



Guampedia.com

May 2021

Know our island. Know our history. Click to know! — Volume IV. Issue V.

Guampedia is a non-profit affiliate of the University of Guam with operations funded by the Government of Guam's Tourism Attraction Fund.

Celebrating Our Pacific Communities



This month we celebrate the collective impact of the Asian/ Pacific American communities in the United States as part of Asian/ Pacific Heritage Month. We are proud to represent the CHamoru/ Chamorro people as this year Guampedia has been selected on their website as a [featured collection](#)! Heritage month celebrations are important in providing the space to teach and learn about cultural history. We've highlighted a few special sections in Guampedia to help celebrate our cultural histories of the Pacific!

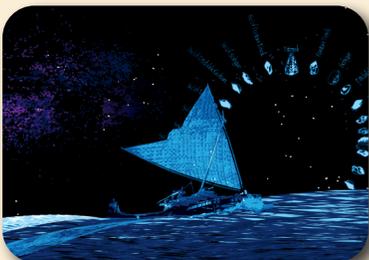
POP Cultures

Back in 2016, Guampedia created a new section in preparation for Guam to host the Festival of the Pacific Arts titled [POP Cultures: People of the Pacific](#). The goal of this section was to help our island community learn more about the unique cultures that make up Oceania. With a grant from the Guam Council of the Arts and Humanities, 30 entries were produced. Each entry provides some basic information about the islands of Polynesia, Micronesia and Melanesia; a description of the history, geography, culture and the arts; as well as a greeting in the various indigenous Pacific languages.



*Pa'a Taotao Tāno' at Fest Pac 2008
Courtesy of CAHA*

Micronesia Portal



Micronesia seafarers and star chart Artwork by Kie Susuico

Created in 2019, [this section](#) presents the history and connections of our closest island neighbors that help make up the region of Micronesia. This portal contains narratives on these island communities, essays from Dr. James Perez Viernes and Dr. Mike Carson, as well as a link to the [Micronesia Milestones \(MM\) timeline](#). The MM timeline provides a unique spin on the traditional timeline by juxtaposing world events to the numerous local events that shaped Micronesia, highlighting our collective 4,000 year history.

Continued from page 1

Culture of Connecting



These special sections were also created to cultivate connections across our vast region. There are definitely more connections to be made at many levels! We now have [a new lesson plan](#) connecting students' personal histories using our Micronesia Milestones timeline, thanks to Guampedia's Board member and University of Guam professor, [Teresita L. Perez](#). We asked Professor Perez to share how this came to be.

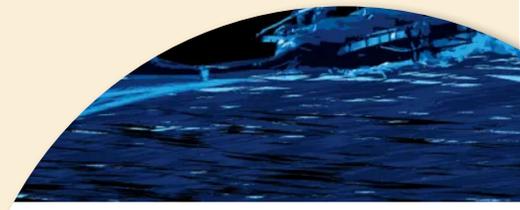
Last December, I was invited by Dr. Mary Hattori to present at an international conference sponsored by Teaching, Colleges and Community (TCC). This conference was started in 1996, at Kapiolani Community College as a way to

form community and support for teachers worldwide. TCC (the "T" now standing for technology) has since grown to become a non-profit organization, and the theme of the April conference, was Building our Future – Moving On! Dr. Hattori asked me to share about Guampedia, specifically the Educators Portal and the Micronesia Milestones timeline as some of the "examples of appropriate, innovative, and sustainable instructional delivery".

Initially, I was wondering how to talk about Guampedia to an audience who was largely unfamiliar with it. I asked historian Dr. James P. Viernes to co-present and together we planned a presentation that would consist of alternating discussions of historical context with place- and project-based lessons. Dr. Viernes explained the origin of Micronesia Milestones, and I created a unit that would use the timeline to inspire storytelling and juxtaposition of personal narrative against broader stories of community, nation, and world. Together we created a presentation that we hoped would be inclusive of all teachers and students in our region.

After the presentation, a Dr. Mike Menchaca, chair of the Department of Learning Design and Technology at University of Hawaii's College of Education

connected with me. He asked to highlight Guampedia at a distance learning workshop. In so doing, he called Guampedia "outstanding and timely"; more than that, his interest in our resource as relevant to the region reinforced my firm belief that Guampedia be more than just about Guam, but a space that could connect to all people in the Pacific!



[Print version of this lesson plan.](#)

Connecting Personal History to Others

By Terry Perez

Some of us '...omm' ... 750 AD

Mayans Build Chichen Itza Pyramid



Chichen Itza, a large pre-Columbian city, was built by the Maya people around 750 AD. The archaeological site is located in Tinúm Municipality, Yucatán State, Mexico.

500 - 1000 AD

Marianas Pottery Transitions



The oldest Marianas pottery was se...

Muhammad was born in Arabia (now in Saudi Arabia) the founder of Islam and the proclaimer of the Qur'an. According to Islamic doctrine, he was a prophet and God's messenger, sent to present and confirm the teachings preached previously by Adam, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and other prophets.

about ourselves outside world about some becoming M w



Follow us on social media!

Find us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) to get more frequent updates and learn more about our history!

Celebrating Our Teachers and Museums

As we begin to wrap up this school year we would like to highlight just how much our teachers have done in the effort to educate our people throughout the years amidst war, natural disasters, and even a global pandemic. This month, we celebrate not only our island's educators, but movements towards education and preservation of our island's history and culture as well, with National Teachers day on May 4 and International Museums Day on May 18.

