ON THE COVER...

Our campus welcomed some new students to Juneau on January 9th! This year’s Spring Orientation program included a lot of great activities, like a trip out to the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center on a snowy day. For more fun photos and details, turn to pages 8-9!

Table of Contents

3 Campus Safety & Parking
6 (Semester) One & Done
10 Winterfest at UAS & Write Poetry like a Viking
13 Planners: Pros, Cons, and Benefits
14-15 Calendar & Comics!

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UAS WHALESONG
January 26 - February 8, 2015

— UAS Answers —
Everybody’s got one ...

If you had to be named after a city, state, or country, which would you want it to be?

“Hrvatska, because it sounds like a battle-cry.”
-Brittni Wisner

“Call me Botswana.”
-Alex Whitehead

“Tiamamut. It was a Maasai tribe capital that I lived at.”
-Kelli Menze

“I would say Oaxaca. That’s where my family lives in Mexico.”
-Sylvester Olivares

“Gotham.”
-Matt Bishop

“France.”
-Lynda Jones
Campus Safety & Parking

We are fortunate souls at UAS: plenty of parking and no fees. If you’ve been on college campuses up north or outside Alaska, you know that this is unusual. Fees, parking passes, ticketing, and long walks are the norm.

It’s unusual for UAS to have long term, major disruption to our parking lots. Most recently, the upper lots were offline while we constructed our new Freshman Residence Hall. At certain times during the class day, parking was hard to come by on main campus. Parking in non-approved parking spots was tolerated because of the construction factor. For the most part, construction has wrapped up. Most of the upper lots are now available for parking.

What does parking have to do with safety? Parking in locations not designated for parking is a safety issue. When you park on sidewalks, people are forced to walk in the lot, dodging cars that are backing up or pulling in. Parking on the street forces people to drive in the oncoming lane. Parking in non-designated parking spots impedes snow removal and road/lot maintenance. Parking in non-designated parking spots is illegal for a reason.

UAS has authority to ticket vehicles parked in non-authorized parking spots. This semester, warnings have been delivered to some drivers. To avoid a ticket, build more time into your schedule to park in designated parking spots and take the short walk to your class or office. Fight the desire to be lazy and park illegally on the sidewalk instead of in one of the 100 open spaces. Be considerate of other’s safety. Park in a designated parking spot - it’s the right thing to do.

-Lori Klein, Campus Conduct Administrator

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The Only Thing Cold in Juneau this Winter —

BY JASMINE MATTSON-WOLFF
For the UAS Whalesong

Hello, my fellow Whalesong readers! Welcome back to UAS! I hope that this issue of the newspaper finds you all doing well and having a good time with your classes so far this semester. If you haven’t noticed, this winter here in Juneau has been quite mild and not very cold. This is pretty strange for us. Something that hasn’t changed is that there are still amazing ice cream joints here in Juneau that haven’t let the lack of winter effect their ice cream production! I stopped by a few ice cream places and figured I would share with you some of the delicious treats that I found in my mini-adventures searching for chillier winter moments.

Before I jump into talking about the ice cream businesses here in Juneau, perhaps it would be a good idea to briefly talk about the history of ice cream. First of all, ice cream has been around for a long time! From the articles I’ve read, it sounds like this frozen treat made its way to Europe from the east and then over time expanded from places like Italy and France. Ice cream came to America in the 1700s; the first advertisement for ice cream was in the New York Gazette on May 12, 1777, when Philip Lenzi announced that ice cream was “available almost every day”! In 1800 the ice cream industry started to take off all over the country, due to the invention of insulated ice houses; as technology increased, so did ice cream production. Today in the United States, we produce more than 1.6 billion gallons of frozen dairy product annually. That’s a lot of ice cream! I wonder how many gallons of ice cream are consumed in Juneau each year… but that is another topic, perhaps to be covered in a future article!

Alright, now that you have a quick and dirty history of ice cream, let’s talk about what’s here in town! The first place that I stopped by was Tasty Treat Frozen Yogurt & Toppings located downtown at 611 West Willoughby (right off the bus stop at Foodland). Now of course, they don’t serve ice cream but they do serve a variety of frozen yogurt! Frozen yogurt holds live and active cultures, which is one reason why it is better for you than ice cream. You basically build your own creation at this place for 55¢ per ounce. In four years of business the owners of Tasty Treat, Larry Smith and Alisa Higgins, have only had to raise their fro-yo price 10¢! They get their fro-yo out of a company in Portland called Yocream. There are 80 different flavors that are rotated through the shop, and 8 of those flavors are available for customers to try everyday of the week. You can choose between non-fat, fat-free, and non-dairy fro-yo, as well as 33 different toppings at Tasty Treat! I would suggest stopping here if you are looking for some kind of special fat-free, dairy-free option, or for an amazing assortment of tasty morsels to put on your frozen yogurt! Their business hours are Monday-Saturday, from 11 a.m.-8 p.m. and on Sundays from 12-7 p.m.

The second place that I went in my search for ice cream is located downtown in the Wharf: Chilkat Cove Cones & Treats! If you are looking for something nice and satisfying, definitely go “Treat yourself at Chilkat Cove”! There is a wide variety of options at this shop, everything from milkshakes to cones, to bottled beverages or hot tea, and other snacks. There are 24 different Cascade Glacier Ice Cream flavors to choose from. If I had to suggest one flavor to try, I would have to recommend at least sampling the Beach Comber! It’s a super fun flavor and I’ll admit that I’m not craving sugar most of the time, but when I am that’s where I go to satisfy the calling. There are also plenty of interesting options to choose from; looking for energy and a treat? Try their Redbull milkshake for a taste bud electrifying experience! One thing that sets Chilkat Cove apart from other ice cream places in Juneau is that they make their own amazing cones by hand right in the shop— I’d suggest coming here simply for the radical ice cream cone! Here is how the ice cream is priced out: milkshakes are $5, floats are $4.50, and cones & cups range from $2-$5 depending on how many scoops you’d like. Their hours of operation are as follows: Tuesday-Thursday from 1-9 p.m., and Friday-Saturday from 1-11:30 p.m.

