

s o u n d i n g s

University of Alaska Southeast Faculty & Staff Newsletter

"If we are to learn from our ancestors and benefit from this natural knowledge, we must do it now." — *Amanda Bremner, EPSCoR Grant Recipient*

UAS Students Named EPSCoR Fellows

Two UAS undergraduates and one graduate student have been awarded sought after federal grants to research the effect of climate change on the survival of plants and animals and the sustainability of subsistence resources.

"I'm proud of all our students who applied and wrote NSF research proposals," said UAS advisor and anthropology professor Dan Monteith. "It is a significant commitment to research. The two undergraduate students who will receive funding, Amanda Bremner and Elizabeth Kunibe, competed against other undergraduates in the state. They demonstrate UAS' commitment to success in teaching and promoting research opportunities for undergraduates. The research projects will promote research and enhance outreach and collaboration in the State. The projects will involve other academics, State and Federal agencies, and local and regional Native stakeholders."

In her application Amanda Bremner wrote, "I will video record narratives or Traditional Educational Knowledge (TEK) told by elders." The English major and Tlingit student is recording interviews in Tlingit with elders in her home village of Yakutat about how people and animals are responding to climate change and its relationship to subsistence resources. She is consulting with UAS Alaska Native languages research professor Alice Taff to learn recording, interview, and translation techniques using linguistic acoustic phonetic applications. Bremner is inspired by the narrow window of opportunity learners have to work with birth speakers of Tlingit. "If we are to learn from our ancestors

and benefit from this natural knowledge, we must do it now," she said. The Yakutat Tlingit Tribe is supplying Bremner with video equipment and a work space. Bremner received an \$8,000 grant.

Social Science student Elizabeth Kunibe's research involves summer visits to Southeast communities to learn more about the agricultural life ways of the Tlingit People and past sustainability. The research will help build information on the resource-conserving aspects of local small-scale agriculture that was practiced in these villages. In addition, it will promote discussion of ancestral food production and present food systems. Kunibe will research TEK horticulture and traditional gardening including that of potato varieties. Kunibe received a \$5,000 grant.

In the Spring of 2007, UAS M.S. candidate Colin Shanley received a \$22,000 EPSCoR graduate fellowship in biology. His research focus is on balancing access and subsistence needs against effective wildlife habitat conservation.

The grants were awarded by Alaska EPSCoR (Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research), a partnership between the University of Alaska and the National Science Foundation dedicated to growing Alaska's scientific research capacity. Alaska EPSCoR, which is funded through a 3-year, \$9 million NSF grant awarded in July 2007 as well as \$3 million in UA matching funds, supports UA undergraduates, grad students, postdocs and faculty members and also conducts an active public outreach program.

Legislative Presentation by Career Education Faculty

Health Sciences and Nursing faculty Marianne Stillner and Chris Urata made a presentation on health program partnerships and the role technology plays in the modern health care system in Alaska at the Joint Legislative Health Caucus convened by Anchorage Rep. Sharon Cissna on March 5th. UAS staff members

Sarah Harvey and Darci Dobson assisted Marianne and Chris in putting together an informative presentation for the Caucus; the presentation will be archived on the Caucus' web site: www.akhealthcaucus.org.

Start Your Life Adventure at UAS... Learn. Engage. Change.

A while back we polled the UAS community for three words that distinguish us in the realm of higher, career and distance education. The response was helpful and varied. Thank you!

You may have noticed these three iconic words below our whale's tale logo: Learn. Engage. Change. Our team of representatives from student services, admissions, the chancellor's and the provost's office has settled on these words. They are subject to open interpretation to prospective students, whether just out of high school or going back to grad school.

This logo modification is fundamental to our branding strategy. Our goal is to raise our profile, build pride and attract more students. Consistency in how our logo is presented is important to grow UAS in both quality and stature. A strong and consistent visual identity helps shape the way key constituents view UAS, both now and in the future.

Stay tuned for guidelines on how to use it on everything from letterhead to party balloons.

We still want to hear from you. Here's the next question: How can one learn, engage and change at UAS at like no other place?

To get you started, please visit our Learn. Engage. Change page on our website: www.uas.alaska.edu/pr/

Then shoot an email to Katie.bausler@uas.alaska.edu with your suggestions.

Thanks for your help!

Paper Links 19th Century Poem and Modern Marketing

Rod Landis, Associate Prof. of English in Ketchikan, gave a paper at the College English Association's annual conference in St. Louis, "'Come Buy, Come Buy': The Mechanics of Creating Consumer Desire in Christina Rossetti's 'Goblin Market'" on March 27. Landis demonstrates that the poem evinces unconscious anxieties Victorians had about the role of advertising in the shaping of consumer markets, strategies of which closely mirror those of the postmodern age. Landis proposes that the goblins' real intention is revealed as inculcation into their target audience overwhelming lust for goods, regardless of ability to pay. The rise of this debt-based economy presented so forcefully in "Goblin Market" foreshadows the advent of easy credit in a democratic society.



