

CONNECTIONS

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ASCC Emphasizes Professional Development in Assessment

By James Kneubuhl



Pictured above from left to right: Poe Mageo, Daniel Chang, Letupu Moananu, Randel Dewees, Lilian Temese, Sonny Leomiti, Sal Poloai

Thanks to ARRA funding, ASCC has accelerated its program of professional development in the area of Assessment. Teams of ASCC administrators and faculty recently participated in two separate events, the nation-wide 11th Annual Texas A&M Assessment Conference, and the regional

conference of the Pacific Postsecondary Education Council (PPEC) held in Hawaii.

"The theme of our conference was 'Learn... Share... Innovate', and it emphasized Assessment as a means of accountability as well as transformation", said

Teacher Education Department instructor Sonny Leomiti, who led the ASCC delegation to Texas. "Trainings like this provide direction by emphasizing assessment processes and practices. As campuses define, review, and revise grounds that facilitate 'Student and Learning Cen-

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teredness', the end product should be tangible results that reflect the institutions' best teaching and learning practices." In addition to Leomiti, Assessment Committee Chairman, ASCC participants included Dr. Daniel Chang (Chairman-Health Services Department); Sal Poloi (Dean, Trades and Technology Division); Let-upu Moananu (Chairman, Mathematics Department); Randel DeWees (Faculty, Science Department); Lilian Temese (Faculty, Social Science Department); and Poe Mageo (Faculty, Language & Literature Department).

In the same month, the PPEC held a three-day event in Hawaii, which included an Assessment component and was attended by ASCC

"These sessions let us share specific concerns and ideas for solutions with our counterparts from the other colleges in the region."

administrators Dr. Kathleen Kolhoff-Belle (VP, Academic and Student Affairs), Mikaele Etuale (VP, Administration and Finance), Emey Silafau (Chief Financial Officer) and Rosevonne Pato (Director, Office of Institutional Effectiveness). The PPEC includes representatives from colleges and universities in Hawaii and from across the American Pacific, and the conference included a presentation by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC), a division of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

"It was extremely helpful to attend the ACCJC/WASC workshop," recalled Dr.

Kolhoff-Belle. "I appreciated their efforts to move out into the region, addressing specific concerns of the Pacific colleges. Another unique feature of this conference was the presentation of case studies from specific colleges. ASCC wrote three of the 11 cases presented, and workshop discussions were facilitated by Mrs. Pato, Mrs. Silafau and I. These sessions let us share specific concerns and ideas for solutions with our counterparts from the other colleges in the region."

ASCC will also send a group of participants to the forthcoming Academic Resources Conference (ARC) being held in April, which will focus on both Assessment and Academic Program Review.

Saving Energy with Solar Panels By James Kneubuhl

During the early part of this year the College had a crew from Island Energy & Marine atop the roofs of its main "Quad" area, hard at work installing several grids of solar panels. Director of Physical Facilities Management Kenape Aumavae says the panels are now up and running, contributing 70 kilowatts of electricity to the College, which translate into a savings of up to \$30,000.00 per year on electrical bills.

"The panels took about a month to install," said Aumavae, "but the work going on atop the roof of the Quad did not cause any kind of disruption. We had some initial difficulty integrating the panels with our regular electricity mechanism, but once ASPA helped us resolve this issue, energy from the panels kicked in and the inter-

face is now working fine." ASCC funded the installation of the panels through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. "We



New solar panels on ASCC rooftops

would like to install more panels in the future," said Aumavae. "For the time being, we feel we can set a successful precedent for

integrating solar energy into American Samoa's energy consumption, and hopefully this will lead to funding additional funding opportunities for even more panels."

ASCC has responded to rising energy usage and costs by adopting a "green" approach to energy saving. This ranges from replacing the bulbs in the night-lights at the College's main entrance with more efficient and long-lasting models, to instituting a "dark" period every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, when all but essential ASCC personnel are instructed to turn off their computers, lights and air conditioning during lunch hour. "With all of our energy saving efforts, we hope to find practices that work successfully not only for us, but for the whole of the public and private sectors," said President Dr. Seth Galea'i.

Samoan Studies Launches 2011 Lunar Calendar

By James Kneubuhl

At the recent Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council conference, Samoan culture and fisheries management found common ground as the Samoan Studies Institute (SSI) gave presentations on their latest Lunar Calendar. The new edition, which the SSI will provide for free to the public while supplies last, covers a twelve month period from March 2011 to March 2012, following the regular 30-day cycles of the moon.

The Lunar Calendar utilizes a format similar to the typical western calendar, only based on cycles of the moon rather than the sun. Although the calendar emphasizes an alternative means of marking time, it also aligns the

traditional and the western dates. Below a



Samoan Studies Institute Staff

graphic of the moon phase of each day, the calendar lists the Samoan name for the day of the cycle, and below that the western calendar date and weekday. Each of the twelve cycles included comes with a colorful envi-

ronmentally themed illustration courtesy of students in Tutuila's elementary and high schools. As with the previous Lunar Calendar, for the 2011 version SSI researchers worked with community partners, including the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources, to address informational gaps as well as variations in the lunar month and phase names.

