

JITDAM KAPEEL

The College of the Marshall Islands

"To gain knowledge through inquiry and sharing of information"

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Happy Foundation Day CMI!

The college celebrated its 18th year as an improved and successful institution since its inception on April 1st, 1993.

Foundation Day included an opening ceremony with speeches from US Ambassador Martha Campbell, Interim President Carl Hacker, Board of Regents members Hilda Heine and Maria Fowler, and Student Body Association President Sulita Sualau.

Following the opening ceremony, students and staff marched with banners and matching t-shirts from CMI to RRE and back. "We have come a long way," stated Heine in her speech, "and we must continue to keep moving even further."



Students celebrated CMI's 18th Birthday this past April



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Does CMI Need a Daycare Center?

Around 46.9% of the CMI student population has child care responsibilities and 94% of those students want a day care center at CMI, stated CMI Senior *(pictured, right)*, who presented these findings during her Capstone Presentation which took place April 29, 2011. Leon's research project focused on answering one question: Does CMI need a daycare center?

The Capstone project is an option for graduating CMI Liberal Arts seniors. Students choose their own research question and, under the guidance of mentors and faculty, conduct a research project which might include surveys, questionnaires, and data collections. Leon decided to focus on a daycare center.

"I've had a lot of classes where parents bring their kids and it ends up disrupting the period. But it's also hard for the mother because they're trying to get their education but they don't have all the resources they need to focus on school," she explained.

Leon surveyed 232 students out of the total 846 students at CMI.

Out of 232 students, 111 were student-parents or pregnant. 56% of those surveyed checked yes when asked if they knew someone who has dropped out of school due to child care issues, while 66% feel that child care responsibilities interfere with schooling. Leon made sure to not only take into account students who are parents, but also students who have 'child care responsibilities'."

"A part of our culture is that we look after each other," said Leon. "It's not like the US where it's only your child you have to be worried about – there's a lot of sisters and brothers who end up taking care of their siblings or their siblings' children also."

Leon not only distributed surveys but also collected signatures for a petition and conducted a cost analysis of a day care center if it were built at CMI. The final portion of her project will be a proposal to members of the Board of Regents.

Leon proposes a daycare center to be built and operated by student volunteers, with the pilot project focusing on 20-30 children 5 years old and younger. The Center would not

only serve students who are parents but could also be used as a laboratory school for nursing and education students.



FAST FACTS

- ⇒ Total CMI population: **869**
- ⇒ # of CMI students surveyed: **232**
- ⇒ # of student-parents (out of those surveyed): **111**
- ⇒ % of CMI students with child care responsibilities: **46.9%**
- ⇒ % of CMI students with child care responsibilities who want a day care center: **94%**
- ⇒ % of CMI students who know a student who has quit because of child care conflicts: **56%**
- ⇒ % of CMI students willing to volunteer at daycare center: **68%**

Clark & Sualau Attend Guam's Island Sustainability Conference

"What is the cost of doing nothing?" This was what nearly 300 students and community members considered at the 2nd Regional Conference on Island Sustainability in Guam, where CMI students Sulita Sualau and Travis Clark represented the Marshall Islands.

The conference, organized by University of Guam's Center for Island Sustainability, took place April 19 -20th at the Hyatt Regency and featured noted speakers Alex Steffen, one of the world's leading voices on sustainability, as well as Governor Eddie Calvo and Speaker Judith Won Pat. College students from all Micronesian countries were represented during the two day conference, including Sualau and Clark who were selected by CMI staff to represent the college.

Topics which were covered included "Planning for Climate

Change Adaptation", "Sustainable Soil Management", and "Island Youth – Sustaining Our Future."

"I learned a lot," said Sualau, "I kept thinking that we really gotta go home and teach everyone everything we've learned."

"If Guam can go green, we can go green too."

-Sulita Sualau

On hand to present were also members of the UOG Green Army, a volunteer group which focuses on community activism and raising awareness on environmental issues throughout Guam. The Green Army made an impression on Sualau and Clark, who says the group is organized and led entirely by UOG students and have been behind a number

of initiatives, such as banning Styrofoam on campus, a recycling commercial, and clean ups around the island.

"That's something we can start here," said Clark. "If Guam can do it why can't we?"

