



February 2016 Chancellor's Report

Dear Board of Regents,

I'm excited to share the news that UAA's women's basketball team returned to the #1 ranking in the nation in the January 19 Women's Basketball Coaches Association USA Today NCAA Division II poll. This marked UAA's ninth week all-time at No. 1 in the WBCA poll, along with four weeks last season and four weeks in 2008-09.

Also worth celebrating is the women's volleyball team, which finished the 2015 season as the GNAC champions and hosted the 2015 West Regional Championships at the Alaska Airlines Center in December. The team led the NCAA Division II in attendance this past season, averaging 1,481 fans per game and a total of 23,699.

UAA's new Lean initiative team is hard at work following the GreenBelt training of 22 student, faculty and staff leaders in early January. This high-performance, cross-functional team will assist work groups doing Lean launches and implement a "train the trainer" approach to engage UAA stakeholders and build expertise campus wide. The GreenBelt team will be assessing five processes, each focused on improving value for one of our key UAA customers: students, faculty, alumni, staff and community.

As news of campus violence continues to emerge in the national headlines, I'm pleased to report that UAA will participate in a statewide terrorism exercise on Friday, April 1. Responders from multiple agencies will join the University Police and other UAA emergency responders in simulating a terrorist active shooter in Beatrice McDonald Hall. The exercise will help test the university's readiness, plans and training, as well as plans of the assisting agencies.

Thank you for your support of UAA's students, faculty, staff and alumni. It's always a pleasure to see you on campus; I hope you'll be able to make it to one of our many athletic events, lectures or performances taking place this spring.

Best regards,

Tom Case, Chancellor

The UAA December Commencement speaker was first-generation college student Ruddy Abam, who has excelled both on campus and off. Her passion for social justice assisted her on Diversity Action Council and Judicial Board, while her interest in political science led her to Juneau for a semester as a legislative intern. She's been recognized several times for her contributions, including her work increasing diversity awareness and presenting her Honors College thesis at a national conference in Seattle, <http://bit.ly/1RcGa1c>.



Randy Kee has been named executive director of the Arctic Domain Awareness Center (ADAC), a U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Center of Excellence. ADAC is a consortium led by UAA that includes 16 partners—including UAF—that are geographically distributed among a distinguished group of universities, research institutions and industry leaders. Kee has 30 years of multifaceted experience, including direct and substantial arctic domain awareness. He has worked with a diverse set of federal agencies, commissions and interagency organizations, including DHS and the U.S. Coast Guard. Prior to his recent retirement from the U.S. Air Force, Kee was director of Strategy, Policy, Plans and Capabilities for the U.S. European Command. He also served as the chair of the Arctic Security Forces Roundtable from 2013-2015.



Dr. Helena Wisniewski has been named to the 2015 National Academy of Inventors Fellows and will be inducted in April. Collectively, the 168 2015 NAI Fellows hold 5,368 patents and represent 108 institutions. The announcement was featured in the January 22 issue of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. The fellows will be formally inducted in April <http://bit.ly/1nwmf0H>.



Joey Yang and Dr. Helena Wisniewski pose at the installation of the new patented snowless sidewalk by UAA startup company, CFT Solutions.

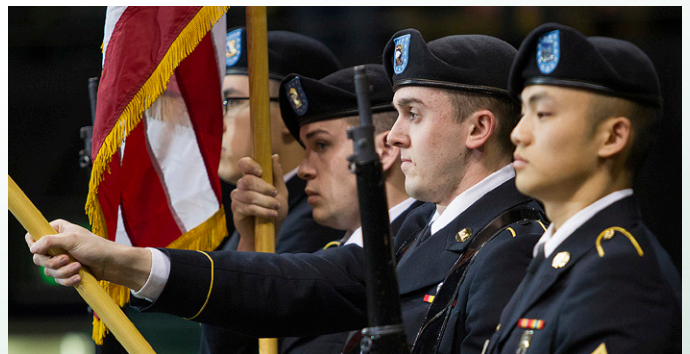


Two UAA students, Amalia “Malie” Delgado and Monica Repuya, recently earned Hollywood audition spots on Fox’s *American Idol*. Monica and Malie will compete in a group of 200 contestants that will be winnowed down to 50. Those 50 entertainers advance to the Showcase Round and from there an elite 24—12 men, 12 women—will vie on live shows to win over the public’s votes and become the final *American Idol*.



Jonathon Taylor (right) takes part in a debate competition with Oxford University.

Johanna Richter and Jonathon Taylor, two of UAA’s elite Seawolf debaters, advanced to the final round in the World Universities Debating Championship in Greece over the holiday break. Only eight teams from the U.S. qualified for the elimination round, and UAA was the only public, non-Ivy League university of the eight. Team Richter-Taylor finished 33rd overall out of 400 teams.



UAA earned a military-friendly designation for its seventh consecutive year.

UAA was recently named a 2015 Military Friendly School. Victory Media awards the Military Friendly Schools designation to the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools in the United States that are doing the most to embrace military students and ensure their success in the classroom and after graduation. This is the seventh consecutive year UAA has earned the military-friendly designation.

In December, the UAA Justice Center celebrated 40 years of leadership in civil and criminal justice education in Alaska, and in research on justice issues in rural and urban Alaska. The Alaska State Legislature established the Justice Center in 1975. Over the past four decades, faculty and research staff have contributed to studies ranging from the revision of the Alaska Criminal Code to the development of the master plan for corrections.



Faculty and students attended the naming ceremony of the ConocoPhillips Geoscience Computing Laboratory.

ConocoPhillips executives, UAA leadership and Geological Sciences faculty and students recently celebrated the naming of the new ConocoPhillips Geoscience Computing Laboratory. The new lab, for which ConocoPhillips invested \$150,000, will support undergraduate research. Mike Faust, vice president of Exploration and Land for ConocoPhillips Alaska and executive sponsor for the gift, represented the company at the naming event, accompanied by Portia Babcock, the company’s director of philanthropy and public affairs.