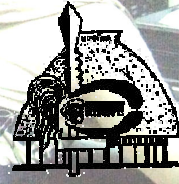




CONNECTIONS

A publication of the American Samoa Community College



Dec. 2011



2011



A YEAR IN REVIEW





ARRA Projects

2011 was a year of ARRA project activity for ASCC. With 28 projects approved for funding and a total of \$12,774,284, many of the Institutional Strategic goals as outlined in the 2009 – 2014 Institutional Strategic Plan were moved forward and completed.

Renovations - The summer months kicked off the renovation and modernization of classrooms along with other renovation projects such as the science laboratories, the Teacher Education MacLab, the TTD computer labs, the Nursing clinical classrooms, the IE Training room, faculty and administrative offices, the Wellness Center, and upgrades of other campus facilities.

Professional Development – Faculty and staff attended off-island trainings and conferences toward assessment, accreditation, program review, financial aid, student services, technology, energy saving, institutional planning, and research.

Staffing – Many projects allowed for the hiring of temporary contract workers to work toward the completion of the project. The evening courses, night school, and the apprenticeship projects hired adjunct faculty and support staff to carry out the instructional, support services, and technical duties as specified by each project. The institution-wide reclassification project took on the COLA (cost-of-living-allowance) adjustment for all employees.

Technology – Much of the computer technology and equipment were upgraded, updated, and purchased through ARRA. The technology projects focused on wireless internet, campus-wide access, telecommunications, and technical training opportunities.

Academics – The academic programs were assisted through ARRA with projects such as the Transition to Teaching, the Apprenticeship program, the Evening college, the Trades & Technology Night School, the Student Support services (tutoring, counseling, library), Instructional resources, Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes, and academic pedagogy and curriculum development.

With the completion of these projects, the first phase of ARRA transitioned into and continues with the second phase of renovation of facilities for classrooms.



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TTD Successfully Concludes Apprenticeship/ Re-Train Programs

The last of the participants who successfully completed the Apprenticeship and Re-Train programs offered by the Trades & Technology Division (TTD) received their certificates during a ceremony in October. Through funding from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA), the TTD offered both basic retraining in technical fields to workers seeking to expand their range of skills, as well as more advanced study, or apprenticeship, for already-experienced technicians seeking an upgrade in certification.

The TTD offered the retraining for four eight-week quarters beginning in late 2010. Areas covered included Automotive, Carpentry, Electrical and Welding, with Apprenticeship classes on Mondays and Wednesdays, and Re-Train classes held on Tuesdays and Thursdays. In addition to the experienced TTD instructors, additional personnel from Nu'uuli Vocational Technical High School, Service Managers from local car dealerships and independent auto repair shops, as well as entrepreneurs from local building contractors also led the trainings.

Members of the local workforce showed a high degree of enthusiasm for the programs, and the TTD awarded a total of 647 certificates over the four quarters. Although the ARRA funding cycle for the programs has ended, the TTD staff is working closely with the TTD Local Apprenticeship Council and its partners on ways to sustain the future of the program.



Samoan Studies Incorporates ePathways Component

While still very much in the developmental stage, an innovative new online program called ePathways may soon revolutionize the means by which students learn the Samoan language. Instructor Evile Feleti of the Samoan Studies Institute incorporated ePathways into one section of Introduction to Samoan Language (SAM111) during the fall 2011 semester with very encouraging results.

The ePathways project enabled students at ASCC to dialogue online with other Samoan students from the University of Auckland in New Zealand in a learning community via forums and threaded discussions. The ongoing ePathways project features a social area for free chat, a discussion area for student and teacher interaction, a language clinic, and a gallery for sharing pictures and other sorts of media. While this semester's ePathways project, designed to test how local students adapt to the learning format, only took place for three weeks, Feleti says the feedback from the students involved has been highly positive, and that they enjoyed interacting with their overseas peers in New Zealand.

Besides the ASCC and Auckland students, more from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and Oahu's Farrington and Waipahu high schools also took part in ePathway studies of spoken Samoan this semester. Based on the positive results, ePathway could well turn into a major learning trend, with ASCC already gaining experience in the format.

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ASCC/SBDC Awards Community Partners

The American Samoa Small Business Development Center (SBDC), a program hosted by ASCC), held its annual Advisory Board Luncheon on Friday, December 9th. The luncheon included the presentation of this year's SBDC Awards to its community partners in recognition of outstanding service in the areas of volunteerism, starting new businesses or creating jobs.

Having enjoyed an 11 year affiliation with ASCC, the SBDC acknowledged this successful partnership by honoring President Dr. Seth Galea'i with the Appreciation Award for One Decade of Partnership and Business Community Service Excellence. "Since the inception of our partnerships with ASCC and the U.S. Small Business Administration, the SBDC has counseled and trained more than 2,500 people who have started more than 130 businesses and very conservatively invested more than \$6 million into the business community," explained SBDC State Director Herbert Thweatt. "Without the vision and support of the College there would be no Small Business Development Center or federal small business program in American Samoa to serve our population of more than 50,000 people."

Joining the SBDC staff, Advisory Board, and other award recipients at the ceremony, Dr. Galea'i reflected on the longstanding ASCC/SBDC partnership. "The SBDC adds a unique if non-traditional aspect to our institution," he said. "While their activities are not part of our regular curriculum, they do offer non-credit classes in various business practices. More importantly, they provide invaluable assistance to those seeking to establish or expand small businesses. With the current economic challenges faced by American Samoa, we're lucky to have a catalyst for entrepreneurship like the SBDC to provide the community with guidance and access to resources."



