

University of Alaska Southeast

WHALESONG

November 24 - December 7, 2014

The Official Student Newspaper of UAS

THANK YOU,
CHANCELLOR PUGH
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ON THE COVER...

UAS Chancellor John Pugh stands out by the Noyes Pavilion on a cloudy day. After serving 16 years as Chancellor, Pugh will be retiring at the end of the Spring 2015 semester. To learn more about this amazing man and his service to the UAS community, turn to page 7!

(Photograph provided by Chancellor Pugh)

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— UAS Answers — *Everybody's got one ... What's your favorite part of November?*



"Thanksgiving, NoShave November, it's my birthday month, oh and I'm British so Bonfire night on November 5th is awesome. November holidays are just the best overall really."

-James Risdon



"I like the fact that it gets dark sooner so star gazing doesn't happen so late."

-Trevor Hafendorfer



"Definitely Thanksgiving, all the good food is so great."

-Cass Somerville



"The snow making a majestic blanket over the mountains, the ice that forms everywhere, and oh! The stars."

-Mary Devaney



"December."

-Joseph Alvarado



"Thanksgiving."

-Tony Johnston

— UAS in Brief —

Thanksgiving Break!

The week to indulge in delicious food and remember everything that you are thankful for has finally arrived! Thanksgiving break is a great opportunity to take some time to rest college-weary brains and catch up on some assignments before finals week kicks into full swing. If you're new to Juneau or it's your first time celebrating Thanksgiving away from home, you may be unsure of what to do with your free time over the holiday weekend. Fortunately, our university provides a variety of fun activities this time of year!

The UAS campus community is hosting a Thanksgiving feast at Mourant Café on Wednesday, November 26th! This event will include a sky-lantern lighting, in addition to great food and company! If you're looking for something fun to do after Thanksgiving, mark your calendars for November 29th! Campus Life will be hosting our first UAS Disco Skate Night at the Treadwell Ice Rink! There will be music, disco lights, and FREE skates for all who attend! Free transportation will be offered to students on campus. Be at the Housing Lodge & Freshman Housing at 8:20 p.m., because the bus will be leaving at 8:30 p.m. If you're interested in seeing what else is happening in Juneau over the weekend, turn over to pages 14-15 for a look at the calendar.

Thanksgiving break only goes from November 27th-30th, so make the most of it while you can! Have a happy Thanksgiving, UAS!

—*Chrystal Randolph, Managing Editor of the Whalesong*



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— Experience *Tidal Echoes* —

BY CLARA MILLER

For the UAS Whalesong

Are you writer, artist, or poet? Do you create artistic works? Would you like to share them with your fellow Southeast Alaskans? If so, you can submit them to *Tidal Echoes*, our regional literary and art journal.

Did you know that Southeast Alaska has a literary and art journal? I didn't until I was a senior in high school, taking English 111 through the dual enrollment program. Sarah Minton, my professor of that spring semester, informed us all of the launch event for the 2011 edition of *Tidal Echoes*, and that we could go for extra credit. Not one to pass up extra credit whether I needed it or not (I like to be on the safe side), I decided on going once I picked up one of the journals being passed around. How could I not? An assortment of poems and prose greeted me, trying to snag my attention with their titles while vivid art pieces cropped up from where they were nestled in the pages, drawing my gaze. I had no idea we had an artistic opportunity like this locally.

Curiosity firmly caught, I found myself in the crowded Egan Lecture Hall, sitting amongst English and Art faculty, students, and members of the community all gathered for this event. I understood why so many were in attendance once the speakers came to the mike. Jacqueline Boucher, one of the writing tutors at the time who read my poorly crafted essays in the Learning Center, read a short memoir laced with humorous bits and insights, making those collected in the rows of seats chuckle, lips

settling into easy smiles. Kate Laster took the podium and gave me my first taste of spoken word poetry with energetic enthusiasm that demanded the audience's attention - she sure got mine. By the end of the event, after the featured artist and writer spoke about their craft, after the editors each gave a short speech about the process of working on the journal, I knew I had to get involved.

So I did. I polished a piece and submitted it to the journal. The first one bounced, which was okay, because I learned from the experience and gained more determination to try again. The second attempt made it. It was a surreal experience seeing my name in print amongst so many talented Southeast Alaskans. Third time none of my pieces went through, a reminder to always keep revising and creating.

This fourth year though, I won't be submitting, because now I've become directly involved with the journal as the Fall Intern. It's been my job to inform all Southeast Alaskans that they can share their voice, their creative works, whether artwork, poetry, or prose by submitting to the journal. Next year, when I'm no longer interning, I'll be marking the December 1st deadline on my calendar, ready to try submitting again, because it's great to see such a creative endeavor thrive here in the beautiful Southeast, and it's great to push myself artistically.

Mark down December 1st on your own calendars, start prepping and polishing your own writing and artwork, and I'll see you at the launch in the spring, April 24th. That date is much farther away, but write it down because it's worth going to. I'm telling you, *Tidal Echoes* isn't just a publication, it's an experience.

— Language Learning & Dr. Walter Soboleff Day —

BY JASMINE MATTSON-WOLFF

For the UAS Whalesong

My name is Jasmine and I am a Tlingit language learner. Generally the main response I've gotten to this statement is shock and amazement from my peers and mentors. There is usually a follow up question when people find out that I am taking Tlingit, but lately it hasn't been what I view as a positive one. Some of the more discouraging responses I've received are, "Why would you take that class?!" or "Is that a requirement?" and even, "Why would you want to learn such an unpopular language that you won't be able to use?!" When I am posed with these questions, I really don't know what to say. I am at a loss of words because to me, it's only common sense that I am in Tlingit class. It is one of the fastest dying Alaskan languages around here, with only 150-200 speakers left. I feel like it is part of my responsibility to help keep the language and culture alive. I think it is the worst thing ever when new people come into a place and have no respect for the local people who have been there so much longer than they have. If I did not try to learn and help foster the Tlingit language and culture, then who am I to reap the benefits of being Tlingit? To bare a Tlingit name, or wear the bracelets that were given to me?

