



Dear Board of Regents,

We are keeping lines of communication open with faculty and staff as the legislative session begins and the governor's budget calls for a \$14.9 million general fund reduction to the University of Alaska system. This proposed cut, coupled with mandatory salary and benefit increases and strategic programmatic needs approved by our Planning and Budgeting Advisory Council, PBAC, could leave us with a FY15 budget gap of roughly \$7 million, which equates to about 7 percent of our general fund budget. Although this situation may change, we are directing major budget units—including colleges, community campuses and administrative departments—to take immediate steps to identify and implement temporary budget reductions.

This is a temporary fix and any FY15 budget adjustments will not be base cuts. We expect the results of our prioritization process, begun last May, to inform our FY16 budget decisions and any base budget cuts required. As we continue to move forward with the prioritization process this spring, our goals remain the same: to ensure strategic investment in the programs and services that most align with our mission, our strategic plan, Shaping Alaska's Future and the needs of our students and state. In order to remain a healthy, sustainable university for years to come, this will be essential.

I am pleased to report that as we look at ways to become more efficient and focused in our mission and use of resources, there is much to be proud of in our current day-to-day operations. Our Seawolf athletes are competing well, we are in the third year of Innovate Awards that show the rewards of collaborations across colleges and programs and we are planning for the opening of the Alaska Airlines Center in August. Now, more than ever, amazing stories are being written every day at UAA.

Tom Case
Tom Case



River of Bears

UAA's first full-dome wildlife documentary is scheduled to run at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art in the summer, after its campus run this spring.



Seawolf Athletes continue to excel

Hockey is on pace for their first winning season in over 20 years; men's basketball coach became UAA's winningest coach in program history; women's basketball is one of the top teams in NCAA West Region and Micah Chelimo set a GNAC record in the 3,000 meters.



Helping doctors teach

Premera Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alaska donated \$100,000 to fund training workshops for community physicians, making it easier for them to take WWAMI students into their practices and teach them.

UAA taking the lead



UAA Phonathon reaches \$1 million milestone

In their 10th year of reaching out to alumni to support UAA, student callers in the Phonathon have raised a cool \$1M!



Postcards Home

Legislative aides from UAA are sharing impressions of their semester of work in Alaska's capital and watching state government in action.



Words of Welcome

Signs are going up around campus bearing words of welcome for Alaska Native students, faculty and visitors in their own languages. It is part of an effort to provide a sense of community and belonging at UAA for indigenous Alaskans.

Faculty distinction

William Hensley, visiting distinguished professor in the College of Business and Public Policy received the Governor's Arts and Humanities Award for a lifetime of contributions to Alaskans. Eva Saulitis, English and Creative Writing faculty at Kenai Peninsula College's Kachemak Bay Campus, also received a Governor's Arts and Humanities Award.

Dr. Andre Rosay, Justice Center director, and **Dr. Marny Rivera**, Justice faculty, are co-conveners for Healthy Alaskans 2020 Strategy Workgroup, responsible for identifying strategies for reducing child maltreatment and rape among adolescent couples.

Community partnerships

UAA Justice Center and the Anchorage Police Department released "Officer Involved Shootings in Anchorage 1993-2013" as part of a cooperative effort to better understand officers' use of force in Anchorage.

Two UAA teams raised \$12,903 ("Psyched for a Cure" team raised \$9,423 and "Mixed Methods" raised \$3480) and helped elevate UAA as a top fundraising organization for the Polar Bear Plunge supporting the American Cancer Society.

UAA student headed to Sochi

Alpine skier and psychology major **Anna Berecz** will represent her native Hungary in alpine skiing at the Sochi 2014 Olympic Games in Russia. Anna competed in five events in the Vancouver 2010 Olympic games. This is her third season with the UAA alpine team.

Alumni distinction

Aaron Leggett, Special Exhibits Coordinator at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art and a UAA Anthropology graduate received a Governor's Award for Arts and Humanities for his role as co-curator of the recent Dena'ina exhibit.

