



**UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
UNIBETSEDÁT GUÅHAN**

Board of Regents

UOG Station, Mangilao, Guam 96923
Telephone: (671) 735-2995 Fax: (671) 734-2296

**Regular Meeting Minutes
September 26, 2024**

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents (BOR) was called to order by BOR Chairperson Sandra H. McKeever on September 26, 2024 at 5:30 p.m., RFK Library, Silent Room, and via Zoom. Notice of such meeting have been duly and regularly provided by the BOR.

QUORUM:

**Sandra McKeever
Lesley-Anne Leon Guerrero
Mike W. Naholowaa
Agapito "Pete" Diaz
Janice Maililay
Joanna Chun
Christopher L.C. Duenas
Julie Laxamana**

**Chairperson
Vice Chairperson
Treasurer
Member
Member
Member
Member
Member**

ALSO PRESENT:

**Anita Borja Enriquez
Anthony Camacho
Kalyne Roberto
Christine Mabayag**

**President/Executive Secretary
General Counsel
BOR Liaison Officer
Recording Secretary**

2.0 MEETING MINUTES

2.1 Regular Meeting Minutes of April 25, 2024

Chairperson McKeever asked if there were any corrections or discussion regarding the regular meeting minutes as presented. Regent Naholowaa moved to approve, which was duly seconded by Regent Diaz. The motion carried.

2.2 Special Meeting Minutes of August 20, 2024

Chairperson McKeever asked if there were any corrections or discussion regarding the special meeting minutes as presented. Regent Diaz moved to approve, which was duly seconded by Regent Chun. The motion carried.

2.3 Special Meeting Minutes of September 13, 2024

Board of Regents Regular Meeting Minutes of September 26, 2024

Chairperson McKeever asked if there were any corrections or discussion regarding the special meeting minutes as presented. Regent Naholowaa moved to approve, which was duly seconded by Regent Chun. The motion carried.

3.0 CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Chairperson McKeever delivered her remarks, expressing gratitude to attendees for their presence and highlighting several key updates and acknowledgments. She began by discussing the summer retreat for the Board of Regents, describing it as highly engaging. The retreat featured participation from senior leadership and department chairs, providing valuable insights into the university's history, operations, and departmental accomplishments. A campus tour was also included, further enhancing the Regents' understanding of their roles and responsibilities. She emphasized the success of the retreat and expressed enthusiasm for expanding the orientation in the future.

She then reported on the work of the Ad Hoc Strategic Committee, which was led by Chair Joanna Chun and included Regents Roland Certeza, Mike Naholowaa, and herself. The committee collaborated closely with President Enriquez to develop a strategic plan, which she described as one of the most productive and effective to date. She acknowledged the significant contributions of board members and administrators, with special thanks to Chair Chun and Roland Certeza for their expertise in strategic planning.

She also celebrated the University's recent accomplishment of securing a six-year maximum ABET accreditation for the School of Engineering. She extended her gratitude to Dean Hettiarachchi, President Enriquez, and everyone involved in this achievement, acknowledging their dedication in making this vision a reality.

She then took a moment to honor loved ones and members of the UOG community who have recently passed away, asking attendees to observe a moment of silence in their memory.

She concluded by inviting President Enriquez to deliver her report.

4.0 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Enriquez began her report by thanking the Chair and greeting the members of the Board, as well as the University of Guam community, including administrators, faculty, staff, alumni, and affiliates. She expressed gratitude to Jonas for assisting in preparing the President's report, noting the significant achievements made by the university community.

She highlighted the reaffirmation of the University of Guam's accreditation for eight years by the WASC Senior College and University Commission, as well as the recent ABET accreditation for the School of Engineering, as previously mentioned by the Chairperson. These accomplishments reflect the collective efforts and dedication of the university community.

President Enriquez then proceeded with her report, a copy of which is attached.

She also presented an update on the Tulos Mo'na, navigating 2024 to 2029 strategic plan, emphasizing the inclusive and transparent process behind its development. She highlighted that the efforts began in the fall of 2023 and included a campus-wide survey to gather input from students, staff, faculty, and administrators. Additionally, an industry stakeholder listening

Board of Regents Regular Meeting Minutes of September 26, 2024

session was held with representatives from the private and public sectors, including healthcare, engineering, military, and education fields.

In September 2023, an internal stakeholder review session was conducted to share the results of the campus-wide survey. The feedback from the energizing Triton Student Development Day, hosted by the Student Government Association in November 2023, was also considered in shaping the strategic priorities. The planning process included review sessions with the President's Council, the Dean's Council, and the appointment of the Ad Hoc Committee, led by Regent Chair Joanna Chun, along with Regent Roland Certeza, Chair McKeever, and Treasurer Regent Mike Naholowaa.

President Enriquez acknowledged the value of the previous strategic plan, the Para Hulo strategic plan, and expressed appreciation to her predecessor, Dr. Thomas Krise. She then proceeded with the Tulos Mo'na Powerpoint presentation.

5.0 REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

5.1 Student Affairs, Scholarship, Alumni Relations and Honorary Degree (SASARHD) Committee

5.1.1 Committee Update

Regent Malilay reported that the SASARHD Committee met on September 18th at 1:02 p.m. with a quorum present and presented and reviewed the proposed resolutions for the Board's approval.

