



SOE NEWS



Fanuchånan 2024 · Volume 4 · Issue 1 ☆ A Publication of the School of Education at the University of Guam

A Message from the Dean



Alicia C. Aguon, PhD

Håfa adai !

We wrapped up an exciting and productive Fall 2024 semester. I want to take a moment to reflect on the achievements, events, and milestones of our faculty, staff, and students. This has been a season of growth, celebration, and inspiration, and I am proud to share in this newsletter highlights that showcase the spirit of excellence within the School of Education (SOE).

This semester, we celebrate our graduating students who have reached significant milestones in their academic journeys. We commend the dedication of our undergraduate students completing their student teaching placements in schools across the Guam Department of Education. Special recognition goes to their cooperating teachers, school leaders, and the School of Education faculty supervisors who have generously mentored them.

I also recognize our master’s graduates who have also made remarkable contributions through their thesis and special projects. Their research and innovative ideas will leave a lasting impact on education in Guam and beyond.

Our faculty and staff continue to work to elevate the SOE’s reputation as a hub of excellence. They enhance the School of Education’s mission to prepare educators and leaders who meet the multicultural educational demands of Guam and the region.

As we prepare for the Spring Fanomnakan 2025 semester, I encourage each of you to continue striving for excellence in your academic, professional, and personal endeavors. The SOE will remain steadfast in its commitment to empowering educators and leaders who will make a difference in the lives of our students and communities.

Congratulations again to our graduates and thank you to everyone who has contributed to the successes of this semester. May your holiday season and new year be filled with joy with your loved ones!

Biba UOG! Biba SOE!

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@soe_uog



@UOG School of Education



Bachelor's Milestones



Congratulations Graduates & Thank You Partners

Inora buena para i estudiante siha! Congratulations to all the Students!

The School of Education undergraduate graduates are ready for the classroom. Thank you to the schools and Classroom Supervisors who have helped prepare these future teachers to stand alongside you. Classroom Supervisors, we couldn't do it without you!

Graduating Student	Student Teaching Location	Classroom Supervisor
Elementary Education		
Naomi Jean Mantanona Blas	Captain H.B. Price Elementary	Jolynn Flores
Azelle Rie Loren	Captain H.B. Price Elementary	Nicole Perez
Jocelyn Rapirap Madlangbayan	Talofof Elementary	Stephane Concepcion
Chloe Natalia Ong Poblete	M.U. Lujan Elementary	Teresa Taitague
Tatiana Victoria Camacho Reyes	M.U. Lujan Elementary	Ursula Umadhay
Isabella Lynn Burch Rolinski	Captain H.B. Price Elementary	Marcy Cruz
Kennysha Amber Sablan	Talofof Elementary	Jean Aguon
Britney Bernice Sparkes	Captain H.B. Price Elementary	Nacrina Meno
Timothy Tawaichim	Yap DOE	Yap DOE
Tommy D. Tom	Chuuk DOE	Chuuk DOE
Sera Elise Pimentel Unpingco	M.U. Lujan Elementary	Bertha Cruz





Congratulations Graduates & Thank You Partners

Congratulations, SOE Master's Graduates!

MA in Counseling

Graduate's Name

Veronica Peredo Botelho

Dulce Amor Ang Imbo

Marie France Abat Jao

Cheri Marie M. Sumalpong



MA in Teaching

Graduate's Name

Randall Christopher Sablan Borja

Teresa Ann Naputi Muna





MEd in Reading

Graduate's Name

Leif Eric L. Andres	Carl Paulo S. Nucum
Sabrina Ann Burgos	Julianne Laguana Perez
Norly C. Cabrera-Balbin	LauraJean Rosario Perez
Jeanmarie Rose Cruz	Anthony Clark P. Ponce
Liana Lynn Galvez Delos Trinos	Jane P. Ponce
Teresa Mendoza Dobrowolski	Joanna Kate P. Ponce
Katryn Heintz Dougherty	Edward Jason Gilbert San Nicolas
Mary Jane Pepito Flores	Zharmaine Ivy Santos
Analisa A. Holm	Ciera Nicole San Nicolas Tuiasosopo
Atisa Marie Pablo Lujan Junio	Jasie Elise Villanueva
Natasha Nicole Castro Lejano	
Tammy Saludaes Leon Guerrero	
Blossom Yzabelle Santos Lumba	
Meagan Maria Mendiola	



