

# s o u n d i n g s

University of Alaska Southeast Faculty & Staff Newsletter

"This is the largest and most diverse class in UAS history..." — *Chancellor John Pugh*

## UAS Projects Record Number of Graduates

A record number of degrees were presented at Southeast Alaska's regional university the weekend of May 3, 2008. The University of Alaska Southeast projects 348 degrees for the 2007-08 academic year, up from 276 degrees last year. The tally includes 125 graduate, 136 undergraduate and 87 Associate degrees. An additional 80+ occupational endorsements and undergraduate and graduate certificates were conferred, up from 22 in 2007. UAS Director of Institutional Research Pat Moore notes that final numbers won't be confirmed until August, after degrees are audited.

"This is the largest and most diverse class in UAS history in terms of ethnicity and types of degrees being awarded," said Chancellor John Pugh.

Sporting a mortarboard with painted salmon, artist, naturalist and author Ray Troll received an Honorary Doctorate in Fine Arts for his unique ability to combine art and science at both the Ketchikan and Juneau ceremonies. Troll's humorous remarks were well received by all in attendance.



The Sitka ceremony included the presentation of an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters to Island Institute and Sitka Symposium founders Carolyn Servid and Dorik Mechau.

Theatre in the Rough founders, performers and designers Katie Jensen and Aaron Elmore were honored in Juneau with a Meritorious Service Award for distinguished contributions to the performing arts.

At the Juneau ceremony, Seattle University president Father Stephen Sundborg presented the commencement address. Father Sundborg's

Juneau roots go back to his early education in Juneau at St. Anne's school and Juneau-Douglas High School. He moved to Fairbanks when his father, George Sundborg, became editor of the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner. George Sundborg, now 95 and living in Seattle, was an at-large elected delegate to the Alaska State Constitutional Convention. Though Stephen Sundborg left Juneau 50 years ago, he assured graduates, "You can leave Juneau and leave Alaska, but Juneau and Alaska will never leave you."

### Something to Celebrate: Native Graduation Event

The growing number of Alaska Natives making their way through the University of Alaska Southeast was reflected at a celebration for Alaska Native members of the UAS Class of 2008. UAS Director of Institutional Research Pat Moore projects that once degrees are audited, a record 15% of UAS graduates will be Alaska Native.



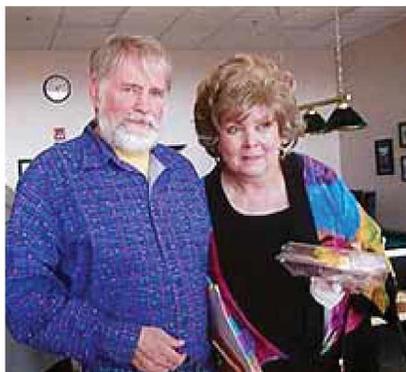
At the celebration held in the Juneau campus Egan Library the afternoon of Saturday May 3, Associate of Arts graduate Lyle James addressed the group of family, friends and co-workers. "Today is an exciting and almost overwhelming day, and it is good to see everyone," he said. "This encourages us."

The teacher at Yakoos Da Kaahidi alternative high school spoke in eloquent Tlingit as he introduced a song he composed with help from UAS faculty David Katzeek and wife and Native and Rural Center Director Kolene James. Then he led the Wooch Een (definition: Working Together) dance group in the powerful voice of a warrior, keeping time by hitting a walking stick on the floor.

Mary Folletti graduated with a BA in Education and plans to go on to the MAT program. She addressed the group on behalf of PITAAS students (Preparing Indigenous Teachers and Administrators for Alaska Schools)

Program. Folletti told the story of her friend Rikki Tagaban, who as he drove to a recent conference, noticed an eagle flying overhead. It was carrying a stick, presumably for its nest. "You also worked hard for that stick," Folletti told her colleagues. "I encourage you all to find that stick and take it home."

## Retiring Faculty Honored at Graduation



Chancellor John Pugh honored retiring faculty Alice Tersteeg and Ron Seater at the 2008 UAS graduation ceremony May 4.

