

# Soundings

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## UAS Commencement scheduled for 2 p.m., Sunday at Centennial Hall



**T**he University of Alaska Southeast will award 133 degrees on Sunday, May 15 during the 23rd Annual Juneau Campus Commencement. The ceremony begins at 2 p.m. at Centennial Hall.

This year's ceremony will have a Canadian touch. Eighteen of the degrees awarded Sunday will go to master's of public administration program students from the Yukon Territory, who earned their degrees via a distance-education program offered by the Juneau campus to students in Whitehorse. About 60 people from the Yukon Territory are expected to travel to Juneau this weekend for commencement ceremonies, including Yukon Government Leader John Ostashek and Tony Penikett, former Government Leader who is now opposition leader in the Yukon Parliament.

Honorary doctoral degrees will be awarded to two distinguished Alaskans. Phil Holdsworth, former Commissioner of Natural Resources, will be awarded an Honorary Doctor of

Laws. Esther Shea of Ketchikan will be awarded an Honorary Doctor of Human Letters in Teaching for her work in preserving Tlingit language and culture.

In addition, Joe and Catherine Alter of Juneau will be honored with a Meritorious Service Award for their volunteer contributions to the community and the state.

Families and friends of graduates and award winners, as well as the general public, are encouraged to attend. The Juneau Symphony will perform before the processional and during the ceremony.

David Pritchard, president and chief executive officer of the Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. will serve as commencement speaker. Roya Ansari of Juneau and Patricia Cumming of Whitehorse were selected as student speakers. The ceremony will include awards to eight outstanding graduates.

A reception for graduates and their families will follow the ceremony at the Baranof Hotel.

While Commissioner of Natural Resources during the 1960s, Holdsworth was responsible for including Prudhoe Bay in state land selections. The Prudhoe Bay oilfield turned out to be the richest oil deposit in the nation and resulted in billions of dollars in revenue to Alaska.

Holdsworth served as Commissioner of Natural Resources for the State of Alaska from 1959 to 1967. He served as the Commissioner of Mines for the Territory of Alaska from 1952 to 1959. In those capacities he worked for six territorial and state governors.

Esther Shea began teaching Tlingit language and culture in 1975 for the

Johnson O'Malley program, which is administered by the Ketchikan Indian Corporation. In this capacity she still goes into the Ketchikan Gateway Borough Schools and teaches Tlingit cultural and language units to elementary school students. She has written three children's books in Tlingit and a Tlingit conversation book.

She has taught Tlingit language classes at the UAS Ketchikan campus for 10 years. Her classes are well attended and have contributed to the preservation of the Tongass dialect.

Joe and Catherine Alter have been actively involved in civic affairs and volunteer activities since they first arrived in Alaska in 1944.

She has diligently served the United Methodist Women at the local, state and national levels, local PTAs, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, the March of Dimes, the Pioneers of Alaska and the American Association of Retired Persons.

Joe Alter worked for more than 35 years as a civil engineer in the fields of public health, environmental conservation and pollution control. His professional involvement has included charter memberships and past presidencies in the Alaska Public Health Association, the Alaska Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He currently serves as chairman of the Alaska Pioneers Home Advisory Board, as an ex-officio member of the Older Alaskans Commission and as president of Senior Citizen Support Services, Inc., a nonprofit group that worked successfully to obtain congregate housing for Juneau senior citizens.

## Explorations awards announced

UAS students Cori Cashen and Dianne Anderson captured two of three first prizes in the *Explorations 94* contest for prose, poetry and art.

The contest drew about 350 submissions from throughout Alaska and the United States. Selections from the contest will be printed in the *Explorations 94* magazine, which is scheduled for publication later this month.

Cashen won first place in the Prose division for her entry entitled "Obituaries Are For Dead People." She won \$500. Anderson won first place and \$100 in cash in the Art division for "Heron Magic." First place in the poetry division and \$500 went to Dan Branch of Ketchikan for a submission entitled "Thanks, Lou."

Selections for the magazine were made via a "blind" competition. The Editorial Board consisted of novelist and short-story writer James B. Hall, who served as this year's judge for the contest, Adjunct Professor David Maat, former UAS Professor Ron Silva and UAS English Professor Art Petersen, editor of the magazine.

