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Taituuga Samoa Anesi Koria Oral History

February 22, 2024

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Interviewee: Taituuga Samoa Anesi Koria

Interviewer: Malea Van Brocklin

Transcribed by: Malea Van Brocklin, Dephny Duan

[Generating and Reclaiming our Wisdoms: A Collection of AAPI Community Stories at UCSD](#)

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Time	Transcription
0:02	Malea Van Brocklin: Okay. My name is Malea Van Brocklin. Today is February 22nd, 2024, and I'm interviewing Mr. Koria through Zoom for the UC San Diego GROW Project. Do you agree to grant the university permission to archive and publish this interview for educational purposes?
0:19	Samoa Koria: I do agree.
0:20	Malea Van Brocklin: Alright, sounds great. Would you like to quickly introduce yourself and tell me a bit about your upbringing? Like where you were born, your hometown, etc.?
0:31	Samoa Koria: Well, my name is Samoa Koria. I also have a chief title, which is Taituuga Samoa Koria. I was born and raised in San Diego, California. My parents are from the Samoan Islands. My father was in the Navy, and then my mother was a nurse's assistant at one of the local hospitals here in San Diego. I'm married to a beautiful wife. It's been 32 years now. And then, got 5 children. My oldest is 32 to the youngest is 12. 4 girls and 1 son, no further comment on that. But great children, a blessing for sure. And just been involved probably for most of my part here with the Samoan church in San Diego, and also some community activism amongst local Asian Pacific Islander community groups. And this kind of stemmed from a lot of stuff that I learned from UCSD as well during the times that we were there like in the mid-[19]70s, and so on, so forth. Other than that, I'm blessed to be back in San Diego. I used to live in Temecula for about 20 years but returned home to care for my 93 year old auntie - you know she's still kicking it - and then here with the wife and the kids, and we're blessed to be back again as well. So that's me.
2:04	Malea Van Brocklin: Great! Thank you. Can you tell me a little bit about just like some basic details about your role at UCSD, like what you majored in, what years you attended, which college you were part of, and some of the things that you were involved in?
2:19	Samoa Koria: I entered right after high school. So that was 1978. Oh, and then I decided to go pre-med. As that struggle continued on, I was struggling academically there. Then I had to change my major to Urban Studies and Planning, which is kind of a blessing itself because I had a chance to intern with the San Diego mayor at the time, Mr. William Jones, and the city council here in San Diego. Because Urban Studies and Planning just has to do with basically being like a city planner and developing in our communities and regions and stuff within the city. And so it took me a while to kind of get out there and finally graduated in '88, 1988. Oh and just been-- after that decided to be part of a guinea pig teachers intern program with the San Diego Unified School District. So, out of 500 applicants I was one of 25 that was chosen, the only Pacific Islander. In fact,

