

About the Authors

Donna Vaitu'utu'u Achica teaches at Matafao Elementary in the central area of American Sāmoa. She has been a teacher for 10 years. She loves to work with the community and is presently the secretary for the Board of Directors of the American Red Cross American Sāmoa Chapter. She teaches part-time at the American Sāmoa Community College. She has a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Hawai'i and is currently enrolled in the UH MEd program.

Denise Ah-Sue is a demonstration/mentor teacher for the University of Hawai'i Summer Lab School in American Sāmoa. She has taught at Aua Elementary School since August of 2000. She was recently admitted to the UH PhD program in curriculum and instruction and will start this coming fall. Her interest lies in teacher action research with respect to critical literacy and its place in the primary classroom.

Tupua Roy Alo Fua is department chairperson of the Teacher Education Department at American Sāmoa Community College (ASCC). He has BS and MEd degrees from Oregon State University. He spent ten years working in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI) where he was appointed the Northern Marianas College Provost of the School of Education. In 1999, he returned to American Sāmoa and was hired by ASCC to help launch the Teacher Education Program. In October 2002, he was awarded a U.S. Department of Education Teacher Quality Enhancement (TQE) Grant.

William Greene is an associate professor of education and department chair in the School of Education at Southern Oregon University. His current research focuses on teacher development, middle level education, and exploring spiritual and dimensions of teaching and learning. He has taught education courses for the University of Hawai'i in Hawai'i and in American Sāmoa. Greene co-directs the Teacher Education for the Future Project in the Pacific Circle Consortium.

Donna Gurr attended Fia Iloa Elementary and Sāmoana High School in the village of Utulei, until her family moved back to Redondo Beach, California in 1974. She graduated from Mira Costa High School in Manhattan Beach, California. She has a BA in liberal arts, an elementary teaching credential, and an MA in education with an emphasis in curriculum and instruction from California State University, Long Beach. She began her teaching career in American Sāmoa in 1983 at Pava'ia'i Elementary School. She has also served as a teacher resource center coordinator, an elementary vice-principal and elementary principal. She was principal of the University of Hawai'i's Laboratory School in American Sāmoa. She currently heads the Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and Accountability.

Peggy Haleck is the principal investigator and project director for the Territorial Teacher Training Assistance Project (TTTAP) in American Sāmoa. She began teaching in American Sāmoa in 1973 as a social studies teacher for the educational television (ETV) system. In 1975, as the ETV system was being dismantled, she began working as a curriculum specialist in the area of elementary social studies education. She received her PhD in educational psychology from the University of Hawai'i in 1996. Upon her return to American Sāmoa, Dr. Haleck joined the TTTAP team as a cohort coordinator, leading the first cohort through their studies.

Salusalumalo Hunkin-Finau is the former president and dean of academic affairs of the American Sāmoa Community College. She was recently contracted by the American Sāmoa Department of Education to direct the Language and Literacy Unit of the Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Accountability. Hunkin-Finau received her EdD from the University of Hawai'i-Mānoa. She worked for the Hawai'i Department of Education for a number of years and currently serves as an adjunct graduate faculty for the College of Education, UH-Mānoa, and Chaminade University.

Lisa Vaivao Ino teaches in a self-contained fifth grade class at Matafao Elementary School in American Sāmoa. She earned her bachelor of education degree from the University of Hawai'i and plans to complete her master's degree in curriculum studies from UH in the fall of 2006. Her professional and research interests include integrating technology for struggling readers and writers, and conducting professional development for language arts teachers.

James Kneubuhl received his MA in English at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Since 2000, he has lived in American Sāmoa, where he currently serves as communications officer at the American Sāmoa Community College.

Steven Lin is the library director at American Sāmoa Community College. He is interested in research on library planning and the new technologies that apply to information delivery services. Dr. Lin currently serves on the of board of directors of the American Sāmoa Feleti Barstow Public Library, the ASCC President Advisory Committee, ASCC Land Grant Program Advisory Council, and the ASCC Staff Development Review Committee.

Kate Moran is a graduate of Michigan State University with a PhD in special education administration. For the past five years she has been a consultant to the Special Education Division of the American Sāmoa Department of Education helping to develop school and community programs. She also works with the cohort program teaching, advising, and supervising special education teacher-candidates who are enrolled as dual preparation students.

Siamaua Ropeti is a fifth grade teacher at Masefau Elementary School in American Sāmoa. She graduated with a BEd from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. She is currently a graduate student in curriculum studies, and she hopes, once she completes her master's degree, to be admitted to the PhD program and conduct research on students' first language use in the American Sāmoa educational system.

Faleula Aoelua Sappa teaches at Aua Elementary School on the east coast of American Sāmoa and is chairperson of the social studies committee. She is a graduate of the University of Hawai'i and is currently a graduate student in the MEd program. Her research interests focus on ways of helping elementary school readers and writers who are struggling.

Liza Afaese Sauni teaches eighth grade at Lauili Elementary School located in the eastern district of American Sāmoa. She is currently enrolled in the MEd program at the University of Hawai'i, where her research focuses on multicultural education. She has been the social studies chairperson in the last two schools she taught at.

Paul Tauiilili is a field supervisor and cohort coordinator with the University of Hawai'i cohort program in American Sāmoa. Before working in the cohort program he was a classroom teacher of mathematics. He taught at Marist Brother's High School, a catholic all-boys school, and for a short period also served as career counselor. After that he taught middle school mathematics for 4 years and served as the mathematics curriculum committee chairperson for 2 years.

Yuriko C. Wellington is an assistant professor in the Department of Curriculum Studies at the University of Hawai'i. She teaches graduate level courses in qualitative research methods and undergraduate courses in multicultural education and English language arts. Her scholarly research focuses upon anti-racist, multicultural education and social justice.

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