

Soundings



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First director of computing services brought UAS into the modern world

UAS mourns the loss of Dick Meeker, longtime director of computing services, who died on Oct. 11 in Seattle. Meeker served at UAS from 1978 until his retirement in 1991.

"Dick Meeker was our first director of computing services and it was his leadership, dedication and expertise that brought this campus into the 20th century world of computers," said Dean of Academic Affairs and Graduate Studies **Robbie Stell**. "Today this campus is way ahead of UAA and UAF in terms of computing, particularly in supporting faculty and student use of computers. Dick Meeker deserves the credit for that."

Meeker is remembered fondly by all who had the pleasure of working with him for more than a decade.

"Everybody looked to Dick because he was a problem solver," said Stell. "He was a guidance counselor at the high school for a number of years and I think that background is what made him so effective with faculty and students here. He had a special knack for finding a way to make computers work for them."

In addition to working at UAS and Juneau-Douglas High School, Meeker also worked from 1975 to 1978 as principal of the district's Project Careers program.

Meeker is survived by his wife of 25 years, Anne Meeker, and numerous other relatives. A memorial Mass was held at the Cathedral of the Nativity in October.

"On behalf of the university, I would like to extend condolences to the Meeker family," said **Chancellor Lind**. "Dick Meeker made invaluable contributions to this institution which will never be forgotten. The university has lost a true friend."

Friends and co-workers who would like to remember Dick Meeker can make a donation to the University Foundation scholarship fund in his name. The Chancellor's office will accept donations and forward them to the Foundation.

VIP expanding to Juneau

The Visitor Industry Program (VIP) will come to the UAS Juneau campus in January when the university begins classes in the tourist industry-oriented curriculum. VIP has been operating in Ketchikan since 1987.

VIP Coordinator **Judy Doyon** of the Ketchikan campus says she's built a Juneau campus foundation of three visitor-industry classes. Doyon will teach one of the classes while local visitor-industry experts teach the other two.

According to Doyon, there were 15,000 tourism-related jobs in Alaska in 1986 when VIP was being set up. Now there are close to 20,000 jobs in the industry, and, according to Doyon, there are more jobs than trained Alaskans to fill them.

"The thrust here is economic development," Doyon said. "We should have academic and vocational programs to address the industry's needs. Those needs have been growing. We haven't quite closed the gap."

VIP will be housed in the School of Career and Continuing Education in the Bill Ray Center. Ketchikan Campus Director **Fran Feinerman** said **Chancellor Lind** and his administrative staff have been "enthusiastic and generous" during preparations for the second-site inagural scheduled for January. The Ketchikan campus is assuming all responsibility for delivery and costs of the program.

Recent VIP activity in Ketchikan included an Oct. 23 joint marketing conference attended by more than 100 visitor-industry people from Alaska and British Columbia. Agencies and industry leaders outlined Inside Passage promotions.

Professional library aids Southeast educators

UAS will reaffirm its already strong relationship with Southeast's education community when it opens the doors on its new Curriculum Library, a collection designed for use by area educators and education students. Grand opening ceremonies are scheduled for Nov. 19 from 3 to 6 p.m.

The Curriculum Library, which will be housed within the Egan Library on the UAS Juneau campus, contains volumes devoted to educational curriculum development and support, including sample texts, curriculum guides and teaching kits.

"Southeast educators and education students share a common need for curricular support material to use for classroom preparation, curricular development, program review and textbook selection and evaluation," said **Mike Herbison**, director of the Egan Library. "The new library contains current materials devoted to curriculum that have not been previously accessible."

Though already owned by UAS or the Juneau Douglas School District, some of the materials in the collection have, until recently, been kept in storage.

Space in the Egan Library was dedicated last spring and school district and university employees readied the collection during the summer and fall months. The new library represents a cooperative effort between the Egan Library, UAS School of Education, Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the Juneau Douglas School District.

The library's hours will be Monday through Thursday, 3 to 8 p.m. and Sunday, 1 to 6 p.m. The library hours were deliberately arranged for the convenience of working educators and student teachers who can use the library after work, according to Herbison.

