



**UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
UNIBETSEDÁT GUÅHAN**

Board of Regents

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**Regular Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2024**

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents (BOR) was called to order by BOR Chairperson Lesley-Anne Leon Guerrero on December 12, 2024 at 5:35 p.m., RFK Library, Silent Room, and via Zoom. Notice of such meeting have been duly and regularly provided by the BOR.

QUORUM:

**Lesley-Anne Leon Guerrero
Mike W. Naholowaa
Sandra H. McKeever
Janice P. Malilay
Joanna T. Chun
Christopher L.C. Duenas
Julie Ann L. Laxamana**

**Chairperson
Treasurer
Member
Member
Member
Member
Member**

ALSO PRESENT:

**Anita Borja Enriquez
Anthony Camacho
Kalyne Roberto**

**President/Executive Secretary
General Counsel
Recording Secretary**

2.0 MEETING MINUTES

2.1 Regular Meeting Minutes of September 26, 2024

Chairperson Leon Guerrero asked if there were any corrections or discussion regarding the regular meeting minutes as presented. Regent Naholowaa moved to approve, which was duly seconded by Regent Duenas. The motion carried.

3.0 CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Chairperson Leon Guerrero delivered her remarks, expressing heartfelt appreciation for Regent Sandra McKeever's six years of leadership and service to the Board. She also thanked Regent Roland Certeza for his service and contributions to the Board as he will be leaving the Board at the end of the year.

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Chairperson Leon Guerrero noted that the Board eagerly anticipates the confirmation of a new Regent, as well as the opportunity to engage with the newly elected Senators of the 38th Guam Legislature. Chairperson Leon Guerrero then highlighted several accomplishments, including the \$50,000 grant awarded to UOG's student-led publication, *The Triton's Call*, the six \$1,000 scholarships awarded by the Society of Emeritus Professors and Retired Scholars (SEPRS), and the significant growth of the Research Corporation of the University of Guam (RCUOG), now managing over \$100 million in research funds. Special recognition was given to RCUOG Executive Director Cathleen Moore Linn for her 22 years of service to the University of Guam. Chairperson Leon Guerrero also remarked on the success of the 14th UOG Math Day, as well as the accreditation of the Bachelor of Social Work program, which received accreditation through 2031. Additionally, Chairperson Leon Guerrero recognized the Criminal Justice Capstone class, who was praised for hosting a public forum on Guam's War on Drugs. In closing, Chairperson Leon Guerrero congratulated over 200 graduates participating in the upcoming Fanuchånan 2024 Commencement ceremony, commending their resilience and achievements as they continue to inspire positive change in the world.

She concluded her remarks by inviting President Enriquez to deliver her report.

4.0 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Enriquez began her report by extending congratulations to the new Board officers, including Chairperson Leon Guerrero, Treasurer Naholowaa, and Vice Chair Diaz, who was unable to attend. She expressed deep appreciation for the leadership of past Chairperson Sandra Mckeever, acknowledging her calm professionalism and significant contributions to the University, and to Regent Roland Certeza, acknowledging his leadership and his significant contributions to the University's new strategic plan. President Enriquez also highlighted the University's continued growth and success, emphasizing the strong collaboration between faculty and students, which has led to significant academic and enrollment achievements.

President Enriquez also shared that the University of Guam has surpassed the 3,000 enrollment mark, returning to pre-COVID levels, and has improved its degree completion rate to 40% in Fall 2023, up from 23% in 2013. This success was attributed to the dedication and care demonstrated by faculty in supporting students through their academic journeys. She also celebrated the University's recognition in several national rankings, including U.S. News & World Report, where UOG was listed in multiple categories such as "Top Regional Universities-West," "Top Public Schools," and "Best Colleges for Veterans." She recognized the vital role of the University of Guam Endowment Foundation in securing funding for scholarships and the ongoing partnerships that help support students.

President Enriquez proceeded with her report, a copy of which is attached.

In closing her report, President Enriquez noted exciting initiatives ahead, including the weekly health and well-being features in the Guam Daily Post, which will involve various University departments. She also expressed pride in the upcoming 2024 Fanuchånan Commencement ceremony, where 211 graduates will be celebrated. The President also closed thanking the faculty, staff, students, and student organizations for their contributions to a successful semester and wished everyone a joyous holiday season and a successful new year.

5.0 REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

5.1 Student Affairs, Scholarship, Alumni Relations and Honorary Degree (SASARHD) Committee

5.1.1 Committee Update

Regent Malilay reported that the SASARHD Committee met on November 19th at 1:05 p.m. with a quorum present and presented and reviewed the proposed resolutions for the Board's approval.

