



THE SHEFA CHRONICLE

A Quarterly Newsletter

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JULY 2010

THE SHEFA CHRONICLE

is a quarterly newsletter dedicated to updating the community on program information and events, and serves as a forum to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments and achievements of scholars. The Chronicle also serves as a useful tool for fine tuning both policy formulation and program design and delivery & contributes to the academic performance and social networks for scholars.

For the initial and subsequent publications, the Chronicle will attempt to capture in print the progress of SHEFA scholars in exemplary life moments in college and in post-college life events. The objective is to provide a snapshot of real life moments in the postsecondary lives of SHEFA scholars when they enter college, as they progress in their studies and when they are ready to matriculate and enter the labor market, ready to contribute to the development and growth of the island of Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). The series of fleeting moments details scholarly achievements in extracurricular works; scholar involvement in campus-sponsored study abroad program; induction in the campus or the nation's honors society; and scholar participation or involvement in a national presidential scholars program.

Just as valuable in taking timely steps towards program development and growth is capturing post-college life moments of scholars. Precious moments involve career building in different workplace setting; performing service

learning as paid interns or volunteer interns (in partial fulfillment of a program graduation requirement); and pursuing graduate level academic work. Actively searching for a job is just as important life moments after graduation. This vignette provides useful data and information in refining job search skills and career assessment intervention strategies way in advanced of graduation from college.

In this inaugural publication, SHEFA is extremely fortunate to feature two cooperating scholars in the workplace on Saipan and a scholar volunteer intern at a hospital in Hawaii last summer.

Gainfully employed SHEFA scholars on Saipan are Mr. Christopher Attao Concepcion and Ms. Erin C. Camacho. Mr. Concepcion is presently the Manager for Northwest Airlines at the Saipan International Airport while Ms. Camacho works as the Dietician for the Commonwealth Health Center in the Department of Public Health..

The third cooperating scholar is Ms. Emma C. Itibus from Gualo Rai. Emma interned without pay at the Queens Hospital in Honolulu, Hawaii last summer and presently a fourth-year undergraduate at Hawaii Pacific University (HPU) majoring in Pre-Medicine with concentration in biology.

The first feature scholar in The Chronicle's Leadership Corner is Ms. Cindy Guerrero, the Director of Administration and Records at the Northern Marianas College



SAIPAN MAYOR DONALD P. FLORES

(NMC) and a former administrator at the Public School System (PSS). For her part, Ms. Jackie Che, presently a graduate student in San Diego, California, graciously shared her reflections and insights as a SHEFA scholar and a college student in the U.S. Future issues will highlight diverse student experiences in and out of college involving survival skills, strategies in choosing majors, partaking in leadership opportunities, athletics, volunteerism, career planning and preparation strategies, and post-graduate related opportunities (i.e., what to expect after graduation and ways to prepare for life outside of school)

SHEFA is grateful to those cooperating scholars for their gracious participation in the inaugural publication of *The SHEFA Chronicle*.

In this seminal issue, the founding members of SHEFA are recognized for their trailblazing work, accomplishment, and service to the community. The magnanimous support of the 13th Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation (SNILD) in initiating the first post-CNMI municipal postsecondary financial assistance program with Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela is duly recognized too.

IN MEMORIAM

Remembering Max Olopai & Howard Macaranas



MAX OLOPAI

Following his pioneering stint as one of the first five members appointed by former Mayor Juan B. Tudela to the Board of Directors of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA), Mr. Maximo Olopai, "Timmo" as he was best remembered, was untimely called by the Grace of the Almighty God. The late director was SHEFA's first chairman of the SHEFA appeal committee. The committee dealt with student application denials; requests for reconsideration; clarifications on policy issues, and appeal hearings. Timmo, like the rest of his colleagues, was a lifetime educator, who brought a wealth of experience to the board with broad background in community development and social services. Like his colleagues Howard Macaranas and Felicidad Ogumoro, he too once served as a representative in the Northern Marianas Legislature.



HOWARD MACARANAS

Mr. Howard I. Macaranas, a former USDA Loan Office-in-Charge and the longest serving Chairman of the Public School System (PSS) Head Start Policy Council and a former legislator, peaked in his career as the Director of Aging Program for the Commonwealth, joined the SHEFA board with vast education credentials. Mr. Macaranas hailed from the village of Garapan. Like appeal committee chairman Olopai who worked with board member Perry John Pangelinan, Director Macaranas worked in tandem with awards committee chairman Joe Guerrero since Fall 2004, until his untimely passing in April last year. Mr. Macaranas left behind many legacies, prominent among which as the longest serving & dedicated member of the SHEFA board since its inception in August 2004.

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SAIPAN HIGHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PIONEERS



MAYOR JUAN B. TUDELA



CHAIRWOMAN FELICIDAD T. OGUMORO



JOSE LEON GUERRERO



MAXIMO C. OLOPAI



HOWARD I. MACARANAS



PERRY JOHN P. TENORIO

SHEFA was the brainchild of the 13th Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation (SNILD) and Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela. The dedicated pioneering members of the SHEFA Board of Directors were the driving force behind SHEFA's success during its formative years since its inception. All stakeholders were focused in carrying out the imperative for a better defined and focused higher education assistance program, one based on defined priorities for higher education in response to the evolving workforce needs of the local labor market on Saipan.



