

## Dear Board of Regents,

Buzz Aldrin, the second person to set foot on the moon, encouraged middle school, high school and college students at a talk at the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP) building, to commit themselves to their education and to follow their dreams. Aldrin, keynote at the ANSEP banquet in January, also addressed the broad network of K-12 educators, industry, government and non-profits that make ANSEP such a success. ANSEP has impacted 1,000 middle school, high school, university students and alumni.



*The three-year phased renovation of the Science Building is complete. This is the first whole building renovation to be accomplished at UAA in recent history.*

We are committed to leveraging partnerships to support student success.

This year UAA added full-time faculty support for the Alaska Middle College School (AMCS) at our Chugiak-Eagle River Campus. AMCS is a partnership between UAA and the Mat-Su Borough School District (MSBSD) providing high school juniors and seniors the opportunity to go to high school and college at the same time. About 40 students are enrolled this year and the number is expected to grow. AMCS is a Strategic Direction Initiative education partnership featured on both the UA website and MSBSD website.

UAA's Office of Student Affairs is also working closely with the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education's (ACPE) Alaska College and Career Advising Corps (ACAC) to identify ways that ACAC can extend support beyond high school and through the transition and first year of college. ACPE provided funding for a term MAP-Works advisor this year who played a large role in intervention and outreach efforts during the winter break to support and encourage first-year full-time students. We anticipate good results from these and many other efforts underway.

The spring semester at UAA kicks off with a celebration of Civil Rights month. The celebration provides a good opportunity to show our commitment to building a UAA community that empowers people, builds bridges, is respectful and celebrates our differences—a community fundamental to the success of our students.

Best Regards,

*Tom Case*

Tom Case, Chancellor



*BP Asset Integrity and Corrosion Lab made possible by \$1M gift from BP*

## New science lab opens

Ribbon cutting and grand opening of the new BP Asset Integrity and Corrosion Lab was held in December.

## Provost and deans named

Elisha "Bear" Baker, Ph.D., has accepted the position of provost and vice chancellor for Academic Affairs.

Heather Ryan, Ph.D., has accepted the position of dean of the College of Education; William Hogan, interim dean for the College of Health since 2011, has accepted the permanent position and Tien-Chien Jen, Ph.D., has accepted the position of dean of the School of Engineering.



Heather Ryan



William Hogan



Tien-Chien Jen

## UAA moving forward...

### Faculty and staff taking leading roles:

The Office of Student Affairs student intervention and outreach team worked Dec. 26-28 to contact all fall 2012 Anchorage campus first-time full-time students to encourage and support their academic achievement.

Gunnar Knapp, a professor of economics at the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER), has been appointed interim director. He is internationally recognized for his work on fisheries.

University of Alaska Press published Kodiak College adjunct Sara Loewen's book *Gaining Daylight: Life on Two Islands*.

Astronomy and Physics Professor Travis Rector has helped produce one of the largest astronomical images ever made: a wide-field image of the Cygnus Loop, a giant supernova remnant.

UAA's Fulbright Distinguished U.S. Arctic Chair Professor Jeff Welker is a keynote speaker at the Transatlantic Science Week in Houston, focusing on sustainable growth and research priorities.

Director of Creative Writing and Literary Arts, David Stevenson won the first annual \$1,000 Montana Prize for Fiction awarded by the *Whitefish Review*.

### Facilities:

Wendy Williamson Auditorium has new carpet, new seating and new LED lights with an energy savings of 62 percent.

### Students

The Western Association of Graduate Schools Executive Board selected Chris Barnett, a graduate student in the UAA Biological Sciences department, as the winner of the 2012 Distinguished Thesis Awards for STEM and Humanities.

Student phonathon callers raised \$88,595 from 893 donors during fall 2012.

Anchorage Fur Rondy Queen Shayla Silva, Princess Avery Kristiansen and Princess Sierra Rain Begich Slade are all current UAA students, APRN's Town Square 49 reports.

### Programs:

Seawolf Athletics are ranked 6th in the nation in the Director's Cup after the fall season.

The Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center released the first issue of its new monthly Fact Sheet publication series.

Prince William Sound Community College dual credit enrollment is up to 18 students this year from 15 last year.

### Alumni:

UAA formed a new unincorporated alumni association managed by a board of directors and an assembly of leaders. An interim board of directors will be appointed in late January to serve for one year until the permanent board is established.

Leila Kimbrell, B.A. Justice and Paralegal Certificate '02, has been hired by Senator Lisa Murkowski.

### Development:

An anonymous donor committed \$2M which will establish the First Generation Endowed Student Scholarship and will also be used to help stop the "brain drain" by supporting programs and academic endeavors to keep students in Alaska.

Icicle Seafoods made a gift of \$300,000 to the University of Alaska, with \$150,000 benefitting UAA campuses.

### ANSEP Donations:

Udelhoven Oilfield System Services, \$200,000  
Shell Exploration & Production Company, \$110,000  
Pebble Limited Partnership, \$75,000  
Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, \$30,000  
Donlin Gold, \$40,000

Chugach Alaska Corporation made donations totaling \$75,000, with \$50,000 directed to Excellence in Alaska Native Business and Public Policy, and \$25,000 to Alaska Native Services.

MicroSurvey Software made an in-kind donation of 50 software package licenses to Geomatics, valued at over \$500,000.

Alaska Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory made in-kind donations worth nearly \$150,000 to the departments of Chemistry and Biological Sciences.

First National Bank Alaska made gifts of support totaling \$120,000 to a variety of programs.

Richard C. Lynch recently made two Leadership Level gifts (\$25,000 and above). The first establishes the Kathy Lynn Lynch Veterinary Sciences Scholarship. The second establishes the RCL Construction Management Endowed Scholarship.

Martha L. Galbreath contributed a Leadership Level gift (\$25,000 and above) to the BP Asset Integrity and Corrosion Laboratory.

M. Hilary Davies and Brian D. Wick made a Leadership Level gift (\$25,000 and above) to establish the Brian Wick and Hilary Davies Mathematics Scholarship.

Pick.Click.Give. All donations to UAA will go to student scholarships and will be matched 1 to 1 by ExxonMobil up to \$100,000.

**UAA unveils its new branding and advertising campaign February 18! Stay tuned!**



### UAA sets best practice standard

Chancellor Case presented best practices at Leadership Network for International Education in Washington, D.C. The American Council on Education (ACE) commended UAA for its plan integrating international education into higher education.



### Training teachers

Project LEAP (Language Equity and Academic Performance) is a \$1.5M grant-funded partnership between the College of Education and the Mat-Su Borough, Anchorage and Juneau school districts to train in-service teachers to be leaders when working with English language learners.



### Athletes score in the classroom

UAA student athletes have a cumulative 3.2 GPA from fall 2012, the highest ever. This is the 16th time in the last 19 years that UAA student athletes have eclipsed a 3.0 GPA.





Conductor Eduard Zilberkant leads the Fairbanks Symphony Orchestra, the University Chorus, the Jubilee Bell Choir and the Northland Youth Choir in a special holiday performance in the Davis Concert Hall. Design Alaska, a Fairbanks architectural design and engineering firm, has sponsored this annual concert for the past 11 years. Employees of the firm handed out ornaments at the close of the concert.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

**The Geophysical Institute** shared cutting-edge science with the public in the 21st Science for Alaska lecture series. The free lectures featured research on earthquakes, sea ice, air quality and lasers, presented by scientists at the forefront of their fields.

**The College of Liberal Arts'** linguistics program received \$1.9 million from the U.S. Department of Education to fund a three-year project to improve K – 12 educational outcomes for Alaska Native students. The project will help faculty members, students and community members work collaboratively to integrate technology in Alaska Native language education.

**Institute of Arctic Biology** scientists and graduate students are studying the spread of avian influenza in ducks which overwinter in an ice-free patch of the Chena River in Fairbanks. Because the 300 or so mallards can be sampled repeatedly, researchers can get a more accurate picture of infection rates at the population level.