The third place I visited was one of the newer cafés here in Juneau: Coppa. They are located downtown across from the federal building, next to Seong’s Sushi Bar. Coppa has been around since September 2013, and the restaurant has made a phenomenal reputation for themselves and their ice cream. One of Coppa’s slogans, “Only the good stuff,” bottles everything they are into four words. Whether you’re looking for espresso or paninis, soups or salads, muffins or savory spirals, Coppa is one of the most awesome cafés in Juneau.

Whoops! I almost forgot, we’re here to talk about ice cream! Coppa hand makes their ice cream weekly and is always showcasing new flavors that are sometimes only there as long as the tub of ice cream lasts. The New Orleans’ Coffee ice cream is perfection; it’s not too bitter or too sweet, and the coffee flavor shines through beautifully. The Ring of Fire is interesting too; it’s a Sriracha and ginger flavor that leaves your taste buds deep in thought over the exotic spices. Their Caramel Smoked Salt ice cream is also quite amazing. The caramel pairs fantastically with the smoky salt and brings out this flavor that reminds me of the smell of a smoke house.

If you find yourself downtown searching for something to satisfy your sweet tooth, stop in at Chilkat Cove Cones & Treats! This ice cream shop is located in the Wharf and if you stop in for a couple of scoops, you’re sure to be impressed by the delicious flavors and the intricate design on their cones!

(Article continues on page 8)
A new year means new things: resolutions, classes, ideas, weather, habits. But a lot of times, people just keep on chugging like nothing’s really changed. I am not an aficionado of this way of life. I believe in rampant change, if only to freshen and liven things up. Change is the spice of life, guys – especially in college, where nothing in our day-to-day lives really changes except our class materials and social obligations.

This translates particularly well to dorms and apartments, where the most we can do is move the furniture around and hope for the best. So do that! The first thing I did when I got back this semester was rearrange my entire room, so now it feels like I’m coming back to something new instead of the same old, same old. Obviously this is easiest for people living in one of the 4-bedroom apartments, but even if you have a roommate, I don’t think they would hold it against you if you shuffled things on your side of the room around a bit. If you have a great relationship with your roommate, maybe you can even talk them into changing the entire layout of your room. Even if you can’t move your furniture around, minor changes can help: tack a blanket above your bed to create a canopy, rearrange the posters on your walls, move your string of lights somewhere else. Small changes can help just as much as big ones.

Something else that helps for the new semester is to look at the previous one and think about what didn’t work. Did you not eat well last semester? Make a point out of eating at least one square meal a day, even if you have to march all the way to the cafeteria to do it. Were you super lethargic? Sign up for a PE class so you have to go be physical at least once a week. I know this sounds like a horrible idea if all you want to do is lie on your bed and browse the Internet, but your body needs what your brain is trying to avoid. Was your room a mess all the time? Contemplate getting rid of some stuff – either by throwing it away, selling it on eBay, or sending it home.

If you made a new year’s resolution that you really want to keep, try taking a calendar and marking it with an “X” or a check mark every day that you said you were going to do whatever thing you resolved to do. That way, on days you don’t do it, there will be a highly conspicuous gap on the calendar. This works best for “every day” resolutions, but is still an effective way to keep yourself on track for other things.

I mentioned rearranging your furniture as a way of creating a new environment, but moving yourself to another environment completely is also effective! It doesn’t have to be very far – for example, last semester I did most of my homework on my bed (this is not recommended). It was comfy, but it wasn’t the best idea because I found it a little difficult to focus and too easy to fall over and take an unplanned nap. This semester, I’m cleaning off my desk and setting it up to be my workspace for the remainder of the school year – somewhere I can sit up straight and focus, and know I have to get work done.

Finally, something else I would recommend is getting your friends to hold you to your resolutions. At college, your mom isn’t there to ask if you did your weekly room-cleaning or if you ate well that day – but if you have two or three friends coming up to you throughout the day asking “Did you eat? Is your room clean? Did you do [x]?”, then you have your own personal support squad that is willing to nag you for your own good. Nagging aside, you could also pull a High School Musical and all be in it together. You want to work out? So do your friends? Then decide on a time and drag each other to the REC Center.

It’s hard to keep new year’s resolutions, and frankly I’m not sure who came up with the idea in the first place. But it’s possible to change stuff in your life if you just take it one step at a time and try not to stress about it too much! The lack of stress is key. You are here to learn school stuff, not become a health and fitness expert. There are campus resources to help you with that, anyway. Just keep on
BY SORCHA HAZELTON
For the UAS Whalesong

I stand at a crossroads. Well, more like some point on that roller-coaster every study abroad student is told about. I’ve completed classes for one semester and am roughly halfway through my Estonian adventure.

While on the whole time hasn’t seemed to pass that quickly, there are definitely weeks where it has. Especially with so much time out of class, and only a four day week, things sped by. I knew a year was what I wanted to do, and I know I made the right choice. I can’t imagine leaving right now. Sure, there are things that I’m missing at home, things I really wish I could attend and see, but I’ve had moments here when I thought I might never leave. For less than a ticket to Seattle (and maybe even to Anchorage) I can cross this continent and stay in London for four days. At any given moment I could head off to cross borders and see what’s on the other side. I haven’t gotten out as much this semester as many of the other study abroad students, but I was adjusting to life in Estonia (or at least that’s what I tell myself). If I’d only been abroad for 4 months, you bet I would never have been home, but knowing I have more time means I can pick my own speed. If I’d been here for only one semester, it would have been very different from the one I just had.