Tersteeg taught at UAS for 32 years. Her list of accomplishments at UAS included converting the print studio to the strict use of non-toxic materials, initiating the

Northwest Coast Art program and spearheading the new BA in Art. Alice has served on art panels in Juneau and continues to exhibit her original artwork. According to Associate Professor Jane Terzis, "Alice has inspired art program students to develop their skills and bring forth beautiful and inspiring work for the Juneau community and the world."

Ron Seater started in teaching mathematics at UAS in 1984. Associate Professor Brian Blitz says Professor Seater really cares for his students. He wants them to succeed in their classes, but he holds them to a high standard so that they will be more likely to succeed in their next math class as well as their lives. His relentless work ethic included a 7 a.m. start time and work on weekends. Ron Seater was a mentor to faculty from several disciplines over the past 24 years.

Chancellor Pugh said, "Both will retire this year and we honor them today. Thank you both for your commitment to the students of the University of Alaska Southeast. I wish you the best in your retirement."

## Phytoplankton Workshops Hope to Grow Shellfish Industry

The University of Alaska Southeast Ketchikan Fisheries Technology program is holding a series of phytoplankton collection and monitoring workshops for regional shellfish growers. The first was held April 25-26, 2008 at the UAS Ketchikan Technical Center.

The two day workshop provided training to shellfish growers on collection, sampling and identification of phytoplankton, including those species that cause harmful and eventually toxic algal blooms that can lead to paralytic shellfish poisoning, or red tide. Appropriately collecting, sampling and identifying these microscopic organisms can help shellfish farmers better

understand bloom dynamics as they relate to shellfish production. Relatively little is known about harmful algal bloom dynamics in Southeast Alaska and increased knowledge may provide useful information to shellfish growers and harvesters.

Ketchikan is partnering with groups or individuals willing to collect water samples on a regular basis to monitor for phytoplankton blooms. UAS Ketchikan will provide equipment to growers. This pilot monitoring program: the Southeast Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom (SEAHAB) Monitoring Partnership, will provide continuing resources for monitoring as well as assess phytoplankton on a continuous basis to gain a better understanding of HAB events in the region. The ultimate goal is to better develop a regional shellfish industry.

UA President Mark Hamilton is excited by the possibilities. At the Board of Regents meeting in Ketchikan April 16-18, he said, "The confluence of leading edge academic research combined with the commitment to share the emerging knowledge is the essence of the University contribution to the economy. Knowing the threats to shell fish and understanding the ideal conditions for shipment both protect the product and add to its value by arriving at market healthy and alive. These are top notch scientists who seek advice and observations from the people who are involved in the shell fish industry on a daily basis. We are very proud of the faculty at the Ketchikan campus."



Two nationally recognized researchers in phytoplankton monitoring presented at the workshop. Steve Morton Ph.D., is from NOAA's National Center for Coastal Ocean Science Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research in Charleston, South Carolina and Vera Trainer Ph.D., is the Director of the Harmful Algal Bloom Program at NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center.

In addition, Allison Sill, the Program Coordinator for the Phytoplankton Monitoring Network (PMN) and Keri Baugh, a Fisheries Biologist in the Marine Biotoxins Program at the Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC) assisted with the workshop.

UAS Ketchikan Assistant Professor of Fisheries Technology Kate Sullivan and UAS Juneau Associate Professor of Biology Ginny Eckert are co-hosting the phytoplankton workshops. Sullivan has been the primary faculty member for the Fisheries Technology program for UAS Ketchikan since 2004. Currently the Fisheries Technology Program has twelve students enrolled in the Associate of Applied Science degree program. Previously, Sullivan and Morton collaborated on a similar phytoplankton monitoring project in Maine.



## UAS Spring Forum

*Sustainability and Juneau Energy*

### UAS Sustainability: A Timely Focus

A panel on sustainability and workshops on creating more energy efficient living spaces were included in the annual UAS Staff Development Day held May 9 on the Juneau campus. The topic is especially timely as Juneau reels from quintupled energy rates after an avalanche temporarily wiped its primary hydropower source. The panel discussion noted that several UAS classes across disciplines incorporate sustainability. Please visit [www.uas.alaska.edu/FacultySenate/sustainability.html](http://www.uas.alaska.edu/FacultySenate/sustainability.html) to see what is on the Faculty Senate site in response to the request for a "sustainability" page. The survey from the UAS sustainability committee is still taking submissions: [www.uas.alaska.edu/pub/energysurvey](http://www.uas.alaska.edu/pub/energysurvey).

