

## Dear Board of Regents,

More than 400 staff attended UAA Development Day—geared toward personal and professional development and team building. Jim Clemmer, nationally recognized expert on growing and leading through change, provided timely advice in his keynote.

This summer, College of Business and Public Policy Dean **Elisha “Bear” Baker IV** will begin service as interim provost as we continue the national search for a new provost. We are in the final stages of hiring a new dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and searches are underway for College of Education, School of Engineering and College of Health.

UAA is one of 11 universities nationwide selected to participate in VetSuccess on Campus, which will help us better serve our growing military and veteran student population.

Our campus is changing with clearing and site development for the Seawolf Sports Arena and the Legislature’s appropriation of \$58M to begin construction of a new engineering building.

Finally, through Board of Regent approval and President Gamble’s support, the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities expanded UAA’s accreditation to include doctoral programs. Our sole doctoral program, the UAA/UAF joint Ph.D. program in clinical-community psychology, also received accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association. This year, for the first time, UAA, jointly with UAF, bestowed the doctoral degree to two students in the UAA/UAF joint Ph.D. program in clinical-community psychology. The University of Alaska now has two doctoral institutions.

Best Regards,

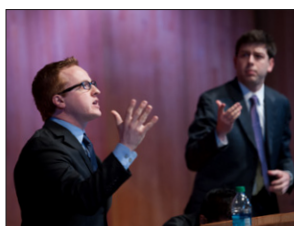
*Tom Case*

Tom Case, Chancellor



*UAA celebrated the graduation of 2,172 students who earned 2,223 degrees or certificates in the Class of 2012. Honorary degree candidates included Tony Knowles, Barry Lopez, Al Parrish and Rosita Worl. Meritorious Service awardees included Dot Helm, Pam Miller, Mary Louise Rasmuson and George Skladal.*

Biology student **Michelle Shero** has been awarded an NSF Graduate Fellowship, with a stipend rate of \$30,000 per 12-month fellowship year, funded for a maximum of three years, plus tuition and fees. Michelle is UAA’s first recipient of this fellowship.



Seawolf debaters are now ranked 9th in the world. This is the first time they have been among the top 10 in the world.

More than 250 people attended *Alaska Quarterly Review's* 30th Anniversary book launch highlighting “Liberty & Justice for All,” a photo mosaic featuring 68 of the world’s most acclaimed photojournalists. “Liberty & Justice for All” is receiving national attention and will be the subject of a major exhibit in New York City in May and June.



## UAA ...

### Faculty, staff and students take leading roles:

**Erick Romig**, mentored by Dr. Patricia Fagan, was selected for a U.S. Student Fulbright award to Spain.

**Alan Massey** (B.A. Languages '11) received a U.S. Student Fulbright award for 2012-2013 for a teaching assistantship in Germany.

Arctic Engineering graduate student **Ben Still** received the URS Arctic Engineering Graduate Fellowship for the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 academic years (\$50,000 total award).

**Susan Mircovich**, Kenai River Campus assistant professor of chemistry, has had her CHEM 103 online course selected as an exemplary course for the 2012 Blackboard Exemplary Course Program. Mircovich is the first UA faculty member to have a course selected for this international recognition.

**Dr. Lil Alessa**, professor biological sciences and director of the Resilience and Adaptive Management Group, is invited by the U.S. National Academies to participate in an a National Science Foundation (NSF) symposium examining federal agency investments, outcomes and opportunities for funding sustainability research.

Kenai Peninsula College's (KPC) Anchorage Extension Site process technology team, led by **Assistant Professor Rick Adams** took first place in the NSF's "Developing Students' Troubleshooting Skills in Energy Programs" national competition. Student members of the team included **Daniel Christianson, Alex Kight** and **Neil Richardson**.

**Dr. Anthony Paris**, associate professor of engineering, won the Faculty Exemplar Award for his work mentoring undergraduate research students. One group he mentored developed a spinal rod bender for which a patent application was filed.

### Grants and research in the public interest:

The Justice Center was awarded a contract by the Alaska Department of Corrections to design an evaluation strategy for Fairbanks' domestic violence probationer pilot project.

Kodiak College microbiology students worked with the Marine Advisory Program in a pilot study to develop a Community Monitoring Program for Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning in Kodiak.

### Public square and collaborations:

350 people attended KPC's Kachemak Bay Campus College, Career and Job Fair in Homer.

UAA and Verizon partnered for the showing of "Telling Amy's Story" for Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Senator Mark Begich met with students at USUAA's "Sundaes with the Senator."

Kenai River Campus and neighboring Alaska Christian College co-hosted the 4th annual regional Alaska Native Oratory Society. The two colleges have collaborated in many ways for the last 10 years.

