



From the Director

Peter Schweitzer

Welcome to the fourth year of Alaska EPSCoR's three-year plan.

Phase III of Alaska EPSCoR had been set to conclude on June 30. But the National Science Foundation agreed to fund the program for a supplemental year, which will run through the middle of 2011.

In many ways this fourth year will resemble previous years. We'll continue to fund many programs that have proven successful in Phase III: travel support for EPSCoR students, faculty and staff; stipends for grad students and undergrads, and Integrative Faculty Development Awards. We'll continue to support K-12 outreach programs, agencies like Alaska TREND, and events like the Western Alaska Interdisciplinary Science Conference, all of which have benefitted substantially from EPSCoR support in the past.

Because of the timing and amount of this supplemental funding, these programs won't be in place until the spring 2011 semester. See the

All-Hands Meeting Marks Progress Annual Gathering Focuses on EPSCoR Integration Efforts

The University of Alaska faculty and students who gathered for Alaska EPSCoR's third All-Hands Meeting in May thought they were commemorating the end of a three-year process. But it may have been just the beginning.

Thanks to a supplemental grant from the National Science Foundation, Alaska EPSCoR's funding - which was set to expire this past June - will instead continue until mid-2011. Even as EPSCoR gears up to offer this additional period of student and faculty support, a team of UA scientists has been working on a proposal for a five-year NSF award to fund EPSCoR's next phase, which would redouble the organization's ongoing efforts to build an innovative program of integrative science.



photo by Tom Moran

Eric Schlosser, author of the bestseller *Fast Food Nation*, addresses attendees at the 2010 Alaska EPSCoR All-Hands Meeting in Fairbanks in May.

"There has been a lot of progress made over these three years in terms of creating integrative research nodes, creating networks, but at the same time it also indicates that there's room left for improvement," noted Alaska EPSCoR Principal Investigator Peter Schweitzer. "There's a lot

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Our Man in Juneau



Sanjay Pyare at work in the field (literally) in Southeast Alaska.

Sanjay Pyare's attraction to Southeast Alaska has its roots in upstate New York.

As an undergrad at New York's Hartwick College, Pyare conducted outdoor research on black-capped chickadees as part of a winter ecology class. It was the first exposure that Pyare - who grew up outside New York City - had to field research, and he was hooked. "It was very different from a lab," said Pyare, now the University of Alaska Southeast representative on Alaska EPSCoR's management team. "I was awed that someone could actually do that for a living."

Pyare's inclination to outdoor field work led him west, and he received his Ph.D in Conservation Biology and Ecology from the University of Nevada in Reno in 2000. Along the way he helped spread his appreciation of fieldwork by co-founding the Great Basin Institute, which engaged students in field classes and research. But Pyare also started disappearing from campus for semesters at a time to work as a technician for the U.S. Forest Service on Prince of Wales Island in Southeast Alaska. His love of the outdoors and

of the open spaces of the west found its ultimate expression where Southeast's mountains meet the sea.

"I've kind of had a longstanding love affair with Southeast in general," Pyare said. "The landscape, the geography, was just totally imposing and unlike anything else I've ever experienced - and I've lived in some pretty awesome, austere places."

Pyare worked in Wyoming and Montana as a post-doc and a research ecologist for the Wildlife Conservation Society until 2004, but he kept Alaska in his mind. In 2005, a job offer from UAS finally brought him north to stay, and today he holds the position of Assistant Professor of Environmental Science and Geography at the Juneau campus.

Pyare's research remains intimately tied to the landscape: his chief focus at UAS is the use of geographic information system (GIS) technology, which merges cartography and databases to allow for detailed analysis of phenomena spread over a geographic area. In Pyare's case, this has often involved studies of the distribution of flora and fauna. A look at Pyare's C.V. is like a trip to the zoo: more centered on techniques than on particular species, his research over the years has incorporated everything from lynx and wolverines to flying squirrels, mycorrhizal fungi and boreal toads.

