The motto of the Philosophy Program at the University of Guam is “Hinasson I Taotao Háya,” which is CHamoru for “better thinking through collaboration.” Toward this end, the Philosophy Program contracts with the Guam Department of Education to facilitate two teacher training workshops annually. Each workshop helps primary and secondary teachers on the island understand and practice the pedagogical strategies of Philosophy for Children (P4C). P4C is an effective pedagogical strategy to promote higher order learning, critical thinking, and social and emotional development in K-12 classrooms.

To date, twenty schoolteachers on Guam have completed introductory workshops on P4C. There are approximately one hundred additional schoolteachers interested in P4C! To meet this demand, some of the original twenty workshop participants were trained to mentor small groups of schoolteachers participating in an introductory workshop on P4C.

For this to be possible, we had to leverage technology. Each mentor met virtually with their respective mentees three times over the course of their training. Each mentoring session lasted between 45 and 60 minutes. To facilitate mentoring, mentees were required to provide their respective mentors with video and audio recordings of three of their P4C activities: one from early in, one from midway through, and one from the end of their training. Mentors watched the videos before each session and used them to inform each session. Mentors, on the other hand, were required to provide workshop facilitators with recordings of three virtual mentoring sessions (via Zoom, WebEx, etc.): one from early in, one from midway through, and one from the end of their training. Workshop facilitators provided feedback on these recordings.

Funds from this grant were used to purchase the technology necessary to record teachers’ P4C activities. A total of $983.24 was spent on the following items.

- 18 Sensyne 10” LED ring lights with 50” extendable tripod stands ($29.00 per unit)
- 9 sets of 2 wireless, clip-on Lavalier microphones and receivers for iPhone and Android devices ($42.99 per unit).

By all accounts, this experimental use of technology was a success! In fact, the mentor training was featured in this press release. The Philosophy Program’s work to facilitate the use of P4C in primary and secondary classrooms across the island was also featured in The Guam Kids Post, dated March 11, 2023 (see page 15). Both artifacts are included with this report. The Philosophy Program will continue to use the ring lights and Lavalier microphones in P4C training courses.
How can teachers encourage students in their kindergarten through high school years to put on their thinking caps more often, and unlock their curiosity by freely sharing ideas in classrooms?

The Philosophy Program at the University of Guam College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences is offering a course to help more classroom educators mentor other teachers in the use of a teaching method that encourages students to develop their critical thinking abilities.

This teaching method is aligned with the “Philosophy for Children,” also called the P4C movement, and the UOG Philosophy Department is teaching it to more educators. The UOG Global Learning and Engagement Department and the Guam Department of
“P4C is an effective teaching strategy to promote higher-order learning and critical thinking in K-12 classrooms,” said Dr. Brett A. Fulkerson-Smith, Associate Professor in the UOG Philosophy Program.

The joint efforts to engage the public — including children — in philosophical reflection fall under a broader effort for community engagement with the theme “Hinasson I Taotao Håya” or communal thinking about community issues.

In January 2023, a cohort of GDOE educators began an advanced course in P4C at UOG.

The course was intended for K-12 educators already familiar with the fundamentals of P4C and who wish to mentor other schoolteachers as they begin to practice philosophy with children.

Dr. Jonathan Wurtz, Assistant Professor of Philosophy at UOG, said research at the University of Hawaii shows that P4C creates an intellectually safe environment that is conducive to learning. The approach also has helped to improve test scores, the research found.

In addition to federal funding through GDOE, the course is getting support from The Berry Fund, administered by the American Philosophical Association Committee on Public Philosophy.

In March 2023, the UOG Philosophy Program's faculty will again offer its Introduction to P4C course to a new batch of K-12 educators in Guam.

Teachers and parents who are interested in learning more about P4C are invited to reach out to Fulkerson-Smith or Wurtz through the Guam Philosophy Network, the Philosophy Program's outreach arm, at GPN@triton.uog.edu.
"Every challenge is for a reason": UOG alum comes home to practice law

Accepting the call: New Interim Dean Yvette Paulino aims to lead

Search for the next Truman Scholar from UOG opens
THE BRILLIANT BEGINNING OF Barbie
All year long, Guam is surrounded by vibrant flowers, in every village and in the gardens of hotels, homes, and along the streets. The eleven species strong Plumeria genus is native to tropical America, ranging from Brazil to Mexico and the Caribbean, and belongs to the dogbane family, Apocynaceae. In tropical and subtropical regions all throughout the world, a few species and hybrids are planted as ornaments for their beauty and distinctive scent.

