

# AURORA



The Festival of Native Arts, founded in 1973, happens each year in March, on the Fairbanks campus. The festival unites the major Native culture groups of Alaska, as well as indigenous groups of the continental United States and foreign countries. These groups share the rich heritage of their respective cultures through music, dance and art.

UAF students are the driving force behind FNA, responsible for organizing, fundraising, housing and transportation. Planning takes place year-round. Such commitment is a testament to great pride in cultural values and traditions.

### About the cover artist

Photo courtesy of Jamie Smith.



Jamie Smith, '98, is the creator of the beloved cartoon "Nuggets." He also does freelance illustration, teaches drawing courses and blogs all about it at [www.inksnow.blogspot.com](http://www.inksnow.blogspot.com).

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# AURORA

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America's Arctic University  
[www.uaf.edu](http://www.uaf.edu)



## DOING HARD TIME

**F**ive justice students went to jail last November — for three and a half hours. Seniors Jessika Shumate, Laegan Bole, Carrie Lofts, Andrew Sheeler and Javan Halpin portrayed new inmates at Fairbanks Correctional Center. They donned the colorful jumpsuit of a felon to appear in an instructional video produced by UAF journalism students.

New inmates at FCC are shown a video that explains everything from how to receive mail to the proper procedure for having visitors. Mike Daku, a justice assistant professor, learned that FCC officials wanted to update their video, and an opportunity was born. Daku approached Rob Prince, a journalism assistant professor specializing in documentary filmmaking, about a collaborative effort.

Outside FCC, Daku and the five justice students met with Prince and

three journalism students: Sarah Richards, Dana Davis and Karen Adams. Also along for the ride as photographers were Cheryl Hatch, Snedden Chair for the Journalism Department, and Jeremia Schrock, a reporter and photographer for the UAF *Sun Star*. Once inside, they were under the watchful eye of the FCC guards, who warned them not to mingle with the inmates.

Life on the inside posed a few complications for the UAF crew. The journalism students doing the filming had to be careful not to record actual inmates on camera. Everyone had to endure the stares and calls of the FCC residents, for

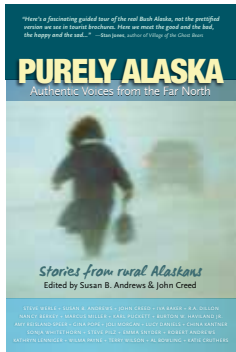
whom the students were the evening's entertainment.

The venture into FCC was a rare glimpse into the world of corrections from a side the students hoped they'd never have to see again.

*Story by Andrew Sheeler, senior journalism student and editor-in-chief of the Sun Star student newspaper. Photos by Jeremia Schrock/Sun Star.*



## Purely Alaska illustrates cultural journalism



*Purely Alaska: Authentic Voices from the Far North* is a follow-up to the award-winning bestseller *Authentic Alaska: Voices of Its Native Writers*.

Both books were edited by Chukchi Campus professors John Creed and Susan Andrews. The latest offering includes 32 stories from 23 Native and non-Native writers who live in various remote communities in the Alaska Bush.

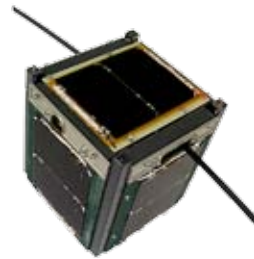
The first piece in the volume, by Steve Werle, tells the harrowing tale of the late Aana Nellie Woods, who in the 1930s helped drive a herd of

reindeer along the treacherous shores of the Arctic Ocean to northern Canada. Nellie gave birth twice while on the drive. She and her husband had to bury a newborn on the tundra. Nellie herself almost died from a raging fever while giving birth to a second child. She went on to live a long life, raise many children and become a beloved elder in the Northwest Arctic village of Noatak before passing away in the early 1990s.

Creed and Andrews head up the Chukchi News and Information Service, a cultural journalism project that has spawned these two books as well as hundreds of rural University of Alaska student publications since its founding in 1988. The project has captured several state and national honors, including a Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award.

## Students to design NASA payload

UAF is one of 12 universities selected to participate in NASA's CubeSat Launch Initiative. Engineering and science students will design an auxiliary payload for one of the launch vehicles already planned for next year. UAF's participation is sponsored by the Alaska Space Grant Program. CubeSats are a class of research spacecraft called picosatellites. They are approximately four inches square, have a volume of about one quart and weigh no more than 2.2 pounds.



Montana State University's E1P Flight CubeSat

Read more about the CubeSat initiative at [spacegrant.alaska.edu/highered/CubeSat](http://spacegrant.alaska.edu/highered/CubeSat).

