Dear Board of Regents,

On May 1, we celebrated Commencement at our Anchorage campus. I am pleased to report that UAA had a record graduation of 2,270 students, receiving 2,240 certificates and degrees. All of our community campuses reported graduation rates higher or equal to last year.

Prior to graduation UAA was the successful bidder on a prime parcel of land offered for sale by the Alaska Mental Health Trust. The land, at the corner of Lake Otis and Providence Drive, is situated at the entrance to campus, providing the perfect spot for a signature building, and is an investment in UAA’s future.

Senator Lisa Murkowski visited the ConocoPhillips Integrated Science Building in April and was impressed with the level of undergraduate, graduate and postdoctorate nationally significant research being conducted. The facility is helping UAA recruit and develop great faculty and build a culture of research that is providing expanded opportunities for our undergraduate students.

The senator peeked into the Planetarium while a group of students from Mirror Lake Elementary were watching a show. We couldn’t have planned this better – showing how we are providing K-12 students fun and informative ways of learning about science while encouraging them to think about going to college at UAA.

The first week in May we kicked off our partnership with the Chugach National Forest with the Classrooms for Climate symposium. The symposium brought students, managers and researchers together to share information about the social, cultural, physical, biological and economic effects of climate change. We co-hosted the conference in partnership with the Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center, Alaska Geographic, the Northern Forum, Alaska Youth for Environmental Action and the Institute of the North. This is the first of what we hope will be many collaborative efforts between our organizations to help us better understand and respond to climate change in the Chugach.

I am delighted to take over the helm as chancellor of UAA and look forward to working with you, President Gamble, our sister MAUs, UAA faculty, staff, students and community supporters, to continue making UAA a great university.

Sincerely,

Tom Case, Chancellor
STUDENT SUCCESS

Track & Field and Cross Country squad star Ruth Keino was named 2010-11 winner of the Bill MacKay Athlete of the Year.

UAA is the winner of the inaugural University of Alaska Ethics Bowl.

UAA International Studies majors Chasity Baker-Spann, Haley Dampier and Meneka Thiru have been awarded the Export Council of Alaska Scholarship.

PROGRAM SUCCESS

The College of Business and Public Policy and UAF Center for Economic Development organized Alaska’s first Lemonade Day. Nearly 1,100 youth participated.

MAP-Works, Making Achievement Possible, a comprehensive student retention and success program has contributed to persistence gains in the following student pilot cohorts in its first year 2009-10:
- Alaska Native (+2.0%)
- Undeclared baccalaureate degree-seeking (+2.3%)
- On-campus residential (+6.0%)
- UA Scholars (+1.7%)
- Students enrolled in College Survival Skills (+5.0%)

An electronic Recycling event collected 29,114 pounds of electronics, batteries and other materials—almost 15 tons—for a savings of more than $10K.

FACULTY SUCCESS

Associate Professor of Social Work Tracey Burke is the winner of the 2011 Selkregg Community Engagement and Service Learning Award.

Associate Professor of Philosophy Dr. Raymond Anthony received a NSF, Arctic Social Science Division Grant to host a Climate Ethics Works-in-Progress Conference at UAA in September.

Virginia Fay, Assistant Professor of ISER, and Tobias Schwoerer, Research Associate, received three research awards totaling $153K to continue their work with the Chaninik Wind Group and other entities.

DESEFIELD SUCCESS

Thomas Ravens, Professor and Chair of Civil Engineering, received research awards totaling $157K from the North Pacific Research Board and the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

RESEARCH SUCCESS

UAA received 29 awards totaling more than $3.7M between March 30 and April 30, 2011.

DEVELOPMENT SUCCESS

The University awarded more than 450 scholarships this year to more than 300 students. UAA has more than 200 privately funded scholarships, with 11 new ones created just this year.

Susan Bramstedt of Alaska Airlines received the inaugural Seawolf Service Award.

UAA’s Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER) announces the new George Rogers Emerging Scholars Fund in honor of ISER’s 50th anniversary.

