

# soundings

University of Alaska Southeast Faculty & Staff Newsletter

11-15-2013

## Arts and Sciences News

### 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 was able to meet with students during the week.

### 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."

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## One Campus, One Book 2013



One Campus, One Book 2013 author Kij Johnson addresses the Evening at Egan library crowd, Nov. 8, 2013. Earlier in the week Johnson was impressed by a student reading of some of her short story collection, *At the Mouth of the River of Bees*. The University of Kansas faculty also met with UAS English classes and gave a community writing workshop at the Douglas Public Library.

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## Sitka Whalefest 2013

Juneau biology faculty Heidi Pearson Current Topics in Marine Mammalogy students joined Sitka faculty Jan Straley for Sitka WhaleFest Oct. 31-Nov. 2. WhaleFest events included the 3-day scientific symposium on Arctic sea change, a banquet, 5k run, and a whale watch.

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## Will Geiger emerges victorious

Will Geiger, a student in Lance Twitchell's intermediate Tlingit class at the University of Alaska-Southeast, emerged victorious 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 Richard Dauenhauer at the very first clan conference in 1993.



11-15-2013

## Writing for the web Introduction and Training

UAS is writing a new website Content Guide. This presentation will be an introduction to the new Content Guide, how to use it, and how it works with the existing Style Guide. Writing for the web tips including voice, tone and audience will also be covered. Please join Jenny Fremlin, PhD with Alaska Litho Media Services as she goes over the new content guide as a tool to help UAS develop a consistent web presence across campuses and educational programs. We'll review some of the recent updates to the website and make more improvements with hands-on activities applying the Content Guide. Regional Web Coordinator Dave Klein will also be demonstrating how to use SiteImprove to identify and fix spelling and broken link errors. Writing for the web requires unique skills and techniques to capture an audience's attention. See you there!

### **LIVE EVENT– Not just in Juneau!**

Date: Wednesday, November 20

Time: 10 a.m. –Noon

Juneau Location: Egan 104 Multi-Media Classroom

Ketchikan Location: Paul 103

Sitka Location: Room 110

### **From your Desktop**

For video stream, go to [uatv.alaska.edu](http://uatv.alaska.edu).

To chat, log on to UASOnline, go to SC-01, change semester to "training" and click on "course". Click on "Chat" in the left hand menu.

If not attending in person, please provide feedback through our Staff Council Training Survey, found under Assignments.

If you have any questions/concerns please [contact any of your Staff Council Representatives](#).

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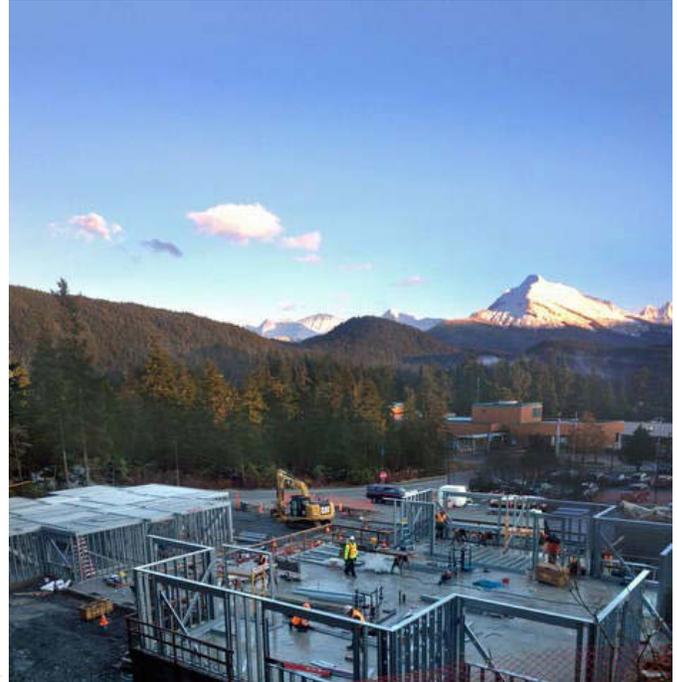
## Before and After

The construction of a new residence hall on the Juneau campus is well underway. Walls are being installed and concrete floors poured. The recent work gives us some nice Before / After photos. November 8-9 the contractors had the big blue concrete pump truck on site pouring the ground floor concrete slab for Freshman Resident Housing **Hall I**. They poured the floor slab for the commons area and then framed up the first

wall in Freshman Resident Housing **Hall II**. This week the framers finished the first floor walls in Hall I, the exterior walls in Hall II and plan to complete all the interior walls by the weekend of November 16. The mechanical contractor is following close behind the framers installing piping. The contractor is getting more workers on site each day and the work is progressing nicely.

I always get a kick out of Before / After photos. Whether it is looking at high school yearbooks, driver's license photos or family photo albums, I find it interesting to see how we have changed over the years.

For more updates and photos from Nathan Leigh of UAS Facilities [please visit his blog](#). You can read previous posts as well as opt-in to email updates when new blog entries are made.



11-15-2013

## How to Keep from Falling on the Ice

As we freeze and thaw our way into winter, it's time to be thinking about slip and fall prevention. The Juneau campus has lots of fresh asphalt on our pathways. As you venture out on these new smooth surfaces, remember that surfaces may be slippery even when there is no visible ice. Please keep these simple safe winter walking strategies in mind:

- Select footwear with good traction.
- Always scan the path in front of you for icy conditions. These are often recognizable by the slip marks where those ahead of you found them.
- Bend your knees, take short steps, walk flat footed or shuffle for stability.
- Keep your hands out of your pockets and avoid carrying heavy loads.
- When walking on stairs, use hand rails and plant your feet firmly on each step.
- Use special care when getting out of or into your vehicle

Any safe winter walking strategy should also include keeping a set of ICE GRIPPERS handy. Ice Grippers are free to UAS employees. If you have a set from prior years, check to see if they are serviceable. If you need a new set of ICE GRIPPERS, just send me an e-mail with your BOOT SIZE and your MAIL STOP.

If you do fall or encounter a particularly slippery walking surface on campus, please let Facilities Services know: 796-6496.

Call me if you have any questions or to report a falling incident: 796-6077

Be prepared and walk with confidence!

[Dan Garcia](#)

UAS Health and Safety

11-15-2013

## UAS Represents at Sharing Our Knowledge Clan Conference

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 Xh'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

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