"If Guam can go green," added Sualau, "We can go green, too. We just have to start small and plan for the future now."

Among Clark and Sualau's ideas is to begin promoting a greener campus – possibly a student organization similar to the Green Army, as well as a project on recycling the mulch for composting from Christmas trees that are thrown away every year.

"There are a lot of people who want to see change," said Clark, "and I think only we can do it – we can start it here."

Upward Bound Students Rake in Awards and Scholarships

High School students from Taiwan also went to three Upward Bound students: MIHS seniors Violet Schelhase, Anthony Dujmovic, and Garrick Kelen.

Upward Bound's Student of the Month for February went to the Uraniel Jibas, a sophomore from Marshall Islands High School (MIHS), in math. In March, Student of the Month went to Angelina John, a junior at MIHS, and Caleb Joseph, a sophomore at Majuro Baptist Christian Academy (MBCA).

Scholarships to study in

Taiwan also went to three Upward Bound students: MIHS seniors Violet Schelhase, Anthony Dujmovic, and Garrick Kelen.

And last but definitely not least: Dujmovic not only won the Taiwanese scholarship but is also a recipient of the Gates Millennium Scholarship.

Congratulations to all the high school students and of course the hardworking staff of the Upward Bound Program!



High school senior Violet Schelhase (top) won a scholarship to study in Taiwan while senior Anthony Dujmovic (bottom) won the Gates Millennium Scholarship





College & Career Fair Day

The college hosted its first ever College and Career Fair Day, where over 50 organizations made an appearance to speak with CMI and high school students about their future.

The organizations included University of Guam, Ministry of Health, RMI Scholarship, Micronesian Legal Services Corp, Bank of Marshall Islands, Environmental Protection Agency, and Hawaii Chaminade University among others.



Students and participants filled the Etanaak where the booths for the Fair were located. The Fair was organized by Student Services.



Bank of Guam representatives (left) were all smiles at their table while (above) a CMI student explores a possible career opportunity



Developmental Outreach in Assumption School

TED STEPP

DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR

One of the important expectations for instructors at CMI is community service. Outreach beyond the campus to schools, other organizations, and groups dedicated to a variety of causes has distinguished the college and helped to make life in the RMI healthier and more progressive.

Uliga's Assumption Catholic School has benefitted over the past two academic years with a variety of teacher workshops designed to provide professional development opportunities that are often hard to come by in the RMI.

Coordinated by Developmental English Instructor Ted Stepp and facilitated by numerous CMI instruc-

tors and administrators, these monthly or bi-monthly sessions most recently brought CMI's Developmental English Reading Specialist Pam Cannon (*pictured, right*) to the Assumption Elementary School faculty to enhance the teachers' strategies for working with students with varied abilities and learning styles in the same classroom.

Differentiation, i.e., fostering specific outcomes through a variety of activities geared to different students' learning styles, proved a hit with the teachers. Poetry, role-modeling, writing, word games, drawing, even singing, might all be employed in a given lesson—leading

to learning through variety and FUN! Assessment tools can be as varied as the learning activities. Pam provided excellent food for thought—and work!

Stepp and Assumption's VPs Luke Roverove and Richard David plan to continue the CMI-Assumption engagement in 2011-2012.



5K Race Raises Over \$1700 for Emson Makroro Scholarship

CMI raised over \$1700 for the Emson Makroro Developmental Scholarship fund on April 9th during its first 5K "Run to Remember" Race. The race began and ended at CMI and was organized in memory of former developmental instructor Emson Makroro.

The Emson Makroro Developmental Education Scholarship, established this past year, is open to all CMI students at the developmental level when Pell grant is not sufficient to meet their financial needs. The first scholarship went to Rita Elementary School teacher Danty Lali-mo this spring semester.

"Emson was such a big part of CMI," explained CMI instructor Sarah Revercomb, who helped organize the event, "and the faculty and I wanted to do our part to remember her and provide support for the students she cared so much about."

CMI staff began organizing for the event in February by asking various businesses around the island for donations and prizes. The funds from these donations, along with the sale of t-shirts commemorating the event, raffle tickets, and the registration fee for the run came out to a total of over \$1700. According to Revercomb, this means the scholarship

fund will be able to support three developmental students in the following year.

