

# UNIVERSITY *of* ALASKA President's Report



## 2006-2007

*"The Next Thousand Days"*

# Letter from UA President Mark Hamilton

*The University of Alaska stands at the brink of tremendous opportunity. The next thousand days takes us roughly to our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Alaska's statehood, achieved in 1959. As we head toward this celebration, I ask this question: Have we done all that we can to make the 49<sup>th</sup> star on the American flag the best that it can be?*

*We've made great progress, but we must do more.*

*We're a state blessed with an abundance of natural resources, from oil and gas to fish and minerals. Have we made the most of these resources, providing a maximum benefit to the Alaskans who live here? Are we preparing our young people to take the legacy jobs that will exist long after a new gas pipeline has been constructed?*

*The next thousand days present an awesome opportunity to reflect on the past and ensure a bright future. At UA this past year we awarded a record 3,223 degrees and certificates – the most ever in a single year. Public confidence in our state university system has never been stronger. More high school graduates than ever are choosing to attend college, and they are choosing UA. The UA Scholars program has been wildly successful, beyond anything I had hoped for when it was first introduced in 1999.*

*In short, we're on a roll.*

*We have many goals over the next thousand days. They roughly fall into one of these three categories:*

- Workforce Development – Strengthening programs aimed at producing an educated and trained workforce for Alaska, and expanding our partnerships with business and industry in high-demand fields such as nursing, engineering, construction and the oil, gas and mining industries;*
- University Research – Reinvigorating UA research as we head toward the March kickoff of the International Polar Year, a two-year period of intensified, international study of Earth's polar regions, with an emphasis on global climate change and what it means to the people and animals who live here;*
- Student Success – Improving our record of student achievement, including higher retention and graduation rates, improved academic counseling, support services and college-readiness programs as well as partnerships with K-12 districts across the state.*
- Accountability – Forging ahead with performance-based budgeting and efficiency measures, and reporting back on successes and areas where we can improve.*

*The university's vibrancy is evident everywhere, with a new student recreation center in Juneau; construction of new science laboratories and classrooms in Anchorage; and the completion of a world-class museum in Fairbanks. Enrollment in high-demand job programs is growing.*

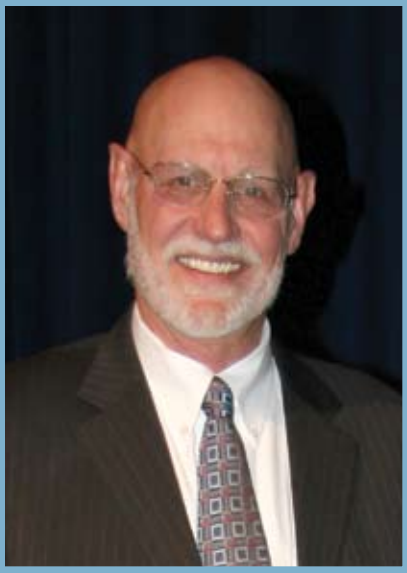
*Of course, we have some challenges ahead. As a public employer, the university is caught along with state and local governments with an ever-increasing bill for retirement, through the state-run Public Employees' Retirement System and Teachers' Retirement System. Demographics show high school graduation rates will peak in 2009 and then decline, leading to a continuation of modest and flat enrollments. Alaska's financial aid programs are under-funded, and we must all work together to reverse that history. I call on Gov. Sarah Palin and the Alaska Legislature to work with me to make college more affordable for our most financially needy students.*

*I'm confident that we can take on these challenges and come out better than ever. Our excellent faculty and dedicated students deserve it.*

*I also want to thank our hard-working Board of Regents, the governor, the legislature, and business and community leaders across the state. We can't run a quality university system without you.*

*For all of your support, I extend a sincere thank you.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Hamilton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.



# President's Report

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## 2006-2007



UNIVERSITY  
*of* ALASKA  

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*Many Traditions One Alaska*

# REACHING HER POTENTIAL





## UA Student Puts Knowledge To Work

Dorothy Underwood of Anchorage has logged over 40,000 hours as an operating engineer, mostly running heavy equipment. She helped build the Trans-Alaska Pipeline back in 1975.

As a member of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 302, Underwood already has the experience necessary to ensure good-paying work for years to come.

But for Underwood, a career means much more than showing up and logging in hours.

"I like proving my experience," says Underwood, who earned her associate degree in construction management from UAA last year. "There's a stereotype in the field that women aren't as good, which isn't true at all."

Underwood first entered the UA system in the late 1980s, in the civil engineering program. She earned nearly 90 credits, but was still "a couple years shy" of graduating with a bachelor's degree, she says. Steady paychecks beckoned, and Underwood went back to work in the field.

When UAA first offered the associate degree in construction management years later, however, Underwood went back to school again.

"It was a better fit than civil engineering," she notes. "I didn't know anything about computers when I started a couple years ago. Now I'm proficient in Microsoft, Autocad and other systems. I'm quite comfortable in front of a computer."

*"I didn't know anything about computers when I started a couple years ago. Now I'm proficient in Microsoft, Autocad and other systems. I'm quite comfortable in front of a computer."*

In addition, Underwood earned real skills that help her on the job, including cost estimating, scheduling and reading blueprints. She calls UAA instructor Jeff Callahan "absolutely the best teacher" she ever had in her life.

Now, Callahan and others at the university are helping extend the two-year associate program to a four-year bachelor's degree program in construction management for students who want and need the additional education. The program also is expanding across the state, and was offered for the first time at UAF, through the Tanana Valley Campus, in fall 2006.

State officials say the construction industry in Alaska has grown each year since 1988, with new workers needed constantly to keep up with demand.

In addition to construction management, other high-demand workforce programs include mine training and process industry technology, allied health careers such as dental hygiene and radiation technology, business courses, geography and many others.

UA President Mark Hamilton says the university's continued support of such programs demonstrates a strong commitment to the state.

"A state university must be responsive to the needs of business and industry that help make the state tick - it's part of the reason we see such great support from our governor and legislature," he says. "The university stands poised over the next thousand days to create the higher education and training infrastructure needed to ensure Alaskans get the legacy jobs - those jobs that remain after construction, of promising projects such as a natural gas pipeline."

The number of degrees awarded in UA programs deemed "high demand" by the state Department of Labor continues to grow each year, up 7 percent in the last year alone and up 23 percent since 1999.

