Dear Board of Regents,

More than 2,500 students, parents, faculty, and staff turned out for Freshman Convocation and Campus Kick-Off on August 25. Keynote speaker, Dr. Yoky Matsuoka provided inspiration and advice, telling incoming freshmen to think of their lives as a book, the earliest chapters of which are written by their parents. College, she said, is a place where they have an opportunity to write their own chapters.

Going live this fall, supporting student success, are faculty alerts warning of students falling behind for all 100-level Anchorage campus courses. We're offering workshops on study skills, career clusters, safety, making degree plans and protecting GPA, throughout the year. Newly reconfigured space for UAA's Military and Veteran Resource Center opens in September on the first floor of the Student Union.

We welcome our new dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, John Stalvey, and new WWAMI director Jane Shelby. I'd also like to thank our strong interim provost and deans as we continue to conduct nationwide searches for the School of Engineering, College of Education, College of Health and provost.

Faculty, staff and students are doing a dynamite job of responding to this busy and exciting time of year. UAA is off to a great start for 2012-2013.

Best Regards,

Tom Case, Chancellor
UAA moving forward
Research, Innovation and Commercialization:

UAA created and registered Seawolf Holdings, Inc. and its subsidiary Seawolf Venture Fund LP that will provide early stage investment for startups and support our entrepreneurial and innovation research focus.

The National Science Foundation awarded $2MM to the "Alaska Adapting to Changing Environments (ACE)" collaborative project between UAA, UA and UAS. Lilian Alexas, professor of biology and director of the UAA Resilience and Adaptive Management Group, is co-principal director with UAF professor Peter Schweitzer and UAS associate professor Sanjay Pyare.

The first analysis of the economic effects of invasive species in Alaska finds that governments and nonprofit groups spent about $29 million from 2007 to 2011, on nearly $6 million a year, to manage those species. Tobias Schweizer of UAA’s Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) and Rebekka Federer and Howard Ferrer of the Alaska Sealife Center did the analysis funded by several federal and state agencies.

Alumni leadership:
Carol Wren (M.S. Vocational Education ’10) is keynote speaker at Alaska Federation of Natives Convention. An Alaska Native of Inupiaq heritage, Carol is the director of Employment and Training Services at Cook Inlet Tribal Council.

Program success:
The Paralegal Studies Certificate Program at the Justice Center celebrated its 20th anniversary this summer. The Paralegal Studies programs at UAA and UAF are the only American Bar approved programs in Alaska.

UAA Japan Center and Montgomery Dickson Memorial Project funded by the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership, held its inaugural summer institute and continues programming throughout 2012-2013.

2011-2012 UAA Honors College Office of Undergraduate Research awarded students 59 awards totaling more than $126,000. This is more than 65 percent over last year’s total number of students and amount awarded.

UAA adds men’s and women’s Indoor Track & Field this year.

Personnel:
Chris Mitelle, director of Facilities, Maintenance and Operations for the last five years of his 28 years at UAA, retired in August. Chief Information Officer and Vice Chancellor Rich Whitney retires at the end of September after a dozen years at UAA. We will conduct searches for both positions.

Public Square:
UAA hosts the 38th annual conference of the International Association of Aquatic & Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers. The international organization is meeting for the first time in Alaska.

Development:
An anonymous donor made a Celebration Circle level gift ($50,000+) to establish the Distinctive Design as a Collaborative Player in the Performance Arts Endowed Award.

Erma Lee Hickel made a pledge payment ($25,000+) in support of the Governor Walter Hickel Papers.

Barbara Ellen Clinton made a gift and pledge ($2,000+) to the Edward Rollin Memorial Endowment.

Joe and Carolyn Floyd made an Aurora Circle level ($10,000 to $24,999) gift to establish the Joe and Carolyn Floyd Kodiak Scholarship at Kodiak College.

F. Robert Bell made an Aurora Circle level gift to the F. Robert Bell and Associates Engineering Endowed Scholarship.

Weidner Property Management made a $500,000 pledge payment in support of the Weidner Chair of Business Management.

Bartlett Regional Hospital pledged $150,000 supporting expansion of the School of Nursing.

