

ALUMNI NOTES:

Class of 1995



Diljune Etpison - PCC Alumni 1995
Ms. Etpison is working as a Program Officer at Palau Red Cross Society.

Class of 1999



Franston Kual - PCC Alumni 1999
Mr. Kual is working as a Customer Service Representative at the Palau Public Utilities Corporation (PPUC).

PCC Continuing Education Short Term Training Offering

Palau Community College Continuing Education will be offering an 8-hour Saturday Landscaping Class. The starting date has not been confirmed yet, so if you are interested or want to know more information call 488-6223 between 8 am and 5 pm, Monday through Friday.



Members of the PCC graduating class of 2005



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

ROP President's Speech, from page 2

Another example is the partnership between PCC and the Palau International Coral Reef Center, where training in marine science is benefiting our students, as well as our environmental health. Once again this is an example of partnering with local capacity to develop a unique capacity to prepare and train our workforce. We must expand these partnerships. And most importantly, we must improve the partnerships between our pre-school, primary, high school and our college educational systems. We must continue to support and expand our Upward Bound and Head Start programs. We must coordinate our primary and high school curriculum and testing with our Community College. And within this context, we must continue to improve the performance and skills of our teachers and our administrators. Our teachers are our first line of defense and should be given the support and funding that will allow them to do their jobs effectively and efficiently.

And we must never forget that our educational system must support the sustenance and strengthening of our culture. I am committed to expanding and improving programs at every level that improve our understanding and appreciation of our language, our culture and our history.

My friends, I am not too old to remember how hard it was to arrive at graduation day. Some said that I would never make it. But I did, as did those who stand before you today. Like the graduates who receive their diplomas on this beautiful day, our nation is young and full of energy. We must use this energy to move forward in establishing our economy and in improving our government. Let it never be said that we failed to provide the opportunities for education and improvement that would make our nation great. The boat is at the dock and ready for the voyage. As a nation, let's jump on and enjoy the ride.

PCC-Based Scholarships Available!

This is an announcement to all graduating high school seniors and current PCC students from Palau who will be attending PCC this coming school year 2005-2006 that applications for all PCC based scholarship programs are now available. These scholarship programs are:

- Moylan's Insurance Underwriters, Inc. Scholarship
- Prince Leeboo Scholarship
- Shell Company (Pacific Islands) Limited Scholarship
- Roman Tmetuchl Scholarship
- Pierantozzi Scholarship
- Carita Asanuma Memorial Scholarship (New)

All interested applicants may stop by at the PCC Development Office to pick up an application. Application packets are to be completed and submitted to the PCC Development Office no later than Friday August 12, 2005, the deadline date. For more information about these above mentioned scholarship programs, contact PCC Development Office at telephone number 488-2471, extension 253.



Palau Community College MESEKIU'S NEWS

FREE COPY



Friday, May 27, 2005

Weekly Newsletter

Volume 7, Issue 21

ROP President Speaks at PCC Commencement Exercises



President Tommy E. Remengesau Jr. presenting an award to PCC 2005 Valedictorian Sharon Ngirutang.

His Excellency Tommy E. Remengesau Jr. was the special guest and keynote speaker for the Palau Community College's 42nd commencement exercises. The event was attended by hundreds of people and included the national leadership of Palau, dignitaries, special guests and members of the community. The graduation which was held last Friday, April 20, 2005 was truly a memorable experience for the class of 2005 graduates as they were able to hear advice from one of Palau's most successful Presidents. President Remengesau imparted some valuable life lessons and encouragement to the students. During his speech, he drew upon his life experiences of how, as a young man, he struggled to find his way in life. And it was not until he had a near-fatal car accident that he decided to turn his life around and pursue his dreams through education. He advised the new graduates that the key to success is to find the balance in their lives by using past mistakes as valuable learning experiences to better themselves and to help them achieve their dreams.

In addition to encouraging the graduates, President Remengesau also re-affirmed his support for the college by declaring that he will endeavor to secure \$300,000 in the next ROP's fiscal year budget for the building of a new PCC Library, a facility that would not only serve the PCC students but the entire community. A staunch supporter of education and the college, President Remengesau, during his State of the Republic Address last month, committed to introduce legislation that will encourage local employers and business to offer competitive salaries and wages to PCC graduates. President Remengesau concluded his address by reminding the graduates, that having an education is meaningless without strong moral character and good work ethics; that true success is not measured by what type of degree or job you have, but more importantly by what you give back to your family, your community and your country. President Remengesau congratulated the PCC graduating class of 2005 and encouraged them to pursue their dreams with vigor. (see inside for President Remengesau's speech in its entirety)

42nd Commencement Exercises Special for President Tellei and Staff

The 42nd Commencement Exercises was a momentous and proud occasion for PCC President Dr. Patrick U. Tellei and five other college staff. President Tellei was ceremonially hooded and presented his doctoral degree in education from the University of San Diego. Dean of Continuing Education Willy Wally received his masters degree in Educational Leadership while Sherman Daniel, Karen Mobel, Secundina Azuma, and Serelina Ridep received their bachelors degrees in Vocational Education from San Diego State University. Dr. Steve Spencer of San Diego State University awarded the degrees. Despite their heavy work load, full time careers and family obligations, they were able to persevere and succeed in receiving their degrees. The college proudly congratulates President Tellei, Willy Wally, Sherman Daniel, Karen Mobel, Secundina Azuma, and Serelina Ridep for their milestone accomplishments. Congratulations!



