First Animated Chamorro Language Film Screened at UOG

CLASS sponsored the public screening of “Maisa, the Chamoru Girl who Saves Guahan” the first Chamorro language animated film, at the CLASS Lecture Hall on December 12. There were multiple showings and each showtime was open and free to the public. The film is an adaptation of the Chamoru legend, “The Maidens who Saved Guam.” The film featured island children and was produced by the Guam Department of Education Chamorro Studies and Special Projects Division.

The Triton’s Call: 50th Anniversary

The CO355 Communication Field Experience class, together with the communication student organizations of the UOG Communication Society and the Lambda Pi Eta: Alpha Beta Eta Chapter, organized the Triton’s Call 50th Anniversary banquet to commemorate the golden anniversary of the campus newspaper. The event was held at the Latte of Freedom. The first issue was released in October 8, 1965, which was then known as “The Triton.” After years of development and name changes, The Triton’s Call has been an instrument of information and news for UOG students and the community. At this event, the organizers also honored past editors, advisors, alumni, and current students who have worked with the Triton’s Call.
From the Dean’s Desk

Dear Faculty, Staff, and Students, January 4, 2016

Happy New Year! 新年快乐！Welcome back to campus and the beginning of the Spring semester, 2016. I hope you had a relaxing and productive holiday season.

This year the College will join an international network of Humanities for the Environment Observatories by establishing a Guam Observatory. The term “observatory” was chosen to stimulate the imagination of humanists to think outside the limitations of traditional humanities research initiatives. The common research question shared by the international network of observatories is: what is the role of the humanities in the age of the Anthropocene? The aim is threefold: first, to map and expand ongoing projects and activities in the home regions; second, to develop linkages, networks and new research questions and outcomes; and finally, to begin a transformative process that can test new models for humanities outcomes, public engagement, policy formulation, and pedagogical impact.

The Humanities for the Environment Guam Observatory should assist us in breaking the self-imposed silence of the liberal arts by advocating the importance of the humanities and social sciences in climate change issues and ecological sustainability. Both the Good to Great process and the new General Education structure require that we, the practitioners of the liberal arts, need to convince other programs within and beyond the College to accept the value of the arts, the humanities and the social sciences for developing the student’s command of the five core competencies.

Carol Geary Schneider and David Townsend in “Defunding Disciplines Basic to Democracy (Liberal Education, 99/3, Summer 2013) lament that many leaders “…think technical training and job skills are the way to prosperity and security.” They argue that deep emersion in the humanities and arts are the correct path to “…be successful in the pursuit of happiness, economic justice and entrepreneurial prosperity…” (p. 2).

They claim that:

“The contemporary dismissal of the humanities and arts weakens America domestically and also undermines brave people globally seeking to build effective self-governing republics based on the consent of the people. Those serious about these goals understand that the ideas of democracy and liberty are stronger than militaries or disbursals of cash. Free societies will not be achieved by technocratic means without a foundation in ideas and values. The humanities and arts are disciplines ‘basic to democracy’ because, while all learning is important to civic inquiry and vitality, the humanities and arts play a distinctive role in developing knowledge and a temper of mind and heart that are indispensable to a free society” (p. 3).

A diversity of ideas is needed to bring order and rational discourse to a diverse community let alone a diverse world.

Biba the Arts and Humanities! Biba UOG! Wishing you a fruitful and productive 2016 Spring semester.

Yours Truly,
James D. Sellmann, Ph.D.
Dr. Kirill O. Thompson visited UOG on 03 December 2015 to introduce the Humanities for the Environment project to us. National Taiwan University has an East Asian Observatory in place. CLASS plans on developing a Guam Observatory to bring the Humanities into the sustainability and environmental ethics discussion.

Carlos Taitano (Director, PIP) and Mr. Kato (President, Niigata College of Art and Design) donating $581 to the UOG art program. NCAD students sold their art work and donated the funds to UOG.

Pitch Perfect

The Latte Tones along with the University Jazz Ensemble performed music from the movies Pitch Perfect 1 and 2 on October 9 and 10, 2015. Both nights were sold out shows and two extra shows were opened up to accommodate the demand. A special performance was also held on November 6 for Price and Liguan Elementary school. The Latte Tones were also be special guests on Power 98 during the Morning Blender with Kyle Mandapat and on i94’s Live Local Friday. The show included popular songs from the movie such as, “the Cup song,” “Since U Been Gone" and “Flashlight.” Overall the concert was a success, and many audience members look forward to future concerts by the group.
Faculty Travel Grants

