

UoG Memories: Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Library
by
Kenneth L. Carriveau, M.L.S., Ph.D.

Legacy Series

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Introduction



To save time and space, I wish to introduce myself in synoptic form:

Earned Degrees	Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy; Duquesne University, 1965 Master of Library Science; University of Pittsburgh, 1966 Advanced Certificate in Communications; University of Pittsburgh, 1973 Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Communications & Technology; University of Pittsburgh; 1975 Master of Divinity; Blessed John XXIII National Seminary, 2003
Highest Rank & Positions Held	Associate Professor in the Library, College of Education & Micronesia Area Research Center Dean of Library Services Acting Director of the Micronesia Area Research Center Director of Institutional Research Professor Emeritus of Library Science, 1989

Library Experiences

My tenure at the University of Guam began in August of 1968 as a “three-year contract hire” instructor responsible for acquisitions. I left a lucrative appointment at Penn State University’s New Kensington Campus Library and accepted a position at the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Library out of necessity. My wife, Helen Leon Guerrero, was the recipient of a territorial scholarship to study Spanish at Duquesne University and needed to return to Guam to assume a teaching position in the Department of Education or return the scholarship money. Thus, I came to Guam in hopes of liking the place.

The Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Library in 1968 was in the process of transitioning from a two-year college to a master’s degree granting university and employed several strategies to accommodate the need for graduate level resources. For example, the library purchased fully cataloged monographs to save time and journals on microfilm/microfiche to fill in collection lacunae. Library hours increased and faculty librarians accepted flextime scheduling to accommodate greater numbers of students. Additionally, the library soon became an incubator facility for other enterprises.

Movers & Groovers



Interest in starting an educational television station at the University of Guam began in the late 1960s. A collaborative think tank, housed on the second floor of the library, was established and a proposal was written by forgotten advocates. In 1970, KGTF was founded as an autonomous agency – much to the University of Guam’s chagrin. The station is owned by the Guam Educational Telecommunications Corporation and is located off-campus.

In December of 1969, the U.S. Department of Defense’s Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) connected four computer network nodes at the University of California, Los Angeles, (U.C.L.A.), the Stanford Research Institute (S.R.I.) in Menlo Park, Calif. The new Dean of Library Services, namely me, wrote to the Department of Defense requesting admission to ARPANET, the forerunner of internet. The request was ignored. Technician Douglas Trail asked permission to install some used communications equipment he had acquired to link into the University of Hawaii’s PEACESAT system. Permission was granted and operations began in a small room next to the staff bathroom at the back of the library. Dr. Michael Caldwell soon proposed to finance and host the project in the College of Education; his proposal was accepted. A few years later, the project moved to Dean’s Circle and joined the University of Hawaii’s PEACESAT network. The satellite dish is still standing but it eventually yielded to typhoons and easy internet access.

Sometime in the early 1970s, the University of Guam hired Atty. James Brooks to start a Legislative Reference Bureau to be housed in library space now occupied by catalog computers. Its function was to assist senators and government lawyers in the performance of their duties. It functioned well in spite of the distance between the University of Guam and the Guam Legislature. Thus, it was moved to Agana. Since 1978, the Guam Law Library has been serving the legal information needs for the courts of the Guam, officials and employees of the Government of Guam, and the citizens of Guam.

Assistant Professor Albert Williams was one of several veteran librarians who made the move from the old library of the cliff line into new facilities in the middle of campus. He became my mentor and introduced me to genealogy as a public service opportunity. For this, I am truly grateful. He practiced his craft with pencil & paper whereas I chose digital applications when personal computers became popular. The following digital family histories were created and are available for public use in the MARC Library and on the internet:

- Necrology of the Archdiocese of Agana, 1838- 2018.
<https://www.findagrave.com/virtual-cemetery/836752>
- Juan Cortez & Maria Santos Leon Guerrero Family.
<https://www.findagrave.com/virtual-cemetery/477748>
- Vicente Tenatongo & Juana Crisostomo de San Agustin Family.
<https://www.findagrave.com/virtual-cemetery/480019>
- Candido Agbay & Eleutaria de los Angeles Sanchez Family.
<https://www.findagrave.com/virtual-cemetery/534198>

Users regularly email suggestions for updates and additions.

Social Stories for Centennial Readers

Thirty years from now, a reader of this brief memoir may ask: “ What was social life like in the late 60s and early 70s?”. From my perspective as a new faculty member coming from a cosmopolitan university, a vibrant social life at the University of Guam was both unexpected and very much welcomed. My social calendar and that of many others began with the annual Labor Day picnic; administrators, faculty members and support staff joined government workers at Ypao Beach for a day-long celebration of Labor Day. Maintenance personnel from the various departments and agencies would begin preparing the picnic grounds days in advance; concrete pavilions would be garnished with greens and flowers; some would construct huts made out of bamboo and coconuts fronds roofs and coconut fences; others would erect p̄alap̄alas made out of old parachutes to shade the picnics. Barbequed meats & fish, red rice, potato salad, *kelaquen*, tortillas and drinks of every kind graced the tables. Although the university had its own picnic site, few people skipped the opportunity to rove the picnic grounds and meet with friends in other departments. All who attended had the opportunity to experience socialization *par excellence*.

Governor Manuel Guerrero’s annual ball is another event worth noting. Directors and guests were invited to attend this formal affair held at Charlie Corn’s Imperial Gardens Restaurant. Tuxedos and formal evening gowns were expected apparel. In response to the governor’s invitation, my wife and I purchased a dinner jacket, a formal gown and black sapphire necklace so that we would not appear like country bumpkins. Sit-down dinners, an open bars and dancing were normal fare for approximately one hundred guests.