## LIVE action: Alternative spring break — not just any vacation

Forget sizzling beaches and frosty beer. Students who want to do something tangible with their time off each spring can join the LIVE Program — Leadership, Involvement, Volunteer Experience — which sponsors an

alternative, service-oriented spring break trip. During last year's trip to Arctic Village, Alaska, UAF students worked with the local K – 12 school to encourage further education after high school. This year's trip to Moab, Utah,

was spent with Plateau Restoration, a nonprofit that works to protect and restore native habitats of the Colorado Plateau through research, education and revegetation.

## CAMPUS BRIEFS

### THE OCEAN ACIDIFICATION RESEARCH CENTER

has been established to study the effects of seawater's increasing acidity due to absorption of carbon dioxide. The center is led by Jeremy Mathis, an assistant professor of chemical oceanography and an ocean acidification expert.

Find more information about OARC at [www.sfos.uaf.edu/oarc/](http://www.sfos.uaf.edu/oarc/).

### THE ARCTIC REGION

**SUPERCOMPUTING CENTER** will downsize when its Department of Defense contract ends in May. To support ongoing academic research that requires high-performance computing, ARSC will reorganize into a program of 10 core staff members.

Illustration by SmithGroup.



### GROUNDBREAKING FOR THE NEW LIFE SCIENCES FACILITY

was March 30. Alaska voters in 2010 overwhelmingly approved passage of

a statewide general obligation bond that included \$88 million for the building.



Illustration by Kelsey Gobroski, Sun Star.

## ZOMBIE PHYSIOLOGY — for real?

In lecture, Associate Professor Mike Harris' voice slices through the classroom, confident. Sporting a red floral shirt, he weaves together old concepts and new topics. He hardly pauses, until a techno jingle reverberates into the air.

"Cookies!" Harris says, dancing with slow-motion swings of his arms and hips until the student silences her phone. "Let this be a warning: I will do the cookie dance, and you will bring cookies, if this happens again. Now, where was I?"

Filling any gaps between words with expressive flicks of his hands, Harris conjures both ordinary and fantastic examples when teaching more than 40 animal physiology students.

"It's cool how he can relate fantasy stuff to real-world things," says Ben Gray, a 27-year-old fisheries science major.

Later in the semester, Harris unleashes the zombies.

Harris first used zombies four years ago in neurobiology when explaining fine-coarse motor control. He returned to the undead for animal physiology when he couldn't figure out how to make the class relatable. Examples often engage a class, but what else would appeal to Harris's academically diverse students? Ecology doesn't have much common ground with medicine, so he brought back his teenage passion for zombies.


Harris isn't the only one to use the undead as examples. In 2009, researchers from Carleton University and the University of Ottawa taught how math can simulate humanity's survival in a zombie apocalypse.

"I don't believe in the supernatural, but I'm perfectly willing to admit that scientists don't understand all that is natural," Harris says.

Zombies are "human physiology taken to an extreme," Harris says. He argues that zombies are like reptilian humans. Reptiles, like zombies, do not have the luxuries of brain function outside their brainstems. Like platypuses, the egg-laying mammals, the undead are the exception — and the exception fascinates Harris. Zombies make scientists like Harris question the basis of metabolism, of humanity and of life itself.

"Zombies are like humans, but inhuman — and the differences are what make them fascinating," he says.

*Excerpted with permission from a story published in UAF's student newspaper, the Sun Star, by Kelsey Gobroski, UAF student and Sun Star contributor.*

 Read the complete story at [uafsunstar.com/?p=1774](https://uafsunstar.com/?p=1774).

## Lucy's Dance teaches Yup'ik traditions

The University of Alaska Press will publish *Lucy's Dance*, a new children's book written by Deb Vanasse and illustrated by Nancy Slagle, in May. It is a story about the return of traditional dancing in one Yup'ik village and how a little girl helps set things in motion for her grandfather to demonstrate old-style dancing. The story refers to Yup'ik traditions such as storytelling through dancing, drumming, singing, gift giving and the use of dance fans. Readers learn the meaning of Yup'ik words such as *uppa*, *akutaq* and *kuspaq*. The role of the dance stick is central to the story.



There will be a simultaneous release of a Yup'ik edition of the book. True to its cultural context, the book was reviewed by Theresa John, an associate professor with the Department of Alaska Native Studies and Rural Development, and her sister Agatha John-Shields, an assistant professor of education at UAA.



Comment on any of these stories at [www.uaf.edu/aurora/](http://www.uaf.edu/aurora/).

