

# Soundings

University of Alaska Southeast Faculty and Staff Newsletter

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Ketchikan campus director Fran Feinerman

## Helping Ketchikan mill workers

Campus Director **Fran Feinerman** spent a week at Grays Harbor Community College studying their New Chance program as a potential model for the Ketchikan campus to help mill workers move toward new lines of work when the Ketchikan Pulp Company mill closes next spring.

"Grays Harbor developed New Chance in response to the closure of the ITT Rayonier pulp mill," Feinerman said. The New Chance program helped dislocated workers through a six to eight week program of skills assessment and career counseling. Feinerman said any program on the Ketchikan campus would only augment KPC's efforts. "The mill needs to be a full partner in any planning that is done for mill workers. One of the advantages is that this kind of program allows people to go through the process before they decide what they want to do next."

## Open enrollment help available

During open enrollment this month, a representative from the personnel office will be on campus each Thursday afternoon to collect forms, provide new forms, or to answer questions from employees about the university benefits program.

The hours will be 3-5 p.m., in the School of Business Conference Room (102 Novatney Building) on November 7, November 14, and November 21.

Employees can pouch mail or drop by any benefit plan change forms to the Personnel office at the Bill Ray Center (Room 208) anytime during open enrollment. Open enrollment runs through November 22.

## New degree plan wins faculty approval

The UAS Faculty Council has unanimously approved a proposal for a new bachelor degree program in environmental sciences. The proposal now goes to the UAA and UAF campuses for comment. Final approval must be given by the Board of Regents who will likely consider it in February. If approved, students could begin the new Bachelor of Environmental Sciences degree in the fall of 1997.

Under the curriculum approved by the Faculty Council freshman and sophomores will take a variety of introductory science classes in chemistry, physics, geology, biology and math. Juniors and seniors would take specialized courses in their area of interest such as hydrology, remote sensing, environmental chemistry, ecology, and field studies on the Juneau Icefield.

In addition the degree provides for several upper division electives from anthropology, geography and economics to give the science students a foundation in the social sciences. Seniors would also take a seminar class and an independent research project.

Prior to final Faculty Council approval many faculty and staff worked on the curriculum including **Cathy Connor, Dick Marston, Randy Stahl, Tom Thornton, Art Petersen, Ed Caine, Dennis Russell, Sherry Taber, Jean Linthwaite, and Donna Chantry.**

## Employees pitch in for cancer research

UAS employees on all three campuses participated in Lee National Denim Day, Friday October 25, raising \$825 for breast cancer research. In all, 122 UAS employees contributed to the effort.

The donations were sent to the Susan G. Kohman Breast Cancer Foundation, the nation's largest private funder of research dedicated solely to breast cancer.

## Lind, Kastelic meet with Staff Alliance

In an October 25 meeting with members of the Staff Alliance and other interested employees, Chancellor Marshall Lind gave an update on remodeling efforts on the Juneau campus while Statewide Executive Director of Human Resources Patty Kastelic answered benefits and job evaluation questions.

Lind told the group that remodeling of the Mourant building was progressing well and work on the Chancellor's Office should be completed during November. On the job evaluation project currently underway, Kastelic said the scoring results are scheduled to be released to employees in January. An appeal process is being developed and will be communicated to staff during campus forums in December.

Kastelic said it is important to realize that the job evaluation project concerns classification not compensation and other than bringing employees up to step A of their evaluated grade, salary increases as a result of the project are not anticipated. No decisions about pay adjustments have been made and would be contingent on available funding and the results of a compensation analysis to be conducted in the spring of 1997.

Kastelic also spoke about ongoing efforts by the statewide administration to control costs of the university's \$18.5 million medical benefits program which is projected to grow to \$22.8 million by the year 2000.

One of the options being examined is a flexible benefits program similar to what the State of Alaska has gone to in recent years. A flexible benefits program allows employees options to pick and choose the kind of benefit coverage that best suits their needs. No decisions have been made in this regard and none will be until more study is done on the issues and employee feedback is considered, Kastelic said.

## Program helps minority high school students

A group of 23 minority high school students is taking part in a first-time joint effort between UAS and JDHS to help them excel in college. The Early Scholars Program will assist the students, mostly Alaska Natives, through their four years of high school. "As far as we know it's the first time a program like this has been offered in Alaska," according to UAS's **Pattie Adkisson**.

The idea was brought to Juneau from UCLA by high school counselor **Frank Coenradd**. "So far students have been very enthusiastic," according to Adkisson. The Early Scholars meet once a week with high school faculty mentors and once every other week attend academies on the Juneau campus. The program also involves parents. "That's one of the reasons this program is successful," Adkisson says. "Parents are taking a direct role in their children's education and their future."

Each year an additional 25 freshmen will be added to the four-year program. After completing the Early Scholars Program, students will receive a UAS scholarship.

## Center established

A new Native and Rural Center will soon be opened on the Juneau campus. Chancellor **Marshall Lind** told members of the Wooch. Een Native student organization they could move into the space now used by Student Activities when that office moves to the Mourant Building.