Although endemic to Puerto Rico, the P. alba, often known as the white plumeria with a yellow center, is the variety that is most well-known on the island and throughout Micronesia. This type of Plumeria is called “Kala-chuchan Amariyu” in the CHamoru language, but other common names are frangipani and the Hawaiian lei flower.

Joseph Pitton de Tournefort honored his former student who had pioneered the exploration of tropical New World flora as a royal botanist to Louis XIV of France, Charles Plumier, by naming the genus Plumeria after him. Plumeria rubra L., Plumeria alba L., and Plumeria obtusa L. were first described by Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus. The name Frangipani also persisted because of the Italian aristocrat Marquis Frangipani, who gained notoriety for creating a distinctive perfume out of Plumeria blossoms, and the name Frangipani stuck.

Nonetheless, the appearance and development patterns of several species are quite unique from one another. These trees have a height potential of 25-40 feet and the thin gray bark and milky sap of the plumeria tree can irritate the eyes and induce dermatitis. White, red, pink, and yellow varieties exist, and some are even bicolored. Substantial gardenia, lemon, and jasmine undertones characterize their potent aromas and the flowers really start to produce their aroma in the evening since they are pollinated by sphinx moths that fly at night, although they can still have a pleasant floral scent at other times.

Elegant and fragrant, this flower is utilized for everything from leis and celebration bouquets to hand sanitizers and wreaths for headpieces. The flowers’ essential oil is also a popular addition to many different products, including those used for beauty, aromatherapy, candles, and home decor. Nonetheless, this plant has many potential uses and applications in other parts of the world.

Visitors to Guam are welcomed with leis, which have an abundance of flowers on them. The lei is known as the “Hafa Adai lei” when used with the Plumeria. These leis are also given as gifts to mark significant occasions. Family and friends give a lei to the celebrant as a sign of their love, respect, and pride as well as to honor their achievements. The designs and plants used to make leis vary among all cultures.

Guam is a natural wonderland, teeming with life. This flower epitomizes the verdant splendor of the island, alongside the other flowers, plants, and trees adorning the lush island.
Lions Club hosting virtual reading event

By Richelle Aguon
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The District 204 Lions Club will be hosting its monthly virtual Saturday Story Hour at 10 a.m. on April 1, via Zoom. The program was created to encourage family literacy and improve reading skills for Guam’s youth.


Philosophy entering the classroom

By Richelle Aguon
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A course on using a teaching strategy that encourages students to strengthen their critical thinking skills is being offered by the philosophy program at the University of Guam’s College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences to teachers of the Guam Department of Education.

The UOG Philosophy Department is instructing additional educators in this teaching strategy, which is in line with the “Philosophy for Children” movement, also known as the P4C movement.

The term philosophy is derived from the Greek language that translates to “love of wisdom.” Philosophy is the study of some of life’s most fundamental questions about our lives and the ideas that inform our actions.

This gives students the opportunity to engage in in-depth analyses and discussions about their relationship to a particular subject or relevant issue, which aids in the development of critical thinking skills as well as vital interpersonal and teamwork skills.

According to Dr. Brett A. Fulkerson-Smith, this has been an ongoing project since the pandemic but as of January 2023, a cohort of GDOE educators began an advanced course in P4C at the university. This course was designed for instructors of students in kindergarten through twelfth grade who are already familiar with the fundamentals of P4C and want to support other educators as

By Richelle Aguon
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They start implementing philosophy into their classroom.

The university is currently attempting to build two distinct models with teachers to respond to the needs of students on a daily basis.

One method is adding a session, perhaps weekly or daily or monthly, when students engage in philosophical inquiry and discussion relevant to their studies. This is the more conventional method of teaching philosophy to children and aids teachers in developing learning strategies.

The training the teachers receive also includes a different method for enhancing their abilities to more effectively include philosophical debate and inquiry into a unit study. UOG is trying to develop and empower teachers to formulate what would be called uniquely philosophical questions and then integrate it into the usual questions that come with a history lesson.

With their training, teachers would be able to identify ethical issues and create questions that might inquire about the ethics of a topic. One example might be asking teachers to inquire about the ethical standing of a certain action that a historical leader performed.

Moreover, research has shown that this strategy has also assisted in raising exam scores. According to Dr. Jonathan Wurtz, Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the university, said research at the University of Hawaii shows that P4C creates an intellectually safe environment that is conducive to learning.

