



CNAS & ROTC

HOODING AND PINNING CEREMONY

Fanuchanan 2023

*Celebrating the graduates of the
College of Natural & Applied Sciences
and Army ROTC Program*

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 14, 2023

The Gallery at the Hilton Guam Resort & Spa



CEREMONY AGENDA

- 11 a.m. Doors Open
- 11:30 a.m. Blessing of the Table
Lunch
- 12:15 p.m. Remarks
Anita Borja Enriquez, DBA
President of the University of Guam
Sharleen Santos-Bamba, Ph.D.
Interim Senior Vice President and Provost
Rachael Leon Guerrero, Ph.D., R.D.
*Dean of the College of Natural &
Applied Sciences*
- 12:30 p.m. Hooding and Pinning Ceremony
- 2 p.m. End



UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

**COLLEGE OF NATURAL
& APPLIED SCIENCES**



To all of our CNAS and ROTC Graduates:

I am honored to take part today in my first Hooding & Pinning Ceremony as dean of the College of Natural & Applied Sciences. It's special for me because I can remember when I sat where you're sitting. I, too, graduated from this college in 1989 with a bachelor's in biology, and I know that each of you has an impactful and fulfilling career ahead of you.

I'm particularly excited for the STEM fields you'll be entering, which will benefit from the unique experiences, perspectives, and values that all of our graduates possess. Our world is facing many challenges related to agriculture and food production, human health, and the protection of natural resources, and we have a great need for science, data, equations, and computer programs that can better inform our decisions. These are the specific subject areas that our land-grant college was established to address.

As you take this next step, I encourage you to choose work that matters to you, and your work will, in turn, matter to others.

Know your connections with your college, your professors, and your classmates do not end here. Your cohort, your college, and UOG as a whole are now forever your academic family who you can reach out to for mentorship, collaborations, and certainly to share your accomplishments.

Congratulations from all of CNAS!



Si Yu'os Ma'åse',

Rachael Leon Guerrero, Ph.D., R.D.

Dean

College of Natural & Applied Sciences

Dear Graduates,

You've made it – you have earned your degree. Well done, and congratulations!

So, here comes the next hard task: What are you going to achieve next? How do you intend to continue in your adventure of learning, and how do you intend to serve others – perhaps those who assisted you in this journey of earning a degree or perhaps those in our community who need your skills, knowledge, compassion, and ability to solve problems?

When I have been at a decision point in my life, I usually discussed it with others whose counsel I respect, but I also returned to advice I got from a favorite childhood author of mine, Dr. Seuss (Theodor Seuss Geisel), who helped me to dream of the future.

*Congratulations!
Today is your day.
You're off to Great Places!
You're off and away!*

*You have brains in your head.
You have feet in your shoes.
You can steer yourself
any direction you choose.
You're on your own. And you know
what you know.
And YOU are the guy who'll decide
where to go.*

*You'll get mixed up, of course,
as you already know.
You'll get mixed up
with many strange birds as you go.
So be sure when you step.
Step with care and great tact
and remember that Life's
a Great Balancing Act.*

*And will you succeed?
Yes! You will, indeed!
(98 and 3/4 percent guaranteed.)*

KID, YOU'LL MOVE MOUNTAINS!

*So...
be your name Buxbaum or Bixby or
Bray
or Mordecai Ali Van Allen O'Shea,
You're off to Great Places!
Today is your day!
Your mountain is waiting.
So... get on your way!*

*(Excerpt from "Oh, the Places You'll
Go" by Dr. Seuss)*



We wish you all the best and can't wait to hear of your successes.

Kate Moots, Ph.D.

Associate Dean

College of Natural & Applied Sciences

Undergraduate Degrees

B.S. AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES

Child & Family Life Sciences Track

Audrielin Cabe Santos

B.S. BIOLOGY

Applied Biology Track

Teresa Abigail Damian San Nicolas

Bio-Medical Track

Jaenna Gwen Pertierra Palma (*Double Major: B.A. Psychology*)

Integrative Biology Track

RoCelia N. Terlaje Paulino

B.S. COMPUTER SCIENCE

Geoffrey Jebesen Mabale Gersaniba (*Minor: Military Science*)

Brian Chaud Mochida

B.S. MATHEMATICS

Aurienne Maria-Claire Reyes Cruz (*Minor: Psychology*)

Ian Miguel Malabanán Galang (*Double Major: BAE Secondary Education; Minor: Biology*)

