

# SOUNDINGS

Faculty & Staff Newsletter



University of Alaska  
Southeast

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## Education program gets funding

UAS has been awarded a \$405,000 grant from the private Meyer Memorial Trust of Portland, Ore., to develop and implement a program designed to boost student performance at six of the lowest achieving schools in Alaska, all of them in remote, rural locations. The funds come out of the Meyer Memorial Trust's children-at-risk program, a program which aids five Northwest states. The grant competition was among groups working to improve conditions for high-risk student populations.

"This is simply a great project," said Chancellor Marshall L. Lind. "The university has an opportunity to make a dramatic difference in education in rural Alaska."

Kelly Tonsmeire, of UAS and the State of Alaska Department of Education, was instrumental in obtaining the grant for the university, according to Dean of Career and Continuing Education Lee Paavola. Tonsmeire has directed a number of national pilot/demonstration projects in education. The three-year program is a collaborative effort spearheaded by UAS and includes the Alaska Staff Development Network, the Northwest Regional Education Laboratory of Portland, Southwest Region Schools and the Yupiit School District.

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## Southeast literati crowned

"Explorations '92," the literary magazine of UAS, has been published and copies are available in the UAS bookstore. The 54-page magazine features poetry and fiction from 27 writers, most of them from Alaska.

Included in the magazine are poetry judge Charles Bukowski's "Judge's Log" and notes on the winning entries. Bukowski, often noted for his screenplay of the movie "Barfly," has published more than 40 books of poetry and prose, most of which are translated in over a dozen languages.

Dan Branch of Ketchikan won the \$100 '92 Award for Poetry with "Another Curio Shop," a poem which offers a critical, heartfelt examination of Southeast Alaska's tourism industry.

"The winning poem, 'Another Curio Shop,' I believe deserves publication in the finest journals," wrote Bukowski in his notes. "The flavor, the ease, the naturalness of the language is pretty damned enthralling. This is a talent, this is something extra."

The \$100 '92 Award for Fiction went to Jolie Sasseville, a former UAS student, for "Game Point," a story about a young boy out on a date with his divorced mother and her boyfriend.

An original painting, "Ursa Major," by Bruce Gifford, director of student services, is featured on this year's cover.

"Explorations," entering its 13th year of continuous publication, is published with support of the School of Education, Liberal Arts and Sciences and the United Students of UAS Juneau campus. Over 750 submissions were received for this year's issue. All entries were judged on a blind juried basis. "Explorations '93" will be accepting submissions between December 1, 1992 and March 21, 1993, according to editor Art Petersen, UAS professor of English.



*After hours of deliberation,  
hundreds of writers submitted  
their work to "Explorations '92."*

## News Briefs

### From the American Association of State Colleges and Universities

- Wisconsin Gov. Tommy G. Thompson recently vetoed legislation that would guarantee students freedom of expression in school newspapers. Thompson said that allowable content of school newspapers, which have a strong classroom component, should be determined locally.

- Despite private contributions to colleges and universities increasing \$400 million from 1990 to 1991 (\$9.8 billion to \$10.2 billion), they fell 1 percent when adjusted to the Consumer Price Index, a recent Council for Aid to Education report notes.

- Six of the top 10 institutions conferring baccalaureate degrees on native American students were AASCU institutions with Southeastern Oklahoma State University leading the nation with 120.

- "It would send the wrong message about priorities of the university," Middle Tennessee State University President James E. Walker said after deciding to cancel his inauguration ceremony. Inauguration funds will be used for various faculty and student purposes "that are more important priorities to me," Walker said.

- The University of Nevada, Las Vegas' physics department recently received \$1 million from an anonymous donor.

## Renovations send students packing

From Tish Griffin, assistant director of student services, comes this update on the summer housing situation:

As of June 1, the students staying this summer at student housing reluctantly complied with a major renovation schedule that included relocation from their apartments for a minimum of three weeks. The contractors are working a bit ahead of schedule, completing important seismic structural reinforcements, full renovations of the shower and tub enclosures, and painting all walls.

For two weeks over the summer some single students will relocate to Aldersheim Lodge at 33 mile. UAS is providing transportation and assisting with meals during this relocation period. We are hoping that students will view this as a wilderness vacation opportunity and have a positive attitude about the interruption in their daily lives.

Many students, including all of our family residents, were relocated to another apartment in student housing and provided interim phone service and movers to assist in the relocation. Students were informed in the spring as to the conditions of the summer contract and they signed it fully aware of the renovations and relocation requirements. This is just the start of many renovations needed at housing, but we'll soon be done with the ones that impact the students' immediate living arrangements. The renovation work is being funded by a lawsuit settlement with the Morrison Knudsen Construction Co., the firm responsible for the initial construction of student housing in 1985.



*Don't forget (like you were going to anyway): UAS will be closed July 2 and 3 in honor of fireworks, parades, picnics, softball games and general Independence Day relaxation.*

## Relax. Deep breath. Warm and fuzzy thoughts.

A nationally touring workshop titled "Stress Reduction Workshop For Women" will be offered at Centennial Hall in Juneau on July 27. The cost is \$49 per person.

Among other topics, workshop participants will learn how to react to crises with less anxiety, how to avoid taking stress out on loved ones, how to heal emotional wounds from childhood and how to pull out of a bad mood in 15 minutes. Workshop leader Jacquelyn Ferguson has lead seminars for companies such as Coca-Cola and IBM.

For more information or to reserve a space call 800-334-6780.

## Grant will aid rural students continued from front

"Everything we do with this program will be based on trying to improve academic achievement of the students," said Tonsmeire. "The program will address three major areas. We will work at the district level to improve strategic processes in education. We will work on intensive site specific school improvement processes. And we will put a major focus on training community members to successfully respond to the needs of their at-risk students."

The schools selected for the program are located in Akiak, Akiachak, Manokotak, New Stuyahok, Togiak and Tuluksak. The elementary, middle and high schools involved represent two of the academically lowest achieving districts in Alaska.

"There are very tough socio-economic problems in many of our schools in rural and extremely remote settings," said Tonsmeire. "This is the biggest K-12 educational issue in the state. I think after years of research, we have the tools to tackle this."

Gloria Gostnell, Meyer Memorial Trust Fund program officer, is also optimistic.

"There is a genuine opportunity with this program to improve rural education in Alaska and to provide a model for other rural school districts throughout the country," said Gostnell. "The program has been well thought out. It looks like a good bet to us."

## Note from Personnel

Effective July 1, 1992, claims will no longer be processed for dependents who are not reported with the university personnel office. If you need to update your dependent information please pick up a form from the personnel office and return it right away.

## And on rainy days...

Visitors to the Alaska State Museum this summer will see many facets of Alaska's fascinating past. The major summer exhibit at the downtown museum is titled "Alaska's Attic: Remarkable and Seldom-seen Objects from the Alaska State Museum." The show is now on exhibit through September 26.

The exhibit is an opportunity for the museum to display a vast collection of unusual and one-of-a-kind artifacts. Some of the 240 objects displayed are: an unusual Haida carving of a two-headed boy; wooden shoes worn by arctic explorer Roald Amundsen; a life preserver from the ill-fated passenger ship "Princess Sophia," which sank in Southeast Alaska with all hands losing their lives; and a number of Alaskan fossils.

A second summer exhibit will focus on Alaska of the 1950s, '60s and '70s, from car lots to sled dogs. "Ward Wells: Alaska Photographer," will be at the museum through October 10.

## Calendar

### July

- 2, 3** School closed for Independence Day Holiday
- 4** Independence Day
- 6** First day of classes, *Summer Session II*

### SOUNDINGS

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