"I'm not really interested in being a specialist," Pyare said. "I'm more interested in understanding how whole ecosystems function. To me, GIS is the tool that allows you to bring together disparate components in order to do that."

The rest of Pyare's resume shows remarkable variety as well. In particular, he's put a lot of effort

EPSCoR People



Sanjay Pyare

into fostering integrative research at UAS, and has received some major funding from Alaska EPSCoR along those lines - including an early-career award in 2009 and an Interdisciplinary Research Faculty Grant this year (not to mention travel funding

and a course buyout). "I don't think there's any question I wouldn't be doing half the things I do here without EPSCoR," he noted.

The early-career award in part funded efforts to kick-start an integrative research team at UAS, including representatives of both science and the humanities. The more recent Interdisciplinary Research grant went toward developing a "dirt lab" on campus where various faculty members can analyze samples for research into ecosystem change.

"We've been using various samples, each of us, to evaluate the question of what changes are occurring in ecosystems over time," he said. "We haven't had a place here at UAS where we could do a lot of that."

Pyare's position on EPSCoR's management team allows him to serve as an advocate for UAS in EPSCoR's various endeavors, and also as an advocate for undergraduate research, which is a priority at UAS's undergrad-oriented campus. Pyare also signed on as a co-Principal Investigator for the proposed Phase IV of EPSCoR, and says one of his priorities under such a program would be to try to establish a center for excellence in undergraduate research at UAS.

"I think my role is really to hit the undergrad research heavy," he said. "By necessity, we almost have to." ♦

EPSCoR student conducts research in Prague

Alaska EPSCoR graduate student fellow Mary-Catherine Leewis spent the first half of 2010 studying in Prague at the Institute of Chemical Technology and the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic.

Leewis' research is a genetic study and statistical analysis of microorganisms from different types of Interior Alaskan vegetation. While in Prague she had access to a 454 Life Sciences pyrosequencer, a state-of-the-art DNA sequencing device not available in Fairbanks. She used it to analyze DNA extracts collected in Alaska to delve into the role of Alaskan microorganisms in relation to nutrient cycling, carbon sequestration and flux within ecosystems, and pollutant degradation. Leewis, a UAF doctoral student, also took the opportunity to present her work at academic conferences in the Czech Republic and Spain, and to learn Czech.

EPSCoR grad students craft energy plan

Alaska EPSCoR grad student fellows Jill Maynard and Becky Warren helped the Alaska Center for Energy and Power to craft a regional energy plan for Interior Alaska.

The two UAF Master's students co-authored the 58-page plan, which is a comprehensive statement of the energy needs and goals of 42 Interior Alaska villages, including summaries of current production facilities as well as an examination of future energy efficiency and generation options.

"The process was implemented to ensure that the Interior region communities had a voice during the larger, statewide energy planning process," Maynard stated. "This involved organizing a steering committee, conducting subregional meetings in Galena, Tok, Holy Cross, McGrath and Fort Yukon, utilizing surveys, conducting interviews, and communicating with as many regional entities and individuals as possible."

UAF Research Day awards

EPSCoR grantees took two top awards at UAF's 2010 Campus Research Day. Jessica Beecher, a 2008-09 EPSCoR graduate fellow, won first prize in the graduate poster contest for her poster, "Cold Tolerance in *Arabidopsis kamchatika*." EPSCoR-funded undergrad Jeff Bue took first place in the undergraduate symposium contest for his presentation, entitled "Arsenic Absorption in Vegetables."

A New Look at Growing Old



Jordan Lewis at Lake Aleknegik, outside of Dillingham.

Many people view the aging process with trepidation and dread. But Jordan Lewis has built a fledgling academic career - not to mention a personal philosophy - out of seeing things differently.

“The way I grew up and what I was taught is aging is something to look forward to, you’re respected as an elder,” noted Lewis, who grew up in the Bristol Bay village of Naknek and is now a research associate with the Center for Alaska Native Health Research at UAF. “That’s really focused my career in looking at aging as not something to fear, but to embrace.”

