



Preparing Alaska for the Next 50 Years



University of Alaska

President's Report 2008-2009





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A letter from UA President Mark Hamilton

This past year has been one of tremendous change and challenge.

We've seen oil prices skyrocket and then plunge, our financial markets spiral downward, and our friends, family and colleagues, mostly in the Lower 48, suffer the loss of a home, job or a loved one in war.

We've watched our governor launch into the national and world spotlight as a vice presidential nominee, and we witnessed the first African American elected president of our country. We also somberly said good-bye to our longest-running public servant, U.S. Senator Ted Stevens, who lost re-election after 40 years.

This is Alaska's 50th anniversary of statehood. The years since 1959 haven't been perfect—we often faced extreme challenges in the past, and we will again in the future. The University of Alaska is on solid footing while we adapt to fiscal realities and continue to serve state needs.

Tough times can cause people to do one of two things; wring their hands in despair... or raise them up.

At the University of Alaska, we're raising up our hands to say, yes, we can meet the challenges of the next 50 years. We'll work on Alaska's tough issues, including educating the next generation, providing a trained and qualified workforce for jobs in Alaska, and ensuring our young people have the best opportunities possible, from pre-school through postsecondary education.

This president's report gives just a glimpse of the past year's highlights and priorities for the year ahead. As always, I remain grateful for our alumni, advocates and friends. Thank you.

Now join me in raising your hand, counting yourself in, and proudly taking on the next 50 years.

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



Photo by Rob Stapleton

UA Scholars—A Thousand Degrees of Difference Program Celebrates 10 years

Jaedon Avey isn't so sure he would have even attended college without the University of Alaska Scholars program.

"My family is not well off. The UA Scholars program provided me an opportunity," explains Avey, a 25-year-old student in the joint UAF-UAA Ph.D. Program in Clinical-Community Psychology. "With assistantships and payment plans, I've been able to make it through, so far, without any student loans."

A West High School graduate from Anchorage, Avey had the grades to get into a number of prestigious colleges. Back then, he wanted to be an engineer. But even with scholarships and grants, those schools would have been much more expensive than attending his public university right here in Alaska. The UA Scholars program offers an \$11,000 scholarship to the top 10 percent of graduating seniors at every Alaska high school.

I Know I Can

The UA College Savings Program and the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education expanded elementary school readings of "I Know I Can," a colorful picture book that encourages youngsters to think about their future. Alumni volunteers reached over 700 children in 2008 in schools throughout the state. "Young children are very receptive to discussing life goals," notes Linda Luper, College Savings Plan director. "Some level of postsecondary education or workforce training is needed these days for most jobs. We're telling these kids 'you can do it!'"

“Some level of postsecondary education or workforce training is needed these days for most jobs. We’re telling these kids ‘you can do it!’”

Linda Luper
College Savings Plan Director

Avey took the UA Scholars award and attended the University of Alaska Fairbanks, enrolling in the engineering program. He ended up switching majors because he was intrigued by the field of psychology—an enthusiasm that hasn’t waned in the years since earning his bachelor’s degree in 2005.

“There is such a need for psychologists in our state,” Avey notes. “And if psychology is going to be relevant, it has to be culturally aware.”

Since UA President Mark Hamilton started the program in 1999:

- 4,200 scholars have enrolled;
- They’ve earned more than 1,200 degrees and certificates;
- And most remain in Alaska following graduation.

Avey isn’t so sure where life would have taken him had he not taken advantage of his UA Scholar award. “What I can say is that...I’m happy with where I am.”

For more information, visit the UA Scholars on the web:

www.alaska.edu/scholars



Volunteer Sandee Hough reads to students at Willow Crest Elementary School in Anchorage as part of the university’s annual “I Know I Can” story reading effort. Photo courtesy of UAA.



Ha Shagoon--
Annual FTA Student
Gathering in Juneau,
April 2008.

University's K-12 Links—Strong and Growing Stronger

More than 100 students from around the state met in Juneau in April 2008 as part of the annual Future Teachers of Alaska gathering. The theme was Haa Shagoon, which means “who we are and where we come from” in Tlingit.

Future Teachers of Alaska, an extracurricular activity made up mostly of rural and Native Alaskan students, hopes to inspire young people to become teachers in their home state. Nome student Cory Eide told the Juneau Empire that the clubs help dispel the myth that “you have to be white to be a teacher.”

