

# soundings

September 2010

## UAS Online: It's Not Just a Pretty Face

The diverse needs of faculty, students, and staff can not be met by a “one size fits all” approach. *UASOnline!* now offers the tools for anyone to tailor their online work space to their specific work requirements while facilitating collaboration and innovation.

*UASOnline!*'s look doesn't stop with the logo

### Why the Change?

When it was announced that MyUA would be discontinued in the fall, UAS wanted an alternative to the convenience that users had found in organizing their MyUA portal.

*UASOnline!* was the logical choice because it was already a mature and tested system used by almost all faculty and students on a daily basis. In the past staff found little need to use it, but now it could become the common ground for all members of the UAS family. Many of the concepts and content that had been developed for MyUA could be transitioned into *UASOnline!*.

### How Was it Done?

After a strategy was outlined in the spring, developing and testing took place all summer. Members of the Web Dev group gave feedback to many of the early versions as did the TLTR. As the fall approached 3 different surveys solicited any and all opinions. This feedback drove much of the improvements to the system. Each step of the process opened new ideas and each new idea brought a new set of challenges.

First it was channels on just one page. Then it was tabs with as many pages of channels as desired. Then it was ‘subpages’ that could keep track of major application locations like a course sites or webmail. The

breakthrough concept of ‘sharing’ content’ let the users themselves create channels and even entire tabs of layout and share them with others. After a demonstration to department staff, the idea of shared bookmark folders evolved. And on it went through July and August, each new idea exponentially increasing the matrix of possibilities.

### When Was it Rolled Out?

By convocation the major pieces were together, but work was still going on hourly to optimize the system and clean up the

code. It was presented at Convocation in the session, ‘Essential Technologies at UAS’. Eight presentations were made to new students at Orientation and videos were made and then optimized to show how to use the new features.

### What is it Now?

Although there was no change to the Courses and Portfolio interfaces, the new layout allows for each user to create their own custom online work space. New features included:

- ◆ Organize content with tabs and channels
- ◆ The “Course Homesites” channel now lists classes taken anywhere in the UA system, along with links to the respective course web sites.
- ◆ Drag-and-drop customization of pages, tabs, channels
- ◆ Create and share custom content channels - (URLs, RSS feeds, and HTML)
- ◆ UAS email and calendar system
- ◆ Contacts channel that provides links to advisors, advisees, instructors, students, etc.

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*“UASOnline! is one of the best systems I’ve seen by comparison to the colleges I’ve been to in the past...”*

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### 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/EQ employer and educational institution.*

- ◆ Bookmarks channel which will allow individuals and departments to create and share links.
- ◆ Bulletins (targeted announcements feature) from UAS which can be read and deleted on an individual basis.
- ◆ Styles - choose from multiple predefined styles or create one for yourself.
- ◆ Resize the navigation bars to show maximum content interface.
- ◆ Set subpage links to have courses favorite links preloaded on sign in.
- ◆ Faster page retrieval after initial login and cache.

Under the hood, the architecture itself was redesigned to be more flexible and extensible for future development. Its processes were broken into components that will more easily deliver information in more combinations and with different devices.

### Do Users Like It?

The last survey brought even more great ideas for future development and some of the best comments to date. Here are a few quotes from the latest survey.

“*UASOnline!* is one of the best systems I’ve seen by comparison to the colleges I’ve been to in the past, including UAA. I like the system. As mentioned earlier, it would be awesome to combine the different webs into on login, which would simplify things for the student.”

“I love the inclusion of UAS email, the calendar and easy access to previously taught course content (tabs - LOVE ‘EM)!! Great job. It look and feels great. Easy to navigate. Professional.”

“This is my first time using the updated site. It looks much better and more updated than the version I used for my June summer class.”

“The tabs are good. It makes it easy to look at my classes, but the most helpful addition to *UASOnline!* would be asking the professors to utilize it more.”

“thanks!”

### Where to Now?

We are increasing the speed of the system with a combination of hardware configurations and coding architecture.

We invite users to explore these new tools and help IT discover even better ways to meet common needs of faculty, students, and staff. To subscribe to the ongoing development of *UASOnline!* subscribe to the TLTR at [http://uas.alaska.edu/pub/tltr\\_subscribe](http://uas.alaska.edu/pub/tltr_subscribe) . To make a suggestion or report a problem go to: [http://uas.alaska.edu/pub/tltr\\_suggest](http://uas.alaska.edu/pub/tltr_suggest) .

