

Soundings

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University co-sponsors statewide forum on health care reform

The University of Alaska Southeast and the League of Women Voters Education Fund will on April 6 sponsor a statewide forum on health care reform to be aired on Alaska public television stations and the Rural Alaska Television Network.

The 90-minute forum, entitled "A Healthy Alaska: What Health Care Reform Means To You," will include 45 minutes of panel discussion and 45 minutes of questions and comments from audiences located in public television studios throughout the state. It will begin at 8 p.m. The show is envisioned as a "primer" on the issue that will strip away health care reform jargon and help explain this complicated subject in more understandable terms. Closed-captioning will be available for the hearing-impaired.

The panel will include two legislators who have been involved in the issue, Sen. Jim Duncan of Juneau and Rep. Cynthia Toohey of Anchorage, Commissioner of Administration Nancy Bear Usera, and Dr. Tom Nighswander, Director of Community Health Services for the Alaska Native Medical Center. John Pugh, Dean of Education, Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Alaska Southeast and a former state Commissioner of Health and Social Services, will serve as the moderator. The panel will help explain proposals before the legislature and how they relate to federal health care reform.

The studio audiences in Juneau, Anchorage, Fairbanks and Bethel will consist of members of the public

and University of Alaska students from various campuses. **Seating is limited at all of the studios. Individuals who would like to be part of the audience should plan on arriving at their local studio by no later than 7:30 p.m. There will be no reserved seating.**

"The University is sponsoring this event because good universities should always help serve as a resource of information on matters of public policy," said Marshall Lind, Chancellor of the University of Alaska Southeast. Planning for the forum has been coordinated by personnel at UAS and members of the League of Women Voters. The television program will originate from the KTOO-TV studio in Juneau.

The League of Women Voters Education Fund is co-sponsoring the program as part of its Citizen's Voice for Citizen's Choice program. The Education Fund's partner in the national outreach program is the Kaiser Family Foundation (Note: The Kaiser Family Foundation is an independent health care philanthropy and is not associated with Kaiser Permanente or Kaiser Industries). The league's education fund is a tax-exempt educational arm of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

As part of the forum the League of Women Voters of Alaska will provide voters with written educational materials on the issue that have been prepared by the LWV Education Fund.

Sitka instructor selected for professional forums

Susan Hult, visiting professor of history at UAS Sitka campus, has been notified of her selection for professional forums this summer sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Fulbright-Hays Foundation.

The National Endowment for the Humanities chose Hult to participate in a summer institute entitled "Cultural Tools: Realities and Representations of Technology in American Society." The five-week program, to be held at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, will focus on defining ways that technology is shaping and expressing American cultural values.

Following the Case Western institute, Hult will depart for Jakarta, Indonesia, as a participant in the Fulbright-Hays program entitled "Indonesia: History and Contemporary Issues of a Developing Nation." While in Indonesia, she will travel, participate in homestays and complete an academic program on the nation's history and current challenges as a developing nation.

Hult has been in residence at UAS Sitka throughout the 1993-94 school year. Her permanent faculty appointment is with Houston Community College.

Turek ceramics chosen for exhibits

The sculptural and functional ceramics of Todd Turek, UAS assistant professor of art, have been accepted for two juried exhibitions, one in Pennsylvania and the other in Iowa.

One piece will be on display April 30-May 26 at the Strictly Functional Pottery National Exhibition at the Market House Craft Center in Lancaster, Penn. Another piece won a second-place award and is on exhibition at the Octagon Center for the Arts in Ames, Iowa as part of a "Clay, Paper, Wood, Metal, Glass Exhibition."

Wauters invited to read poetry

UAS English Professor Joey Wauters has been invited to read her poetry at the Northwest Women's Studies Association Conference in Seattle April 14-16. Her trip is sponsored in part by an artists' grant from the Juneau Arts and Humanities Council.

In addition, a Wauters poem was one of 14 selected from a field of 1,800 entries for publication in the *Sow's Ear Poetry Review*, a Tennessee publication. The poem, "Runaway Horse," will be published in the fall issue.

Counseling services now available for university employees, family members

Beginning today, permanent University of Alaska employees can obtain confidential and professional counseling services for themselves or their eligible family members as part of UA's new Employee Assistance Program (EAP).

