

# CHACHALANI



Guam Community College PDF Newsletter  
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## Mission Statement:

The mission of Guam Community College is to be a leader in career and technical workforce development by providing the highest quality education and job training in Micronesia.

## Accreditation lessons with Dr. Houston

GCC brought Dr. Doug Houston, an accrediting consultant and former and current chair of an ACCJC accrediting team, to the College to review our Institutional Self Assessment Report that is due in December to the ACCJC. Shown here with GCC Board chair Gina Ramos and COPSA President Ariane Nepomuceno, Dr. Houston met with all four Standard Committees and with the GCC community on Oct. 27-28 in what all have deemed very productive sessions. We now know much more about AIPs (Actionable Improvement Plans)! Visit MyGCC to read the notes from Dr. Houston's visit!



## Unpingco sworn in as student trustee



GCC student Aaron Unpingco was elected Student Trustee to the Board of Trustees during the Fall Festival in September. He was officially sworn in by GCC Board Chair Gina Ramos during the Oct. 7 board meeting. Unpingco, a military veteran, immediately began advocating for GCC, speaking out as a student leader as the College struggled with the passage of Bill 206, now PL 31-134, which transferred GCC's property on the Back Road to the Ancestral Lands Commission. Unpingco simply asked lawmakers to keep to their election promise to put education first.

## Reyes awarded BWOY scholarship

GCC student Carmelita Reyes was awarded a Businesswoman of the Year scholarship from First Hawaiian Bank and Guam Business on Oct. 4. Reyes' \$1,410 scholarship will help fund her degree in Accounting. Each year, BWOY scholarships are awarded to GCC, UOG, and NMC female students based on credit hours, grades, community involvement, and potential. Find out how to apply at the GCC Financial Aid Office. Reyes is shown with (l to r) Maureen Maratita, Glimpses of Guam publisher, Dr. Mary Okada, GCC president, and (far right) Laura Lyn Dacanay, FHB vice president.



The Spring 2012 Schedule of Courses is on [www.guamcc.edu](http://www.guamcc.edu)!  
Register for classes NOW by logging onto MyGCC!

## From the President...



I thoroughly enjoyed meeting with our students during the Meet the President sessions on Oct. 4 and 5 - thank you to all who came and conveyed your thoughts, praises, frustrations and suggestions. We are considering everything, and even if we cannot implement some things right away, we value the students' input!

Congratulations to Carmelita Reyes, our BWOY scholarship winner. We hope to have at least three nominees next year - so watch for the applications!

I think we all agree that the accreditation visit by Dr. Doug Houston was extremely helpful and informative. His suggestions will help us to

hone our Institutional Self Evaluation Report into a very constructive and productive document for the accreditation team.

Our new Student Center opens on December 9th, and I want to thank everyone who is helping to get this beautiful new building ready. Taking the lead is Bobbie Leon Guerrero, CSI program specialist, shown here going over some last minute preparations when we did our walk-through on Oct. 24.

As we approach this holiday season, let's remember to be grateful for what we have, including our family, friends, co-workers, and our jobs here at GCC!



## ...Meet the President!



Students met with President Dr. Mary Okada on Oct. 4 and 5 in the MPA, where she gave them an update on the college's Fiscal Year 2012 financial outlook (it will be a challenge!), and on new buildings, new programs, student services, the parking situation (the new lot is open during daylight hours!), and other concerns. Students asked for more computer labs, and fortunately, the new Student Center will provide one! Other topics included the need for increased security on campus, more credits to be transferrable to UOG, air conditioners down in some classrooms, and needed improvements in the automotive department.

## Activist O'Dea inspires students

International activist and social healer James O'Dea told nearly 200 Guam Community College students on Oct. 26 that they should never let anyone tell them they are too young to make a difference. O'Dea, the former Washington Office director of Amnesty International, spoke to the students about being agents of peaceful change during GCC's first Community Leadership Lecture, sponsored by Dr. Mary Okada, GCC president. O'Dea was on island for the 2nd Micronesian Non Profit Conference hosted by Payu-ta, Guam's umbrella association of non-governmental organizations, for which GCC is the fiscal agent.



## Students help build a stronger workforce!

GCC's COPSA (Council on Postsecondary Student Affairs) held its semester conference, "Building a Stronger Workforce," on Oct. 14 at the Guam Marriott Resort. COPSA officers, with help from the Center for Student Involvement and GCC's Counseling Department, coordinated sessions and speakers on topics ranging from planning ahead to maintaining good credit, getting good grades, successful writing techniques, and more. Speakers from GTA, the Bank of Hawaii, and Coast 360 relayed information about their respective fields and actual workforce scenarios, and answered students' questions about their jobs. The conference attracted 179 students who are serious about getting jobs when they graduate!

## Baza-Cruz appointed to GCEC

Dr. Lisa Baza-Cruz, GCC's English Department chair, had the most number of people advocating for her confirmation as a member of the Guam Commission for Educator Certification on Oct. 14 at the Legislature, including Dr. Ray Somera (sitting in for President Okada), her goddaughter, and Monsignor David Quitugua. She impressed Speaker Won Pat and members of the Education Committee not only with her considerable knowledge of education policies, standards and procedures, but also with her passion for quality education. Congratulations, Dr. B-C. We know you will do a great job!!



