

# SOUNDINGS

Faculty & Staff Newsletter



University of Alaska  
Southeast

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## Commencement nears

Impossible as it may seem, another year at UAS is nearly over. Commencement will be held on May 8 at Centennial Hall. This year, two of Alaska's most distinguished citizens will receive honorary degrees at the commencement ceremony.

*Judge Thomas Stewart*

Judge Stewart, who will also deliver this year's commencement address, has a long record of service to the state. A World War II veteran, he was a member of the Territorial Legislature and played a key role in Alaska's drive for statehood. He was elected to the first Alaska State Senate in 1959 and served as Judge of the Superior Court from 1966 until 1981. Judge Stewart continues to donate his time and expertise to many local groups, including UAS.

*Major Carl Heinmiller*

Major Heinmiller distinguished himself in World War II leading companies of commandoes in the Pacific Theatre. Following the war, he came to Southeast Alaska and founded the Port Chilkoot Company near Haines, later serving as the community's mayor, police chief and fire chief. But Major Heinmiller is best known for his dedication to preserving and promoting Alaska native art. He has worked for the Alaska Indian Arts and Crafts Board and also helped develop Alaska Youth, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to the revival of Tlingit art, dance and culture.

Ruth Danner will be this year's student speaker. Wally Olson will be the Grand Marshal. Reverend Lewis Rooker of the Northern Light United Church will deliver the invocation and benediction.

## Petersen honored with humanities post

English professor Art Petersen recently began a three-year membership on the Alaska Humanities Forum, a non-profit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Petersen, who was nominated for the post by Wally Olson, is one of two representatives from Southeast on the 13-member state committee. The group's primary function is to consider humanities-related project proposals and allocate funds for deserving projects.

"To be involved with the humanities is stimulating and exciting," says Petersen. "You come away with a sense of well-being and mission."

The Alaska Humanities Forum will meet in June to discuss new proposals which will come in until the May 15 deadline.

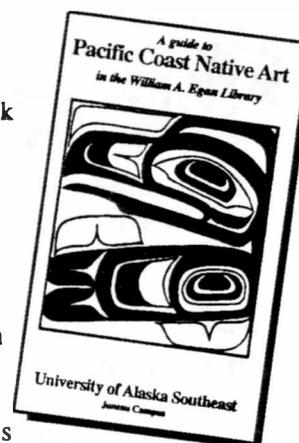
"Anyone in Southeast or the state, not just scholars, will find us eager to respond to questions about project proposals," says Petersen.

## News Briefs

### Another reason to visit the library

Last week we told you about the scale model of the new classroom wing currently on display in the library.

The library's feature attraction this week is a new brochure which describes in detail the various pieces of Northwest Coast art on display in the library. The brochure was printed in response to the large number of questions about the artwork which are regularly directed at the library staff. Summer will bring lots of tourists with lots of questions into the library, but you don't have to be a tourist to be interested in our regional art. Also, make sure to note the artwork on the cover of the brochure. It was done exclusively for the brochure by Ray Watkins of the physical plant.



### Alumni banquet

It will be Italian Night at the Baranof Westmark Hotel for the annual UAS Alumni Banquet and Auction on Saturday, May 2. The event is open to alumni, friends, faculty and staff of UAS and all are invited to raise funds for alumni scholarships. All are reminded to bring "white elephant" items for the auction—Lady Jane Mulready is this year's auctioneer. The social hour begins at 6:30 p.m. in

continued on back

## CURRICULUM

*Writing across the*

Don't miss this week's issue of the *Whalesong*; Don Cecil has written an editorial that addresses the importance of ALL of us making a commitment to WAC and the assessment program. Students will not receive the quality of education they deserve unless they are challenged to achieve a high level of competency in the basic skills areas—reading, writing, critical thinking, and computation. The English department plans to offer workshops at convocation next fall in order to help faculty develop the criteria to effectively and successfully approach the use of writing and critical thinking in their courses.