- Raymond Anderson (CFA) was awarded $1035 to present at the Kennedy Center Theater Festival in Honolulu.
- Kyla Aquino (CFA) was awarded $1500 to present at the National Sex Education Conference in Newark, NJ.
- Michelle Blas (CFA) was awarded $1035 to present at the Kennedy Center Theater Festival in Honolulu.
- Melissa Ghandour (CFA) was awarded $1035 to present at the Kennedy Center Theater Festival in Honolulu.
- Bill Jeffery (DH) was awarded $1500 to present at the International Congress of Maritime Museums in Hong Kong.
- Masumi Kai (DH) was awarded $1500 to do field research in Taipei and Japan.
- Irena Keckes (CFA) was awarded $1500 to present at the China Academy of Art Conference in Hang Zhou, China.
- Curtis Rigsby (DH) was awarded $1035 to present at the IAJP in Washington, DC.
- Carol Simpson-Warner (DEAL) was awarded $1035 to present at the NTA in Tampa.
- Michael Slane (CFA) was awarded $1035 to present at the Kennedy Center Theater Festival in Honolulu.
- Michael Stoil (SBS) was awarded $1500 to present at the ASA and WPSA Conferences in Washington, DC and California.
- James Viernes (DH) was awarded $1035 to present at the CPIS in Honolulu.

Student Travel Grants

- Fourteen of Rosa Palomo’s CM301 students were awarded $700 to travel to Rota.
- Twelve theatre students were awarded $3600 to present at the Kennedy Theater Center in Honolulu.
- William Sullivan, graduate student in English, was awarded $700 to present at the Kennedy Theater Center in Honolulu.

CSR Grants

- Amy Owen (SBS) was awarded $3000 to research course delivery methods.
- Masumi Kai (DH) was awarded $1000 to edit/proofread a book manuscript.
- Raymond Anderson (CFA) was awarded $3000 for the UOG Film Festival (UOGFF).
- Bill Jeffery (DH) was awarded $2220 for site recording methods research.
- Carol Simpson-Warner (DEAL) was awarded $780 for a First Year Experience project.
- Andrea Hartig (DEAL) was awarded $1000 to complete a multi-course Moodle project.
- Ann Ames (SBS) was awarded $3000 to do field research in Yap and Palau.
Puengen Minagof Nochebuena 2015

Courtesy M. Bevacqua
Undergraduate Research Symposium

On Friday, December 4, 2015, the Undergraduate Research Symposium was held at the University of Guam’s Tan Lam Pek Kim English and Communication building. About 30 students from two courses, EN111 Writing for Research and ED265 Culture and Education in Guam (under the instruction of Kisha Borja-Quichocho), presented their research on local and regional issues. The EN111 students presented their argumentative papers on topics including: the military buildup on Guam and in Okinawa; the ETG Chinese development in Yap; the renewal of the Comacts of Free Association for the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Guam’s political status, and educational reform. The ED265 students presented their problem-solution projects on topics including homelessness on Guam, lack of political status awareness, cultural misrepresentation, and the Guam Department of Education’s inability to meet the Adequate Education Act requirements. Each presentation was followed by a short Question and Answer session. Following the presentations, was poetry read by Carlin Montano (EN111) and Arielle Lowe (UOG student and poet).

Ceramic Celebration VIII

Ceramic Celebration is an annual fundraising event showcasing works by Professor Lewis Rifkowitz and local artists.
In the News

