

s o u n d i n g s

University of Alaska Southeast Faculty & Staff Newsletter

1-25-2013

For the Online issue, be sure to visit [Soundings online at uas.alaska.edu/soundings](http://uas.alaska.edu/soundings)

Governor Parnell addresses high school students statewide from Auke Lake Campus

Governor Sean Parnell urged the students to follow their passions, whether they end up working in the mining industry or not.



More than 50 high school students taking an “Introduction to Mining Occupations” course had quite the guest speaker on the first day of class Tuesday, Jan. 22. Governor Sean Parnell urged the students to follow their passions, whether they end up working in the mining industry or not. The governor was the first of many guest speakers the class will hear from this semester. Instructor Mike Bell worked at Hecla Greens Creek Mine before becoming director of the Center for Mine Training at UAS. This is the second year Bell has taught the class, which is designed for high school juniors and seniors. Last year, enrollment was limited to 20 students, all from Juneau. But this year, with the help of video conferencing equipment, there are 55 students statewide, from the Northwest Arctic Borough to remote parts of Southeast. In his remarks Governor Parnell talked about the importance of keeping mining jobs in Alaska. He praised UAS for teaching Alaska students the skills needed to perform those jobs. The Department of Education and Early Development is one of several partners that provided support to make the class possible. That includes mining companies like Hecla Greens Creek, which donated \$300,000 to the University of Alaska Foundation in 2011 to help create the mine training program. –Casey Kelly, KTOO Radio News. [Read and hear the full report from KTOO.](#)

Singer–Songwriter John Elliott

Friday, Feb. 1, 7 p.m., UAS REC Center

Charles Gamble Jr.–Donald Sperl Joint Use Facility, 12300 Mendenhall Loop Road
Sponsored by UAS Student Government



"John Elliott has something to say, something sorely lacking in the popular radio tunes of today." – Listener in on-line review

"He has a lullaby of a voice that's likeable and believable. There's a stylistic melancholy tone and charisma..." --Chuck Schiele , *The San Diego Troubadour*

San Francisco singer songwriter John Elliott's catchy tunes, clear voice and chill-inducing melodies have been likened to artists from Paul Simon to Ben Gibbard. Elliott will give a public performance at the UAS REC center as part of the UAS Sound and Motion Series on Fri., Feb. 1 at 7 p.m. This free performance is not just for students. For the first time this season, some Sound and Motion events are being held at one of Juneau's best venues for music events. The REC center has a modern, well-lit stage, excellent sound system and comfortable seating.

A listener wrote of Elliott's 2009 release, *American in Love*, "If you have never heard a John Elliott song before, I'm sorry you've been deprived for this long. Elliott combines well-crafted songwriting with euphoric melodies that quickly become addicting. Combining folk and pop with his unique phrasing and melody swings, John Elliott creates a story everyone needs to hear."

As for his writing style, Cory Frye writes on Elliot's website that he has, "an affection for the malleability of language, the clever twists of phrase, an appreciation for the liquid kinship between rhythm and sounds — how they collide in beautiful violence, how they stand as ideas and images — even if they ordinarily wouldn't deign to dance together or be seen in the same room."

Born and raised in Minnesota and now living in California, John Elliott has been releasing albums and performing in every type of venue you can imagine since 2006. His Honda Civic currently has 241,722 miles on it and is named Glen. His songs have been prominently heard on "Grey's Anatomy," "One Tree Hill," and "Californication." He has been featured in PASTE Magazine, on NPR and on Neil Young's "Living With War" website. His music has a cult-like international following and artists worldwide cover his songs. You can hear his music anywhere and everywhere if you're in the right place at the right time: on the radio, TV, and internet; in cars and around campfires. John remains an independent, unsigned and unaffiliated artist and he is proud of that fact. He

continues to make a living and build a dedicated following the old fashioned way: one new believer at a time.

Elliott's Feb.1 performance kicks-off three consecutive First Friday arts events this Sound and Motion season at the UAS REC. March 1 is the Global Lens series film, "The Finger" (Argentina). April 5 Irene Muller and her band will perform

In addition to his REC Center performance, Elliott is giving a singer-songwriter workshop for students at the Housing Lodge on Sat. Feb.2 from 2-4 p.m. On campus, he will visit Creative Writing and English class rooms.

He performs downtown at The Rookery Café, Saturday Feb. 2 at 7 p.m.

[Hear John Elliott's albums on his website.](#)

Annual Job Fair Feb. 20

Employers at UAS looking for summer employees

More than 30 employers are expected to be at a Job Fair for students in the Mourant Cafeteria. The prospective employers will be on campus Wednesday, February 20, 11am-2pm with openings for summer jobs and full-time positions.