**The Alaska King Crab** Research, Rehabilitation and Biology Program received \$10,000 from Santa Monica Seafood to support crab research. AKCRRAB is a partnership among Alaska Sea Grant, the UAF School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, and industry, community and agency groups.

**The Student Veterans of UAF** hosted its second annual Veterans Day Memorial Roll Call. Volunteers from campus, military and civilian communities read names of the more than 6,500 service members who have been killed in action in Iraq and Afghanistan. U.S. Sen. Mark Begich came to campus to speak to participants during the ceremonies.

**The fourth annual Chancellor's Gala** took place Feb. 2. Fundraising proceeds benefitted the dental assistant/dental hygiene programs at CTC and the Circle of Hope Breast Cancer Project at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital.

**Cooperative Extension's** use of various distance-delivery methods allowed residents of 63 communities to attend the Alaskan Growers School. In 2012, residents of 23 communities also participated in the Alaska Master Gardener online course, and Extension also used distance delivery to teach pesticide application, certified food protection, 4-H leadership and septic system maintenance.

## IN PROGRESS

**Staff at the UA Museum of the North** are working on remains of an umiak dated at 1,000 years old, the oldest skin boat known in the circumpolar North. The materials, from the Birnirk archaeological site near Barrow, are owned by the U.S. Navy and were housed for decades at the Harvard Peabody Museum. They were returned to the museum in 2011. The wide range of artifacts and material types in this collection will support years of important archaeological research.

**The 40th Festival of Native Arts** will take place on campus in the Charles Davis Concert Hall Feb. 21 – 23. This year's theme is Unity Through Cultures. Workshops on languages, dance motions, storytelling and beading will be part of the program. Originally, the festival focused each night on a specific Alaska Native culture. Today, it has grown in its depth and focus, and now features Native dance groups from throughout the state.

## WHAT'S NEXT

**About 400 high school skiers** will compete in Fairbanks in the National Cross Country Junior Nordic Ski Championships March 11 – 16. The closing banquet and awards ceremony will take place on campus at the Student Recreation Center.

**The School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences'** Alaska Sea Grant College Program has been sponsoring and coordinating the Lowell Wakefield Fisheries symposia since 1982 in partnership with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service and North Pacific Fishery Management Council. The 28th symposium, Responses of Arctic Marine Ecosystems to Climate Change, takes place March 26 – 29 in Anchorage.



# THROUGH THE LENS: RECENT IMAGES

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

February 2013



**Undergraduate** Alyssa Komac, left, works with IAB graduate student Teresia Schnurr in Kriya Dunlap's West Ridge Research Building lab. Komac is an exchange student from Montana. Schnurr, a biochemistry major and Nordic skier from Buhlertal, Germany, was the Dr. Wood Scholar Athlete of the Year for 2010 – 2011. The two students are studying sled dog metabolism, researching whether exercise increases expression of a particular protein in white blood cells. The work has implications for human health as well.



**Photos, clockwise from left**

## **Junior Marissa Atoruk**

drives into the lane during second-half action in the Nanooks' game against the Colorado School of Mines in the Patty Center.

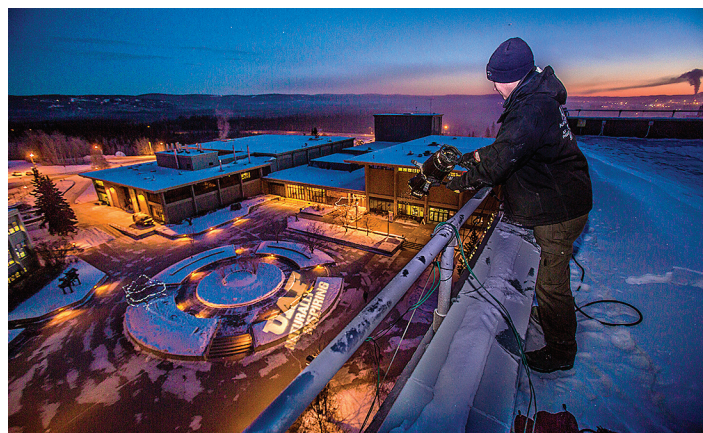
**Broomball**, played on the outdoor ice rink in front of the Student Recreation Center, is a popular intramural sport at UAF.

