

WASC Team: “ASCC Has Fulfilled All Recommendations”

This past November, a team representing the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC), a division of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) concluded its follow-up visit to ASCC, and during an exit presentation before assembled administration, faculty, staff and students this past Wednesday, team member Dr. Mark Zacovic announced the good news that “ASCC has fulfilled all pending WASC recommendations.” The positive results announced by Dr. Zacovic marked the latest step in a process begun in March of 2009, when the College learned that the ACCJC-WASC Commission had placed ASCC on Probation pending the submission of two follow-up reports regarding areas of concern. The Probation did not affect the College’s status as an accredited institution, but WASC stated that ASCC was required to address the ten recommendations made by the Comprehensive Review Team in October 2008, along with one additional recommendation made subsequently by the Commission itself.

Since the action in early 2009, ASCC made steady progress in addressing the eleven recommendations. The College’s most knowledgeable administration and faculty members formed special committees focused on specific areas, and in April of 2010 a follow-up visiting team from ACCJC-WASC, which included Dr. Zacovic, informed ASCC that it

had made more than satisfactory progress according to the established timeline, and that a review of the recommendations yet to be addressed would take place later in the year, setting the stage for the return of another team in November 2010.

During his exit address, Zacovic explained that he and team co-member Dr. Willard Lewallen could not issue any official statement on the accreditation status of ASCC, as this could only be done by the ACCJC-WASC Commission. They could, however, share their findings along with a summary of the report they would give the Commission. Before discussing their findings, Zacovic commended ASCC in several areas, including its student-centered approach; the cooperation and coordination among all levels of its personnel; the building and grounds staff for maintaining safe and pleasant learning environment; the security staff for maintaining safety; the College’s facilities planning activities for new construction and repairs to the campus; and the SGA for their “exemplary” efforts as student leaders.

As for the team findings, Zacovic said he and Lewallen recognized a “chain of evidence” in the College’s documented responses to the recommendations, which has made the work of all visiting teams easier. On this visit, the team reviewed progress in four specific areas: tutoring; transfer programs; total cost of ownership; and the roles in

In this issue:

Cover Story **WASC Team: “ASCC Has Fulfilled all Recommendations.”**

Pg. 2 **ASCC/TTD Apprenticeship and Re-Train Classes Attract Local Workforce**

Pg. 3 **ASCC Nursing Graduates Receive Caps and Pins**

Pg. 4 **ASCC Student Organizations Aid Hope House**

Pg. 5 **2011 New Year’s Resolutions Poll**

Pg. 6 **General Announcements**

governance of committees.

“Based on our observations, ASCC has successfully addressed each of these recommendations,” Zacovic announced to triumphant applause, before reminding those present that the final determination on the status of ASCC would be made by the ACCJC-WASC Commission, scheduled to meet in January 2011.

ASCC President Galea ’i once again expressed his gratitude to all the College personnel and students who helped make this ACCJC-WASC visit a success. “We all pulled together in this effort, and the visiting team clearly felt comfortable working with us,” he said. “Now we look forward to the decision of the ACCJC-WASC Commission, which we hope will reflect our growth from having gone through this process.”



ASCC/TTD Apprenticeship and Re-Train Classes Attract Local Workforce



Last semester's Apprenticeship and Re-Train classes at the Trades & Technology Division (TTD) attracted a large number of tradesmen seeking professional certification, as well as workers displaced by the cannery closure and seeking an alternate career. Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the Apprenticeship and Re-Train classes offered workers in the community a chance to upgrade their skills or learn the basics in a new field, a strategy designed to foster stability in the local economy by keeping individuals employed. TTD classes in the areas of automotive, auto body, carpentry and welding took place in the evening, with sections divided between the more advanced Apprenticeship courses and the entry-level Re-Train courses. "Apprenticeship is a combination of on-the-job-training and related classroom instruction, in which workers learn the practical and theoretical aspects of a highly skilled occupation," said TTD Apprenticeship Coordinator Fred Suisala, who said that 124 people enrolled in the free evening classes, 77 in the Re-Train program, and 47 in the Apprenticeship sections. The positive community response to last semester's Apprenticeship and Re-Train classes led the TTD to offer a similar program in spring 2011, which will be the subject of a future *Connections* story.

