

## MOJ Staff Rocks Endowment Fund!

This week we proudly add new members to our growing PCC Endowment Fund Contributors' Club, 6 of whom hail from the Ministry of Justice. These dedicated individuals have made a difference in our community by going above and beyond the call of duty in keeping our streets and seas safe and secure. Now they are making a difference here at PCC. By joining the club, these individuals donate a certain sum directly out of their paychecks to the PCC Endowment Fund. At the end of the year, PCC will help them apply for and receive refunds for their donations! In other words, they donate to a very good cause and in the end, get their money back.

These six (6) brand new members from the Ministry of Justice are: **Eric M. Ulechong**, **Florence S. Iechad**, **Franco Antipas**, **Rebecca Bedangel**, Administration staff: **Raymond Rebluud**, and Chief of the Fire Department, **Benhart Baulechong**. From the Olbil Era Kelulau, we also welcome one (1) new member from the Senate, **Ryan Franz** and one (1) new member from the House of Delegates, **Pasquana Tirso**.

Once again, we welcome these new members as they showcase their commitment to support PCC's continued efforts to providing quality educational and training opportunities to Palau's and the Micronesian region's students. If you would like to join the PCC Endowment Fund Contributors' Club, please call Hulda, Dilubch, Swayze or Jay at PCC telephone number 488-2470/2471, extension 253. **As always, they will be very happy to assist you!**



Eric M. Ulechong



Florence Iechad



Franco Antipas



Rebecca Bedangel



Raymond Rebluud



Benhart Baulechong

**Congratulations to Former PCC Students Delon Trolil and Carrissa Subris. GOOD LUCK ON YOUR FUTURE TOGETHER!**



### Kebeas: Continued From Page 3

Dr. Miles continues by saying deforestation contributes to the rapid growth of the *Kebeas* because the vine thrives in open spaces where there is an extensive clearing of trees and vegetation. Although it is a plant whose history predates human existence in the islands, the *Kebeas* has proven itself adaptable to environmental changes caused by humans. However, Dr. Miles feels with better awareness and by working together, we can reverse this trend and help stem the impact of this invasive plant."

*When nature is disturbed due to drastic changes in the environment, the delicate balance between humans and nature is upset. This imbalance has an impact on our forests, oceans and ultimately ourselves.*

Dr. Miles is on sabbatical from the college and is currently working as Chief, Terrestrial Unit for the Office of Environmental Coordination and Response. For information on how you can help in eradicating the *Kebeas* or other invasive species please call Dr. Miles at OERC at 488-6950 or Joe Tiobech, Invasive Weeds Control Officer at Forestry Office at 488-2504.

### EARTH DAY 2004 UPDATES:

**April 3: Ngaremlengui State Earth Day Clean Up**  
*Come join us in Ngaremlengui State this weekend and help clean up our beautiful island!*  
For more information contact MEERT at 488-2487.

**Natural History Excursion to Melekeok and Rock Islands**  
*Palau's natural beauty is truly a testament of our history and culture. Don't miss this opportunity to look at our island in a different yet environmental perspective. Space is limited, so please call Ann Kitalong at 587-3451 for reservations.*



### Celebrating Birthdays

Palau Community College April 2  
Richard Saburo April 3  
**Happy Birthday To You!!!**

**Mesekiu's News**  
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PALAU  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE

# Palau Community College MESEKIU'S NEWS

FREE COPY



Friday, April 2, 2004

Weekly Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 14

## IT'S CHARTER DAY!

Today, the Palau Community College (PCC) celebrates 11 years of existence with the College holding its 11th PCC President's Run/Walk early this morning. All the participants of the event will be treated to a healthy breakfast and given a free towel. After the Walk/Run in observance of this special day, PCC staff and students will conduct a noble community service. The service, called the "Kebeas Eradication" project, will be taking place in Ngcheschang, Airai state. By holding such an activity, PCC hopes to bring to everyone's attention the destructive power of invasive weeds against Palau's valued natural forests.

On Charter Day weekend, beginning tonight, the Sixth Palau Community College Annual Charter Day Softball Tournament will commence. The Tournament will feature only sixteen (16) teams and will be held this weekend, culminating in the championship to be held on Sunday April 2, 2004. As in the tradition of this tournament, this year will feature only coed teams battling in a double elimination format at the Meyuns Ballfield. As always, proceeds of the tournament will go directly to the PCC Endowment Fund.