She noted that the accreditation team's first recommendation was to update the student handbook, which President Enriquez mentioned. The updated handbook is now available online and was developed through a collaborative effort involving the Student Government Association, the Administrative Council, the Faculty Union, and the Senate.

5.1.2 Resolution No. 24-18, Relative to Approving the Career Priority List for AY2024-2025 and Subsequent Years

Regent Malilay introduced Resolution No. 24-18 and moved to approve, which was duly seconded by Regent Diaz. She summarized the resolution explaining the purpose. The motion carried.

5.2 Academic, Personnel and Tenure Committee (AP&T) Committee

5.2.1 Committee Update

Regent Malilay reported that the AP&T Committee met on September 18th at 2:42 p.m. with a quorum present and presented and reviewed the proposed resolutions for the Board's approval.

5.2.2 Resolution No. 24-19, Relative to Approving the the Sixth Amendment of Contract Agreement Between the Board of Regents of the University of Guam and the UOG Faculty Union, American Federation of Teachers, Local 6282 December 1, 2018 – May 1, 2027

Board of Regents Regular Meeting Minutes of September 26, 2024

Regent Malilay introduced Resolution No. 24-19 and moved to approve, which was duly seconded by Regent Chun. She summarized the resolution explaining the purpose. The motion carried.

5.2.3 Resolution No. 24-20, Relative to Approving the Seventh Amendment of Contract Agreement Between the Board of Regents of the University of Guam and the UOG Faculty Union, American Federation of Teachers, Local 6282 December 1, 2018 – May 1, 2027

Regent Malilay introduced Resolution No. 24-20 and moved to approve, which was duly seconded by Regent Leon Guerrero. She summarized the resolution explaining the purpose. The motion carried.

Dr. Swamy wanted to clarify two points that had caused some confusion among faculty. First, regarding the definition of business days, he explained that 9-month faculty have a different definition than 12-month faculty, as their summers and semester breaks are not considered business days. He clarified that when a 9-month faculty member files a grievance or appeal, their timeline will be based on their definition of business days, while administrators can use their own definition when responding. This approach was discussed with the General Counsel Counsel to address any confusion between the two definitions.

Dr. Swamy also addressed the CFES timeline, noting that it was previously tied to the anniversary date of each faculty member, requiring Deans to track individual hire dates. The new system will allow the Deans to send out calls for CFES either at the end of the Fanuchanan or Fanomnakan semester, depending on when the faculty member was hired, simplifying the process.

Finally, Dr. Swamy expressed his gratitude to President Enriquez and Attorney Camacho for their hard work in helping to implement these changes.

General Counsel Camacho stated that Dr. Swamy is correct in stating that business days are defined differently for 9-month faculty, and that definition is what must be followed.

5.2.4 Resolution No. 24-21, Relative to Awarding Emeritus Director of Water and Environmental Research Institute of the Western Pacific Status to Dr. Stephen J. Winter

Regent Malilay introduced Resolution No. 24-21 and moved to approve, which was duly seconded by Regent Naholowaa. She summarized the resolution explaining the purpose. The motion carried.

5.2.5 Resolution No. 24-22, Relative to Approving the Above-Step Recruitment of the Chemist II Position for WERI

Regent Malilay introduced Resolution No. 24-22 and moved to approve, which was duly seconded by Regent Diaz. She summarized the resolution explaining the purpose. The motion carried.

5.2.6 University of Guam New Strategic Plan Update

Board of Regents Regular Meeting Minutes of September 26, 2024

The information was provided in the packet for informational purposes.

5.3 Physical Facilities Committee

5.3.1 Committee Update

Regent Diaz reported that the Physical Facilities Committee met on September 18th at 4:00 p.m. in the President's Conference Room with a quorum present. However, there were no resolutions for action.

Regent Diaz provided an update on several capital improvement projects, including USDA-funded projects for the School of Engineering and the Student Services Center. For the Student Services Center, construction is 40% complete, with the second floor currently being installed. The building is expected to top off in January 2025, with completion scheduled for June 2025. UOG is working to procure vendors for furniture, fixtures, and equipment (FF&E), with funding for FF&E not yet secured. A recent grant of \$0.9 million from the Governor will assist with the project.

The School of Engineering construction is 49% complete, with a topping off anticipated for October 2024 and completion by April 2025. Funding for FF&E is also being sought, with an estimate of \$1.2 million.

For USEDA projects, the WERI building is 13% complete, with utility relocations underway. The building is expected to top off in December 2024, with construction completion targeted for November 2025. The estimated cost for FF&E is \$2.4 million. The School of Health Annex is 7% complete, with power relocation underway. The building is expected to be topped off in January 2025, with completion also anticipated in November 2025, and funding for FF&E is being sought.

He added that it was discussed that as new buildings come online, there will be increased operational and maintenance costs, and a strategy is being developed to address these future expenses. The university is also working on preventive maintenance for air conditioners, with additional units being procured for several buildings. A new 600-kilowatt generator will be installed, and 20 solar lights have been added to overflow parking areas.

