

AMERICAN SAMOA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

● ● ● Connections Newsletter ● ● ●



ASCC CHIEFS

Volume I: Issue 4 – January 2018

Dedication of the Multi-Purpose Center:

Featured Highlights:

- I. Office of the President:**
 - a. MPC Dedication
 - b. Leadership Training
- II. Academics:**
 - a. Divisional & Academic Programs
- III. Community, Outreach & Research:**
 - a. Agriculture, Community and Natural Resources
 - b. Samoan Studies Institute
- IV. Student Services:**
 - a. Service Updates
 - b. Student Government Association
- V. Administrative Services Updates**



The American Samoa Community College (ASCC) reached a milestone in its history with the official opening of its new Multipurpose Center (MPC). The new multi-story building will serve as the center for the system of support provided to ASCC students by the College's Division of Student Services. Governor Lolo M. Moliga, the Board of Higher Education, and numerous local dignitaries joined the administration, faculty, staff and students of ASCC for the official dedication of the MPC, which took place on Tuesday, January 9th.

View more pictures of the ASCC Multi-Purpose Dedication Ceremony on the College's Website at:

<http://fotogallery.amsamoa.edu>

In addition to Governor Lolo, guests included former governor Togiola Tulafono, President of the Senate Palaie Gaoteote, Representative Tumolimoli Moliga on behalf of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Cabinet members, ASG Directors, CEOs, Presidents of other local institutions, Senators and Representatives of the Fono, Board of Higher Education Trustees, Department of the Interior representatives, and former members of the ASCC staff.



Leadership Training: ASCC President Dr. Rosevonne M. Pato organized and led a two-day Leadership Training for ASCC administrators on the 30th and 31st of January, 2018. Day one of the Leadership Training focused on professional standards, ethical conduct, and leadership versus management characteristics. Day two of the Leadership Training centered on the role of ASCC in American Samoa and Accreditation, Diversity, and Wellness.

Leadership Training – Day 1:



Leadership Training – Day 2:



January Highlights:

Spring 2018 Faculty Orientation: The Spring 2018 Faculty orientation took place with a short assembly at the Lecture Hall and the President's welcoming remarks to the faculty. The assembly was attended by administrators, faculty and staff not only to welcome everyone back from their Christmas break but also to celebrate another year at ASCC. The President emphasized the acronym T.E.A.M in her welcoming remarks to the faculty. In addition, the Dean of Academic Affairs welcomed on board Mrs. Solinu'u Savusa as a new faculty to the Health and Human Services Department, and Ms. Juliet Fung Chen Pen to the Computer Science department.



Nursing Department: The Nursing Department, under the leadership of Department Chairperson Ms. Lele Ah Mu along with faculty Ms. Ann Longnecker and nursing students, provided two training sessions for faculty. Ms. Ann Longnecker and her students provided a morning and afternoon CPR and First Aid Training session for the faculty. Concurrently, Ms. Lele Ah Mu and her nursing students provided the Disaster Awareness training for the faculty as well.



*ASCC Nursing Student taking Mr. Marston's vitals during the Disaster Awareness Training.
(Photo: Malelega Ah-Kau)*



*Nursing Department Chairperson- Ms. Lele Ah Mu provides a Disaster Awareness presentation to ASCC faculty during the Spring 2018 Faculty Orientation.
(Photo: Malelega Ah-Kau)*

*ASCC Faculty seen here during the CPR and First Aid Training provided by ASCC Nursing faculty and students.
(Photo: Malelega Ah-Kau)*



Faculty Workshops: After the opening of the MPC building, faculty members were invited to attend several practical skill workshops hosted by administrators and faculty within the Academic Affairs Division. Director of Teacher Education, Ms. Shirley De La Rosa provided a workshop on coconut weaving and arts & crafts. The Department Chairperson of Teacher Education Dr. Larry Purcell provided voice training; the Fine Arts Department instructor Mrs. Regina Meredith provided a workshop on how to recycle biodegradable bags, and AHEC Coordinator Ms. Monica Afalava gave a workshop on self-defense/meditation activity. All new faculty were asked to attend an orientation conducted by the Dean of Academic Affairs.



