



UAS Alumni & Friends Newsletter

Summer 2010 Vol. 2, Issue 1

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Spring Auction Helps Students Succeed!

Auction Raises \$11,500 for Scholarships

The Annual Spring Dinner & Auction was held April 2nd in the beautiful Egan Library on the Auke Lake Campus. The auction serves as the primary fund-raising event for the Association.



Once again, the board dedicated all net proceeds to providing student scholarships. In addition to the \$11,500 raised at the auction, the board added to that amount to allow seven students to receive \$2,000 each in the 2010-2011 academic year, a total of \$14,000 in scholarship funds!

UASAA thanks its generous donors of items to the Spring Auction, and all of those who attended and purchased items and desserts. The dessert auction alone raised nearly \$3,600!

Those wishing to make a donation to the Alumni scholarship fund can do so by visiting www.uas.alaska.edu/alumni.

Eagle Totem Brings Balance to UAS *Gunalschéesh!*

Thank you to everyone who joined UASAA in donating to the UAS Eagle Totem Pole Campaign! The project was completed and the pole was raised on Saturday, April 24.

Watch a video of the Raising Ceremony, including the Carvers' Dance, online at this address:

<http://www.uas.alaska.edu/nrsc/eagle-totem/video.html>



The new Eagle pole will balance the existing Raven pole on campus and serve as a proud recognition of our Native Students' commitment to getting a college education.

Interested in what UAS Native & Rural Students are up to? Check out their website at www.uas.alaska.edu/nrsc.

Haines Welcomes Alumni Golfers

Valley of the Eagles Golf Links in beautiful Haines, Alaska was the setting for the annual Alumni Golf Tournament on May 22. Golfers boarded an Allen Marine catamaran in Juneau and enjoyed a scenic nature cruise all the way to the destination, enjoying breakfast and snacks along the way. Once at the course, teams started off to their assigned starting holes for the scramble tournament and enjoyed a sack lunch on the course, catered by the Bamboo Room! After 18 holes, golfers headed back to the boat for an equally picturesque ride home, while enjoying pizza catered by the Fireweed Restaurant.



Don Beard, Doug Weaver, Mike McKrill and Jim Grammel on the "Closest to the Pin" prize hole

While the Hole in One Contest did not yield a winner for the 2010 Subaru Forester, several other prizes were won, and fun was had by all!

Results:

Tournament Winning Team (personalized golf wind shirts):

Song Nash, Mike Denker, Ralph Swinton and Tyler Swinton

Putting Contest on the Boat (one-hour rental of the Juneau Bowling Center): Diana Cote

Longest Drive - Men (airline ticket on Wings): Song Nash

Longest Drive - Women (airline ticket on Wings): Karen Griffin

Closest to the Pin (airline ticket voucher on Alaska Airlines): Steve Olmstead

Many thanks to everyone who helped make this happen - volunteers, sponsors and players!

Mark Your Calendar! Upcoming Alumni Events

July 23 - Portland Art Museum Reception

Enjoy the exhibits and artwork at the PAM, and mix and mingle with alumni and friends in the museum's Crumpacker Library! FREE for Members, \$20 for non-members. Call to reserve your spot!

July 24 - Mariners Game in Seattle

Join us for an exciting game -Seattle Mariners vs. Boston Red Sox! Watch with your fellow friends from UAS in an exclusive right field suite!

Pricing for members: \$65 for adults, \$45 children 3-12, children 2 and under free

Pricing for non-members: \$90 for adults, \$60 for children, children 2 and under free

September 18 - Bill Cosby performance in Anchorage

Group seating in the Balcony for UAS Alumni & Friends members - special pricing \$40 (\$60 value!!). Tickets available now! Call the office to purchase.

For more information on any of the above events, or to purchase a ticket, call 796-6569 or visit www.uas.alaska.edu

Spotlight on Student Alumni

The Student Alumni Association (SAA) was established at the Juneau Campus in Fall 2003 as a chapter of the UAS Alumni Association (UASAA) to promote UAS pride and tradition on campus. This is a financially self-sustaining program that supports expanded UASAA opportunities on campus.