It was on March 19, 1993 (11 years ago) that then ROP President Kuniwo Nakamura signed Republic of Palau Public Law 4-2, also known as Palau's Higher Education Act, which established PCC out of then the Micronesian Occupational College (MOC). Since then, the College has strived to meet the educational and training needs of the Republic of Palau under its legislative mandate. While the College celebrates its 11th Charter Day as PCC, it has a long history going back to 1927 when it was a Japanese Trade School. Thus, the College has educated local Palauans and Micronesians who have become national and regional leaders in their own right. We at PCC are proud to be doing all of these and continue our commitment to helping Palau, Micronesia, and the Pacific region. **Happy Charter Day, PCC!**

### PCC Charter Day Events

- **PCC Run/Walk From Koror-Side Waiting House to Palau National Track,**  
Time: 5:30 am
- **Kebeas Eradication at Ngcheschang, Airai**  
Time: 8:30 am-12:00 noon  
Place: Pick up PCC Parking Lot at 7:30 am
- **Charter Day Soft Ball Tournament**  
Beginning Friday Night, from April 2 to April 4  
Time: 5:00 pm  
Place: Meyuns Ballfield

**PCC THANKS ALL PARTICIPANTS & VOLUNTEERS**



Former PCC Staff Pose at Farewell Luncheon

## PCC Bids Farewell to Leo, Mobo, Toni, and Kazu

The College says goodbye to three special individuals whose dedication and commitment helped pave the way for much of the success PCC enjoys today. Individuals who were much more than employees but were considered family members and who will be sorely missed. These PCC family members are Mr. LeoBen Teriong (Vice President of Administration and Finance) who has spent 15 years at PCC and will become the new Chief Financial Officer at the Palau National Communications Corporation, Mr. Domingo "Mobo" Morei, Business Instructor, who has spent 19 years at PCC and will be retiring, Mrs. Antonio "Toni" Sisor who has spent over 20 years as a cook for the PCC cafeteria and will also be retiring, and Mr. Kazuhisa "Kazu" Takahashi, Recreation Specialist, who has been at the College for the past two years and will be returning home to Japan. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, staff and students, President Patrick U. Tellei wishes to express his deepest gratitude to Mr. Teriong, Mr. Morei, Mr. Takahashi and Mrs. Sisor, for their dedicated service, and wishes them the best of luck on their future endeavors. President Tellei adds that these special individuals despite their departure will always be a part of the PCC family.

## Environmental Club Joins Earth Day 2004 Committee

The Palau Community College Environmental Club has become an official member of the 2004 Earth Day Committee. As a member of this committee, the PCC Environmental Club will donate their time to promote environmental issues as well as volunteer their energy and resources to the 2004 Earth Day Event. The Environmental Club has been tasked with this year's Earth Day Radio Jingle and the coordination of booth invitations for all participants.

Furthermore and in line with this year's Earth Day theme, "Watch Your Waste," the Environmental Club is currently organizing a waste survey project for the PCC campus.

Periodically, the Club will be informing the public through the Mesekiu newsletter on any upcoming events regarding clean ups and Earth Day events. Environmental Club members encourage everyone help make PCC an even more of an environmentally friendly campus and make every day an Earth Day.

## Presentation on Retirement Plan

On Wednesday, last week, Mr. David John, an investment expert and founding member of Administrative Services Corporation (ASC), a leading provider of retirement plan services in the region made a presentation on a proposed retirement plan for the Palau Community College staff.

According to Mr. John, PCC's human resource personnel is looking into the possibility of ASC overseeing an alternate retirement plan for PCC and wanted to discuss the overall benefits and options in detail while answering any questions people may have regarding ASC's financial services.

ASC was founded in Guam in 1991 and is a locally owned retirement management company. With over 120 defined contribution plans in Asia, ASC is one of the largest provider of retirement plan services in the region.

According to the ASC website: "Great products create value for our customers. This creates demand for our products and, in turn, generates profitability. Profitability strengthens us, and helps us continue to raise our standards and set more-challenging goals. As long as we use our financial success to further our purpose, in harmony with our values, we will generate increasing gains for our customers."

David John also made a presentation at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Pacific Region Investment Conference held at the Palasia hotel. In addition, Mr. John conducted an educational seminar for local high school students and PCC students at the PCC Cafeteria as a service to Palau's students. This was made possible thru the tireless efforts of PCC President Patrick U. Tellei.

For more information on the services of ASC please contact Ms. Karen Mobel, PCC Human Resource Manager or log on to ASC website at [www.ascpac.com/aboutus.htm#strength](http://www.ascpac.com/aboutus.htm#strength)



President Tellei Emcees at Conference

## President Tellei Emcees at Regional Investment Meet

Patrick U. Tellei, PCC president was the master of ceremony at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Pacific Region Investment Conference sponsored by the Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies. This is the first time an investment conference of this type has been held in Palau and the venue for the event was held at the Palasia Hotel on March 25-26<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

The Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies (APAFS) is a non-profit educational and charitable association, which consists of representatives from public and private sector investment funds from around the Asia Pacific region founded for and by the APAFS. The public relations and coordination of the conference was handled by Cammy LoRe,

PR Manager for Glimpses Advertising who states: "There are many experts in the fields of finance management and investment planning who are willing to help Palau. They offer a valuable network for Directors, Board members and other government officials who are in charge of pension and retirement plans to learn more about good investment ideas, finance and fund management."

Gerald Perez, Chairman of APAFS, in commemoration of the event stated: "We appreciate everyone's valuable time in attending the conference and hope you take away a better understanding of the topics presented. Lastly, thank you for joining us in elevating the practice of fiduciary responsibility in Micronesia and throughout the Asia-Pacific Region."