The program's growing popularity is proof that students are challenging that myth. Since it started with the first club in 2003, the program now helps guide 50 FTA clubs at schools across the state.

FTA's story is one many might not immediately connect to the University of Alaska, yet it's one of dozens of outreach, bridging and K-12 partnerships offered to hundreds of students each year. In fact, nearly

Project RAVE

Finance Camp

Jazz Camp

Alaska Science and Research Acad

Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival

Preparing Indigenous Teachers and
Administrators in Alaska

National Geographic partnership

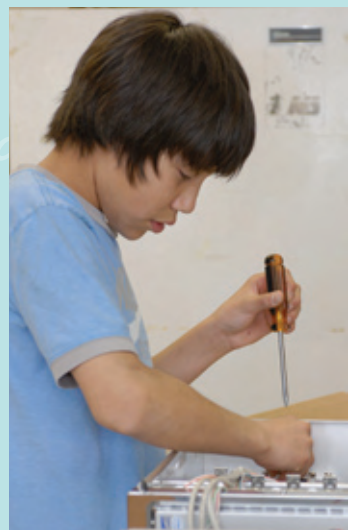
College Goal Sunday

Cooperative
Extension
Service

Early Scholars

Summer Rec Camp for Kids

A Pre-College student in the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program at UAA assembles a computer. Photo by Mike Dinneen.



GCI Donates Bandwidth Critical for Research, K-12



UA has access to increased bandwidth thanks to a gift of broadband capacity worth \$30 million from telecommunications company GCI. The gift benefits not only the university system, but also K-12 schools via the AK20 Network, part of the state's multi-partner Distance Education Consortium.

Pictured from left are GCI President and CEO Ron Duncan, UA Foundation President Mary Rutherford, and UA System President Mark Hamilton. Photo by Monique Musick.

“We’re quite likely the only governing body at a higher education system in the United States that’s putting K-12 outreach as Priority Number One”

Cynthia Henry, chair of the UA Board of Regents

Science for Alaska Lecture Series

every program within the campuses of UAF, UAS and UAA—and their affiliated community campuses from Ketchikan to Kotzebue—offer some form of K-12 outreach.

The UA Board of Regents wants to strengthen those efforts even more. The university’s top priority for the coming year is K-12 outreach, which will build upon already successful efforts

such as summer camps, bridging and career awareness programs, as well as improved counseling, testing and placement.

The goal is to improve Alaska’s student success rates, including high school graduation, college attendance (including workforce and community college programs) and postsecondary graduation.

Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program Summer Bridge
GeoPortal (AT&T Geography Program partnership)



Geography, With a Twist

Do the Math

Fairbanks fourth-grader Robin O'Donoghue sits atop a 31-by-40 foot map of Asia, part of the UA Geography Program's K-12 outreach effort in collaboration with National Geographic Society. Nearly 1,300 children from 17 schools in eight Alaska communities participated in the map exercise in 2008. The interdisciplinary UA Geography Program, headquartered at UAF, draws on faculty and expertise throughout the UA system. K-12 outreach is a large component of the program, with teacher in-services and courses, supplemental teaching materials, GIS curriculum and classroom visits also available. This next year, giant maps of Africa and North America will travel to Alaska schools. Photo by Nile Mueller.

For more information: www.geographyua.org/K-12/K-12.cfm

Geography Program MapTEACH
I'm Going to College

Teacher Mentor Program

Experimental Discoveries in Geoscience Education

Della Keats Summer Enrichment Program

Career Expo

Career Connections

Lego Robotics

Upward Bound

Shelton Leadership Institute

Google Earth partnership

I Know I Can

Jump Start

Elder's Academy

Math Fix

Rural Alaska Honors Institute

New Student Orientation

4-H Youth Programs

Alaska PreMed Summit

Reach to Teach

History Day
Science Potpourri

Pre-college Academic

Enrichment for Rural Alaska

Science Education outreach Network

Harnessing Alte

...Takes Research, Patience and Investment

Alaska provides an abundance of resources for energy, including world-class conventional oil and gas reserves, natural gas hydrates, coal, hydro, tidal, geothermal and wind.

Kotzebue Electric Association pioneered wind energy in Alaska with a test turbine more than a decade ago.

