

AMERICAN SAMOA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

● ● ● Connections Newsletter ● ● ●



ASCC CHIEFS

Volume I: Issue 8 – June 2018

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Computer Science Department chairman Ernie Seiuli (front, 2nd right) and Administrative Technician Officer Victor Ualesi (front, 2nd left), both from ASCC, lead a community training session for employees of BlueSky Communications. (Photo: J. Kneubuhl)

Professional Development Training:

The American Samoa Community College (ASCC) takes pride in collaborating with the Territory's public and private sectors in their efforts to raise their level of internal effectiveness and public service. Towards this goal, the College offers a variety of professional development trainings, which range in content from technical instruction to workshops on best management practices. The most recent collaboration between ASCC and the private sector has been a series of workforce professional development trainings provided for staff members of BlueSky Communications and conducted by Mr. Ernie Seiuli, chairman of the College's Computer Science Department. ([Click here to access the full story.](#))

ASDOE/ASCC MOA:

In June, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was entered between the American Samoa Department of Education (ASDOE) Director and the American Samoa Community College President. The purpose of the MOA is to join ASDOE and ASCC in collecting and assessing student data that will then be aggregated and used for improving decision-making pertaining to student success and achievement. Training and collaboration between ASDOE and ASCC will ensure that the highest level of confidentiality is maintained throughout American Samoa-State Longitudinal Data System (AS-SLDS). The aggregated AS-SLDS data can be used in making data-informed decisions as well as developing policies and processes that will improve the education and career development for both agencies. The MOA was signed into effect by the ASCC President and authorized representatives of the above-mentioned agencies.

ACCJC Updates:

In June, the Commission released the following updates:

- June 15 – Action on the accredited status of an institution: <https://accjc.org/commission-actions/>
- June 22 – Portfolio Model – What We Are Learning: [Access Link to ACCJC Portfolio Model](#)
- June 27 – Fiscal Advisory Committee: [Access Link to ACCJC Fiscal Advisory Committee](#)

Report Updates:

1. ASG Quarter Performance Reports –[Access Link](#)

Access to Internal Reports:

1. Administrative Services Bi-Weekly Reports: [Access Link](#)
2. ASCC Monthly Reports: [Access Link](#)

ACCJC Access to:

1. Commission Actions: [Access Link](#)
2. Commission Publications: [Access Link](#)
3. Commission Announcements: [Access Link](#)
4. Commission Events: [Access Link](#)

June Highlights

This year marks the 4th time a group of students from ASCC has attended an orientation at Portland State University as part of the BUILD EXITO program in partnership with ASCC. The trip is designed to show and educate students what the program is about and what is expected of them to meet the demands of the scholarship. The young scholars selected this year representing ASCC included Darius Maua Shimasaki-Vaofanua, Sherlean Amato, and Chloe Tuaua along with Mrs. Pauline McFall and Mr. Derek Helsham, they attended the BUILD EXITO Curriculum Committee meeting. Bio-medical research, behavioral research, Social science and STEM are just some of the area interests that BUILD EXITO emphasizes. Students got to learn the basics to research, experience the campus life, and practice creating elevator pitches on how to propose their research of interest. After ASCC, they will transfer to PSU to complete their undergraduate studies. Sixty percent of the tuition is paid by the BUILD EXITO program. The students also receive a stipend of 1,200 dollars every month working in a lab under a research mentor in a research learning community or RLC. ASCC BUILD EXITO Coordinator Mr. Derek Helsham took the opportunity to thank ASCC Dr. Rosevonne Pato, Dean Letupu who is also the program investigator for BUILD EXITO and last but not the least the BUILD EXITO program itself. The full article can be viewed on the ASCC Website at:

<http://amsamoa.edu/pressreleases/180717BUILDEXITO.html>.



Three ASCC students and their faculty mentors attend the orientation in Portland, Oregon for BUILD EXITO, a program to promote careers for students interested in the field of research, particularly medical research. Standing are ASCC-ACNR faculty member Pauline McFall, current ASCC students Sherlean Amato, Chloe Tuaua, and Darius Shimasaki-Vaofanua, and ASCC faculty member Derek Helsham. In the foreground are Yean Ji Jung and Motutama Sipelii, two former ASCC students currently attending Portland State University as researchers. (Courtesy Photo)

Department of Student Services

Updates:

