



Chancellor's Report



Dear Board of Regents,

November is designated as a time to honor Alaska Native heritage. However at UAA, we honor Alaska Native peoples and cultures 365 days a year, and strive to create a welcoming, familiar home for our Alaska Native students.

It's encouraging we recruited four new Alaska Native faculty this year: two in engineering and two in biology.

Our Alaska Native curriculum offerings span the campus, including courses in the arts, education, science and engineering, psychology and nursing. Language courses in Ahtna Athabascan, Dena'ina Athabascan, Alutiiq, Tlingit and Yup'ik can be found on our main campus and community campuses.

UAA recognizes the significant role Alaska Native corporations play in the lives of their shareholders and in the state's economic sphere. We now offer an Alaska Native Business minor and recently hosted the inaugural Alaska Native Business Summit—more than 150 people attended this event last month, including participants from Alaska Native corporations, UAA faculty and state government.

In April, we'll again host the annual Alaska Native Studies conference. The last time we hosted it, in 2013, more than 300 people from around the world participated. We are expecting even more participants for the 2016 conference.

We want to continue concentrating on the needs of our Alaska Native students and faculty. One way is through Dr. Jeane Breinig, UAA's interim associate vice chancellor for Alaska Natives and Diversity. Our goal, always, will be improving the experience of Alaska Natives at UAA and doing everything possible to help Alaska Native students, faculty and staff achieve success.

Best regards,

Tom Case, Chancellor

In 2008, ConocoPhillips pledged \$15 million to support science and engineering programs at UAA—the largest corporate gift the University of Alaska has ever received. Eleven million dollars

of that became the ConocoPhillips Arctic Science and Engineering Endowment. The initial round of research project awards were announced in mid-November. A selection committee narrowed 29 submissions to four projects, which received a total of \$280,117 in funding from the first endowment distribution. Project descriptions can be found at <https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/chancellor>.

Ann and Al Parrish, longtime supporters and friends of the university, will be celebrated this spring when the new pedestrian bridge across Providence Drive is named in their honor. The Parrishes have been deeply involved with the university for nearly three decades. A naming ceremony in 2016 will formally dedicate the bridge in their honor.



UAA's new pharmacy program—a partnership with Idaho State University—is accepting applications now for fall 2016. Previously, UAA has offered training to pharmacy technicians, but students who wanted an advanced pharmacy degree had to leave Alaska. The new program is a collaboration between the UAA Alaska Center for Rural Health and Health Workforce, Alaska Pharmacists Association, UAA College of Health and ISU College of Pharmacy. The program hopes to recruit an inaugural cohort of 10-15 students for the graduating class of 2020.

The Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) has long been a resource for non-partisan research that helps people understand social and economic systems and supports informed public and private decision-making. With special focus on the state's budget crisis, ISER is expanding on these efforts. ISER will facilitate community conversations to educate and engage the community on important issues thanks to \$100,000 in support from GCI and \$25,000 from the Rasmuson Foundation.

The remodeled Wells Fargo Sports Complex has opened. Its renovated hockey center will be named the Brush Christiansen Hockey Center, recognizing the man who founded the program in 1979 and guided the Seawolves from Division II into Division I hockey, the highest level of NCAA sports. The renovations were part of a \$10 million project to upgrade the Complex. Improvements include an upgraded student fitness center, new air conditioning systems and fire alarm systems. The money came from UAA's deferred maintenance budget.



Beth Johnson, CRFE, senior development officer for UAA's College of Arts & Sciences, received the Outstanding Fundraising Professional in Philanthropy award during a Nov. 20 Alaska Philanthropy Day Awards Luncheon at the Dena'ina Center in Anchorage.

Two UAA alumni received awards during the Alaska Federation of Natives convention. Dr. Barb Qasuglana Amarak won the Eileen Panigeo MacLean Education Award. She earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's degree in educational leadership at UAA. Sgt. Wanda Jean Solomon (Air National Guard) won the Gin'tith (Richard Frank) Military Service Award. She obtained a bachelor's degree in business administration from UAA.

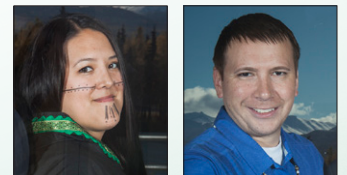
This year's Celebrity Chef Invitational raised approximately \$75,000 in its sold-out dinner in the Lucy Cuddy Hall and Atrium. The Culinary Arts, Hospitality & Restaurant Division at UAA's Community and Technical College hosted the event. Proceeds go to the University of Alaska Foundation and contribute to scholarships, maintenance of educational equipment and the state-of-the-art hospitality training center and faculty development.



In October, Seawolf Debate took part in the Senior Arctic Official meeting of the Arctic Council in Anchorage. The team, ranked sixth in the nation, sparred over the Arctic Council's commitment to making decisions by consensus. The event included delegations from eight Arctic nations and several Far North indigenous organizations. The U.S. assumed chairmanship of the Arctic Council six months ago.

The Alaska State Legislature recently recognized Marianne Mahon, administrative manager at the UAA Child Welfare Academy (CWA). "She is worthy of recognition for her work with University of Alaska students in the context of the CWA's education and training voucher program," the award letter stated. The program supports youth transitioning from the State of Alaska foster care system to college and careers.

Two ANSEP alumni this fall became UAA's first Alaska Native tenure-track engineering faculty members. Michele Yatchmeneff and Matt Calhoun were the first to receive doctorates after participating in ANSEP's "Grow Your Own Ph.D." and "Graduate Success" programs, which provide financial support for Native students to get their degrees in STEM fields. Yatchmeneff is Aleut; she earned her bachelor's and master's degrees at UAA and her Ph.D. in engineering education from Purdue University in Indiana. Calhoun is Athabascan and graduated with a UAA bachelor's degree in engineering before earning his master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Colorado at Boulder. He is expected to graduate soon with a Ph.D. in civil engineering from UAF.



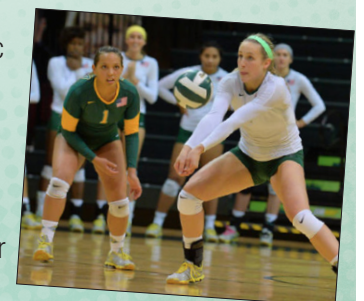
UAA's Dave Dannenberg and Heather Nash of the Academic Innovations & eLearning Center won a \$2.25-million, five-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education, which they are using to, among other things, create 26 online "master courses" for high-demand general education requirement classes, devise comprehensive support services for students studying online and construct an online distance education portal for students who are seeking answers about online education programs.



The 2015 Green & Gold Gala held in the Alaska Airlines Center raised \$72,000 for the UAA Alumni Association Scholarship on Sept. 26.

The UAA Office of Academic Affairs has granted final approval for the International Business minor, following review by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, making it possible for UAA to proceed with recruitment and admissions to the new program.

The Seawolves volleyball team is continuing its glowing season, taking the lead in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference. This season, the team won 14 consecutive games, breaking the team's previous record for most consecutive wins. The team has racked up more than 20 victories and, earlier this month, played in front of a record crowd of 2,002 at the Alaska Airlines Center.



UAA junior Joyce Chelimo finished second at the Western Washington Invitational to lead UAA to a second-place team finish. She ran the 6-kilometer race in 21 minutes, 19 seconds. That week, the GNAC honored her as its athlete of the week for cross country running.