The technology holds tremendous promise for utilities serving Alaska's windswept coasts and valleys. "The problem," explains UAF professor Dennis Witmer, "is that wind doesn't blow all the time at a steady rate. So the question is, how do we take a renewable resource, like wind, and turn it into a dispatchable resource, that we can tap into when we need it?"

"The answer to that is storage."

Witmer is principle investigator for a liquid, low-flow battery project commonly known as VRB, for Vanadium Red-ox Battery. The project is one of many ongoing at the Alaska Center for Energy and Power, housed at UAF. Increased investment in energy, engineering and climate change research are major priorities at UA, along with expanding health programs and workforce training to meet state needs.

Although most traditional, lead-acid batteries are highly reliable, they have a limited life, are heavy and contain toxic materials. Flow batteries like the VRB differ in that they store energy in liquids. These batteries hold the promise of high efficiency and longer life, but the technology is still under development.

Professor Dennis Witmer looks over a low-flow battery being tested at UAF's Alaska Center for Energy and Power.

Photo by Monique Musick.



Staff Make Students Count

UA President Mark Hamilton presented four UA staff members with a plaque, two airline ticket vouchers and \$1,000 cash each for the 2008 Make Students Counts Awards Program. Colleagues on the campuses nominate standout staff members for the annual award, designed to single out the very best staff members who put students first in their everyday work. Following the June 2008 awards presentation, recipients and members of the Board of Regents gathered outside the sunny Lee Gorsuch Commons on the UAA campus.

Alternative Energy



Gas Hydrates Hold potential

Petroleum engineering graduate student Andrew Johnson discusses the potential of natural gas hydrates, where water molecules trap gas molecules in an ice-like solid. Tapping gas hydrates isn't yet commercially viable, but could become so with more research and field tests. Johnson and other students are working with Petroleum Engineering Professor Shirish Patil, principle investigator on a four-year grant to characterize and quantify the natural gas hydrates on Alaska's North Slope. The project, in collaboration with BP Alaska, the U.S. Geological Survey and the University of Arizona, will help BP decide if it wants to go forward with a long-term test to produce gas from hydrates. Photo by Kate Ripley.

"This is where university input is really important," Witmer says, pointing to the unassuming VRB. "Nothing is ever perfect the first time you make it. And there are at least three or four other battery technologies we should be looking at, if we had the funding."

ACEP is where the rubber meets the road, explains the center's organizational director, Gwen Holdmann. "Our mission is to work with university and private sector partners to meet state and industry demands for applied energy research,"

Holdmann says. "Ultimately, the goal is to lower energy costs, which is absolutely necessary to help spur economic opportunities for the state."

Back in the garage beneath his office, Witmer points to the VRB test battery and notes that it's not large or powerful enough to provide electricity for a village the size of Kotzebue for more than a minute.

"We're not there yet. But this is really important technology for the state to have," Witmer says. "More research is needed, but the promise is exciting."

For more information, visit:
www.uaf.edu/acep



Pictured from left: Board Chair Mary K. Hughes, Regent William Andrews, Regent Cynthia Henry, UAS Registrar Barbara Hegel (award recipient), Regent Bob Martin, KPC Admissions & Records Coordinator Shelly Blatchford (award recipient), Regent Kirk Wickersham, SW Director of Distance Education and Military Services Ramona McAfee (award recipient), UAF Student Leadership Director J.J. Boggs (award recipient), Regent Tim Brady, Regent Erik Drygas and Hamilton. (Not pictured are Regents Pat Jacobson, Fuller Cowell, Carl Marrs and Mike Snowden.) Photo by Kate Ripley.

Eight Stars of Gold

Celebrating 50 Years of Statehood 1959-2009



Young Alaskans from across the state connected using technology to discuss pressing issues in honor of the 50th Anniversary of Alaska Statehood. Photo by Monique Musick.

Reaching Out to Young Alaskans

They gathered in groups across the state – Anchorage, Fairbanks, Kodiak, Sitka, Valdez, Juneau, Bethel, Dillingham, Nome, Homer and Healy. They delved into tough issues facing Alaskans, challenges like high energy costs, better rural health care and how to inspire community members to improve their own towns, villages and cities.

The four-hour meeting—a combination brainstorm and call-to-action—wasn't for elected leaders, business owners or the typical movers and shakers. Instead, it was a group of 200 young Alaskans between the ages of 16 and 25, meeting together in person and through a high-tech video web link in an event called the Forum of Young Alaskans.

