



College of Natural & Applied Sciences

# *Hooding & Pinning Ceremony*

*Fanuchánan 2025*

Thursday, December 18, 2025

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Hilton Guam Resort & Spa  
Chuchuko Room





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

*Our mission is to discover and share science-based  
knowledge that improves the quality of life and learning  
in Guam and in the region.*



## **CEREMONY AGENDA**

**11 a.m.      Doors Open/Check In**

**11:15 a.m.      Blessing of the Table and Lunch**

Teresita “Tessy” Paulino,  
Secretary of Army ROTC

**12 p.m.      Welcome and Introduction of Dignitaries**

Katrina Quinata, CNAS Academic Advisor

### **Welcoming Remarks**

Rachael T. Leon Guerrero, Ph.D., RDN  
Dean, College of Natural & Applied Sciences

Anita Borja Enriquez, DBA  
President, University of Guam

Sharleen Santos-Bamba, Ph.D.  
Senior Vice President & Provost,  
University of Guam

**12:15 p.m.      Pinning of Undergraduates  
Hooding of Master’s Graduates**

**2 p.m.      Ceremony Concludes**

*Special thanks to the UOG Land Grant Extension Service  
for the plant donations and to the Guam Visitors Bureau for  
donating the gift bags.*

## Message from the Dean

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 next stage of your journey. It reflects the knowledge you've gained, the challenges you've overcome, and the readiness with which you now face the world. 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.

But today is also about more than personal achievement. It is about the legacy you will begin to build. A college degree is not just a credential – it's a commitment to use your education with purpose. Your legacy will be defined not by titles, but by how you lead, how you serve, and how you inspire those who come after you.

We are incredibly proud of you. Congratulations – and may your legacy begin today.



Si Yu'os Ma'åse',

**Rachael T. Leon Guerrero, Ph.D., RDN**

*Dean*

*College of Natural & Applied Sciences*

## Message from the Associate Dean

### Class of 2025: Rooted in Strength, Rising to Excellence

Congratulations, Class of 2025! Today marks a significant milestone – your hard-earned achievement through years of dedication and perseverance. From all of us at CNAS, we celebrate you.

What makes you exceptional is not just the degrees you've earned, but the resilience you embody. You come from an island culture that has weathered countless storms – literal and metaphorical. This resilience is in your DNA. That same strength courses through you.

Your education was built on a foundation of strong family bonds and community support. The families here today – parents, grandparents, spouses, children – sacrificed alongside you. They believed in you when the path seemed uncertain. Remember, your success is their success. *Dāngkulu na si Yu'os ma'āse'!*

As you move forward, never forget where you came from. Remember the humble beginnings – the late-night study sessions, the financial struggles, the doubt you overcame. These challenges shaped you into scientists, problem-solvers, and leaders. Your roots ground you; let them remind you to stay humble, to give back, and to lift others as you climb.

The world needs what you bring: island wisdom paired with cutting-edge knowledge, resilience forged by both tradition and innovation, and a deep understanding that we are all connected – to family, community, land, and sea. Your purpose extends beyond personal success. Use your knowledge to elevate your community, mentor the next generation, and honor those who paved your way.

When challenges arise – and they will – draw strength from your roots. Remember the values that carried you here: hard work, respect, perseverance, and family. These are your compass. Stay connected to your academic home. Support future students through mentorship and scholarships. Be the role model who proves what's possible.

Class of 2025, you are ready. You carry the strength of generations, the support of family, and the knowledge to make real change. Stay humble. Stay connected. Remember your roots. And make us proud.



**BIBA Class 2025!**  
**BIBA CNAS! BIBA UOG!**

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



# Undergraduate Degrees

## **B.S. AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES**

### **Family & Community Resource Development Track**

Twindon-Lee Ragiyane

*('23 A.S. Agriculture & Natural Resource Management, College of Micronesia)*

### **Human Nutrition & Food Science Track**

Gwindaleen Cruz Espulgar

Christian Quiblat Reyes *(Minor: Psychology)*

Stephanie C. Suva

### **Tropical Agriculture Production Track**

Adriann Alfons

Franklin Cruz Fujihira

Cecilia Erensia Mendiola Pangelinan *(Minor: Crop & Environmental Protection Science)*

