



AMERICAN SAMOA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Connections Newsletter: Issue 1

October 2017

Message from the President



Dr. Rosevonne M. Pato
ASCC President

Welcome to the first edition of the revived ASCC Connections Newsletter. As in most institutions of higher learning, we try to make the public aware of the many exciting developments and accomplishments that take place every semester (if not every day) here at ASCC. We see CONNECTIONS as a monthly summary of what's been going on at ASCC, as well as a dialogue facilitator with regards to administrative decisions and priorities. What you will find in these pages is a mix of news, data, and reflection on the educational process itself as it applies to the College. We welcome feedback not only from our faculty, administrators and students, but also from the general public. It is our goal to have as many people as possible make CONNECTIONS with us through this newsletter, which I hope you will enjoy.

Accreditation:

The American Samoa Community College remains as an accredited institution under the purview of the Western Association of School and College – Accreditation Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (WASC-ACCJC). The College is required to submit its Midterm Report to the ACCJC in October 2018.

The Midterm Report is a required midway report submitted by all accredited colleges between comprehensive self-evaluation visits.

FY 2018 Priorities:

Institutional Priority 1:
Maintenance

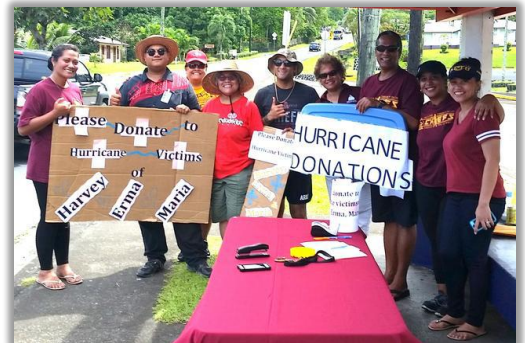
Institutional Priority 2:
Reclassification

Institutional Priority 3:
Professional Development

Institutional Priority 4:
*Community Outreach,
Extension, and Research*



ASCC Red Wave: Supporting a Drug Free Community



ASCC Red Cross Wave: Supporting Hurricane Victims



ASCC: SGA Halloween Carnival

Academic Highlights



During an oceanographic research sail aboard the vessel “Robert C. Seamans,” Sea Education Association staff lead ASCC students in the appropriate line hauling method to raise the main sail, the largest sail on the ship. (Photo. S. Woofter)

- The Business Department through the Business Ambassador Organization, hosted a business forum focusing on “Certainty & Uncertainty – Jobs and Economic Prospects for American Samoa”. The event was well represented by business majoring students. Special Assistant to the Governor, HTC Iulogologo Joseph Pereira was invited as the special guest speaker.
- The Lead Mentor/faculty and Dean of Academic Affairs held a phone conference with the Pacific Partnerships for the EXITO program focusing on ways to improve scholars’ summer internships and promoting interests of scholars in medical research disciplines. The EXITO sub-award agreement between the ASCC and Portland State University provides funding opportunities to promote medical research under the Health and Human Services Department or related disciplines. Currently, the ASCC has four scholars enrolled in Health and Human services courses and Nursing field. The ASCC EXITO is looking at selecting four more scholars with the interest in Medical fields for the next Academic year. These scholars will be traveling with the faculty/mentor to Portland State University for the summer orientation. The selection of the four scholars should be finalized by the panel at the end of the semester.
- The ASCC President, Vice President, Dean of Academic Affairs, Curriculum and Assessment Coordinator, and Chairperson of the ASCC-ROTC met with the Senior ROTC instructor from the University of Hawaii-Manoa. Emphasis and key discussion points of the meeting focused on retaining students in the areas of Military Science, and seeking ways to assist students financially through scholarships, to promote SROTC programs at the ASCC. Several options were discussed on ways to revisit the curriculum infrastructure to support students with interests in pursuing SROTC based programs and/or career opportunities. The ASCC and SROTC through the UH-Manoa both instructors and educators will continue to collaborate on ways to recruit and promote interest in Military Science for the students.
- The Fine Arts department hosted the Pacific Islanders in Communications (PIC) Deep waters film festival through professional affiliation of Fine Arts instructor with PIC. Emphasis was on two recent documentaries that were shown titled the “Ever the Land” and “Kū Kanaka/Stand Tall”.