Rod Landis

Perseverance Partnership Provides Unique Opportunity



Johanna Evans as Hero. Photo: David Sheakley, Juneau Empire.

Perseverance Theatre's collaboration with the University of Alaska Southeast yielded impressive results on the Douglas main stage with Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*. A half dozen UAS students had pivotal roles in the rollicking production that ran February 20-March 16. Senior Johanna Evans starred as Hero. "It is unusual for undergraduates to be able to work with regional theatres on main stage productions in key roles," said new managing director Art Rotch. "That is almost unheard of," he noted. Theatre courses at UAS provide a unique opportunity for students to work with a professional theatre company. Rotch's background is in set design. He returns to Juneau after earning a Master's in Fine Arts in stagecraft at New York University. Rotch and his set designer spouse look forward to offering set design courses to UAS students in addition to courses such as Acting and Playwriting. UAS partners with Perseverance Theatre to offer a minor degree in Theatre.

UAS Faculty Presents "The Economics of Climate Change"

Britteny A. Cioni, Term Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of Alaska Southeast, presented the Economics of Climate Change in the Science for Alaska Lecture Series. According to Cioni, climate change is the greatest market failure to date. Climate change presents interesting issues for economists because of the uncertainties, time scale and international scope of the issue. The presentation reviewed the latest research concerning the economic costs and benefits of climate change, market failures and policy options. The free lecture series was sponsored and hosted by the Geophysical Institute at the University of Fairbanks. The Economics of Climate Change lecture was presented in Anchorage on January 20, 2008 and in Fairbanks on February 12, 2008. A webcast of the Fairbanks lecture is available at www.scienceforalaska.com/webcasts.html.

Historians: Call for Papers

Alaska Visionaries: Seekers, Leaders, and Dreamers

Amateur and professional historians are invited to submit proposals for papers, panels, and poster sessions for the Alaska Historical Society annual meeting and conference. The meeting will be held at the University of Alaska Anchorage, beginning October 16 and culminating on Alaska Day, October 18, 2008.

The theme Alaska Visionaries: Seekers, Leaders, and Dreamers provides an opportunity to discuss fifty years of Alaska statehood and ordinary people who helped shape modern Alaska into something extraordinary. It also asks Alaskans to consider the relevancy of such foresight, and, if indeed, the history of Alaska's visionaries needs to be revised.

Written proposals for papers and panels should be sent no later than May 30, 2008 to: Katherine Johnson Ringsmuth, Program Chair, 19915 Highland Ridge Drive, Eagle River, Alaska 99577; phone: 907.830.2251; email: KatmaiKate@aol.com

The Alaska Historical Society offers two travel awards of \$500 each to encourage students and new professionals to attend its annual meeting in Anchorage on October 16-18, 2007 at the University of Alaska Anchorage. Applications must be sent by June 8. For more information email: KatmaiKate@aol.com.

<http://alaskahistoricalociety.org>

UAS Makes News

UAS Automotive faculty **Tony Martin** has published another article in *Motor Age*. "OBD II for Diesels" is in the March 2008 issue. Martin is a regular contributor to the national magazine. It can be read at www.motorage.com. (Click on the magazine cover on the center right of the page. The article starts on page 30.)

UAS counseling coordinator **Susan Wylie** was featured in a multi-part series on teenage suicide in the *Juneau Empire*. The article, "Suicide's Stigma Hampers Prevention Efforts" and complete series by reporter Kim Marquis can be found at www.juneauempire.com.



News from the Personnel Office: Investment Workshops Scheduled

Lincoln Life representative Chris Keyes will be on the Juneau campus to give individual investment advice for employees concerning their pension, optional retirement plan, or tax-deferred annuity investments. He will be available from 8-5 on April 14 and 8-1 April 15 in Egan 115.

For more personnel news, including employee anniversaries and new hires, go to the Soundings website at www.uas.alaska.edu/soundings.

UAS Ketchikan Presents at National Conference

UAS Ketchikan Student Services Manager Gail Klein and Student Services Coordinator Chris Hoyt were invited to deliver a presentation at the 2008 National Association for Developmental Education (NADE) conference, Feb 27th to March 1st, in Boston, Massachusetts. "Building a Student Retention Plan Around a College Success Course" discussed how UAS Ketchikan improved retention with a comprehensive three credit "Critical College Success Skills" course which combines developmental math and English. Cross-referenced syllabi helped create a Learning Community for the enrolled students. The course proved to be a successful strategy for assisting under-prepared students. The presenters shared with colleagues the methods used in implementing and evaluating current programs.

