



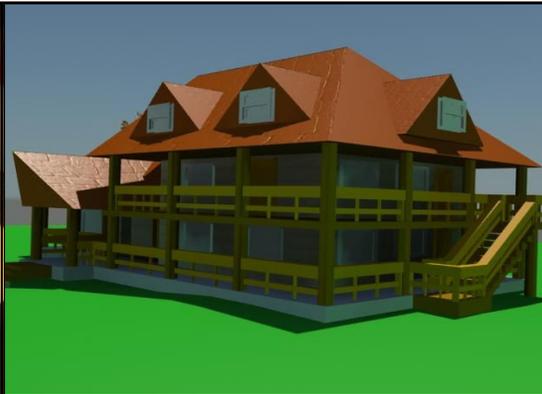
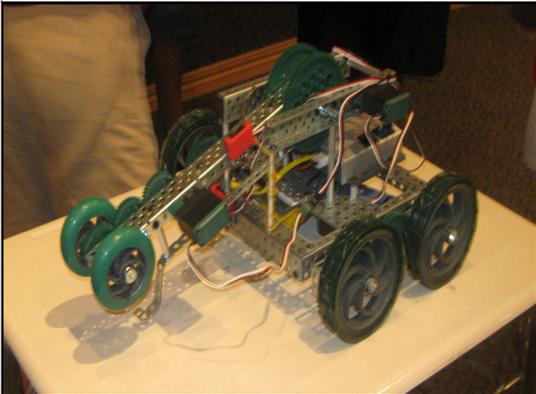
# GEAR UP NEWSLETTER



**GEAR UP for College**

JULY 2010, Issue 5

## GEAR UP AUTODESK AND ROBOTICS SUMMER ACADEMY



### GEAR UP Newsletter

#### Special points of interest:

- Autodesk Academy
- Robotics Academy
- Anthony Talosaga to YLS
- First Lady Mary Ann Tulafono
- RTI Grant awards GUAS \$100,000
- MarkBook Grade Portals
- GUAS Math Training Sessions
- AXA supports GEAR UP

#### ROBOTICS ACADEMY

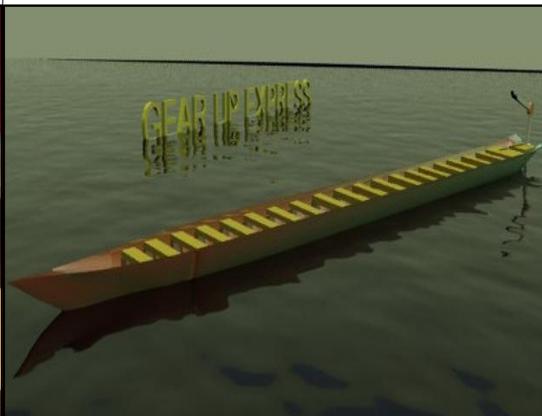
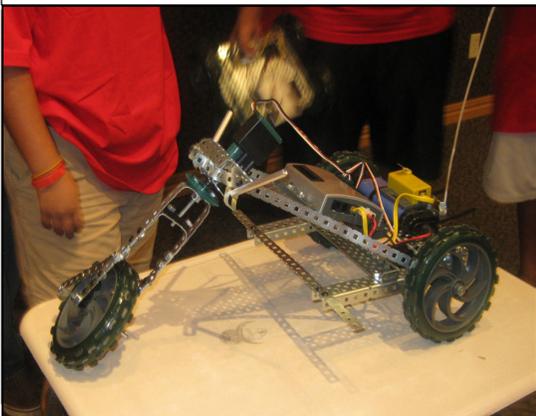
For the first time in American Samoa, students were given the opportunity to work on Robotic kits. GUAS and ITT Electronics Instructors, along with three ASCC Electronic students, facilitated the Robotics Academy of 17 students. The students actively engaged with hands-on applications of vocational technology, and showed their excitement and motivation to learn by creating robotic vehicles. A robotic kit was provided to groups of five students each, who worked together to construct a vehicle and operate the robotic kit.