More of ASCC's Activities

- ASCC EXITO advisors Mr. Derek Helsham and Mrs. Tala Ropeti-Leo held their monthly phone conference meeting with Portland State University and partners. This meeting allows the EXITO advisors to plan yearly activities for interested students in the area of bio-medical research.
- The Business Department hosted a Tax Training with the ASG Tax Office for the students majoring in Accounting.

Spring 2018 Registration: A day after the dedication of the ASCC Multi-Purpose Center, the College held its Spring 2018 registration there in the Multi-Purpose Center. The Student Services Division, Academic Affairs Division, and the Registration Committee worked collaboratively in the planning of the registration set up at the new MPC building.



Faculty Recognition Luncheon: As its spring 2018 semester got underway, ASCC took the opportunity to recognize the many service projects for students and the community that its academic departments engaged in during 2017. The College's Academic Affairs division hosted a Faculty Awards luncheon to highlight the variety of ways in which the faculty provides enhanced learning opportunities, which often go beyond the classroom and frequently include community involvement. Please visit the College's Website for the full story: <http://www.amsamoa.edu/pressreleases/180118Awards.html>.



ASCC Director of Teacher Education Ms. Shirley De La Rosa (left) celebrates her award with Dean of Student Services Dr. Emilia Le'i during the College's Faculty Awards ceremony held at the beginning of the current semester. (Photo: J. Kneubuhl)

Mr. Derek Helsham (center), chairperson of the ASCC Health & Human Services Department, receives an award from Vice President Dr. Lina Scanlan (right) and Agriculture, Community and Natural Resources/Land Grant Director Aufa'i Ropeti Apulu Areta during the College's Faculty Awards ceremony held at the beginning of the current semester. (Photo: J. Kneubuhl)



Agriculture, Community and Natural Resources (ACNR):

Instructional Programs:

Catholic Education Week: As part of the celebration of Catholic Education Week, ASCC-ACNR was invited to present on its programs and career opportunities at St. Theresa Elementary School on Wednesday, January 31, 2018. ASCC-ACNR Instructional Program representative Eirenei Tesimale, Forestry Program representative Denis Sene, and ACNR Student/Forestry interns Anastasia Magalo and Imeleta Luamanu presented to more than 80 students, four teachers and Fr. Kolio Etuale. The goal of Catholic Education Week was to expand and broaden students' learning experiences to inspire and motivate them to prepare for brighter futures and achieve success.



(Left to Right) ASCC-ACNR Greenhouse Technician Eirenei Tesimale, Fr. Kolio Etuale, ASCC-ACNR student/Forestry intern Anastasia Magalo and Urban Community Forestry Coordinator Denis Sene.



ASCC-ACNR Greenhouse Technician and Forestry Interns explain the various ACNR programs and services to St. Theresa Elementary School students during Catholic Education Week.

Research:



ASCC-ACNR Entomology Technician, Niela Leifi, evaluates the effectiveness of the new trap design for catching American Samoa's most important disease-carrying mosquitoes.

ASCC-ACNR - Counting All Those Mosquitoes: The Polynesian tiger mosquito, one of the most abundant species in American Samoa, is a nasty carrier of dengue, filariasis, and other diseases. Because it is restricted to the islands of the South Pacific, it receives relatively little attention from researchers in the U.S. and elsewhere. Effective traps are important research tools for entomologists, and until recently there was no effective trap for the Polynesian tiger mosquito. This changed in 2008 when Entomologist, Dr. Mark Schmaedick at ASCC-ACNR discovered that a trap designed in Germany for another species was also effective for catching Polynesian tiger mosquitoes. As new traps continue to be developed and old designs improved, ASCC-ACNR continues to test their efficacy for trapping local mosquitoes. This month they conducted an experiment comparing the 2008 trap to a newer model that is similar to the older one with a few modifications. After three weeks of trapping, sorting and identifying a total of 5,870 mosquitoes, it was determined that the new design was similar in efficacy to the older trap. Although the new trap has some other advantages in a more sturdy construction and more protection from rain, it doesn't outweigh the simplicity and ease of operation of the existing standard. So the ACNR Entomologist and researchers will stick with the old version for now, but will keep a lookout for new options to try out against American Samoa's disease vectors.

