

soundings

May 2009

Speakers to Graduates: Take Personal Responsibility

A similar message ran through remarks to graduates at the Thirty-Eighth Annual Commencement for the Juneau campus

of the University of Alaska Southeast on Sunday, May 4, 2009. That message was to take some responsibility for the state of the world and society and see what you can do to make positive change. Chancellor John Pugh opened the two hour ceremony quoting President Barack Obama,

“What is required of us now is a new era of responsibility—a recognition on the part of every American, that we have duties to ourselves, our nation and the world.”

Associates, Bachelors and Masters degree graduates in business, liberal arts, environmental science, marine biology, social science, education and other programs

witnessed the commencement address of 88-year old Katie Hurley. The Chief Clerk of the 1956 Alaska Constitutional Convention

urged graduates to: “Get involved with your government. Go to meetings. Get active. Write letters to the editor. Talk to your legislator.”

Hurley’s speech was largely an Alaska history lesson. She fondly reminisced her time beginning in 1940 as a clerk-stenographer and then

Chief of Staff to “EG” Territorial Governor Ernest Gruening.

“He was from the East coast and he was an intellectual, Harvard graduate. I was from Juneau. I’d never seen the *New York Times*, and now we got it in the mail!”

In a post-commencement interview Hurley, who went to secretarial school



Submissions

If you have UAS faculty, staff, student or alumni news you'd like to see in the next issue of *Soundings*, please contact the Public & Media Relations Office:

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UAS is an AA/EO employer and educational institution.

Portrait of a 2009 UAS Graduate

Macaela Ponce

“The math and biology programs at UAS are inferior to none. I had the opportunity to work with some of the finest population biologists and gain world-class research experience. It was amazing.” –Micaela Ponce

Outstanding Natural Sciences graduate Micaela Ponce double majored in Biology and Mathematics. This picture was taken when she spent three weeks on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) Research Vessel Albatross IV for a North Atlantic Research Cruise to study fish diversity and abundance in areas closed to commercial fishing. Ponce leaves UAS with an offer for a PhD position in the study of infectious disease in ecology.



instead of college said, “It was like I was being given a college education just working for him. He took the time when I asked questions to tell me all about it. I was like a sponge.” She remembers him most importantly as a mentor and progressive statesman. “Gruening was on a first name basis with President Franklin D. Roosevelt. He spoke five languages.”

Student speaker Forest Kvasnikoff quoted Martin Luther King in his speech, “We will all have to repent in this generation not merely for the vitriolic words and actions of the bad people, but for the appalling silence of the good people.” Kvasnikoff issued a directive to his graduating class peers. “You have been given, by virtue of your graduation here today, the opportunity to tackle some of our society’s, indeed our world’s troubles and hardships.”

Hurley later noted that she had not seen young people as enthusiastic about civic involvement since John F. Kennedy was in office. “I was at the Democratic Convention when Barack Obama was nominated and it was thrilling.”

The Chancellor closed his remarks with faith in the graduates as Alaska marks a half century of statehood. “I am confident that the graduating Class of 2009 can pick up the torch and guide us through the next 50 years.”

Juneau Regent Kent Fischer conferred an Honorary Doctorate of Laws degree on UAS advisory board member and foundation trustee Laraine Derr. Sitka Regent Robert Martin conferred an Honorary Doctorate of Laws degree on Marlene Johnson. After introductions in Tlingit, he noted her work to insure the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act through Congress.

UAS conferred 300 degrees (Associates, Bachelors and Masters) and 48 certificates and endorsements. Fewer than one-third of the Class of 2009 or roughly 80 graduates participated in the Juneau campus ceremony. “Traditionally about one third of the graduating class walks at graduation,” said UAS curriculum coordinator and degree specialist Peter Sommers. “But this year some Summer 2008 and Fall 2009 graduates from out of town who wanted to come back for commencement said they couldn’t afford it due to the economy.” Thirty-four UAS Sitka and nineteen UAS Ketchikan students received degrees and/or certificates at ceremonies in Sitka May 1 and Ketchikan May 2.



L to R: Honorary Doctorate of Laws, Laraine Derr, Commencement Speaker Katie Hurley, Honorary Doctorate of Laws Marlene Johnson



Cedar Log ready to become Eagle Pole after Welcoming Ceremony

Thursday, May 7, 2009 UAS staff, faculty and students welcomed a 15 ton yellow cedar log onto the Mourant courtyard at a ceremony hosted by the Wooch. Eén club. Local elders attended the event. After remarks by Chancellor John Pugh and songs by dancers Vanessa Early and Lyle James, the 45-foot long, 15-ton log was placed under the canopy of the Egan Classroom wing, where it will be carved this summer by artists from Hydaburg on Prince of Whales Island. The log is from a tree near Klawock on P.O.W. It is estimated to be at least 500 years old.