Army ROTC (Minor: Military Science)

Brandon Jon Dizon Flores

B.S. Health Science: Pre-Physical
Therapy

Army Accession: U.S. Army Reserve
Branch: Corps of Engineers

Sean Alexis N. Japor

B.S. Health Science: Exercise
Science & Health Promotion

Army Accession: U.S. Army Reserve
Branch: Chemical Corps

Geoffrey Jebesen Mabale Gersaniba

B.S. Computer Science

Army Accession: U.S. Army
Active Duty

Branch: Ordnance Corps

Graduate Degrees

M.S. BIOLOGY

Renee Schnabel Crisostomo

MacKenzie Heagy

Rachael Meredith Keighan

Grace Harmony McDermott

Ella Leona Rika Norris

Leilani Artero Sablan

Carlos Alberto Tramonte

M.S. ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Jonelle Victoria Nego Sayama

M.S. SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, FOOD, & NATURAL RESOURCES

Sustainable Agriculture & Natural Resources Track

Jonathan Kahokualaka'iokawika Davis

Daniel Joe Encio

Food & Nutrition Track

Remedios Marie Illuminada Rosette Perez

Goals and Inspirations of Our Grads

UNDERGRADUATES



Audrielin Cabe Santos

B.S. Agriculture & Life Sciences: Child & Family Life Sciences

Future Goals: I am committed to staying updated with the latest trends and technologies and implementing them in my career. By continuously improving my skills, I aim to bring innovative strategies to the table.

Inspiring Quote: "Optimism is a happiness magnet. If you stay positive, good things and good people will be drawn to you." – Mary Lou Retton



Teresa Abigail Damian San Nicolas

B.S. Biology: Applied Biology

Future Goals: I hope to create a safe and happy environment for others.

Inspiring Quote: "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." – Eleanor Roosevelt



Jaenna Gwen Pertierra Palma

B.S. Biology: Bio-Medical, B.A. Psychology

Future Goals: My goal is to become a physician.

Inspiring Quote: "Do what you have to do until you can do what you want to do." – Oprah Winfrey



RoCelia Nicole Terlaje Paulino

B.S. Biology: Integrative Biology

Future Goals: To constantly learn from my environment and my mistakes. To grow with my community and be able to give back to my island, even in the smallest way possible.

Inspiring Quote: "If you fight for your limitations, you get to keep them." – Jim Kwik



Brian Chaud Mochida

B.S. Computer Science

Future Goals: To expand usage of robots on island for different purposes, just like how Japan is right now.

Inspiring Quote: "Luck descends equally upon only those who are truly prepared to fight." – Ego Jinpachi



Aurienne Maria-Claire Reyes Cruz

B.S. Mathematics

Minor: Psychology

Future Goals: I hope to achieve the title of doctor, gain more research experience, and then be a professor on Guam.

Inspiring Quote: "Never back down, never what?" "Never give up." – NickEh30 (Streamer)



Ian Miguel Malabanan Galang

B.S. Mathematics, BAE Secondary Education

Minor: Biology

Future Goals: I hope to inspire young and evolving minds to push boundaries in their education, especially in STEM fields. Many young minds begin to develop an animosity toward education due to educators creating an unsafe environment without fostering their ambitions and interest. I hope to change that.

Inspiring Quote: "Just dance. Gonna be okay, da-da-doo-doot." – Lady Gaga

Goals and Inspirations of Our Grads

ARMY ROTC



Geoffrey Jebsen Mabale Gersaniba

B.S. Computer Science

Minor: Military Science

Future Goals: To build my financial security and a stable career as a platform for me to do more than I could've done before I started college.

Inspiring Quote: "Perseverance is not a long race; it is many short races, one after the other." – Walter Elliot



Brandon Jon Dizon Flores

B.S. Health Science: Pre-Physical Therapy

Minor: Military Science

Future Goals: To become a physical therapist.

Inspiring Quote: "Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard." – Tim Notke



Sean Alexis N. Japor

B.S. Health Science: Exercise Science & Health Promotion

Minor: Military Science

Future Goals: Work for a federal agency and get into medical school and become a dermatologist.

Inspiring Quote: "Embrace the suck!"

Goals and Inspirations of Our Grads

GRADUATE STUDENTS



Renee Schnabel Crisostomo

M.S. Biology

(B.A. Environmental Studies, University of San Diego, 2016)

Thesis: Phenotypic Plasticity in *Acropora Aspera* and its Implications for Coral Restoration

Future Goals: I am passionate about natural resource management and conservation, so I hope to carry that passion and apply it throughout my professional career.