Lewis said his initial interest in geriatrics came from spending time as a child with his Aleut great-grandparents, whom he views as exemplars of “successful aging” because of their ability to embrace

modernity while maintaining Native traditions. “My great-grandfather grew up in a sod house, and he was the first person in Naknek to have a truck,” he said. “He knew how to fix his truck, and he had a four-wheeler, but he would still go hunting and knew how to live off the land.”

Lewis studied social work as an undergrad at UAF and received a Master’s in social work from Washington University in St. Louis, after which he spent four years in Washington, D.C. at a variety of public policy jobs. Lewis loved policy work, but also found himself drawn back to a goal he had held since high school, to earn his Ph.D studying Alaska Natives. He enrolled in UAF’s Resilience and Adaptation Program, which led him to his thesis project: a groundbreaking and ambitious effort to define successful aging among Native elders

in the Bristol Bay area.

Lewis said he wanted to see how Alaska Native perceptions of successful aging related to the accepted Western definition, a largely biomedical model with heavy emphasis on factors like avoiding disabilities and diseases. He suspected interviews with Native Alaskan elders would reveal a more communal and less materialistic attitude.

“The hypothesis was, elders who are able to remain in their own communities and engage in subsistence activities and lifestyles would age more successfully than those who were either weren’t engaged by the community, or were forced to relocate,” he said.

Lewis interviewed 26 elders in six disparate communities about their definitions of aging well, and he said the responses coalesced around four basic elements: spirituality; optimism and emotional well-being; community engagement, and physical health. Lewis said some of the results conformed to his expectations, but he was surprised by others, such as the importance of a positive mental attitude. “That was found in every interview,” he said. “One lady had bad diabetes, she was very down and out, isn’t able to walk anymore. But she laughed about life, loved her community – there’s nothing wrong with her life.”

The results also showed a surprising lack of emphasis placed by the elders on avoiding infirmity. “Physical health doesn’t guarantee successful aging,” he said. “Some of the healthiest people

in this study who weren’t acknowledged by their community - they didn’t care. They weren’t aging successfully because they didn’t have a purpose.”

Lewis made several policy recommendations in his thesis, which have drawn attention from the state Department of Health and Social Services as well as Native villages and health corporations. Chief among his ideas are more facilities and programs to keep elders residing in, and involved in, their home communities. “Their whole sense of identity, who they are as a Native people, comes from this idea that they are part of a community and they have something to give back,” he said.

Lewis was helped toward his doctorate by Alaska EPSCoR, which awarded him both travel funding and a graduate student fellowship. He’s been showered with accolades over his academic career, including a prestigious Mellon Foundation Dissertation Fellowship and the 2009 National Rural Aging and



photo courtesy Jordan Lewis

Lewis meets with a group of elders in the village of South Naknek.

Public Health Research Award from the American Public Health Association.

But the biggest honor for Lewis has been his appointment to the highly select Council of Public Representatives of the National Institutes of Health. Lewis is serving a 4-year-term on the 21-member board, which is tasked with providing the NIH director with input and feedback on public health issues. “It’s kind of a way to bring the NIH to Alaska, because NIH is on the East Coast, and it seems like a daunting, huge organization,” he said. “So I’m trying to bring it to Alaska and say, this is a great way of getting your concerns heard about health.”◆

EPSCoR Awards Grants to

The research subjects of Alaska EPSCoR's 2010 spring and summer award recipients stretched from archeology to zucchini.

EPSCoR gave out 16 undergraduate awards of \$4,000 to \$8,000 to fund research projects in biology, physical science and the social sciences. Here are the recipients:

Raymond Brooks, a UAF geological engineering major, used nuclear magnetic resonance methods to examine samples of unfrozen water in frozen soil. (See story, page 8.)

Jeff Bue, a UAF business administration major, studied arsenic levels in Fairbanks-area zucchini crops.

Fawn Carter, a UAF anthropology major, conducted an archeological study of a meat cache found at the Kukulik site on St. Lawrence Island.

Kari Dammerman, a UAS marine biology major, conducted a genetic comparison of Western Alaskan and Glacier Bay coastrange sculpin populations.

