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Pohnpei athletes return home to heroes' welcomes

cheering motorcades.

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

August 3, 2018

Pohnpei—Pohnpei's athletes who participated in the Micronesian Games in Yap received heroes' welcomes as they returned. Hundreds of people carrying banners and cheering wildly welcomed the athletes as they arrived at the airport, and then followed them through town in happy

After the last of the athletes arrived today, all of the athletes paraded through town to the government complex where the State sponsored a huge party for them.

The Pohnpei athletes performed very well at the games. Though in terms of gold medals they came in fourth place with a total of 18, they tied with Palau for first place in terms of total medals earned with 70. 33 of those medals were silver medals and 19 were bronze.

Palau won the games with a total of 32 gold medals. The Republic of Marshall Islands was tied with Guam with 29 gold medals each but RMI had 17 silver medals while Guam had 12, putting RMI in second place.

CNMI was in fifth place with nine gold medals, followed by Yap with five. Chuuk also earned five gold medals. Kirabati and Nauru each had two gold medals. While Kosrae did not earn any gold medals they did earn a total of 14 medals, four of which were silver.

In athletics competitions, Pohnpei's athletes brought home three gold medals, eight silver medals and seven bronze medals. Pohnpei's baseballers brought home gold,

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FSM arrests 16 Philippine nationals after Fahrenheit tugboat illegally docks in Colonia, Yap

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

Photo by Joyce Mclure

August 2, 2018

Yap, FSM—The FSM National Government has arrested 16 Philippine nationals in Colonia, Yap who arrived at that port aboard a tugboat allegedly operated by Fahrenheit Co., Ltd. They have also seized the tugboat and two cargo containers that were aboard the vessels.

They are being charged with violations of FSM's Title 18 for entering the FSM's EEZ without a permit or clearances and also for immigration violations.

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Chuuk stakeholders apply pressure to implement fiber optic services as fast as possible

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

August 1, 2018
Palikir, Pohnpei—Senator Victor Gouland, Chair of the FSM Congress Standing Committee on Transportation and Communications called an oversite hearing that was held today on the matter of the implementation of the Chuuk fiber optic cable.

President Christian has sent appropriations bills with changing amounts to facilitate the final installation of the fiber optic cable that was landed in Chuuk several months ago. It is an issue that has become politically charged as stakeholders try to implement fiber optic service as quickly as possible, so much so in fact that the highly paid CEO of FSM's Open Access Entity (OAE), Adolfo Montenegro resigned last week from the FSM Telecommunications Cable Corporation (FSMTCC, not to be confused with FSMTC). Even during the committee hearing, it was difficult to know which, if any of the stories that witnesses gave completely represented the story which is still being sorted out.

As best we understand it from the committee hearing, several months ago FSMTCC (OAE) put out a request for bids to handle all aspects of the operationalization of the fiber optic cable in Weno. That project would have been paid for by a grant from the World Bank. FSMTC (FSM Telecommunications Corporation) did not bid on that project. FSMTCC (OAE) proceeded to negotiate with a landholder for the construction of a small building on the grounds of the L5 Hotel to house the equipment for the cable. The cable would then run from that small building to FSMTC.

Apparently, though the negotiated lease was for a period of time that coincided with the expected life of the cable, concerns arose that the building was to be built on non-government land.

FSMTCC (OAE) says that it would take about a year to implement the plan as they had organized it and agrees that if it didn't have to build a new facility it would be much quicker.

Chuuk's stakeholders in the government asked if a quicker solution could be found so that Chuuk could get fiber service as fast as possible. FSMTC offered a building on their property that they said could be used. FSMTC CEO Fredy Perman testified that FSMTC has already spent a significant amount of money on renovations and equipment for that building.

At the hearing, Perman said that if they were to take on the project in the building they offered, the fiber could be up and providing services as soon as September or October of this year. He said that if another contractor was hired to handle the other components of running the cable, the timeline would be dependent upon however long it took that contractor to do the work.

FSM Chief of Staff Leo Falcam testified that the President would need to downscale the supplemental budget request he sent to Congress in order to reflect savings the FSM would realize if the cable is housed at FSMTC. The most recent figure sent by the President was $1 million. By the end of the committee hearing, no final figure had been decided, though the numbers that were discussed were significantly lower than $1 million.

Though on the face of it the situation appears to be a simple one, it's actually quite complex due to the requirements of the World Bank funding and the FSM relationship with World Bank which anecdotally has already provided and has committed to provide more funding to the FSM than anywhere else in the Pacific. The initial grants to run the undersea fiber optic line were predicated on telecommunications liberalization in the FSM. FSMTCC (OAE) was established as the FSM response to World Bank's requirements that mechanisms for free and fair competition be put into place.

Even OAE has agreed that mechanisms can be put in place to ensure that, even if the cable facility ends up on FSMTC's grounds, it doesn't interfere with competition, so that may not be the most important issue. At issue now, based on our understanding of the hearing, is the question of whether or not the World Bank would reimburse the FSM if the FSM proceeds with providing money to establish the cable that it then gives to FSMTC to do work on a project it didn't bid on in the first place.

Perman didn't respond to our request for information on the implementation of the Chuuk fiber optic line and did not testify at the hearing on the reasons that FSMTC decided not to bid on the project.

FSM Department of Finance and Administration consultant Rob Solomon testified that in the 24 hours before the hearing, World Bank had indicated that they would be alright with having the facility at FSMTC. He described conditions under which World Bank could reimburse installation expenses if the cable was housed at FSMTC.

Gordon Segal, Acting CEO of FSMTCC (OAE), later said that he also has direct contact with World Bank but his understanding is different. He said that World Bank requires a bidding process and FSMTC did not bid. He indicated that the situation is much more complex than what he heard at the hearing.

At press time, the matter is still before Congress during the special session that President Christian called, in part, to deal with this issue.

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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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Water supply project set to extend from Palikir to NMHS in Kitti

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

July 25, 2018
Palikir, Pohnpei—US, FSM, and Pohnpei officials gathered together this afternoon on the grounds of the College of Micronesia FSM to break ground for a long planned water project.

Five years ago the water pipe extension from Sekere to Palikir was completed and bid proposals were solicited for another phase of a water project to extend the line from Palikir, Sokehs to Nanpei Memorial High School in Kitti. A contractor questioned the bidding process and filed a civil suit. The civil suit was recently dismissed. That process, along with legal access to some crucial pieces of land for the project, caused the roughly five year delay.