• Ann Ames and Amy Owen (SBS) will be on sabbatical in Spring 2016.
• Michael Bevacqua, Assistant Professor of Chamorro Studies, presented “Confronting Nuclear Legacies and Realities in Guam” on Dec. 3 in the Professional Development Room.
• Elizabeth Kelley Bowman, Assistant Professor of English and WG Program Coordinator, presented “Famalao’an Gera: Spaces of Silence and Vocality Regarding Sexual Violence and Intergenerational Trauma in Contemporary Chamorro Culture” Nov. 12 in the Professional Development Room.
• John Jason Del Castillo was hired as the new CLASS IT Technician.
• Kathleen Duenas (WPSII, DEAL) graduated in Fall 2015 with a Master’s in Public Administration.
• David Gugin (DEAL), Kim Skoog (DH), Michael Elhert (SBS), and Clarisa Quan (DEAL) were on sabbatical in Fall 2015.
• Anne Hattori’s seminal article, “Remembering the Past: Photography, Leprosy and the Chamorros of Guam, 1898-1924,” originally published in 2011, was selected to be included in the Journal of Pacific History special commemorative edition in celebration of the journal’s 50th anniversary.
• Bill Jeffery, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, presented “Reviving Community Spirit: Furthering the Sustainable, Historical and Economic Role of Fish Weirs and Traps” on Nov. 19.
• Irena Keckes, Assistant Professor of Art, presented “Impact 9 International Printmaking Conference Print in the Post-Print Age” on Nov. 5 in the Professional Development Room.
• Troy McVey (CFA) received the Region 8 American College Theatre Festival 2016 Innovative Teaching Award. This award is sponsored by the Association for Theatre in Higher Education, and only one award per region is given out annually. It is considered the highest faculty award of ACTF/ATHE and includes registration at the national ATHE Conference. McVey was nominated by Michelle Blas (CFA) and Jefferson Cronin (CFA) based on over eight years of effective classroom teaching, the innovative way in which Summer Theatre Camp trained UOG Theatre majors, and mentorship of students into nationally-ranked graduate programs.
• The Art Faculty Biennial opened at the Isla Center for the Arts on Thursday, December 3, at 6:00 p.m. This exhibition features the most current works by faculty members Ric Castro, Lewis Rifkowitz, Irena Keckes, Victor Consaga, and Perry Perez.
• Lambda Pi Eta, the Communication Honor Society, inducted new members on Oct. 23 in the Professional Development Room, CLASS Dean’s Office. Francis Dalisay, a new faculty member and graduate of the Communication program, was the guest speaker. Families and friends of the inductees were invited.
• The Communication Field Experience class held a public forum on what it takes to pursue a career in Communication and what careers it could lead to. Panelists featured at the forum include Communication Professor from the University of Guam Francis Dalisay; Publisher of Glimpses Publications Maureen Maratita, News Reporter from KUAM Kyrstal Paco, and Assistant Vice President of the Bank of Guam Brandon Lee Cruz.
Tears of the Mask Exhibit

UOG Fine Arts Faculty Biennial

Recent works created by the fine arts faculty members at the University of Guam were showcased in the Faculty Biennial show. Full-time professors Ric R. Castro, Irena Keckes, Lewis Rifkowitz and adjunct instructors Victor Consaga and Perry Perez were featured in this display that included paintings, ceramic vessels, prints, photographs and digital media.
Andrea Santos graduated from SDSU with a Masters of Science in Counseling. She remained at SDSU first as a post graduate teaching assistant and then lecturer for graduate courses including Multicultural Dimensions of Therapy, Microskills, Group Processes, and Research Methods. Currently, Andrea is a doctoral candidate at the Taos Institute where her ideas and research are guided by Drs. Kenneth Gergen and Shelia McNamee.

As a native Chamorro, as a clinician, and as a teacher Andrea has dedicated herself to self-determination in all of its manifestations for nations, communities, families, and individuals. She is joyful to return to Guam and to witness how her professional endeavors will join with her love of her family and island.

Andrea greatest achievements besides these are her friendships. She is also a novice blogger, novice writer, and novice practioneer of Buddhist mindfulness and meditation.

James Perez Viernes is from the village of Santa Rita and is a proud Triton alumnus, having earned a BA in English in 2003 from the University of Guam. As a Graduate Degree Fellow of the EastWest Center, he completed an MA in Pacific Islands Studies and a PhD in Pacific Islands History at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He has an established research and publication record focused on gender and militarism in the Pacific with an emphasis on Chamorro masculinities. He has been adjunct faculty at UOG since 2010, teaching History of Guam, Literature of Guam, Micronesia, and the Pacific, and various internships for students with Pacific-based interests. In addition to his teaching, he is the Student Advisement Specialist for CLASS.
Student Success

- Katie Mafnas successfully defended her thesis in the Master of Clinical Psychology program and was awarded a Master of Science degree.
- Alyssa Romine successfully defended her thesis in the Master of Clinical Psychology program and was awarded a Master of Science degree.
- A scene from the UOG performance of *Rashomon* was selected to be performed at the upcoming Kennedy Center for the Arts American College Theater Festival in Hawaii.
- At the Festival, Theater majors Joey Datuin and Robert Wang were also chosen to participate in the Irene Ryan Acting Competitions; Jesse Mantanona and Sara Untalan will serve as their scene partners.

On Tuesday, December 1, 2015 students from the University of Guam Communication Field Experience (CO355) class hosted a panel discussion on the increase of the tobacco use age from 18 to 21. The forum was held in the CLASS Dean’s Office Professional Development Room, and was open to the University community.

Panelists included Peter Cruz, Tobacco Cessation Counselor from the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center’s Prevention and Control Program; Elizabeth Guerrero, Program Manager from the Department of Public Health and Social Service’s Tobacco Prevention and Control Program; and also Samantha David, Student Government Association (SGA) President. The panelists engaged in discussion regarding the proposed bill and voiced their various professional opinions and thoughts on the topic.