JOSEPHINE T. SABLAN

Since SHEFA's inception in 2004, the board exercised due diligence and complete objectivity over the implementation procedure and process of the postsecondary financial assistance program, as the program was envisioned to provide optimal and enduring benefits to both students and the community of Saipan.

Anything less than being responsive and accountable to and accommodative of the expressed needs of the island college students and the community was considered inconsistent with SHEFA's statutory and regulatory responsibilities. Which include, among other things, the provision of equitable public

services to the residents of Saipan, inclusive of those in the Northern Islands.

Driven by its focus along with the expectation and commitment to developing an effective local workforce-- a workforce that, upon graduation from college, would readily fill the void in Saipan's job market presently occupied by foreign labor in private businesses, the central and local government, local non-profit organizations like Karidat or the local Red Cross Chapter, or as independent contractors and entrepreneurs.

The four pioneering members of the Board of Directors included: 1. Felicidad Taman Ogumoro. 2. Jose Leon Guerrero. 3. Howard Iglecias Macaranas. 4. Maximo Olopai "Timmo", all experienced educators.

Mr. Perry John Pangelinan Tenorio was confirmed by SNILD a year after the appointment and confirmation of the four board members and the initial launching of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance program in August 2004.

For her part, Ms. Ogumoro is literally a lifetime educator: a member of the Board of Education,

the Humanities Council, Northern Marianas College Foundation, and the Northern Marianas Academy Founder, among others. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree, and hails from Capitol Hill. Ms. Ogumoro led the program as overall chairperson since 2004 and is presently the Vice Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Jose Leon Guerrero brings a wealth of experience in education-- a retired educator, who holds the distinction of a lifetime territorial teacher training director at the CNMI Department of Education (aka Public School System), Mr. Guerrero holds a Bachelors of Arts degree. He grew up in Chalan Kanoa and presently resides in Chalan Kiya. Mr. Guerrero is the longest serving chairman of SHEFA's coveted award committee. This committee performs initial screening of all applications before they are forwarded for action by the full board.

A longtime public official in the local Legislature, a former USDA loan office-in-charge and served as chairman of the Head Start Policy Council and last appointed as overall director of aging program (Man Amko), Mr Howard I. Macaranas joined SHEFA fully credentialed educationally, who hailed from Garapan. He worked

with Chairman Joe Guerrero in the awards committee.

Mr. Perry Tenorio, Director of the Marianas Visitors Bureau and former Special Assistant to the CNMI State Board of Education, brings to the board considerable expertise in business and hospitality industry. He holds a college degree and hails from Fina Sisu. After Mr. Olopai's untimely passing, Mr. Tenorio became chair of SHEFA's appeal committee.



MAGDALLENA CAMACHO

The passing of board members Olopai and Macaranas opened seats that were filled last year. Josephine Sablan, a management executive at the Community Guidance Center and a long-time educator at the Public School System, filled Olopai's unexpired term while John K. Tenorio filled Macaranas's seat. Ms. Sablan holds a M.A. degree in education and previously worked for the Public School System. Mr. Tenorio holds a B.A. in Business and works in the private sector. On the other hand, Ms. Maggie Camacho, an executive at the Department of Commerce, filled the unexpired term of Mr. Perry Tenorio, present director of the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA). Ms. Camacho holds a B.A. degree in Business and works for the Department of Commerce.

PROGRAM GENESIS

The SHEFA Mission

is geared towards providing supplementary financial assistance to qualified residents of Saipan pursuing post-secondary education on Saipan or abroad. The goal is to enable scholars to gain the necessary and sufficient knowledge base, skill set, positive attitude and productive work ethic in order to perform exemplary services in the private sector, government, non-governmental (NGO) organizations and not-for-profit organizations on Saipan.

Indeed, the members of the 13th SNILD supported SHEFA's mission and advocated a permanent solution to Saipan's perennial and seemingly intractable local workforce shortage dilemma. This lack of trained manpower supply with postsecondary education in the academic disciplines, technical and industrial trades and specialties, information technology, and other specialized field areas is quite



JOHN K. TENORIO

glaring not only on Saipan, but also in the Commonwealth.

In adopting what evolved as Saipan Local Law 13-21, the delegation envisioned a broadly based and meaningful program that is philosophically different from the practice of give away grant and inconsequential incentive awards of postsecondary programs. Learning from the past, the SHEFA board crafted a cornerstone postsecondary financial

assistance profile that is inclusive of merit-based scholarships, priority study field and a competitive scholarship based on term grade point average (i.e., performance-based scholarship).

Need-based loan policy was included, but has yet to be implemented. A career prep voucher program is also an integral part of SHEFA. It is intended to enable scholars to participate in job fairs to help them develop their job search skills needed in landing gainful employment after graduation.

PROFILE OF SHEFA & SCHOLARS



SHEFA first logged over 900 applications on its fifth year in operation last Fall 2009, the highest recorded number filed since opening the door of opportunity for postsecondary assistance to Saipan residents pursuing college education on Saipan and abroad.

