On The Move

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University of Alaska Statewide



EPSCoR Reaches Out to Rural Alaska High School Students



From left: Megan Edwardson (Barrow HS Student), Sara Boen (Barrow HS Student), Leslie Boen (Barrow HS Teacher), and Lara Dehn (UAF). Teacher Leslie Boen and students Megan Edwardson and Sara Boen are participants in the EPSCoR Alaska Rural Partnership Program (AARP) which links rural students and their teachers to Alaska EPSCoR research and climate change related research at the University of Alaska. Compaq has generously donated 30 laptop computers and 15 PDAs for use by students and teachers involved in the AARP program.

Spotlight



EPSCoR: What It Is & What It Does Part 1

The University of Alaska's Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) is a partnership devoted to growing Alaska's scientific research capacity. UA is the core institution for EPSCoR programs, which are funded by the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health and by the State of Alaska. Major proposals to other federal agencies are in review. The university's research investments are complemented by pre-school and university educational programs, outreach to the Alaska business community, and links to state agencies.

*In this issue, **On the Move** starts a two-part series on EPSCoR with this story on its Alaska Rural Research Partnership (AARP). We are indebted to Dr. Elena Sparrow, EPSCoR's Education Outreach Coordinator, for this story.*

By Dr. Elena Sparrow
EPSCoR Education Outreach Coordinator

The purposes of EPSCoR's education outreach program are: 1) to enrich science

(continued on the back)

Employees Find Career Training Helpful

UA employees have been participating in HR's Professional Development/Career Power training and finding it helpful to the way they do their jobs.

Scott McCrea, marketing coordinator for the UAF Tanana Valley Campus and a member of the Professional Development Advisory Committee, told ***On the Move*** that the training is "invaluable" for any supervisor or manager who wants to learn how to be a better motivator for their employees.

"The lessons gleaned from the training are numerous," he said, "but there are two that really stood out for me. One is that it encourages managers to learn what the values are of their employees, which in turn gives them insight into what motivates them at work and in their personal lives. This not only helps build a better manager/employee relationship, but can make a difference in what tasks are delegated to employees, the way to delegate them, and how to reward them for a job well done."

Scott said the second lesson, and one that is probably hard for a lot of managers to grasp, is that training an employee to move within the university system is a good thing.

"We have to understand that while it might be a loss for a particular department, the system as a whole gains from it, and most importantly, the employee is more content," he said. "The career coaching training helps managers better understand the big picture at the University of Alaska."

Rolonda Horning, publications assistant in the Public Affairs office, said she found it interesting to see how each department affects other departments when they do their jobs successfully.

"We participated in various exercises that assessed ambitions, goals, expectations, family and even health," she said. "Our group came to the understanding that we all work together for an overall purpose, and that is to educate and empower University of Alaska students."



Top: Mike Hostina and Donna Rohwer. Center: Randy Weaver and instructor Melissa Hill. Bottom: Rolonda Horning, Randy Weaver and Melissa Hill.

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UNIVERSITY of ALASKA
Many Traditions One Alaska

Spotlight *continued*

education in rural schools through hands-on experience with research, 2) to encourage rural students to consider science and engineering careers, and 3) to involve more rural students in scientific research activities in their villages. Currently there are three UAF/Rural High School Student Research Projects and one UAF/Rural K-12 Research Project. All are funded by the National Science Foundation.

The first high school project under the mentorship of UAF scientist George Happ, on the Genetics of the Immune System in Reindeer, Caribou and Salmon, investigates the diversity of genes of the immune systems of these populations. The genes of interest, called the Major Histocompatibility Complex (MHC) genes, are involved in defense from infections. The MHC genes of many animals come in several versions: the more versions present in a population, the greater the number of infections that can be detected and defended against. High diversity suggests a broad defensive arsenal; low diversity suggests limited ability to fight off infections.

The second project, under Lara Dehn's guidance is on Feeding Ecology of Arctic Seals as Determined by Heavy Metal Dynamics. Students will be studying the feeding behavior of Arctic ringed seals and bearded seals and the relationship of feeding habits and habitat selection to the concentration and distribution of heavy metals in seal tissue. Individual student projects may focus on dietary differences in Arctic seals, on parasite assessment in stomachs of Arctic seals and the influence of diet on parasite burden, or the determination of mercury levels in brains of ringed and bearded seals.

The third high school project being conducted under George Divoky's tutelage is Monitoring Climate Change and Arctic Contaminants with the Black Guillemot. The Black Guillemot is a high Arctic sea bird that feeds in the pack ice for much of the year and breeds in snow-free habitats that are available only a few months during the short Arctic summer. The project continues a 25-year study at the largest Black Guillemot colony in Alaska on Cooper Island, of how breeding behavior and timing are affected by changes in snow and pack ice cover associated with regional warming trends. Additionally, comparison of collected feathers from birds in the wild and feathers from museum specimens collected over the last 120 years allow long-term monitoring of changes in Arctic marine water contamination and productivity.