For more information about the **Apprenticeship and Retrain Classes** under the **Trades and Technology Division** of the *American Samoa Community College*, you may call Fred Suisala at 699-9155 and ask for ext353



ASCC Nursing Graduates Receive Caps and Pins

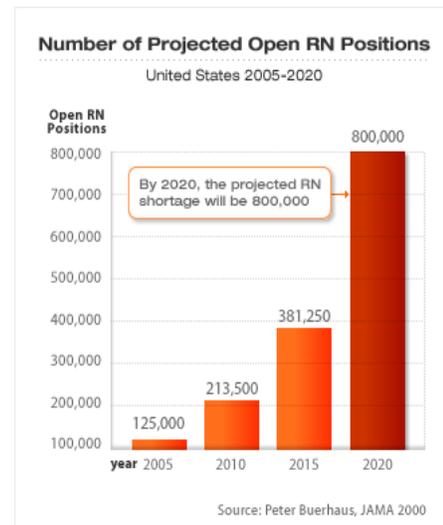


During an evening ceremony on Wednesday, December 15th at the Lee Auditorium, families, friends and well wishers joined the ASCC Nursing staff, local health care professionals and government officials to celebrate nine students completing the Practical Nursing Program. Students Staniel Vincent Dimaya, Shamarte Qurina Evagelia, Ramona Niusulu, Sandy Nua-Ahoia, Faavae Betty Patane-Laititi, Czarina Marie Roque, Faletuese Tafiti, Ritchell Toribio, and Tiffany Germaine Taumua received their caps and pins to mark their successful completion of their studies. Of these nine students, more than half have already passed the national examination to gain certification as Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs), while the remainder will sit the exam in the near future.

Guest speakers included Rev. Ioane Evagelia, Lt. Gov. Faoa Aitofele Sunia and ASCC Acting President Tapaau Dr. Daniel Aga. Keynote speaker, veteran nurse Mrs. Pouiva Reid, explained that the tradition of local American Samoans training as nurses dates back to the era of the Naval administration, and called on more of the Territory's young adults to join the profession. In addition to the caps and pins, two awards were presented during the ceremony. Sandy Nua-Ahoia received the American Samoa Nurses Association Award, and also received the ASCC Nursing Department Award along with classmate Ritchell Toribio.

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 **NursingWorld**
AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION
The largest nursing organization in the US
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<http://nursingworld.org/>



ASCC Student Organizations Aid Hope House

Thanks to two student organizations at ASCC, the residents of Hope House at Fatuoaiga had something extra to celebrate over Thanksgiving. The Students Association for Faasamoa and the ASCC chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) honor society organized separate fundraising activities on behalf of Hope House, and later presented the results of their efforts to the staff and residents prior to Thanksgiving. The

Students Association for Faasamoa, based at the Samoan Studies Institute (SSI), presented eight gift baskets containing bath items, along with canned food, bed sheets, and a small monetary gift. They also performed songs and dances for the appreciative Hope House residents. The Phi Theta Kappa honors society also visited Hope House shortly before Thanksgiving to present a monetary gift which it had raised over

the preceding weeks. In addition to the money, the PTK donated boxes of canned foods as well as a variety of fresh produce. "Part of our mission with PTK is to help the community," said Elvis Zodiacal, another of the PTK advisors. "Each semester we organize some sort of community service activity, and during the fall we've been pretty consistent with organizing a donation to Hope House prior to Thanksgiving."





2011 New Year's Resolutions Poll

For this month's issue, the IE staff took a poll on resolutions made by ASCC staff and faculty to see where this year might be headed. Below are the results of the poll. More than 80% of respondents decided to concentrate on their health this year which is a sign that ASCC employees are becoming more health conscientious. The choices include better meal choices, more physical activities and giving up unhealthy habits like smoking

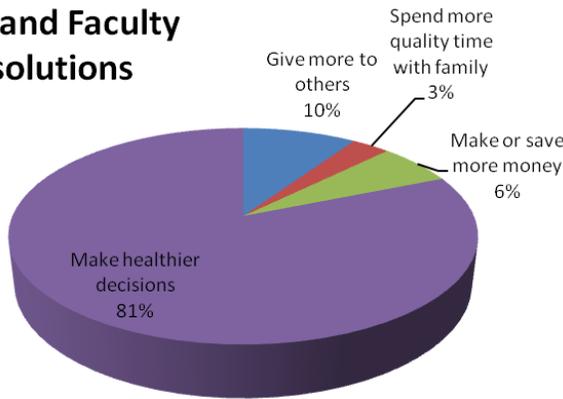
and drinking alcohol. Way to go ASCC!

Others made resolutions to spend more quality time with family and to try to give more to others which I find not only admirable but fundamental in our culture. People are also enlightened with the harsh decline of economic activity which either affected us directly or those we love. In dire situations, this is a year that we must also make better financial

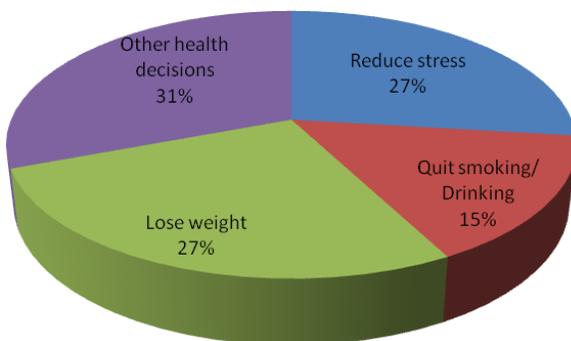
decisions.

