

# MESEKIU'S NEWS

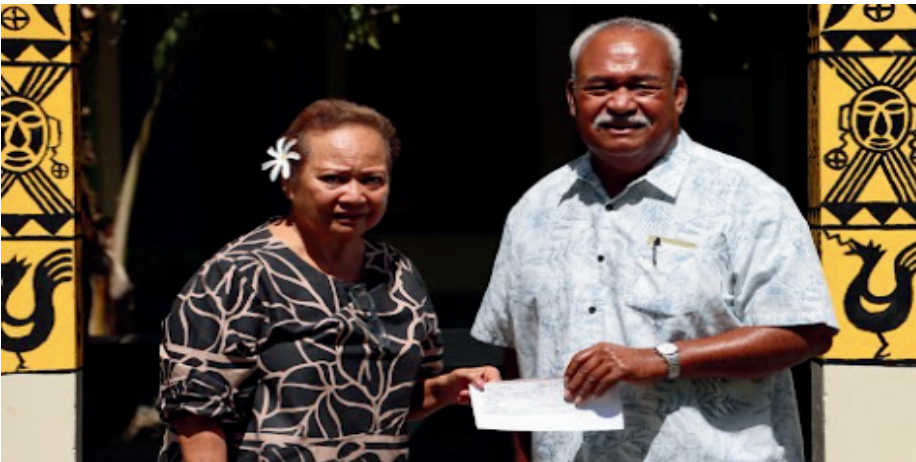



## Campus Buzz: Free Weekly Newsletter

VOLUME 28, ISSUE 16



## SANDRA S. PIERANTOZZI DONATES \$25,000 TO PCC ENDOWMENT FUND IN MEMORY OF MVP!



MRS. SANDRA S. PIERANTOZZI PRESENTING HER DONATION TO PCC PRESIDENT DR. TELLEI

The late Marcello V. Pierantozzi (MVP) was a distinguished champion of education. Prior to his passing in 2023, he had resided in Palau for more than five decades, where he and his wife, Madam Sandra Sumang Pierantozzi, established several highly successful enterprises. Their ventures not only contributed significantly to Palau's economic growth but also continue to flourish today, supporting numerous causes that benefit the nation and her people.

As a testament to their dedication to education and lifelong learning, the Pierantozzis' founded the Pierantozzi Scholarship at Palau Community College (PCC) in 2002, offering financial assistance to eligible students at Palau's only institution of higher education. This initiative

complements the Sumang Demei Scholarship program, which Madam Pierantozzi established more than thirty years ago in honor of her father, the late Iyechaderchemai Sumang Demei, himself a strong advocate for education. The Sumang Demei Scholarship, first awarded in 1992 to a female graduate of Palau High School, has since continued to expand its reach, recognizing the top graduates from Palau's six high schools each year.

The Pierantozzis' enduring commitment to education is further reflected in their consistent contributions to the PCC Endowment Fund. This tradition was reaffirmed on Monday, April 13,

PIERANTOZZI CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHT



THE GBEWONGO FAMILY PICTURED DONATING BOOKS AND CLOTHING TO PCC DORM

The Gbewongo family has been a cherished part of the Palau community since August 1990, and after 36 years of calling Palau home, they are moving back to Ghana for good. As we say goodbye, we highlight Abigail Gbewongo Maddox who attended PCC as an IT Major for 2 semesters in 2012 and also Barbara Gbewongo, who attended PCC in 2006-2007. On April 13th with their departure slowly approaching, the Gbewongo family graciously donated various books on mechanics and multiple articles of clothing to the PCC Dorms. We at PCC would like to give our thanks and wish the Gbewongo family safety on their journey back home.

Gbewongo Family:  
Barbara Gbewongo  
Janet A. Gbewongo  
Jevon Maddox  
Christabel Gbewongo  
Abigail Gbewongo Maddox  
Clement Gbewongo (not pictured)

*PIERANTOZZI CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

2026—commemorating what would have been Mr. Pierantozzi’s 91st birthday—when Madam Pierantozzi made a surprise visit to PCC and generously donated \$25,000 to the Endowment Fund. The contribution was received by a truly grateful PCC President Dr. Patrick U. Tellei and witnessed by Vice President for Administration & Finance Mr. Jay Olegeriil.

In expressing the College’s deep gratitude, Dr. Tellei announced that the Pierantozzi Scholarship will be expanded, either by increasing the number of annual recipients or by raising the award amount for current beneficiaries. This enhancement will further advance the Pierantozzis’ vision of accessible higher education for PCC students.