My classes this coming semester shouldn’t be nearly as hard as Autumn 2014 was, which should enable me to get out more often, not bogged down with as much homework. There’s still so much that I want to see and so many places on my study abroad bucket list, across the Baltics as well as Europe. I can officially order tea and cake in Estonian and am hoping I can manage more than that by the time I fly home. I’ve gotten better at being an independent human being, cooking dinner for myself nearly every night, meal planning, making my bed every morning, doing my laundry (and the washer/dryer is in German so…), etc. While I don’t feel like my semester abroad has changed me all that much, the opportunities I have here are more than I could have had at home.

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It is not much of a secret that J.R.R. Tolkien was—to put it in familiar terms—a giant nerd. Apart from being both an Oxford professor and a father, the man spent his days writing vast histories of a completely made-up place full of completely made-up people who spoke completely made-up languages. We know a small scrap of this world as The Hobbit, and The Lord of the Rings, which have recently gained fame as films. His other works include the truly titanic Silmarillion, The Children of Hurin, and The Adventures of Tom Bombadil. These, however famous for their contributions to nerd-dom, are not why he has earned the title, however. Tolkien was, in fact, always astounded at how many fans The Lord of the Rings had garnered. He had purportedly considered his Middle Earth as a hobby or side-project to what he thought of as his more important work, such as translating Beowulf, or Sir Gawain and the Green Knight. What made J.R.R. Tolkien a giant nerd was the simple fact that he was a brilliant author who considered it more important to be a brilliant professor. To him, Middle Earth in all its detail arose from a keen study of fairy stories, which in turn arose from what he would call their virtue. Tolkien’s conviction of the virtue of fairy stories and folk tales not only led him to single-handedly transform Beowulf from a purely anthropological spectacle into a literary essential, but has earned him here, at least, an ear.

Tolkien’s essay, “On Fairy Stories,” best characterizes his defense of the genre. Originally composed as a lecture and given in 1938, the essay was enlarged and published in its full form in 1947. In it, Tolkien argues that “fairy stories offer…these things: Fantasy, Recovery, Escape, Consolation.” I will deal here with Consolation, which is last, but has the greatest impact.

Tolkien puts it this way: “…more important is the Consolation of a Happy Ending.

This Eucatastrophe, or, “more correctly a good catastrophe,” is the “sudden joyous ‘turn’” that often characterizes a happy ending. A Eucatastrophe treads the fine line between a sad ending and a contrived one. It is a happy ending that turns up unlooked-for. In this way it is “a sudden and miraculous grace: never to be counted on to recur”. It is when everything should have gone wrong, but, by a forgotten ally or a sudden change of heart, everything goes right anyway. It is not a contradiction of reality, not a deus ex machina, where a happy ending is contrived, but rather it is simply unexpected and strange.

In a way, it is an ending we can laugh at—it should not have happened, but did anyway! The Grinch might have stolen Christmas, but “it came! Somehow or other, it came just the same” (Suess). Gollum might have finally stolen the Ring from an entirely corrupted Frodo, but, in his ecstasy, Gollum fell into Mount Doom, and the Ring was destroyed anyway. It is as unexpected and strange as the appearance of the eagles to Erebor—but it, like them, heralds victory. The joy of a happy ending—the eucatastrophe—is the same joy that “can give to child or man that hears it, when the ‘turn’ comes, a catch of breath, a beat and lifting of the heart … we get a glimpse of joy, and heart’s desire, that for a moment passes outside the frame, rends through the very web of story, and lets a gleam come through”.

That gleam that Tolkien sees—which shines through the fairy tale and onto a life worth living—that gleam is probably best called hope. Hope, then, becomes the cry of fantasy: sometimes the truth isn’t good enough. Sometimes people deserve more. In winter, we hope for spring; in the night, we hope for dawn.

In the spirit of G.K. Chesterton, then, Tolkien affirms the power of fairy tales as literature: that “Fairy tales are more true — not because they tell us dragons exist, but because they tell us dragons can be beaten” (Chesterton).

**Sources Cited:**

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**THE ONLY THING COLD IN JUNEAU THIS WINTER**
(cont. from page 4)

Coppa tries to use local ingredients as much as possible, and one of their most notable flavors of Cascade Glacier Ice Cream to choose from and you have the option to get it in a cone or in a cup. They also serve brownie sundaes and floats as well! In addition to ice cream, Waffle Co. serves sandwiches, soup, waffles, and hot or cold beverages. They do have new owners now though, so I’d say perhaps be expecting some changes to happen down the hill from UAS. The important thing is that they will still be serving ice cream, and that’s what matters right? Well, for this article at least it does. Just on a side note, Waffle Co. will be closing down for a remodel in the last week of January, so as you are planning your coffee trips, mornings, and late night studying keep that in mind!

In this search for colder places and better tastes, I have not been able to go to every ice cream shop in town, and I do apologize for that. I’ve tried to pick out some places that have variety though and offer different things when it comes to serving ice cream and frozen yogurt. I hope you all have enjoyed this article as much as I enjoyed writing it and that it has perhaps given you some insight on some new places to try out! Here’s to a great spring semester at UAS!

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Some information in this article was found at: [www.idfa.org](http://www.idfa.org) and [www.foodtimeline.org](http://www.foodtimeline.org).
BY ALEXA CHERRY

For the UAS Whalesong

The day I stop using puns as my article titles whenever I have the opportunity to do so is the day someone physically makes me stop, and that will also be the day I quit writing for this paper. Puns aside, were you part of this orientation on January 9th? So was I! Were you not? Since it’s more likely that you weren’t, I’m going to tell you all about what you missed. You’re welcome.

