



CONNECTIONS

American Samoa Community College— Institutional Effectiveness Newsletter
June Issue

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Graduation Spring 2011

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Commissioning Ceremony

CNR
Step-Up Training

Rev. Iasepi D. Ulu Gives Keynote Speech at ASCC Spring 2011 Graduation

By James Kneubuhl



Class of Spring Semester – 2011

The 54th ASCC commencement ceremony took place on Friday, May 13th, with 99 students celebrating the successful completion of their degrees and certificates. At this semester's ceremony, the College was honored to host as its guest speaker Rev. Iasepi D. Ulu, Parish Minister of the Fagatogo Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa (CCCAS), whose life experience reflects the academic, traditional and spiritual values important to Samoans in today's world.

Born in Auckland, New Zealand, Rev. Ulu earned his Bachelor of Arts from Victoria University in Wellington in 1992 before continuing his studies the following year at Knox Theological College as a Seminary Student for the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand. In 1997, he graduated with a Bachelor of Divinity (BD) in Pastoral Studies, Otago University in Dunedin, New Zealand, where he also earned a Diploma in Post Graduate (DipGrad) Studies in Systematic Studies and a Diploma in

Ministry (DipMin).

Rev. Ulu relocated from New Zealand to American Samoa in 1998, and was employed by the CCCAS as one of the founding teachers at Kanana Fou High School, and in the same year was ordained by the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand as a Minister of Religion serving as an overseas missionary in American Samoa. Rev. Ulu was appointed Principal of Kanana Fou High School in 2001, a position he held until last year when he accepted a call from the Fagatogo CCCAS to serve as their Parish Minister.

During his graduation speech, Rev. Ulu emphasized the urgent need for a "Holistic" approach to education. "I was the principal/janitor of Kanana Fou High school for thirteen years", he said. "I love the image of the janitor because it's a job that very few people like to do. You often get your hands dirty in the early morning, you're forever cleaning other people's messes, you're responsible for



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unplugging sticky situations, you try your best to patch up things and you have a limited budget. Then you try and make things beautiful and kids often tear it down. Finally, you get blamed for everything that goes wrong. But these are just a few of the examples of my personal experiences of the journey of the human spirit that have led me to this point in time.

"Today is not about me, today is about you, my fellow graduates. You graduate at a time which President Barack Obama describes as a period of great uncertainty. You are entering into a job market in an era of heightened international competition, with an economy that is still rebounding from the worst crisis since the Great

"It is with this in mind, that it is more important now than ever, that we adapt the Holistic to the upbringing of the young adults...."

Depression. With this in mind, it is more important now than ever that we adapt the Holistic approach to the upbringing of young adults. It is our huge responsibility as a community to foster and prepare our young adults with the necessary tools and skill sets to assert themselves in today's world, regardless of status, regardless of religious beliefs, ethnicity, color or gender".

The presentation of graduates was done by Dr. Kathleen Kolhoff, Vice-President of Academic and Student Affairs, while the Acceptance of graduates was completed by Uta Dr. Laloulu Tagoilelagi, Chairman of the Board of Higher Education.



ASCC ROTC Hosts Commissioning Ceremony for Alumni

By James Kneubuhl



Three ASCC alumni received their commissions as Second Lieutenants in the US Army during a Commissioning Ceremony hosted by the College's Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Department on Friday, May 20th. Cadets Valentino Pase, Liko S.F. Sasagi and Galo Tuiolosega all got their start in ROTC training at ASCC, and completed their BA degrees and ROTC training in Hawaii. The Commissioning Ceremony gave the three former Cadets a chance to not only share the special occasion with family, friends, and local dignitaries, but also to serve as examples for current ROTC Cadets at ASCC and young people in American Samoa considering a military career.

Special guests at the ceremony included Governor Togiola Tulafono, Board of Higher Education Chairman Uta Dr. Laloulu Tagoilelagi, ASCC President Dr. Seth Galea'i, (R) LTC Mapu Jamias, and keynote speaker Colonel Randy A. Hart of the US Army. Also on hand were Col. Evelyn Langford of the Army Reserve, who provided the Distinguished Military Presentation, and Army Reserve Chaplain Asiata Fouvale.

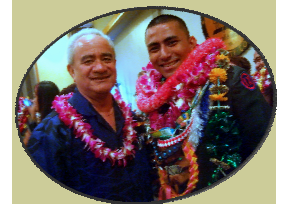
ROTC head instructor 1Lt. Filimatasina Vaiau, herself an ASCC graduate, said the three alumni being commissioned to Second Lieutenants

serves as an inspiration to her current cadets, and described the current ROTC program as "flourishing".