The nearly $6.4 million project is set to begin as soon as mobilization of equipment and supplies is accomplished.

The terms of the contract have established a completion date of two years from start of project until completion.

Lyon Associates, Inc. long ago designed the project. ABCOR Engineering and Construction, Inc. will be doing the construction.

The project is funded by a US Compact Infrastructure Grant and has recently been coordinated by the US Army Corps of Engineers and the fairly new Pohnpei Project Management Office.

DPS concludes Underage Drinking Project in Pohnpei

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

July 30, 2018
Pohnpei—The first "graduation" ceremony for the Pohnpei Department of Public Safety's Underage Drinking Project was held on the afternoon of July 30 on the man-made beach of Nett Point.

Under the theme, "It's time to stop accepting and start discouraging underage drinking", DPS has been conducting training and activities to discourage underage drinking. A DPS official said that the activities were conducted in communities that DPS records showed had already demonstrated a problem with underage drinkers in Nett and in U. The activities took place in June and July of this year.

The task force for the project included Project Manager, Detective Lieutenant Eltes Pelep; Project Coordinator, Chief of Police Hermis Edmund, and members Captain Ricky P. Rodriguez, and Lt. William Ioanis. It was funded by an allocation sponsored by Senator Dion Neth, FSM Congress representative from District #2.

FSM Supreme Court Hosts training in Palikir

The National Supreme Court of FSM and the Pacific Judicial Strengthening Initiative hosted the Activity Preparation and Refresher Training-of-Trainers Workshop from 23-17 July, 2018, at the Central Facility in Palikir, Pohnpei.

The workshop was attended by 18 court staff from Pohnpei, Yap, Chuuk and Kosrae. The faculty included trainers from FSM and Australia.

Participants of the workshop received training to develop their confidence in leading, designing, delivering, monitoring and evaluating ongoing judicial and court development activities. The practical and interactive workshop also focused on developing adult learning skills to help the Supreme Court with implementing its newly developed Access to Justice Plan and associated training in each State.

Mr. Harry Naruuhn, State Justice Ombudsman from Chuuk, noted that: "I strongly believe that the workshop is very helpful and has expanded my comfort zone and understanding of Access to Justice. Previously I thought that only lawyers were concerned with Access to Justice, but I now know that everyone has a responsibility to ensure Access to Justice."

The workshop is one of the many workshops held by the Pacific Judicial Strengthening Initiative within the Pacific. The Initiative is funded by New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade which has supported promoting the rule of law across the Pacific over recent years. Ms. Shrue Lonno, Chief Clerk of Courts from Kosrae expressed her: "Thanks to PJSI for making it possible to participate!"

Front Row: ***Joyleen Wichep - Secretary/Court Reporter; Shrue Lonno - Chief Clerk of Courts, Lovelynn Berdon - Secretary/Court Report, Mayleen David - Secretary/Court Reporter, Cheryl Freeman - Administrative Assistant, Carleila Carl-Edgar - Staff Attorney, Emeliana J. Musrasrik-Carl - Director of Court Administration, Anstain Ioanis - Chief Clerk of Courts, Senda Helgen - Deputy Chief Clerk, Johnny Peter - State Justice Ombudsman, Peter Garangmau - State Justice Ombudsman.***
Back Row: ***JJ Abrams - Staff Attorney, Craig Reffner - Assistant Secretary of Justice, Harry Naruuhn - State Justice Ombudsman, Lorenz Metzner - PJSI Team Leader, Atariano Helieisar - Chief Librarian/Publications, Jackson Luke - Probation Officer, Belan Yoma - National Justice Ombudsman, Linson Waguk - State Justice Ombudsman***
Not shown: ***Daniel Rescue, Jr. - General Counsel, David Alfons - Administrative Assistant.***

Illegally Docked

Continued from front page

A news story by Pacific Island Times says that the tugboat arrived at Yap's Port of Entry at 11:30 AM on July 30, 2018, without legal documents including Port Clearance, Maritime Declarations of Health, Deratting Certificates or Customs Clearance. That article says that an Environmental Health Services Health Quarantine officer attempted to deny the tugboat "Ocean Support" entry to the port by diverting it to the quarantine buoy near Nungoch Island. But a port agent told EHS that officials from Yap State Department of Resource and Development did not want the tugboat to be moved away from the dock.

Another vessel, the "Forever Lucky" owned by Fahrenheit Co., Ltd had been scheduled to arrive in Yap prior to the recently concluded Micronesian Games, but Philippines authorities detained the vessel and arrested its crew for a variety of violations involving documentation. The Yap government had signed an MOU with Fahrenheit to provide lodging aboard the "Forever Lucky" and to provide catering services for the games but due to the arrest in the Philippines, it never arrived.

It is unclear what the purpose of the trip to Yap by the Fahrenheit tugboat is since the games are now over. FSM law enforcement officials will be looking into that question as well.

The initial hearing date is set for August 14 at the FSM Supreme Court in Yap.

Pohnpei Public Library Rocks in 2018

The Pohnpei Public Library celebrated the end of this year's annual Summer Reading Program (SRP) on July 13, 2018. Head Librarian Mr. Lester Ezekias welcomed all in attendance at the closing celebration and thanked participants, volunteers and parents for their contributions and assistance during the four-week program. In line with the theme for this year's SRP "Libraries Rock," three health-related children's songs were performed by the SRP participants. Group 1 which was comprised of K5-2nd graders sang a song entitled "Wash Your Hands"; Group 2 comprised of 3rd-5th graders sang "Suke Laud Kahrehda Ngih Rongala" (too much sugar causes tooth decay); and Group 3 consisted of 6th-8th graders who sang a song entitled "Pohnpei Lingan". All the songs were taught by Mr. Alanso Jimina, retired Music Specialist for the Pohnpei Department of Education.

Several participants noted that their favorite part of the SRP this year was the activities, which were designed by the Collaborative Summer Library Program out of Iowa, USA and organized during the SRPby volunteers and PPL staff. The kids learned songs, made crafts and enjoyed other fun and educational activities. The Program this year was funded by the FSM National Archives, Cultural and Historic Preservation Office (FSM NACH) through a grant from the Institute of Museums and Library Services (IMLS). The continued success of the Summer Reading Program would not be possible without the involvement and contributions of volunteers, parents, participants and generous donors.