I was approached late last semester by Aimée Pittet, the new academic advisor hired by the Student Resource Center, about being the Master of Ceremonies (MC) for spring orientation. Since I enjoy talking, the sound of my own voice, and being the center of attention, I accepted this role – though perhaps with less enthusiasm than anticipated. To be fair, I was asked about it during finals week, at which point I’d decided to stop having any emotional range or expression because it involved too much energy and I was running on more or less 4 hours of sleep a night. Anyway, after Christmas break, I returned to UAS with significantly more pep and felt prepared to wrangle incoming freshmen in a similar style to what I had experienced when I helped out with Fall 2014 orientation.

As it turned out, there were not only significantly fewer students (combined, they hardly took up a third of the cafeteria), but there were also significantly fewer freshmen – by which I mean that most of them were either attending UAS on exchange, transfer students, or non-traditional students. The smaller group size and the fact that most of them had previous college experience made this event remarkably different from fall orientation; it was easier to talk to the students (both in groups and individually) and get to know them. Plus, they could hear me when I spoke – I only had to use a microphone once, and that was on the bus on the way to the glacier.

Speaking of the trip to the glacier, I would have to say that was the highlight of orientation – for me, at least. Most of the day was filled with standard orientation events, like icebreakers, lunch, and presentations from various staff and faculty around campus. I believe the new students also got to go on a tour of campus, but I wasn’t present for that, so don’t quote me. After lunch and an opportunity to participate in an Alaskan Native drumming ceremony held by Lyle James, we were all ushered onto the bus and taken to Mendenhall Glacier. At the glacier, we were given 2 options – we could either go on a hike up to the actual glacier and waterfall, or we could stay behind at the visitor’s center and enjoy the view from a distance while watching educational films. While I think orientation leaders anticipated a fairly even split between people who would go hiking and people who would stay behind, the students made a unanimous decision to hike to the glacier, so off we set.

Now, the hike was an interesting experience for me because I was somehow under the impression that it would be like every other time I’ve done it – a simple, flat, fairly speedy walk to and from, on a reasonably well-manicured trail that left space and time to take in the scenery. I don’t know why I thought this. In my mind’s eye, I had entirely failed to factor in the hike taking place during the winter, despite the fact that orientation leaders had insisted on handing out ice grippers for shoes and hiking poles. In fact, it really didn’t really hit me until we were marching down a makeshift trail through a foot of snow and I found myself having to stare at the ground in order to make sure that I didn’t lose my footing or go tromping off into the even deeper snow on either side.
My absentmindedness aside, however, it was a rewarding experience overall! I’d never seen the glacier during the winter before, so it was neat for me as well as for the new students (some of whom were from places like Iowa, where I feel fairly sure they don’t have glaciers). After we returned from the glacier, we had time before our bus returned to check out the Visitor’s Center, which I had never been inside – and after we were ushered from the VC back out into the snow, our bus ended up being late so we played games like Ninja Destruction and Birdie on a Perch until it arrived.

Overall, I would rate Spring 2015 Orientation a success. I know Aimée worked very hard on planning it and trying to pull it together, and she got all of the main, important points in there – group activities, presentations, lunch – so if you attended and you happen to see her around campus, be sure to say hi! As for me, if you want to hear me talk more, just come up and do the same thing. I will probably be near anywhere offering coffee or other caffeinated beverages.
— Winterfest at UAS —

BY JASMINE MATTSON-WOLFF
For the UAS Whalesong

Here we are, back at UAS for another exciting semester full of awesome events and amazing people! There are a few different groups that help make our semesters exciting and full of radical experiences, such as Student Alumni Board, Student Government, Native & Rural Student Center, and of course Student Activities Board! Winterfest is what we are here to talk about in this issue and there is great collaboration between all of these groups to make January 30th, February 7th a super FUNtastic week here at UAS.

This year we are starting Winterfest off with UAS Skate Night at the Treadwell Ice Arena in Douglas! This is the second UAS Skate Night - it's a good chance to get out there and bust a move on the ice. There will be disco lights, rad music, and FREE skate rentals for all students and faculty who attend! Transportation from UAS Housing and the Freshman Residence Hall will be provided. Look for flyers closer to Friday, January 30th for more details on the event kicking off Winterfest!

On February 1st, Student Alumni will be hosting their annual Super Bowl Kick Off Party at the REC center! There is always awesome food and fun to be had at this event while watching the game with your peers. Be sure to get there on time to get a good seat in front of the big screen!

Whale Wednesday will be held on February 4th, and this day is all about school spirit. UAS Juneau adopted the humpback whale as their mascot in 1980. Unlike most other colleges that chose their mascots based on viciousness and strength, our humpback whale mascot is different in that it is a symbol of wildlife and conservation, and portrays elegance, aptitude, and natural beauty wherever it goes. Our beloved mascot Spike the Whale has been a part of our campus since September 1987 (according to Whalesong archives), so here's to Wednesday when we should all show off our spirit and celebrate having Spike as our mascot for nearly 27 years now!

So put on your UAS attire, school colors, and go all out with Whale Spirit!

Then on Thursday, February 5th Student Government is putting on a bonfire at the Noyes Pavilion! Usually bonfires are a pretty fun social event to go to here in Southeast Alaska and they are a great way to meet new people. Having one right here on campus for everyone seems like a logical thing to do! What a perfect idea for a chilly, wintry Friday night! Watch for flyers with more information as the date draws nearer.