Not to say that if you live here you have to learn a local language or be submerged into the culture, but there is something to be said about being knowledgeable to where you are living, its histories, and indigenous people. This is why I would strongly encourage everyone to either take or just sit in on Tlingit classes and learn a little more about the land you are walking on. If we cannot continuously conjure more learners for languages like Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian—that are rapidly losing fluent speakers—in the next 100 years, the native languages of Southeast Alaska could easily disappear forever. In my personal opinion, it doesn't make sense if someone is Tlingit, Haida, Tsimshian, etc. and just stands by the way side as their cultures die out—once the culture and language is gone what are we anymore? Just another stagnant history ready to be forgotten. That's why I believe that it is important that everyone is educated on our cultures, whether you are native or not; if you want to learn and be an active supporter in helping keep our cultures and languages alive, then join in—we are all striving for the

same goal after all.

In kin to the revival of the native cultures of Alaska, November is Native History month! And November 14th was Dr. Walter Soboleff day! Who is Walter Soboleff though? Maybe a few of you recognize his name from the Arts & Sciences building we have here on our UAS campus, but why was he so important to get a building named after him? Well, I have some answers for you.

Kaajaakwti was a Tlingit Yéil (Raven) of the L'eeneidí (Dog Salmon) clan. He was born in Killisnoo in 1908 and raised there until the fifth grade; then he went to the Sheldon Jackson Boarding School in Sitka to finish school. After working for five years at the Cold Storage in Sitka, he applied and went to school at Dubuque University in Iowa, and obtaining a B.A. in Education in 1937. In 1940, he received his Divinity degree and started serving as the minister in what now is known as the Northern Light United Church. In 1970, after working with the church, Board of Education, and ANB, he retired from ministry to start an Alaska Native Studies Department at UAF. He taught at UAF right up until his retirement in 1974. Walter Soboleff was a great teacher, proactive supporter, and an amazing influence to the revitalization of the Tlingit culture at a time of change. Soboleff felt strongly about education and kept valuable lessons close to his heart, "We need to rethink the native cycle of education in Alaska. Children need practical knowledge—how to hunt, how to put up fish—they need to know how to adapt to village life when they come back. When they experience what their parents had to go through, they gain a new respect." Dr. Walter Soboleff nourished the Tlingit culture, education of, and language until his last days; at 102 years old, in 2011, Soboleff passed away. He took with him, his threshold of wisdom, but left behind faith in the culture; it would survive and prosper through the hearts of Tlingit learners and a marvelous history of his lifetime.

For this issue, I will part ways leaving you with this quote from Dr. Soboleff to ponder, "Culture is always changing. People are always in transition. Some manage it gracefully, and some struggle. Right now, everyone wants to claim a subsistence lifestyle. One of the first things you change, when a culture changes, is the language. The last thing to go is the food."

— The End of Times —

BY ALEXA CHERRY

For the UAS Whalesong

“Finals” is a really ominous word for multiple reasons. First, let’s look at the dictionary definition. If something is “final” it occurs at the end of something; it is the last of a number or series of similar things; it is conclusive and allowing no further discussion. If that doesn’t sound grim, I don’t know what does. But here’s the thing: a lot of college students seem to lump “finals” all together in one week. Which, in some cases and for some degree programs, I’m sure is true. But for others, there’s more to it than that. Research papers, final projects, and presentations are all things that require time and effort to prepare and complete to a satisfactory degree. Even if all you have are tests during finals week, you should be studying for them well ahead of time. (I know you probably won’t, but at least I said you should, therefore no one can say I set a bad example.) Basically, what I’m trying to say is that “finals week” is a horrible myth, like if someone told you that faeries exist and you trust in them and go in search of faeries and you get there and find things that are certainly called faeries but rather than being charming magic beings they are judgmental health food nuts who have become one with the universe and grown mold and think you are scum for having an iPhone. Look, it’s just – what I’m telling you is that you need to prepare.

Around this time of month, you may have a vague, hovering idea of many looming projects or exams that are coming up due. Instead of trying to ignore them and work on immediately due things, sit down with a calendar (there are plenty of free printable ones online; Google Calendar is also useful because you can set up incessant nagging reminders if you wish to keep yourself on track) and write down everything you have to work on or study for. Not only does this prevent future panic from forgetting that something was due – it has the added benefit of showing you that you really have significantly less free time than you thought you did, creating a healthy sense of urgency that gets you motivated. Note that I said a healthy sense of urgency, as opposed to the all-consuming last-minute blind panic indicative of trying to write a research paper in a day or cram for a final exam in the wee hours of the morning.

Now that you know what’s coming up and when, try creating a daily schedule for yourself. If you have a research paper due in two weeks, sit down and make a plan for it. This Monday you’ll choose your topic and write the outline; next Monday you’ll have all your books and compose the rough draft. By Friday you will have a polished piece ready to turn in. Ta-da! Much less stress and panic than trying to compose, source, and edit a 5-page paper overnight.

This all sounds like the Ideal Student Plan, which I’ll admit is a little unrealistic. On top of attending class, working on more urgently due assignments, doing work for cash

money, and recreational activities, you might think that putting aside time to study every day for things so far in the future isn’t strictly necessary. But friend, if I got paid for every time I pulled an all-nighter to study for a test and wished I hadn’t, I would not need to be worrying about earning a college degree. Because, you know, I’d be rich. Assuming I got paid a lot for every time that happened – okay, that’s beside the point, which is that I urge you to exercise your willpower. College is the time when you get to make your own choices and tell yourself what to do, and sometimes you’ve just got to force yourself into productivity. For some people, that means staying on campus at the library so they can’t go home and take a nap; for others, that means calling their parents and saying “tell me I can’t do anything fun until I’ve gotten my stuff for today done.” Still others can hire a friend to slap their laptop shut and dump hot coffee in their lap if they are spotted doing something other than working on school projects; if that works for you, that’s awesome. (No judging – sometimes I’ve thought about doing the same thing).