The local municipal postsecondary program has provided financial assistance to undergraduate and graduate college students alike at or coordinated through the Northern Marianas College (NMC), and in colleges and universities in America and Europe (study abroad program), including postgraduate studies, that are accredited by U.S. Accrediting Commission on Schools and Colleges and recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

As of December 2009 for the Fall 2009 term, over 300 SHEFA-financed scholars have matriculated with Associate of Arts (A.A.), Bachelors (B.A.), Masters (M.A. / M.S.), Ph.D. and Doctor of Jurisprudence (JD) degrees.

The bulk of the graduates are employed at the Public School System (PSS) followed by the Northern Marianas College (NMC), Commonwealth Health Center (CHC), Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA), Homeland Security, Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA), Fish and Wildlife, Community and Cultural Affairs,

Coastal Resource Management, Honolulu Liaison Office, and the Legislature. Others graduates have opted to serve in private businesses on Saipan; enlist in the United States Armed Forces and continue their graduate education at home and abroad. A sizeable number of graduates, on the other hand, chose the path of remaining abroad for work made possible by the forbearance law passed by the legislature last year.

One SHEFA scholar is presently working in the United States Congress in Washington, D.C., another in Korea and various others in Guam, Hawaii, and the U.S. Six of the graduates are actively seeking employment as of the posting of the data early this year.

The graduate data for 2009 is undergoing verification as of this writing and will be published in The Promise of SHEFA report.

Unlike other financial assistance program available to Saipan residents, only SHEFA supports graduate and postgraduate or doctoral studies, including juris doctor.

To qualify for SHEFA postsecondary scholarship assistance requires a Saipan resident to have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale for undergraduates, and 3.0 for graduates and postgraduates.

Successful applicants must then complete at least 12 college credits every semester that they received and accepted assistance from SHEFA.

The minimum credit requirement applies to undergraduate since Fall 2004. Graduate and postgraduate students were also required to carry a minimum course load of twelve (12) credits up until Spring 2009, when SHEFA changed the graduate and postgraduate credit policy.

Beginning Fall 2009, SHEFA recalibrated the credit requirement for graduate and postgraduate scholars to nine (9) graduate level credits for fulltime classification.

Part time graduate status is six (6) or below nine (9) credits for the term and six (6) or below twelve (12) for the term for undergraduates.

Part time graduates and postgraduates are required to complete a minimum of six (6) or below nine (9) credits for the term.

The SHEFA application and the required documentation deadline stays on the first of July for the Fall term and the first of December of the same year for Spring term.

SHEFA offers financial assistance only during the fall and spring of the academic year. Recipients on a quarter system have

one quarter of leeway for make-up unlike those on semester system.

On hindsight, board Chairwoman Felicidad Ogumoro lamented that Saipan's first flagship scholarship program got off the ground with fewer than 200 applications in 2005, but saw a doubling in number in 2006-2007. Since then, the number has continued to soar, averaging 500 to 900 applications every semester this year for the Fall 2010 academic term.

Since its inception, constant mission remains "to invest in the limited human capital resources of qualified residents of Saipan (inclusive of the Northern Islands) through a supplementary financial assistance ... for purposes of pursuing *post-secondary education* on Saipan or abroad, ... with the broad expectation...on recipients ... to return to (or remain on) Saipan upon a successful completion of a higher education ... (in order to) provide services on Saipan in the private sector, government, nongovernmental (NGO) organization as well as not-for-profit organization."

However, Public Law 16-15, which passed last year, allows government scholarship recipients and graduates not to come back home or even remain on Saipan for a period of two years. *Continuation on page 4*

The law also allows forbearance on repayment for unemployed scholarship recipients, including those who later enlist in the military.

Consequently, the board crafted a service credit regulation to comport not only with SHEFA’s mission but also with the forbearance law. The intent of the amended regulation is to make it easier on graduates and non-graduate recipients alike to be able to provide the requisite services referenced in its mission statement that is intended to benefit Saipan residents at home or abroad. This regulation would allow SHEFA scholars and graduates, including recipients who terminated their studies to still perform the required services, which commensurate with the terms and conditions of the SHEFA promissory note / memorandum of agreement.

Besides gearing up for the implementation of the recently adopted part time and service credit regulations, and opting to further the loan component of the study assistance program, SHEFA has to contend with over 900 applications

this Fall academic term, 200 more applications than in previous years.

Compounding the complexity of the situation is a local law, which passed recently allowing non-high school graduates to tap into the SHEFA cookie jar. The board has elected to consult with members of the Saipan delegation over the implementation of the law, especially with the potential for non-high school graduates, including high school dropouts to tap into the funds intended for college education.

The SHEFA program provides basic foundation grant, priority field of study scholarship and the scholar award (i.e., “best & brightest” scholarship). SHEFA’s coveted best and brightest award requires a semester grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale for undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate scholars. Unlike the scholar award, the basic grant and field of study awards require a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 on a scale of 4.0. The scholar award also restricts students from repeating courses or factoring

in remedial /developmental course grades / credits in the semester GPA calculation.

Of the four types of college assistance available to Saipan residents, including its non-cash career prep voucher credit, only the student loan component has yet to be implemented. The regulatory framework for the loan component has been published this year, but the board decided to place on hold its implementation pending consultation with the legislative delegation.

Most U.S.-accredited colleges and universities, including Northern Marianas College (NMC), kick off the Fall academic year move-in schedule immediately followed by classes in the latter part of August or mid-September this year. Mindful of this academic schedule, the SHEFA board has started working feverishly perusing a stack of 900-plus applications and supporting documents- an all time record high and in sharp contrast to the fewer than 200 applications received when SHEFA first opened the door of postsecondary opportunities for

the residents of Saipan.