Here are a few new development suggestions we received:

- ◆ A Google-type search engine for online course Websites
- ◆ Assignments for all classes show in one channel.
- ◆ A smartphone web browser version
- ◆ RSS channel aggregator for multiple feeds

## UAS Undergraduate Presents Guam Paper in Hawaii

“These five UOG students represented this institution and this island community in the best possible light”.



*Pictured from left are PJ Guerrero, Myracle Mugol, Jeffrey Umayan, Alison Hadley and Jahlil Fielder.*

University of Guam Sociology students presented research projects during the 9th Annual Hawaii International Conference on Social Sciences held in early June. Pictured from left are PJ Guerrero, Myracle Mugol, Jeffrey Umayan, Alison Hadley and Jahlil Fielder.

On exchange with the University of Guam, UAS student Alison Hadley was one of a five person group who were the only undergraduates presenting at the 9th Annual Hawaii International Conference on Social Sciences June 2-5, 2010.

Perry (PJ) Guerrero, Alison Hadley and Jahlil Fielder presented *Waves of Change: Capturing Guam Moments Before the Military Build-Up in 2010*, a visual and narrative presentation that captures both the strengths and challenges of an island people at the edge of change. Through extensive interviews, participant observation as well as field work that explores some of the most remote and sacred sites in Guam’s history and natural environment, the presentation highlights the complexity and urgency of such a moment in time. It further captures, through the eyes and hearts of University of Guam students studying social change, the hopes and fears of the community and how it understands its role culturally, politically, economically and militarily in the broader context of the Pacific Asia region. These students were aided in part by their classmates in the Social Movements and Change class of spring 2010.

“These five UOG students represented this institution and this island community in the best possible light,” said Sociology professor Dr. Kirk Johnson. “Their dedication, their commitment to excellence, their diligence and sense

of responsibility is of the highest caliber. These students represent the wonderful diversity of this island community and their hard work captures the bright future of our island home.”

Their paper has also been accepted for a 30-minute presentation at the 7th International Conference on Environmental, Cultural, Economic and Social Sustainability in New Zealand, January 2011. Alison Hadley is the daughter of recently retired Assistant to the Dean of Arts and Sciences Heather Hadley.

## Sitka Campus Has New Entry Way Sign

Designed by Norm Campbell, UAS Adjunct Art Faculty and was manufactured by Marcus Lee of Leecraft in Sitka



*Sitka entry sign*

A new entryway sign welcomes students to the Sitka Campus. The sign was designed by Norm Campbell, UAS Adjunct Art Faculty and was manufactured by Marcus Lee of Leecraft in Sitka. The sign replicates parts of the design used in the joint UAS Sitka Campus and Mt. Edgecumbe High School sign that was installed at the roadway entry in November 2009.

## Marine Biology and Biology Summer 2010 News

Phillp Moser, an undergraduate in the Marine Biology program spent 6 weeks of his summer working with Dr. Sherry Tamone and NOAA biologist Frank Morado on metabolic studies of Tanner crab infected with a dinoflagellate that causes bitter crab syndrome.

Sherry Tamone used her SCUBA skills to assist in the first annual BIOBLITZ held in Juneau in June. She along

with ADFG diver Kyle Hebert, UAF faculty member Ginny Eckert and graduate student Jodi Pirtle inventoried subtidal invertebrates.

UAS undergrad and NOAA Hollings scholar Tyler Linderoth received a second place award in the Ecosystems category at the national Hollings and EPP Scholar Science Symposium in Maryland for a poster he presented describing his summer research on rockfish genetics and mating systems. Tyler started and completed his project this summer at the National Marine Fisheries Service research lab in Santa Cruz, CA.

Carolyn Bergstrom, David Tallmon, Tyler Linderoth, and former post-doc UAS Andrew Whiteley co-authored a paper on Auke Creek coastrange sculpins that was recently accepted into the journal *Ecology of Freshwater Fish*.

David Tallmon received a Frolich Fellowship from CSIRO Center for Marine and Atmospheric Research to support a collaborative visit with marine geneticists in Tasmania during his sabbatical in 2011.