He also highlighted donations, such as \$250,000 worth of asphalt from Hawaiian Rock Products for parking areas and discussed stormwater runoff concerns. Improvements to the campus water system are being made, including the installation of firefighting pumps and a water reservoir upgrade.

Regarding staff development, three FMS maintenance staff have recently completed their HVAC journeyman certification, which is a significant milestone for the University, because we are investing in our people and additional staff will be trained for journeyman positions in other trades.

Regent Diaz further reported on sustainability efforts, noting that the Siemens group completed cost-reduction projects, achieving an estimated \$210,000 in savings through initiatives such as LED lighting conversions, solar panel installations, and building envelope improvements.

Board of Regents Regular Meeting Minutes of September 26, 2024

Safety and security updates included the completion of a campus-wide camera installation project, with one incident being resolved through camera footage. The student security program was also highlighted, with students receiving training for potential careers in law enforcement and possibly being a part of the Federal work study program.

IT infrastructure improvements were reported, including potential savings of \$250,000 through the implementation of a Voice over IP system for telephones, and efforts to modernize campus applications and improve the university website.

President Enriquez also acknowledged the collaborative efforts between the residence halls Director, Mark Mendiola and GLE Director, Carlos Taitano to secure funding for Typhoon shutters for Dorm 3 and that shutters for part of Dorm 2 is forthcoming. She thanked them for all their efforts.

5.4 Investment Committee

5.4.1 Committee Update

Regent Duenas reported that the Investment Committee met on September 19th at 1:30 p.m., with a quorum present.

Regent Duenas provided an update on the university's endowment portfolio as of September 17, noting that the portfolio's market value was approximately \$28.9 million. The quarter-to-date return was 5.79%, slightly below the benchmark of 5.84%. The fiscal year-to-date return was 22.2%, slightly above the benchmark of 20.3%. The portfolio's composition includes 33% US equities, 19% non-equities, 27% fixed income, and 21% alternatives, remaining in line with the investment policy statement. During the quarter, KKR issued a capital call, which was funded by Winslow Capital Management investments.

He stated that a working session for the Investment Committee is scheduled for next month to review asset classes and spending policies.

Regarding the Freedom Conservative Fund, its market value as of September 17 was about \$4.9 million. The balanced portfolio is comprised of 29% equities, 65% fixed income, and 5.2% cash. The quarter's return was 5.7%, exceeding the benchmark of 5.4%, and the fiscal year-to-date return was 16.6%, slightly below the benchmark of 16.9%.

He further reported that the market outlook, as presented by investment advisors from Raymond James, projects a US GDP growth of 2.4% by the end of the year. A soft patch in the economy is anticipated, but a recession is not expected. Federal funds are expected to cut rates to facilitate a "soft landing." The forecast for the ten-year Treasury note is 4%, and the S&P 500 is expected to reach 5,400 by year-end. Other forecasts include an exchange rate of 1.1 for the Euro/USD and oil prices at \$85 per barrel. Increased volatility is expected in 2024, particularly due to the upcoming presidential election and heightened volatility in fixed income markets.

5.5 Budget, Finance, and Audit (BFA) Committee

Regent Naholowaa reported that the BFA Committee met on September 19th at 3 p.m. and a quorum was present and presented and reviewed the proposed resolution for the Board's

Board of Regents Regular Meeting Minutes of September 26, 2024

approval.

5.5.1 Financial Update

Regent Naholowaa reported that the University continues to receive timely allotments from the Department of Administration, with daily monitoring of cash to ensure obligations are met. Financial projections for the end of fiscal year 2024 indicate that revenues and expenditures are expected to break even, with minor adjustments anticipated.

5.5.2 Collections Report

He reported that collections from the past two payments exceeded the target of \$200,000, reaching \$232,446. These funds are for students who have not completed their degree requirements, and the University is being proactive in collecting outstanding amounts.

5.5.3 Procurement Transactions and Contracts Report

He stated that since the last regular board meeting in April, two outgoing contracts related to workstations and Microsoft licensing purchases were reported. The University continues to work on improving its financial situation and managing projects effectively.

Regent Naholowaa further reported that the energy savings project, which includes updating lighting systems, plumbing equipment, and upgrading A/C systems, has been completed. These improvements are expected to generate at least \$500,000 in annual utility savings.

5.5.4 Resolution No. 24-23, Relative to Approving the Continuation of FY2024 General Operations, Special Appropriations, Non-Appropriated and Auxiliary Fund Budgets into FY2025

Regent Naholowaa introduced Resolution No. 24-23 and moved to approve, which was duly seconded by Regent Chun. He summarized the resolution explaining the purpose. The motion carried.

5.5.5 Resolution No. 24-24, Relative to Approving the Reapportioned FY2025 Student Financial Assistance Program (SFAP) Budget

Regent Naholowaa introduced Resolution No. 24-24 and moved to approve, which was duly seconded by Regent Diaz. He summarized the resolution explaining the purpose. The motion carried.

Regent Malilay shared that during the SASARHD committee, it was noted that the budget is reapportioned when there are changes. Unfortunately, the University's request for \$4.5 million was denied, and the amount received remains the same as last fiscal year, \$3.5 million, as outlined in the student financial assistance programs budget.