Originally a hip-hop group who battled and persevered through hardships to get where they are now, the band Eclectic Approach is coming to UAS to perform for us! Head down to the REC at 9 p.m. on February 6th! It should be a super fun show with this electro-funk, dance, pop, and garage rock 5-man band. I'd definitely recommend checking this event out if you can and even visiting their website to see what they are all about: http://www.eclecticapproach.com. I was reading through their site and came across this quote which made me ten times more intrigued by this band: “Guitarist Justin MacDonald notes that, ’the trick is to create something that sounds simple, but has layers and depth when you really listen to it. You can grab someone’s attention right off, but with repeated listens they hear all these little subtle nuances that add to the overall effect and really hook the listener.’” I mean, really? Who doesn’t think that sounds like a bunch of awesome folks to spend the night listening to?

And on the seventh day of Winterfest, dear SAB gave to me, a dive into the frigid ocean and an evening full of gambling! On February 7th, SAB will be closing out Winterfest with the Polar Plunge into Auke Bay Harbor and then Casino Night later in the evening! Remember, the first 50 people to jump in at Polar Plunge get a free t-shirt! This is the 17th year that UAS has been participating in the annual Polar Plunge. But some people practice the plunge more than just once a year for charity or a social event. The Scandinavians used it as a traditional way to cool off after sitting in a sauna. China and Russia view ice-swimming as therapeutic and beneficial to one’s health. However, if you ever go to Russia and do this leap into the freezing water, it will be called the “walrus” plunge or dip, rather than polar bear! Of course, after you are done freezing your booty off in Auke Bay, you should run home and dress up for Casino Night at the Housing Lodge! This event is a highlight of the year for many students at UAS. I guarantee it is definitely an event worth checking out—even if you aren’t a gambler! I’m not and I had a blast at it last year!

I hope to see everyone at these awesome events that our wonderful UAS Community put together. Maybe by then we will have more wintry weather, so we won’t have to switch the name last minute to “Luke-Warm-Februaryfest”? Keep an eye out for flyers nearer to Winterfest with more details on these events. If you have some questions about these events or if you would like to help out with any of them, be sure to go down to the lower level of Mourant to the SAB Office! They would be happy to help you out and get you involved.

“What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness.” — John Steinbeck

— Write Poetry like a Viking —

BY DANIEL PISCOYA
For the UAS Whalesong

I lied to you all, and it was totally worth it! What I am going to try to teach you isn’t specifically Viking, although it shares a great deal with Scandinavia. It also isn’t traditionally written, but was originally an oral tradition. What I am talking about is Anglo-Saxon poetry like Beowulf. I’m sorry if I let you down, but it is my hope that all of this let-down-ness will not last long, I have no regrets.

Beowulf, which is a prime example of Anglo-Saxon poetry, is, like all the others, in Old English. Now, when most people say ‘Old English’, they usually mean something like what Shakespeare used, when, actually, Shakespeare is still wet behind the ears in comparison to real Old-English, which is also referred to as Anglo-Saxon. Old English is virtually unrecognizable compared with modern English, and even had a few characters that we do not have today, such as þ or the more familiar æ. It also had lots of accent marks, like è.

In addition to being in Old English, the lines of Anglo-Saxon poetry generally had a certain structure of syllables to them broken in the middle by a space called a caesura. As an oral tradition, the caesura regulated the poem to a certain rhythm (Although, consequently, it looks a bit weird on paper). Beowulf, as a poem, has four syllables in the first half of a line, and a varying, unspecified amount after the caesura. The lines are also almost always end-stopped, meaning that they have some form of punctuation at the end of a line.

Also, whereas most poetry that is famous in English is rhymed, Anglo-Saxon poetry is not. The structure of an Anglo-Saxon poem was not meant to be lyrical or sing-song, as rhyming poetry can often be. Rather, it is structured so that it falls easily into a narrative. The poem is meant to tell a story, not sing a song. Anglo-Saxon bards, instead of remembering their verses by using rhyme, often used alliteration. In Beowulf, it is common to see three alliterative words in one line: two in the first half of the line, and one following in the second half. This helped keep the oral tradition alive, because there were no manuscripts to refer back to if a bard forgot!

Altogether, the first lines of Beowulf in Old English look like this:

Hwaet! We Gar-Dena in gear-dagum
þeod-cyninga, ðrym gefrunon,
hu ða æþelingas ellen fremedon!

Translated, this means:

“So. The Spear-Danes in days gone by and the kings who ruled them had courage and greatness. We have heard of those princes’ heroic campaigns” (Heaney). Another thing that Anglo-Saxon poets were fond of—and adept at—doing was referring to things by different names. They loved to refer to the same person with different names in succession, and they also loved to use hyphens to create unconventional names for conventional things. These hyphenated names are called kennings. For instance, the sea is not the sea for one line in Beowulf; it is the ‘whale-road’. Or the king was not the king, but a ‘gold-friend’.

So, if you want to write poetry like a Viking, (or at least, using the same form of poetry as an Anglo-Saxon), you can probably get away with writing in modern English, and approaching your poetry with the caesura, number of syllables, and alliteration in mind. If you really want to go all-out, come back in a few years having learned Old English and take a crack at it. But relax—now’s not the time for fear (that comes later). For now, see what you can do with what you have.
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— Gallivanting Into the Woods —

BY ALEXA CHERRY
For the UAS Whalesong

The first week of school is always a strange one. Your professors spend the first day of class going through the syllabus that they know you’re perfectly capable of reading on your own, but which they also know that you probably won’t. They assign minimal, if any, homework, and then you are left with the rest of the week to get your life back together before school kicks into high gear. Some people spend this time cleaning, getting organized, and getting back in touch with their campus social network; other people, like myself, spend this time watching television. But, in my defense, it was good television – or at least critically acclaimed. I don’t think that’s the same thing, but at least it sounds impressive.

