



PRESS RELEASE

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For more information, contact:

Jonas Macapinlac
Chief Marketing & Communications Officer
University of Guam
Tel: (671) 735-2944
Cell: (671) 787-1010
Email: jmac@triton.uog.edu

University of Guam's Marine Lab turns 50

Fifty years ago — on Dec. 17, 1970 — one of the world's first research facilities to specialize in the study of coral reefs was built at the University of Guam, the UOG Marine Laboratory.

Though a year-long series of events to commemorate the Marine Lab's 50th anniversary were cancelled due to the prolonged pandemic, the Marine Lab team remains active and productive and committed to research and marine management.

Primely positioned for new discoveries

The establishment of the Marine Lab made the University of Guam the only U.S. university adjacent to what is commonly considered the global epicenter of marine diversity, the Coral Triangle, encompassing the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Papua New Guinea, a title UOG can still claim today.

The lab, by virtue of its location in what was then a poorly explored region of the globe, attracted several of the best coral reef ecologists of the day, who contributed many firsts in coral reef research, including studies on outbreaks of the predatory sea star, the crown-of-thorns, and reef recovery after major disturbances. Faculty were also involved in the discovery and description of numerous new species and novel chemical compounds.

Continued focus on conservation and climate change

Today, the Marine Lab's 10 faculty members and 25 graduate students continue to contribute important marine research regionally and nationally, with an emphasis on conservation and adaptation to climate change in Guam and Micronesia.

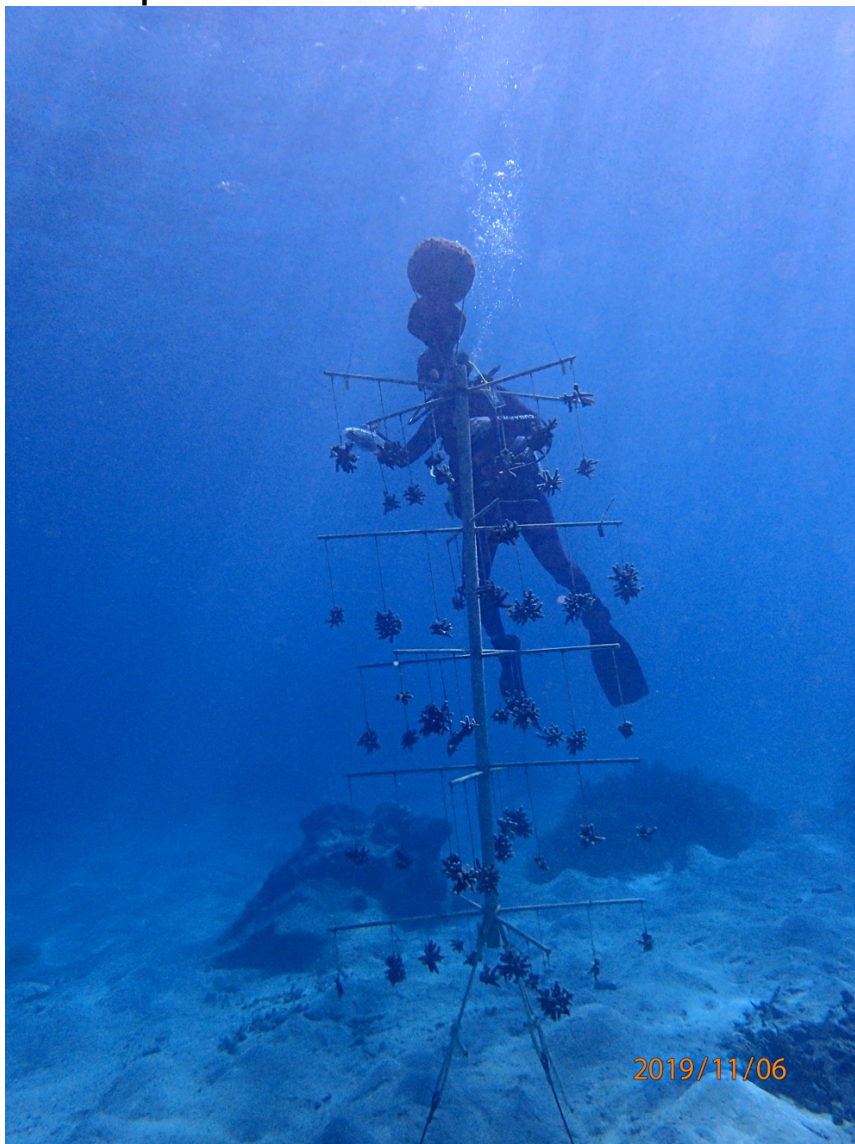
Current and ongoing research at the lab includes coral genetic connectivity across the Pacific, coral taxonomy and phylogeny, fisheries health, coral diseases, diver effects on coral reefs, taxonomy of coralline algae, coral restoration, shark genetic connectivity within the Marianas, and reef adaptations to climate change.

50th anniversary celebration

An announcement will be forthcoming for an official 50th anniversary celebration to take place next year.

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Photo captions:



2019-claire-moreland-choa-marine-lab

UOG graduate student Claire Moreland-Ochoa cleans a coral tree in Piti in 2019.



2018-marine-lab-team

(From left) Victoria Moscato, graduate research assistant; Thomas W. Krise, president of UOG; Sarah Lemer, assistant professor of marine invertebrate genomics; David Combosch, associate professor of population genetics; Andrew McInnis, graduate student; and Laurie J. Raymundo, interim director of the Marine Lab at the Marine Lab in September 2018.



2019-marine-lab-aerial

An aerial view of the University of Guam Marine Laboratory, located on Pago Bay.

Photos courtesy of University of Guam