



**UNIVERSITY OF GUAM  
UNIBETSEDĀT GUĀHAN  
Board of Regents**

**Resolution No. 22-29**

**RELATIVE TO EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO JOHN W. JENSON, PH.D. FOR HIS  
EXEMPLAR SERVICE AS FACULTY AND DIRECTOR OF THE WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF THE WESTERN PACIFIC FOR 29 YEARS**

**WHEREAS**, upon the retirement of Dr. John W. Jenson on September 30, 2022, the University of Guam (UOG) community wishes to express its sincere gratitude for his dedication and service;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Jenson received his Bachelor of Science in Economics degree as a distinguished graduate from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1975, a Master of Arts degree in Applied Economics from University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan in 1976, and a Ph.D. in Geology with minors in Civil Engineering and Water Resources from Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon, in 1995;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Jenson joined the faculty of the UOG's Water and Environmental Research Institute of the Western Pacific (WERI) on October 1, 1993, as hydrogeologist and groundwater modeler;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Jenson joined the faculty of the graduate Environmental Science Program, administered by the College of Natural and Applied Sciences, in which he taught courses in Hydrogeology, Pacific Island Geologic and Climatic History, and Scientific Competence and Integrity;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Jenson served as graduate advisor to twenty (20) of the sixty-nine (69) students who have completed theses in the program since 1997, five (5) who have went on to earn Ph.D.'s, and three (3) who won the UOG Presidential Thesis Award for the Outstanding Graduate Thesis of the year;

**WHEREAS**, during his career at UOG, Dr. Jenson collaborated with various colleagues on more than fifty (50) Journal articles; thirty (30) Technical Reports, thirty (30) Conference Proceedings, and seventy (70) Abstracts and Presentations;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Jenson was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor at UOG and to Colonel by the U.S. Air Force in 1997; and was promoted to Professor by UOG in 2002, and has served as a Professor of Environmental Geology ever since;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Jenson's research encompassed both basic and applied aspects of island groundwater hydrology and environmental science, of which his research portfolio, including the thesis work of his students, included: mapping the Northern Guam Lens Aquifer (NGLA); numerical modeling of the NGLA, Pacific Island atoll aquifers; the evolution of limestone island aquifers in general, and NGLA in particular; hydrologic characteristics of the NGLA, including percolation, recharge, discharge, hydraulic properties, and long-term salinity patterns and trends in Guam's production wells; and the reconstruction of the prehistoric climatic conditions of Guam and the west Pacific region; and management of the NGLA and protection of groundwater quality;

**WHEREAS**, from 1997 to 2013, Dr. Jenson collaborated with Dr. John Mylroie of Mississippi

State University to develop and apply the *Carbonate Island Karst Model* to the region's tectonically active limestone- capped islands. Dr. Jenson's basic scientific research activities also include collaborative work with Dr. Jay Banner of the University of Texas Austin to characterize Guam paleoclimate from speleothems and corals, along with other related topics, including sea-level history, costal speleogenesis and the hydrogeological evolution of the aquifer. Dr. Jenson also worked with Dr. Peter Clark and his students at Oregon State University, building on his own doctoral dissertation, to modeling dynamic behavior of the southern lobes of the Pleistocene North American ice sheet;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Jenson's applied work on Guam's drinking water includes assessment of sinkholes and other drainage features on new construction sites, evaluation of newly drilled and rehabilitated wells, evaluation of rehabilitation potential for long-out-of-service wells, and reconnaissance of promising sites for new production wells. Recently completed work includes a hydrogeologic study of Santa Rita Spring to provide engineering design recommendations to Guam Waterworks Authority for rehabilitation. He is currently working with the Guam Environmental Protection Agency to develop an updated approach to aquifer protection, which will account for economic constraints as well as hydrologic conditions;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Jenson's service to UOG includes service as Chair of the Faculty Council Executive Committee and member of the Faculty Senate Organizing Committee, (1999-2000); member of the UOG Presidential Search Committee, 2001; and President of the First (1st), Second (2nd), and Fourth (4th) Faculty Senates, and at other times as Senate Parliamentarian and Chair of its Standing Committees on Institutional Excellence and Faculty Excellence during a total of fifteen (15) years of service in the Faculty Senate;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Jenson continued his military service in the U.S. Air Force Reserve while assigned as an Individual Mobilization Augmentee to Headquarters U.S. Force Japan, Yokota Air Base from 1986 to 2002; and to Headquarters 13th Air Force, Andersen Air Force Base, Guam from 2002 to 2005, when he retired from the Air Force at the rank of Colonel;

**WHEREAS**, as Director of WERI from 2016 to the present, Dr. Jenson fostered interagency working relationships, internal and external scientific collaborations, strategic planning, quality management, and continued commitment to providing reliable and objective scientific support for the benefit of Guam and the Western Pacific region. WERI retained its place as one of the top-rated among the nation's fifty-four (54) water resources research institutes, with the USGS rating it as one (1) of the twelve (12) outstanding institutes in the latest five (5)-year review. Dr. Jenson's term as WERI Director also saw the rehabilitation and expansion of the Comprehensive Water Monitoring Program, along with the implementation of the One Guam Water Resources Information Program and the acquisition of funding for a new building for WERI, with expanded laboratory and teaching facilities;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Jenson is highly regarded for his sound decision-making and team-building abilities, collegiality, humility, good nature, passion for student success and delivering public value, and tireless commitment to the University's mission of *Ina, Deskubre, Setbe*; and

**WHEREAS**, the Academic, Personnel, and Tenure Committee has reviewed this resolution and recommends approval of this resolution expressing appreciation to Dr. Jenson for his service with UOG for 29 years to the Board of Regents (BOR).

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the BOR, the administration, faculty, staff, and students, convey to Dr. John W. Jenson their sincerest gratitude for his dedication to UOG and the

people of Guam, for his exemplar service as a valued member of the University community, and his devotion to the growth and prosperity of our island and region; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of his resolution will be sent to Dr. John W. Jenson, the Governor of Guam, and the Speaker and members of the Guam Legislature.

Adopted this 15<sup>th</sup> day of September 2022.



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Liza J. Provideo, Chairperson

**ATTESTED:**



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Thomas W. Krise, Ph.D., Executive Secretary