

Connie Boochever Endowment for Arts

A new arts endowment is established at UAS, thanks to a generous donation from Judge Robert Boochever. Boochever was on the Alaska Supreme Court from 1972-80 and served as Chief Justice from 1975-78. He was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to the 9th Circuit Court in 1980. The Connie Boochever Endowment for Arts was established in honor of his late wife, Lois Colleen "Connie" Boochever for her extraordinary contribution to the Arts in Alaska during her lifetime.

In the mid-1960s, Connie worked to establish the State Arts Council. She served as a governor's appointee on the Council for 11 years. She served as vice-chairman of the Board of the National Assembly of State Art Agencies; helped secure the Kimball organ for the capitol building in Juneau and was instrumental in securing passage by the Alaska legislature of the One Percent for Art. She was active in securing the Artists in School program and was a prime mover in restoring and developing the Last Chance Basin historical mining buildings. She was also instrumental in starting the Juneau Arts & Humanities Council and was a founding member of the Juneau Douglas Little Theatre as well as serving on a number of other community boards.

The purpose of this fund is to provide financial support to the Arts and Theater programs at the University of Alaska Southeast. Expenditures from this fund may include special program support and equipment grants, student scholarships, performance underwriting



and the sponsoring of guest performances and cultural arts events on campus. Students applying for the scholarship must be pursuing a minor in theatre and follow the established scholarship application process for the University of Alaska.

UAS partners with Perseverance Theatre to offer courses in acting and directing as well as internships. A recent Perseverance second stage production was directed by a UAS student and featured two UAS students in lead roles. Daughter Ann Boochever said, "The collaboration between the

University of Alaska Southeast and Juneau's Perseverance Theater is unique. Few universities in the nation can provide a program in theater that includes actual training with a professional theater company. Expanding the drama program should help UAS attract more students."

The Connie Boochever fund has a balance of roughly \$300,000, with more than \$35,000 currently available to be awarded. Judge Boochever has also donated \$100,000 to a campaign to upgrade a trail around Auke Lake.

"It is fitting that a portion of the money go to the new Auke Lake Trail. My dad used to fly fish on Auke Lake. When he was Head of the Juneau Planning Commission he worked on the Site Selection Committee that chose Auke Lake as the site of the new Southeastern branch of the University of Alaska," said Ann Boochever.



Juneau English Faculty Presents Paper at Modern Language Association Conference

UAS Assistant Professor of English Nina Chordas presented a paper on the poetry of

Andrew Marvell at the annual Modern Language Association (MLA) conference in Chicago, held December 27-30, 2007. Her paper was titled, *The Marvell in La Maravilla: Marvell's Poetry as Conceptual Frame in Alfredo Vea's Interlingual Novel*.

Chordas' paper was presented as part of a panel dealing with allusion in the poetry of Marvell, a 17th-century English poet, or allusions to Marvell and his poetry in other works. She discussed La

Maravilla, a novel by contemporary American author Alfredo Vea, and the extensive use it makes of Marvell's poetry.

Chordas said, "My main point was that, although it's not necessary for a reader of this novel to be familiar with Marvell, readers who are familiar with his poetry will have a richer experience by picking up on subtexts that are not available otherwise. Borrowing from linguistic terminology, I refer to Marvell's poetry in Vea's text as a "conceptual frame," carrying its own connotations within the larger context of the book." In addition, in a novel considered "interlingual" because it intersperses Spanish and other languages with English, she argues that Marvell's poetry functions almost as another language similarly interspersed.

In 2007 Dr. Chordas also served the first of 3 years as a nationally elected member of the MLA Delegate Assembly.



Digital Artist in Residence for Spring 2008

UAS welcomes back Seattle artist John Fehringer as an Artist-In-Residence in Digital Fine Art for spring semester, 2008. Mr. Fehringer is an award-winning artist who has been highly recognized for his accomplished artwork. He may be best known here for his airbrush paintings of Southeast Alaska created when he lived in Juneau in the

80's and 90's. Since moving to Seattle in the mid-90's, Mr. Fehringer has trained extensively in digital technology for fine art (art for art's sake) and for applied (commercial) art.

Clients include Columbia Resource Group, a media group based in Seattle with worldwide clients; Watts/Silverstein Inc., one of the original digital media consultants and production companies on the West Coast; and Digicolor Media/Seattle, a northwest digital production house for visual communication. Mr. Fehringer now owns and runs his own digital media company, Fehringer Studios, out of Seattle, Port Townsend and now Juneau. His separate publishing company, Windsong Editions, publishes and distributes his limited edition fine art prints to galleries throughout the US and Canada.