Education in the Marianas began centuries before the first Western explorers even set foot on the island. Young men and women were taught all the necessary skills for survival, such as agriculture and fishing, by the elders in their clans. Young men especially were

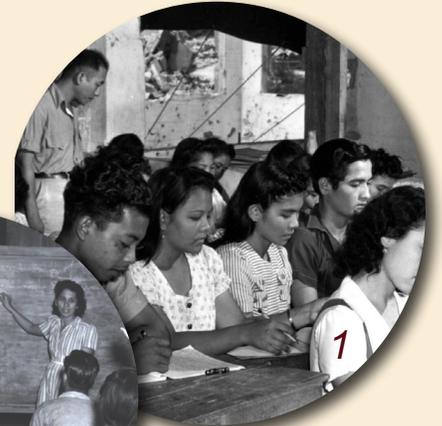
noted to receive education in the [Guma' Uritao](#). It was here that they were given instructions in traditional seafaring and canoe building.

By the time the Marianas was established as a formal Spanish colony, Catholic missions brought priests to the islands, [teaching CHamorus/Chamorros](#) the basics in subjects like reading, writing, arithmetic, penmanship, geography, and history. Formal education would [continue into the 20th century](#) when America assumed administration over Guam.

For the next 100 years, many CHamorus/Chamorros would find themselves drawn to the teaching profession. Among these

[Association](#), under the direction of [Ramon Sablan](#), reached out to island residents to collect artifacts and antiques for the first Guam museum. Thanks to this initiative by our local educators, in 1932, the first Guam museum officially opened its doors to the public in a small building in the Plaza de Espana in Hagåtña.

Eighty-nine years later, the presence of a Guam museum continues through the Senator



[Antonio M. Palomo](#) Museum and Education Facility, also in Hagåtña. The current Guam



forerunners in local education were individuals like [Agueda Iglesias Johnston](#), the first CHamoru principal of Guam's first Junior High School and High School, or [Clotilde Castro Gould](#), who advocated for the creation of a CHamoru/Chamorro studies department in the Guam Department of Education. Click here to explore this history through our [27 entries on education and 24 biographies of local educators](#).

Within the island's history is a legacy of education dedicated to the recording, teaching, and showcasing of the CHamoru/Chamorro people's journey. In 1926 the [Guam Teachers Association](#), under the direction of [Ramon Sablan](#), reached out to island residents to collect artifacts and antiques for the first Guam museum. Thanks to this initiative by our local educators, in 1932, the first Guam museum officially opened its doors to the public in a small building in the Plaza de Espana in Hagåtña. Eighty-nine years later, the presence of a Guam museum continues through the Senator Antonio M. Palomo Museum and Education Facility, also in Hagåtña. The current Guam museum houses 250,000 unique artifacts, documents, and collections in addition to a permanent exhibition and changing gallery. Amidst the restrictions of the COVID19 pandemic, Guampedia wants to help bring the museum experience into your home through our special section on the Guam Museum. In this section you can find an overview of the history of the museum, Guam museum publications, and a comprehensive teacher's guide. You can also find a number of fun printable activities for children of all ages. Click here to view our section on the [Guam Museum!](#)

(1) Teacher Gus Duenas and students in 1945 from MARC/NARA. (2) Teacher Ana F. Duenas and students in 1945 from MARC/NARA. (3) First Guam Museum from Bert Unpingco. (4) Dr. Raulerson and graduates from UOG. (5) Current Guam Museum

Guampedia: Past, Present and Future

Last month, we celebrated Guampedia's 13th anniversary of continual service as an online resource. Over these years, we have seen Guampedia grow in unimaginable ways. To commemorate this historic milestone and signal the beginning of our next journey of growth, we launched our first comprehensive Guampedia user survey. This survey was designed with two goals in mind: to get a clearer view of our audiences within the Marianas and abroad, and to identify the most effective places we can present all the information housed in Guampedia. Your responses are key to helping us understand what entries we should make next and how we can expand our reach into new media platforms.

Helping us look back at these 13 years of service is [Shannon J. Murphy](#), managing editor emeritus, to give us a reflection of Guampedia's journey. Murphy was the managing editor from Guampedia's inception in 2002 to her retirement in 2019. In her time working as managing editor, Murphy has seen Guampedia grow from a small project under [Humanities Guahan](#) to the non-profit organization it is today, housing over 1,200 entries and 3,500 photographs.



Now, after 13 years of being online, Guampedia and online projects like it are bridges between experts and the public. Our website is an avenue to provide people with information that may have never been expressed before in written form or was only expressed in academic form. It allows for dynamic forms of expression, some of which better capture the data's significance, the receiver's imagination, or the traditional way of expressing that knowledge.

Guampedia is a place online where people can find fact checked, peer reviewed, up to date information about Guam

and the CHamoru/Chamorro people at no cost. These entries are generally introductions to the topics with the reader guided to find more in-depth information.

Back in 2002, when I was first hired to manage the project, we could only imagine the impact of Guampedia! We sought to take Guam's citizens and the worldwide community on an educational journey, using the World Wide Web, providing comprehensive entries and media about our island's rich history and culture. And we have!

Although I retired two years ago as managing editor, I continue to be a contract editor. I am so proud of our team and the work that we do. We continue to believe that the future of our island is dependent upon an informed, educated citizenry. Guampedia exists to provide a comprehensive, accessible resource about Guam that will increase opportunities for the enlightenment of our people, allowing us to chart our destiny.

Biba! Here's to the future of Guampedia! Thank you so much to all who have contributed!

Gift Shop Discount

This month is a big one for celebrations. To help celebrate all our students graduating this year and our mothers this Mothers Day, we are offering a discount at our gift shop. For this month of May only, to thank you for taking 15 minutes to complete our survey, we'll be giving 15% off on purchases made in our online gift shop. **To receive this discount, simply leave your email at the end of the Guampedia survey and use the same email when checking out your orders.** Click the images on the right to take our survey and view our gift shop.



[Click here to take our survey](#)



[Click here to explore our gift shop](#)