

# PACIFIC EDUCATORS IN RESIDENCE

## PEIR Program Serves School Improvement, Personal Growth

The Pacific Educator in Residence (PEIR) program provides Pacific-based educators with opportunities to continue their education and training through 12-month residencies at PREL. PEIRs develop and enhance their personal and professional skills as they work on projects to benefit their schools and communities. Over the years, these educators' professional development will impact many more. PREL's staff, entity education systems, and most importantly, the children of the region will gain from each individual's quest for knowledge.

In September 2002, Ms. Magdalene Augafa of American Samoa and Mr. Tulensru Waguk of Kosrae in the Federated States of Micronesia began their residencies. At home, Maggie works as a Grade 8 Cooperative and Mentor Teacher for the American Samoa Department of Education. Tulensru coordinates Kosrae's grades 1-12 science programs. These are their stories.

### Maggie Augafa

Photos: Liane Shing



What led me to become a PEIR was the fact that I was looking for new experiences, both personally and professionally. My goals include becoming more proficient in mathematics and science teaching, providing staff development for classroom improvement, and experiencing a new environment for change and professional growth. These are my expected outcomes, along with helping our teachers in American Samoa become better teachers not in only mathematics and science, but in all areas.

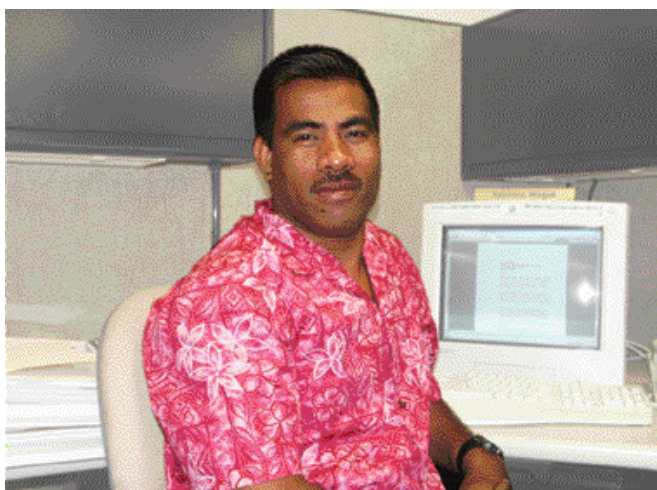
The Ethnomathematics Digital Library (EDL) is one important project I am currently involved with. The goal of this project is to increase Pacific children's knowledge of mathematics by applying it to cultural activities that they recognize and understand. My work with the EDL is to develop ethnomathematics curriculum materials. The website is [www.ethnomath.org](http://www.ethnomath.org) and can be accessed by anyone. Teachers interested in contributing classroom activities and lesson plans can contact me at [augafam@prel.org](mailto:augafam@prel.org). I also had the privilege

to contribute and edit some articles written about ethnomathematics for *The Helix* and other science magazines.

Another important mathematics project I am involved with is the MENTOR Project, which will help novice mathematics teachers. So often we find teachers who need help in various areas of teaching, from writing lesson plans and developing activities to delivering a lesson. That is what this project is for, supporting them in every way possible.

There is still a lot more to learn and look forward to as we complete our year here. We hope to share and apply these experiences in our working environments as we return to our homelands. It is an opportunity that will last a lifetime!

### Tulensru Waguk



This short period as a PEIR has been very beneficial and worthwhile for me. PREL provides a venue to meet with and learn from people of the various entities about cultures and education programs and systems as a whole.

Ideas learned from the meetings, workshops, and conferences I have attended in my time here are incorporated in my work with the Pacific Mathematics and Science Regional Consortium. Right now I am working to develop a curriculum guide and a set of instructional modules for Kosrae elementary schools.

Other projects include identifying promising professional development programs for Kosraean science teachers. As part of this effort, I attend workshops on science standards, assessment standards, and pedagogy. To further my own formal education, I have enrolled in the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Graduate Division. I am looking forward to sharing my wonderful experiences during my residency with teachers, colleagues, and other educators in Kosrae.

*PREL is seeking PEIR applicants in the areas of mathematics and science teaching and learning, and early reading instruction (grades K-3). Applications for residencies to begin in September 2003 are due May 31, 2003. They are available online at [www.prel.org/about/prel/PEIR.asp](http://www.prel.org/about/prel/PEIR.asp).*