5.1.2 Resolution No. 24-26, Relative to Approving the Fanuchånan 2024 Commencement Graduate Listing

Regent Mailiay introduced Resolution No. 24-26 and moved to approve, which was duly seconded by Regent McKeever. She summarized the resolution explaining the purpose. The motion carried.

5.1.3 Resolution No. 24-27, Relative to Approving the Proposed Adjustment of Certain Student Fees Effective Fanuchånan Semester 2025

Regent Mailiay introduced Resolution No. 24-27 and moved to approve, which was duly seconded by Regent Chun. She summarized the resolution explaining the purpose. The motion carried by majority vote, with Regent Laxamana voting against Resolution No. 24-27.

5.1.4 Resolution No. 24-28, Relative to Approving the Repealing and Replacement of BOR Resolution No. 05-31 Relative to the Marine Lab Graduate Scholarship Program

Regent Mailiay introduced Resolution No. 24-28 and moved to approve, which was duly seconded by Regent Chun. She summarized the resolution explaining the purpose. The motion carried.

5.2 Academic, Personnel and Tenure Committee (AP&T) Committee

5.2.1 Committee Update

Regent Malilay reported that the AP&T Committee met on November 19th at 2:36 p.m. with a quorum present and presented and reviewed the proposed resolutions for the Board's approval.

5.2.2 Resolution No. 24-29, Relative to Awarding Emerita Vice President of the University of Guam to Judith P. Guthertz

Regent Malilay introduced Resolution No. 24-29 and moved to approve, which was duly seconded by Regent Naholowaa. She summarized the resolution explaining the purpose. The motion carried.

5.2.3 Resolution No. 24-30, Relative to Amending the University's Organizational Chart to Include the Elimination of the Director, University Events Office, and Director, Development, Alumni Affairs, and Foundation Relations, and Establishing a Vice President for University Advancement Position

Regent Malilay introduced Resolution No. 24-30 and moved to approve, which was duly seconded by Regent Naholowaa. She summarized the resolution explaining the purpose. The motion carried.

Dr. Arun Swamy, Faculty Union President, expressed concerns regarding the consolidation of two positions into one, which could lead to a net salary increase despite staff reduction. He questioned whether the new position could effectively handle the responsibilities of the two previous roles, particularly in building alumni networks and raising funds. Dr. Swamy raised concerns about the potential financial burden on the university and the possibility of additional duties falling on faculty due to understaffing. In response, the administration explained that the restructuring aims to align with modern operational practices and enhance revenue through fundraising initiatives. It was further emphasized that this would ultimately reduce the financial burden on the university by becoming self-sustaining through increased donations. The discussion highlighted the need for efficient alumni database management, which Dr. Swamy noted is a time-consuming administrative task not typically handled by faculty. The administration acknowledged the importance of maintaining alumni relationships but reassured that this effort would involve dedicated staff and proper resources.

5.2.4 Resolution No. 24-31, Relative to Expressing Appreciation to Sandra H. McKeever for her Service as a Member, Treasurer, Vice Chairperson, and Chairperson of the Board of Regents

Regent Malilay introduced Resolution No. 24-31 and moved to approve, which was duly seconded by Regent Naholowaa. She summarized the resolution explaining the purpose. The motion carried.

5.2.5 Resolution No. 24-32, Relative to Expressing Appreciation to Roland S. Certeza for his Service as a Member of the Board of Regents

Regent Malilay introduced Resolution No. 24-32 and moved to approve, which was duly seconded by Regent Naholowaa. She summarized the resolution explaining the purpose. The motion carried.

5.2.6 Endorsement of the New University Strategic Plan: *Tulos Mo'na: Navigating 2024-2029*

Regent Malilay moved to endorse the new University Strategic Plan: *Tulos Mo'na" Navigating 2024-2029*, which was duly seconded by Regent Naholowaa. The motion carried.

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President Enriquez presented the University of Guam's Strategic Plan for 2024-2029, titled "*Tulos Mo'na*." She noted that the plan was refined with input from the Board's strategic planning ad hoc committee and is based on four key pillars, which are intended to serve as a roadmap for the University's priorities:

The first pillar focuses on ensuring every student receives a "guided voyage" to their destination. This includes improving first-to-second year retention rates, increasing graduation rates, and ensuring students have a satisfying academic experience. The focus is on keeping students engaged and helping them complete their degrees successfully.

The second pillar positions UOG as a trusted source for quality academic programs, research, service, and extension. Key results here include maintaining program accreditation, fostering professional credentialing, increasing research grants, and expanding community service and outreach.

The third pillar centers on enriching the employee experience. It focuses on improving employee retention through positive working conditions and ensuring adequate resources for professional development and training.

The fourth pillar emphasizes optimizing the University's financial health and ensuring sustainable growth. It includes increasing student enrollment, advancing alumni and donor giving, ensuring the sustainability of auxiliary units, and improving cost efficiency through streamlined processes and utility savings.

