



Fanuchånan 2024

6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Thursday, December 12, 2024

Hilton Guam Resort & Spa







CEREMONY AGENDA

- 6 p.m. Doors Open
- 6:15 p.m. Blessing of the Table
Dinner
- 6:45 p.m. Welcoming Remarks
Maika Vuki, Ph.D.
Acting Dean of the College of Natural & Applied Sciences
Anita Borja Enriquez, DBA
President of the University of Guam
Sharleen Santos-Bamba, Ph.D.
Interim Senior Vice President and Provost
- 7 p.m. Hooding Ceremony (Master's)
- 7:15 p.m. Pinning Ceremony (Bachelor's)
- 8:30 p.m. Ceremony Concludes



UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
**COLLEGE OF NATURAL
& APPLIED SCIENCES**

To all of our CNAS and ROTC graduates,

Today we are celebrating the completion of your degrees here in CNAS. This is quite an accomplishment, and you deserve all the congratulations, accolades, and graduation gifts and celebrations from your friends and family members. On behalf of the College of Natural & Applied Sciences, I want to add our congratulations as well.

Today's recognition symbolizes not just the completion of your studies, but the beginning of a new chapter in your professional and personal lives. It reflects the skills, passion, and responsibility you now carry as you step into the world, ready to make meaningful contributions in your respective fields. Whether in agriculture and life sciences, biology, chemistry, computer science, mathematics, or military science, you are now part of a community of leaders who will shape the future of our island.

We are incredibly proud of each one of you. You have proven that with determination and hard work, no goal is out of reach. Congratulations again, and may your futures be as bright as your accomplishments today.



Si Yu'os Ma'åse',

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

Dean

College of Natural & Applied Sciences

To the Graduates of Fanuchånan 2024:

On behalf of the entire faculty and staff and fellow administrators, I extend our heartfelt congratulations to you! While graduating at the end of the calendar year may be less common, you have proven that timing is secondary to achievement. Your journey demonstrates remarkable endurance and resilience.

For many of you, the University of Guam has been more than an institution—it has been a second home, a transformative space where you have grown both intellectually and personally over the past four years. Within our classrooms and beyond, you have been prepared not just for careers, but for life. You have represented our college with distinction, and we have full confidence that you will continue to be exceptional ambassadors as you embark on your next great adventure.

Our graduates are unique, shaped by an island culture that treasures community and family. These deep-rooted values are our strength—they connect us, support us, and guide us. As you celebrate this significant milestone, I encourage you to hold your achievement with humility and embrace the future with unwavering confidence. Whatever path you choose, remember to serve with purpose, to improve the quality of life, and to never forget your roots.

Today is not just a celebration of individual accomplishments, but a testament to the support system that helped you reach this moment. To the parents, spouses, children, grandparents, siblings, and friends who believed in these graduates: your love, sacrifice, and support have been instrumental. They stand here today because of your unwavering support. *Dångkulu na si Yu'os ma'åse'* (a great thank you)!

As you move forward, I ask you to maintain your connection with our college and university. We invite you to give back—whether through supporting our activities, contributing to scholarships, or becoming mentors. STEM disciplines can be challenging for many young people, and your guidance could inspire the next generation of scientists, researchers, and innovators.

We are immensely proud of you. Your potential is limitless, and we eagerly anticipate the positive impact you will make in the world.



BIBA CNAS!
God bless you, and stay connected.

Maika Vuki, Ph.D.
*Acting Dean
College of Natural & Applied Sciences*



Undergraduate Degrees

B.S. AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES

Agriculture & Natural Resource Science

Risel Uludong (*Minors: Biology and Agriculture - Crop & Environmental Protection Science*)

Aubrie Kaitlyn Tuncap Uson

Human Nutrition & Food Science

Sophie Danielle Vlassenko Santos (*Double major: B.A. Psychology*)

Tropical Agriculture Production

Scott Davis Jr.

B.S. BIOLOGY

Applied Biology Track

Serena Renee Lacson Bautista

Mark Brian Nicholas Fagaragan (*Minor: Military Science*)

Bio-Medical Track

Naomi Gael B. Benitez

Integrative Biology Track

Sherald Mae C. Alvarez

Antoni Badowski (*Minor: Mathematics*)

Sydney Laurent Perez Nauta (*Minor: CHamoru Studies*)

B.S. CHEMISTRY

Pre-Pharmacy

Ma. Stephanie Saliva (*Minor: Biology*)

B.S. COMPUTER SCIENCE

Christian Randell Mia Bias

Zuriel Ronaldo Puno Ravela

William Wyatt



Army ROTC (Minor: Military Science)

