

# CHACHALANI

CAMPUS HAPPENINGS • PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE • UPCOMING EVENTS

## Building 100 Renovation/Expansion under way!

Governor Eddie Calvo joined Dr. Okada, visiting federal officials and local representatives in donning hard hats and safety vests to ceremoniously shovel gravel and “break ground” for the renovation and expansion of GCC’s Building 100 on Sept. 14.

“When partnerships like this emerge, it truly represents the support for the community of Guam in developing our workforce,” Okada said, referring to the combination of funding sources and assistance from both local and federal agencies that brought the project to this point.

The U.S.D.A. and the GCC Capital Improvement Fund are the combined funding sources for construction of the \$4.5M project. The construction will expand Building 100 into a two-story concrete structure with Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) features. It will house GCC’s Criminal Justice program and connect to the recently renovated and expanded two-story Building E, which is also a LEED-certified building. Completion of the project is slated for December 2017.



### IMPORTANT DATES

**English Dept.  
Political status  
teach-in**  
October 13

**Fall Festival:**  
October 27

**GCC Professional  
development**  
October 24  
GCC CLOSED all day.

**GCC Halloween parade**  
October 28

# GCC

GUAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE


*Kulehon Kumunidát Guáhan*

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Guam Community College is a leader in career and technical workforce development, providing the highest quality student-centered education and job training for Micronesia.

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## Meet Michael Benjamin Abarca

Michael, 28, is studying Computer Science at GCC. The Santa Ana, Dededo resident is on track to graduate in May 2017 if he is able to get all of his classes in by next semester. Michael works at Andersen Air Force Base as a materials labor handler. He likes working with computers, and feels that computer science is a broad enough major that “you can almost do anything,” especially get a better job!

Attending the “Meet the President” event on Sept. 27, Michael asked President Okada if there could be more flexibility with regard to computer science and regular science courses being offered at night, as he was having trouble with his class schedule. She responded that Dean Michael Chan would address the problem, and urged Abarca and all the students in attendance to fill out the department course surveys being issued on MyGCC. Dr. Chan gave Michael and another computer science student his card, so they can keep in touch with him regarding this issue.

Michael likes the fact that GCC is very accommodating when it comes to the students. “The environment is very friendly and welcoming.”

Si Yu’os Ma’ase, Michael, for speaking up!

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**GCC’s annual Fall Festival was postponed to October 27, due to bad weather. See you on the 27th of October!**

# Postsecondary

## NEWS & EVENTS



## Meet the President

Michael was one of nearly 200 students that met with President Okada on Sept. 27-28 from 6:00 - 7:30 in the MPA. They inquired about the GPD Crime Lab classroom and lab, which is one of the next projects GCC will undertake after the renovation/expansion of Building 100. The classroom and lab will be utilized by GCC students for their forensic course and lab work in the CJSS Forensic Lab Technician concentration. They also inquired about programs and courses articulating over to the University of Guam. Dr. Okada explained that GCC is working on articulating more courses to UOG, as the university discontinued its Liberal Studies program. Gen Ed courses do articulate over on a course-by-course basis, and GCC is working on a Liberal Studies program articulation with University of Hawaii at Manoa. Students also raised concerns about the scheduling of science courses, computer hardware, and Visual Communications becoming a 4-year program. President Okada addressed their concerns, noting that the discussion of a 4-year degree would continue after the March 2018 ACCJC accreditation visit.

Si Yu'os Ma'ase to all of the students and faculty who took the time to attend these valuable information/communication sessions with President Okada!



## Student Organization Induction

GCC student leaders and members of the college's 18 student organizations gathered in the MPA on Sept. 2 for their annual induction ceremony and a day of leadership training. Congratulations to all of the student org members and to our COPSA leaders!

## GCC Veterans Club remembers 9-11

Dry eyes were in scarce quantity during several moments at the Annual Patriots Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance event, hosted by students in the GCC Veterans Club. Federal and local military, fire and police officials, and local veterans and family members attended the event on Sunday, Sept. 11 in the MPA.