## Martin Publishes Magazine Article on “European Exchange”

**13th feature article Martin has written for the magazine since 2006.**

“The BMW 3 Series often is an entry for consumers. It can serve as your entry point into European service as well.” That’s the opening line of a feature article by UAS Automotive Technology Faculty Tony Martin in the September 2010 issue of *Motor Age* magazine (circulation 140,000).

This is the 13th feature article Martin has written for the magazine since 2006. He was named as a contributing editor to *Motor Age* in 2008.

## Gordon and Goeden named to State Boards

**Health Information Management Faculty Elected to Boards**



*Leslie Gordon (left) and Rose Goeden*

Leslie Gordon, MS, RHIA has been elected to the Alaska Health Information Management Association (AKHIMA) Board of Directors as the President Elect and Rose Goeden, MBA, RHIA has been elected to the Nominating Committee. AKHIMA is a state organization affiliated with

the national organization American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA). AHIMA's more than 53,000 members are dedicated to the effective management of personal health information required to deliver quality healthcare to the public. Leslie has also been appointed by the President of AHIMA to the Education Strategy Committee (ESC) as the Associate Degree Representative. The ESC advises the AHIMA Board of Directors on issues that impact the professional from an education standpoint. Leslie is the Program Director and Assistant Professor for the UAS Health Information Management (HIM) program. Rose is an Assistant Professor for the UAS HIM Program.

## Several new faculty are on board

### Please welcome our new UAS Faculty

#### **Lindsey Ellingson - Juneau**

Assistant Professor of Economics (One-year term)  
Joint Appointment: School of Management (Department of Business and Public Administration) and the School of Arts & Sciences

#### **Maren Haavig - Juneau**

Assistant Professor of Accounting (Three-year term)  
School of Management, Department of Business and Public Administration

#### **Alberta Jones - Juneau**

Assistant Professor (Three-year term)  
School of Education

#### **Christine Urata - Juneau (bio link)**

Associate Professor (Tenure Track)  
Career Education

#### **Christopher Donar - Ketchikan (bio)**

Assistant Professor of Science (Tenure Track)  
Arts & Sciences

#### **André Wehner, Ph.D. - Juneau**

Term Assistant Professor of Physics  
Natural Sciences

#### **Forest Wagner - Juneau**

Term Assistant Professor of Outdoor Studies  
Humanities

## One Campus, One Book Update

Several events are planned for the semester including the Evening at Egan featuring Bill Schneider

The One Campus, One Book Project is off to a great start! Students who attended Orientation all received a copy of the book as part of their welcome packet and heard some of the stories that were recorded by fellow students and staff in the spring pilot project. In addition to "Listening is an Act of Love" presence in the classroom, several events are planned for the semester including the Evening at Egan featuring Bill Schneider of Project Jukebox on Sept. 24th and a Book Jam on October 28th. Story recordings will take place on campus October 18-22 and also in November. Volunteers to assist in recording and storytellers alike are needed!

Stories collected are being added to the online archive weekly at [www.uaslisteningproject.wordpress.com](http://www.uaslisteningproject.wordpress.com) and are also available in the Egan Library

More information can be found at <http://uas.alaska.edu/library/one-campus-one-book/>

## Wendy Girven named ALA Emerging Leader

**Wendy worked on a project with the Association of College and Research Libraries with a group of academic librarians from across the nation.**



*Wendy Girven, Second from Left*

Assistant Professor of Library Science and Egan Librarian Wendy Girven (second from left) was selected as an Emerging Leader by the American Library Association (ALA). As part of the Emerging Leaders program, Wendy worked on a project with the Association of College and Research Libraries with a group of academic librarians from across the nation. Together the group presented a poster on their work at the ALA Annual Conference in Washington DC in June.

## Ketchikan Area Arts and Humanities Council Member of the Month – Barbara Morgan

Ever-hardworking UAS Ketchikan Fisheries Tech Coordinator, Barbara Morgan, was chosen August Member of the Month by the Ketchikan Area Arts and Humanities Council and received the following lovely write-up in their monthly newsletter:

“If we had a Blueberry Hall of Fame, Barbara Morgan would be the next inductee! Barbara is our August Member of the Month for her fabulous participation in just about every aspect of the Blueberry Arts Festival that you can imagine. How much Blueberry can one woman take on? How about serving on the Blueberry Planning committee, submitting a beautiful batik silk hanging for the Juried Art Show, creating a culinary masterpiece for the Blueberry Dish Contest, emceeding the Blueberry Beard Contest and volunteering at THREE different booths over the course of the day! That’s Blueberry spirit! Thanks Barbara!”