- Placement Test: June 26th, 2018
- Orientation for new students including AS-DOE Dual Enrollment and Early Admission
- Registration for 2nd session summer:
 - June 28 – 29, 2018: 105
Total: 62 Students
 - July 2 – 3, 2018: 43
Students
- Summer Session Enrollment: **560** Students, (not including 2nd session of **105** students)



ASCC Financial Aid Officer Mr. Peteru Lam Yuen was accepted into the 2018-2019 Executive Leadership Development Program (ELDP), designed to identify individuals with promotion potential within the insular governments, and to develop their management and leadership skills as they advance in their careers. Mr. Lam Yuen is one of many who applied for the EDLP program. The application process undergoes a rigorous review and selection process by representatives from DOI/OIA and former program graduates. [ELDP Website](#)



The Nu'uuli Voch-Tech High School (NVTHS) graduating class of 2018 visited ASCC for a tour organized by the Admissions Office on June 11, 2018. NVTHS students and faculty were given a campus tour and several presentations from various programs and services offered at ASCC.



ASCC Registrar Mrs. Sifagatogo Tuitasi presenting to new students during the Summer 2018 New Student Orientation.

Teacher Education Department



Pictured (L-R/Back): Vice Principal Mrs. Chamagne Letutusa Nai-Lito, Vice President/Dean of Academic Affairs Mrs. Letupu Tauanu'u-Moananu, Vice President Dr. Lina Scanlan, Principal Avasā Galoiā, President Dr. Rosevonne M. Pato, TED Director Ms. Shirley De La Rosa, TED Instructor Ms. Moresa Langkilde and IE Director Mr. Sonny J. Leomiti visit the Summer Lab First Day of Instruction at Pava'ia'i Elementary School.

2018 Summer Lab School:

For the first time in its history, the Teacher Education Department (TED) American Samoa Bachelor in Education Program has piloted a Summer Lab School at Pava'ia'i Elementary School to allow in-service and pre-service students to more easily fulfill the practicum component of 300-400 level courses. The establishment of the Lab School eliminates students needing to prolong their time of completion when enrolled in the Bachelor in Education program. An MOU between ASCC and ASDOE has been signed to ensure the continuation of the Summer Lab School.



TED Director Ms. Shirley De La Rosa distributed school supplies provided by TED for the 2018 Summer Lab School Mentor Teachers and their students.



Preparing the Summer Lab School Learning Environment – Content Emphasis: Physical Education, Social Studies, Samoan, and Art.

Agriculture, Community and Natural Resources

Instructional Programs:

ACNR Summer Internships: Twelve ACNR students took part in internship programs for Summer 2018. Two students were selected to USDA NIFA Insular Area Summer Internship to University of Guam: Inny Mareko and Christine Tominiko. Two students selected to the Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program in Thailand and University of Arkansas: Anastasia Magalo and Rosadiana Carter. Six students were selected for Samoa Internship to Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) Crops and Advisory Division, AHPS Livestock Division, and Scientific Research Organization of Samoa (SROS): Puaolele Taisau, Terry Simi, Angela Iopu, Tuimalata Puletiuaotoa, Michelle Paletaleo, Iosefo Sio. Two students were selected for Local Internship here at ACNR Land Grant: Esau Levaula and Gus Poyer. The full article can be viewed on the ASCC Website at: <http://amsamoa.edu/pressreleases/180614Interns.html>.



ASCC ACNR Summer 2018 Internship participants (Front Row L-R): Iosefo Sio, Tuimalata Puletiuaotoa, Terry Simi, Christine Tominiko, Angela Iopu, Michelle Paletaleo, Puaolele Taisau, Esau Levaula. (Second Row L-R): ASCC ACNR Director Aufa'i Apulu Ropeti Areta, ACNR Instructors Leilua Ionatana Fasavalu and Seiuli Dr. Otto Hansell, Inny Mareko.

Research:

ACNR Assists CRAG and Fagaalu Village With Mosquito Assessment: ACNR Entomology staff visited Fagaalu village at the request of the Fagaalu mayor and the Coral Reef Advisory Group to help address concerns about possible mosquito breeding in some ponds in the village. The ponds were constructed near the quarry in the village to capture runoff and reduce flow of harmful sediments into the stream and out onto the reef. Fortunately it was found that the ponds were not producing mosquitoes known to carry human diseases in American Samoa. ACNR emphasizes that the mosquitoes that carry diseases in American Samoa breed in water-holding containers such as drums, buckets, used tires, etc. It's important for all of us to do our part to prevent dengue by getting rid of these kinds of items around our homes, schools and workplaces.