#### AUTODESK ACADEMY

GEAR UP Autodesk students have been working at creating mechanical engineering and architectural designs, rendering scenes as well as animating them by using the basic Autodesk 3ds Max design tools. A great motivation for students, Autodesk encourages problem-solving and critical thinking skills. Ms. Fi'a Vaeoso (Samoana HS) designed several architectural designs, including the building above. During the GEAR UP summer academy 2010, a lesson on "Rendering Scenes" was demonstrated by designing and rendering the fautasi boat scene below.

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### GEAR UP Newsletter

"A teacher affects eternity; he/she can never tell where his/her influence stops."

Henry B. Adams

## *LHS Student attends NCCEP Youth Leadership Summit (YLS)*

This year's Annual National Community Council for Education Partnerships (NCCEP) GEAR UP Conference in Washington, DC will feature a Youth Leadership Summit for GEAR UP students from all across the nation. Along with GUAS staff and local partners who will be traveling to Washington DC to attend this year's conference, GUAS will also chaperone high school student Anthony Talosaga, who was selected from among hundreds of applicants nationwide to participate in the NCCEP Youth Leadership Summit. Anthony, age 16, a sophomore at Leone High School, will join 31 of his peers from across the United States at the Summit, which takes place in the nation's capitol from July 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>.

An active member of the GEAR UP program since its inception, Anthony comes from a single parent household. His mother Taliilagi, a Star Kist employee, has raised four children with the help of her sister Tiki and the latter's husband, Tai Tusiapa. While doing his share to help his family, Anthony has still managed to excel academically, earning First Place recognition in his class during both the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade in the subjects of Science and Math. During the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, he scored highest in his class on the SAT test, and has gone on to score high on the PSAT and ASVAB tests as well. His extracurricular activities include a daily LDS morning seminary from 5:30 to 6:30 a.m., as well as participation in this year's Math Comp., Speech Festival, Samoa Day, and Science Fair. Please visit: [<programs@edpartnerships.org>](mailto:programs@edpartnerships.org)



*Anthony Talosaga and  
Lupe Tapuai*

***RTI Award GUAS  
\$100,000 Math  
Intervention Grant***



The proposed intervention seeks to build upon GUAS' documented, quantifiable achievements by increasing math skills and reducing the number of new ASCC students testing into remedial math. GUAS will implement a discrete math intervention for 150 students in Fall 2010 and Spring 2011, offering six-week courses for two cohorts of 75 students each. These math courses will provide 150 students with an additional 27 hours of math instruction, plus nine hours of an additional reading component. The courses will cover parts of the Algebra II curriculum required by ASDOE for 11th grade students.

## ***First Lady Mary Ann Tulafono: Addressing Academic Failure Prevents Childhood Drinking***



We are very proud to partner with the ASCC GEAR UP American Samoa Program and especially of the successes the GEAR UP program has been able to achieve during the life of the project.

TAITAITAMA supports the work of the Governor's Strategic Prevention Framework Advisory Commission, the DHSS, and the community coalitions across each itumalo to use data effectively as they plan and implement prevention programs. Specifically – we look at risk factors within the community that lead to underage drinking.

A key risk factor that is common across **all adolescent problem behaviors** including juvenile delinquency, teen pregnancy, students dropping out of school, substance abuse, etc. is **academic failure**. Supporting the GEAR UP program helps our community to address academic failure, and promotes school success in the pursuit of higher education for a specific target group. Research shows that kids who succeed in school have better self confidence, are able to make good decisions, and will have better outcomes in their adult life.

Thank you again to all the partners that help to make the GEAR UP Program meaningful for parents of youth and the youth themselves. And I would especially thank the American Samoa Community College and the GEAR UP management and staff for all of their hard work in supporting and nurturing partnerships that are so vital to the success of American Samoa's youth. First Lady Mary Ann Tulafono, Chairperson TAITAITAMA Prevent Underage Drinking Initiative.

