



Palau Community College MESEKIU'S NEWS



PCC Students & Faculty Attend the 2023 Marianas Terrestrial Conservation Conference & Workshop in Guam



A PCC delegation consisting of 2 science faculty and three PCC Environmental Marine Science students attended the 2023 Marianas

See PCC Students on page 3

14 PCC Students Inducted to the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society



See Phi Theta Kappa on page 3

SPECIAL TRIBUTE

SPECIAL COLUMN CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY ON PG. 2

INTERNATIONAL
**WOMEN'S
DAY**

OPPORTUNITIES

GET DIPS ON THE LATEST SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES, JOB VACANCIES, & MORE ON PG. 2-4



INTERESTING STUFF

READ ABOUT ALUMNI UPDATES, SPECIAL FEATURES & INFORMATION, & OTHER COOL STUFF ON PG. 3-4



Agricultural Exchange Visit to Palau by Mie Prefectural Government Employees

Two delegates, Ms. Nagai Miki and Mr. Hironobu Mayumi, from Mie Prefectural Government visited Palau from February 27 to March 3, 2023 for an agricultural exchange program to strengthen friendship between Palau and Japan. They paid a courtesy call to PCC President, Dr. Patrick Tellei on March 2nd where they discussed a possible partnership for agricultural exchange and academic support programs with PCC. In addition, they visited the Bureau of Agriculture, Koror State Recycling Center and Table Garden Program, Palau High School (PHS) Agriculture Program, and PCC's Agriculture and other research programs and lab facilities where they were able to observe current agriculture practices "[This] visit will definitely benefit both countries to strengthen agricultural partnership program for food security," says Yin Yin Nwe, a researcher (agronomist) with PCC's Cooperative Research & Extension.

Peace Winds Conducted a Kensing Free Health Screening on Campus for the Public

On Tuesday March 7th, 2023, the PCC Assembly Hall and its adjacent areas were converted to a pop-up health clinic. Members from the community sat in the waiting section while clinic staff conducted intakes, screening, blood pressure checks, and even discreet urine tests.

See Free Health Screening on page 3



BRAIN MUNCHIES

"It's like little snacks for your brain."

This week's column celebrates the life of the trailblazing scholar & scientist, Marie Curie, for International Women's Day.

Radio-active: A glimpse into the life of Marie Curie

Today, March 08, 2023, as the world celebrates International Women's Day, and as I sit in my office as a newcomer to the field of higher education, I try to think of women in our collective human history who paved the way and made it possible for women like me to go to college and later, work in academia. One woman comes to mind, Marie Curie. People in the sciences most likely know who Marie Curie is, but for many of us, like other she may not be as well-known as some of her male peers like Albert Einstein and Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen (the father of x-ray). Unfortunately, a lot of women with significant contributions to the sciences and technological advancements of "mankind" are mere footnotes of history. So today, let's take a glimpse into the fascinating life of Marie Curie.



Marie Skłodowska Curie was born in Poland (then Warsaw) in Nov. 07, 1867 and later became a naturalized French citizen. The shy and unassuming woman, who was considered to be "strange" by some of her colleagues, occupies a rather prominent place in science and human history. She was the first woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize in Physics in 1903 along with her husband Pierre Curie and their colleague, physicist Henri Becquerel, for their breakthrough work in *radioactivity* (a term Marie herself coined). As if that's not impressive enough during an era when science was reserved for men, Marie went on to win another Nobel Peace Prize on her own a few years later, this time in Chemistry, making her the only person to have won the Nobel Peace Prize twice and in two different scientific fields — an extraordinary feat.

Marie spent her days researching subatomic particles in her labs. She was even criticized for not spending time with her children. She had two daughters, Irène who later spent a lot of time working with her mother, and her youngest, Ève. When one of her male colleagues asked her one day, "Don't you love Irène?" Marie replied, "It seems to me that I wouldn't prefer the idea of reading a paper by Rutherford, to getting what my body needs and looking after such an agreeable little girl." I like to imagine this response as Marie's way of sarcastically saying, "Oh sure bro! I just love to spend my hours reading dry scientific research while I let Irène play with radioactive elements. Fun." I mean the sexism must have been pretty bad for not only was she a woman in science, she went and pioneered ground-breaking research, bagging two Nobel Peace Prizes, and won other prestigious scientific awards. A true titan in her field. Luckily for Marie, and I think this was crucial for her success, is that she found a truly supportive life partner and a

collaborator in Pierre. With Pierre, Marie was able to be a wife, a mother, and still pursued her curiosity in science, contributing to the whole of humanity. And Pierre understood the importance of that.

