



Accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC)

# COM-FSM SHARKS

The Official Newsletter of the College of Micronesia-FSM



Uniquely Micronesian

Volume 4, Issue 3

Free Copy

March- April 2011

## Reminders

### CHUUK

SPRING 2011

- April 1 COM-FSM Founding Day
- April 20-21 Easter Recess for Students
- April 22 Holiday – Good Friday
- April 25-27 Vocational Education Exhibition Week

### KOSRAE

SPRING 2011

- April 1 COM-FSM Founding Day
- April 20-21 Easter Recess for Students
- April 22 Holiday – Good Friday
- April 25-27 Vocational Education Exhibition Week

### POHNPEI and NATIONAL

SPRING 2011

- April 1 COM-FSM Founding Day
- April 20-21 Easter Recess for Students
- April 22 Holiday – Good Friday
- April 25-27 Vocational Education Exhibition Week

### YAP

SPRING 2011

- April 1 COM-FSM Founding Day
- April 20-21 Easter Recess for Students
- April 22 Holiday – Good Friday
- April 25-27 Vocational Education Exhibition Week

### FSM-FMI

SPRING 2011

- April 1 COM-FSM Founding Day (observed)
- April 8 Monthly Report Due

## College Students Attend Phi Theta Kappa Annual Convention

Three COM-FSM students returned after attending an annual convention for the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society in Seattle during April 7 – 9, 2011. Steen Harris, Fritzgerald Weilbacher and Dayn Iehsi are members of the local chapter of the society called the Beta Omicron Upsilon. The three participants attended six rounds of educational forums with many choices of topics ranging from Phi Theta Kappa programming and benefits to personal development. The students engaged in forums on effective professional etiquette, leadership development programs, and effective public relations strategies. According to Mariana Ben Dereas, an advisor for the local chapter, the criteria for choosing the three students were based on three categories which include an

essay on why should they be chosen and how the convention will benefit them as members of PTK, an evaluation of the participant's grade point average, and if the participant is active in the society's activities throughout the year. The Phi Theta Kappa is the largest honor society in American higher education with more than 2 million members and 1,200 chapters located in all 50 of the United States, US territories, British Virgin Islands, Canada, Germany, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, United Arab Emirates and Palau. Currently the COM-FSM's Beta Omicron Upsilon Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society has more than 40 active members.

## College Optimistic After Accreditation Team Visit

The three-member visiting team completed their April 11-13 visitation of the college as specified in the June 30, 2010, action letter that placed the college on warning status. According to the Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO), Mr Jon Berger, the team from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) seemed very pleased with the college and they often made positive comments. The visitors interviewed 16 members of the college community. According to the ALO, the interviews were thorough and the team members asked detailed questions. Mr Berger also said that the visitors also requested documented evidence about what the college has done to resolve the recommendations. The visit concluded with a meeting between the team chair and the interim president. Most of the comments from the team chair revolved around the various plans of the college and the work that still needs to be done with the plans. The team



From Left: ALO John Berger, Doug Dykstra, Chair, Sandra Serrano, Interim President Ringlen Ringlen and Sean James

also noted that communication has improved at the college and reminded the interim president that accreditation is not an event but a process. According to the ALO, the final comment by the team chair to the interim president was that the college is "on track". The team chair will put together a report of their findings and submit it to the commission prior to their June 2011 meeting. According to the ALO, the college must continue to

resolve all recommendations based on the commission's two-year rule. For the college, the end of the two-year rule would be 2012. The team is chaired by Sandra Serrano, the Chancellor of the Kern Community College District. The other team members include Douglas Dykstra, the Chancellor of Windward Community College and Sean James, the Vice Chancellor of Operations Management at the Kern Community College District.

## College of Micronesia- FSM Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund was created for the purpose of generating income to support the future needs of the College.

To support us, contact the Development and Community Relations Office

## You can make a difference!

### CONTACT US TODAY

P.O. Box 159, KOLONIA, POHNPEI FM 96941

PHONE: (691) 320-2480

Fax: (691) 320-2479

EMAIL: national@comfsm.fm

website: www.comfsm.fm

## Editor's Notes

As you can see, this edition of the newsletter combines the months of March and April. Many things are happening during these two months. Of course we have the college's founding on April 1 and the visit by representatives of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges in April. A delegation from the Zhejiang Ocean University also visited the College of Micronesia-FSM in April to renew and sign a second memorandum of understanding between the two institutions. We also had a visit by the Ambassador of Japan who was here to provide financial support to a pork production project in Yap's Nel Village. Many things are happening and we are happy to share information about them with you. We continue to welcome information contributions from you.

