



Chancellor's

# REPORT

TO THE  
BOARD OF  
REGENTS

Dear Board of Regents,

We announced, on March 21, the naming of the Alaska Airlines Center in recognition of a new 10-year agreement, including \$1M to create a new scholarship endowment for student athletes. A couple of weeks earlier we welcomed a Boeing 747, donated by FedEx, to serve as a training tool for UAA aviation maintenance students. Also in March the Alaska Legislature honored Carol Swartz, director of the Kachemak Bay Campus (KBC) of Kenai Peninsula College for her leadership including founding the Kachemak Bay Writers' Conference. I am looking forward to personally presenting Director Swartz our own recognition of her service with the 2013 Meritorious Service Award at KBC commencement in May.

These are just a few of the recent amazing stories at UAA.

Our new branding campaign – Amazing Stories Being Written Every Day – is resonating internally and externally as amazing stories about UAA programs, faculty, staff and students continue to grow.

UAA's freshman retention rates are approaching an all-time high this year. Currently, nearly 90 percent of Anchorage campus degree-seeking freshmen, enrolled for the first-time in fall 2012, are continuing with their enrollment this spring semester—a new record.

We are continuing to prioritize our programs and resources in order to better meet our students' and state's needs.

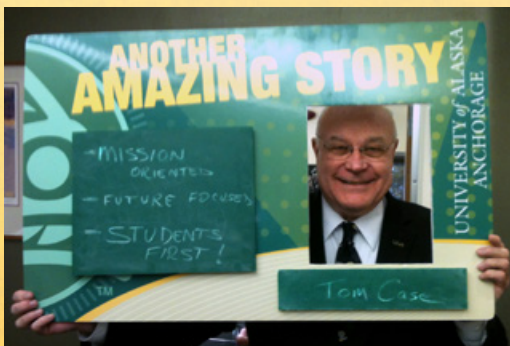
Best Regards,

*Tom Case*

Tom Case, Chancellor



Architectural rendering of the Alaska Airlines Center slated for completion in 2014.



UAA alumni have a new interim board of directors and a full slate of programs to engage one of our most valuable resources.



Alumni tailgate party

Official opening of Snodgrass Hall expansion housing nursing and paramedic programs included special recognition for Bill Tull, first Mat-Su College director from 1958-59.



Heather Dunn of Ambience Photography

Rashmi Prasad is the new dean of the College of Business and Public Policy (CBPP). Dean Prasad has been a faculty member for 11 years and served as interim dean of CBPP since summer of 2012.



Rashmi Prasad, Ph.D.

**AMAZING STORIES BEING WRITTEN EVERY DAY.**

## UAA moving forward...

### Faculty and staff taking leading roles:

**Mark Madden**, professor of aviation technology, received the 2013 National General Aviation Award from the Federal Aviation Administration, for the important role he plays in promoting aviation education and flight safety. Professor Madden is named the FAA Safety Team Representative of the Year.

**Bob McDonnell**, director of Business Services, received the 2013 Operations Award from the Northwest Association of College and University Housing Officers for outstanding service.

**Ingrid Harrauld**, named "Woman of Distinction" by the South Peninsula Haven House. Ingrid is KBC's science lab assistant and works with KBC's Youth Job Training Program.

**Liz Downing**, Kenai Peninsula College Title III project director appointed to the Board of Directors of the Alaska Society for Technology in Education. She will lead national and state legislative advocacy.

Archivist and Assistant Professor **Mariecris Gatlabayan**, selected to participate in the 2013 Archives Leadership Institute, which provides advanced training for 25 emerging and innovative leaders.

**Kenrick Mock**, chair of Computer Science and Engineering, is the volunteer event director of the 2013 Statewide High School Robotics Championship which draws 300 students from 13 communities around the state.

**Alan Boraas**, KRC professor of anthropology presented "The Medieval Warm Period and the shift from Riverine to Dena'ina Salmon Fishing" at an international Paleo-Climate Change conference.

### Program leadership:

UAA celebrated the opening of the new Military and Veteran Community Resources Center on March 7.