SHEFA is funded wholly from the Saipan amusement licenses and fees collected quarterly from arcade operatives.

The administrative component of the program figured in the Saipan mayor’s office, but the governing authority remains the SHEFA Board of Directors, when Saipan Local Law 13-21 first established the seminal scholarship program, aimed at providing supplemental assistance to Saipan residents.

For more detailed information on the rules & regulations of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA) program, visit the SHEFA website at www.saipanshefa.com , or contact the office by e-mail at contact@saipanshefa.com . Office hours are from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Friday, except austerity and legal holidays at which time the office may be reached directly at telephone number (670) 233-5995 or queries may be made using SHEFA’s 24/7 voicemail.

REFLECTIONS & INSIGHTS

A Personal Perspective: By Jackie Che



I am more than honored to have been a SHEFA recipient for the past four years, with the availability and efficient service it has provided offsetting my \$40k annual tuition. Financial stressors mainly cause students’ hesitation in pursuing higher education. In hindsight, if given a second chance to prepare for college, I would have utilized a broader range of charitable works on island. With my hands-on work ethic as a tool, I would have fine-tuned my aspirations instead of waiting to figure it out in college. But, overall, I had an unbelievable experience in college because it challenged and made me realize my potential to succeed in the real world. I appreciate the work SHEFA undertakes in ensuring the success of SHEFA scholars.

As a means of outreach and retention, I would recommend a peer mentoring program between post-graduates and current degree seekers. The support of an individualized counseling and one-on-one academic advising will help ensure students’ educational success by offering academic guidance and the benefit of being connected to the community where they may otherwise feel lost. I also recommend that students provide the breakdown of their educational expenses in the form of a formalized billing statement per semester, and for SHEFA to determine a practical amount which would be allocated individually based on a pre-determined scale. Thus, accountability will be measured and additional scholarships be awarded to more students.

Despite the economic challenges Saipan is facing, I strongly support the continuation of SHEFA as it only opens up opportunities for students to access higher education, allowing them their full potential. Saipan and the Northern Islands Legislative Delegation should continue supporting SHEFA, to safeguard the interests of the community and the students within. As an advocate of SHEFA, I will continue to serve as a mentor to other students, and provide outreach the best I can. As Robin Cook once said: “Education is more than a luxury; it is a responsibility that society owes to itself.”