The SSI gave three presentations during the conference, and received enthusiastic feedback. Fauolo-Manila said the SSI looks forward to future collaborations with the Fisheries Council. "We help them with their research and they help us with our mission of ensuring the continuity of the faasamoa," she reflected, "and our institute will consider any projects that combine culture, education, and community service."

Marine Science Opportunity
The marine science program is sponsoring paid internships for students interested in marine science.

For more information, see the marine science coordinator, Kelley Anderson, in room A-11 on the ASCC Campus if you are interested or call 699-9155 for more information.



Shared Leave Policy Supports The Family Medical Leave Act

By Komiti Emmsley

The Shared Leave Policy distributed via email to all faculty members and staff personnel of ASCC that was approved by the President of the College is not an entitlement. This program was developed and approved to assist employees that have exhausted all their leave with these qualifying reasons supported by Medical Certification - including birth, an adoption or foster care; for an employee's serious health condition; for the serious health condition of an employee's family member (including serious injury/illness because of military duty); and for a qualifying exigency (specific non-medical-related military duty).

The shared leave policy and its program

support the Family Medical Leave Act. The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) is an employee entitlement. This entitlement allows an employee receiving leave benefits to request for leave with the assurance that they will not be removed from their position at ASCC for an extended leave period. Eligible employees may take FMLA-protected leave and supported by the Shared Leave Policy only for qualifying reasons, as noted in the previous paragraph.

To avoid misunderstanding of the Shared Leave Policy, please be familiar with the context of the policy. The following questions shall assist in your review for participation in the program:

1. Do you have a foreseeable, or at least as soon as is practicable a need for leave using Shared Leave Program?

2. Do you have enough leave to cover your request of extended leave?

3. Are you eligible for the Family Medical Leave Act or the Shared Leave Policy and its program?

If you answered "Yes" to any of the above questions, it is highly encouraged to contact Human Resources Division, to assist in processing of your leave request at 699-9155 or ext. 404 during regular working hours.

SSI donates the ASCC Mascot (“Anāva a le Kolisi Tu’ufaatasī o Amerika Samoa”) Sculpture to ASCC Family.

By Okenaisa Fauolo

The ASCC Matai sculpture is the Samoan Studies Cultural Artist Patrick Mafoe's hard work and labor of love. There was no third party commissioning involved, as the artistic talents of Mr. Mafo'e were simply geared towards a good-will endeavor to contribute to the overall aesthetic, cultural and historical perception embodied in the American Samoa Community College. The statue is made from fiberglass, a modern alternative to creating sculptures, rather than using cement or marble, etc., which are much more expensive, extremely heavy and difficult to maintain in terms of longevity. Fiberglass is also much more flexible and easier to mold, and as you may observe with the ASCC Matai sculpture, the details are much more



salient in the fiberglass material. As for the statue's white color, it was decided to keep it like that, as opposed to coloring or detailing the sculpture, in that it would be far easier to maintain, versus the often expensive and time-consuming refurbishing of colored sculptures.

This past Saturday and Sunday we labored diligently to put it up, and amongst those who committed their free time to this effort were Titii (Maintenance crew), Apisaloma Toleafoa and his two brothers, ASCC student Bret Faavae and myself. This project was approved by Dr. Seth Galeai and is simply a contribution to our ASCC family from our humble institute.

ASCC Trades and Technology

Apprenticeship and Re-Train Programs

Registration for the TTD Apprenticeship and Re-train Programs will commence March 28, 2011. The courses are listed in the table to the right. The number of applicants and certificates conferred for the third session are also listed. If you are interested, please see Juliet Penn for registration after 4:00 p.m. at the TTD Auto shop Office or for more information about the program, you can call 699-9155

Announcement From the ASCC Division of Trades and Technology

PROGRAM	COURSE ALPHA	TOTAL APPLICANTS	CERTIFICATES CONFERRED
APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM			
AUTO	804	12	8
AUTO	806	21	14
CARP	800	6	6
ELEC	801	7	7
WELD	850	12	9
TOTAL	58	44	
RE-TRAIN PROGRAM			
ABR	800	14	8
ABR	810	10	7
ADT	800	8	4
AUTO	800	19	12
CARP	499	11	7
ELE	800	7	2
WELD	800	19	9
TOTAL	88	49	
TOTAL REGISTERED COURSES		146	93
TOTAL REGISTERED BODIES		119	



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ASCC bids Farewell and Best Wishes to Drusilla Saifoloi.

Drusilla Saifoloi's has been a Computer Lab Assistant for MIS since 2008. Her last day at ASCC was on Friday, March 25, 2011. She is pursuing a future in the military and we all wish her well in her endeavors. Replacing Drusilla is Alaura Taifane who was hired under ARRA Funding until the end of September 2011.



Announcement from the ASCC Office of Management Information Systems