

AMERICAN SAMOA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

● ● ● Connections Newsletter ● ● ●



ASCC CHIEFS

Volume I: Issue 9 – July 2018

Featured Highlights:

I. Institutional Updates

- a. ACCJC
- b. ASTCA Hawaiki Launching

II. Academics:

- a. AHEC
- b. Marine Science
- c. Teacher Education

III. Community, Outreach and Research:

- a. Agriculture, Community and Natural Resources
- b. Samoan Studies Institute

ASCC Photo Gallery July Updates:

- [ASCC Open House organized by the Admissions Office](#)
- [Hawaiki Cable Launching Ceremony](#)
- [ASCC Employee Field Day](#)

July Report Updates:

Access to Internal Reports:

1. Divisional Bi-Weekly Reports: [Access Link](#)
2. Divisional Monthly Reports: [Access Link](#)

ACCJC Access to:

1. Commission Actions: [Access Link](#)
2. Commission Publications: [Access Link](#)
3. Commission Announcements: [Access Link](#)
4. Commission Events: [Access Link](#)

Institutional Updates:



ACCREDITING COMMISSION FOR
COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES
WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Save the Date – 2019 ACCJC Partners in Excellence Conference: The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) announced the 2019 Partners in Excellence Conference that will take place in Burlingame, California from April 30 – May 3, 2019. The 2019 ACCJC Partners in Excellence Conference will explore the challenges educators face as they ponder ‘What the Future Holds’. The conference will feature multiple break-out sessions for members to weigh in on what they are doing to keep higher education responsive, effective, and relevant.

“Martha Kanter, formerly Under Secretary of Education in the Obama administration and former Chancellor of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District, who is the current Executive Director of the College Promise Campaign, has agreed to present a plenary session on the future of community colleges. David Baime, Senior Vice President for Government Relations at the American Association of Community Colleges, will also speak on the vital role of community colleges in shaping American’s future.” ([ACCJC Website](#))

Coming in early fall:

- Call for Presentations
- Sponsorship Opportunities
- 2019 Conference Website
- Registration and Hotel Information

American Samoa Telecommunications Authority (ASTCA) – Hawaiki Launching Ceremony:



ASTCA held its opening ceremony for the launching of the Hawaiki Cable at the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) – Multi-Purpose Center (MPC) on the 19th and 20th of July. Government leaders including the Honorable Governor Lolo Matalsi Moliga, Lieutenant Governor Lemanu Palepoi Sialega Mauga, members of the private sector, and the community attended the opening ceremony. The launching of Hawaiki’s Cable will improve the territory’s network infrastructure, and provide reliable internet connectivity to the local community.

July Academic Highlights

Area Health Education Center (AHEC) - 2018 Summer Health Academy

The American Samoa AHEC 2018 Summer Health Academy launched on Monday, July 30, 2018. Under the supervision of Ms. Monica Afalava who serves as the ASCC-AHEC Program Coordinator, 22 high school students between the 10th and 12th grades from various private and public schools took part in the two-week program that met daily from 9:00am – 3:00pm. The AHEC program headquarters is located in the American Samoa Community College M-9 Building and employs two college interns assisting with its daily tasks.

The AHEC summer program offered students the opportunity to explore health care careers available on island. Students were exposed to inter-professional settings, where they learned clinical and administrative skills, and had the opportunity to shadow health professionals. In the classroom, the students engaged in interactive discussions and presentations centering on leadership and personal growth. The students were also immersed in several activities that included life-saving skills such as swimming, self-defense, and CPR.



An AHEC student participant visited the ASCC-ACNR greenhouse and learned how to transplant seedlings.



AHEC students were greeted by Dr. Robin Faumuina-Vasai, Co-Chair of the AHEC Board and family medicine doctor at the Community Based Outpatient Clinic (VA Clinic) in Tafuna.



Pictured here are AHEC students with ASCC-Nursing Program students learning how to take vitals by measuring pulse rates and blood pressure.



Swimming Coach Cassandra Bess Lund of the Malaga o Toa Foundation is pictured here with AHEC students after swimming lessons.