Around 90 runners and walkers were registered for the 5k race. First place prizes for participants went to 15 year old Viliame Sulume and 8 year old Jinene for the 18 and under category, Liana Revercomb and Mao Suzuki for the 19-34 year old category, and Edward Adiniwin and Mary Jane Wright for the 35 and up category. Each of the first place winners won a basket of prizes which came from Marshall Arts Tattoo, Elegance Spa, and Laxmi Store among others.

ALUMNI PROFILE: Jemimah Razalan

**Position:**

English Adjunct Instructor and
Writing Center Staff

Born and Raised in:

Majuro

High School:

Marshall Islands High School

CMI Class of:

2006

Degree:

BA in English

University of Hawaii Hilo

Why did you enroll at CMI?

When I started getting more serious about my studies, I wanted to know what was out there. That's when I tried CMI.

How was your CMI experience?

It was the first time in my life that I really enjoyed studying.

What did you study?

I enjoyed English. Writing papers, literature. *Taming the Shrew* was my favorite.

What else were you involved with on campus?

I was a part of the original Student Ambassadors.

You received your Bachelor's from UHH. How long did you study there? And how was the transition?

It was a great change. It was my first time away from home for such a long time. Only 3 years but that's the longest I've been gone...I don't think I would have made it without my friends. I was alone and a lot of it was really challenging. I had to challenge myself to be more assertive in classes.

Why did you return to work at CMI?

I'm familiar with it and it's where I studied. And I can relate to a lot of the students.

How do you enjoy teaching?

Teaching has its challenges. The times I enjoy the most is when students show enthusiasm for their work. Out of the blue their personality shows instead of just following the usual procedure. Then they come up with something really creative.

Dr. Ford Gives Climate Talk to Marshallese Community in Hilo

CMI Instructor and Sea Grant Researcher Dr. Murray Ford (*pictured, right*) recently flew to Hawaii to give a presentation on coastal erosion and climate change to the Marshallese community of University of Hawaii Hilo.

Dr. Ford's presentation focused on the shoreline changes around Majuro, and how these changes are a rising concern. He was also joined by Professor Mark Merrifield, of the School of Ocean Engineering Science and Technology who presented a large project in Majuro and

Kwajalein which focuses on coastal flooding. Professor Maria Haws, of the Pacific Aquaculture and Coastal Resources Center University of Hawaii at Hilo, gave her presentation on efforts to generate sustainable livelihoods—such as revamping the pearl oyster industry on Namdrik and Rongelap Atolls.

According to Dr. Ford, the event was a success with around 30 or 40 members of the Marshallese community showing up to learn more about the environmental changes in their home.

“So many people aren't here and don't have access to what's happening at home,” explained Dr. Ford. “So we felt it would be a good opportunity to give something back to the Marshallese community.”



CMI Instructor Awarded Doctorate



Politics of Development Instructor David Kupferman recently received his PhD in Education with a Specialization in Education Foundations, as well as a certificate in Pacific Studies from University of Hawaii, Manoa. His dissertation title "Disassembling School in Micronesia: Genealogy, Subjectivity, Possibility," is not only a mouthful—it also provokes some questions. Here are some answers:

Can you explain what your dissertation is about?

The idea is that school is self-evident – that it’s a natural part of society. My argument is that it’s not a natural part of society. It’s a colonial construct... but it’s not a part of Microne-

sian culture. It’s been so normalized, though, that people don’t even question its existence. So my title, “Disassembling School in Micronesia” is engaging with these assumptions of school as a normalized process and a normalized institution and normalizing practices.

How is your dissertation constructed?

It’s conceptual and theoretical. I did textual discourse analysis, archival research, library work, reporting anecdotes—trying to make it a narrative.

How do you navigate through the fact that you’re working within the very institution which your paper actually calls to disassemble?

We all live with a variety of contra-

dictions on a daily basis. It’s the extent to which you’re willing to live with those contradictions.

That being said...I don’t know how I would do this outside of the institution – I think operating from within the structure of the institution is important because it opens up this avenue for pockets of resistance....There’s value in interrogating assumptions. Because it forces us to confront those assumptions and consider alternatives.