Chloe Gabriella Santos

## **B.S. BIOLOGY**

### **Applied Biology Track**

Kaylen Cruz

Aellany Kirsten G. Gatus

William Kazuki Minami

Raelani Jrey Santos Naputi

Aryanna Destiny Alena Rivers Sanele

### **Bio-Medical Track**

Genavieve Valencia Mangosong

Jennifer Yuri Ok

## **B.S. CHEMISTRY**

### **Chemistry-Biology Dual Degree Track**

Cassandra Jay-Anne Paule



## **B.S. MATHEMATICS**

Shannon Marie Leon Guerrero Ada

## **Graduate Degrees**

### **M.S. BIOLOGY**

Zoe Ariellius

Anela Eliza Kainani Duenas

Garret Thomas O'Donnell

Arthur J.S. Perez

Mikayla Reed Reuter

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

#### **Sustainable Agriculture & Natural Resources Track**

Rennie Glen Taiwerpal

## **Army ROTC Graduates**

Nathan Andreau Mangune

B.S. Elementary Education

Minor: Military Science

Branch: Field Artillery

Accession: Guam Army National Guard

Daniel Juan Galura Mendiola

B.S. Health Science

Minor: Military Science

Branch: Medical Services Corps

Accession: Active Duty, U.S. Army

## Goals & Inspirations: Undergraduates



### **Twindon-Lee Ragiya**

B.S. Agriculture & Life Sciences

*Family & Community Resource Development Track*

('23 A.S. Agriculture & Natural Resource Management, College of Micronesia)

**Plans & Goals:** After graduation, I am planning to pursue my master's degree in criminal justice. Coming from a low-income family and living in a place where resources are limited, I want to help my community. In my professional career, I hope to work in a way that makes a positive difference and gives people better opportunities and creates a safe and healthy environment for everyone.

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



### **Gwindaleen Cruz Espulgar**

B.S. Agriculture & Life Sciences

*Human Nutrition & Food Science Track*

**Plans & Goals:** After graduation, I plan to apply for positions in public health or related fields where I can build practical experience in community health and food systems/safety. After gaining some professional experience, I hope to pursue graduate study in food science to deepen my knowledge and skills in order to contribute to improving community nutrition and food safety. In my professional career, I hope to apply my training in food science to create meaningful improvements in food quality, safety, and community health.

**Inspiring Quote:** "Do what you feel in your heart to be right, for you'll be criticized anyway." – Eleanor Roosevelt



### **Christian Quiblat Reyes**

B.S. Agriculture & Life Sciences

*Human Nutrition & Food Science Track*

Minor: Psychology

**Plans & Goals:** I plan to go to grad school and continue working towards becoming a dietitian. I hope to make advancements in diabetes management.

**Inspiring Quote:** "It does not matter how slowly you go so long as you do not stop." – Confucius





### **Stephanie C. Suva**

B.S. Agriculture & Life Sciences

*Human Nutrition & Food Science Track*

**Plans & Goals:** I was recently hired at GRMC and will start there after graduation. I plan to pursue graduate school and hope to become a Registered Dietitian and use my skills and knowledge to strengthen nutrition care throughout our island.

**Inspiring Quote:** "Believe you can and you're halfway there." – Theodore Roosevelt



### **Cecilia Erensia Mendiola Pangelinan**

B.S. Agriculture & Life Sciences

*Tropical Agriculture Production Track*

Minor: Crop & Environmental Protection Science

**Plans & Goals:** I plan to continue my work as an extension assistant at UOG while preparing to apply for the UOG Sustainable Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources (SAFNR) Graduate Program. I hope to play an active role in shaping a more resilient and sustainable agricultural future for Guam. By supporting farmers, improving production practices, and advancing research that strengthens local food security, I aim to help our island move toward greater self-sufficiency and become better prepared for future challenges.

**Inspiring Quote:** "Go with the moon." – Julian Aguon



### **Kaylen Cruz**

B.S. Biology

*Applied Biology Track*

**Plans & Goals:** To apply to work in the marine biology or environmental fields. I hope to achieve more knowledge and experience many opportunities that would eventually make me explore new places!

**Inspiring Quote:** "Be the flow." – Jaren Cruz



### **William Kazuki Minami**

B.S. Biology  
*Applied Biology Track*

**Plans & Goals:** I am looking to gain more experience through internships, followed by graduate school. [In my career, I hope to] feel fulfilled with whatever I do and that I continue to learn new things.