SOE NEWS



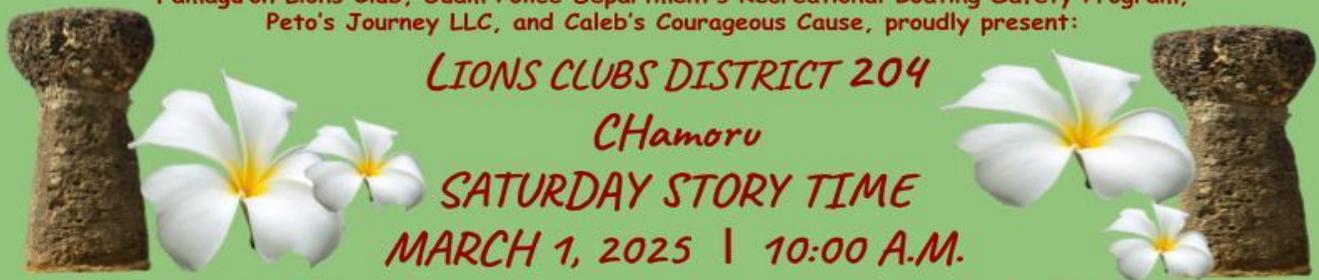
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LITERACY OUTREACH



LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 204

Together with the Guam Public Library System, Guam Council of the International Literacy Association, Institute of Museum and Library Services, GDOE Chamoru Studies and Special Projects Division, UOG-SOE Alumni Association, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Guam Flotilla 140-02-24, Guåhan Isan Famagu'on Lions Club, Guam Police Department's Recreational Boating Safety Program, Peto's Journey LLC, and Caleb's Courageous Cause, proudly present:



LIONS CLUBS DISTRICT 204

CHamoru

SATURDAY STORY TIME

MARCH 1, 2025 | 10:00 A.M.

Join us via ZOOM or in person at the Hagåtña Public Library



REGISTER NOW!

To register, please scan the QR code or click the link below:

<https://bit.ly/lionsclubreading>

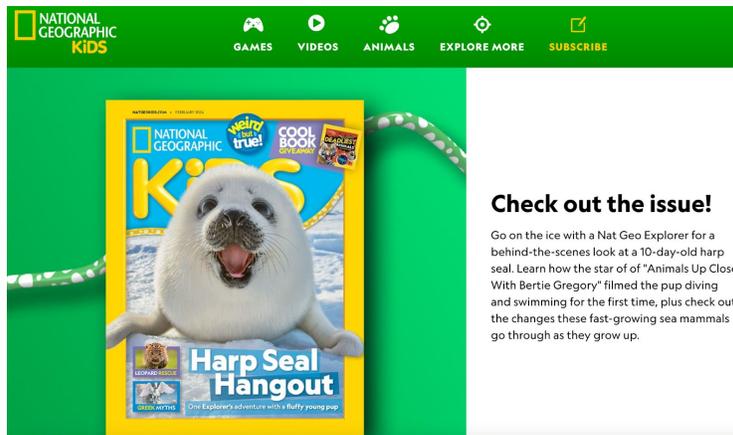


Win books and other exciting prizes by answering questions during the Read Aloud!



For more information, contact LCI D204 Reading Action Program Chair Dr. Matilda Naputi Rivera @ mnriviera1@gmail.com.





NAT GEO KIDS (<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com>) offers readers engaging articles about nature and animals, making it especially appealing to younger audiences. This website is not only an excellent literacy resource for students but also an interactive and enjoyable experience for young readers. It provides a wealth of information about the animal kingdom, and for students who love animals, this is a website they'll thoroughly enjoy. In addition to articles about animals, it also features high-quality educational videos that students will love. Overall, this is an effective literacy tool for school-aged children.



**Contribution by Anthony Ponce*



WELCOME ABOARD!