### Ecocriticism Outing

Kevin Maier's English 423 Ecocriticism class ventured to Blue Mussel Cabin April 20-21st to give Work-in-Progress presentations on their final papers. Wading through deep, soft snow to get to the cabin was a bit challenging, but the group enjoyed perfect weather, playful whales, and good conversation.



Students got useful and substantive feedback on their ideas for papers. Topics ranged from the troubled distinction between humans and animals to the impact of ecological science on literary study.

"Though it's often difficult to organize these trips, it's always worth making the effort," Maier observed. "I'm not sure why, but course presentations at cabins always seem to go better for everyone involved: "Maybe it's the exercise, the candlelight or some sort of strange out-of-doors magic, but the outing presentation is always leagues better than the presentation of the in-class variety." Perhaps it is like packaged mac and cheese tastes better on a camping trip than in the kitchen.

### Chamber: UAS Family Friendly

The Juneau Chamber of Commerce awarded UAS the 2008 Family Friendly Employer of the Year for outstanding support in creating family friendly business practices. Chancellor John Pugh and Staff Council President Heather Swanson accepted the award during the Juneau Chamber of Commerce luncheon on Thursday, May 1. The award was presented on behalf of the Partnership for



Families & Children, the United Way of Southeast Alaska and the Juneau Chamber of Commerce.

Some of the highlights from the nomination form included:

**Flexible Work schedules:** Job sharing; staggered or flexible hours; working from home; time off to attend parent/teacher conference or school events; bring child to workplace

**Child Care Services:** Pre-tax deduction for dependent care offered; information provided about community support services; paid family resource services

**Family Friendly Workspace:** Bulletin board postings; changing table in restroom; toy/book basket for visiting children

**Family Friendly Events:** Family time at the Recreation Center; Community day; Multiple family friendly campus events (BBQs etc)

**Benefits Package:** Part-time work benefits; paid family leave; unpaid family leave; comprehensive family insurance plan; EAP with concierge services

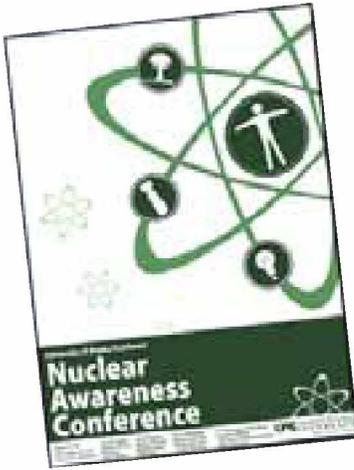
*UAS is currently assessing the need and feasibility for on-site or near-site childcare for staff, students and faculty.*

### Nuclear Awareness Conference: Thought Provoking and Impressive

A three-day conference that brought together activists and speakers from as far away as the Marshall Islands and Japan was held on the UAS Juneau campus April 18-20. The conference included keynote talks by Ms. Shigeo 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. Other highlights included a readers theater presentation in the Marshallese language by Skagway highschool students who visited the Marshall Islands for a project that planted the seed for the conference.

According to an article by Alan Suderman in the Juneau Empire, the now 75-year old Sasamori said she barely survived being so close to the bomb when it detonated. She was badly burned and spent five days drifting in and out of consciousness before her parents found her. Her face at the time was so disfigured that her parents couldn't tell the front of her head from the back.

The three-day event was 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. It was largely organized by student Forest Kvasnikoff.

The closing talk was given by Victoria Sampson, who works as a research analyst for the Center for Defense Information. One of her specialties is missile defense. She addressed several issues, including Juneau's role in Ballistic Missile Defense and the Lena Point Radar. She

questioned whether it is worth the 180 billion dollars projected to be spent by 2013 on ballistic missile defense systems and if they create a false sense of security given a dubious testing track record. She also warned that such systems could potentially provoke volatile regimes like North Korea.

In his closing remarks, UAS history faculty David Noon noted a lack of basic democratic control over nuclear policy starting with the Manhattan Project. "The whole history of nuclear weapons has been shrouded from the public," he said. He observed that a prevailing feeling is that the public doesn't have control, hence a reason not to come to such a conference. "Now that this is over you are welcome to go back to not thinking about it," he said. "Or do something about it."