Sustainability winners

North Hall took the prize (a S'Mores party and cool T-shirts) in a hotly contested recycling competition among residence halls.

Award-winning University Relations team

CASE (Council for Advancement and Support of Education) silver award: Jamie Gonzales for Field Notes blog: greenandgold.uaa.alaska.edu/fieldnotes/

PRSA (Public Relations Society of America) Alaska Chapter Awards of Excellence/ Aurora Awards:

1st Place, Hometown U, Anchorage Daily News column: Kathleen McCoy

2nd Place, UAA Master Plan Blog: Lonnie Mansell, Kathleen McCoy, James Finger

2nd Place, Amazing Stories Branding Campaign: UAA and Spawn

Honorable Mention, The Howl Social Media Hub: Travis Michel, Catalina Myers, Spawn

Safety at UAA Exemplary

There were 13 recordable injuries in 2013, less than 50 percent from the 28 in 2012. Safety truly is everybody's business at UAA and it shows.



Professor Cathy Cahill ended her class with a bang last fall. Cahill will spend up to a year in Washington, D.C., learning about public policy while contributing her scientific expertise as a fellow on the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. The committee has jurisdiction over energy production and related policies, mining, and management of federal lands, including national parks and refuges. Alaska's Sen. Lisa Murkowski is the committee's ranking Republican member.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The collaborative doctorate of veterinary medicine degree program between UAF and the veterinary teaching hospital at Colorado State University was signed in December. Students can take their first and second years of the professional veterinary medical program at UAF and their third and fourth years at the veterinary teaching hospital at CSU. The program has similarities to the WWAMI medical program with UAA and the University of Washington.

Kinross Fort Knox has renewed its support of an endowment that supports graduate student research in mining engineering at UAF. The company's \$1 million gift is its second to the UAF engineering research endowment, which provides a steady source of research funding for tomorrow's mining engineers.

A free math bridging program was offered to students enrolled in specific math classes for spring 2014. Students received intensive, individualized review of prerequisite material for the upcoming course and guidance on all aspects of getting through a math course at the college level, including how to study for tests, strategies for getting homework done, and how to get the most out of lectures.

UAF was well represented at the American Geophysical Union conference in San Francisco. Faculty, staff and students delivered 52 talks and presented 116 posters for the largest showing of scientists from UAF at the Dec. 9–13 conference. Scientists from GI and IARC accounted for 90 percent of the UAF research presentations.

Caribou in southern and eastern Canada may disappear from most of their current range in 60 years if climate change takes the toll on their habitat that scientists are predicting. UAF scientists, part of a team headed by researchers at Laval University in Quebec, looked at genetic diversity in caribou and whether that diversity was linked to stable habitats. They found caribou populations in the most climatically stable areas had the greatest genetic diversity, which is important because genetically diverse populations are more able to adapt to change. The scientists note that future climate forecasts bode ill for both caribou habitat and their genes. The results of their research were published in December in the journal *Nature Climate Change* online.

IN PROGRESS

UAF eLearning and Distance Education is staying ahead of the curve when it comes to wearable technology and how these new tools will affect higher education. Jennifer Moss, an instructional designer on the team, is one of Alaska's first Glass Explorers, invited by Google to test their new device — called Google Glass — which looks like a pair of glasses but is equipped with smartphone-like capabilities and can be used hands-free. The team is partnering with staff and faculty to test this emergent technology in a variety of educational scenarios.

The Arctic Winter Games, UArctic and UAF are partnering for the first Arctic Winter Games College Fair to connect athletes participating in the games to higher education opportunities in the circumpolar North. The college fair will take place from 9 a.m.–noon and 4–7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 19, in the Great Hall on the Fairbanks campus.

WHAT'S NEXT

The Alaska Nanooks will host the 2015 NCAA National Rifle Championship, March 13–14, 2015, at the Patty Center. The Nanooks hosted the event in 2007, a championship they won in front of hundreds of spectators from the Fairbanks and surrounding communities. UAF's rifle team has won 10 national championships, the second-most in the NCAA history.