KPC's Anchorage Extension Site-based Occupational Safety & Health and Process Technology programs hosted their first Professional and Internship Event Day at the University Center.

### Program successes:

UAA's associate and baccalaureate construction management programs received initial accreditation from the American Council for Construction Education.

UAA Human Services Department and Job Corps have established an agreement allowing students enrolled in the Job Corps Human Service Career Path Program to concurrently earn selected human service credits.

### Development:

Northrim Bank contributed \$50,000 to UAA's Small Business Development Center and \$125,000 to ISER.

The Atwood Foundation made a \$200,000 pledge payment to the Robert B. Atwood Chair of Journalism.

Alaska Kidney Foundation Inc. gave a gift of \$30,303 to support the Alaska Kidney Foundation Scholarship.

ConocoPhillips Alaska Inc. made a \$2.2M pledge payment in support of the ConocoPhillips Arctic Science and Engineering Endowment Fund.

International Foundation for Research in Experimental Economy contributed two gifts totaling \$26,595 to CBPP Experimental Economics Laboratory General Support.

### University Relations awards:

2012 Hermes Creative Awards (Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals):

- Platinum: I AM UAA Campaign (Integrated Marketing Campaign)
- Gold: UAA Website Redesign (Website Overall/Educational Institution)
- Honorable Mention: Simulation in Action at UAA Video (Video/Public Relations)

Mat-Su College is the recipient of the 27th Annual Merit Educational Advertising Award, the largest educational advertising awards competition in the country, for its "Spring Registration" newspaper ad.



**Taylor Rohde**—the Bill MacKay Athlete of the Year—is the first UAA student-athlete ever to be named National Player of the Year. Seawolf athletics were ranked 10th in the Learfield Cup, the highest ever.



College of Education's **Dr. Irasema Ortega** received the Selkregg Community Engagement and Service Learning Award for her project to strengthen COE's partnership with the Kashunamiut School District.



Private donors contributed \$694,000, providing 435 students with 562 scholarships this year.





Crystal Gumlickpuk of New Stuyahok accepts congratulations from honorary degree recipient Robin Samuelsen during the Bristol Bay Campus' May 5 graduation ceremony. Gumlickpuk earned an associate of applied science degree and a certificate in community health. Approximately 1,310 students received certificates or degrees at UAF's 90th commencement ceremonies, including 19 at the Bristol Bay Campus. A record 50 students received doctoral degrees at the Fairbanks commencement ceremony May 13.

## Achievements

**Research labs across campus** were open to the public for the fifth annual UAF Research Day. Visitors could see a brain breathe, examine tiny zooplankton or tour a working theater scene shop. The 2012 Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Professor Emeritus F. Stuart "Terry" Chapin III, one of the nation's leading ecologists and the only Alaskan to hold an appointment to the National Academy of Sciences.

**Jacqueline Rahm was named** UAF's first recipient of a Peace Corps Paul D. Coverdell Fellowship to fund work on her project to help define Alaska Native peoples' perceptions of health and wellness. In addition, her work will explore ways to integrate those perceptions into the health care system. Rahm served in the Peace Corps in Nepal as a teacher from 1987 – 1989.

**The Community and Technical College** and the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District have teamed up on a new Partnerships to Pathways project to help students seamlessly transition from high school to postsecondary education and careers. The program ensures that district and CTC programs and curricula are aligned, and enhances opportunities for students to participate in apprenticeships and training while still in high school.

**College of Engineering and Mines Assistant Professor Margaret Darrow** received a National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development Program award for her work on permafrost. The CAREER award is one of the NSF's most prestigious. It recognizes early-career faculty members who exemplify the role of teacher-scholar and show strong potential to be leaders in integrating education and research in their fields.

**UAF celebrated its land-grant roots** with a series of free classes, lectures and other events in April to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Morrill Act, which was signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln in 1862.

**The Cooperative Extension Service and Sea Grant's Marine Advisory Program** collaborated to offer a workshop on starting a specialty food business — low-volume food products created from high-quality ingredients — in Fairbanks and at videoconference sites in Anchorage, Delta Junction and Sitka.

## In Progress

**The Arctic Region Supercomputing Center** will soon be home to Fish, a new Cray XK6m supercomputer named for Alaska's fisheries and ocean and water resources. Fish will be a valuable tool for researchers working to understand and predict changes in arctic systems, including weather and climate, oceans and ice, permafrost and other materials.

**The School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences** and the **Cooperative Extension Service**, along with the Mat-Su Valley Arts Alliance, are seeking artists to participate in the OneTree project. The project began in April with the harvesting and drying of a single birch tree. Wood from the tree will be distributed to local artists, who will use the wood to create objects from furniture to art.