The complete selections list for the contest is:

### POETRY

- 1st Place: "Thanks, Lou," by Dan Branch, Ketchikan.  
2nd Place: "The Ice Man's Mate," by Winston F. Bolton, Halifax, Mass.,  
3rd Place: "Gone Wild," by Mary Lous Spartz, UAS Student, Juneau.  
"Brandon," S.J. Pleus, Ketchikan.  
"Die Luftwaffe," David Swartz, Westwood, N.J.  
"Dream Flame of the Husk," Brett Dillingham, UAS adjunct faculty, Juneau.  
"Eloquence of Tears," Bob Mayberry, UAS assistant professor of English, Sitka.  
"Last Night at the Beach House," Allison deFreese, Austin, Texas.  
"Listen to the Moonlight," Mike Hoyle, Juneau.  
"Murderer's Tracks," Sheryl Clough, Fairbanks.  
"One Afternoon," W.S. Merk, Juneau.  
"The Power of Poetry," Dan Jones, professor of English, Baltimore, Md.  
"They Ought To Do Something About Them," Liz Dodd, UAS student, Juneau.  
"Traveller," Mike J. Edwards, Alameda, Ca.  
"When His Best Friend Died," Tom Linklater, Juneau.  
"Words," Jean Findley, UAS student, Juneau.

### PROSE

- 1st Place: "Obituaries Are For Dead People," by Cori J. Cashen, UAS student, Juneau.  
2nd Place: "The Water God," by Kirk Colvin, UAS student, Juneau.  
"A Marriage," Steve Chamberlain, Bethel, Ak.  
"Drought," Jim Dubbs, UAS student, Juneau.  
"Every Dog Has His Day," Carol Schirmer, former UAS student, Juneau.

### ART

- 1st Place: "Heron Magic," by Dianne Anderson, UAS student, Juneau.  
2nd Place: "Raven," by Karen Grimm, UAS student, Juneau.  
3rd Place: "Whales," by Karen Beason, UAS student, Juneau.  
Honorable Mention: "Portrait," Rebecca Coatney, UAS student, Juneau.

## UAS students dominate freshman writing contest

UAS students captured six of nine prizes in the 1994 Archie Shields Freshman Writing Contest, sponsored by the University of Alaska Fairbanks and judged by the UAF English Department Composition Committee.

Lori Earls, Tressa Matteo, Natalie Mourant and Noah Austin captured second place, fourth place, sixth place and an honorable mention, respectively. All are students of Juneau campus instructor Karleen Grummett.

Chris Church of UAS Juneau, a student of Judith Andree, won the fifth place award. Greg Peterson of UAS Ketchikan, a student of Chris HacsKaylo, won an Honorable Mention.

There were 58 entries in the contest.

## Board of Regents meet June 2-3

The University of Alaska Board of Regents is scheduled to hold a regular meeting of the board and its committees on Thursday and Friday, June 2-3, at the Wood Center Ballroom on the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus. The meetings will begin at about 8:30 a.m. each day.

The meetings are open to the public and the agenda will be available for public inspection at all campus libraries about five days prior to the meeting.

Topics for discussion and possible action include:

- Election of board officers;
- Review of academic and student affairs policies;
- Tuition and student fees policy;
- Faculty workloads;
- University of Alaska Learning Cooperative;
- Adoption of compensation, personnel and finance policies and Board of Regents bylaws;
- Reports on grade inflation; and
- Resource Alternatives Task Force.

*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

### Friday, May 13

- Reception for Yukon MPA Graduates: 5 p.m., Mourant Cafeteria.

### Sunday, May 15

- Juneau Campus Commencement: 2 p.m., Centennial Hall. Reception following at the Baranof Hotel.

### Wednesday, May 18

- JDHS Recognition Day: 7 p.m. Egan Library

### Thursday, May 19

- Regional Development Council: Noon, CCR

### Friday, May 20

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

## Olson awarded Emeritus status

UAS Anthropology Professor Wally Olson, who retired last December, has been granted emeritus status by the University of Alaska and will be honored Sunday during commencement ceremonies.

Professor Olson's teaching career started in 1958 at a North Dakota High School. He first came to the University of Alaska in 1966 to work as a VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) Volunteer in Fairbanks. His first university teaching experience was at the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 1968-69, where evidence surfaced early that he was an asset to the campus. He received the "Outstanding Faculty Member" award from the Associated Students of UAF.

He joined the faculty in Juneau in 1971 and was eventually promoted to the rank of professor of anthropology. He has conducted extensive research on Alaska Native people and is highly regarded in Southeast Alaska as the foremost scholar on the history and cultural heritage of the Tlingit and Aleut.

He is well known in Southeast communities for his active participation in writings, recording and other activities to preserve and present Native heritage and history.

His published works include numerous articles and two books: "The Tlingit: An introduction to their culture and history." and "The Alaska Travel Journal of Archibald Menzies," the naturalist and ship's surgeon on Vancouver's expeditions.