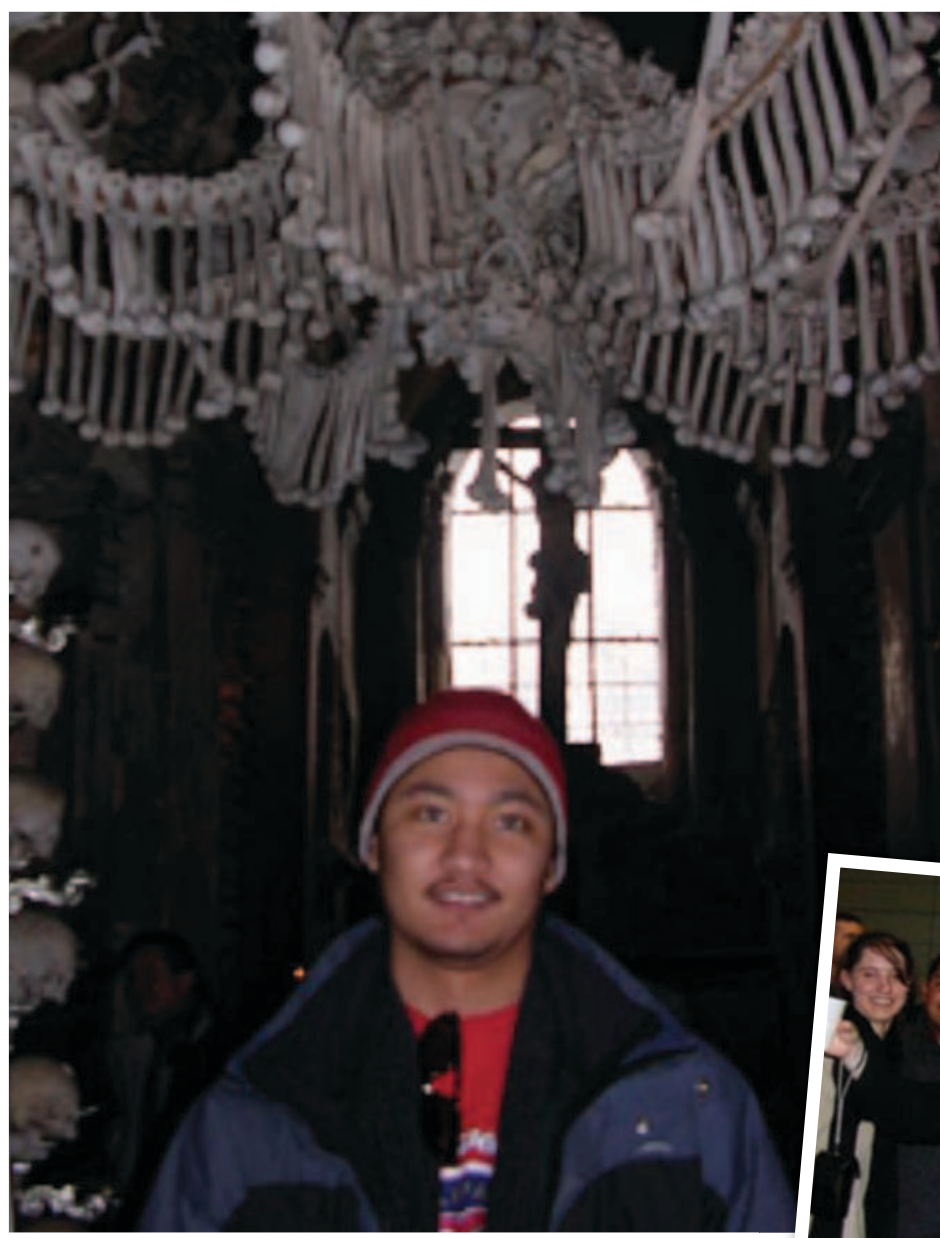
ORGANIZATIONS

- SOLES Student Graduate Association, First-year Representative, Communications Committee Co-Chair
- Graduate Student Council, Representative
- First-year Connections, Graduate Advisor
- USD Community-Service Learning (CSL), Member

ACHIEVEMENTS

- CNMI’s Governor’s Leadership Award.....2005
- Robert C. Byrd Scholarship.....2005 - 2009
- CNMI Scholarship.....2005 - 2009
- Saipan’s Mayor SHEFA Scholarship.....2005 – 2009
- McNair Scholar.....2005 - 2006
- Pi-Omega Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, History Honor Society.....2008
- Gamma Chapter of Lambda Alpha, National Collegiate Honor Society for Anthropology.....2009
- Selected to Dean’s List.....2007, 2008, 2009
- Graduated with Honors in History and Anthropology.....2009
- Graduate Student2009-2011

BIO-DATA AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION



CHRISTOPHER ATTAO CONCEPCION

Manager, Northwest Airlines, Saipan

DATE OF RECIPIENT, I.E., WHEN YOU FIRST AND LAST RECEIVED SHEFA SCHOLARSHIP
Fall 2004 – Spring 2006

RECIPIENT HOMETOWN (VILLAGE IN SAIPAN) & AGE (OPTIONAL)
, I.E., NAME OF TOWN ON SAIPAN AND DATE OF BIRTH
Chalan Piao, Saipan; September 4, 1981

DEGREE AND MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY, I.E., WHAT ARE YOU STUDYING OR HAVE STUDIED IN COLLEGE AND DEGREE PURSUIT
Bachelor of Science, Political Science, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho

YEAR IN COLLEGE, I.E., CLASS STANDING SUCH AS UNDERGRADUATE FRESHMEN OR FIRST YEAR GRADUATE STUDENT OR POSTGRADUATE FELLOW
Graduated with a bachelor of science degree in 2006; member, Pi Sigma Alpha National Political Science Honor Society; University of Idaho McNair Scholar; member, Mortar Board National Honor Society

DATE OF GRADUATION BY DEGREE / MAJOR, I.E., YEAR OF GRADUATION IN COLLEGE WITH B.A. OR M.S. BY MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY
May 13, 2006, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho

QUOTE ABOUT HOW A PROFESSOR/ADVISOR HAS RATED YOU, SUCH AS IN A LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION, COMMENDATION, ETC.
“During the time I have known Chris he has always displayed an exceptional attitude towards his program of study. His academic ability has always been one which stands out above the rest in that he surely is a gifted and talented student. His intellectual capacity has enabled him to excel where others have failed.... His ability to work well with others and act as a team leader is well defined in both principle and practice.” – Craig H. Garrison, Saipan Southern High School Principal, in recommendation letter to the University of Idaho McNair Achievement Program

“In my professional opinion as a mentor and advisor to Chris, I am confident he will be an asset and will succeed in the Boston College Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. He has shown his ability to research and collect data using his own time and resources and was committed to this endeavor and took great interest in the quality of his education.” – Dr. Vicky Trier, University of Idaho McNair Achievement Program Director, in recommendation letter to the Boston College Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

MOST IMPORTANT LESSON(S) LEARNED WHILE IN COLLEGE, I.E., WHAT LESSON IN LIFE HAVE YOU LEARNED IN COLLEGE NEVER DAUNTED ON YOU BEFORE

College taught me how to be independent and more aware of my surroundings. Being from Saipan, moving to the mainland is almost like moving to a foreign country. While we are still a part of America, the lifestyle, attitudes, norms and culture in general are completely different from what we learn in our Chamorro culture. It has taught me to value our culture and traditions and to ensure its survival throughout the generations because it makes our people unique in the world.