At the end of each semester, President Antonio Yamashita would invite administrators and selected faculty members to a party at his home; he believed in the importance of collegiality. The assembly was large enough to fill the four rooms downstairs plus the carport and the patio.

All the spaced were needed to accommodate the crowd. A buffet lunch was served. Needless to say, some business was intermixed with socializing.

Christmas was a magical time for the university community. The annual Christmas party, whether it took place on campus or at Joe & Flo's Restaurant, brought together administrators, faculty members and staff to celebrate the ending of one semester and the prospect of another.

Library personnel occasionally took time to party by themselves. The first took place at Urunao Beach. The long, hot trek with picnic baskets and coolers along water's edge from parking lot to private beach front property was well worth the effort. Library picnickers enjoyed homemade food and beverages before the singing started. Academic prima donnas on the job became bosom buddies at the beach. It was not uncommon to find them at off-campus parties, such as fiestas, funerals, weddings and the like.

Other universities may have gotten a reputation of being a party school because of its students. So, why not the University of Guam because of its professors?

Library Faculty Contributions

Carriveau, Kenneth L.

- Author and title index to the Micronesian area bibliographic database. [MARC Call No: Z4741.M53 C3 A9 2017]
- Author and title index to *Pacific Profile*. Z4741 .G8 C37 NO.4 MARC
- Guam and Micronesia virtual library [electronic resource in MARC]
- In recognition of Presidents Emeriti contributions to academia found in UoG libraries. [MARC Call No: Z4741.G8 C37 NO. 1]
- In memory of Professors Emeriti of English contributions to academia found in UoG Libraries, [MARC Call No: Z4741.G8 C37 NO. 2]
- In memory of Professors Emeriti of Education contributions to academia found in UoG Libraries. [MARC Call No: Z4741.G8 C37 NO. 3]
- Micronesian area tropical agriculture database. [Expanded and revised as the Micronesian area bibliographic database]
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Cohen. Arlene

- Directory of libraries and archives in the Pacific Islands. Z874.A1 D57 2003 RFK

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- Christmas drop: outreach service in Micronesia, MRF2308 RFK
- Guam Governor's conference on library and information services. Z 672.5.G8W3 1990
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- Library associations in underdeveloped regions and their impact on library development. MRF 1527

Goetzfridt, Nicolas J.

- An annotated bibliography on ESL and bilingual education in Guam and other areas of Micronesia. Z5814.B25 G63 1988 RFK & MARC
- Daniel Peacock and the foundation for Micronesia's libraries. MRF 1142
- Education and the Internet : on a potential road to nowhere? Micronesian Resource File 0790 RFK
- Guahan : a bibliographic history. DU647 .G675 2011 MARC
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- Indigenous navigation and voyaging in the Pacific : a reference guide. GN440 .I53 1992 MARC
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- Tracking into context: the roots of LSCA public library services in Micronesia among the heritages and changes of an ocean world. Z870 .M5 G68 1997 RFK^[L]_[SEP]

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- Historical survey of the Spanish mission sites on Guam, 1669-1800 DU647 .H38 1993 RFK & MARC
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Marshall, Courtney

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Pangelinan, Perry J.C.

- Author and title index to the *Micronesian area bibliographic database*. Z4741 .M53 C3 A9 2017 NO.6 MARC
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Taitano, Magdalena S.

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Wang, Chih

- Guam Governor's conference on library and information services. Z 672.5.G8W3 1990
- Micronesia in US government publications. Micronesian Resource File 2310 RFK
- Recent library development in Micronesia. Micronesian Resource File 0708 RFK

Wuerch, William L.

- Inventory of the records of Guam's Commission on Self-Determination. KVQ 171.A12W84 2000 RFK & MARC
- Governor Paul M. Calvo inventory of papers. Z 6616.C27W84 2000 RFK & MARC
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- Inventory of the papers of Governor Ricardo Jerome Bordallo : 1974-1978 and 1982-1986. DU647 .B6 1996 MARC

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- Micronesia. Z4501 .S76 1999 RFK
- Micronesian histories : an analytical bibliography and guide to interpretations. Z4501 .G64 2002 MARC

Deo Gratias

The university's academic community has much to be thankful for, including the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Library and its faculty. When the facility opened its doors in 1967, it had an ambiance of a 1960s stereotypical library with 75,000 books, linoleum tiled floors, white walls, bright overhead lights, card catalogs and rows of bookshelves and study tables. Students could hear the typewriter clacking when you walked in the door, signaling that new books were being added to the collection. Its most modern technology included a 16 mm. projector, an overhead projector and a large screen television in the A.V. Room and a Xerox machine in the lobby which could copy paper and microfilm images. It soon became evident that modernization was needed to service 21st century faculty members and students alike. The library building was renovated and enlarged to proffer various types of learning spaces such as individualized study carrels, small group study rooms and a library skills classroom. Reader/printers for microfilm resources and computers for internet and in-house databases were introduced. In short, the library matured from being a depository warehouse to an individualized learning advocate.

Faculty librarians became involved in classroom and tutorial teaching. A library skills course was introduced into the university's curriculum. Additionally, faculty librarians became authors and compilers of indices, bibliographies, databases and trade histories. The list of their contributions cited previously attests to the number and variety of materials authored.

It's no wonder that the *U.S. News & World Report* recognized the University of Guam as one of the nation's best colleges!