the years she spent teaching at PCC. Ms. Maui highlighted the kindness of Mrs. Garcia's heart and her willingness to help those in need. Following the eulogy was another performance by the PCC Music Club and a message from PCC Dean of Academic Affairs Robert Ramarui.

A special message portion of the program invited anyone to speak in honor of Mrs. Garcia. Speakers who remembered her included former PCC Dean of Academic Affairs Joe Tutii Chilton, Tourism & Hospitality Instructor Stephanie B. Nakamura, Associate Professor of Communications William T. Mitchell, Dr. Myra Adelbai, and former PCC Instructor Jose S. Azuma.

PCC Board of Trustee Jemmy Blelai and Student Trustee Rdiall L. Tellei presented Mrs. Garcia's daughter, Suzette G. Hinojales (also an instructor at the college), with Executive Directive 16-1. The directive ordered the lowering of the PCC Flag in honor of the life and services of "Sol."

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