TURNING POINT IN THE INDIVIDUAL'S LIFE OR CAREER, I.E., WHAT LIFE'S LESSON WAS EXTRAORDINARY WHICH CHANGED THE COURSE OR PATHWAY OF YOUR COLLEGE CAREER

I think the turning point in my college experience was when I spent a whole semester studying abroad in Europe. I took courses at Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic. Charles University is the oldest university in Central Europe and my credits transferred back to my home university so it worked out perfectly. Being a Pacific Islander in Europe is an extraordinary experience in and of itself. It was everything I imagined it to be: gorgeous scenery, awesome castles, beautiful cultures, fascinating architecture, friendly people and a place to party like a rock star! Partying aside, I was able to study first hand the effects of the holocaust on the people of Europe. I visited the infamous Auschwitz Nazi Concentration Camp in Poland where more that 2 million people died. I saw the stacks



of shoes, luggage and hair that belonged to people who were killed simply because they were not acceptable to the ruling regime. I stepped into the actual gas chamber that was used to burn people alive so that they wouldn't have to dig mass graves. It was a horrifying experience that is forever etched into my memory. Most people think the holocaust only happened to the Jews but in fact, the Nazi's exterminated everyone they deemed "undesirable" including Jews, Gypsies, disabled people, homosexuals and those who sympathized with them. On a brighter side, I was also able to travel throughout continental Europe where I visited places like Amsterdam, Netherlands; Munich, Neuschwanstein and Berlin, Germany; Salzburg and Vienna, Austria; Budapest, Hungary; Bratislava, Slovakia; Krakow and Auschwitz, Poland; Ljubljana, Slovenia; and Cesky Krumlov, Kutna Hora, Cesky Raj, Lidice, Cesky Budejovice, Czech Republic.

My European adventure was not only an academic achievement on its own (I averaged a 4.0 for that semester), it was a life changing experience that has taught me the value of independence, culture and history. Importantly, it gave me the travel bug and I soon realized that I had a genuine passion for traveling and experiencing other cultures. I had the time of my life in Europe and it was something I will never forget.

WORDS OF WISDOM AND / OR FOOD FOR THOUGHT BY THE STUDENT UPON REFLECTION OF STATUS IN COLLEGE, I.E., YOUR OUTLOOK IN LIFE AS A RESULT OF SOME KEY EVENTS IN YOUR LIFE BEFORE, DURING OR AFTER COLLEGE

Earning a college degree gives you a feeling of great accomplishment. I admit that I partied a lot in college but I always had my priorities. I always made sure that my studies took precedence over partying. That determination ensured my academic success. My college degree has opened up more job opportunities that I normally would not qualify for if I did not have a degree. In the end, a college degree is important to have because it gives you a step up in life. It is something you can always fall back on and be proud of. Continuation on page 6

THE PERSON WHO HAS INSPIRED THE INDIVIDUAL THE MOST, I.E., NAME AN INDIVIDUAL THAT MOST INFLUENCED OR INSPIRED YOU IN YOUR LIFE BEFORE GOING TO, DURING OR AFTER COLLEGE

Aside from my parents, Aldebert and Celina, whom I consider my ultimate inspiration, I would have to say that my grandfather, Jose San Nicolas Attao, is one individual that inspired me to go to college. It is a bit ironic because my grandfather died before I was even born but the legacy he left behind is something I am extremely proud of. He was a prominent man in his time and I am sure he was instrumental in my mother’s decision to attend college back in her day. The stories I hear of him from family and community members tell of a great man who was respected and esteemed in the local community. I am fortunate to be a part of that.

ANTICIPATED OR ACTUAL POST-GRADUATION PLANS / CAREER INTEREST.

At the moment, I am a sales and marketing representative for Delta Airlines—the world’s largest airline. I briefly taught English and Northern

Marianas history at Kagman High School after I graduated in 2006 but when the opportunity arose to be able to work in the airline industry, I seized it immediately. The travel bug I got from my trip to Europe was still in me and I knew I’d have no regrets.

I absolutely plan on going to grad school in the near future to get a masters or doctorate degree in international relations. That is where my true interests lie. My ultimate goal is to be able to work at the State Department in Washington, DC, or at a U.S. embassy abroad where I can further immerse myself in international affairs. I am interested in learning all the intricacies of diplomacy and the general way in which people and nations interact with each other. I find the world of international relations exciting and captivating. My college degree has brought me one step closer to realizing that dream.

BIO-DATA AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION



ELIZABETH EMMA CABRERA ITIBUS

Pre-Med Student, Hawaii

DATE OF RECIPIENT, I.E., WHEN YOU FIRST AND LAST RECEIVED SHEFA SCHOLARSHIP:
Fall 2006 - Spring 2010.

RECIPIENT HOMETOWN (VILLAGE IN SAIPAN) & AGE (OPTIONAL),
I.E., NAME OF TOWN ON SAIPAN AND DATE OF BIRTH

Hometown: Gualo Rai
Age: 21
DOB: March 30, 1988

DEGREE AND MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY, I.E., WHAT ARE YOU STUDYING OR
HAVE STUDIED IN COLLEGE AND DEGREE PURSUIT

Bachelor of Science in Biology

YEAR IN COLLEGE, I.E., CLASS STANDING SUCH AS UNDERGRADUATE FRESHMEN OR FIRST YEAR GRADUATE
STUDENT OR POSTGRADUATE FELLOW

Undergraduate Junior year

DATE OF GRADUATION BY DEGREE / MAJOR, I.E., YEAR OF GRADUATION IN COLLEGE WITH B.A. OR M.S. BY
MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY

Date of Graduation: December 2011

QUOTE ABOUT HOW A PROFESSOR/ADVISOR HAS RATED YOU, SUCH AS IN A LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION,
COMMENDATION, ETC.