# GEAR UP MARKBOOK ON-LINE GRADE ACCESS

**MarkBook 2007** logout

**Welcome Student Sample**

This is a list of your online marks:

- gu1234\_GUAS\_MATH.htm term:2
- gu1234\_GUAS\_ENGLISH.htm term:2
- gu1234\_GUAS\_AFT\_ATT.htm term:2

Gear Up Sample School - STUDENT REPORT June, 30 2010  
GUAS\_MATH - 2009-2010 - MATHEMATICS - Mr. Smith

**Sample, Student** (GUAS-gu1234)

OVERALL: **90%** (Wt. Average) Class Avg: 69% Median: 70%

MISSING ENTRIES: No Mark: None Zero: None

ENTRIES Semstr: [ALL] Category: [ALL] Sort by: Entry + List: ALL

Entry Number	Title	Date	Semstr	Category	Type	Weight Factor	Mark (%)	Class Avg (%)	± Class Avg (%)
1	Quiz 10/6	Feb. 10	1	Quiz	Form	3.5	75	58	17
2	Quiz 10/14	Feb. 10	1	Quiz	Form	2.2	60	84	-24
3	Midterm 10/23	Feb. 10	1	Test	Form	17.4	57	71	-14
4	Quiz 10/28	Feb. 10	1	Quiz	Form	7.1	25	57	-32
5	Test 11/3	Feb. 10	1	Test	Form	4.4	52	77	-25
6	Quiz 11/12	Feb. 10	1	Quiz	Form	4.4	40	58	-18
7	Quiz 11/17	Feb. 10	1	Quiz	Form	5.8	54	60	-6
8	Semester Final	Jan. 18	1	Final	Summ	10.0	65	73	-8
9	Test 1/27	Jan. 27	2	Test	Summ	5.2	60	85	-25
10	Quiz 2/10	Feb. 10	2	Quiz	Summ	4.4	90	58	32
11	Test 2/24	Feb. 24	2	Test	Summ	3.7	81	74	7
12	Quiz 3/3	Mar. 3	2	Quiz	Summ	7.5	53	66	-13
13	Test 3/10	Mar. 10	2	Test	Summ	4.4	72	69	3
14	Midterm 3/17	Mar. 17	2	Final	Summ	10.0	48	70	-22
15	2nd Semester Final	May 26	2	Final	Summ	10.0	56	77	-21

Note: Missing Entry Numbers are either not in the selected group or they have been deleted. Calculated numbers are rounded off. Weight Factor combines Entry and Category weights.

Gear Up Sample School - STUDENT REPORT June, 30 2010  
AFT\_ATT - 2009-2010 - AFTER SCHOOL ATTENDANCE - Mr. Smith

**Sample, Student** (GUAS-gu1234)

OVERALL: **96%** (Wt. Average) Class Avg: 85% Median: 86%

MISSING ENTRIES: No Mark: 1 Zero: None

ENTRIES Semstr: [ALL] Category: [ALL] Sort by: Entry + List: ALL

Entry Number	Title	Date	Semstr	Category	Type	Weight Factor	Mark (%)	Class Avg (%)	± Class Avg (%)
1	9/28 - 10/2	Feb. 9	1	Attendan	Form	1.5	100	100	0
2	10/5 - 10/16	Feb. 9	1	Attendan	Form	5.9	75	90	-15
3	10/19 - 10/30	Feb. 9	1	Attendan	Form	7.4	40	65	-25
4	11/2 - 11/13	Feb. 9	1	Attendan	Form	7.4	100	100	0
5	11/16 - 11/27	Feb. 9	1	Attendan	Form	7.4	100	100	0
6	11/30 - 12/11	Feb. 9	1	Attendan	Form	7.4	100	86	14
7	1/11 - 1/22	Jun. 3	1	Attendan	Form	8.8	83	86	-3
8	1/25 - 2/5	Jun. 3	2	Attendan	Form	2.9	100	100	0
9	2/8 - 2/19	Jun. 3	2	Attendan	Form	7.4	80	84	-4
10	2/22 - 3/5	Jun. 3	2	Attendan	Form	8.8	100	88	12
11	3/6 - 3/19	Jun. 3	2	Attendan	Form	8.8	100	92	8
12	3/22 - 4/2	Jun. 3	2	Attendan	Form	7.4	80	82	-2
13	4/5 - 4/16	Jun. 3	2	Attendan	Form	8.8	100	85	15
14	4/19 - 4/30	Jun. 3	2	Attendan	Form	8.8	100	85	15
15	5/3 - 5/14	Jun. 3	2	Attendan	Form	8.8	100	67	33

Note: Missing Entry Numbers are either not in the selected group or they have been deleted. Calculated numbers are rounded off. Weight Factor combines Entry and Category weights.