"Our ideas matter," Joy Mielke, a senior at Colony High School in the Mat-Su Valley, told the Anchorage Daily News.

The young people gathered as part of UA's Eight Stars of Gold Project. The video web link, made possible through

the generous donation of AT&T, brought together participants from across the state. All were linked in for what could be the most geographically diverse, simultaneous conversation young people in Alaska have had to date about the state's future.

"This is important," 18-year-old forum participant Travis Abel of Eagle River told KTUU Channel 2 in Anchorage. "It gets the youth really involved early and so that they'll stay involved when they are adults ... both politically and in the community."

The young Alaskans tackled big questions, such as, "What does it mean to be Alaskan?" They left at the end of the day with a new sense of connection to their state.

The Forum also sparked interest in the university's Conference of Young Alaskans, held in January in Girdwood.



UA Associate Vice President Karen Perdue addresses a crowd at the UA Museum of the North about the Eight Stars of Gold project. Photo by Monique Musick.



8 Stars of Gold

- ★ UAA Student Constitutional Convention, April 2008
- ★ Alaska Historical Society Annual Conference, October 2008
- ★ Forum of Young Alaskans, October 2008
- ★ Conference of Young Alaskans, January 2009
- ★ KUAC/AlaskaOne Bob Bartlett Documentary
- ★ University of Alaska Press Statehood Book Series
- ★ Dr. Terrence Cole Oral History Series
- ★ Traveling Statehood Exhibit

It was the university's second COYA, following a successful gathering of 55 young delegates in 2006. Both COYAs are patterned after Alaska's historic Constitutional Convention during the winter of 1955–1956, in which the state's model constitution was drafted on the UAF campus. Statehood was ultimately achieved Jan. 3, 1959.

Nils Andreassen, one of the Forum's steering committee members and Alaska Dialogue coordinator for the non-profit Institute of the North, said he expects the future course of Alaska policy to emerge from seeds planted during the Forum and second COYA events. "One of the things that young people bring to the table is action," Andreassen said. "They're not OK with just talking about an issue."



Alaska State Constitution VIPs: From left to right, former Lt. Gov. Jack Coghill, a delegate to the Constitutional Convention; former state Commissioner Mary Nordale, whose mother Katherine Nordale was a convention delegate; Katie Hurley, convention clerk; and Victor Fischer, convention delegate and former director of UAA's Institute of Social and Economic Research. The distinguished group gathered as part of a sneak peek of the January 2009 documentary on Bob Bartlett, produced by KUAC/AlaskaOne. Photo by Monique Musick.

Eight Stars of Gold Sponsors include: UA, AT&T, BP Alaska, New York Life, Northrim Bank and ConocoPhillips. *Thank you.*



UAF Archivist Ann Foster uses white gloves to handle an original copy of the Alaska State Constitution, signed by all 55 delegates. Mary Nordale, whose mother Katherine Nordale served as a convention delegate, donated the constitution to the university. Her mother cherished the experience of helping draft the state's constitution, Mary Nordale said. Photo by Monique Musick.

Growing Up

ConocoPhillips Pledges \$15 Million to UAA

New Building Will Carry Company's Name

ConocoPhillips Alaska Inc. has pledged \$15 million to support science and engineering programs at the University of Alaska Anchorage. The gift is the largest the company has ever made in Alaska, and is the largest single corporate gift the UA system has received.

In honor of this gift and in recognition of the \$20 million in unrestricted support that ConocoPhillips has contributed to UA since 1999, the new science building on the Anchorage campus will be called the ConocoPhillips Integrated Sciences Building. It is slated to open in fall 2009.

Four million dollars of the gift will fund equipment for the building, while the remaining \$11 million will establish the ConocoPhillips Arctic Science and Engineering Endowment.

"This gift is incredibly valuable to the university. It can be used for what best serves the academic needs of our students, faculty and state," said UA President Mark Hamilton.

Jim Bowles, president of ConocoPhillips Alaska, said, "This pledge to the University of Alaska continues our tradition of investing in quality training and education opportunities in Alaska."

University officials and students gathered last spring to celebrate the naming of UAA's new science building the ConocoPhillips Integrated Sciences Building, in honor of \$35 million in current and past support from the oil company. Pictured from left are Mary Rutherford, president of the UA Foundation; Fuller Cowell, member of the UA Board of Regents; UA President Mark Hamilton; UAA Biological Sciences student Umair Iqbal; UAA Chancellor Fran Ulmer; and ConocoPhillips Alaska President Jim Bowles. Photo by Kate Ripley.