The artists will complete an eagle totem pole by September. The university will launch a fund-raising effort to purchase the pole from Sealaska Heritage Institute and raise it on campus in 2010. The finished pole will be painted and measure 36 feet.

Moving the log from the back of an Alaska Marine Lines flat bed semi-truck was a painstaking and time consuming operation that required careful, minute adjustments. The truck backed up as close to the pillars of the overhang as possible. Then a boom truck with a crane lifted the log up. As the crane held it and lowered it slowly, crews on both ends of the log turned the log to angle it in between pillars. Metal rollers were placed for the log to rest on. Then manual labor was required. A crew of about a half dozen men armed with 6 foot two by fours pushed it inch by inch to roll the log and jimmy it into place.

Artists Joe and TJ Young have won a contract to carve the totem pole for Sealaska Heritage Institute (SHI) on behalf of the University of Alaska Southeast.

A selection committee comprised of SHI and UAS representatives chose the brothers from a pool of applicants.

“I’m very pleased we did have a number of artists who submitted bids and I will say it was a difficult decision because we had some really very exciting designs from the different artists,” said SHI President Rosita Worl.

“I really want to thank Sealaska, the Aak’w Kwáan and our student group Wooch.éen for working with the university on

this project,” said UAS Chancellor John Pugh. “I am pleased this is taking place on the UAS campus so students can observe the carving process.”

The artists are Sealaska shareholders and have carved other totems, including a 40-foot pole for the Sitka National Historical Park and a 32-foot crest pole for the Hydaburg Totem Park.

The goal of the project is to balance the Raven pole that was donated to UAS and erected in 1993. Native people belong to either the Eagle or Raven moiety, and in ceremonies and at secular events both moieties are



represented for balance.

“It’s really nice to get an all-Eagle totem pole to complement the existing all-Raven totem pole. The Raven is going to be happy,” said Aak’w Kwáan Elder Marie Olson.

Elders of the Aak’w Kwáan met with Wooch.éen, a Native student club on campus, to identify the Eagle clan crests to be featured on the totem. They wanted to give special recognition to the Wooshkeetaan, an Eagle clan from the Juneau area. The pole will feature Eagle to represent all Eagle clans plus Shark, Wolf and Thunderbird, with Shark representing the Wooshkeetaan.

“But it’s more than just a Shark, it’s an anthropomorphic figure signifying the students who are attending the university,” said Worl.

At the close of the welcoming ceremony, Aak’w Kwáan dog salmon clan member Bob Samm also acknowledged UAS students. “I want to thank the most important people here, the students. They give this place life,” he said. “It makes my heart feel good to see young people walking this land. I also believe if you have a good foundation and you know who you are and where you come from you can be whatever you want to be. I am so proud you are taking the lead to have balance on this land. Gunalsheesh to the students!”

A reception immediately followed the welcoming ceremony at the Native and Rural Student Center.

National Bike to Work and School Month

by Kevin Maier, Assistant Professor of English

If you haven’t already heard, May is National Bike to Work and School month, this week is Bike Week in Juneau, and Friday is the official Bike to Work Day. I’m working on the event with the Juneau Freewheelers again this year and we really hope to get people thinking about community differently.

Like last year, we’ve challenged Juneau to collectively ride, walk, bus, swim, or alternatively-move 10,000 miles this week. To track it, we’ve created a little group where you can log-in and track your miles: <http://velog.com/group/juneau-bike-week>.

If you’d like to ride, but have a bike that isn’t quite up to snuff, crack mechanic and Assistant Manager of the Rec Center Shea Mack will be on hand with his tools at the Rec Center Wednesday afternoon from 1-3. I’ll be up there lending a hand too; we should be able to handle most minor repairs and diagnose the more major ones, too. If it’s nice, we’ll set up shop out front in the sun; if it’s not, look for us inside.

More Bike Week events and details are up on the Freewheelers homepage: www.juneaufreewheelers.com/biketowork.html

See you on the road!

Dr. Ivanova to Present Paper at Academy of Management Conference/Travel to Ukraine

Dr. Yuliya Ivanova in co-authorship with Dr. Winn (University of Denver) have conducted a study titled “The Role of Social Capital and Donor Commitment in a Geographically Isolated Community.”

