

# soundings

May 2010

## Focus on the Graduates

### Special Commencement Issue 2010



*Sitka Commencement Ceremony*

#### Submissions

If you have UAS faculty, staff, student or alumni news you'd like to see in the next issue of *Soundings*, please contact the Public & Media Relations Office:

Katie Bausler  
Tel: (907) 796-6530  
E-mail:  
soundings@uas.alaska.edu

Design: Alison Caputo  
Web: David Klein



11120 Glacier Highway  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
(907) 796-6100 tel  
1-877-465-4827 toll free  
[www.uas.alaska.edu](http://www.uas.alaska.edu)

UAS is an AA/EEO employer and educational institution.

**Sitka, Friday, May 7, 2010, 7:00 pm, Sheet'ka Kwaán Naa Kahidi Community House**

**Ketchikan, Saturday, May 8, 2010, 3:00 pm, Ted Ferry Civic Center**

**Juneau, Sunday, May 9, 2010, 2:00 pm, Charles Gamble Jr. – Donald Sperl Joint Use Facility**

## Juneau Commencement



*Retiring Provost Robbie Stell and Regent Ken Fisher congratulate a graduate*



*Retiring UA President Mark Hamilton addressed graduates at the Juneau Ceremony*

Student Speaker Alicia Hughes-Skandijs graduated with a BS in Mathematics and excelled in a number of theatre and art courses. She was a student worker for the School of Arts and Sciences and a Student Leader for Orientation.



Jamie Parsons (right) accepted a Meritorious Service Award. Parsons has been called Juneau's greatest cheerleader. His resume' includes titles as former Juneau Mayor (1991-94), Assemblyman, owner of the Juneau Raquet Club, President of the Glacier Valley Rotary Club, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce and chairman of The Alaska Committee. According to a legislative resolution honoring him, Parsons, "has always transcended partisan politics and is an exceptional example to the citizens of Alaska, proving that one person can really make a difference."

## Farewell from Education Faculty Marsha Gladhart



A proud, happy and sunny School of Management Commencement Day. MBA Director Rick Wolk, MBA Academic Excellence Award Winner Laura Achee, Retiring Dean of Professional Studies Larry Harris, Retiring Associate Professor of Accounting Ron Hulstein



I came to UAS and the School of Education (then the Center for Teacher Education) in 2004 after accepting the position of Coordinator of Educational Technology. After I applied for the position on a whim, I realized I had no intention of moving from Kansas to Alaska. The search committee convinced me to at least come for an interview so I finally looked up Juneau on a map to find out where it was and how to get there.

During that interview I fell in love with the people and the town. Before I left I knew I had found my new home so I retired from Wichita State University and accepted the position with UAS. The people in Juneau are amazing. They are friendly, generous, and active.

The UAS faculty and staff were immediately welcoming and have continued to be a great source of collegial support. I cannot say enough about the quality of candidates in the Educational Technology Program. I am inspired and educated by them each semester. The daily dose of mountains and wildlife have also been a source of wonder for this born and raised flatlander. Teaching at UAS and living in Juneau have been gifts I will always treasure as I retire and move to Washington for my next adventure.



Tom Cashen (left) received an Honorary Doctorate of Laws degree at the Juneau commencement ceremony on Sunday May 9, 2010. Cashen is a fourth generation Southeast Alaskan, mentor and exemplary role model to workers and labor leaders across the state of Alaska with a distinguished career as a journeyman electrician, union representative, and state labor commissioner. As commissioner, Tom presided over the Jobs and Training Cabinet and fostered the greater integration and coordination of workforce development agencies, including the University of Alaska, through the establishment of "one-stop" job centers and the re-organization of the state workforce development council.

## Sitka Student Award Recipients, Commencement May 7, 2010



*Iona Sallison*

### **Iona Sallison**

Iona Sallison received the Student Excellence Award at the UAS Sitka Commencement. Iona was also awarded her Associates of Applied Science degree in Health Information Management at the ceremony. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and currently works as a manager within the Health Information Services department of the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation in Bethel, AK. She was born and raised in Bethel, is married, and has two school-aged children.

### **Jeremy Haney**

Jeremy Haney received a Meritorious Service award for his service to the Sitka Campus Student Government. Jeremy served as President of SGA from 2008-2010. This is a very challenging position for a student on the Sitka Campus since the majority of the Sitka students are distance students.



