

Soundings

University of Alaska Southeast Faculty and Staff Newsletter

Vol. 9, No. 9 • April 26, 1996



A boat tour was just one of the experiences in a special two month visitor industry training program for Goldbelt shareholders.

Goldbelt shareholders receive training

Even before their eight weeks of visitor industry training at UAS was completed, all 16 Goldbelt shareholders taking the class had been offered jobs. Students will wear their regalia when they take part in commencement activities Friday (April 26) on the Auke Lake Campus beginning at 7 p.m.

The intensive training program involved Goldbelt, Tlingit and Haida Central Council and UAS's Career Education and was organized in response to a request from Goldbelt to prepare shareholders for jobs in their partnerships with Mt. Roberts Tram, Auk Nu Cruises, and Family Travel. "They brought us the job descriptions and we developed the curriculum," Career Education interim director **Karen Polley** said. **Susan Favor** was hired to coordinate the program.

Sixteen students ranging in age from their early 20s to late 40s have taken the class and will earn six hours of college credit. The full-day classes began March 4 and have included classroom work and field trips.

Career Education organizes specialized classes in response to employment needs, but Polley said this is the first time a program has been conducted with the visitor industry. "If there's continuing employment opportunities," she said, "we think we now have a model program for people who want to get into the visitor industry."

Staff Development Day May 16

Employees will be responsible for their own lunch during the Thursday (May 16) activities. There will however be a potluck barbecue at night at 6:30 p.m. at student housing. Families are welcome. Tours of the new residence hall will also be available.

Year End Stomp Saturday

There will be live music, food and games at the Year End Stomp Saturday at Dimond Park. The UAS scholarship fund-raiser runs from 3 to 8 p.m. and is open to everyone.

Succotash plays rock 'n roll from 3-5 p.m. and Brotherhood Bridge plays from 6-8 p.m. Chicken dinners will be available while they last from 4-6 p.m.

Activities include:

Baby bottle root beer contest 4:00 p.m.

Watermelon seed spitting 4:30 p.m.

Water balloon toss 4:45 p.m.

Swing dance lessons 5 p.m.

Two step dance lesson 5:30 p.m.

Pie eating contest 6 p.m.

Lasso demonstration and contest 6:15 p.m.

Orange pass 6:45 p.m.

Horseshoe contest 7 p.m.

Three legged race 7:15 p.m.

Tug of war 7:30 p.m.

Gunny sack race 7:45 p.m.

University information on the Web

The university employee benefits guide is now available on the World Wide Web. The address is as follows: <http://www.swadm.alaska.edu/theweb/governance/benindexg.html>

Using this address allows access to the benefits handbook with information such as the health, dental, and pharmacy plan; disability benefits, life insurance and retirement options.

University regulations and policies are also accessible on the Web. To find the information call up the University of Alaska homepage then select "Regents Policy" and "University Regulation" Other topics listed on the UA homepage include job openings, news releases, governance and more.

Blue Cross to produce newsletter

Blue Cross of Washington and Alaska, the company that administers the university health benefit plan, will begin producing a quarterly newsletter for its University of Alaska customers. The first newsletter will be distributed with the May 10 paychecks.

Blue Cross has also updated its list of participating health providers. The Juneau providers now include Bartlett Memorial Hospital, the Juneau Urgent Care Clinic, St. Ann's Nursing Home, Hospice and Home Care of Juneau, Peninsula Home Health Care, Diagnostic Radiology Consultants, three chiropractors, eight occupational and physical therapists, and 17 physicians and nurses. In addition the hospitals in Ketchikan and Sitka are participating health providers.

The advantage of using participating providers is they will bill directly to Blue Cross and have agreed to not charge above the amount paid by Blue Cross for a particular medical procedure.

Copies of the updated Blue Cross provider network booklets are available at the personnel office.

Campus News

Ketchikan campus

The Ketchikan campus has won certification that allows it to offer continuing education to health care providers.

Gary Turner, administrator of the new program through the Ketchikan Career Center, said the California Board of Nursing green-lighted the campus' application as a certified provider institution. That nationally recognized status gives Ketchikan-area health care professionals a local source of continuing education units when classes begin in May. The Ketchikan campus also intends to dovetail the new health care CEU program with some classes in its paramedic training sequence.

Phi Theta Kappa drew 30 people to a community discussion of censorship on the Internet April 20. Alpha Rho Beta chapter of the honor society for students at two-year colleges lined up a panel that included a service provider, faculty, a pastor and Internet users.

