
The Micronesia Program has experienced a great deal of growth since the last Program Newsletter in 1990. In the past two years, over thirty UO students and faculty have traveled to Micronesia to conduct a variety of projects. The Micronesia Program has been supported through \$660,000 in federal funding to date. Funding sources include the U.S. Department of Interior, the U.S. Information Agency and the U.S. Department of Education. The dramatic increase in projects has prompted Maradel Gale, Micronesia Program Director, to hire Julie Fischer to serve on a part-time basis as Project Coordinator.

NEW PROJECTS

Pacific Islands Languages

In an effort to develop learning materials for Pacific Islands languages, the Micronesia Program wrote a joint request with the Department of Linguistics to the UO Office of Research and Sponsored Programs. The UO funded a pilot project to develop a self-taught language course for the Pohnpeian language. The pilot project was directed by Russ Tomlin (Linguistics), Sydney Kinnaman and Ray Peterson (American English Institute) with assistance from Rufino Mauricio (Anthropology) and Marie Olter of Pohnpei. The latter two students served as local language informants. The learning package contains video and audio tapes as well as a workbook. The inclusion of the video allows the learner to develop an understanding of the social context of the language by observing such things as body language, facial expressions and actual cultural footage. With only an audio tape, this important information is not available to the language learner. The results of the pilot project are excellent, and provide a clear example of project outcome for potential funding agencies. A proposal to the US Department of Education for development of additional Pacific Islands Language materials is pending.

Pacific Islands Film Series

The Micronesia Program organized a Pacific Islands Film Series for winter and spring terms of 1992. Funded by the UO Humanities Center, the Center for Asian and Pacific Studies, Pacific Islands Studies and the Micronesia Program, the film series

focuses on contemporary issues of Pacific Islands nations. Attendance has included many Pacific Islands students who have never seen the films of their homelands, and who are excited to be able to compare and contrast the customs and issues which link or distinguish their islands from others in the Pacific.

A South Pacific Connection

In December, 1991, the Micronesia Program hosted a visit to the UO campus by Robert Briscoe, Head of the Management Department in the School of Social and Economic Development at the University of the South Pacific in Suva, Fiji. The USP is a regional institution, serving the countries of the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Western Samoa.

As a result of the visit, the UO and the USP submitted a proposal to the US Information Agency to establish an affiliation between the University of Oregon and the University of the South Pacific in Fiji. Focussing on community-based economic development, the affiliation would link UO faculty active in projects which apply theory to development practice with faculty at USP interested in becoming more involved in economic development in their home countries. The UO has a seventeen-year history of successful project design and implementation through the Community Planning Workshop, and more recently in the international arena through the Micronesia Program. The proposed affiliation would extend this model into the South Pacific through USP and their School

for Social and Economic Development.

Networking Micronesian Students and Employers

In January, 1992, the UO Micronesia Program was awarded an incentive grant by NAFSA: Association of International Educators. This grant will enable the Micronesia Program to identify and work with students from Micronesia attending western Oregon colleges and universities. The purpose is to begin to develop a network among the students and between students and potential employers in their home countries. The UO project is part of the larger ASPIRE program which is one component of a new US. initiative under the Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Partnership for Education. ASPIRE is designed to help Asian and Pacific Islands students plan for their return home.

A major problem in working with students from the former Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands as well as the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas and American Samoa is that these students are not easily identifiable through campus records. Due to the special status in relation to the U.S., students from these islands are not required to have visas to enter the U.S., and are thus not technically "international students". Yet they experience many of the frustrations and problems of other foreign students, including language difficulties, inadequate high school preparation, cultural adjustments, and difficulty in returning home after graduation. The UO project will attempt to determine ways to identify and help Pacific Island students adjust to academic life in the Oregon. In addition, the project will explore ways to connect students with employers in their home country after graduation.

A New Course: Experiencing Crossing Cultures

Preparing students to work overseas is another component of the Micronesia Program. "Experiencing Crossing Cultures," a course now offered through PPPM during spring term, prepares students for work in Micronesia and other developing countries.

The course focuses on value systems, cross-cultural communication, skills-transfer techniques and working with host-country counterparts.

CONTINUING PROGRAMS

Technical Assistance Program

Now in its third year, the Technical Assistance Program continues to work with public agencies in Micronesia on planning and policy analysis projects. We have completed 21 projects to date, and plan to send another fifteen graduate students to Micronesia this year. The Micronesia Program has received over \$338,000 in grant money since January of 1990 from the US Department of Interior.

The program has involved UO graduate students in Planning, Public Policy and Management and International Studies, as well as students from OSU's Marine Resources Program, Cornell's Planning Department, University of Hawaii's Planning Department and University of South Carolina's Marine Resources Department. For a complete list of projects and students, see page 3.

The Technical Assistance Program continues to work toward improved skills-transfer between the graduate students who serve as technical assistants and host-country counterparts. Last year, we developed a comprehensive evaluation system which seeks to identify and describe the specific skills transferred during each project.