The National Association for Developmental Education (NADE) helps learners at all levels realize their full academic potential by working to improve the theory and practice of developmental education. It is sensitive and responsive to individual differences and special needs among learners. Learning assistance includes personal, academic, and career counseling as well as advisement on academics and coursework.

The national conference was attended by over 2,000 college faculty, student services professionals and others who work directly with students to improve retention and help students succeed at college.

EDGE STUDENTS Compete in Southeast Regional Science Fair

High School students in the Experiential Discoveries in Geoscience Education (EDGE) Program for the past year at UAS competed in the Southeast Regional Science Fair on Saturday March 29 in the Marie Drake Gym. This was the first time students from both rural and urban communities outside of Juneau competed in the fair. The 2007 EDGE students exhibited their work but were not evaluated by Science Fair judges.

Students from the lower Kuskokwim villages of Kongiganak and Kwigillingok, the Koyukuk River Village of Huslia, Delta, Palmer, Anchorage, and Juneau were selected by their EDGE mentor teachers to begin work on their science fair projects last summer in Juneau through summer workshops. Under represented student populations from Nunapitchuk, Yakutat, Angoon and Hoonah also participated in the EDGE program in 2006-2007. EDGE Tlingit, Athabaskan, and Yupik students joined the students of European and Asian ethnicity who are more typically represented in the science fair student population, bringing about greater diversity and providing opportunity mentoring and exposure to Alaska Native students in the sciences. This effort was funded primarily by the National Science Foundation.

FYI of the Month

Note of interest from the IT Department: For the month of March 96% of UAS email was spam. A total of 3.8 million spam messages were caught by our spam filter.

SIFE Does Well in Hawaii



The UAS SIFE team (Students in Free Enterprise) competed on March 31st at the SIFE Honolulu Regional Competition. The UAS SIFE students posted their best finish to date, earning a 3rd place award behind two strong and well established teams from Brigham Young University Hawaii (1st place) and Hawaii Pacific University (2nd place). BYU Hawaii advances again this year to the SIFE National Championship which will be held in Chicago. Top national teams from around the globe will compete this fall at the SIFE World Championships in Singapore. The UAS SIFE team is now finishing it's second year of competition.

Graduating senior Elizabeth Stickel led a team that also included Sabrina Javier, Ricardo Garcia and Toby Harbanuk. All students are part of the UAS School of Management's Online BBA program.

All four students did an excellent job presenting their portfolio of Alaska community outreach projects to eight judges from companies like Wells Fargo, Sam's Club, and Enterprise.

For more information about UAS SIFE and the team's 2007-2008 projects, please go to www.AlaskaSIFE.org or contact Rick Wolk, UAS SIFE faculty adviser: rick.wolk@uas.alaska.edu.

Reading Volunteers Needed



The Alumni Office is looking for volunteers to read to second-graders in Juneau Schools May 1 and May 2.

Details in Announcements at: www.uas.alaska.edu/soundings

UAS Faculty and Student Art in Spring Showings

Juneau and Sitka Art Faculty joined for a recent showing at the Sitka Campus March 6 April 4. There were paintings and drawings, NWC weavings and pottery and sculpture. Participants from the Juneau campus included Alice Teersteeg, Jane Terzis, Jeremy Kane, David Woodie, Mary Lou King, Kay Field Parker, and Diane Anderson. Sitka artists were Jamie Autrey, Norm Campell, and Tommy Joseph.



Currently at the Juneau Arts and Humanities Council Gallery is the sixth annual UAS Student Juried Art Exhibition.



This year's guest juror is Jim Fowler, a longtime resident of Juneau and distinguished painter, illustrator and printmaker. Artwork selected for the exhibition was juried from students in drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, ceramics, photography

and Northwest Coast art studio courses. Most artwork is for sale. Lucia Nascimento's alder "Wolf Mask" was judged best of show. The exhibition runs from April 4 to April 23.

UAS Hosting Nuclear Awareness Conference: Hear the Testimonies. Join the Discussion.

The University of Alaska Southeast is holding a Nuclear Awareness Conference Friday, April 18th (6-10 p.m.), Saturday, April 19th (12-9 p.m.) and Sunday, April 20th (12-7 p.m.) at the Egan Library. A featured topic is Juneau's role in Ballistic Missile Defence and the Lena Point Radar.

The conference will include keynote talks by Ms. Shigeko Sasamori, a survivor of the bombing of Hiroshima, Mayor James Matayoshi, an activist on behalf of the Marshallese people in the aftermath of the nuclear testing conducted by the U.S. and Dr. Holly Barker, an author and senior advisor to the Marshallese government.