How long can we expect to uphold our resolutions? In the poll, 25% of respondents are still upholding their 2010 resolutions and 44% lasted under 6 months. We are much more hopeful this year as 49% expect to uphold their resolutions indefinitely. So lets all support one another for a healthier and peaceful lifestyle and motivate ourselves to stick with our choices.

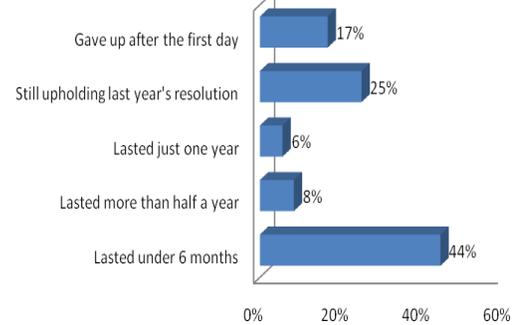
ASCC Staff and Faculty 2011 Resolutions



Health Resolutions



Upheld 2010 Resolutions



Expected duration of 2011 resolution





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You can earn your Master's degree by attending a nine day Web Institute at the College of Micronesia- FSM national campus in Pohnpei and complete the rest of your degree online! The Web Institute portion of the Master's program includes an orientation, technology training, and instruction in the Master's program core courses, as well as time to socialize with your Institute colleagues and faculty.

Students will begin study together for the Master's in the Fall of 2011. This group will form social bonds during the intensive Institute study that will continue and expand throughout the online portion of the program using a variety of communication tools. The University of North Texas is committed to this cohort approach as it provides the foundation for a vibrant learning community.

- UNT/DLIS will admit students to begin study for the Master's degree in August 2011
- Admissions, advising, and graduation through UNT/DLIS and the School of Graduate Studies
- Approximate cost of the 36 hour program is \$600 per semester credit hour taking 6 hours per semester for a total of \$20,000

For more information regarding admission, the master's program, courses and the application process visit:

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For application information see the Masters Admission Checklist under Prospective Students. For Program Information Contact: Dr. Yvonne J. Chandler at: yvonne.chandler@unt.edu or Charlotte Thomas at: charlotte.thomas@unt.edu Questions? Call (940) 565-3777 or 1-877-ASK-SLIS or email: ci-advising@unt.edu



ASCC Department and Divisions

- Community and Natural Resources
- ASCC Research Foundation

Academic and Student Affairs Departments

- Academic Affairs
- Library Services
- Admissions
- Gear up
- Student Support Services
- Upward Bound
- Student Services
- Trades and technology Division
- American Samoa Bachelors in Education Program- Teacher Education Department (ASBEP-TED)
- Samoan Studies Institute
- Adult Education Literacy and Extended Learning (AELEL)

Administrative Services and Finance Departments

- Institutional Effectiveness
- Department of Finance
- Human Resources Office
- Management Information Systems
- Physical facilities Management
- Financial Aid
- University Center on Developmental disabilities (UCEDD)
- Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

COMMENTS

If you would like to comment on any of the stories or announcements in this issue of *Connections*, please send them vm.filiga@amsamoa.edu or j.kneubhul@amsamoa.edu . You can also reach our staff by calling 684-699-7831.



ASCC SMOKING BAN

In observance of a new smoking ban passed by the American Samoa government, ASCC President Seth Galea'i has issued the memorandum below to all ASCC employees.



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

January 24, 2011

To: ASCC Faculty and staff

From: 
Dr. Seth P. Galea'i
ASCC President

Re: Notification of smoking; ASG smoking law and ASCC smoking policy

The American Samoa Government has passed new legislation restricting smoking in public places and places of employment. ASCC shall strictly enforce the new legislation, and implement a new smoking policy for the college campus. ASCC will designate specific smoking areas, and smoking will ONLY be permitted in those areas. The new legislation allows for individuals to be fined up to \$50.00. Likewise, this memo shall serve as notice to all employees of ASCC that violation of the law, or ASCC's smoking policy, may result in the violator being disciplined under the ASCC Personnel Manual.

In the near future, signs will be posted to notify all people on ASCC campus of non-smoking areas, and designated smoking areas. ASCC security will enforce the ASCC policy, and report the violators of the smoking policy for possible disciplinary action.

Please make this transition into a new era go smoothly.

Thank you.