



Soundings

Jan.
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2003



<http://uasonline.uas.alaska.edu/uas/soundings/index.html>

Memorial Services Held for James Vernon

A memorial service was held for James Vernon, a custodian in Facilities Services who passed away January 3. Mr. Vernon had worked for the university since February 2001. He is survived by his domestic partner Gina Gonzales; stepson Charles, age 7; and son Dylan, age 18 months. Viewings were held on Friday, January 10 at the Alaskan Memorial Park and Mortuary on Riverside Drive. The memorial service was held Sunday January 12 at 1 p.m. at St. Paul's Catholic Church.

Donations to the family are welcome. There will be collection points at Facilities Services, the Student Resource Center, and Personnel Services. Checks should be made out to Gina Gonzales. Your sympathy and generosity will be greatly appreciated by the family in their time of loss.

UA President Mark Hamilton Visits Juneau

President Hamilton addressed the faculty on Friday, Jan. 13th at Mini-Convocation. He reminded the faculty of the promise that he made when he first became president. "The university is not out of money," said Hamilton, "we are out of good ideas. You bring me the ideas and I'll get you the money."

He congratulated the faculty at UAS for getting "more than their predictable share" of that money. He praised UAS for having a can-do attitude and for its innovation.



President Hamilton addressing faculty at convocation.

President Hamilton made a new challenge to the faculty. Hamilton believes that the UA system could help lead Alaska through what he predicts will be troubled times ahead. Hamilton believes that the UA system could assume the lead in bringing innovation and diversity to the state's economy. "We have everything you need to build a world," said Hamilton. He went on to explain that the UA system teaches all the knowledge to create infrastructure, a political system, technology and entertainment.

Hamilton also spoke at the Juneau Chamber of Commerce's lunchtime meeting later that same day. He reminded the chamber crowd of the increases Gov. Murkowski made during the campaign. "Until I hear otherwise I'm assuming those increases are etched in stone," Hamilton told the packed house.

Successful Soiree

Saturday's Winter Scholarship Soiree raised \$69,830 for UAS scholarship funds. There were rave reviews about the new building and how smoothly the entire event was run. Ticket sales reached over 200 and 89 people volunteered to help run the event – all totaled, over 300 people attended the Soiree.



John and Margaret Pugh try their luck at blackjack with President Mark Hamilton.

Much of the money was raised in the weeks and months that lead up to the event, including the \$10,000 sponsorship by First National Bank Alaska. An additional \$43,000 was raised before the event. The remaining \$15,830 was raised on the night of the soiree from ticket sales, silent auction, raffle and from monies donated in the Monte Carlo room.

Ergonomics and Health

Kenneth Lea has recommended that employees visit the Occupational Safety and Health Administration Web site. There is a handy checklist, which if followed, may help you to avoid musculoskeletal disorders. The site goes into great detail on OSHA's four-pronged approach for reducing injuries and illness from MSDs.

A substantial number of computer-related injuries can be prevented with proper knowledge and training, but many workers are unaware of the ergonomic risk factors they face while performing their jobs. For example, the fingers of a typist may exert up to 25 tons of force each day!

http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/computerworkstations_ecat/checklist.html (The URL is case sensitive)

UAS Staff Council Election

A special UAS Staff Council election will be held on February 14th. Candidates for President and Secretary are encouraged to contact Robert Sewell at robert.sewell@uas.alaska.edu with a brief biography and statement of interest.

The UAS Staff Council meets once a month to address issues important to all Classified and APT staff. Employees from Ketchikan and Sitka are particularly encouraged.

Sitka Campus

UAS Sitka Campus is celebrating 40 years of providing educational opportunities to Sitka and Southeast and their new Learning Center and classroom addition this Saturday, January 11, from 1-3pm. Rep. Peggy Wilson will be on hand for the Ribbon Cutting. There will be live music, refreshments, and former Campus Director David Knapp will present a Retrospective of the campus.

Oldaker reappointed

Lawrence Lee Oldaker, emeritus professor of education, was reappointed by the Governor to serve a second, three-year term on the Alaska Professional Teaching Practices Commission. He is chair of the nine-member commission. The appointment still needs to be approved by new Governor Murkowski.