By investing nearly \$3 million annually to enhance programs specifically related to high-growth and high-demand occupations, UA is uniquely positioned to provide academic and technical education, as well as specific training programs, that improve the quality of life of Alaskans and economic prosperity of the entire state.

For students like Underwood, earning a college degree that enhances an established career makes sense. She says she may even continue on with the bachelor's program in construction management.

"I've always tried to stay on top of my field."

## UA Partners With State, Business And Industry

UA is a team player with the state in numerous ways, including:

- Setting Alaska's research agenda via the State Committee on Research (SCoR)
- Addressing need-based financial aid with the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE)
- Identifying and meeting workforce development priorities with the Alaska Workforce Investment Board and the Alaska Department of Labor
- Meeting the health-care worker shortage with the Alaska Mental Health Trust, the Denali Commission and the Department of Health and Social Services
- Assisting school districts throughout the state and the state Department of Education with K-12 teacher retention through the Teacher Mentoring Program



Student miners Nikoly Zarembo and Viktor Fendich work with a jumbo rock drill as they learn ground control, the process of securing the mine shaft to make a safe work area. The two students are at the Delta Mine Training Center (DMTC) in Delta Junction. *Photo courtesy of DMTC.*

## Workforce Initiatives

- A new Bachelor of Science in Engineering at UAA, developed in collaboration with industry employers, is aimed at doubling the number of engineering graduates.
- Prince William Sound Community College is at the forefront of workforce training for Alaska's oil industry employees, and is now applying that expertise to the tourism and seafood processing industries.
- The new Fast Track Training program at the Tanana Valley Campus of UAF responds to industry needs for trained workers by offering intensive 9 to 12 month certificate programs in six high-growth, high-demand job areas, including diesel/heavy equipment, automotive, instrumentation, health/safety, drafting and power generation.
- The UAA School of Nursing now offers two-year registered nursing programs via distance delivery in 11 communities throughout the state. UA met its goal in doubling the number of nursing graduates over the last five years, saving Alaska's health care industry millions of dollars every year.
- UA Corporate Programs provides a direct link for business and industry to tap into a variety of training and workforce development services, from regulatory training to degree completion.
- UAA, UAF-TVC, and UAS-Sitka are all addressing the high demand for support staff in medical billing and health information management programs including a distance delivered certificate through UAF's College of Rural and Community Development.
- The Mining and Petroleum Training Service Program, headquartered at Kenai Peninsula College, trained more than 1,500 students in non-credit, mining-related courses.
- Two newly approved educational tracks, the Occupational Endorsement and Workforce Credential, emphasize workforce training, both credit and non-credit, that includes courses or clusters of courses that apply to a specific skill.
- UAS-Ketchikan responded to a local need for trained fisheries technicians and is now expanding the program via distance delivery.



Photo courtesy ANSEPI/Herb Schroeder

## UA Puts People to Work

Mine Training

Process Industry Technology

Allied Health careers

Dental Hygiene

Radiation Technology

Geography

CPN and RN/LPN

Emergency Medical Services

Dental Assistant and Receptionist

Office Management and Technology

Applied Business and Paralegal Studies

Human Services

Culinary Arts

Professional Piloting

Early Childhood Education

Welding

Information Technology

Diesel/Heavy Equipment Technology

# UA Leads in Accountability, Transparency

The University of Alaska has an open door, open books policy that guides everything we do.

This accountability keeps us out-front and in-focus with our students, employees, the public, elected state leaders, business partners, donors and supporters. We strive for internal efficiencies that lead to sustainable and predictable budgets, year in and year out.

And we do all this with an eye toward transparency, posting our policies, budgets, memos and statistics online, for public inspection and review.

The effort received a boost back in 2000, with Senate Bill 281. With this legislation, called simply Missions and Measures, the university began tracking a variety of performance milestones. These metrics became the foundation of our performance-based budgeting approach, which evaluates outcomes in key areas and rewards campuses with increased funding for setting and meeting realistic and strategic goals. Our own numbers show significant progress in recent years, including:

- **Student credit hour enrollment** – Up 15 percent since 1999;
- **Student retention** – Up 20 percent since 1999;
- **Graduates in high-demand programs** (as defined by the state Department of Labor) – Up 23 percent since 1999, with half the gain in the last two years;
- **Grant-funded research** – doubled since 1999 to the current \$128 million in external research dollars, adding \$60 million to Alaska's economy;
- **University generated revenue** – Up 82 percent since 1999, including a 50 percent tuition revenue increase and a 170 percent increase in annual private donations. UAA's first-ever capital campaign generated \$13 million alone.

*“Public trust in the state university system is vital. We work hard, every day, to ensure we’ve earned that trust.”*

– UA President Mark Hamilton



### **ANSEP Building**

The two-story building inspired by an Alaska Native Southeast dugout canoe features a large computer lab, a collaborative learning lab, recitation rooms, a small kitchen and staff/faculty offices. The 14,000-square-foot building increases the capacity for engineering instruction at UAA by providing engineering laboratory instructional equipment, furnishings, computers/servers and distance education equipment.

*Photo by Nile Mueller*



In addition to setting goals based on these measures and reporting on progress, UA President Mark Hamilton oversees internal operating and financial reviews each year, digging deep into details of each campus within the system.

The reviews are a chance to take stock in current programs and operations, as well as step back and ask tough questions. “Is what we’re doing aligned with goals laid out in our Strategic Plan 2009, and with each campus’ goals?” Hamilton asks. “To ensure an even better future, we must constantly evaluate how we’re doing business.”

Groups outside the university undertake their own reviews as well. The ad hoc Senate Oversight Committee, established by the 24<sup>th</sup> Alaska State Legislature, reviewed numerous aspects of university operations, leading to better understanding and appreciation of the UA system. A recently concluded legislative audit showed improvement in all areas, compared to findings in previous reviews. And Commonwealth North, which spent over a year evaluating numerous aspects of the university’s operations and achievements in a 2003 report, concluded, “The University of Alaska’s mission is crucial – we all need to invest in our future.”

Required federal and state academic and accounting reports look at the university’s performance in such areas as research compliance, facility planning and construction, information technology, human resources, institutional accreditation, professional accreditation, and many others.