The Friends of the Pohnpei Public Library would like to thank the IMLS, FSM NACH, Australian Embassy-Pohnpei, Kaselehlie Press, V6AH Radio and the Pohnpei Fishing Club for all their generous support. Special appreciation goes out to the following individuals for their involvement during the four-week program: Alanso Jimina, LJ Gamow and Telyla Liwy.

All the participants received certificates and prizes presented by the staff and volunteers. Head Librarian Mr. Ezekias also handed out certificates to the contributors and volunteers for this year on behalf of the Friends of the Pohnpei Public Library.

THANK YOU ALL FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE POHNPEI PUBLIC LIBRARY!

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Employment Opportunities

College of Micronesia – FSM Mission Statement
The College of Micronesia-FSM is a learner-centered institution of higher education that is committed to the success of the Federated States of Micronesia by providing academic and career & technical educational programs characterized by continuous improvement and best practices.

Values:

The College of Micronesia-FSM is searching for qualified candidates to fill the following positions:

Student Services Coordinator Location: Chuuk Campus	Annual Salary: $16,124	Closing Date: August 30, 2018

Summary: Under the supervision of the Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Services and Campus Dean, the student services coordinator is responsible effective coordination, delivery, and enhancement of student support services and activities at the campus. Student support services include finical aid, admissions and records, guidance and counseling and tutoring services, health services, and student sports and recreational activities, student clubs and organization.

Science Instructor Location: National Campus	Annual Salary: $16,131.00-$17,819.00	Closing Date: August 19,2018

Summary: Teaching 12 to 15 contact hours with one to four preparations in the area of science teaching courses including but not limited to: health science, human nutrition and other science courses within qualification of the candidate. Teaching classes in accordance with the goals and objectives of the course as described in the course outline. Maintaining accurate records of student attendance and student learning outcomes/grades, in accordance with COM-FSM regulations. Submitting records to Chairperson after the end of the semester/session. Keeping at least 5 office hours per week. Participating in one standing committee or providing alternative services to the college and community as specified in Administrative Procedure 6026; may be asked to participate in ad hoc committees. Advising students. Participating in special College functions such as graduation. Participating in Division activities. This includes meetings, curriculum development and developing procedures for improving current classes. Participating in assessment activities. Participating in professional development. Serve on committee. Attending to additional needs of the College or the community as agreed upon by the faculty member in consultation with their supervisor.

Serious inquiries can be made to the Human Resources Office at email address hro@comfsm.fm and telephone number (691) 320-2482 or visit us at www.comfsm.fm for application, details, and requirements.

COM-FSM Employee Profile

Peltin Olter-Pelep is current faculty member at the College of Micronesia-FSM/National Campus teaching marine science and chemistry courses. These courses are for students majoring in science as well as core requirements for other programs. He has been teaching since August 2013 and he also provides tutorial supports for all sciences courses.

Peltin was born and raised in Pohnpei, FSM. A valedictorian for class of 2001 at Ponape Agriculture and Trade School (PATS) high school and again at COM-FSM for class of 2003 December where he earned an Associate of Science Degree in Liberal Arts. For one year, he enrolled under the 3rd Year Teacher Preparation Program for academic year 2004-2005 and took part in a summer 2005 internship for Undergraduate Mentoring in Environmental and Biological Sciences (UMEB) for 10 weeks where he developed an interest in natural sciences.

He studied at University of Hawaii at Manoa fall 2006 and graduated with bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences in 2009 and went on to University of Hawaii at Hilo majoring in Tropical Conservation Biology & Environment Science and graduated with a Master's Degree in 2013.

Despite such academic success in a difficult field and many opportunities for employment and higher pay in Hawaii and beyond the shores of Micronesia, Peltin felt the call to return home to family and to help other young minds achieve similar success. He said he wanted to return home because, "I know that with the science background I possessed I believe I can make a difference in the younger students. I grew up knowing that science is one of the toughest subjects in elementary and high school levels, so this prompted me to come back and become a science instructor".

Peltin went on to answer these questions and this is how he answered.

What satisfaction do you get out of interacting with students? What are you most proud of working at the same college where you graduated?

"Being an instructor is not always easy, especially if you're a first timer. Then after a while, you start adjusting to the needs of the students and how you can improve their learning capacity. The satisfaction I get out of interacting with students is that I know they are learning the concepts being delivered. I'm most proud of the students who are starting college here at the COM-FSM before going abroad to pursue advance degrees overseas. I strongly recommend that students should come to this college first before going overseas to continue".

A two year community college is a good predatory program to four year institutions and students who transferred after an Associate Degree program have better chances of preforming better at four year US colleges.

How do you think you are contributing to the success of your students?
"I know that students learn differently; some can learn via listening, reading, visualization and by hands on activities. To ensure I provide different scenarios, I do Powerpoint presentations where students can see and read what I'm covering while listening to the lecture. As for the part where students learn from writing, I provide handouts and assessments. Group work activities are common in my courses as well. I'm also serving as a tutor at the college for all science courses."

What are some important lessons learned you would impart on students studying at the college and at high schools to have a successful professional career?
"I strongly enforce my students to submit their assignments on time and not to skip quizzes and tests. Getting the habit and submitting and doing assessments on time can help build punctuality. I also require students to mainly speak English during class to help improve their presentation and communication skills."

What do you enjoy best about teaching at the college and teaching science courses?
"There are many things I enjoy about teaching here at the college, but the one thing I enjoy the most is when I evidently know that students are learning. I keep telling others, these students have great potentials, and we just have to help them realize it."

A Coconut Cultivation and Pest Control Technology Workshop- Sponsored by the Chinese Government in the FSM

A Coconut Cultivation and Pest Control Technology Workshop Sponsored by the Chinese government was held in the four states of Micronesia, starting with Yap in June, followed by Chuuk and Kosrae, and ending in Pohnpei in July.

The workshop, conducted by the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Science (CATAS), was well facilitated by the Chinese Embassy and the FSM Federal Department of Resources and Development. More than 90 courses in the four states, covering the aspects of varieties of coconut, coconut processing, coconut pest control and so on, were given by professors from the academy. More than 100 trainees attended the courses.

