



Evening at Egan “Deconstructing Racism” panel. L-R: Assistant Professor of Alaska Native Languages Xh’unei Lance Twitchell, facilitator, UAS faculty Sol Neely, Ishmael Hope, MK MacNaughton, Northern Light Church pastor Phil Campbell, Provost Rick Caulfield.

Evening at Egan Panel Discusses Language of Racism

The last of the Fall 2013 Evening at Egan lecture and presentation series was Friday, November 15 at the Egan Library on the Juneau campus. “Deconstructing Racism: Power and Privilege in our Community” featured a panel discussion with members of the community who have been facilitating local discussions on racial justice. Panel members were Rick Caulfield, UAS provost; Phil Campbell, pastor of Northern Lights Church (which has hosted several discussions on race and plans to host more); M.K. MacNaughton, a Juneau artist who got her introduction to social and racial issues in Juneau while working at the AWARE Shelter; Ishmael Hope, a storyteller of Iñupiaq and Tlingit heritage who was born in Sitka and lives in Juneau; Sol Neely, UAS Assistant Professor of English and Philosophy; and Xh’unei Lance Twitchell, UAS Assistant Professor of Native Languages. The goal of the panel was to discuss changes in community and society that reduce instances of racism, and give people language tools to create positive change.

“We’re so anxious to talk, because these things build up inside of us,” said facilitator Xh’unei Lance Twitchell. “The conversation doesn’t start here and it doesn’t end here. It’s important it occurs throughout our community on a regular basis. Our overall goal is the elimination of racism. That is what we’re committed to when we do this type of work.” Neely spoke on the way different languages and thought structures articulate understanding. In English, he pointed out, “seeing” connotes understanding. People say, “I see what you mean,” for example. In this instance, however, we need to listen, he said. And not just any listening – listening “born of a consciousness called hearing.” In Tlingit, he said, understanding is linked not just to hearing another, but to repeatedly hearing that person.

Photo credit: Mary Catharine Martin, Capital City Weekly

UAS JWAC Co-Host Al-Can Summit

The Juneau World Affairs Council held its annual Fall Forum on the Juneau campus Thursday-Saturday October 17-19.

The event began with a keynote presentation by Bill Morrison, emeritus Professor from the University of Northern British Columbia Thursday evening. Daytime presentations on Friday October 18 included topical panel discussions on climate change impacts and policy, opportunities for renewable energy exchanges between Alaska, B.C. and the Yukon, Alaska and western Canadian energy issues, and the impact of Arctic issues such as loss of sea ice to the indigenous people of the Arctic. UAS faculty members Eran Hood, Sanjay Pyare, Glenn Wright, and Brian Vander Naald made up the majority of a panel on climate change. Vice Chancellor Joe Nelson joined Canadian counterpart Tosh Southwick from Yukon College in speaking about First Nations issues.

For the Evening at Egan Friday, Morrison presented “The Sinking of the Princess Sophia: a Canadian-American Disaster.” Morrison co-authored the book, *The Sinking of the Princess Sophia: Taking the North Down with Her*. The tragedy of the Canadian ship near Juneau in 1918 was truly international. The disaster killed all 354 passengers and crew. Their stories show how interconnected the two northern territories were in the early days of their settled history.

Yukon College President Dr. Karen Barnes visited the Juneau campus to participate in the Juneau World Affairs Council/UAS Alaska-Canada relations forum. While in Juneau, she and Chancellor John Pugh signed a new memorandum of agreement about collaboration between their two institutions. That MOA will serve as an ‘umbrella’ agreement and will allow for attachment of program-specific collaboration agreements involving UAS and Yukon College students and faculty.



UAS Chancellor John Pugh and Yukon College President Karen Barnes sign an agreement to collaborate on programs and courses of study as Provost Rick Caulfield looks on, Sat. Oct. 19, 2013

New \$2.5M Grant Targets Fisheries Technology Jobs

The University of Alaska Southeast (UAS) Sitka Campus will receive \$2.5M for the growth and expansion of its Fisheries Technology degree program.