Andrea Devers, a UAF psychology major, investigated the use and utility of demographic variables in estimating the rate of forcible rapes in Alaska.

Mark Ferrell, a UAA biological sciences major, examined the relationship between perceived and actual water quality in Anchorage and on the Seward Peninsula.

Eric Keller, a UAS marine biology pre-major, examined the progression and development of bitter crab syndrome in Prince William Sound tanner crab populations.



photo courtesy Jeff Bue

Curious about the products of his family's farm, UAF undergrad Jeff Bue conducted an EPSCoR-funded experiment to test the arsenic levels in locally grown crops.

Yoko Kugo, a UAS anthropology major, observed and interviewed Tlingit and Haida weavers in Southeast Alaska.

Charlene Leinenger, Tim Sharp and Cheyanna Swisher, all UAF biology students, monitored landbirds at Creamer's

Field Migratory Wildlife Refuge in collaboration with the Alaska Bird Observatory.

Eric Olson, a UAF psychology major, studied traditional Yup'ik conflict resolution methods and identified potential modern replacements for them.

Valerie Robancho, a UAF psychology major, interviewed bi- and multiethnic individuals to see how their experiences differ from those of monoethnic people.

April Rochford, a UAA biological sciences major, examined the genetics of root growth by the plant thale cress in response to elevated temperatures.

James Smith, a UAF wildlife biology major, used genetic tests to determine the geographic origin of red foxes on St. Matthew Island in the Bering Sea.

Kaleb Yates, a UAF theatre major, helped to produce a documentary about Alaskans designing and building their own homes.

Undergrads, Faculty Teams

In addition, EPSCoR awarded four one-time Integrative Faculty Development Grants, ranging from \$18,000 to \$30,000 each. The grants went out to teams of scientists engaged in interdisciplinary research projects. The recipients were:

Sociology professor **Melanie Arthur**, psychology professor **Cecile Lardon**, and geological engineering professor **Debasmita Misra**, all of UAF. The team worked on assembling a database of water management systems in rural Alaska, with an eye toward a future study of how communities' hydrological, infrastructural, social and health systems relate to water quality.

UAF biology faculty members **Eugenie Euskirchen**, **David McGuire**, and **Gary Kofinas**. They worked to model the effects of climate-induced changes in arctic and boreal vegetation on four Alaskan caribou herds.

UAF fisheries professors **Juan Andres Lopez**, **Courtney Carothers** and **Trent Sutton** and UAF psychology professor **Ellen Lopez**. The team undertook a systematic examination of the social-ecological systems associated with Alaskan whitefish.

Biology professor **Sanjay Pyare**, anthropology professor **Erica Hill** and geology professor **Cathy Connor**, all of UAS. The trio worked to develop an interdisciplinary analytical laboratory at UAS for the analysis of ecosystem change.



photo by Tom Moran

Integrative Faculty Development Grant recipients Ellen and Juan Andres Lopez.

FROM IDITAROD TO ENGINEERING LAB



photo by Tom Moran

EPSCoR undergraduate grantee Ramy Brooks displays his low-tech (but effective) tools for making permafrost core samples.

Ramy Brooks built a career out of mushing dogs over miles of frozen earth, then tore up the soil as a heavy-equipment operator. Now, the UAF Geological Engineering major is taking a closer look at the world beneath our feet.

The former Yukon Quest champion and two-time Iditarod runner-up enrolled as an undergraduate Geological Engineering major at UAF in 2008. Brooks, a soft-spoken father of three, said he was looking for a career change after years of running dogs and working a grueling schedule at the Usibelli Coal Mine in Healy.

“You get banged around, ripping frozen ground and stuff for a 10, 12-hour shift,” he said. “I’m getting to the point where I come off the equipment and I’ll be hurting for a couple days ... I just decided it really isn’t what I want to be doing for another 20 years.”