Coconut is called "the Tree of Life" in the FSM. "FSM is very rich in coconut and other tropical plants, but in FSM, we only have coconut forest but no coconut plantation," said Liu Guodao, the vice president of the CATAS and the team leader. Most of the trainees, after this workshop, said they had mastered some basic and useful knowledge to improve the coconut production.

Chinese Ambassador Huang Zheng, the Acting Secretary of Federal R&D Hubert Yamada, the Assistant Secretary of Federal R&D Marlyter P. Silbanuz and the Assistant Secretary of Federal Department of Foreign Affairs Brendy Carl attended the closing ceremony in Pohnpei and handed the certificates to the trainees. The Deputy Chief of Mission of Chinese Embassy Li Cuiying attended the opening ceremony of the workshop in Yap and introduced the agricultural cooperation between China and the FSM.

Ambassador Huang Zheng pointed out in his speech, "Mutual respect, equal treatment and common development are the essential characteristics of China-FSM strategic partnership. The success of this training course once again proves that China is sincere and selfless to help our friends. China aid is to meet the most urgent and realistic needs of the local people. Our training program has made an important contribution to settle the survival problems of thousands of families in the region. We sincerely hope that our friends in the FSM can develop better and better and develop together with China. Next year is the 30th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the FSM. I believe that there will be more and more similar exchanges between China and the FSM, which will continue to benefit the two peoples and consolidate the friendship between the two countries and build our promising future together."

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President Donald J. Trump approves a Disaster Declaration for the FSM

By The White House
United States Government

July 20, 2018
Washington D.C.-- Yesterday, President Donald J. Trump declared a disaster under the Compact of Free Association between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, due to severe storms, flooding, and landslides during the period of March 16 to March 17, 2018.

The President's action makes Federal funding available for U.S. Government emergency relief and reconstruction assistance to the Federated States of Micronesia in accordance with Public Law 108-188, as amended, including Article X of the Federal Programs and Services Agreement to the Compact of Free Association. President Peter M. Christian of the Federated States of Micronesia requested a disaster declaration on June 13, 2018.

The U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance will coordinate U.S. Government disaster assistance efforts in conjunction with the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia.

Micronesian Games Council selects RMI as host for the 10th Micronesian Games

By Senator Aurelio Joab

July 22, 2018
Yap—The Micronesian Games Council (MGC) held its regular meeting at noon today. Among the many items and issues discussed during the meeting, two important matters were resolved by the Council including the review and approval of the bids submitted by island states/nations who are willing to host the 10th Micronesian Games in 2022.

Mr. Terry Slasher, Secretary General of the Marshall Islands National Olympic Committee, submitted a bid on behalf of RMI to host the next Micro Games in Majuro in 2022. Mr. Sasher gave a comprehensive presentation on how the RMI has been preparing to host the Games. They plan to construct a competition venue for athletics (track and field) on a manmade landfill within the Majuro Lagoon that will include parking spaces, concession areas, grandstand and other required sporting facilities. It is expected that this major infrastructure will cost around $7.5 million. Other competition venues will include basketball gymnasium, beach volleyball, fast-pitch softball fields for both men and women, lawn tennis courts, Micronesian All Around, spear fishing, swimming pool, table tennis, canoe racing, indoor volleyball gym, weightlifting, and wrestling facilities. Altogether, the RMI is expecting to spend $12 million for all of the facilities.

The second and final agenda item discussed was the reorganization of the Micronesian Games Council. Terry Sasher of RMI was elected Treasurer, Joey Miranda II of Guam was elected Secretary General, and Aurelio P. Joab of Pohnpei was elected President, replacing Bill Keldermans, a US national who has been living in Palau for the past 50 years. Keldermans served as President of the Council for the past three Micro Games. The first President, Bill Sakovich is also an American who earlier resided in Saipan and now lives in Hawaii. Sakovich served as President from 1990 until Keldermans took over in 2006. Joab is the third President and the first Micronesian ever elected to the post of the Presidency of the Micronesian Games Council.

Aurelio has previously served as President of the Pohnpei Basketball Association and President of the FSM Basketball Federation. He is currently President of the FSM Tae Kwon Do Federation.

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE KASELEHLIE PRESS WILL BE RELEASED ON:

August 20, 2018

Deadline for submission of articles or advertisements for this issue is the end of working hours on:

Friday August 15, 2018

CORRECTIONS FROM LAST ISSUE:

The article from the July 23, 2018 issue entitled, "Pohnpei Port transhipment increases" by NORMA was accidentally truncated during layout of the newspaper. The last sentence should have read, "Thus, fishing activities increased in the FSM for the past 3 months." Our apologies for the inconvenience.

Additionally, Anthony Tareg of Yap graciously gave his permission for us to print a still from his video on the opening of the Micro Games in Yap. We failed to print the credit in the newspaper for his great work. Thank you to Anthony Tareg.

Heroes' Welcome

Continued from front page

the first time for a Pohnpei team to medal in a very long time.

Pohnpei's basketball team came home with bronze medals.

Pohnpei men brought home gold and bronze medals for Micronesian All Around. Pohnpei women brought home gold and silver in the event.

Kestra Aileen Kihleng brought home a very respectable bronze medal for the 2.5 km open water swimming event. It was not only Kihleng's second ever open water swimming event but also only her second long distance swim competition of any kind. She also came in at a respectable fourth place in the 5K open water swim.

Defending soccer champions, Pohnpei again brought home the gold.

Taylor Paul won a bronze medal for individual spear fishing and Pohnpei's spearfishing team brought home silver.

In table tennis the men's team brought silver. Men's doubles also earned silver, and John Thomsin brought bronze in singles.

Pohnpei women brought silver in Va'a while the men brought bronze.

Pohnpei's weightlifters and wrestlers brought home an impressive number of medals in a variety of event. Weightlifters brought home four gold medals, 10 silver medals, and two bronze. Wrestlers brought home seven gold medals, 11 silver medals, and three bronze.

Complete results for the Micro Games can be found at http://websites.sportstg.com/medal.cgi?mt=28&pID=1 .

The next Micro Games will be in RMI in 2022.

Alumni Success

Dr. Padwick and Mrs. Suzanne Lowe Gallen were both students of the college who have become active members of the college community.

Dr. Padwick and Mrs. Suzanne Gallen at the colleges' 25th Anniversary Celebrations.