US Army Combatives Course Senior Instructor SSG Hendrix Scanlan demonstrates the 'Fighter's Stance', striking and grappling ranges, clinching, and mounting as well as a variety of techniques during a self-defense training.

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Training (CPR):

American Heart Association certified instructor Florence Wasko is pictured at right with AHEC students in a CPR training workshop at the VA Clinic, as part of the AHEC 2018 Summer Health Academy.

The American Heart Association reports that 70% of Americans feel helpless to act in the event of a cardiac emergency because they either do not know how to effectively administer CPR or their training has lapsed.





Oceanography and Coral Reef Ecology Research:

Casidhe Mahuka and Darlene Meli, students in the ASCC Marine Science Program, received scholarships from the Sea Education Association (SEA) to attend the Coral Reef Expedition. The course earns college credits as the students receive instruction to sail the Robert C. Seamans, a 40-meter tall ship, and execute Oceanography and Coral Reef Research projects. The voyage was 34 days starting in Tahiti visiting two islands in French Polynesia and two in Kiribati concluding in Honolulu.



Darlene Meli preparing a filter for her oceanography research project in the lab onboard the Robert C. Seamans.



Casidhe Mahuka deploying an oceanographic instrument that measures temperature, conductivity and depth with shipmates onboard the Robert C. Seamans.

Teacher Education Department

June 19- July 19, 2018: The Brigham Young University (BYU) Alumni Association of American Samoa joined forces with the Feleti Barstow Public Library and the American Samoa Community College-Teacher Education Department (ASCC-TED) to promote reading among children in American Samoa.



Reading Program Opening Ceremony: There were about 120 students and 15 volunteers.

The purpose of the program was to kindle and nurture a love for reading in children ages five to 12 years old, and to help mitigate the loss of reading skills that commonly occurs over the summer break. Classes were taught for three hours every Tuesday and Thursday for a six-week period throughout the summer break.



(L-R) ASCC-TED/ASBEP Field Coordinator/Instructor Mrs. Feleni Alainu'uese, TED/ASBEP Director Ms. Shirley De La Rosa, TED/ASBEP Administrative Assistant Mrs. Christine Fuimaono, and B.Ed. Pre-Service Student Ms. Makatala Tanielu are seen here during the first day of the Reading Program.



ASCC-TED B.Ed. pre and in-service teachers ready to take the lead in the Summer Reading Program.





ASCC B.Ed. in-service teacher Ms. Makatala Tanielu helping her students with their flute project.



ASCC B.Ed. in-service teachers, Ms. Tanielu and Ms. Levi, facilitating an activity, during the Reading Program for students ages nine – 12.



ASCC-TED Director Ms. Shirley De La Rosa demonstrating the use of music in reading.



ASCC Instructor Mrs. Feleni Petelo Alaimu'uese and ASBEP pre and in-service teachers perform a reading musical for students during the Summer Reading Program.

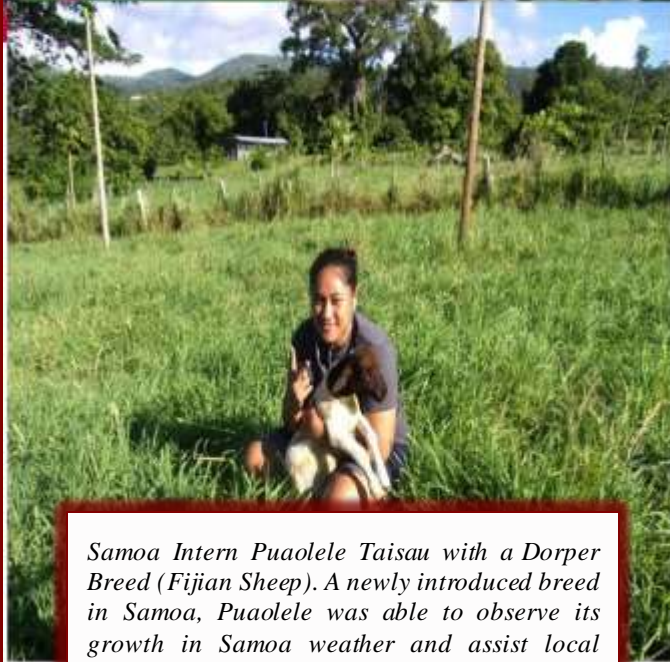
The Feleti Barstow Library Reading Program is conducted annually and open to the community. This year, local alumni from Brigham Young University (BYU) teamed up with Feleti Barstow staff to provide opportunities to expand the reading program by opening an eastern and western center, to allow more children to participate. This provided more opportunities for students in American Samoa to take part in the Reading Program. ASCC-TED Director Ms. Shirley De La Rosa utilized the opportunity as a practical experience for B.Ed. pre- and in-service teachers during the summer session.