## Halloween Short Story contest winners!



English faculty Cathy Leon Guerrero, Tico Tenorio, and Carol Galvez-Reid (far right) congratulate Peter Blas and Shannin Nestor in the MPA on Oct. 25 for their outstanding creative writing skills.

First prize in the GCC Halloween Short Story Contest went to Peter Blas for his story, "Macabre: The Nightmare." Blas received an Ipod Shuffle, gift certificates from the Cosmetology and Automotive Service Technology departments, and Halloween treats. Second prize went to Shannin Nestor for "The Hollow Boy," and third prize went to Joseph Anderson for his story, "Dinner of the Damned." Both Nestor and Anderson received gift certificates and treats as well.

Contest judges were Carol Galvez-Reid, Tico Tenorio, and Cathy Leon Guerrero. Special thanks to Chef Paul Kerner, Chris Dennis and Ron Abshire for their contributions and support. Congratulations to the winners and to all the GCC students who participated in this year's contest.

**Notable:** Fermina Sablan, program coordinator for the Go'ti Yan Adahi I Fino'ta Chamorro Office, was the guest speaker at the American Association of University Women Guam Branch October Membership Meeting on Oct. 1. Sablan spoke to AAUW members about the Fino' Haya DVD project that highlights Guam's indigenous culture. Fino' Haya has produced four of a total of 16 DVDs about the island's history and culture.

## Students' service learning reflections...

The following observations are from students who volunteered at St. Dominics for a service learning project in Prof. John Armstrong's Psychology class:

Joleen M.:

They once were young and healthy as we were and they may have made a difference in their communities in various ways in their lives. A way we can repay the elderly is to appreciate, respect, and help them. Many of the youth take a lot of things for granted when they should appreciate the things in their life, their families, and the people who help them. When I get older I know I would want people I love to visit me if I was in senior care home.



Gabby V.:

Many of them, however, spoke about how they want to live with their children instead of living at the senior care center. It was heartbreaking to have heard that.



Tiara C.:

If an elderly person feels a sense of integrity, it means they are content or proud of their accomplishments. They will look back with satisfaction and have no regrets. If they feel the opposing emotion, despair, they will have many regrets and feel that their life was wasted... I feel like my job as a volunteer was to steer them in the direction of integrity. Many of these elderly patients lived in the time of the war. They all had a past and in a way I felt that it was up to me to help them APPRECIATE their past... By volunteering at St. Dominic's, I believe I've accomplished that.

## PN students attend conference



GCC Practical Nursing students helped out at the 2nd Annual Golf-for-Aid Tournament on Oct. 8, and then on Oct. 21 and 22, they attended a Medical Conference sponsored by the UOG Endowment Foundation and Dr. Saied Safa. The conference covered topics of health care disparity among the Pacific islands, including cancer, teen pregnancy, smoking, diabetes, and heart disease.

## Notables....

The GW/GCC Tourism Academy held its Beginning of the Year Retreat in the GCC MPA on October 27, with guest speaker Mama Peaches, owner and cook of the Cajun Delight Restaurant!



GCC Culinary students Roger Sula (left) and Florenz Guerlan were among the students that took part in the annual Pastries in Paradise event at the Sheraton Laguna Guam Resort on Saturday, Oct. 1, 2011. Photo courtesy of Pacific Daily News.

For the month of October, the Japan CLUB (Customs, Language, Understanding, Beliefs) displayed a collection of “hashioki,” Japanese ceramic chopstick rests, in the Learning Resource Center rotunda. Here, Christian Guerrero poses with the display.



Ouch! Hold still! John Gozum, LPN and GCC graduate, administers a flu shot to Jon-Francis Sana during the TakeCare Flu Shot Clinic at TakeCare in Tamuning on October 28. Gozum was one of several GCC graduates who volunteered their time at the Flu Shot Clinic.

## CACGP / Project AIM grant renewals!

GCC’s College Access Challenge Grant Program (CACGP) is doing something right. The federally-funded program is going on its fourth year of inspiring middle and high school students in both public and private schools on island to reach higher so that they will be successful in college. CACGP’s FY 2012 grant award from the U.S. Department of Education is \$1.5 million – the same amount the program received last year, and a huge increase over its grant awards for the first two years of only \$330,000 each year. Also, the Project AIM TRiO program was funded for the second year of its \$1.5 million, five-year grant award. This fiscal year, however, all TRiO programs took a 3.1 percent reduction in funding from US DOE, so GCC’s Project AIM received a total of \$292,340 for program year 2011-2012. Way to go Millie Afaisen (CACGP) and Christine Sison (Project AIM) and your respective staffs!

## Happy Halloween!!



Witches, cats, Michael Jackson, Boy George, gypsies, the bride of Frankenstein, and wizards - they all showed up on Halloween afternoon in GCC's rotunda! It was a great turnout and thanks to all who dressed up - even our "Queen Bee," President Okada!



## Upcoming at GCC!!!



### All are invited!

To the ribbon cutting of the new GCC Student Center on Friday, December 9th at 10 am! Please join us for this momentous occasion as we present our students with a place to meet, perform, study, get tutoring, and call their own!

## Important Dates!

- Dec. 7** GCC Christmas Party 6 pm Westin Hotel
- Dec. 9** Student Center Ribbon Cutting 10 am
- Dec. 12** Practical Nursing Pinning Ceremony 6 pm Sheraton
- Dec. 23** GCC Children's Christmas Party/Luncheon 11 am - 3 pm MPA
- Dec. 30** Lou Bautista's last day at work!