The 41st annual UAF Festival of Native Arts is scheduled for Feb. 27–March 1. Alaska Native students at UAF established the festival in the mid-1970s as an attempt to preserve Native cultural expression.

The second annual Discover Alaska lecture series will take place summer 2014. The lectures will feature presentations by Alaska artists, authors, historians and scientists.

THROUGH THE LENS: RECENT IMAGES

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

February 2014



UAF will manage one of six official Federal Aviation Administration unmanned aircraft system test sites.

The Pan-Pacific UAS Test Range Complex, with its geographic diversity spanning seven climatic zones, will give manufacturers the ability to test their equipment in the Arctic, the tropics and arid environments. The test site will build on the work of the Alaska Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration. Congressionally mandated, the sites are intended for research into the requirements to safely integrate unmanned aircraft into national airspace over the next several years.

Photos below, clockwise from left



Swimmers at the start of the 200-yard freestyle relay during the Nanooks' meet against Loyola Marymount in the Patty Pool.

Emily Smola at the weeklong homeless vigil maintained 24 hours a day by students in the UAF Honors Program. The temperature on the Fairbanks campus at the time was a brisk 30 below zero.

Lindsey Dreese practices a move during an Aurora Aerial Arts Club meeting in the Student Recreation Center. Dreese, a junior biology major, helped start the club, which now boasts about 25 members who meet twice a week.



An Army ROTC cadet reads the names of service members who died in Iraq and Afghanistan, while his colleagues stand at attention during the Veterans Day Roll Call. More than 6,700 names were read. (UAF photo by JR Ancheta)

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Update: New Residence Hall on Juneau Campus

Construction of the new freshman residence hall is well underway on the Auke Lake campus and is slated to open in time for the fall 2014 semester. Situated between the Noyes Pavilion and Auke Lake Way, the new residence hall has several advantages for new students. The 120-bed, suite-style hall is located directly on-campus, a short walk from dining services, the Egan Library, and the UAS Learning Center which offers free tutoring services and test proctoring, faculty and academic advising, classrooms, and many student activities. The location is also right across from the public bus stop.

The residence hall will feature a special group area and adjoining kitchen for meetings and social gatherings as well as flexible individual and group study spaces. The top floors look out on one

of the most spectacular views in the world: Auke Lake and the mountains and Mendenhall glacier beyond!

The new facility will house first-time freshman and is in addition to an existing residence hall, two-bedroom apartments, and four-bedroom apartments. The application period for student housing for the fall 2014 semester opened Monday, February 3rd.

There are numerous benefits to living on-campus beyond simple convenience. In addition to being part of a community of residents, faculty and staff, students living on-campus finish college faster, are exposed to a wider range of ideas and cultures, are challenged to develop strong interpersonal skills and feel more safe and secure in their living environment.

Pearson in New Zealand

20th Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals

Assistant Professor of Marine Biology Heidi Pearson was in New Zealand attending the 20th Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals in Dunedin, Dec. 9-13, 2013. She and co-authors presented on the effects of climate change and mussel farming on dusky dolphins in New Zealand, and the knowledge and conservation attitudes of whale watch passengers in Juneau. Following the conference she conducted fieldwork in Kaikoura, New Zealand with the goal of developing a short-term suction-cup tagging method for dusky dolphins. Updates from the field will be posted to a blog on UAS Online.

Audible Art of Place 2014

Spoken word is the theme for this Spring's Art of Place series. Audible Art of Place 2014 kicked off on Friday, January 31 at 10 AM in the Glacier View Room with Tlingit elder Paul Marks (Raven) and Standing Rock Sioux writer and storyteller Mona Susan Power. They demonstrated the purpose and meaning of oratory among indigenous cultures. The next Art of Place event, "Telling History" is scheduled for Friday, February 21.

