

**INTRODUCING
LINDA SOUTHWELL, M.F.A.
PROFESSOR OF ART**

Linda Southwell joined Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo in September as professor of art from the University of Alaska Southeast–Sitka Campus. Linda has a Master’s of Fine Arts in sculpture (human/organic form) with a secondary emphasis in drawing from the University of Oregon in Eugene. She earned her Bachelor’s of Fine Arts equivalent in sculpture from California State University, Long Beach and the University of Oregon, and she received a Bachelor’s of Arts in psychology from Pitzer College in Claremont, Calif.

For Linda, it was the many opportunities at SUA, AV and the prospect of starting a new campus that drew her back to the warm climate of Southern California. “The idea of being part of a team building an educational program that is interdisciplinary and cross-cultural was really exciting,” Linda says.

As director of the Art Program in Alaska for 12 years, Linda developed the arts curriculum and directed the Northwest Coast Native Arts Program. She created and taught drawing, sculpture, ceramic sculpture, painting, mixed media and art appreciation courses. She also served as faculty mentor for the Alaska Native Student Recruitment and Retention Program.

Linda has had many solo and group exhibits of her work and has received numerous grants and awards. These include: CCHA/NEH Summer Institute Fellowship (Mexico, New Mexico), The Rockefeller Foundation Mentor Grant from the College Art Association, The President’s Special Fund Grant for Northwest Coast Native Arts Program at the University of Alaska and the Jan Zach Sculpture Award and Distinguished Teaching Award at the University of Oregon. In 1998, she was honored by her adoption by the Kiks.adi Clan (Tlingit, Raven-Frog) in Sitka, Alaska.

“I love creating opportunities for students to discover and realize their ideas and images,” adds Linda. “Teaching, for me, is a blend of two loves: my own passion for making art and the excitement I get from being a catalyst for personal growth and change. I want my classroom to be a working community of respect where each student can experience the full potential of his or her creative abilities.”

Prospective students who may have questions for Linda may contact her at lsouthwell@soka.edu or by calling (888) 600-SOKA.