**A new \$1.8 million National Science Foundation** grant will help the Geophysical Institute expand a program that encourages Alaska Native middle school students to pursue science and technology careers. The grant will fund the PREPARES project, short for Preparing Responsive Educators Using Place-based Authentic Research in Earth Systems.

**Work is in full swing** with the build-out of the interior spaces of the new Life Sciences Facility. Interior rough-in, framing and preparation for drywall is on schedule, and the pedestrian link between Irving II and Life Sciences is installed. Overall the project remains on schedule for a spring 2013 completion.

## What's Next

**The R/V Sikuliaq**, under construction in Marinette, Wis., is scheduled for launch Oct. 13. After its launch the *Sikuliaq* will undergo a series of trials, then it will be transported through the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway transit system, south to the Panama Canal and then north to Alaska. The ship will be ready for unrestricted science operations from its base in Seward in 2014.



# through the lens: recent images

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

June 2012



**UAF's Society of Automotive Engineers team** took top honors in the zero emissions category of the 2012 SAE Clean Snowmobile Challenge held at Michigan Technical University in Houghton, Mich. This electric model was modified by Adjunct Professor Mike Golub, back left, and engineering students Isaac Thompson, back right, Karlin Swearingen, front right, and Ben Neubauer, front left.



**Photos, clockwise from left**

**Sooyun Chi works with children** in the Bunnell House on campus to complete her internship in early childhood education.

**Associate Professor Mat Wooller**, left, and PhD candidate Jim Shobe test a new vibra-coring system through a hole in lake ice to sample long cores of sediment deep below the lake's bottom.

**UAF students Ian Wilkinson and Raphaela Sieber** enjoy a morning loop around the Fairbanks campus ski trails.

**Art major Joel Isaak** fills a mold in the UAF Fine Arts Complex with molten bronze as part of the process of creating a life-size sculpture for his senior thesis.



The University of Alaska Fairbanks is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. UAF is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and educational institution. Produced by UAF Marketing and Communications. UAF photos by Todd Paris.

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# Chancellor's Report

Chancellor John Pugh

uas.alaska.edu/chancellor  
June 2012 Meeting

## Commencement 2012



*Chancellor John Pugh hugs Bachelor of Arts in Art graduate Ryan Cortes at the UAS Juneau Commencement Ceremony. Photo by Yosuke Sano.*

UAS honored graduates from Summer and Fall 2011 and Spring 2012 at commencement ceremonies in Ketchikan, Sitka and Juneau May 4-6, 2012. A total of 620 candidates received Masters, Bachelors and Associates degrees as well as certificates and occupational endorsements from the Juneau, Ketchikan and Sitka UAS campuses. Five-hundred twenty-nine degrees, certificates and endorsement went to Juneau graduates. Twenty-four states are represented in this year's group of graduates, 87 percent are from Alaska.

## UAS Faculty Organizes Bioblitz



*Mathematics faculty Megan Buzby assists a fourth-grader with species identification at a BioBlitz near the UAS Auke Lake campus. Photo by Chip McMillan.*

Education faculty Chip McMillan and math faculty Megan Buzby, helped Auke Bay Elementary school students identify flora such as small plants in the rainforest understory during a BioBlitz for fourth-graders on Friday, May 4, 2012. McMillan was a key organizer of the event, a collaboration the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, the U.S. Forest Service, the University of Alaska Southeast, NOAA, the Juneau School District and the Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center. "Our goals included raising our Juneau kids' awareness of our local flora and fauna; help them understand the concept of biodiversity, appreciate our

local environment, and generally just get them outside observing nature," said McMillan. A BioBlitz is a short term (24 hours or less) survey of all species found in a given area.

## Egan Library Holds Poetry Contest

UAS English major Kate Laster won the Free Verse category in a contest held by the Egan Library in honor of April's National Poetry month.



*Kate Laster reads her poem, "Free Verse" at a celebration announcing the winners of the Egan Library Poetry Contest, April 20, 2012. Photo by Ryan Cortes.*

## Rainforest Symposium is a Success

The Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center brought together scientists from throughout the United States and Canada at a symposium to synthesize best practices, foster collaboration for future projects, and improve community engagement in science and resource management.

Coastal Temperate Rainforests: Integrating Science, Resource Management, and Communities took place April 17-19 in Juneau.

The three day event included impressive keynote speakers such as Dr. Peter Kareiva, Chief Scientist and Director of Science, The Nature Conservancy; Dr. Kirk R. Johnson, Member of the Committee on the Importance of Deep-Time Geologic Records for Understanding Climate Change Impacts and Dr. Dolores Garza, Professor Emerita of the University of Alaska, presenting on Traditional Ecological Knowledge.