**Pattie Adkisson** coordinates the Center and serves as Wooch. Een advisor. She said, "The Center will serve as gathering spot, an academic support system, and a resource center for students with similar backgrounds and goals." On other subjects, Lind told Wooch. Een students the university needs to improve student retention, add more classroom space, and a build a basic, functional PE/recreation facility.

Wooch. Een is open to all UAS students and is designed to provide a forum for Native students who are adjusting to university life, serve as a voice between students and the administration, and provide a meeting place for students interested in Native issues.

## Faculty News

Four faculty members from the Juneau campus have been included in the 1996 edition of "Who's Who Among America's Teachers." Those selected are **John D'Armand**, **Don Cecil**, **Beth Mathews**, and **Jan Parmelee**. Each of the 120,000 teachers listed in the book were selected by one or more former students who themselves were listed in either "Who's Who Among American High School Students" or "The National Dean's List."

**Sherry Taber**, Library, Computing and Media Services director, has been elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the Western Library Network (WLN). WLN is a non-profit corporation providing information products and services to libraries, government agencies, and others.

**Marjorie Fields** and masters degree student **Lynn Kracke** make a presentation Nov. 20-24 at the National Association for the Education of Young Children in Dallas. They will provide a context for emergent literacy through authentic curriculum integration.

## Ketchikan program approved

The Coast Guard has approved the Ketchikan campus' sea skills program as a one-stop training and testing facility. **Steve Kinney**, coordinator of Maritime Studies, said the approval "is a sign that we're doing a good job of training people in practical sea skills."

Students in the lifeboat and radar observer classes can qualify for Coast Guard licenses when they pass the UAS exams. Ketchikan's radar observer training facility is one of only two in Alaska.

Last spring the campus opened the Brindle Computer Lab which is equipped with radar simulator software to train radar observer licensees.

## Banner Finance down in late November

Due to an upgrade to version 2.1.5, Banner Finance will not be available for data entry from the evening of Nov. 22 through Dec. 1. Purchase requisitions turned in by 5 p.m. Nov. 20 will be processed before the purchasing system is shut down.

## Problems with Purchasing?

Administrative Services has established a new e-mail address for fielding questions, complaints or concerns involving any UAS purchasing issues. JYPURCH is the address for Director **Carol Griffin's** office. Any issues raised will be responded to within two business days. All correspondence will remain confidential.

## Help send students to the Bald Eagle Festival

Nine housing students on the Juneau campus want to attend the educational Alaska Bald Eagle Festival in Haines Nov. 15-17. They need to raise \$120 to help pay for ferry tickets. A donation box is located in the Student Resource Center or contact **Kelli Wood** at 789-5946.

## Alumni meet Monday

The UAS Alumni Board meets Monday, Nov. 11 at 5:15 p.m. in the Goldbelt Inc. conference room at 9097 Glacier Highway. Topics include membership benefits and distribution of the UAS Alumni Raffle tickets. First prize is an Alaska Airline Ticket plus \$1,000 cash. Second prize is a Tracy Arm Tour for two donated by Goldbelt, Inc., and third prize is dinner for two (\$50) donated by Giorgio's at the Pier.

## Juneau Calendar

### Monday, Nov. 11

- UAS Alumni board, 5:15 p.m., Goldbelt conference room

### Thursday and Friday, Nov. 28 & 29

- Egan Library closed for Thanksgiving

### Friday, November 15

- Faculty Council: 1:30-2:45 p.m., Egan Library Conference Room

## Phi Theta Kappa ceremony held

Induction ceremonies of new members for the Alpha Rho Beta chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society of two year colleges, were held on the Ketchikan campus Nov. 3. The society focuses on scholarship, leadership, service and fellowship. **Nancy Siemon** is the faculty advisor. As one fund-raising effort, three PTK volunteers earned \$200 on election day as exit-pollers for CNN.

## Juneau shuttle running

A shuttle began service this week between student housing, the campus and the Anderson Building. The stops are at the housing lodge, the campus flag pole bus stop, and the front door of the Anderson Building. The detailed schedule is being posted.

## Sitka holds Entrepreneurial Institute

The third annual Entrepreneurial Institute for Southeast Alaska is being held Nov. 7 and 8. The Institute is presented by the Sitka campus Office of Continuing Education, the Juneau office of the Small Business Development Center and the Sitka Chamber of Commerce. The purpose is to help entrepreneurs with the tools need to enhance their success. Speakers, including Associate Professor **Jim Goes**, will discuss the Internet, project management, marketing strategies, and retaining customers.

## Juneau residents named to UA Foundation

The College of Fellows of the University of Alaska Foundation has two new Juneau members. **Winthrop Gruening** and **Sally Smith** were elected to the University of Alaska Southeast branch and confirmed by the Foundation's Board of Trustees. Members of the College work with university activities in such areas as fundraising, Foundation activities, advocacy and more. Another Juneau resident, **Gordon Evans**, currently serves on the Foundation's Board of Trustees.

If you have UAS faculty, staff, or student news for soundings, call 465-6530.