For their \$15 annual fee, members can attend alumni events and SAA events, including Dinner and a Movie, a Superbowl Party and an Etiquette Dinner. Their Preparing for Life After College lecture series provides opportunities for students to learn valuable life skills. SAA members also give back to the community, by participating in community volunteer days, and have provided financial assistance with campus projects.

SAA strives to make the student experience at UAS more meaningful through the promotion of UAS pride and tradition, cultivation of relationships between students and alumni, and enhancement of the college experience through exciting, memorable events. SAA develops the habit of paid membership, and trains future UASAA board members through experience on the SAA board.

Spotlight on Student Alumni (continued)

SAA's goals tie directly to UASAA's mission statement, which is to serve as a vital connection between the alumni and the University, communicate and advocate the goals and programs of UAS, and foster a continuous sense of community by establishing relationships and networking among alumni. Both groups help the University remain a vital and dynamic institution through financial support and community awareness, and provide an opportunity for alumni to help shape the future of the Alaskan educational experience.

Newly elected SAA President Kendra Swearingen joins Melissa Peterson, former president Katie Summerour, Randi Spray and Mallory Millay



InFocus: Stories of UAS Graduates and More

What are you doing with your UAS education?

Check out these first-hand accounts of the life adventures of students, faculty & staff, exchange students, alumni and highlights of programs and events. Meet the UAS community and discover opportunities for you to learn, engage and change.

If you are a graduate of UAS interested in being featured in an InFocus article, please send your submission to our Public Relations Director, Katie Bausler at kkbausler@uas.alaska.edu. She asks that you write about 500 words about yourself and what you are doing now with your education from UAS. Please include current photos with your submission.

Currently Featured Online at www.uas.alaska.edu/infocus:

Alumni (all Alumni InFocus Articles attached here at the end)

Rosie Gilbert, Elizabeth Stickel, Kai Ottesen, Matt LeGassick, and Eric Morrison.

Students (view online)

Julie Thatcher, Nick Corzen, Mariah Warren, and Stephanie Sell.

Exchange Students (view online)

Nicole Jensen, Grace Lumba, Ellie Sica, Emily Frederick, and Lacie Richardson.

Faculty and Staff (view online)

Dave Walker, Kolene James, Kevin Krein, and Chancellor John Pugh.

What's Happening at UAS

For more information on what is happening at UAS, remember to check the website! On the home page (www.uas.alaska.edu) you will find the most current News Releases from our Public Relations office, and links to stories about UAS in the Juneau Empire.

Don't miss these current 2010 UAS News Releases on the website:

- **UAS Faculty Jenifer Rae Vernon Honored with Tillie Olsen Award for Working Class Literature** (article attached here at the end)
- **2009 UAS Outstanding Graduate in Natural Sciences becomes NSF Fellow** (article attached here at the end)
- **University of Alaska Southeast-Outdoor Studies on Denali** (article attached here at the end)
- **UAS Commencement May 7-9** (article attached here at the end)
- National Honors for UAS Ceramics Student (available online)
- UAS Team Takes Top Honors at Annual Alaska Native Storytelling Conference (available online)
- Students Recognized for Accomplishments During National Student Exchange (available online)

Other UAS sites that may interest you:

- The UAS Student Newspaper The Whalesong can be found at www.thewhalesong.wordpress.com
- The UAS Faculty & Staff Newsletter Soundings can be found at www.uas.alaska.edu/soundings
- The UAS Chancellor's Report can be found at www.uas.alaska.edu/chancellor/reports.html

In Memoriam: Gerald Butts

The Juneau community lost a longtime advocate for education with the passing of Gerald Butts on May 28, 2010. The UAS Alumni & Friends Association also lost a lifetime member. His membership will continue to benefit the University and its alumni in perpetuity. Mr. Butts' obituary is attached at the end of this newsletter.

Attachments for InFocus articles on alumni, and current News Releases follow this newsletter.

Original newsletter released as an E-newsletter through the UAS Alumni & Friends. To receive the E-newsletter, send your email address to alumni@uas.alaska.edu



Gerald "Jerry" William Butts

Monday, May 31, 2010

Story last updated at 5/31/2010 - 11:08 am

Gerald "Jerry" William Butts
Juneau Empire

Gerald "Jerry" William Butts died May 28 at his Juneau home.