Fulkerson-Smith hopes students will benefit and have a deeper knowledge of this kind of wonder and interest if it is introduced to them at a young age. They will be better knowledgeable about the most significant difficulties, questions, and challenges that arise in life.

One of the key goals is for the students to have a deeper understanding of the issues that are confronting them and how they engage with those issues.

Furthermore, he hopes to exponentially grow the practice of P4C in primary secondary classrooms on the island.

“I think having the opportunity to share the skills and techniques associated with that practice with anyone is a great honor,” he said. “I was humbled by the opportunity and I’m glad that GDOE has recognized the value of Philosophy for Children.”

This course is receiving support from the Berry Fund administered by the American Philosophical Association Committee on Public Philosophy, in addition to federal funding through GDOE.

A fresh group of instructors will be given the opportunity to take the P4C course in March.

This course is made possible through a collaboration between the UOG Global Learning and Engagement Department and the Guam Department of Education.

For more information, contact Fulkerson-Smith or Wurtz through GPN@triton.uog.edu.

Historic Birthdays

Albert Einstein
March 14, 1879
Ulm, Germany

Einstein is considered a scientific genius for his theories and ideas that changed the world. He later studied physics and math despite his early academic struggles. He worked for the government after college but continued his independent studies. He is most renowned for devising his theory of relativity, which revolutionized the understanding of space, time, gravity, and the universe. Due to the rise of the Nazi Party in 1933, Einstein fled Germany for the United States. He supported nuclear weapons to defeat the Nazis but did not contribute in the development of the first atomic bomb.

Jane Delano
March 12, 1862
Montour Falls, New York

Despite her family ties to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Jane Delano became well-known in her own right as a nurse and a leader. She gained notoriety for her ability to think ahead and implement novel strategies in the service of her patients. She served as the president of the American Journal of Nursing’s Board of Directors and the first chair of the National Committee of the Red Cross Nursing Service. Delano spent her entire life helping others, and her work as a Red Cross nurse inspired women all over the world.

Simone Biles
Columbus, Ohio
March 12, 1997

Simone Arianne Biles is a famous American Gymnast known to have won the most gold medals in a single Olympics, the first American woman to win 7 national all-around titles as well as the first female gymnast to earn 3 consecutive World All-Around titles. Born in Columbus, Ohio, and raised in Spring, Texas with her sister and grandparents, Biles began gymnastics at the age of 6 while attending a field trip during Day Care. She joined the Women’s Junior Olympic National Championships in 2010, and in 2013, became the first African American woman to claim the all-around title. As a gymnast for the US, she has won 4 gold medals and is only the fifth female gymnast to do so in a single Olympic tournament.
THE BRILLIANT BEGINNING OF Barbie

The original Barbie doll, released in 1959
Playtime is an essential moment for children to expand their creativity and growth, and the toys of the late 1950s did an excellent job of preparing children for what was in store for them in adulthood. The challenge that girls faced was that the majority of these toys, including guns, cowboy hats, action figures, and toy cars were targeted toward boys. Playtime for girls mostly looked like chores, playing with an electric oven for baking, a toy vacuum, a toy broom, and taking care of a baby doll that would drink her bottle and wet her diaper. And there was a clear reason why.

In the early 1960s, there was indeed a specific step-by-step formula for the girl’s perfect way of living: become dainty, fun, attend school to be smart enough to maintain a conversation, but not too smart that it’s intimidating, be an excellent homemaker, be absolutely gorgeous at all times, have one boyfriend, have a job that’ll be easy to discard when, not if, when she marries, have a job that’ll be easy to discard when, not if, when she marries, and always be family oriented. And what better way of putting the ideals of the time than to spill them during playtime? That’s what toys did for both genders, and boys were always indirectly told they could be anything and anyone through the toys available to them.

Mattel founders and couple Ruth and Elliot Handler saw the limited toy options for girls as an opportunity that would forever change toy history.

Barbie Begins

Both already had the idea of a special doll during this golden age of toys, and their new challenge to solve was: of all the toys that tell the girls what to do, how can we make one that tells the girl who to become?

While on a family trip to Switzerland, a Bild Lilli doll inspired by an existing German comic caught Mrs. Handler’s eye. The doll didn’t look too different from today’s Barbie — but she had more revealing clothing, shoes for feet, lighter eyebrows, and puckered lips. Ruth saw potential in Bild Lilli and began making minor alterations alongside her husband. The Barbie doll that Ruth created was first released at New York City’s American Toy Fair in 1959, making heads turn for the first time. But from the wrong demographic.