**Inspiring Quote:** "All good things must come to an end." – Geoffrey Chaucer



### **Aryanna Destiny Alena Rivers Sanele**

B.S. Biology  
*Applied Biology Track*

**Plans & Goals:** I will look for a job or apply to a post-bacc. I want to pursue a graduate degree in agriculture.

**Inspiring Quote:** "Take it one step at a time."



### **Genavieve Valencia Mangosong**

B.S. Biology  
*Bio-Medical Track*

**Plans & Goals:** I plan to gain the clinical experience and patient-care hours required to apply to a physician assistant program. I hope to become a caring and skilled physician assistant who makes a positive difference in patients' lives.

**Inspiring Quote:** "Now then, stand still and see this great thing the Lord is about to do before your eyes!" – 1 Samuel 12:16 NIV



### **Jennifer Yuri Ok**

B.S. Biology

*Bio-Medical Track*

**Plans & Goals:** I plan to gain job experience interacting with patients and other health care providers. I wish to pursue my career as a physician assistant.

**Inspiring Quote:** "The best way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing." – Walt Disney



### **Nathan Andreau Mangune**

B.S. Elementary Education

Minor: Military Science

**Plans & Goals:** I plan on returning to the school where I student taught and also pursuing higher education at the University of Guam. I hope to become a veteran teacher while simultaneously focusing on my military career to give back to my island and community.

**Inspiring Quote:** "Around here, we don't look backwards for very long. We keep moving forward, opening up new doors and doing new things – because we're curious ... and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths." – Walt Disney



### **Daniel Juan Galura Mendiola**

B.S. Health Science

Minor: Military Science

**Plans & Goals:** I will be attending BOLC for my specific Army branch. Future plans include applying to DPT school (Baylor University) and continuing to serve in the U.S. Army. I seek to achieve becoming a Doctor of Physical Therapy and serving in the U.S. Army as an officer for 20 years.

**Inspiring Quote:** "The pain that you've been feeling can't compare to the joy that's coming." – Romans 8:18

## Goals & Inspirations: Graduate Students



### Zoe Ariellius

M.S. Biology

('22 B.S. Biology, Cleveland State University)

**Thesis:** Effects of Eutrophication on the Microbiome and Resilience of Guam's Key Scleractinian Corals

**Advisor:** Dr. Héloïse Rouzé

**Plans & Goals:** I am continuing my career at the UOG Marine Laboratory, where I am researching coral microbiology, resilience, and restoration. I hope to build a successful and fulfilling career in marine biology that allows me to explore the world, contribute to environmental sustainability, and continue growing as a scientist. I want my work to reflect my values and to make a positive impact wherever life takes me.

**Inspiring Quote:** "What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make." – Jane Goodall



### Anela Eliza Kainani Duenas

M.S. Biology

('20 A.S. Natural Resources Management, Northern Marianas College; '23 B.S. Biology, University of Guam)

**Thesis:** Ecophysiology of Shifts in Coral Species Dominance on Reef Flats of Guam

**Advisor:** Dr. Bastian Bentlage

**Plans & Goals:** I will be pursuing a Ph.D. in Marine Biology at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. [In my career, I hope to] create spaces and build pathways for the next generation of Indigenous scientists while advancing research on coral reef ecosystems in the Marianas.

**Inspiring Quote:** "Be the ancestor your descendants would be proud of." – Winona LaDuke



### **Garret Thomas O'Donnell**

M.S. Biology

('21 B.S. Marine Sciences, University of Florida)

**Thesis:** Archipelago-Scale Genetics of the Massive Porites Species Complex in the Mariana Islands

**Advisor:** Dr. David Combosch

**Plans & Goals:** I will be participating in the Knauss Fellowship. I hope to become a valuable mentor.

**Inspiring Quote:** "What should young people do with their lives today? Many things, obviously. But the most daring thing is to create stable communities in which the terrible disease of loneliness can be cured." – Kurt Vonnegut



### **Rennie Glen Taiwerpal**

M.S. SAFNR

('21 B.S. Agriculture & Life Sciences, University of Guam)

**Thesis:** Evaluating the Physical & Chemical Characteristics of Cocopeat and its Potential as Growing Media

**Advisor:** Dr. Mari Marutani

**Plans & Goals:** I will continue where I am currently working. However, I [ultimately] plan to go back to the Federated States of Micronesia – either Yap or Pohnpei. I hope to provide the sustainable knowledge and skills of modern agriculture to our communities and be able to integrate it with our own traditional knowledge.

**Inspiring Quote:** "The wave that lifts you can also drown you; navigate wisely." – Inspired by Mau Pialiug



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