Contact the *COM-FSM Shark* newsletter at P.O. Box 159, Pohnpei, FM 96941; Phone: (691) 320-2480; Fax: (691) 320-2479; Email: newsletter@comfsm.fm

## Campus-wide Briefs

### College Celebrates Founding Day 2011

The College of Micronesia-FSM celebrated its 18th birthday on April 1, 2011, with cultural presentations. The Pohnpei and National campuses celebrated together while the other campuses held separate celebrations. The Pohnpei and National campuses also held ball games and the winners were: Pohnpei students from the National Campus for both softball male and female divisions; Pohnpei students from the National Campus for both volleyball male and female divisions; Yap students from the National Campus for the basketball male division; and the Chuuk students from the National Campus for the basketball female division. The overall winner for the Pohnpei and National campuses cultural floats and performances were the Yap students from the National Campus. Similar cultural activities were held at the other campuses. Chuuk Campus held cultural performances and exhibitions while Kosrae Campus held indoor games due to inclement weather.

(See Pictures on Page 4 and 5)

### College Hosts Concert for Japan Disaster Victims

A benefit concert was held at the Pohnpei Campus Gymnasium on March 30, 2011, to contribute to the relief efforts for the Japan earthquake and tsunami victims. Talented musicians from PICS High School, COM-FSM, and the Japanese Community participated in the concert. The proceeds were donated to the Japanese Red Cross to help them in their relief efforts.



Japanese Community Sings w/ Chinese Professor Chen

### Board Accepts COM-FSM President's Resignation

The COM-FSM Board of Regents has accepted the resignation

of Spensin James as president and chief executive officer of the college. Mr Ringlen Ringlen immediately assumes the role of interim president. In his resignation letter, President James thanked the board and expressed his wishes to become an instructor at the college. Before becoming an administrator, the president served as a professor with the math and science division for many years.

### National Campus Holds Annual Health Fair

The college held its annual health fair at the National Campus on April 6, 2011, for faculty, staff and students. Participants received free medical services like eye and blood pressure checkups, flu vaccinations and blood sugar testing. The practice of eating healthy food like fruits and vegetables were encouraged. Participants also witnessed the performance of an aerobics dance Exercise by staff and students led by Sports Science Instructor Roldan Laguerta.

**College Faculty and Staff Attend Regional Workshop in Honolulu**  
The college faculty and staff were represented at a regional workshop about program review, assessment and planning on February 28 – 30, in Hawaii. The workshop was sponsored by the Pacific Post Secondary Education Council and the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges.

**Kosrae and Pohnpei High Schoolers Attend Health Camp**  
Students from Kosrae High School and Pohnpei's PICS High School participated in the AHEC Health Career Awareness Camp from February 21 to April 2, 2011, in Pohnpei. The 25 were considered as the top performing students from both schools. The purpose of the program is to expose the high school juniors to

health careers and to encourage them to pursue health careers. A certificate ceremony was held on April 2 at the Pohnpei Small Business Development Center Building where the participants were presented certificates of completion for 120 hours of training.

### Nursing Faculty Refining Program

The college's nursing faculty is finalizing the Nursing Program by refining the program for review by the curriculum committee and by developing a program handbook. The program faculty members are also gathering information on students and determining the student cohorts and placements for the fall 2011 semester. There are plans to temporarily host the program at the National Campus before determining a final move to Pohnpei Campus.

### IDP Projects Restrictions Continues

JEMCO deferred action on lifting the restrictions off the college's infrastructure development plan projects at their annual review meeting in March. According to the Vice President for Administrative Services, Mr Joe Habuchmai, the OIA and the US Ambassador to the FSM held different views about supporting the college's presence in all four FSM states. The official position of the FSM leadership is to maintain the physical presence of the college in all four FSM states to support short term training and teacher training.

### College Meets with NIDDK and STEP-UP Regarding Summer Program

The vice presidents for cooperative research and extension services and instructional affairs met with the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases and Short-Term Education Program for Underrepresented Persons STEP-UP regarding the Pacific Island High School/College Summer Research Program. The STEP-UP

program is designed to provide short-term research education and training for high school students and college students from racial/ethnic groups underrepresented in biomedical and behavioral backgrounds from the islands in the region. The purpose of the program is to expose student participants to research in the NIDDK mission areas, including diabetes, endocrinology, metabolism, nutrition, obesity, and digestive, live urologic, kidney and hematologic diseases.