COMMUNITY CAMPUS SUCCESS

Kenai Peninsula College

Senator Mark Begich visited Kenai Peninsula College, addressed about 50 students, faculty and staff and was made honorary adjunct.

KPC is home to the Central Kenai Peninsula Photo Collection.

Kodiak College

Kodiak College Assistant Professor of Business/Accounting Kathryn Hollis-Buchanan recently taught a community class in Ouzinkie on how to write an effective business plan.

Prince William Sound Community College

PWSCC student Margarita Zembzycka placed 21st in the nation at the USCA National Indoor Collegiate Archery Championships.

Mat-Su College

Matanuska-Susitna College Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society held their first annual banquet featuring Iditarod musher Dee Dee Jonrowe. The event raised over $3K.
Achievements

More than 50 teams from schools around Alaska participated in the 2011 KidWind Design Challenge, a new statewide competition that tests students’ ability to design a wind turbine. The competition was sponsored by UAF’s Alaska Center for Energy and Power and the Renewable Energy Alaska Project, in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Energy Wind for Schools program.

Jazz Fest drew more than 450 middle school and high school students and 22 groups from around Alaska for performances and intensive workshops with UAF music faculty members and guest artists.

A keel-laying ceremony for the R/V Sikuliaq took place in April in Marinette, Wis. The 261-foot oceanographic research ship will be owned by the National Science Foundation and operated by UAF Vera Alexander, SFOS dean emerita, and Bob Elsner, SFOS professor emeritus, have been involved with the planning and development of the ship for several decades. Their initials were welded into a steel plate that will be affixed to the Sikuliaq’s keel.

Three UAF students were recognized for their efforts to encourage campus sustainability by receiving the first UAF Green Carpet awards. The awards, which recognize students who have demonstrated leadership in advancing sustainability on campus, were awarded to Heather Currey, a sophomore in biology; Ryan Good, a senior psychology major; and Jessie Huff, a senior working toward an interdisciplinary bachelor’s degree in renewable energy in rural Alaska.

Theresa Arevgaq John was appointed by President Obama to the National Advisory Council on Indian Education. John is an associate professor in the Department of Alaska Native and Rural Development at UAF She is on the Alaska State Council on the Arts board and received the Governor’s Distinguished Humanities Educator Award.

In Progress

Construction crews will be busy on campus this summer with the Life Sciences Facility, the new School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences greenhouse, continuation of the electrical distribution renewal project, as well as projects in Skarland Hall, Constitution Hall and the Harper Building. Renewal of the third floor of the 604 Barnette St. Community and Technical College building is also underway.

Enrollment for the fall 2011 semester is underway. The Office of Admissions and the Registrar has offered a drawing for an Apple iPad as an incentive for students to register early.

Programs for youth on campus this summer will challenge, educate, entertain and exercise young people from elementary grades through high school. Programs in the arts include the Summer Music Academy, the Fairbanks Suzuki Institute and the Visual Art Academy. Academic and leadership offerings include Alaska Business Week, the Rural Alaska Honors Institute, the Justice Academy, Spanish for Young Adventurers, the UAF Summer Leadership Institute, Upward Bound and the Alaska Summer Research Academy.

For the sports-minded there are volleyball camps and the UAF Summer Recreational Camp, and for those who are interested in food there is a menu of culinary arts programs ranging from parents and tots cooking together to international cuisine.

What’s Next

A $500,000 gift from ConocoPhillips Alaska will establish the UAF Engineering Endowment to support students in the College of Engineering and Mines by augmenting engineering laboratories, increasing the availability of academic support services, and building undergraduate research opportunities. ConocoPhillips has a longtime association with CEM through student internships and a tradition of research collaboration.
The Alaska Center for Energy and Power held a groundbreaking ceremony for the Energy Technology Facility Lab Modules in May. When complete, the facility will include four bays to conduct energy-related research.

Trumpeters rehearse with the UAF Wind Ensemble.

Engineering major Michael Stanfill tightens the spokes on a bicycle — one of 20 being assembled and loaned to students as part of a new campus sustainability effort.

Paramedic student Peter Casey teams with nursing students Rachel Osborn, center, and Kerri VanDeventer to transport a patient during a drill in the emergency room at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital.

