

# SOUNDINGS



Faculty & Staff Newsletter

University of Alaska  
Southeast

Vol. 4, No. 15

April 19, 1991

## Two UAS students win freshman composition contest honors

No less than seven drafts. That's how many rewrites it took UAS student Elena Topacia before her entry was ready for the 1991 Archie Shiels Freshman Writing Contest. But it was worth it because that seventh draft was a winner. Her entry, "English Language: The American Way?" took first place in the university-wide competition established in 1935 by Archie Shiels to encourage and reward excellence in freshman composition. Gus Marx's entry "One Horn Too Many," an account of a personal experience, garnered him second runner-up in the competition.

Both are freshman composition students of Director of Composition and Associate Professor of English Joey Wauters at the University of Alaska Southeast's Juneau campus. In the past six years, Wauter's students have won first place in the state-wide competition four times. This year there were 25 entries for judges to review.

Topacia said her paper was, "written to persuade people that we don't need legislation to create a national language." She also said writing the paper helped her to define her own feelings on the subject. As an Alaska Native, Topacia is especially sensitive to the possible affects an "English-only" law would have on minority groups. Much of her research showed that "English-only" legislative mandates could be used to discriminate against minorities, immigrants and others whose native tongue is not English.

Granddaughter of Nora Dauenhauer, a well known author, Topacia grew up in Juneau and attended Juneau schools. She is a freshman at UAS and was recently accepted to the University of Washington as an arts and sciences premajor, an endeavor toward which her \$100 first-place prize will go.

continued on back

## CLASSIFIED ASSOCIATION NEWS



The UAS Classified Association members are very pleased with the results of their efforts on behalf of the university budget. The letters written, the public opinion messages sent, and the computer mail messages all carried a clear message to our legislators. Testimony at budget hearings by members on the Juneau, Sitka and Ketchikan campuses was especially powerful. Thursday, April 18, and Friday April 19, classified members took part in a "THANK YOU!" visit to the Southeast legislators. The members also briefly discussed the university capital budget with the legislators.

May 17, is the date of the next classified meeting which will originate in Ketchikan. This is only the second time that a classified meeting has originated from other than the Juneau campus. It offers an opportunity to meet one another and to involve everyone directly in the activities of the association. Formal nominations for new officers will take place at the May 17, meeting.

Some classified employees will be participating in the April 27, clean up day. The association has been looking for a project to participate in that would be of service to the community and that would be a source of positive recognition for the association and the university.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Resource development agent joins Sitka district Cooperative Extension Service

Robert F. Gorman has been appointed District Resource Development Agent for the Sitka District of the University of Alaska Cooperative Extension Service (CES). Gorman assumed his duties in March and will be located at the Sitka CES office near the UAS Sitka campus. He will be involved with home and subsistence horticulture and land resource activities throughout the Sitka district. He can be reached at 747-6065.

### Students elect new officers

Congratulations to UAUAS-J Spring elections winners: Joel Hinz, President; Ron Arvin, Vice President; Paul Johnson, Treasurer; and Debbie Krontz, Legislative Affairs Coordinator. The new officers will begin their duties on July 1, 1991.

## CONGRATULATIONS GRADS



## Students continued from front

"One Horn Too Many," Gus Marx's entry that earned him second runner-up in the competition, humorously relates an experience he had two summers ago dehorning a bull. Wauters said it is a wry portrayal of what she terms a 'rite of passage,' "the kind of thing a 16-year old might typically get himself into." Marx said he didn't really expect to win but was pleased that he had. He said he worked on about eight to ten drafts before his entry was ready, a process that Wauters says is important to her students' winning track record with the contest.

Marx is a freshman working on an associate of arts degree and plans to continue toward a bachelor's degree at UAS. Originally from Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, he has lived in Juneau about five years.



This column from Personnel Services will be a regular feature in each issue of Soundings. The purpose is to keep the University of Alaska Southeast employees informed about your excellent staff benefits program, and also to pass along any other personnel related changes, reminders, updates, etc.

Suggestions for topics to be included in future columns are welcome and should be submitted to Irene DeLand at JNIMD or x473. You may contact Personnel Services directly any time you have a question about employee benefits.

## Aetna Reps in Juneau May 9

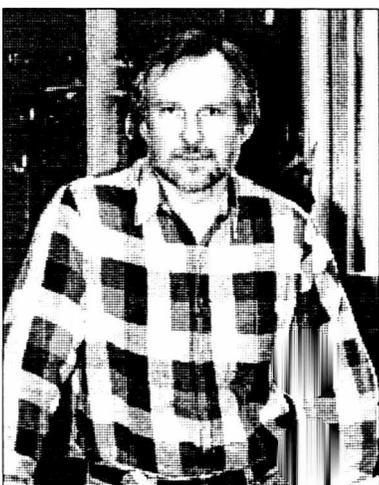
On Thursday, May 9, representatives from Aetna and Statewide Human Resources will be on campus from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Please contact Personnel to set up an appointment to meet with a representative by April 26. We encourage all employees that have had past or present problems with health insurance claims, and those employees with health coverage questions to set up an appointment with a representative.

## Call the following for information on:

Positions that are currently open - Theresa Windred x536. Payroll - Yvonne Wolever x479. Benefits - Irene DeLand x473.

## The next desk over...

For 13 years, Ray Watkins has been a maintenance worker for UAS Physical Plant. A lot of Ray's time is spent doing snow removal and repairing the unavoidable damage done by heavy equipment during snow removal. He is also involved with campus mail, groundwork and fire safety inspections. For almost 10 of the 13 years Ray has been an employee of UAS, he has been carving wood. This art form is not something he brought with him from Buffalo, New York, but something he was fascinated by and has studied and practiced here in Southeast. Ray has participated in the Northwest Coast Summer Art Program almost every year and has also taken classes in Sitka and the Totem Heritage Center in Ketchikan. His traditional Native carvings appeal mostly to tourists he says, but he also does commissioned work. Two pieces of Ray's commissioned carvings were chosen to be on display at the Egan Library as part of the Art in Public Places program.



Ray Watkins

## UAS art students exhibit their work at Egan Library

Beginning this Friday, April 19, art work by students from the University of Alaska Southeast Juneau campus will be on display in the Egan Library. The exhibit runs through May 2, and the Juneau community is invited to stop by. The exhibit includes prints, paintings, ceramics, drawings, and sculpture created by students enrolled in spring semester's art classes at UAS. Call UAS at 789-4472 for more info.

## CALENDAR

### April

- 23 Open Registration begins for Fall 1991 Semester
- 23 International Activities and Exchanges Committee 3:30 - 4:30 p.m., Egan Library
- 24 Chancellor's Cabinet 8:30-5:00 p.m., Chancellor's Conf. Room
- 26 Faculty Senate, 2-4 p.m., Chancellor's Conf. Room

### May

- 3 Commencement - Juneau campus 7:30 p.m., Centennial Hall
- 7 Summer Session I begins
- 10 Commencement - Ketchikan campus
- 17 Commencement - Sitka campus 7:15 p.m., Mt. Edgecumbe H.S. Auditorium

### SOUNDINGS

is published by the University of Alaska Southeast's 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 Room 108, Mourant Building, University of Alaska Southeast, 11120 Glacier Highway, Juneau, Alaska 99801, 789-4530. Editor: Barb Mecum

"Once is not enough"...Soundings is copied onto white paper stock so you may recycle it.