President Enriquez highlighted the extensive collaboration that went into this plan, including surveys, input from stakeholders, and discussions within the Board's strategic planning committee. The plan is now ready for implementation with performance benchmarks that will hold the President accountable for its success.

Dr. Swamy raised concerns about the University's strategic plan, seeking clarification on its purpose, whether it was aimed at holding the President accountable or serving as a guide for the University's broader efforts, especially for faculty. He noted that Strategic Pillar 2 seemed to focus on communication rather than supporting faculty and questioned how the plan would align with academic master plans. He also pointed out that the plan hadn't been formally reviewed by faculty bodies, such as the Union, which is necessary for any plan impacting faculty work conditions.

In response, President Enriquez clarified that the strategic plan is a high-level document for guiding the University's direction and is not intended to dictate academic plans, which are developed by faculty. The Board emphasized that there had already been significant input from academic leaders, and the plan is meant to be flexible, with room for adjustments. The Board agreed that the strategic plan should move forward, encouraging ongoing dialogue among faculty, staff, and leadership.

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5.3 Physical Facilities Committee

5.3.1 Committee Update

Regent Malilay reported that the Physical Facilities Committee met on November 19, 2024, at 4pm in the President's conference room, with a quorum present. There were no resolutions for review, but several updates were provided on ongoing projects. Notably, capital projects under the USDA include the Student Success Center, which is 44% complete and expected to be finished by June 2025, with a slight cost increase due to survey costs. The School of Engineering construction is 56% complete, with an expected completion in May 2025, and a cost increase for building modifications. Other updates included the Water Environmental Research Institute (WERI) project, which is 20% complete and expected to be completed by November 2025, with a significant cost increase for underground power connection.

Updates were also provided on various facilities, including the School of Health, which is 14% complete with a completion date of November 2025. The committee discussed the installation of a new generator and the progress on campus infrastructure, including the installation of solar lights and a 30-horsepower pump for the water system. Personnel changes were noted, with Director Glenn Leon Guerrero leaving the University, and John Leon Guerrero appointed as interim director.

In terms of IT infrastructure, the committee was briefed on the progress of the Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) project, which is expected to generate significant savings, and ongoing work to modernize campus enterprise applications. Lastly, updates on the new website and travel expense application were provided.

5.4 Investment Committee

5.4.1 Committee Update

Regent Duenas reported that the Investment Committee met on November 14th at 1:38 p.m., with a quorum present.

Regent Duenas noted that the committee received updates from UOG's investment managers regarding the university's portfolio. As of November 11, the portfolio's market value stood at \$30.1 million, in line with the University's investment policy statement, reflecting a quarter-to-date return of 0.54%, outperforming the benchmark of 0.1%. Additionally, the committee was briefed on a conservatively managed portfolio with a market value of \$4.8 million as of November 13. This portfolio showed a quarter-to-date return of -1.54%, underperforming the benchmark of -1.17%.

Regent Duenas further reported that a working session was held on October 29, 2024, to orient new committee members on the portfolio and the investment policy. Raymond James provided an economic outlook, forecasting a 2% increase in U.S. GDP and a potential reduction in federal funds rate before the year's end. The easing of inflation growth has positively contributed to the market's overall performance.

5.4.2 Resolution No. 24-33, Relative to Amending BOR Resolution No. 20-18 to Continue Authorizing the President to Borrow from Restricted Funds for the Purpose of Strengthening Fundraising Capabilities

Regent Duenas introduced Resolution No. 24-33 and moved to approve, which was duly seconded by Regent Naholowaa. He summarized the resolution explaining the purpose. The motion carried.

5.5 Budget, Finance, and Audit (BFA) Committee

Regent Naholowaa reported that the BFA Committee met on November 14th at 3:04 p.m. and a quorum was present and presented and reviewed the proposed resolutions for the Board's approval.

5.5.1 Financial Update

Regent Naholowaa reported that the University received its full appropriation for fiscal year 2024 and expresses gratitude to the Department of Administration for providing timely allotment payments throughout the year. Allotments for the fiscal year have been received in full.

However, as the University entered fiscal year 2025, it was found that the appropriation is insufficient to cover its expenses for the year. The University is continuing to operate under a rollover budget from fiscal year 2024 and is actively reviewing areas where costs can be reduced. Efforts are also underway to work with the newly elected Legislature to identify potential funding to help address the current budget deficit.

Financial projections for fiscal year 2024 indicate that revenues and expenditures will break even, with some adjustments potentially leading to a decrease in net position. Current tracking of budget-to-actual expenditures also suggests that the University is on track for a close-to-break-even outcome for the year.

5.5.2 Collections Report

He reported that as of September 30, 2024, collections have surpassed the target of \$200,000, reaching a total of \$253,591.