### Zhejiang Ocean University Repeats Visit COM-FSM

Representatives from Zhejiang Ocean University visited the College of Micronesia-FSM on April 12 – 13 to renew and sign a second memorandum of understanding between the two institutions. The updated memorandum of understanding for cooperation maintained the



VPIA Jean Thoulag with the Chinese Delegation from ZOU

"sister institution" relationship that existed between the two higher education institutions. The delegation from ZOU was led by Vice President WU Changwen and Director of International Exchange and Cooperation Professor LU Huaqing. The other representatives from Zhejiang Ocean University include Vice Dean for the School of Food and Pharmacy, Professor DENG Shanggui; Vice Dean for the School of Fisheries and Shipping, Professor SONG Weihua; and Vice Dean for the School of Naval Architecture and Civil Engineering Professor, LI Qiang. An evening reception was held at the Village

### More Information Online

 [www.comfsm.fm](http://www.comfsm.fm)

 <http://com-fsm.blogspot.com/>

 College of Micronesia-FSM (Official)

 College of Micronesia Alumni



News & Information

CULTURAL FOUNDING DAY HIGHLIGHTS  
FLOATS & CULTURAL DANCE PRESENTATION



1st Place



YSO Students performing their dance



Sapwafik Float parades at main road Kolonia

2nd Place



Pohnpei Campus Float parades at main road Kolonia

3rd Place

CHUUK CAMPUS CULTURAL FOUNDING DAY HIGHLIGHTS



Chuuk Campus Students performing their dance





## News & Information

### College Receives Japan Aid for Yap Pork Production

The college received a \$53,000 grant from the Government of Japan to address constraints in swine production for Yap's Nel Village. The signing of the testimony and handover of the check took place at the National Campus on March 28, 2011, between COM-FSM Interim President Ringlen Ringlen and Ambassador of Japan to the FSM Eiichi Suzuki.

According to Ambassador Suzuki, his government fully understands the critical need for communities to protect their food supplies and to improve food security. He was pleased that the grant they provided fits well with the community level programs of the College of Micronesia-FSM.

The goal of the project is to assist the community of Yap's Nel Village in increasing the pork production through the use of improved local pig diet. The Nel community will directly benefit from this project by increasing their knowledge and skills in swine nutrition and husbandry.

The financial assistance provided through the grant will enable the community to build appropriate piggens and purchase the equipment and materials for developing local feeds.

The Nel project is spearheaded by Extension Agent Steven Young Uhk of Yap Campus.



Interim President Ringlen Ringlen receives grant check from Japanese Ambassador Eiichi Suzuki



Interim President Ringlen Ringlen and Japanese Ambassador Eiichi Suzuki signs contracts

### COM-FSM Entrance Test (COMET) FAQ's

*Continuation From Volume 4 issue 2*

**10. If I am a high school senior or a high school graduate and I have official SAT, ACT, or TOEFL scores, can I use these scores to be considered for admissions to COM-FSM, or do I still need to take the COMET?**

At this time, the college has no established policy or procedure for admitting students based only on SAT, ACT, or TOEFL scores. For now, the college is handling requests on a case by case basis. Nonetheless, the college welcomes applications for admission and will consider your application. If you are in the FSM, plan to take the COMET. If you are attending high school outside of the FSM and plan to return to the FSM to attend COM-FSM and cannot take the COMET, you should contact the college early about your plans. You will need to submit an application, report your SAT, ACT, or TOEFL scores to COM-FSM, and have an official copy of your high school transcript sent to the college For more information or assistance in applying from outside the FSM, please contact any of the state campuses, or e-mail the VPSS at vpssa@comfsm.fm or the Registrar of the college atjoducado@comfsm.fm .

**11. How can students and schools best prepare for the COMET test?**

There is not "quick and easy" way to best prepare

to score well on the COMET. The goal of the COMET is to get an indication of how prepared the student is to read, write and compute at a college level. His/her success on the COMET therefore is the result of the skills the student has developed from K-12. Be familiar with how to use machine scored answer sheets. Be familiar with test taking strategies for using time well, etc. COM-FSM also recommends test takers become familiar with the essay test requirements and practice writing essays. Ask the college for a sample of the essay scoring rubric. Be aware that the essay test score is a major portion of the final COMET score and that test takers need to put their best effort into this section.

**12. Where can I get more information about admissions requirements, taking the COMET, and applying to COM-FSM?**

Call, or stop by the COM-FSM campus in your state. Check the college website atwww.comfsm.fm , and e-mail the Office of Admissions and Records atjoducado@comfsm.fm or Office of the VP for Student Services,vpssa@comfsm.fm. to determine best placement into appropriate level courses.

### Recognition Wall

Thank you for contributing to our Endowment Fund!