## **The "NaturallyInspiring"**

tagline beams down on campus from atop the Gruening Building on a cold November morning.

## **Hundreds of spectators**

turned out to enjoy the fireworks display from UAF's West Ridge on New Year's Eve.



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# Chancellor's Report

Chancellor John Pugh

uas.alaska.edu/chancellor  
February 2013 Meeting



## Governor Parnell Addresses High School Students Statewide From Auke Lake Campus

*Casey Kelly, KTOO Radio News*

Governor Sean Parnell urged the students to follow their passions, whether they end up working in the mining industry or not.

More than 50 high school students taking an "Introduction to Mining Occupations" course had quite the guest speaker on the first day of class Jan. 22. Governor Sean Parnell urged the students to follow their passions, whether they end up working in the mining industry or not. The governor was the first of many guest speakers the class will hear from this semester.

Instructor Mike Bell worked at Hecla Greens Creek Mine before becoming director of the Center for Mine Training at UAS. This is the second year Bell has taught the class, which is designed for high school juniors and seniors. Last year, enrollment was limited to 20 students, all from Juneau. But this year, with the help of video conferencing equipment, there are 55 students statewide, from the Northwest Arctic Borough to remote parts of Southeast. In his remarks Governor Parnell talked about the importance of keeping mining jobs in Alaska. He praised UAS for teaching Alaska students the skills needed to perform those jobs.

The Department of Education and Early Development is one of several partners that provided support to make the class possible. That includes mining companies like Hecla Greens Creek, which donated \$300,000 to the University of Alaska Foundation in 2011 to help create the mine training program.

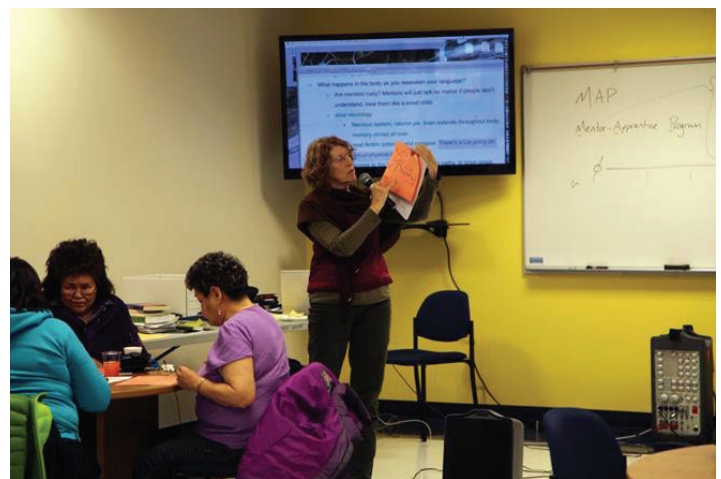
## Tallmon and Kovach Co-author Paper in PLoS ONE

The study was funded in part by an Alaska EPSCoR Graduate Research Fellowship.

Biology faculty member David Tallmon and his recently graduated UAF PhD student Ryan Kovach co-authored a paper just accepted into the journal *PLoS ONE*. The paper, Earlier migration timing, decreasing phenotypic variation, and biocomplexity in multiple salmonid species, results from work with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration collaborators that describes recent changes in the run timing of juvenile and adult salmon, trout, and char, in Auke Creek adjacent to the UAS Juneau campus. The study was funded in part by an Alaska EPSCoR Graduate Research Fellowship.

## Taff Named New SSILA Leader

Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas was founded in December 1981 as the international scholarly organization representing American Indian linguistics.



*Alice Taff leads language workshop in Whitehorse, Yukon in December*

Research Assistant Professor of Alaska Native Languages Alice Taff is the new vice president/president elect of the Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas. SSILA was founded in December 1981 as the international scholarly organization representing American Indian linguistics. Current membership is more than 900. Taff's term is a 6-year commitment in all, 2 years each as vice president and president, then 2 more years as past president.

