

Distance Learning is Face-to-Face Interaction

Technology has advanced so much so that today it is almost impossible to differentiate distance learning from face-to-face interaction between teacher and student. A good example of this is the current San Diego State University (SDSU) online program with students here in Palau. One of the courses the students are taking involves writing an actual grant proposal. During one of their sessions held at the Ministry of Education's Training Center, the students, with the help of modern technology, held their class with SDSU professors, as shown below, on tv! All the students got to discuss at length their respective proposals and they got to see the faces of their professors and the professors got to see the faces of their eager students. The students thank the College and the Ministry of Education for offering such technology to support them as they pursue their higher educational goals.



BOH Scholars 2003-04



Four PCC student (front from left) Valeria Gabriel, Angeline Albert, Vernice Andrew, and Lauren Joseph pose for a group photo with (back from left) BOH representative Rinsang Richerei, PCC President Patrick U. Tellei, National Scholarship Board member Caroline Skebong, and Scholarship Board Chairman Kaleb Udui, Jr. While the Bank of Hawaii had ten scholarship slots, only the four abovementioned students met the Bank's scholarship criteria, enabling them to each receive \$500 toward their educational expenses this school year 2003-04.

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

Palau "AAA" Team Getting Ready

The College is proud to be one of the main organizers for the upcoming "AAA" Oceania Qualification Championship to be held from January 17th - 23rd, 2004. Sponsored by the Baseball Confederation of Oceania (BCO), the tournament has confirmed seven (7) participating teams: New Zealand, Fiji, Australia, Solomon Islands, Guam, CNMI, and Palau which is the hosting nation.


The Palau Team has begun practicing (three times each week) in earnest getting ready for the tournament. The winner of the tournament will be representing Oceania at the 2004 IBAF "AAA" World Championships. This newsletter will keep our readers updated on this event as it approaches. Meanwhile, questions may be directed to Mr. Todd Ngramengior at PCC telephone number (680) 488-2471.



RMI and Palau, from page 3

year, and may request that the Pell Grants amendment for RMI citizens be extended to citizens of Palau as well. Statistics from the Palau National Scholarship Office indicate that as of the 2003-2004 school year, some three hundred forty-two (342) Palauan citizens are attending colleges and universities in the United States. Approximately 95% of them are currently receiving financial assistance in the form of Pell Grants to help pay for their post-secondary education. The remaining students are pursuing their graduate degrees and so are not eligible to receive Pell Grants.

Celebrating Birthdays

 Lorenza Joseph October 10
Sherman Daniel October 15
Happy Birthday To You!!!

Richard Says, 'Mesulang!'

Fellow PCC staffer Mr. Richard Saburo would like to extend a very big and loud 'MESULANG' to all his relatives, friends, and MOST ESPECIALLY his fellow PCC colleagues for contributing to and supporting his recently held House Party. Richard says that because of such generous support, the House Party exceeded all his expectations! He reminds everyone to let him know when it comes their turn to seek help as he will be most happy to return the favor!!!



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Palau Community College MESEKIU'S NEWS

FREE COPY



Friday, October 10, 2003

Weekly Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 41

AHS Enrollment Steady at Above One Hundred

Palau Community College is proud to announce that the PCC Adult High School (AHS) is effectively providing hundreds of Palauans a second chance at pursuing their academic goals. For this fall 2003 semester, the AHS has enrolled over one hundred (100) full-time continuing and new students hailing from the northern most state of Kayangel to Palau's southwest islands.

Before enrolling in the AHS, many of these students had previously enrolled and not succeeded in obtaining their GED. Hence, AHS is providing them yet another chance to obtain their high school diploma and better their chances at enrolling and succeeding in post-secondary institutions.

Last year, twenty-seven (27) students graduated from AHS. Many of them

went on to enroll here at PCC while some of them opted to either attend college off-island or begin their employment career. Without their AHS diploma, it is almost a guarantee that these 27 students would not be where they are today.

In other words, the College has identified a subgroup within the Palau population and implemented a program (in this case the AHS) that serves to provide a mechanism whereby these students may use to attain their educational and academic goals.

The College is indeed very proud



Adult High School Students pose for a photo in one of their PCC classes as teacher Theodosia S. Kuartei (left) helps one of their peers.

to announce that the national leadership recognizes the importance of this program and has appropriated the sum of \$40,000 (Republic of Palau Public Law 6-37) to the College to help support this critical program.

Such support coming from the national level (ROP President Remengesau and the Olbiil Era Kelulau) gives us encouragement and further motivates us to continue our efforts to help provide educational and training opportunities for the entire Palau population.

PCC Adult High School

The College is working hard to fulfill its mandate to provide continuing education and training to the Republic, and in the case of the Adult High School students, the program has become a lifeline to a better future. The program has very dedicated staff and teachers who try to prepare these students to either enter post-secondary education or to find employment after graduation.