Barbie met plenty of controversy among men and mothers since it was a doll of a grown woman that showed her curves in a swimsuit. It was only when the little girls saw themselves in the dolls, while at the same time also becoming their role models. The first Barbie commercial showed the clear objective on the screen, with the song ending with “I’ll make believe I am you,” while fading to a shot that showed Barbie in a wedding gown.

During this time, while Mattel successfully profits from both Barbie and her brother, but were sold separately, the handler couple was already working on the bride’s gown and her girlfriends.

Barbie and Friends!

The public met Ken almost 2 years later as Barbie’s date to the prom in another commercial, which also starred him as a beach boy and a groom beside Barbie. While Ruth Handler named Barbie after her daughter, Elliot Handler named the Ken doll after their son. Mattel then brought red-haired Midge in 1963 as Barbie’s first friend, Barbie’s little sister Skip-flight attendant, ballerina, singer, and astronaut, to name several. But Ken would still be the pilot, the doctor, and the astronaut, still in charge and securing his high-ranking place in the workforce, as did many men in the real world of the 1960s.

All Eyes on Her, on You

The world fell for Malibu Barbie, as her modern swimsuit, laid-back look with the groovy dune buggy, and tan skin reflected the beach-obsessed 70s. Her smile had changed from a light pucker to a toothy smile and her eyes also caught the attention of the buyers, since they looked directly at them, unlike the other dolls in the past that always seemed to look away.

In art, several women painted during the renaissance tend to have evasive eyes, looking either down, away toward the distance, or anywhere that isn’t looking directly at the viewer. But when a woman looks directly at the viewer, she is owning the moment and the art. Barbie’s new eyes did just that, depicting the time of the women’s autonomy movement of the 70s.

Barbie in the Spotlight

In 1980, Mattel created Christie, who was the first official black character in the Barbie universe, and Teresa from Latin America. While Black Ken made his first appearance on the disco floor in the early 80s, Barbie was able to move away from her white roots in 1976, winning the Olympic Gold Medalist in 1976.

Other brands also began making their own dolls, creating competition Mattel never faced with Barbie before. While the Mattel team heard about an upcoming rockstar doll, Barbie became a rock star a few months later back in 1986, convincing the public that Hasbro’s Jem was a copy of Barbie’s new rival.

And although Barbie was able to clearly sweep Hasbro without a scratch, the same couldn’t be said about a group of girl dolls with a passion for fashion.

The Next It-Girl

BRATZ arrived fashionably late, but just in time to convince the consum-ers that Barbie was never truly, relatable. Of course, Barbie convinced many generations that they could do anything they wanted, but the 90s gave them obstacles that the other dolls were made for! The majority of Bratz dolls were ethnically ambiguous, and were seen as the cool girls, while Barbie was seen as old news, and the overachieving older sister, according to Toy inventor Steve Fink.

“In early 2000s, she had a major competition from a company called MGA. And within four years of the launch of these dolls, they took 40% market share of the fashion doll business,” explained Fink.

“When Bratz came out, it started making Barbie seem like she was for the younger girl, where Bratz seemed like it was for the older girl.”

M.G. Lord, Author of Forever Barbie: The unauthorized Biography of a Real Doll, commented that “Bratz dolls were the ones that the kids identified with, and Barbie was like a parent.”

After 8 years of fighting against MGA in court (turns out a doll designer began working at MGA while still working at Mattel), the Bratz won the case. But Mattel focused on the true challenge that got them there in the first place. Relatability.

Be who you wanna be!

Although Barbie did become a doctor in 1996 and achieved success in the 2000s with her films including The Barbie Nutcracker, Swan Lake, The Princess and the Pauper, and Barbie and The 12 Dancing Princess (to name a few of many more), the definition of the It-Girl that Barbie chased for years has changed, which had been blurred in the bad girl charm of the Bratz dolls. They were not the It-Girl for being more than a parent or wearing heavier makeup, but because they prioritized friendship and represented minorities that were never truly seen in the mainstream.

The first step for Mattel was to be real in the 2010s. In 2012, Brave Barbie was released, with a doll with no hair who has cancer. This doll was distributed in hospitals across the United States as Mattel began to release more Barbies with a variety of body types — a body for everyone. Mattel also continued their line of iconic women in time, including Mexican painter Frida Kahlo, one of the first African-American women mathematician at NASA Katherine Johnson, and American Tennis player Billie-Jean King who won 39 Grand Slams and fought for women’s pay and play in the courts.