Special Southeaster offer

The Alaskan Southeaster magazine has announced a special holiday subscription offer to UAS employees, according to Editor Bill Sheehy.

"We are offering a special subscription rate to UAS employees which represents almost half off the cover price," said Sheehy. "The Alaskan Southeaster can be delivered to your home for just \$18 per year. This offer is \$10 lower than our regular subscriber rate.

"In 24 monthly issues, we have covered the region we call home with stories of our lifestyles, as well as clips from the past and photos from the shoe box. Letters and phone calls from our readers have been very complimentary and we are motivated to continue with the only magazine that is written and produced just for us that live, work and play in this beautiful region."

Contact the magazine at 364-3700 or write to The Alaskan Southeaster, P.O. Box 240667, Douglas, AK, 99824.

Hamrick remains in Seattle

John Hamrick, custodial supervisor for the physical plant, remains hospitalized in Seattle. Hamrick has been in Seattle for several weeks with stomach and circulation difficulties. Hamrick is expected to remain in Seattle for several weeks, so why not use one of your breaks this week to drop him a note?

Write to: Providence Medical Center, P.O. Box C-34008, Seattle, WA, 98124, ATTN: John Hamrick

Early baby shower

The School of Business and Public Administration would like to invite everyone to a baby shower for Vanessa Early and her mother **Andra Early**. The shower will be held Nov. 13 in the SBPA conference room from 3:30 p.m. until whenever Vanessa falls asleep. RSVP to **Karen Cummins**, ext. 402. If you can bring a snack, please do so.

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, 789-4530.



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

Open enrollment for supplemental benefits ends December 15

Until Dec. 15, permanent UAS employees may elect to change their supplemental benefits package for calendar year 1993. During open enrollment, permanent employees may enroll in two different reimbursement account programs and/or any of three supplemental insurance plans (supplemental health, survivor income, or accidental death and dismemberment).

All employees are expected to declare their intentions to stop, start or change their optional benefits by completing and submitting an updated Optional Benefits Selection form by 5 p.m., Dec. 15.

Changes in the university's benefits package are currently being reviewed by statewide administration and employee governance groups. Several solutions have been proposed, including cost-sharing for employees with dependents. When changes are made to the university's basic plan for 1993, employees may not be able to change all of their supplemental choices before open enrollment next November, unless they experience a "life event."

The **supplemental health package** increases the benefits provided through the basic insurance plan. Rates for 1993 are 15.7 percent higher than 1992.

A **reimbursement account** provides employees with the opportunity to be reimbursed from their own tax-free payroll contributions for health care and/or dependent day care expenses.

Supplemental survivor income insurance provides additional monetary benefits to the surviving beneficiary(ies) in the event of the employee's death. Rates are based on the amount of additional survivor benefits, the age of the employee, and the employee's length of appointment.

Accidental death and dismemberment insurance provides monetary benefits in the event of death or loss of limbs or eyes as a result of an accident. Rates for this program are available from personnel.

Several workshops on open enrollment will be held at both the Bill Ray Center and Auke Lake Campus. One of the workshops (Nov. 19, from 2 to 3 p.m.) will be an audioconference, including Ketchikan and Sitka employees.

For more information contact **Kay**, ext. 507 or **Steve**, ext. 479 on the Juneau campus or your campus personnel representative.

Open Enrollment WORKSHOPS

Do you need some help making sense of your optional benefits package?

UAS Personnel Services is hosting workshops to assist employees with gathering useful information for making good decisions as they choose their supplemental benefits for plan year 1993.

Bring your questions to one of the following sessions:

Tuesday, Nov. 17	10:00 - 11:00 a.m.	Mourant - Chancellor's Conf. Rm.
Wednesday, Nov. 18	3:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Bill Ray Center - Conference Room
Wednesday, Nov. 18	4:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Bill Ray Center - Conference Room
Thursday, Nov. 19	2:00 - 3:00 p.m.	Mourant - Chancellor's Conf. Rm. (Audio-conferenced w/ Sitka/Ketchikan)
Tuesday, Nov. 24	8:30 - 9:30 a.m.	Mourant - Chancellor's Conf. Rm.

For more information about the workshops or Open Enrollment, please contact UAS Personnel Services at 789-4473