The names of Marcello V. Pierantozzi and Sandra S. Pierantozzi are prominently inscribed on the Endowment Fund Wall of Honor in the UKALL Building at PCC’s main campus in Koror. As Top-Tier donors, their legacy continues to inspire others and strengthen Palau’s only institution of higher education, ensuring that future generations benefit from their unwavering dedication to education.

Thank you Madam Pierantozzi, and Happy 91 st Birthday in Heaven, MVP!

## **Artemis II: Humanity’s Return to Deep Space**

*written by 2026 Adult High School English III Class  
edited by Instructor Ngirmeriil Ngirmeriil*

More than half a century after humans last ventured beyond Earth’s orbit, NASA is preparing to send astronauts back to the Moon—this time with eyes set on staying longer and going farther. The upcoming Artemis II mission, part of NASA’s Artemis program, represents a critical step in that journey. While it will not land on the lunar surface, its importance cannot be overstated: Artemis II is the mission that will test whether humans can safely live and operate in deep space again.

### **A Historic Return:**

The last time astronauts traveled to the Moon was during Apollo 17 in 1972. Since then, human spaceflight has remained confined to low Earth’s orbit. Artemis II breaks that boundary. By sending a crew around the Moon and back, NASA is reestablishing its ability to conduct deep-space missions with humans onboard—something essential for both lunar exploration and eventual missions to Mars.

### **Meet the Crew:**

Artemis II will carry a diverse and historic crew of four astronauts:

- Reid Wiseman (Commander)
- Victor Glover (Pilot)
- Christina Koch (Mission Specialist)
- Jeremy Hansen (Mission Specialist)

This mission will mark several milestones: Christina Koch will become the first woman to travel to

the Moon, Victor Glover the first Black astronaut to do so, and Jeremy Hansen the first non-American to journey beyond Earth’s orbit. Together, they represent a new era of international and inclusive space exploration.

### **The Mission Plan:**

Artemis II is expected to launch aboard NASA’s powerful Space Launch System, carrying the crew inside the Orion spacecraft. After reaching Earth orbit, the crew will conduct system checks before heading toward the Moon. The spacecraft will follow a “free-return trajectory,” looping around the Moon and using its gravity to propel the crew back toward Earth. This path, previously used during missions like Apollo 13, provides an added layer of safety: even if major systems fail, the spacecraft will naturally return home. The entire mission is expected to last about 8 to 10 days, ending with a high-speed reentry and splashdown in the Pacific Ocean.

### **What NASA Hopes to Learn:**

Unlike earlier Apollo missions, Artemis II is not focused on landing or collecting samples. Instead, it is a test mission designed to gather critical data that will shape future exploration. One major focus is human health in deep space. Outside Earth’s protective magnetic field, astronauts are exposed to higher levels of radiation. NASA will monitor how the crew responds physically and psychologically to this environment, including the effects of microgravity and isolation. The mission will also test the performance of key spacecraft systems.

*ARTEMIS II CONTINUED ON PAGE 3*

# BITS AND PIECES

## TAN SIU LIN PCC LIBRARY

### Hours of Operation

Monday to Thursday  
7:30 AM to 7:00 PM

Friday  
8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Saturday  
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

\*Closed on Sundays and National Holidays

For more information, call:  
488-3540

### Available To Interested

#### Readers:

#### ENVIRONMENT: SCIENCE AND POLICY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



*Environment*, analyzes environmental and policy challenges with peer-reviewed articles and commentaries from highly respected researchers and practitioners who provide a broad range of international perspectives and offer appropriate actions at local and global levels. Written to be accessible to broad audiences, *Environment* breaks down the silos between academic disciplines and between academia and practice.

## ACADEMIC CALENDAR

APRIL 17 (F)

LAST DAY FOR ALL WITHDRAWALS

APRIL 20 (M)

REGISTRATION FOR SU' 2026 BEGINS

### ARTEMIS II CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Life support systems—responsible for air, water, and temperature—must function flawlessly for long-duration missions. Navigation and communication systems will be evaluated under real deep-space conditions, where delays and distances are far greater than in low Earth orbit. Another crucial area of study is reentry. The Orion spacecraft will return to Earth at extremely high speeds, generating intense heat. Data collected on the heat shield's performance will be vital for ensuring astronaut safety on future missions.

#### Building Toward the Future:

Artemis II is often described as a “dress rehearsal” for Artemis III, which aims to land astronauts on the Moon’s surface—specifically near the south pole, where water ice may exist. But its significance goes even further. By proving that humans can safely travel to and from deep space, Artemis II lays the groundwork for sustained lunar exploration, the development of a potential Moon base, and eventually, human missions to Mars.