The grant will foster the training and job preparation of a fisheries workforce in communities from Southeast Alaska to the Bering Sea. The award, which extends over four years, will allow students in coastal communities the opportunity to complete their coursework without leaving home. The grant advances the University's Fisheries/Seafood/Maritime Initiative (FSMI), which involves collaboration with university and industry partners throughout Alaska.

To meet the goals of the grant, UAS will work with community campuses not only in Southeast Alaska but in communities like Kodiak, Homer, Bristol Bay, and Bethel. Employing a combination of online coursework and regional fieldwork, labs and practicums, students will be able to earn occupational endorsements, certificates, and degrees in Fisheries Technology. According to Sitka Campus Director Jeff Johnston, "This grant will allow us to prepare students for employment in Alaska's fisheries, seafood, and maritime industries. Industry-based internships that will feature competency-based assessments that have been developed in partnerships with employers and industry partners will provide 'work-ready' applicants to fill existing and anticipated job openings with qualified Alaskans." Seafood Products Association's Vice President of Product Services, Bruce C. Odegaard, stated in his support for this grant that "building the skills and competencies of workers entering the Alaska seafood industry is essential to ensuring the competitiveness of the industry in the growing global economy."

According to UAS Provost Dr. Rick Caulfield, "this grant focuses on creating a skilled Alaskan workforce for fisheries, seafood, and maritime industries. While based at UAS, the program involves statewide partnerships with employers and with UAA and UAF. We appreciate this vote of support for our Fisheries Technology program from the US Department of Labor and our industry partners."

The grant was made through the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grant program under the US Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration.

Biology Career Night

Biology faculty hosted a Career Night for Biology and Marine Biology Students on the Juneau campus October 30. Sheila Cameron (AK Department of Fish and Game), Bonita Nelson (National Marine Fisheries Service), Jeff Chen (Student Conservation Association) and Deborah Rydman (UAS) talked with more than 20 students about internships and other opportunities within their agency. The event kicked off with a pizza social and informal discussions. Alaska and Northwest recruiter Jeff Chen flew down from Anchorage and met with students during the week.

Sharing Our Knowledge Clan Conference

The "Sharing Our Knowledge" Tlingit clan conference was held Nov. 7-10 at Centennial Hall in Juneau.

More than 60 Native and non-Native presenters spoke on topics ranging from Tlingit art to civil rights to education, under a shared theme, "Our language is our way of life." The University of Alaska-Fairbanks' Alaska Native Language Center estimates there are between 400 and 500 Tlingit speakers today. UAS Assistant Professor of Alaska Native Languages X'unei Lance Twitchell says the updated number is closer to 200. Despite the enormous challenges of bringing Tlingit

back into everyday use in Southeast, the overall atmosphere of the clan conference was one of hope and determination, as teachers and students, elders and youth shared practical ideas and words of encouragement. The conference highlighted the challenges and rewards of language revitalization. Will Geiger, a student in Twitchell's intermediate Tlingit class, won the Tlingit spelling bee after getting through kanat'á (blueberry) and ch'áak' (eagle). Part of the difficulty with written Tlingit, as the bee illustrated, is that a formalized system of written words has only been in development since the 1960s, according to a paper presented by UAS retired faculty Richard Dauenhauer at the very first clan conference in 1993.

Photo credit: Juneau Empire

Chordas Presents

English faculty Nina Chordas recently attended the Pacific Northwest Renaissance Society conference in Lacey Washington. She presented a session entitled "Poetic Transubstantiations: Shakespeare, Marvell, and Consumption in the Afterlife."

Vess Presentation on Impact of Plastics

Sociology faculty Lora Vess gave a talk at the downtown Juneau Public Library the evening of Nov. 13. The talk was entitled "Edible Lies: A sociological look at plastic, chemicals, and food."



Will Geiger, a student in Lance Twitchell's intermediate Tlingit class emerged victorious after getting through kanat'á (blueberry) and ch'áak' (eagle) in the spelling bee at the Clan Conference.