“I was surprised to discover that Emma’s major was pre-med. She will make a wonderful doctor. I was surprised only because the talents that I see in Emma have fallen within the realm of literature and the humanities. But these talents can only enhance her ability to relate to the people she will encounter in her life’s work. Emma is not a cold scientist,

but a wonderful, well-rounded human being.” –Associate professor of Humanities

MOST IMPORTANT LESSON(S) LEARNED WHILE IN COLLEGE, I.E., WHAT LESSON IN LIFE HAVE YOU LEARNED IN COLLEGE NEVER DAUNTED ON YOU BEFORE

The most important lesson that I have learned thus far is that I am stronger than I ever perceived myself to be. If I keep pushing forward, and not let the bad experiences deter me I will eventually get what I work for. A great professor told me, “However bad you think you’re life may be right now, there’s someone in the world who has it ten times worse.” College isn’t all about grades, it’s about growing as a person as well as a student.

TURNING POINT IN THE INDIVIDUAL’S LIFE OR CAREER, I.E., WHAT LIFE’S LESSON WAS EXTRAORDINARY WHICH CHANGED THE COURSE OR PATHWAY OF YOUR COLLEGE CAREER

The most extraordinary life lesson for me came when I shadowed a doctor last summer. That experience taught me that I could live the rest of my life helping people in need, while caring for them at the same time. It was at that moment that assured that I was on the right path in my educational career. It was at that moment that I realized being a doctor was what I wanted to for the rest of my life.



WORDS OF WISDOM AND / OR
FOOD FOR THOUGHT BY THE STUDENT UPON REFLECTION OF STATUS IN COLLEGE,
I.E., YOUR OUTLOOK IN LIFE AS A RESULT OF SOME KEY EVENTS IN YOUR LIFE BEFORE,
DURING OR AFTER COLLEGE

One of my mentors told me, “ Anything in life is possible. You just need to be willing to sacrifice to make your dreams come true. We can be anything we set out to be as long as we are willing to do whatever it takes to get there.” One quote I live by is, “Don’t ever the fear of losing keep you from playing the game.” –Anonymous

THE PERSON WHO HAS INSPIRED THE INDIVIDUAL THE MOST, I.E., NAME AN INDIVIDUAL THAT MOST INFLUENCED OR INSPIRED YOU IN YOUR LIFE BEFORE GOING TO, DURING OR AFTER COLLEGE

My mother and father are the two most inspirational people in my life. They have always urged me to pursue my dreams, and encouraged me to do my best. My parents have never lost faith in my abilities, and continue to support my every decision. They have sacrificed so much for me to be able to pursue my dream, and live a happy life.

ANTICIPATED OR ACTUAL POST-GRADUATION PLANS / CAREER INTEREST.

My post graduation plans include applying for medical school, and returning to Saipan to practice medicine.

BIO-DATA AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION



ERIN ANGELA V. CAMACHO, RD
Registered Dietician, Saipan CHC

DATE OF RECIPIENT, I.E., WHEN YOU FIRST AND LAST RECEIVED SHEFA SCHOLARSHIP
Fall 2005 - Spring of 2007

RECIPIENT HOMETOWN (VILLAGE IN SAIPAN) & AGE (OPTIONAL), I.E., NAME OF TOWN ON SAIPAN AND DATE OF BIRTH
Navy Hill

DEGREE AND MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY, I.E., WHAT ARE YOU STUDYING OR HAVE STUDIED IN COLLEGE AND DEGREE PURSUIT
Food Science Human Nutrition

DATE OF GRADUATION BY DEGREE / MAJOR, I.E., YEAR OF GRADUATION IN COLLEGE WITH B.A. OR M.S. BY MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY
May 2007

MOST IMPORTANT LESSON(S) LEARNED WHILE IN COLLEGE, I.E., WHAT LESSON IN LIFE HAVE YOU LEARNED IN COLLEGE NEVER DAUNTED ON YOU BEFORE
Perseverance and support go a long way.

TURNING POINT IN THE INDIVIDUAL'S LIFE OR CAREER, I.E., WHAT LIFE'S LESSON WAS EXTRAORDINARY WHICH CHANGED THE COURSE OR PATHWAY OF YOUR COLLEGE CAREER
My whole internship experience from applying, to getting accepted, and going through the curriculum at St. Luke's Hospital/Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville Florida.

ANTICIPATED OR ACTUAL POST-GRADUATION PLANS / CAREER INTEREST.
Currently work for the CNMI WIC Program as the Nutrition Services Coordinator.



LEADERSHIP CORNER

Featuring
CYNTHIA LORENZA I. DELEON GUERRERO



Interviewed By: SHEFA
TITLE: NMC DEAN OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND SERVICES (FORMER)
NMC DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND RECORDS (CURRENT)
ORGANIZATION: NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
BIRTH PLACE: SAIPAN, CNMI
COLLEGE: B.A. DEGREE IN EDUCATION (NMC) AND M.A. IN EDUCATION (FRAMINGHAM UNIV.)
LITTLE KNOWN FACT: CHAMORRO/CAROLINIAN WHO GREW UP IN PALAU
MENTOR(S): DR. SARAH OSBORN, SALLY SABLAN, AND MARY ASPER OF NMC-SOE
MAJOR CHALLENGE: FLYING (SERIOUSLY, I AM SO AFRAID OF FLYING BUT I CONTINUE TO WORK HARD AT OVERCOMING THIS)
HOBBIES: READING AND ANSWERING CROSSWORD PUZZLES

Q UESTION AND A NSWER ???