The university recently contracted with Occupational Health Services, Inc. (OHS) to provide counseling and services to UA employees who need help solving common problems, such as:

- Marital and family problems;
- Alcoholism and drug dependency;
- Financial and credit concerns;
- Legal issues and questions;
- Emotional problems;
- Interpersonal conflicts;
- Organizing life's affairs;
- Stress;
- Child and elder care;
- Federal tax problems; and
- Pre-retirement planning.

Professional counseling is provided by specialists. Licensed marriage, family and child counselors, licensed social workers, and certified financial counselors provide the bulk of services. Locations and times available for counseling services is flexible. Telephone consultations are also available for employee convenience or if a specialist is not available in the immediate community. Child and elder care, legal, financial, pre-retirement, tax and organizing life's affairs consultations are only available by telephone.

Up to three (3) assessment and referral sessions per incident have been paid for by the University of Alaska. There are no co-payments, co-insurance, or deductible payments. In fact, there is no charge at all for the EAP counseling sessions.

Often a few hours with a specialist can help employees correct the problems affecting their personal or work situation. If more extensive help is needed, OHS counselors can refer employees to resources available in the local community. (Charges beyond the EAP are the responsibility of the employee or family member using the services, unless the service is covered by UA's health care plan.)

Occupational Health Services, a nationwide employee assistance firm, has been providing services to private sector, federal, state, and municipal agencies since 1971.

All information is privileged in accordance with the psychotherapist-patient privilege and other applicable laws. Employees who use the counseling services are assured that their problem and its source, treatment, and resolution will always be afforded the maximum confidentiality permitted by law.

For more information about OHS services, or to set up an appointment with a counselor, call OHS at one of the numbers listed below. This program is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Nationwide toll-free:
(800) 227-1060

TDD (for the hearing impaired):
(800) 327-0801

Workshops to orient employees with employee assistance program

On Thursday, April 14, UAS Personnel Services will host several workshops designed to orient Juneau campus employees to the new Employee Assistance Program. A video orientation program will be made available to the Ketchikan and Sitka campuses in the near future.

A representative from Occupational Health Services, Inc. (OHS) will be on campus to meet with employees and supervisors to help them understand the services available to them through the new EAP.

Three general **employee orientation** sessions have been scheduled so that coverage can be arranged and all staff will have the opportunity to attend one session:

9 - 10 a.m.	HB 113
2 - 3 p.m.	HB 110
3 - 4 p.m.	HB 110

Supervisors should plan to attend a special session which will explain the support services available to supervisors through the EAP. The supervisor's session will also include general employee orientation information.

The supervisors' session has been scheduled for:

10 - 12 a.m.	HB 113
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Questions about any of these sessions should be directed to Jan Marie Ferrell in Personnel Services (465-6473 or JNJMF).

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.

Calendar

Saturday, April 2

- *Easter Egg Hunt: Noon, meet in the Mourant Cafeteria. For children 10 and under of UAS staff, faculty and students. Special room available for children under 2.*

Wednesday, April 6

- *Dump Your Plump program preview: Noon, free salad bar luncheon, RSVP with Karen at 465-6402.*

- *A Healthy Alaska: What Health Care Reform Means To You - 8 p.m., KTOO-TV. Sponsored by UAS and the League of Women Voters Education Fund.*

Thursday, April 7

- Regional University Development Council: Noon, CCR.

Friday, April 8

- Juneau Campus Council: 11:30 a.m., CCR.

Thursday, April 14

- Employee Assistance Program orientation sessions:
9 - 10 a.m. HB 113
2 - 3 p.m. HB 110
3 - 4 p.m. HB 110

Supervisors: 10 a.m. - Noon, HB 113

Saturday, April 16

- *Preston Reed Concert and Spaghetti Feed: Spaghetti @ 6:30 p.m.; Concert @ 8 p.m., Chapel by the Lake, Smith Hall. Sponsored by Delta Epsilon Chi.*

Freebies

Three-Ring Binders, all sizes; hanging files, legal and regular; folders, legal. Contact Carolyn at 465-6484.

\$1 million: Call John at 465-6530.