

Going Places

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

MICRONESIA AND SOUTH PACIFIC PROGRAM

TAs at Work in Micronesia and the South Pacific

TAs in Kosrae

John Pettit is a member of the energy conservation team working with the Kosrae Utilities Authority. John is a graduate student in architecture, and is currently employed by the Energy Studies in Buildings Laboratory at the UO. He is interested in discovering ways to more efficiently use the island's limited energy generation capabilities, especially in local building design.

Technical Assistant **Jason Moore** will facilitate a follow-up computer training program with the staff of the Kosrae Department of Transportation. Jason is looking forward to sharing with his Micronesian co-workers the skills he acquired as a technical computer support staff person for a computer company in Eugene.

Sam Karp, a recent graduate of the Energy Management Program at Lane Community College, will be part of a team helping Kosrae Utilities Authority with their energy conservation program. His responsibilities will include teaching counterparts how to conduct energy audits and propose efficiency improvement measures. Sam is interested in renewable energy technology that promotes a sustainable global environment.

In September, after receiving his UO master's degree in public affairs with an emphasis in natural resources and environmental management, **Aaron-Pilika Sigrah**, a native Kosraean, will return home with his wife, **Joyce**. Aaron has

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Marnadel Gale

FROM THE DIRECTOR

MSPP Staff Member Visits Islands in Preparation for the TAs Arrival

The month of May finds one of the MSPP staff, either Nancy or me, visiting the islands in preparation for the arrival in June of most of the technical assistants. This visit is to assure that the parameters of the projects are well-defined, that counterparts are ready to work with the TAs, and that housing has been secured for the TAs.

It is gratifying and exciting to see evidence of the program's work in places throughout Palau, Pohnpei, Yap, Kosrae, and Majuro.

What I saw when I visited this May is very heartening to me. It had been nearly two years since my last visit to the islands and in this period, many of the projects on which we worked had come to fruition. It is gratifying and exciting to see evidence of the program's work in places throughout Palau, Pohnpei, Yap, Kosrae, and Majuro. Some examples:

- the Pohnpei Tourist Commission frequently revises and republishes the visitor's guide which was initially developed and published under the guidance of an MSPP technical assistant.
- Palau Community College has had several TAs work with them on development of their physical



Photo: Marnadel Gale

1996-97 Micronesia and South Pacific Program technical assistants

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Some TAs will go to... continued from page 1

lived in the US for eight years while completing his undergraduate and graduate education. He will be working with the Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources, assisting in the collection, development and organization of research materials. Aaron is the first Micronesian to serve as a Technical Assistant with the Micronesia and South Pacific Program.



front: Pettit, Moore; back: Karp, Sigrah

Photo: Nancy Peayon

AMERICAN SAMOA

Etsuko Yasui will collaborate with the American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources to evaluate the progress of ongoing public awareness and educational efforts for marine and wildlife species on the island. Etsuko received her undergraduate degree in Japan. She is a graduate student in the UO International Studies Program, and her interests are international communication and environmental issues.

Matt Van Ess is a graduate student in community and regional planning at the UO. In September he will begin working with the Department of Marine and Wild-



Left to right: Yasui, Van Ess, Ogden

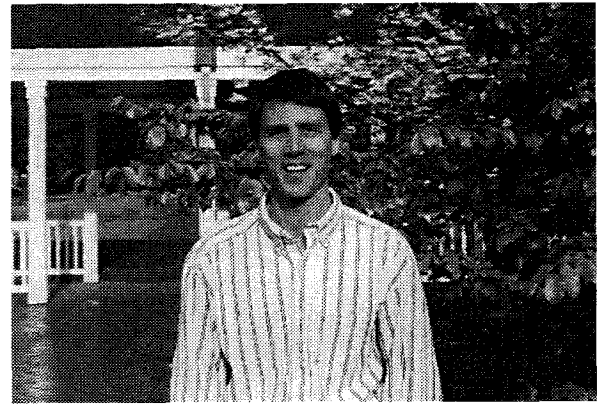
Photo: Marnafel Gale

life Resources in American Samoa on a coral reef mapping project. Matt is interested in marine, estuarine, and coastal issues. He is exploring the role of geographic information systems in improving decision making in these areas.