	<p>the only Samoan to be part of the program. There were 23 other African American women, and then 1 other Filipino woman. We're all good friends now. And so we all became teachers except for 1 didn't make it. So- but, heck! You know that's a pretty good success rate there, you know, 24 out of 25 of us became teachers for the district. A few of us became vice principals, and some became principals as well. So I became a teacher back then, but even before that I had already been working while I was going to college, but working with the school district. Started off as a school bus driver, and then worked my way up to being a GATE tutor and also being a teacher's assistant within the classroom. And so I becoming a teacher as kind of the natural flow from it. And so I spent, let's see, 17 years here in San Diego Unified, and as I moved up to Temecula I worked for the Hemet Unified School District for 13 years, and I went from elementary level to middle school up there. Middle school is quite an interesting dynamic, by the way. And then I retired from Hemet. And then I still live in San Diego, still substitute teaching, doing a few side gigs and businesses, some volleyball officiating at the high school level. And then moved down here, and I'm still reffing high school volleyball, in fact it's the boy's season right now, but enjoying retirement and just doing stuff that I like to do. Besides volleyball, I do get myself involved with the community stuff and I've been asked to participate in a few things including like this interview. So yeah, that's it.</p>
5:27	<p>Malea Van Brocklin: That's great. I know that we've spoken before. You were a Third College student, right? Now that college is called Thurgood Marshall. I'm actually in Thurgood Marshall College as well. This college has a long history of student activism. Can you tell me a little bit about your experience in Third College and your experience at UCSD in general, as well? Like what the political and activist climate was like at that time.</p>
5:54	<p>Samoa Koria: I mean the environment itself, you can tell, was a very mixed college at the time. Obviously, we didn't have a name. You know, it's called Third cause it was actually the third college that was built there at UCSD. Although I kind of missed having the Thurgood Marshall on my diploma, but anyhow. Back then you heard a lot about Angela Davis, about Lumumba Zapata, about Che Guevara. So a lot of that revolutionary mindset was out there at the time. There are groups like MEChA (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan) and Africa American Student Union, the Asian American Student Union but it changed to the Asian Pacific Student Union when I joined because they had to recognize us. Plus, that was also a time that Pacific Islanders weren't counted as people in America. And so there was a lot of movement, especially up in the Los Angeles area, San Francisco and Seattle area to get us counted. And so we finally got counted but now we're next to Asian Americans instead of being by ourselves. Although as I see some of my kids applying and so on so forth, I check out some of their applications. And they're starting to separate Asian American and Pacific Islanders as separate entities and people. So the climate there is kind of quote unquote kind of revolutionary, you know. So just kind of protesting. At the time there was a lot of student fee hikes</p>

	<p>that were going on. So a lot of us just didn't like that. And while we got there, see, it's on a quarter system. So my first quarter, I paid 250 bucks and it's nothing near to what it was, yes, like today, yeah. And you could definitely kind of make the comparison and how high that hike has been. And then I mean, I look, there's new buildings, and so on, and so forth, but at the time there was so much land out there. I finally got a bicycle and just had to bike it from the class to class, because the distance from one class to another in a span of time for the next hour to the next hour, I just kinda had to do that. So there's a lot of biking in that area, and then a lot of few fun things. I remember the pub, I remember the big quad over by Revelle College or people just relaxing out there and studying. I remember all the different libraries, the humongous space library. Oh, gosh! I forgot its name, but it's known for its architecture. And then I was kinda fortunate, because I had a few cousins actually working at UCSD. So there were times we would kinda just go visit them, say hi, and so on so forth. Kind of chitchat just to kinda continue to have that Samoan connection on campus. So that yeah kinda in a nutshell was kinda the climate there so on and so forth. At that time.</p>
8:54	<p>Malea Van Brocklin: I really think it's important how you mentioned that there wasn't very much like Pacific Islander representation. And that was back then. But even now there's still very minimal representation. When I was looking at the UCSD student diversity data provided by the UC Information Center, as of 2023, only 50 undergraduate students out of a total of 33,792 identify as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and that number goes down to 31 graduate students. How might your experience as a Pacific Islander student specifically have differed from the wider umbrella term of AAPI?</p>
9:40	<p>Samoa Koria: That's a great question. I don't know I kind of thank my parents for instilling with me the drive to never give up on something. One quick example is that my dad, I had a paper route, back then you could have a paper route and go deliver papers on your bike. And he worked at the Navy and got up early, but he got up early with me just to fold the papers and just help me, get me going on the road and deliver those papers. So just like that one example kinda instilled in me with being someone who works hard and is dedicated. He didn't talk much, but he did a lot, you know what I mean? So, very humble that way. Now, as far as Pacific Islanders, as I've kind of been reading stuff in kinda upkeeping, it seemed like, maybe just my observation I've noticed a lot of them, maybe attending some of the Cal State universities here in our country. They're starting to spread out wider, here in the country. But as far as the UC system, which is, you know, very kind of tough to get in, I was fortunate to be part of the affirmative action laws back then. So I was able to get in through that avenue, and fortunately enough, I got a bachelors out of it. And so it sometimes just comes down to just the individual themselves and the support that they have. How we're gonna happen to maybe increase that? Well, just kind of more education out there, more outreach amongst different groups, whether it comes from college or it comes from high school counselors,</p>

