

PRESS RELEASE

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Research project to document Japanese-CHamoru family histories

A new research project being led by University of Guam President Emeritus Robert A. Underwood and sponsored by local businessman Hidenobu “George” Takagi of Takagi & Associates Inc. will document the immigration of 20 Japanese men to Guam prior to World War II and the histories and legacies of the Japanese-CHamoru families they started here.

Titled the Guam Issei Project — *issei* being a Japanese term for first-generation immigrants — the project will identify 20 student researchers through an application and review process to research and write on a Japanese-CHamoru family of their choosing.

In the early part of the 20th century, many Japanese men came to Guam to start new lives. Most became Catholic, married CHamoru women, and worked in different kinds of jobs or started businesses. Many of their offspring became political, educational, and business leaders, and their family names remain prominent and recognizable in Guam society today, including Okada, Tanaka, Shinohara, Shimizu, Ishizaki, and Sayama,

“They were widely respected for their work ethic and their ability to become immersed in the cultural life of the CHamoru people while contributing to the growth of the island,” the project description states. “The stories of these men and their families provide the background for some of the most interesting turns of history in Guam. [...] most of the stories were about survival and triumph in the most difficult circumstances as families struggled to live through the occupation and its aftermath.”

The research of each family will include details of the original Japanese immigrant to Guam, their place of origin in Japan, and reason for coming to Guam; the names of their spouse, children, and grandchildren; their work and experience in Guam before and

during the war; their post-World War II experience; and their family's legacy and contributions to the society of Guam.

Underwood will lead the project with assistance from UOG Associate Professor of History Michael Clement and Asako Takagi Araw, vice president of Takagi and Associates.

Students encouraged to apply

Students attending the University of Guam, Guam Community College, or any other post-secondary institution are encouraged to apply to research and write a family's history for this project, in particular students who are descendants of or otherwise connected to Japanese-CHamoru families and those who have demonstrated research skills. Students will receive \$750 for their completed work.

The project will take place from June to November. Interested student researchers should email anacletus2010@gmail.com for an application form. The deadline to apply is May 30.

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CALL FOR STUDENT RESEARCHERS

THE GUAM ISSEI PROJECT: *A Study on the Japanese Roots of CHamoru Families*

The Guam Issei Project – *issei* being a Japanese term for first-generation immigrants – is a research project that will document the immigration of 20 Japanese men to Guam prior to World War II and the histories and legacies of the Japanese-CHamoru families they started on the island.

Applicant Eligibility

The project will select 20 students to research and write the history of a Japanese-CHamoru family of their choosing. Applicants should:

- Be enrolled at the University of Guam, Guam Community College, or another accredited post-secondary institution
- Demonstrate strong research and writing skills
- Have a connection to the Japanese-CHamoru community or be in one of their family lines
- Identify the family line they plan to research

Project Details

- Project date: June 2022 to November 2022
- Compensation: **\$750** per student for their completed and approved work
- Students will research a single Japanese *issei* and his family legacy in Guam by consulting elders in the family, documentary materials, and the Micronesian Area Research Center at the University of Guam.
- **A final written report of 8-10 pages should include:**
 - » Names and birthdates of the original immigrant, his spouse, children, and grandchildren
 - » Immigrant background, origin in Japan, dates and reasons for coming to Guam
 - » Business, occupation, and experience in Guam before and during World War II and the Japanese Occupation
 - » Post-World War II experience
 - » Family legacy/contributions to life and society of Guam

For more information and to apply, contact:

Dr. Robert A. Underwood
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APPLICATION DEADLINE: MAY 30, 2022

FAMILY NAMES BEING CONSIDERED:

ASANOMA	SAKIKABARA
DEJIMA*	SAWADA*
FUJIWARA	SAYAMA
HANIU	SHIMIZU
HARA	SHINOHARA
ICHIHARA	SUDO
IMAIZUMI	SUGIYAMA
INOUE	SUZUKI
ISEZAKI	TAKANO
ISHIZAKI	TANAKA
IWATSU	TAYAMA
MIYAMOTO	YAMAGUCHI
NODA	YAMASAKI
OCHAI	YAMANAKA
OKADA	YAMASHITA
OKIYAMA	YOKOI
ONEDERA	YOSHIDA
OOKA	

*well known individuals who left no family line

Note: Other family names can be proposed as long as they are part of the migration of Japanese men in pre-WWII Guam.