Depending on the research projects rural high school students are conducting, they will do field observations, sample collections, and tissue analyses. All students will pose research questions, test their hypotheses, analyze data, write up their results and conclusions and communicate their findings. Each student who completes a science fair project and presents it at either the Alaska Science Engineering Fair or the Alaska Statewide High School Science Symposium will have $1500 contributed to tuition at the college of his/her choice. Currently two Barrow High School students are working on each of the three projects while Nome High School and Kotzebue High School teachers and their students have started on the genetics project.

The K-12 research project Global Change Education Using Western Science and Native Observations, with Elena Sparrow as the principal investigator, Sidney Stephens and Leslie Gordon as co- principal investigators engages whole classes of students in local environmental studies which connect globally. Research studies focus on climate change using scientific measurements developed by the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) Program and UAF scientists, observations and knowledge of Alaska Native elders/ other local experts, and best math and science practices. Students enter their data on the GLOBE server through the internet and can access their data and other students' for analyses and inquiry studies. Currently there are 27 schools and 30 teachers and their students participating in this K-12 project. The GLOBE program is an international environmental research science and education program involving scientists, educators and K-12 students from 97 countries.



Mary Dwyer

Transitions...

Mary Dwyer replaces Jennifer Bowers as the Administrative Secretary to the Finance Department. Mary was born and raised in Homer. In 1996 she moved to Fairbanks to study Substance Abuse Counseling and History and received her Associate of Arts and a certificate in Substance Abuse Counseling. Mary is currently enrolled at UAF to finish a BA.

New VP Named

A top Navy scientist has been hired as vice president for research for the University of Alaska system.

Craig Dorman, who is now a scientist at Pennsylvania State University and the chief scientist of the Office of Naval Research, will assume the $149,000-a-year position in March.

UA & United Academic-Adjuncts Reach Tentative Agreement

The university and United Academic-Adjuncts, AAUP/AFT have reached a tentative collective bargaining agreement. It must be ratified by union members, approved by the Board of Regents and is subject to funding by the legislature. The agreement will go into effect when approved by all parties, and will expire Dec. 31, 2004.

Details of the tentative agreement will be available after formal approval by the union's members and the Board of Regents.

On the Move is Online

Go to: www.alaska.edu/opa/onthemove. **Deadline** for the next issue is Monday, February 11th by the end of the day.

For Sale or Trade

Send your items for sale or trade by e-mail to: **bob.miller@alaska.edu**

From Mike Humphrey, 474-3701:
Wife wants new tires!! Must sell these: 4 215/75 R 14 snow tires, make an offer.

From Tom Baring, 474-2124:
Snowboard. Burton Air 6.1. Good shape, 7 years old, but only used 2 seasons. $120. Snowboard boots, men's 9, free to good home.

From Thom & Torie Foote, 479-0908:
98' Dodge Grand Caravan LE, AWD, Loaded, remote start, studded tires and a summer set as well, Great condition. $17,700 or best offer.

From Kristen Clare, 337-3175:
Pentax 35m manual camera, includes regular and zoom lenses, flash and bag. $225.

From Bonnie Carroll, 474-8664:
300 gallon reef-ready aquarium with filter, fish and custom made stand & hood. $2,250 obo.

From Kathy Tamburello, 474-7213:
MUST SELL! 97-Toyota Tacoma, extcab, 4x4, 5speed, 4cyl., new tires & brakes, CD player, excellent shape in & out, 75 K. $12,800 obo.

From Jennifer Dunn at 356-3608:
For sale: 1997 Dodge Dakota Ext Cab 4x4. Automatic with V8 engine. Maroon/gray with 67,000 miles, matching Leer highrise truck topper, bedliner, a/c, am/fm cassette, pwr steering, and pwr brakes. 32 x 11.50 x 15 tires on aluminum rims and tow pkg.$15,000 obo.

From Ron Allen, 485-3965:
1991 (?) Polaris G.T. Sport long track snowmachine. $900 obo.

From Betty Dupee, 7123 or 479-4590 eve:
HELP! Need RV's or trailers that would be available for a pittance for housing for relatives coming up for a June wedding. Would need June 5th through the 17th. Will be set up on a lot adjacent to our house and not moved.

From Gene McGill at 5507:
4 1997 GMC Sierra 1500 OEM aluminum 6 bolt rims with LT245/R16 tires in various conditions. Includes lug nuts. $300 or offer. Leer pickup topper to fit 1997 GMC x-cab short-bed pickup or similar. Red, with clamps. $400 or obo.