



# Leo ole Kolisi

Voice of the College



MAPUSAGA, AMERICAN SAMOA

MARCH 7, 1989

## LOK Talks with Dr. Seau Scanlan An Interview with the New President

By Terry Seguritan

"It feels good to be back and I am delighted to know that I am needed," these are the feelings of Dr. Saeu-teugu Le'au Scanlan newly appointed president of the American Samoa Community College.

President Scanlan returned to the "Home of the Chiefs" this semester. Her goal, she said, is to ensure that the potential academic abilities of "the Chiefs" are nurtured "to the fullest".

Born in American Samoa in March, 1937, the fourth in a family of 12 children, Dr. Scanlan enjoyed a "fulfilling childhood" in Fagatogo with her parents Saipele Sil'au and Suluama Lea'ai. She is married to Morris Scanlan, a respected businessman in American Samoa, and they have two children, Ike age twenty and Shanna age thirteen.

During her off years as president of the college, Scanlan was a buying agent for her husband and returned to the role of a mother to watch over and help her children grow.

The President's academic background includes a BA from the Cal. State University of San Francisco ('60), a Masters from UH ('72), and a Doctors degree from BYU ('75). She was one of ASCC's founding members in 1970, as well as the first Samoan woman to hold the position of president of the college in 1979 which she held until 1984. She still cherishes the

feeling of helping to turn an old WWII navy barracks into what ASCC is today.

Scanlan has noticed some differences at the college since returning. She states, "Litter, the campus appearance, and academic resources are problems on our campus today." We as a college "must pull and stand together. Just remember that this college is here for you and for no one else but you. So, if everyone pitches in and helps in solving these problems, students as well as teachers, everyone would benefit."

The President is also disappointed about the morale and enthusiasm of the students and teachers toward academics which she feels has dropped dramatically since her last term of presidency. She insists, "students should not waste academic time." In other words, students should use their valuable class time to learn and gather as much knowledge as they can. To address this problem, Scanlan is planning this semester as well as in the near future, to initiate certain programs and improve others.

There are plusses, too, in her view. The President feels that our school program provides good benefits for students that either plan on leaving the island for higher academics as well as for people who want a better start on life. She said, "I would like to have a survey done on the ratio of

students that, straight from high school, attend an outside university against students that attend ASCC first and then attend an outside university. I assure you that the student that attends ASCC first are better prepared for college life, both academically and socially."

Dr. Scanlan is aware of the accreditation issue facing ASCC at this time by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). She said, "Yes, I am concerned, who isn't?" The President also stated, "But we cannot just sit back and wait this thing out. I don't want to fight this issue, but I do want to solve this problem, so we can get on with better things. I would like to see the college autonomous, (the state of being independent), but at the present time the college doesn't have enough revenue to support itself and it has yet to start a program in becoming so."

Scanlan stated further that one of the reasons she disagrees with the four year college program is that the college would bring even more hardships onto itself. She feels that it would more cost efficient in terms of recruiting, transporting and housing more stateside instructors and their families, to send American Samoa students to the states to finish their education.

The President would like

*Continued on page 2*

renewed. All transferable credits are still accredited for the next two years, Dr. Goehring added.

What will happen to ASCC after 1990? Will it be safe for upcoming high school students to attend ASCC in the future? All this depends on decisions that have not yet been made.

Basically, decisions concerning autonomy, and the management of the school as well as the college's ability to meet the educational goals it has set for itself determine accreditation.



ASCC's new president Dr. Saeu Scanlan  
(photo J.H.E.)



## Four-year Program Suspended for Now

By: Penelope Morris-Utu

The ongoing saga of the four-year program has students and administrators alike either frustrated, angry and even confused.

The program was originally initiated to slowly, but surely, transform ASCC from a two-year institution to a full fledged four-year college.

But is there support for the program in the American Samoa Government? The general consensus is that there is but as President Scanlan put it, "the money just isn't there."

We have to wait until the new administration has ironed out all of the wrinkles in the budget before any definite answers concerning funding are found.

Money was appropriated by the Fono, (as LOK reported in the last two issues), up to about \$300,000 which is a long way away "from having the money in the bank", was the comment received from

Dean Converse. He also stated that we can't borrow from the two-year program funds in order to carry on the four-year program, because the two-year program will suffer greatly.

"If you can't cultivate one acre of beans, then you don't go out and plant two more acres," is how the Dean explained the situation.

There are many who feel that we should work at perfecting our junior college status, upgrade the curriculum, renovate facilities, etc., before we plunge head long into being a full fledged four-year college.

So officially the four-year is suspended not cancelled, until further notice. The ball, as they say, is now in the government's court.

But what will happen to the instructors hired specifically for the program? The most poular -- and safe -- answer today is, "I don't know."

## Is The Accreditation Rumor True?

In the first two weeks of December, 1988, an editorial was published in the *Samoa News* concerning the accreditation at ASCC. The editorial suggested that ASCC's accreditation may be in jeopardy. Is this rumor true?