	<p>whether it comes from the state of, I mean, the capital of Sacramento, or whatever politicians that are in the White House, as well as up in the state capital that way. We all gotta kind of be able to come from different angles and push as many and so I think that's probably one of the ways. But it's just more education out there, and just kind of keep pushing our kids that college is an option for them. Where they go is kind of like we leave it open open door to them, and sometimes, you see, is not quite an attractive place to go to. You know what I mean.</p>
12:18	<p>Malea Van Brocklin: Thank you. I wanted to talk a little bit about your experience with APSU (Asian Pacific Student Union) at UCSD. I read in an article that you were a keynote speaker at a statewide conference of APSU that was hosted at UCSD in February of 1987. Can you tell me a little bit about that experience and your experience of organizing and what you're hoping to achieve, the results you saw, anything else like that?</p>
12:38	<p>Samoa Koria: Yeah, I would say while we first- when I first started out there joining the, let's see, back then it was called the Asian American Student Alliance at UCSD. Did it change to the Asian Pacific Student Alliance (APSA)? Well, we were just one part of a statewide organization called the Asian Pacific Student Union. At the time, you know, with the whole revolutionary kind of mindset and just kind of fighting statewide, tuition hikes along with injustices that go on within our communities... If all like together, not only just Pacific Islanders, but along with other Asian Americans, and those whole slew real the names under Asian American - you got Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, Cambodian- I mean, it's a whole spectrum of them that coming together was, that'd be a big deal. Took a lot of work, and I wasn't the only one. There was a lot of us in the statewide that had a few meetings here and there, just to kind of come up, you know, what would be the theme? What's the location? Obviously, it did come in UCSD at one point. What kind of workshops are we gonna have? So, we had a very strong support from the community in San Diego and across the state. And also just our organization here. UCSD and the APSA back then, we had to come together and work with some of the other groups like MEChA and the African American Student Alliance, and I believe at the time- I think that could be wrong, but I think the Vietnamese had pulled a group together too right around that time as well. So as I used to work at what was it- Upward Bound, and so I, as a kind of a counselor with that program, helped a lot of Vietnamese students back in the day working part-time there during that program in UCSD, but you know, APSA was really big. I mean, we were recognized, by the governor, and the folks is kind of a force to be and are reckoned with. And so yeah, not just, I believe we all put our shed tears into it. And then it came about where they decided that I would be the keynote speaker. I gotta give it to my Asian brother, Taiji. He helped me quite a bit with pulling that speech together, and as it turned out, the place was packed. It was at Third College, the small amphitheater that's there, or one of the lecture rooms. It was totally packed. I mean, it packed, even went at the outside. But it was just so, it was well taken</p>