I’ll make believe I am you

Barbie has forever shaped girl’s playtime, showing all of the possibilities from swimsuit girl, to NASA mathematician, to simply themselves in her dollhouse closet. With the changing times it can seem confusing on what girls can do, and be, next. But if one thing is for certain, Barbie is already a high-heel ahead.
MES CHAMORU MONTH

The legend of Fu'una and Puntan

By Richelle Aguon
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Fuha Rock can be reached after a journey down a grassy hillside, through a muddy jungle filled with tall grass and trees, and wading through water. A site to behold, yet one cannot help but notice its odd geologic formation. It is an enormous, dark, limestone rock that resembles a crouching figure. The creation of the world and humanity is attributed to the CHamoru sibling deities at this location.

Through many tales from the oral tradition that have been passed down many generations, this story of creation has survived. Possibly because Fuha Rock is an ever present reminder of the sacrifice of the deities, Puntan and the powers he shared with his sister, Fu'una.

Considered by many CHamorus to be a sacred site, it is also known as the Cradle of Creation. According to legend, all the people on Earth descended from men and women who were created from Fuha Rock.

In the beginning, nothing existed but infinite darkness. Before the creation of the world, there were celestial siblings maintaining this void, Puntan and Fu'una.

One day, Puntan felt his spirit dying and was nearing its end. He was saddened at the thought of leaving his sister alone in an empty, lifeless world and called out to her. Together, they devised a plan to disperse his body and called out to her. Together, they devised a plan to disperse his body to create parts of the world. This way, their supernatural powers would be put to extremely powerful use.

Fu'una clung to her brother's body as his final breath left him. With her powers, she used her energy and spirit to bring to life the parts of her brother's body that formed the world.

She raised her brother's head toward the heavens and allowed life to fill the void. She removed his eyes and threw them up into the sky. His left eye changed into the blazing sun, and his right eye into the glistening moon.

His heart continued to beat in time with the rhythm of night changing into day as she pulled her brother's chest higher and higher toward the heavens until it became the sky. In order to make her brother's back become the ground, Fu'una laid her brother's back along the bottom of the void and pounded until his back became the earth. Soon, plants sprouted, thick and green. The first of the coconut trees rose along the lands.

Puntan's eyebrows were then scooped up by the woman and launched into the sky. They were exposed to the warm light of the sun and colors dispersed through each strand, creating the first rainbow.

Her brother was gone as she had known him. His breath and body became the world he had imagined, but she was alone. Realizing everything had been done as Puntan instructed, Fu'una began to cry. Her brother was all she has and he was now gone. His breath and body became the world he had imagined, but she was alone. All the tears she wept filled the Earth creating the oceans, rivers, streams, and lakes.

Getting to know this new world, she swam with the sharks and followed the whales until she reached a string of islands. She strolled along the beach, went in search of crabs, gathered shells, and observed tropical birds soaring through the clouds. She found herself amused when she witnessed Hermit crabs scurrying backward and the sea cucumbers that were spotted in the water. She marveled at the hues and patterns of the fish as she observed them munching on coral.

Her brother had meticulously arranged everything, and she recalled every last detail, from the stars in the sky to the vast ocean. The world blossomed into a paradise, but it didn't make her any less lonely.

Staring off into the ocean, Fu'una stood where the waves crashed into each other and thought the new world was missing something. When Fu'una entered the water, she transformed herself into a rock, forming what is now known as Guam.

She disintegrated into numerous pieces when the waves slammed over her. Every stone contained her spirit as it evolved into a different kind of being. The sand grains that were spread out across the globe as the giant rock of Fu'una disintegrated gave birth to all of humanity.

With this movement, men and women soon populated the entire planet. Some were good, some not so much. They clashed and quarreled, went fishing in the waters and claimed islands as their own. Some ruin and waste by cutting down the coconut trees and other plants without replanting them or sharing. But, there were people who looked after the land, nurturing the plants and dispersing the harvest. With the few that tend to the land, they are blessed with bountiful harvest.

Fuha Rock can still be seen today in the Southern village of Humåtak. The wonders of Puntan and Fu'una continue to exist even in the clouds and the warm sun, the jungles and the wildlife that dwell there, and among the people that live in this beautiful island home.
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Find the following words in the puzzle:
BARBIE • BILES • CREATION • DELANO • EINSTEIN
FRAGRANT • HUMATAK • PHILOSOPHY • PLUMERIA • SPOTLIGHT