ASCC-ACNR Taro Improvement Project: Over the past several years, ASCC-ACNR Horticulturalist, Dr. Ian Gurr, has been working on a taro improvement project with the goal of developing new varieties of taro that have the following three characteristics: disease resistance, high yields, and good eating quality. The project involves traditional crossbreeding methods, where good eating quality taro that are susceptible to taro leaf blight (*lega*) disease are cross-pollinated with high yielding, disease resistant taro. From each cross, hundreds of new varieties are produced and evaluated to identify those that have each of the three desired characteristics. Recent evaluations have identified two varieties, which are promising and currently being micropropagated in the ASCC-ACNR Tissue Culture Lab by Emily Ilaoa, ACNRs' Plant Tissue Culture Lab Manager. In the tissue culture lab, one plant can be multiplied into thousands in a few months. The goal is that these varieties will eventually be released to our local taro farmers.



Ten newly developed ASCC-ACNR taro varieties cooked and ready for taste testing.

Extension:

ASCC-ACNR Working with DOH and ASEPA in Supporting Dengue Response Efforts: As the New Year begins, American Samoa continues to battle one of its longest lasting dengue outbreaks ever. The Department of Health is redoubling its efforts in educating the public and offering assistance to remove and mitigate the water-holding containers, such as tires, buckets, drums, etc. where the dengue-carrying mosquitoes multiply. At the same time, the department is evaluating additional measures to stem the outbreak, including carefully targeted and limited use of pesticides.

Improper pesticide use can harm human health and the environment, so applicators must have the knowledge and skills needed to use these chemicals safely. That is where ASCC-ACNR Agricultural Extension Program Manager, Autagavaia Tunai Alfred Peters comes in. Assisted by colleagues at the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency, for over 20 years Peters has provided pesticide applicator safety trainings to farmers, pest control officers, national park invasive species control teams, the American Samoa Power Authority, and others whose work requires pesticide use. The trainings normally are offered every three months, but when the request came from DOH's Emergency Preparedness and Response Division to provide safety training to DoH's vector control team, Peters immediately contacted Tualagi Gaoteote, EPA's Environmental Specialist in charge of pesticide applicator training and certification.

Together, the ASCC-ASEPA team was able to deliver an intensive combined lecture and hands-on training in pesticide application to ten DOH vector control and emergency response staff to help them prepare for an emergency vector control operation in the Manu'a islands. Only those trainees who passed the rigorous written exam at the end of the training were awarded American Samoa Pesticide Applicator certifications, thus ensuring that any vector control pesticide applications in Manu'a or anywhere in American Samoa will be done by trained professionals in a manner that is safe for human health and the environment. When used carefully and properly, pesticides can provide important benefits in protecting our food supply, our health, and our environment. The ongoing collaborative ASCC-ASEPA pesticide applicator-training program helps ensure that those who use these chemicals in American Samoa do so in a safe and professional manner.



For over 20 years, ASCC-ACNR Agriculture Extension Program Manager, Autagavaia Tunai Alfred Peters, has worked tirelessly to protect our health and environment by educating farmers and other professionals on safe and proper pesticides use.

EFNEP Food Stamp Workshops: Since its inception in 1968, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) has helped millions of limited resource families and youth in the United States and its territories improve their diets by teaching them to plan and prepare nutritious meals that include a variety of foods. The EFNEP is part of the Cooperative Extension Services Family Consumer Science program under the Agriculture, Community and Natural Resources (ACNR) Division at ASCC. In partnership with the local Department of Human and Social Services (DHSS), the EFNEP conducts its lessons and food demonstrations at the Food Stamp Distribution office and approved vendor locations.