UA welcomes scrutiny and suggestions for improvement. We’ve taken on numerous efforts aimed at efficiency, including:

#### **Retirement** – An Optional Retirement

Program for faculty and executive staff, avoiding an estimated \$87 million in future liability in the state-run Public Employees’ Retirement System and Teachers’ Retirement System.

#### **Reduced health care costs** – With

aggressive management and establishment of wellness and preventative programs, annual per employee costs are \$1,200/year below other public employers.

#### **Responsible facilities maintenance** – By

earmarking \$20 million annually toward our 400 buildings and 6 million square feet of facilities, UA avoids more expensive repairs in the future.

#### **Outsourcing** – UA outsources its

retirement health benefits program administration, videoconferencing, construction management, custodial service and numerous other operations.

#### **Digital documents** – The OnBase

document system scans, indexes and enters student admissions, financial aid and other records, eliminating the need to search for, copy, or re-create physical documents and improving turnaround time for students.

# The UA Scholars Program

## *Increasing options for Alaska's best and brightest*

After graduating from Dillingham High School, **Jordan Baumgartner** studied science for a year at Eastern Oregon University and ran for the cross-country team.

He liked the school well enough, but the UA Scholars Program and the lure of being closer to family brought him back to Alaska. Baumgartner attended the University of Alaska Anchorage and used his UA Scholars award to study geology in New Zealand through a study abroad program. Additional scholarships and summer earnings, along with his Scholars award, allowed the 23-year-old to graduate last

summer debt free with a degree in natural science.

"Everything was covered," he said. "That helped me a lot."

Baumgartner is one of many success stories. He's already started a master's teaching program at the University of Alaska Southeast in Sitka and is student teaching this year at Mount Edgecumbe High School. Baumgartner, a Tlingit who was raised in a Yupik community, likes the mix of cultures at the boarding school.

For the past three summers, he has served as a counselor at a science

camp in Sitka for rural middle-school students. He likes the enthusiasm and the energy of the students that age and hopes to teach in Alaska after he graduates this July.

Baumgartner is the kind of student the university hopes to attract with the UA Scholars Program. University President Mark Hamilton started the program in 1999 after realizing a large number of high school graduates automatically headed south for college. And with no state funded merit scholarships, there was little financial incentive for students to stay.



Jorge Johnson of Kotlik, left, plays a game with UA Scholar Jordan Baumgartner, who serves as a counselor for a science enrichment camp for rural students in Sitka. *Photo by James Poulsen*

### Scholars At-a-Glance

#### Who?

The top 10 percent of students graduating from every qualified high school in Alaska.

#### How much?

The \$11,000 scholarship is paid out at \$1,375 per semester for eight semesters.

#### How many?

3,300 Scholars enrolled to date and 700 degrees or certificates awarded. Most remain in Alaska to work, raise families and contribute to their communities.

#### Where does the money come from?

The program's \$3 million annual cost is born solely by the university, through the UA Land Grant Trust Fund.

# Investing in Our Future

UA Scholar **Abraham Tsigonis** used his award to attend the University of Alaska Fairbanks, graduating with a degree in chemistry last year. He's now attending medical school at the University of Washington via UAA's WWAMI\* program and will finish his studies in Seattle. When he's done, he plans to return to Alaska.

"There's no place like it," said Tsigonis, who has traveled extensively with his family but was born and raised in Fairbanks.

The UA Scholars Award played a big part in making his dream of medical

school a reality, Tsigonis said. He augmented his award with summer earnings and several other scholarships he received, allowing him to graduate in December without student loan debt.

Over the past three years, Tsigonis has volunteered about 4,000 hours as an emergency medical technician with the Steese Volunteer Fire Department, handling everything from broken bones and bee stings to diabetic emergencies and asthma attacks. "The highlight, definitely, was delivering a baby," the 22-year-old said. "That was fun."

*\*WWAMI is a partnership between the University of Washington School of Medicine and the states of Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho. The program reserves 20 spaces a year for Alaska high school graduates and allows students in participating states to complete a portion of their medical school training in their home state.*



Abraham Tsigonis used his UA Scholar award to study chemistry at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and to prepare for medical school. He also volunteered about 4,000 hours as an emergency medical technician with the Steese Volunteer Fire Department. *Photo by Nora Gruner*



# Growing Our Own



Angel Holbrook worked as a fisheries/hydrology technician for the U.S. Forest Service this fall in Ketchikan, while continuing work on a biology degree. *Photo by Kevin Myers*

Knowing that she would be named a UA Scholar helped **Angel Holbrook** decide whether to go to college. “I went from wondering if I was going to go, to being sure I was going,” she says. Holbrook graduated from high school in Coffman Cove, on Prince of Wales Island, in a senior class of three.

She attended terms at the University of Alaska Southeast in Juneau and at UAA before settling on the UAS Ketchikan campus for its fisheries

program. She also wanted to be closer to her family, who are a two-hour ferry ride away.

In addition to her Scholars award, other scholarships helped her pay for college.

Holbrook earned an associate of applied science degree this past May, as well as a certificate in fisheries technology. She continues to work on a bachelor’s degree in biology at Ketchikan and expects to graduate in

May of ‘08. She worked this fall as a fisheries/hydrology technician with the U.S. Forest Service. A summer on a Bristol Bay fishing boat also convinced her of the necessity of managing the fisheries. “It’s important and I’m glad to be a part of it,” she says.

She definitely plans on staying in Alaska after she graduates.

“I want to live here forever,” she says.



# Public Support Grows

Virtually all Alaskans consider the University of Alaska essential to the economic, cultural and social future of the state.

Over half of all Alaskans have taken at least one class at a UA campus, and 97 percent said the experience was a good one. And more important, Alaskans' impression of the university in terms of quality, management, course offerings and accountability continues to increase each year.

Nine out of 10 Alaska high school graduates rate the quality of UA on a par with colleges Outside.

Nearly 90 percent of Alaska parents say they would encourage their children to go to the University of Alaska, citing location, cost, quality and excellent job preparation as key factors. And of course, parents know that kids who go to college in Alaska remain after graduation to make their homes, contribute to their communities and become the next generation of leaders.