## Chancellor’s Corner

### Welcome Back UAS Faculty, Staff and Students!

To those of you at the University of Alaska Southeast for the first time this Fall, Welcome! I hope you were able to enjoy some of our great summer weather and continue to enjoy the first days of Fall.

We start this new school year with new students, new leadership and new faculty.

All three schools have new Deans coming on board: Dean of Arts and Sciences Marsha Sousa, Dean of Education Deborah Lo and Dean of Professional and Technical Studies Steven Krause. In addition, Joe Nelson has been promoted to Dean of Admissions and Jessie Grant to Dean of Students. Several new term and adjunct faculty are also joining us in Juneau, Ketchikan and Sitka.

UAS opened the Fall 2010 Semester with substantially more first time full time students over Fall 2009. For the week of September 7, 2010, registration banner data for the Juneau campus showed a 13.2% headcount increase and 12.7% increase in student credit hours. Sitka is up just over 6% in both headcount and credit hours and Ketchikan is down slightly.

More than 200 students showed up for two days of freshmen orientation Aug. 31 and Sept. 1, culminating in an afternoon whale watching cruise. Ketchikan held a successful orientation with 40 new students attending! The Juneau campus also held a parent orientation. Parents were briefed on everything from tuition bills to the unique opportunities for their children to study with caring and accomplished faculty.

This new energy at UAS brings new opportunities. People who are drawn to this part of the world to teach, work or study are the kind of people who make the most of life. Please join me in making the most of this exciting time in UAS history.

John Pugh  
Chancellor John Pugh

## 20 endangered languages in Alaska; InField to the rescue

### Participants gathered together from Australia, USA, Canada, Mexico, Indonesia, China, Surinam, Guiana, Nigeria, Kenya, Japan, Finland, Guatemala.

Now one workshop can’t save any language but a recent institute certainly boosted the attendees’ capacities for skills, strategies, and spirit in this challenging endeavor. UAS’s Alice Taff, Marsha Hotch and Jordan Lachler joined 120 other linguists, language activists, and students June 21 through July 2, at the U of Oregon’s Institute on Field Linguistics and Language Documentation, InField, where revitalizing endangered languages was the thrust of the teaching and learning. Participants gathered together from Australia, USA, Canada, Mexico, Indonesia, China, Surinam, Guiana, Nigeria, Kenya, Japan, Finland, Guatemala, to name a few, to report on restoration activities of more than 50 endangered languages.



*Alice Taff (Alaska, UAS-Tlingit/Deg Xinag/Unangan Aleut languages), Jack Buckskin (Australia-Kaurna language), Yvonne Malbons (Surinam-Kari’nja language), Marsha Hotch (Alaska, UAS, Tlingit language), Carol Genetti (California, UCSB- Dolakha Newar language and conference director), Jordan Lachler (Alaska, UAS-Haida/Tlingit/Tsimshian languages), and Kennedy Bosire (Kenya-Ekegusii language) on the 12th day of the Institute on Field Linguistics and Language Documentation held June 21-July 2, 2010, at the U of Oregon.*

Language revitalization stories included the Maori of New Zealand who have rebuilt their language community by establishing preschool ‘language nests’, broadcasting TV and radio in Maori, creating a Maori computer interface, and re-introducing Maori language use in the home. The Kauri people of Adelaide, Australia, are awakening their language, which hasn’t been spoken for 80 years, through sports, song, games, and common phrases, all created from the documentation of missionaries in the 1830s and 40s.

Lachler taught a class in lexicography while other Infield classes sharpened participants’ techie skills with transcription software, relational database design, Internet archiving, videography, producing electronic dictionaries and grammars, helped with language activism strategies, taught grant writing, linguistics, ethnobiology, field phonetics, orthography, place-based curriculum, and methods for reintroducing languages no longer spoken.