The three-day event is a joint project of the Hiroshima Peace Museum, The Marshall Island Government, Veteran's for Peace, Alpha Phi Omega (Alpha Zeta Theta Chapter) and the UAS Chancellor's office. For more information: Forest Kvasnikoff, Alpha Phi Omega, e-mail: apo@uas.alaska.edu, tel: 907-957-0941.

2008 UAS Spring Forum: Sustainability and Juneau Energy

The UAS Spring Forum April 4 marked the first major public outreach activity of the UAS Sustainability Council. Nearly 100 people attended the all day event at the UAS Egan lecture hall, where a full slate of panelists presented provocative ideas. Heated roundtable discussions provided opportunities for everyone to engage, and attendees walked away with some new perceptions and questions.

Instead of the broadly conceived notions that have given the Forum direction in recent years, this year the organizers decided it was time to take on one specific issue: energy use in Juneau and what will it take to achieve environmentally acceptable and sustainable power generation. The workshop included presentations from Scott Willis with Alaska Electric Light and Power and David Lockard with the Alaska Energy Authority.

Two well-attended roundtable discussions explored the challenge of living sustainably in Juneau and Alaska. Panelists and audience members alike posited technological and social solutions to the problem of achieving energy sustainability, sharing ideas freely.

A session on making UAS a more sustainable campus focused on the recent loss of hydropower and greater dependence on fuel oil to heat buildings and run computers. Information Technology Director Michael Ciri said he rarely gets asked how UAS technology can be more sustainable. Instead, he said, people want a constant update of the latest and greatest technology. Ciri notes sustainability can be both ecological and financial for UAS. Attendee Nancy Waterman observed, "The way to warm a room is to have more people in it, so let's bring more full time students to our wonderful university."

In addition to those attendees physically present, the event was streaming live on the internet so attendees as far away as Anchorage and San Francisco were able to contribute. If you happened to miss the event, thank Media Services, because you will be able to view the Forum as a telecast on UATV. The 2008 Spring Forum was sponsored by the International Polar Year.

The Sustainability Council would like to thank everyone who helped make the event possible, as well as everyone who came out (or tuned in).

Sustainability Council members include: Marquam George (Construction Technology), Kevin Maier (English), Chip McMillan (Education), Sanjay Pyare (Environmental Science), David Tallmon (Biology), Alex Simon (Sociology), and Rick Wolk (Management) from the faculty; administrative representatives Keith Gerken (Facilities) and Michael Ciri (IT); and student representatives Annie Dawson and Ryan Arment.

Summer Climate Change Activism Seminar

With generous support from the International Polar Year, second year Assistant Professor of English Kevin Maier will offer a summer seminar entitled "Climate Change, Climate Solutions." The week-long seminar will be held sometime between mid-May and early June.



*UAS Assistant Professor
of English Kevin Maier*

Maier designed the course because he was worried that we do not seem to be moving closer to the social or political change that increasingly grim reports on climate change proclaim is needed.

"The idea is to draw a wide range of students and community members to campus to have some discussions about climate change before we try to collectively write up a position paper outlining both our sense of where we ought to be going and how we ought to get there" Maier said.

The week-long seminar will explore potential solutions to this frequently studied and often discussed environmental problem, attending in particular creative ways to facilitate social change. Course participants will be asked to read the prominent reports and a few representative case studies from Polar Regions. However, discussions will focus almost exclusively on exploring creative solutions and appropriate responses to climate change. The goal will be to assess the rhetorical efficacy of various methods of environmental activism and advocacy. After arriving at a better understanding of the arguments during the week of classroom sessions, the seminar will conclude with an intensive weekend retreat to write a position paper summarizing the conclusions of the discussions.

For more information please e-mail Dr. Kevin Maier at: kevin.maier@uas.alaska.edu.

UAS Anthropology Faculty Work Featured in National Science Journals

Erica Hill participated in a ground breaking Russian-American research expedition that suggests prehistoric cultures were hunting whales at least 3,000 years ago, 1,000 years earlier than was previously known. The research was featured in the journals *Nature* (www.nature.com/news/2008/080331/full/news.2008.714.html) and *Science Daily* (www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/04/080404160335.htm).

Hill served as lab manager and zooarchaeologist in the joint US-Russian Chukotka archaeological project. The research group was based out of the small village of Nunligran on the southern coast of Chukotka.

University of Alaska Museum of the North archaeology curator Daniel Odess presented the team's findings at a recent Society for American Archaeology annual meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia.

In addition to Hill, members of the team were from Richard Stockton College (New Jersey), the Kunstkamera Museum in St. Petersburg and the Institute for Heritage in Moscow. The team also included several Chukotka residents; UAF graduate student Sarah Meitl and Tim Williams, a Fairbanks high school student and volunteer in Odess' research lab.

Funding was provided by the Shared Beringian Heritage Program and the National Science Foundation.