A copy of Dr. Kupferman’s dissertation is now available in the Micronesian Collection of CMI’s Library.

CMI Welcomes New Staff Members!

The community of CMI would like to give a very warm welcome to two new staff members—Swingly Amlej (*pictured, right*) who will be taking up the post of Custodian in the Physical Plant Department and Mary Swain (*pictured, far right*), who will be Buildings and Grounds Supervisor, also for the Physical Plant Department.





Land Grant Spreads the Word

CMI's Land Grant team partnered with students from Laura High School, COOP High School, and Marshall Islands High School for their second round of brochure distribution on Saturday April 16th, covering over 347 households from Teron Weto to Demon Town.

This is the second weekend the Land Grant team has partnered with students for the mass distribution of brochures from house to house. On March 11th, the team covered 250 households from the end of Rita at Alwal to Teron Weto, the location of the Rita Protestant Church.

"The best way for people to get information," stated 4H Extension Agent John Zedkaia, "is to bring it to them."

The brochures, written in Marshallese, cover a variety of topics including alcohol and substance abuse, domestic violence, malnutrition, teenage pregnancy, urbanization, water quality, agriculture, food and nutrition, diabetes, how to clean water, and aquaculture among others.

"The Nitijela always talk about how little awareness there is,"

said Roderick Kabua, a representative of MALGov's Department of Parks and Recreation who also participated in the distribution. "What we did was spread awareness. Some will read the brochures— some won't. But we're trying to reach out instead of just using the radio, tv, and newspaper."

At 10 am, around 60 high school students were broken up into groups with extension agents Zedkaia, Jina David, Nelly Lakabung, Julius Lucky, Foster Lanwe as well as MalGov's Roderick Kabua and Data Collector Rostina Bani from Bobrae Kumit and escorted by Majuro policemen as they went door to door. Within 3 hours, 347 households were covered.

"When these kids from the high schools are involved," said Dean of Land Grant Biuma Samson, "it shows that the future of our country are really concerned about what's going on."

According to Samson, the second part of the community project will involve Land Grant extension agents returning to the same communities and conducting workshops and

demonstrations.

"The issues covered in our brochures are issues confronting our people in Majuro," added Samson. "We have the available resources so we need to help our community as much as possible."

"The best way for people to get information is to bring it to them."

- John Zedkaia



Lanwe Leads Agriculture Workshop for Special Needs Students



Special needs students from Laura High School were recently treated to a 3 month “Survival Skills” training led by Agriculture Extension Agent Foster Lanwe (*pictured, above*).

Lanwe gave the training at the CMI Arrak campus, where the students, all between the ages of 15 and 19 years old, were brought from their school campus every Tuesday

and Thursday to learn about gardening, as well as water quality and aquaculture. Lanwe led them through step by step procedures for planting their own gardens made up of papaya, dragonfruit, and pandanus among others.

“Not enough attention is paid to special needs students,” said Lanwe, “I wanted to give them a program that would give them survival skills so that they can grow their own food.”

Lanwe will visit each student’s home as the second phase of the training to assist the students in building their very own gardens in their home.

Blast from the Past with Nelly Lakabung



In light of CMI’s 18th Foundation Day, we thought we’d take a stroll down memory lane with Land Grant Food and Nutrition Extension Agent Nelly Lakabung (*pictured, above*) one of CMI’s original staff members.

“I remember when we were above the Bank of Marshall Islands,” says Lakabung. She also remembers

when there were only 6 employees sharing 1 office, back when CMI was still COM—College of Micronesia.

Lakabung has been working for CMI as an extension agent for Land Grant since 1983—29 years in total. She began as a student but was soon hired as the Food and Nutrition Extension Agent.

“We were so few,” remembers Lakabung, “but we were like a small family... there were only 20 or 30 students then.”

Now CMI’s a bustling campus of over 800 students in Uliga. “I love CMI staff and faculty,” says Lakabung, “I love to work with the community.”

ThinkGREEN:

The Dirt on COMPOSTING

We asked some composting experts—CMI Instructor and Researcher Dean Jacobson and Agriculture Extension Agent Foster Lanwe—for their thoughts on composting:

What are some benefits of composting?