The entire 2008 Nuclear Awareness Conference was recorded and produced by UAS Video Production Services. It can be ordered on-line through the UAS bookstore at: [uas.alaska.edu/media](http://uas.alaska.edu/media). Click on video production on upper bar.

## Faculty Senate Announces Second Annual (2007-2008) Faculty Excellence Awards

Faculty Excellence in Teaching  
Professor Priscilla Schulte  
Anthropology  
Department of Social Sciences  
Sitka Campus

Faculty Excellence in Research  
Professor Clive Thomas  
Political Science  
Department of Social Sciences  
Juneau Campus

Faculty Excellence in Service  
Associate Professor Sherry Tamone  
Biology  
Department of Natural Sciences  
Juneau Campus

## Juneau Marine Biology Faculty and Dean at Ocean Bowl

Sherry Tamone, Associate Professor of Marine Biology and Pat Brown, Dean of Arts and Sciences, traveled to Seward AK to participate in the National Ocean Sciences Bowl and as a recruitment effort AK April 24-27. Twenty eight teams from all over the country (Massachusetts, Virginia, New York, California, Washington, Wisconsin, Oregon, North Carolina and Alaska to name a few) arrived in Seward after an exciting train ride that was cut short due to an avalanche between Portage and Seward. All the teams took part in a marine mammal tour of Resurrection Bay. The NOSB was hosted by the University of Alaska Fairbanks and the Alaska Sea Life Center. The high school students and their coaches truly had a great Alaskan experience. The top two teams came from Massachusetts (Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School) and California (Mission San Jose High School). Juneau Douglas High School (Naughty Nautilii) was very competitive and placed in the middle of the field.

This national competition drew over 125 high school juniors and seniors to Alaska and introduced these students to potential academic careers at UAS, UAA, and UAF. The competition had never taken place in Alaska before and most students participating had an interest in marine science and oceanography. UAS unveiled a new Marine Biology program sheet for the event. It serves as a prototype for program sheets in the works for several UAS programs.

## Ketchikan History Faculty to Present at National Conference

Assistant Professor of History John Radzilowski will join a panel on The Politics of Ethnic Anti-communism in the U.S. During the Cold War (Comparative Perspective) at the 66th Annual Meeting of The Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America, June 13-14 in Philadelphia. Other panelists include Ieva Zake, Rowan University, NJ; Judith Fai-Podlipnik, Southeastern Louisiana University; Donald Pienkos, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

## A Gift for Eagles

Ketchikan High School and Revilla High School welding students who train at the UAS Ketchikan Tech Center created raptor stands for the Ketchikan Indian Community's Deer Mountain Tribal Hatchery and Eagle Center. The stands were presented to representatives from the Eagle Center on Wednesday, April 30 during a celebratory, year-end thank you BBQ for the students held in the new welding fabrication shop.

## Climate Change in Antarctica Lecture

A principle investigator on the US National Science Foundation's Long-Term Ecological Research Program in Antarctica gave a presentation at the UAS Egan Lecture Hall, Thursday May 15, 7 p.m. as part of the UAS International Polar Year Lecture Series. Diane McKnight is an Associate Professor of Environmental Engineering at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Dr. McKnight showed images from Antarctica, including Cape Royds and the Dry Valleys which were explored by Scott and Shackleton, and discussed her research on ecosystem responses to the interacting effects of the ozone hole and climate change. She signed copies of her children's book, *The Lost Seal*, which describes the first documented encounter with a live seal in the remote McMurdo DryValleys of Antarctica [www.mcmilter.org](http://www.mcmilter.org)

## UAS Theatre Students Take a Long Ride

UAS humanities undergraduate Jesse Alleva plays the key role of Stephen in the latest production from Perseverance Theatre, *The Long Christmas Ride Home*. Pulitzer Prize winning playwright Paula Vogel tells the story of three siblings who witness an event that changes their family forever. UAS student Leona Shrader-Dee is in the ensemble cast. UAS offers a minor in theatre through Perseverance Theatre, which according to outgoing Director of Education David Charles Goyette, "has a remarkable and well-deserved nationwide reputation as being an incubator for new work and emerging artists." The "puppet show with actors" runs through Sunday May 18.