Glory Hole Donation



Karen Cummins carries one of the many boxes of donated goods to the Glory Hole.

The people at the Glory Hole were very appreciative of the donations made by UAS. Before the holiday break several volunteers, including Karen Cummins, Michelle Moslak and Heather Conway brought approximately 15 boxes of donated items to the shelter. Thanks to all those who donated, packed and delivered the items to the food pantry and the Glory Hole.

New Blue Cross Dimensions Cards

The new ID cards should be used each time you go to the dentist, pharmacy, doctor, hospital, etc. If your provider keeps a record of your card and information, please be sure it's updated the first time you visit them after January 1, 2003. Your old card will not work and should be destroyed. Please be sure to use the member-specific card that was sent to you by Blue Cross for you and your dependents, as the new Dimensions system at Blue Cross will not accept the old group or ID numbers.

If you are having difficulties, please call Blue Cross at (800) 364-2982. You can also request cards if you didn't receive yours. If you are still having problems and need help, call Kirk McAllister at 6473.

New Hires

Roberta Lowden, term instructor, Education Department.
Tina Pasteris, term assistant professor, Professional Education Center.
Richie Salanoy, custodian, Facilities Services.

Soiree Volunteer Thank You

Thank you so much to the university staff and volunteers that made the Soiree an unforgettable and successful event! It took over 89 people that helped make it all happen and whether you helped decorate, move the tables, dealt 21, catered, performed, sold raffle tickets or cleaned up, we are forever in your debt! We couldn't have done it without you! Special thanks go to the Facilities staff for their outstanding help and willingness to make things happen at the last minute. On Friday I couldn't imagine it looking so beautiful! Project Manager Jim Keikala should be commended for getting it done on time! Thanks again, to all, for a great job!
Tish Griffin

SAC Welcome Dance

This Saturday at SAC will host a Welcome Dance from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. The guest DJ is student Louis Silva a.k.a. DJ Lou-Dog.



Rec. Center Updates

Friday is the second focus group on the UAS Recreation Center. The focus is the Activities and Game Room. Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to attend. This meeting had to be moved to the Maurant Conference Rm. on the first floor. All subsequent meetings will be in the Maurant Lake Room on Fridays and starting at 2 p.m.

January 17th

Activities Area and Game Room

January 24th

Climbing Gym and Outdoor Rec. Center

January 31st

Studio (dance, aerobics, yoga, martial arts ... etc) and Exercise Room (free weights, cardio equipment)

February 7th

Court Floor and Suspended Running Track

Chance for Adventure

Geology and Geomorphology of Tatshenshini and Lower Alsek rivers. Summer course June 6-15. Instructor Kathy Connor. Reserve raft seat by Jan. 15, 2003. For more information logon to: <http://uashome.alaska.edu/~jfc/clcnagt>

Tidal Echoes

The English Department is starting a new journal named "Tidal Echoes." The English Club selects the essays, short stories, poems and artwork for the journal from works submitted from the student body. So if you're interested in seeing your writing in print, email submissions to Alexis Easley at alexis.easley@uas.alaska.edu or Clarissa Pentecost at cbpentecost@gci.net

CANstruction Winners

Mark Graves captained the winning CANstruction team just before the holiday break. Structures were built using the canned food that was collected during the holiday food and clothing drive. The Faculty team built a very impressive replica of the Eiffel Tower, but the judges decided that the robot person, child and dog the student team constructed was the most inventive.



The winning CANstruction Team

JUNEAU CALENDAR

January 14

- Ice Cream Social, 2 p.m. Maurant Cafeteria

January 17

- Last day for full reimbursement for dropped class.
- UAS Express and Web Registration Ends

January 18

- SAC Welcome Dance 9 p.m.

January 20

- Martin Luther King Jr. Day Observed, campus closed, except housing

If you have UAS faculty, staff, student or alumni news, please contact Kevin Myers at 465-6530 or kevin.myers@uas.alaska.edu. Layout by Greg Cohen. UAS is an AA/EO employer and educational institution.

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