Dear Board of Regents,

UAA is working to strengthen our financial foundation as we enter an era of Alaska state fiscal uncertainty and university focus on implementing the Strategic Direction Initiatives (SDI). We are accomplishing this with ongoing internal reallocation based upon SDI, Sightlines’ UAA space utilization analysis and Program Prioritization. What this means is taking advantage of low hanging fruit through ongoing internal reallocation while undertaking a detailed prioritization analysis of all programs and administrative functions at UAA. Prioritization results and the Sightlines space utilization analysis will provide information necessary to make the best use of resources in the delivery of higher education at UAA.

Already we are reallocating resources to provide targeted advising. This year the College of Arts and Sciences reorganized 14 administrative positions to create three new advising positions. Student Affairs also underwent a reorganization to create the First Year Student Access, Advising and Transition division. Coordinated efforts of advisors in Student Affairs and advisors in academic units is already paying off with a targeted Outreach Campaign to all students who were enrolled in spring 2013 but not registered for fall 2013. Results of a three-week period in July showed the MAU registered 1,908 students of which 471 were part of the outreach cohort.

UAA continues to improve the effectiveness and efficiency with which students enter UAA and navigate the pathway to graduation. This year the Anchorage campus is launching mandatory orientation and advising for all underprepared first-time first-year degree-seeking students who graduated high school with less than a 2.5 grade point average.

In these uncertain fiscal times, UAA is committed to using our resources wisely to provide for the higher education, training and research needed to ensure a bright future for Alaska.

Best regards,

Tom Case

Tom Case
Faculty and staff taking leading roles

UAA visiting scholar Willie Iggiagruk Hensley received the 2013 Human and Civil Rights Award from the National Education Association for human and civil rights advocacy.

Dr. Helena Wisniewski, vice provost for research and graduate studies, is a 2013 Anchorage Chamber of Commerce Gold Pan finalist in Entrepreneurial Excellence. Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Eric Pedersen has been elected President of the Pacific Northwest Association for College Admission Counseling.

Dr. Andre Rosay, Justice Center Director, and Dr. Marny Rivera, Justice faculty, were interviewed by KTUU Channel News regarding their Alaska Justice Forum article, “Trends in Juvenile Delinquency, School Suspensions, and Expulsions,” which reported a decline in juvenile delinquency.

John Pollock, Kenai Peninsula College’s (KPC) new Veteran Services Coordinator, spent 25 years as a Marine Corps officer and retired as a colonel. His latest assignment was DOD senior executive service program manager, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, Forward Cell in Kabul, Afghanistan. He has provided guidance on VA benefits for more than 20 years.

Matt Thomas is UAA’s new Seawolf hockey coach. Thomas was previously head coach of the Stockton Thunder. He leaves Stockton with a 163-127-39 record.

Tammie Willis, KPC’s Kenai River Campus (KRC) new associate director of residence life was elected the Alaska-Yukon representative to the Northwest Association of College and University Housing Officers board of directors.

Program recognition

KPC received the national Quality Matters 2013 “Making a Difference for Students” Award recognizing the institution’s commitment to quality online education.

UAA’s Department of Languages received the 2013 Governor’s North Star Award for International Excellence.

The Consortium Library, on behalf of the Alaska Library Network, secured four grants totaling $325,426 for managing and supporting statewide library services.

Student excellence

Andrew Lessig, USUAA president, was selected to be the 2013-2015 UA Student Commissioner for Post-Secondary Education.

UAA engineering students cracked the top 20 for Marketing Presentation and top 30 for Rock Crawl and Land Maneuverability in the International Society of Automotive Engineers Baja Car Competition.

K–12 connections

Forty 9-12 graders from six village-based schools participated in KPC’s Kachemak Bay Campus “Project Grad” Summer Institute sponsored by the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District.

Kodiak College held a three-day Native and Rural Student Pre-Orientation and welcome event made possible by a partnership between Kodiak College, Kodiak Island Housing Authority and Kodiak Area Native Associations.

Development

Rasmuson Foundation awarded the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP) $5 million to be used over five years to enable the successful continuation and growth of ANSEP. This is the largest single grant ANSEP has ever received.
Sumitomo Pogo Mine donated $1 million to the Mining Engineering Research Endowment, renewing its support of mining engineering graduate students. The gift will augment the company's three-year, $1 million pledge in 2011 and will provide a steady source of research funding for mining engineers seeking advanced training through graduate degrees.

UAF has signed an academic exchange with Jilin Agricultural University of Changchun, China, which could provide opportunities for staff and faculty. Jilin and Fairbanks are at about the same latitude, far apart in distance but similar in climate and agricultural challenges. Jilin offers 52 undergraduate programs, 47 master's programs and 17 doctoral programs. It encompasses Chinese languages, management, economics, law, education, literature and medicine.

Technicians with L3 Datron attached the Alaska Satellite Facility's new 11-meter antenna to its base on West Ridge in August. The antenna will gather data from spacecraft about land surface, biosphere, atmosphere, oceans and outer space. It's one of several strategically placed antennas that can capture data from polar-orbiting satellites several times per day.