PCC staff pose with college President Dr. Patrick U. Tellei (front row-second from right)



(l-r) PCC staff Serelina Ridep, Secundina Azuma, Karen Mobel, Dean William Wally, and Associate Dean Sherman Daniel are the newest addition to the ever-growing number of PCC staff receiving their degrees through on-line studies from San Diego State University.

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His Excellency, Tommy E. Remengesau Jr.'s Speech to PCC 42nd Commencement Exercises

Ladies and gentlemen, it is an honor for me to stand before you today to congratulate the over 90 students who are participating in these Commencement exercises. Each and every student that stands before us should be very proud of his and her achievements. I know that your graduation is a milestone for each of you and for your families. As a nation, we stand here today to demonstrate our pride in your accomplishments. Through your graduation, you are charting a course of excellence that will drive our country successfully and proudly into this new Millennium.

Education is indeed the foundation upon which to build a nation. It is the cement and underpinning of a developing country such as ours. It is the mechanism by which we will distinguish ourselves in the domestic, regional and international arenas. And it is the heart of a strong economy that will ensure a vibrant quality of life for our people in the coming decades.

And while we are here today to celebrate your accomplishments and to congratulate our teachers, our administrators and our leaders, we must recognize that your graduation marks not the end of your voyage, but rather the beginning of journey. And we are with you in this journey, with all of our support and prayers.

Like the students who stand before us, the leaders of Palau must also recognize that Palau's accomplishments today are merely a gateway to a bright future. Our work is not done. We can do better— We must do better. We must continue to expand and improve the educational opportunities available to each and every student in coming generations. And to properly reflect the accomplishments of our graduating students, I would suggest that we begin now.

As I said in my Inaugural Address, "It is the responsibility of the Government to provide the necessary opportunities for self-improvement at every level of our formal and informal educational system." To accomplish this we must first do a better job at defining the skills needed for success here in Palau. To accomplish this, I will work with our leadership and our educational administrators to establish a system that better predicts the course of our economy and thereby identifies future job requirements and opportunities. In this effort, we must establish and implement economic planning goals that identify diverse economic opportunities that result in better jobs at higher pay. In line with this goal, we will also work to better harmonize our grade school, high school and college systems to better prepare our

young people for these identified jobs within the economy.

In order to accomplish these lofty goals, it is imperative that our leadership support and fund PCC's efforts to turn out more skilled workers in areas where we currently employ foreign labor. Let me give you a few examples of technical and non-technical professions currently occupied by foreign workers.

| | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| . Masons | 67 |
| . Carpenters | 65 |
| . Accountants | 53 |
| . Business Managers | 53 |
| . Electricians | 35 |
| . Heavy Equipment Operators | 30 |
| . Bookkeepers | 25 |
| . General Mechanics | 24 |
| . Automobile Mechanics | 15 |
| . Air Conditioner & Ref. Mechanics | 15 |
| . Civil Engineers | 13 |
| . Operations Managers | 13 |
| . Plumbers | 11 |

There is absolutely no reason that Palauans cannot fill these jobs. We must simply increase our effort to improve training and education in these areas.

And I must compliment the leadership at PCC for its strong efforts to begin this process. Already, we have technical programs in Automotive Mechanics, Construction, Electrical and Electronics Technology and Outboard Marine Motors Technology. In non-technical fields, our PCC curriculum includes Business Accounting, Criminal Justice, Education, Environmental and Marine Science, Liberal Arts, Nursing and Office Administration. And in the field of tourism, PCC offers an outstanding program in tourism and hospitality. Let us expand on, and improve these already excellent programs to meet our growing needs.

In order to address this effort, I have instructed my legal staff to develop legislation that will provide incentives for our private sector to employ skilled Palauans and to pay them higher wages to ensure that they remain in Palau. And I am working with the United States Department of Labor to establish a strong Apprenticeship program. This program will permit Palauans who do not attend college to gain training skills on the job. Through this program in the United States, almost 500,000 employees are employed in over 871 occupations. It is imperative that Palau gain more local expertise in areas that can only be dealt with through an apprenticeship program. This requires a partnership between government and business, one that benefits Palau. If we are to succeed as a small island developing nation, to prepare our youth for the domestic job market in order to compete in the international economy, we must be more creative than large developed nations.

We must focus on partnership at every level, to provide a broad skill base that cannot be managed through ordinary educational processes. And PCC has begun to recognize this in numerous areas, such as in its Internship program, where students are assigned, in their last semester, to actual work sites.

