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

September, 2023, Issue 4

Dear Friends of UAS Arts and Sciences,

Welcome back to the inspiring landscapes of the University of Alaska Southeast as we embark on a new academic year filled with boundless opportunities for growth, discovery, and excellence. With immense pleasure and great anticipation, I extend my warmest greetings to all of you.



Carin Silkaitis
Dean of Arts & Sciences

To our new students, welcome to UAS! The beginning of the school year is filled with so much excitement and a plethora of emotions for so many of you. To our returning students, welcome back! Your resilience, enthusiasm, and commitment to your studies are truly commendable. As you enter this new year, I encourage you to embrace the challenges ahead with an open heart and a curious mind. Know that our dedicated faculty and staff are here to guide and support you every step of the way.

I extend my heartfelt welcome back to our wonderful faculty members as you return to campus. I look forward to hearing about your summer projects, research, and travels. Students: get to know your faculty! Their dedication to academic excellence and unwavering passion for teaching and research enriches our community in immeasurable ways.

Lastly, to our esteemed alumni, you remain an integral part of our university's story. Your accomplishments resonate far beyond our campus, and your contributions to your respective fields are a testament to the power of

education. I invite you to engage with us again to share your experiences, wisdom, and insights with our current students. One of my goals for this year is to meet as many of you as possible. Thank you to those of you in Chicago and San Diego who have made coffee dates with me! I am excited to gain a deeper understanding of your time at UAS, and look forward to meeting you!

This year promises exciting developments, from cutting-edge research initiatives to captivating artistic endeavors, all of which will contribute to the vibrant tapestry of UAS.

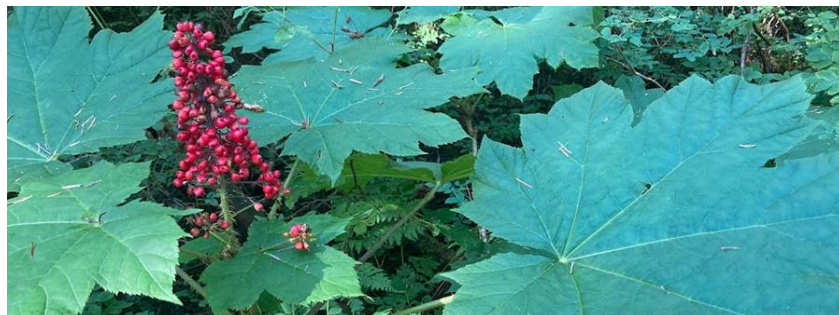
Here's to a year filled with learning, laughter, and the joy of discovery.

Warmly,
Carin Silkaitis



Evening at Egan - The fantastic lecture series held in the Egan library is now part of Arts & Sciences! With this change of organization, Evening at Egan will now focus on a few lectures and presentations over the course of the fall semester, instead of weekly events. The first in the Fall 2023 series will be a presentation from visiting Fullbright scholar, Shingo Hamada: "Eating the Herring: Rifts and Responses in the North Pacific." His presentation will be on September 8 at 7:00pm. On October 13, Dr. Rosellen M. Rosich from UAA will present, "The Vicissitudes of Aging & Brain Health: What Parents' May Never Have Told You!" And on November 10, UAS' own professor Jim Powell will present, "Impacts and Responses: Cruise ships and Northern Communities." The Fall series will wrap up with a UAS Creative Showcase on December 8, featuring Ernestine Hayes, Carin Silkaitis, Emily Wall, and Lily Hope.

[Evening at Egan - Learn More](#)



S'áxt & Leukemia Research - New UAS chemistry professor, Dr. Brian Barth, has a longstanding connection with Alaska, extending back to his time as a grad student at UAF. It was in grad school that Brian met fellow student and chemist, Colin McGill, now the Chair of Chemistry at UAA. The two collaborated on a project studying the chemistry and traditional uses of low-bush kanat'á (blueberries). After that project concluded, they moved on to researching other indigenous medicine, including s'ikshaldeén (Labrador tea) and, most recently, s'áxt (devil's club). Brian's current research with Colin McGill, which has included the help of other colleagues and students at the institutions the pair has worked

with, focuses on studying sphingolipids in relation to myeloid leukemia, and testing the effect of various extracts and refined fractions of s'áxt on acute myeloid leukemia, various solid tumors, as well as inflammatory conditions. The research pair has published articles as their research has progressed, including their first publication in 2014 in *Phytotherapy Research*, and their most recent article, which is currently pending peer review and publication.

[Extracts of S'áxt Research \(2014\) - Learn More](#)



Strategic Plan - In 2022, Arts & Sciences launched a project to create a five-year strategic plan. After meetings with stakeholders and surveys from faculty and staff, the plan's goals were established and a timeline was laid out. Together we will focus on four key areas: our commitment to student success, prioritizing faculty and staff empowerment and morale, creating a cohesive experience across campuses, and energizing a future of innovation for Arts and Sciences (see below for additional details on each area). Our commitment to this plan signals an intention towards growing our school in number of students, securing our future financially, and ensuring our positive impact in the long term.