Douglas Island Pink and Chum Inc., the company that operates the Macaulay Hatchery, donated $75,000 to the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences to create an endowment to support graduate students' research at the Lena Point facility in Juneau. The endowment is in memory of hatchery founder Ladd Macaulay.

The Margaret Murie Building was dedicated Aug. 22 after more than a decade of planning and two years of construction. Named for the first female graduate of the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines, the new life sciences facility is designed to inspire scientific discovery and collaboration between students, faculty and researchers. The building dedication coincided with a celebration of the Institute of Arctic Biology's 50th anniversary.

More than 200 tons of steel were delivered for the six-story engineering building. The building adds 119,000 square feet and renovates 23,000 square feet of space for UAF’s engineering and mining programs, and features open lab concepts and a high bay area for practical application of engineering know-how.

The Wood Center dining facility expansion project continues. Contractors erected steel and made good progress toward closing off the new addition so work can continue through the winter months. Students got a bit of a preview of the expanded facility when they returned to campus to see a new entry on the south end.

The Fittest Winner competition is underway and was expanded to include students. Participants aiming for weight loss and increased exercise have lost nearly 2.5 tons of weight and averaged about 6.5 hours a week of exercise per person. Between 300 and 500 employees have participated in the competitive and moderate divisions over the last three seasons.

UAF will merge the School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences with the Cooperative Extension Service over the next year to strengthen the research, education and outreach work of both units. Extension and SNRAS, which includes Alaska's Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, serve the entire state and carry out the university's land-grant mission.

KUAC's FM fall fundraiser will take place Oct. 12 – 20. Nearly 400 volunteers participate in all aspects of the nine-day drive.

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**ACHIEVEMENTS**

**IN PROGRESS**

**WHAT'S NEXT**

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The UAF Alumni Association honored the 2013 alumni award winners at the reunion. Gail Phillips, ’67, is this year’s Distinguished Alumna. The Business and Professional Excellence awards were given to Peter Probasco, ’79; Doug Schrage, ’85; and Lorna Shaw, ’96, ’05. George Plumley, ’90, ’98, received the award for university support; Richard “Dick” McCormick, ’50, for community support; and Tammy Tragis-McCook, ’99, ’00, received the William Cashen Service Award. Glen Franklin, ’36, received the Lenhart J.H. Grothe Resources Award, posthumously awarded for contributions in agriculture or mining.
Research Assistant Professor Jeff Benowitz, left, and Paul Layer, dean of the College of Natural Science and Mathematics, relax near the fossilized footprint of a hadrosaur, which roamed the area near the headwaters of Tattler Creek about 70 million years ago. In recent years, the area of present-day Denali National Park and Preserve has drawn intense interest after several discoveries of dinosaur remains.

Youngsters paint works of art at the 2013 Summer Visual Arts Academy.

The Nanook mascot welcomes the Era Alaska newly painted Bombardier Dash-8, which features the Alaska Nanooks’ colors and logo on one side, and a UAA Seawolves treatment on the other.

Sporting a pirate cap and a smile, Ashton Martin helps at the School of Management’s table, passing out fliers and stickers during the 2013 UAF Day at the Tanana Valley State Fair.

A record turnout of students, staff, faculty and alumni helped UAF garner first place in this year’s Golden Days parade July 20.
Wall and Hayes Selected for Poems in Place

Poems in Place is designed to give voice to the Alaskan landscape through an original work of poetry by an Alaskan writer, while establishing a strong connection between poetry and place.

Poems by English faculty Emily Wall and Ernestine Hayes have been selected for permanent placement in Totem Bight State Historical Park in Ketchikan as part of the Alaska Center for the Book’s Poems in Place project. Wall’s poem, “This Forest, This Beach, You,” and Hayes’ poem, “The Spoken Forest,” will be installed on signage in Totem Bight later this summer during a formal dedication ceremony at the park. Poems in Place is designed to give voice to the Alaskan landscape through an original work of poetry by an Alaskan writer, while establishing a strong connection between poetry and place. The project also offers a way to bring poetry to people who may not normally read it. Wall has published two collections of poetry, Livaboard and Freshly Rooted. She also heads up publication of the UAS literary journal, Tidal Echoes. Hayes is best known for her prose; her memoir Blonde Indian: An Alaska Native Memoir won the American Book Award in 2007. The Poems in Place project is a collaboration between Alaska Center for the Book, Alaska State Parks, and a committee of writers and other Alaskans. The project is supported by Alaska State Council on the Arts, the Alaska Humanities Forum, Rasmuson Foundation, the Usibelli Foundation, the Alaska Poetry League, Alaska Center for the Book, and numerous individuals.

Tropical Marine and Coastal Ecology in Puerto Rico

Students were partially funded through the support of the Student Government Association.

Marine Biology faculty member Heidi Pearson and students traveled to Puerto Rico as part of the summer course, Tropical Marine and Coastal Ecology. This one-week field intensive course is offered in conjunction with the non-profit organization, the Marine and Coastal Ecology Research Center. Daily snorkeling excursions to coral reefs, mangrove forests, sea grass beds, and an offshore island enabled students to gain first-hand knowledge of the biodiversity, habitat connectedness, conservation issues, and management challenges in this region. Students were partially funded through the support of the Student Government Association.

