

2019 Guam Economic Report ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Dr. Maria Claret Mapálad-Ruane is currently a tenured Professor of Economics at the University of Guam-School of Business and Public Administration (UOG-SBPA), the Resident Development Economist for the University of Guam-Pacific Center for Economic Initiatives (PCEI) and the Resident Development Economist and Research Contributor/Supervisor to the University of Guam-Regional Center for Public Policy (RCPP). She earned her B.S. (with Great Distinction) and M.A. in Economics from San Jose State University and her Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California-Riverside. She has 29 years of experience in International Macroeconomic Development, with focus in the area of policy formulation and the Asia-Pacific region. Dr. Ruane has written several socio-economic studies at regional, national and international levels, including RCPP's *2018 Guam Economic Report*, "Factors that Explain Corruption in the 50 States of the United States of America: A Regression Analysis" published in the double-blind, peer-reviewed, internationally circulated *Asia Pacific Business and Economics Research Perspectives*, and a 20-equation simulation model to analyze the effect of development aid on a recipient economy. Her other work includes contribution to the generation and analysis of much-needed economic and business indicators and analysis in Guam, including consumer and business confidence survey, buying local behavior, local spending multiplier, effect of exchange rate changes on tourist arrivals to Guam, local farmer and village residents surveys in the context of the One Village-One Product (OVOP) approach to Guam's economic development. She believes that research is a search for the truth and aims at developing local capacity in Guam to produce ethical, relevant and impactful economic research and analysis.

Ms. Efigenia Rose Barcinas is currently a Research Fellow at the RCPP, and graduated as *Summa Cum Laude* from UOG in Spring 2019 with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance and Economics. Post-graduation, she has gained employment with the Bank of Guam, and was recently accepted into the PMBA program at UOG. During her undergraduate studies, she has been included in UOG's President's List and held the title of Regent Scholar. Some of her other accomplishments include placing second in the 2017 CIS Conference Essay Contest, and being selected for the Tokio Marine Fellowship Program. In addition to her academic endeavors, she had previously gained work experience through internship programs at the Bank of Guam, a local law office and a newspaper company. Overall, she aspires to be in a leadership position that enables her to assist the people of Guam in making sound financial decisions so they may invest in opportunities that enhance wealth and value for themselves and their families. She also hopes to incorporate global business practices with respect to the island's needs, and take advantage of new developments to progress towards an economically sustainable future.

Mr. Daniel Cayanan is currently a Research Fellow at the RCPP and recently graduated from UOG with a degree in Business Administration and a concentration in Finance and Economics. He credits his mentor and one of the main professors in Economics, Dr. Ruane, for sparking his strong interest in the study of Economics. While a student at UOG, he made it to the SBPA Dean's List

several times and was a Regent Scholar. He is currently an employee of one of the local law firms and plans to further his education by pursuing a Master's Degree in either Finance or Economics as well as going to law school. He considers being a co-author of the *2015 Guam Corruption Perception* report, published by RCPP in January 2019, to be one of his greatest accomplishments while a student at UOG. He hopes to continue to contribute his effort on research work that are crucial in understanding Guam's economy in its entirety.

Ms. Prairie Rose Garrido is currently a Research Fellow at the RCPP and is an undergraduate student at UOG with a double major in Political Science and Public Administration. She also has a keen interest in Economics as she attempts to take as many Economics courses as possible. Prairie is active within the university community where she serves as President for the Political Science Student Association (PSSA) and is also a member of several other student organizations such as Pi Sigma Alpha, Alpha Phi Sigma, Public Administration and Legal Studies, and the United Nations Association. She also has experience researching, creating, and debating public policy in her role as a Representative in the 32nd Guam Youth Congress. Her recent participation in the 2019 Singapore International Conference on Business Economics and Information Technology (ICBEIT) invigorated her strong passion for research because she was able to integrate her political background with Economics to engage in important research pertinent to Guam. In the future, she aspires to work in public service in Guam and realizes the importance that research, and data can have in improving both the public and private sector. She hopes to use research as a method to tackle many issues present on the island of Guam such as economic adversities and the struggles toward decolonization. She is currently making strides to do this as a research assistant for Guam's Self-Governance Study.

Ms. Sofia Diane Meneses is currently a Research Fellow at the RCPP and an undergraduate at UOG who is pursuing a major in Accounting together with a concentration in Finance and Economics. She is a Merit and Regent Scholar and has been consistent in making it to UOG's President's List. Interested in pursuing law and taking the licensure exam as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), she hopes to reach a minimum of 150 credits by the time of her graduation in Spring 2021. She intends to further her education by earning a graduate degree in Finance or Economics, and contribute her knowledge to encourage a transparent and efficient society. In addition, she desires to enhance her research abilities, since gaining experience on regression analysis from her previous statistics course, and tackle pressing issues that can potentially benefit Guam's economy in the long-run.

