

Connections



An American Samoa Community College Newsletter

ACCJC/WASC Removes ASCC from “Warning” Status and Reaffirms Full Accreditation

After two years of diligent effort to satisfy the stated criteria of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC), a division of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), ASCC has received confirmation of its success. In a letter dated January 31st of this year from ACCJC President Dr. Barbara Beno, ASCC is listed among institutions now removed from the “Warning” category, and whose accreditation has been reaffirmed. “We expect follow-up communications from ACCJC/WASC on our individual institution and their recommendations on how we can remain in good standing,” said ASCC Accreditation Liaison Officer Dr. Kathleen Kolhoff-Belle. “For the moment, our inclusion on the list of institutions removed from ‘Warning’ status and with reaffirmed accreditation means that all of our efforts over the last two years have given us the results we hoped for.”

In February 2009 the ACCJC/WASC Commission placed on probation pending the resolution of issues raised in ten recommendations by an October 2008 visiting team, as well as one recommendation by the Commission itself. During this probationary period, the College’s accreditation provisionally remained in full effect, while teams of ASCC administrators and faculty worked to address the ACCJC/WASC recommendations. ACCJC/WASC representatives made follow-up visits in March and October 2010, and on both occasions they remarked that ASCC had made progress ahead of the established timetable for addressing the recommendations. At the conclusion of the October visit, representative Dr. Mark Zacovic said that based on his team’s findings the College had “successfully completed addressing all recommendations”, although the official change in its status would come from the next ACCJC/WASC Commission meeting.

“This process gave us an opportunity to clarify our focus as an institution, and to reaffirm the importance of adopting best practices based on data-driven standards as articulated by the Accrediting Commission,” said President Dr. Galea’i. With our accreditation issues now resolved, we can return to priority projects such as our four-year Teacher Education degree, which is now poised to move ahead.” In addition to everyone at ASCC who worked on the ACCJC/WASC recommendations, President Galea’i gave special recognition to Governor Togiola Tulafono for his assistance during this period, commended the Board of Higher Education and chairman Uta Dr. Laloulu Tagoilelagi for their leadership and support, and thanked the Fono leadership, specifically Legislator Lemapu Talo, chairman of the Education Committee, for attending all meetings between the Board and the visiting ACCJC/WASC teams.

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ASCC Strongly Enforces ASG Smoking Policy



To align with the current policy on smoking recently instituted by ASG, the College has adopted its own smoking policy. Whereas the College previously permitted smoking in most non-enclosed areas outside of the main “Quad”, the new policy no longer permits smoking anywhere on the ASCC premises except for three designated areas, but by all indications the ASCC community has made the transition with no serious problems. Each of the three designated smoking areas is clearly identifiable by the orange smoking urns provided by the College.

While Campus Security has given warnings to some, thus far no one has been issued the \$50 penalty that can now be assessed on those who do not adhere to the new rule. “The smokers have gravitated towards the designated areas,” said ASCC Legal Counsel Lawrence Wilson, who drafted the College’s own policy after careful review of the ASG guidelines. “We’ve seen smoking immediately vanish from areas where in the past you were almost certain to find it. It appears everyone understands the new policy and has adapted to it right away.”

The Policy on Smoking reads in part, “The American Samoa Government has passed new legislation restricting smoking in public places and places of employment. In the spirit of this law, ASCC shall strictly enforce the new legislation. ASCC has designate specific smoking areas, and smoking will ONLY be permitted in those areas. The public should be forewarned that the new legislation allows for individuals to be fined up to \$50.00, and the ASCC policy allows employee violators of the policy to be disciplined under the Personnel Manual. Students who violate the ASCC smoking policy may be disciplined through the Student Services Department, and non-students / non-employees who violate the policy may be asked to leave the campus. ASCC security will enforce the ASCC policy. This new policy is meant to: (1) promote health in the community; (2) create a healthy environment on the college campus for all who enter; (3); protect those nonsmokers from the risks of second-hand smoke; and (4) prevent others from beginning the unhealthy habit of smoking.”

Wilson said that he hopes the campus community will see the new policy in a positive way, and that it will foster an understanding of the negative ramifications of smoking.

Staff and Faculty response to “Smoking Ban”

A recent online survey by the Office of Institutional Effectiveness concerning the College’s recently-adopted smoking policy indicates a near-equal amount of agreement and disagreement. Approximately 77 faculty and staff responded to an online survey which allowed them to provide information and express opinions anonymously (but only once). Responses to the question “Do you smoke?” revealed that among the respondents, 53.3 per cent smoke while 46.7 per cent do not. Asked if they agree with the new policy, 44.7 per cent expressed agreement, 36.8 per cent disagreed, and 18.4 per cent said it made no difference. Regarding the adequacy of the designated smoking areas, 32.5 per cent agreed, 48.1 per cent disagreed, and 19.5 per cent expressed indifference. IE received numerous comments, which ranged from enthusiastic support for the new policy to forceful questioning and condemnation of it. To briefly summarize the varied comments, many non-smokers feel this is a positive step, while many smokers question a perceived vagueness in the ASG law upon which the policy is based while expressing discontent at the inconvenience of having to go out of their way to smoke in too few designated areas, particularly when it’s raining. IE thanks all respondents, and will try to do more surveys in the future to give our campus family a chance to express their feelings on important issues.