Photos, clockwise from far left

The 2011 steel bridge team brought home the overall top prize and five first-place category trophies at the regional competition in Anchorage, a triumph made possible by hundreds of hours of preparation. Back row, left to right: Aubrey Swallows, Wilhelm Muench, Jeromy Jones, Nicholas Brehm, Gordon Dufseth, faculty advisor Leroy Hulsey, Greg Smith, team captain Stephanie Young. Front row, left to right: Pauline Fusco, Louis Landry-Michaud, Julian Tessier-Lessard, Jennifer Holland and Aaron Simpson. Not pictured: Patrick Brandon and Jason Zottola.
Alaska Native Language Scholarship receives gift from Sealaska; First recipient is new faculty hire at UAS

The purpose of the fund is to support the growing Alaska Native Language program with emphasis on emergency needs.

The Emma Marks Endowed Memorial for Alaska Native Languages recently reached endowment level with a $5,500 gift from the Sealaska Corporation. The fund was established in 2007 to provide financial support for the study of Alaska Native languages, including, but not limited to: student scholarships, tuition, teaching assistants, adjunct faculty, curriculum development and materials. Applications are on-going through the University of Alaska Southeast Financial Aid Office. The current endowed balance is $26,278.20.

Linguists Nora and Richard Dauenhauer created the Emma Marks Memorial for Alaska Native Languages Fund with initial donations that were matched by UAS. The purpose of the fund is to support the growing Alaska Native Language program with emphasis on emergency needs.

The Emma Marks fund has already had an important impact on the AKL program; the only funding recipient so far, Lance Twitchell, will shortly join the program as its first tenure track professor.

“We cannot emphasize enough, as a people, how important it is for all of our people to actively learn our language and keep our identity, our culture, our ancestor’s tongue, from dying,” said Twitchell. “We look forward to many future benefits for the 3 indigenous Southeast language communities, Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian, as these funds are awarded to other students and program needs,” said Alice Taff, Research Assistant Professor of Alaska Native Languages.

UAS Ketchikan Campus Announces New Director

Welcome Dr. Anthony Mansueto

The UAS Ketchikan Campus is pleased to announce that Dr. Anthony Mansueto has accepted the position of Campus Director, effective July 1, 2011. Dr. Mansueto spoke very positively about his interactions with faculty and staff in Ketchikan and about the community of Ketchikan.

Anthony Mansueto is from Garland, Texas. Education: Ph.D., Religion, Ethics, and Society, Graduate Theological Union. M.A., Religion, Yale University. B.A., Humanities, University of Chicago. Dr. Mansueto was Academic Dean (Humanities) of the Spring Creek Campus of Collin College in Plano, Texas from 2006 to 2009.

Senator Begich Visits Campus

Senator Mark Begich (D-Alaska) greeted Chancellor Pugh and took questions on climate change legislation, oil development and health care reform at a recent appearance in the Egan Lecture Hall.

Celebration of Faculty Excellence and Farewell to Retirees

A celebration of faculty excellence took place on the Juneau Auke Bay Campus May 2. The following retiring/departing tenured and long-time term faculty were recognized: Jonathan Anderson, Jane Terzis, and Clive Thomas. Also recognized were the following recipients of UAS Faculty Excellence Awards for the 2010-11 academic year: Marquam George (Teaching), Eran Hood (Research), Kevin Maier (Service), Fran Polumsky (Adjunct Instruction).

New Faculty Hires

Glenn Wright will be joining UAS as assistant professor of Political Science. He is currently completing his Ph.D. at the University of Colorado. Glenn also has an Alaska background: his BA is from UAF, he has an MAT from UAS, and he completed the UAS legislative internship while he was an undergraduate. Glenn has an interest in studying public goods provision and common pool resource management, decentralization and local governance, and forestry policy, among other things. Glenn has done research in Central and South America and speaks Spanish fluently.

