

From the Provost

October 25, 2017



• **Advisors Gathering – Follow Up**

Join me and Margie Thomson to discuss strategies and resources faculty and staff can use to support students' mental health. This is a follow up to last month's advising discussion, and will again be held in Egan Library Room 103. Pizza will be provided!

• **Visit to Yukon College**

I traveled to Whitehorse with Dr. Martin and Professor Jim Powell to meet with Yukon College representatives to renegotiate our MOU for the MPA program. Many students from Yukon have successfully completed the MPA program and we all want to continue the arrangement.

• **News from Ketchikan Campus**

UAS Ketchikan celebrated Indigenous Peoples Day with an Open House in the campus library featuring traditional coastal resources posters by the Ketchikan Indian Community Tribal Scholars - UAS Ketchikan Drumbeats class, a traditional coastal foods sampling, and venison stew.

Ketchikan High School recently received a commercial fishing license for the M/V Jack Cotant and UAS Ketchikan Assistant Professor of Marine Transportation Mariah Warren is volunteering with the new program that teaches the commercial fishing skills students need, i.e., boat safety, navigation, fishing techniques, and running gear. Mariah began fishing commercially in 2006, and power trolled from 2006 to 2011.

Assistant Professor of Science Matthew Pawlus presented "*Zombies: The Apocalypse Inside Us! A biological perspective on zombification, parasitism & the undead*" at the October Ask UAS event in the campus library. Over 40 people attended to learn about the possibilities of zombies, now or in the future, in our world. While some tongue in cheek was had during the talk, Matthew presented cases and scientific research into zombification both in humans and the animal world that was, simultaneously, fascinating and terrifying.

Associate Professor John Radzilowski presented a paper at the 3rd Congress of International Researchers of Polish History on Oct. 14. His paper, titled "Kościuszko jako *tabula rasa* w amerykańskiej literaturze historycznej" [Thaddeus Kościuszko as *tabula rasa* in American Historical Literature] examined the changing image of Kościuszko in American writing from a figure in the Revolutionary War, to immigrant hero, to his recent incarnation as anti-slavery activist. With 2017 marking the 200th anniversary of Kościuszko's death the session brought together scholars from France, the USA, Belarus, and Ukraine, who discussed his image in their respective countries. Following this, Radzilowski traveled to Colgate University in New York, to attend the conference "Preserving Cultural Heritage in Times of Conflict." He presented a paper entitled "Law or Justice? Moral and Legal Claims to Looted Cultural Property in East Central Europe since 1945." The paper focused on the many unresolved claims to art stemming from looting by Nazis and Soviets in World War II. Millions of looted works of art and other cultural properties remain in the hands of Russia, many of them originally stolen by the Nazis and then re-stolen by the communists. The conference combined historical perspectives on the looting and destruction of cultural property with current research on looting in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria, as well as presentations by FBI and legal experts on strategies to recover so-called "blood antiquities" which play an important role in financing terrorist organizations such as ISIS.

- **Sitka WhaleFest – November 3-5, 2017**

The theme for this year's WhaleFest is "The Making-Of: Behind the Scenes of Science." View the agenda and find out more about the guest speakers at whalefest@sitkascience.org.

- **Digital Faculty Fellows**

Congratulations to Reid Brewer, Robin Gilcrist, Kitty LaBounty, and Alison Ziegler for being selected as our first Digital Faculty Fellows. Stay tuned for more from these faculty members and the great projects they are working on.

- **Dean/Director Recruitment Update**

The announcements have been posted for the Sitka Campus Director position and the Dean of Arts & Sciences and Vice-Provost for Research and Sponsored Programs. The respective search committees begin review of applications in early to mid-November.

- **EAB Kick Off**

On October 17, advising staff and Faculty Leadership met in the Glacier View Room for a workshop to become more familiar with the new 'early alert' system. The day long agenda also included discussions on student success goals and individual campus priorities. On the technology side, there was a review of key advising processes and how technologies can be used to reach students in more timely ways.

- **URECA Grant Applications Now Available**

The 2018 Award Application period is underway through November 20, 2017 with up to \$2,500 for projects involving student research and creative activity working alongside a faculty mentor. See <http://www.uas.alaska.edu/research/students/index.html>

- **Save the Date: Juneau Campus "Spring Start-up" Events – January 9th**

The Juneau Campus start-up for the spring 2018 semester includes faculty and staff development workshops. This is a good time to present papers offered at conferences and share information gained from peers. If you have ideas of topics for workshops, please share them with me and Faculty Senate President Megan Buzby.

- **News Engagement**

While News Engagement Day (October 3rd) was a huge success, please remember this is not just a day, it is an effort. It is an opportunity to encourage students to become better informed about current events through reliable news resources. Please continue to check out the News Engagement website for more Media Literacy Activities and other resources you can use in your classroom. <http://www.uas.alaska.edu/provost/news-engagement-day.html>

- **GERs at UAS**

The Provost's Assessment Committee (PAC) has crafted six General Education Learning Outcomes (GELOs) to satisfy accreditation requirements. Your Faculty Senate Representative was introduced to the description of each GELO and was asked for comments and approval for using these six GELOs to assess our UAS GERs. Please talk to your faculty representative if you have not yet had a chance to look these over.

- **Faculty Development Funds**

I want to remind you that there are funds available to faculty for professional development through the Wilson Fund Endowment, and the recent UNAC Collective Bargaining Agreement dated January 2017 – December 2019 under Article 15.9. Each fund has its own requirements for eligibility. Apply through the online application at <http://www.uas.alaska.edu/provost/wilson-fund.html>.