Private Support for UA Reaches Record

Nearly 6,500 private donors supported University of Alaska programs and scholarships in FY08, an increase of over 500 donors in one year alone and nearly 1,700 donors since 2004. "This kind of support allows the university to provide excellent programs, scholarships and service to our students and makes the impossible, possible," said UA Foundation President Mary Rutherford.

Hamilton Names New Chancellors for UAA & UAF

UA President Mark Hamilton named two new chancellors in 2008 after two others decided to leave Alaska for similar positions at other institutions.

In April, he named Fran Ulmer permanent chancellor at UAA, which includes the large campus in Anchorage in addition to community campuses in Valdez, Soldotna, Homer, Mat-Su and Kodiak. Ulmer had served as interim chancellor for a year prior to the permanent appointment.

Also in April, Hamilton named UAF alumnus, Fairbanks businessman and former regent Brian Rogers to the post of interim chancellor at UAF. Rogers replaced former chancellor Steve Jones, who left to take a similar position in the Lower 48. Rogers’ interim appointment is intended for two years.

John Pugh continues to lead the University of Alaska Southeast, which serves the state’s Panhandle region. In addition to the main campus in Juneau, UAS also has sister campuses in Ketchikan and Sitka. Hamilton appointed Pugh to the position in 1999, as a successor to former UAS chancellor Marshall Lind.



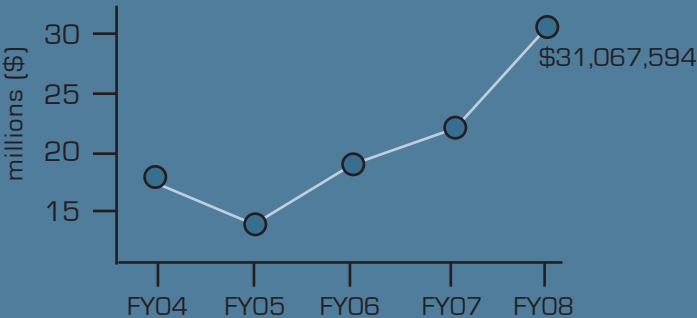
Chancellors Fran Ulmer, John Pugh and Brian Rogers. Photo by Kate Ripley.

Generosity Makes Big Impact

Number of Donors

FY04	4,795
FY05	5,223
FY06	4,717
FY07	5,912
FY08	6,448

Donations Received





UAA women's basketball team after the West Regional title game victory over Seattle Pacific. Photo by Andy Towell.



UAA Basketball—Best in the West

The Seawolf women's basketball team posted the best season in the program's 31-year history, finishing with a 30–5 record and advancing to the NCAA Division II Semifinals—the "Final Four"—for the first time. After finishing runner-up to Seattle Pacific in the GNAC standings, UAA beat the second-ranked and unbeaten Falcons on their home court to win the West Regional title, then knocked off Franklin Pierce in the Elite Eight round in Kearney, Neb. The Seawolves finished No. 4 in the final WBCA top 25 poll and became the first team in any sport at UAA to earn 30 victories in a season.

Sparked by an 18-game midseason win streak, the Seawolf men's basketball team went on to a program-best 29–6 record and advanced to the NCAA Division II Semifinals—the "Final Four"—for the first time since 1988. UAA won its first GNAC title with a 16–2 record—the best in the league's seven-year history—and went 18–0 at the Wells Fargo Sports Complex. The Seawolves beat BYU-Hawaii in the West Regional title game at the WFSC, then overcame No. 9 California at the Elite Eight in Springfield, Mass. UAA was No. 4 in the final NABC top 25 poll and was No. 1 in the West Region rankings throughout the season.

Aviation Technology Wins Prestigious Collier Award

The Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) Team of public and private sector aviation groups was selected as the recipient of the 2007 Robert J. Collier Trophy, one of the most prestigious awards in the aviation field. UAA's Aviation Technology Division is one of the organizations being recognized for its contributions

to ADS-B development. The list of Collier winners represents a timeline of aviation, as many of the awardees mark major events in the history of flight. According to the Federal Aviation Administration, the ADS-B will allow both pilots and controllers to see real-time, radar-like displays with highly accurate traffic data from satellites.