**CATEGORY ANALYSIS**

Category	Number of Entries	% of AFTA	Mark (%)	Class Avg (%)	± Class Avg (%)

Gear Up Sample School - STUDENT REPORT June, 30 2010  
ENGLISH - 2009-2010 - ENGLISH PERFORMANCE - Mr. Smith

**Sample, Student** (GUAS-gu1234)

OVERALL: **87%** (Wt. Average) Class Avg: 69% Median: 70%

MISSING ENTRIES: No Mark: None Zero: None

ENTRIES Semstr: [ALL] Category: [ALL] Sort by: Entry + List: ALL

Entry Number	Title	Date	Semstr	Category	Type	Weight Factor	Mark (%)	Class Avg (%)	± Class Avg (%)
1	Quiz 10/6	Feb. 10	1	Quiz	Form	3.5	75	58	17
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Shown above are the three on-line charts monitoring grades and attendance for all GUAS students. The charts show students' Math and English grades, as well as their attendance to the GUAS homework sessions. Each chart indicates the overall standing by percentage of your student in relation to his/her classroom peers. The online charts show the scores, dates and types of assignments being graded by the classroom teacher. The MarkBook data allows the day to day tracking of grades and attendance for real time reporting for school administrators. The MarkBook data is easily transferred to the GUAS Website portal for students and parents who want to monitor their students progress. Visit the GUAS website: <[www.gearup.as](http://www.gearup.as)>

**GEAR UP American Samoa**  
**American Samoa Community College**  
 Director Tupua Roy Fua  
 P.O. Box 2609  
 Pago Pago, Am. Samoa  
 684, 699-9166 Office  
 684, 699-9165 Fax  
 info@gearup.as  
[www.gearup.as](http://www.gearup.as)

**GEAR UP FOR COLLEGE**



*Robotics Summer Academy*



*Reading & Writing Academy*



*Robotic Instructors*



*Pre-SAT Summer Academy*



*Autodesk Summer Academy*



*Algebra Summer Academy*

**Advance Math with Integrated Technology**

**AXA Unique Shipping Supports GEAR UP**

The GEAR UP math program is designed to meet the requirements for the standards and benchmarks of the American Samoa Department of Education. Teachers are encouraged to integrate the use of **Math Trek software** during coursework to assist students in interactive problem solving using functions such as the scientific calculator. Math Trek software is produced by the NECTAR Foundation and is a curriculum-based program that aligns with NCTM standards. Math Trek contains the following elements: "interactive tutorials, problem solving, activities, explorations and exercises." It also makes use of a scientific calculator function and graphing elements (NECTAR Foundation, 2010). While there is limited research specific to the use of Math Trek software, GUAS is currently using the software in combination with student tutoring and has observed statistically significant improvements in student math scores.

In addition, several reports obtained from the Institute of Education Science's (IES) What Works Clearinghouse indicate that technology/computer aided interaction can lead to improved understanding and scores. A meta-analysis conducted by the United States Department of Education found that students who received a mix of face to face and online instruction performed better than those who received purely face to face instruction (USDOE 2009).

A collaborative effort by GUAS and AXA Unique Shipping Company has resulted in securing high quality learning materials for some of the Territory's elementary and high school students. A container with eight pallets of boxes full of textbooks and learning kits has arrived in American Samoa, and GUAS will distribute these learning materials among its partner schools over the next few weeks during their back to school orientations, with additional supplies earmarked for schools affected by last year's tsunami.

GUAS staff have already initiated mini-workshops to acquaint instructors at GUAS cohort schools with the new learning materials published by Houghton Mifflin Publishing. The supplemental materials, valued at over \$90,000 focus on interactive, accelerated learning approaches in English, Math, Science, History and other core courses. Each kit contains a series of worksheets, manipulatives and classroom exercises that engage students and make learning fun and interesting. Several cases of materials have already been distributed to Leone High School, Samoana High School, Tafuna High School, Nu'uuli Vocational Technical High School, Faasao Marist High School and Kanana Fou High School. The response from teachers has been overwhelming. They report that their students are enjoying the new materials and finding the extra resources exciting, fun and very interesting.