## Woosh Du Naakw Potlatch

Woosh Du Naakw is the name of the new UAS Native Student Club. To recognize the new campus organization, club members are sponsoring a potlatch on May 7 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Auke Rec. #2. All students, staff and faculty are invited to come say goodbye to the 1992 spring term and welcome summer and the new club. Bring a side dish and a hearty appetite.

## Wagner appreciated in Haines

Greg Wagner, UAS coordinator of admissions and placement, has been presented with a certificate of appreciation from the Haines Borough School District. The certificate expresses thanks for Wagner's continued volunteer service. Wagner has helped put together college planning workshops for parents and students in Haines, and also works closely with high school counselors there.

"We're also at the state fair every year with a university booth," says Wagner about his work in Haines.

Thanks to the efforts of people like Wagner, UAS truly distinguishes itself as SOUTHEAST'S university.

## Pass the word...

The application deadline for continuing student scholarships is May 15. Continuing students interested in receiving a scholarship for the 1992-93 academic year must submit an application to the Financial Aid Office by May 15. Contact Financial Aid for more information, 789-4557.

**Alumni continued from front** the Treadwell Room with the dinner, meeting and auction to follow. Guests have a choice of chicken parmesan or seafood lasagna complete with antipasto salad and all the trimmings for \$16.95, plus tax and gratuity. Special items on the auction block this year include an array of some 20 precious gemstones. Jerry Burnett, alumni president, invites everyone to an evening of fun and good times—to benefit the scholarship fund. Call 789-4472 to reserve a space.

## Notes From Personnel



*The following is the first of a two-part series on COBRA. Parts of COBRA to be covered in the next issue include: dependent child reaching the limiting age of group policy, divorce, and when coverage ends.*

### COBRA- How does it apply to the active UAS employee?

COBRA, the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act, mandates that the university offer continuation group health care coverage to plan participants and certain family members for 18, 29 or 36 months, after coverage has ended. Coverage may end for a number of different reasons, such as voluntary or involuntary termination of employment, reduction of hours worked, the death of the employee, dependent child reaching limiting age, or divorce. The continuation of coverage is offered at the university rate plus a 2 percent administrative cost.

#### **Terminations**

Terminating employees will remain covered under the university health insurance through the end of the month of their termination, at no cost. During an exit interview with the personnel office, the terminating employee will receive the continuation information. The employee has 60 days from the loss of coverage to elect to continue coverage. After the election, the employee has 45 days to make the first payment. The employee is not covered under the plan until the first payment is received.

#### **Reduction of Hours Worked**

If an employee's hours go below 20 hours per week, health insurance will be discontinued. The employer has 14 days to notify the employee of their right to continue health coverage. The employee has 60 days from the loss of coverage to elect to continue the coverage. The employee must make their first payment within 45 days of the election to continue. Coverage may continue for 18 months.

#### **Death of the Employee**

In the event of an employee death, the university will pay for 12 months of health coverage for the surviving spouse and eligible dependents. After the 12-month period the family may continue the coverage for an additional 24 months by making monthly payments. The total coverage available is 36 months.

#### **Summary**

The above are COBRA highlights. For each specific case there may be more details and explanations. You are encouraged to contact Kay Bosshardt, ext. 507, or Irene DeLand, ext. 473, with questions.

## Calendar

### May

- 1** Academic Curriculum Committee  
2-4 p.m., chanc. conf. rm.
- 2** Alumni Banquet and Auction  
6:30 p.m., Baranof Hotel
- 4** Education Faculty Meeting  
9 a.m. - noon, HA 103
- 6** Chancellor's Cabinet  
9-11 a.m., chanc. conf. rm.
- 8** SBPA Faculty Meeting  
noon, Novatney conf. rm.
- 8** Faculty Senate  
1-3 p.m., chanc. conf. rm.
- 8** Commencement  
7 p.m., Centennial Hall

### SOUNDINGS

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