#### A New Era Begins:

Artemis II is more than a mission—it is a bridge between past achievements and future ambitions. It reconnects humanity with the spirit of exploration that defined the Apollo era while pushing forward into new territory with modern technology and a broader vision. As the world watches this mission unfold, one thing is clear: humanity is not just returning to the Moon—we are preparing to stay, explore, and go beyond.



ARTEMIS II CREW AND THE ARTEMIS II ROCKET

## TRIVIA QUESTION

**To solve this riddle, you'll need to visit the PCC Main Campus:**

*I look like a library, quiet and neat,  
With rows of machines where students meet.  
I claim to grade, I claim to teach,  
But really, those tasks are out of my reach.  
I print your pages, I scan with care,  
Report account troubles so admins are aware.  
Student workers keep me in line,  
Maintaining labs so all runs fine.  
I may pretend I'm a classroom door,  
But I'm the lab you're searching for.  
What place supports your tech each day,  
Though not a teacher in any way?*

#### Your Mission:

Take a .5 selfie in this room  
Submit the photo (read the guideline)

#### Trivia Submission Guideline

Only PCC students are eligible to participate.

To submit your answers, use your @palau.edu email and send them to okokichi@palau.edu. The lucky winner will be contacted to claim their prize.

If you don't have access to your @palau.edu email, please visit the PCC Computer Services Office in the Ukall Building for assistance.

**Vacancy Announcement**

(1) *Library Assistant*  
 PCC Library  
 Salary Range: \$10,400 - \$18,487 per annum

(2) *Administrative Assistant*  
 Upward Bound Program  
 Salary Range: \$12,001 - \$21,312 per annum

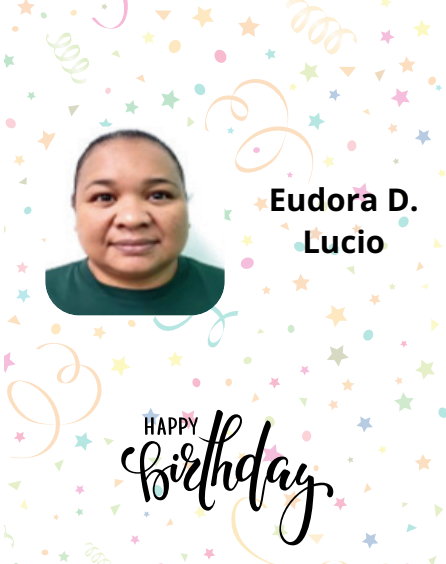
(3) *Science Laboratory Manager*  
 Academic Affairs  
 Salary Range: \$14,285 - \$22,992 per annum

For more vacancies and to apply, please visit:  
<https://pcc.palau.edu/about/jobs-pcc/>

*"PCC is an Equal Opportunity Employer."*

**Interested in learning transferrable media and marketing skills? Volunteer with the PCC Development Office. Stop by at the Dort building to sign-up.**

**Celebrating Birthdays**  
 Apr 17 - Apr 23, 2026



**Eudora D. Lucio**

**ALUMNI NOTES**  
 Jubilee U. Olkeriil



Jubilee U. Olkeriil earned her Associate of Science degree in Agricultural Science in the Spring of 2025. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to her and wish her continued success in her career.

**Please Hire PCC Graduates!**

**PCC ENDOWMENT**

**INVEST IN THE FUTURE TO SUPPORT, CONTACT US TODAY!**

P.O. BOX 9  
 KOROR, PALAU 96940  
 Phone: 488-2470/2471 (Ext. 251/252)  
 e-mail: [tellei@palau.edu](mailto:tellei@palau.edu) or [pccdev@palau.edu](mailto:pccdev@palau.edu)

If you want to join the Bi-Weekly Allotment Program, **Contact Us Now!**



Mesekiu'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 [pccdev@palau.edu](mailto:pccdev@palau.edu)

Articles from MOC/PCC Alumni are also welcome. Please call 488-2470/2471 (extensions 251 or 252) for more information.

**FREE Caregiver Training**

**Why Join?**

- Minimize hospital visits and reduce hospital stays
- Promote comfortable care and dignity in a home setting
- Build confidence and understanding to care for your loved ones

**Who Should Attend?**

This program is perfect for family members and caregivers looking after loved ones who require at-home care.

**SIGN UP TODAY!**

Dates : April 20<sup>th</sup> - April 27<sup>th</sup> 2026  
 Time: 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM  
 Place: CE Training Room, PCC  
 Fee: **FREE**  
 Open to the Public



**For more information:**

Continuing Education Office  
 Phone Number: (680) 488-2470 ext. 243 or (680) 488-6223  
 email: [ce@palau.edu](mailto:ce@palau.edu)

