



University of Alaska Southeast Faculty & Staff Newsletter

11-21-2011

## All of Our Featured Stories

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### New Juneau Icefield Director Selected

**Dr. Kavanaugh has conducted research on the Alaskan, Lemon Creek Glacier side of the Juneau Icefield as well as on its northern edges on the Llewellyn Glacier in British Columbia.**

The Foundation for Glacier and Environmental Research (FGER), the nonprofit organization that supports the Juneau Icefield Research Program (JIRP), proudly announces the appointment of Dr. Jeffry Kavanaugh as our new Director of JIRP. Dr. Kavanaugh is an Associate Professor of at University of Alberta in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences and Director of the UA Field Research Program. Dr. Kavanaugh has conducted research on the Alaskan, Lemon Creek Glacier side of the Juneau Icefield as well as on its northern edges on the Llewellyn Glacier in British Columbia.

Dr. Kavanaugh succeeds Interim Director Dr. Jay Fleisher (2009–2011), who became director after the retirement of the program's found Dr. Maynard Miller (1946–2008). Dr. Miller currently resides in Moscow Idaho and was a 1990 UAS Honorary Doctoral degree recipient.

JIRP is an 8 week glaciology field camp that introduces students to ice and climate research. Students travel from Juneau to Atlin, BC across the Lemon Creek, Taku, Matthes, and Llewellyn Glaciers learning about and participating in research from nunatak base camps. UAS students in the ENVS and GEOG BS programs can earn credits for their participation in the summer JIRP program. Over the years, UAS faculty Dean Webb (Math), Carl Byers (ENVS), Cathy Connor (ENVS), Richard Marston (ENVS), Randy Stahl (CHEM) and Matt Heavner (PHYS) have participated as summer JIRP professors. Former UAS students Janet Gray, Georgia Horton, April Graves, Terry Schwarz, Julian Deiss, Liam Cover, Ryan Cross, Matthew Nelson, Peter Flynn, and Ariel Lyon have participated over the years as JIRP students. The program is currently recruiting for summer 2012 participants.

[www.juneauicefield.com/](http://www.juneauicefield.com/) and [www.facebook.com/pages/Juneau-Icefield-Research-Program-JIRP/185726721442334](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Juneau-Icefield-Research-Program-JIRP/185726721442334)

### Galanin Concludes this Year's Evening at Egan

**Evening at Egan Fall Lecture Series concluded November 18th with Galanin's presentation.**

The Evening at Egan Fall Lecture Series concluded November 18 with a presentation by renowned

Sitka Native artist Nicholas Galanin. The presentation came at a busy time for Galanin. A solo exhibition of his work opened November 15 at the Toronto Free Gallery. His art work is part of "Kindred Spirits, Native American Influences on 20th Century Art," now on exhibit at Peter Blum's Soho location in New York City and featured in the recently published book, *Shapeshifting: Transformations in Native American Art* (ed. Karen Kramer Russell).

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## **Hood and Pyare bring GeoFest to the Glacier**

**GeoFest was part of Geography Awareness Week.**

Environmental Science faculty Eran Hood and Sanjay Pyare helped bring GeoFest to the Glacier Visitor Center on Sat. Nov. 12 as part of Geography Awareness Week. Aerial photographs and satellite images engaged middle school youth in a "Do you know Juneau?" quiz. Other experiential geography activities included glacial retreat comparisons using historic photos and a nametag activity that helped participants identify and learn the Tlingit place names of their home areas.

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## **Nora Dauenhauer receives Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award**

**Former adjunct faculty of Alaska Native Languages Nora Marks Dauenhauer has been named a 2011 honoree recipient of the Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award.**

Former adjunct faculty of Alaska Native Languages Nora Marks Dauenhauer has been named a 2011 honoree recipient of the Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award. The Ecotrust mission is to inspire fresh thinking that creates economic opportunity, social equity and environmental well-being. According to an article on the Portland non-profit's website, she was named one of five finalists for her decades of work as an internationally recognized linguist, responsible for significant fieldwork, transcription, translation, and explication of Tlingit oral literature. Her books, articles, and plays are read and performed both near and far. Her work has earned her numerous awards and an honorary Doctor of Humanities from the University of Alaska Southeast. For the full article, including examples of Nora's poetry, please click here: [www.ecotrust.org/indigenousleaders/2011/nora\\_dauenhauer.html](http://www.ecotrust.org/indigenousleaders/2011/nora_dauenhauer.html).

