

University of Alaska Southeast

Soundings

Faculty and Staff Newsletter

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Wrangell graduation Saturday

Wrangell's economy was rocked after Alaska Pulp closed in November 1994. One offering of help came from UAS. The Sitka campus organized university classes through distance delivery after the mill closure so Wrangell residents could advance their education without having to leave town. Most of the classes were distance delivered to the Wrangell students.

This Saturday a full UAS commencement will be held to award associate degrees to 12 Wrangell adults. "It's a community celebration," Elaine Sunde, Sitka campus director said, "because the community took part in this whole process."

Lew Williams, Jr., UA regent from Ketchikan, will be the commencement speaker. Regent Elsa Demksa of Juneau will also attend in addition to Sunde and UAS Chancellor Marshall Lind. Commencement ceremonies will begin at 7 p.m. in Wrangell High School.

High school students recognized

About two dozen Juneau-Douglas High School students have been recognized at ceremonies in the Egan Library.

Each year the high school staff recognizes "unsung" heroes and heroines from among the students. The UAS ceremony recognized those previously honored and those selected for May recognition. Recognition has gone to students for such achievements as local, regional, state and national honors; community and school service; and personal growth and positive change.

Kathryn Sutton, JDHS assistant principal, said, "Holding the final recognition ceremony of the year on the UAS campus brings added prestige to the students who are honored. It also gives students and their parents a chance to see first hand the higher education opportunities available in our own community."



High school students received recognition awards in ceremonies in the Egan Library.

Memorial Day holiday

The UAS campuses will be closed and no classes will be held May 26 in observance of Memorial Day.



Shana Henderson earned one of the more than 175 certificates and degrees during Juneau commencement.

University of Alaska Benefits Information

New information has been posted on the UA Benefits Homepage at <http://info.alaska.edu/UA/benefits/index.html> then click on Benefits Task Force.

Sitka nominates students for People Magazine

People Magazine contacted the Sitka campus seeking suggestions of unusual graduates for a national story. The campus suggested Ricardo Mercurief from St. Paul who received an AA degree and graduated magna cum laude with a 3.9 GPA. Mercurief, who pays for college in part by halibut fishing in the Bering Sea, has been accepted at Stanford to continue his education. The campus also nominated the 12 Wrangell students who have received AA degrees two years after their mill closed. (see related story on Wrangell Graduation)

UAS receives grants from Holland America

Two grants totaling \$50,000 have been received from Holland America to be used for Native tourism program development. Chancellor Marshall Lind said the money will be used to help develop curriculum and bring additional tourism training opportunities to the Juneau, Sitka and Ketchikan campuses as well as to other communities through distance education technology.

"UAS has already conducted two extensive visitor industry training sessions in cooperation with Goldbelt for their shareholders," Lind said. "We'll build on that experience to develop programs through these grants."

Trudeau honored

The Ketchikan campus Advisory Council gave its annual recognition award to Bill Trudeau May 8. The community group praised Trudeau for "excellence and dedication" in a wide variety of roles. Trudeau is the campus' assistant director, director of student services, works on computer service and network problems, and was acting campus director for a year.

Trudeau said, "You just do what you gotta do to the best of your ability." He said good staff to work with made it easier to cover his responsibilities. After 8 years at UAS, Trudeau plans to leave this summer for Magadan, Russia, where he'll teach English and philosophy at Magadan International University. Trudeau spent a sabbatical half-year teaching at the school three years ago.



Julie Ross directs bulb planting at student housing.

Crocus missing

Last fall, about 4,000 crocus were planted to beautify the Juneau campus this spring. "Nothing came up," according to **Julia Ross** who helped coordinate the planting. "It's not just us, it's city-wide. Everyone's been having serious problems."

Ross says the reason is probably a long, cold winter and a late, cold spring. "We've eliminated everything else. The bulbs were good. The volunteer planters were good. It's real discouraging. It's a major disappointment."

Faculty, students, staff and community volunteers worked on the planting as part of the campus' Thousands of Flowers campaign. Over the past several years some 25,000 bulbs have been planted on the campus. Ross says the bulbs are not expected to bloom again.