Agriculture, Community and Natural Resources

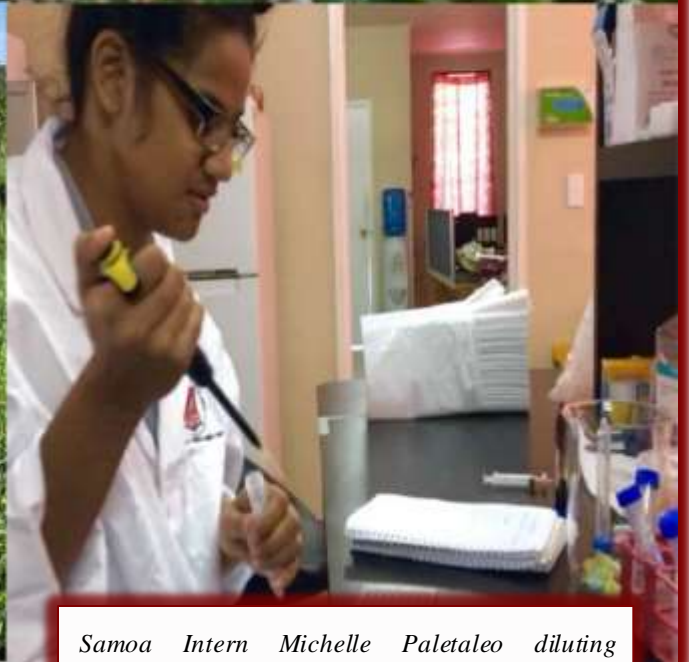
Instructional Programs:

ACNR Summer Internships: In July, eight ACNR students successfully completed six weeks of their summer internship program. Six students participated in internships in neighboring Samoa, while two students participated in internships held at ACNR. The Samoa interns were: Michelle Paletaleo and Iosefo Sio at the Scientific Research Organization of Samoa (SROS); Angela Iopu - Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) Nu'u Crops division; Terry Simi - Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) Nu'u Crops division; Tuimalata Puletiuatoa and Puaolele Taisau - Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) Animal Production and Health Division. The local interns were Esau Levaula and Gus Poyer. Each student submitted weekly reports and a final project report. They are also planning to present their research projects at an upcoming symposium at ACNR.

A grafting experiment using different teuila varieties conducted by local intern Esau Levaula.



Samoa Intern Puaolele Taisau with a Dorper Breed (Fijian Sheep). A newly introduced breed in Samoa, Puaolele was able to observe its growth in Samoa weather and assist local Animal Scientists and specialists as part of her internship at the Animal Production and Health Division (APHD) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.



Samoa Intern Michelle Paletaleo diluting medicinal juice testing three plants for anti-diabetic juice (turmeric, garlic, and ginger) at the Scientific Research Organization of Samoa (SROS)

Research:

ASCC ACNR, the National Park, DMWR, University of Hawaii, and the National Institutes of Health Boost Future American Samoa Scientists: Recent graduate of Tafuna High School, Athanasius Talataina along with Alycia Tausaga from Kanana Fou High School were chosen to represent American Samoa at the Annual National STEP-UP Symposium in Bethesda, Maryland in August 2018. The Short Term Research Experience for Underrepresented Persons, or STEP-UP Program, under the direction of the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), is a program created to provide research opportunities and training for high school and undergraduate students from racial/ethnic groups underrepresented in biomedical research fields. ASCC-ACNR hosted the American Samoa STEP-UP Symposium on July 21. In attendance were Dr. Robert Rivers, Program Director for the Office of Minority Health Research Coordination, NIDDK; Aneesa Golshan, STEP-UP Program Coordinator for the Pacific from the University of Hawaii; as well as local representatives from ASCC-ACNR, ASDOE, AS DMWR and AS NPSA.