One of the main televised entertainments that I watched was the movie Into the Woods, which was in theaters at the time I wrote this article but might no longer be by the time this issue of the paper comes out. Interestingly enough, Into the Woods was written by Stephen Sondheim, who also wrote the music for Sweeney Todd. If you know nothing about either of these musicals but still want to see Into the Woods – just don’t look either of them up and go in ignorant. You’ll be better off for it.

Now, some people have probably already stopped reading this article now that they know it’s about musicals. But for those of you that remain, let me tell you the saga of my adventure Into the Woods. (See what I did there?) It began innocently enough, with me swanning into the theatre accompanied by a cadre of companions and slapping down the requisite $8.50 for a matinee.

“$8.50 for Into the Woods, please,” I requested, and was promptly met by a skeptical stare.

“You know it’s a musical, right?” the cashier demanded. I blinked.

“Well… yes. I hope so. Why do you ask?”

Producing my ticket and my change, the cashier sighed grimly.

“We’ve had people get up halfway through and walk out to complain about the amount of singing. I just find it easier to clarify when they purchase their ticket.”

Feeling sympathetic for the poor boy, I shuffled off to buy my standard theatre fare (a soda the size of my head and Reese’s Pieces – I prefer Skittles, but they give me migraines) and then to accompany my cadre in our row of seats, directly before the trailers started.

After the credits for Into the Woods rolled, I had a lot of opinions. None of them were particularly strong, so if you are the musical’s “Number One Fan,” you don’t need to be concerned that I am about to become your worst enemy. Some of them even had nothing to do with the movie’s content specifically – the volume in the theatre was up very loud, and there is one point in the film at which Meryl Streep (who plays the Witch) lets out a shriek that shatters the sound barrier and everyone in the theatre visibly cringed. But overall, my impression of Into the Woods was that while music was good, the story was not so much so.

Now, I have heard that the film suffers because its creators chose to cut parts from the original musical (and it was a stage musical before a movie, much like Les Misérables) that would have helped the movie and the story make more sense and be better connected. While I accept this and am willing to take it into consideration, I still think the movie should have either ended sooner – upon the second appearance of the giants, perhaps –

or other songs should have been cut. There is a particular sequence near the end involving Chris Pine’s prince character and the baker’s wife that I do not think was strictly necessary and which the story could have done without overall, as it did nothing to advance the plot. However, I can’t give any more details than that without delving into spoiler territory.

One large and overarching thing I can say is that if they were going to extend the story past the initial happy ending – to write “into” the happily ever after – then the first part of the movie should not have been as long as it was. By the point of what I shall ambiguously refer to as the “first ending,” I was emotionally done with the film, and when more things started happening I found myself suppressing a groan. Perhaps my reaction would have been different if I had been attending a live theater performance – but in that case, there would have at least been an intermission during which I could have recovered between plot twists.

In the end, I found that I simply didn’t much care for Into the Woods. Much as I hate to say it, the idea of taking two different fairy tales and putting them in the same world is somewhat contrived and not particularly original (and no, Once Upon A Time wasn’t the first to do it either). Trying to put a “dark” twist on them is also not original. But if nothing else, it was worth $8.50 to hear the music in surround sound – because no matter the movie’s other flaws, we can all agree that “Agony” was worth both seeing and hearing on the big screen. Mostly seeing, though. Can you imagine Chris Pine hurling himself into a waterfall and ripping his shirt open? Congratulations. Now you don’t have to.

DO YOU WANT TO WRITE FOR THE WHALESONG?
Send your articles to us at whalesong@uas.alaska.edu and you could be published in the next issue of the school’s newspaper!
BY ALEXA CHERRY
For the UAS Whalesong

Staying organized is something many people in this world struggle with. I am one of those people – and that’s why I have three planners this year. That might seem a little excessive to some of you, but for some people, excessive is what we need. For others, it’s just good to have one specific location where you write down all of your due dates and obligations – and it helps if that is an actual book with dates in it, rather than a notebook somewhere that you might misplace or get mixed up with another one.

Of course, there’s always the concern that you might misplace your planner book as well, though it’s more likely (at least in my case) that you just forget to actually open it and take a look inside to see what you have due. It’s also not guaranteed that your planner will always be on your person – the day your professor makes you sign up for presentations for the rest of the semester will definitely be the day you forgot to throw it in your backpack. Fortunately, there is more than one option available to you (cycling back to my three planners again) – so let’s discuss them, and how they can help you stay on schedule and on point this semester and in semesters to come.

Physical planners that you can write in are nice because they keep you on track while simultaneously being entirely customizable. You can just write due dates in them and be done with it, or you can go all out and buy fine-point gel pens in every color of the rainbow, slap cute stickers on every page, write your name and contact information on the inside cover in blood – the whole nine yards. Yes, after you’re done writing down everything you have to do you might look at it and cry, but at least it will look good and that’s pretty dang important. Another benefit to physical planners is that you can write in them in class instead of scrawling that presentation date down on your hand, hoping you don’t forget about it and wash it off later.

However, the main issue I have with planners is that I want mine to look nice, and that just doesn’t happen if a due date is moved or an event is canceled. Then you have to cross things out and rewrite them, and for some reason I just can’t deal with that. I have had many planners in the past, and I’ve never really used all of them completely because I didn’t want to worry about “messing it up.” I will also reiterate my earlier point about forgetting to look inside of it to see what I had to do – you’d think doing that would be one of the easiest things in the world, but no. I either forgot to look at it, or didn’t trust my past self and would check the dates on the class website anyway.