Brooks hasn’t escaped frozen earth, though. Through an Alaska EPSCoR undergraduate research grant, he worked from January to June on calibrating the equipment for an experiment to use nuclear magnetic resonance imaging to measure the properties of unfrozen water in frozen soil. Run by Assistant Professor of Geological Engineering Margaret Darrow, the experiment is designed to increase knowledge of permafrost soil’s thermal stability and to improve practices of building on it.

It was tricky work: in order to successfully analyze the samples, Brooks had to rig up a fridge in a Ducker-ing basement lab that stays at 34 degrees and contains both an imager that operates at 104 degrees and soil samples that must stay at 4 degrees below zero. He spent months running to hardware stores for fittings, setting up a new datalogger, and trying to fine-tune a core drill to retrieve the proper-sized samples.

It took him all semester, but Brooks said he was able to get the refrigerator set up for Darrow’s work. “My understanding is that it will take a lot of hours of research and figuring out the calibration of it and what exactly it means,” he said. “But I got it all to where it was functional, to where it was ready to start doing the soil tests.”

Brooks is grateful for the lab time. In order to support his family, he continued at the coal mine even after he enrolled, driving down from Fairbanks on weekends to work twin 12-14 hour shifts. He said the work was making it hard to focus on his courseload - but thanks to a number of scholarships and grants, he’s been able to pay for school and to stay focused on his degree. He said the EPSCoR money has been particularly helpful, allowing him to take a leave of absence from the mine.

Brooks plans to finish the degree in 2013. After that he’s considering grad school in mechanical or electrical engineering, with hopes of perhaps embarking on a career in exploration for alternative or traditional energy sources to help power rural Alaska. “I have an interest in exploration, whether it’s in mineral exploration or oil and gas exploration,” he noted. “I thought that the geological engineering degree would give me an opportunity to look at resources that we have available.”

Brooks admits there’s another motivation as well, unsurprising for a man who’s spent countless hours behind dog teams: “I just like being outside.” ♦



Science Conference Goes Dutch

Tucked into the eastern end of the Aleutian chain, Unalaska is known for its fishing industry, its rugged beauty and its ferocious weather – hardly the usual ingredients of a science symposium. But the Western Alaska Interdisciplinary Science Conference isn't your typical symposium.

“Each WAISC takes on its own personality,” explained Todd Radenbaugh, an assistant professor at the UAF-Bristol Bay Campus who has helped organize the annual conferences since they began in 2008. “So this one is very much Unalaska- fish plant tours, and a lot of commercial fishing operations as well as sustainability issues.”

The annual conferences are held in Western Alaska communities in order to encourage community participation and interactions. The March 24-27 conference was the first to be held in Southwest Alaska, following the '08 conference in Dillingham and '09 in Nome. The remote location didn't hurt attendance: the Unalaska event attracted about 100 people, a quarter of them locals and the rest scientists and students from across the state.

“I love this meeting,” said Valerie Barber, an assistant research professor with the UAF experiment station in Palmer who attended both the '09 and '10 WAISCs. “It's good to hear what's going on and what everyone else is doing, and I'm just really interested in Western Alaska.”

The conference mainly consisted of research presentations by close to 40 academics, resource managers, local residents and other speakers. Subject matter varied from overviews of the effects of climate change on fisheries, to an evaluation of Unalaska's potential for wind energy, to a description of using GIS technology to virtually re-create a vanished Aleutian village.

“I'm a true believer in this (format,)” said Reid Brewer, Unalaska's UAF Marine Advisory Program extension agent and the principal organizer of this year's conference. “You get a vast array of speakers from all disciplines and all levels. You get some of the top researchers in the field, and then you get high school kids talking about a project they've done in their backyard.”

Alaska EPSCoR has contributed to all three WAISC conferences, mainly through travel grants. This year EPSCoR helped pay ten peoples' way, including Barber, who spoke on the effects of climate change on

low-income and indigenous peoples; French mariner Phillippe Hercher, who did a 'green' retrofit of a French Navy tugboat then piloted it from Corsica to the Aleutians; Paul McCreary, a grad student from Belfast researching Alaskan peoples' engagement with the natural world; and Kevin Jernigan of UAF's Kuskokwin campus, who's compiling a Yu'pik language ethnobotany textbook.