- The Academics continues with its successful beginning of the 2nd CAPP session with a couple of closed classes due to high enrollment of students. The ELI-CAPP offered 18 sections of courses ranging from Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced Reading to beginning, Intermediate and Advanced Writing courses. The Math- CAPP offered 11 sections of Preparatory Math and Elementary Algebra courses to accommodate students enrolled in the 2nd session. There were eight sections of General requirements offered to accommodate students who have exited the CAPP and progress through their college level courses.
- The Academics and Student Services conducted its internal review of Institution-Set Standards (ISS) / Student Achievement standards through its approved scheduled meetings and set calendar for the ISS Review Committee. Recommendations on clarification of definitions, processes, identification of sources, tracking mechanisms, etc... have been proposed for further discussion and deliberation. All recommendations will be addressed in the upcoming meeting and set standards to be finalized for the Curriculum Committee's review later on this Fall 2017 semester.
- The Nursing department awarded 19 Certificates of Completion (COC) to students who have successfully completed the NURS100/100L Nurse Aide Training course in the first session of Fall 2017.
- The Trades and Technical Department started the offering of courses through the Apprenticeship Program for Fall 2017 to accommodate the skill based needs of the community and private sectors. The emphasis is on four courses in Auto CAD, Electrical Installation, Computer Systems, and Advanced Arc Welding. There are 20 participants enrolled in the Apprenticeship program for Fall 2017. These participants are employed at Starkist with eleven participants, ACE Hardware with three participants, KVZK with one participant, one participant from Public Works, two participants from ASCC, one participant from ASCTA, and one independent learner.



Following a Business Forum presented by the Business Ambassadors of ASCC (BAOA) last week, guest speaker HTC Iulogologo J. Pereira, Special Assistant to the Governor (left) is seen here with ASCC Business instructors Lam Yuen Lam Yuen Jr. (center) and Ioapo Taua'i. (Photo: J. Kneubuhl)

Highlights from the Student Services Division



ASCC 2017 Student Government Association (SGA) Halloween Carnival – Photos by James Kneubuhl

Twenty-six ASCC HOSA students were inducted in the State HOSA which includes the Secondary schools. The AHEC Coordinator is currently the advisor for the HOSA students.

In-house Scholarships: 5 recipients

- ✓ Two recipients for the Presidential Merit Scholarship,
- ✓ Two recipients for the ‘Saili le Atamai’ non-Pell/SGA scholarship, notification of awards and PR article forthcoming,
- ✓ Student Veterans Organization scholarship – one recipient, \$500 award for Fall 2017 semester,
- ✓ Photo ops of recipients with President for PR for KHJ radio and web, KVZK and article to Samoa News.

Extra-Curricular Activities/SGA:

- ✓ Coffee & Doughnuts for mid-term treat, Cafeteria,
- ✓ International Day, Amphitheatre,
- ✓ Scary Movie in the Spirit of Halloween, Lecture Hall,
- ✓ The Voice Competition, 10/17 & 10/19/17, Amphitheatre,
- ✓ Spirit Week, 10/23-27/17, Amphitheatre,
- ✓ Halloween Carnival, 5:00pm-8:00pm, ASCC Gym, prizes - monetary, raffle, candies, toys, booth games/photo booths (x18), 10/27/17, ASCC Gym,
- ✓ Trick-o-Treat Day goodies provide for the Student Body, Amphitheatre.



Outreach:

- ✓ Financial Aid Office & Admissions: Pacific Horizon High School senior students at the ASCC Computer Lab Room #15, Pacific Horizon School, Tafuna HS, Fagaitua HS, Nuuli VocTechHS, Kanana Fou HS, Iakina Adventist HS, Leone HS, Fa’asao Marist HS, 10/20 – 27, 2017, ASCC Student Computer Lab and DYWA Computer Lab (10/23-24/17) – total of **353 students** (# 347 to respective high schools, 6 at ASCC Student Computer Lab);



Pell Grant award for Batches #1 & 2:

- ✓ **467** students have received their Pell Grants award, **\$680,185.00**.