5.5.3 Procurement Transactions and Contracts Report

He stated that there are two outgoing contracts, which relate to software maintenance costs for the university system and dorm meal plans.

5.5.4 Resolution No. 24-34, Relative to Authorization to Write-Off Certain Accounts That Have Been Determined to Be Uncollectible

Regent Naholowaa introduced Resolution No. 24-34 and moved to approve, which was duly seconded by Regent Duenas. He summarized the resolution explaining the purpose. The motion carried.

5.5.5 Resolution No. 24-35, Relative to Approving the Guam Cultural Repository Fee Structure

Regent Naholowaa introduced Resolution No. 24-35 and moved to approve, which was duly seconded by Regent McKeever. He summarized the resolution explaining the purpose. The motion carried.

6.0 AD HOC REPORT: ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION UPDATE

Katrina Perez, Executive Director of the UOG Endowment Foundation, provided an update to the Board of Regents. She began by expressing gratitude for the Foundation's role in fostering philanthropy and acknowledged the valuable partnership with UOG personnel, whose passion for their programs helps to inspire community interest and support.

She reported notable donations received since September 24th, including \$225,000 from the Guam Board of Accountancy, thanks to a long-standing relationship established in December 2014; \$75,000 from Ms. Lisa Henderson, which includes \$15,000 for the Bernadita Taitano Carbullido Scholarship, \$25,000 for immediate program and maintenance needs for the School of Education's Elementary Education Program, and \$35,000 for the Carbullido Family Endowment Fund for maintenance support of the UOG School of Education Building. Additionally, \$12,000 was received from Cementon Micronesia for the Manaina Scholarship, \$10,000 from Jones & Guerrero Co. for the Tenelle Concert, \$10,000 from Professors Emeriti Dr. Rebecca Stephenson and Dr. Hiro Kurashina to establish the Stephenson-Kurashina Endowed Scholarship, \$10,000 from Linda Look for the UOG residence halls, and \$9,000 from the Judiciary of Guam in support of the Regional Center for Public Policy. Further contributions include \$7,500 in sponsorship for the PMBA program from PMBA Cohort 19 and \$6,586 in sponsorship and registration for the Asia Pacific Studies Center's 2024 Guam Agrability Regional Workshop. The Endowment Foundation also encouraged everyone to thank the donors and UOG employees for their continued support. A reminder was provided regarding the G is for Giving Campaign, which runs through the end of December, aiming to raise funds for student scholarships and support the new Tulos Mo'na Strategic Plan. The campaign includes a raffle fundraiser with prizes such as round-trip tickets, hotel stays, restaurant gift certificates, and an iPad. Tickets are \$25 each, or five chances for \$100, available online or at the UOG office. Finally, the UOG Endowment Foundation thanked Regent Roland Certeza and Regent McKeever for their service on the board and expressed eagerness for their continued support in future fundraising efforts.

7.0 OPEN PRESENTATION (3 Minute Limit per Person)

Chairperson Leon Guerrero opened the floor for open presentations.

Dr. Ronald McNinch expressed his support for Dr. Judith Guthertz, highlighting her emerita status and contributions to the FBI community. McNinch also emphasized the importance of hiring a skilled development person for fundraising, noting that successful candidates should actively raise money. He raised concerns about the handling of complaints, asking the Board to address pending issues, including a 2018 settlement agreement, and to develop a standardized policy for complaints.

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Nicole Guerrero, President of the Student Government Association (SGA), expressed her disappointment over the passage of student fee increases, which she argued would burden students already facing financial challenges. She urged the Board to avoid further fee hikes in the foreseeable future and to better support students in managing education costs. Keana Ardiente, SGA Vice President, echoed these concerns, suggesting transparency in fee increases and exploring ways to reduce operational costs or increase fundraising efforts. Both students advocated for continuous dialogue with the Board to find solutions that consider the financial difficulties students face, particularly from middle-income backgrounds.

The Board members acknowledged the concerns, with some expressing empathy for students' struggles while also noting the University's limited financial options. They emphasized the importance of transparent communication and ongoing efforts to mitigate the impact on students.


11.0 ADJOURNMENT

Regent McKeever moved that the meeting be adjourned, which was duly seconded by Regent Naholowaa. The motion carried. Chairperson Leon Guerrero adjourned the meeting at 7:24 p.m., CHamoru Standard Time.

ATTESTED:



Anita Borja Enriquez, D.B.A., Executive Secretary



Lesley-Anne Leon Guerrero, Chairperson



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

December 2024



UOG named a top university in U.S. News & World Report rankings

The U.S. News & World Report has released its Best Colleges rankings among 1,500 U.S. colleges and universities. The University of Guam has been named one of the best regional universities in the West, a top public school, a best value school, one of the best colleges for veterans, and a top performer in social mobility.