“I wanted to plug our program a little bit,” Jernigan



Attendees at the 2010 WAISC tour the UniSea seafood plant in Dutch Harbor.

said of his presentation. “It was also an opportunity to see what research other people are doing, and to see what kind of connections we can make with people here in the Aleutian area.”

Attendees also participated in other endeavors, including a reception at the Museum of the Aleutians, a film on ocean acidification, a birding expedition, and field trips to the city's new power plant and to the UniSea seafood processing plant.

But the presentations remain the heart of the conference. The reason for the event, Radenbaugh noted, was to give people working in Western Alaska a chance to share their knowledge with locals and with each other.

“What's the purpose of collecting information,” he asked, “If you don't tell people about it?” ♦



All-Hands

Continued from page 1

of integration that needs to happen within the disciplines, there is integration across campuses that is very important, across different institutes and institutional cultures, across ranks, across the student-faculty divide.”

Attendees at the All-Hands Meeting, held May 26-28 on the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus, saw firsthand the progress Alaska EPSCoR had made since 2007 (the start of its current grant cycle) in terms of creating collaborations and projects that bring together researchers and ideas from different fields. For the first time, presentations at the meeting were not organized around the three components of Alaska EPSCoR – biology, physical science and social science – but around interdisciplinary ideas: changing landscapes; ecosystem services; water; and roads to integration. Individual session speakers touched on topics ranging from the gene flow of boreal toads to lakebed methane emissions to prehistoric Bering Sea bird use.

The two main speakers merged disciplines as well: Nigel Gilbert of the University of Surrey in the United Kingdom spoke about scientific modeling techniques while Eric Schlosser, author of the bestseller *Fast Food Nation*, gave a wide-ranging talk on themes like corporate responsibility, childhood obesity and local food production.

Yuri Shur, head of the EPSCoR Physical Science component, said attendees benefitted from the exposure to research from across the scientific spectrum. “Scientists are very isolated people, they work in their cubicles in their field and they do not see the big picture,” Shur said. “I was surprised at how interesting the subject matter has been. It was very exciting to me, and my mind started to work and I could see that I could contribute and take something from this.”

The All-Hands Meeting was meant to conclude Phase III of Alaska EPSCoR. But when a proposal for an EPSCoR Phase IV under separate leadership failed to win NSF funding, the agency

agreed to fund a supplemental year of Phase III. The 2010-11 funding will be half that of previous years, so EPSCoR’s slate of grants and other programs will be reduced in size and will be confined to the 2011 spring semester.

The supplemental funding has also given EPSCoR Phase III leadership time to prepare a new proposal



Nigel Gilbert addresses attendees at the 2010 Alaska EPSCoR All-Hands Meeting.

for Phase IV. A team of researchers from across the university drafted the award application, which – reflecting the same progress seen in the All-Hands Meeting – is organized around themes instead of disciplines. The three themes of Phase IV would be Water, Ecosystem Services and Rural Livelihoods, and Mobilities, all tied together by a “Synthesis Exchange” tasked with combining findings from the themes and using them to generate maps, scenarios and other products.

If approved by the NSF, Phase IV would run from 2011 through 2016 and be funded with a total of \$20 million in NSF funds and \$5 million from the university. It would continue a process of building interdisciplinarity that, as Ruess noted, had already started to gain steam thanks to the efforts of Phase III.

“There are new faculty in place, there are new collaborations in place, there are students who are enlightened and whose intellectual landscape has been forever changed, and I think that’s going to influence the type of science they do,” Ruess said about Phase III. “I think it’s had a really valuable impact.”◆

Science and Snacks



Panelists Christa Mulder, Donald Crocker and Angela Linn (l to r) listen as Joe Hickman addresses the crowd during the March 31, 2010 Dessert Discussions seminar on the UAF campus.

Come for the science; stick around for the cookies.