For the third year in a row, UAA is recognized by the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

Diverse Issues in Higher Education, a national publication, highlighted UAA's "spine" for making the Anchorage campus more accessible to the disabled.

### Seawolf Athletics- Go Seawolves!

**Micah Chelimo** was named the NCAA Division II Men's Scholar Athlete of the Year for the 2012 cross country season by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA).

Freshman **Karolin Anders** was named GNAC Female Freshman of the Year and head coach **Michael Friess** was named GNAC Female Team Coach of the Year. Friess led UAA, in its first season of indoor competition, to the women's GNAC title, breaking a nine-year run by Seattle Pacific. Friess was also voted USTFCCCA West Region Female Team Coach of the Year.

UAA had a program-high-tying 14 student-athletes to the men's All-Western Collegiate Hockey Association Academic Team for the 2012-13 season.

### Public Square:

UAA will host the first ever Alaska Native Studies Conference, "Alaska Native Studies in the 21st Century: Transforming the University," April 5-6, 2013, on the UAA Anchorage campus.

More than 200 people attended the 7th Annual KPC Kenai River Campus Health Fair.

The Justice Center, Justice Club and the Pre-Law Society are sponsoring a series of lectures for National Criminal Justice Month in March including: Working in Institutional and Community Corrections; Gideon v. Wainwright: Celebrating 50 Years of Public Defenders for Criminal Offenses and a Proposal for a "Civil Gideon," and Tribal Courts in Alaska: Past, Present and Future. All events are free and open to the public.

The 2nd Annual UAA Brain Bee, a neuroscience competition for high school students grades 9-12, was held mid-February at the ConocoPhillips Integrated Science Building.

### Publications:

*Alaska Justice Forum*, Fall 2012/Winter 2013, features "Moving Beyond Brands: Integrating Approaches to Mediation," by **Brian Jarrett**, associate professor with the Department of Justice, UAF.

**Melissa S. Green**, Justice Center publication specialist, worked with Project Coordinator Antonia Moras on the Alaska Court System Annual Report FY2012. Moras is the former editor of the *Alaska Justice Forum*.

The University of Alaska Press published "Gaining Daylight: Life on Two Islands" by Kodiak College adjunct/employee **Sara Loewen-Danelski**, a graduate of UAA's M.F.A. program in creative writing.

Matanuska-Susitna College Business Professor **Holly Bell** was published in the *Wall Street Journal*, "Regulator, Go Slow on Reining in High-Speed Trading."

Department of Languages associate professor and french program coordinator **Sudarsan Rangarajan's** article "Gide's La Symphonie pastorale as a Bildungsroman" has been accepted for publication in *Neophilologus*, an International Journal of Modern and Mediaeval Language and Literature.

## University of Alaska Center for Economic Development (CED) partnerships



Alaska kids get a chance to learn about running their own business during Lemonade Day.

**The Entrepreneurial Edge** business education program, a joint effort of CBPP, CED, Alaska Pacific University, UAS and The Entrepreneurs and Mentors Network offers free speaker series this semester.

**Lemonade Day Alaska**, hosted by CBPP and CED, has grown from 1,000 registered youth statewide in its first year to an anticipated 3,500, in its third year, this spring.

**The Alaska Cooperative Development Program**, a collaboration between CED and the Cooperative Extension Service, brought Ken Meter, one of the most experienced food system analysts in the United States, to Fairbanks and Anchorage.



### SENSE, SAY, DO something

**Student Affairs' Care Team** is using "best practices" to produce an educational awareness campaign and trainings for faculty, staff and students.

### International Studies

UAA's **Office of International Affairs** organized the Global Opportunities Expo to encourage exploration of the connections between study abroad, academic programs, international internships and careers.



Leslie Tuovenin, interim director of International Affairs and Irene Gawel from GlobalLinks.