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## **UAS Creates First University of Alaska Workforce Credential**

**"This new workforce credential enables Alaskans interested in mining careers to get the required entry level safety and mine orientation training that will make them more competitive candidates for jobs in the mining industry."**

The University of Alaska Southeast (UAS) Center for Mine Training has created the University of Alaska's first formal "Workforce Credential"—a non-credit credential focusing on Entry Level Production Miner training. Chancellor John Pugh approved the credential, which was developed in partnership with local mines and the UA's Mining and Petroleum Training Service. This is the first such credential approved anywhere in the university system. "This new workforce credential enables Alaskans interested in mining careers to get the required entry level safety and mine orientation training that will make them more competitive candidates for jobs in the mining industry," said Mike Bell, Director of the UAS Center for Mine Training.

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## Autumn meets Winter

Photo by UAS student Yosuke Sano



Leaves and snow are illuminated in this photo taken along the main road toward the back entrance. For more photos by UAS student Yosuke Sano, go to [www.yosukesano.com](http://www.yosukesano.com)

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## Welcome to Our World

International Education Week, held Nov. 14–18 in the Mourant Cafeteria



A henna hand painted hand graces the Welcome to Our World event at International Education Week, held Nov. 14–18 in the Mourant Cafeteria. The event also included a traditional clothing parade and piñata making. The week's festivities comprised a dessert auction and bake sale, language celebration, world art market and information about studying abroad. Congratulations and thanks to Academic Exchange coordinator Marsha Squires for a full week of activities!

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## Holiday Health Screenings

### Tuesday, Nov. 29th

Stop by for free Holiday Health Screening Tests, and enter to win an Amazon® Kindle Fire! One per major campus (UAA, UAF, UAS).

Free Health Screening Tests Include:

- Waist measurement
- Weight
- Height
- Body mass index (BMI)
- Blood pressure check
- Body composition analysis
- Balance

Wellness consultants will be available to answer your health screening test questions and provide information about the IHP program.

### Tuesday, November 29

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Egan Library 211

No appointment necessary.

*You must be a UA health plan eligible employee (opt outs are welcome) to participate in the health screening test events and be entered into the grand prize drawing. The prize drawing will be held on November 30, and the winner will be notified by phone.*

## Politics of Climate Change Forum held at UAS Egan Building

**The forum opened with a Thursday evening panel moderated by UAS Provost Rick Caulfield**



The keynote speaker for the 2011 Juneau World Affairs Council forum presented an Evening at Egan lecture on Friday, Nov. 11 at the Egan Library. "Is Long-term Climate Policy Politically Feasible?" was the title of the talk by Detlef F. Sprinz of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research. The forum brought together international experts on climate change and the threat of water shortages, human rights concerns and international security.

Sprinz is a Senior Scientist with the Research Domain "Transdisciplinary Concepts & Methods" of PIK—Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, a Professor with the Department of Economic and Social Sciences at the University of Potsdam, Germany, and Chairman of the Scientific Committee of the European Environment Agency, Copenhagen. In his talk

Sprinz explored: What is the capacity for democratic institutions to respond to science? How can governments pursue long-term policies that impact large segments of society, where delay or failure to act prevents a return at least to the present state?

The forum opened with a Thursday evening panel moderated by UAS Provost Rick Caulfield. Setting the Stage featured four scientists on the current state of the science of climate change and the contrarian view: Brendan Kelly Deputy, Director of the Arctic Research Division of the National Science Foundation; Terry Chapin, one of the nation's leading ecologists and the only Alaskan appointed to the National Academy of Sciences; Patrick Michaels, Senior Research Fellow for Research and Economic Development at George Mason University and Syun-Ichi Akasofu, International Arctic Research Center founding director (UAF). The JWAC forum ran through Sunday, November 12.

## UAS Celebrates Success

### Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Awards (URECA)

*By Mallory Millay*

Undergraduate students will once again have a chance to compete for funding to support their own research and creative endeavors outside of the classroom through the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity (URECA) awards. The URECA awards were initiated in 2010–2011 with financial support from the School of Arts and Sciences, the UA foundation, and the Provost's Office. Twelve students were awarded a total of \$15,000.

