



University of Alaska Southeast Faculty & Staff Newsletter

5-15-2012

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

## New Dean Appointed to Head School of Management

**"Deans, staff, and faculty across the UAS three campuses who've worked with John admire his strong management skills, collegial leadership style, and commitment to building quality programs."**



University of Alaska Southeast Provost Rick Caulfield has announced the appointment of John Blanchard as the new Dean of the UAS School of Management (SOM), effective June 3, 2012. Blanchard has served as a faculty member since January 2011 and took over as interim dean in July 2011.

"Deans, staff, and faculty across the UAS three campuses (Ketchikan, Sitka and Juneau) who've worked with John admire his strong management skills, collegial leadership style, and commitment to building quality programs," said Provost Caulfield. Blanchard's new assignment as dean includes teaching accounting courses.

According to his bio, most recently Blanchard was the President of All God's Children International of Portland, Oregon, an international adoption service provider. Prior to joining AGCI, he worked as the Director of Operations for The Nature Conservancy of Oregon, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for Oregon State University Foundation and served as the Vice President for Administrative Services at Umpqua Community College located in Roseburg, Oregon. He also taught as an Associate Professor in the College of Business and Public Administration for the University of Guam; as an Associate Professor of Business for the School of Professional Studies at Eastern Oregon University; and as an Assistant Professor of Accounting for Adrian College.

John Blanchard holds a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Toledo and a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Dayton. He is a Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Management Accountant.

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## **School of Education Accreditation News**

### **The UAS School of Education has been renewed accreditation by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education without qualifications.**

The official notification was in a letter to UAS dated May 15, 2012. "WELL DONE to you all for pulling together and producing a very successful result that is a credit to you, your students, and to those we serve," said Provost Rick Caulfield. "Let's keep moving forward to continue producing the best educators and educational leaders in Alaska!"

NCATE currently accredits 623 institutions which produce two-thirds of the nation's new teacher graduates each year. NCATE accreditation is required by the state of Alaska. The U. S. Department of Education recognizes NCATE as a specialized accrediting body for schools, colleges, and departments of education. NCATE is composed of more than 30 professional and policymaker organizations representing millions of Americans committed to quality teaching. It was founded in 1954 by the teaching profession and the states. NCATE continues its mission today: the profession and the states working together for excellence in teacher preparation and development. The next NCATE visit to UAS is scheduled for 2017.

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## **NBC News Story on Underground Mine Training Simulator**

### **Story focused on UAS' unique position as the only educational institution in the U.S. with such a simulator**

Channel 2 News (the NBC affiliate for Alaska) produced and ran a feature story on the underground mine training simulator at the UAS Center for Mine Training. The story, by legislative reporter Dan Fiorucci, focused on UAS' unique position as the only educational institution in the U.S. with such a simulator and a new program training high school students for mining jobs. The story was broadcast statewide on May 11, 2012. Here are the first few lines from the script "A University of Alaska Southeast simulator called the Cyber-Mine is helping to train students to drive 40-ton mine-hauling trucks, while avoiding the risks involved in using real equipment. There aren't many places in the country where you can go from high school to an \$80,000-a-year job in just five weeks. That's why UAS decided to get the \$800,000 mine simulator. The Cyber-Mine is the size of a large trailer and filled with equipment that borrows a page from the aviation industry, which trains its pilots on sophisticated flight simulators."

The full script is at: [www.ktuu.com/news/ktuu-cyber-mine-allows-training-without-the-risks-20120511,0,502469.story](http://www.ktuu.com/news/ktuu-cyber-mine-allows-training-without-the-risks-20120511,0,502469.story)

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## **UAS Outdoor Studies Completes Icefield Trek**

**by Abbie Lowell, Juneau Empire**



*Outdoor Studies students tent city on the Juneau Icefield, April 2012. Photo by Travis Haskin.*

For University of Alaska Southeast student Bradford Chadsey, the outdoors is the ultimate classroom.

After completing a human-powered trek across the Juneau Icefield last week, he said there are few words that act as proper descriptors for the expedition. Instead, he settled on one simple conclusion.

"For me," he said. "it was a life-changing experience."

Chadsey was one of eight UAS Outdoor Studies students, led by ODS program head Forest Wagner, who hiked and skied their way across the Juneau Icefield from April 12 to 17. Travis Haskin and Samantha Becker assisted. The group of 11 flew with Ward Air to the base of the Matthes Glacier, eight miles from the Canadian border, to begin the journey on Thursday, April 12. The following day, over a 10-hour period, they all climbed the 5,800-foot Exploration Peak. Chadsey said it was on the second day that he realized the scope of what faced the group: besides the climb up Exploration, there were still approximately 30 miles left to travel back to civilization.