## Come out and play

(back cover photo answer)

A disc golf course was installed on the Fairbanks campus last year. Frisbee enthusiasts (and regular folks) can play through 18 holes scattered across campus. At each location the bright yellow cage captures your frisbee — unless, of course, you miss.



Download a map and rules of the course at [www.uaf.edu/campusmap/](http://www.uaf.edu/campusmap/).

## PHILANTHROPY

### Usibelli Coal mines minds

The Usibelli Coal Mine donated \$165,000 to two scholarships. The Usibelli Mining Scholarship is a four-year scholarship for College of Engineering and Mines students studying mining or geological engineering; the new Usibelli Coal Mine Diesel/Heavy Equipment Certificate Scholarship supports students in the UAF Community and Technical College's diesel and heavy equipment certificate program.

### Did you know?

... a construction company clearing land for the Bunnell Building in the mid-50s hauled off the university cornerstone with other construction debris. (Oops!) It was soon returned and was rededicated in 1962 in the spot where it sits today.

# Academic freedom

# Truth in the ivory tower





# and the university

By LJ Evans

**A**n 8-year-old girl was killed in Anchorage in the late 1980s when a mass of icicles broke loose from a roof, crushing her as she played under the eaves. Soon after, Rich Seifert wrote a piece in the *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner* that criticized the construction methods that had created the deadly conditions.

Alaska builders organizations denounced Seifert because of the article, which he wrote as part of a regularly appearing column.

“They said I was calling them murderers,” Seifert says. “I told them, ‘But we know how to do this right. We know how to build roofs that won’t do this and it’s just because of shoddy building practices that this happened.’”

When Seifert, now a professor of engineering, was hired by UAF’s Cooperative Extension Service, he says he was told, “We want you to be the people’s consultant on energy and building practices. Nobody is buying you. You are the watchdog for technology, to give people good advice about building practices.”

Seifert believed he was doing that — using his expertise to promote safe buildings in Alaska — and he stood his ground. The *News-Miner* canceled his column, but his supervisor, the CES director and the university president stood by him.

“I was protected by academic freedom before I even had tenure,” Seifert says.

## What it is

Academic freedom is a key tenet of university life. It protects the freedom of faculty to teach and research without unreasonable interference or restriction from law, institutional regulations or public pressure. Closely related to it is tenure. (At UAF, tenure may be granted after a probationary period of up to seven years and after completing certain requirements.) Tenure means faculty can be fired only on grounds of serious misconduct, incompetence or misbehavior, not just because the professor

took a politically unpopular stand.

Academic freedom, says biology professor Abel Bult-Ito, “allows faculty to study subjects that may be controversial in society but are nevertheless legitimate research topics that might otherwise have a politician saying, ‘Fire that person because of such and such.’ It’s a mechanism to protect faculty from political interference.”

“I have the obligation to teach the [required] subject material,” he adds, “but how I teach it and what types of materials I include in the classroom are for me to decide.”

**“To me academic freedom means artistic freedom. I’ve never felt the need to shy away from controversy here at UAF.”**

The guidelines for academic freedom in the U.S. come primarily from the American Association of University Professors, initially in the “1940 Statement of Principles on

Academic Freedom and Tenure,” and augmented with other, more recent documents dealing with topics such as electronic communications.

Provost Susan Henrichs says the AAUP guidelines reflect what she believes are the two key aspects of academic freedom: with the right comes the responsibility. Faculty have the right to communicate the results of their research and their opinions about it to students, the public and other faculty members, she says.

“With that also comes the responsibility to be thoughtful, accurate and unbiased.”

Faculty must also understand the rules are different in different settings, Henrichs says. The responsibility of an instructor in an introductory course to deal with controversial subjects is different than in an advanced graduate student seminar.

## What it isn’t

Academic freedom is often confused with freedom of speech, which is protected in the U.S. Constitution. Academic freedom, though, is essentially part of the employment contract between professor and university.

*UAF alumni in this story: Bernice Joseph, '88, '98; David Klein, '53; Rich Seifert, '73*

“Freedom of speech is a broad right that all people can exercise,” Henrichs says. “Freedom of speech applies to the faculty member also, of course, but academic freedom ... revolves around speech and writing relating to the faculty member’s role as a teacher and researcher.”

## Free speech, not free of conflict

Academic freedom and freedom of speech often overlap, especially in a university setting. In 2001 a poem published by a professor at the University of Alaska Anchorage created a firestorm of controversy. Some people felt the poem, “Indian Girls,” by creative-writing professor Linda McCarriston, reflected racist hate speech. Protesters wrote to the English Department chair and the UAA chancellor, demanding an apology.