“We held this ceremony to remember the sacrifices our veterans, police officers, first responders, and our firefighters endured on September 11th, 2001. Veterans realize the true service these men and women in uniform rendered on that day. They must never be forgotten,” said Rodney Cruz Jr., GCC Veterans Club president.

Guest speaker Col. Philip Zimmerman, a Pentagon 9/11 survivor and the Marine Forces Pacific Guam & CNMI Officer in Charge, spoke of that fateful day, on which he lost friends and co-workers, telling the audience to cherish those close to them. A moving video of photographs from 9-11, played to an instrumental version of “Amazing Grace,” left many in the audience in tears.

Local Veterans’ clubs and various other entities assisted the GCC Veterans Club in sponsoring the event.



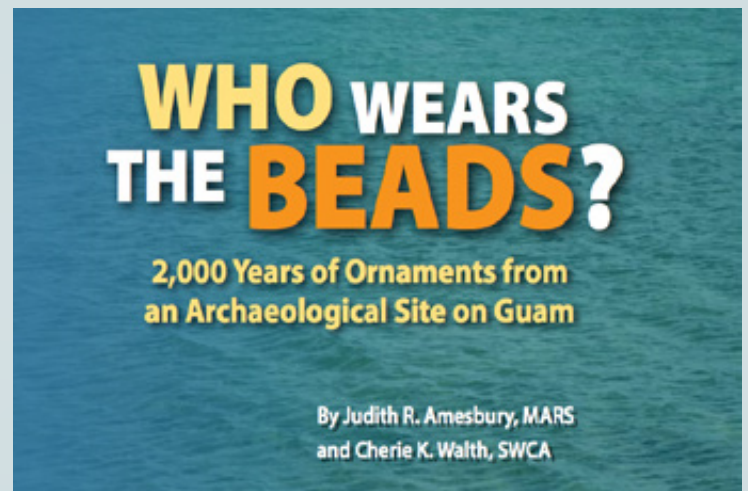
### Child Care Seminar

GCC Education Dept. faculty Dr. Marsha Postrozny, Sarah Leon Guerrero, Melissa Palomo, Eleanor Lauilefue and Kirsten Rosario presented a workshop for the Guam Child Care Development Association Seminar on Sept. 17 at the Dededo Senior Center. Over 100 childcare providers attended the workshop. Great job, ladies!



### Archaeologist speaks to Pacific Cultures class

Archaeologist Judy Amesbury spoke to Daniel Owen's Pacific Cultures class on Sept. 20 in the LRC audio room. Amesbury, of Micronesian Archaeological Research Services, is an expert in the analysis of faunal remains, and the author of numerous reports and publications about fishing and invertebrate collecting in the Marianas. She co-authored a recent book, "Who wears the Beads," that documents findings of beads worn by ancient Chamorros 2,000 years ago.



Find out more about archaeological research on Guam at [www.natonbeachguam.com](http://www.natonbeachguam.com).

### Tourism & Hospitality Convocation

GCC's Tourism & Hospitality Department held its Student Convocation on Sept. 16 in the MPA. The convocation encouraged Tourism & Hospitality students enrolled this semester and declared in either Culinary Arts, Food & Beverage Management, Hotel Operations Management, or Tourism & Travel Management to come and learn more about the profession, and get advice on which courses to take next semester to advance toward completion of their associate's degree. The first 50 students received t-shirts and a raffle ticket to win prizes!

# FACULTY FOCUS

Melissa Palomo became a full-time GCC CTE Early Childhood Education instructor at George Washington High School in August 2010, but she's been at GCC for a lot longer than that. Melissa has been teaching postsecondary courses here as an adjunct instructor since 1999. The Yona resident says she moved to high school to spread information about Early Childhood Education to a younger group of students.

**“I wanted to get information to them early, before they become parents, and to inspire them to want to work with, and teach children. I thought that if they can see how much I love it, maybe they would love it, too.”**

Melissa tries to make her classes interactive, so that students have fun while they are learning. Although she does not have children yet, she says, “All my students are my kids!”

