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*Serving the coastal environments, cultures, economies, and communities of Alaska*

**Correction:** In this morning's version of the newsletter, we used incorrect pronouns in our Student Spotlight feature. Allyship is extremely important to us in Arts & Sciences, as is acknowledging errors when we make them. Thank you to the student who immediately reached out to us and pointed out the error.

Please find a corrected version of the Spring Newsletter below.

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April, 2023, Issue 3

Dear Friends of UAS Arts and Sciences,

As I write to you today, we are busily preparing for the end of the year. Spring has sprung in southeast Alaska - the sun is shining (it's been shining for days!) and conversations have turned to graduation, summer research, travel, and simply enjoying the beauty of our campus.



**Carin Silkaitis**  
Dean of Arts & Sciences

With the coming of spring, my mind turns to growth, and I reflect on all the growth I have seen in Arts & Sciences this past year. We have a growing faculty! This fall, we will welcome new faculty in English, Chemistry, Phycology, Alaska Native Languages, Art, Northwest Coast Indigenous Art, and Anthropology. I am looking forward to the new energy and excitement they will bring to our campus.

Speaking of growth, this year also saw more students at UAS, and I got to meet with so many of you this year. Whether it was at campus kick-off, an activities fair, a job fair, Woonch.Een, AISES, Relative Brunch, UAS Night at Perseverance Theatre, I am so grateful to have the opportunity to connect with our students. Students: you're amazing, and believe me when I say that YOU are the reason we are here! As we prepare for 2023 graduation, I want you to remember that UAS will always be a home base for you. Our students become our treasured alumni, and we want you to stay connected to this place. We hope you will return, visit with us, share your experiences, and most of all, give advice and make connections to and with current UAS students.

Happy Graduation to our wonderful students! I look forward to seeing you at Commencement!

Warmly,  
Carin Silkaitis

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**UAS at Princeton Symposium** - UAS faculty and leadership were invited to Princeton for a symposium on Tlingit Art, Spirit and Ancestry: Healing Histories of Dispossession. Ernestine Saankaláxt Hayes, Dr. Judith Daxootsú Ramos, Wayne Price, Guná Megan Jensen, and Carin Silkaitis traveled to New Jersey to give [presentations on Tlingit art, culture, and decolonization](#). The invited UAS presenters were also able to view the collection of Tlingit artifacts that were taken from Southeast Alaska by Sheldon Jackson and Presbyterian missionaries and brought to the Princeton Theological Seminary, where they remain to this day.

[Princeton Symposium - Learn More](#)



**Ted Stevens Internship Program** - The Senator Ted Stevens Legislative Internship Program was established in 1988, serving about 6-12 University of Alaska students per cohort. The program focuses on partnering students with legislators to provide hands-on experience with politics in Alaska. About forty percent of program participants go on to careers in politics, including many state legislators and Mary Peltola, United States Representative for all of Alaska. Beyond the public administration focus that the program began with and continues to provide, students can choose to engage in the program as part of an Alaska Native studies focus or environmental policy focus. The application

period for the program is each fall; however, interested students should prepare in advance by collecting the required components for their application during the summer: a cover letter, resume, transcript, and two letters of recommendation.

[Ted Stevens Internship Program - Learn More](#)



**Thanks to A&S Donors** - Spring has brought opportunities for growth at UAS through the generous support of our donors, both in UA's Giving Day and the return of the Alumni and Friends Annual Auction. Arts & Sciences would like to thank the many supporters of the Arts & Sciences funds, especially the many first-time donors that contributed during UA's Giving Day. We hope our new and returning donors will keep in touch with UAS and A&S in the years to come, learning about our students and our programs. Dean Carin Silkaitis shared that they are, "SO proud of the fact that our donors include many faculty and staff who give to UAS in order to provide financial support for students. The financial support is a great benefit to our students, who so appreciate your encouragement and belief in their success here at UAS" The Alumni and Friends Auction, which featured entertainment including Tlingit Elvis (above), allows UAS to give \$2,500 scholarships to 10 students per year, the funds for which were raised in almost a single night at this year's auction.

