

University of Alaska Southeast

Soundings

Faculty and Staff Newsletter

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Kinney honored

Steve Kinney, maritime studies coordinator, has been named Volunteer of the Year 1997 by the Ketchikan Area Arts and Humanities Council. Kinney was cited for activities that include leadership in the Ketchikan Community Chorus, work with a local barber-shop quartet, and founder and co-chair of Ketchikan's Celebration of the Sea week. Kinney has led maritime studies on the Ketchikan campus since 1992.

Sitka Students active

The Sitka student government has increased their size from seven to nine and is increasingly active. Projects include sponsoring a Mardi Gras to raise scholarship funds and improving the quality and marketing of campus merchandise offered for sale. Student government is also working to improve student life and activity opportunities. They have recognized the Outdoor Adventure Club, and others are planned. Student ID's will be introduced later this semester and will be used for local business discounts.

Seven of the student government members are former members of the Ayagneq program, a support program for Alaska Native students. These include all of the officers.

World Bank officials speak

Two officials from the World Bank will talk and answer questions Thursday, February 5, from 10-11:45 a.m. in the Lake Room on the Juneau campus. The World Bank works to reduce poverty and improve living standards by providing loans, technical assistance and policy guidance.

Ayagneq program

New students in the Sitka campus' Native student retention program completed their pre-college orientation this week. Ayagneq students took part in a ropes course, career/interest assessment, a writing workshop, overnight kayak trip, and welcoming meals with faculty and community members. Coordinator **Steve Curtis** said students will now take an Ayagneq class and be provided with close support from UAS faculty and staff.

Ayagneq is completing its second full year. One indication of its success, according to Curtis, is that the campus student government is strong and composed primarily of former Ayagneq students. Ayagneq is funded by the U.S. Department of Education.

UA legislation on web

A weekly legislative report is now available at <http://info.alaska.edu/ua/swlegis>. The site also includes other UA legislative information.



Winterfest begins

Despite thawing temperatures, the Juneau campus' annual Winterfest begins a week-long series of events Sunday. They include a polar bear plunge, snow volleyball, kayak rolling, photo contest, Eskimo games demonstration, an avalanche safety presentation, winter search and rescue, snowshoe race, ski tuning, bonfire, skiing, and skiing video. Check with student activities for details.

Ice cream coming

A refrigerator and freezer will be new additions to Juneau food service. They'll hold sandwiches and salads to go plus ice cream. "We're always making changes in food service," **Tish Griffin** says. "We're always interested in changes people want."

Another change has been Spike's Cafe, a student-run espresso bar. "The cafe completes the intent of the Mourant remodel to establish a coffee shop," Griffin says.

The club sandwich and grilled turkey sandwiches are returning to the grill menu in response to requests. Other changes include a decrease in sandwich prices and an increase from 20 to 30 cents an ounce for the salad bar to more accurately reflect the cost.

In addition, salad has been removed from the evening special. Some were taking a full salad, worth three or four dollars, instead of a side salad which is what was intended. Griffin said, "We were losing substantial money."

Griffin says food service must remain in the black and earn enough to pay for repairs and replacements, but the profit margin is small. About 300 meals per day are served. Lunch and dinner specials change each day.

Juneau Student activities

Free, live music is set for 7 p.m. Tuesday (Feb. 10) in the Mourant Cafe.

A special election will be held Feb. 11 and 12 to fill three vacant seats on the Student Government Senate.

The Renaissance Faire takes place Feb. 22 at Centennial Hall and features medieval music and entertainment. Mardi Gras, with a Seattle Cajun band, is set for Feb. 28 at 9 p.m. at Nugget Mall. UAS co-sponsors both events. Volunteers are still needed. Contact **Tish Griffin**, 465-6335.

Presidential search update

The Board of Regents will hold a special public meeting Anchorage Feb. 5-6, to discuss the presidential search. The agenda will be available at campus libraries prior to the meetings and will be added to the regents home page at: <http://info.alaska.edu/ua/bor/>. Those wanting information about the search or wanting to submit comments may use the same home page and then open "Pres. Search."

Regents meet in Juneau

The Regents hold a regular meeting February 18-20 in Juneau. A public comment period is planned Friday morning at 8 a.m. Prior to the meeting, the agenda is on the regents homepage at: <http://info.alaska.edu/ua/bor/>

Ketchikan in the news

Programs, people, and the Ketchikan campus were prominently featured during two days in recent Ketchikan Daily News coverage. One day an editorial encouraged residents to attend a public presentation by Chancellor **Marshall Lind**, a photo and story reported on **Mike Dunning's** history class taught over the radio, and a front page story told about Ketchikan students helping to build an eagle center. The next day the paper reported on Lind's talk about the future of the Ketchikan campus and described proposed campus projects.

Faculty activity

Carol Liberty has been nominated for the national ballot of the American Health Information Management Association as a candidate for the Council on Certification. The council sets the standards for the national credentialing exams.

Bess Clark will visit Kodiak, Nome and Fairbanks this spring to facilitate community teams for the state Department of Health and Social Services site reviews.

Karalynn Crocker-Bedford provided an in-service to 70 Ketchikan elementary teachers and showed how to connect key concepts in science to curriculum for students in K-8.