Community Outreach, Extension, and Research

Working with different Local Agencies on Samoan Language Usage

The ASCC Samoan Studies Institute hosted representatives from the different agencies of AS Weather Station, NOAA Fisheries Division, AS National Sanctuary, AS Coral Reef Advisory Group, National Parks Office and Dept. of Marine and Wildlife to review a Climate Change Glossary. This is a partnership project with our College taking the lead in translating 150 scientific terminologies in the area of oceanography and climate change.



Hosting Stars of Oceania Participants



(near left) Dr. Joanne Preston, national chair for the Academy of Management and Kahu Dr. Francine Palama who are recipients of the Stars of Oceania Awards, for their great work in the Pacific Region. Our own stars who were recognized this year included Aumua Amata and Nikolao Pula.



Students Association for Faasamoa (SAFF)

ASCC through its SSI Students Association for Faasamoa performed an Ava Ceremony on the 3rd of October 2017 at our ACNR Wellness Center to welcome participants of the Stars of Oceania Events.

National Park of American Samoa: 'Tour and Hike'



Thirteen students from AGR 152 (Survey of Community & Natural Resources) course, faculty, and ACNR staff went on a tour of the National Park Services (NPS) visitor's center and a 45-minute hike up towards Mt. Alava. In addition to learning about different career options and programs available in agriculture, natural resources, agribusiness, and family and consumer sciences, students had the opportunity to hear a presentation on the overview and history of National Park services (in the mainland U.S. and in American Samoa) from two NPS Park Rangers (Pai and Pua). The students also went on a guided hike/tour towards Mt. Alava with Territorial Ecologist, Tavita Togia. Students were able to view and identify wildlife and native species found in the National Park as well as view the conservation efforts conducted by NPS. Furthermore, students were able to meet and hear the experiences of former ASCC-ACNR students who are now employed by NPS.

Manu'a Plant Pest Survey

The ASCC-ACNR Entomologist and lab staff traveled to the Manu'a islands with colleagues from the American Samoa Department of Agriculture to conduct surveys for any possible new invasive fruit fly or ant species or diseases of citrus trees. The survey along with similar surveys on Tutuila and Aunu'u are funded through the USDA's Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey program to improve early detection and response to exotic pest introductions in US states and territories. ASCC and ASDOA have been working together on pest surveys since 2011. Fortunately, no new plant diseases or pests were detected within the territory this time.



Samoa “Home of the Ma’afala” Pacific & Global Breadfruit Summit October 10-12, 2017



The ASCC-ACNR Director, Horticulturalist, and Agriculture Extension Manager attended the 2017 Samoa “Home of the Ma’afala” Pacific & Global Breadfruit Summit, October 10-12, 2017.

The ASCC-ACNR team conducted two presentations:

1. “Biological Control of Seychelles Scale on Breadfruit in Ta’u, Manu’a Island, American Samoa” under the Breadfruit Propagation & Production session
2. “Fermented Breadfruit” (Masi Samoa) under the Disaster Preparedness, Food Security, Village/Community Resilience, and Health session.

American Samoa’s Department of Commerce (DOC) Director, Fuiavailili Keniseli Lafaele also attended and presented in the Private Industry, Economic Development, and Investment session. Other Summit sessions included: The Global Reach of ‘Ulu and Conservation; Technologies and Communities; Breadfruit Postharvest Technologies; Breadfruit Flour & Product Development; FDA, HACCP, Milling & Flour Standards for Export; and Nutritious Breadfruit on Health, Diabetes, & Obesity.

Approximately 150 scientists, researchers, entrepreneurs, farmers, agriculture professionals, agriculture engineers, nutritionists, sociologists, doctors, lawyers, and government leaders from the United Nation, United States, Canada, South America, Africa, Australia, Asia, Caribbean, Tonga, Fiji, French Polynesia, Marshal Islands, Global Mana (NGO), American Samoa and Samoa attended the Breadfruit Summit.