Trevor Fritz and Boni Parker are two of the students who received URECA awards. In 2006–07,

Fritz, a marine biology major, developed an ecology project on the effectiveness of different baits used to catch Dungeness crab. Fuel costs had brought his research to a halt, but through the URECA award he was able to expand his investigation.



*UAS Art student Boni Parker at the firing of the first vegetable oil powered kiln on the Juneau campus. Parker funded the project with an Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity scholarship. The deadline to apply for the next round of URECA Awards is December 1, 2011.*

Fritz compared the effectiveness of salmon carcasses, bait herring, and canned dog food on number and size of crabs caught. Although he still has some data to analyze before he presents his project in April, Fritz's findings have been very encouraging.

"There was a striking difference in catches," he said of the results. Fritz believes that experiments like his could be used to indicate types of bait that crab fisheries can use to reduce handling mortality of different crab species.

At the same time, the URECA scholarship is helping UAS reduce its carbon footprint one piece of pottery at a time. Boni Parker, an art major, built a kiln powered by vegetable oil. Brick by brick and weld by weld the kiln was constructed behind the UAS ceramics studio. The kiln was recently fired by Parker and a handful of students, producing the first load of soda-kiln pots. The new kiln allows soda to be sprayed into the kiln during firing. Soda interacts with the heat and glazes, creating a unique design.

The vegetable oil powered kiln's impact on the environment is much less than that of the one wood-fired and two gas-fired kilns already at UAS.

"We used very little wood," Parker said after the first firing. "I'd say less than a quarter of a cord." The new kiln is a fast fire kiln and under optimal conditions is designed to fire in four hours.

"It took 12 hours to fire and I anticipate that we will be cutting time off over the next few firings, which will be about half the time it takes to fire our gas kilns" she explained.

The cost of building supplies to begin construction on Parker's kiln was prohibitive. It was Professor Jeremy Kane who suggested that she apply for the URECA award, while Professor Carolyn Bergstrom suggested the award to Fritz. Both Kane and Bergstrom provided guidance to the students throughout the project. Having a faculty mentor is an essential component of the URECA award. Through the URECA awards, plus donations from businesses and people in the community, both students were able to achieve their goals.

"I was surprised how many people, both from the Juneau community and the UAS community, were willing to volunteer their time to help with this project," Fritz said of the undergraduates and friends who offered to help with data collection. The \$762 award allowed Fritz to pay fuel costs and to purchase new crabbing gear that will be available for future student research.

Parker's project allowed for other UAS students to become involved with some hands on experience in creativity. After bears discovered Parker's cache of vegetable oil, students in Professor Lori Sowa's engineering class went to work to design a bear-proof vegetable oil container in which to store the fuel for the new kiln.

"We're deciding what design we want to stick with and hopefully we'll be able to build it before the semester is over," Parker said. "But if not, we can do it in the springtime, too. For now we're just storing the oil offsite."

Offsite means closer to home for Parker. "It's in my living room," she admitted. "So hopefully we'll have our storage plan all figured out (soon)."

Parker received the maximum funding, \$2500, for the project.

"It was such a huge project. I needed a lot of help. I received a lot of help from friends with the building of the kiln - studio mates and people helping me get supplies," Parker said of the web of support that came together to make the project work. "I couldn't have done it without everybody's help."

Parker gives special thanks to local businesses Lyndon Transport, E.J. Bartells, Cameron Plumbing, North Pacific Erectors, Valley Lumber, Alaska Brewery, T&DS Welding Supply, and Petro Marine for their donations to her project. Parker is also thrilled that the Maurant Café on the UAS campus is supplying all the used vegetable oil to power the kiln.

Applications and submission instructions for the URECA funded undergraduate projects have been sent to all students' UAS email accounts. Information and applications are also posted on the bulletin board in the Arts and Sciences Department. The application deadline is Dec. 1, 2011.