Jason Amundson has accepted an offer to be assistant professor of Physics. Jason is currently in a post-doc at the University of Chicago. He earned his Ph.D. in Geophysics at UAF and is active in researching glacial calving, glacial seismology, and subglacial processes. He has previously worked on both the Taku and Mendenhall Glaciers.

Amanda Sesko is the new assistant professor of Psychology. Amanda is finishing her Ph.D. in social psychology at the University of Kansas this summer. Amanda did her undergraduate work in psychology at...
the University of Wisconsin. She has taught online courses as well as local courses. Amanda’s research interests include stereotyping, categorization, and discrimination based on race and gender. She is quite interested in building a strong undergraduate research program here at UAS.

Ray Publication

Ray argues that the crisis of undocumented immigration in the border wildernesses is more a crisis of human security than it is one of national or environmental security.

Sarah Jaquette Ray, Assistant Professor of English, published her article, "Endangering the Desert: Immigration, the Environment, and Security in the Arizona-Mexico Borderland," in the (late) Autumn 2010 issue of ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies of Literature and Environment. In this article, Ray draws on field research in Organ Pipe Monument and the Coronado Forest to argue that the crisis of undocumented immigration in the border wildernesses is more a crisis of human security than it is one of national or environmental security, despite anti-immigrant 'green' rhetoric that calls for more walls and border patrol presence to stem the 'tide' of immigration. Such rhetoric passes xenophobia as ecological sensitivity and resuscitates a tradition of 'green hate' among environmentalists, while it ignores the broader geopolitical and economic contexts that drive immigrants into delicate border environments. Check it out at the Egan Library!

Alumni News

Auke Lake Trail Dedication Ceremony

Please join us for the celebration of the Auke Lake Trail on Saturday, June 11 at the UAS Noyes Pavilion.

Schedule of events:

11:30 am – Dedication Ceremony
12:00 pm – “Auke Lake Trail 101: A Natural History of Juneau” talk by UAS Professor of Geology, Cathy Connor, Ph.D.
12:30 pm – Free refreshments: hot dogs, chips and drinks
12:45 pm – Guided Trail Walk with Chancellor John Pugh and Cathy Connor

Special thanks to Campaign Co-Chairs Laraine Derr, Christine Phillips, and Jim King, Sr. and all who donated to the Auke Lake. Limited seating available. Dress for the weather!

Alumni Suite at the Mariners Game in Seattle

Join Chancellor John Pugh and Alumni & Friends in an Exclusive Right-Field Group Suite to watch the Seattle Mariners vs. the Boston Red Sox at Safeco Field in Seattle on Saturday, August 13. Suite admission includes food and non-alcoholic drinks. No host bar available. Tickets available soon – discounted rates for members of UAS Alumni & Friends. Memberships start at only $35 per year! To get on the list and save your spot, contact the Alumni Office in the Soboleff Annex, by calling 796-6569 or by email: alumni@uas.alaska.edu.

M.Ed. Grad Named Ninilchik School Principal

By McKibben Jackinsky, HomerNews.com

Recent UAS M.Ed. graduate Jeffrey Ambrosier has been hired as the new Ninilchik School Principal.

Not a newcomer to the area, Ambrosier has been fishing in Ninilchik many times. Originally from Colorado, Ambrosier earned a bachelor of science in biology, with a concentration in marine biology, from Oregon State University in 1992.

He has a secondary science certificate from Colorado State University and earned an Alaska State Type B certificate and master’s degree in educational leadership from the University of Alaska Southeast in 2010.

Ambrosier taught high school science for Dillingham City Schools from 2002-2006, was lead instructor at the Bristol Bay Salmon Camp from 2004-2006 and spent the 2006-2007 school year teaching eighth-grade science and reading at Mesa View Middle School in Farmington, N.M. "I was just there one year. I went down there and, boy, Alaska was in my blood," said Ambrosier, laughing.

In 2007, he was back in Alaska as the principal-teacher at Aleknagik, where he will remain until coming to Ninilchik this summer.

"There were just a couple of districts I was interested in working for and the Kenai Peninsula district was the best school district to work for. It has solid leadership, an outstanding record of student performance as well as a high level of extra-curricular activities," said Ambrosier.