Born in 1935 in Barryton, Mich., Jerry's journey through life included a love for the outdoors, athletics and more than 40 years of service in public vocational education.

He was preceded in death by wives Sue Ann Johnson and Patricia McDonald.

He is survived by his wife, Karen, whom he married in 2004; children Jeff Butts, Susan Robinson and Steve Kent; step-children David and Ann Marie Natali, and Gary and Lisa Ryals; grandchildren Nicky, Jenny, Noah, Summer, Hannah, Madison, David and Matthew; four great-grandchildren; sisters Janice and Joyce and their spouses; and many friends.

A celebration of life will be held at the Chapel by the Lake on Monday, May 31 at 3 p.m. Friendship and fellowship to follow at a private home on Fritz Cove Road (the address will be provided at the service).

In lieu of flowers, please make memorial donations to Chapel by the Lake Youth Program or the UAS Alumni Scholarship Fund.

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Juneau Empire

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<http://juneauempire.com/cgi-bin/printme.pl>

6/25/2010

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Click here to return to story:

http://www.juneauempire.com/stories/053110/obi_647097963.shtml



UAS INFOCUS ALUMNI

ROSIE GILBERT



DESCRIPTION

Time Well Spent

ROSIE GILBERT

ELIZABETH STICKEL

KAI OTTESEN

MATT LEGASSIC

ERIC MORRISON

Each first-year veterinary class at Oregon State University is welcomed with a "white coat ceremony," where you are awarded your doctor coat in front of friends and family. They introduce you to the crowd, tell where you are from, and what your undergraduate degree was. Being an Alaskan is always a conversation starter in the "Lower 48", but in this case, it was my UAS undergraduate degree that turned heads. The majority of people in my profession have a background in biology, zoology, and/or animal science/husbandry, etc. Although I did have to complete additional biology courses before applying for vet school, my [communications degree](#) has helped me immensely in this field.



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My academic experience at UAS has been instrumental in my success as a veterinarian. In my personal and professional experience, not everyone with an interest in science and medicine can effectively communicate what they know to others from different backgrounds. For example, I need to be able to explain to a potentially panicked owner what is wrong with their pet, what we need to do, and how best to operate within their budget. If they're confused with medical jargon, or at any time get the impression I don't have the best interest of their pet at heart, we may not get my patient the care they need. There is a saying in veterinary medicine: they don't care what you know until they know that you care.



Classes on interpersonal, small group, and organizational communication were important for building relationships with clients and colleagues. My degree taught me how to compose a presentation, including incorporating multi-media, which I have utilized to present my research at local, state, and national conferences. The portfolio I produced in undergrad prepared me to research and write papers, and I have since been published twice.

UAS provided me with a number of opportunities outside academia as well. My positions as [Student Government President](#) and Commissioner of Post-secondary Education introduced me to public speaking, effectively examining/arguing both sides of an issue,

and how to stretch a budget. Most importantly, it made me realize that politics are everywhere, and your success can be dependent on how each situation is

handled. Clients question me daily regarding declawing, ear-cropping, tail-docking, breeding, euthanasia, animal abuse/neglect, overpopulation, economic considerations, etc... Each of these can be "hot button" items and can change my relationship with that client depending on how I represent myself.

During my last semester at UAS, I had the chance to [travel abroad](#) to Vienna, Austria. This fantastic program let me grow personally while still fulfilling my degree requirements. I developed a new appreciation for other cultures' customs, languages, and history that I had previously had little exposure to in my hometown of Petersburg. I learned how to exist outside my "comfort zone" and adapt to circumstances around me, which has been a valuable life skill.

A number of high school classmates didn't understand why I wanted to go to college within the state when everyone else was so ready to fly the coop. In the end, I graduated with very little debt from my undergraduate degree, which was incredibly helpful when considering if I wanted to continue my education. I sat through numerous college orientations on my way to my doctorate degree where various

administrators whom I'd never met, and would never see again, spoke from a podium about "getting out of your education what you're willing to put into it". I always nodded, with glazed eyes as I checked my watch. In the case of UAS, however, it was certainly true. I received a quality education and life experience that prepared me for a profession that challenges me every day. I made lifelong friends that were a key part in shaping me as a person. I can't think of any other college where I could take part in [student government](#), be an [exchange student](#), and still earn a practical degree with a low budget. My time at UAS was truly well spent.