Niela Leifi of ASCC-ACNR assessing a potential mosquito breeding habitat at Fagaalu quarry. Fortunately, no disease-carrying mosquitoes were found at the site.

ACNR Retrieves Ambrosia Beetle Traps From Manu'a Islands Survey: ACNR Entomology staff returned to Manu'a islands to retrieve traps placed there three weeks prior as part of a territory-wide survey for tree-killing ambrosia beetles. Many species of these tiny beetles wreak havoc on trees in urban, agroforestry, and unmanaged forests worldwide, but little is known about their occurrence and their impact on the forests of American Samoa. The trap catches are being processed in the Entomology lab to separate the ambrosia beetles from all the other insects and spiders.



Niela Leifi setting traps in Faleasao forest as part of tree-killing ambrosia beetle survey in the Manu'a islands.

Extension

ACNR and UH Manoa host Extension Climate Change Forum: The ASCC-ACNR Forestry Program represented the ASCC-ACNR Land Grant Division in the planning, preparing, and co-hosting of the Climate Change Forum that was coordinated by the University of Hawai'i at Manoa - College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UHM-CTAHR). The Climate Change Forum was held on June 20th and 21st, 2018. The UHM-CTAHR representatives were: Dr. Jonathan Deenik, Dr. Clay Trauernicht, Dr. Patricia Fifita, and Jensen Uyeda. A total of nine local Farmers, eight AS-EPA, two DOA, five NWS, one AS-NPS, one CRAG, one NOAA, two ASCC-ACNR Student Interns and 26 ASCC-ACNR staff attended/participated in this forum.

The first day of the Forum was held at the National Marine Sanctuary – Tauese P.F. Sunia Ocean Center in Utulei. Topics covered on this day included climate change impacts on agriculture, weather vs. climate, and climate change variables. In addition, the acting Forestry Program Manager presented on Carbon and Climate Change by examining the carbon sinks and flows within terrestrial ecosystems and its influence on climatic and vegetative changes. The last day of the forum was held at the ASCC-ACNR. Topics covered on this day included sustainable agricultural practices, maximizing yield production, and soil nutrients. All attendees then set out for the tour of the ASCC-ACNR compound. Attendees visited the Agriculture Plot, Rain Garden Plot, Greenhouses, Piggery Station, the Nature Trail, the Aquaculture/Hydroponics Station, etc. The forum concluded with a presentation of gifts to the UHM-CTAHR representatives and farewell of all attendees. The full article can be viewed on the ASCC Website at: <http://amsamoa.edu/pressreleases/180702ClimateForum.html>.



ASCC-ACNR Director Aufa'i Apulu Ropeti Areta, Dr. Clay Trauernicht (UHM-CTAHR), Dr. Patricia Fifita (UHM-CTAHR), ASCC-ACNR Horticulturalist Dr. Ian Gurr, Dr. Jonathan Deenik, and Jensen Uyeda (UHM-CTAHR) during the last day of the Extension Climate Change Forum held at ASCC-ACNR.

ASCC-ACNR Health and Wellness Program receive educational posters: The ASCC-ACNR Community Nutritionist received a sugar shocker drink board in a protective wood case and 14 educational posters that highlight the dangers and effects on consuming too much added sugar every day from All Star Signs & Graphics. The posters and sugar shocker drink board will be placed in various community settings, including the ASCC Cafeteria, ACNR Wellness Center foyer, ACNR Research Building, and the four WIC Clinics in American Samoa (Lyon's Park, Leone, Utulei, and Amouli).



ACNR Community Nutritionist Travis Fleming with sugar shocker display and educational posters.

Samoan Studies Institute (SSI)

Aua e te faamasino aso i fua ua e selesele, ae faamasino i fatu na e totō. Tusitala. Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant. (Robert Louis Stevenson)

June 8 – 10, SSI had its retreat at the Tradewinds Hotel, attended by its faculty, staff, SAFF officers and students majoring in Samoan Studies. The objective was to reflect on its mission statement, review and evaluate its activities in alignment with its Divisional Goals. ASCC SSI acknowledges with sincere Faafetai tele to the IBC Company for gifting our retreat with stationaries.

The retreat was a success. Students got to hear and see how the Samoan Studies degree benefits their career paths. Aside from that, valued feedback from the students showed the need for tutorials in other subjects such as Mathematics and English. As part of the solution for this need, staff and faculty offered help in their respective degree areas.



Students who are majoring in Samoan Studies with instructors Alofa Nuusila and Tasia Talamoni.