Because during these two weeks, the U of Oregon also hosted four other annual conferences with similar interests; the Northwest Indian Languages Institute, the Stabilizing Indigenous Languages Symposium, the Athabaskan Languages Conference, and the Salishan and neighboring Languages Conference, attendees were swimming in a sea of opportunity for making connections and learning from others who work to keep the world’s endangered languages above water.

## Evening at Egan 2010

### Kick off Friday with Terry Tempest Williams

The annual Evening at Egan Fall Series at the University of Alaska Southeast kicked off with author and activist Terry Tempest Williams September 10 as part of the Bartlett Lecture Series. Other Evening at Egan presenters include Outdoor Studies graduates on their May 2010 UAS history-making climb of Denali (Sept. 17), guests of the Juneau World Affairs Council on non-violent conflict resolution, Haines author Heather Lende on Family, Friends and Faith and UAS faculty Clive Thomas with perspectives on Sarah Palin’s rise to “stardom.” All events take place Friday nights at 7 p.m. at either the Egan Lecture Hall or Library. The series runs through November 12.

For the full schedule and live streaming link, please see the Evening at Egan website at: <http://www.uas.alaska.edu/eganlecture/>

## Strategic Planning and Assessment Planning 2010-17

### A Strategic Planning and Assessment process is underway.

A fifty person volunteer planning team of community members, administration, faculty, staff and students brainstormed mission, values and core themes for UAS at the first of four day-long meetings on Friday, August 27. Consultant and facilitator George Copa kept the discussions lively with rotating round table discussions. The objective is to link strategic planning and assessment to meet new accreditation standards and to clarify the UAS mission, vision, core themes and indicators of success. A strategic plan through 2017 will be developed by January 2011. Drafts for review and comment will be made available to staff and faculty on-line later this Fall.

For more information, please contact Maria Moya at [mcmoya@uas.alaska.edu](mailto:mcmoya@uas.alaska.edu) or 796-6486.

## Coastal and Inland Tlingit Elders Brought Together Thanks to NSF Grant

Another outcome of the trip was revitalized interest in re-opening hiking trails dating back to the 1800’s linking Juneau and Klukwan with Yukon and B.C.

A small delegation of Tlingit elders from Juneau recently met with counterparts in Yukon Territory. Their conversations in Tlingit were recorded on videotape. The effort brought together coastal and in-land speakers of the endangered Tlingit language. The trip was part of a National Science Foundation funded project to document and archive conversations in Tlingit. Juneau elders Nora Dauenhauer and Celina Everson and Smith Katzeek of Klukwan travelled with UAS MAT alumni and Tlingit speaker Hans Chester who served as assistant. The trip was organized by UAS Research Assistant Professor of Alaska Native Languages Alice Taff. The delegation made stops in Atlin, B.C. and Teslin, Carcross and Whitehorse, Yukon Territory.

“Every place we went were feasted and hosted! In Atlin they even hired cooks. Our guests were prepared and ready to be recorded,” said Taff. Fourteen speakers were taped over the week-long journey, August 9-16, 2010. This is the second year of a three-year \$450,000 NSF grant to record spontaneous conversations in Tlingit. “We hope to record enough chit chat to have examples to work from,” said Taff. The recordings will be used for linguistic research and language learning. Taff says it takes about 100 hours of recording, editing and transcription work for a one hour final recording. Eighteen hours were documented over the summer in Yakutat, British Columbia and Yukon Territory.

Another outcome of the trip was revitalized interest in re-opening hiking trails dating back to the 1800's linking Juneau and Klukwan with Yukon and B.C. The Douglas Indian Association and a representative of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association are taking up that effort.



*R to L are Hans Chester (JNU), Smith Katzeek (Klukwan), Martha VanHeel (CA), Nora Dauenhauer (JNU), Mary Anderson (CA), unsure, Emma Shorty (CA). CA for Canada.*



*Jonathan Wurtak (CA), grandson of Martha VanHeel*

## Bridge to the Future

**Steel bridge linking UAS to new Auke Lake trail was installed Sept. 3rd**



*Bridge over Auke Lake outlet*

A new 100 ft. steel bridge linking the Juneau campus and the Auke Lake parking area was installed Sept. 3rd. It is part of a larger project to eventually link the Auke Lake campus and lake perimeter trail.