UAS INFOCUS ALUMNI

ELIZABETH STICKEL



DESCRIPTION

ROSIE GILBERT

ELIZABETH STICKEL

KAI OTTESEN

MATT LEGASSIC

ERIC MORRISON



Elizabeth Stickel

I graduated from UAS with a [Bachelors of Business Administration](#) in marketing in May of 2008 and was commencement speaker. I continued onto Idaho State University to get my Masters of Business Administration in December of 2009. At 22, I am now taking PhD preparatory classes to begin a doctorate degree in marketing in the fall of 2010.

The mixture of classes at UAS, both in class and online, was great! It made it possible for me to work full time and also finish my bachelor's degree in just 3 years, not to mention graduating as the top business management student. I think my education at UAS was better than I could have received at most other universities because the faculty had so much real life experience in the business fields, whereas many other universities have faculty purely from academia.



I've had the opportunity to put my business knowledge to use in many ways. I spent this past summer conducting research on national tourist bureaus in Western Europe. Once you have a good understanding of the foundations of



business, your opportunities are virtually limitless – especially if you love to travel, like I do. I have another international trip planned this coming summer to Malaysia to present a paper at an academic conference. Such work!

One of the great organizations that I got involved with at UAS was [SIFE](#) (Students in Free Enterprise), headed by professor Rick Wolk. I got to work with large

towns and small villages in Southeast Alaska to improve entrepreneurship, share my business knowledge with others, and more. I presented at regional SIFE

competitions, once in Seattle and another time in Honolulu! For me, involvement in campus activities turned an educational institution into a community.



I moved on from UAS to explore more that the world has to offer. Idaho State University offered me a graduate teaching assistantship to teach upper division business classes. It is scary the first time, of course, but I have definitely developed a love for teaching and decided to get my PhD in marketing. It's hard to describe the feeling as I've fallen into a field I love and want to stay in for the rest of my life. Faced with homework, tests, grading, and more, I find it all play. When I started conducting research in the marketing aspects of travel and tourism, I found this love. Research and teaching is play for me.



Farming a Sustainable Future

I graduated from the University of Alaska Southeast in 2006 with a degree in [English](#) with an emphasis in Literature and the Environment and a certificate from the UAS [UAS Outdoor Studies Program](#). Shortly after graduating, I left Juneau and Alaska to go to work on my family's 400 acre vegetable farm in the Skagit Valley of Washington State (about an hour and a half drive north of Seattle) where we grow a wide array of crops including beet, spinach, and cabbage seed, wheat, pickling cucumbers, and fresh market organic produce including everything from artichokes to zucchini. It is sold through farmers markets and a roadside stand.

I've been working there ever since. I currently manage the fresh market operation for the farm with my cousin, which includes sales at three Puget Sound area farmers markets, local restaurants, their LaConner roadside stand, and also a 150 share "CSA" or Community Supported Agriculture program, through which families or individuals sign up for a diverse seasonal box of vegetables from the farm each week.

A degree in Literature and the Environment didn't exactly prepare me for a career in agriculture, but I did leave UAS convinced that farming was the best place for me to put my efforts. Once you start looking into human health, environmental health, land use policy, international finance, anything you tug on, it all comes back to the way we grow our food.



Day to day, my degree comes into play in writing a weekly newsletter for our regular customers –it's handy to be able to string a narrative together on cue-- , and I've also found myself grateful for it on a number of occasions in drafting business and mission plans for different aspects of the farm.

The beauty of an English degree is not that it makes you an expert in any one thing, but rather that it gives you a sense of perspective, a sense of history, and a framework for understanding the world through a variety of disciplines. There's no way you'll learn everything you need to for any job in school, so the most important thing you can come away with is an ability to learn on the fly.

In the last two years I've found that farming requires me to stay adaptable and able to self-educate in any number of fields. A degree in Literature and the Environment gave me a unique perspective on the connections between environmental and agricultural stewardship; and over the course of any given day I may have to be, on occasion, an accountant, an economist, a mechanic, a merchandiser, a translator, culinary consultant, or a plant pathologist. Hopefully that last one doesn't come up too often.