Lanwe: Our soil is lacking a lot of nutrients and its not good for growing the things we need. Composting adds those nutrients in to make it better.

Jacobson: Majuro Waste is piling up with so much reusable materials—such as leaves we collect from outside our homes. We can reduce waste if we compost. Not to mention plants just love it.

What’s a simple way of composting?

Jacobson: Take all the leaves you have in your backyard—breadfruit and pandanus leaves break down easily, but coconut leaves tend to take longer. Put those leaves in a shady area. Keep it damp, but not wet.

That’s it?

Jacobson: That’s it. They compost themselves. If you have chickens, you might want to put a sheet metal over the pile of leaves to stop them from scattering the leaves.

Where can we get more information on composting?

Lanwe: One of my brochures is on composting.

Do you give demonstrations?

Lanwe: Aet. I’ve already given three demonstrations at Arrak.

For a demonstration or a brochure contact:

flanwe@hotmail.com or call 528-5033

Forum on Domestic Violence Bill Draws the Public to CMI



Over 200 attendees filled the CMI campus at a forum on the recently stalled Domestic Violence Bill on Friday April 8, 2011. Speakers at the forum included Nitijela Counsel Divine Waiti (*pictured, below*) and Abacca Maddison of Ministry of Internal Affairs as well as Women United Together in the Marshall Islands (WUTMI) director Daisy Alik-Momotaro and a representative of the Department of Safety.

The subject of the forum focused on Bill #93 – The Domestic Violence Bill Prevention and Protection Act. Development on the bill began in 2010, after a domestic dispute escalated into the death of CMI instructor Emson Makroro. Currently, no laws targeting repeat abusers or supporting survivors of domestic violence exist. Under the Marshall Islands Criminal Code, domestic violence falls under assault and battery. Bill # 93 would target domestic violence as a crime while also including other factors such as a safe house and counseling and support services for survivors. According to government statistics, 1 in 3 women have been physically abused and 1 in 5 have

been sexually abused.

During the last Nitijela session, the passing of the bill was stalled.

"The Nitijela has sent a very clear message to the Marshallese people and the world: the Nitijela considers the prevention of domestic violence as simply a low-priority issue," stated Alik-Momotaro.

CMI's own Interpersonal Domestic Violence (IPV) Group partnered with WUTMI for a week of awareness which ended with the forum on Friday. Purple, representing domestic violence awareness, became the color of the week: purple ribbons, fliers, brochures, banners, and even cupcakes colored the CMI campus.

"I think it's the college's responsibility to educate not only their students but also the community," said Brandi Kilby, a CMI instructor and member of the IPV group, which was created in 2009.

"We have a number of cases amongst our own students," admitted CMI faculty Jennifer Seru, also a founding member of IPV. "We want our students to be aware that there are resources and programs available to

support them as well."

At the forum, Waiti broke down parts of the bill for the audience, which included high school students from COOP and MIHS, and also explained the role they played in the legislative process. "Your role is to attend the public hearing and give your voice to support bill. We still have a number of processes further down the line," admitted Waiti. "Again, it's your role now to play where you see fit in this process."

WUTMI's Director also acknowledged the need for public support of the bill.

"WUTMI will continue to do our work," stated Alik-Momotaro, "but we need the support from the community."





Students Paint Mural in Wapepe Hall

WILBERT ALIK
ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR

Since March 29th, Art 101 students have been walking back-and-forth the Wapepe hallway, second floor, and painting here and there! With the mixture of various artistic abilities, students learned to adapt their style to fit the environment and enjoy themselves as they paint!

Upon considering objects' features, students found it helpful and significant enough to learn more vocabulary. Painting a traditional hut wasn't too hard for the students, but understanding the parts of the hut engaged them to consider what each part of the house is used for. E.g., the *katak-in-pit* came into design to secure the thatch and to keep the house

from falling apart. Among other topics, students learned to control brushstrokes, mix paints, shade, and highlight among many others while adding traditional/cultural-oriented scenes onto the mural (e.g., *kemeem* (first-birthday party), *awia-awia* (play tagging), *lodide-ag* (windmill), *ka-ri-wutwut* (canoe-toy racing), *kwanjin ms* (breadfruit roasting), *eddeb ni* (coconut husking), *kctak* (thatching), and so on).