This is the fifth year that UOG has been included in the Best Colleges Rankings. For 2024-2025, UOG ranked:

- #56 in Regional Universities West
- #28 in Top Public Schools
- #32 in Best Value Schools
- #29 in Best Colleges for Veterans
- #46 in Top Performers on Social Mobility

[READ MORE...](#)

UOG Social Work Program Accreditation Reaffirmed



The University of Guam's Bachelor of Social Work program has been reaffirmed for accreditation through 2031 by the Commission on Accreditation of the National Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).

[READ MORE...](#)



**Håfa Adai,
Triton Community!**

Welcome to the December edition of The President's Report. This newsletter will keep you updated on the latest news, achievements, and milestones at the University of Guam.

From groundbreaking research to student success stories, our university continues to deliver public value and make strides in our mission to serve the region. I look forward to sharing these highlights with you and keeping you connected to our Triton community.

**ANITA BORJA
ENRIQUEZ, D.B.A.
PRESIDENT**

ALUMNI FEATURE: Teaching Abroad, Learning for Life: Lazaro Quinata's Peace Corps Mission in Samoa

When Lazaro Quinata graduated from the University of Guam in 2020 with a degree in sociology and a minor in CHamoru studies, he was eager to explore new opportunities. The COVID-19 pandemic initially limited his options, but he was able to start his career teaching Guam Studies at Father Duenas Memorial School.

After three years of teaching, competing in paddling, and contributing to a publication centering on Pacific Island pedagogy, he felt that the dots were connecting for him to expand his experience in the Peace Corps.

Joining the Peace Corps

The Peace Corps, founded in 1961, is a volunteer program run by the United States government that sends Americans abroad to tackle pressing needs in education, health, and economic development, while promoting cross-cultural understanding. Volunteers work in underserved communities around the world, typically for two years.

In 2023, Quinata moved to Samoa, an independent island nation located south of Hawaii, to serve as an English Literacy Educator in the Peace Corps. He spent weeks training in the Samoan culture, learning the language, and preparing for his role as a volunteer.



A Year of Teaching in Samoa

During his first year of teaching English at a primary school in a remote host village, Quinata managed the school library, assessed English literacy levels, and collaborated with students on creative ways to teach English, which ultimately helped to build their skills and confidence.

“Watching my students grow more confident with English was rewarding,” he said.

Living in Samoa offered challenges like adjusting to a slower pace of life and overcoming language barriers. However, Quinata later found value in these experiences, especially appreciating his time for rest and recreation.

[READ MORE...](#)

ALUMNI FEATURE: Diaz sworn in as new marshal of the courts



[READ MORE in the Pacific Daily News](#)

Leo S. Diaz officially assumed the role of marshal of the courts on Monday in a swearing-in led by Chief Justice Robert J. Torres.

The ceremony, attended by Diaz's family, Judiciary members, and distinguished guests, followed his unanimous appointment by the Judicial Council on Nov. 21, according to the Judiciary of Guam.

Diaz brings decades of experience to the Marshal Services Division. A graduate of the University of Guam with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, Diaz is a certified pressure tactics instructor, certified taser instructor, and certified active shooter instructor.

HEADLINES & HIGHLIGHTS



UOG Board of Regents Announces New Officers

The University of Guam Board of Regents (BOR) has ushered in a new era of leadership, with Lesley-Anne Leon Guerrero elected as chairperson during its September 26 meeting. Agapito "Pete" A. Diaz is the new vice chairperson, and Mike W. Naholowaa continues in his role as the board's treasurer. This marks a pivotal moment as the board builds on recent successes to advance UOG's mission of empowering the region through education, innovation, and community engagement. Leon Guerrero is Senior Vice President and Chief Experience Officer at the Bank of Guam and has served on the BOR since 2019. [READ MORE...](#)



UOG's Triton's Call Receives \$50,000 Grant to Enhance Student-Led Coverage of Critical Issues in Guam

The Triton's Call, the University of Guam's student-led news publication, has been awarded \$50,000 by Press Forward, the nationwide movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news.

[READ MORE...](#)



UOG's Peralta Wins Cayuse Productivity Award

Dr. Pamela Peralta, Interim Vice Provost of Research and Sponsored Programs and Director of Grants and Contracts at the University of Guam, was recently awarded a Productivity Award from Cayuse, a research software company whose programs track and manage research grants and projects.

Peralta acknowledged that the award is the result of a team effort. Staff from ORSP, the Office of Information Technology, the Human Resources Office, and the Research Corporation of the University of Guam, along with UOG accountants, worked with Cayuse consultants to ensure the smooth rollout and adoption of the Cayuse system.