My essay "A Rhetoric of Trails: Trail Design and Our Relationship to Landscape" was recently published in Volume 15.2 of the Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and the Environment (ISLE) journal, a publication of the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment (ASLE). A copy of the journal is available at the [Egan Library](#).



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- MATT LEGASSIC
- ERIC MORRISON



MAT Graduate Alumni Pursuing Global Opportunities

My name is Matt LeGassick. I live and work in beautiful Juneau, Alaska. I'm married, and my wife and I have two amazing children. I was born and raised in Los Angeles, California where I completed my undergraduate studies at UCLA in 1990. Upon graduating I decided to depart the city life and look for adventure in the great outdoors. I ended up in Dutch Harbor, Alaska working with the National Marine Fisheries Service for four years. It was there I had my first experiences in the classroom when I occasionally substitute taught. I enjoyed teaching and decided to apply for the [Masters of Arts in Teaching \(MAT\) program](#) at UAS in 1994. This was the first year of the MAT program, and it has grown considerably over the past ten years. That first year we had 14 students complete the program. Now there are approximately 40 MAT graduates each year. The MAT program was a great fit for me as it combined graduate courses with on the job training in a one-year internship.

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In 1995, after graduating from the MAT program, I accepted my first teaching job in Holy Cross, Alaska. This small town is part of the Iditarod School District, located on the lower Yukon River. I was hired on as the only high school teacher. It was an eye-opening adventure! It was also a tremendous learning opportunity for me as it provided me with first hand experience of Alaskan Native culture and ways of learning.

In 1996 I came back to Juneau and was hired at Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School where I had completed my internship in the MAT program. For the next four years I enjoyed teaching math and science to 7th and 8th graders. In the summer of 2000 my wife and I pursued our dream to live and teach in another country. We accepted a teaching exchange position in Nishiokoppe, Japan. For two years we taught English to grades K-12 and adult classes in Northern Hokkaido. Our adventure in Japan continued with the birth of our first child; our son Parker. Experiencing a different country, culture and educational system was an enlightening journey. We plan to move abroad again with our family to continue to broaden our life experiences.

Two years after returning to Juneau I was offered the Assistant Principal position at Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School. After seven years of experience in the building I felt it was the perfect opportunity to move into administration. This is my second year working as an administrator and I enjoy helping lead our school, as well as the challenges this position brings. There is never a dull moment and no two days are alike! Interestingly enough, when I was asked to do this article I discovered

that my colleague, Barb Mecum, had also graduated from the MAT program is now the Principal here at Dzantik'i Heeni.

During the summer I am fortunate to spend my time working with Alaska Native students in an academic camp setting. This summer will be my 5th year working for [ANSWER Camp](#) through the Southeast Regional Resource Center. In 1998 I started teaching at ANSWER Camp. In 2003 I took the position as Camp Coordinator. This camp is a culturally based math, science and literacy camp for rural Alaska Native middle school students from all over the state. Over the years we have taught everything from: How do plants impact the quality of our lives? To, How do traditional methods of food preparation make food safe to eat? ANSWER Camp is one of the most successful educational programs I've had the opportunity to be a part of.

In looking back on my journey it's clear to me that I owe a great deal of my career experiences and successes to the opportunities the MAT program provided me. I will continue to utilize my MAT degree and teaching certificate to guide my career path and reach my goals whether it is here in Juneau, or across the globe.



UAS INFOCUS ALUMNI

ERIC MORRISON



DESCRIPTION

ROSIE GILBERT

ELIZABETH STICKEL

KAI OTTESEN

MATT LEGASSIC

ERIC MORRISON



Pieces to the Puzzle

It's hard for me to picture my life, my identity, without considering UAS. The university has served as the cornerstones of my education and as the building blocks for a future that I have been working hard to construct for many years.

Being inspired as a freshman in high school by a travel writer turned social studies teacher, UAS helped further nurture my journalism aspirations from my very first semester on campus. Starting as a staff writer for the campus newspaper, the [Whalesong](#), over time I found myself occupying the positions of editor and production manager. Not only did I learn valuable journalism skills in the classroom and on the campus beat, but there were numerous other opportunities that blossomed out of my involvement. I was able to attend a national journalism conference in New York City, cover a [bald eagle festival in Haines, Alaska](#), and attend a student leadership conference in Portland, Ore., just to name a few.