Marie and Pierre weren't the typical couple of the time; in fact, after the birth of Irène, Marie's widowed father-in-law, a retired physician, stepped up to take care of the child while the couple focused on their research. It is said that when they first met, Pierre, a 35 year old physicist working on cutting-edge research at the time, was awestruck by Marie's rare intellect and dedication to her work. Soon after, he proposed to her in these beautiful and somewhat prophetic words, "*It would...be a beautiful thing,*" he wrote, "*to pass through life together hypnotized in our dreams: your dream for your country; our dream for humanity; our dream for science.*" "For real babe!" She said. Ok I kid. She probably said something boring and scientific but you get my point. From there, they went on to do remarkable things together and after his death, Marie continued their work, winning her second Nobel Peace Prize. Their discovery of subatomic radioactive elements, radium and polonium, altered the course of science and led to later works in cancer treatment, radiology, archeology, and even in the manufacturing industry. It was only after their deaths that it became evident that the radioactive elements they worked on

were highly poisonous. In fact, her papers, books, desks, and other personal belongings are still radioactive today—a century after her death. They really did live their dream for the sake of humanity and science despite uncertainty and risks.

Sadly, however, even in today's world of advance technology and access to unfettered knowledge, women still struggle to live their dreams. Barriers and gender gaps exist in almost every field of work. It makes me wish that for every driven woman, there's a Pierre beside her—to help leap over barriers and be a constant source of support. Instead, we see podcast hosts on TikTok and Reels dispelling "myths" of "woke feminists" and advocating for "alpha male" ism. It's that sort of thinking that prevents the next Marie Curie from living a life of inquiry and curiosity, pursuing her dreams, ultimately bringing humanity to new heights of technological advancement. But that's a topic for another time. For now, let's honor Marie Curie for blazing the trail for women in science and academia. For now, let's especially admire from the distance of space and time the love Marie and Pierre shared. A love so rare and, dare I say, a force that was to be reckoned with. A love that poetically mirrored their work — for it was potent, tacit, yet always present, it was radioactive.

By J. Ngoriakl, Editor

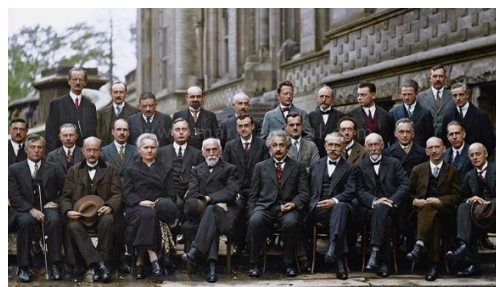


Photo (Nobel Peace Prize): Marie Curie, the only woman sitting with other physicists at the 1927 Solvay Conference, 17 of whom went on to win the Nobel Peace Prize. Photo dubbed by some as the most intelligent picture ever taken.



ATTENTION COLLEGE COMMUNITY

Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC), the Commission Third-Party Comment

A third-party comment assists the Commission as it considers applications for candidacy, accreditation, or reaffirmation of accreditation. When an institution is undergoing a review, the Commission requires the institution's chief executive officer to notify the campus community and public of the opportunity for submission of third-party comments and the process for doing so. Any member of the college community or public may submit a third-party comment by completing the Commission's online third-party comment form, available via the institution's website or ACCJC's website. In order to ensure evaluation of applicable third-party comments by the peer review team, third-party comments should be received by the Commission staff no later than five weeks before the peer review team visit.

Palau Community College's Focus Site Visit is scheduled during the week of March 13, 2023. Should any member of the College community or the public who may wish to submit a third-party comment must complete the Commission's online third-party comment form available at:

<https://accjc.org/forms/third-party-comments/>.

The third-party comment should be received by the Commission five weeks prior to March 13, 2023.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

We are hiring for multiple positions. Join our team today by checking out opportunities at <https://pcc.palau.edu/about/jobs-pcc/> or call 488-2470 Ext. HR Office for more info.

Assistant Director, Talent Search, Executive Assistant to the President, Extension Agents, Instructional Assistant, Automotive Technology, Instructor (Various Fields), IT Tracking Coordinator, Upward Bound Math & Science Tutors, etc.

