



Palau Community College MESEKIU'S NEWS



Friday, March 17, 2000

Weekly Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 10

Dr. Joel Miles Attends SARE Conference in Oregon

By: Dr. Joel Miles
AGS Associate Professor

From March 7-9, 2000, I was in Portland, Oregon attending a conference entitled "Farming and Ranching for Profit, Stewardship, and Community." This conference was organized by the Western Region of the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Educational Program (SARE), funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The Western Region includes 13 states in the western United States and several Pacific Island nations and territories including the Republic of Palau. In addition to myself attending from Palau, there were people from American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Marianas, and the FSM.

The purpose of this conference was to share ideas and information resulting from nearly twelve years of research and education under the SARE Program. Much of these research has been conducted on actual farms, not just at university and college research stations.

Nearly half of the conference participants were farmers as well as most of the keynote speakers. Among the keynote speakers was the governor of the state of Oregon who talked about "sustainable agriculture" and emphasized the importance of agriculture to Oregon as well as the U.S. and the world. "Farming is not only important to Oregon's economy, it is part of the Oregon way of life. Sustainable agriculture means raising crops and livestock in a way that can be continued from generation to generation," he reminded all in attendance.



Dr. Miles at a local produce market in Portland, Oregon.

The governor also reiterated that sustainability has three aspects: Environmental, Social, and Economic. "Any system is sustainable only if it meets these three criteria. Sustainable agriculture means farming in a way that is good for the environment, good for the economy, and good for the society," he further noted in his address.

Over the three days of the conference, the results of many research and farming projects were presented. A common theme to all the presentations was the importance of the health of the soil. One presenter after another emphasized the importance of adding organic matter to soil, especially in the form of compost. This has always been an important part of the Agriculture Science Program at PCC and continues to be as I will emphasize it even more.

Many communities in the western states

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FREE COPY

Former PCC Employee Now Lt. Governor

Isaac Theodore, a former PCC employee was elected on February 29th, 2000 to the second highest office in the state government of Sonsorol State-Lieutenant Governor.



Isaac Theodore

The installation ceremony for the new Sonsorol State Government leadership and members is slated for May 1, 2000 and all PCC employees are encouraged to attend and congratulate Mr. Theodore on his success.

Mr. Theodore worked under Clement Kazuma in the Physical Plant department during his 2-year tenure at PCC.

PCC Fundraising
The PCC 2000 Charter Day Softball Tourney is set for end of March
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no longer allow dumping of leaves, grass clippings, and other organic materials in landfills as they try to encourage their use as compost for farmers instead.

Another valuable resource being used by more and more communities is "biosolids." Biosolids are the end result of sewage treatment process that are free of disease-causing organisms and loaded with nutrients which plants need to grow. By composting these biosolids with yard trimmings, farmers are gaining a valuable resource which was formerly wasted. I hope that Palau's landfill will soon begin to compost such materials instead of burying them. We make as much compost as we can at PCC, but our resources are limited.

The conference also taught me several ways in which farmers in the U.S. are making their farms more profitable through small improvements in marketing their farm products. I believe that farmers in Palau can benefit from these marketing techniques and I would be very happy to meet with any local farmers to share these ideas and other details from my SARE conference.

With everything that we now know, I believe that we should be growing our own food and growing it ourselves. I will continue to work cooperatively with the Ministry of Education and other interested agencies to encourage young Palauans to take interest in agriculture. Will we continue to allow other people to feed us, that is through imported goods and labor, or can we find a way to interest our own people to do it instead?

Dr. Joel Miles can be contacted at PCC, tel# 488-2471 during regular business hours.

PCC Host Summer 2000 Vocational Academy

Palau Community College will host the Pacific Region Vocational Teacher Education Academy (PRVTEA) this coming summer session

2000. The academy had been hosted by Guam Community College (GCC) during the past six years and was just reassigned to PCC this year



when President Tellei's invitation to host was agreed upon by the Pacific Vocational Education Improvement Program (PVEIP) leadership team during their last meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii in January this year.

Associate Dean of Engineering, Sherman Daniel was chosen by President Tellei to coordinate and oversee the program as PCC hosts it for the first time. Assisting Mr. Daniel will be Dean of Academic Affairs, Meridith Randall. "This is truly an exciting time for PCC as we are quickly becoming regionally recognized as the 'hub' for training and education in the Pacific," said Mr Daniel.

The purpose of the summer academy is to offer courses to participants, enabling them towards obtaining their Bachelor and Master degrees.

About 30+ participants from various Pacific Region entities including Guam, Saipan, FSM, American Samoa, Republic of Marshall Islands, and Palau will be attending the summer session academy during the months of June to July 2000.

**Attention Attention!!
Come One Come All!!**

Come to the bookstore and buy fresh eggs and produce straight from the PCC student farm.

**Large eggs - \$2.00/dozen
Produce -priced as marked**

Hurry or you'll miss out on all of the good stuff!!

All income goes to the PCC Agriculture Club.

Thank you for supporting the PCC AG students!!

YEARBOOKS for \$15.00

The 1998-99 yearbook is now selling for \$15.00 a copy at the SBA Office.

The 1999-2000 yearbook staff is currently organizing and all interested students can sign up at the SBA office. The SBA welcomes ideas and suggestions for this year's yearbook. Call 488-2461 for more information

TOEFL Bulletin 1999-2000

*Test date: May 13, 2000
Registration fee: \$75.00
Deadline: March 27, 2000*

Registration by mail - Mail in the form at least three weeks prior to test date. For more information, please contact Sabra at the PCC Counseling Office at 488-3036.

Happy Spring Break to All Students!!!

Enjoy your break and be safe. See you all again in one week.