1998  
to  
2010

Silver Circle  
\$1,000 - \$9,999

- Alicia E. Ada
- Ambassador Chen Yong Cheng, People's Republic of China
- Association of Filipino Ladies in Pohnpei (AFLIP)
- Atlanta Sosnoff Capital Corp.
- Barbara A. Smith
- Best buy
- CCM/COM-FSM Alumni Association
- Chiyoda Technoace Co. Ltd.

To be continued on the next issue...

### GENERAL EDUCATION GOALS

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION : CRITICAL THINKING AND PROBLEM SOLVING :  
QUANTITATIVE AND SCIENTIFIC REASONING :  
ETHICS AND CULTURE : WORKFORCE READINESS

### For your Information



**Ringlen Ringlen**  
Interim President



**Jeff Arnold**  
Acting Vice President for Student Services



# FOUNDING DAY GAMES WINNERS AND HIGHLIGHTS



Mens basketball Champions YSO Students



Womens basketball Champions ChuuChok Students



Mens Volleyball Champions PNI National Students



Womens Volleyball Champions PNI National Students



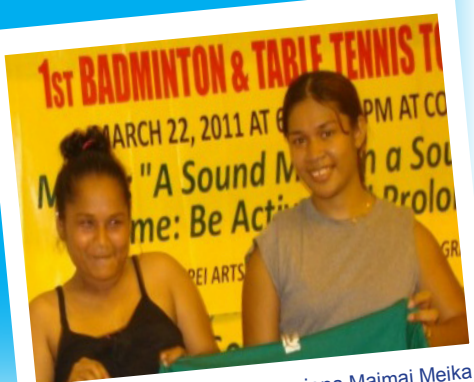
Mens Softball Champions PNI National Students



Womens Softball Champions PNI National Students



Mens Badminton Champions Professor Rey Garcia & Bookstore Staff Arman Mariano w/ Mr. Laguerta



Womens Badminton Champions Maimai Meika & Angelica Seiola (National Campus)

## Our Mission

**Historically diverse, uniquely Micronesian and globally connected, the College of Micronesia-FSM is a continuously improving and student centered institute of higher education. The college is committed to assisting in the development of the Federated States of Micronesia by providing academic, career and technical educational opportunities for student learning**

### Human Resources

#### Employment Opportunities at COM-FSM

**National**

Account Clerk III  
Instructor - Art

**Pohnpei**

Clerk Typist I (Administration)  
IT Technician II

**Yap**

Instructor - Education  
Student Services Specialist II

**Chuuk**

Custodian (Maintenance)

For more information check our website: <http://www.comfsm.fm/jobs/>

#### New Hires at COM-FSM

Clifton Mangwerus  
Administrative Specialist I  
National / HRO

Bonzy Roby  
Student Services Assistant I  
National / Dormitory

### Announcements

**END THE TERM WITH  
A LITTLE**

# Music Magic

**COME & CELEBRATE THE LAST DAY OF CLASSES  
WITH THE INTRODUCTION TO MUSIC CLASS  
IN A FINAL CONCERT**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2011  
3:00 PM**

**CHINA-FSM FRIENDSHIP SPORTS CENTER**

**ALL ORIGINAL COMPOSITIONS BY STUDENTS  
PERFORMANCES INCLUDE:**

- GROUP SONGS
- PIANO SOLO
- SONGS WITH PIANO
- SONGS W/ GUITAR
- SOLO GUITAR
- SOLO XYLOPHONE
- SOLO PERCUSSION
- HAND BELLS

Open To the Public



Cut along the dotted line and mail it in an envelope along with donations to the College of Micronesia-FSM

### Contribute TODAY to the Endowment Fund

Alumni and community support for the College of Micronesia-FSM and its initiatives is imperative to its success and financial sustainability. This support enables the college to build its endowment for the future needs of the college, to support new programs, technologies, infrastructure development and maintenance faculty/staff development and scholarships.

**YES!** I want to contribute to the College Financially.

\$ _____ COM-FSM Endowment Fund	
\$ _____ Student Scholarship	
<input type="checkbox"/> Timothy Jerry	<input type="checkbox"/> Gene Ashby
<input type="checkbox"/> COM-FSM Endowment Scholarship	<input type="checkbox"/> Others: _____
\$ _____ Other: _____	

**NO.** I don't want to contribute now.

Send Slip and Donations to: COM-FSM Endowment Fund  
Attention: Development & Community Relations  
P.O. Box 159, Pohnpei FM 96941

Are you a CCM or COM-FSM Alumni? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		
First Name:	Last Name:	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms.
Employer:	Title / Position:	
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Phone: (    )	Fax: (    )	
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Your email is used to communicate with you about the College of Micronesia-FSM		