Even when not on the Whalesong staff I was still able to utilize our student newspaper as a forum to express my opinions and publish stories for my peers. After arriving back at UAS from a [semester abroad](#) studying Renaissance art and literature in Siena, Italy, I was able fulfill a dream of being an international travel writer by sharing my experiences in our publication.



UAS also provides an excellent atmosphere for networking and getting to know faculty members, administration, and leaders of the community. Through connections I was able to make from my experience at the Whalesong I landed a job at the city newspaper, the [Juneau Empire](#), which in turn I was able to use for internship credits toward my bachelors degree. The journalism experience I gained from the Whalesong was invaluable while working on articles that ranged from fishing or boxing, to stories about scuba diving and surfing in Alaska. I was also able to expand my experience as an aspiring international travel writer by publishing narratives in the Empire about my travels in several different foreign countries. By building on experience and working my way up the journalism hierarchy, the hard work and dedication toward my goals have begun to pay off. One article I had published last year was awarded an Associated Press writing award.

The opportunities UAS has provided for me over the years are not limited to my interests in journalism, but rather are very broad and diverse. I have been involved in the Student Leadership Program, spent a semester as a teacher's assistant, helped with the creation of the [UAS Student Alumni](#), went to Glacier Bay on an anthropology research expedition, went to Ketchikan for a humanities conference on Beat poetry, and the list goes on and on.

UAS has provided me with limitless opportunities to be involved in the classroom and beyond. If I could tell prospective students one thing about UAS, I would advise them to take advantage of the opportunities presented because before you know it you'll be putting the final pieces of the puzzle together for your degree.

UAS Faculty Jenifer Rae Vernon Honored with Tillie Olsen Award for Working Class Literature

Juneau, AK

Date of Press Release: June 16, 2010

ALBUQUERQUE--Jenifer Rae Vernon, author of the poetry debut, [Rock Candy](#) (West End Press, 2009), and an Assistant Professor of Communications at the University of Alaska Southeast has won the Tillie Olsen Award for Creative Writing. The Working Class Studies Association <http://www.wcstudies.org/about/> grants the Tillie Olsen Award for the best published book that honors the "voices, experiences, and perspective of working-class people" in the genres of poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction. The award was presented at the "How Class Works" conference at SUNY Stony Brook, Long Island, June 3-5.

West End Press publisher John Crawford has been pleased with the success of *Rock Candy*, which has included coverage on Garrison Keillor's "Writer's Almanac" radio program. "Jen Vernon's work expresses so much West End Press has tried to bring to light over the years," admits Crawford. "Jen's flawless sense of language, her roots in a working class society, and the courage, pain, and triumph of the story she tells. She is a truth-teller, and we are proud of her."

Jenifer Rae Vernon grew up in a big family in a small logging town in the Pacific Northwest. Vernon began writing poetry and prose in community college and self-published big chapbooks called *Wild Ivy*, *Athalia* and *Stretch*, which drew on her archive of poetry, prose, photography, and interviews to explore religion, sexuality, gender and power issues. A Washington native, Vernon holds a bachelor's degree from Evergreen College, a master's degree in International Studies from the University of Oregon, and a Ph.D. in Communication from the University of California, San Diego. She is Assistant Professor of Communications at the University of Alaska Southeast, in Juneau.

MEDIA:

For info and images, or to schedule an interview with Jen Vernon, please contact:

Amanda Sutton

Publicity, West End Press

505-400-3898

amanda@westendpress.org | <http://westendpress.org> <<mailto:amanda@westendpress.org>>

Contacts:

Jenifer Vernon

Assistant Professor of Communication Arts and Sciences - Humanities, Juneau campus

907-796-6422

jrvernon@uas.alaska.edu

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2009 UAS Outstanding Graduate in Natural Sciences becomes NSF Fellow

Juneau, AK

Date of Press Release: June 4, 2010



A recent graduate of the University of Alaska Southeast received a National Science Foundation Doctoral Fellowship and is accepted for a PhD position in the Department of Ecology and Evolution at the Center for the Study of Complex Systems at the University of Michigan. In addition to the NSF fellowship, the University of Michigan Graduate school has awarded Micaela Martinez-Bakker a Merit Fellowship.