News from Arts and Sciences

From professional travel to grants

Psychology faculty member Amanda Sesko went to New Orleans, Louisiana January 16 - 20 to present a poster at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology annual conference.

Assistant Professor of Political Science Glen Wright is going to Wroclaw, Poland February 6 - 17 to present a paper at the National Science Foundation's Coupled Natural and Human Systems meeting.

Ten student projects were awarded Undergraduate Research and Creative Expression grants this funding cycle totaling almost \$20,000. Students and their mentors have been notified of their successful applications and will attend mandatory orientation. Most of the proposals came from the Humanities and the Social Sciences this year.

Taff named new SSILA Leader

Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas was founded in December 1981 as the international scholarly organization representing American Indian linguistics.



Research Assistant Professor of Alaska Native Languages Alice Taff is the new vice president/president elect of the Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas. SSILA was founded in December 1981 as the international scholarly organization representing American Indian linguistics. Current membership is more than 900. Taff's term is a 6-year commitment in all, 2 years each as vice president and president, then 2 more years as past president.

America the Multilingual

"..it will be the single largest act of defiance we can make today towards a past that tried to kill us off." -- Xh'unei - Lance A. Twitchell

A recent article appearing on HuffingtonPost.com by Lance A. Twitchell, an assistant professor of Alaska Native Languages, discusses the importance of preserving Native American languages. He says that all Native languages are in "extreme danger" and that some will be gone in the next decade, unless people begin the arduous task of saving them." As people of nations and cultures, we need to speak our [languages](#)," said Twitchell. In order to stop them from dying, we only need to speak them: in our homes, to our children, to each other, on our land. It will redefine who we are, and it will be the single largest act of defiance we can make today towards a past that tried to kill us off. We can redefine ourselves as multilingual and become leaders for the rest of the nation. We can teach ourselves so many things about our ancestors, our children, our land, and ourselves." Read his full article, titled "America the Multilingual" at HuffingtonPost.com

Daniel Henry News

Essay is derived from a UAS public speaking class Henry taught in Klukwan about the differences between Native and non-Native ways of public speaking.

The essay "Chilkat Style," by UAS adjunct faculty member Daniel Henry appears in the Winter issue of *Connotations*, the journal of the Island Institute in Sitka. The essay is derived from a UAS public speaking class Henry taught in Klukwan about the differences between Native and non-Native

ways of public speaking. In addition, the Kettleson Library in Sitka is sponsoring Henry to lead a writing workshop called "Inside Out." Henry gave a presentation called "In Search of Shotridge: The Quest for the Tlingit Crown Jewels," at the library on January 20. The presentation covers a multi-decade research project to unearth information that has been hidden or long-forgotten relating to the lives of Louis and Florence Shotridge. Born in Klukwan and educated at Columbia and the University of Pennsylvania, Shotridge was the first Tlingit anthropologist. He was a full-time curator with the U of PA Museum and returned to Southeast Alaska as an artifact collector. His primary object was the fabled Whale House collection in Klukwan. He died near Sitka under mysterious conditions.

Tallmon and Kovach co-author paper in PLoS ONE

The study was funded in part by an Alaska EPSCoR Graduate Research Fellowship.

Biology faculty member David Tallmon and his recently graduated UAF PhD student Ryan Kovach co-authored a paper just accepted into the journal PLoS ONE. The paper, Earlier migration timing, decreasing phenotypic variation, and biocomplexity in multiple salmonid species, results from work with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration collaborators that describes recent changes in the run timing of juvenile and adult salmon, trout, and char, in Auke Creek, adjacent to the UAS Juneau campus. The study was funded in part by an Alaska EPSCoR Graduate Research Fellowship.

UAS Faculty Still Publishing in the Huffington Post

Writers have included Emily Wall, Lance Twitchell, David Tallmon and Ernestine Hayes

Attention UAS Faculty!

You have the opportunity to join your fellow UAS faculty like Xh'unei – Lance A. Twitchell who are making their own good news by publishing articles which are gathering positive comments and several social media shares in the well know Huffington Post Blog.

The Huffington Post is one of the largest websites on the Internet, boasting 40 million unique users a month and 100 million page views.

According to editor Lance Gould, "We are looking for a variety of opinions and topics -- you can write about anything that you please. We encourage posts to be about 500–800 words in length, though they can be longer. You can even re-publish parts of speeches you've delivered, or work you've published elsewhere (as long as the other publication gives its consent). Depending what topic you cover, your piece can be cross-posted on myriad of our 50–some–odd verticals!"