ANSEP Summer
Bridge intern
graduates. Photo by
Michael Dinneen.

Chevron Donates \$1 Million to UAA

Chevron donated \$1 million to support UAA's Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP) and the Process Technology, Instrumentation and Computer Electronics programs at UAA's Kenai Peninsula College campus in Soldotna. This gift is the largest single corporate gift that KPC has ever received in its 44-year history.

Creative Writing Broadens Appeal With New Format

The highly successful Master of Fine Arts program in Creative Writing at UAA has deepened its mission and broadened its appeal through a new low-residency mode of delivery. The program offers graduate students a talented faculty of notable writers and teachers from Alaska and around the country without having to uproot their families and leave jobs and homes for long periods of time.



Photo by Michael Dinneen

Stephen Haycox Named Distinguished Professor

President Hamilton has named UAA History Professor Stephen Haycox a Distinguished Professor. The appointment took effect recently in recognition of Haycox's accomplishments and contributions to the University of Alaska, to his discipline and to our state. Haycox has been a faculty member at UAA for 37 years, is author of numerous books and articles, and has made enormous contributions to scholarship, teaching and service.

UAA student Candace Lewis (middle), a 2008 recipient of the Truman Award, is pictured with Professor James Muller, Dean Ron Spatz and UAA Chancellor Fran Ulmer.

Photo by Michel Dinneen.



UAA Honors College Student Receives Truman Scholarship

University Honors College student and psychology major Candace Lewis has been named a winner of the highly coveted Truman Scholarship, one of the nation's most esteemed undergraduate awards.

Lewis will receive the \$30,000 merit-based grant, which is given annually by the Truman Scholarship Foundation in recognition of students with exceptional leadership potential who are committed to careers in government, non-profit or advocacy sectors, education or public service.

With Lewis' award, UAA became one of only 10 universities in the country to have had three consecutive Truman Scholarship winners. Other universities include Brown, Georgetown and Stanford.

New Facilities Dot Anchorage Campus

UAA's Anchorage campus facilities continue to grow. The Alaska Legislature provided funds to construct a \$46 million Health Sciences Building and \$15 million to start a new athletics facility. UAA also received \$15 million in private funds to finish the new ConocoPhillips Integrated Sciences Building and to create a science and engineering endowment. Another recently completed project is the 1,700-square-foot atrium addition to Cuddy Hall—officially named the Betti Cuddy Atrium.

Scientists Find New Member of the Solar System

UAA researcher Andy Puckett, along with his colleagues, discovered a minor planet with unusual solar orbit. The planet known as 2006 SQ372 orbits the farthest from the sun than any other planet.

News of the SQ372's discovery was reported at an international sky-survey symposium in Chicago.

Schematic drawing of UAA's Health Sciences Building. Courtesy of UAA facilities.





Judith Kleinfeld in her office on the Fairbanks campus.
Photo by Todd Paris, UAF Marketing & Communications

Kleinfeld Receives 2008 Edith R. Bullock Prize for Excellence

Judith Kleinfeld, psychology professor, director of the national Boys Project and co-director of the Northern Studies program at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, was the 2008 recipient of the University of Alaska Foundation's Edith R. Bullock Prize for Excellence. Kleinfeld's contributions to higher education cover a large range of subjects and opinions, including controversial ones. She has done research on the high and distinctive cognitive abilities of Alaska Natives, studied the weaknesses of the former boarding school system and worked to help children with fetal alcohol syndrome, providing hope for children and their families.

Krauss Awarded \$1.2 Million to Document Endangered Languages

UAF professor emeritus Michael Krauss is leading a team of veteran linguists in documenting endangered languages in and near Alaska. The project, funded by a \$1.2 million grant from the National Science Foundation, includes researchers from the United States, Canada, Japan and Russia. The researchers are documenting some of Alaska's most endangered indigenous and historical languages, including Atuuhan Aleut, Southern Tsimshian and Eyak.

CEM Freshman Admissions Jump by Another 25 Percent

Enrollment at the College of Engineering and Mines continues to grow, as does its research enterprise. Incoming first-time freshman enrollment increased 95 percent between 2006 and 2007, which includes a 240 percent increase in enrolled UA Scholars. In fall 2008, applications and admissions for first-time freshmen increased another 25 percent, and graduate applications and admissions increased 70 percent. Research is growing even faster, with a 400 percent increase in research revenue since 2001.