## MELISSA PALOMO

GCC CTE instructor  
Early Childhood  
Education, GWHS



# STAFF SPOTLIGHT AVP TEAM

## ANA MARI ATOIGUE

Administrative Officer,  
AVP Office

Ana Mari Atoigue has one of the most challenging jobs at GCC – keeping up with Dr. Ray Somera, the VP for Academic Affairs! Entering her eighth year of work at GCC, she originally started at the College in the Technology Department. This mother of four (including twin 15-year-olds) from Agana Heights came to GCC from the Department of Education. What she likes best about working here is the camaraderie she has with everyone.

“The family feeling that we have at GCC. In order to get my job done, I have to work with everyone,” she says. “We have to be a team to make it all work.”

## BARBARA BLAS

Secretary II

Barbara “Bobbie” Blas is entering her seventh year of work at the college. She started out as a limited term employee, working with the Faculty Senate, and is now full-time with the AVP Office. Bobbie is married to Jerome Blas, GCC’s Supply Expediter. They have been together for 28 years, and their beautiful family consists of six children and four grandchildren. Bobbie also says that what she likes best about her job are the people she works with.

Bobbie and Ana Mari are quite a team – in March of this year, the two won the Chamorro Month office decorating contest here at GCC. They collaborated to turn their office into a virtual wonderland of Chamorro culture. Plus, they are experts at handling the copier when it decides to blank out on us. 😊

Si Yu’os Ma’ase, Ana Mari and Bobbie, for keeping us moving and copying!

# FROM THE President

DR. MARY A.Y. OKADA

**F**all semester is in full swing here at GCC. We started off the month with the induction of officers for our 18 flourishing student organizations. On Sunday, September 11th, we continued our tradition of honoring the survivors of 9-11 with a moving event planned by the GCC Veteran Students organization. On the 14th of this month, we hosted federal guests that helped us secure funding to renovate and expand the dilapidated Building 100. Tom Bussanich, U.S. Department of Interior's Insular Affairs Budget Director, and Chris Kanazawa, U.S.D.A. Rural Development State Director from the Hawaii State Office, helped us to break ground on this important project that will provide new and more technologically equipped classrooms for our Criminal Justice program.

The new building 100 will be another LEED building, adding to our reputation as one of the most sustainable entities on island. I am proud to say that this reputation has been enhanced even further after we were honored this month by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) as a 2016 Green Genome Award winner. The AACC awarded GCC an AACC Sustainability Education and Economic Development (SEED) Green Genome Strategic Partnerships Award, which comes with a \$10,000 check. Special thanks to Kiko Palacios, our GCC Sustainability Coordinator, for his excellent award application write-up. Kiko will be using the money to purchase robotics and supplies for his sustainable technologies camp for middle and high schoolers over the 2016 Christmas break.

Si Yu'os Ma'ase to all of the nearly 200 students that met with me during our two days of "Meet the President" conversations. Your input and suggestions are helping us to transform GCC into a more student-successful institution, by providing more convenient class times, and by working to articulate more of our courses over to UOG and other higher education institutions for those of you planning to earn a 4-year degree. Also, I'd like to thank all of the employees who joined us for the GCC GovGuam Labor Day Picnic on Sunday, Sept. 4th at Ypao Beach. Once again this year we were a sea of blue GCC shirts, with beautifully decorated tables and an array of delicious food, and the camaraderie that makes GCC a special place to work.

Have a great semester everyone, Happy Halloween, and biba GCC!

## ROTARY PRESENTATION

Si Yu'os ma'ase to Associate Dean Pilar Williams and Cathy Leon Guerrero for pitching the GCC Work Experience program and GCC's CTE programs in Guam high schools at the Rotary Club of Tumon Bay on Sept. 13. The Guam Daily Post had a nice story about their presentation on Sept. 14, p. 8!