In the words of Scar from *The Lion King*, I urge you all to be prepared. Finals are coming up faster than you think, and I don’t want you guys to get caught in a wildebeest stampede of due dates. You can do it! Remember, Spike’s Café takes your meal cards and the library is open until 10 o’clock (most nights). Live long, prosper, and may the curve be ever in your favor.

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—Thank you, Chancellor Pugh —

BY DANIEL PISCOYA

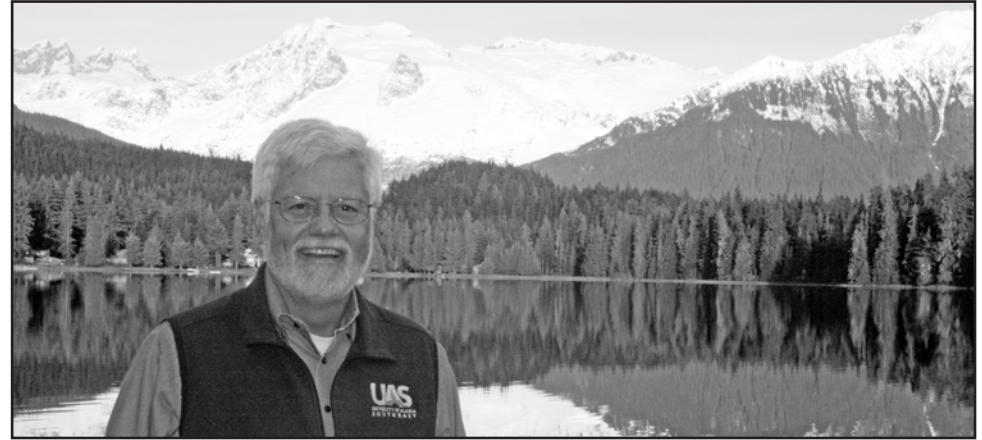
For the UAS Whalesong

In a letter dated June 2nd, 2014, Chancellor John Pugh spoke to President Gamble about his decision to retire from his position at the end of the spring 2015 semester, citing age and his desire to spend more time with his family. Now that this decision has been made public, Chancellor Pugh will retire after 16 years as Chancellor, rounding out a full 28 years with this university and over 40 years with the State of Alaska in general. His retirement is not only well-deserved, but a sweet sorrow to a community that owes him so much.

Mr. John Pugh made his start as a mental health counsellor, and eventually was appointed the Commissioner of Health and Social Services for three years. After this, he was contracted in 1986 by the University of Alaska Southeast, then in its infancy, to help make decisions about budget cuts. In an interview with the *Whalesong*, the Chancellor said that, as a mental health counsellor, education was important because it was preventative care to many mental health issues. Education is “a place where you can make a difference.” Knowing this, Pugh fought to protect the degree programs in 1986, and was later asked to serve as interim Dean of Arts, Sciences, and Education, and eventually permanent dean. In this position he helped establish several well-known programs, most notably our Marine Bi-

ology program, but also a Masters in the Art of Teaching, and several others, especially in Environmental Science. A philosophy major himself, he understands that education is valuable.

As Chancellor, Pugh’s job lies mainly in three parts: planning for the future, implementing those plans, overseeing budgets, and presenting all these to the State. He is the top administrator for all of UAS’s campuses: in Juneau, Sitka, and Ketchikan. Education, in his own words, is “a team sport,” and his job as Chancellor is to “keep the team strong.” One of the many ways he has done this over the course of the last few years is planning and overseeing the construction of both the classroom wing of the Egan Library and the Recreation Center that we share with the National Guard. In fact, Chancellor Pugh had wanted to retire earlier: “I’m going to turn 69, but I wanted to retire back when I was 65.” Citing his plans for the now-completed Freshman Residence Hall, he had stayed on. The Freshman Residence Hall was a key project in a larger plan of his to emphasize a ‘core-campus community’ at UAS, a phrase we’ve seen before mentioned in association with the bookstore and hopes for its future. This larger “master plan” includes remodeling the Whitehead and Hendrickson buildings, building a Student Union, and continuing to offer quality programming to students. Pugh told the *Whalesong* that he looks forward especially to the Student Union. He said that he enjoyed



UAS Chancellor John Pugh stands out by Auke Lake on a sunny afternoon after speaking with *Whalesong* reporter, Daniel Piscoya, about his upcoming retirement.

(Photograph taken by Daniel Piscoya)

seeing what fundraising does: “People want to support students.”

When asked what his favorite part of the job was, however, Pugh said it was definitely working with faculty and interacting with students. He is a self-professed people person, and he says that being Chancellor maximizes that strength. “Most Chancellors don’t go to Student Government meetings...I try to go at least once a month.” His favorite time of the year, for instance, is Graduation, because he loves seeing students accomplish their goal. Harkening back to his background in counselling, perhaps, Pugh says that “the faculty and staff are all here for

the same reason...to accomplish the mission of helping people.”

For his part, the Chancellor says that education is “an amazing place to be”, and that he has “not been disappointed.”

Pointing out the window during his interview with the *Whalesong*, he said he was proud of the trail around Auke Lake—which he helped raise funds for—but, that morning, he had taken the trail up the hill towards student housing—not the main one, but the one next to the road—because he “really likes that trail.”

For my part, I hope to meet him on the trails one day.

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Literary Traditions: The Ptolemaic System

BY DANIEL PISCOYA

For the UAS Whalesong

Many remember from mathematics or history classes that Archimedes once said he could move the entire Earth if he only had a platform large enough to stand on and a lever big enough to move it with. However, as smart as Archimedes was, he never succeeded in moving the world. A man named Copernicus did—and it was never the same again.