Engineering students Pat Brandon, on the ladder on the right, and Andy Chamberlain, on the ground, and volunteers from GHEMM Company stabilize the top piece of the 2013 ice arch as it is placed in Cornerstone Plaza on the Fairbanks campus. Students this year built the structure out of pyekrete, a mixture of ice and sawdust, which is eight to 10 times stronger than concrete.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

**Poker Flat Research Range** launched a four-stage rocket Feb. 6 that successfully completed its 16-minute flight through an auroral substorm before splashing down in the Arctic Ocean. All four of the onboard instruments executed their jobs as planned. VISIONS, short for “VISualizing Ion Outflow via Neutral atom imaging during a Substorm,” is a NASA mission aimed to understand how the aurora heats and affects oxygen in the upper atmosphere. The launch was the first to be covered in real time by social media and on the Internet. Constant updates allowed people worldwide to follow the sounding rocket’s launch.

**Staff from the Geophysical Institute** helped 20 middle school teachers from across the state explore the world of ice and snow in a three-day professional development workshop. The workshop provided the teachers with activities, lesson ideas and materials about the Earth’s cryosphere that can be incorporated into their classrooms. Workshop attendees spent time at the GI, the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory Permafrost Tunnel in Fox, and the grounds at Chena Hot Springs Resort.

**Natives for Positive Change** hosted an Elizabeth Peratrovich Day celebration on the Fairbanks campus Feb. 16. The program at Hess Rec Center featured participation by community groups and schools, performances by UAF’s Inu-Yupiaq and Troth Yeddha’ dance groups, and a dinner honoring Alaska Native elders. Students founded Natives for Positive Change in 2011 to promote healthy communities and mentor Alaska Native youth in academic and professional development.

**The Cooperative Extension Service** in March hosted the ninth annual Sustainable Agriculture Conference in Fairbanks. Workshops and sessions covered topics such as sustainable farming methods, constructing rainwater catchment and irrigation systems, agritourism, and ways to farm or garden more sustainably in Alaska.

**The U.S. Board on Geographic Names** officially recognized Troth Yeddha’ as the name for the ridge that is home to the Fairbanks campus. In Lower Tanana Athabaskan this name means “Indian potato ridge,” and refers to the plant with an edible root — *Hedysarum alpinum* — that is a traditional food for Native people throughout Alaska.

## IN PROGRESS

**Summer construction projects** will affect roads, parking lots and pedestrian walkways across the Fairbanks campus. The three big projects in the campus core include the Wood Center dining facility expansion, the Fine Arts vapor barrier project and construction of the new engineering building. A number of summer events that normally take place in the campus core have been relocated. Tanana Loop from the west end of Bunnell to Duckering will be closed for two years beginning April 1. As Murie Building construction wraps up this spring, the big project on West Ridge starting in June will be work around the outside of the Butrovich Building.

## WHAT'S NEXT

**UAF’s 91st commencement** will take place at the Carlson Center in Fairbanks Sunday, May 12. UAF alumnus and Olympic medalist Matt Emmons will be the commencement speaker. Preliminary numbers from the Office of Admissions and the Registrar indicate the possibility of a record number of doctoral degrees being awarded this year.

**Summer Sessions 2013** kicks off with a concert by Judy Collins on May 5 in Davis Concert Hall. In addition to more than 200 academic courses, summer offerings include a Family Culture Night lecture series on Mondays; members of UAF’s international community focus on aspects of growing up in a different culture. On Tuesdays a Healthy Living lecture series, co-sponsored by Fairbanks Memorial Hospital and CES, will cover topics ranging from understanding health insurance to nutrition strategies for a long, healthy life. On Thursdays 10 free concerts are scheduled in the Georgeson Botanical Garden.



# THROUGH THE LENS: RECENT IMAGES

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

April 2013



**The Nanooks bested the UAA Seawolves 3-1** to sweep the season series and claim their fourth straight Alaska Airlines Governor's Cup March 2. The Nanooks won the cup for the 12th time in the tournament's 20-year history. *Photo courtesy of Jason Coulquhoun.*



Photos, clockwise from left  
**The 40th Festival of Native Arts** featured performances by dance groups from all over the state, including the UAF Inu-Yupiaq dance group, with Baxter Bond, center. *Photo by J.R. Ancheta.*

**The Nanook was on hand** at the Fairbanks International Airport to welcome Joy, the 727 jet recently donated by FedEx to UAF's aviation program.