*(Source: The McDowell Group, Public Opinion Survey, 2005 and High School Graduate Survey, 2006.)*



Kenai Peninsula College students Katie Wells, Jeremiah Jensen and Lance Hunt "Bed Racing" for Soldotna Lion's Club Scholarship Fund.

*Photo credit: KPC Community Relations*



# PRESIDENT'S PROFESSORS

Richard Dauenhauer, president's professor of Native languages





Eduard Zilberkant  
**Music**

Photo by Todd Paris



Ret. Gen. William Tuttle  
**Global Logistics**

Photo courtesy UAA



Jason Ohler  
**Educational Technology**

Photo by Michael Penn

The fall 2006 semester witnessed, for the first time in UA history, classes in all three of Southeast Alaska's Native languages: Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian. A full, four-year program of Tlingit, including upper division courses, is now available at UAS. Many courses are offered via distance delivery, with classes drawing upon learners and speakers from Juneau, Sitka, Hoonah, Klukwan and Kodiak.

The growth and success of the UAS Native languages program is the culmination of many years of work by Richard Dauenhauer, president's professor of Native languages.

"As the last generation of speakers raised with these languages passes away, where is our next generation of Southeast Alaska Native language learners, teachers and speakers going to come from?" Dauenhauer asks. "These classes will never have the enrollments of freshman English composition, but they are a start."

Dauenhauer is one of seven president's professors helping the university respond to the state's most critical challenges. Generous annual contributions from BP and ConocoPhillips Alaska make the president's professors program possible.



Virgil "Buck" Sharpton  
**Remote Sensing**

Photo by Nora Gruner



Gordon Kruse  
**Fisheries & Ocean Sciences**

Photo by Michael Penn



John Walsh  
**Global Climate Change**

Photo by Nora Gruner





UAA's Eric Walsky congratulates Wiley Rogers after the sophomore goalie recorded his fourth career shutout in UAF's 3-0 win Dec. 31, 2005 in Fairbanks, allowing the Nanooks to keep possession of the Governor's Cup for the fifth consecutive year.

*UAF photo by Todd Paris*



The Juneau Ski Club skiing for UAS at Eaglecrest during the Winterfest races.  
UAS photo by Kevin Myers



# UA Athletes Excel



## NANOOKS

The UAF rifle team captured the 2006 NCAA National Championship, the eighth in the program's history and the seventh championship in the past eight years.

Senior Pavla Havlova of the women's cross country team earned All-American honors, placing 22nd at the NCAA Division II Cross Country Championships.

The women's swimming program was re-introduced as the Nanooks re-wrote the program's record book, breaking all 22 school records by mid-season.

The UAF hockey team captured their fifth straight Alaska Airlines Governor's Cup.

Senior Johanna Turunen and sophomore Marius Korthauer each earned a silver medal as the men's and women's ski team turned in four All-American performances at the 2006 NCAA Skiing Championships.



## SEAWOLVES

Both men's and women's cross country squads qualified for NCAA Championships – a first in both school and conference history.

Anchorage native Mary Pearce (400 meters) and Mandy Kaempf (5000 meters) became the first track & field All-Americans in school history.

Men's basketball senior guard Kemmy Burgess was named honorable mention All American and UAA Athlete of the Year after leading the Seawolves to an NCAA Tournament berth.

Sophomore and Anchorage native Jessica Portlock was named Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Gymnast of the Year and won all-around at league championships.

UAA skiers nearly equaled their best-ever finish at NAAs with a 6th-place effort – the 22nd consecutive year the Seawolves have finished in the top 10 at nationals.

# University of Alaska Anchorage: A Public Square for Anchorage



UAA is the largest university in the state serving nearly 20,000 students total at its main campus and community campuses throughout the state.  
*Photo courtesy of UAA*

## Student Success

First-time freshman enrollment is up nearly 11 percent (1,767 in fall 06, compared to 1,569 in fall 2005).

Enrollments in the new Bachelor of Science in Engineering program, approved by the Board of Regents in February 2005, are approaching 150 students, doubling predictions.

Honors student credit hours increased by 13 percent over the previous year, and by 35 percent from 2004.

The **ANSEP program** received a \$1.4 million award from the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration to upgrade teaching equipment.

## Integrated Science Building

A ground dedication ceremony in September kicked off construction of the new \$87 million, 120,000 square-foot building. UA received final funding for the project in last year's legislative session.

## College of Education Thriving

Revised programs include a Master of Arts in Teaching, M.Ed. in Adult Education, and M.Ed. in Special Education. A Graduate Certificate in Special Education was also approved. Enrollment increased 25 percent.

**Miranda Zindel**, a Business Management junior, won the Truman Scholarship, a national \$30,000 merit-based grant to undergraduates to use to attend graduate or professional school. The life-long Alaskan plans to pursue both a Law degree and a master's in public affairs at Syracuse University.

## Weidner Donation Establishes Program

A Real Estate and Property Management Emphasis within the Bachelor's of Business Administration Finance Program was made possible by a \$1 million donation from Weidner Investment.

**Arlon Tussing**, a research professor of economics long affiliated with the Institute for Social and Economic Research, received the Senior Fellow Award from the U.S. Association for Energy Economics at the North American Conference of the International Association for Energy Economics.

The Board of Regents approved a new **Graduate Certificate in Global Logistics**, a collaborative, fully online program between UAA and Boise State University.

## Bullock Prize Goes to Goldsmith

The UA Foundation Board of Trustees awarded ISER economist



UAA's Wells Fargo Sports Complex is home to several UAA sports, including men's and women's basketball.

*Photo courtesy of UAA*

# UA Timeline

and College of Business and Public Policy Professor Scott Goldsmith the 2006 Edith R. Bullock Prize for Excellence.

**Jim Murphy** was named to succeed Vernon L. Smith as the second **Rasmuson Chair of Economics**. Dr. Murphy is a distinguished resource economist and experimentalist from the University of Massachusetts.

**Kathy Graves**, School of Social Work, was awarded an International Polar Year Post-doctoral Fellowship, one of three such fellows at UAA.

**The School of Social Work** and the **Department of Human Services** received funding from the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority/ UA Behavioral Health Education Partnership Initiative to support numerous efforts, including the Bring the Kids Home project aimed at preparing care providers for the return of children with mental illness back to Alaska.

## School of Nursing

Eight industry partners contributed nearly \$1 million to help alleviate a nursing shortage in Alaska – a true success story for UA-industry collaboration.