Nursing students at UAF's Kuskokwim Campus in Bethel take notes during their anatomy and physiology class.

Photo by Todd Paris, UAF Marketing & Communications.



Research associate Jonathan Dehn stands in front of screens that monitor the flow of ash and seismic activity associated with three erupting volcanos in the Aleutian Islands. Photo by Todd Paris, UAF Marketing & Communications.



Twenty Years of the Alaska Volcano Observatory

The Alaska Volcano Observatory celebrated its 20th anniversary this year. Since its first eruption response in 1988, the observatory has grown from a good idea lobbied for by scientists—including John Davies, Syun-Ichi Akasofu, John Filson and Tom Miller—into a team of people in Anchorage and Fairbanks who have their fingers on the pulse of more than 30 volcanoes in Alaska. The observatory is a cooperative program of the Geophysical Institute, the U.S. Geological Survey and the Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys. The job of the experts there is to monitor volcanoes and give Alaskans information when they need it most.

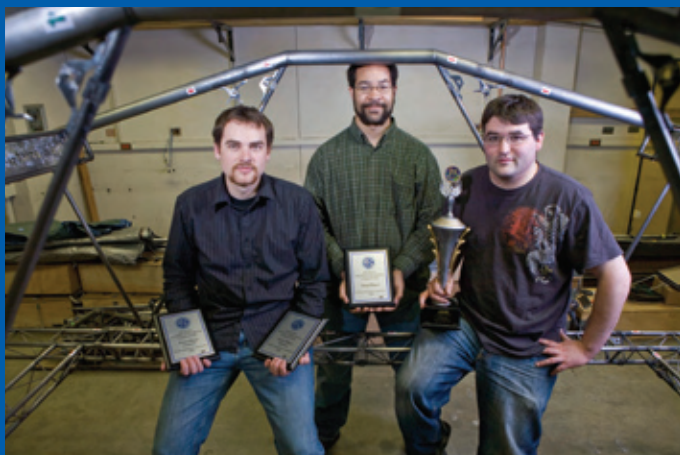
Kuskokwim Campus Celebrates Largest Graduating Class

The Kuskokwim Campus celebrated its 35th anniversary and largest graduating class in May 2008. State Rep. Mary Sattler Nelson gave the keynote address. Student speakers included John John, Diana Therchik, Lillian Johnson and Julia Dorris. Degrees earned by the graduating class of 102 included one master's degree, two bachelors degrees, 22 associate degrees, 42 certificates and 35 General Educational Development diplomas. Among the graduates were the first ever in Yup'ik Language Proficiency.

Princeton Review Names UAF One of the West's Best Colleges

The Princeton Review named the University of Alaska Fairbanks as one of the West's best colleges. UAF is the only university in Alaska to achieve the Best in the West designation this year. UAF is one of about 600 schools featured on the 2009 Best Colleges: Region by Region section of PrincetonReview.com, the company's web site. It is one of 120 schools selected in 15 western states. The 630 colleges named a "regional best" represent about 25 percent of the nation's four-year colleges.

Inaugural members of the Nanook Hall of Fame stand at center court in the Patty Center between sets of the volleyball game between the Nanooks and the Anchorage Seawolves. Left to right: Randy Pitney, Patrik Sartz (rifle), Joe Tremarello, Sheena Brown (women's basketball), Milo Griffin, Mladen Begojevic (men's basketball), Matt Emmons, Ida Petersen (rifle). Photo © Paul McCarthy.



Engineering students Jake Horazdovsky, Larry Mosely Jr. and Ricky Pitts display some of the hardware they brought home by taking first place at the northwest regional steel bridge competition in Portland, Ore. Photo by Todd Paris, UAF Marketing & Communications.

Steel Bridge Team Takes First at Regionals

The University of Alaska Fairbanks steel bridge team took top honors at the 2008 ASCE/AISC Regional Student Steel Bridge Competition at the American Society of Civil Engineers Pacific Northwest Conference at Portland State University. The six-member team was among 16 teams from universities across the Pacific Northwest competing in the annual contest, which requires students to design and build a 20-foot steel bridge capable of supporting 2,500 pounds.

Nanook Hall of Fame Created

UAF athletic standouts inducted into the first Nanook Hall of Fame were Olympic gold medalist shooter Matt Emmons, men's basketball standout Milo Griffin, former rifle coach and shooter Randy Pitney, and former basketball coach and player Joe Tremarello. UAF established the Hall of Fame to honor men and women for their contributions to intercollegiate athletics and the community.