This semester, the AHS program is offering a total of 11 courses including On-the-Job Training to graduating students. If you are interested in this program, don't hesitate to contact PCC Continuing Education at tel. (680) 488-2470/2471. We will be very happy to assist you!

Computer Training Proves Popular, Participants Extend It By Two Weeks!

The College recently offered an advanced computer training for some of its staff on programs such as Excel, Access, and Powerpoint. The training, originally scheduled to be conducted in only 40-contact hours, was so popular among the participants that they requested and received permission to exceed the number of contact hours by another 40 hours!

This is unprecedented and the training instructor, Mr. Edwel Ongerung of the Ministry of Education is commended for volunteering to continue the training for the benefit of these very grateful PCC staff. The staff who underwent training, as shown in the photo on the right are: (front from left) Lesley B. Adachi, Teory Idechong, Lourdes Reksid-Mariur, Keith Ignacio, (back from left) Larry Wakakoro, Dilubch Samil, Hellen Imanuel, Akiko Beketaut, Miriam Ngirmekur-Kual, and training instructor Mr. Edwel Ongerung. For information about PCC short term training opportunities, contact Ms. Eileen Babauta at PCC telephone number (680) 488-2470/2471.



NetCare Updates Members On Changes

With the College as a subscriber to NetCare Life & Health Insurance, it is important to note some changes that have recently been enacted by our carrier.

Off-Island Medical Treatment

If your physician advises you to go off-island for specialist consultation, or treatment, you must first submit a referral letter from your doctor along with medical notes to the Moylan's Insurance Office in Palau for review and approval. You MUST have an approved referral from NetCare before leaving Palau for medical treatment. Claims for medical treatment outside of Palau will be denied if the member did not get an approved referral.

Prescription Drug Co-payment change

Effective the renewal date of our policy, a three-tiered prescription drug co-payment will be implemented as follows: Generix Rx - \$5.00; Brand Rx - \$10.00; and, Non-Formulary Rx - \$25.00.

Netcare also made changes on its Pharmacy Network as well as Coverage for Annual Physical Exams in the Philippines. For information about these and other NetCare policies, please call Wil at (680) 488-2765.

Fall 2003 Academic Calendar

First day of instruction	August 18
Late Registration/Drop & Add Period	August 18-22
HOLIDAY: Labor Day	September 1
HOLIDAY: Indep. Day	October 1
Last Day to remove incomplete Summer Grades	October 2
Mid-term Period	October 13-17
HOLIDAY: UN Day	October 24
Last Day for all Withdrawals	October 27
HOLIDAY: Thanksgiving	November 27
Last Day of Instruction	December 5
Final Exam Period	December 8-10
Grades Due	December 12

BITS AND PIECES...

PVA Thanks PCC

The College has received a thank you message from the Palau Visitors Authority (PVA). Specifically, PCC was one of the main sponsors of the recently held 2003 Beautification Towards Healthy Islands Clean-Up Campaign, and according to PVA staff, the College's sponsorship was instrumental in the campaign's success. The College reassures PVA that we will continue to work with them in the future to preserve, protect, and beautify our unique environment.

Bookstore Increases Hours

To better accommodate our customers, the PCC Bookstore increased its hours beginning on October 1, 2003. The Bookstore now opens everyday at 7:30am and closes at 5:00pm Monday to Friday, except for national holidays. Our friendly Bookstore staff Helene Moros and Gibson Towai would like to remind all Bookstore patrons that while 'Credit is Good, We Do Need Cash!'

Olegeriil Helps To Raise Funds for 9th Festival of Pacific Arts

The College's Development Officer, Jay Olegeriil, will be helping to serve on the fundraising team for the upcoming 9th Festival of Pacific Arts to be held next year. The Team is chaired by ROP Finance Minister Elbuchel Sadang. Although his contributions as a member of this team has been limited to date, that is expected to change as the Festival approaches. Let us give Olegeriil our support as he and many other College personnel represent us in preparing our nation to host the 9th Festival of Pacific Arts.

As reported in the May 16, 2003 issue of this newsletter, the College may be tapped to host several key sites for the Festival including the Festival's literary arts, press room, performing arts, and film screenings. Thus, we will certainly see our involvement in the Festival intensify as the event nears. For information about the Festival contact (680) 488-6490/6491.

2003 PCC Fundraiser Updated Prize List

CASH PRIZES:

- \$1,000 prize
- \$500 prize
- \$250 prize
- \$150 prize
- \$100 prize
- \$50 prize (six of these!)



DINNER/LUCH PRIZES:

- Desomel Restaurant
- Furusato Restaurant
- Carp Restaurant

BEAUTY PACKAGES:

- Local Beauty Outlets

OTHER FABULOUS PRIZES:

- 5 REALLY BIG PITI fish
- Shopping Spree at Ace Hardware
- Car Tune Up
- Palasia Fitness Ctr. Membership
- Free PCC Plants
- 1 Live baby pig
- Trip to Taipei, Taiwan
- Free Internet
- Overnight Fishing Trip
- Window Air Conditioner



HOTEL GETAWAYS:

- Palasia Hotel Palau
- Carp Island Resort
- West Plaza Hotel

Tickets are now available at the PCC President's Office, Development Office, Business Office, Human Resources Office, Continuing Education Office, Academic Affairs, Educational Talent Search Office, and Student Services Office. Or you may call 488-2470/2471, extension 253 and talk to Hulda, Lu, Polo or Jay. They will be more than happy to come visit you wherever you are in Koror! In addition, we anticipate the Prize List to grow each week so don't forget to read each week's issue of this newsletter.