Let me clarify: the scientific usefulness of the Copernican system (The Earth revolves around the Sun) versus the Ptolemaic system (The Sun revolves around the Earth) is not up for debate. It is clear that, from a scientific standpoint, it is the Copernican system that wins the day—it accounts for more. But what I would like to elaborate on is precisely that the scientific standpoint is not always the first standpoint on Earth; the Ptolemaic system was more than just science, it was an interdisciplinary achievement of spectacular scope and literary depth. And while placing The Model (as they called it) in a small cardboard box in the attic of our minds will do us no harm, it will certainly not do us any good, either: it is a discarded image, as C.S. Lewis would say, but it should not be a lost one.

The most remarkable thing about the Ptolemaic system that our modern conception of the universe is set against adamantly, is how incredibly finite the universe was. The Ptolemaic system was not expanding or contracting as we think of our universe today. Rather, the universe was a finite sphere with many other spheres spinning inside of it like a nesting doll, and these spheres host the planets. For medieval scholars, to look up into the heavens was to look up into something finite, not something infinite. A medieval scholar did not see the cold blackness that we see—he saw something else entirely: he saw order.

The order of the spheres runs thus:

- **The Fixed Stars:** the biggest sphere, the fixed stars mark the barrier between the universe and the “intellectual light” of heaven. To the medieval scholar, looking up into the heavens was literally looking up into Heaven!

- **Saturn:** This is the next largest sphere. The number of the planets was smaller back then because Neptune, Uranus, and Pluto had not been discovered.

- **Jupiter**

- **Mars**

- **The Sun:** for the medieval scholar, the universe was not even shrouded in darkness, as we think of it today. The Sun didn't only illuminate Earth's day, but also the entire universe. Night was simply the Earth's shadow, and the rest of the universe was filled with light! You think darkness is your ally? It will not last.

- **Venus**

- **Mercury**

- **The Moon:** the medievals thought that the atmosphere of the earth extended to the Moon, and that everything belonging to the earth—mortals—belonged ‘below the Moon,’ which was a recurring phrase used to describe mortal things.

- **The Earth:** not only the center of the universe, but also the lowest point. It is important to understand that the Ptolemaic system was not a symptom of some gross human pride. Rather, it was a movement of humility to place the Earth in the center—to ‘mount to the heights’ was to aspire to greatness, and that greatness was not for mortals.

C.S. Lewis says, in his book, *The Discarded Image*, that “at his most characteristic, medieval man was not a dreamer or a wanderer. He was an organizer, a codifier, a builder of systems. He wanted ‘a place for everything and everything in its right place’...they are bookish...they find it very hard to believe that anything an old [author] has said is simply untrue.” This characteristic shows up best in what I have just elaborated. The Model was a feat of interdisciplinary thought, such that we do not see nowadays. Dante's *Inferno* was science to some, literature to all. Plato's *Republic* was philosophy to all, astronomy to some. Most books combined everything. The flexibility of the Middle Ages lay in their ability to converse between fields of study that normally would be estranged today. And this is a virtue that is rarely fostered in the discourse of modernity.

Next: The Philosophical Traditions of the Model; what we have lost, and what we stand to gain.

(How to Not Be) Cold as Ice

BY ALEXA CHERRY

For the UAS Whalesong

One mistake that I frequently see even veteran residents of Alaska make as the days begin to get colder is going outside in inadequate attire for the weather. This is a mistake less often made on days when the weather is obviously cold and miserable – the sky is gray, snow is pouring from it in buckets, there's a frigid wind – and more on the days when the sun is out, the sky is clear, and the world looks like a wonderful place in which to live. These are the days when I see people bound out of their apartments in jeans, lightweight sneakers, and hoodies, happy to be alive and getting some Vitamin D; these same people inevitably return later in the day looking cold and miserable, their arms wrapped around them in an attempt to regain a semblance of warmth as they wonder how nature could have been so deceptive. Fortunately, after doing this a couple of times, we resign ourselves to the fact that it's cold and start to dress appropriately. Now, you might ask, what constitutes as “appropriate” for the oncoming weather? Well, here's the key: the trick to staying warm is to not get cold in the first place. “Well yeah, duh,” you might grumble, wondering why they pay me to tell you stuff that seems this obvious. But once you're cold, it is a lot harder to get warm again.

This leads me to my first piece of advice, which is to wear more layers than you think you'll probably need. Bring a scarf, bring an extra jacket. Cooling down is easier and more pleasant than being cold to begin with and staying cold for the rest of the day. This is where thermal underwear comes in handy; good brands provide both warmth and moisture-wicking capacities so that even if you sweat in them, it won't be as bad as if they were made of a fabric like cotton. A popular saying in Alaska is “cotton kills,” and this is because once it gets wet, cotton clings to that wetness like a particularly greedy kid clings to a candy bar. Being wet in the winter directly translates to being cold, so if you stay dry and wear clothes that assist with that (breathable underwear and waterproof or resistant outerwear), you'll be warm and stay warm for longer.

When I was about 8, I learned about the HELP – Heat Escape Lessening Position. This is the position to assume if you're ever stranded in a large body of water for a lengthy period of time: cross your legs, cross your arms, and huddle into yourself to help conserve heat. Not that I expect myself or any of you to end up stranded in a large body of water; rather, the point is that learning about HELP also taught me where you lose the most heat from your body. HELP is recommended because it protects the head, groin, armpits, and extremities (wrists down and ankles down). Obviously in cold weather you want to dress as warmly as possible, but these areas are the most important. Wear a hat, because your head loses the most heat the fastest – and make sure it covers your ears. Plenty of times I've worn a hat because it looks “cute” or “stylish,” only to have freezing ears by the time I reach my destination. Earmuffs will also serve this purpose, but it's notable that they don't cover your entire head, so that's something to bear in mind. Warm boots and gloves take care of the extremities part, and a good jacket and pants ensure that your armpits and groin stay nice and toasty. Jackets aren't difficult to locate, but some people have trouble with the pants part (since jeans seem to be the default in college). Wearing tights or thermal underwear underneath jeans adds an extra layer of warmth; L.L. Bean and other outfitter stores also sell really nice flannel-lined jeans for the colder days.

