

## UAS Secures Funds to Purchase Mine Simulator

The University of Alaska Southeast will become the only educational institution in the United States with an underground hard rock mine training simulator thanks to support from the legislative office of Rep. Cathy Munoz (R-Juneau) and other members of the Southeast Alaska legislative delegation. UAS will purchase a state-of-the-art mine training simulator with three modules for training on different pieces of mining equipment. The simulator and modules will provide a dramatic increase in training capacity to prepare individuals for entry level hard rock mining jobs in Alaska. The simulator will be housed at the UAS Center for Mine Training, located at Juneau's UAS Technical Education Center.

The \$800,000 simulator will be purchased with funding from a \$400,000 2010 capital budget appropriation and \$400,000 in University of Alaska Workforce Development funds. Munoz made the announcement at the Alaska Mining Association conference Wed. March 16 in Juneau.

The University of Alaska's Mining and Petroleum Training Services (MAPTS) is a key partner in the UAS Center, along with the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. "This was the missing piece of the puzzle for training miners from Alaska to be productive and safe from the first day on the job," said MAPTS Director Dennis Steffy. "It will vastly improve the opportunities of students for mining employment. In addition, salaries will stay in Alaska instead of going to other western states." More than 700 students are currently enrolled in mining classes at UAS.

## Art Meets Science on Sandy Beach



*Ryan Cortes and his Taku Wind Chimes*

Art student and UAS PR office student photographer Ryan Cortes Perez is featured in several local media stories on his latest outdoor sculpture installation, the Taku Wind Chimes. Here is an excerpt from an article in the March 9 edition of the Capital City Weekly: "Most

Juneau residents spent the last weekend in February trying to avoid the hurricane-force winds blowing through town. Ryan Cortes Perez figured it would be a good time to put up his new art installation on Sandy Beach. The "chimes" are 100-pound spruce logs suspended from a steel cable strung between two of the old pilings on the beach. A drummer himself, Ryan loves the soft wooden "clonk" as the wind moves the logs "as if they were toothpicks." "Who would have thought that the wind would be such a percussionist!" he said. Ryan envisioned the wind chimes for a class project. His sculpture professor Pedar Dalthorp encouraged him to pursue it." Community interest in the project is high and Ryan's video of the project has received more than 2200 views. It can be seen at [vimeo.com](http://vimeo.com).

## Words and Voice Event a Success



*Professor of Native Languages and Culture and former Alaska Poet Laureate Richard Dauenhauer sings a poem in Tlingit at "Words and Voices"*

The UAS (student) Media Club hosted their first ever event "Words and Voices" as part of the Sound and Motion Arts at Egan series the evening of February 25. UAS students, staff and faculty read aloud their original poetry on the theme of community. The event was meaningful for all who attended. Students are looking forward to including local writers next year in addition to those affiliated with UAS.

## UAS Mendenhall Glacier Presentation

Environmental Science faculty and students presented a public lecture at the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center March 4 where they gave some insight into their research on the glacier, and how the ice that makes it up continues to decrease. The terminus lost 540 feet between 2009 and 2010, more than twice the yearly average of ice loss between 1997 and 2009. Some of this can be explained through climate and environmental changes in temperature and precipitation, which researchers are still studying. Environmental Science Department Chair Eran Hood described the significance of glacier water to the local ecosystem, as 95 percent of Southeast Alaska's glaciers are thinning, a phenomenon he said is worldwide. "One thing we know from a variety of studies is that we're losing glacier water very rapidly in Southeast Alaska," he said.

## Ketchikan Faculty News

John Radzilowski, UAS-Ketchikan is associate editor of the newly published *Polish American Encyclopedia* (McFarland Publishers), which is now available in printed and online versions. Radzilowski was part of a team of editors who put this reference work together over the past four years. He authored 17 articles including major entries on agriculture, Catholicism, and Crime.

## Martin Article in MotorAge



*UAS faculty and writer Tony Martin*

Associate Professor of Automotive Technology and contributing editor Tony Martin has an article published in the March 2011 edition of *MotorAge*. "Run Silent, Run Fast" is a detailed overview of a renaissance in automotive design, and the major push being made to reduce the environmental impact associated with personal transportation. Martin writes, "Cars are being made lighter, with more exotic materials being used to replace conventional cast iron and steel. Alternative fuels also are being promoted in an effort to reduce dependence on foreign oil. More significantly, the very nature of the automotive power train is changing, with a gradual shift from mechanical and hydraulic systems to electric drives. These trends are having an impact on the world of racing."

## Senator Murkowski Holds Roundtable at UAS Sitka Campus

Representatives from local organizations and government entities discussed challenges and issues related to Sitka's relationship with the federal government during a roundtable meeting with Senator Lisa Murkowski held at the UAS Sitka Campus on Wednesday, February 23. The two-hour session gave local leaders an opportunity to air their concerns directly to the senator. There were more than 40 participants in the roundtable. Sitka Campus Director Jeff Johnston noted the increased headcounts on the UAS campuses, an increase which is typically seen during an economic downturn as individuals return to school to re-tool and re-skill. Johnston pointed out that 70% of our students Sitka students are web based. This semester Sitka has more than 240 distance students from cities and villages all over Alaska, as well as military in Iraq.

Sen. Murkowski asked if web based students in the outlying areas are well served through broadband. Johnston replied, "We have the ability to support e-learning for our native and rural students in large part because of federal support from the USDA grants which

is providing more schools and libraries in the remote areas to be better equipped to handle the new technologies." Johnston shared his hope that the University would continue to receive funding for Title III grants. Murkowski assured the roundtable of one thing; the budget fight in Washington D.C. would be contentious.

## Weatherization Partnership



*UAS Career Education Faculty Marquam George shows proper window weatherization technique to students in new certification program*

Tlingit and Haida Regional Housing Authority (THRHA) and UAS have teamed up to provide energy efficient training and certification, as well as free weatherization services in Juneau and other Southeast communities for the state Lyman Weatherization Program. The program is funded by more than \$8 million in grants awarded to the THRHA to provide weatherization training. Classes are held at a home purchased by THRHA, which provides a lab setting for hands on learning. "This modular home has oil-fired forced air heating and a number of things that are good for testing," said Associate Professor of Construction Technology Marquam George. "We use this house for creating mock ups, where participants can practice installing things and using other techniques." UAS is one of only three places in Alaska that provides weatherization certification and it is the only educational institution, according to George. The first training course was offered Feb. 28 through March 4, 2011, but further classes will be offered throughout the year.