Inspiring Quote: "We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children." – Chief Seattle



Ella Leona Rika Norris

M.S. Biology

(B.S. Conservation Biology and B.S. Life Sciences Communication, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2019)

Thesis: Methods to Detect and Improve the Effects of Landscape-level Suppression on an Invasive Reptile: Brown Treesnake Size and Abundance During Aerial Baiting in Space and Time

Future Goals: I hope to design and conduct quality ecological research, to always keep learning from the natural world, to help cultivate awareness and respect of it, and to spend time outside doing field work in neat places like Guam, which has a whole lot to teach.

Inspiring Quote: "There are some who can live without wild things and some who cannot." – Aldo Leopold



Leilani Artero Sablan

M.S. Biology

(B.S. Biology, University of Guam, 2019)

Thesis: Environmental Drivers of Non-Commercial Reef Fisheries in Guam

Future Goals: Help Guam move toward a more sustainable future for its reef fisheries.

Inspiring Quote: "Turn your face to the sun and the shadows will fall behind you." – Maōri Proverb



Carlos Alberto Tramonte

M.S. Biology

(B.S. Biology, Boston College, 2021)

Thesis: Coral Species Replacements on Guam's Reef Flats: Investigating the Role of Symbiodiniaceae Dynamics and Environmental Stressors

Future Goals: I hope to inspire the next generation of minority students, especially Hispanic/Latino students, with the understanding that they, too, can achieve graduate-level degrees and join the field of science.

Inspiring Quote: "Life isn't always pretty. It isn't always comfortable. Sometimes it hurts; it even breaks your heart. But that's OK. The journey changes you; it should change you. It leaves marks on your memory, on your consciousness, on your heart, and on your body. You take something with you. Hopefully, you leave something good behind." – Anthony Michael Bourdain



Jonelle Victoria Nego Sayama

*M.S. Environmental Science
(B.S. Environmental Science)*

Thesis: Geospatial Modeling of Guam's Mangroves Using Unmanned Aerial Systems

Future Goals: To continue to investigate new technologies (like UAVs) that could aid natural resource managers in monitoring Guam's ecosystems. I hope to acquire new skillsets, to learn as much as I possibly can. Ultimately, I hope that my near-future endeavors bring me closer to the island and culture, while bridging the gap between science and society.

Inspiring Quote: "Somewhere something incredible is waiting to be known." – Carl Sagan



Jonathan Kahokualaka'iokawika Davis

*M.S. Sustainable Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources
(B.S. Tropical Agriculture, University of Guam, 2013)*

Thesis: A Comparison of Vitex Parviflora Removal Methods on Understory Species Composition in the Degraded Limestone Forests of Guam

Future Goals: To help conserve Guam's native forests.

Inspiring Quote: "Ah c'mon Olei." – Jason Andrew



Daniel Joe Encio

*M.S. Sustainable Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources
(B.S. Biology, University of Guam, 2017)*

Thesis: Developing Innovative Strategies for Land Restoration of Degraded Watershed Basins for Crop Production in Southern Guam

Future Goals: I hope to find myself in a position to be able to teach all I know in agriculture to future generations.

Inspiring Quote: "Just do it." – Nike



Remedios Marie Illuminada Rosette Perez

*M.S. Sustainable Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources
(B.S. Consumer & Family Sciences, Nutrition Minor,
University of Guam, 2013)*

Thesis: An Evaluation of the School Food Environment and Childhood Obesity Among School-Age Children in CHL Communities in Guam

Future Goals: I was born and raised in Guam and hope to spend my life and professional career serving the community that raised me.

Inspiring Quote: "Finish each day and be done with it. You have done what you could. Some blunders and absurdities no doubt crept in; forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day. You shall begin it serenely and with too high a spirit to be encumbered with your old nonsense." – Ralph Waldo Emerson



MacKenzie Nicole Heagy

M.S. Biology

Thesis: Diversity and Biogeography of the Mastophoraceae in the Mariana Islands



Rachael Meredith Keighan

M.S. Biology

Thesis: Organic Matter Cycling and Nutrient Remineralization by Small- Versus Large-Bodied Sea Cucumbers



Grace Harmony McDermott

M.S. Biology

Thesis: Intraspecific Color Variation in *Porites Cylindrica*: The Role of Color Variation in Coral Resilience

