

Soundings

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Etiquette Tips: Working with people with mobility impairments.

NOTE: *This is the first in a series of articles on etiquette tips for working with people who have disabilities. These should be read as general suggestions. People with disabilities are individuals and not all individuals will agree with every statement. The series will provide valuable information that staff and faculty can put to use in the workplace and the classroom. Watch future editions of Soundings for tips on working with people with other kinds of disabilities.*

Things to Avoid:

- Don't assume that a person using a wheelchair needs assistance. Ask the person if there is anything special you can provide.
- Do not approach someone who is in a wheelchair and start pushing the chair without first asking for permission to help.
- When communicating with someone in a wheelchair don't stand right next to the chair. Give the person some "breathing space," just as you would for anyone else.
- Avoid leaning on or touching wheelchairs. Treat the chair as a personal item such as a purse or a wallet; do not touch it without permission.
- If you know that someone who uses a wheelchair will be present at a function you are planning, do not remove a chair from the table for him or her. Unless you have assigned seating for everyone, it is inappropriate to tell anyone where to sit.

Things to Do:

- If you are speaking to someone in a wheelchair use a chair whenever possible in order to give the person a comfortable viewing angle of yourself. If no chair is available, step back so the person can see you better. Looking straight up at you is physically uncomfortable.
- If you are planning an event and you know that an individual in a wheelchair will be attending, make sure the facility you are using is accessible.
- There may be certain situations that require a person with a disability to be seated in a particular place. In these situations, explain why. If there are seating options ask the person in the wheelchair about their preferences.
- If there is general seating, communicate with the person who has the disability about your willingness to assist him or her by removing or rearranging things once he or she has decided where he or she would like to sit.



Meetings to focus on compensation policies

Patty Kastelic, executive director of the Statewide Office of Human Resources, will visit the Juneau campus on Tuesday, March 22, and the afternoon of March 23 to discuss proposed changes to the university's compensation policy. Her visit will include an audioconference presentation for employees in Ketchikan and Sitka.

The new compensation policy, which includes the establishment of a new range and step system for classified employees, will be considered by the Board of Regents at its April meeting and may be implemented on July 1.

Kastelic's schedule will be:

Tuesday, March 22, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Brown bag lunch in the School of Business and Public Administration Conference Room. This meeting will provide the opportunity for informal discussions on compensation policies.

Tuesday, March 22, 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Formal presentation by Kastelic in the School of Business and Public Administration Conference Room. A question and answer period will be included.

Tuesday, March 22, 3:45 p.m. - 5 p.m. Kastelic will meet on half-hour intervals with employees at departments and schools or with individual employees.

Wednesday, March 23, 3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Audioconference presentation for Kechikan and Sitka employees. There will be plenty of time for questions and answers.

Anthropology Association to meet in Juneau at the end of March

The Alaska Anthropological Association will hold its annual meeting in Juneau on March 31-April 2 at Centennial Hall.

Sessions will be conducted on the latest research in the areas of archaeology, ethnology, history subsistence, placenames, first Alaskans, field methods and Southeast Alaska topics.

Regular registration is \$25 per day. Student members are charged \$15 for all three days.

For more information call Jon Loring at the Alaska State Museum, 465-2901.

Sitka

Fisheries Conference set for April 15-16

The Sitka Campus Office of Continuing Education will host the 1994 Annual Future of the Fisheries Conference on April 15-16.

The second annual conference, free of charge due to sponsorship by local businesses, will cover four major topics:

- Charter fisheries management: Room to grow or status quo?
- Fisheries in the courtroom and subsistence issues;
- IFQ's (Individual Fishing Quotas);
- Regulations and Safety on the Deck.

The conference will be held at the Sitka Centennial Building. The guest speakers will include Mike Sigler, Jeff Fujioka, Larry Cotter, Gavin Frost, Ed Madura, Doug Cougenhauer, Brian Paust and Jay Skordahl.

Career center eligible for additional funds

The Sitka Campus Career Transition Center, created to provide assistance to former Alaska Pulp Corporation workers, received welcome additional funding with the recent announcement of Trade Act eligibility.