Your neck is also worth protecting! While it might not be a major source of heat loss, a sharp breeze or a particularly frigid day will make you all too keenly aware of that exposed skin. Scarves are not hard to find, and don't have to be particularly thick if they're long – you can wrap them around your neck to create a cozy layer of warmth that you can also bury your cold nose in if your hat of choice isn't one of those hats that comes with a knit beard attached to it.

That's all the advice I have for you on the subject of personal warmth right now! Hopefully, this will result in less people meandering woefully about in hoodies when it's 20 degrees outside. Not that it isn't kind of amusing, but still, I feel bad for them. I've been there too, man. Good luck – and stay toasty, my friends.



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— Big H[i]ro 6 —

BY ALEXA CHERRY

For the UAS Whalesong

I did not get to watch very many movies as a child. Until I was about 12, the limit of my television exposure was one movie every Saturday night, and I'd never been to a movie theater that I can recall. Once I hit my teen years, I got to go to the theater once or twice every year, for my birthday and occasionally a friend's or sibling's birthday. Now that I'm in college, you'd think I would just go see movies whenever the urge strikes me – but no. I've attended UAS for 2 and a half years now without a car, and this lack of immediately available mobility does not pose a significant problem until it comes to the cinema. First of all, I'm not entirely sure the bus even goes by Glacier Cinemas (the theater closest to UAS); the bus schedule is still a mystery to me, even after all the time I've been here. Second of all, I refuse to go to the theater alone. It's against my personal code, and besides that, it's boring – half the experience is talking about the movie on your way out and on the car ride home. Therefore, the primary conundrum I run into is finding someone with a car to go see the movie with me. I was so determined to see *Big Hero 6* from the moment I saw a trailer for it, that it nearly moved me to tears, and I was not about to let social niceties get in the way of my animated film experience. My roommate is in possession of a car, so when she got back from classes I announced that I'd canceled her weekend plans and we were going to go see this movie. Fortunately, another one of her friends was also going to go see it at the same time I planned to, so I was met with less resistance than I anticipated and off to the theater we went.

First of all, said other friend arrived earlier than we did and texted us with the notification that the theater was “packed.” Apparently, this word has a different meaning in Juneau than it does elsewhere. Half the seats were still available upon our arrival, though not so many that I could engage in my usual cinema ritual of sitting down, making a disgruntled noise, choosing another seat, and so on until I located the perfect viewing location. Strapping myself in with a soda the size of my

head and Ye Olde Nondescript Theater Candy, I prepared myself for an Experience©. *Big Hero 6* was advertised as a Big Deal because it's the first animated Marvel movie; much like *Guardians of the Galaxy*, *Big Hero 6* was one of Marvel's comics that was far less mainstream than its creators might have liked. Why and how Disney was allowed to get their hands on it is as yet unknown, at least to me; feel free to write a cleverly worded e-mail to the *Whalesong* if you have the answer to this mystery.

Big Hero 6 opens with an amazing animated short called “Feast” that is basically worth the entire price of admission. Since it's short, I can't really say a whole lot about it without giving away most of the plot, but I can tell you that it's basically a human's life story told from the point of view of his pet dog. This taught me that human lives are exponentially more interesting from the candid POV, and was equally as enjoyable as the entire 2-hour film that followed it.

The movie itself takes place in a town called San Fransokyo, which is basically San Francisco with Asian architecture and culture. It's an interesting setting, but not strictly necessary; the only Asian elements I could spot were the buildings, Hiro (the protagonist) and his family, and the fact that the main antagonist wears a Kabuki mask (an element of Japanese theater). Also, Hiro teaches his brother's medical robot karate. Though frankly, it's pretty mainstream karate that he gets from some kind of martial arts tutorial video. If I had a robot and Hiro's sick programming skills, you can bet my robot would be programmed with Jackie Chan's entire cinematographic history. You call it overkill – I call it awesome.

One of my favorite parts of the film is Hiro's relationship with his older brother, Tadashi. Tadashi is introduced when he comes skidding into a back alley on a motorcycle to save Hiro from a robot fighting gang, because Hiro is a little brat who lives on the edge by cheating said gangs out of their money by pretending to be bad at robot fighting and then kicking their asses. Saving his little brother from certain death is only the first charming aspect of Tadashi's personality. One popular trope in media is the “we hate each other but

love each other” sibling relationship; older siblings frequently act like their younger ones are the worst thing to ever happen to them, but they'll step up when said younger sibling is in jeopardy. We don't get any of that from Tadashi. He chews Hiro out because he's worried that one day he won't be able to skid in on his motorcycle in time to make a quick getaway, then makes a heartwarming speech about how Hiro has so much potential and it's a shame to see it go to waste. It was great to see a media portrayal of siblings that cared about each other instead of being at each others' throats all the time; what made it better was how accurate Tadashi was as an older sibling. When Hiro protests that he wants to be a scam artist his entire life, Tadashi agrees to help him out with that goal, only to smoothly trick him into visiting his “nerd school” (basically the San Fransokyo equivalent of MIT, only cooler) in a way that only an older sibling would know how to do.