The positive development, however, is that through lobbying efforts by President Enriquez and staff, the University was granted the authority to move funds between scholarships. As a result, the ROTC program, Regent Scholar Program, and Marine Lab Scholarship were funded.

She expressed gratitude to President Enriquez, Dr. Santos-Bamba, VPAF Wiegand, Mark

Board of Regents Regular Meeting Minutes of September 26, 2024

Duarte, and their teams for their efforts, and thanked the Senators for their support. She also emphasized the Board's commitment to collaborating with the Governor, Legislature, and University leadership for the continued advancement of the University.

6.0 AD HOC REPORT: ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION UPDATE

Katrina Perez, Executive Director of the UOG Endowment Foundation, provided an update to the Board of Regents. She began by expressing gratitude for the Foundation's role in fostering philanthropy and acknowledged the valuable partnership with UOG personnel, whose passion for their programs helps to inspire community interest and support.

She reported significant contributions received in recent months. These included \$292,000 in sponsorships for the Micronesian Island Forum and the Center for Island Sustainability, with special thanks to Dr. Austin Shelton and key sponsors such as EPSCOR, the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Bank of Guam, and others. She highlighted \$125,000 in cash and in-kind sponsorships for the Endowment Foundation and Guam Visitors Bureau's Tenelle concerts, supported by partners like United Airlines, KUAM, GTA, and more. Additionally, \$110,000 was received for the Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, with contributions from Bank of Guam and the Guam Visitors Bureau, facilitated by Dr. James G.

She also shared news of a \$100,000 donation from an anonymous benefactor in support of the Emeritus Scholarship, crediting Dr. Hiro Kurishina for his leadership. Another \$25,000 was secured for the Asia Pacific Studies Center through efforts by Dr. Kuan-Ju Chen and partnerships with organizations such as Northern Guam Soil and Water Conservation. Further contributions included \$20,000 for athletic scholarships, thanks to Doug Palmer and Terry Stotts. \$15,000 from an anonymous donor for the Moore Like Jimmy Scholarship, and \$12,000 from the Judiciary of Guam for the Regional Center for Public Policy.

Director Perez took a moment to acknowledge the ongoing generosity of 23 payroll donors, who collectively contributed over \$13,000 between January and August 2024. These individuals, including several UOG employees, supported a variety of scholarships and programs, such as the Tanam Bernard Watson Scholarship and the Last Mile Scholarship. Perez emphasized the importance of their contributions, noting that even small, consistent donations make a meaningful impact.

She concluded her report by encouraging the Board and attendees to thank these donors and partners for their continued support. She praised their dedication and highlighted their role in shaping and supporting the University of Guam's mission and its impact on the community.

7.0 OPEN PRESENTATION (3 Minute Limit per Person)

Chairperson McKeever opened the floor for open presentations. There were no presentations.

8.0 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chairperson McKeever opened the floor for nominations for the BOR Officer positions. She noted that the new slate of officers' term will begin November 1, 2024.

Board of Regents Regular Meeting Minutes of September 26, 2024

8.1 Chairperson

Regent Naholowaa nominated Regent Lesley Leon Guerrero to serve as Chairperson. Regent Leon Guerrero accepted the nomination.

8.2 Vice Chairperson

Regent Leon Guerrero nominated Regent Pete Diaz to serve as Vice Chairperson. Regent Diaz accepted the nomination.

8.3 Treasurer

Regent Diaz nominated Regent Naholowaa to continue to serving as Treasurer. Regent Naholowaa accepted the nomination.

Chairperson McKeever asked if there were any further nominations on the floor, which there were none. Chairperson McKeever requested for a motion to close the nominations. Regent Duenas moved to close the nominations, which was duly seconded by Regent Malilay. Chairperson McKeever called for a roll call vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Regent Duenas made a motion to approve the slate of nominations, which was duly seconded by Regent Chun. Chairperson McKeever called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

9.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

Regent Malilay motioned to move to Executive Session, which was duly seconded by Regent Naholowaa. The motion carried. The Executive Session commenced at 6:44 p.m.

9.1 Recommendation for Tenure for Dr. Myeong Ho Yeo, Associate Professor of Water Engineering & Hydrology

9.2 Recommendation for Tenure for Dr. Michael Carson, Assistant Professor of Archaeology

9.3 Recommendation for Tenure for Professor Ryan Shook, Assistant Professor of Library and information Science

9.4 Recommendation for Tenure for Dr. Jackysha Green, Assistant Professor of Education: Elementary Programs

9.5 Recommendation for Tenure for Dr. Kuan-Ju Chen, Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics

9.6 Ad Hoc Grievance Committee Report on Findings and Recommendations

The Executive Session ended at 8:09 p.m.

10.0 VOTING FILE

10.1 Recommendation for Tenure for Dr. Myeong Ho Yeo, Associate Professor of Water Engineering & Hydrology

Board of Regents Regular Meeting Minutes of September 26, 2024

Regent Naholowaa moved to approve the recommendation for Tenure for Dr. Myeong Ho Yeo, which was duly seconded by Regent Diaz. The motion carried.

