



Dear Board of Regents,

We are honored that UAA's Stacey Lucason joined your ranks for a two-year term as the student regent. Her leadership as a USUAA president is a wonderful example of the scope of opportunity offered on our campus. Stacey is part of our Alumni Relations team and recently began work on a Master of Public Administration degree at UAA.

UAA's sixth-annual Green & Gold Alumni Gala, an event that has raised more than \$300,000 to benefit the UAA Alumni Scholarship Fund, will be Saturday, Sept. 26, in the Alaska Airlines Center. Last year's event alone raised nearly \$80,000.

With the retirement of Diversity and Compliance Director Marva Watson, we are focusing Title IX, ADA, equal access, equitable treatment, inclusion and civil rights programs into a renamed office of Equity and Compliance; Bridget Dooley is serving as its acting director. Our diversity efforts that include indigenous knowledge and diversity in curriculum and research will now be fostered and supported through Student Affairs and through an interim associate vice chancellor for Alaska Natives and Diversity in the Provost's Office. Diversity, inclusion and compliance remain high priorities on our campus.

We continue to make big strides with our fall enrollment on the Anchorage campus and are approaching our target used for FY16 budget planning. Enrollment at the Mat-Su campus is also trending in the black as are our colleges of Business & Public Policy, Education, Engineering and Health. While enrollment continues to fluctuate daily, we're seeing the Anchorage campus enrollment growth is primarily in "new entrants"—first-time traditional freshmen and first-time transfer students.

We are focusing on our academic core as we continue to manage budget challenges, and are looking forward to a great year.

Thank you for all you do to support student success at UAA.

Best regards,

Tom Case, Chancellor



UAA Convocation 2015 and Campus Kick-Off took place Aug. 22, bringing together the entire campus community and welcoming students, faculty and staff to celebrate the new academic year.

The Arctic Domain Awareness Center is receiving \$1.2 million for undergraduate and

graduate scholarships, supplementing \$17 million it is slated to receive over five years. ADAC formed last year after the U.S. Department of Homeland Security named UAA as a Maritime Research Center of Excellence for the Arctic Domain. The ADAC is tasked with researching projects that advance DHS' mission of developing tools and systems that can "observe, assess, predict and alert stakeholders" to developments in the Arctic—like oil spills, ocean acidification, port security, ice breakup, fisheries management or vessel traffic. Dr. Helena Wisniewski serves as ADAC's executive director.



UAA's Center for Conservation Science on Aug. 12 celebrated a new partnership with the Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, located in Homer, that will result in closer ties between UAA and NOAA (which provides national oversight of the Reserve) and new collaborative research opportunities. The KBNERR—founded in 1999—conducts research and education outreach efforts that include collection of long-term oceanographic data, harmful species detection, Discover Lab education programs and training programs for decision-makers on community-driven issues. KBNERR is headquartered on Kachemak Drive near the Homer airport. Reserve staff and Kachemak Bay campus of UAA's Kenai Peninsula College will expand their collaboration as well, with KPC's Semester by the Bay students using the Reserve's bunkhouse and interning on Reserve projects.



UAA Shaping Alaska's Future

Students and faculty had been using labs in UAA's Engineering & Industry Building for weeks, but the structure officially opened when a ceremonial ribbon-cutting took place Sept. 10. The new 81,500-gross-square-foot EIB connects to the UAA Health Sciences Building via a pedestrian skybridge spanning Providence Drive.



Programs for high school and middle school students flourished this summer not only at UAA, but also at its community campuses:

- Summer engineering academies and the Kids' College program took place at UAA's main campus, in addition to ANSEP Summer Bridge and ANSEP Stem Career Explorations sessions.
- Mat-Su College sponsored three experimental collaborations with local middle and high school students: the Burchell (High School) Summer Science Academy, a one-credit preparatory English course for 14 students; the Mini-Med School for 24 local middle school students; and the Crime Scene Investigation class for 24 middle school students.
- For three weeks in June, the Kenai River Campus hosted 30 high school students from the Kuspuk School District in the EXCEL Alaska College and Career Readiness Program, for three weeks in June. Students participated in intensive workshops in welding, emergency trauma, process technology and construction. Students represented nine Alaska Native villages in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.
- The annual Kachemak Bay Campus Project GRAD Summer Institute hosted 30 high school students from Nanwalek, Vozsensenka, Nikolaevsk, Razdolna, Port Graham, Tyonek and Ninilchik, who took part in a variety of classes and field study experiences.

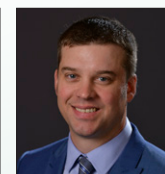


UAA's Doctor of Nursing Practice program began last month, with six students moving from their current Master of Science degrees to the D.N.P. Those students are scheduled to graduate in December 2016. After a gradual phasing-out of the master's-to-D.N.P. program, UAA will begin the bachelor's-to-D.N.P. program in the fall of 2018.

Cary Deck, a University of Arkansas economics professor and director of the Behavioral Business Research Laboratory at the Sam M. Walton College of Business, will serve as the University of Alaska Anchorage's Rasmuson Chair of Economics for the 2015—16 academic year. Deck will succeed 2014-2015 Rasmuson Chair Jason Shogren.

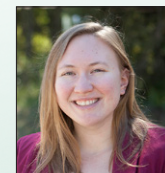


President Barack Obama this summer named two UAA alumni—Tasha Barnes, a Wendler Middle School math teacher, and Russell "Ben" Walker, a Romig Middle School science teacher—as Alaska's winners of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Barnes, Walker and the other 106 awardees each receive a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation.



Mat-Su College hosted a reception Aug. 28 in its Glenn Massay Theater for Dr. Jane Chu, chair of the National Endowment for the Arts.

UAA alumna and soon-to-be UAA M.P.A. student Stacey Lucason has been named to a two-year term as student regent for the UA Board of Regents.



UAA nursing professor Angelia Trujillo received the 2014 Journal of Forensic Nursing Education Article of the Year Award for her article, "A Practical Guide to Prevention for Forensic Nursing", published in volume 10(1) of the journal.



Former UAA alpine skier Anna Berecz was named the Rocky Mountain Intercollegiate Ski Association's nominee for the 2015 NCAA Woman of the Year Award.

People from the community gathered at UAA's ConocoPhillips Integrated Science Building this summer to learn about and celebrate the occasion of NASA's New Horizons spacecraft speeding by Pluto at 30,800 mph within a distance of only 7,750 miles, and await the first up-close images of the dwarf planet.

The Della Keats health and research programs this summer provided no-cost opportunities for eligible high school students to spend six supervised weeks in UAA dorms while working full time to job-shadow doctors, nurses and dentists and learn academic skills they'll need if they aspire to become a health care professional. Alaska WWAMI School of Medical Education, Alaska Kidney Foundation and individual private donors provided the funding.

Schlumberger, a leading oilfield service company, in June donated to UAA a state-of-the-art geology software package with a \$33 million market value—the largest in-kind donation in University of Alaska System history.