*Jeremy Haney*

Jeremy rallied campus students, staff and faculty to several annual events including Sitka's Alaska Day Celebration. Jeremy was also awarded his Associates of Science degree in Computer Information and Office Systems. Jeremy's family is with the United States Coast Guard and their tour of duty in Sitka is up this month. Jeremy and his family will be moving to Savannah, Georgia where Jeremy will pursue a career and education with the USCG.



*Carla Mahoskey*

### **Carla Mahoskey**

Carla Mahoskey gave the Student Reflection: "If I can do it, anyone can!" Carla received her Bachelors degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting. She has been a student at UAS since 1984. In 2003 she participated in the international exchange student program and attended the University of Ghana. In the past she worked for the Sitka Tribe of Alaska and most recently she moved to Reno, NV where she is pursuing a career in Accounting. Carla is from Sitka and has six children.



*2010 Sitka Commencement Speaker  
Roald Helgesen, President/CEO  
SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium greets  
Chancellor John Pugh*

## Juneau Student Awards 2010

Student Awards presented during Commencement recognize individual students who have done outstanding work in their degree program or field of study. Read faculty nominations of these outstanding students in the *Juneau Empire* on-line: [http://juneauempire.com/stories/051110/loc\\_637470966.shtml](http://juneauempire.com/stories/051110/loc_637470966.shtml)



<< **Outstanding Graduate in Humanities**  
**Chalise Anne Fisk**  
Bachelor of Arts, English

>> **Outstanding Graduate in Biology**  
**Mackenzie Andrew Oliver**  
Bachelor of Science, Biology



<< **Outstanding Graduate in Mathematics**  
**Anthony Danwayne Gaussoin**  
Bachelor of Science, Mathematics

>> **Outstanding Graduate in Environmental Science**  
**Steffi Schreiber**  
Bachelor of Science, Environmental Science



<< **Outstanding Student in Social Science**  
**Kristina Andreyevna Klimovich**  
Bachelor of Arts, Social Science

>> **Bob Ellis Award Outstanding Student in Business Administration**  
**James Chadwick Friedersdorff**  
BBA Accounting



<< **MBA Academic Excellence Award**  
**Outstanding Student, School of Management**  
**Laura Achee**  
Master of Business Administration

>> **CIOS Academic Excellence Award**  
**Ann Wilkinson**



*Karen Head, BA, Ghert Abbott, AA, Samantha May, AA, Robert Boyd, AA, Cameron Taylor, AA, Ashley Smith, AA, Eugenia Smith, MEd, Special Education, Debra Taylor, BA, Steffani Schwierking, BA – Social Work (UAF), Kali Bowers, BA, Misty Archibald, AA*

## Ketchikan Commencement, May 8, 2010

### Commencement Speakers

#### Robert Boyd (Student Speaker)

Our student speaker was just conferred with an Associate of Arts degree this past fall. He is the husband of Brittany Boyd and together they have two beautiful daughters, Emma, 4 and Lily, 1. He has lived in Ketchikan for over 20 years, and has been attending UAS since 2007. His goal is to complete his Bachelors in Environmental Science and then go on to a Master's program.

He is a member of Phi Theta Kappa – National Honor Society for Two Year Colleges and was recently elected as a Board Member to The Wildlife Society's Native People Wildlife Management Working Group. He is a proud member of the Ketchikan Indian Community, Alaska Native Brotherhood, Sealaska, and Shee Atiká.

#### Sara Lawson (Commencement Speaker)

Sara is a nonprofit management professional with 15+ years experience in a range of community benefit organizations, including the arts, higher education, health care, and public radio.

#### Marguerite Auger, 2010 UAS Meritorious Service Award Recipient

Individuals receiving the UAS Meritorious Service Award are expected to mirror in their own public lives the quality of service they contribute to the community. In Marguerite

Auger, however, the very concept of service broadens significantly because we see the effect of what she's devoted to mirrored not only in her own life, but in the lives of others – specifically, in the hundreds of dancers who have studied under her at the Ketchikan Theatre Ballet (KTB). For three decades, Ketchikan has been unquestionably a better place to live because of this remarkable, still-young woman.