UAS Faculty Nominated for Grammy

Robin Hopper performs annually at the Alaska Folk Festival.

Adjunct Education faculty Robin Hopper has been nominated for a newly created Grammy award: “Grammy Music Educator of the Year”. Hopper teaches the e-learning course ED320C, Music in the K-8 Classroom. She is also the Elementary Classroom Music Specialist at Homestead Elementary School in the Anchorage School district. There were more than 30,000 nominations for this award, and Hopper is one of 217 quarter-finalists chosen from across the nation and the only educator from Alaska.

Hopper has been teaching elementary school music for 36 years and has taught Elementary Music Methods classes in the UA system since the 1980s, both for UAA and UAS. “I’m very excited to be a quarter-finalist, and it will be interesting to see how the Grammy process proceeds in the next few months,” she said. Robin Hopper performs annually at the Alaska Folk Festival. She has produced six albums over the past several years.

Radzilowski Edits Immigration Encyclopedia

Ketchikan Assistant Professor of History John Radzilowski is editor of the second edition of American Immigration: An Encyclopedia of Political, Social, and Cultural Change (in concert with James Ciment), published by ME Sharpe. The print version of the four-volume revised encyclopedia is due in October 2013. The encyclopedia covers the topic of immigration from multiple perspectives, including both historical immigration and contemporary issues. In addition to directing the revisions of the first edition of the encyclopedia, Radzilowski authored numerous entries in the second edition, including those on African American Migration, the Department of Homeland Security, Espionage and Immigration, Human Trafficking, Immigrant foods, Sacred Architecture, Armenian Americans, Greek Americans, and Polish Americans. Also contributing an article to the new edition were UAS Ketchikan graduate Kali Hofman and Kasia Polanska (Adjunct Instructor, UAS Ketchikan).
Xh’unei - Lance A. Twitchell in First Alaskans Magazine

Xh’unei is a strong advocate for the revitalization of Tlingit language and culture.

Assistant Professor of Alaska Native Languages Xh’unei - Lance A. Twitchell is featured in the Aug.-Sept. 2013 issue of First Alaskans magazine. Xh’unei is a strong advocate for the revitalization of Tlingit language and culture. In “Voices Reborn, A Cultural Soul at Work: Scholar strives to save his Native Language,” Xh’unei is identified as one of the “most persuasive and credible voices for language revitalization” in the state. He is leading the effort for a new designated emphasis within the Bachelor of Liberal Arts degree in Alaska Native Languages and Studies. Students will complete a concentrated study that includes Alaska Native languages, people, and organizations in addition to their broad liberal arts education. Xh’unei also writes columns for the Juneau Empire and Huffington Post and was named one of Alaska’s Top 40 under 40 this year.

STREAM Institute Success

More than 85 educators, trainers, culture bearers, and student scholars participated in the three-day event.

The STREAM (science, technology, reading, engineering, art, and math) Institute: A Pedagogy of Place took place the week of July 15, 2013 on the Auke Lake campus and a variety of habitats around the Juneau area. More than 85 educators, trainers, culture bearers, and student scholars participated in the three-day event focused on creating pedagogy of place. Thought leaders, Ron Fortunato, NASA Space Ambassador, UAF faculty Ray Barnhardt, Richard and Nora Daunhauer (authors and writer laureates) and Richard Nelson (author, writer laureate, and Encounters radio host), shared insights, writings, and wisdom on the relationship between culture, science, listening and storytelling. Participants received skill building training on a wide range of topics including Google Drive, Apple iPads, NASA “worldwind” software, art and nature, writing in nature, the science of story, project based learning, and learning to listen. Participants visited natural habitats to practice inquiry based learning and culturally relevant listening.

Sitka Awarded for Blackboard Course Design

Sitka faculty Kathi Baldwin and Mary Purvis have been awarded the 2013 Blackboard Catalyst Award for Exemplary Course Design. The award is for significant achievements in outstanding course design using the Blackboard e-Learning software. The award honors those who use Blackboard solutions to provide a better on-line learning experience. The award is designed to enhance the visibility of innovation. Baldwin and Purvis received the award at the annual user’s conference, Blackboard World 2013, July 11 in Las Vegas.

Hopson Releases Second CD

Adjunct music faculty Dan Hopson’s second CD “Watercolor”, contains 23 short classical guitar pieces ranging from the Renaissance period to 20th century and representing works from ten different countries. They’re part of the wide-ranging repertoire he plays weekly at the Baranof Hotel Gold Room restaurant. The title comes from one of his favorite pieces on the album, “Watercolor”, by the American guitarist, Andrew York. The CD was produced in Juneau at Studio A in the Juneau Arts and Culture Center, owned and operated by Betsy Sims, and was supported by a grant from the Juneau Arts and Humanities Council. Cover image is from a painting by Constance Baltuck titled "Up on the Knoll, Juneau, Alaska" and graphic design was done by Matthew Knutson.