Franklin Roberto Babauta Jr.
Bachelor of Business Administration

Mark Brian Nicholas Fagaragan
B.S. Biology - Applied Biology
Accession: U.S. Army Active Duty
Branch: Chemical Corps

Constance Grace Iglesias
B.S. Criminal Justice
Accession: U.S. Army Active Duty
Branch: Quartermaster Corps

Richard Torres Marfega
Bachelor of Business Administration
Accession: U.S. Army Reserve
Branch: Quartermaster Corps

Graduate Degrees

M.S. BIOLOGY

Olivia O'Mara Barry
Courtney "Star" Dressler
Reilly Nicole Kleven
Joseph L. Proietti
D'Amy Steward

M.S. ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Hazelle Ko

Goals and Inspirations of Our Grads

UNDERGRADUATES



Risel Uludong

B.S. Agriculture & Life Sciences: Agriculture & Natural Resource Science

Minor: Biology

Minor: Agriculture - Crop & Environmental Protection Science

Future Goals: I hope to protect today for the future of tomorrow. After graduation, I plan to continue on to a graduate program.

Inspiring Quote: "The only person you should try to be better than is the person you were yesterday." – Unknown



Aubrie Kaitlyn Tuncap Uson

B.S. Agriculture & Life Sciences: Agriculture & Natural Resource Science

Future Goals: I hope to promote sustainable agriculture and protect our island's natural resources through dedicated research and collaboration.

Inspiring Quote: "We cannot become what we want by remaining what we are." – Max Depree



Sophie Danielle Vlassenko Santos

B.S. Agriculture & Life Sciences: Human Nutrition & Food Science

B.A. Psychology

Future Goals: I plan to go to graduate school and get my master's in dietetics/nutrition. I look forward to completing my didactic internship and obtaining my license to practice as a Registered Dietitian-Nutritionist (RDN). As an RDN, I look forward to serving my island by working in hospitals and/or outpatient clinics. I'd also love to pursue my Ph.D. in nutrition since I am highly interested in researching nutrition/nutrition-related problems in the unique context of Guam.

Inspiring Quote: "Thank you Beyoncé!" – Adele

Goals and Inspirations of Our Grads

UNDERGRADUATES



Scott Davis Jr.

B.S. Agriculture & Life Sciences: Tropical Agriculture Production

Future Goals: I hope to become an environmental scientist, with hopes to make a global impact.

Inspiring Quote: "Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, but today is a gift. That's why it's called the present."
– Master Oogway



Serena Renee Lacson Bautista

B.S. Biology: Applied Biology

Future Goals: I will be applying to a post-bacc at University of Alaska Anchorage. I hope to become a physician assistant. I want to give back by contributing to the health care on the island.

Inspiring Quote: "You will face many defeats in life, but never let yourself be defeated." – Maya Angelou



Mark Brian Nicholas Fagaragan

*B.S. Biology: Applied Biology
Minor: Military Science*

Future Goals: I hope to excel in my military officer career and obtain a graduate degree.

Inspiring Quote: "I don't know why the Man above gives me the hardest road, but ... the Man above don't put you in situations that you can't handle." – LeBron, my glorious king



Naomi Gael B. Benitez

B.S. Biology: Bio-Medical Track

Future Goals: I hope to improve patient care and contribute to the advancement of health care in Guam. I plan to explore my skillset and improve on any areas of growth, with the goal of applying to medical school in the future.

Inspiring Quote: "You can't control what happens, but you can control how you react." – Epictetus

Goals and Inspirations of Our Grads

UNDERGRADUATES



Sherald Mae C. Alvarez

B.S. Biology: Integrative Biology

Future Goals: I will be doing a post-bacc at University of Alaska Anchorage. Eventually, I hope to be the next gynecologist on the island, providing compassion, expanding my knowledge, and contributing to health care improvement on the island.

Inspiring Quote: "Your knowledge will be your greatest expert, but your character will be your legacy."



Antoni Badowski

B.S. Biology: Integrative Biology

Minor: Mathematics

Future Goals: I hope to pursue a master's in marine biology to deepen my knowledge of marine ecosystems and their conservation. I aspire to contribute meaningfully to understanding and protecting the environment, working toward sustainable solutions for the challenges facing our natural world. After graduation, I plan to pursue a master's degree in biology at the University of Guam, focusing on coral reef ecosystems.

Inspiring Quote: "Because it's there." – George Mallory



Sydney Laurent Perez Nauta

B.S. Biology: Integrative Biology

Minor: CHamoru Studies

Future Goals: I hope to enhance the well-being of Guåhan and its people. I hope to later pursue a master's degree in public health and possibly a Ph.D. in epidemiology.