In June, **Alysia Ogden** will be working with the Environmental Protection Agency on American Samoa, aiding in the development of an education program on hazardous materials and pesticides. Alysia has previous experience with environmental organizations, and she is currently pursuing a master's degree in community and regional planning at the UO.

NORTHERN MARIANAS

Reed Perkins will be working with the Coastal Resources Management division of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands government helping to integrate geographic information systems technology into habitat conservation plans. Reed is currently a doctoral candidate at Oregon State University studying the effects of climate and watershed physiography on floods in the western Cascades. He is interested in this project because it provides an opportunity to explore a new part of the world, to share



Reed Perkins

some of his knowledge in an applied setting, and to learn from his new colleagues. This assignment is the first the MSPP has assisted with in Saipan.

POHNPEI

Returning Technical Assistant **Kit Cottrell** will be assisting the Pohnpei Department of Agriculture with the development of their agriculture master plan. Last summer Kit spent three months working on an agricultural development project in the Marshall Islands. This June, he will complete the requirements for a master's degree in community and regional planning. Kit intends to pursue a career in sustainable community development both at home and abroad.

Linda Rose, a third year MSPP returnee, will be working for the Pohnpei Department of Education assisting with development of the high school library program and a teachers' resource center. She has a Ph.D. in education and has worked many years as an educator in Oregon, California and Minnesota.

Another third year Technical Assistant with the MSPP, **Eldon Haines** will be helping to establish a database system for voter registration in collaboration with the Pohnpei State Election Commission. Eldon has programmed computers in support of his teaching, scientific and, business career for over 35 years and he is looking forward to participating in this new project.

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Dona Miller is traveling to Pohnpei as a member of the land use planning team working with the State Department of Land. She brings a diverse educational background and wide range of experience to the project. Dona has degrees in electronic engineering, international business, and public planning and policy, and she has worked in both the public and private sectors. Currently, Dona is enrolled in the UO community and regional planning graduate program. Her special interest is in small community development and citizen participation within communities.

Returning Technical Assistant and current technical support person for the MSPP, **Clint Chiavarini** will work with Dona at the Department of Land on Pohnpei to implement the Pohnpei State Land Use Plan which was developed with the aid of other Technical Assistants last year. Clint will graduate in June from the UO with a master's degree in community and regional planning. In past years he has been a Technical Assistant for the Kosrae State Department of Public Works and the Republic of Palau Division of Conservation and Entomology.

Jeffrey Jane Knoche will be assisting the Division of Historic Preservation and Cultural Affairs on Pohnpei with the administration and exhibit design of a new center for maritime history. Originally from Maryland, Jeffrey was a



Left to right: Murtagh, Gatchell, Taylor, Wilson, Harding

graphic designer for 12 years before moving to Eugene to pursue a graduate degree. Jeffrey is completing her coursework in arts and administration with a concentration in museum studies.

PALAU

Returning Technical Assistant **Peg Butler Murtagh** is a graduate student in landscape architecture at the UO. She will be assisting Palau Community

College with their ongoing landscape plan, including site drainage and a mangrove interpretation area. Her interests include sustainable community design and education. Last summer Peg worked with the Environmental Protection Agency on Pohnpei, dealing with issues of solid waste management, focusing on issues of waste reduction and reuse.

Lance Gatchell is finishing up a master of science degree in groundwater engineering at Oregon State University. He will be working with the Palau Environmental Quality Protection Board, assisting with the preparation of maps to delineate water quality classification zones that correspond to Palau's marine and fresh water quality standards.

Kristen Taylor, a staff member with the MSPP, will be assisting the Palau Housing Authority next January to develop a consolidated plan for community housing to be submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Kristen is currently a graduate student in community and regional planning at the UO. She received her undergraduate degree in architecture and has many years of experience in the field of architecture and community development.