For the Spring semester Mr. Fehringer will teach two courses on digital art in motion and digital art and technology. The courses will focus on digital techniques for creative expression and storytelling. He is also teaching a capstone course for graduating Humanities students along with UAS faculty Jason Ohler.

The Great Land Loses a Great One

A pillar of Alaska's young history passed on December 12, 2007. Tom Stewart, better known as Judge Stewart in Juneau, was the chief organizer of the Alaska Constitutional Convention. "Without him it wouldn't have happened," said long time friend and fellow constitutional delegate George Rogers.

Tom Stewart received his Honorary Doctorate of Laws, UAS in 1992. George Rogers received an Honorary Doctorate of Economics, UAA in 1986.



Stewart earned a Silver Star for his role in liberating Italy from the Nazis during World War 2. Upon return from the war, his vision was to learn Russian and find a way to improve relations between the United States and the Soviet Union. "It was not the Americans; it was the Russians that beat the Germans, beginning at the Battle of Stalingrad when they wiped out the third German army. And I decided that in my lifetime Russia was going to be the foreign entity that we had to deal with," said Stewart in a public television interview in May, 2007.

He earned a Masters Degree in Russian studies at the Peterborough School of Advanced International Studies in New Hampshire and then spent the summer of 1947 in neighboring Vermont in a Russian language program at Middlebury College.

But a political paranoia of the time shifted Stewart's dream. "I wanted to work with the Russians," he recalled. "But because of McCarthyism I couldn't get a job even though I had a pretty complete educational background."

Rogers remembers when Stewart had renowned Soviet dissident Alexander Solzhenitsyn over for tea in the Juneau home Stewart's father built in the early 1900's. Rogers and wife Jean were there for the occasion. "Solzhenitsyn said until the Russians come back to the mother church, it [cooperation between the two countries] wouldn't work." Rogers remembers. Stewart realized his dream was impossible. "He said we can achieve a brave new world here."

"His mission was to see Alaska become a state and the route was the constitution," said Rogers. "He got the idea to draft up a constitution. Then we could show other states we were ready to become a state."

Stewart put everything he had into the task. "I spent six weeks of my own time and my own funds," Stewart told a UAS Evening at Egan audience commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Constitutional Convention. He travelled to Hawaii to witness their efforts at statehood and pored over documents at academic institutions including the Universities of Chicago and Washington as well as Princeton, Harvard and Yale, seeking a "how-to" guide on writing a constitution.

Stewart organized and served as secretary of the 1955 Constitutional Convention and pushed for it to be held at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Rogers said Stewart's preparation was "magnificent. We called it creating Alaska."

Stewart may be best remembered as a founding father of Alaska, but he had many other accomplishments in his almost 89 years (he would have turned 89 January 1, 2008). He is the first Alaskan to graduate Yale Law School. He served Alaska as a Territorial legislator, one of the first state senators and Superior Court judge.

As a U.S. Army captain in the legendary 10th Mountain Division, Stewart earned his Silver Star when his unit was attempting to cross the Po River in the Apennine Mountains. Stewart was atop a dike, keeping a look out for the safety of his men. "The shell bursts of deflected anti-aircraft fire took place about every minute and a half. So in that lull I ran on the top of the dike and then anticipating that the shells were going to come, I hit the ground and the shrapnel spit in around me," he recalled in the public television interview.

This past August, Stewart brought along his children and grandchildren to a reunion in Denver, Colorado of his old war buddies. He was one of the troops that endured some of the harshest winter training in the mountains of Camp Hale, Colorado. It was the last reunion organized by the living veterans of the 10th Mountain Division in World War Two.

On November 11, 2005 as he regaled an Evening at Egan audience with his stories of birthing the state of Alaska, Stewart wore a blazer with the insignia of crossed ski shaped swords of the 10th Mountain Division.

Ketchikan History Faculty Publishes Articles in National Periodicals

John Radzilowski, assistant professor of history, Ketchikan, recently published two articles. "Fecund Newcomers or Dying Ethnic? Demographic Approaches to the History of Polish and Italian Immigrants and their Children in the United States, 1880 to 1980" appears in the latest issue of *Journal of American Ethnic History* (Fall 2007). "A History of Minnesota Politics," covers the political history of Minnesota as it begins its 150th year of statehood and appears in *Perspectives on Minnesota Government and Politics* (6th edition), released in late 2007 by Pearson Custom Publishers.

