



PRESS RELEASE

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UOG alumni begin doctorates and post-doctorates worldwide with plans to return to Guam

This semester marked the start of the highest level of education in their fields for several University of Guam alumni. In their pursuit to advance the global body of knowledge in their subject areas, UOG alumni are beginning doctoral as well as post-doctoral programs around the globe this semester — from New York to New Zealand.

“We’re always excited to see the paths that our Tritons embark upon and are especially proud of their acceptance into such distinguished schools and programs,” UOG President Thomas W. Krise said. “Tritons want to make a difference in the world, and we’re proud that UOG has provided the foundation and the direction for so many to pursue a career in research and teaching.”

Following completion of their degree programs, which range from two to six years, many have plans to return home to Guam to serve the community.

Among UOG alumni beginning doctoral programs are:

Christopher Andrada (‘19 B.S. in Health Science, UOG) is pursuing his doctorate in physical therapy at the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences (Fla.). He has also been selected among a small number of ROTC graduates for the Army Medical Department Internship Program. He plans to eventually complete a residency program and return to Guam to work as a neurologic physical therapist specialist.

Karen Bacalia (‘21 B.S. in Chemistry, ‘21 B.S. in Agriculture & Life Sciences, UOG) has begun a doctorate program in nutritional sciences at Rutgers University–New Brunswick (N.J.). She received two fellowship awards to support her studies: the

Graduate Studies Dean's Fellowship and the School of Environmental and Biological

Eduardo B. Biala Jr. ('17 B.S. in Biology, UOG), following completion of a year-long medical school preparation program at the John A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, is now pursuing his Doctor of Medicine there. He was one of five students selected for the four-year Queen's Health Systems 'Imi Ho'ōla Scholarship. He plans to pursue a residency program in internal medicine and a fellowship in gastroenterology and to eventually serve the populations of Guam and Hawaii.

Jezreelyn Bulaklak ('21 B.S. in Chemistry, UOG) has begun medical school at the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine at the Uniformed Services University (Md.). After completing her education and service commitment with the Air Force, she plans to return home to the Marianas to serve in the health care sector.

Joseph Casila ('19 B.S. in Biology, '19 B.S. in Chemistry, '19 B.S. in Mathematics, UOG) is pursuing a doctorate in bioengineering at the University of Pennsylvania, an Ivy League university, on a full-ride fellowship package. He will focus his degree on tissue engineering and regenerative medicine with the goal of coming back to Guam to teach and mentor students and lead his own research team.

Mari Deinhart ('20 M.S. in Biology, UOG) expects to begin a doctorate program early next year through Griffith University in Australia in collaboration with the Australian Institute of Marine Science. Under the Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program at AIMS, she will be researching the metabolic pathways of crustose calcifying red algae species that induce or prevent coral larval settlement.

Jean Macalinao (12 B.A. in Psychology, '17 M.S. in Clinical Psychology, UOG) has begun a doctoral program in clinical psychology at Saybrook University (Calif.). She aspires to become a licensed clinical psychologist and to serve the Guam community in practice or as a professor.

Trevor Orot ('21 B.S. Chemistry, Minor in Biology) is pursuing a doctorate in pharmacy at the University of California, San Francisco, the No. 2 ranked pharmacy school in the nation by U.S. News and World Report. He plans to complete a residency program and become a clinical pharmacist to serve the Guam community.

Tristan Paulino ('19 B.S. in Tropical Agriculture, UOG) has begun his doctorate in anatomy at the University of Otago in New Zealand. Under a full fellowship from the Royal Society of New Zealand Te Apārangi, he will be researching the genetic predisposition of Micronesians to gout and other metabolic conditions, an area of research he plans to then continue pursuing back home in Guam.

Aubriana Perez ('17 B.S. in Biology, UOG) is pursuing a Doctor of Medicine on an institutional merit award at Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine (Mich.). She completed her Master of Public Health during the pandemic, specializing in epidemiology, at Emory University (Ga.). She plans to return to Guam and have a career in academic medicine while continuing her research on racial/ethnic disparities in chronic disease.

Vanalyn Quichocho (17 B.A. in English/Psychology, '20 M.S. in Clinical Psychology, UOG) is pursuing a doctorate in clinical psychology at Illinois Institute of Psychology — the only APA-accredited doctorate-level rehabilitation psychology program in the United States. She aspires to become a licensed clinical therapist, to teach psychology at the collegiate level, and to engage in research on Chamoru psychology.

Maia L. Raymundo ('09 B.A. in Biology, '14 M.S. in Biology, UOG), having recently earned her doctorate in ecology from The University of Queensland (Australia), has begun a postdoctoral fellowship through Princeton University (N.J.) in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service and the Guam Department of Agriculture. The work for her project will be based in Guam, where she plans to continue working toward the restoration of the ecosystems after her fellowship.

William Sablan ('21 B.S. in Mathematics, UOG) has begun his doctorate in mathematics at University of California, Riverside. He was awarded the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, a five-year fellowship, and the Eugene Cota Robles Award, both of which include significant living and tuition stipends.

Chellette San Nicolas ('21 M.Ed. in Secondary Education, UOG) has returned, though virtually this semester, to her undergraduate alma mater of Gonzaga University (Wash.) to complete her Doctor of Education.

Elliot Untalan ('19 B.S. in Criminal Justice, '21 Master of Public Administration, UOG), a military veteran, has begun his doctorate in public administration at Liberty University (Va.). He will complete the program online while continuing to work as a firefighter with Andersen Fire & Emergency Services. He said he hopes to advance his leadership abilities and give back to his island community.

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Attachments:

Head shots attached for all but Karen Bacalia, Trevor Orot, and Vanalyn Quichocho