Faculty dinner Wednesday

Judy Andree and **Scott Christian** begin the Spring Semester Faculty Dinner Series Wednesday (Feb. 4) at 5 p.m. in the Lake Room. They will discuss the Bread Loaf Writing Institute. All faculty are invited. Social hour begins at 4:30 p.m.

Child safety series starts Tuesday

A four week program for parents focusing on children's development and safety issues begins Tuesday (Feb. 3). The free program is open to the public and takes place in the Lake Room beginning at 7 p.m. The instructors are nurses for Air-lift Northwest. The Feb. 10 topic is Safety Concerns with Children and How to Prevent Injury. Anyone may attend all or one session on a drop-in basis.

Spanish class visits Mexico

A three credit course, Language and Culture of Mexico, attracted 14 Juneau campus students to Mexico between Dec. 22 and Jan. 9. **Rick Bellagh** and adjunct faculty member **Magu Appella** lead the class that included morning instruction and afternoon explorations to use the language. Students must now produce a project providing information to Juneau about their experiences. A story about the trip will appear in the Whalesong.

NW coast art in Sitka

The 9th annual Northwest coast art program was held in Sitka Jan. 12-23. Courses in basketry, carving, toolmaking, design, and bentwood bowls attracted students from across the state. Instructors included **Delores Churchill**, **Ernest Smeltzer**, and **Ken McNeil**.

A new program addition was a two week intensive Tlingit language class taught by **Roby Littlefield** and Elders **Naomi Kanosh**, **Ethel Makinen**, and **Bertha Karras**. About 150 attended a concluding potluck and faculty coordinator, **Linda Halfon**, was presented with a carving designed and created by guest artist Ken McNeil.

Accreditation news

Vesna Kilibarda, **Ginny Mulle** and **Dorothy Armstrong** will attend a "Workshop on Accreditation" in Seattle Feb. 3-5. The three are members on the Self-Study/Accreditation Committee preparing for the UAS Fall 1999 accreditation. The workshop is held at the UAS accreditation agency.

Surprise hallway diploma ceremony

Russ Nesje completed his bachelor degree fall semester. At the start of spring semester he stopped by campus to check on his grades. He got more than he expected. Registrar **Eileen Franson** had his diploma prepared and she and Dean of Faculty **John Pugh** presented the bachelor of arts degree to Nesje in the Novatney building hallway.

Nesje, who has attended UAS periodically since 1989 said he completed his degree work without student loans. "It was all bought and paid for by me."

Nesje works in the psychiatric ward at Bartlett Hospital and at the Drug and Alcohol Recovery Unit. He plans to work with youth.

Ketchikan workshop

The first Alaska workshop on the newest nationally recognized substance abuse training was held on the Ketchikan campus Jan. 16. Twenty-eight students participated in the Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory Training workshop (SASSI-3). The training is for counselors, psychologists, therapists and social workers to help determine if a person has a substance abuse disorder.

Annuity changes

The pre-tax contribution limit to a TDA in 1998 will increase from \$9,500 to \$10,000. This does not automatically mean that every employee can increase their annual TDA contributions to \$10,000, according to **Tom Dienst**. Before making a change, he said, employees should consult with their vendor/tax advisor and have their maximum exclusion allowance computed. Although tax code revisions also allow employees to make multiple changes to an existing TDA during the tax year, only salary reduction agreement may be in effect at any given time.

Juneau Calender

Friday (Jan. 30)

- Global Connections, Mexico trip talk, 2 p.m., Lake Room.

Sunday (Feb. 1)

- Winterfest activities begin and continue through Saturday.

Tuesday (Feb. 3)

- Pacific walrus status, public seminar, noon, Anderson 221.
- Free child development program, 7 p.m. Lake Room.

Wednesday (Feb. 4)

- Amnesty International, 2 p.m., Lake Room.
- Faculty dinner, 5 p.m. Lake Room, social hour starts at 4:30 p.m.

Thursday (Feb. 5)

- World Bank presentation and questions, 10 - 11:45 a.m., Lake Room.

Friday (Feb. 6)

- Chinook salmon on the Kenai River, SFOS seminar, 3:30 p.m. Anderson, 221.

Tuesday (Feb. 10)

- Free, live music, 7 p.m., Cafe Mourant.
- Child safety program, 7 p.m. Lake Room.

Wed./Thurs. (Feb. 11 & 12)

- Student government elections.

Wed. - Fri. (Feb. 18-20)

- Board of Regents, 8 a.m. Baranof Hotel.

Sunday (Feb. 22)

- The Renaissance Faire, 12-4 p.m. Centennial Hall.

Saturday (Feb. 28)

- Mardi Gras, 9 p.m., Nugget Mall.



New computers in lab

The student technology fee has been used to purchase 14 new Power Mac computers for the computer center on the Juneau campus. At the start of spring semester they replaced older computers that were moved to WB 210. Computers from there were moved to English writing lab in the Hendrickson building.

Amnesty group forms

An Amnesty International student group has formed on the Juneau campus. Faculty advisors are **Robin Walz** and **Jo Devine**. The group next meets Wed. (Feb. 4) at 2 p.m. in the Lake Room.



If you have UAS faculty, staff, or student news for Soundings, call 465-6530. The University of Alaska Southeast is an AA/EO educational institution.

Editor: Scott Foster
Graphic Artist: Amy Carroll