



June 2016

Chancellor's Report



Dear Board of Regents,

The University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) is an amazing place to be, year-round, but it's particularly special to be on campus in the spring as students finish up finals and prepare to graduate. I'm incredibly proud of the more than 1,300 students who received their certificates and diplomas and joined the ranks of nearly 50,000 UAA alumni in May.

I'm pleased to report that 11 of the 2016 Alaska BP Teachers of Excellence are UAA alumni. It's inspiring to see our alumni recognized for making a difference in the lives of young Alaskans.

Our athletic programs continue to be a point of pride for UAA. In April—boosted by NCAA Championship finishes in four sports—UAA rose to a program-record No. 2 ranking in the Learfield Sports Director's Cup standings, placing the Seawolves among the elite of all NCAA Division II programs. 2015-16 was the best season ever in UAA's history, with six GNAC championships, 25 All-American honorees, 42 NCAA West Region honorees, four West Region Coach of the Year honors, five Conference Coach of the Year honors and one NCAA national finalist women's basketball team.

Two nationally recognized conferences are about to kick off on UAA's community campuses: the Last Frontier Theatre Conference in Valdez and the Kachemak Bay Writers' Conference in Homer. Both of these signature summer events showcase local and national experts in theatre and writing.

Thank you for your continued support of UAA.

Best regards,

Tom Case, Chancellor

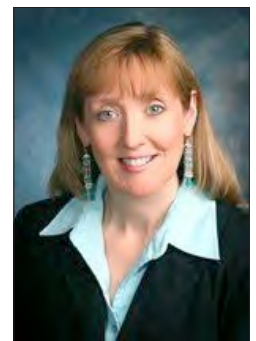
Dr. Helena Wisniewski was inducted as a National Academy of Inventors (NAI) fellow in Washington, D.C., in April. She is the first Alaskan to be inducted into the NAI and was among 168 inventors recognized at the United States Patent and Trademark Office.



UAA political science professor Landry Signé has been named a 2016 Andrew Carnegie Fellow. He is the first Alaska scholar to win this prestigious fellowship. The Carnegie Corporation announced 33 fellows who were selected based on the originality, promise and potential impact of their proposals. Dr. Signé will use the \$200,000 award to develop his global research project, "Why African Nations Fail and How to Fix It."



Following a national search, Denise Runge has been named the new dean of UAA's Community and Technical College (CTC). Runge comes to the Anchorage campus from Prince William Sound College, where she has been serving as the associate director of academic affairs and associate professor of business and public administration since July 2015. Dr. Runge will take over leadership of CTC on July 1.



The UAA Seawolf Debate team advanced further than any other public institution in this year's United States Universities Debating Championship in April. Sam Erickson and Sarah Elton finished the competition as one of the top eight teams in the nation.



A group of UAA Management Information Systems and Computer Science students recently competed in and won the At-Large Regional Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition and will advance to the 2016 National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (NCCDC) in San Antonio, Texas. This event is the largest cyber defense tournament in the country, presented in partnership with Raytheon.

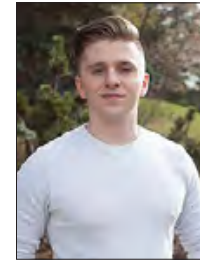


NATIONAL COLLEGIATE CYBER DEFENSE COMPETITION

Rachel Morse, assistant vice chancellor for Alumni Relations, will join 16 international advancement professionals to direct research on alumni programs and activities, evaluate practices and establish standards and provide counsel to CASE (Council for Advancement and Support of Education) leadership to ensure the organization's programs, products and services reflect current knowledge and emerging trends. The CASE Board of Trustees appoints commission members. Rachel will begin her three-year term in July.



Rachel Morse is assistant vice chancellor for Alumni Relations.



Left Ben Hurst, right Crystalyn Lemieux.

Two UAA students received 2016-17 Fulbright awards: Ben Hurst, who will spend a year in Germany, and Crystalyn Lemieux, who will spend a year in Canada.

Northrim renewed its deep commitment to higher education with a \$160,000 gift to benefit ISER's work in state fiscal policy modeling, the Alaska Small Business Development Center, UAA's award-winning Speech and Debate team and its Chris Knudson Northrim Accounting Scholarship. Other recent gifts came from Wells Fargo: \$180,000 to support the Building Futures fund for Seawolf Athletics and \$10,000 to Lemonade Day Alaska; Providence Health & Services Alaska: \$70,000 to support PWSC's healthcare related learning programs and careers in the Valdez area; and LGL Alaska Research Associates: \$15,000 to the LGL Alaska Graduate Ecology Research Award.



The Alaska State Budget game offered citizens a chance to close a \$3.5 billion state budget gap by making their own tough choices. ISER economists traveled throughout the state with the game.

Two Kenai Peninsula College (KPC) teams earned silver and bronze medals at the National Science Foundation's troubleshooting competition in Kingwood, Texas. The team from the Anchorage Extension Site earned second place, while the Kenai River Campus team finished third.

The fourth-annual Alaska Native Studies Conference returned to UAA's campus in April. The conference, a brainchild of Alaska Native Studies faculty from across UA's three universities, featured 48 workshops or panels within the theme of Wellness & Healing: Indigenous Innovations & Alaska Native Research.



Photo by Rob Stapleton

The Alaska Native Studies Conference included a workshop on horse medicine. Right, Miss Cama-i 2016, UAA student Piyuuk Olivia Shields, engages in a panel discussion.