Among many to thank on behalf of the Art class, Carl Hacker for the permission; Don and Janet Hess for the encouragement; Physical Plant for the use of tools, materials, and willingness to work around us;

Security for patience for sometimes long hours; community volunteers who brought bright ideas and suggestions; and viewers in general for the creative and imaginative contributions and kind compliments. Thank you!



Construction Update

Uluga

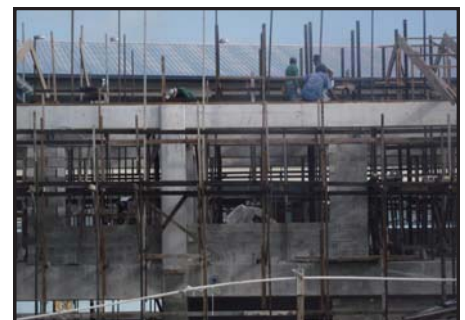
Rebellib Hall is now 100% complete with completely new furniture. The old furniture has been delivered to the Arrak campus for use in the trailers. Oscar Debrum Hall is 95% complete with its second floor set to finish in June. The bottom floor has been finished and is now occupied by faculty.

The construction of the Administration Building is currently delayed. The original finishing date (June) has been pushed back to August due to a 2 month delay in the shipment of roofing materials.

For the College Center, Physical Plant is currently finishing up the service duct where they're installing aluminum cable trays which will connect the internet, cable, and telephone lines from physical plant. Currently, construction of the College Center is on target with its goal to complete in April 2012.

Arrak

J&H Roofing and Decking Contract is now completed. The Septic Tank mentioned in the previous update has also been completed by Physical Plant. The trailers for the Arrak staff are also completed. The



Construction of the Administration Building has been delayed 2 months

two trailers for classrooms and the trailer for the library are finishing up, with plans for completion by June, in time for the Summer Nursing Bridge Program. The library will be getting all new furniture.



Jabōnkōnnaan Ko - Proverbs

HONSEKI JUMON
MARSHALLESE STUDIES INSTRUCTOR

Mokajkaji jeljeli batbati -

“Speed it up, slow it down”
Refers to when you’re in a hurry and you don’t stop to fix the lashings on the outrigger—the lashings will become untied and the delay will be greater than had you stopped to take your time and fix them in the beginning. Similar to English proverb, “haste makes waste.”

Kwojab alkoj pein ak -

“Do not twist the wings of the frigate bird”
This proverb is used when someone is about to refuse a present or actually refuses it. Every gift, no matter how small must be accepted; refusal is a serious insult to the donor. This is similar to “Don’t bite the hand that feeds you.”

Kijen kweet dreka -

“Octopus food is rock” This refers to being determined, persistent, persevering, regardless of the consequences. Octopuses actually eat crustaceans and mollusks, but when they hunt for that prey, it appears as if they are attacking the rocks instead.

Kiki in jibinbin -

“Sleep like a sea cucumber” someone who sleeps, oversleeps, sleeps a long time, or sleeps exceptionally soundly.

Kandrikdrik kin iokwe

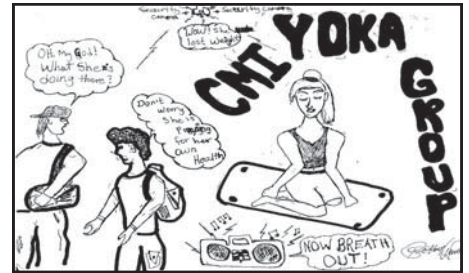
“Share whatever small food you have with love”

How well do YOU know your college?

In honor of Foundation Day, why not take this quiz and see how well you know your CMI:

- A.** Where was CMI located before it’s present campus?
- B.** How many CMI employees were there when it first began?
- C.** Who was the first Director?
- D.** How many CMI students were first enrolled?

To find the answers, turn to page 9 and read “Blast From the Past with Nelly Lakabung”!



submitted by CMI student Bobby Andrew

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P. O. Box 1258
Majuro, MH 96960
Marshall Islands

Editor
Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner

Printing and Distribution
Marilyn Harry

Questions? Comments?
Submissions?
kkijiner@cmi.edu