To get started, you would send Lance a two- or three-sentence bio, a headshot, and your post. Once you're onboarded into their system, you'll be given login instructions so that you can upload future posts yourself -- as often as you like.

To get started or for more information please contact:

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Butter fleece Vests for sale in the Bookstore!

UAS employees get 10% discount

Rock the UAS official logo and stay warm and cozy all year! The UAS bookstore has butter fleece vests emblazoned with the UAS official Learn Engage Change logo. Available in men's and women's sizes. Be sure to ask at the check-out counter for full selection. Remember: UAS employees get 10% discount on all UAS logo wear.



Provost at Greens Creek

Provost Caulfield at Greens Creek Mine with Commissioner Hanley



Provost Rick Caulfield visited the Greens Creek Mine on Admiralty Island Jan. 16. Also in the visiting party was Commissioner of Education and Early

Development Mark Hanley.

Support UAS Through Pick.Click.Give!

The University of Alaska is important to Alaska's future economic development.

Did you know that through Alaska's Pick.Click.Give. program you can donate a portion of your Permanent Fund Dividend to UAS? When you make a donation from your PFD through Pick.Click.Give, you can make an impact by sharing just a little with a cause you care about. Contributions received through the Pick.Click.Give. program are restricted by the campus you choose (Juneau, Ketchikan, or Sitka) and are automatically deposited into that campus' general support fund and are used for the areas of greatest need for students as determined by the chancellor or campus director.



Double the Impact of Your Donation!

ExxonMobil has generously offered an amazing matching gift to encourage donations to Alaska colleges and universities during the 2013 Pick.Click.Give campaign through Permanent Fund applications. Every contribution to any of the campuses of the University of Alaska will be matched one-to-one up to \$100,000.

The University of Alaska is important to Alaska's future economic development. Through partnerships with business and industry, UAS is able to focus its highest priority initiatives in response to Southeast Alaska's employment and job training needs. Statistics show that the more education an individual receives, the less money the government will spend on welfare, unemployment, child support enforcement, incarceration, health care and other social services. Furthermore, the more likely that person is to vote, be active in their community, and contribute to charities.

A strong university brings more to our community than opportunities for higher education and professional advancement. Nationwide, our country's colleges and universities are centers for the arts and scientific research. These programs enrich our lives and strengthen our community, while attracting new businesses to invest in our local economy.

You can apply for your PFD from January 1 through March 31. Please consider a gift to UAS through Pick.Click.Give this year. Read more at Pick.Click.Give.org

Alaska Native Language faculty lead Whitehorse Workshop

"it is important to keep up cross-border communications and activities in order to maintain the ancestral integrity of each language group."

Territory, for the Council for Yukon First Nations. They introduced the Mentor-Apprentice approach to five language teams during the three-day event. These teams included Northern Tutchone, Southern Tutchone, Han, Gwich'in, and Tlingit languages. The traditional lands of the

last three languages exist on both sides of the U.S./Canadian border; despite the current international boundary, it is important to keep up cross-border communications and activities in order to maintain the ancestral integrity of each language group.



The whole workshop crew.

The Mentor–Apprentice strategy pairs a fluent speaker with an adult learner; the pair spends 10 or more hours per week together doing routine activities, staying in the ancestral language the entire time. It is not easy. One person knows the ancestral language and the other does not. The concept is not to take a class, but live completely in the language. It takes practice and willpower to not use the English language, common to both people, when communicating. One of the keys to success is active dialogue between the Mentor and Apprentice, so that each session begins with a plan and is carried out through activities and with props. For example, an Apprentice might call the Mentor and say, “I am coming over in an hour. Can we talk about weather today?” And the Mentor might respond with, “that is good. We can also talk about seasons, and what that means to us.” The idea is to have a solid outline of content beforehand, so there is little time without subjects or activities. Other ideas shared are playing games in the language, or looking through photo albums and having the Mentor talk about memories.

The group worked on communicating with body language, using gestures in addition to the ancestral language, planning and carrying out “language immersion” sessions, setting language learning goals, keeping language journals, and using pictures to stimulate talk. Discussion topics also included brain development during language learning, the excellent ability of adults to learn languages, and the universal stages of natural (babies’) language learning. They also talked about methods to implement language revitalization efforts in their communities and how to create jobs for language learners and teachers.



Alice Taff and Tlingit elder Bessie Cooley from Teslin taking a lunch break.