Cynthia Lorenza I. Deleon Guerrero

Q: AS A WOMAN AND A MOTHER, PLEASE SHARE YOUR SECRETS IN SUCCESSFULLY BALANCING THE DEMANDS OF YOUR JOB AT NMC AND THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF MOTHERHOOD?

A: I am a mother of 4 (ages 15-22). There really aren't any secrets to being able to successfully balance the demands of a job and the responsibilities of motherhood. It really takes the support, patience and understanding family. It also takes a lot of prioritizing, time-management, and learning from experience. My advice to others would really be to do your best at your career, but always do even better at being a parent.

Q: IN A NUTSHELL, DESCRIBE WHAT YOUR JOB IS AS A DEAN OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AT NMC? WHAT ARE THE DEMANDS AND THE REWARDS OF THE JOB?

A: I work closely with faculty and staff to ensure the best quality instruction is available to our students. This work comes in many forms including curriculum review and development, course and program improvement plans, review and development of course, student, and program learning outcomes, staffing, and budgeting.

Q: WHAT IS YOUR ULTIMATE CAREER GOAL ASPIRATION?

A: To earn my Doctor of Education (Ed. D.) in Educational Leadership and contribute to the learning community of the CNMI; whether this comes in an administrative capacity or in an instructional capacity is dependent on where I can contribute the most.

Q: HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN ON ACHIEVING YOUR GOAL FROM THIS TIME FORWARD?

A: I hope to be able to complete this goal within the next three to five years. Sooner would be best but considering my obligations at this time, it may be too difficult. I always want to put my best forward in everything I do, so it is important to me that once I begin my doctoral program, I can devote time and energy to it.

Q: IF THERE IS ONE PERSON IN YOUR LIFE THAT INSPIRES AND INFLUENCES THE MOST, WHO WOULD THAT PERSON(S) BE? WHY?

A: My grandfather, Benigno Rogolifoi, Kaipat. He passed away in 1991 but his words have stayed with me. He told me to never doubt what I could do in life. He always reminded me that he had faith in my capabilities, and encouraged me to never give up on my dreams, no matter how long it took, or the obstacles in play. He said no one determines our future but ourselves, and that through hard work and commitment, anyone can realize their hopes and dreams. Before he passed away, he said, "Even if



I'm no longer here physically, I will always be by your side, cheering you on in spirit." Those words have kept me going all these years, and I share them now with my own children.

Q: YOU HAVE EARNED BOTH UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE DEGREES IN EDUCATION. DO YOU PLAN ON GOING FOR YOUR PH.D? WHY OR WHY NOT?

A: Yes. I do. I hope to earn my Ed.D. along with the experience and knowledge in the field of education so as to develop professionally in my career and contribute to our island communities. I also believe that we can be the best role models when we lead by example.

Q: WHAT WOULD BE YOUR ADVICE TO UP AND COMING WOMAN LEADERS?

A: My advice would be this: Begin with yourself and end with yourself. No one determines your future but you, so always aspire to be the best. We may come from a small group of islands but our dreams and abilities are not small. Always reach out to help others who are less fortunate, and embrace your family, for they are your pillars of strength and support.

Q: AS DEAN OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AT THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, WHAT ARE YOUR PROUDEST AND SADDEST MOMENTS? WHY?

A: I was still the Director of the School of Education at NMC when it occurred but my proudest moment was on July 4th, 2009 when we received the official notice that NMC's accreditation had been reaffirmed. I was really proud because the entire college community (faculty, staff, and students) had worked so hard in collaborative teams to improve our community's only WASC accredited post-secondary institution, and it all paid off. My saddest moment of course was in the year prior when we found out that NMC had been placed on show-cause status (January of 2008.)

Q: WHY DO YOU THINK STUDENTS SHOULD CONSIDER GOING TO NMC FOR THEIR UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE, OR AT LEAST THE FIRST TWO YEARS OF COLLEGE?

A: NMC provides the necessary mechanisms to ensure a smooth transition from a two-year college into a four-year university. Being in college is very different from being in high school. Learners are treated as responsible adults with ownership of their learning. The environment is friendly and supportive, and families continue to play a critical role for them as these young adults transition into complete independence. This translates into a higher rate of success when they are ready to move on to a four-year institution and/or independent living.

JOB LINKS / CAREER RELATED INFORMATION

This section highlights a list of websites where scholars could perform online job searches in the government and in the private businesses in the CNMI. Government sites include PSS, NMC, CUC and WIA. The CNMI Department of Labor is the only site that posts private sector job vacancies. The WIA site lists both government jobs and vacancies in the private businesses.

GOVERNMENT SITES

PSS: <http://www.pss.cnmi.mp/HumanResources>
 Workforce Investment Agency (WIA): <http://www.wia.gov.mp>
 CNMI Dept. of Labor: <http://marianaslabor.net>
 Northern Marianas College (NMC): <http://www.nmcnet.edu>
 Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC): <http://www.cuccnmi.com>