University Affiliation Program

Funded by the United States Information Agency, this program facilitates the interchange of faculty between the UO and the College of Micronesia. Since 1990, the UO has hosted two faculty from the College of Micronesia: Vicki Kanai from the Republic of Palau and Joe Habuchmai from Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia. In each case, the Micronesian faculty member taught classes, worked with students preparing to travel to Micronesia and conducted research. Oregon will be hosting additional faculty members from

Micronesia this summer.

UO faculty members visiting Micronesia have included Ken Kempner from Educational Policy and Management and Dick Hildreth and Wayne Westling from the Law School. Kempner assisted branches of the college in the Marshall Islands and Palau with management and administration concerns, Hildreth worked with the Republic of Palau Department of Conservation and Marine Resources on coastal zone management issues, and Westling provided training in trial techniques for Marshallese trial assistants.

Library Program

The Library Program focuses on transferring skills from trained librarians from the US to librarians in Micronesia. In 1989, Mary Ann Lund Goodwin, a librarian and UO graduate in Public Affairs, conducted an assessment of libraries in Micronesia for the U.S. Information Agency. In the summer of 1990, Mary Ann and other Pacific Northwest librarians offered an intensive three week workshop in library skills for 18 librarians from Micronesia. In the summer of 1991, Mary Ann revisited several of the libraries in Micronesia, evaluating the extent to which new library skills were being used, and helping each librarian develop an action plan. Calista Harding, a retired librarian from Michigan, provided similar follow-up in the Marshall Islands. The plans were presented to appropriate boards of directors or supervisors of the libraries, and accepted as plans of action. Participating libraries will be evaluated in 1992 to learn how well they were able to meet the goals of their plans, and librarians who have been diligent in their work will earn a computerized system for the library. This exciting program has been funded by U.S.I.A. with participation by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Territorial and International Affairs.

Jane Barnwell, Pacific Collection Development Specialist for UO's Knight Library, currently is working with three collections in Palau. Jane is using her sabbatical to assist the Belau National

Museum, and the Marine Resources and Conservation Departments to manage their collections.

SUMMARY OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS 1990 and 1991

The following projects were completed through the Technical Assistance Program funded by Department of Interior. See Page 2 for a brief description of the program goals and objectives.

Republic of Palau

Sports Facilities Plan (1990): Inventoried sports programs and conducted needs assessment for an indoor sports facility in Koror State.

Long-Range Physical Planning for Micronesian Occupational College (1990, 1991): created a physical development plan and recycling program. 1992 project will assist with architectural design for remodeling and new construction.

Cultural Tourism Plan for Palau Visitor's Bureau (1990): Developed and applied criteria to assess tourism potential of historic sites. Devised strategies for improving tourism newsletter.

Conservation Strategy for The Republic of Palau (1991): Comprehensive review of Palau's conservation policies and recommendations for additional programs.

Survey of Environmental and Economic Impacts of Women's Fishing Activities (1991): Interviews with 54 Palauan women to determine the role of women in near-shore fisheries. Identifies fishing methods, types of catch, economic impacts, and environmental issues.

Historic and Cultural Preservation Plan for the Republic of Palau (1990): Defined goals and objectives for the Division of Cultural Affairs and determined implementation strategies. Plan includes operations and

administration, survey and field investigation, archive management, and program development.

Federated States of Micronesia

Recycling Program for Pohnpei State (1990): Developed an aluminum recycling program for Pohnpei State, including collection systems, sales to the US, financial management, and organizational structure.

Tourism Development, Pohnpei Tourist Commission (1990): Designed an informational brochure for tourists, conducted workshops for tour guides, designated tourists sites, revised visitor profile, and began developing signage systems.

Kolonia (Pohnpei) Town Planning (1990): Provided the structure and organization for a Kolonia Master Plan. Focused on developing an existing land use map and exploring creative zoning options.

Sports Program Development (1991): Assisted in streamlining administrative processes of the Pohnpei Sports Council. Focused on budget planning, costing of government services, and time management techniques.

Community Development Assistance Project (1991): Developed strategies for obtaining community development funds for Nett District. Identified potential funding sources, obtained information on funding agencies, and developed a fact book on Nett District.

Village Clean Drinking Water Program (1991): Evaluated decision-making and implementation process for new state-funded community water system projects in Pohnpei, compiled and presented water quality data, and assessed problems involved with the water system in Wone Village.

Pohnpei State Parks Planning (1991): Explored options for developing a state park

system, organized training sessions for Parks Division staff, and conducted conservation workshops for a local youth camp.

Yap Coastal and Ocean Resources Planning (1991): Focused on coordination between marine resource and economic development agencies. Developed a proposal for a coordinated development review process for Yap State.

Fisheries Management in Yap Proper (1991): Survey and assessment of traditional fisheries management techniques. Also conducted and evaluated seafood export survey to determine volume and composition of exported fish.

Republic of the Marshall Islands

Majuro Atoll Land Use Plan (1990, 1991): Assisted with the Master Plan Process, including development of a data base (existing land use, population, physical environment, laws and policies), and creating a planning infrastructure (planning commission, public education and participation, coordination among agencies, etc.)

Household Income and Expenditure Survey (1990): Designed and tested a household income and expenditure survey instrument. Project also involved determining a sample size and developing a data entry program.

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