The school has doubled the number of nursing graduates to about 220 per year, and offers

distance delivered courses in its associate program to 11 sites throughout Alaska.

The school received its second year of federal funding for the Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program – the only such program in the nation housed in a nursing school instead of a medical school.

Recruitment and Retention of Alaska Natives into Nursing (RRANN) received a \$321,800 diversity grant from the Division of Nursing, Health Resource Services Administration, for efforts to recruit and retain Alaska Natives and other minorities into nursing. The RRANN program also received a \$332,991 grant from the U.S. Department of Education. RRANN services will be made available to Bethel for the next two years as part of a Rasmuson/Alaska State Hospital & Nursing Home Association/ Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant.

## Community and Technical College Restructures

CTC was reorganized to align with a national career cluster model. This model views individual occupations within the context of broader career choices. Community representatives with a global view of industry needs were invited to help anticipate trends in specific career clusters.

**may 1917**

### Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines Incorporated

Gov. Strong signs bill establishing the school

**september 1922**

### 1st Day of classes

The first day of classes at the new school with six students registered

**may 1923**

### John Sexton Shanly first graduate

John Sexton Shanly receives a bachelor's degree in agriculture

**march 1935**

### University of Alaska

Governor Troy signs bill converting the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines to the University of Alaska

**july 1949**

### Geophysical Institute Dedication

The Geophysical Institute is officially dedicated

**march 1954**

### Anchorage Community College

The Anchorage Community College is incorporated into the University of Alaska

**may 1955**

### Ketchikan Community College

Ketchikan Community College is established





UAA graduate student Bill Lee, BP Environmental Manager Bill Streever, and UAA Civil Engineering Professor Orson Smith deploy a UAA wave gauge offshore of Prudhoe Bay in July 2006 for US Minerals Management Service and BP-sponsored research.

*Courtesy of the UAA Office of Research and Graduate Studies*

Through the summer of 2006, CTC conducted 12 industry forums and established priority projects and plans at both the division and college-wide levels.

A Bachelor of Science in Construction Management is under development with 100 percent start up funding by industry partners.

UAA's development team successfully raised nearly \$13 million during the school's **first-ever capital campaign**.

### **Kenai is King**

The first Kenai River Guide Academy was held in Soldotna in March, focusing on regulations, safety, habitat, conservation, ethics and behavior. In 2007, all new commercial guide permit holders on the Kenai River will be required to complete the academy. KPC continues to offer the Kenai Fishing Academy that has received national and international attention.

KPC received funding from the Kenaitze Indian Tribe and from the Chancellor's Research Fund for Dr. Alan Boraas' research in saving the endangered Dana'ina Athabascan language.

KPC's Service Learning Program was named the recipient of the Community College National

Center for Community Engagement "Collaborations with Social Agencies" Award and received the UAA Chancellor's Award for Excellence for exemplary program achievement.

### **Personal Care Assistant Course Takes Off**

The first-ever personal care assistant (PCA) course was offered in August, with 12 students completing the course. The Kachemak Bay Campus in Homer had 10 students complete the course for a 100 percent certification rate.

The KPC Mining and Petroleum Training Service taught 1,509 students in 166 workforce training classes for a total of 2,572 course hours, with students receiving 32,150 contact hours.

**Prince William Sound Community College** was awarded an \$182,000 scholarship grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for a statewide recruitment campaign effort to bring students from Rural Alaska to attend the PWSCC campus. Eleven students were recruited and funded in 2005-2006.

### **Alyeska Pipeline Training**

PWSCC continues a partnership with Corporate Programs to provide safety and regulatory training needs of the region's largest employer, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company. In addition to HAZWOPER training for all Alyeska employees in Valdez, PWSCC coordinates the delivery of training to 1,000 fishing vessel crews contracted for oil spill response. Regulatory training has been broadened to include Copper Valley Electric, Copper Valley Telephone and the City of Valdez.



The UA Foundation Board of Trustees awarded ISER economist and College of Business and Public Policy Professor Scott Goldsmith with the 2006 Edith R. Bullock Prize for Excellence.

*©Michael Dinneen/UAA Office of Advancement*



# UA Timeline

**The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Last Frontier Theatre Conference** in Valdez was a huge success, highlighted by the return of Ms. Patricia Neal. The conference had over 350 full registrants and hundreds who attended the evening performances.

**Kodiak College** partnered with Spruce Island Development Corp. to develop and deliver six credits of customized rural economic development training. Using Title III grant funds, the college has developed a proven model for recruitment and retention in the villages with our Community Access Coordinator in Port Lions.

## Consortium Library

UAA and Anchorage Mayor Mark Begich recently recognized the efforts of many individuals and thanked the Rasmuson Foundation for a \$1 million grant to the Consortium Library in support of the Alaska Virtual Library and Digital Archives Project.



may 1955

### First Doctorate Awarded

Masahisa Sugiura awarded a Ph.D in geophysics

october 1955

### University Press

University Press, located on the Fairbanks campus, is established

may 1956

### Juneau Community College

Juneau Community College established, later named the University of Alaska Juneau and ultimately the University of Alaska Southeast

may 1959

### Palmer Community College

Palmer Community College established, later named the Mat-Su campus of UAA

may 1962

### Sitka Community College

Sitka Community College established, later named Islands Community College in 1983

october 1962

### KUAC-FM

KUAC signs on the air for the first time. UAC stands for University of Alaska in College

september 1963

### Equinox Marathon

The first Equinox Marathon race beginning and ending on the UAF campus is held

october 1962

### Institute of Arctic Biology

Institute of Arctic Biology is established

## UAF Celebrates History



Delegates to the Conference of Young Alaskans hold copies of convention delegate Vic Fischer's book *Alaska's Constitutional Convention*.

UA photo by Patty Harper

Fifty years ago, in 1955-1956, 55 delegates convened on the campus of the University of Alaska in Fairbanks to chart the course for Alaska's future and craft what is now referred to as a model state constitution. This past February, living delegates to this convention convened once again at UAF to commemorate Alaska statehood. The Conference of Young Alaskans, consisting of 55 young leaders from all areas of the state, also convened in Fairbanks this past year to discuss and debate the future of Alaska in the spirit of our pioneering constitutional delegates.