Providence Health System in Alaska made a $75,000 pledge payment in support of the UAA School of Nursing.

The Atwood Foundation contributed $50,000 to the Atwood Chair of Journalism and $10,000 to the Elaine Atwood Scholarship.

Central Bering Sea Fishermen’s Association contributed $50,000 to ANSEP.

The Alaska Repertory Theatre donated $40,574 to establish the Alaska Repertory Theatre Endowed Award.

ConocoPhillips Alaska contributed $34,500 to the ANSEP Summer Bridge Program.

First National Bank Alaska contributed $25,000 to Small Business Development Center’s Buy Alaska program and $5,000 to the Kachemak Bay Writers’ Conference.

BP Exploration contributed $15,000 to the Last Frontier Theatre Conference.

Doyon Ltd. contributed $10,000 to Excellence in Alaska Native Community Advancement in Psychology (ANCAP).

Pebble Limited Partnership contributed $23,088 to support the Excellence in Geology.

Teck Alaska Inc. made a $12,126 pledge payment in support of the Visiting Professor of Public Policy.

Verizon Foundation contributed $10,000 in support of the ANSEP Middle School Academy.

Kennecott Exploration Company contributed $10,000 to Excellence in Geology.

Northrim Bank contributed $5,000 to the Alaska Business Plan Competition General Support and $5,000 to the Eagle River Campus General Support.

Fulbright

We’ve had two Fulbrights this year, bringing the total to seven in the last eight years and five Truman scholars in the last seven years.

UAA Professor of Art Kat Tomka received a Rasmuson Foundation Artist Fellowship Award this summer. Kat’s $12,000 award in the mature artist category will help her prepare new work and develop a website. You can see a past exhibit of hers, “Breakup,” on the Alaska State Museum website.

A provisional patent was filed for UAA Professor Lee Ann Munk’s copper isotope application which is of interest to the mining industry.

Save the Date

for the 2012 Green & Gold Gala
Saturday, Sept. 29, 2012
Anchorage Marriott Downtown
www.uaa.alaska.edu/alumni/green-and-gold-gala.htm

08-29-2012
Achievements

Alaska rifle alumna Jamie (Beyerle) Gray broke two Olympic records en route to a gold medal in women’s 50-meter three-position rifle. Gray shot for the Nanooks from 2002 – 2006, and was a part of three of Alaska’s NCAA Championship teams. Matt Emmons earned a bronze medal for his performance in men’s three-position rifle. Emmons won an Olympic gold medal in 2004 and a silver in 2008, both in men’s 50-meter prone. While at UAF, Emmons won four NCAA individual titles and helped the Nanooks win four straight NCAA championships.

A new installation in the UA Museum of the North, “Changing Alaska,” emphasizes the importance of museum collections and research to the understanding of change on vastly different scales, from seasonal cycles to those that occur over eons. Support for the exhibit was provided by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The Elmer E. Rasmuson Library hosted a celebration of the second annual Ted Stevens Day in July. The exhibit opening and presentation, “Pipeline Politics & People: Reflecting on 35 Years of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System,” featured items related to the pipeline’s development. The Ted Stevens Papers Project, housed at the library, is supported by BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc. and the Ted Stevens Foundation.

Nine local artists unveiled works inspired by fire, fire management and fire science in the opening of “In a Time of Change: The Art of Fire” at the Museum of the North. The exhibit is part of a larger collaborative effort led by UAF’s Bonanza Creek Long Term Ecological Research Site to engage the arts, sciences and humanities in exchanges regarding environmental issues, particularly climate change.

The offices of Student Services and Advancement have merged, creating University and Student Advancement, a new unit that encompasses recruitment and marketing, student life and records, alumni, athletics, KUAC, fundraising and public relations.

The Alaska Satellite Facility broke ground to install a new antenna dish on UAF’s West Ridge. The project, when complete, will also result in improvements to the nearby cross country ski facilities. The total project cost will be $6 million to $7 million and is funded by NASA.

In Progress

UAF purchased a hangar at the Fairbanks International Airport for use by the CTC aviation maintenance program. The new facility is bigger and will allow students to work on a larger variety of aircraft.