Speaking of “nerd school,” one thing that this movie has going for it is its message that it's okay to be just that – a nerd. Obviously, today's world is one that caters strongly to people with skills in STEM fields – Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math – but at the same time, kids who enjoy studying new things, making discoveries on their own, and doing well in school continue to get mocked by their peers for being “nerds.” *Big Hero 6* looks at this trend and laughs in its face. Hiro graduated from high school at 13, and rather than being put down and teased by his family for that, is very strongly encouraged by them. It's also notable that his family doesn't try to stress him out about putting his skill set to good use, which is something that happens with a lot of talented children – the expectations piled on kids for doing well tends to result in a lot of strung-out, stressed-out teenagers and young adults for whom a bad grade is the end of the world. Hiro, on the other hand, knows he is good and strives for improvement himself with the support of his family. Not once do Aunt Cass or Tadashi tell him that he has to go to college; rather, Tadashi shows him the potential college has for him and lets him make the decision himself. Sure, Hiro's a prodigy and

all, which most kids aren't – but it's still important for kids to see that being super smart and following the things they're passionate about can lead to good things.

The side characters in the movie are also very well done! Hiro and Tadashi's parents are dead, but they are brought up by Aunt Cass, probably one of my favorite characters as a single parent and business owner who is an active participant in their lives. Grown-ups are frequently shoved to one side in movies in favor of elaborating on the main character's story or focusing on their angst (estranging family members because of emotional pain), but Aunt Cass is given plenty of opportunities to interact with the characters and is a very strong presence in the few scenes she inhabits. Tadashi's college friends are another thing entirely, due to the fact that they're all stereotypes – but very well done stereotypes. My primary example is Honey Lemon, a character I've seen a lot of people bashing on the internet for being almost entirely identical in appearance to Rapunzel from *Tangled*. Yes, she's a blonde Barbie ditz – even her superhero outfit includes a purse – but she's so incredibly “blonde Disney stereotype” that it's almost more believable than it would be otherwise. It helps that she's clearly comfortable with herself while also being a genius with chemistry; a lot of times in superhero and action movies, none of the female heroes are allowed to be “girly,” but Honey Lemon is all long-hair-don't-care. Literally. It was pointed out to me that having her hair all over the place like it is in the movie is a safety hazard in the lab, which is where she seems to spend most of her time.

I have so much more to say about this movie, but I'm afraid I'm running out of my allotted article space. Just let it be known that this movie is definitely worth a watch! It's fun, it's happy, and it's just a great time overall with an equally great story. It's definitely not a movie that you will regret going to see, and there wasn't anything wrong with it that I can think of at the time of writing this article. So give it a shot! If nothing else, watch it for the scene where Hiro throws his aunt's cat up the stairs. That was probably the best part.

— By a Small Margin, Alaska Voted “YES on 2” —

BY JASMINE MATTSON-WOLFF

For the UAS Whalesong

In this year’s Alaska state-wide elections, the controversy over the ballots and the candidates running in the election was quite high. In turn, many of the more controversial matters at the polls were close races. One ballot measure in specific that was voted on in Alaska was legalizing the regulation of marijuana. Thanks to the 45,000 signatures that supporters of marijuana legalization collected in 2013, this ballot measure was brought to our attention to be voted upon. The end vote was in favor of the legalization of marijuana. Most people have pretty strong opinions about cannabis and the results from this election only prove it. The margin upon which the vote won was incredibly slim; from looking at poll results it is clear that certain areas of Alaska strongly support the legalization, and others are strongly against it.

What does the bill actually mean for Alaskans and their marijuana though? Well, it definitely doesn’t change anything regarding the public use of it; if caught using it in public, people can face a \$100 fine. In the work place and on the way to work it doesn’t change anything either. Drug tests are still legal and just as likely to be used by employers now as they were before ballot 2 passed. If someone is caught driving under the influence of marijuana, they can still be charged with a DUI and fined. Ballot measure 2 says that once the state sets up a regulatory structure it will be possible to be a seller of marijuana, but only after going through a process with the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. It will likely take up to spring of 2016 before regulations will be set for marijuana establishments to be made. That being said, 90 days after the vote is official it will be legal for individuals 21 and over to possess and/or transport 1 ounce of marijuana or

BALLOT MEASURE 2:		
Legalization of Private Use and Regulation of Marijuana		
	People who voted	Percent of vote
Voted YES	116,803	52%
Voted NO	107,179	47%
Total	223,982	

be in possession of 6 plants, 3 being allowed to be mature. Individuals will also be able to give each other 1 ounce or six immature plants. The way I see it, the main effect this is having on Alaskans and our marijuana use is that people 21 and older can privately possess and transport small amounts. Alaskans will eventually be able to purchase marijuana, once the rule-making process of the new measures are complete. After this, many more details pertaining to what is and isn’t okay will be clarified.

As far as marijuana goes within the University of Alaska system, this law change in our state will not have any effect on the regulations that the university has set in place, nor will it make the rules waiver in any way. Why? Well, because it is still a federal crime to possess or use even small amounts of marijuana. What does that have to do with the University of Alaska, and branches such as UAS? The University of Alaska is federally funded, this is why they have no choice but to comply with the Safe & Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act and the Drug-Free Workplace Act. The University of Alaska has to maintain and enforce policies prohibiting

the use of illegal drugs or it would jeopardize all federal funding aids.

The legalization of marijuana in Alaska is viewed by most as the first step towards enhancing freedom to smoke this left-handed cigarette as normally and regularly as one would want to. Before that though, a lot of foot work must be done to show that weed should be let loose and free amongst the people to use at their liberty, like cigarettes and McDonalds has been. Until then, the fine line between what is okay and is not okay must be followed and respected, if cannabis users don’t want a federal crime under their belt. I’m certain that two to three years from now we will have a better understanding if we are piping up the wrong tree or not with this movement towards freedom of Mary Jane.

Information used in this article from: *ballotpedia.org*, *elections.alaska.gov*, Alaska Dispatch News, and the University of Alaska.