Music Instructor Kuki Tuiasosopo Presents Paper at Japan Conference

ASCC Music instructor Kuki Tuiasosopo returned in early October from presenting a paper in Japan at the annual conference of the Japanese Music Educators Society, where he joined a panel of Asia/Pacific Music Educators and Ethnomusicologists. The theme of the conference, which took place at Nara University of Education in Nara City, was "Modernization and Post-Modernization in Education that Effects Music Education in Asia and the Pacific."

His well-received paper focused on the topic "TOE TIMATA LE UPEGA: Re-Evaluating Student Learning Outcomes at the American Samoa Community College: An approach to Progressive Music Education and Applied Ethnomusicology." Kuki reports that an expanded version of this paper will be published in the Music Educators Journal.

Through his contacts in the worldwide ethnomusicology community, Kuki also heard that Japanese film company Studio UMI was seeking a contact in Samoa for a forthcoming visit to shoot documentary footage. While in Japan, he met with Studio UMI, and agreed to arrange a visit to ASCC by their film crew, which took place this past November. During a quick visit, Studio UMI crew filmed members of Kuki's class working on traditional instruments, as well as a class from the Samoan Studies Department performing traditional songs and dances. This footage will be displayed as part of an exhibit at the Okinawa Museum of Oceania when it completes currently ongoing renovations in 2013.



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ASCC Hosts Career and Energy Fair

On November 1st, the Student Government Association (SGA), its offshoot group the ARRA Student Workers, and the Student Services Division teamed up to host a Career and Energy Fair on the campus *malae*. The event will featured a number of booths offering information on potential careers in the public and private sector, as well as energy awareness displays and entertainment from the College's student clubs based on energy conservation. Students from elementary schools which hosted visits by the ARRA Student Workers visited the ASCC campus for the Fair, at which the winners of an essay contest for 5th graders were announced.

"We hope that students will make the connection between their education and their future career goals," said ASCC counselor Alison Hurst. "We are also excited to partner with the SGA for the Energy Fair so we can all become more aware of how to be responsible community members and conserve our natural resources." Hurst and fellow counselors Mark Mageo, Annie Panama and Matesina Willis invited more than 25 public agencies and private businesses the Fair. Highlights included an awards ceremony to acknowledge the participants in the elementary school energy awareness essay contest, as well as their instructors, a energy fashion show, and entertainment from All Saints Club, Humble Club and New Generation Club.



ARRA Song Contest Winners Announced

Since the fall 2010, a group of students at ASCC named the ARRA Student Workers have participated in Energy Smart Every Day, a project funded through the American Samoa Territorial Energy Office to promote increased energy awareness and conservation. Made possible through American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the project involved contests held among the ASCC student clubs as well as in the high schools for the best promotions of energy saving. Over the past year, other activities as part of Energy Smart Every Day included a t-shirt project, a previous music competition, a calendar project, a television commercial competition, and a poster competition.

The ARRA Students Workers announced in October the winners of their latest promotion, the ARRA Song Contest. Open to all student clubs, the contest offered the winners the opportunity to have a video made of them singing about conserving our energy resources. Participants included The New Tactics, Segaula, Humble, New Generation, Brotherhood and winners All Saints. "The club will have their song recorded at the Niuveve Recording Studio in Leone.," said ARRA Student Workers member Dona Maifala. "The song will then be used as the background of the commercial acted by the All Saints displaying various methods of saving Energy."



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Farewell...

ASCC Bids Farewell to Librarian Dr. Steven Lin

In early August, ASCC bid farewell to Dr. Steven Y. Lin, who for the past 14 years served as the College's Head Librarian. Dr. Lin headed first to Texas and then to his homeland of Taiwan to assist with the care of his elderly parents. He leaves behind a long record of distinguished service to ASCC, where his stewardship of the College's Library Services played a crucial role in the institution's recent advancements.

Born in Fuikien in southeast-



ern China, Dr. Lin grew up in central Taiwan. He earned a BA in English from the Taiwan National University, an MS in Educational Technology from Texas A&M University, and a MLS and PhD in Library Science from Texas Woman University. He worked as a law librarian at the Dallas County Community College, and then at the Dallas Public Library, where he learned of a Library Director vacancy at ASCC through the Chronicle of Higher Education. "When I first visited American Samoa, the tropical climate actually reminded me a lot of Taiwan," Dr. Lin

recalled, "which was one of the reasons I accepted the job."

Dr. Lin guided the ASCC Library through its transformation into the state-of-the-art facility which opened in 2003. Proudest at having upgraded the Library's reference materials and establishing the Educational Resources Center for the four-year teacher education program, Dr. Lin said he will remember ASCC with great satisfaction. "I am grateful to the College for hiring me," he reflected, "and my time there will certainly be one of my best memories."

Welcome...



Dr. Sybil Johnson Rejoins Faculty

This semester, students with an interest in Drama welcomed the return of faculty member Dr. Sybil Johnson. Dr. Johnson, who holds a PhD (Doctor of Philosophy) in Theatre from Florida State University, previously taught at ASCC between 2003 and 2005, when she guided students through highly original productions of Sia Figiel's "Girl In The Moon Circle", Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream", and an elaborate production of "The Wiz" in 2005 which generated great enthusiasm from the community.

"The Wiz" was Dr. Johnson's final production during her initial stint with ASCC. "I left ASCC in 2006 after being offered a position at The University of the South Pacific in Fiji," Dr. Johnson recalled. "I taught there until the outbreak of the Coup in 2007, and then went back to Florida to teach at Hillsborough Community College, where I directed the Theatre Program until 2011." During her four years at Hillsborough, Dr. Johnson directed four shows and taught all of the theater classes, which included acting, production, make up for the stage, theater history and script analysis. Now back with ASCC, Dr. Johnson teaches a combination of theater and performance-related classes.

*Wishing you a
Happy and
Prosperous New
Year!*