A $20 million National Science Foundation grant will support interdisciplinary research throughout Alaska. The award to the Alaska Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, which is housed at UAF, will support a five-year research project, Alaska Adapting to Changing Environments, or Alaska ACE.

The Cooperative Extension Service is collaborating with the Alaska Farm to School program, farmers and the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District to increase the use of locally grown products in the district’s breakfast and lunch program. Starting this fall, the district will serve locally grown cabbage and a roll/hamburger bun that uses barley flour milled in Delta. Extension developed the barley recipe in its test kitchen and trained school district staff on how to prepare it.

The Center for Alaska Native Health Research and the Fairbanks Native Association have formed a support group called Hopeful Connections for Alaska Native cancer survivors and their loved ones.

What’s Next

UAF has contracted with a private company to develop new dining and residence hall facilities adjacent to Wood Center. Construction on the dining facility, which will replace the aging Lola Tilly Commons, is slated to begin in March 2013. If approved by the Board of Regents, the new facility will open in August 2014. The projects are a new model of capital construction for UAF; a public-private partnership. UAF has contracted the majority of the capital process to private firms. Once they are complete, UAF will lease-to-own the buildings.
Alexander Bergman attaches hardware to a solar panel being installed near the Cold Climate Housing Research Center as part of a class in solar photovoltaic design offered through the Community and Technical College. This fall, 16 students will incorporate sustainability research into their everyday lives when they move into UAF's Sustainable Village, opening next to CCHRC. In addition to serving as a home for the students, the four-bedroom units are a test bed for sustainable building and energy research.

Photos, clockwise from left

Armando Arauz cultivates flowers from a bed during his morning duties with the Facilities Services summer grounds crew.

Brianna Gilmore from Fairbanks participated in the six-week Rural Alaska Honors Institute Research summer residence program.

Sharon Burke, assistant secretary of defense for operational energy plans and programs, third from left, speaks during a hearing with Sen. Mark Begich, second from left, in the Alaska Center for Energy and Power's Technology Facility Aug. 6.

Members of the Nanook ski team were among more than 100 UAF students, staff and faculty who participated in the 2012 Golden Days Parade.
New ACRC Director Hired

Dr. Allison Bidlack has been selected as the new Director and faculty member at the Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center (ACRC). She began her position in August. Bidlack comes to UAS from ECOTRUST in Cordova where she was the Science Coordinator for the Copper River Program which maintains research in the Copper River watershed, including salmon habitat modeling and stream monitoring. Bidlack has a PhD from the University of California Berkeley in Environmental Science, Policy and Management, an MS from UAF in Biology and a BS from the University of Michigan in Resource Ecology and Management. The ACRC began in 2009 as a collaborative effort to expand and enhance education and research opportunities among six partners that include UAS and UAF.

Lelchuk Honored for Publications in Russia

Janna Lelchuk receives an award from Lola Zvonareva, Chair of Moscow Council of Writers at the “Night in Bulgakov’s House”

UAS Adjunct Assistant Professor of Russian Dr. Janna Lelchuk has received an award for her literary works from “Artiada of Russia,” Moscow, a very competitive and prestigious competition among writers and artists. The Council of Writers in Moscow endorsed a publication of her book which was published in Spring 2012. In June, Lelchuk was a featured speaker in the famous “Bulgakov’s House” in Moscow. In July she was invited to travel with a group of famous Russian writers and journalists to Gdańsk, Poland for the International Conference of writers, where she presented her books. Lelchuk also received another award for her literary work and two offers to write in one of the most famous Russian journals called “Literature Gazette” (Литературный альманах) and children’s journal “Muzhik” (Мужик). Lelchuk is preparing more books for publication.

Dr. Julia Ivy at Northeastern University

Dr. Julia Ivy (formerly Yuliya Ivanova) accepted an offer to share the School of Management’s expertise in quality of teaching in the distance environment at the graduate Program in Leadership in the College of Professional Studies at Northeastern University in Boston. In a year, Dr. Ivy looks forward to bringing back to UAS her new experience in developing industry-focused leadership programs and university to local community partnerships. This is an exceptional opportunity for Dr. Ivy Julia to share her expertise in distance education course design and experiential learning. The School of Management faculty and staff congratulate Dr. Ivy on this distinctive honor and look forward to her return in Fall 2013.