10.2 Recommendation for Tenure for Dr. Michael Carson, Assistant Professor of Archaeology

Regent Diaz moved to approve the recommendation for Tenure for Dr. Michael Carson, which was duly seconded by Regent Leon Guerrero. The motion carried.

10.3 Recommendation for Tenure for Professor Ryan Shook, Assistant Professor of Library and Information Science

Regent Naholowaa moved to approve the recommendation for Tenure for Professor Ryan Shook, which was duly seconded by Regent Chun. The motion carried.

10.4 Recommendation for Tenure for Dr. Jackysha Green, Assistant Professor of Education: Elementary Programs

Regent Naholowaa moved to approve the recommendation for Tenure for Dr. Jackysha Green, which was duly seconded by Regent Chun. The motion carried.

10.5 Recommendation for Tenure for Dr. Kuan-Ju Chen, Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics

Regent Naholowaa moved to approve the recommendation for Tenure for Dr. Kuan-Ju Chen, which was duly seconded by Regent Duenas. The motion carried.

10.6 Resolution No. 24-25, Relative to Approving and Adopting the Grievance Committee's Findings and Recommendations for Norman Analista's Grievance Filed on April 8, 2024

Regent Naholowaa moved to approve and adopt the Grievance Committee's findings and recommendations for Norman Analista's grievance filed on April 8, 2024, which was duly seconded by Regent Leon Guerrero. Chairperson McKeever called for the vote. Regent Duenas and Regent Leon Guerrero abstained from voting. The motion carried.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

Regent Diaz moved that the meeting be adjourned, which was duly seconded by Regent Naholowaa. The motion carried. Chairperson McKeever adjourned the meeting at 8:14 p.m., CHamoru Standard Time.



Lesley-Anne Leon Guerrero, Chairperson

ATTESTED:



Anita Borja Enriquez, D.B.A., Executive Secretary



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

September 2024



WSCUC Reaffirms Eight Years of Accreditation for UOG

The University of Guam proudly announces reaffirmation of another eight years of accreditation by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC). This achievement marks the third consecutive review period with a reaffirmation of eight years accreditation, reinforcing UOG's commitment to academic excellence and continuous improvement.

A WSCUC Review Team met with UOG administrators, faculty, staff, students, and board members in February and presented preliminary findings at the end of their visit. The letter finalized the commendations and areas for development and provided the commission's recommendation for eight years of accreditation as a result of their review.

[Read More...](#)

UOG engineering program earns ABET accreditation



The University of Guam's Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering program has earned six years of accreditation from ABET, formerly known as the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. This is the maximum accreditation term granted by ABET.

[Read More...](#)



**Håfa Adai,
Triton Community!**

Welcome to the inaugural edition of The President's Report. This newsletter will keep you updated on the latest news, achievements, and milestones at the University of Guam.

From groundbreaking research to student success stories, our university continues to deliver public value and make strides in our mission to serve the region. I look forward to sharing these highlights with you and keeping you connected to our Triton community.

**ANITA BORJA
ENRIQUEZ, D.B.A.
PRESIDENT**

**37TH ANNUAL
REGIONAL
LANGUAGE ARTS
CONFERENCE.**

**CHARTING NEW COURSES:
PERSEVERING AND ENGAGING THROUGH LITERACY**



CALL FOR PROPOSALS - 37th Annual Regional Language Arts Conference

The committee of the University of Guam's 37th Annual Regional Language Arts Conference (LAC) invite educators, administrators, and the community to attend and present at the Language Arts Conference which will be held in-person on Friday, November 8, 2024, 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM and Saturday, November 9, 2024, 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DEADLINES

The 37th LAC Committee will be accepting submissions starting from September 16, 2024, to October 25, 2024. Submissions received before or by October 21, 2024, will be given the opportunity to request for specific time frames.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact LAC Committee Members at uoglac@triton.uog.edu or call (671) 735-2725.



**UOG Facilities Staff Earns
HVAC Journeyman
Certifications**

Facilities Management and Services personnel at the University of Guam recently completed the Heating, Ventilation, and Air-Conditioning (HVAC) Journeyman certification at the GCA Trades Academy.

Bert Quinata, Refrigeration Mechanic I, Tom San Nicolas, Maintenance Worker, and Paul Cruz, Maintenance Custodian each completed coursework and on-the-job training within three years and recently received their certificates.

[More...](#)



**UOG and DFS celebrate
conservation and native flowers
with sustainable art exhibit**

The University of Guam Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant (UOG CIS/SG) successfully hosted a community tree planting event at their Ugum watershed project site as a part of Sustainable September. The event was coordinated as a part of the groups Guam Restoration of Watersheds (GROW) Initiative that works to reforest areas to prevent soil erosion.

[More...](#)

HEADLINES & HIGHLIGHTS



UOG and Wakayama University in Japan Sign MOU

The University of Guam and Wakayama University in Japan have partnered to provide student and faculty exchange programs, study-abroad programs, and collaborative research, instructional, and cultural programs.