PCC Students Cont'd

Terrestrial Conservation on February 21-23, 2023 at the Guam Community College campus. Students, faculty, and partner institutions from other National Science Foundation's Advance Technological Education program participated in the convention. The goal of the convention was: "Sharing Knowledge and experiences in Conservation and Management from the CNMI and Guåhan." The PCC delegation attended research project presentations on tools in conservation planning, invasive species monitoring and control, native plants, native birds and other animals, as well as poster sessions. They also went on a number of immersive field trips, including a visit to the Sasa Bay Marine Preserve at the Marianas Yacht Club. The faculty reported that there was a high level of participation and engagement from the students and youth groups in the convention. In addition, then delegation met with Professor Fran Camacho from the University of Guam's (UOG) Science Department where they toured their facilities, attended a presentation, and undertook a special tour with Dr. Austin Shelton's team to the UOG Marine Lab. The participants also planted trees at the Guam Restoration of Watershed (GROW) project at Inarajan. The students gained invaluable experience and exposure from the convention and the field trips. The trip also gave them a chance to see firsthand other research spaces in higher education in order to build on their curiosity and drive to continue their education and training after PCC.

Phi Theta Kappa Cont'd

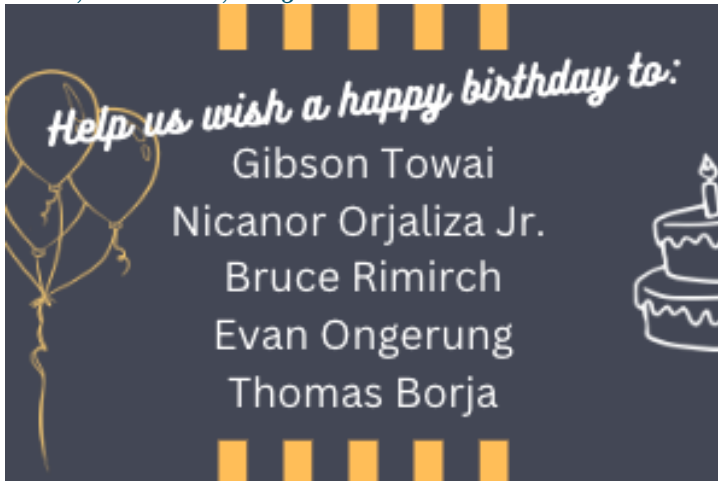
Fourteen PCC students were inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society on Thursday Mar. 9th, 2023. PCC President Dr. Patrick U. Tellei was present to induct the honor students while Dean of Student Services, Hilda N. Reklai, inducted the new student officers of the Palau's Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society chapter. The students consisted of: Alvin U. Ongrung, Aversion R. Tellei, Angela Macasieb, DeKarma R. Haruo, Kaen K. Chin, Karly E. Madrangchar, Kato Remeliik, Kerengel J. Jeroe, Melusech A. Mobel, Messed T. Elbuchel, Ngirachecherang R. Silmai, O'Keef R. Kokichi, Quirah D. Elechuus, and Shamira R. Cruz. These students are recognized for their academic achievements of maintaining a GPA of 3.5 and hold a good standing at PCC. The society serves to encourage and recognize high achieving two-year college students and provides them with opportunities for personal growth.

Free Health Screening Cont'd

This special health screening provided by Peace Winds Kensing, a Japanese non-governmental organization in Palau with headquarters in Japan, is part of the organization's mission to provide primary health services to the Palauan community. The organization works in partnership with the Ministry of Health & Human Services and was launched in Palau in 2021. They work to improve access to medical services, as well as NCD prevention by providing *kenshin*, a Japanese word that means "health screening."

HAPPENINGS





ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT

MAXIMA TELIU

Maxima earned her Associate of Science Degree in Elementary Education (2021) and is currently working as a teacher at Koror Elementary School. Thank you Maxima for serving our community! We are proud of you!

FEATURED EMPLOYEE



With God, All Things Are Possible
Matthew 19:26 Luke 1:37

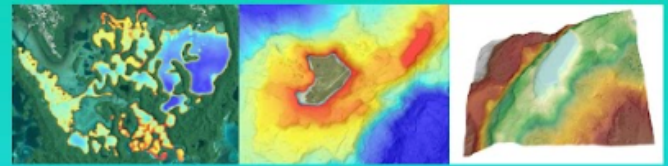
Isumchraard Ngirairikl

Isumch is the Director of the Financial Aid Office. She's been with PCC for 10 years where she began as a Science Adjunct Instructor and Math Tutor. She is now in charge of administrating the college's student federal financial aid programs.



Internship Opportunity

Coral Reef Research Foundation Palau currently has an opening for a summer (May – July) 2023 intern for its ongoing bathymetric (underwater) mapping project.



If you would like more information please feel free to get in touch.

To apply please send a resume, coverletter and a copy of your academic transcript to crpfpalau@gmail.com



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FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT PALAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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