Athanasius worked over the summer with ASCC-ACNR on a Smart Irrigation project to help vegetable farmers utilize drip irrigation to increase yields while reducing water and fertilizer use and environmental pollution. His project involved utilizing a near infrared camera and specialized software called Pixel Wrench to determine crop canopy percentages over the life cycle of the crop. Data on root depths and daily weather conditions were also collected. An understanding of our local soil types and their ability to hold water, combined with the data collected on crop growth and weather will be used to develop a smart irrigation tool to help farmers know exactly when and how much water their crops need so that they can get optimum yields without wasting water or causing fertilizer to be leached into our ground water, streams and oceans. Alycia Tausaga, working with the American Samoa National Park, conducted a survey comparing native and invasive tree species within the National Park areas on Tutuila and Ta'u. Jason Moeolo, working with the AS DMWR conducted a survey of the change in fruit bat population and habits post Hurricane Gita. Fatu-Channel Fatu, with AS NPSA worked on a project to determine the source of the bubble algae outbreak on Ofu reefs.



ACNR Entomology staff Metotagivale Meredith and Niela Leifi deploy a CDC gravid trap in Iliili, to collect mosquitoes for assessment of filariasis and arbovirus prevalences.

Extension

Tree planting for the Fagaitua High School 50th Anniversary: The ACNR Forestry Program facilitated a tree planting activity at the Fagaitua High School (FHS) campus in celebration of the institution's 50th Anniversary on July 3, 2018. The Forestry staff provided assistance to the FHS alumni with planting eight Ifilele trees. Each tree represents the eight FHS Alumni Clusters who attended the celebration.



ACNR Forestry staff Galutau Aga assists Fagaitua High School Principal Suaese Pooch Taase with planting an Ifilele tree at the campus in celebration of the institution's 50th Anniversary.

New student interns to assist with Forestry Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) project: The ASCC-ACNR Forestry Program recently hired new student interns Magalita Johnson and Iosefo Sio to assist in coordinating the next Landscape Scale Restoration project event in the village of Leone. The interns will prepare, organize, and facilitate outreach presentations, tool preparations, and village/youth collaboration for the stream cleaning and watershed restoration activities.



LSR interns Iosefo Sio and Magalita Johnson will be assisting the ACNR Forestry Program with its LSR project in the village of Leone.



ACNR Community Nutritionist attends 2018 NAO National Biennial Conference: ACNR Community Nutritionist Travis Fleming attended 2018 NAO National Biennial Conference (National Area Health Education Center - AHEC) in Arlington, Virginia in support of the AHEC Program at ASCC. The conference made it possible different AHECs to learn from each other what is being done in their respective regions to educate, train, and support current and future health care workers. Fleming was also able to visit every Congressional office (American Samoa, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Hawai'i) with fellow Pacific AHEC colleagues to advocate for AHEC and to propose an increase in AHEC funding.

AHEC coordinators and partners getting ready to charge the Hill during the 2018 NAO Conference held on July 11, 2018.



AHEC Summer Health Academy visit ACNR: Students participating in the American Samoa Area Health Education Center (AHEC) 2018 Summer Health Academy visited ACNR to gain experience and explore health professions. A total of 24 students and two interns were given a tour of ACNR's facilities to see the contributions to the enhancement of human health by ACNR. The group participated in hands-on activities at the Fruits for Life Greenhouse and was shown some of the social media educational materials that have been created by ACNR.



ACNR Greenhouse Technician Eirenei Tesimale assists AHEC Summer Health Academy participants with transplanting seedlings during a tour of ACNR.