[A&S Strategic Plan - Learn More](#)

Student Spotlight - SamMi Zelle

Entering her junior year, SamMi has had a varied path to and within UAS. She is currently majoring in both English and Environmental Studies with an emphasis in Literature and the Environment with a minor in Environmental Science. She has changed her major over a dozen times because, "I am interested in everything! Through the connections I've made with UAS' stellar English faculty, however, I have honed in my boundless interests into the interconnection between two disciplines that have historically been portrayed as opposites: the natural sciences and the humanities.



"Quantitative science is certainly vital to adapting to our changing environmental and sociopolitical environments; this being said, I believe the roles of storytelling and language are overlooked in discussions surrounding environmental conservation. Much of our collective challenge lies in how our social and political narratives perpetuate disconnection from our shared Earth, which is most apparent in written policy and sociopolitical narratives (especially media).

"Throughout my degree, I strive to deeply study the natural processes of the Earth and how we, as human beings, connect or disconnect from our environment through

storytelling, literature, and narratives. With my degree, there are many paths I'm considering, including education, conservation, and environmental law/policy."

In addition to her academic pursuits, SamMi is a student administrative assistant for the School of Arts & Sciences, and plans to revive the UAS Sustainability Club along with some of her fellow classmates, to create a collaborative space for learning and action.

Faculty Spotlight - Lily Hope



Photo courtesy of @sydneyakagipho

The School of Arts & Sciences is thrilled to have acclaimed weaver, Lily Hope, join UAS as full-time faculty, offering Fall 2023 courses in Natural Dye (ART 138), Beginning Northwest Coast Indigenous Design (ART 181), and Career Development for the Artist (ART 295).

Born and raised in Juneau, Alaska, Lily is Tlingit, of the T'akdeintaan clan. She is a lifelong artist, learning to sew at four years old, and helping her mother, master Chilkat weaver Clarissa Rizal, sew button blankets as early as eight years old.

Lily has been weaving for 28 years, creating art and teaching both Chilkat and Ravenstail styles. In that time, she has created three full-sized Chilkat blankets, two child-sized Chilkat blankets, a full set of children's Ravenstail regalia, and countless other pieces of regalia and art.

Her Chilkat face masks, originally intended to be a one-off nod to the COVID-19 pandemic, garnered national attention and appreciation, leading to a series of 37 Chilkat face masks. Three of the masks are part of her body of work on display in the [Sharing Honor and Burdens: Renwick Invitational 2023](#) exhibition at the Smithsonian American Art Museum's Renwick Gallery.

Always an artist, Lily had a calling to teaching in 2009, after which she began to gradually pursue a Master's of Education. However, after the untimely passing of her mother in 2016, Lily was presented with the opportunity to teach through a grant from the Alaska State Council on the Arts. Finding her calling fulfilled through teaching the next generation of Chilkat and Ravenstail weavers, Lily has since taught numerous classes in dyeing, spinning, and weaving.

Some of Lily's brightest moments in teaching come when helping students approach their art from a mindset of growth and prosperity. Part of her teaching includes dispelling the societal myth that artists must struggle against poverty for the sake of their passion, instead supporting her students to see that they can find success and stability as professional artists. Lily is delighted when work done in class helps her students further their goals as professional artists

UPCOMING EVENTS

- September 8, 3:30 pm - Coffee with the Dean (Glacier View Room)
- September 8, 7:00 pm - [Evening at Egan: Shingo Hamada \(Egan Library\)](#)
- September 13, 7:30 pm - [Perseverance Theatre Pay-as-you-will Preview](#)
- September 21, 7:30 pm - [UAS Night at Perseverance Theatre](#)
- October 13, 7:00 pm - [Evening at Egan: Dr. Rosellen M. Rosich \(Egan Library\)](#)
- October 16, 10:00 am - Coffee with the Dean (Ketchikan)
- October 17, TBA - Coffee with the Dean (Sitka)

- November 3 - First Friday gallery opening featuring UAS student & instructor art (Juneau Arts & Cultural Center)
- November 10, 7:00 pm - [Evening at Egan: Jim Powell \(Egan Library\)](#)
- November 29, 7:30 pm - [Perseverance Theatre Pay-as-you-will Preview](#)
- December 7, 7:30 pm - [UAS Night at Perseverance Theatre](#)
- December 8, 7:00 pm - [Evening at Egan: Creative Showcase \(Egan Library\)](#)
- December 11-16 - Finals week
- December 18 - Housing move-out (fall)
- December 25 - January 2 - Winter Break
- January 16 - First day of classes (spring)
- February 14, 7:30 pm - [Perseverance Theatre Pay-as-you-will Preview](#)
- February 22, 7:30 pm - [UAS Night at Perseverance Theatre](#)

Submit research, project, or event information



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