[READ MORE...](#)

HEADLINES & HIGHLIGHTS



UOG student selected for prestigious Knauss Fellowship

University of Guam (UOG) student Garret O'Donnell has been selected for the highly competitive Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Sea Grant College Program.

[READ MORE...](#)



UOG SHRM Student Chapter receives Superior Merit Award

The UOG Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) Student Chapter has earned the SHRM Superior Merit Award for the 2023-2024. This recognition is the highest honor granted to student chapters by SHRM's national professional organization, signifying UOG SHRM's status as one of the top SHRM Student Chapters, nationally and globally.

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UOG students present cancer research at prestigious conference

University of Guam students Reina Evangelista and Gian Paras recently showcased their cancer research projects at the 17th American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Conference on the Science of Cancer Health Disparities in Racial/Ethnic Minorities and the Medically Underserved, held in Los Angeles, California, September 21-24, 2024.

[READ MORE...](#)



UOG Students Awarded \$1,500 Herminia Dierking Scholarships

The Association of Government Accountants (AGA) Guam Chapter recently awarded two \$1,500 Herminia Dierking Scholarships to Abigail Uy, a senior public administration and criminal justice double major, and Princess Fernandez is a senior accounting major. [READ MORE...](#)

In Other News...

DECEMBER 2024

UOG Fanuchånan 2024 Commencement to be held Dec. 15

[UOG opens recruitment for NSF Navigating Home fellowship](#)

The University of Guam (UOG) has officially opened recruitment for the National Science Foundation (NSF) Navigating Home Year-long Early Career Fellowship. This exciting opportunity aims to attract and retain talented individuals who are pursuing their masters or doctorate degrees who may have moved off Guam, and are ready to return home.

[Pre-vet and wildlife courses from University of Florida available to UOG, GCC, and NMC students](#)

The USDA-funded [NextGen COMPASS program](#) at the University of Guam announces new course opportunities for University of Guam, Guam Community College, and Northern Marianas College students interested in wildlife biology and pre-veterinary careers.

[UOG sets the stage for STEM careers with high school Math Day](#)

One of the largest classrooms on the University of Guam campus was standing room only on Saturday, Nov. 16, as 70 students and their teachers from 16 middle and high schools came together to indulge in their favorite subject — math. It was the 14th UOG Math Day, an event designed to get youth excited about pursuing math courses in college and to give them confidence toward pursuing STEM degrees and careers.

NOVEMBER 2024

[Three UOG Students Receive Camacho Foundation Scholarships](#)

The Felix M. and Governor Carlos G. Camacho Scholarship Foundation has awarded \$2,000 scholarships to three outstanding undergraduate students from the University of Guam for the 2024-2025 academic year. Freshman Mia Marchessault, sophomore Yoonji Seo, and junior Brian Teodosio were recognized at a special awards ceremony on November 9 for their academic achievements and commitment to their studies. Marchessault and Teodosio are pursuing degrees in business administration, while Seo is majoring in accounting.

NOVEMBER 2024 (Cont.)

[Guam's first AgrAbility conference focuses on solutions to limitations and disabilities in farming](#)

Farmer Focus, a University of Guam initiative working to enhance mental health support for the agricultural community, expanded the conversation on farmer support last week to include disabilities and limitations. From Oct. 29–31 at the Hyatt Regency Guam, the UOG Farmer Focus team hosted the island's first AgrAbility Regional Workshop, drawing an audience of 185, including local farmers, professionals who work directly with agricultural producers, and community leaders.

[UOG students win awards and shine at SACNAS NDiSTEM Conference](#)

University of Guam (UOG) student researchers made a strong showing at the 2024 Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) National Diversity in STEM (NDiSTEM) Conference, held in Phoenix, Arizona; bringing together thousands of scientists, engineers, and students from across the nation. A total of 22 UOG students presented their research findings on a variety of topics, including marine biology, environmental science, and engineering.

[UOG Isla Center for the Arts Presented "Creative Hands" Exhibition](#)

Creative Hands: Selected Works by Pacific Artists is a biennial juried exhibition at the Isla Center for the Arts. The exhibition will be on display from December 5, 2024 to January 24, 2025.

[UOG EPSCoR graduate students spotlight coral research at national conference](#)

During the 28th National Science Foundation Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (NSF EPSCoR) conference, graduate students from the University of Guam presented research that may contribute to coral reef restoration and recovery efforts on the island. The graduate research assistants or GRAs, all supported by Guam NSF EPSCoR, participated in the research poster presentations in Omaha, Nebraska.

In Other News...

NOVEMBER 2024 (Cont.)

UOG Press celebrates the launch of Signs of Being by C.T. Perez

The University of Press is launching Signs of Being by C.T. Perez, a collection of poetry, prose, and commentary that explores CHamoru cultural identity through the lens of ec(h)o literature, or literature that interprets signs in the natural environment as echoes from ancestors.