On April 14, the group began the trek toward Juneau.

"I'm particularly proud of this trek," Wagner said. "It was an accomplishment. People are not dropped off on the icefield to ski home all that often."

Wagner said for the students, this trip was a culmination of all the different climbing skills that he teaches, starting in the fall with rock climbing, then backcountry navigation and travel, and then, in the spring, ice climbing and glacier rescue.

"This (mountaineering course) represents the weaving of a bunch of different skill sets, from navigation to glacier travel to technical climbing, along with the hardiness factor and the ability to endure multiple days," Wagner said.

While this wasn't Wagner's first trip across the icefield, he said one day in particular stands out above the rest.

"It was our longest travel day, about 10 miles, and it was just gorgeous," he said.

On this day, like so many over the course of the week, the group enjoyed great weather. They also relished in easy travel and breathtaking scenery as they moved past the hulking Mendenhall Towers.

"It's nice to watch these students really see these mountains up close," he said. "The scale is recognized as being significant and on the backside of the Mendenhall Towers, there are walls the size of El Cap."

"El Cap," officially known as El Capitan, is a vertical, granite rock formation in Yosemite National Park, located on the north side of Yosemite Valley, near its western end.

Becker said she remembers that particularly "awesome" experience well.

"These are mountains I see every day from campus or from the road, but to be up close to them and ski next to them was amazing," she said.

Becker, who acted as a teaching assistant on the trip, said it was a treat to experience the icefield first-hand and at a human-powered pace.

"I study the icefield on a scientific level and I hear of tourists touring the area," she said.

But for Becker, it was rewarding to experience the icefield on such a personal and intimate level. In the past, Wagner said the mountaineering groups have done various "mountain objectives" around town. From the end of the road to ski traverses on Douglas, and even climbs via Blackerby Ridge. But he said he thinks the premier destination for teaching mountaineering in the Juneau area is the icefield.

Because, he said, "you're more likely to get high mountain conditions; it's drier, it's colder and it's just, kind of, better."

"Plus, I think it's empowering for someone to go on the icefield, get out there and climb a legitimate mountain, ski home and put all these skills together," Wagner said.

With more than 70 pounds of gear on their backs and after skiing across and up the Taku Glacier, then descending the South Branch of the Mendenhall Glacier, the group walked out on the West Glacier Trail on Tuesday, April 17.

Besides Wagner, Becker, Haskin and Chadsey, the participants included Chelsea Bomba, Miles Gayton, Kaytlin Roberson, Tom Schwartz, Julia Stouber, Nicole Tarcsay and Michaela Twarog.

The trips photos can be viewed from the [ODS image gallery](#).

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## Rainforest Symposium is a Success

**More than 35 speakers, academics at leading universities, researchers and directors from state and federal agencies, resource managers, policymakers, traditional knowledge bearers, and educators.**

The Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center brought together scientists from throughout the United

States and Canada at a symposium to synthesize best practices, foster collaboration for future projects, and improve community engagement in science and resource management.

Coastal Temperate Rainforests: Integrating Science, Resource Management, and Communities took place April 17–19 in Juneau.

The three day event included impressive keynote speakers such as Dr. Peter Kareiva, Chief Scientist and Director of Science, The Nature Conservancy; Dr. Kirk R. Johnson, Member of the Committee on the Importance of Deep–Time Geologic Records for Understanding Climate Change Impacts and Dr. Dolores Garza, Professor Emerita of the University of Alaska, presenting on Traditional Ecological Knowledge.

There were more than 35 speakers, academics at leading universities, researchers and directors from state and federal agencies, resource managers, policymakers, traditional knowledge bearers, and educators. The presentations and discussions linked with projects in ecosystem management, land planning, forest management, recreation and wilderness resources, fisheries management, transboundary data integration and policy decision making, conservation, climate change, and education.

Symposium sponsors were the University of Alaska Southeast, U.S. Forest Service Alaska Region, Tongass National Forest, Pacific Northwest Research Station, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Alaska Region and North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative, Wilburforce Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Geological Survey, and Juneau Economic Development Council.

Based at University of Alaska Southeast, the Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center is a collaborative environment designed to integrate science, resource management and communities.