Dr. Theresa Magpuri-Lavell

The School of Education proudly welcomes Dr. Theresa Magpuri-Lavell to its distinguished faculty team. Her arrival is met with great enthusiasm, as her expertise and dedication are sure to enhance the educational journey of students. The community looks forward to the meaningful contributions she will bring.

Dr. Magpuri-Lavell served as the Executive Director of the Sandra Dungan Deal Center for Early Language and Literacy at Georgia College. Prior to that, she held positions as Associate Professor, Assistant Dean of Outreach, and Scholar in Residence for Jefferson County Public Schools at Bellarmine University in Louisville, KY.

Her academic achievements include earning a doctorate in Instruction and Curriculum Leadership with a specialization in Reading Education from the University of Memphis. Her research focuses on early literacy, foundational reading skills, reading fluency, and building teacher capacity in the science of teaching reading. Her work has been featured in prominent journals, including the *Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy*, the *Journal of Educational Research*, and *Advances in Literary Studies*.

Before transitioning to higher education, Dr. Magpuri-Lavell taught elementary school for a decade in Massachusetts, Tennessee, and Japan, following her completion of a Master's in Education from Lesley University.

The School of Education eagerly anticipates the significant impact Dr. Magpuri-Lavell will make within its community.





FACULTY ACCOLADES

Dr. Jackysha Green Awarded Tenure and Promotion



It is with great pride that we celebrate the well-deserved tenure and promotion of Dr. Jackysha N. Green to Associate Professor at the University of Guam! For those who have had the privilege of working alongside Dr. Green, we know her not just as an exceptional educator and leader but also as someone you can always count on anytime. She is a dedicated mentor, an advocate for students, and a friend who brings warmth and enthusiasm to everything she does.

From her early days as a Kindergarten teacher in the Guam Department of Education (GDOE) to her leadership as Elementary Education Program Chair at UOG, Dr. Green has poured her heart into shaping the future of education. Through initiatives like the Palau 2+2 Partnership and the Yap Individual Degree Plan she has opened doors for students across the Pacific region. The Palau partnership cohort of 20 Palau teachers who have 2-year degrees will graduate a BAE degree in Elementary Education with Special Education specialization this May 2025 in Palau. The Yap teachers with 2-year degrees and will complete their BAE in Elementary Education. As Field Experience Coordinator, Dr. Green ensures that aspiring teachers gain hands-on experience in the classrooms, preparing them for success in their classroom.

Dr. Green's research and grant writing included the Dokdok Project which reflects her commitment to making a real difference in education. Beyond academics, Dr. Green has a heart for community engagement, enriching SOE and UOG through programs like the Children's Fair, GDOE ASPIRE Program, and UOG Charter Day.

Dr. Green, we are so proud of you! Please join us in congratulating Dr. Green on this well-deserved promotion to Associate Professor and her award for Tenure!



FACULTY ACCOLADES

Congratulations, Dr. Dean Olah!

Dr. Dean Olah applied for the Taiwan Fellowship, established by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), in June 2024. In October, he was notified that his research proposal, "Teacher Training Programs, Guam, and Taiwan: A Comparative Study," had been accepted, and he was awarded the fellowship. As part of the fellowship, he will spend a minimum of three months in Taiwan, from May through August 2025, conducting research at the Center for Chinese Studies at the National Central Library and National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU). His study will examine general education requirements, theoretical coursework, qualifying tests, practical training, curriculum, and teaching methods.

Additionally, Dr. Olah was invited to and attended a luncheon for Taiwan President Lai Ching-te on December 5 at the Hyatt Ballroom. The event focused on opportunities for Guam-Taiwan collaboration in tourism, culture, health care, aquaculture, hydroponics, education, engineering, construction, and alternative energy.

Congratulations, Dr. Olah! We look forward to hearing about your fellowship abroad. Best wishes!





FACULTY ACCOLADES

University of Alabama UNITE STEM Partnership

The School of Education’s collaboration with the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) Operation UNITE STEM Team was invaluable. Their expertise provided a strong framework for STEM materials applicable to the School of Education. Hands-on activities were enthusiastically received, paving the way for more interactive sessions. The partnership, spearheaded by Dean Aguon, Dr. Green, and Dr. Sablan, emphasized pedagogical development and effective STEM integration.