### UAS Ketchikan Other Awards

KCAC (Ketchikan Campus Advisory Council) awards:  
Faculty of the Year: William Urquhart  
Staff of the Year: Kimberly Schulte

USUAS (student government) awards:  
Faculty of the Year: John Radzilowski  
Student of the Year: Chris Olstad

## Exciting News from 2009: Outstanding Student in Natural Sciences Micaela Martinez-Bakker

I received a National Science Foundation Doctoral Fellowship and have accepted a PhD position in the Department of Ecology and Evolution with a dual enrollment in the Center for the Study of Complex Systems at the University of Michigan. In addition to the NSF fellowship, the University of Michigan Graduate school has awarded me a Merit Fellowship which guarantees 5.5 years of funding, and additional resources. The NSF and Merit fellowships will provide the resources I need to study infectious diseases in Arctic wildlife and continue in the field of Polar Biology. My other top choice was the Department of Population Biology, Ecology, and Evolution at Emory University where I was offered a National Institutes of Health 5 year training grant to work on the population genetics of ebola virus and raccoon rabies. Although it's hard to turn down working on ebola virus, I am very proud to be launching my graduate career in Arctic Biology and once again working with Dave Tallmon, and others in the Institute of the Arctic.

Another thing I am very excited about is that I will be teaching Calculus I and/or Calculus II for the 2010-2011 academic year in the Department of Mathematics at the University of Michigan. I will be the sole instructor for the course of about 25 students. It is part of my graduate requirements that I teach for one year, and seeing as how I had the best mathematics professors at UAS I am not the least bit intimidated to teach these courses. However, I do think this is a reflection of how wonderful the education is at UAS that such a recent graduate of the math department will be allowed to teach mathematics at a prestigious university.

## A Selection of UAS Graduate Testimonials

*Editor's Note: At the 2010 Juneau Commencement, Chancellor Pugh told some student stories but did not mention names. Here are some 2010 Graduate stories, the identity of the tellers' revealed:*

### Sean O'Neil

#### B.S. Mathematics, Minor, Creative Writing

I've lived a full life in the last decade, having fought in two wars, had more than one career, and getting married to a truly wonderful woman, a true angel in disguise. I've had my fair share of troubles, living on our own and still finding a way to pay rent and get food while living well below the poverty line. If it wasn't for the GI bill, and my wife's perseverance I don't think we would have made it. But because we knuckled down and did what we had to do I am now the first college graduate of my family in this generation.

UAS and Juneau have healed me more than I care to admit. The atmosphere of being laid back, and yet still holding the line to ensure that everyone is still accountable helped to heal me from my time in the military. When I came to UAS I didn't know how to laugh or smile. Now, I'm always smiling. I've learned to look for the good things in life, because those are always the most important.



### Erin Hayward

#### B.A. Elementary Education

I am from Metlakatla. I attended UAS in Juneau for the last 6 years. The PITAAS and Trio programs helped me succeed in receiving my degree. My family, friends, and relatives were encouraging supporters throughout college. I really enjoyed going to UAS because it not only teaches valuable information in the classrooms but also hands on outside of the classrooms. My educational courses in these last two years of college have really helped me gain great insight into what it means to become a teacher. I did my Student Teaching in my hometown and will possibly have a teaching job lined up for me next year. I am very honored to be a college graduate from the University of Alaska Southeast.



**Kari Dammerman****B.S. Marine Biology**

While I feel lucky to have traveled so much as an exchange student in South Carolina and Norway my favorite part of UAS has actually been the research. After my summer in South Carolina, I got started on a genetic and behavior study on small amphidromous fish called Coastrange sculpin (*Cottus aleuticus*). That same semester, I got awarded an undergraduate research grant from Alaska EPSCoR to pay for my research and to fund a trip to Portland, Oregon to present my research. In July of 2009, I gave a talk at a professional meeting and am pretty sure my whole body was shaking the entire time even though there were only about 15 people in the room. The research also took me to Anchorage, helped me get an additional grant this past semester, will take me to Fairbanks this summer, and may even be published in the near future. Looking back at it all, I can't even begin to explain the ways that this little freshwater fish has changed my life. I'm now nearing the end of my final semester, the end of a chapter in my life. This fall, I'll be saying goodbye and heading off to graduate school in Michigan to study the population ecology of lake sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*).

