



Chancellor's Report

Chancellor John Pugh

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June 2013 Meeting



Student Speaker Forest Haven advised fellow graduates to use their education to help make the world a better place through community building. Left side L-R: Commencement Speaker Charles Northrip, Regent Fuller Cowell, Chancellor John Pugh. Right side L-R: UA President Patrick Gamble, UAS Provost Rick Caulfield. Photo by Klaus Stolpe, Juneau Empire.

UAS Commencement 2013

UAS awarded close to 700 degrees, occupational endorsements and certificates at 2013 commencement ceremonies in Juneau, Ketchikan and Sitka May 3–5. The student speaker at the Juneau ceremony was Forest Haven, recipient of the Outstanding Graduate in Social Science award. The EPSCoR (Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research) undergraduate research grant recipient was extensively involved in archaeological fieldwork around southern Southeast Alaska and presented professional academic research papers. She plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Anthropology. Honorary Doctorate of Laws recipient Charles Northrip gave the Juneau commencement address. Northrip managed Alaska's first public radio and TV stations, served as the first executive director of the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission, directed Alaska's first satellite communications experiments, managed Juneau's KTOO FM and TV, and directed the Juneau Economic Development Council. Currently, he is Chief of Party for the Education Development Center's Sudan Radio Service (SRS), based in Nairobi, Kenya. University of Alaska President Patrick Gamble gave closing remarks at the Juneau ceremony. About 21 graduates participated in a Native graduation ceremony prior to the regular ceremony in the Egan Library on the Juneau campus. The Sitka ceremony joined two University of Alaska campuses, as some Sitka graduates participated from the University of Alaska Anchorage via video conference. Roger Schmidt, the executive director of the Sitka Fine Arts Camp, was commencement speaker. This year's Ketchikan commencement speaker was Elizabeth Nelson, Artistic Director for First City Players and 2012 Distinguished Woman of the Year.



UAS alumna and Tlingit elder Marie Olsen hugs UAF Ph.D. recipient Keri Eggleston. Photo by Klaus Stolpe, Juneau Empire.



Alex Botelho climbing on the north face of Rhino Peak.



Summit of Rhino Peak, clockwise from lower right: Forest Wagner, Anitra Winkler, Alex Botelho, Sammy Becker, Sara Gering.

Sun Blessed ODS Local Glacier Trek

On Friday, April 19th, the Outdoor Studies mountaineering course, ODS 222, climbed and skied Snowdrift Peak and on Saturday, April 20th, climbed and skied Rhino Peak, on the Juneau Icefield. The group of ten, led by Assistant Professor of Outdoor Studies Forest Wagner, was dropped on the upper Taku by Ward Air and skied home, descending off the Juneau Icefield to the north branch of the Mendenhall Glacier. The group walked out West Glacier Trail at 3:30 pm, Tuesday, April 23rd.

Summer Math Research Experience

Mathematics faculty member Andrzej Piotrowski was awarded a grant from Mathematical Association of America to conduct a summer research experience for five UAS undergraduate students: Andre Bunton, Nicole Jacobs, Samantha Jenkins, Charles McKenry Jr., and Louis Scott. The project, entitled National Research Experience for Undergraduates Program at UAS: Diagonalizable Linear Operators and Polynomial Zeros, will run from May 13–June 21 on the Juneau campus.

Goldbelt-SOE Partnership

Goldbelt Heritage Foundation partnered with the School of Education to co-sponsor a course this spring for students from all three Juneau School District high schools. The focus of the "Investigating Traditional Ecological Knowledge" class is to apply the strengths of the local community to promote cultural awareness and science literacy through place-based education. The spring course was created as an extension of Goldbelt Heritage Foundation's "Aan Yátx'u Sáani Deíyi: Path to Excellence" summer academies for the study of math and science through the context of local culture. The course encourages students to take into consideration the dynamic landscape of Southeast Alaska as they develop an understanding of the interconnectedness of nature, respect for life, western science methodology, Tlingit migration and language, and social roles and responsibilities. The intention is to pay tribute to the legacy of the Kwaans of the Southeast region and to allow students to discover the holistic thought processes that helped people thrive in Southeast Alaska.

Federal Grant for Natural Sounds Recording

Library of natural sounds recorded within Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve.

The U.S. National Park Service announced a \$54,451 discretionary cooperative agreement grant to the University of Alaska Southeast to produce an interactive library of natural sounds recorded within GBNPP (Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve), including the biological and physical environment, as well as sounds produced by visitors and other human activities. The objectives include producing an archive of natural acoustics recorded during the summers of 2013 and 2014. Recordings will be either single species or phenomena or mingled sounds of natural communities.

Undergrad Presents at Conference

Outstanding graduate in Mathematics Eric Keller traveled to Salem, Oregon and attended the Pacific Northwest Section Meeting of the MAA (Mathematical Association of America) April 12–13, thanks to funds from the Arts & Sciences Department. Eric presented his mathematics senior project on "Measuring Resilience: The Use of System Properties in Ecosystem Management".

Vess Presents Panel at Conference

Sociology faculty member Lora Vess attended the March 2013 annual meeting of the Pacific Sociological Association in Reno, Nevada, where she presented on a panel on "Graduate School: Choosing the Right Program and Creating a Successful Application." She served on the program committee for the conference, organizing all environmental sociology panels, and presiding over the panel, "Emerging Research in Environmental Sociology."

Walz Presents Paper in France

Professor of History Robin Walz was in Limoges, France May 29th to present a paper titled "Panorama de la pègre: Une arrière-pensée de l'avant-garde" at the Fantômas Symposium (Colloque Fantômas) of international scholars at the University of Limoges.