ASCC-ACNR will play a key role in the research, production, marketing, and possibly exporting of ‘Ulu and related value added products. As a result of the Breadfruit Summit:

1. ASCC-ACNR will use our tissue culture lab to increase the multiplication and propagation of the breadfruit tree for our local farmers and residents
2. ASCC-ACNR Horticulturalist will write research projects on breadfruit to be included in NIFA-USDA 2019 Plan of Work;
3. ASCC-ACNR will collaborate with local, regional, and federal partners to write grants to build a Food Science and Technology Facility. In addition to research on breadfruit, the Facility will serve as a training center for certification for the Pacific region stakeholders in order to meet USDA and FDA requirements for export of breadfruit and value added products to the US markets.



Tissue Culture Presentation and Lab Activity

The ACNR Tissue Culture Specialist presented to eleven agriculture students providing an overview of the Tissue Culture program and the many projects implemented in American Samoa. Students acquired knowledge about tissue culture as a plant propagation method. Moreover, students developed skills in tissue culture by participating in a tissue culture activity where the students propagated Anthuriums using the tissue culture method.

A New Hat for the Research Building



The ASCC-ACNR Research building got a new top this month thanks to the federal funds awarded from USDA to support agricultural research in American Samoa and the hard work and professionalism of ASCC Chief Financial Officer Emey Silafau, Procurement Officer Jessie Su'esu'e, Physical Facilities and Maintenance Officer Lokeni Lokeni, ASCC engineer Joel Locsin, and contractor Asia Pacific Engineering and Construction Services. The re-roofing was badly needed. The existing roof started springing leaks over 20 years ago, and the situation has only worsened since then, resulting in high humidity and water damage to the building interior. Every time it rained ACNR staff would rush to put pans and buckets in the attic to catch the incoming rainwater. In order to save money most of the original metal corrugate, which is still in good condition, was re-used, but the layers below it were replaced to create a strong, watertight seal. The ASCC ACNR Research building houses the only laboratory research facility of its kind in American Samoa, and this investment will help ensure that the facility can continue serving the community for years to come. Additional critical refurbishments will be completed as funds become available.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EXTENSION

Schools' Field Trips and Tours to ASCC-ACNR (Land Grant Program)



More than 216 students, 17 teachers, and 48 parents from four different schools: Aoloau Siliaga Elementary, Fagasa Laetele Elementary, South Pacific Academy, and Manumalo Elementary School visited and toured ACNR (Land Grant Program) in the month of October. The tours not only provided students with learning opportunities away from the regular school environment, but also provided real-life application and relevancy of the lessons the students are learning in the classrooms. Students acquired knowledge as they visited demonstration sites and laboratories, and listened to professionals in agriculture (crops & livestock), horticulture, tissue culture, entomology, forestry, aquaculture, nutrition, food safety, exercise and physical activity, and 4-H Youth Development.

Moreover, students developed skills (experiential learning) as they participated in hands-on and interactive activities such as sewing, arts and crafts, tree planting, sowing vegetable seeds, food preparation, exercise and physical activities, tagging piglets, and feeding fish (tilapia). Students also learned about the many career opportunities in food and agriculture, natural resources, and health sciences and related areas.

"Children's Healthy Living Program for Remote Underserved Minority Populations in the Pacific Region-Integrated Monitoring for Pohnpei, American Samoa, and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CHL-IMPAC)."

ASCC-ACNR's Community Nutritionist, two (2) EFNEP Nutrition Educators, and two (2) CHL Staff Members assisted American Samoa's Early Childhood Education (ECE) Program with their health assessment screenings, which must be completed within the first 45 days of the new school year. ACNR staff provided valuable assistance by measuring the height and weight of ECE children. The goal of CHL-IMPAC Program is to create a long-term monitoring and evaluation system of child growth assessment data (height & weight [BMI] data) of children enrolled at Head Start/Early Childhood Education centers in Pohnpei, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Specifically in American Samoa, plans include measuring children at every ECE center, including the two ECE centers in Manu'a. Measurements have been completed at 15 ECE centers and a total of 512 children have been measured. The measurement data will be analyzed and used to help ask important questions regarding the status of overweight/obesity of children in American Samoa. Furthermore, the data will be used to apply for future grant funding and to help initiate health research and support policy change within the territory.