Mark Hamilton, the president of the University of Alaska statewide system at the time, issued a strongly worded memorandum defending free speech. He urged university administrators to be unequivocal in protecting that right for faculty, students and staff.

“Academic freedom and freedom of speech are so intertwined, it is difficult mentioning one without the other,” Hamilton says. “In this case it was straightforward freedom of speech. The crux of this particular memo was that administrators, trying to be easy to get along with, will get a complaint and say, ‘I’ll check into that.’ My absolute resolute point was there is nothing to investigate.”

A number of UAF faculty members interviewed for this story vividly recalled the incident, and cited it as a reflection of the value placed upon academic freedom and free speech across the university system. “The discussion challenged the thinking not only of the students but the institution,” says Bernice Joseph, dean of the College of Rural and Community Development.

More recently, shortly before UAF’s September 2009 convocation, a religious group on the Fairbanks campus hung an anti-gay banner in Wood Center. A number of faculty members and students were upset, and they asked Chancellor Brian Rogers to have it removed.

Rogers refused, but he addressed the issue in his convocation speech.

“I disagree with the banner, but I also disagree with those who would remove it,” he said. “The university community must

be one where we protect the freedom to speak, even when we find the speech disagreeable.”

## The crisis: Project Chariot

“The most flagrant disregard of academic freedom — the worst example I know of at this university — happened in the 1960s,” says Terry Chapin, Institute of Arctic Biology professor and the only Alaskan appointed to the National Academy of Sciences.

In 1958 the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission began to explore the possibilities of using an atomic bomb to create a harbor in northwest Alaska, a project that some university officials strongly supported. The program was named

Project Chariot, a story that author Dan O’Neill brought to light in *The Firecracker Boys*. A number of ecology studies were commissioned from University of Alaska researchers as part of the program, including studies of the subsistence economy of Native groups in that region. Some researchers argued strongly against Project Chariot.

They were fired.

“None of those people were rehired by the university,” Chapin says.

“That was a different era. Bill Wood was the president of the university and he called the shots,” says David Klein, professor of wildlife management, emeritus. Klein joined the university in 1962, right after the Project Chariot crisis peaked, and worked in the same department some of the fired professors had been with. The faculty, almost all on two-year contracts, were under direct control of the president via the deans of the colleges.

“Your contract could be readily terminated. There was no such thing as tenure at that time.”

“This problem wasn’t unique to the University of Alaska, although UA certainly was not a leader in moving ahead with granting tenure and more academic freedom. It was mostly the Ivy League colleges who had tenure and academic freedom, and mostly the state universities who didn’t,” Klein says.

In the years following Project Chariot, things gradually changed. The UA Board of Regents affirmed the principles of academic freedom. The reasons for a termination had to be spelled out, and it couldn’t be just because a faculty member expressed views contrary to those of the public or the administration. Now the concept of academic freedom had real legs to stand on.

**“The university community must be one where we protect the freedom to speak, even when we find the speech disagreeable.”**

## Creative expression

A couple of years ago Carrie Baker, assistant professor in UAF's Theatre Department, directed *The Laramie Project*, a play about the 1998 torture and murder of Matthew Shepherd, a 21-year-old student at the University of Wyoming. During the trial, witnesses said Shepherd was targeted because he was gay.

Baker knew the subject matter of the play was going to be a little edgy for Fairbanks, but she says that made the department even more excited about producing it. She adds that it didn't occur to her to ask higher-ups for approval, because it is her job to choose material she believes will offer a good experience for her students and the community in general.

"To me academic freedom means artistic freedom. I've never felt the need to shy away from controversy here at UAF."

That sense of freedom — that professors at UAF can pursue scholarly work of their own choosing without interference from administrators — was an opinion voiced by several faculty members in interviews. John Craven, professor of physics, emeritus, tempers his positive assessment of UAF with a note of caution.

"Academic freedom is very healthy here. I'm not aware of anything that's really challenging it," he says. "Academic freedom is not necessarily the first thing on people's mind because it hasn't been challenged here in a long time.

"The real test of academic freedom is not now, when things are fine — it's when something occurs that stresses it."



*LJ Evans is a writer and editor for UAF Marketing and Communications.*



UAF photo by Maureen McCombs.

# Speak freely!



■ Academic freedom is so pervasive at UAF that I don't see it. We do have to be very careful with the exercise of its privilege, though, because it's not something that's so pervasive in the corporate world. Because we have the right to speak freely without fear of retaliation, we have a tremendous responsibility to be careful what we talk about. Faculty have an enormous influence on students, and with that comes a heightened responsibility to not take academic freedom for granted but to use it very carefully and strategically.