— Dip It, Drizzle It, Chocolate —

BY ALEXA CHERRY

For the UAS Whalesong

It is a universally known and recognized fact that everybody loves chocolate. Even if you don’t personally love chocolate, you as a person constitute such a teeny, tiny minority that the amount of data supporting the portion of the population that dislikes chocolate is statistically insignificant. I even know people who dislike chocolate, but enjoy chocolate-flavored candy (Tootsie Rolls, which in the long run, are still chocolate). Why is this relevant, you might ask? Well, as we approach the end of the semester, you might be a little stressed out and find yourself craving some form of relaxation. Video games and Netflix are great and all, but they cut into your studying time, and if you want to be allowed to return home over the break, I find it’s advisable to keep up your grades.

Now, chocolate is something you can eat while studying.
November 24 – December 7, 2014

ing, and it has a long and storied history as a relaxing luxury food. Cacao beans, which sound kind of weird but are the source of all chocolate, contain a lot of feel-good chemicals that stimulate the pleasure centers in your brain. The more cacao in the chocolate, the more of these chemicals there are, which is why dark chocolate is better for you (more cacao and less extraneous ingredients like milk and sugar). You’ve probably heard of tryptophan; it’s a substance that increases your levels of serotonin, a chemical that affects your mood. Chocolate also includes anandamide, a molecule that triggers the pleasure center of the brain and enhances your mood. Interestingly, this is the same effect that can be gained from marijuana leaves (Haviland 191). Chocolate can also lower your blood pressure, which is inclined to rise during finals week; it’s also useful in memory retention because it stimulates blood flow in your brain.

I’m not advising that you stuff your face with choco-

late – too much of anything can be bad for you – but hey, a mug of hot cocoa every day wouldn’t hurt! Going for some dark chocolate the next time you feel a craving for something salty or sweet is also beneficial, since it satisfies that urge and is healthier than single-handedly consuming an entire tube of Pringles. Plus, did you ever think about why you go for sweets when you’re stressed out or anxious? Turns out chocolate helps alleviate anxiety, which humans must know subconsciously or we wouldn’t consume it by the pint when something goes wrong in our lives.

So hang in there – while chocolate isn’t the answer to all of your problems, it’s at least a start to making you feel good enough to set about answering them.

Source Cited: Haviland, Prins, et al. *Cultural Anthropology: The Human Challenge*. Belmont: Cengage Learning, 2014. Print.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

OFF CAMPUS

MONDAY, NOV. 24

Taku Toastmasters Club, 12:05 p.m., Federal Building. Improve your public speaking skills in a supportive environment. Newcomers welcome! Meetings are held in Room 541 of the Federal Building. For more information, contact Velja at 907-321-4988.

TUESDAY, NOV. 25

Pie Sale, 2 p.m., Juneau Foodland IGA. Simplify your Holiday! The Juneau Cooperative Preschool is selling homemade, holiday pies at Foodland IGA November 25-26th. This annual fundraiser helps the non-profit Cooperative Preschool provide a safe, positive and accepting environment where adults and children learn together. No tickets, just pies! For more information, send an email to Shannon Seifert at shannon.seifert@gmail.com.

Stars: And Why Our Sun Seems So Ordinary, 6:30 p.m., Marie Drake Planetarium. Ken Fix makes his last presentation for the planetarium with a powerpoint show and discussion of the composition of stars, their births and deaths, and how astronomers determine what they're made of.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 26

Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot/Run/Walk, 9:30 a.m., Airport Trail. 1 mile or 5K race/run or walk. 1 mile event begins at 9:30am and 5K at 10am. Proceeds benefit People to People Student Ambassador Travel for Masen Smith. Preregister at NAO or Foggy Mountain Shop. \$10/1 mile and \$15/5K. 5K is \$20 on race day. Race day registration opens at 9am at the Airport Trail. For more information, contact Masen at masensmith26@gmail.com or Tyra at 723-9252.

Write For Your Life, 10 a.m., Mendenhall Valley Library. The "Write For Your Life" group meets from 10-11 a.m. every Wednesday to share journal entries, mem-

oir, letters, or poetry. For more information, contact Dixie at 907-789-2068.

Pie Sale, 2 p.m., Juneau Foodland IGA. Simplify your Holiday! The Juneau Cooperative Preschool is selling homemade, holiday pies at Foodland IGA November 25-26th. This annual fundraiser helps the non-profit Cooperative Preschool provide a safe, positive and accepting environment where adults and children learn together. No tickets, just pies! For more information, send an email to Shannon Seifert at shannon.seifert@gmail.com.

THURSDAY, NOV. 27

Community Gaming Night, 5:30 p.m., Udder Culture. Shouldn't Juneau have a community gaming group? Of course! Now we do! This is an open video game group that gets together every week at Udder Culture. We play a variety of video games and are open to playing on any platform (Wii, PS3, PS4, Xbox360, Xbox One,

etc.). Be sure to stop by and enjoy great food and company at the Udder Culture as well! All ages are welcome! (If you are a minor you will need to get a parent's permission to play, because we play a lot of games rated "M") Contact Greg Frank for more information at greg.r.frank@gmail.com.

FRIDAY, NOV. 28

Douglas Christmas Tree Lighting, 6:30 p.m., Pioneer Pavilion. Come see the lighting of the tree on Douglas Island. For more information, contact 907-364-2243.

Thanksgiving Friday Barn Dance, 7:30 p.m., St. Ann's Parish Hall, 5th and Gold Downtown. The traditional Thanksgiving Friday Barn Dance will feature live music by Rumblefish. Tom Paul will teach and call contra and square dances. No experience or partners are necessary. Discounts for students and seniors. Free for SAGA and JVs. Affiliated with Juneau International Folk Dancers. Tickets at the door. For more information, call Tom Paul at 463-3214.

Alaska Robotics

What do you want for your birthday?

I don't know Mom, I just can't think of anything...



Goblin Slayer

CAMPUS CALENDAR

ON CAMPUS

MONDAY, NOV. 24

Spring 2015 Open Registration Begins, All Day, UAS. Spring 2015 registration for all students begins today. For class information view the schedule website.

Zumba, 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Part Salsa, part dance, all fun! For more information, send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call 796-6544.