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## **Martin Article Re-published in AirCare Repair Newsletter**

**A new day has dawned for the diesel engine. Once known as a dirty technology, diesels are breaking free from their old reputation.**

A bi-annual publication of the AirCare vehicle emissions control program in British Columbia, Canada has re-published an article by Associate Professor of Automotive Technology Tony Martin on cleaner burning diesel engines. The newsletter goes out to automotive technicians throughout B.C.'s lower mainland that are participating in the AirCare program.

Here is an excerpt of the article, Urea SCR Service

*This new technology keeps improving diesel emissions.  
By Tony Martin. Reprinted with Permission.*

A new day has dawned for the diesel engine. Once known as a dirty technology, diesels are breaking free from their old reputation. Diesel emission regulations have continued to tighten over the past 20 years, and diesels now are held to the same standard as gasoline engines. Cleaner fuels have played a role in the cleanup effort, but the diesel engine itself has been transformed and has come a long way from where it was even just five years ago. These refinements in design have changed the customer's driving experience but also impacted the way we go about things in our service bays.

The extensive article is four and half pages including photos. The entire article can be read at the [Repairnet.aircare.ca Website](http://Repairnet.aircare.ca).



*The 2011 Chevrolet Silverado pickup equipped with the 6.6 liter Duramax diesel uses selective catalytic reduction (SCR) as part of its emission control strategy. Note the blue DEF fill cap near the firewall. (Photo: General Motors)*

## **Dan Hopson Releases Solo Classical Guitar Album**

### **A Collection of Favorites**



Adjunct music faculty Dan Hopson is releasing a CD of his solo classical guitar music just in time for the holidays. Hopson has been teaching private lessons in classical guitar at UAS for several years. He also serenades diners at the Gold Room restaurant at the Baranof. Hopson will be selling the CDs outside the Gold Room during Gallery Walk December 2 and at the UAS Bookstore.

## **Faculty – Talking with your students about Stay on TRACK**

### **Could earn your department \$250!**

Stay on TRACK is an initiative supportive of President Gamble's focus on more students completing faster. The Stay on TRACK campaign is grounded in the philosophy that students and the university can take deliberate actions to help students graduate in a more timely manner, saving them money. The campaign is specifically focused on first time, full time bachelor's degree seeking students.

Five things to discuss with your students:

1. Take at least 30 credit hours per year.
2. Register early to get the classes they need.
3. Ask an academic advisor and use DegreeWorks.
4. Choose a major by their third semester and stick with it.
5. Keep up their grades.

Check out the [Stay on TRACK website](http://www.uas.alaska.edu/soundings/full-issue.html) and then share the five items above with your students.

Next, to be included in the drawing for the \$250 department prizes, send an email to [sysas@email.alaska.edu](mailto:syas@email.alaska.edu). Three departments will be selected on December 1, 2011 to each receive \$250 for their department; winners will be notified by email.

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### **Wall on UA Press Advisory Board**

**Emily serves on the board of eight advisors for the non-profit publisher and distributor that represents the entire UA system.**

**Assistant Professor of English Emily Wall** traveled to Fairbanks November 2-4 to participate in the annual meeting of the University of Alaska Press Advisory Board. Emily serves on the board of eight advisors for the non-profit publisher and distributor that represents the entire University of Alaska system.

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### **Hood Represents AK Climate Science Center at National Meeting**

**Environmental Science department chair Eran Hood traveled to Denver October 17-18**

Environmental Science department chair Eran Hood traveled to Denver October 17-18 to represent the Alaska Climate Science Center at the Climate Science Center Advisory Board national meeting. Alaska's Center is one of eight regional climate centers established by the US Department of the Interior to better understand landscape stressors related to climate change and to help develop adaptive tools and strategies for regional resource managers.

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### **Marine Biology faculty Heidi Pearson and Jan Straley to attend Florida Conference**

**19th Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals in Tampa, FL, November 27-December 2.**

Marine Biology faculty Heidi Pearson and Jan Straley will attend the 19th Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals in Tampa, FL, Nov. 27-Dec. 2. Heidi will be giving a talk on her dusky dolphin research entitled: *"Managing for robustness: potential effects of climate change and mussel farming on dusky dolphins (Lagenorhynchus obscurus) in Admiralty Bay, New Zealand"*. Jan is presenting on her collaborative humpback whale research entitled: *"A comparison of the diet, habitat use, and impact of humpback whale predation upon three overwintering herring populations in the Gulf of Alaska."*