Dr. Zena Sablan's and Dr. Jackysha Green's students gained hands-on experience with straw launchers while conducting practicum sessions in GDOE classrooms at Harry S. Truman, M.U. Lujan, Agana Heights, and Marcial Sablan, reaching a total of 114 students. This experience not only strengthened our future teachers' expertise but also contributed to the development of STEAM-aligned unit plans.

Student-created materials from the School of Education are available at uahrampup.org. SOE looks forward to continued partnership and mentorship opportunities with UAH.



Dr. Zena Sablan’s Science Methods Class



FACULTY ACCOLADES

University of Alabama UNITE STEM Partnership



Dr. Sablan's Science and Math Method Students Conducting Practicum in GDOE Schools



University of Alabama, Guam Site Visit
Left to Right: Abigail Herrin, Dean Alicia Aguon, Matt Turner, Hannah Edmonson, Myles Scarano



FACULTY ACCOLADES

Dr. Rebecca Grunzke's Research

After returning last summer from a five-week bioarchaeology field school in Baia Mare, Romania—where she worked on cleaning and bio-profiling a set of human remains from a 14th- to 18th-century cemetery—Rebecca continued her research on Japanese theme parks as informal educational institutions.

Along with her co-editor, Dr. Andrew Grunzke, she submitted the final manuscript for their edited volume, *The Female Teacher on Television*. She looks forward to receiving the page proofs next week and promoting the book upon its publication later this semester.



Dr. Rebecca Grunzke at the base of St. Stephen's Tower, Piața Cetății, Baia Mare, Romania



FACULTY ACCOLADES

Dr. Andrew Grunzke's Research

Last fall, Andrew Grunzke served as the virtual host and discussant for the film screening at the History of Education Society's annual meeting. He also embarked on a ten-day research trip to Japan to explore how Japanese museums and theme parks provide informal education in human geography.

Along with his co-editor, Dr. Rebecca Grunzke, he submitted the final manuscript for their edited volume, *The Female Teacher on Television*. Page proofs for the volume are due in early February, and the book is scheduled for publication in the next few months.



Dr. Andrew Grunzke in the bamboo forest at the Niji-No-Sato (Rainbow Village) Canadian/British-themed park in Shuzenji Izu, Japan.



FACULTY PRESENTATIONS

SOE Participates in CLASS Annual Research Conference

Three SOE faculty members participated in the 45th CLASS Annual Research Conference, held on March 8, 2024, at the University of Guam in Mangilao, Guam. The faculty members—Drs. Kathrine Gutierrez, Michelle Santos, and Jackshya Green—presented in a conference panel session titled Collective Voice and Collective Stories as Sensemaking: Assessment and the Outlook of Education [Conference panel session].



INDO-PACIFIC MISSILE ARSENALS MITIGATING ESCALATION RISKS AND AVOIDING A SPIRAL



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Ankit Panda is the Stanton Senior Fellow in the Nuclear Policy Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

As an expert on the Asia-Pacific region, his research interests range nuclear strategy, arms control, missile defense, nonproliferation, emerging technologies, and U.S. extended deterrence.

Panda is the author of *Kim Jong Un and the Bomb: Survival and Deterrence in North Korea*. He is editor-at-large at the *Diplomat*, where he hosts the *Asia Geopolitics* podcast, and a contributing editor at *War on the Rocks*.

[Read more at Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.](#)

PANEL DISCUSSION

FEATURING ANKIT PANDA, ROBERT UNDERWOOD,
KENNETH GOFIGAN KUPER, & LELAND BETTIS

MARCH 7
5:30PM | CLASS Lecture Hall



PARTNERSHIP VISIT

Palau Ministry of Education, UOG, and GDOE: Walkthrough Sessions

Between September 30 and October 4, 2024, the Palau Ministry of Education, in partnership with the Guam Department of Education (GDOE) and the University of Guam, facilitated professional walkthroughs for Palauan educators. Much like the traditional weaving that strengthens island communities, these visits allowed educators to observe diverse and innovative teaching practices within the GDOE.