	<p>because we were able to connect with a lot of the desires and needs of each Asian and the Pacific Islanders represent, we made an impact. And I think that's probably, that was the the goal, that we impact the students so that at least their lives get better. And then they go out and, you know, impact others, too. So yeah, it was a great time. It was a great time. Yeah.</p>
16:09	<p>Malea Van Brocklin: Great! You also served with the Asian American Studies Committee, correct? AASC, I believe, to help establish Asian American studies on campus. Can you share some of the work that you were involved in that fought for the establishment of a formal AAPI studies program and why you believe that work was so important?</p>
16:32	<p>Samoa Koria: Oh, just like kind of what we were doing here. I was kind of more like a consultant just trying to get resources more for the Pacific Islander inside, and there wasn't much, really. I mean, when I first went to oh, what's the name of that library again? Yes, Mandeville-</p>
16:51	<p>Malea Van Brocklin: Geisel?</p>
16:52	<p>Samoa Koria: That's right. Yeah. I went in there, and I only found 2 books about Samoa, about the islands. That's how- It's sad right, that only 2 books about us there. So I was kind of more of a mission. And okay, maybe this, we need to have some stuff published and just kinda written up. And then the committee was kind of like the avenue to be able to do that. I mean, even today, we still need to tell stories about who we are as Samoans or Native Hawaiians living in America. That's a different experience when you, when it's different from Samoans living in Samoa or Native Hawaiians living in Hawaii. I mean, it's different. What's the experience here living in America for us and dealing with all the different of social, emotional, political, physical factors, that affect us each and every day. So that that was kind of more my role. That's a little bit. I guess every little bit helps. [laughs]</p>
18:01	<p>Malea Van Brocklin: Okay, and just as like, just so that you have space to share this. Can you share, like one of your most impactful memories from your time at UCSD?</p>
18:14	<p>Samoa Koria: Oh. Being there was, you know, that first year was overwhelming. I mean, you're brand new to college, straight out of high school. And I started hanging out with a lot of the Chicanos and Mexicans and African Americans. Africans Americans were natural to me because I grew up in a neighborhood full of African Americans. And then we would hang out quite a bit at the, one of the lounges, just go downstairs and the lounge is to the right. We'd hang out there and do study groups, or just kind of chill, have some lunch, you know, that kind of thing. And all of a sudden comes walking through a door a guy named Ben. And then I looked at him. He looked at me. We kinda sat for a bit and I said, "Are you Samoan?" [laughs] He said, "yeah." "Oh wow, from where?" "LA." "Oh, man, it's so</p>

	<p>good to meet you!" [laughs] It was just two of us there on campus, and then just like who'd figure we'd run into each other? And from then on it kind of like, I was okay. I was set just to continue, just, you know, finish our work. He actually graduated before I did. Later on I found out that my cousin actually attended UCSD way before I got there, and he graduated. So when I got my bachelors, I was the third Samoan to graduate from UCSD. And so yeah, that little bit right there. It's very impactful to know that, you know it's okay, you know you run into some of your own people, and then, be able to move on. Although I did have some very good Chicano, Mexican friends, Hispanic if we wanna be more political. And then African American friends, we all just kinda made sure we got through each and every day and get those classes passed. So yeah, that's one.</p>
<p>20:31</p>	<p>Malea Van Brocklin: That's really great. Thinking about your time outside of UCSD, as well, you were involved in 1992 as an alum. You were involved with the Awareness Week Cultural Performance. Can you tell me a little bit about your experience, like engaging with UCSD as an alumni? Not as a current student, but as a previous student.</p>
<p>20:58</p>	<p>Samoa Koria: Well, you know, it's just continuing education of who we are as Pacific Islanders, specifically for me as a Samoan, so culture, which includes song, dance, telling stories. Fortunately for me, I was able to do a keynote speech at APSA. But those are some of the ways that we can share [about] who we are. And so, just by the sharing of that, at least, people get to know kind of more [about] who we are. And we're not that bad, you know. At the time it's like a stereotype out there for Samoans were like "Oh, they're all just football players, you know. You know, they're violent, and they want to beat up on people" ... that kind of thing. But we're not all like that. It might be even a miniscule number, but you know most of us are very kind, humble. We love to help others. We love to have fun and dance and sing like any other human being. So that was a good opportunity to kind of make people who are not aware of us aware. So the more aware they are then they kind of would have I would say more respect for us, because I know within our cultures and most of our families and within the Samoan community, just Samoans in general around the world, the issue of respect is a big deal: respect for our elders, respect for each other, respect for ourselves.</p>
<p>22:34</p>	<p>Malea Van Brocklin: That's really great. I really liked what you were talking about, respect for elders. I think that's a very important thing for not just Samoan culture, but also other cultures as well. And I was wondering what you think, like the value is in establishing cross-generational relationships between elders and current UCSD students, and how that might help the current generation grow to be more wise and more respectful and kind and all of that.</p>
<p>23:05</p>	<p>Samoa Koria: Well, I'm not gonna put a whole lot on the older folks because we learn from them. They pass down all of the lessons that they learn, and we're still</p>