This is what led me to discover and use Google Calendar, and I’m so glad I did. On Google Calendar, you can write as many things as you want, color-code them, put timestamps and locations, and if plans or dates change, you just delete them or click-and-drag them to their new time. You can also have as many Google Calendars as you want – set up one for homework assignments, one for campus events, one for working out. You could also just put all of these on the same calendar if you get a strange sense of satisfaction (mingled with a distant sense of rising horror) from looking at how busy your week is going to be. You can also create to-do lists, which open with your calendar and remind you that you still haven’t cleaned your room, even though you’ve been meaning to do it since you got back from Christmas break.

My favorite thing about Google Calendar by far, however, is that you can set up reminders for events. These can occur as often as you like, and you can either get e-mail notifications or pop-ups on your phone (or while you’re browsing the Internet, if you use Chrome). If something is really important and I don’t trust myself to remember it on my own, I will set up reminders from as far back as a month beforehand to make sure that I have no way to forget. Even if I don’t think I’ll forget, reminders are still useful – after all, nobody really intends to forget due dates. It just happens. And when it does, Google Calendar is there to vibrate in your pocket and remind you that you have a test in 2 days.

I’m primarily using Google Calendar right now, mostly because I misplaced my first planner and my second one is still in the mail somewhere. So really, I only have 2 planners – Google Calendar, to make sure I get everything done and don’t forget about it, and a handheld one that I can whip open and show off when people ask me what my schedule looks like. If I can find the one I lost, I might use it for taking to class and just scrawling down dates so that I can later write them neatly in my “cool” planner. (And then copy onto Google Calendar and set up reminders.)

Ultimately, the point I’m trying to get across is that you can’t be too careful. A planner is a good investment, and something that can help you keep track of more than just your academic obligations. I look forward to having an awesome planner this year, and I hope you’ll join me!

Want to read more?

Find previous issues of the Whalesong online at:

www.uas.alaska.edu/juneau/activities/whalesong/
MONDAY, JAN. 26
Taku Toastmasters Club, 12:05 p.m., Federal Building. Improve your public speaking skills in a supportive environment. Newcomers welcome! Meetings are held in Room 541 of the Federal Building. For more information, contact Velja at 907-321-4988.

Tlingit Language Learner’s Group, 6 p.m., Downtown Juneau Public Library. Interested in learning the Tlingit language? This group, run by Tlingit language learners, is free and open to everyone in the community, regardless of language experience. We meet Mondays at the downtown Juneau Public Library from 6-7 p.m. For more information, email tlingitlearners@gmail.com.

TUESDAY, JAN. 27
Extraterrestrial Life, 6 p.m., Marie Drake Planetarium. Marie Drake Planetarium presents “Extraterrestrial Life” - are there aliens? Roswell to Rosetta, plus “The Stars Tonight” on the Spitz projector. For more information, give Steve a call at 907-500-2941.

Painting pARTy “Winter Shadows,” 6:30 p.m., Louise Miller Fine Art Studio. Come with your friends, or meet new ones, as we paint some winter shadows in the forest. All painting supplies, brushes, paints and a canvas will be provided. Feel free to bring a simple snack to enjoy. All classes are BYOB, but we will have cups, plates and a cork screw available. Pre-registration required, space is limited. Contact Louise Miller at 789-3546 or louisemillerfineart@gmail.com for more information.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 28
Write For Your Life, 10 a.m., Mendenhall Valley Library. The “Write For Your Life” group meets from 10-11 a.m. every Wednesday to share journal entries, memoir, letters, or poetry. For more information, contact Dixie at 907-789-2068.

THURSDAY, JAN. 29
Community Gaming Night, 5:30 p.m., Udder Culture. Shouldn’t Juneau have a community gaming group? Of course! Now we do! This is an open video game group that gets together every week at Udder Culture. We play a variety of video games and are open to playing on any platform (Wii, PS3, PS4, Xbox360, Xbox One, etc.). Be sure to stop by and enjoy great food and company at the Udder Culture as well! All ages are welcome! (If you are a minor you will need to get a parent’s permission to play, because we play a lot of games rated “M”) Email Greg Frank for more information at greg.r.frank@gmail.com.

Theatre: “Xanadu”, 7 p.m., JDHS Auditorium. Join JDHS Theatre for their righteous winter production of Xanadu! The timeless story of a muse who comes to earth and inspires an artist to open a roller disco. Featuring the Electric Light Orchestra and the sound of the 80’s. Tickets available at Hearthside Books or JAHC.org.

FRIDAY, JAN. 30
Organ Concert, 12 p.m., State Office Building Atrium. Concerts on the Kimball Theatre Organ at the State Office Building take place most Fridays during the noon hour.

Music: Dan Hopson Classical Guitar LIVE, 7 p.m., the Gold Room at the Baranof Hotel. For more information, call 907-586-2660.

Theatre: “Xanadu”, 7 p.m., JDHS Auditorium. Join JDHS Theatre for their righteous winter production of Xanadu! The timeless story of a muse who comes to earth and inspires an artist to open a roller disco. Featuring the Electric Light Orchestra and the sound of the 80’s. Tickets available at Hearthside Books or JAHC.org.
ON CAMPUS

MONDAY, JAN. 26
Open Gym: Dodgeball, 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Ready to flash-back to grade school? Head over to drop-in dodgeball. It’s fast, it’s fun, and it’s at the REC. For more information send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call the REC Center staff at 796-6544.

TUESDAY, JAN. 27
Deadline to Change Credit or Audit for Full-Term Classes, All Day, UAS. For more information send an email to registrar@uas.alaska.edu or call 796-6100.

Deadline to Change Credit or Audit for Full-Term Classes, All Day, UAS. For more information send an email to registrar@uas.alaska.edu or call 796-6100.

“Liquid Sunshine”: Berry Smoothies & Vitamin D, 1 p.m., Mourant Building. Have a Berry Smoothie on us! We’ll have information related to the health benefits of drinking berry smoothies and making Vitamin D apart of your daily nutrition! Contact the Native & Rural Student Center for more information by phone at 796-6454 or send an email to nrc@uas.alaska.edu.