Well it may be partially true. In a recent interview Dr. Dan Goehring (head of the 4-year program department) stated that, "Students

at the present time don't have to worry," about their accreditation.

The next accreditation review by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) will be in 1990 and the first step would be to put ASCC on 'probation', with a time limit to correct the problem.

If everything is in order, accreditation would be

Is the accreditation renewed?



## Faculty Focus: Dr. Don Vargo

By Mark Wells

A new feature which was added to LOK last issue is continued in this edition. LOK's faculty focus this month features the head of ASCC's agricultural department, Dr. Don Vargo.

Vargo was born in a small mining town in western Pennsylvania which produced coal used in steel mills in Pittsburg. He was the third oldest in his family, having two older brothers, and two younger sisters. While growing up, he attended a parochial school for eight years and a public high school for four. During much of this time, he and his brothers held a paper route with which they earned spare cash. Vargo saved his money and used it to purchase a set of encyclopedias at an early age.

During his senior year in high school, Don held a job at a local retail store similar to American Samoa's South Pacific Traders. After graduation, he worked as a delivery boy for a flower shop shortly before joining the army at age eighteen. While in the army, Vargo worked as a lab technician and was stationed at various locations including Texas, Washington D.C., and Bangkok, Thailand.

After the army, Vargo went to a university where he studied to receive his B.A. degree in Chemistry. While in college, he met Agnes, who was to become Mrs. Vargo, and they were married after their graduation. He then took a job in Ohio as a polymer chemist.

Continued from page 1

to share one more thought with the ASCC student body. "Urge yourself to be serious about college and life itself: set goals, have the desire to learn, and don't waste time in doing these things. To be ma (ashamed) or musu (refuse to act) are the worst enemies to have at

In 1974, Don and Agnes both decided to join the Peace Corps. They were sent to Sierra Leone West Africa where Don taught high school science.

After the peace corps, both Don and Agnes went back to college. Don again studied chemistry, specifically the making of a compound which mimicks vitamin B2, for the purpose of studying how enzymes work. He received his Ph.D in chemistry. Soon after, Don decided that the lab "really wasn't all that great," and went back to study for his masters degree in agronomy.

Here in the territory, where he and his family have worked and resided since 1983, Don is growing different kinds of crops in an effort to find new varieties which can be grown more easily in American Samoa. He is also studying ways of making crops look, taste, and grow better. For this task, he has a soil test lab set up here at ASCC, and he also uses it to teach his soil fertility class.

When he isn't working or teaching, Don and his family, which includes two boys, Matthew and Michael, 8-year old twins, enjoy activities such as snorkling, scuba diving, hiking and bike riding. He says there is much to see in Samoa.

For the future, Don hopes to stay in Samoa because he and Agnes found that they liked tropical climates from when they were in West Africa. We wish them good luck in all their endeavors.

this time. Ask questions when you don't understand and when you don't understand ask questions. This is the only thing you can ask from yourself." Editors note: The Leo O Le Kolisi wishes Dr. Scanlan a successful tenure as ASCC president.

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THE RECORD STORE RECEIVES NEW ORDERS WEEKLY III

## Variety Show Opens Next Week

By Amy Fuimaono

Every Spring semester the band and choir get together to produce a variety show that includes skits, plays, music and lots of fun! It is usually for the purpose of raising funds for the music department.

Last spring, unfortunately, ASCC students and the community did not get the chance to see the variety show because the band made a trip to Tonga and in what many band members called, "an experience of a lifetime." But have no fears, folks, the show is back!

Bob and Rosemary Lewis will be in charge of the program, which will take place this month on the 15, 16 and 17th, in the ASCC auditorium. There will be afternoon shows for ASCC students, with a \$1.00 admission fee, on the 14 and 16th. There will be evening shows for everyone, with a \$2.00 admission fee, on the 15 and 16th.

According to Rosemary Lewis, the band director, the band will be playing some Walt Disney tunes, like Michael Jackson's popular number, "Bad". The swing choir will be getting down on some hip-swinging, toe tapping melodies from the Beach Boys. The band and choir will also get together and put on some comic skits and plays, but they will also be performing some drama. For the most part, the variety show should be a "barrel of fun!"

## Around Campus in the United States

**CALIFORNIA WOMEN SMARTER THAN MEN?** Though they are a minority of California's 18-21-year old population, women have outnumbered men among University of majority of both Masters and Bachelor degrees at the state's public universities. And more girls than boys are qualified for college when they graduate from high school. **TWICE JILTED.** Phi Beta Kappa, one of the country's foremost academic honorary societies, has rejected Texas University's efforts to establish a campus chapter for the second time in the past five years. The reasons? According to a letter sent by the society, they include: low faculty salaries, low freshmen enrollment, and too many majors in the College of Arts and Sciences. One Texas Tech official specifically blames the school's low admission standards.

