



Carol Griffin Celebrates 30 Years at UAS

By Mallory Millay

UAS Vice Chancellor of Administrative Services and long time employee Carol Griffin retired after serving UAS for more than 30 years.

"I've been here so long I can hardly remember not being here," Griffin joked.

Griffin has seen UAS grow from a four building campus with administrative offices in the Auke Bay Post Office building, to the beautiful, successful campus it is today.

Starting at UAS in the early 1980's as a part time instructor of American Government became a cornerstone in developing the UAS distance education program as Director of Outreach Education and Service.

"It was kind of the beginning of distance education as we know it now," Griffin explained of the program in its early stages. "I fell right into it and really loved it. I sent people from Juneau all over Southeast Alaska. The first time I [traveled in Southeast] I was terrified because I was out of my element, on a float plane, and it was raining and snowing, but I really loved it."

Preferring to work behind the scenes, Griffin found her calling working in personnel, later becoming the Vice Chancellor of Administrative Services in 1999.

"I always wanted to be a person who helped other people make the best decisions," Griffin explained. "In all my career plans, I had planned to be the kind of person who was a staffer, [who] helped other people do what they needed to do."

Retiring UAS Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services Carol Griffin reminisces about her three decades at UAS at a recent open house at Administrative Services offices.

The first person in her family to get a college education, receiving a Bachelor of Science Degree from Lewis-Clark State University and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Idaho, Griffin understands the value of education and has been dedicated to seeing UAS thrive as an educational institution.

"People all thought alike," Griffin said of her experience growing up in her small hometown. "So when I got on a university campus, it changed the way I saw the world because I could see room for other things [besides] what I learned as a young person. That was a really wonderful opportunity for me, [and it makes me] feel so committed to education."

Griffin believes that UAS is becoming a thriving educational institution, led by dedicated people like Chancellor John Pugh, who have their eye to the future.

"John Pugh is a visionary man and he really has a vision of this institution," Griffin said of the Chancellor's plans for UAS. "About four years ago he began to articulate his vision that this campus, in order to grow and be sustainable, needs to have a thousand full time students --freshmen through seniors-- who are here to sit in the seats



Carol Griffin during celebration gathering. Ryan Cortes, photo.

and participate in the dialogue that occurs between students and faculty to help build that community to sustain this organization," she said. "I think we're now beginning to shape the building block with more freshmen and better retention."

"Chancellor Pugh, as a leader, is looking beyond the time period he would be here, looking into the future and planning for the future," Griffin said.

With confidence that the institution is moving in the direction of success, Griffin can look back at the life and career she has had at UAS, and enjoy the changes that retirement will bring.

"I've had [a] lot of opportunities here," she said. "I can't say enough about what a wonderful thing it's been as a career to progress through an organization; to know and understand the organization. I think we're really changing and I'm so thrilled about it because we're really becoming what I would consider the university we want to be."

UAS has provided Griffin with more than just a career, but opportunities, experiences, and friendships she will deeply miss. In a letter to colleagues, Griffin wrote that UAS changes lives. "UAS is more than a place, far beyond a destination --it must be measured by transformed lives; it is a co-mingling of hearts and minds of those who work here and those who learn here."

"I will be sad because I'm leaving friends and colleagues," Griffin said. "But I'm not leaving without a passion for this place because it has been so good to me."

"It will be different," Griffin agreed about retirement. "But I'm excited because it's a new adventure."

Griffin moved to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho to be closer to her family and spend time with her grandchildren.

A New Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services

With Carol Griffin's retirement, former Associate Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services Jim Danielson became the new Vice Chancellor overseeing the Bookstore, Budget, Grants and Contracts; Business and Finance and the Personnel Office. Danielson officially took the new position January 1, 2012.

Strategic and Assessment Plan

A new publication highlighting UAS' approved Strategic and Assessment Plan 2010-2017 is in circulation. The bright and colorful booklet includes UAS' new mission statement focusing on student learning and its four core themes: student success, teaching and learning, community engagement, research and creative expression. See the publication at http://www.uas.alaska.edu/UAS_StrategicPlan/docs/strategic-plan-public_10-17.pdf

Mine Training Simulator

A world-class underground mine training simulator has arrived at the UAS Center for Mine Training in Juneau. The simulator was purchased from a firm in South Africa and will contribute to mine safety and workforce development training offered by UAS in partnership with MAPTS—the UA Mining and Petroleum Training Service. A roll-out and demonstration of the new simulator is planned.

New Additions to Southeast Conference

UAS Mine Training Director Mike Bell has been named to the board of the Southeast Conference. Recent B.A. Communications graduate Arielle Parker has been hired as the Southeast Conference Administrator. Southeast Conference is a regional, nonprofit corporation that advances the collective interests of the people, communities, and businesses in southeast Alaska.

Nursing Program Graduation

Formal pinning ceremonies for 13 graduates of the University of Alaska Anchorage Associate Degree Nursing Program were held in Juneau and Ketchikan on Saturday, December 17, 2011. Graduates received their Associate of Applied Science in Nursing degree. The students spent two years training in clinical settings in Juneau, Ketchikan and Anchorage. Graduates are now able to sit for the national licensing exam (NCLEX-RN), and practice as registered nurses.

Fish Tech Program to be Offered Via e-Learning to Prince William Sound College

The UAS Fishery Technology Program based at the Ketchikan Campus and Prince William Sound Community College recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding to offer the Fish Tech program in the region via e-Learning. The Fish Tech program also has an MOU with SFOS' Fishery bachelors program and is working on one with the UAF Bristol Bay Campus.

UAS Campus Master Planning

UAS Campus Master Planning is in process. The firm of Perkins and Will is the primary consultant. Facilities Director Keith Gerken is spearheading the effort with input planned from all schools and campuses. Initial meetings with Perkins and Will may take place as early as February, with a goal of finalizing the plan in Fall 2012.

New Agreement Implementing Institutional Animal Care and Use Requirements.

UAS has a new umbrella agreement in place with UAF to ensure compliance with federal regulations on Institutional Animal Care and Use (IUCUC). This collaborative arrangement allows UAS faculty involved with research to comply fully with IUCUC requirements and benefit from interaction with research support offered through UAF.

Tamone and Students Present East to West

Professor of Biology Sherry Tamone and her graduate student Molly Fox-Zaleski attended the Alaska Marine Science Symposium January 16-17 in Anchorage. Molly presented her graduate work on reproductive indices of male snow crab *Chionoecetes opilio*.

Tamone traveled to the annual Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology in Charleston, South Carolina earlier this month to present a poster on crab physiology research conducted in collaboration with two UAS undergraduates, Tyler Linderoth and Eric Keller. The results of their study, titled "The effect of eyestalk neurohormones on circulating glucose and trehalose in two species of cold water oregonid crabs", have some interesting implications for cold-water adaptation.

Neely and Student Present Papers

English faculty Sol Neely attended the 127th annual convention of the Modern Languages Association, where he presented a paper titled "Trickster Reads Midrash: Theories Toward an Ontology of Story" and participated in a panel discussion focused on Pacific Rim concerns. His paper was well received and it prompted an invitation to present at a conference on the philosopher Emmanuel Levinas in Paris, France this fall. James Kelleher, a student of Sol Neely, had a paper "Pixels and Ethics: Contemporary Gaming as Procedural Allegory" accepted for the Pacific Rim Conference on Literature and Rhetoric. The conference will be held March 9-10 at U.A.A.