**Katerina Kuntz-Tadda****B.S. Biology, B.A. Art**

I began my college career fourteen years ago as a biology major working towards physical therapy. I've always been surrounded by nature, and UAS fostered that bond. We have access to lakes, rivers, glaciers, sea, mountains, and trails all in our backyards. I was able to completely immerse myself in the beautiful environment here. I found, however, that my life-long appreciation and enjoyment of art was also well within reach. Juneau has a great artist community, and with the new BA in Art program at UAS there exists a fantastic juxtaposition of art education and a culture willing to embrace the arts.

Though my career plans have changed for now, my fascination for biology and my desire to create art have led me to complete both programs with a goal towards scientific illustration. UAS has been a welcoming and nurturing school. The friends and peers have provided great support, knowledge, and critique over the years. The faculty is amazing and provides great feedback and assistance. I've learned so much about my surroundings, and the different media to explore has given me a solid base from which to launch myself. The great thing about science and art, is that they're both all about experimentation, and UAS has



provided a wonderful laboratory and confidence to take myself through whatever doors open before me.

**Emily Scott Lockie****B.A. Social Science, Minor: French, Spanish**

In the fall of 2006, I attended Idaho State University as a National Exchange Student. During my exchange, I discovered my true interest in sociology and changed my major to reflect this discovery. I worked for Community Education teaching French, beading and Swing, Latin and Ballroom dancing. I also served as an intern with Habitat for Humanity. Outside of school, I spent most of my time volunteering, driving to other states, dancing, visiting national parks, running through sprinklers, hiking and dating an interesting young man. Needless to say, our budding romance sprouted into a full blown love affair. By the end of my exchange, we got married and moved back to Juneau.

My husband and I became active members of the community serving as religious teachers and youth leaders as well as teaching dancing and participating in community activities. I also began working for Juneau Youth Services, which gave me invaluable real life experience helping at risk youth. In 2009, we welcomed our son Alden into the world. With the help and cooperation of my professors, I was able to continue my education through many difficult times. I also took advantage of the UA Distance program. These online courses allowed me to stay home with my son while finishing my education. After graduating, I hope to return to school to earn a Doctorate degree in Marriage and Family Therapy.

**Ariel Rolfe****B.A. Art**

After graduation, I don't anticipate life to change too drastically. I intend on continuing to serve my community by helping with the Juneau Arts and Humanities Council as well as working on my own projects. I hope to volunteer some time with the Alaska State Museum as well to keep learning how to construct and design exhibits, which is my ultimate career goal. I really can't say that I had any favorite class or professor at UAS. A lot of my professors made classes fascinating and I loved learning from them. Jane Terzis is definitely one of the top professors at UAS, she helped introduce me to Juneau's professional art community and nominated me for the JAHC Board. My favorite UAS memory was during Dan Monteith's "Archaeology of Southeast Alaska" course. We took a field trip to a local road



and hiked down to the beach where we saw petroglyphs. I could touch and feel the rubbings in the rock and guess what the artist was trying to illustrate and why.

**Emmett J. Davis****A.A., Power Technology,  
Automotive Emphasis**

I took my first basic automotive class six years ago. Two years ago, I decided to go for my degree. I completed my GERs, did a practicum and of course took automotive and power technology classes. I am now employed at Mike Hatch Jeep in North Douglas. When co-workers ask me why I went to the trouble to get a college degree I say, "Because I want to be your boss some day!"

**Hubert Brown****A.A., Computer Information  
Systems**

I retired from ACS in 2006 after 17 years of climbing and installing telephone poles. I decided to get training for a new career and had been out of school for 40 years. I dropped out at 14 and got my GED in the mid-70s. After finishing my general education requirements, I took courses in web site development and Cisco systems. Learning to write was really cool. Thanks to TRiO for the math tutors! I developed a website for the Juneau Aurora Knights synchronized swimming team. I put in 14 hour days for three years working on my degree. I especially want to thank my "hero" Colleen McKenna for being an excellent advisor and instructor.



***Congratulations to  
all 2009-2010  
UAS Graduates!***

***"It takes courage  
to grow up and  
become who you  
really are."***

***– e.e. cummings***