**Cinco De-Mayo
Undefeated!!!!
See team standing on
page 4**

RETENTION WEB PAGE

By: Leslie Adachi, PCC Retention Office, Tel. #: 488-2471, ext. 247

FAFSA For School Year 2000-2001

The Office of Admissions & Financial Aid has scheduled a series of meetings with interested students to assist them with completing the Financial Aid forms for school year 2000-2001.

Students who are interested in attending PCC next year, starting this Summer 2000 are urged to attend these meetings. If you do not plan to attend the Summer term, you still need to complete the forms for Fall and Spring. If you received a FAFSA renewal form for 2000-2001, please bring it and a black pen with you to the meeting. Extra copies of the FAFSA forms will be provided for those students who have not received their renewal forms.

Meeting schedule:

<u>Grps.</u>	<u>Country/State</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>
1	FSM & Marshalls	3/20	8-10am	Rm. 51&52
2	Palau (Last names A-F)	3/20	10-12noon	Rm. 51&52
3	Palau (Last names G-L)	3/20	12-3pm	Rm. 51&52
4	Palau (Last names M-N)	3/20	3-5pm	Rm. 51&52
5	Palau (Last names O-S)	3/21	8-10am	Rm. 51&52
6	Palau (Last names T-Y)	3/21	10-12noon	Rm. 51&52

PCC To Participate in Palau Education Awareness Week

The presidential proclamation No. 01-99 has declared the third week of March every year as the Educational Awareness Week for the Republic of Palau. This year, the Awareness Week is scheduled to take place from March 20-24, 2000.

Various activities including sports, subject areas, science fair, school performances, career fair, arts and crafts, etc., will take place during this week.

PCC will participate in some of these activities and also will have the opportunity to showcase its programs and services to high school and elementary students as well as the community by way of the Career Day. Business representatives will also be on campus to showcase career and job opportunities to the students, and this will be on the second floor of PCC new classroom building, (Rm. 69).

For more information, please contact Sherman Daniel at tel. # 488-5878.

GMHP or Pacific Care?

Even though more and more PCC employees withdraw each day from GMHP (the college's group medical plan) the Human Resources Department would like to reassure everyone that GMHP is still and continues to be accepted by the Belau Medical Clinic (BMC), contrary to rumors saying otherwise.

GMHP Coverage at the Balau National Hospital is also accepted with in-patient at \$150/day; emergency at \$50/visit; and no out-patient coverage.

Over sixty-five percent of PCC employees are enrolled in the plan as there are no other alternatives. The general dissatisfaction with GMHP is evident in the sporadic but consistent withdrawals by staff from the program every week. "The 'sliding scale' at the hospital is cheaper than this so called plan, premiums increase annually while benefits decrease, I am not that crazy," said an employee.

The college is working hard to find an alternative medical plan and Pacific Care, a California-based company is just one of the health care providers that is being considered.

PCC Pension Plan on the Horizon

The PCC Board of Trustees has given the "go-ahead" sign for the college to enroll in the Civil Service Pension Plan (CSPP). "There are details that we (PCC) still need to iron out with the CSPP Board before the college joins the pension plan," said Leo Ben Teriong, PCC Human Resources Director. "It will happen one way or another and there's no question about that," he further said. We will continue to keep the college community informed as further information becomes available from up-coming meetings.

Academic Calendar, Spring Semester 2000

March 20-24	Spring Break
March 31	PCC Charter Day
May 4	Last day of instruction
May 5	Holiday: Senior Citizen's Day
May 8-10	Final examination period
May 12	Grades due
May 19	PCC Commencement Exercises

PCC Softball Schedule, Spring 2000



2 vs. 8 - Friday, March 17th @ 5 pm
 4 vs. 6 - Friday, March 17th @ 6:30 pm
 3 vs. 5 - Friday, March 17th @ 7:30 pm

End of regular season!

Rained-Out Games Schedule

**Saturday, March 18,
Meyuns Field**

Teams	Time
5 vs. 6	1:00 pm
2 vs. 7	2:00 pm
1 vs. 5	3:00 pm
1 vs. 6	4:00 pm

** games will be played using the one-hour time limit in accordance with the ISF rules.*

Contact Ismael at 488-3885 for questions or more information.

Teams:

1. Cinco De Mayo
2. Yasai
3. Outsiders NWO
4. Ed. & Training
5. Admin. & Finance
6. Hijackers
7. ABU 2000
8. M-Reps

Team Standings

Team	W	L
1. Cinco De-Mayo	6	0
2. ABU-2000	4	2
3. V.P. Yasai	2	2
4. Admin. & Finance	2	2
5. Outsiders NWO	3	3
6. Hijackers	1	3
7. Educ. & Training	2	4
8. M-Reps	1	5

PALAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE

2000 Charter Day Softball Fundraising

**Meyuns and Airai Fields
March 31, April 1&2**

Registration for the PCC 2000 Charter Day Softball Fundraising Tournament is now open. There are sixteen slots for men's teams and eight for women.

To register, contact Jay or Armstrong at the PCC Development Office at tel. 488-2471, ext. 250.

Trophies will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishers in each division.

All proceeds from this fundraising will go to the PCC Endowment Fund.

For Sale

Sport Utility Vehicle

1989 Isuzu Trooper, Black, 4 Wheel Drive
 4 doors w/ air condition, Auto Transmission
 New Tires, Still in good condition
 Great for Honto
 For more information and test drives,
 call Meredith Randall at 488-5485.
 \$4000.00 (negotiable)

Wet Suit


Sleeveless, medium size
 Front zipper
 Color- black w/ orange
 Contact Ayano Baules at 488-4983.

Celebrating Birthdays



John Gabriel	March 17
Karen Mobel	March 17
Bruce Rimirch	March 19
Keith Ignacio	March 20

Happy Birthday to you all!



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