Mrs. Suzanne Gallen entered the college's Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) in Fall of 1997. After receiving several scholarships, including the first Pohnpei Rotary Scholarship, she transferred to the University of Hawaii at Manoa where she studied Political Science, English, Psychology and Women's Studies. Adding to her academic accolades are various qualifications in Diplomacy and Development Studies, all of which could have easily landed her anywhere in the world, but she chose to come back to Pohnpei to try to make a difference in her community.

Suzanne currently works as the Senior Program Manager at the Australian Embassy in Pohnpei, where, amongst a long list of duties, she manages and implements development assistance programs in the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. Prior to joining the Aussies, she was the Chief of Statistics, Compliance and Technical Projects at the FSM National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA). She also served as the Assistant Director for Compact Management at the FSM Office of Statistics, Budget & Economic Management, Overseas Development Assistance & Compact Management (SBOC). Her early career was with the FSM Department of Foreign Affairs, where she was the Deputy Assistant Secretary for American Affairs. Her work experience also includes paralegal duties with the Domestic Violence Clearinghouse and Legal Hotline and the Family Law Center, both in Honolulu, Hawaii. She also was employed as an Enumerator for the US Census Bureau surveying FSM citizens in Hawaii.

Dr. Padwick Gallen entered the college when it was still the Community College of Micronesia (CCM). During his time there, the college moved campuses and established itself as the College of Micronesia-FSM, where he received an Associates of Arts in Liberal Arts in 1993. He then went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Biology in 1998 from the University of Hawaii-Hilo. After being awarded a full scholarship to attend the Fiji School of Medicine, Padwick graduated in 2005 with a Bachelor in Medicine and Bachelor in Surgery. He later returned to the Fiji School of Medicine to attain a Post-graduate Diploma in General Surgery in 2011, a Post-graduate Diploma in Ophthalmology in 2012, and a Masters of Medicine in Ophthalmology in 2015.

Dr. and Mrs. Gallen with children Padrake and Gabriella.

Dr. Gallen is currently the resident Ophthalmologist for the Pohnpei State Department of Health Services (DHS). Prior to his current role, he served as a General Practitioner for DHS. In a keynote speech he gave at the opening of the college's 25th Anniversary celebrations, Dr. Gallen shared his work experience and insight on what it means to be successful:

> "Success can be defined in so many ways. In my line of work success is restoring vision. Restoring vision brings hope to those who have lost their ability to see."

Like his wife, the good doctor is also a member of several community and regional organizations such as the Conservation Society of Pohnpei and the Pacific Eye Care Society. As the country's first and currently only Ophthalmologist, Dr. Gallen participates in medical outreach visits to neighboring islands, bringing specialized medical services to communities.

Dr. and Mrs. Gallen both credit the college for opening the door to their successes academically and professionally. In Dr. Gallen's words: "I would not be where I am today had I not attended the College of Micronesia-FSM." Their success allows them to give back to their community and to the college. Dr. and Mrs. Gallen are recognized on the college's 25th Anniversary Donors' Wall as contributors to the Endowment Fund.

Despite their busy professional careers, the time they enjoy the most is with what they call the greatest of successes—their two beautiful children, Gabriella and Padrake.

The college is proud to have been a part of the successes of Dr. Padwick Gallen and Suzanne Gallen. Growing from students to productive members of the community, they are examples of what the college strives for in delivering its mission. "Vision brings hope" and the college will continue to bring that vision to students to turn their hopes into their successes.

Share your story by emailing us at alumnisuccess@comfsm.fm We want hear about your achievements!

Fall 2018 Registration

Event	Date
New Students Orientation	August 9-10, 2018
Fall 2018 Regular Registration	August 15-17, 2018
First Day of Instruction	***August 20, 2018***

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Fax: (691)320-2479
E-Mail: national@comfsm.fm

Chuuk Campus
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Fax: (691)330-2740
E-Mail: chuuk@comfsm.fm

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U.S EMBASSY INVITES THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO A SEALED BID AUCTION

Bid Date:
Monday & Tuesday, August 27 & 28, 2018
PICK UP DATE: Wednesday August 29, 2018

Location:
Pohnpei Peace Corps Office

ITEMS FOR BID:
- Vehicle
- Furniture
- Misc. office equipment (IT equipment & general equipment)

LOCATION:
Pohnpei Peace Corps Office

VIEWING STARTS:
9:00AM- 5:00PM
Monday, August 27 2018

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT SEALED BID:
9:00AM- 3:30PM
Tuesday, August 28 2018

OPENING OF BIDS:
Winning bidders will be notified by Phone starting on Wednesday, August 29 2018. Items must be picked up as soon as possible.

SEALED BID SALE WILL BE CONDUCTED UNDER THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

--Property sold on an "as-is-where-is basis" for cash payment without refund or warranty by Peace Corps/US Government

--The purchaser shall pay any customs duties, local taxes, or other charges imposed by the Govemment of Pohnpei or the FSM.

--Successful bidder must pay the full bid amount in cash, or Cashier's check payable to USDO.

--All fully purchased items must be removed from Peace Corps premises immediately following payment

--US Embassy and/or Peace Corps reserves the right to reject any or all bids

-No "ghost bids" allowed

-Bidder should be at least 18 years of age to be eligible to participate in the auction.

* * * * * * ****** ** * ** * ** * * * * * * * * * * * * ** **** ** *

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Opinion Editorial

The Proposed Compact of 'Dis-Association' and 're-Association' for the 'Republic' of Chuuk

In 2014 the Chuuk State Legislature enacted a law which created the Chuuk Future Status Commission the purpose of which is "to review and recommend possible political status suitable for long term financial survival of Chuuk State after the economic assistance provided under the amended compact between the FSM and US expires in 2023, and for other purposes." To fulfil this long-term financial survival, the Commission imported economic and legal theorists to undertake a study for the purpose of recommending a pathway to 'solve' Chuuk's financial shortfalls post 2023. However, they argued that in order to do so Chuuk must disengage itself from the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM).
Consequently, a Report was produced by the Consultants hired by the Commission, however the whole Report has not been released to the public. The reasons for that is unknown.