OCTOBER 2024

Six become FAA-certified remote pilots through UOG Drone Corps

Six more University of Guam students have become Federal Aviation Administration-certified remote pilots through the UOG Drone Corps program. The new pilots are the fourth cohort to become licensed through the UOG Drone Corps program as it continues its mission to meet the island's growing demand for skilled drone operators.

Coming from a range of academic interests, the newly certified remote pilots are biology graduate student Zoe Ariellius, civil engineering major Cyril Concepcion, computer science major Christopher Nadeau, environmental science graduate student Ajalyn Omelau, biology major Diego Ray Quiogue, and agriculture major Farron Taijeron.

UOG begins community aquaponics system installations

For many, the thought of being able to go out to your backyard and grab a fresh fish for dinner seems absurd, but it is a reality for members of the first cohort of the University of Guam Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant's (UOG CIS&SG) Community Based Aquaponics Systems (CBAS) program.

The program celebrated its first round of system installations this month with four complete units, valued between seven and ten thousand dollars, now up and running. These sustainable farming systems are being installed at various locations, providing a unique opportunity for residents to grow their own food and reduce their environmental impact.

OCTOBER 2024 (Cont.)

Japanese Art and Design Students Fundraise for UOG

Students from the Niigata College of Art and Design (NCAD) in Niigata, Japan hosted their Charity Art and Craft Market to raise funds for the University of Guam's Fine Arts program.

Nearly two dozen NCAD students showcased and sold a variety of their handmade craft and art items, including jewelry, pins, stickers, postcards, digital prints, and comic books. Some of the students' artwork and designs were printed on shirts, tote bags, and tumblers. On-site caricature drawings were also available to customers.

The fundraiser has been held annually on Guam for more than 10 years with support from UOG's Global Learning and Engagement (GLE) Office, which partners with NCAD for various exchange programs. This year, a total of \$1,324 was raised.

Triton Athletics Announces Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2024

The University of Guam Triton Athletics and Field House Department has announced the Class of 2024 for their Athletic Hall of Fame. The Class is a more modern version of the Hall, made up of individuals who played or worked for UOG since the new athletic department started in 2016. The class has a soccer feel to it with three soccer individuals being added to the Hall with one coach and two players being named UOG Hall of Famers plus two important support personnel are being added to the Class.

UOG Isla Center for the Arts Hosts Ceramic Celebrations XV Exhibit

The Isla Center for the Arts hosted Ceramic Celebration XV in October featuring over 200 works of art will be available for sale by Professor Lewis Rifkowitz and students and alumni in the UOG Fine Arts Program. Proceeds from sales benefitted operations at the Isla Center for the Arts.

In Other News...

OCTOBER 2024 (Cont.)

UOG School of Engineering Hosted Lecture on Additive Manufacturing

The University of Guam School of Engineering, (SENG), in collaboration with the UOG Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) Student Chapter, hosted a lecture on Additive Manufacturing featuring experts from the Colorado School of Mines, Dr. Craig A. Brice, Professor of Practice in Mechanical Engineering, and Dr. Joy Gockel, Associate Professor in Mechanical Engineering.

315 earn degrees at UOG commencement

The University of Guam conferred degrees Sunday to 315 graduates at its Fañomnåkan 2024 Commencement Ceremony in the Calvo Field House.

Triton Athletics gives 16 scholarships to student-athletes from the World Theater Productions donation

The Triton Athletics and Field House department of the University of Guam gave 16 student-athletes scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$500 from a \$10,000 donation to the program from World Theater Productions and Guam Philharmonic Foundation from their production of the Lion King, Jr. The event was held in the Lecture Hall at UOG on Friday night, October 11 and featured part of the cast of the Lion King, Jr.

UOG Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant Natural Resources team rescues endangered orchids

The University of Guam Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant's (UOG CIS & SG) Natural Resources team recently rescued threatened species of native orchid left vulnerable.

Decaying old trees are a natural and essential part of a forest's life cycle. As trees age, they become more fragile and eventually fall. This process creates open space in the forest allowing new seedlings to thrive. In some cases, these trees are hosts to rare and threatened orchids.

The UOG CIS & SG Natural Resources team from the UOG CIS Island Conservation Lab recently trekked into the jungles of Guam and retrieved over 12 clusters of native orchid species, that were displaced when an old yoga tree fell.

OCTOBER 2024 (Cont.)

24 University of Guam Students Awarded Endowment Foundation Scholarships

The University of Guam Endowment Foundation proudly hosted a scholarship presentation ceremony on October 25, 2024 at the College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences Lecture Hall in the Tan Lam Pek Kim English and Communication Building. 15 privately funded scholarships were awarded to 24 University of Guam students for the 2024-2025 academic year.