## America the Multilingual

"...it will be the single largest act of defiance we can make today towards a past that tried to kill us off."

— Xh'unei - Lance A. Twitchell

A recent article appearing on *HuffingtonPost.com* by Lance A. Twitchell, an assistant professor of Alaska Native Languages, discusses the importance of preserving Native American languages. He says that all Native languages are in "extreme danger" and that some will be gone in the next decade, unless people begin the arduous task of saving them. "As people of nations and cultures, we need to speak our languages," said Twitchell. "In order to stop them from dying, we only need to speak them: in our homes, to our children, to each other, on our land. It will redefine who we are, and it will be the single largest act of defiance we can make today towards a past that tried to kill us off. We can redefine ourselves as multilingual and become leaders for the rest of the nation. We can teach ourselves so many things about our ancestors, our children, our land, and ourselves." Read his full article, titled "America the Multilingual" at *HuffingtonPost.com*

## Daniel Henry News

Essay is derived from a UAS public speaking class Henry taught in Klukwan about the differences between Native and non-Native ways of public speaking.

The essay "Chilkat Style," by UAS adjunct faculty member Daniel Henry appears in the Winter issue of *Connotations*, the journal of the Island Institute in Sitka. The essay is derived from a UAS public speaking class Henry taught in Klukwan about the differences between Native and non-Native ways of public speaking. In addition, the Kettleson Library in Sitka sponsored Henry to lead a writing workshop called "Inside Out." Henry gave a presentation called "In Search of Shotridge: The Quest for the Tlingit Crown Jewels," at the library on January 20. The presentation covers a multi-decade research project to unearth information that has been hidden or long-forgotten relating to the lives of Louis and Florence Shotridge. Born in Klukwan and educated at Columbia and the University of Pennsylvania, Shotridge was the first Tlingit anthropologist. He was a full-time curator with the U of PA Museum and returned to Southeast Alaska as an artifact collector. His primary object was the fabled Whale House collection in Klukwan. He died near Sitka under mysterious conditions.

## UAS Alaska Native Language Faculty Led Whitehorse Workshop

By Alice Taff

In early December 2012, Alaska Native language faculty members Alice Taff and Xh'unei Lance Twitchell led a workshop in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, for the Council for Yukon First Nations. They introduced the mentor-apprentice approach to five language teams during the three-day event. These teams included Northern Tutchone, Southern Tutchone, Han, Gwich'in and Tlingit languages. The traditional lands of the last three languages exist on both sides of the U.S.-Canadian border; despite the current international boundary, it is important to keep up cross-border communications and activities in order to maintain the ancestral integrity of each language group.



*Whitehorse workshop crew*

The mentor-apprentice strategy pairs a fluent speaker with an adult learner; the pair spends 10 or more hours per week together doing routine activities, staying in the ancestral language the entire time. It is not easy. One person knows the ancestral language and the other does not. The concept is not to take a class, but live completely in the language. It takes practice and willpower to not use the English language, common to both people, when communicating. One of the keys to success is active dialogue between the mentor and apprentice, so that each session begins with a plan and is carried out through activities and with props. For example, an apprentice might call the mentor and say, "I am coming over in an hour. Can we talk about weather today?" and the mentor might respond with, "That is good. We can also talk about seasons, and what that means to us." The idea is to have a solid outline of content beforehand, so there is little time without subjects or activities. Other ideas shared are playing games in the language, or looking through photo albums and having the mentor talk about memories.

The group worked on communicating with body language, using gestures in addition to the ancestral language, planning and carrying out "language immersion" sessions, setting language learning goals, keeping language journals, and using pictures to stimulate talk. Discussion topics also included brain development during language learning, the excellent ability of adults to learn languages, and the universal stages of natural (infant) language learning. They also talked about methods to implement language revitalization efforts in their communities and how to create jobs for language learners and teachers.