The Commission is taking a strong pro secessionist movement by littering the political landscape with distorted language that is driving a system of self-perpetuating disinformation. Its objective is to convince the people of Chuuk to march falsely towards a brave new world just looming over the horizon. In the Commission's mind the Chuukese people have been economically oppressed by the wrath of FSM's own internal colonialism, and thereby seeks to progress secession, which they assert should emancipate the people from this notional oppression.

They assert that independence for Chuuk will mean to live in a harmonious utopia saved by the magical hands of the Commission. The problem with this utopian dream, however, is that the Commission is fundamentally involved in the usurpation of the spirit, scope, and the textual languages of the FSM Constitution. It is the FSM Constitution that will be the battleground for any attempt to secede from the Federation. In many public forums the Commission condemn the FSM Constitution as nothing more than a convenient document used as a vehicle by the forefathers to facilitate their earlier wish of a federation. The Commission argue that such a case no longer applies today especially when a state, like Chuuk, wishes to determine its own future. This is in spite of the very fact that self-determination was decided by Chuuk residents in 1978, when they voted to be a part of the FSM.

Self-determination was then sealed in 1979, today the Commission has invented an issue where one did not exist. On what basis does the Commission assert that Chuuk can now ignore the past decision of their forefathers who created the FSM, and attempt to disassociate itself from the rest of the federation, and then assert under International law the ability to become a Republic.

It should be remembered that self-determination has been formalised by the FSM Constitution. The Constitution deliberately established the doctrine of "unity in diversity". This is the very foundation upon which the FSM is founded as an undivided sovereign nation, and it has been fully upheld by the community of nations.

The Constitution is the collective power of the people. It provides points of reference for citizens to rely upon when confronted with complex issues from both within, and outside the FSM. The Constitution epitomizes Micronesian independence, reconciles internal differences, and asserts a distinct politico-cultural identity. It also represents a Micronesian centered outlook in terms of its future survival regarding economic development, the Compact of Free Association, foreign relations, climate change, globalization, secession movement, and leadership issues. The future success of the FSM could be found in the depth of its own historical experiences, which ensure the perpetuation of control, self-preservation, and continuity.

The people of the FSM should continue to harness their strengths to deflect this uninvited pursuit by the Chuuk Commission and its creator, the pro-independence members in the Chuuk State Legislature. It must be remembered that the founding fathers fought hard for Micronesian unity as framed and advanced by the FSM Constitution. It is therefore only proper that the FSM Constitution should be protected at all costs if Micronesian values are to remain the shield in this changing globalised world.

Differences in opinions between the states and the national governments often arise because of jurisdictional issues and it is not new. Domestic debates, however, are fundamentally essential steps towards developing FSM's social and political health; they provide opportunities for self-evaluation, and thus the resolution of complex issues. The pro- independence members of the Chuuk Legislature and its Commission should take note of this.

The Constitution is not a romantic novel wherein the Commission can seductively sweep the Chuuk population off its feet and lead it to its imagined promised land. Of course, the Commission is testing FSM's strength, integrity, and continuity. What the Commission does not fully comprehend is the historical appreciation of the enduring hard work of our forefathers and what they had to shoulder in order to propel the FSM onto the international stage. Such is not written in the annals of Micronesian colonial history; it requires deep intellectual engagement with the historical literature for one to comprehend the

See "Editorial" on page 14

4th Annual Ace Hardware "Kids' Tournament" held in Pohnpei

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

July 28, 2018
Pohnpei—Ace Hardware sponsored its 4th Annual Ace Hardware Kids' Fishing Tournament today. Several children participated in a half day of fishing inside Pohnpei's lagoon both for fun and for possible prizes.

The weigh in was held at noon at the Mangrove Bay Bar and Grill. It's always a fun event to photograph, and the children have a great time.

Ace Hardware sponsored prizes including Ace gift certificates and two new bicycles for big fish, pretty fish, and ugly fish. They also provided free hot dogs for all and gift bags for every child who participated.

Winners for the competition for ugliest and prettiest fish were decided by angler response as each fish was held up. Ethan Mamangon won the prize for prettiest fish and Ian Boylan won the prize for ugliest fish.

The Pohnpei Fishing Club did not provide the species of fish caught nor the prizes won in the information they gave to The Kaselehlie Press.

In the Big Fish category, Melisha Isaac came in fifth place with a 1.9 pound fish. Kristen Henry caught a 2.8 pound fish. Rylan Yinug's fish was 5.7 pounds. The top two prize winners were Noah Adams with a fish of 7.7 pounds and Connor Boylan whose fish was 8.3 pounds.

As close relatives of the sponsors, Boylan and Adams agreed to give up the bicycles their catches had earned them. They conducted a hastily arranged lottery for each of the bicycles, one for a boy and one for a girl.

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CLOSING DATE: 23 August 2018 (5pm Pohnpei Time)

20th Congress convenes its 5th Special Session

July 31, 2018
PALIKIR, POHNPEI – The Fifth Special Session of the 20th Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia is scheduled to convene on August 2-7 as called by President Peter M. Christian.

In his letter to Speaker Wesley W. Simina, the President requested the Congress to consider "urgent matters that remain pending with Congress" from the Executive Branch which included:

1. Appropriations for the startup costs of PATS;

2. Appropriations for the fiber optic project Cable Landing Station in Chuuk State;

3. Appropriations for the PII Litigation;

4. Pending Nominations for important advice and consent position of the National Government; and

5. Other equally urgent matters that Congress deems necessary for their consideration and action.

The 5th Special Session was originally planned for July 30, 2018, but due to conflicting flight schedules it has been postponed until August 2, this Thursday.

Sessions of the Congress are open to all interested members of the general public.

FSM Government receives an 11 million Grant from the World Bank To strengthen its Public Financial Management systems, including PFMS for the four States, Kosrae, Pohnpei, Chuuk and Yap

The objective of the Strengthening Public Financial Management Project for Micronesia is to improve tax administration and the completeness, reliability and timeliness of financial reports of the National and State Governments. The project has 5 components. 1. Strengthening the public financial management environment component will strengthen the Public Financial Management (PFM) environment by ensuring that the legal and regulatory framework and the procedural guidance for business processes governing budget formulation, budget execution, and financial reporting for revenues and expenditures are internally consistent, aligned with the applicable accounting guidance, and streamlined for efficiency. The scope will include all five governments, each of which has its own set of regulations and procedures. 2. Financial management information system component will implement a new Financial Management Information System that will support effective management of public resources and improve financial reporting for management and accountability. 3. Revenue Management System (RMS) component will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of revenue management for the National Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). 4. Change management and human resource development component will successful implementation of the FMIS and the RMS with active stakeholder engagement and development of individual competencies and institutional capacity needed to sustain FMIS and RMS operations and related PFM functions. The project will support capacity building in the Department of Finance and Administration (DoFA) and other agencies with key roles in the PFM cycle such as the Office of the National Public Auditor. 5. Project management component will support overall project management and coordination.