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### 2006 Emil Usibelli Award Winners

**Anthony Gharrett**, Usibelli Award winner for research, has devoted many investigations into aspects of Pacific hatcheries and fisheries that have direct and profound impact on the ability of Alaska biologists and resource managers to adequately and appropriately care for Alaska's fisheries and marine resources.

**Kelly Drew**, Usibelli Award winner for teaching, is regarded as an outstanding teacher and mentor of the highest caliber by students and colleagues. She is the recipient of the first-ever Sven Ebbesson Award for Excellence in Neuroscience. Her research focuses on three aspects of hibernation and aims to discover novel therapies to treat stroke and neurodegenerative disorders. Professor **Pete Pinney**, Usibelli Award winner for service, works energetically to improve the social, economic and academic well being of his students, colleagues and fellow citizens by contributing time and expertise to a range of community and university programs and initiatives. He is also a highly respected teacher and award-winning advisor.

**Virgil "Buck" Sharpton** was appointed vice chancellor for research. Sharpton joined the UAF faculty in 1998 with a joint appointment between the Geophysical Institute and the Department of Geology and Geophysics and was awarded tenure in 2000. In 2001, UA President Mark Hamilton named him president's professor of remote sensing. Prior to joining UAF, Sharpton was senior staff scientist at the Lunar Planetary Institute affiliated with the NASA Johnson Space Center, where he served for 14 years.

### High-Demand Programs Growing

The College of Liberal Arts departments of journalism, psychology and social work, all of which offer high-demand job degrees as defined by the state Department of Labor, have continued to increase enrollments.



Molissa Bifelt enjoys a bouquet of roses on her way out of the Carlson Center after the University of Alaska Fairbanks commencement ceremony. Bifelt earned a bachelor of science degree from UAF's College of Natural Science and Mathematics with a double major in mathematics and statistics

*Photo by Matt Hage.*

Psychology, with close to 200 undergraduate majors, and social work, with about 98 majors, are among the fastest growing majors in the college.

### Biological Sciences Program Booming

The biological sciences program is the largest program at UAF, with research proposals totaling nearly \$29 million for FY06. The growth in UAF biosciences promises to transform our undergraduate and graduate programs as we develop courses in biology, biochemistry and psychology, and attract and train students to meet expanding workforce needs for health delivery, medical technology and clinical counseling in Alaska.

**Zygmunt Kowalik**, a professor of physical oceanography at the UAF School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, received the **2006 Tsunami Society Award** for his three decades of work in numerical modeling of tsunamis. The award notes that Kowalik is a world leader in his field and that his techniques are used to predict tsunami threats in the Gulf and Atlantic Coast regions. The Tsunami Society is an international organization that disseminates information about tsunamis and their hazards.

Associate Professor **Hajo Eicken** was the winner of the **2005**

**Terris and Katrina Moore Prize**. Eicken was nominated for the prize by his colleagues at the Geophysical Institute for his research, dedication to teaching and passion for science. He is responsible for the installation of a new land-based radar in Barrow, which is now collecting data that will support future sea ice research and benefit others working with, or around, ice in the area.

Groundbreaking for the new **Lena Point fisheries facility** in Juneau took place April 20. The ceremony marked the beginning of construction on the 28,000-square-foot building dedicated to fisheries education and research.

The \$22.9 million **Biological Research and Diagnostics facility** is on time and on budget. The project was partially funded by \$14 million from the 2002 general obligation bond. UAF received \$3.8 million from the National Institutes of Health to finish space in the 40,000-square-foot animal care facility. The grant provides for much-needed space for UAF's growing biomedical and behavioral science programs including infectious disease, environmental health and toxicology, and mammal hibernation.

A research partnership between UAF and the **Cold Climate Housing Research Center** has been underway on the

## UA Timeline

october 1963

### Kenai Community College

Kenai Community College is established, later called Kenai Peninsula campus under UAA

october 1967

### Kodiak Community College

Kodiak Community College established and now goes by Kodiak College

october 1969

### Poker Flat Rocket Range

Poker Flat Rocket Range established at UAF with a \$90,000 grant from NASA

october 1969

### Northwestern Community College

Northwestern Community College is established in Nome. It is now called the Northwest Campus, an extension of UAF

january 1971

### Tanana Valley Community College

This workforce and vo-tech focused center is now called Tanana Valley Campus under UAF

july 1972

### Kuskokwim Community College

Kuskokwim Community College is established; it's now known as the Kuskokwim Campus of UAF

may 1978

### Valdez Community College

Valdez Community College established, contingent upon funding; later changed to Prince William Sound Community College



University officials and supporters combined to cut the ribbon officially opening the grand expansion to the University of Alaska Museum of the North.

UAF photo by Todd Paris

UAF campus for the past year. The opening of this new facility represents a new and promising arena of collaborative research that builds on the strengths of university, business and government partners.

The **University of Alaska Museum of the North** opened its new facilities including the new Rose Berry Alaska Art Gallery this past year. The gallery, which doubles the museum's exhibit space, showcases the full spectrum of Alaska art, from ancient ivory carvings to contemporary sculpture.

### **Certificates/Degrees Awarded Reach Record**

UAF awarded 1,067 degrees, certificates and recommendations for licensure during its 84th commencement in May 2006.

The Princeton Review recently named UAF one of the West's best colleges out of about 600 schools surveyed.

The **2006 Rural Alaska Honors Institute** drew 45 high school students from 31 communities across Alaska this past summer. The program, now in its 24th year, brings high-achieving rural juniors and seniors to UAF for six weeks of courses and activities aimed at acquainting students with college life and expectations. They leave the program with seven to 10

college credits. More than 300 RAHI students have gone on to earn associate, baccalaureate or graduate degrees.

For the sixth year in a row, the **Alaska Summer Research Academy** met on the UAF campus this past summer. More than 100 middle and high school students from 10 states and 25 Alaska communities participated in this hands-on college experience. Students attending the camp get a preview of college life and experience in one of 14 professional fields. The academy offers 14 modules, including aviation, civil engineering, electrical engineering, health sciences, wildlife ecology and marine biology.