Mr. Jun-Patrick Salalila is currently a Research Fellow at the RCPP, an undergraduate student and a Merit Scholar at UOG, the Treasurer for the UOG Junior Accountants Society, and the Vice President of the UOG Chapter of the Omicron Delta Epsilon International Honor Society for Economics. He is majoring in Business Administration in Accounting program to which he added a concentration in Economics where he plans to complete additional courses to earn an equivalent of an Economics degree in many U.S. universities. He is currently a junior and plans to complete a minimum of 150 credits when he graduates in Spring 2021, thus meeting the requirement to take the licensure exam as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). In addition, he plans to earn additional certifications such as becoming a Certified Management Accountant

(CMA) and a Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) and to pursue a Master's degree in Economics. He hopes to join the academia in Economics, Accounting or both and is particularly interested in understanding the choices people make between ethics and fraud and the necessary policies that will shape people's decision.

Ms. Kristina C. Sayama is currently a faculty member and Extension Agent II at the Cooperative Extension and Outreach at the University of Guam-College of Natural and Applied Sciences (UOG-CNAS). She earned her B.S. and Master's degrees in Public Administration as well as a Certificate in Paralegal Studies from UOG. She is currently enrolled in the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program at the University of Alaska – Fairbanks. She is very familiar with the importance of conducting ethical research, including the Institutional Review Board (IRB) process, as she was a member of the Committee on Human Research Subjects/Institutional Review Board at UOG. She also conducted the research climate survey, including designing the survey instrument, collecting data and writing up the reports. She is currently collaborating with faculty colleagues at UOG on several research projects, including “The Need for Developing Cyber-Security Program at Universities”, “Corruption on Guam: A Comparison with other Countries/Territories”, the first-ever to use the first-ever survey-based measure of corruption perception on Guam (patterned after Transparency International's methodology) and compare these survey results with those for other countries and territories, and “The Cost of Not Getting a College Education: A Case Study of Guam”, a pioneering work that replicates the Pew Research 2014 report entitled “The Rising Cost of Not Going to College” for Guam through survey and use of Guam census data to compare Guam's results with those from the U.S. as well as with results from more recent surveys.

Ms. Luisa V. Tenorio is currently a Research Fellow at the RCPP and a co-author of RCPP's publications entitled the *2018 Guam Economic Report* published in December 2018 and the *2015 Guam Corruption Perception* report published in January 2019. She graduated with honors from UOG in May 2018 with a dual degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance and Economics and in Political Science and has completed courses equivalent to those required in Economics undergraduate programs in many U.S. universities. She plans to pursue a graduate study in the area of Politics, Economics and Statistics and thereafter add to the small number of economists on-island and has been admitted to a very prestigious university in Europe. She presented her research on income inequality among SIDS and was well-received at the ICBEIT in 2017 in Guam. It was submitted for double-blind peer-review by the *Asia Pacific Business and Economics Research Perspectives* and was invited to be revised and resubmitted. She presented a revised version of her research at the Sustainable Tourism Symposium by the SBPA-Tourism Awareness Group in December 2017. She continues to develop research expertise on the special and unique economic situations faced by SIDS economies (including Guam), with an interest in identifying appropriate policy implications and formulation and presented her research at the ICBEIT 2018 in Osaka and ICBEIT 2019 in Singapore. She served as a member of the ICBEIT conference organizing committee for three years. She has written a number of research papers on a wide range of economic and political issues where she demonstrated a deep understanding of both qualitative and quantitative/statistical research methods.

Ms. Angelina T. Tretnoff is currently a full-time Business Instructor at the College of Micronesia-FSM in Pohnpei and a Research Fellow at the RCPP. She graduated *Magna Cum Laude* in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance and Economics from UOG in May 2014. She also earned her Master's in Public Administration from UOG. She is a member of the Omicron Delta Epsilon International Honor Society for Economics (Alpha/UOG Chapter) as well as a member of the Pi Alpha Alpha International Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration. While completing her Master's degree, she conducted research and presented her paper entitled "A Lawmaker's Optimization Model: Implications for Guam" at the ICBEIT 2016 in Nagoya and Beppu, Japan. She also co-authored a paper on the topic of Economic Development and Corruption which she co-presented at the Western Pacific Conference on Public Administration and Policy Studies in Guam in November 2015. Prior to this, during her undergraduate studies, she presented her research paper entitled "Micro Finance as Conduit for Economic Development: Implications for the FSM" at the ICBEIT 2014 in Taipei. It was submitted for double-blind review at an academic journal from which she received positive feedback from the reviewers, suggestions to revise, and an invitation for resubmission. She assisted Dr. Ruane with the data collection and compilation in the first Global Corruption Barometer survey of Guam and FSM residents; the survey uses questions by Transparency International. She recently co-presented a paper on the topic of Social Development and Corruption: An International Comparison at the ICBEIT 2019 in Singapore. She has chaired several ICBEIT conference sessions as well as served as a lead member of the ICBEIT organizing committee since 2014 with Dr. Ruane, an awesome mentor and close friend. She aspires to be an economist like Dr. Ruane with hopes to be able to implement her research towards her country, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). She plans to do another research presentation at the upcoming ICBEIT in Sydney come March 2020 as well as serve for the first time as a conference co-chair to represent her institution, College of Micronesia-FSM, which joined partner institutions UOG, Nagoya University, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, and Osaka Prefecture University.