[Read More...](#)



UOG and GWA Partner on Student Internships

The University of Guam and the Guam Waterworks Authority (GWA) signed a memorandum of understanding on August 28 which will provide UOG students with expanded internship and job opportunities at GWA.

[Read More...](#)



UOG Nursing Student Tera Blas Awarded Johnson & Johnson Nursing Scholarship

Tera Marie Ruder Blas, a senior nursing student at the University of Guam was awarded the Johnson & Johnson Our Race to Health Equity Diversity Nursing Scholarship.

Blas is among 100 Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) students nationwide to be awarded the \$2,000 scholarship this year.

[More...](#)



In the News: Proposed alternative solutions for securing Guam's water resources

WERI professors at UOG recently published a study on using seawater to conserve freshwater, offering solutions for water management.

[Read More...](#)



UOG Nursing Alum Accepted into Doctor of Physical Therapy Program

Steven Kasala will be entering the hybrid Doctor of Physical Therapy program at Tufts University School of Medicine in Seattle, Washington this Fall. He is also the recipient of a \$13,000 Tufts DPT scholarship.

[Read More...](#)

HEADLINES & HIGHLIGHTS



UOG School of Health Recognized as a Workforce Leader in Dementia Care

The University of Guam's Margaret Perez Hattori-Uchima School of Health (SOH) was recently recognized as a Dementia Capable Care Workforce Leader by the Crisis Prevention Institute.

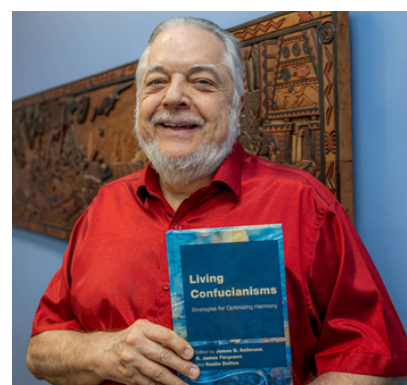
[More...](#)



UOG's Michelle Santos Appointed to AAQEP

Dr. Michelle M.S. Santos, an associate professor of education at the University of Guam's School of Education, was recently named to serve on the Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation (AAQEP) Accreditation Commission.

[More...](#)



UOG Dean Sellmann co-edits book on Confucian Philosophy

A book on Confucian practices co-edited by University of Guam College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Dean James D. Sellmann has been published by Rowman and Littlefield.

[More...](#)



UOG's Faith Toves Named PCAOB Scholar, Receives \$15,000 Award

Faith Antonia Toves, a senior at the University of Guam, has been named the PCAOB Scholar for 2024-2025, receiving a \$15,000 scholarship for her excellence in accounting.

[More...](#)



63rd UOG Student Government Association Officers Take Oaths of Office

Eleven student leaders in the University of Guam 63rd Student Government Association (SGA) took their oaths of office on Saturday, August 10, 2024, in the Unnai Ballroom at The Westin Resort Guam.

The 63rd SGA Executive Officers are: President Nicole Therese Guerrero; Vice President Keana Galang Ardiente; Secretary Grace Anne Sulit Dela Cruz; Treasurer Thuy Dao Ngoc Nguyen; Public Relations Officer Brian Andrew Teodosio

[More...](#)

In Other News...

SEPTEMBER 2024

[UOG hosts successful 'GROW in Malojloj' tree planting event and preps for next](#)

The University of Guam Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant (UOG CIS/SG) successfully hosted a community tree planting event at their Ugum watershed project site as a part of Sustainable September. The event was coordinated as a part of the groups Guam Restoration of Watersheds (GROW) Initiative that works to reforest areas to prevent soil erosion.

[UOG Center for Island Sustainability & Sea Grant partners with South Korea's Gyeongjin Sea Grant Program to bring new digital twin tech to the island](#)

This partnership is the first of its kind, introducing South Korea's advanced numerical modeling technology, digital twin technology, to the United States through the Sea Grant international collaborations.

[Upcoming UOG Press title unveils the untold stories of WWII on Guam](#)

The University of Guam Press is launching *A Borrowed Land* by master storyteller and Chamoru educator, Peter Onedera.

[Nothing is Mpx-ible: Students delve into real-world problems using math](#)

Twenty students this summer explored graph and game theory in UOG's summer math research programs.

[Dragon fruit gummies, turmeric chews, and more: Two food processing workshops coming up at UOG](#)

Come learn from UOG's food science team how to make value-added dragon fruit and turmeric products!

[UOG and partners start Sustainable September with proclamation signing](#)

University of Guam Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant, along with Guam Green Growth and other multi-sectoral partners launched Sustainable September, a month-long commemoration promoting awareness of the SDGs.

AUGUST 2024

[UOG Engineering Students Awarded NAWIC Scholarships](#)

Three University of Guam engineering majors were awarded scholarships from the Guam chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC).

[University of Guam researcher discovers unusual mortality rates in surgeonfishes](#)

An international team of researchers led by an assistant professor from the University of Guam discovered that while most surgeonfishes mature quickly and die young, some develop slowly and live for several decades.

[UOG hosts roundtable dialogue on history and perspectives in Micronesia since the Spanish-American War](#)

UOG President Emeritus Robert Underwood and University Abat Oliba CEU of Barcelona President Rafael Rodríguez-Ponga will discuss the ongoing impact of historical events and how contemporary perspectives shape our understanding of the past.