The UAF Nanooks are now the UAF **Alaska Nanooks**, providing UAF the opportunity to carry the Alaska banner proudly across the country while representing the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

**Bernice Joseph**, vice chancellor for rural, community and Native education, delivered the keynote address for the 2005 Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) convention held in Fairbanks. Joseph was selected by the AFN Board of Directors to focus attention on the importance of culturally relevant and meaningful education.

**Gary Laursen**, adjunct professor

of biology, chaired the national advisory board for the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium this past February. Laursen has been organizing the Alaska high school science symposium for 21 years.

**KUAC** won an Emmy Award for its promotional spot on *The 49<sup>th</sup> Star*, a documentary on the creation of the Alaska Constitution and struggle for statehood. *Anywhere Alaska*, a four-part travel series, also was nominated for an Emmy. Both programs are currently being aired nationally.

UAF alumnus and longtime professor **Larry Hinzman** has been named deputy director of the UAF International Arctic Research Center. In this position, Hinzman is preparing to take the helm at the center upon the retirement of founding Director Syun-Ichi Akasofu in 2007.

The **Tanana Valley Campus** launched an associate degree program in construction management, an expansion north of an already successful program at UAA and one strongly supported by industry and labor groups. The two-year program equips students with a broad knowledge of building systems and construction techniques, and graduates will be qualified to work in both construction offices and on job



# UA Timeline

sites.

In partnership with the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District, TVC offered after-school career exploration classes for high school students via the **Interior Alaska Career Academy**. The month-long sessions expand opportunities for high school students to learn about technical fields in high-growth, high-demand job fields. Partners also include the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Alaska Works Partnership, Carpenters Union Local 1243, Laborers Union Local 959, Operating Engineers Union Local 302, Delta Mine Training Center and Usibelli Coal Mine. Three separate sessions will focus on construction trades, diesel technology and welding, and mining and operating engineers.

**Chukchi Campus** in Kotzebue held a ribbon-cutting ceremony in January 2006 for a much-needed expansion. The project included a 1,350-square-foot nursing and science classroom and a 150-square-foot student study area.

The UAF **Cooperative Extension Service** partnered with the new **Cold Climate Housing Research Center** to provide an extension employee in the new research facility to help disseminate

information to the public.

**Kuskokwim Campus** summer science camp held on **Nunivak Island** worked in collaboration with students in New Zealand. Students talked with each other in real time using the Internet.

The **College of Rural and Community Development's** Health Programs held the first annual Adult Learners Conference in March 2006. The college's Early Childhood Education Department hosted an Early Childhood Education Summit, providing an opportunity for faculty from all three major academic units to discuss the future of early childhood education in Alaska.

## Strategic Plan 2010

The recently adopted *Strategic Plan 2010* charts the course for UAF's future based on six strategic pathways:

- Teaching and Learning for Student Success
- Research and Scholarship
- Enrollment and Retention
- Community Engagement and Economic Development
- Advancement and Philanthropy
- Faculty and Staff Development

may 1978

### Kotzebue Community College

Kotzebue Community College established, later changed to Chukchi Campus under UAF

march 1987

### Bristol Bay Campus

Bristol Bay Campus is established as "university center" for Northern Region under UAF

september 1987

### University of Alaska Restructured

UAF, UAA and UAS approved as three separately accredited institutions

june 1996

### School of Nursing

School of Nursing is created at UAA

september 1997

### International Arctic Research Center

Formation of IARC on the UAF campus approved by Board of Regents

november 1998

### UA Scholars

UA Scholars Award Program, developed by UA President Mark Hamilton, is approved. The award is offered to the top 10% of AK high school graduates

december 2001

### Center for Nanosensor Technology

Center for Nanosensor Technology is established at UAF

## Undergraduate Research Increasing at UAS Fueled by Two Major Grants



Professor of Hydrology and Environmental Science Eran Hood and undergraduate Logan Brenner on a glacial water sampling expedition.  
*Photo courtesy UAS*

Professor Matt Heavner is the principal investigator on the \$881,755 NASA SEAMONSTER grant with Eran Hood, assistant professor of environmental science, and Cathy Connor, associate professor of geology and environmental science. SEAMONSTER stands for Southeast Alaska Monitoring Network for Science, Telecommunications, and Educational Research. When the project is completed, it will be capable of instantly transmitting research data as it is collected for analysis at UAS.

Heavner is the principal investigator on an additional grant of \$465,605 that will help identify and educate the next generation of National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration scientists. The funding comes from NOAA's Interdisciplinary Scientific Environmental Technology Cooperative Research and Education Center, a five-year \$12.5 million project that brings together seven U.S. colleges and universities, with its main headquarters at North Carolina A&T State University.

"There is a lot of crossover on the scope of the grants," said Heavner. "We will be able to include many more undergraduate students in the SEAMONSTER project, gaining experience with sensor networks and data management, with the addition of the NOAA grant."

## Workforce Development Graduation

The Alaska Department of Labor, Coeur Alaska, and UAS held a graduation ceremony in December at the UAS Technical Education Center to celebrate the first 11 graduates of the six-week Introduction to Industrial Training course. "These are eleven people whose lives will be changed for the better," said UAS Chancellor John Pugh. "These are all local people who are learning the skills to succeed in the workforce, and will make great employees for local industry." Students attended a six-week course to learn construction safety, rigging, concrete forming, heavy framing, steel work, first aid and more.

## LeCompte Accepts Two-Year Directorship in Ketchikan

Cathy LeCompte has accepted a two-year contract as director of the UAS Ketchikan Campus. The move adds stability to the UAS regional leadership, which includes Sitka Campus Director Jeffery Johnston and UAS Chancellor John Pugh.

LeCompte moved to Ketchikan from Aberdeen, Wash., in April 1999 and worked at the Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce as the event coordinator and fund development director. She joined UAS as a member of the business management faculty and became assistant campus director in July 2003; she has worked as interim

director since May 2005.

## Landis Lands Letters

Rod Landis, Ketchikan English faculty, graduated from Oxford this summer with a postgraduate degree, the Master of Letters in Victorian Literature, after several summers of studying at Middlebury's Bread Loaf School of English.

Professor Landis was the only graduate in the class of 40 at Oxford to receive the Master of Letters, and was, in fact, the first person at Oxford in years to accomplish that more intensive program. Oxford University's Lincoln College and Middlebury are two of five campuses affiliated with the Bread Loaf



©Photo courtesy UAS

## UA Timeline

Summer Institute.