PROJECT AT-A-GLANCE

Project ID	P161969
Country	Micronesia, Federated States of
Region	East Asia and Pacific
Status	Active
Approval Date	(as of board presentation) May 30, 2018
Closing Date	September 25, 2023
Total Project Cost**	US$ 11.50 million
Commitment Amount	US$ 11.00 million
Team Leader	Robert J. Gilfoyle, Winston Percy Onipede Cole

** The project abstract is drawn from the PAD, SAR or PGD and may not accurately reflect the project's current nature*

*** Total project cost includes funding from World Bank and non-bank sources in US$ millions. Active and Closed projects show commitment at Board approval. It does not reflect any cancellations. Proposed (pipeline) and dropped projects show the forecast amount. The commitment amount for projects in the pipeline is indicative and may be modified during the project preparation.*

...Editorial

Continued from page 12

inner sanctum of Micronesian perspective.

Many observers have predicted that Chuuk's independence will not succeed. That is because the principal issues for independence are deeper than mere economic ideals. For example, the Commission's express a desire for Chuuk to be economically independent, but do not suggest or provide any plausible economic model for Chuuk that would enable it to sustain itself into the future. The economic outlook for a "Republic" of Chuuk would rely heavily upon foreign aid sources, and a separate Compact with the USA. However, a terminal problem to that hope is that the USA has stated unreservedly that it will not enter into a separate Compact with Chuuk. The Commission has ignored the statement from the US Ambassador and continues to mislead the public asserting that the USA will somehow change its mind in the future.

The Commission using its art of persuasion proposes a two-pronged process. In the first instance, Chuuk will disengage or disassociate itself from the Federation and then secondly, enter into a separate Compact with the USA. Herein lies what political observers have referred to as the "Compact of Dis-Association and Re-Association". This is mind boggling.

The proposed relationship with the USA is a fictional relationship outside the realms of both international relations and international law.

The Commission's insistence upon secession is not new, as it is revisiting the old rhetoric regarding the division of the FSM economic pie. This rhetoric constantly reasserts that Chuuk should have the lion's share of the Federation's funds since it is the most populous state. It also blames the other states for draining the nation's purse by chronic mismanagement; and that this is to blame for Chuuk's present dire financial position. The litany of blame, has impacted negatively on the Chuukese diaspora. The cry for independence, some have argued, is a political ploy employed by the prime movers of the secession movement, in order to maximise their personal chance of becoming the main beneficiaries in the imaginary Republic of Chuuk.

The Commission must seriously understand that its reckless behavior will trigger the beginning of the end of what we know as Chuuk state. Chuuk is therefore sitting on the edge of a cliff ready to inflict self-harm which will eventually lead to the fragmentation of the Chuuk State itself. For example, no one genuinely knows what action the other regions such as, the Mortlocks and Northwest of Chuuk, will consider in the pursuit of their own regional interests. This stems from the fact that each municipality has an inherent right, under the Chuuk Constitution, for self-determination. If self-determination is the premise upon which the Commission is used in pursuit of independence, then equally the same argument applies to each of the municipalities in respect to their own future. The Commission should not intervene in a municipality's own constitutional affairs. Those in the secessionist movement need to understand that to secede they will need to overcome many complex hurdles not yet apparent to them, with no prospect of USA financial support. Such hurdles include compliance with Constitutional processes both at the state and national levels, international law, statutory and also the common law system, which is often ignored. There are more hurdles at the state level not yet fully exposed as all depend upon how the Commission operate its political game, but may include litigation on the basis that the Commission is operating outside its jurisdiction as established under the Chuuk law.

Recently, the US Ambassador to the FSM, Mr. Riley, travelled to Chuuk state to clarify the position of the USA in relation to the suggestion by the Commission that a separate Compact will be forged between the USA and the imagined Republic of Chuuk. Unfortunately, the Ambassador had to endure cheap and arrogant remarks targeted at him by the pro- secessionist proponents. He was accused of intervening in the political process of Chuuk and its desire for independence. Ambassador Riley's comments resulted in angry outbursts towards him personally, as exemplified by the remarks of the spokesperson of the Commission wherein he stated that, "nowhere in the Compact does it allow the ambassador of either FSM or USA to go into the other country to directly and personally participate in the political process to influence the outcome of a local election or plebiscite".

This venomous personal vendetta defies the deep customary practice of "sufen" (respect) towards a high-ranking official of a country, in this case the USA, when delivering a message from his superiors in Washington DC. Additionally, perhaps the Chairman should closely and objectively review the history of the Compact, its relationship with the FSM Constitution, and the practices of international protocols governing the conduct of ambassadors.

The Commission was embarrassingly caught red handed by the public about how the USA have not agreed to a separate Compact. It has also apparently dawned on the Commission that the proponents will 'lose' the currently enjoyed cargo-cult perks, without a Compact with the USA. Its economic dream is quickly evaporating into a distant memory and yet the Commission continues to drive a movement towards a Republic that would be bankrupt and isolated and possible smaller if the outer municipalities determine their future is to remain as part of the FSM.

The fact remains that Chuuk is a part of the FSM, and cannot unilaterally disassociate from the FSM outside the provisions of the Constitution. Moreover, how can the Commission continue to operate and voice an 'authoritative' view when it was dissolved on March 31, 2016, pursuant to the terms of the legislation which created it. The Commission must stop confusing the Chuukese population with unattainable and self-promoting dreams of independence when it is neither simple, nor better economically for the population of Chuuk. The Commission needs to come to a sobering reality, and that is the public can no longer tolerate its untruthful spin.