[UOG Announces President's List for Fañomnåkan \(Spring\) 2024](#)

Two hundred and seventeen students have been named to the University of Guam's President's List for the Fañomnåkan (Spring) 2024 semester.

[Free farmer-focused health checkups to be held Aug. 13, 15, 17, and 20](#)

The checkup will include a biometric screening, a nutritional evaluation, a muscle mass assessment, and a depression assessment.

[Visiting Fulbright physicist to deliver public lecture at UOG](#)

Come learn about some common culinary processes that are guiding the way to new discoveries.

[Up your grilling skills: UOG BBQ Bootcamp to focus on Boston butt](#)

Learn from UOG's meat scientist how to prepare Boston pork butt in four different ways.

In Other News...

JULY 2024

UOG Endowment Foundation Supports University of Guam's Expansion Efforts with Significant Financial Commitments

UOG Endowment Foundation holds a press conference to recognize the Endowment Foundation's tremendous financial contributions towards UOG's expansion efforts.

UOG botany class identifies 16 weeds previously undocumented in Guam

Sixteen new Guam weeds have been identified and documented in an internally published report at UOG.

NASA Guam Space Grant intern helps uncover Palau's hidden history with LiDAR technology

Drones equipped with LiDAR to penetrate the vegetation to reveal the ancient topography.

Farms, food labs, and factories: UOG students see agriculture careers in action in Japan

USDA NextGen learning trips expose students to career and business possibilities in agritourism.

UOG hosts 'Sea of Green' community outreach event at GPO on July 20

The University of Guam will be hosting a community outreach event designed to provide information about its student support programs and on-the-spot academic advisement. UOG's "Sea of Green" will be held on Saturday, July 20, 2024, at the Guam Premiere Outlets from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

UOG Extension delivers regional invasive species report to Micronesia's leaders

Extension agent Roland Quitugua presented Micronesia's latest milestones and challenges with invasive species.

Need money for college? UOG hosts FAFSA workshops this summer

Attending college often starts with deciding its affordability, and the University of Guam is ready to help students and their families find ways to make higher education more affordable.

JUNE 2024

Seismic Tower Competition, UOG Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) Student Chapter

The Annual UOG SAME Seismic Tower Competition, held last April 5, 2024, was a pivotal event that brought together students from various academic disciplines at the University of Guam.

2024 Hut Building Competition

The members of the UOG Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) Student Chapter participated in the Hut Building Competition.

2024 Bridge Building/Design Competition

The 10th Annual Harold Dean Gillham Bridge Building/Design Competition was held at the University of Guam Fine Arts Auditorium.

UOG President meets with Tritons from D.C., Maryland, and Virginia

UOG President Anita Borja Enriquez took time to connect with our amazing Triton Alumni from the D.C., Maryland, and Virginia areas!

Valedictorian Hunter Sidell: When he felt all was lost, he found a home and his purpose in Guam

Hunter Sidell wasn't sure about college until he found UOG. "Everyone was just trying to help each other."

Valedictorian Lidio Fullo wanted to see a world with better leadership, so he started with himself

UOG co-valedictorian and ROTC cadet Lidio Fullo in his Army uniform on graduation day.

UOG appoints new associate director for Land Grant research

Dr. Frank A. Camacho takes an administrator role with the Western Pacific Tropical Research Center.

UOG and College of Micronesia make new connections in agricultural education

New seeds in agricultural education exchange have been sown between UOG and the island of Yap.

In Other News...

MAY 2024

[Information Sessions: Learn more about UOG's Doctor of Education Program](#)

The University of Guam School of Education will be hosting a series of in-person and online information sessions for the new Doctor of Education (EdD) in Instructional and Academic Leadership for prospective students.

[315 earn degrees at UOG commencement](#)

The University of Guam conferred degrees Sunday to 315 graduates at its Fañomnåkan 2024 Commencement Ceremony in the Calvo Field House.

[Incoming UOG freshmen invited to Triton Summer Academy](#)

All new freshmen coming to the University of Guam this August are invited to register for the Triton Summer Academy, a FREE one-week program designed to boost college-level readiness in writing and math and to acquaint new students with university life.

[UOG Launches Augmented Reality App to Navigate Historic Hagatña](#)

The Micronesian Area Research Center (MARC) of the University of Guam proudly announces the public release of the App Bisita: Historic Guam.

[UOG launches new data science and library science master's programs](#)

During its regular meeting on April 25, the University of Guam Board of Regents approved two new graduate degree programs to launch in the Fanuchånan (Fall) 2024 semester -- a Master of Science in Data Science and a Master of Library and Information Science.

[UOG hosts May workshops for Caregivers of Persons with Dementia](#)

The University of Guam's Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program is offering an opportunity for caregivers of persons with dementia to participate in an online training and certification program called CARES® Dementia 5-Step Method(TM).

[UOG hosts 9th Annual Film Festival](#)

The University of Guam's Communication and Media program is inviting the public to attend the 9th Annual UOG Film Festival.