"Our enrollment has increased, and many who come through our program most definitely continue with ROTC after they leave ASCC," she said. 1Lt. Vaiau also shared that her recent re-assignment to the University of Hawaii at Manoa means she will bid farewell to ASCC before the next semester begins. "This is my last semester on my current assignment," she said, "but it was truly a memorable experience."

1LT Vaiau said 2LT Maryjane Porter will return to ASCC in July to head the ROTC program.

"This is my last semester on my current assignment, but it is truly a memorable experience"
1st Lt Vaiau



ASCC Land Grant Hosts Molecular Biology Workshop for High School Science Teachers

By James Kneubuhl

In recent decades, new technologies for studying the genetic foundations of life have transformed the biomedical sciences, resulting in numerous breakthroughs that have improved people's lives worldwide. Local high school students with an interest in science will now have a chance to try out some of these technologies through a program of the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH). On May 12, ten high school science teachers completed a five-day workshop on molecular biology techniques hosted by CNR/ Land Grant.

Conducted by Dr. George Hui and Ms. Kae Myriam Pusic of the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School



of Medicine, the workshop was sponsored by the NIH's Short-Term Education Program for Underrepresented Persons (STEP-UP) in conjunction with AS-DOE, ASCC, and the University of Hawaii. The STEP-UP program seeks to increase the number of Pacific Islanders and other underrep-

resented minorities entering careers in biomedical research. The molecular biology workshop aimed to increase the capacity of local educators to mentor their students. Trainings took place on weekday evenings and all day on Saturday to avoid conflicts with the participants' teaching duties.

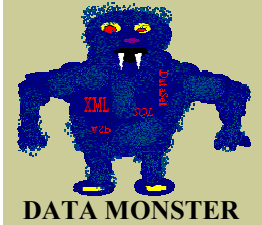
The teacher-mentors got hands-on experience with techniques such as DNA extraction, polymerase chain reaction, protein and DNA gel electrophoresis, and Western blots. Future workshops will build on this basic foundation. More information about the program is available at <http://stepup.niddk.nih.gov>.

Source Evaluation Board for the construction of Science Lab.



Picture here from Left to Right: Tom Hardy, Bill Emmsley, Jessie Su'esue, Rosevonne Pato & Mikaele Etuale. (missing Emey Silafau)

DATA CORNER



GRADUATES DATA

SUBJECT	# of Students
Associate of Arts	76
Associate of Science	29
Certificate of Proficiency	1
Total	106

CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY	# of Students
Guidance & Counseling	1

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS	# of Students
Liberal Arts	64
Education	5
Political Science	1
Pre-Law	5
Samoa Studies	1
TOTAL	76

TOTAL # OF GRADUATES W/PTK Honor Society	# of Students
GRADUATES W/PTK Honor Society	22

TOTAL # OF GRADUATES w/ Summa, Magna and Cum Laude	# of Students
Summa Cum Laude (Cum GPA 3.90-4.00)	4
Magna Cum Laude (Cum GPA 3.75-3.89)	8
Cum Laude (Cum GPA 3.50-3.74)	6

ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE	# of Students
Accounting	6
Architectural Drafting	1
Business Management	4
Criminal Justice	13
General Agriculture	1
Health Science	4
TOTAL	29

TOTAL # OF GRADUATES w/Two Degrees	# of Students
Graduates with Two Degrees	9

TOTAL # OF GRADUATES w/Three De-	# of Students
Graduate with Three Degrees	1

HATS OFF to ASCC's very own...

- Bettyann Schroeder (*Bachelor of Science in Business*)
- Ernie T. Seiuli (*Master of Arts in Education*)



SPRING 2011 PLACEMENT EXAMINATION RESULTS

READING PLACEMENT		
READING	STUDENTS	PERCENT
Reading 70	107	25.11
Reading 80	168	39.44
Reading 90	103	24.18
Reading 150	48	11.27
NONE	0	-
TOTAL	426	100

WRITING PLACEMENT		
WRITING	STUDENTS	PERCENT
Writing 71	41	9.62
Writing 81	217	50.94
Writing 91	134	31.46
Writing 151	33	7.75
NONE	1	0.23
TOTAL	426	100

MATHEMATIC PLACEMENT		
MATH	STUDENTS	PERCENT
Math 80	376	88.26
Math 90	25	5.87
Math 151/ 155	18	4.23
Math 155/ 250	7	1.64
NONE	0	-
TOTAL	426	100