**Engineering major Ryan Cudo** rings the cowbell after setting the pace with a climb up the ice wall next to the Student Recreation Center in 20 seconds during a fun competition March 1.

**Students try out the biggest jump** on UAF's new terrain park, which opened in February on the Fairbanks campus.

The University of Alaska Fairbanks is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. UAF is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and educational institution. Produced by UAF Marketing and Communications. UAF photos by Todd Paris unless otherwise indicated.

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## Full House Hears Story of Fischer's 'Journey'

**Former state Senator Vic Fischer makes book tour stop at UAS**



*Victor Fischer*

*By Mark D. Miller,  
Juneau Empire*

Nearly every seat in the lecture hall of Egan Library was filled Friday, February 22 for a book talk by former state Sen. Victor Fischer, one of Alaska's "founding fathers."

Fischer, who helped write the Alaska Constitution, was in Juneau to talk about his autobiography, *"To Russia With Love: An Alaskan's Journey."* His appearance at the UAS was part of the university's "Sound and Motion" spring event series.

Fischer was born in Germany in 1924 and

spent much of his childhood in the Soviet Union, before his family emigrated to the United States. While serving in the U.S. Army during World War II, he said, he became fascinated by the idea of becoming a town planner and moving to territorial Alaska.

"Just as I had been looking for jobs, had job offers, a notice went up on the bulletin board: Interior Department Bureau of Land Management town planner for Alaska. And I pulled the notice off the bulletin board," said Fischer to laughter from the audience.

Fischer moved to Alaska for the job in 1950 and was eventually elected to serve as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention.

While taking questions from the audience, Fischer was asked several times for his opinion of the Constitution and how it has held up over time.

"I would revisit some parts," Fischer replied. "I think as a whole, it's worked very effectively. I think having a strong chief executive, strong governor, despite my dislike of some — it's worked well."

Fischer also praised Alaska's judicial system, which he said was the main reason why he has never voted for a new convention despite wishing some elements of the Constitution were different.

Among the changes Fischer would like to see, he identified the glossing over of Alaska Native history in the preamble and the Constitution's failure to outline a strong role for tribal governments. He also said he would like to revisit the state's decennial redistricting process.

## University Hosts Sea Otter Symposium

*By Mark Miller, Juneau Empire*

Photographs of frolicking sea otters projected onto a screen greeted students, staff and members of the public coming into Egan Library Thursday, February 21 for the "Sea Otter Symposium" hosted by the University of Alaska Southeast.

Meanwhile, posters at the back of the room described studies done and conclusions reached by University of Alaska Fairbanks and United States Fish and Wildlife Service researchers, many of them on the impact of surging northern sea otter populations in Southeast Alaska.

Six sea otter experts gave presentations on the marine animals, which were eradicated from Southeast Alaska by overhunting during the height of the commercial fur trade, but have thrived since their reintroduction to the region in the 1960s.

## National Student Exchange (NSE) Service Award

At the 45th Annual NSE Placement conference in Orlando, Florida in March Academic Exchange and Study Abroad Coordinator Marsha Squires was recognized for 10 years of service to the consortium. She has worked with hundreds of students through the national program, served three years on the governing board as a member of the Council as well as Council Chair, continually assists with the Mentor Program, is a member of the Encouragement Team, and has presented and led workshops and orientation sessions at the annual conference over the years. Squires is the recipient of the UAS 2012 Staff Make Students Count award.

## Tallmon Appointment

### NMFS Alaska Scientific Review Group

Biology faculty member David Tallmon was recently appointed to the National Marine Fisheries Service's Alaska Scientific Review Group, which reviews the status of imperiled marine mammal stocks in Alaska and makes management and research recommendations to federal agencies based on these reviews.