APRIL 2024

[Over 70 Employers Participate in UOG Job Fair April 26](#)

The University of Guam Career Development Office is holding a job fair from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, April 26 at the UOG Calvo Field House.

[NextGen students meet top USDA directors in D.C. and gain inspiration for careers in agriculture and nutrition](#)

The UOG agriculture majors say the trip expanded their curiosity and confidence in their academic path.

[UOG Hosts Symposium on Future of the CHamoru Language on May 4](#)

The public is invited to a free symposium on the future of the CHamoru Language at the University of Guam.

[Student Social Worker of the Year: UOG senior rises from homelessness, channels past trauma to help others](#)

Naomi Nicole Ezra is a graduating University of Guam senior who is the island's Student Social Worker of the Year.

PARA TODU HIT: FOR ALL OF US

In early 2024, President Enriquez started **Para Todu Hit: For All of Us**, a weekly column in the Pacific Daily News published every Wednesday.

The column focuses on how different parts of the University deliver public value to our community and provides a closer look into the people and programs committed to our meeting our mission of Ina, Deskubre, Setbe.

Inside agricultural research at UOG

Featuring: Western Pacific Tropical Research Center (WPTRC)
Published: Sept. 25, 2024

Connecting students to career success

Featuring: The Triton Advising Center's career advisement activities
Published: Sept. 18, 2024

Art, music, theatre – UOG Fine Arts takes the stage

Featuring: UOG Fine Arts programs at the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
Published: Sept. 11, 2024

Local university, global reach

Featuring: Programs in the UOG Global Learning and Engagement Office
Published: Sept. 4, 2024

Tritons dream and achieve!

Featuring: Examples of Student Success
Published: Aug. 29, 2024

Progress has always been a part of our DNA

Featuring: Progress updates at the start of the Fanuchånan (Fall) 2024 semester
Published: Aug. 22, 2024

PACIFIC DAILY NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM: PARA TODU HIT — FOR ALL OF US

OPINION Enriquez: Inside agricultural research at UOG

By Anita Borja Enriquez
For Pacific Daily News

When you envision a Guam where the people and the land are thriving, you may see more home gardens — some maybe with an aquaponics system.

Perhaps you'd see fewer mangoes with stickers from Mexico or the Philippines and more that say "Grown on Guam." Possibly at grocery stores or souvenir shops, you would find food products like breadfruit flour and turmeric powder, or medicinal products made from local plants.

The Western Pacific Tropical Research Center, WPTRC, at our College of Natural and Applied Sciences is the scientific research arm of UOG's Land Grant. It receives federal funding through the U.S. Department of Agriculture to investigate improvements to food production and agribusiness in the region.

Dedicated to agricultural research, WPTRC operates nine research labs on the UOG campus that research plant diseases, plant production, soil science, food science, ecology, insects, and more. It also manages experimental research stations at Ija, Inalåhan, Yigo, and the Fadian Hatchery.

Through innovative research and hands-on community initiatives, WPTRC lays the groundwork to support food security, environmental sustainability, and economic diversity for our community — topics central to many conversations following the COVID-19 pandemic and Typhoon Mawar.

Strengthening food security, agricultural productivity

Since the 1970s, WPTRC researchers, alongside student research assistants and UOG extension faculty, have been investigating ways to increase Guam's food security while helping farmers improve agricultural productivity.

They have identified diseases in local crops and determined the best ways to treat them. They've tested various crop varieties to find which grow best in Guam's unique environment.

And they've tested practical solutions, such as improved irrigation techniques, better fencing and pest control systems, and effective marketing methods for locally grown produce.

One of WPTRC's recent studies focuses on the economics and



COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
An aquaponics park reopens on the University of Guam campus by the College of Natural and Applied Sciences.

profitability of farming.

Over three years, researchers will be tracking the production of 15 different crops to better understand the costs associated with farming. This study will not only guide farmers in budgeting and planning but also provide valuable data for insurance claims in the event of crop damage.

Innovating sustainable food production



Enriquez

In addition to supporting traditional agriculture, WPTRC is advancing research in innovative, sustainable food production methods like aquaponics.

At UOG's new Aquapark facility, Dr. Hui Jiang Gong and David Crisostomo are leading a study to test aquaponics systems made with locally available materials. Their goal is to find

cost-effective backyard aquaponics setups that could provide families with fresh fish and vegetables year-round, contributing to the island's food security while offering a sustainable food source.

Research at WPTRC also extends into enhancing food production techniques through horticultural advancements.

UOG's mango orchard at the Ija Experiment Station is home to 29 different varieties of mango, and recent workshops led by WPTRC and extension faculty have taught local growers the proper techniques for propagating mango trees by grafting. Grafting ensures that the trees produce the intended varieties, providing a reliable source of this popular fruit.

Maximizing Guam's natural resources for economic impact

WPTRC's research isn't just about producing more food, but also discovering new economic opportunities in Guam's natural resources. One area of focus is exploring the commercial potential of local plants and by-products.

Dr. Sahena Ferdosh, a natural product chemist, is working on ways to extract valuable oils from

See UOG, Page 10

guampdn.com

THE PACIFIC DAILY NEWS

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

9