	<p>doing it today as well. So as we kind of, I don't know lately, between my wife's family and mine, we've been going to a lot of funerals. So that generation of my parents are all going away and into heaven. And so all the lessons that we learned from just attending the funerals, we learn a lot of lessons of the stuff that's been passed down there. And so I just hope that this next generation kind of continues that passing down. And I think for the most part, it's probably happening for sure, and you just kind of keep going down from generation to generation passing down the stories and just the experiences and just, and families just, you know, taking care of each other and just being a family.</p>
24:11	<p>Malea Van Brocklin: That's great. I wanted to talk a little bit about PIFA [Pacific Islander Festival]. You served as the President on the Board of Directors for PIFA in 1996. At this time it was just being established as an annual event here. What do you think is the value in these types of festivals in fostering community?</p>
24:37	<p>Samoa Koria: Woo! Oh, boy, you've done your research. [laughs] I actually turned out to be the first PIFA president, and I was part of a committee that, we did the initial work, tried to establish it. So it was myself, my sister, there were several native Hawaiians that were there. And then there was a for lack of a better term, a white woman who grew up in Hawaii. So there's that group of us that met at one of their homes and decided, it's time to kind of put the voice out there, this stuff matters 'cause right around that time, too we were all starting to be counted in the census. We're being counted, politically in different arenas, whether it be a local, state, or federal. And so it was time to establish a festival, so that we can have a voice wherever we're at here in San Diego. And it's San Diego specific, but there were other festivals going on up and down the state of California as well, and even some up in Seattle, Washington. And I only mentioned those areas because that's where we were mostly populated at the time. Now, in 2024, we're kind of spread out from West coast to East coast now, because the kids have grown up, go to college, get married, they move to other areas, especially away from California because houses are too much. [laughs] But PIFA was the beginning of kind of a voice, and it just coincided with the trip of the Hōkūle'a, it was one of the original canoes that traveled without any use of electronics. And so it just happened to be coming to San Diego, and so the Hawaiians wanted to make sure that we kind of connected that, and make that as kind of a landmark- how do you say it- launch for Pacific Islanders here in San Diego.</p> <p>Man, well, it was a lot of organizing, lot of time to secure things. We had to meet with the Board of Supervisors of San Diego. We had to do a lot of collaborating with San Diego Police, San Diego City Council, and I wasn't the only one, and then we had to add stage managers for the stage and we had to secure entertainment. In fact, there are probably new groups that came out of it because we were having the festival that came out and entertained.</p>

	<p>And there was a nice venue at the time, 'cause it was at Seaport Village where it was, landscape-wise, it was naturally an island feel there, an island look. And it was so full, there wasn't any empty spots unless you're gonna sit on the sidewalk to walk on, I mean, every piece of grass was taken. And then myself, at the time when the actual festival happened, I wasn't standing around, and I just kept walking and thanking and just kinda making sure everything's cool and secure. And I was participating in one of the committees, which was the Education Committee. And so we've got Education Village behind the stage that kind of showcases some of the cultural items of every Pacific Islander group that was presented there: Chamorros, Guamanians, Native Hawaiians, Samoan, Tongan, Fijian, probably go on and on and on so. And I do have a few things that have been published already. We have the annual program, but also that's been put on like, if you just Google my name, you'll find a few published items as well about who we are as Samoans in San Diego.</p> <p>But that was, it was a pretty exciting exciting time. Now they still continue on. I did attend the Pacific Islander Festival just this past September, and then only because I belong to another nonprofit organization there, and I was manning the Education Village part of our intersection that was there. But it's at the moment now, it's still continuing on, because the people have kind of kept it going, which is very nice. That's all part of leadership too, you know. You lead people, and pray and hope, and hopefully, you taught them enough where they can continue on the work after you're gone and might as well do it while you're alive instead of dead. [laughs] And so that continues on as a kind of a voice for us. If you ask me, I probably have a few opinions on how we can kind of move forward more. But that's gonna be up to them to decide, I've kind of been out of the picture with PIFA since that first year. I did get invited one time, sent me a few things, VIP parking, and thing is, I think it was during the twentieth anniversary. And I did attend that other time. But as life goes, you know, sometimes just... God first, family next, and then everything else is kind of a little extra kind of thing. But PIFA was very cool in terms of at the time I was the leader of that group for that one year. And I learned a lot from it, and I hope that others have gained some impact from that old experience, too.</p>
30:22	<p>Malea Van Brocklin: That's gotta be an incredible feeling to have an event that you were part of, like when it was starting. And now it's still, almost 30 years later, it's still going on. I have friends that go to the event. So it's kind of crazy to meet you and hear about it when it was just starting.</p> <p>But yeah, I also wanted to talk a little bit about your experience in the education business. Just because I was wondering if your experience at UCSD impacted the way you approach education in any way? If that was something at all.</p>