## Lemon Creek Exchange Participant Wins Woosh K Poetry Slam at UAS

*By Sol Neely, Assistant Professor of English and Philosophy*

For the first time ever, the monthly Woosh Kinaadeiyi Poetry Slam in Juneau was held on the University of Alaska Southeast Auke Lake campus as part of the Sound and Motion Spring Arts Series February 15. Eminent poet-MC's were UAS Art student Kate Laster, Class of '13 and alumni Jacques Boucher, Class of '12 and Outstanding Graduate in Humanities.

The slam winner was Nathan Block, a talented Iraq war veteran recently paroled from Lemon Creek Correctional Center (LCCC) who participated in the Fall 2012 "UAS-LCCC Education Exchange Project," where he first met many of the student organizers of the monthly poetry slam.

The "UAS-LCCC Education Exchange Project" program brought UAS students inside the prison for an "integrated" classroom experience. The opportunity to bring university students inside the prison for collaborative study with inmates was co-organized by Dr. Sol Neely and Mr. Paul McCarthy (education coordinator at LCCC) as a component to Prof. Neely's ENGL 418 course—"Fugitive Thought: Philosophy and Literature Born of Prison"—which studied culturally significant literature and philosophy born of the prison as a privileged perspective from which to open meditations on questions of justice, hope, redemption, and ethical responsibility.

Reaching across the profound social barriers that separate the prison and the university, students inside and outside prison learned from each other, working to address and change misconceptions about education, incarceration, and power. During the final week of the education exchange, students shared their own poetry and original creative works, which brought the program to an especially intense and emotional conclusion.

When learning of Nathan's release from LCCC during the winter break, UAS students who met Nathan through the "UAS-LCCC Education Exchange Project" encouraged him to attend the poetry slam. With heartening hospitality, UAS students have made a campus community for Nathan, who is enrolling in summer classes at UAS and preparing to pursue a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and philosophy.

Meanwhile, Prof. Neely and Mr. McCarthy are resuming literary and philosophical studies inside LCCC, working to organize with UAS students another "integrated" three-week creative writing workshop in April. UAS and JEDC Innovation Summit



*Nathan Block. Photo: Daniel Kantak*

## Innovation Summit

Chancellor John Pugh moderated a session at the second annual Innovation Summit Feb. 11-12 at Centennial Hall in Juneau. UAS School of Management Dean John Blanchard was involved in planning the conference, hosted by the Juneau Economic Development Council. Leaders in business, government, and education cultivated ideas and developed strategies to strengthen key industries in Southeast communities. Strengthening regional industry clusters is one of the ways in which JEDC hopes that the Innovation Summit can help to nurture an "innovation ecosystem."

## Kh'unei Named to Top 40

### Lance A. Twitchell "Top Forty under 40"

Assistant Professor of Alaska Native Languages Kh'unei Lance A. Twitchell appears on the Alaska Journal of Commerce's 2013 list of "Top Forty under 40". The program seeks to recognize Alaskans who make a positive difference in the future of our state from the private, public, and non-profit sectors. Twitchell has been instrumental in renewed interest in Alaska Native language learning and a new designated emphasis within the Bachelor of Liberal Arts degree in Alaska Native Languages and Studies. This year's class will be honored April 5 at the Captain Cook Hotel in Anchorage.



*Lance Twitchell*

## Coeur Check to UAS High School Mining Training

### Coeur Alaska Kensington presented a check for \$7000 to UAS

Coeur Alaska Kensington Mine General Manager Wayne Zigarlick presented a check for \$7000 to UAS Center for Mine Training Director Mike Bell at a recent Alaska Miners Association meeting in Juneau. The contribution is for tuition and travel to mine tours for Southeast Alaska high school students that are enrolled in the Introduction to Mining Occupations and Operations course that Bell teaches at UAS in partnership with the Alaska Learning Network and the Alaskan Mining industry. "Coeur's contribution is really appreciated and demonstrates the commitment of the mines in our area to develop a local Alaskan workforce and to help students to understand the career pathways that the mining industry can offer," said Bell.