In January 1-5, 2018, the ASCC-ACNR EFNEP conducted its monthly Nutrition & Food Safety workshop, which included a food cooking demonstration and promotion of physical activity, to 213 ASNAP Authorized Recipients. In the first five days of food stamp issuance, EFNEP paraprofessionals provided nutrition and food safety Lessons on: “My Plate” and the “The Importance of Hand-Washing to Fight Bacteria!” Each session consisted of physical activity - 15 minutes of mild Island – style exercises targeting an audience of adolescent to senior citizens. The food cooking demonstration was the highlight of the workshop. EFNEP clients tend to enjoy the class sessions even more when a recipe is provided with demonstration taste testing. In the beginning of 2018, EFNEP agents prepared a “Baked Shrimp Patty” that all food stamp recipients sampled.

ACNR Bulletin for the month of February 2018:

- **February 1 - 7:** ACNR EFNEP Program Manager and staff will conduct Nutrition Education Lessons to clients at the Food Stamp Program
- **February 12 - 13:** ACNR Director and Entomologist will attend the Bi-Annual PIPER (Pacific Islands Preparedness Emergency Response) Summit at the US Army Reserve Center
- **February 12 - 14:** ACNR staff will serve as judges at the 2018 Department of Education Science Fair
- **February 22 - March 1:** ACNR Extension staff will conduct Progressive Farm Safety Days at Olosega Elementary School and Ofu and Olosega villages in Manu’a



“Baked Shrimp Patty”

Samoan Studies Institute (SSI)

When we team up, we reach wonders and outcomes are achieved.



Some members of the Students Association for FaaSamoa (SAFF) joined forces with Fine Arts Department for our Graduation Choir. This was a historical moment for ASCC, as the 2017 Fall Graduation Ceremony was the last held at the College Gymnasium with the opening of our long awaited new Multi-Purpose Center.



Making history: *Students Association for FaaSamoa were honored to perform for the opening of our Multi-Purpose Center.*

As a team, we strive to impart to our students valuable cultural instruction, and then provide them with opportunities to put theory into practice.

Practical for Introduction to Samoan Culture



Strengthening relationships with our Community

The Student Association for FaaSamoa with SSI faculty and staff, as part of an annual donation drive, donated food, toys, books, linen and clothes to GRASPP to be gifted to those in need. Now in its sixth year, the drive is an important opportunity for students to think outside of themselves, and in the spirit of good citizenship, to minister to those in need in the community. SSI is pleased to work with GRASPP, a non-profit organization that is committed to restoring, renewing, and rebuilding low and no income impoverished families and individuals by implementing faith based and self-sustainable programs for a brighter future.





Top: Director Fauolo presented (1st Row, 3rd from the Left) at the Ta'iala End of Year Retreat on peers addressing their fears of FaaSamoa.



SSI Outreach Team, Department Chair Evile Feleti, Assistant Researcher Faleosalafai Tipa and Community Outreach Coordinator Moli Lemana at Samoana High School Jan 30.

Support Services January Highlights:

➤ Student Support Services:

- **6451** - Total number of student inquiries
- **31** - Students Scholarship Information
- **2** - Students requested letters of recommendation from the Dean of Student Services
- **1** - Student for general matters
- **Admissions:**
 - **924** Student Enrollment
 - **43** sat for the Placement Test
 - **47** students for the New Admissions
 - **1** Check Grades
- **22** New Student Orientation
- **Financial Aid Office:**
 - Batch #5
 - **45** Students = \$103,985.83
- **Counseling:**
 - **1** Referral
 - **3** Personal Counseling
 - **4** Academic Counseling
 - **46** Veteran Affairs:
 - **23** students for Dependents' Educational Assistance (*Chapter 35*)
 - **7** students for Post 9/11 (*Chapter 33*)
 - **2** students for Post 9/11 (*Chapter 33: Transfer of Entitlement*)
 - **4** students for Montgomery GI Bill: Selected Reservist (*Chapter 1606*)
 - **2** students for Veteran Affairs Voc. Rehab (*Chapter 31*)
 - **8** students for Counseling
- **5208** students for Library
- **73** students for Computer Lab (*Room 15*)