Kovana Itumalo o Manua, Afioga Laolagi Savali Vaeao who attended on behalf of Governor.

Faatufugaga faa'ātisi. Creative Art.

Financial limitations need not deter creativity, for expressing art is a trace of glorious freedom. Below is a moveable carved hook mounted on the back of a turtle.

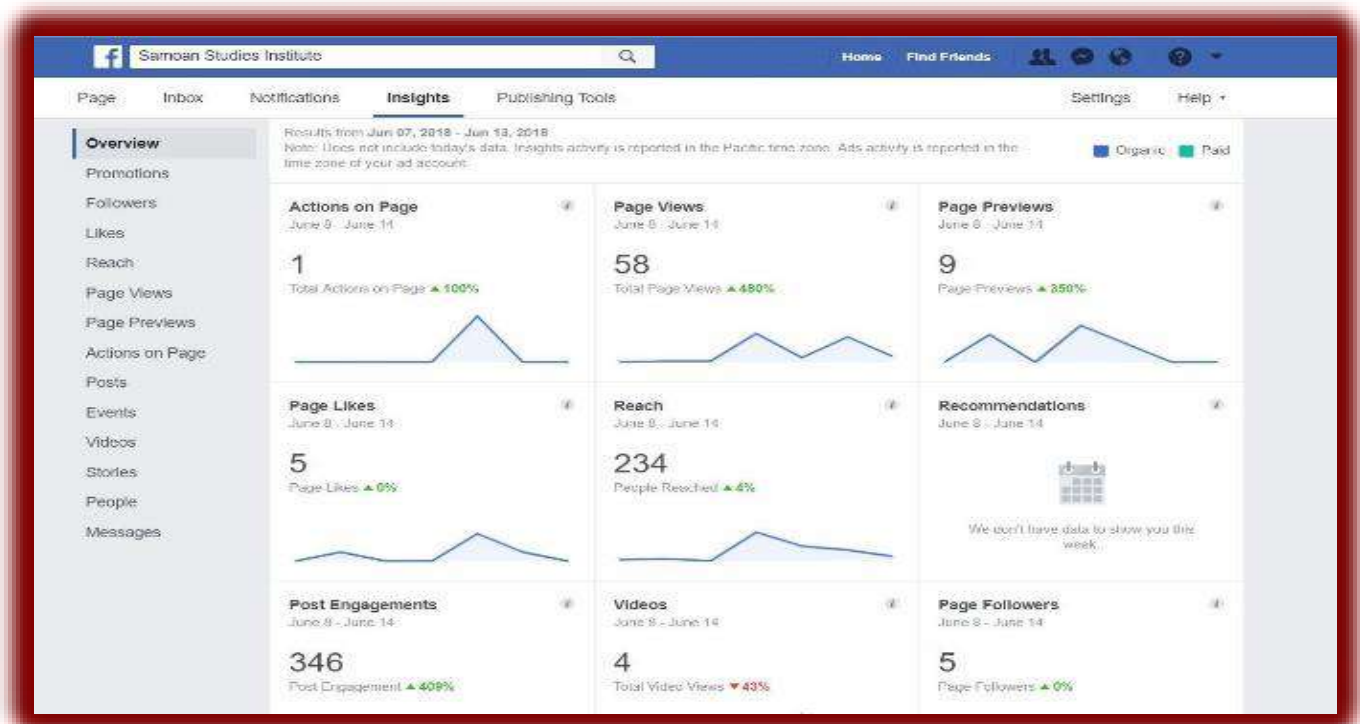


Patrick Mafoe Cultural Artist with a piece he carved. This art piece was gifted to the Governor of American Samoa.



Faaaogā ala ata eseese e momoli ai le tatou feau. Use different media avenues to promote

This is one way the Samoan Studies Institute informs the public of event happenings. The ASCC Samoan Studies Institute page hit 346 views in the month of June.



E tupu mea avea. Growth takes place/happens when you give.

The SSI Videography Service assisted our TED Program and SSI outreach team on their documentations.



Editing video for SSI outreach team for EFKSA Youth Taputimu.



The SSI staff assisted TED with some filming for their Promotional Video. They went to Tafuna Elementary and filmed one of the instructors there.

Ia lele malie lau ti'a. May your throwing stick fly smoothly.

June 27, the SSI Director conducted a workshop for Ta'iala Peer Leaders who attended a youth cultural exchange conference in Hawaii in July. This was to prepare students on basic information on Samoan History and Culture.