ACNR Greenhouse Technician Eirenei Tesimale (left, maroon shirt) and AHEC Coordinator Monica Afalalava (dark green shirt) with the 2018 Summer Health Academy at ACNR.

ACNR GIS Specialist attends Esri GIS User Conference: ACNR GIS Specialist Mr. Neil Gurr attended the 2018 Esri GIS User Conference July 9-13, 2018 in San Diego, California. The Esri GIS User Conference provides over 450 hours of training and hundreds of user presentations that share best practices, and opportunities to get specific technical questions answered through one-on-one meetings with Esri GIS experts. The conference also provides opportunities for GIS users to experience new innovative GIS solutions and the latest advancements in geospatial technology.



ACNR GIS Specialist Neil Gurr (far right) with other conference participants from American Samoa at the 2018 Esri User Conference.

Samoan Studies Institute (SSI)

E falala le niu ona o loo agi le matagi. The coconut tree leans to where the wind blows.

The SSI staff conducted a meeting on Tuesday July 24 to finalize its projects and schedule for the fall semester. This included its yearly tentative plan for 2019 and its annual events such as the public campus lecture every spring, and a Samoan Writing Competition every fall semester. After much dialogue, the SSI agreed on introducing a Samoan Week program for summer 2019. Incorporated also into the schedule are the ongoing projects 'Ua tala le tau'i', 'Enugagana', a Wave for promoting 'Faasamoa Pea', and Outreach for high schools.

Ua lē tunoa faiva o mamanu. Arts are freely given because of passion.

Per invitation, the SSI outreach team conducted two days of workshops for the EFKS Ierusalem Fou Summer Camp with its theme "The Art of Storytelling". The first day was the Elei workshop conducted by Patrick Mafoe. The SSI provided a demonstration of mixing paint, using the upeti, and basic tips on elei. Children of all ages were given the opportunity to elei his or her own ie lavalava.



The second day workshop focused on the Samoa Language; from oral transition to written, and how we see the need to use technology to maintain the faaSamoa. The children enjoyed themselves, especially when different activities were given based on the children's age and capability. These activities ranged from coloring books, to writing poems, reading, and rewriting in their own words the stories they read.



To encourage the children, the SSI edited and printed a small book of their work. Students were excited as they got to see their names, photos, and work. The book is a small reminder to the community that our children are capable of better things in life if we provide them with support and educational opportunities.



Below: Cover of a student's booklet designed by the SSI Cultural Artist Mr. Patrick Mafo'e. A sample of the work inside is the poem next to it by Angelica Kava (13 yrs).



Togalauapiga
-Angelica Kava

Iulai muamua lua-afe-sefuluvalu
O le autu ua o nai o'u manatu
Na a'e ai se faatofalaiga
O le a faia se togalauapiga

O se vaiaso faagalogata i le agaga
Ona ua maopoopo ma pele le mafutaga
Ola ia Keriso o le mea sili ona taua
Amataga o le poto o le mata'u i le Atua

Faafetai tele Tamā ma Tinā
Mo le faatumuina o le tatou sā
E le galo foi le lagolagosua a faiaoga
Ni o matou aleu ia malu iina.

O manū na tatou feiloai ai, o manū foi tatou te faatofa ai. In peace we met, in peace we parted.

On July 25, SSI hosted a luncheon for instructor Tasia Talamoni who will transfer to the ASCC-TED program.



SAFF Invitation

As the result of a meeting between the SSI Director and the president of the Pacific Island Foundation on July 18, Students Association for Faasamoa (SAFF) is invited to provide entertainment for the upcoming Music Talent Show on August 25, as hosted by Faasamoa Initiative.



ASCC Employee Field Day



In July, representatives of the ASCC staff organized a Field Day of activities and avenues for staff to socialize and participate in a half-day filled with field games. Ms. Cherylmoanamarie Ripley, the lead organizer for the staff Field Day event, emphasized the importance of appreciating support staff as a College constituency vital to the Mission of the College. The administration provided breakfast and lunch in support of the College's staff to show their appreciation for the work done on a daily basis.