Left to right: Cottrell, Rose, Haines, Miller, Chiavarini, Knoche

Photo: Marnadel Gale

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Palau continued from page 3

In June, **Trish Wilson** will be traveling to Palau to assist in the development of a comprehensive agriculture and forestry plan for the Division of Agriculture and Mineral Resources. Trish is a graduate student in community and regional planning at the UO, with a bachelor's degree in forestry and resource management. She has worked for the US Forest Service and is currently employed by the US Bureau of Land Management.

Terri Harding will be traveling to Palau to work with the Palau Visitors Authority on an ecotourism assessment project. Terri is a master's candidate in community and regional planning. This project offers Terri an opportunity to combine her experience in tourism market analysis and environmental impact assessment to help determine the potential for ecotourism on Palau.

YAP

Returning Technical Assistant **Jean D'Agostino** will be working with the Yap Division of Manpower Development & Employment Services to assist with the implementation of a comprehensive manpower plan for the state. In 1994, Jean was a Technical Assistant with the Pohnpei Division of Marine Resources in coastal resources planning. Since then

she has received her master's degree in community and regional planning from the UO. Currently, Jean is working in Tillamook County, Oregon with two local watershed councils on public outreach and education projects concerning water quality issues.

Jason Kruckeberg, a returning Technical Assistant, is a planner for the Tillamook Bay National Estuary Project in Garibaldi, Oregon. In August, Jason will begin working with the Office of Planning and Budget on Yap, collaborating with his counterpart to develop a uniform building code for Yap State. Jason received a master's degree in community and regional planning from the UO last year. In 1994, he was a Technical Assistant with the Palau Visitors Authority.

Françoise Bodone will be assisting the Yap Historic Preservation Office with their multi-year Cultural and Historic Preservation Plan. Françoise is pursuing

her Ph.D. in educational policy and management. In 1995, she obtained master's degrees in international studies and urban and regional planning at the UO. Françoise is interested in the introduction and preservation of regional and non-traditional cultures in mainstream educational curricula to honor the richness and potential for diversity.

MARSHALL ISLANDS

The Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority will receive assistance from **Lynn Rosentrater** on an aquaculture feasibility study. As part of the project, Lynn and her counterpart will travel to Mejit and Lib atolls to sample and survey lakes which are possible sites for aquaculture projects to generate local income and food supplies. Recently, Lynn completed her master's degree in geography at the UO. She has spent many summers in the field surveying forest and wetland habitats.

Deb Burke will be assisting the College of the Marshall Islands in Majuro with development of public education materials. Presently, Deb is working on a master's degree at Oregon State University in interdisciplinary studies with a focus on anthropology and fisheries. She is especially interested in the association of community values with marine natural resources.



Left to right: Rosentrater, Burke

Photo: Marnadel Gale



Left to right: D'Agostino, Kruckeberg, Bodone

Photo: Marnadel Gale

Where are they now?

Elizabeth Caraker, former MSPP staff member and technical assistant on Kosrae and Pohnpei, has a new internship in Alameda County, California with the advanced planning division and will be working on open space and agricultural preservation planning, as well as helping create a master plan for a new town. Liz is also working part-time with the City of Berkeley doing a marina inventory.

Eric Gilman served as a TA in Pohnpei with the Pohnpei Port Authority. For the past several years, Eric has worked in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, most recently as a special assistant to the Governor for environmental affairs. Eric was instrumental in encouraging the MSPP to place its first technical assistant this summer with the Coastal Resources Management agency in Saipan.

Kathy Roos, TA in American Samoa, is running for the Idaho state legislature. Although her candidacy is a full-time job for the next several months, Kathy has remained active in the environmental arena. Both Kathy and **Roger Roos**, who also served as a TA in American Samoa, are involved with the development of a regional land trust for two counties in southwest Idaho as well as a foothills preservation group. Roger practices internal medicine with St. Luke's Hospital in Boise.

Larry Vasquez, TA on Yap, is an assistant city planner for Canby, Oregon, located near Portland. His focus is on housing and business development for the community of 10,000. Larry received his master's degree in community and regional planning in December 1995.