Dodgeball, 8 p.m., Recreation Center. Ready to flash-back to grade school? Head over to drop-in dodgeball. It's fast and it's fun! For more information, send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call 796-6544.

TUESDAY, NOV. 25

Open Climb, 6:30 p.m., Recreation Center. If you are looking for something different to do, try open rock climbing at the REC. Free climb or on belay it's a great time. Jam to our house audio system as you traverse the wall. All climbing equipment is available for use. For more information, send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call 796-6544.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 26

Community Thanksgiving, 6:00 p.m., Mourant Cafe. The UAS campus community is invited to join us for a Thanksgiving feast, good company, and lantern lighting! Dinner starts at 6 p.m. Hope to see you there! For more information, send an email to Student Activities Board at sab@uas.alaska.edu.

Zumba, 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Part Salsa, part dance, all fun! For more information, send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call 796-6544.

THURSDAY, NOV. 27

Thanksgiving Closure, All Day, UAS Campus. Campus closed excluding some service to include UAS housing/lodge services.

Open Climb, 6:30 p.m., Recreation Center. If you are looking for something different to do, try open rock climbing at the REC. Free climb or on belay it's a great time. Jam to our house audio system as you traverse the wall. All climbing equipment is available for use. For more information, send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call 796-6544.

Center. If you are looking for something different to do, try open rock climbing at the REC. Free climb or on belay it's a great time. Jam to our house audio system as you traverse the wall. All climbing equipment is available for use. For more information, send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call 796-6544.

FRIDAY, NOV. 28

Thanksgiving Closure, All Day, UAS Campus. Campus closed excluding some service to include UAS housing/lodge services.

SATURDAY, NOV. 29

Thanksgiving Closure, All Day, UAS Campus. Campus closed excluding some service to include UAS housing/lodge services.

Dodgeball, 3 p.m., Recreation Center. Ready to flash-back to grade school? Head over to drop-in dodgeball. It's fast and it's fun! For more information, send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call 796-6544.

UAS Disco Skate Night, 9:30 p.m., Treadwell Arena, Douglas. Want something to do on Thanksgiving weekend? On November 29th, Campus Life will be hosting our first UAS Disco Skate Night at the Treadwell Ice Rink! There will be music, disco lights, and FREE skates for all who attend! Free transportation will be offered to students on campus. Be at the Housing Lodge & Freshman Housing at 8:20 PM, bus will be leaving at 8:30 PM. Please bring your UAS IDs. UAS guests will be required to pay a \$5 fee. For more information, send an email to Student Activities Board at sab@uas.alaska.edu.

SUNDAY, NOV. 30

Thanksgiving Closure, All Day, UAS Campus. Campus closed excluding some service to include UAS housing/lodge services.

MONDAY, DEC. 1

2015 Tidal Echoes Deadlines, All Day, Juneau Campus. What resides in your imagination? Show us your creative work:

poetry, prose, artwork. Deadline is Dec. 1st, 2014. For more information, send an email to tidalechoes@uas.alaska.edu.

Zumba, 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Part Salsa, part dance, all fun! For more information, send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call 796-6544.

Dodgeball, 8 p.m., Recreation Center. Ready to flash-back to grade school? Head over to drop-in dodgeball. It's fast and it's fun! For more information, send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call 796-6544.

TUESDAY, DEC. 2

Open Climb, 6:30 p.m., Recreation Center. If you are looking for something different to do, try open rock climbing at the REC. Free climb or on belay it's a great time. Jam to our house audio system as you traverse the wall. All climbing equipment is available for use. For more information, send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call 796-6544.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 3

Whale Wednesday, All Day, UAS Campus. First Wednesday of every month is Whale Wednesday! Show your UAS spirit and post using the hashtag #UasWhaleWednesday. For more info and to see the spirit, visit Spike!

Zumba, 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Part Salsa, part dance, all fun! For more information, send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call 796-6544.

THURSDAY, DEC. 4

Bookstore: Used Book Buy-Back, All Day, UAS Bookstore in Juneau. Used Book Buy-back for fall text books runs Dec. 4-6 and 8-13. Bookstore is closed on Sunday. For more information, send an email to bookstore@uas.alaska.edu or call 796-6401.

Chancellor's Holiday Reception, 3 p.m., Mourant Cafe. Sweet & Savory Treats provided by UAS Food Service. Musical entertainment featuring our UAS Alaskapella. For more information, send

an email to uaschancellor@uas.alaska.edu or call 796-6509.

Open Climb, 6:30 p.m., Recreation Center. If you are looking for something different to do, try open rock climbing at the REC. Free climb or on belay it's a great time. Jam to our house audio system as you traverse the wall. All climbing equipment is available for use. For more information, send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call 796-6544.

FRIDAY, DEC. 5

REC Closure, All Day, Recreation Center. The REC Center will be closed for the joint use by the Alaska Army National Guard. For more information, send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call 796-6544.

SATURDAY, DEC. 6

REC Closure, All Day, Recreation Center. The REC Center will be closed for the joint use by the Alaska Army National Guard. For more information, send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call 796-6544.

Gingerbread Magic, 10:30 a.m., Glacier View Room. UAS Alumni & Friends invites you to Gingerbread Magic 101, Saturday, December 6, 2014, 10:30 am to 12:00 PM. Glacier View Room, Egan Classroom Wing at UAS. Bring the kids and build gingerbread houses, complete with frosting and the works! Limit 2 house kits per family. Space is Limited. FREE for members and their children. Must be a member to attend. Reservation Required: 796-6569

SUNDAY, DEC. 7

REC Closure, All Day, Recreation Center. The REC Center will be closed for the joint use by the Alaska Army National Guard. For more information, send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call 796-6544.

MONDAY, DEC. 8

Final Exam Week, All Day, Recreation Center. Visit the Fall schedule for finals schedule. For more information, send an email to provost@uas.alaska.edu or call 796-6486.

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