*Provost Rick Caulfield thanks organizers of the first annual Alaska Coastal Rainforest Symposium at the closing dinner, April 19, 2012. Photo by Katie Bausler.*

## Egan Library Holds Poetry Contest

Honoring April's National Poetry month.



*Kate Laster reads her poem, "Free Verse" at a celebration announcing the winners of the Egan Library Poetry Contest, April 20, 2012. Photo by Ryan Cortes.*

UAS English major Kate Laster won the Free Verse category in a contest held by the Egan Library in honor of April's National Poetry month.

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## UAS Faculty Organizes Bioblitz

**"Our goals included raising our Juneau kids' awareness of our local flora and fauna; help them understand the concept of biodiversity, appreciate our local environment, and generally just get them outside observing nature."**



*Mathematics faculty Megan Buzby assists a fourth-graders with species identification at a BioBlitz near the UAS Auke Lake campus. Photo by Chip McMillan.*

Education faculty Chip McMillan and math faculty Megan Buzby, helped Auke Bay Elementary school students identify flora such as small plants in the rainforest understory during a BioBlitz for fourthgraders on Friday, May 4, 2012. McMillan was a key organizer of the event, a collaboration the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, the U.S. Forest Service, the University of Alaska Southeast, NOAA, the Juneau School District and the Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center. “Our goals included raising our Juneau kids’ awareness of our local flora and fauna; help them understand the concept of biodiversity, appreciate our local environment, and generally just get them outside observing nature,” said McMillan. A BioBlitz is a short term (24 hours or less) survey of all species found in a given area.

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## **Commencement 2012**

**620 degrees awarded regionally**



*Chancellor John Pugh hugs Bachelor of Arts in Art graduate Ryan Cortes at the UAS Juneau Commencement Ceremony. Photo by Yosuke Sano.*

UAS honored graduates from Summer and Fall 2011 and Spring 2012 at commencement ceremonies in Ketchikan, Sitka and Juneau May 4–6, 2012. A total of 620 candidates received Masters, Bachelors and Associates degrees as well as certificates and occupational endorsements from the Juneau, Ketchikan and Sitka UAS campuses. Five-hundred twentynine degrees, certificates and endorsement went to Juneau graduates. Twenty-four states are represented in this year's group of graduates, 87 percent are from Alaska.

A slideshow of the 2012 Juneau Commencement can be found in the [UAS Photo Gallery](#).

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## **Real Bird to Visit UAS**

**Egan Lecture Hall on Friday, May 18 at 7 p.m.**

Henry Real Bird, former Poet Laureate of Montana, will be reading his poetry and sharing his thoughts about horses, language and life on the plains as a Crow Indian at the Egan Lecture Hall on Friday, May 18 at 7 p.m. A reception will be held for Real Bird in the Native and Rural Student Center at 4 p.m.

A visionary spokesperson for his people, Real Bird was named Cowboy Poet of the Year for 2012 as part of the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Academy of Western Artists' Will Rogers Awards. He is also a native American educator and a rancher who raises bucking horses for rodeo competition. Real Bird is hosted by Juneau film maker Joel Bennett. An extensive article on Real Bird's visit was published in the arts section of the Juneau Empire: [juneauempire.com/art/2012-05-17/crow-poet-henry-real-bird-speak-friday-uas](http://juneauempire.com/art/2012-05-17/crow-poet-henry-real-bird-speak-friday-uas)



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## Community Day on Campus!

Saturday, May 19th



**Community Day on Campus!**  
**Saturday, May 19, 2012**  
**11:00 a.m. – 4 p.m.**  
**University of Alaska Southeast**

Community Day on Campus is a free festive day of music, exhibits, arts, food, UAS programs and information, (plus UAS Mascot Spike Whale!) and activities for the whole family on the beautiful UAS Auke Lake Campus. This 12<sup>th</sup> annual event is collaboration between Juneau Jazz and Classics, Juneau Arts and Humanities Council and the University of Alaska Southeast. Southeast Road Runners SeaCoast Relay finish line is on the Mourant Plaza on Community Day. Please note, Auke Lake Way (the prior front entrance to the UAS Auke Lake Campus) is permanently closed to vehicular traffic. Please use the new main north Back Loop road entrance. There are no pony rides this year due construction, however a bounce house is signed up.

**For a detailed list of participating community groups and the music performance schedule, please see this link: [www.uas.alaska.edu/communityday/](http://www.uas.alaska.edu/communityday/)**