Zag Puas (PhD) Chuuk Unity Group

Filming our Journeys

By Denise Oen and Delihna Ehmes

The College of Micronesia is taking innovative measures to ensure student success. This summer, we combined an English course (ESL 089) with the History of Micronesia (SS 150). The cross disciplinary course was known as Filming Our Journeys: Connecting Micronesian History to Contemporary Islander Life. Seventeen incoming freshmen enrolled and were taught by the team of Delihna Ehmes and Denise Oen.

The first two weeks of the class had a storytelling (via film) for social justice focus. Dan Lin (a well-known photographer and filmmaker) and Canita Rilomento (an experienced community educator) both of the Pacific Resources for Education and Learning organization, designed and implemented this workshop with the assistance of Ehmes and Oen. During these two weeks, the students learned all aspects of filmmaking from: the coming up with the original concept, to script writing, to storyboarding, to direction and filming, and then on to the final editing and eventual screening. Students were very proud of their films and shared their work with their family and friends via social media. They also held a screening for several college administrators: Maria Dison, Karen Simion, and Joseph Felix, Jr. They were so impressed with the students' work that they requested the films be part of the orientation for new students this fall.

A key aspect of the filmmaking workshop was interviewing community leaders for their insights and guidance on continuing to improve communities in the Federated States of Micronesia. They interviewed: Bethwell Henry, Rufino Mauricio, Jennifer Helieisar, John Haglelgam, Marstella Jack, Bruce Robert, and Delihna Ehmes. The gift of hearing from these leaders was very illuminating across many issues. These interviews were then edited together to make short films. These films will be shared with the larger education community across Pohnpei.

After the workshop, the class continued with the cohort configuration of the same students in both classes with two professors. Denise taught ESL 089 and Delihna taught SS 150. They connected their course content through shared class experiences including readings, films, field trips, small group presentations, and discussions. The ESL 089 course content included contemporary islander topics which connected with the content of the History of Micronesia: Cultural Representations of Pacific Islanders. Islander Migration and Immigration, Micronesians in the Military, and Island Economics.

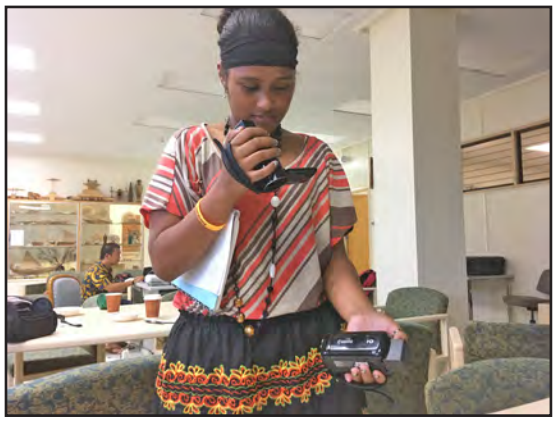
We read books about the History of Micronesia, explored articles regarding contemporary island issues, watched films (Island Soldier, Whale Rider, Cannibal Tours, etc.), participated in role plays about colonialism , went on field trips (Nan Mandal, Sokhes Ridge, Sokhes Island, PMK fish market, and the Bank of the FSM.) We had many class discussions and the students learned that you need to know "why" you think the way you do because Delihna and Denise are going to ask!

Students achieved the learning outcomes in both courses and are now adept at strategies and techniques needed for college: analysis and synthesis of information, reading for information strategies, writing thoughtful and reflective essays, and creating presentations for their classmates. Their knowledge of the History of Micronesia is now substantial and the conversations throughout the summer demonstrated a critical awareness of the complexity of the multiple narratives of what has happened on the islands that they love.

Students also figured out how to be a "college student." They learned how to be responsible for attendance and timeliness, how to work with others, how to speak publicly, and how to navigate the college system as a whole.

Another important part of the class was the creation of a "family of learners." Using the research on Culturally Relevant and Sustaining Pedagogy, we used a "family" approach. We held class in a room which permitted classroom discussions in the round, lots of room for meeting in small groups, and even room to stretch out on the floor to work in close proximity to others. We shared our lunches, fell asleep together on the van on the way back from long field trips, and celebrated birthdays and goodbyes. We laughed and cried together during movies, "argued" during role plays, and cheered our learners on as they continued to accept every challenge we offered them.

Success can be measured in a plethora of ways. The course had a 94% completion rate and a 100% passing rate. Clearly this points to an innovation worth continuing. We also asked for student feedback and their thoughts were equally evident that this course is a move in the right direction.



- I believe this class has connected in the way Micronesians live. …We got used to each other, we grew as one even with our strong diversity. We've come to love in harmony, we're undivided, we're one family, and we're brothers and sisters. When went on trips, we shared snacks, and we waited for others to catch up on our walk up to Sokhes Ridge. We grew as one and helped one another like a family.

- I experienced many things in this class and the best is that I got to learn more about Pohnpei's history. I watched a lot of emotional movies, I got to know many friends in our small group work. I'm was so excited about our trips together and thankful to those guest speakers who put in their time for us. I'm so proud of myself that I can film my own movie or film it with my classmates.

- Now I have learned how to be a filmmaker, a writer, and an explorer. I'm sure I'm ready to put on my shades and face the fall semester.

We are so grateful to have had the opportunity to teach and learn with these young adults this summer and can't wait to work with them again soon.

Student films can be viewed at the Pacific Storytellers Cooperative's YouTube Channel https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw-X1qYcPkaJSUzlFu3M0Dw/videos

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Launched in 2013, The Vital Group's Corporate Social Responsibility Program is dedicated to giving back to the communities that we serve. Through this program, The Vital Annual Scholarship was established, and is being administered by The Rotary Club of Pohnpei. The scholarship is designed to support FSM students in post-secondary studies within the fields of Engineering, Accounting, Finance, Business, Agriculture, Chemistry and other fields relevant to Vital's sphere of operations. Vital also contributes $5,000 per annum in support of The Rotary Club of Pohnpei's own scholarship program.

We are very proud to award The 2nd Vital Annual Scholarship to these five exceptional scholars from the FSM:
Stewart Johnny (Agriculture) Pamela Fredrick (Computer Science) Andrew Musrasrik (Engineering)
Jamilyn Mooteb (Physics) and Rennie Glen "RG" Taiwerpal (Agriculture).

RECIPIENTS OF THE 2018-2019 VITAL SCHOLARSHIP

Congratulations!

The Application Season reopens April 2019. For more information, contact: rotarypohnpei@gmail.com