That was one idea behind Alaska EPSCoR's "Dessert Discussions," a series of lively seminars on EPSCoR-related topics held between December and April. The lunchtime events drew EPSCoR students and faculty together to discuss issues ranging from thesis-writing advice to methods for applying for grant funding.

"EPSCoR students come from different departments and campuses and don't often get chances to directly interact," explained Alaska EPSCoR Outreach Director Pips Veazey, who coordinated a team of students and faculty which organized the events. "So we created the Dessert Discussions series to bring everyone together for a shared experience."

The seminars took the form of hour-long panel discussions. Panelists came from across UAF and UAA, and topics included theses and comprehensive exams; grant funding; public presentations; and finding work after graduation. Attendance at the roughly once-a-month seminars was strong, and audience members were heavily involved in the spirited talks.

"We tried to come up with broad themes that would interest a wide variety of people," Veazey said. "We're pretty pleased with the results."

Three of the seminars were held in Fairbanks and a fourth in Anchorage. All of them, however, were statewide events, with teleconference links to all three UA campuses, and in one instance to Prince William Sound Community College in Valdez as well. ♦

Director's Letter

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back of this newsletter for deadlines and visit our website for more details.

And speaking of the website, one exciting development during the supplemental year will be the design and implementation of a new EPSCoR web portal which will make it easier for applicants to submit their important information all at once. This will help streamline the sometimes cumbersome application process and make it easier for us to gather all the data we need for the NSF and our external evaluators.

We are hoping to have the portal up and running by the middle of 2011, which is also when we're hoping that an NSF-approved fourth phase of EPSCoR will begin. In July, I was asked to head up a UA-wide group to submit a revamped proposal, and since then all of us have been working non-stop. We're all excited about our vision for Phase IV, which will take the advances we've made in Phase III in areas like integrative science and social-ecological systems modeling and apply them to a new set of cross-cutting themes. The proposal was submitted to the National Science Foundation in early October, after which time we've all had the chance to stop, catch our breaths, and get back to the all-important day-to-day business of helping to move Alaskan research forward.

Finally, I apologize for the late arrival of this newsletter. As you can see, Alaska EPSCoR has been in a state of flux for the last few months, and it seemed inappropriate to publish anything until we had a clear idea of what the future might hold. ♦

2010-11 EPSCoR Grant Funding Available

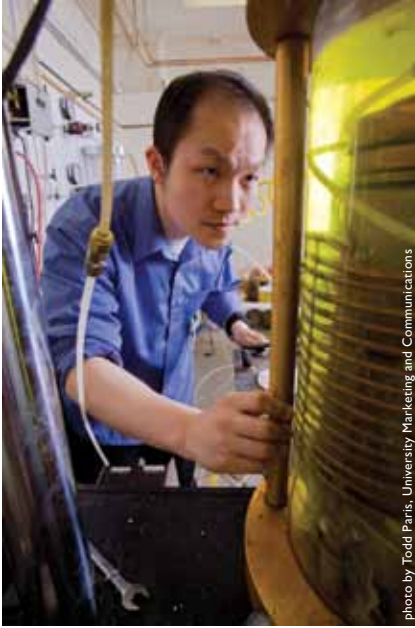


photo by Todd Paris, University Marketing and Communications

Alaska EPSCoR graduate fellow Yu Zhang

Alaska EPSCoR has announced its slate of grant funding for the spring 2011 semester. The following grants will be competitively awarded:

- **12 \$6,000 undergraduate awards**, consisting of \$4,000 stipends and up to \$2,000 for supplies.
- **24 \$16,000 graduate awards**, consisting of \$11,000 stipends and up to \$5,000 for supplies, as well as tuition and health insurance.
- **5 \$30,000 Integrative Faculty Development Grants**, awarded to faculty teams pursuing an interdisciplinary research project.
- **Approximately 15-20 travel grants**, open for faculty or students traveling after Jan. 1, 2011.

Grant applications will be due by 5 p.m. on **November 9, 2010**. For application forms and information visit the Alaska EPSCoR web site at www.alaska.edu/epscor.

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Alaska EPSCoR: Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research

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