31:00	<p>Samoa Koria: Oh, that's a great question. I think probably maybe internally, in my mindset, I probably have been kind of more educated minded, if you know what I mean. I just kinda think God gave me that gift to educate others. And so as going through UCSD and trying to not only educate myself and educate other about who I am, who I represent, kind of impacted me. And then and then things kind of roll along, trying to make sure I get through all the classes, pass them, and then you finally get the Bachelor's, and then it was time to hmm. Okay, while I was attending UCSD I was also working within the school district in San Diego. So the natural thing would have been, okay, just go right into the classroom. And it just so happened at that time a new program comes up. Just like PIFA was new, well, then, now, a new teacher's program, because at that time they weren't hiring a lot of us quote unquote minorities at the time, and it's not just myself, but African Americans, Mexican Americans, you name it, and those those of us who were underrepresented. Oh, and so that's when they decided, "Oh, let's try this pilot program. We'll make people interns, which means they don't get paid as much as a regular teacher in the classroom, but at least you get something, you know, for your work, and it was kind of broken up 50/50. So 50 for supplies, and 50 for salaries for intern teachers." And out of the 500 applicants, I was 1 of 25 that made it. And then that's when the ball started rolling from there and decided, okay, I'm gonna be educating not just myself but a lot of kids, you know. And I have throughout the years. I still get messages from kids on Facebook and say, "Hey, aren't you, Mr. Koria?". Blah, blah, blah, blah, it's like wow, you know, just kinda and it takes you back and say, "Oh yeah, I guess I have been impactful." So just kind of confirms kind of like the gift I was given and I am I'm still, you know, teaching nowadays. I just in different ways like volleyball referee. Okay, just something as simple as that. And I'm teaching a lot of new referees this year. So it kind of continues on and on and on and on. Yeah.</p>
33:40	<p>Malea Van Brocklin: Great. I was wondering how you felt just because you were involved with APSA, APSU, and with like the Asian American Studies Committee. How did you feel when you first heard UCSD formally established an AAPI Studies program in Fall of 2020? That's gotta, that's gotta feel like just...</p>
34:11	<p>Samoa Koria: Yaaaayyyy</p>
34:12	<p>Malea Van Brocklin: That's gotta, that's gotta feel like just...</p>
34:15	<p>Samoa Koria: Oh, when I heard that I said, "Abouttt time. Oh, man, about time." I just, you just never know the timing on it, you know. But I guess I've been kind of one of those trailblazer type people that will start stuff. But you know, eventually, somebody's gonna take the ball and roll with it and continue on. I mean, it's yeah, I don't know, to me education should evolve all people, not just a certain sector of our country or the world. So I was excited, [laughs] and this feeling I had, I could</p>