The NSF and Merit fellowships will provide Micaela resources to study infectious diseases in Arctic wildlife and continue in the field of Polar Biology. "I am very proud to be launching my graduate career in Arctic Biology and once again working with UAS Biology faculty Dave Tallmon and others in the Institute of the Arctic," she said.

"Another thing I am very excited about is that I will be teaching Calculus courses for the 2010-2011 academic year in the Department of Mathematics at the University of Michigan. It is part of my graduate requirements that I teach for one year, and seeing as how I had the best mathematics professors at UAS I am not the least bit intimidated to teach these courses. It is a reflection of how wonderful the education is at UAS that such a recent graduate of the math department will be allowed to teach mathematics at a prestigious university."

Micaela was named the UAS 2009 Outstanding Graduate in Natural Sciences.

Contacts:

Katie Bausler
PR and Marketing Director, UAS
907-796-6530
katie.bausler@uas.alaska.edu

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University of Alaska Southeast-Outdoor Studies on Denali

Juneau, AK

Date of Press Release: June 14, 2010



A group of Outdoor Studies students and staff made University of Alaska Southeast history climbing North America's highest peak, Denali ("The High One" in Koyukon Athabaskan) at 20,320 ft. Students Acacia Edmiston, Sammy Becker, Travis Haskin, Yosuke Sano and Freddie Munoz made the trek as part of the final capstone course for the ten month [certificate in Outdoor Studies program](#).

The group, led by ODS faculty Kevin Krein and Forest Wagner began their ascent on May 12 with stops at main base camps at 14,200 and 17,000 feet. Fifteen days later, three members of the group reached the summit at 6 p.m., May 27. They were ODS program director Forest Wagner, UAS staff Shea Mack and student Yosuke Sano.

"I was really satisfied with the trip," said Wagner. "It shows that our program is effective at developing soft and hard skills that lead to competence and confidence in pretty extreme outdoor settings."

"I think the most impressive thing was seeing how prepared technically we were for the climb and how well our group worked together," said student Acacia Edmiston. "I think this really says a lot about our program and our excellent instructors."

Shea Mack recalled summit day as one of the hardest climbing days of his life. "We started at 8:30 a.m. and hit a really strong wind," said Mack.

"I had never really considered climbing Denali; after several failed attempts at altitude several years ago I had pretty much given up on high-altitude mountaineering. But the infectious attitude and spirit of this year's ODS group quickly convinced me that this may be a real possibility. Their "can do"

2009 UAS Outstanding Graduate in Natural Sciences becomes NSF Fellow | University ... Page 2 of 2
attitude persisted from day one and throughout the trip. It's both admirable and refreshing to see in this generation of students.

This trip taught me that with the right attitude, planning, and forethought anything is possible. As a member of the expedition I learned that from day to day you may encounter hardships along the way, but the power of the group helps you overcome the difficulties. Once you put aside the cold, the weather, and the obstacles along the way, living in the mountains is real simple: keep yourself warm, hydrated and well-fed. It's living at its most simplistic form: pure survival. The things that matter most are the people you choose to share your time in the mountains and how you choose to do it. With this group I feel that we succeeded on all counts.”

The UAS Denali blog documents the trip through written entries and photos. While the trip was in progress, users could follow the progress of the group via SPOT satellite locator.<http://uasods.blogspot.com/>

Outdoor Studies at the University of Alaska Southeast combines outdoor skills and academic coursework to provide a liberal arts approach to studying human interaction with the natural world. ODS students develop skills and characteristics that are essential to success as an individual, a group member, and a leader in outdoor and adventure settings. The [Outdoor Skills and Leadership Certificate](#) requires a minimum of 34 credits of course work and participation in entrance and exit experiential outings.

UAS is now offering a new Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Studies and Geography with an emphasis in Outdoor Skills and Leadership.

Contacts:

Dr. Kevin Krein
Academic Director, Outdoor Studies, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, UAS
907-796-6362
kevin.krein@uas.alaska.edu

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UAS Commencement May 7-9, 2010

Juneau, AK

Date of Press Release: May 3, 2010

The public is invited to join the celebration at commencement ceremonies in Juneau, Sitka and Ketchikan. The University of Alaska Southeast is honoring graduates from Summer and Fall 2009 and Spring 2010.