In this study, they investigate the role of social relationships in determining the nature of activities and the extent of community engagement to local youth sport clubs in geographically isolated places (e.g., small cities in SE AK). Local youth sport clubs play a special role in geographically isolated places, providing opportunities for children and families to socialize, engage in healthy activities, and provide entertainment events for the entire community. However, the economic realities of geographically isolated places bring extra challenges for these clubs, such as the high cost of facilities and travel, and lack of qualified staff (coaches, referees, etc). This study attempts to shed light on what impact different club activities have on stimulating



Dr. Julia Ivanova

community support. Dr. Ivanova and Dr. Winn investigate interrelationships between clubs' social capital and donors' support, distinguishing sources of donors' active engagement and donors' passive support. In so doing, they propose a causal model of organizational actions that promote donor commitment.

This paper has been accepted at the internationally leading Academy of Management Conference (Chicago, August 2009) and honored with an invitation to be published in the highly competitive AOM Best Papers Proceedings.

Dr. Ivanova will teach cross-cultural competencies in Kiev, Ukraine this summer.

Dr. Yuliya Ivanova will be traveling to Kiev, Ukraine this summer with MBA graduate students to explore the topic of cross-cultural competencies. Students will meet with Ukrainian MBA students at the International Institute of Business and be visiting with Ukrainian business leaders. The course is also open to UAS Alumni and friends and will take place from July 8-12. Contact yuliya.ivanova@uas.alaska.edu for more information.

New Ketchikan Website Launch



We have launched our new UAS Ketchikan website. It has been a collaborative effort and it is the start of a larger ongoing redesign for the UAS website. We are knitting our campus websites together into a more cohesive 'regional site.' Web redesign goals:

- Improve the 'regional' website concept.
- Use a wider screen size.
- More accessible and compliant code.
- Faster load time.
- More easily changeable region dimensions.
- Simple, consistent, clear navigation.
- Make the site easier to use on handhelds and phones.
- Utilize what we have learned since initially implementing the Content Management System (CMS.)
- Facilitate easier CMS content sharing and data consistency.
- Offer more targeted search choices.

A link for new website design feedback form is at the bottom of the pages of the new Ketchikan site, so please share your thoughts and ideas. The redesign is ongoing and many of the new design inspirations have come from user tests.



UAS Logo Banners

Have you noticed the bright new banners up on poles around campus? The new UAS logo and the words Learn Engage Change are set off by bright green and blue against a background texture by Ray Troll. The banners are part of phase two of our branding campaign. Learn Engage Change represents the journey of the UAS student: learning through a personal higher education in a place of unparalleled natural beauty, engaging in new knowledge in small classes and changing whether studying the sciences on the glacier or the coast, the arts in the studio or on the stage or training for a new career as an automotive technician, administrator, nurse or teacher. The banners are part of an overall goal to raise our profile locally, regionally, statewide and nationally, to build community and alumni pride and to attract, enroll and graduate more students.

Staff Development Day: Fri. May 15

This year's technology theme will be kicked off by retiring Professor Jason Ohler as the keynote speaker. Dr. Ohler will speak on "Digital Literacy and the Future of Learning."

Another retiring speaker will be Tish Satre, who will speak about millennium and other student demographics. Former faculty member and current director of the Juneau Convention and Visitors Bureau, Lauren Palmer, will provide tips on customer service in the workplace and Bartlett Hospital occupational therapist Jo Boehme will lead a workshop on ergonomics. There will be several technology presentations including social networking tools, SkillSoft training options, and using web survey tools and numerous other workshops and activities.

The Juneau campus will be only open on a limited basis for Staff Development Day.

Staff Development Day is considered a normal university work day so those who cannot attend the program will be expected to engage in their usual work activities.

Service awards will be presented in the afternoon and door prizes given away. Breakfast, lunch and ice cream will be provided by the Chancellor's office.

Employee Assistance Program

Don't forget the Employee Assistance Program is only a phone call away, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For counseling services for employees and their families call the ComPsych GuidanceResources Program at (866) 465-8934 or go online at guidanceresources.com. The University of Alaska ID is GC5901Q. You and your eligible dependents can receive up to six visits to a counselor per incident or issue free of charge plus ComPsych offers a variety of other services (including legal and financial) as well.

School of Management Retirements

*Retiring Faculty and Staff
L to R: Janet Dye, Steve Hamilton, Tish Satre, Jason Ohler, Sue Koester*



Professor of Accounting, Janet Dye, will be retiring this month. She began teaching full-time at UAS in the Fall of 1993. Janet will be moving to North Carolina to enjoy semi-retirement where she will remain active in the accounting community and continue her passion for 10,000 piece jigsaw puzzles. Professor of Management, Steve Hamilton, will also be retiring this month. Steve began teaching full-time at UAS in the Fall of 2000, but taught as an adjunct with the business department beginning in 1996. He received his MBA from UAS in 1995. Steve will be focusing on his consulting business and pursuing his interest in photography. Both Professor Dye and Hamilton were instrumental in successfully building the distance business programs at UAS during their tenure. Their dedication and devotion to student-centered teaching and learning made them most admired, appreciated and loved by students, faculty and staff. We wish them the best of luck in all their future endeavors.