## Gonzaga Basketball Coach Speaks at Rec Center

Jerry Krause, Director of Basketball Operations at Gonzaga University, is coming to the Rec Center Room 116, Friday May 23 at 6:30 p.m. He will speak on the topic of parenting, coaching, and mentoring young athletes. This is a free clinic that will include opportunities for question and answer and discussion. Jerry is a Hall of Fame coach and educator who has written or edited more than 40 books. He is the author of the number one selling book in the world on basketball skills and drills. Anyone who works with kids will benefit from this presentation. Jerry is being hosted by Rec Center Director and Gonzaga basketball alum Phil Paramore.

## Community Day on Campus 2008!

UAS joins Juneau Jazz and Classics for the annual Community Day on Campus Saturday May 24, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The free event features musical performances by middle and high school students, hula dancing, lego league fun, kettle korn, fry bread with Wooch Ee, the Southeast Road Runner finish line, Juneau Arts and Humanities Council quick draw competition and weather permitting, balloon creations with Jeff Brown and pony rides. UAS offerings include ceramics demonstrations and alumni and admissions outreach booths. Andy Kline will be on hand with a remote from Excellent Radio, 100.7 FM. Festival ticketed events begin at 2 p.m. with a family concert, Jazz performances are set for 5 and 8 p.m. Details at: [www.jazzandclassics.org](http://www.jazzandclassics.org)

## Alumni Office News

The UAS Alumni office is pleased to report the success of the annual UASAA Spring Auction and Dinner, held April 11, 2008. The event raised over \$12,000 which the UAS Alumni Association has dedicated toward their Scholarship Fund with the UA Foundation. This event, which has continued for 10+ years, was held for the second time in the Egan Library, which has proven a great way to showcase our beautiful campus. Auction items were donated from Juneau businesses and individuals and this year we even had donations from the Seattle Mariners — two autographed baseballs! We are very lucky to have two great auctioneers as members of UASAA, Steve Allwine and Lloyd Johnson, who provided the entertainment for the evening and encouraged high bidding from the audience.

### Alumni Golf Tournament in Gustavus, Sunday, May 18

Teams are filling up fast; make your reservation now! Departing Don Statter Public Boat Harbor in Auke Bay on Sunday, May 18 at 8:30 AM and arriving back in Juneau at about 9 PM. \$150 per person with current UASAA membership, otherwise \$175 (includes one year regular membership). Price includes boat transportation to and from Gustavus, 18 holes of golf, breakfast, lunch and dinner. Team and individual reservations accepted with payment. Limited to 52 golfers. Registrations are nonrefundable; we will play golf unless the boat cannot sail. Tournament is a Scramble. Prizes include 2 Alaska Airlines Ticket Vouchers. Call alumni office to make your reservation 796-6569. Sponsored by Alaska Airlines and Allen Marine Tours.

### Chancellor John Pugh and Your UAS Alumni & Friends want to take you out to the ballpark!

Join us in an Exclusive Right-Field Group Suite and watch the Seattle Mariners take on the Cleveland Indians at 1:00 PM at Safeco Field in Seattle on Saturday, July 19. Admission prices as follows: Members: \$50 adults, \$25 children 3-12, children 2 and under free. Non-members: \$75 adults, \$45 children, children 2 and under free. Suite admission includes food and non-alcoholic drinks. No host bar also available. Limited seating available; prepaid reservations are required (sorry, no refunds). To reserve tickets call alumni office at 796-6569 or email [alumni@uas.alaska.edu](mailto:alumni@uas.alaska.edu). Alumni memberships start at only \$25 for individuals, \$40 for couples and \$50 for families. This is the same weekend as the annual Juneau-Douglas Picnic in Seattle on July 20; if you are interested in that, please give us a call and we'll share that information as well.

### New Alumni & Friends Membership Levels Announced!

In addition to yearly memberships of \$25 for individuals, \$40 for couples, \$50 for families and the popular \$100 platinum level which allows friends to join the rec center, the Alumni Board recently approved two more levels of membership. Lifetime Membership for Individuals is \$450 and Lifetime membership for Couples is \$650. Pay once and enjoy alumni membership for life!