Under federal rules, funds under the Trade Act Readjustment Program are available to workers when plant closure is related to foreign competition. The funds under the Trade Act will increase, by several thousands of dollars per worker, the re-training funds available. Prior to this recent announcement the Career Center was operating entirely with funding from the Job Training Partnership Act.

Fulbright Scholar Competition open for 1995-96

The application period is now open for Fulbright Scholar Awards for 1995-96. The deadline for research and lecturing grants to all world areas is August 1, 1994. Other deadlines are in place for special programs.

Fulbright opportunities are available for university lecturing or advanced research in nearly 140 countries. Scholars in all academic ranks are eligible to apply, from junior faculty to professor emeriti. Applications are also encouraged from professionals outside academe as well as from faculty at all types of institutions.

Awards range from two months to a full academic year and many assignments are flexible to the needs of the grantee.

Anyone who would like to obtain more information or application forms should contact Pat Fitzgerald, associate professor of history and geography, at 465-6436.

Soundings is published by the UAS Office of Public Information. It is distributed to UAS employees each pay period, and to others upon written request. The deadline for submissions is Tuesday noon prior to that Friday's publication. Send submissions to 11120 Glacier Highway, Juneau, Alaska 99801, 465-6530 or 465-8759.

Witness to History speakers to visit Juneau campus

Guest speakers involved in Juneau's Witness to History Project will make appearances on campus in the next two weeks.

Bill Wassmuth, founder and director of the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment, a five-state consortium which monitors hate groups, will give a presentation to Juneau campus faculty on March 25. The meeting is scheduled for 2 p.m. in Hendrickson Building 205.

Wassmuth is a former Catholic priest whose home in Couer d'Alene, Idaho was bombed by white supremacists. His organization has brought together diverse groups, including the Anti-Defamation League, the NAACP, the Urban League and the Japanese-American Citizens League.

In addition, Thomas Blatt, who escaped from a Nazi concentration camp and is now a lecturer and teacher on the Holocaust, will speak at a brown bag lunch on March 31 at noon. It will be held in Hendrickson Building 110.

Calendar

Tuesday, March 22

- *Informal discussion on compensation policy: 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.: Brown bag lunch, School of Business and Public Administration Conference Room. Guest: Patty Kastelic, statewide director of human resources.*
- *Formal presentation on compensation policy: 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.: School of Business and Public Administration Conference Room. Speaker: Patty Kastelic, statewide director of human resources.*

Wednesday, March 23

- *Chancellor's Cabinet meeting: 10 a.m. - noon, CCR*
- *Audioconference for Sitka and Ketchikan employees on compensation policy: 3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Speaker: Patty Kastelic, statewide director of human resources.*
- *Movie: The Doll's House: 3 p.m., Mourant Lounge. Discussion and Refreshments*

Friday, March 25

- *Banff Festival of Mountain Films National Tour: 7 p.m., Centennial hall, \$6 advance, \$8 door. Over 3 hours of the best of the festival.*
- *Bill Wassmuth, founder and director of the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment: 2 p.m., HB 205*

Tuesday, March 29

- *UAS CEO Forum: 2 p.m., BRC 153, Mike Bums, CEO of Key Bank of Alaska presides at a roundtable discussion of Juneau business leaders and UAS students and faculty.*
- *UAS CEO Forum: 5:30 p.m., Schaible House, Mike Bums, CEO of Key Bank of Alaska, meets with UAS students and faculty for informal discussions.*

Thursday, March 31

- *Thomas Blatt, Holocaust Survivor: Noon, HB 110. Sponsored by the School of Education, Liberal Arts and Science.*

Want to dump your plump?

UAS is trying to assess employee interest on all three campuses in participating in "Dump Your Plump," a program that uses a teamwork approach to promote weight loss and exercising 30 minutes a day for at least five days each week.

If enough employees are interested, the program would begin next fall.

For the program to be successful a core group of team leaders and participants would need to be organized. Anyone interested in serving as a team captain or simply participating in the program should contact Sharon Crostich (465-6355 or Email at JFSJC) or Karen Cummins (465-6402 or Email at JNKAC).

If enough interest is expressed the team leaders will meet to talk about the program and how it can be implemented at UAS. Seven or eight people are needed for each team.