	probably jump up with joy and hop on top of the roof and jump back down, you know. [laughs]
35:04	Malea Van Brocklin: If you could have been involved in the program, if it had existed when you were a student here, what would you have liked to have seen or experienced with that?
35:15	Samoa Koria: Wow! Oh, man! That's an unexpected question there. Well, I'll tell you this. I would've loved to be one of the instructors and just kinda roll with my side and my stories and some of the intricacies in Samoan culture. And not just me, I mean, I would bring people in that you know just help educate more on who we are and how we can impact their lives. And there might be some issues going on now the islands. But you know, Hawaii and other islands that we might have to be aware of to be concerned about aside from natural disasters, which is kind of out of our control. But there could be some other social and emotional type of issues. We're all human beings, you know, we're not perfect, but we have some flaws, and we can always work to get better at our flaws, so that we show and shine our light much better to others.
36:21	Malea Van Brocklin: What are your hopes for the future of AAPI Studies and programs here at UCSD?
36:27	Samoa Koria: I hope it continues and expands in every aspect that there is really, through instructors, through students, through content. Maybe other programs go flourish to other campuses and not just at UCSD. You know, the CSU system, the community college system. I even hope that maybe even just flows into high school as well as part of the curriculum in high school, so I don't know if we could do it in middle school, if they're mature enough with that. But would be kinda nice 'cause I'm also familiar with the New Zealand education system, and they have Samoan language in their schools in New Zealand. So I'm kind of hoping that with that role model we can kind of follow that. And instill not only just language, but culture. And again, stories and songs, you know. Those kinds of things that make who we are, what we are.
37:38	Malea Van Brocklin: That was sort of the end of my questions. Is there anything else you would like to share that we haven't covered yet, or any advice to give to other young students who are maybe trying to organize and make a change?
37:54	Samoa Koria: Well, I hope I've shared enough. I thank you, Malea, for initiating all this. This has been a kinda nice flashback for myself. But again, it's another educational opportunity for the younger ones, not only Samoan, but the broader Pacific Islander, Native Hawaiians, the Asian American community, and just all of us in general at UCSD. I just think we all just need to be aware of each other. And that as we venture in our own studies, and so on and so forth, that we keep in mind where we come from and who we are. And to spread that, spread that to

	<p>others. If it's a good and great light, hey, you know, just don't give up and continue to be where you are. Keep smiling, you know. Keep praying, and just, you know, move forward.</p> <p>I'm just fortunate that if anybody ever needs any help or consultation or advice I'm always available, so feel free to pass on my number to anybody or email if they're interested in knowing more, or if they want me to come on out and speak 'cause I've somewhat kind of fine tuned some of my speaking skills as well as the years have gone on, it helped generate.</p> <p>Last thing I want to say is that I'm glad to be back home here in San Diego with my wife and kids. And I joined my auntie. I've also, my wife and I are also members of a nonprofit organization. It's been about 4 years now. It's called the Samoa Association San Diego. And there's a few things that we do other than, you know, raise funds. But we do giveaway scholarships annually. We're in the process now of accepting applications for those who attend school here in San Diego that are Samoan, Pacific Islander, Native Hawaiian, I believe that's what it is. I'll have to reread the application, but you'll find the information on that, there's a we do have a website. It's www.tsasd.org. And so that's been kind of nice.</p> <p>And we're also moving forward to see if we could try to develop a community center here in San Diego, because the only community center that's still existing now is amongst the Guamanian Chamorro people, which is actually about a block a couple of blocks away from where I live down the street, and so we want to have one that's, I don't know. Samoans have been here for quite a while. So it's about time we have a center to help deal with some of our concerns with veterans, with homelessness, child care, maybe churches need a place to worship. Might have some sports activities. But there's a lot of services, mental health, physical health. You know, those kinds of things that there's some issues out there that we wanna have a community center. So that would be a place for everyone to come and get services and be able to help each other out.</p> <p>So I'm just gonna kind of end it with that. And I'm so thankful, Malea for this opportunity and I hope that the words that come out of my mouth will be a blessing to others.</p>
41:37	Malea Van Brocklin: Thank you so much. That was really great. I'm gonna end the recording now.