## KSG Gives PCC Thumbs Up on Clean Campus for 5<sup>th</sup> Straight Year

The Koror State Government's Division of Sanitation has for the fifth year in a row given the Palau Community College a 100 percent clean bill of health on the State's quarterly Environmental Survey. Every quarterly period, a Koror State sanitation official inspects the campus for the following sanitary conditions such as adequate waste management, unclean restrooms, kept lawns, leaky water and sewer pipes, solid waste, presence of vermin and pests, effective drainage, garbage disposal and overall hygiene of the campus.

The College thanks everyone for working together and keeping the campus clean and healthy. Let's keep up the good work and maintain our high standards!



Fishing Club Displays Catch

**Fishing Club Thanks Dean of Students, Presley Etibek and the Student Body Association for their support**

## BITS AND PIECES... Paddlers Wanted

Do you want to get in shape? Meet new people? Learn how to paddle a Canoe? Well, now is your chance. Ms. Hulda Lukas and Ms. Dilubch Samil of the PCC Development Office are looking for a few good men and women to put together a PCC canoe team. The Canoe team will compete in a canoe tournament to be held on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Practice is every Monday-Wednesday-Friday at 5:30 p.m. There are only 12 spots so first come first serve. Everyone is welcome regardless of experience level, so join in and get rowing. For more information contact Hulda or Dilubch at the Development Office, extension 253.

## Dr. Yano Donates to FSM Club

Dr. Victor Yano on behalf of the Belau Medical Clinic donated \$250 in cash to the Federated States of Micronesia Student Organization as part of their fundraising drive to support their Spring Break Trip to the State of Angaur. The Student Organization raised funds for their trip by organizing a trash clean up beginning from Long Island to the Japan-Palau Friendship Bridge. Dr. Yano stated, "The students were extremely hard working and dedicated. I commend them for doing a remarkable job."

Mr. Shiro Kesol, FSM Student Organization President said, "We thank Dr. Yano for his generous support and kind assistance. And we look forward to our trip to Angaur State which was made possible through the support of the Belau Medical Clinic."

The FSM Student Organization consists of over 39 members and will depart on April 2, 2004 (today) and return on April 4<sup>th</sup>.



PCC student Xavier Sugwermal (l) accepts \$250 donation from Dr. Victor Yano!

## Instructor Garcia and Students help keep it Kool

Last week the sun was baking hot as students and staff alike ran from the heat seeking the cool, cold comfort of PCC's Air conditioned classrooms. Many thanks to Instructor Ramon Garcia and his students from his Air condition and Refrigeration Class for volunteering their time in servicing and cleaning the many air-condition units on PCC's campus. Not only are these students keeping the campus cool, the class offers students the hands-on experience they need to make them effective refrigeration technicians as well as give students a practical approach in using what they learned in the classroom.

Garcia stated, "Many of these units have not been serviced for some time, so for us it was a way of giving my students practical work experience as well as help the college. Proper servicing and cleaning will keep the units working at an optimum and extend their life."

Garcia added: "It is important for students to apply what they learn in class

to the real world so they get a better feel of what they want to do in their future careers." Instructor Garcia, PCC student Mr. Clentin Saeuilil from Yap, serviced the air conditioners and cleaned them using a high-pressure water blaster. Therefore, if you see bunch of students, all hot, sweaty and working hard taking apart an air-condition unit, offer them a cool drink or passing thanks because they are staying hot on the job so you can be cool!



Student Clentin Saeuilil cleans air condition unit with water blaster

## EQPB Provides Training, Donates Equipment

PCC Instructor Ramon Garcia and student Frutuso Tellei recently participated in a training course on good practices in refrigeration, which was held at the Palau Community College. The Palau Environmental Quality and Protection Board (EQPB) facilitated the program, with funding and technical assistance provided by the South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP).

Instructor Garcia and Mr. Tellei, after the completion of the training program, received ID cards and an official certificate endorsed by the Institute of Refrigeration, Heating, and Air Conditioning Engineers of New Zealand. This training program is part of a regional project called the Regional Strategy sponsored by SPREP. The goal is to assist countries in compliance with the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone layer.

Part of the goal of the project was to educate local technicians about the International Protocol Agreement and provide a transition for the use of non-CFC alternatives. PCC was designated as a regional training site by EQPB. The equipment used during the training program was donated by EQPB to the college's Air condition and Refrigeration Department to be used for the existing training program.

## Kebeas: Palau's Unwanted Plant Species

As part of the Festivities of PCC Charter Day this year, volunteers, staff and students alike will take part in the eradication of the *Kebeas* (*Merremia Peltata*) vine at Ngcheschang, Airai. This invasive plant according to Dr. Joel Miles, PCC Associate Professor of Agricultural Science is a fast growing vine that blankets Palau's forests and suffocates them by blocking out the sun. It is an aggressive plant that grows throughout the Palauan island chain. Dr. Miles says the *Kebeas* poses a danger to Palau's delicate eco-system because it can wipe out entire swaths of forests that serve as a natural habitat for many of Palau's unique bird and animal species that depend on the forests for food and shelter. Destruction of Palau's forests due to the uncontrolled growth of the *Kebeas* vine also causes erosion, because forests hold the soil, and keeps it from flowing into our ocean and damaging Palau's marine eco-systems.

*Continued on Page 4*