### **Blonde Indian: An Alaskan Native Memoir earns National Acclaim**

Ernestine Hayes, UAS assistant professor of English, is receiving national acclaim for her debut novel, *Blonde Indian: An Alaskan Native Memoir*. Hayes has been featured in the Juneau Empire, the Anchorage Daily News and her novel was named Book of the Month for November by Native America Calling.

### **Alaska Training/Technical Assistance Center Awarded \$492,600**

The Alaska Training/Technical Assistance Center at UAS Sitka has received \$492,600 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This is the center's ninth year of funding. ATTAC is focused on enhancing and maintaining the capacity of small water systems to reliably and consistently deliver safe drinking water to the public.

### **Kelly Moves on to National Science Foundation**

UAS Dean of Arts and Sciences

and Vice Provost of Research Brendan Kelly will begin a new assignment at the National Science Foundation as program director for Arctic biology. Kelly will be "on loan" to NSF for two years during the International Polar Year to help coordinate research. Kelly will return to UAS with an enhanced knowledge of NSF programs and processes.

### **Ohler Wins International Visual Literacy Association Award**

Jason Ohler, president's professor of educational technology, received the Special Contribution Award from The International Visual Literacy Association for his work with "art the 4th R." The Awards Committee of the International Visual Literacy Association gives this award to honor individuals or organizations making outstanding contributions in furthering of visual literacy in research, education, publication, or creative productions.

### **UAS Bachelor of Arts in Biology Approved**

The University of Alaska Board of

#### **october 2004**

##### **UAA Consortium Library Opens**

The new library features more room than the previous one, an ornate Foucault Pendulum, two temperature-controlled vaults to preserve sensitive documents and new partnerships with the Alaska Moving Image Preservation Association and the Alaska Resources Library and Information Services

#### **february 2005**

##### **Fishing industry research donations top \$5 million**

Contributions by a group of North Pacific pollock fishing companies to a University of Alaska Fairbanks research program studying marine mammals, fisheries and other ecosystem issues have topped \$5 million since the program began in 2000

#### **december 2005**

##### **UAS Workforce Development Graduation**

The Alaska Department of Labor, Coeur Alaska and the University of Alaska Southeast celebrates the first 11 graduates of the six-week Introduction to Industrial Training course

#### **december 2005**

##### **UAA, UAS Nursing Partnership Welcomes its First Graduates**

The first graduating class of the University of Alaska Southeast and UA Anchorage joint nursing program held its Pinning Ceremony and took the Florence Nightingale Pledge on Saturday, December 17, in Juneau at the UAS Egan Library





Graduates Gianna Thornton and Samantha DeSoer celebrating after the UAS Commencement.

*Photo courtesy UAS*

Regents approved a Bachelor of Arts in Biology at its June meeting in Kodiak. The degree provides a solid foundation for students in biology with an emphasis in liberal arts. The curriculum is designed for students interested in teaching K-12, policy, management, or going on to medical school. The Bachelor of Science in Biology curriculum includes more rigorous math that is required for careers in research or advancing to higher degrees.

#### **UAS Ketchikan Professor Rick McDonald Publishes Cisco Book**

Rick McDonald co-authored *Routers and Routing Basics CCNA 2 Companion Guide* (Cisco Networking Academy Program). He teaches computers and networking at the UAS Ketchikan campus.

**Richard Dent** was hired as vice chancellor for student services and enrollment management. He comes to UAS from Bastyr University in Seattle, where the last nine years he was responsible

for marketing, recruitment, admissions, records and financial aid. In addition, his student service experiences include work at Duquesne University, the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and California State University at Los Angeles. He also served as executive director of the College Scholarship Service of the College Board.

**Larry Harris** was hired as dean of the School of Education. He served for nine years at Idaho State University, where he had experience developing programs for Native American and Hispanic Students. He previously served as dean of the School of Education and director of Graduate Studies at the University of Arkansas at Monticello for four years. He is a member of the Board of Examiners for NCATE, an evaluator for the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, and a member of the Northwest Regional Education Laboratory Board.

**Joe Nelson** was hired as associate vice provost for student success. Nelson, previously director of Preparing Indigenous Teachers for Alaska Schools (PITAS) Program, was hired to lead the UAS pre-college pathway programs. He'll travel to all communities in Southeast to work with the schools, students and parents marketing the opportunities for post-secondary education in the University of Alaska system. This position will work directly with high school teachers to identify, mentor and prepare specific students for college readiness in all fields of study.

## Biology Students Take on Whale Research

Whale biologist Jim Darling from British Columbia, Canada, visited Juneau in mid-September to help launch a new humpback whale research project with UAS biology students. Students will work with Darling and UAS Biology Faculty Beth Mathews to determine which whales spend time in Alaska and Hawaii. Students will compare photographs of the ventral surface of whales' flukes taken in Hawaii from 1977 to the present and compare those to photographs taken of whales in nearby waters.

The students took their first identifying trip in September and were joined by National Geographic photographer and whale researcher Flip Nicklin. The trip was successful in identifying a non-cataloged humpback and its calf.



Point Retreat was a successful location for spotting whales that had been identified in the Hawaiian catalog.

*Photo courtesy UAS*

january 2006

### UAF scientists travel to volcano

Augustine Volcano in Cook Inlet remains quiet for most of the day, as UAF scientists visited southcentral Alaska to collect data, capture images and attend public meetings

january 2006

### UA College Savings Plan tops \$2 billion mark in assets

The University of Alaska's College Savings Plan recently hit the \$2 billion mark in assets held in trust for college-bound students. The number of people investing through the Alaska Permanent Fund dividend application has risen from 4,464 in 2001 to 7,483 in 2005

# BOARD OF REGENTS 2006



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*The University of Alaska is hereby established as the state University and constituted a body corporate. It shall have title to all real and personal property now or hereafter set aside for or conveyed to it.... and shall be governed by a board of regents... The board shall, in accordance with law, formulate policy and appoint the president of the university.*

*Alaska Constitution, Article 7, Sections 2-3*



The University of Alaska is an equal opportunity and affirmative action  
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Cover photo: Renee Culp gives a cheer after receiving her master's degree in community psychology during  
UAF's commencement ceremony in the Carlson Center. Photo © Matt Hage