➤ Multi-Purpose Center (MPC) Offices

- 5 Counselors
- 4 English and Math Tutors
- Student Government Association Coordinator
- Dean of Student Services and Administrative Assistant

➤ Student Government Association (SGA Calendar)

- Back-To-School Dance: 150 plus students participation
- Futsal (Indoor Soccer): 200 plus students participation
- ASCC Marketing Committee:
 - Board of Higher Education Student Representative
 - Student Government Association Parliamentarian
- **Co-curricular Clubs:**
 - **4-H Club:** ACNR Club (*Advisors: Dr. Otto Hansel and Mr. Ionatana Fa'asavalu (20 members)*)
 - **Political Science Club:** Social Science Department (*Advisors: Mrs. Adrian Moana and Mr. Sheldon Seigafo (31 members)*)
 - **ROTC Club:** ROTC (*Advisor: Mr. Kit Moliga (34 members)*)
 - **HHS Club:** Health & Human Services Department (*Advisors: Mr. Dereck Helsham and Mr. Jack Palelei (29 members)*)
 - **Lumana'i Educator Association:** Teacher Education Department (*Advisors: Mrs. Feleni Alainuuese and Mr. Tero Talamoa (27 members)*)
 - **Marine Science Club:** Science Department (*Advisor: Ms. Megan Curtis (13 members)*)
 - **SAFF Club:** Samoan Studies Institute (*Advisor: Mr. Moli Lemana (48 members)*)
 - **X! Factorial Club:** Math Department (*Advisor: Mr. Anthony Felise (83 members)*)
 - **Christian Club:** (*Advisor: Mrs. Elisapeta Fa'alafi (27 members)*)
 - **Phi Theta Kappa:** (*Advisor: Mr. Kuki Tuiasosopo (35 members)*)
 - **All Saints Club:** (*Advisors: Mr. Ben Goodwin and Ululopaimoana Nuusila (49 members)*)
 - **Peer Mentors Club:** (*Advisor: Ms. Annie Panama (15 members)*)
 - **Fresh Print Club:** (*Advisor: Mrs. Katrina Garcia-Helsham (17 members)*)



Administrative Highlights:

The Administrative Services divisions featured in this publication includes the Physical Facilities and Maintenance (PFM) and Management Information Systems (MIS) divisions.

- PFM Updates:
 - Coordinated the setup of the auditorium and transfer of furniture to the Multi-Purpose Center (MPC) in preparation for the grand opening and Spring 2018 Registration.
 - Ensured that facilities and grounds are maintained and secure for the safety of internal and external stakeholders.
- MIS Updates:
 - Coordinated the installation of internet access, voice and VoIP communications in preparation for the opening of the MPC and Spring 2018 Registration.



February 2018 Bulletin

- **February 1-7:** ACNR EFNEP Program Manager and staff will conduct Nutrition Education Lessons to clients at the Food Stamp Program.
- **February 5:** Withdraw Period to receive a “W”
- **February 8:** PTK Induction – 7:00pm – ASCC Lecture Hall
- **February 12:** Low Grade Reporting Period
- **February 12-13:** ACNR Director and Entomologist will attend the Bi-Annual PIPER (Pacific Islands Preparedness Emergency Response) Summit at the US Army Reserve Center.
- **February 12-14:** ACNR staff will serve as judges at the 2018 Department of Education Science Fair.
- **February 14:** Valentines Day
- **February 15:** Curriculum Committee Meeting
- **February 22 - March 1:** ACNR Extension staff will conduct Progressive Farm Safety Days at Olosega Elementary School and Ofu and Olosega villages in Manu’a.
- **February 23:** Spring 2018 Graduation Application Due.