The Juneau ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, May 9 at 2 p.m. at the Charles Gamble Jr. - Donald Sperl Joint Use Facility, 12300 Mendenhall Loop Road (UAS Rec Center). Parking and shuttle service will be available from the Auke Lake Campus. The event is also simulcast on UATV Cable Channel 11 and live streamed at <http://uatv.alaska.edu>. Next week podcasts can be downloaded and DVDs ordered at <http://www.uas.alaska.edu/media/productions>.

UAS' three campuses in Juneau, Sitka and Ketchikan are conferring more than 300 degrees. UAS serves an average of 6400 students a year, 70% Juneau, 24% Sitka and 17% Ketchikan.

More than 62 (38 received degrees in 2009) Alaska Natives are graduating from UAS' three regional campuses. Nearly 14 percent of UAS students are Alaska Native. Over the past five years, an average of 10 percent of UAS graduates have been Alaska Native.

An Annual Native Graduation Celebration will take place Saturday May 8, 7 p.m. at the Auke Recreation BIG Shed. The program includes Wooncheen club student MC's honoring the graduating students with special gifts and storytelling.

Mark Hamilton is the speaker for the Juneau ceremony. Since Hamilton became the 12th president of the University of Alaska system in 1998, support from elected officials and business leaders has increased markedly, with favorable budget support from the governor and Alaska Legislature, a major increase in the number of donors to the university, and a coordinated and successful research program relevant to Alaska's most pressing challenges, including global climate change, energy in the Arctic, and biomedical health sciences. Hamilton and his wife of 43 years, Patty, have four grown children and ten grandchildren. Hamilton retires this summer after 12 years at the helm of UA.

An Honorary Doctorate of Laws degree will be conferred on Tom Cashen. Cashen is a fourth generation Southeast Alaskan, mentor and exemplary role model to workers and labor leaders across the state of Alaska with a distinguished career as a journeyman electrician, union representative, and state labor commissioner. As commissioner, Tom presided over the Jobs and Training Cabinet and fostered the greater integration and coordination of workforce development agencies, including the University of Alaska, through the establishment of "one-stop" job centers and the re-organization of the state workforce development council.

Jamie Parsons will accept a Meritorious Service Award. Parsons has been called Juneau's greatest cheerleader. His resume' includes titles as former Juneau Mayor (1991-94), Assemblyman, owner of the Juneau Raquet Club, President of the Glacier Valley Rotary Club, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce and chairman of The Alaska Committee. According to a legislative resolution honoring him, Parsons, "has always transcended partisan politics and is an exceptional example to the

citizens of Alaska, proving that one person can really make a difference.”

The Student Speaker is Alicia Hughes-Skandijs. She is graduating with a BS in Mathematics and excelled in a number of theatre and art courses. She has been employed by the School of Arts and Sciences for the last couple of years as a student worker and was a Student Leader for Orientation this school year. The University of Alaska Southeast provides a wide variety of educational courses and programs that are available locally and via distance delivery.

Juneau

Sunday, May 9, 2010 at 2:00 P.M.

Charles Gamble Jr. - Donald Sperl Joint Use Facility

12300 Mendenhall Loop Road (UAS Rec Center)

Speaker: Mark Hamilton, President, University of Alaska

Honorary Doctorate of Law: Tom Cashen

Meritorious Service Award: Jamie Parsons

Student Speaker: Alicia Hughes-Skandijs

Ketchikan

Saturday, May 8, 2010 at 3:00 P.M.

Ted Ferry Civic Center, Venitia Way

Speaker: Sara Lawson, Non-profit Management Professional

Sitka

Friday, May 7, 2010 at 7:00 P.M.

Sheet'ka Kwaán Naa Kahídi Community House,

200 Katlian Street, Sitka,

Alaska Speaker: Roald Helgesen, President/CEO of the SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium

Student Speaker: Carla Mahoskey

Contacts:

Katie Bausler

Director, UAS Public and Media Relations

907-796-6530

katie.bausler@uas.alaska.edu

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