Dr. Lina Galea'i-Scanlan
Vice President of Administration & Finance

Updates from the Vice President of Administrative Services & Finance

Training/Professional Development/Conferences:

- ASCC President Dr. Rosevonne Pato attended the Pacific Postsecondary Education Council and REL meetings in Hawaii during the month of October;
- ASCC-Chief Information Officer Don Nelson attended a Cyber-Security Training with FEMA/Homeland Security;
- Chief Finance Officer (CFO) Silafau-Toa & Human Resources Officer Asifoa attended training for Grants Administration and other Administrative/Finance duties in Walla Walla, WA.;
- Three of our PFM staff, Etuale Magalei, Douglas McCoy, and Manuele Salaivao attended Air Conditioning training and repairs.

Announcements:

- Physical Facilities and Maintenance (PFM) staff Moe Poloa and his men have been busy with setting up of new benches in the Science Building hallways; students now have benches to sit on while waiting for class or just hanging out in between classes;
- PFM continues to provide quality service to the College and has completed several landscaping and grounds projects and daily cleaning of all the grounds, new drainage projects near the CAPP building and along the back of the East Wing buildings as well new seating accommodations for students in the Science building and service for our Lower quad area and daily custodial, grounds, electrical and carpentry work for the entire ASCC campus and ACNR Land Grant areas.
- Meetings with all leaders on the Administration and Finance are on-going for Standard Operating Procedure reviews, updates on bi-weekly reports and overall leadership for Administration and Finance;
- The Finance Department and Procurement Department have been working together to ensure smooth transitions for Purchase Requisitions routing; Thanks to CFO Silafau-Toa and Procurement Officer Su'esu'e for their hard work!
- Printing Services continues to provide printing services for the entire College; encourage all departments to use our Printing Services;
- Reception area now located at the former Security Office; Security are now relocated at the back building where the Special Projects Manager was located;
- Security round the clock supervision has ensured safety for all personnel and students and the safety of our campus; Big thank you to PFM Officer Lokeni and Chief Officer Misi Tauai for maintaining a tight security schedule 24/7;
- HR Officer Asifoa working on SOP's for HR as well beginning draft for reclassification for the Reclassification Committee review as well as the President's review;
- A big thank you to all the Administrative Services side for their great work and to our President for her leadership and encouragement!
- Congratulations to our Book Store Manager, Mrs. Alofia Afalava, for a successfully beginning of the Fall semester 2017 and for providing our students and faculty with the best service and educational resources.
- Thanks to IE staff for the bi-weekly updates for the Administrative Services side, as well and to Mrs. Togafau for her support!

ASCC Bulletin for the month of November:

- **November 1 – 30:** ASCC Divisional Program Review online Survey will remain open throughout the month of November for input from all ASCC employees.
- **November 9 – 14:** ACNR Forestry staff (4) will be conducting Urban Community Forestry (UCF), Forest Health, (FH) and Forest Stewardship (FSP), Invasive Species Control, and Soil Conservation (vetiver grass) programs in Luma & Si'ufaga, Fitiuta, and Faleasao villages in Tau, Manu'a.
- **November 13 – December 14:** 2018 Spring and Summer Priority Registration
- **November 14-16:** WASC-ACCJC New Evaluator Training – Honolulu Hawaii – ASCC attendees: Vice President Dr. Lina Galeai-Scanlan and TED Director Ms. Shirley De La Rosa.
- **November 18:** Two ACNR Entomology staff will be presenting and putting up displays at the Department of Health "Mosquito Action Day"
- **November 22:** ASCC Employee Thanksgiving Potluck – (Gym) – 12:00pm – 2:00pm – Sponsored by the Samoan Studies Institute.
- **November 24 – December 4:** ACNR Entomologist is invited to present the status of mosquito surveillance and control, and innovative strategies in American Samoa at the "International Innovative Vector Control in the Pacific: Efficacy, Safety, Acceptability" workshop in French Polynesia.
- **November 27 – 29:** ACNR Director, Horticulturalist, and Agriculturalist Extension Manager will attend the "Two Samoa Talks" in Apia, Samoa.