Six UOG Students Awarded Scholarships by SEPRS in Annual Ceremony

On October 18, 2024, the University of Guam's Society of Emeritus Professors (SEPRS) awarded scholarships to six exceptional UOG students for the 2024-2025 academic year. Each recipient received \$1,000 during a special ceremony held at the UOG Emeritus Hall.

UOG Students Create Bilingual Korean Language Resources

University of Guam students from Dr. Lynsey Lee's Elementary Korean classes, KO101 and KO102, recently completed their K-Tourism project, which resulted in the creation of bilingual resources for Korean tourists visiting Guam. After identifying and reaching out to community partners, the students developed brochures with relevant information and tips in Korean and English.

UOG Theatre Presented "The Prom" – An Inclusive Musical

The University of Guam Theatre performed: a new inclusive musical, The Prom, by Chad Beguelin and Bob Martin from November 7-9 and 14-16 at the UOG Fine Arts Theatre.

Let's Cook workshop series at UOG teaches nutritional twists on popular local recipes

Community members of all ages can explore some new seasonal recipes that also pack a nutritious punch in the upcoming Nihi ta Fanmama'tinas (Let's Cook) series with University of Guam Cooperative Extension & Outreach. The class series, launched in 2022, aims to teach residents ways to use locally grown produce to make popular local foods, like titiyas and tinaktak, more nutritious.

PARA TODU HIT: FOR ALL OF US

In early 2024, President Enriquez started *Para Todu Hit: For All of Us*, a weekly column in the Pacific Daily News published every Wednesday. The column focuses on how different parts of the University deliver public value to our community and provides a closer look into the people and programs committed to our meeting our mission of Ina, Deskubre, Setbe.

PACIFIC DAILY NEWS

UOG's Social Work Program shines

Featuring: Bachelor of Social Work Program
Published: Dec. 11, 2024

An investment in your future, the value of a UOG degree

Featuring: Value of UOG degree
Published: Dec. 4, 2024

Elevating Guam's Voice in STEM Research

Featuring: UOG at SACNAS
Published: Nov. 20, 2024

How UOG's Research Corporation is advancing science, students, Guam's future

Featuring: RCUOG
Published: Nov. 6, 2024

TRIO programs, cultivating student success

Featuring: UOG's TRIO Programs
Published: Oct. 2, 2024

Building a stronger community through business, innovation, policy

Featuring: SBPA
Published: Oct.. 9, 2024

Pioneering cancer research, advocacy

Featuring: UOG Cancer Research Center
Published: Oct.. 16, 2024

Celebrating UOG's rise in national rankings

Featuring: Rankings in U.S. News and World Report
Published: Oct.. 23, 2024

Investing in UOG and in Guam's future

Featuring: Investing in UOG
Published: Oct.. 30, 2024

OPINION Enriquez: UOG's Social Work Program shines

By Anita Borja Enriquez
For Pacific Daily News

The University of Guam's Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) program has once again achieved a significant milestone: reaffirmation of its accreditation by the National Council on Social Work Education through 2031.

Founded in 1980, the program first achieved accreditation in 2003 and has successfully maintained it through each review since.

We were very firm from the very beginning that accreditation is critical for our graduates," said Gerhard Schwab, longtime professor of social work. Accreditation ensures the program meets rigorous academic and professional standards, benefiting students and the broader community.

The heart of the BSW program lies in its commitment to community impact. Students begin applying their skills during their senior year through supervised fieldwork with service agencies and organizations across Guam and the region. These placements address critical local challenges, including social welfare needs, family violence, substance abuse, and mental health support.

UOG social work students are currently assisting Guam Memorial Hospital, the Department of Corrections, Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center, and Child Protective Services, among others.

Addressing and adapting to local



Enriquez

stance abuse. Social workers are on the front lines, addressing these issues with professionalism and empathy. "Our community needs social workers who have a background in family violence and substance use disorders because these are significant issues here," Lizama said.

Supporting students from classroom to career

For student Savanna Dee C. Aguon, social work wasn't her first choice, but it became her calling.

"It's overwhelming in a good way," Aguon said. "I learned so much about the emotional and psychological aspects of clients. I thought it was just about signing contracts or referring them

15 more graduating in May.

Whether earning their bachelor's or advancing their studies, UOG social work students are supported in their journey to become compassionate and skilled professionals ready to make a difference.

Continued impact

Graduates of UOG's social work program are making a difference daily. They work in public health departments, schools, hospitals, and nonprofits across Guam and Micronesia.

The program continues to explore expanding community partnerships, the possibility of developing specialized tracks, enhancing research capabilities, and addressing emerging social challenges.

The reaffirmation of the program's

Para Todu Hit: For All of Us, published in the E-Edition Pacific Daily News on Dec. 11, 2024.