UAS New Degree Emphasis: Alaska Native Studies

Assistant Professor Xh’unei – Lance Twitchell

The University of Alaska Southeast is pleased to announce a new degree emphasis in Alaska Native Studies. Course requirements for a Bachelor of Liberal Arts with an emphasis in Alaska Native Studies include courses in Tlingit and Haida, Northwest Coast Art, History and Culture, Alaska Native Social Change and cross disciplinary courses with Alaska Native themes.

The degree emphasis is for people who want to work with Alaska Native languages, people, and organizations. Classes will be developed that examine traditional ecological knowledge (Lingit Ethnobotany), Native American Critical Theory, Native Americans and Film, Documenting Alaska Native Languages, Alaska Native Language Revitalization, Placenames & Geography, Alaska Native and Federal Indian Law, and more.

For more information, please contact: Xh’unei – Lance A. Twitchell, Assistant Professor of Alaska Native Languages, (907) 796-6114
Original Ziegler Oil Painting Donated to Egan Library, UAS

An original oil painting on canvas by one of Alaska’s most prolific artists, Eustace Paul Ziegler (1881-1969) has been donated to the University of Alaska Southeast Egan Library, Auke Lake Campus. “The Ford,” is a large painting measuring 40 x 91½ inches with an appraised retail replacement value of $225,000.

The painting is on display in the Egan Library, conference room 210 and available for public viewing. “We are thrilled to have an original Ziegler painting in the Egan Library. His work is widely celebrated for beautifully reflecting early twentieth-century Alaskan frontier life,” said Elise Thomlinson, Interim Regional Director of Library Services, Egan Library.

The painting was donated in memory of the pioneer spirit of Joe and Bessie Thomas that helped pave the way for “present day” Juneau. UAS Chancellor John Pugh said, “This is just one example of an amazing gift to the university. Because of the family’s generosity, an Alaskan art treasure will be shared with the public and can be enjoyed by generations to come.”

Annual Evening at Egan Friday Fall Lecture Series, Sept. 14 – Nov. 16

An exciting and varied Evening at Egan series is underway. Breaking Ice for Arctic Oil author Ross Cohen started things off with a September 14 presentation on what the test run of an ice-breaking tanker in the Northwest Passage tells about the impracticality of moving crude oil by icebreaking ships. The talk was especially timely with the recent controversy over oil companies poised to drill off-shore in the Arctic. September 21 UAS faculty Erin Hood and Jason Amundson discussed the origins of the Suicide Basin outbreak flood on the Mendenhall Glacier and future work aimed at better understanding this local natural hazard that occurred the past two summers. Friday, September 28, photographer Skip Schiel presents “Israel, the Occupied Territories, and Nonviolent Resistance” in the Egan Lecture Hall. This multi-media presentation illustrates the reality of the occupation and highlights Palestinian and Israeli nonviolent responses.

Other events this season include a presentation by new Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center director Alison Biklack on Collaborative Research in Southeast Alaska (Oct. 12) and a UAS student presentation on their Spring 2012 semester in Cuba (Oct. 26). The series finishes off in November with talks by Vuntut Gwitch’in First Nation Elder in Residence Randall Tetlichi on Human-Caribou Relations (Nov. 9) and author Karsten Heuer on his book, “Being Caribou: Five Months on Foot with an Arctic Herd” (Nov. 16). Both presentations are part of the UAS One Campus-One Book, 2012, Being Caribou. All events are free, open to the public and held at either the Egan Lecture Hall or Library. For the full schedule and live streaming link, please see the Evening at Egan website at: www.uas.alaska.edu/eganlecture

Martin Named Technical Correspondent for National Publication

Associate Professor of Automotive Technology Tony Martin has been named as a technical correspondent for the Mobile Air Conditioning Society (MACS). He wrote the July 2012 issue of their Monthly Service Reports, “6.7 Liter Power Stroke Cooling System Service”. More information on MACS at www.macsweb.org