There were more than 35 speakers, academics at leading universities, researchers and directors from state and federal agencies, resource managers, policymakers, traditional knowledge bearers, and educators. The presentations and discussions linked with projects in ecosystem management, land planning, forest management, recreation and wilderness resources, fisheries management, trans-boundary data integration and policy decision making, conservation, climate change, and education.

Symposium sponsors were the University of Alaska Southeast, U.S. Forest Service Alaska Region, Tongass National Forest, Pacific Northwest Research Station, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Alaska

Region and North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative, Wilburforce Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Geological Survey, and Juneau Economic Development Council.

Based at University of Alaska Southeast, the Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center is a collaborative environment designed to integrate science, resource management and communities.



*Provost Rick Caulfield thanks organizers of the first annual Alaska Coastal Rainforest Symposium at the closing dinner, April 19, 2012. Photo by Katie Bausler.*

## UAS Outdoor Studies Completes Icefield Trek

*by Abbie Lowell, Juneau Empire*



*Outdoor Studies students tent city on the Juneau Icefield, April 2012. Photo by Travis Haskin.*

For University of Alaska Southeast student Bradford Chadsey, the outdoors is the ultimate classroom.

After completing a human-powered trek across the Juneau Icefield last week, he said there are few words that act as proper descriptors for the expedition. Instead, he settled on one simple conclusion.

"For me," he said. "it was a life-changing experience."

Chadsey was one of eight UAS Outdoor Studies students, led by ODS program head Forest Wagner, who hiked and skied their way across the Juneau Icefield from April 12 to 17. Travis Haskin and Samantha Becker assisted. The group of 11 flew with Ward Air to the base of the Matthes Glacier, eight miles from the Canadian border, to begin the journey on Thursday, April 12. The following day, over a 10-hour period, they all climbed the 5,800-foot Exploration Peak.

Chadsey said it was on the second day that he realized the scope of what faced the group: besides the climb up Exploration, there were still approximately 30 miles left to travel back to civilization.

On April 14, the group began the trek toward Juneau.

"I'm particularly proud of this trek," Wagner said. "It was an accomplishment. People are not dropped off on the icefield to ski home all that often."

Wagner said for the students, this trip was a culmination of all the different climbing skills that he teaches, starting in the fall with rock climbing, then backcountry navigation and travel, and then, in the spring, ice climbing and glacier rescue.

"This (mountaineering course) represents the weaving of a bunch of different skill sets, from navigation to glacier travel to technical climbing, along with the hardness factor and the ability to endure multiple days," Wagner said.

While this wasn't Wagner's first trip across the icefield, he said one day in particular stands out above the rest.

"It was our longest travel day, about 10 miles, and it was just gorgeous," he said.

On this day, like so many over the course of the week, the group enjoyed great weather. They also relished in easy travel and breathtaking scenery as they moved past the hulking Mendenhall Towers.

"It's nice to watch these students really see these mountains up close," he said. "The scale is recognized as being significant and on the backside of the Mendenhall Towers, there are walls the size of El Cap."

"El Cap," officially known as El Capitan, is a vertical, granite rock formation in Yosemite National Park, located on the north side of Yosemite Valley, near its western end.

Becker said she remembers that particularly "awesome" experience well.

"These are mountains I see every day from campus or from the road, but to be up close to them and ski next to them was amazing," she said.

Becker, who acted as a teaching assistant on the trip, said it was a treat to experience the icefield first-hand and at a human-powered pace.

"I study the icefield on a scientific level and I hear of tourists touring the area," she said.

But for Becker, it was rewarding to experience the icefield on such a personal and intimate level.

In the past, Wagner said the mountaineering groups have done various "mountain objectives" around town. From the end of the road to ski traverses on Douglas, and even climbs via Blackerby Ridge. But he said he thinks the premier destination for teaching mountaineering in the Juneau area is the icefield.

Because, he said, "you're more likely to get high mountain conditions; it's drier, it's colder and it's just, kind of, better."

"Plus, I think it's empowering for someone to go on the icefield, get out there and climb a legitimate mountain, ski home and put all these skills together," Wagner said.

With more than 70 pounds of gear on their backs and after skiing across and up the Taku Glacier, then descending the South Branch of the Mendenhall Glacier, the group walked out on the West Glacier Trail on Tuesday, April 17.

Besides Wagner, Becker, Haskin and Chadsey, the participants included Chelsea Bomba, Miles Gayton, Kaytlin Roberson, Tom Schwartz, Julia Stouber, Nicole Tarcsay and Michaela Twarog.