

Swimming

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tories competed in individual events and relays over the course of the four-day meet.

The Amphibious Aquatics 2026 AOSI roster included Lauren Ada, Addison Apiag, Maverick Apiag, Esme Bui, Imani Camacho, Matua Camacho, Tanom Camacho, Kalista Datu, Ila Denight, Raiden Duenas, Skyler Duenas, Logan Gandaoli, Demi Hurchanik, Ninahi Lee, Ella Pangelinan, Tommy Phillips, Gabriel Rodriguez, Islabela Rodriguez, Honglin Song, Naleeyah Thompson, and Naiatea Wooley.

Standout performanc-

es were highlighted by all 21 Amphibious Aquatics swimmers achieving multiple personal records and season-best times across distance freestyle, butterfly, backstroke, and medley events.

Seven swimmers qualified as top-eight finalists in 23 events.

Emerging talent was on full display, with several first-time competitors including Addison Apiag, Esme Bui, Imani Camacho, Ila Denight, and Honglin Song, demonstrating their readiness to compete at this level and signaling a bright future for the team.

Notably, Esme Bui earned two bronze medals, highlighting a standout performance among the newcomers.

"This event reinforced why we train so hard: perseverance, teamwork, and a culture that celebrates every swimmer's progress. We're incredibly proud of our athletes and the unwavering support of our families and coaches," Amphibious Aquatics president Jolenna Gandaoli said in a statement.

Head coach Andy Lee said the swimmers showed "strategic discipline, relentless effort, and true character."

"The results speak for themselves, but the growth in confidence and technique is what will drive us forward in the season's remaining meets," Lee said. "I'm grateful for our coaching staff and the incredible community behind them."



COURTESY OF AMPHIBIOUS AQUATICS

Demi Hurchanik with one of her silver medals at the Asian Open Schools Invitational Swimming Championships in Bangkok, Thailand.



COURTESY OF AMPHIBIOUS AQUATICS

Kalista Datu wins the bronze medal in 200m freestyle at the Asian Open Schools Invitational Swimming Championships in Bangkok, Thailand.

Jiu-jitsu

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present. The infrastructure is in place.

What fluctuates is participation.

Year after year, a familiar group of respected practitioners continue to step forward: Hayato Atalig, Joshua Jerome, JJ Ambrose, and, admittedly, myself included.

Their consistency reflects personal commitment and respect for the craft. However, a community as mature and deep as Guam's should not rely on a narrow cohort to represent its highest competitive tier.

The depth exists; broader participation remains achievable.

There are, however, encouraging examples already within the community.

On the women's side, cousins Tracy Matanane and Lenora Matanane continue to compete, demonstrating that longevity and accountability are not mutually exclusive.

Likewise, the current Marianas Open champion, DJ Jackson, himself over

the age of 35, illustrates that competitive relevance is sustained through engagement rather than diminished by time.

Dr. Christian Eusebio offers another meaningful example. A well-respected physician and current brown belt competing in the 41-and-above division, he consistently participates in local tournaments.

His presence matters not for visibility or accolades, but for continuity. He competes because he believes remaining engaged is part of stewardship.

When he eventually earns his black belt, there is little reason to doubt that the same commitment will follow and that consistency strengthens the culture as a whole.

Special recognition should also be given to Frank Camacho. A UFC veteran who competed at the highest levels of professional combat sports, Camacho continues to test himself well beyond the age of 35—not under the glare of the UFC spotlight, but in environments where the audience is smaller and the stakes are personal.

His continued participa-

tion is not driven by validation or visibility; it is an expression of leadership.

By choosing to compete, he demonstrates to his students how to prepare with intention, manage pressure with composure, and accept outcomes with honesty. That example carries more instructional value than any lesson delivered from the sidelines.

In jiu-jitsu, black belts are often referred to as "professors." In any discipline (academic, professional, or technical) credibility is reinforced through application.

Competition serves as one of the practical mechanisms through which preparation, decision-making, and understanding are tested. It is not a requirement for all, but it remains a meaningful expression of engagement for those who choose it.

Life inevitably becomes more complex. Careers advance. Families grow. Responsibilities expand. I speak from personal experience. Yet participation need not be constant to be meaningful.

Even occasional competition at black belt reinforc-

es connection to the art and affirms one's place within the broader conversation.

The opportunity remains present. Two additional Marianas Open events are scheduled: one in the summer and the flagship fall tournament that anchors the year. For those who have considered returning to competition, the invitation remains open and unpressured.

This reflection is not offered as a critique, but as an invitation. A reminder that competitiveness, when paired with respect, strengthens community.

When we compete earnestly, conclude with mutual regard, and move forward together, we model not only what jiu-jitsu represents, but what our island community values.

The views expressed here are solely my own and do not represent the views of any organization, academy, or governing body with which I am affiliated.

The mat remains available. The community remains strong. And there is room for continued participation.

Lloyd Cubacub is a jiu-jitsu black belt competitor.



GUAM BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR DENTISTRY

REGULAR BOARD MEETING Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. Guam (ChST)

194 Hernan Cortez Ave. Terlaje Professional Bldg. Suite 209 Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88374821948?pwd=TuyFct9BRPNpeE8ObRVFkbabwYan9J>

Meeting ID: 883 7482 1948
Passcode: 752701

Meeting Agenda:

- I. Call to Order
 - (a) Roll Call
 - (b) Proof of Publications
- II. Approval of Agenda
- III. Approval of Minutes
- IV. Treasurer's Report
- V. HPL Administrator's Report
- VI. Old Business
 - (a) Initial Applications for Review and Approval
- VII. New Business
 - (a) Initial Applications for Review and Approval
 - (b) Renewal Applications for Review and Approval
 - (c) Clinical Examination Results
- VIII. Next Board Meeting
- IX. Adjournment

To view the names of the applicants being considered go to <http://guamdentistry.org>

To view live Streaming visit https://govguam.tv/video_details/gbed/gbed-live-stream

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