UAS Admitted to Prestigious Math Organization, Ceremony Set for April 17th

UAS will become home to the first (and only) Alaskan Chapter of Pi Mu Epsilon. Pi Mu Epsilon is the National Mathematics Honorary Society established in 1914 to promote mathematics and to recognize successful students of mathematics. The UAS chapter will be the 376th chapter of the organization, and will be designated the Alaska Alpha Chapter.

A Pi Mu Epsilon Councilor will travel to Juneau for a formal installation ceremony scheduled for the evening of Thursday, April 17 on the Auke Lake campus. A first group of students and some faculty members will be inducted into the Alaska Alpha Chapter as lifetime members of Pi Mu Epsilon at the event. "On behalf of the Mathematics program, and Pi Mu Epsilon, I would like to extend a formal invitation to all of you to attend this event," said Mathematics faculty Christopher Hay-Jahans. More information on the honors organization can be found on the Pi Mu Epsilon website: www.pme-math.org/organization/whatispme.html

Alaska Marine Science Symposium Presentation

Associate Professor of Biology and Natural Sciences Department Chair David Tallmon attended the Alaska Marine Science Symposium in Anchorage, January 20-24, 2014. He presented a poster, "Tallmon, DA, RP Kovach, J Joyce. 2014. Climate induced changes in phenology, evolutionary potential, and productivity for multiple salmonids."

Walz Co-edits Journal on Fantômas

Issue devoted to Fantômas, a popular criminal anti-hero in France at the beginning of the twentieth century.

Robin Walz (Professor of History, Juneau) and Sándor Kálai (Professor of Communications and French, University of Debrecen, Hungary) have co-edited the most recent issue of the on-line journal, *Belphegor, Littératures Populaires et Culture Médiatique* (University of Limoges, France, and Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia). The issue is devoted to Fantômas, a popular criminal anti-hero in France at the beginning of the twentieth century (<http://belphegor.revues.org/75>). Walz and Kálai co-authored the introduction, "Fantômas a cent ans" (Fantômas is one hundred years old).

"Forum@360: Living the Language"

UAS affiliated Tlingit speakers and educators discussed what it means to live the Tlingit language and ways to incorporate it into our homes and communities on a recent forum taped for 360 North public television in Juneau. Tlingit speaker and clan leader David Katzeek spoke on the power and spirit of the Tlingit language, adjunct instructor Marsha Hotch spoke on bringing language into the home and introduced a mentor/apprentice program, Assistant Professor of Alaska Native Languages Lance Twitchell addressed how to create a multilingual community and linguist Alice Taff highlighted language resources for the community and demonstrated how to use existing online tools. "Forum@360: Living the Language" can also be viewed online at 360north.org.

Economics Professor Presents on Natural Disaster Readiness

Assistant Professor of Economics Brian Vander Naald travelled to Tampa, Florida in November to attend the annual meeting of the Southern Economic Association. He presented his research paper entitled "Time Use Responses to Natural Disaster".

English Faculty Members Engage with Community

Assistant Professor of English Emily Wall was recently featured on KTOO-TV and presented some of her new poems at the Juneau Arts and Humanities Council. Wall and fellow Assistant Professor of English Ernestine Hayes also participated in an author's reading at the Juneau Public Library with Arlitia Jones, who wrote "Rush at Everlasting", a Perseverance Theatre stage production.

Hayes Commissioned for Pictorial History

In December 2013, Juneau writer and Assistant Professor of English Ernestine Hayes released her new book *Juneau*. The book tells the history of the capitol city through pictures with elaborate captions. It's a departure from her usual writing style. But the book builds on her effort to clarify the history of Native people. The book shows how the city was formed and important events and individuals that shaped its early development. Publisher Arcadia Press asked Hayes to write it as part of their "Images of America" series that covers a broad range of American cities and towns. In keeping with the series' focus, Hayes concentrated on the city's early history, in the late 1800s and early 1900s. "I limited it more or less to the founding or beginning, or how Juneau originated in the place where it is today," said Hayes. Hayes added that even though she knows a fair amount about her hometown, the book required a lot of research and many hours of sifting through images to find the ones she thought would best illustrate historical events.