Forum held at library

The Alaska Sustainability Forum will be held in the Egan Library May 29 from 3 - 6 p.m. The forum is organized by the Pacific Northwest Regional Council of the President's Council on Sustainable Development. The purpose of the public meeting is to promote dialogue among diverse sectors interested in the long term economic, social and environmental health of Alaska. Governor **Tony Knowles** has been invited to speak. Breakout sessions begin at 4:30 p.m. Topics include Sustainable Communities; Natural and Cultural Resources; International Responsibility through Eco-Efficiency; and Population, Consumption and Education.

Ketchikan campus news

Eric Karolak was honored as teacher of the year by students during commencement on May 8. Student council president **Ivan Sultan** presented the tribute and expressed students' regret that Karolak is returning to the Midwest to continue his career after two years at the Ketchikan campus. Sultan commended the professor for enthusiastically "bringing history alive" for his students.

A native of Hong Kong has taken quickly to written English and received the Ketchikan campus's Mary Beck Writing Scholarship for fall 1997. **Chan Wai Kwong** just finished his first year at the campus and is working toward a bachelor's degree in business. Ketchikan campus staff said Chan is the first Beck scholarship winner whose first language is not English. The stipend honors a retired Ketchikan campus English instructor.

In other news, summer courses for the Eisenhower math/science grant are underway, and the campus will host the fall meeting of the UA VocTech Advisory Council.

Faculty/staff news

Elaine Sunde has been appointed to the Commission on Community and Workforce Development of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). This is one of eight national commissions which advise the AACC Board and staff on national public policy issues, as well as providing forums for focused conversations among 1,039 member institutions throughout the United States. Sunde's term begins July 1 and extends through 2000.

Judy Andree will attend the Breadloaf Institute being held on the Juneau campus. She'll be studying Shakespeare and poetry at the Institute which is being held in Alaska for the first time this summer.

Dennis Russell will spend part of the summer working in the National Marine Fisheries Honolulu lab doing research and working on a manuscript that describes the sea turtle diet in the tropical Pacific. Russell has a record of sea turtle diets for the past 20 years and says it's the only study of its kind in the world. The information is becoming more important because in the past decade some Pacific sea turtles have developed tumors that may be related to changes in diet.

Eileen Franson said, "I'd like to thank the members of the university community for their kindnesses, cards and flowers on the occasion of the death of my mother last week. They were all appreciated."

Juneau students honored

Outstanding elementary and middle school math students received awards at a ceremony on the Juneau campus May 13. Students and their parents filled the Mourant Cafe for the awards that were earned because of achievement in the Continental Math League. The program also included a slide show about UAS and a discussion about fractals by **Mike Ciri**.

Library homepage

Egan Library has established a homepage at www.jun.alaska.edu/uas/library. The homepage includes a library directory and a staff directory plus information about hours, general policies, collections and links to the Juneau Public Libraries, the Alaska State Library, and the Juneau-Douglas High School Library.

Juneau summer schedule on homepage

Juneau student **Shea Rich** has entered the summer schedule on the campus' home page. Included is a description of each class plus a registration guide, a listing of student services, tuition, fees, directory and summer highlights. The schedule may be found at http://www.jun.alaska.edu/uas/summer_sched/Summer.shtml

UAS Calender

Saturday, May 24

- Wrangell Commencement, 7 p.m. Wrangell High School

Sunday, May 25

- Ultimate Frisbee, 7 - 9 p.m. Sandy Beach, Juneau

Monday, May 26

- UAS closed for Memorial Day

Thursday, May 29

- Alaska Sustainability Forum, 3 - 6 p.m., Egan Library

Sunday, June 1

- Ultimate Frisbee, 7 - 9 p.m. Sandy Beach, Juneau

Tips from Computer Services

Connecting and disconnecting cables when the computer is turned on can damage the logic board. The UAS computer center requests that everyone follow the computer shutdown procedure before connecting or disconnecting the keyboard, mouse, monitor or external devices (including scanners or drives).

Fall syllabi due

Vice Chancellor **Robbie Stell** has requested faculty members to provide syllabi of fall semester classes to **Terry Dean** in the chancellor's office. The syllabi will be included with the fall schedule on the UAS homepage.

Bookstore cashier

The business office cashier is now cashiering for the bookstore in addition to tuition and other duties. Bookstore staff will continue to handle all bookstore customer service issues, returns/refunds/exchanges, special orders, mailouts, catalog requests, gift wrapping and all "book" questions. A customer service counter is being built near the textbooks.