Kelly Wyatt in a frozen paradise—Antartica

Kelly Wyatt, Global Traveler

Editor's note: Kelly is a former TA on Pohnpei and Kosrae

Since leaving the Pacific islands in early 1995, Kelly has worked in several places, from the extremes of New York to New Zealand to Antarctica. Her work in New York involved managing an international service corps program with young people from Slovakia, Ireland, the Czech Republic, Germany, Estonia, Belarus and France, as well as leading an outdoor education/ropes course program.

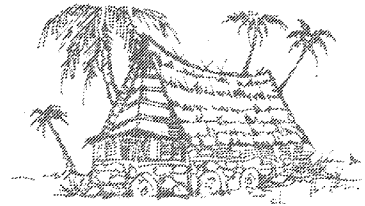
After New York, Kelly's next stops were Colorado and New Zealand, where she trained to work at a field camp in Antarctica, about 150 miles from the South Pole. Her training focused on how to live in a freezing climate (the average temperature was -15° F), first aid and rescue, radio communications and weather forecasting. She lived in a large tent on Shackleton Glacier for four months along with a crew of helicopter

pilots, equipment operators and researchers. The program's mission was to unearth fossils and rock samples from this particularly rich area of the continent.

Upon returning from the southern ends of the earth, this June Kelly again headed for the Pacific, in response to a request from the Micronesia and South Pacific Program to work with the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme for a period of six weeks. Kelly's job with SPREP is to assist with environmental education activities, and in the process, to determine how other technical assistants from the MSPP can interface with SPREP projects throughout the Pacific islands.

In August 1996, Kelly will be on the move again -- this time back to Micronesia, where she will be working with the YapSTAR educational program in Colonia, Yap. Kelly is looking forward to returning to Micronesia--her past experiences in the Pacific were important to her, and she is eager to continue collaborating with teachers and youth development leaders in the islands.

GOING PLACES



This edition of Going Places was edited by Maradel Gale, MSPP director. Articles by Kristen Taylor, Maradel Gale and Nancy Peyron. Layout by Melissa Lebahn and George Beltran.

For information about the Micronesia and South Pacific Program, please find us on the World Wide Web at:

<http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~mspp/mspp.html>

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plant and grounds, and it is looking better with each passing year.

- Libraries throughout Micronesia have benefited from training and support from the MSPP, and they are continuing to flourish, serving many people who previously didn't have access to well-organized reading and reference materials.
- Computer skills training in an agency in Kosrae has, according to the manager, greatly improved the productivity of the staff.

Situations where technical assistance projects seem to have disappeared can often be traced to the fact that the counterpart was either not fully engaged in the project during the tenure of the technical assistant, or had been transferred to a position outside the agency. In some cases, the skills transferred during the project enhance the capability of the counterpart in his or her new position. At times, however, those skills are not subsequently transferred to the counterpart's replacement.

As someone who has observed the difficulties of transfer of knowledge and skills in the islands for many years, I am

concerned about this, as it has made the continuation of projects over time challenging in some situations. In projects where a great deal of time and money was invested, lack of continuation due to reassignment of a key person within the agency may be detrimental to the future development of the island. The tendency for frequent movement between agencies and jobs is exacerbated by the Micronesian proclivity to guard information as a form of wealth. There is little impetus for information and training to be shared with others, even with those taking over one's position within an agency.

Given the need for trained personnel, the tendency to repeatedly re-assign individuals impedes the development of an increasingly skilled workforce in the islands. As funds for off-island training become more scarce, it is important that the people of Micronesia look for ways to increase their own learning and opportunities within the islands. The sharing of learned workplace skills is one way economies and people in them can advance. The MSPP is looking for ways to encourage such transfer of skills.

The Micronesia and South Pacific Program was established in 1988 at the University of Oregon to assist with the development of sustainable communities in the Pacific islands. The university affiliation faculty development program links the University of Oregon with the University of the South Pacific and the College of Micronesia-FSM, Palau Community College, and the College of the Marshall Islands. The technical assistance program transfers technical skills to counterparts in public agencies and nonprofit organizations in American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the North Marianas, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. A library development program works with public and school libraries throughout Micronesia.

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The Micronesia and South Pacific Program follows the letter and spirit of all equal-opportunity, civil-rights, and accessibility laws.

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