Athletics Chair Recognized in Hall of Champions

When high school football experts recently compiled the Fabulous 50 Football players from the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) San Diego Section for the 50th anniversary of the San Diego Hall of Champions, one of the names on the list was Ed Imo Jr., our Physical Education Department chairman. Although more than 30 years have passed since the games which earned Imo the recognition, he clearly left a lasting impression in his former home city. Imo was the first Samoan named CIF-San Diego Section Player of the Year as a two-way lineman for Kearny High School's 1973 CIF championship team before going on to play as a defensive lineman on San Diego State University's back-to-back 10-1 teams in 1976-77.

Originally from Nu'uuli, Imo located to San Diego at age 7 to live with his aunt Gaoioi Galea'i, who wanted him to get a better education. "The Hall of Champions story is about my playing career at Kearney," he recalled. "My sophomore year, our Jr. Varsity team won the conference championships and I was the Most Valuable Player. My senior year is when I got another "Most Valuable Player" award for all of San Diego. I was the first Sa-



moan to be named MVP of that award. Our football team went undefeated and won the Championship in 1973."

Despite Imo's stellar record, his initial post-high school years did not bring immediate acceptance in college football. "From high school, I did not get a scholarship because the college recruiters thought I was too small," he remembered. "So instead I went to San Diego City College to pursue a scholarship. After my second year there, I was Conference Player of the Year and also First Team All American for Junior Colleges in 1975. Washington State, UCLA, Boise State, Washington, and California Berkeley all offered me scholarships, but I wanted to stay home so I went to San Diego State. I was going to try for the National Football League

(NFL), but because of my height most NFL teams thought I was too small. Right around that time, my parents had asked me to come back to help them settle down in Manu'a, so I decided to come back to American Samoa."

The NFL's loss proved the Territory's gain as Imo has remained a presence on the local sports scene his return, either officiating games or coaching teams. A longstanding ASCCC faculty member, Imo also serves as president of American Samoa Basketball, an executive member of the American Samoa National Olympic Committee, and a coach, board member and former president of the local Oceania University Sports Association. Having devoted most of his professional life to helping the Territory's youth develop their athletic talents, the belated recognition of his own sports achievements gives Imo some sense of having come full circle. "It's an honor to be named to the Hall of Champions in San Diego because to be mentioned as one of only 50 top football players out of thousands who play every year is and accomplishment in itself," he said, "and to be mentioned with those who have gone on to play in the NFL is also a great honor."



ASCC graduate Sharring Fanene Niusulu (center) visited the ASCC campus in February along with her husband Jonathan and a number of volunteers to conduct a Bone Marrow Drive. Many ASCC staff and students took the opportunity to sign up as a potential donor and get a DNA sample taken to determine whether they may be a bone marrow match for a patient in need. Sharring, aged 28, suffers from a rare form of cancer which doctors say she can beat, but only if she locates a suitable donor for a bone marrow transplant. Doctors say that the hardest donors of bone marrow to find are Pacific islanders, and hence the Fanene family organized the Bone Marrow Registration Drive not only for Sharring, but also on behalf of all Pacific islanders currently in need of a suitable donor.



FREE TAX PREPARATION!

Students currently taking ACC 152A - Payroll and Taxation are working to complete a minimum of 20 Service Learning hours (with some going for 40 hours) at our local Tax Office, where they are providing free tax-filing services for all local tax payers. In addition, students are required to file tax returns for the current filing season for at least one employer on the ASCC campus. The students are afforded the opportunity at the Tax Office through a MOU between ASCC and the American Samoa Government. The Business Department and the students of ACC 152A are thankful to the staff and management of the Tax Office, especially Mrs. Mary Laurenson Olo and Mr. Joseph Melvin, for this opportunity.

For more information, please contact Athena Mauga at 699 -9155 and ask for the Business Department



Music of the World

In the class MUS 160 - Music of the World, students will engage in a comprehensive survey of the traditional and popular music of the world's cultures. Special emphasis placed on understanding the relationships among music, politics, religion, and culture. After lectures, group discussions and reading assignments, students are grouped together in teams to research a particular culture and song genre (sometimes including a dance) and present their findings to the public.

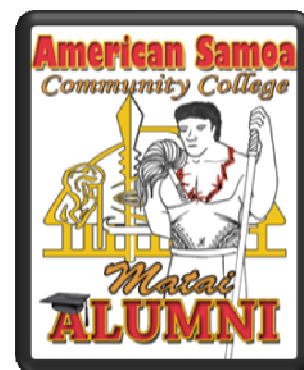
For this spring semester, each group was assigned research medieval instrumental music and dance. A second research and presentation assignment was on African American Music Traditions such as "The Blues" and Vocal Jazz, particularly scat style singing. For their mid-term presentation,

each group is currently researching three different Polynesian cultures (Fiji, Tonga, and Maori) and will present a performance of these cultures' traditional music and dance.

The objective is not just about learning the music, but also about the cultural, political, and social aspects of the various people of the world. In the future, the class may focus on the musical cultures of Asia and Africa, as well as the musical culture of Native Americans. The Student Learning assessed for these activities include communication skills and life skills.

ASCC MATAI

Alumni Association



PRESENTS

THE ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP FOR NON PELL STUDENTS

Deadline for Applications is March 18, 2011!!

Eligibility

- Non-Pell Student
- Cum GPA 3.0 or better
- Completed at least 24 credits at ASCC
- Passed Eng 90/91 & Mat 80
- Current Fulltime student for Spring 2011
- Not a recipient of any other in house scholarship

Required Documents

- Official Transcript or student copy(current)
- 3 letters of Recommendations/
- Reference
- 1 page essay
- Copies of I.D. passport or B. Certificate

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR AN APPLICATION, SEE MANA'O
AT THE STUDENT LEARNING ASSISTANCE CENTER OR
PETERU LAM YUEN AT THE ADMISSIONS OFFICE**