## GCC HONORED BY AACC WITH GREEN GENOME AWARD



Being green is paying off for GCC. This month, we were one of only nine colleges across the nation selected as a 2016 Green Genome Award winner by the American Association of Community Colleges. The AACC awarded GCC an AACC Sustainability Education and Economic Development (SEED) Green Genome Strategic Partnerships Award, which comes with a \$10,000 check.

“The designation of the SEED Genome Award to GCC signifies that we are truly advancing our sustainability efforts on campus and in the community. To be one of the few recipients of this national award speaks volumes about our commitment and transformation toward a sustainable future and workforce,” said Francisco “Kiko” Palacios, GCC Sustainability Coordinator.

Palacios wrote GCC’s Green Genome Award application, highlighting courses such as Photovoltaic Design and Installation, Intro to Renewable Energy, and its Environmental Technician Certificate program and upcoming Light Duty Hybrid/Electric Vehicle Specialist concentration that aim to prepare graduates for jobs in the region’s growing sustainability industry. Also highlighted were the installment of water bottle refilling stations and recycling “atolls” around campus; the Sustainable Technologies and Environmental Education Program (STEED) offered during summer and winter breaks to introduce secondary level students to sustainable technologies and inspire them to study STEM fields related to sustainability efforts; the construction of three, soon-to-be four Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) buildings on campus; student sustainability efforts through the Ecowarriors student organization; and support of sustainability initiatives by GCC management and its Board of Trustees.

“At GCC we are truly committed to having sustainability be a part of the College’s DNA – from our student and faculty levels, within our programs, to how we construct buildings and implement initiatives. For GCC, it is all about leading by example. We are thrilled with this award and the honor that accompanies it,” said President Okada.

Dr. Okada noted that the \$10,000 award will help to expand the GCC STEED program, to more effectively prepare students for further education and promising job opportunities in green technology fields.

## GCC MAKES AN IMPACT AT GUAM INT’L COASTAL CLEANUP

Kiko Palacios, GCC Sustainability Coordinator, and Joni Kerr, GCC Science professor, led the charge of GCC students and volunteers during the International Coastal Cleanup on Sept. 17th. The GCC Ecowarriors tackled the Marbo Cave Road area – a notorious illegal dumpsite. Special thanks to Ecowarriors Kiko Palacios, Tina Erickson, Sabet Flores and Zhaopei Teng for serving as co-site leaders.



### TRANSFORMATION WORKSHOPS CONTINUE

On Sept. 7, approximately 40 GCC employees continued their transformational journey with Dr. Laura Souder and Dr. Sam Betances, focusing on what each person's office or area of responsibility needs to do to become focused on 100% student-centered success. More to come!



### HAPPY RETIREMENT, RON

Dankolo na si Yu'os ma'ase to all who attended Ron Abshire's retirement luncheon on Sept. 15. Ron's departure leaves a void at our campus in the field of cosmetology.





## **GCC Labor Day Picnic!**

Fun, fun, fun! Another year, another beautifully decorated table by the talented ladies at GCC, and more food than we could handle at the annual GCC GovGuam Labor Day picnic on Sept. 4 at Ypao Park. Si Yu'os Ma'ase to the Business & Finance Division and their volunteers for being great hosts, and to everyone for their awesome recycling efforts at our picnic recycling atolls. Way to be sustainable, GCC!





**Senminagof Kompl' años para i Empliao  
Kulehon Kumunidat Guahan Siha  
Ni mafañagu gi Lumamlam/Septembre na mes 2016!**

*Happy Birthday to the Guam Community College Employees celebrating their birthdays in September 2016!*

**Cathy Anderson  
Kim Bautista  
Joanne Blas  
Amanda Castro  
Steve Cheipot  
Gerald Cruz**

**Vera De Oro  
Carol Guerrero  
Bertha Leon Guerrero  
Joey Munoz  
Nenita Perez**

**Jaclyn Quan  
Joe Quichocho  
Christine Quinata  
James Tabumar  
Carl Torres  
John Zilian**