[Alumni & Friends Association - Learn More](#)

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### Student Spotlight - Olive Brend

During their time at UAS, Olive Brend has worked on several projects centering on their love of writing. They have worked at Tidal Echoes - both as a submitting writer and in an editorial capacity, helped other students as a student employee of the Writing Center in Juneau, and was a founding member of Summit. They also had the opportunity to complete a creative writing thesis, which has been published in UA ScholarWorks, and will serve as one of their focuses as they builds their career in the coming years.

Olive's writing focuses on sense of place and queer/trans identity in place. Living on the shores of Áak'w for five years has given them, "unparalleled opportunities to explore the intricacies of my relationships to this environment and others with which I'm familiar, spectacular and terrifying (the writing sample I sent to UW was about my car breaking down on the Alaska Highway in the middle of winter!)."



Olive shares that, "The UW program is quite competitive, and I'm excited to continue working on the questions I've opened up during my time at UAS. The director, Nikki Crouse (they/them), got their MFA from UAF, and they're focused on questions of trans

identity in place, too. My cohort is sure to hail from diverse backgrounds and locations, which will only challenge me and my writing further. I've also gotten the chance to work with whales and wildlife here in Lingít Aaní, as I spend my summers as the lead naturalist at a local whale watch company, and I'm excited I'll be able to do the same in Washington with such close access to Xwelch (the Salish Sea)."

### Faculty Spotlight - Guna Megan Jensen



Guna Megan Jensen began teaching at UAS during the Fall 2022 semester, with the weekend intensive course, Intro to Career Development for the Artist, where she helped artists craft an artist statement. This semester, she has returned with a Beginning Northwest Coast Indigenous Design course and Beginning Painting (Oil and Acrylic). She has also collaborated with Professor Emily Moore to provide an indigenous voice and formline workshop to their co-taught Northwest Coast Native Art History & Culture course.

Guna brings a lifetime of experience as a Tlingit artist to UAS and its students. She received her degree from Emily Carr University of Art + Design in Vancouver, BC.

Guna's engagement in indigenous art and culture began well before her studies at Emily Carr, when she was a child watching her mother's dance group. She saw the impact of this group on the dancers who were able to use the physical expression of traditional dance to outwardly show their strength and pride in their connection to their tribe, culture, and ancestors.

Witnessing this strength and pride awoke similar feelings in young Guna, who then felt the compulsory need to engage in the dance group and publicly celebrate the resilience of the Tlingit people of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation. This connection to her culture through art continued as she went on trips, met artists - like the carver William Callahan, and engaged in other art forms, such as formline, painting, carving, and more.

At UAS, Guna feels it is important to create a culturally safe community where indigenous students can engage in the learning and social environments in a constructive and holistic way. Especially providing safe spaces for indigenous people to learn about and engage in their own indigenous art and culture.

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 3 - Fall 2023 open registration begins
- April 7, 6:30 pm - [Tidal Echoes launch \(Egan Lecture Hall\)](#)
- April 10-12 - [Student Government elections](#)
- April 11, 9 am-12 pm - Student employee appreciation (Spike's Cafe)
- April 14, 4:30-6:30 pm - [Spring Carnival \(Mourant Courtyard\)](#)
- April 18, 6:30 pm - Indigeneity and the 'Domestic Posthuman': Reevaluating the Scale, Pace, Texture, and Place of Technology (SHI Clan House)
- April 20, 7:30-10:30 pm - [UAS Night at Perseverance Theater](#)
- April 21, 12-1 pm - Earth Day pizza party (UAS Kiln)
- May 1 - Summer admissions application deadline
- May 2-6 - Finals week
- May 5 - [Commencement \(Sitka\)](#)

- May 6 - [Commencement \(Ketchikan\)](#)
- May 7 - [Commencement \(Juneau\)](#)
- May 8 - Housing move-out

Submit research, project, or event information



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