**GRADE INFLATION IS OUT OF CONTROL** in some colleges at the University of Utah, a Utah engineering professor claims. In his study, the professor found that the average grade in courses numbered 300 to 599 is higher in some colleges than in others. In addition, he found that many colleges which have high average GPA's also have low average ACT scores. Students with high ACT scores, he suggests, are competing in colleges which give lower grades, while students with low ACT scores are getting high grades in other colleges.

**TOPPLING TRADITION.** A group of Stanford University students and faculty are pushing the university to drop the traditional reading list and expand its notion of Western culture to include works by women, minorities, and non-Europeans. The students, who said the course on Western culture encourages racist thinking, want Stanford to change its attitude to reflect its increasing enrollment of women and minorities. Professors who oppose the changes say that spending time on other writers would deprive students of classical education.

## Campus News Briefs

PTK inducted new members to the local ASCC of the national junior/ community college honor society Friday, Feb. 24, at 7:30 p.m. Recognized for their academic achievement and social leadership were: Keith Burbridge, Toese C. Fisher, Evelyn Foster, Evelyn HoChing, Falenaoti Loi-on, Pone Matatia, Jason Mauga, Judy McCoy, Fulu-lele Duke Neria, Fiatele Porotesano, Robert Scanlan, Ruth Smith, Herman Suani, Leagavaa Tofaao, Tuipala Tupuola and Irae Utu.

Two faculty members are representing ASCC in the Samoa Canoe Association. Paddling for team "Lee-mu" (it means "dragonfly" or "Flying fire" in Samoan) are Carol Avis and Agnes Vargo, from the English and agriculture departments respectively.

The road accident death of nursing student Elane Tyrell last month was devastating to her fellow students who, it was reported, filled her coffin with nursing education texts, a stethoscope, and hundreds of dollars in cash all of which she was buried with.

SGA's talent show this year, held last Friday, March 3rd, was once again a winner: and the winners were: 1st place Administration of Justice, 2nd place Mc Job and The Sons of Tonga, 3rd place Fetu o Sasa'e. Congratulations for a job well done!!!

C.O.P.E. -- the 4-island education consortium -- founded and headed by Dr. (Tusi) Avegalio officially opened its main office right here at ASCC last month, with a ribbon cutting ceremony and foreign dignitaries. But when Lt. Governor Galea'i tried to officially open the COPE office door, he found to his surprise, and in front of KVZK-TV cameras, that it was locked.

He may be the last of the classic "Renaissance Men" - Brad Comann, whose talents include playing forward on "Sadies Boys" local league basketball team (ASCC students confirm it is true!) and teaching English literature is also a golfer, tennis player, and has recently published 2 poems in the Kansas Quarterly.

Cookie monsters of American Samoa will be pleased to learn that as a result of a grant that includes UH and ASCC, taro is dried and ground into flour in an effort to find more varied uses of the root. Among the products developed so far, at ASCC, taro cookies. (See Dr. Carol Whitaker at land grant for a sample.)

The ASCC development office has doubled. Assigned by Dr. Scanlan last month to the task of writing grant applications and proposals is Dr. Walter Hunt who has joined Dr. Kathleen Kolhoff in that department. Dr. Hunt, who was an elementary principal during his first tour in A.S. during the 70's, was involved in grant procurement as an assistant superintendent in Washington state.

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## Continuing Education Classes Offered

By Amy Fuimaono

Did you know that ASCC has a Continuing Education in Arts program?

It is in fact, part of ASCC's program for students who plan on becoming teachers. It was installed into the teachers program to help those students to become more confident in the visual arts, drama, literature, creative writing and dance.

The courses are sponsored by Samoa's Art and Education program, and is funded by Federal grants from the National Endowment for the Arts Council.

According to Anne Cortez, Arts and Education Coordinator, 15 students participated in a traditional Samoan wood carving and weaving day last November.

Dave Irvine, the director for the Arts and Education program, taught a ceramics and drawing class, along with Don Hoffman and local artist Pat Donahue, last November in the

evenings. The class lasted ten weeks. Students were required to pay a fee of \$25.00 and purchase 25 lbs. of clay for the class. The fee covered the cost of rent for the art room and electricity for firing the kilns.

The program tries to bring in both local artists and artists off island to instruct classes. Anne Cortez said that there are no classes going on at the moment, but the Arts Council is planning to start them again once they receive their Federal grant for 1989.

The Arts and Education Department is also planning on bringing back Earnest Morgan, a professional dancer who visited ASCC last spring semester, and opened our "eyes and minds to a whole new perspective towards dancing, which a lot of Samoan students down here never or have seldom seen before," according to Cortez.



A litter scene on campus which was recently cleaned up after this photo was taken. (photo J.H.E.)



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Spirit Day saw two toga clad ladies in high spirits, (left) McJob Advisor Vena Sele and (right) SGA President Penelope Morris-Utu. (photo J.H.E.)

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