Through these observations and partnerships, Palauan educators gained valuable insights, particularly in culturally relevant strategies. This collaboration not only strengthened regional ties but also fostered reciprocity, enriching both educators and students by promoting shared growth and community resilience. Palauan educators returned home with new knowledge and strengthened connections, ultimately benefiting their students and communities.



GDOE C & I Team: Joseph L.M. Sanchez, Deputy Superintendent, Curriculum & instructional Improvement; Joshua C. Blas, Senior Lead; Frank Leon Guerrero, Project Lead: Curriculum-Instruction-Assessments; Jesse Pendon, Project Lead: Classroom Supports & Interventions; Vito Calvo, Jr. ESL Instructional Coach

PMOE Visiting Team: Daisy Ulitch, Principal, Ngaraard E. School; Kerungil Tellei, Principal, Melekeok E. School; Norma Mersai, Principal, Airai E. School; Shelby Salvador, Principal, Ngardmau E. School; Lourigene Samsel, Principal, Aimeliik E. School; Wicliff Emul, Principal, George B. Harris E. School; Mayleen Ngiriou, Principal, Koror E. School; Tiffany Kasiano, Principal, Angaur E. School; Charmaine Bitlaol, BCI Personnel; Jay Watanabe, BCI Personnel; Vanessa Mobel, BCI Personnel; Lucia Tabelual, BCI Personnel

University of Guam (SOE): Sharleen Q. Santos-Bamba, Ph.D., Senior Vice President & Provost; Alicia Aguon, Ph.D., Dean, School of Education; Jackysha N. Green, Ed.D., Associate Professor, School of Education; Genevieve Leon Guerrero, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, School of Education; Catherine A. Cardenas, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, School of Education



APPRECIATION TRIBUTE

Honoring a Legacy of Excellence: Celebrating the Retirement of Dr. Michelle Santos

SOE saw the retirement of long time faculty member, Dr. Michelle Santos. Dr. Santos, an associate professor of secondary education, was the Division Chair for the Professional Teacher Preparation (PTP) division. She was also chair for the BAE in Secondary Education and the Chair of the Masters of Art in Teaching. Dr. Santos came to UOG in October of 2011 after 10 years at GCC as associate dean and then Dean of Technology and Student Services which had followed 10 years at GDOE as an English teacher and school administrator. She had a passion for data and continuous improvement and helped guide SOE's accreditation where SOE attained full accreditation under NCATE (7 years) and then AAQEP (also 7 years). Dr. Santos participated in numerous committees within SOE and on campus including General Education, the Faculty Senate, WASC writing team, and even contract negotiations. If you ask her what she'll miss most about education and being on campus, she didn't hesitate when she said "the students."



Michelle M.S. Santos, Ed.D.
Associate Professor of Education



MEMORIAM

In loving memory of our beloved retired SOE Professor, Dr. Velma Sablan, we dedicate this special edition of our newsletter to honor your remarkable legacy. Your scholarly achievements, pedagogical excellence, and profound contributions to the community have left an indelible mark on all who knew you. Though we deeply mourn your loss, we find comfort in knowing that you are now in a place of eternal peace and grace. May your spirit continue to inspire us as we carry forward the values and dedication you exemplified so beautifully.



Velma A. Sablan, Ph.D.
Professor of Educational Research
& Foundations





SOE FACULTY AND STAFF



Alicia C. Aguon,
Dean



Catherine Cardenas,
Assistant Professor



Genevieve Garret,
Assistant Professor



Jackysha N. Green,
Assistant Professor



Andrew L. Grunzke,
Associate Professor



Rebecca Z. Grunzke,
Assistant Professor



Kathrine Gutierrez,
Associate Professor



Geraldine S. James,
Assistant Professor



ShinHwa Lee,
Assistant Professor



Mary Jane Miller,
Professor



Dean A. Olah,
Associate Professor



Matilda N. Rivera,
Assistant Professor



Cheryl R. Sangueza,
Associate Professor



Zena G. Sablan,
Assistant Professor



Michelle M.S. Santos,
Associate Professor



Justin Berroya,
IT Support Technician



Pascual Olivares,
Program Coordinator I



Keolani Santos,
Administrative Assistant



Carim Yanoria,
Administrative Office



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