



## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Community-funded scholarships deliver \$67K toward UOG students' education**

Last week, 32 University of Guam students received extra financial support toward their education with the awarding of 41 community-funded scholarships through the UOG Endowment Foundation. The foundation held a virtual ceremony on Sept. 29 to recognize both the student recipients and the personal and corporate scholarship sponsors, who contributed \$67,000 in total.

“Knowing that there are people out there who are doing what they can to assist students like me [...] shows me that I’m not alone in this journey,” said Kyona Rivera, a sophomore communications major from Saipan who received a total of \$5,750 for the academic year as the recipient of the James & Young Hee Ji Scholarship and the CLASS “G is for Giving” Scholarship.

Katrina Perez, executive director of the foundation, said companies, organizations, and families are inspired to create scholarships for a variety of reasons — whether to support academic advancement in a subject area of importance to them, to carry on the memory of someone influential, or to encourage disadvantaged students to stay the course in their education.

“The UOG Endowment Foundation is tremendously grateful to our generous scholarship donors,” said. “Through their benevolence, they are not only helping to fulfill an individual’s dream... rather, they are helping to ensure that, as a community, we are safeguarding our collective recovery.”

Senior civil engineering major Viliame Vuetibau, who received a scholarship from SSFM International of \$7,825 — the largest of this semester’s awards through the

UOG Endowment Foundation, said that having the financial support means there is one less thing to worry about as a student.

“They say it takes a village to raise a child. The same can be said about finishing college,” Vuetibau said. “... completing our degrees seems a lot less stressful with the financial support of our donors and the backing from our communities.”

The scholarship awardees are as follows:

<b>Student</b>	<b>Major</b>	<b>Scholarship</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Rodion Balbin	B.S., Criminal Justice	Frederick J. Horecky Scholarship	\$500
Rodion Balbin	B.S., Criminal Justice	LMS Scholarship	\$2,500
Jacquelyn Cabusi	B.S., Chemistry / Pre-Pharmacy	Christine P. Lewis Memorial Fund	\$1,000
Renona Call	B.A., Elementary Education	James & Young Hee Ji Scholarship	\$5,000
Noel Brandon Degracia	Bachelor of Business Administration	Karri T. Perez Entrepreneurial Scholarship	\$1,000
Lisa Dereas	M.A., Micronesian Studies	CLASS “G is for Giving” Scholarship	\$750
Lisa Dereas	M.A., Micronesian Studies	Micronesian Studies Scholarship Award	\$1,000
Nicole Duenas	M.A., Micronesian Studies	Moitik Micronesian Studies Scholarship	\$5,000
Harley Edeluchel	B.S., Agriculture & Life Sciences	Patricia & Thomas W. Krise Gap Scholarship	\$1,000
Ella Fedenko	B.S., Biology	IT&E Overseas Scholarship	\$2,000
Anesha Ignacio	B.A., Sociology	Palau Women’s Club Scholarship	\$1,000
Aisleabesh Maglaque	B.S., Biology – Bio-Medicine	Society of Emeritus Professors and Retired Scholars Scholarship	\$1,000
Maia Manglona	BBA, Accounting	Matson Empowerment Scholarship	\$2,500

Tonya McDaniel	B.A., Fine Arts	James and Robert Sajnovsky Scholarship	\$1,000
Hannah Mendiola	BBA, Accounting	JFK High School Class of 1969 Scholarship	\$1,000
Hannah Mendiola	BBA, Accounting	Sylvia Blas Mendiola Scholarship for Mothers	\$1,000
Therese Miller	M.S., Biology	James A. Marsh Jr. Scholarship in Marine Biology or Water Resources	\$500
Denzyl Ngiralmu	Bachelor of Business Administration	IT&E Overseas Scholarship	\$2,000
Denzyl Ngiralmu	Bachelor of Business Administration	Kurt S. Moylan Foundation Scholarship	\$2,500
Denzyl Ngiralmu	Bachelor of Business Administration	Patricia & Thomas W. Krise 1 <sup>st</sup> Generation Scholarship	\$1,000
Jennifer Ok	Pre-Nursing	Society of Emeritus Professors and Retired Scholars Scholarship	\$1,000
Megan Palacios	B.S., Biology – Bio-Medicine	Christine P. Lewis Memorial Fund	\$1,000
Mariana Pangelinan	M.A., Teaching – Secondary Math	IT&E Overseas Scholarship	\$2,000
Christian Ramos	Bachelor of Business Administration	PFM Scholarship	\$2,500
Christopher Reyes	Bachelor of Business Administration	Patricia & Thomas W. Krise Internship Grant	\$1,000
Kyona Rivera	B.A., Communications	CLASS “G is for Giving” Scholarship	\$750
Kyona Rivera	B.A., Communications	James & Young Hee Ji Scholarship	\$5,000
Abigail Santos	B.A., Secondary Education – Math	Society of Emeritus	\$1,000

		Professors and Retired Scholars Scholarship	
Riza Sejalbo	B.A., Psychology	Cerila Rapadas Scholarship	\$500
Riza Sejalbo	B.A., Psychology	CLASS "G is for Giving" Scholarship	\$750
Britney Joy Sison	B.S., Chemistry and Biology	JFK High School Class of 1969 Scholarship	\$1,000
Britney Joy Sison	B.S., Chemistry and Biology	Palau Women's Club Scholarship	\$1,000
Ulysses Story	Bachelor of Business Administration and B.A. in Sociology	Matson Empowerment Scholarship	\$2,500
Katrina Mae Tahimik	BBA, Accounting	Akira Baba Scholarship	\$750
Hilary Tirazona	B.S., Biology – Bio-Medicine	IT&E Overseas Scholarship	\$2,000
Anna Uy	B.A., English – Literature	CLASS "G is for Giving" Scholarship	\$750
Anna Uy	B.A., English – Literature	Robertson Applied Linguistics Award	\$500
Ami Vice	B.S., Biology – Integrative Biology	Society of Emeritus Professors and Retired Scholars Scholarship	\$1,000
Maria Johnnie Villareal	M.S., Environmental Science	Carriveau Family Scholarship	\$500
Viliame Vuetibau	B.S., Civil Engineering	SSFM Engineering Scholarship	\$7,825
Keoni Wong	B.S., Biology – Bio-Medicine	CNAS "G is for Giving" Scholarship	\$500

For any companies or individuals interested in supporting the University of Guam or establishing a scholarship for students, please contact the University of Guam Endowment Foundation at (671) 735-2957 or [info@uogendowment.org](mailto:info@uogendowment.org), or visit <https://give.uog.edu>.

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Photo captions:



*uogef-sison-maglaque-ignacio*

University of Guam students (from left) Britney Sison, Aisleabesh Maglaque, and Anesha Ignacio are three recipients of 41 community-funded scholarships awarded this semester through the UOG Endowment Foundation. *University of Guam file photo from 2020*



*2021-uog-kyona-rivera*

Kyona Rivera, a sophomore communications major, received a total of \$5,750 as the recipient of the James & Young Hee Ji Scholarship and the CLASS “G is for Giving” Scholarship. *Photo courtesy of Kyona Rivera*



*2021-uog-viliame-vuetibau*

Senior civil engineering major Viliame Vuetibau received \$7,825 toward his tuition and fees this year as the recipient of the SSFM Engineering Scholarship. *Photo courtesy of Viliame Vuetibau*