House Amendment May Bring Good News to RMI and Palau Students Attending College

On September 4, 2003, the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Resources approved some important amendments to the U.S. compact legislation authorizing the Compact of Free Association.

The amendments, offered by Committee Chairman Richard Pombo (R-CA), came in the form of a substitute that was passed by the committee unanimously. Among the amendments was one that would affect citizens of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI). Specifically, the amendment would enable, as stated in a September 4, 2003 press release from the RMI embassy in Washington, D.C., "continued access and eligibility for Pell Grants through 2023..."

Currently, citizens of Palau, the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia may apply for Pell Grants to help offset the cost of their college/university expenses in the U.S. This privilege is slated to expire in the fall of 2004.

In other words, Financial assistance provided by Pell Grants is primarily responsible for thousands of citizens of these freely associated states being able to attend and

graduate from colleges and universities in the United States. Without such assistance, these students would not be able to afford to attend post-secondary institutions due to the high costs associated with such attendance.

How Does This Apply To Palau

The Republic of Palau's current Compact of Free Association with the United States is slated to expire in the year 2009. However, as mentioned above, the 'sunset clause' for Palauan students' eligibility to apply for and receive Pell Grants states that such eligibility ends in the fall 2004 school year.

Therefore, the amendments to the U.S. compact legislation by the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Resources that would enable citizens of the RMI continued access and eligibility for Pell Grants through 2023 could prove to benefit Palauan citizens attending post-secondary institutions in the United States.

Palau's leaders are scheduled to revisit the Compact along with the U.S. next

Project Beacon Students Visit Ngchesar

Written by: PCC Project Beacon Staff

On the 3rd of October, Project Beacon conducted its first cultural field trip for this Fall semester to State of Ngchesar. It is an educational enrichment field trip where we introduce our diverse student population to Palau's historical and cultural sites.

According to our tour guide, Mr. Verano Ngirkelau, the State of Ngchesar consists of six traditional villages from the North to the South, they are *Ngeruikl*, *Ngeraus*, *Ngchesar*, *Ngerkesou*, *Ngerngesang*, and *Ngersuul*. The State of Nchesar has ten chiefs, headed by *Ngirakebou*. Based on oral traditions of Ngchesar, there were six known fearless warriors, they were *Bekeu el Bechab of Iuelenguul*, *Ngiraiuid of Ngerngesang*, *Ngiramecheuei of Ngeraus*, *Omkius of the house of Ked*, *Rdebechei of the house of Iebukel*, and *Ngirasob of Ngchesar*. With our tour guide, Mr. Ngirkelau, we were able to visit these sites, such as *Orrekong el Bad*, a monolith that stands on the stone platform of *Bai e ra Oldiang*. *Bai e ra Oldiang* is the meeting house of the ten chiefs of Ngchesar, who are called *Ngaracholdiang*. And we also saw the *Ulangang* (spirit house) on the stone platform of the *Iebukl* clan. *Kebou*, a traditional platform which belongs to the highest clan of Ngchesar, especially for the *Ngirakebou*.

The burial site of the late *Ngirakebou* Dr. Anthony H. Polloi is located at *Kebou*. We also walked on the stone paths of *Kliis*, a man-made extended dock from the shoreline, which has cultural exchange significances in *Klechedaol*. *Etoilechang*, a man-made shoreline wall, also has historical importance in the history of Ngchesar. In addition, most of our students were able to see for the first time Ngchesar's *Kabekl*, war canoe named *Bisebusch* (Lightning), which won 1st place in a 1981 Palau canoe racing competition. Another memorable sighting was an actual carving of *Kaeb*, racing canoes, in preparation for the IX Festival of Pacific Arts in 2004.

PCC students and staff are grateful to the people of Ngchesar, the Honorable Governor Florencio Adélbai, and State Legislature and Traditional leaderships of Ngchesar for welcoming us and especially for their hospitality. Our special thanks also goes to our tour guide, Mr. Verano Ngirkelau, and Interim VP Thomas Taro for his continuous support for our use of CRE's 4x4 pickup truck to transport some logistical aspects of our student field trip. We also would like to thank all the people who helped us to make this field trip a big success.



Tour guide Verano Ngirkelau and PCC students surround the late *Ngirakebou* Dr. Anthony H. Polloi burial site at *Kebou*, traditional platform which belongs to the *Kebou* clan. For information about the Project Beacon programs and services, including its cultural activities, contact PCC telephone number 488-3073.