

Soundings

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Evans, Wadlow elected to accrediting commission

Jordan Evans of Juneau and UAF Chancellor Joan Wadlow have been elected to the Commission on Colleges of the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges.

The 23-member commission is a regional body representing seven states: Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Montana, Utah and Wyoming. It is charged with setting standards by which institutions in the region are accredited.

Maintaining an Alaska presence on the commission is considered vital to the interests of the state's institutions.

Evans will serve as a "public member" of the commission. Wadlow will represent institutions granting a baccalaureate degree or higher. Wadlow's background includes previous service on accrediting boards.

Evans just completed an eight-year term on the University of Alaska Board of Regents and has served in a number of other roles serving higher education in Alaska

Koester spreading the word about coping with speech anxieties

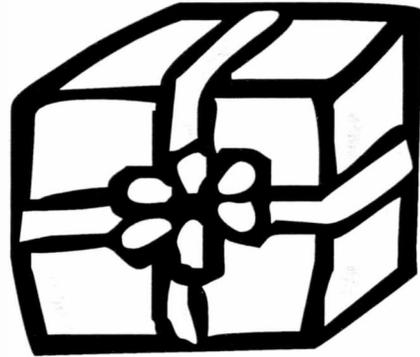
Dr. Susan Koester, professor of speech communication, has been asked to repeat next year her participation in a national workshop for instructors on how to help students cope with speech anxiety.

The workshop teaches instructors how to use systematic desensitization (a combination of relaxation and the use of a hierarchy of anxiety-provoking situations developed by the student), visualization, cognitive restructuring (a method to distinguish between reasonable and unreasonable thinking), and rhetoritherapy or skills training in their communications classes.

"UAS is fortunate to have a Communication Anxiety Reduction program. Most institutions our size do not have the resources to meet the needs of this at-risk student population," Koester said.

Research indicates that about 20 percent of college students suffer from severe communication apprehension, which includes stage fright, fear of communicating in small-group situations and fear of interpersonal relationships.

Instructors who know of students or advisees who could benefit from individualized attention to this problem can contact Dr. Koester for a preliminary screening or call her for information on a one-credit, pass-fail course, SPC 110: Communicating With Confidence. UAS schedules the class each semester.



It's time: Start giving!

The large, decorated boxes placed throughout the Juneau campus were the first hint. This is the second: Give a little to help the poor.

The UAS Classified Employees Association is conducting its annual donation drive in hopes of providing, food, clothing and toys to Juneau residents who are facing a bleak holiday season.

They are located in the Chancellor's Office, Records and Registration (in the hall), Education, Liberal Arts and Science (in the hall), the Egan Library and the Bill Ray Center.

The association encourages UAS employees to donate both new and used items. Donations for pets are also encouraged. The items will be collected on December 17 and will be delivered to the Glory Hole shortly before December 25.

UAS holiday concert Monday night

The University Singers and the University Concert Band, both under the direction of Associate Professor Mel Flood, will present a concert on Monday, Dec. 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the Chapel by the Lake.

There is no admission charge.

Wednesday, December 15

- *UAS Holiday Party: 3-5 p.m., Mourant Cafeteria. Hosted by Chancellor Lind.*

New governance structure

The new governance structure is up and running, providing a tremendous opportunity for staff governance leaders from UAA, UAF, UAS and Statewide Programs and Services to work together on a number of issues of importance to University of Alaska Staff employees. The leaders comprise the University of Alaska Staff Alliance.

According to Karen Cummins, President of the UAS Classified Employees' Association, the new structure allows governance leaders to identify topics of concern and importance to Classified and APT employees. During their meetings, leaders across the system discuss issues, take them back to their local governance groups for discussion and report back at Staff Alliance meetings. This provides an opportunity for a cooperative process and a response to the president of the University of Alaska and the Board of Regents which truly reflects staff positions and actions.

In the old governance structure, faculty, staff and students all met to consider every issue which came before the General Assembly and its Executive Committee. This made for a long process and recently slowed down action on a variety of issues.

Under the new structure, communication between staff governance groups, communication within each campus' Classified governance groups, with each Chancellor, the

President of the University and the Board of Regents is enhanced. Communication should provide a better working relationship at local campuses as well.

Anyone wishing to attend the Staff Alliance meetings is welcome. The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 14, from 2-4 p.m. The location will be announced later. The primary issue on the agenda is compensation for staff, an issue which comes before the Board of Regents for approval at their February meeting in Juneau.

Donna Chantry, President of the General Assembly, said that at last week's Board of Regents' meeting in Kenai, the Regents stressed the importance of governance and other employee participation in the development of the salary scale and related compensation matters.

"They want to make their decision with our input, but if none is received prior to the early February deadline, they will have to make the decision with governance and other employee input."

Patty Kastelic, Executive Director of the Statewide Office of Human Resources, will be on campus in late January or early February to speak with employees about the salary scale and related compensation matters. The meeting with Kastelic will be audioconferenced to the Ketchikan and Sitka campuses.

Have you signed the FRANK petition?

Anyone interested in signing a petition that would require a statewide vote on costs associated with the capital move can do so conveniently by contacting Greg Wagner

at 465-6239. Wagner is circulating the petition. It is sponsored by FRANK, or Frustrated Responsible Alaskans Needing Knowledge.

Wauters wins another poetry award

Dr. Joey Wauters, associate professor of English, has won another national poetry award.

Wauters was among 100 poets honored in the 1993 Writer's Digest Writing Competition. The honors were announced in the magazine's October issue.

Wauters's poem, "Advice to Her Daughter from a Logging Camp Cook," ranked 33rd out of 1,998 entries. It was inspired by stories she heard from students who lived in logging camps in Southeast Alaska.

Earlier this year Wauters won awards in the Pacific Northeast Writer's Literary Contest and in a contest sponsored by the *Hudson Valley Echoes*, a New York literary journal.

Wauters attributes much of her recent success to local mentor Sheila Nickerson, former poet laureate of Alaska.

"Until I worked with Sheila, I considered myself only a fiction writer," Wauters said. Wauters is also a former winner in the *Redbook* Short Story Contest and other fiction awards.

Raffle offers sunny cruise for 2

Sunny days and warm breezes on a Caribbean cruise for two are up for grabs in a raffle sponsored by the UAS Alumni Association. Tickets, \$10 each, are on sale at the Student Resource Center.

The grand prize also includes airfare for two anywhere in the United States served by Alaska Airlines. The cruise is on either the *Westerdam* or the *Nieuw Amsterdam*. (The cruise must be booked by April, 1994 and it departs from Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.)

Proceeds will go to the UAS Scholarship Fund. The drawing will be held December 15 at the Chancellor's holiday reception in the Mourant Cafeteria. The winner need not be present to win.

The prizes were donated by Westmark Hotels and Alaska Airlines.

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.