Ketchikan freshman **Tamara Steinbrecher** earned third place in statewide competition for student essayists. Steinbrecher, a student of **Rod Landis**, took the bronze in the annual Archie Shiels Freshman Writing Contest, judged by UAF English faculty.

Juneau campus

The UAS Alumni Association graduate brunch takes place Sunday, April 28 beginning at 11 a.m. in the Mourant building.

A year end picnic will be held May 3 at 5 p.m. for students, faculty and staff. There will be music in the Mourant courtyard as well as volleyball and food to kick off the Finals Week Stress Relievers.

Book orders for the fall '96 semester were due in the bookstore on April 5. Manager **Linda Snyder** said, "Please get them to me ASAP." The used book buyback begins May 7 at 8:30 a.m. Graduation caps, gowns, and announcements are now in and should be picked up in the bookstore.

Egan Library hours are being extended. On Saturday, April 27 and Saturday, May 4 it will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Valerie Stearns is the temporary DHL contact. Drop off and pick up items from her in the Chancellor's Office. Items must be dropped off by 3 p.m. to go out that day. Those wanting to send packets to addresses other than university campuses must seal them, complete the shipping information, and include a phone number. If there are questions contact 465-6472.

Sitka campus

Sitka students won two scholarships awarded by the Alaska Health Information Management (HIM) Association. **Jeanne Poechmann** won the \$500 Alecia Graham scholarship and **Joan Skannes** won the \$1,000 Lanier scholarship. Both scholarships are based on merit - achievement in the program and potential as future HIM professionals. **Carol Liberty**, Sitka Campus HIM program director and president of the association said, "Both of these women are outstanding students and the scholarships are well deserved. The whole class has just been fantastic."

Faculty news

Art Petersen has been appointed to the Perseverance Theater Board of Directors.

Tom Gallagher presented the results of his study on "Large Project Review" to the Alaska Coastal Management Program Conference held April 17 and 18 in Juneau. The study, completed for the Office of the Governor, looks at ways to more efficiently, effectively and equitably review large projects such as the A-J Mine.

Military graduation set

The 1996 graduation for the northern military sites will take place May 3 at 7 p.m. at Ft. Wainwright Army Post. About 35 graduates from three Interior military sites will receive associate, bachelor and master degrees.

Class surveys marine mammals

Nearly 30 students from the upper division Marine Mammals class at UAS spent last weekend conducting research in Stephens Passage. Associate Professor of Biology **Beth Mathews** said the data would be used as part of a long term monitoring in the area.

The group identified two humpback whales including one that has also been identified in Glacier Bay. They also saw a group of 20 killer whales including at least three calves and photographically identified 14 of them. The photos will be sent to British Columbia researchers so they can identify the group and update their catalogs with calf ID's. The sound recordings of the killer whales will be sent to another Canadian researcher to help with group identification.

Mathews said the group also saw more than 100 Dall's porpoise, over 100 harbor seals and about two dozen seal lions. "There aren't many places where you can leave the dock late on a Friday afternoon and return midday Sunday and see six different marine mammals species."

Lost and found items

A variety of items have been collected in the Student Resource Center. They must be claimed by the end of the semester.

Juneau Calendar

Tuesday, April 30

- Staff Development Day Committee: 9-10 a.m., CCR

Friday, May 3

- Academic Curriculum Committee: 9-10 a.m., CCR
- Faculty Senate: 3-5 p.m., CCR

Notification of dial-in change

On May 13, the menu on the UAS dial-up service in Juneau, Ketchikan, and Sitka will disappear. After the Kerberos authentication process, users will see a terminal server prompt (UAS-DU-01>) instead of the menu.

Users can connect to computer systems by typing CONNECT, followed by the name of the system. For example, users connecting to the UAS Academic Minicomputer (ACAD1) should type:

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UAS-DU-01> CONNECT ACAD1
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This change will make the UAS dial-up lines compatible with other University dial-up sites. In addition, the change will make it possible for UAS to support PPP connections and Internet services. After May 13, UAS Computing Services will provide information on how interested users may obtain PPP software and instructions.

Take a new student to dinner

The first day of new student orientation is August 20, and organizers are looking for faculty and staff who will host students for dinner that evening.

About 120 new students are expected on the Juneau campus.

"Ordering Pizza or taking them to McDonalds are just as acceptable as taking them home," according to **Tish Griffin**. "I think this will be an excellent welcoming event and truly link some of our out-of-area new students to the faculty on campus." Those willing to host students should contact Griffin at 465-6529 before leaving campus for the summer. She will let faculty know at Convocation which students have been assigned to them.