Faculty Spotlight



*What nice teeth you have!
Beth Mathews, UAS Assistant Professor of Biology.
From the Juneau Empire,
May 5, 2009.
Photo by David J. Sheakley*

UAS Staff Come Together for Unexpected Weekend Clean-up

At 4:26 a.m. Saturday, April 25, 2009 the Auke Bay Volunteer Fire Department got an alarm from the UAS Mourant building Fireweed Room, which is undergoing a remodel. When fire fighters arrived approximately 20 minutes later, they determined a fire had ignited in a trash can and been put out by automatic sprinklers. The Glacier Valley Fire Department joined the effort. Fire personnel shut off the sprinklers. However the sprinklers discharge about 8-10 gallons of water per minute. Operations Manager Joe Mueller estimates about 300 gallons of water sprayed on the top floor of the Mourant building. The water seeped through the floor and the ceiling to the bottom floor which houses the newly remodeled Student Services center.

Mueller picks up the story:

"The fire department jumped in with squeegees, covering up computers and electronic equipment in an all out effort to save as much as they could. I called Tish (Griffin-Satre) and she called staff. Then a chain of people showed up ready to work, custodial, maintenance, Bruce Gifford's student services staff and spouses. They hauled out old ceiling tiles and pushed water out the door. Facilities crew assisted with getting power back to the building so we could feed students Monday morning. Maintenance staff got heating and ventilation back on line.

The water had the most impact on the floor carpet. Staff took all the carpet out of the building and draped it over the railings and helped haul the old ceiling tile out. The custodial crew helped clean up the mess upstairs and downstairs, extracted all the water, cleared out the cafeteria space and took out the tables and chairs.

Carol (NANA Management Services) came in and started helping clean up. Carol fixed everyone lunch. The coffee pot was going upstairs for folks. (Tish thanks Diana Gifford). The support was incredible. Phil Paramore (Student Recreation Center) and Chris Washko (Student Housing) came in. It was really impressive to see how many people rolled up their sleeves and helped out.

IT rallied their troops and took wet computers to the laptop lounge where they were dried out for a couple of days. (Editor note: All affected staff computers are back in working order, according to IT's Joe Nell).

Roper and Sons general contractors replaced the dried carpet, and J and J carpet cleaners came in and did a steam clean. The cafeteria looks great!

The Simplex Grinnell fire alarm system just installed last year did its job. The sprinkler water did about \$10-15,000 dollars damage (largely to ceiling tiles), a small figure for the extent of what we were dealing with. The carpets were salvaged. We lost just one carpet tile. It was just an incredible effort by UAS and touching to see."


 23RD ANNUAL JUNEAU JAZZ & CLASSICS

SATURDAY, MAY 23

University of Alaska Southeast



Community Day on Campus

A day full of music and activities for families

SPONSORED BY

SUPPORTED
IN PART BY
*A collaboration between Juneau Jazz & Classics, University of Alaska Southeast,
Juneau Arts & Humanities Council & Southeast Road Runners*

FREE PERFORMANCES

Noyes Pavilion

10:00 Ursa Major Strings

10:30 Juneau Concert Band and the Possum Lodge Glee Club

Egan Lecture Hall

11:30 The Magic of Eric Gilliam

Egan Library (Rain)
Mourant Courtyard (Shine)
(In case of rain – all events scheduled to take place at Mourant Courtyard will take place in Egan Library)

12:00 Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School Jazz Band

12:30 Juneau Douglas High School Jazz Bands

Egan Lecture Hall

 2:00 Family Concert "A Musical Menagerie",
featuring Festival musicians Evan Drachman,
Marija Stroke, and Paul Rosenthal

TICKETED EVENTS

Egan Lecture Hall

5pm Pearl Django

8pm Puttin' on the Ritz

FOOD

- Ice Cream Treats and Outdoor BBQ
- Mexican Tacos
- Lions Club Hot Dogs

FUN

- SeaCoast Relay Finish
- Excellent Radio Live Remote
- UAS Ceramics Demonstrations
- Pony Rides
- Youth Sailing Demos
- Flyfishing Demos
- Fry Bread by Woosh.ji.een
- Art Activities by the Canvas
- DIPAC Touchtank
- Musical Instrument Petting Zoo
- Quick Draw
- Summer Arts Kids and Science Camp Registrations
- UAS Marine Biology and DIPAC Touchtank
- Balloon Fun with Jeff Brown

Schedule subject to change

 VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO LEARN ABOUT OTHER FESTIVAL EVENTS WWW.JAZZANDCLASSICS.ORG