Inspiring Quote: "You're braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think." – AA Milne, Winnie-the-Pooh

Goals and Inspirations of Our Grads

UNDERGRADUATES



Ma. Stephanie Saliva

B.S. Chemistry: Pre-Pharmacy

Minor: Biology

Future Goals: I aspire to become a clinical pharmacist and use my skills to serve the people of Guam.

Inspiring Quote: "God gave you what you can handle." – Frank Ocean in his song "Biking"



Christian Randell Mia Bias

B.S. Computer Science

(A.S. Computer Science)

Future Goals: To develop my skills further and help out in projects that will have a lasting impact on my community. I plan to continue working to develop my technical knowledge and eventually get a high position in either IT or cybersecurity.

Inspiring Quote: "You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step." – Martin Luther King Jr.



Zuriel Ronaldo Puno Ravela

B.S. Computer Science: 2+2 GCC-UOG Track

(A.S. Computer Science, Guam Community College, 2022)

Future Goals: I hope to implement more updated technology into education to enhance the learning experience and better prepare students for the future.

Inspiring Quote: "Impossible? We did a lot of impossible things on this journey. I'm tired of hearing that things are impossible or useless. Those words mean nothing to us." – Jotaro Kujo



William Wyatt

B.S. Computer Science: 2+2 GCC-UOG Track

Future Goals: I plan to continue my education at an aviation school.

Inspiring Quote: "The secret to getting ahead is getting started" – Mark Twain

Goals and Inspirations of Our Grads

ARMY ROTC



Franklin Roberto Babauta Jr.

Bachelor of Business Administration

Minor: Military Science

Future Goals: I hope to do amazing things with my life. I want to show people you can aim high and reach high places in life.

Inspiring Quote: "It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate,
I am the captain of my soul."
– William Ernest Henley



Constance Grace Iglesias

B.S. Criminal Justice

Minor: Military Science

Future Goals: I hope to gain the skills and knowledge as a United States Army Quartermaster officer to lead and guide those under me and apply those skills and knowledge for the future after I retire from the military. After graduation, I will ship off to Fort Gregg-Adams, Virginia, to complete the Basic Officer Leadership Course and hopefully get stationed in Alaska as a platoon leader.

Inspiring Quote: "If you know the beat and song to dance to, why stay in your seat when you can show the world what you got?" – Concepcion "Connie" Naputi Iglesias (Mother)



Richard Torres Marfega

Bachelor of Business Administration

(A.S. Tourism and Travel Management, Guam Community College)

Minor: Military Science

Future Goals: I aim to start my career in human resource management, where I can contribute strategically and grow professionally. I plan to pursue a Master of Business Administration (MBA) to further enhance my professional growth and career opportunities.

Inspiring Quote: "You can dream, create, design, and build the most wonderful place in the world, but it requires people to make dream a reality." – Walt Disney

Goals and Inspirations of Our Grads

GRADUATE STUDENTS



Hazelle Ko

M.S. Environmental Science

(B.S. Natural Sciences, University of Pittsburgh, 2017)

Thesis: Chloride Trends in the Yigo-Tumon Basin, Northern Guam Lens Aquifer, 1973-2022: Natural and Artificial Factors

Future Goals: I hope to make a meaningful impact by bridging the gap between environmental sciences and decision-making and ensure that scientific insights are translated into practical actions that benefit both people and the environment. I hope to ultimately get a Ph.D.

Inspiring Quote: "And once the storm is over, you won't remember how you made it through, how you managed to survive. You won't even be sure, whether the storm is really over. But one thing is certain. When you come out of the storm, you won't be the same person who walked in. That's what this storm's all about." – Haruki Murakami



Olivia O'Mara Barry

M.S. Biology

(B.S. Biology with a Marine Emphasis, Humboldt State University)

Thesis: The Larval Survivorship And Population Genetics Of Leptastrea In The Southern Mariana Islands



Courtney "Star" Dressler

M.S. Biology

(B.S. Humboldt State University)

Thesis: Diel Cycles of *Prochlorococcus* spp. across the North Pacific Subtropical Gyre

Goals and Inspirations of Our Grads

GRADUATE STUDENTS



Reilly Nicole Kleven

M.S. Biology

(B.S. California Polytechnic State University)

Thesis: Growth Rates of Branching Lithophyllum Coralline Algae Across Reef Habitats in Guam



Joseph L. Proietti

M.S. Biology

(B.S. Eastern Michigan University)

Thesis: First Assessment of Population Genetic Structure Across the Mariana Archipelago



D'Amy Steward

M.S. Biology

(B.S. Duke University)

Thesis: Restoration Renaissance: Charting the Course for Coral Restoration Decisions