We must also work with other countries and educational and training institutions in our regions to expand our capacities for broader and better training programs. We are currently working with the Pacific Island Forum through its 'Basic Education Action Plan' and the Pacific Regional Initiative for Delivering Education' - also known as PRIDE - to improve vocational training and linkages to the labor market and to economic growth. Examples of this effort include a regional maritime training school and the standardization of maritime training across the region. However, even at the regional level, we have a long way to go to establish the type of educational and training environment and programs that will have a real impact on our domestic educational opportunities.

We must also provide opportunities for those Palauans who are already in the work market and who wish to improve their education and technical skills. PCC is our primary link in this effort and should be proud of its Continuing Education Program and the Adult High School Program, which have provided classes in numerous areas, from computer training to woodcarving. These programs are critical to permit our public sector employees to transition into the private sector. In order to permit our workforce to continue to improve, we must provide them with the tools, and the financing, to take classes, both in Palau and at regional educational institutions.

Not only must the Palau Community College act as a training center, in many instances it must also serve as a center of excellence, providing expertise to local businesses so that they may accomplish their development goals. A good example is the PCC Cooperative Research and Extension programs that have helped to establish the groundwork, with the Bureau of Agriculture, for the development of our Agriculture Sector.

More on page 4

New Library Hours for Semester Break

Monday - Friday 8am - 5pm
Saturday 9am - 6pm
Sunday 12noon - 6pm
Closed Friday, May 27, 2005

BITS AND PIECES...

Palau Sports Fishing, Mobil, and Shimbros Donate...



PCC Dorm Manager Ephraim Ngirachitei receives the fish donation from Regis Akitaya.

The entire PCC family, and most especially the dorm students gratefully thank the Palau Sports Fishing Association, MOBIL, and Shimbros for their most generous donation of a 300 lb. billfish to the PCC cafeteria.

Tuesday Nights a Blast...



4th to 7th graders from Meyuns Elem. School join the "Tuesday Night Gathering" at the PCC dorm area.

"Tuesday Night Gathering" last week was a blast as there was live entertainment, music, food and a raffle drawing with wonderful prizes. As part of the entertainment, 4th to 7th graders from Meyun's Elementary School performed a special Hip Hop dance for the audience. The program started at 7:00 pm and lasted till 10:00 pm. This drug-free event was sponsored by PCC Student Life & Housing Office and the Behavioral Health Division of the Ministry of Health. "Tuesday Night Gathering" offers PCC students the opportunity to make friends share and learn how to make a difference both within themselves and in their community.

Happy President's Day...

Next week Wednesday, June 1st is a national holiday, President's Day. In recognition of this holiday, PCC offices will be closed and only essential services will be provided. However, all students are reminded that the next day June 2nd is the first day of instruction for the Summer session for both PCC programs and the Adult High School program. Enjoy the holiday one and all.

PCC Bids Farewell to Longtime Employee

by: Project Beacon Office



(l-r) Vernice Andrew, Hamada Vitarelli, Director Vernice Rechebei, Midori Mersai, restaurant staff, Jushida "Sue" Ngirngbedangel, Dean Presley Etibek, Cynthia Malsol, and Tchuzie Tadao.

On Thursday May 19th 2005, SSS-Project Beacon staff, former staff and the Dean of students had a farewell dinner for Jushida "Sue" Ngirngbedangel at the Penthouse Hotel. A Certificate of Appreciation from the College was presented, as well as gifts from her former co-workers. The highlight of the evening was the perusal of a scrapbook that was filled with MOC/PCC pictures from yesteryears. The walk down memory lane was quite sentimental, as well as hysterical at times. The Dean of Students and the Project Beacon Director shared a bit of history regarding Sue's years at MOC/PCC, and thanked her for her years of commitment and dedication. Sue attended MOC majoring in Secretarial Science. She was initially hired in 1985 as a Clerk Typist III with the Counseling Office. In 1990, she became the secretary for SSS-Project Beacon until early 2005 when she retired for medical reasons. Sue will certainly be missed by the SSS-Project Beacon Staff, as well as her colleagues at PCC.

New NRCS Director Visits PCC-CRE Research and Development Station

by: Project Beacon Office



(l-r) NRCS Director Lawrence Yamamoto poses with PCC-CRE Researcher Portia Franz, and NRCS staff member, Robin DeMeo.

The new Director of the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) - Pacific Basin Area, Mr. Lawrence T. Yamamoto, along with Palau NRCS Office District Conservationist, Ms. Robin Demeo, visited the R&D Station on May 19, 2005. This special visit was to see first hand some of collaborative projects that NRCS had provided to support PCC-CRE Programs. NRCS had assisted CRE in the development of a water irrigation system for the field experiments, a conservation plan and a soil survey map for the whole experimental station. NRCS had also conducted several skills improvement workshops for CRE Staff. Mr. Yamamoto assured the continuation of the NRCS support to PCC-CRE. NRCS's natural resources conservation programs help people reduce soil erosion, enhance water supplies, improve water quality, increase wildlife habitat, and reduce damages caused by floods and other natural disasters. Public benefits include enhanced natural resources that help sustain agricultural productivity and environmental quality. For more information about NRCS services, call the PCC-CRE office at 488-2746.