Program for Rural Nutrition Education Receives \$1 Million

UAF's Interior-Aleutians campus received a \$1 million, three-year grant for nutrition education in rural Alaska. The Troth Yeddha' Nutrition Program will combine education and outreach for community collaboration aimed at improving the health of Alaska Native peoples.



UAS students drumming
at Auke Bay Recreation
Area during the 2008
student orientation. Photo
courtesy of UAS.



Connie Boochever Arts Endowment Established

New endowments for arts and theater students and the Auke Lake trail project are established at UAS, thanks to a generous donation from Retired Judge Robert Boochever. Boochever served on the Alaska Supreme Court from 1972–80 and served as Chief Justice from 1975–78. He was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in 1980.

The \$300,000 Connie Boochever Endowment for Arts was established in honor of his late wife, Lois Colleen “Connie” Boochever, for her extraordinary contribution to the arts in Alaska during her lifetime. Judge Boochever has donated an additional \$100,000 to a campaign to upgrade a trail around Auke Lake.

Ketchikan Staff Present at National Conference

UAS Ketchikan Student Services Manager Gail Klein and Student Services Coordinator Chris Hoyt presented at the 2008 National Association for Developmental Education conference in Spring 2008 in Boston. “Building a Student Retention Plan Around a College Success Course” discussed how UAS Ketchikan improved retention with a comprehensive three credit “Critical College Success Skills” course that combines developmental math and English. Cross-referenced syllabi helped create a learning community for the enrolled students.

PITAAS Celebrates 10th Year as Education Department Grant Recipient

The UAS PITAAS (Preparing Indigenous Teachers and Administrators in Alaska Schools) program is going into its 10th year as the recipient of a \$1.7 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education. PITAAS provides scholarship funds for Alaska Native students who plan to teach in Alaska public schools after graduation.

UAS students Sophie Stradley-
Asti and Jessica Chauvot
studying downstairs in the
renovated Mourant Building.
Photo courtesy of UAS.





View of the boat dock at Auke Lake.
Photo courtesy UAS.

Ketchikan Professor Wins an Emmy

UAS Ketchikan anthropology and sociology professor Priscilla Schulte now has an Emmy to add to her list of accomplishments. Schulte received the award as a member of the academic advisory committee for an educational series titled “Physical Anthropology: The Evolving Human,” which won an Emmy at the 2008 awards show for Best Instructional Programming.

Gov. Palin Signs Marine Parks Bill at UAS

Gov. Sarah Palin in June 2008 signed a bill from the Juneau legislative delegation to expand the Marine Park System, including 14 islands near Juneau. The Anderson Building at UAS, where Palin signed the bill, looks out over several of those islands. Palin’s infant son (in baby sling) accompanied the governor during the signing ceremony. Photo courtesy UAS.



Snowmote Tests Out Icefield

Ayanna Howard, Georgia Tech professor, presents a robotic mini-snowmobile, tested on the Juneau Icefield in June 2008. The prototype robot helps monitor climate change. The two-foot long “snowmote” testing project was hosted by UAS professor Matt Heavner, lead faculty for a NASA-funded project to monitor climate change, with help from undergraduate researchers. Photo courtesy of UAS.



Photo by Kate Ripley

University of Alaska Board of Regents

Patricia Jacobson (2007–2015), Timothy C. Brady (2005–2015), Michael Snowden, Secretary (2003–2009), Carl Marrs, Treasurer (2005–2013), Cynthia Henry, Vice Chair (2003–2011), Robert Martin (2005–2013), Mary K. Hughes, Chair (2002–2009), William Andrews (2007–2009), Erik Drygas (2007–2011), Fuller Cowell (2007–2015), Mark Hamilton, UA President and Kirk Wickersham (2007–2015).

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 employer and educational institution.

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Cover photo (top): When the news of statehood reached the arctic village of Kotzebue, the town started jumping. Here Laura Mae Beltz goes aloft, via walrus hide blanket toss, carrying a flag that will soon have a star for her native land.

Bottom Photo: Gov. Mike Stepovich of Alaska holds a newspaper bearing a big headline as he stands between President Eisenhower and Secretary of the Interior Fred Seaton in the President's White House office. (The Anchorage Daily Times.)



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