Open Gym: Basketball, 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Join your friends or make friends playing basketball at the REC. All skill levels welcome! For more information send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call the REC Center staff at 796-6544.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 28
Withdraw Period Begins for Full-Term Courses, All Day, UAS. For more information send an email to registrar@uas.alaska.edu or call 796-6100.

Open Gym: Volleyball, 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Join your friends or make friends playing volleyball at the REC. All skill levels welcome! For more information send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call the REC Center staff at 796-6544.

THURSDAY, JAN. 29
Open Gym: Soccer, 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Join your friends or make friends playing soccer at the REC. A fast paced, fun sport. All skill levels welcome! For more information send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call the REC Center staff at 796-6544.

FRIDAY, JAN. 30
Winterfest, All Week, Juneau Campus. This is a week long event that includes events such as Skate Night, Whale Wednesday, Eclectic Approach, Polar Plunge, and Casino Night! Other events are to be announced. All our UAS student, staff, and faculty are invited to join in on the fun! For more information on the events and festivities, send an email to the Student Activities Board at sub@uas.alaska.edu or call 796-6306.

Sounds+Motion, 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Chelsea Bomba, Ariel Svetlik-McCarthy, Patrick McCarthy, student climbers, Forest Wagner, faculty. A photo essay and presentation on rock climbing the iconic Shot Tower in Alaska’s Central Brooks Range. For more information send an email to katie.bausler@uas.alaska.edu or call 796-6530.

UAS Skate Night, 10:30 p.m., Treadwell Ice Arena. Want something to do on your Friday night!? Campus Life will be hosting our second UAS Skate Night at the Treadwell Ice Rink! There will be music, disco lights, and FREE skates for all who attend! Free transportation will be offered to students on campus. Transportation will pick students up at the Freshman Residence Hall and Housing Lodge at 9:30 p.m. Please arrive at the pick-up spot by 9:20 p.m. There will be $5 fee for non-student guests. For more information send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call 796-6544.

SUNDAY, FEB. 1
Deadline for Spring Graduation Application, All Day, UAS. For graduation information, or the graduation application, visit the graduation website. For more information send an email to registrar@uas.alaska.edu or call 796-6100.

Superbowl Party, 2 p.m., Recreation Center. Watch the big game on the big screen! Sunday, Feb. 1—kick-off at 2:30 p.m. Free to all UAS Students. Pizza, Snacks, and prizes! For more information call 796-6569 or send an email to alumni@uas.alaska.edu.

MONDAY, FEB. 2
Summer 2015 Class Schedule Available for View on UAS Website, 8 a.m., Online.

Open Gym: Dodgeball, 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Ready to flash-back to grade school? Head over to drop-in dodgeball. It’s fast, it’s fun, and it’s at the REC. For more information send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call the REC Center staff at 796-6544.

TUESDAY, FEB. 3
Open Gym: Basketball, 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Join your friends or make friends playing basketball at the REC. All skill levels welcome! For more information send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call the REC Center staff at 796-6544.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 4
Open Gym: Volleyball, 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Join your friends or make friends playing volleyball at the REC. All skill levels welcome! For more information send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call the REC Center staff at 796-6544.

THURSDAY, FEB. 5
Open Gym: Soccer, 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Join your friends or make friends playing soccer at the REC. A fast paced, fun sport. All skill levels welcome! For more information send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call the REC Center staff at 796-6544.

FRIDAY, FEB. 6
Art of Place Spring Series, 11 a.m., Glacier View Room. The theme of the 2015 Art of Place Series is Wearable Art of Place. The first event in this series will feature Alaska State Museum Curator of Collections, Steven Henrikson, who will give a talk and show on “Wearable Art of Place: Armor.” In addition, highly regarded artist, Michael Beasley, will give a talk and show on “Wearable Art of Place: Masks.” The talks and demonstrations will be followed by a social hour with light refreshments and a chance to visit with artists. For more information send an email to humanities@uas.alaska.edu or call 796-6405.

Sounds+Motion, 7 p.m., Egan Lecture Hall. AK Perspectives on the Sea of Cortez with “A Trip South”. Members of the Juneau based expedition, “A Trip South” will share stories and photos from the Baja and Gulf of California portion of their Alaska-to-Argentina journey, including a sailboat crossing of the Sea of Cortez; continuing a conversation on marine conservation and ecology sparked by this year’s One Campus One Book selection, The Log from the Sea of Cortez. For more information send an email to katie.bausler@uas.alaska.edu or call 796-6530.

Eclectic Approach, 9 p.m., Recreation Center. Eclectic Approach is a band built on perseverance. Eclectic Approach’s music is a blend of electro-funk, dance, pop and garage rock that just feels and sounds like a party. Come join us in a 90 minute set rocking out to Eclectic Approach as part of our Alaska Airlines Student Concert Series. This event is open to UAS students, staff, faculty, and our Juneau Community. For more information, send an email to the Student Activities Board at sub@uas.alaska.edu or call 796-6306.

MONDAY, FEB. 9
Open Gym: Dodgeball, 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Ready to flash-back to grade school? Head over to drop-in dodgeball. It’s fast, it’s fun, and it’s at the REC. For more information send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call the REC Center staff at 796-6544.

TUESDAY, FEB. 10
Open Gym: Basketball, 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Join your friends or make friends playing basketball at the REC. All skill levels welcome! For more information send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call the REC Center staff at 796-6544.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 11
Open Gym: Volleyball, 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Join your friends or make friends playing volleyball at the REC. All skill levels welcome! For more information send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call the REC Center staff at 796-6544.
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