

MICRONESIA PROGRAM

UPDATE NUMBER 6

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Undergraduate Program The planning trip for the study-abroad program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education Fulbright-Hays Group Projects occurred early in September. We have located housing for the students, the courses are being developed by the Micronesian faculty members at the College of Micronesia in Pohnpei, and field trips have been identified. Arrangements have been made for visits to Kosrae and to Majuro in the Marshall Islands on the return trip. The details are coming together nicely, and this should be an exciting six-week term of study for the participants.

University Affiliation The first exchange under the U.S.I.A. University Affiliation program will occur this November. Terry Moore, adjunct faculty member at the University of Oregon Department of Planning, Public Policy and Management will teach a short course on evaluating economic development proposals in both Koror, Palau and Majuro, Marshall Islands. The participants in the courses, which will be sponsored by the respective branches of the College of Micronesia, will be high-level government officials who are responsible for allocating the financial resources available to the former trust territories under the Compacts of Free Association.

The second exchange will occur in May, 1990, when Victoria Maui from Palau comes to the University of Oregon to teach a course in cultures of Micronesia, focusing particularly on the roles of women in Micronesia. This course will be part of the required package for students going to Micronesia in the study-abroad program, and will be available to other UO students as well.

The third segment of the exchange will involve John Baldwin from PPPM teaching a course in natural resources planning in Pohnpei, for government officials working in the resources area.

Technical Assistance Program The long-lost FSM application for funding to Office of Territorial and International Affairs in the Department of Interior in Washington was located in an office in Pohnpei, and forwarded to Washington. During my visit to the Marshall Islands, a similar request was prepared and forwarded to OTIA. In addition, the Palau branch of the College of Micronesia will submit a funding request before the end of the year.

We should hear fairly soon from Washington on these applications. If they are funded, we will place advanced graduate students in Micronesia at the beginning of 1990. A number of exciting projects were identified in the Marshalls, including a first-ever land use plan and accompanying zoning for Majuro Atoll.

Library Assessment Project Under a grant from USIA, Mary Ann Lund conducted an assessment of the libraries in Micronesia (Palau, FSM, Marshall Islands) this summer. She is in the process of finishing her report and recommendations for submission to USIA. As an outcome of this study, Mary Ann and I will be developing a grant application for a workshop on library management for Micronesian librarians to be held in Oregon in 1990. Many of the librarians interviewed by Mary Ann have been assigned to their positions with little or no training in running a library; we hope to begin to remedy that situation.

Joint Peace Corps/Planning Degree Program After discussions with the Peace Corps directors in Micronesia and the Marshall Islands, I am moving ahead on the proposal for a joint Master's degree program with the Peace Corps. This would entail the completion of the core courses in planning at the University of Oregon, followed by a two-year assignment with the Peace Corps. Candidates would have to be admitted to the program by both the Peace Corps and the Department of Planning, Public Policy and Management's planning program. At the end of three years and following a return to the UO campus for the final work on a terminal project or thesis, the student would receive the MUP degree. This program would initially place Peace Corps Volunteers in Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and in Thailand. The program is being developed with Paul Vitale, Urban Specialist in Peace Corps/Washington.

Pacific Islands Technology Consortium The need for assistance in the areas of planning and public policy, as well as education, agriculture, and mariculture, has become increasingly apparent as I work in and travel throughout Micronesia. I have begun to explore the interest of faculty members in other parts of the university and at other universities in the Pacific Northwest in becoming involved in assisting in Micronesia. For example, there is a need for skills transfer in the area of elementary and secondary education -- perhaps we can place some MAT students in island schools for three month internships, during which time they will transfer some teaching skills to the local teachers, many of whom do not yet have BA/BS or even AA/AS degrees. Just as in the areas of planning, technical skills transfers are needed in the areas of agriculture, nutrition, marine resources management, and legal concerns, to name a few. At the present, I can meet only the needs identified in the planning and policy development areas. Now I would like to identify other programs which would be willing to support this sort of work, and to facilitate the involvement of advanced graduate students in other areas to spend 3-4 months in the islands, in exchange for credit toward their degree and a challenging experience. I have begun to work with faculty at the University of Hawaii and Oregon State University on this idea, and will continue the discussion toward the end of establishing a larger pool of students who can participate in this program, as well as faculty members to advise them.

Please contact me if you have suggestions, questions or comments on any aspect of the Micronesia program.

Maradel Gale, Director, Micronesia Program