*Charlie Dexter, professor, applied business and accounting*

■ When I tell Fairbanks-based faculty that I'm a director at a rural campus, and that our new program in ethnobotany really does incorporate a lot of traditional Native ways of knowing as well as western science, I see people raise their eyebrows to ask, "Is that a real science?" I appreciate the fact there's academic freedom for our faculty to create a program that is a blend of these things.

*Mary Pete, director, Kuskokwim Campus*

■ In the eight years I've been teaching art at UAF I've never heard about any fallout with anything. Taboo and controversial subject matters are routinely exhibited.

*Jamie Smith, adjunct instructor, Art Department*

■ People have been getting into trouble for their ideas for quite some time. I think it's likely that some Neanderthals were banished for preaching against the existence of Cro-Magnons. Academic freedom carries the weight of intellectual substance because it presumes expertise, years of careful study and thought, and meticulous research and scholarly insight.

*Ralph Gabrielli, associate professor,*

*Alaska Native Studies and Rural Development Department*

■ In some sciences a fact is right or it's wrong; it can be tested. ... In a field like philosophy where you may say something that you've reasoned out ... the existence of God or something, there are people with different opinions. There's no way to test with facts. Those are the places where people who strongly disagree can say, "How can you say that? You should be fired!" Because of academic freedom you can say that in a dialogue and you can't be fired.

*Cathy Cahill, associate professor, chemistry and biochemistry, and president-elect, UAF Faculty Senate*

■ In a university it's important for us to challenge each other's preconceived notions and use good analysis and good critical thinking to expand our knowledge. We can only do that if we give each other the absolute freedom to talk about these issues within our own discipline.

*Sine Anahita, associate professor, and chair, Sociology Department*

■ Academic freedom gives you latitude in the way you teach and conduct your research. Young faculty ... are conscious of not taking on something too deep that might not result in a publication. Tenure gives more-senior faculty the opportunity to take on the more challenging questions even if they may not be fruitful.

*Dana Thomas, vice provost and professor of statistics*

■ It's important for each of us to have the academic freedom to say what we believe is true, but there's also a responsibility for the university, its faculty and students to provide information to the public that is useful and clear as possible.

*Terry Chapin III, professor, Institute of Arctic Biology, and Biology and Wildlife Department*

# Tradition of independence

By Matthew K. Reckard

Scholars want academic freedom; universities demand political freedom. The modern university has its origins in medieval Europe, when constraints on intellectual freedom were greater than today. Think Copernicus, whose heliocentric cosmology — and the teaching of it — was heresy, since religious orthodoxy held that the sun revolved around the earth.

The medieval Latin word for a guild was *universitas*. The early universities, like the artisan guilds that evolved at the same time, were largely self-regulating and self-disciplining corporations of people involved in a common pursuit.

Universities had three advantages over trade guilds: greater financial, political and physical independence. Many universities had endowments and political support from wealthy and powerful people. They inherited from monastery and cathedral schools a tradition of independence from civil authority.

And they were mobile. Because universities brought money and prestige to their cities, local merchants, kings and bishops all wanted them. But early universities didn't own buildings. So, if dissatisfied where they were, they simply moved. This happened in 1209 when, following town-gown violence, scholars and masters left Oxford to found Cambridge University.



Sometimes, universities demanded privileges and protections as a condition of staying in a city (or moving back). In 1200, to keep them from leaving Paris, King Philip II essentially freed university scholars there from all local civic authority. In 1229, they left Paris anyway. To get them to return, Pope Gregory IX freed them from local church authority, too.

By the 16th century nascent modern nation-states were exerting power over all society, including universities. Famously, in 1530 King Henry VIII coerced Oxford University into approving his divorce from Catherine of Aragon. But remnants of their legal and political power survived and evolved into the American concept of academic freedom. Today's scholars can thank their medieval forebears, who demanded their intellectual right to challenge conventional wisdom.

*Matt Reckard spent a formative year of his youth in England when his father was on a university sabbatical. He's been enamored of Oxford ever since.*

## Further reading ...



*Academic Duty*  
by Donald Kennedy



*The Firecracker Boys: H-Bombs, Inupiat Eskimos, and the Roots of the Environmental Movement*  
by Dan O'Neill

## ... and links

American Association of University Professors  
[www.aaup.org/aaup/](http://www.aaup.org/aaup/)

Association of American Colleges and Universities  
[www.aacu.org](http://www.aacu.org)

University of Alaska Board of Regents policies on academic freedom, see chapter 04.04.010  
[www.alaska.edu/bor/policy-regulations/](http://www.alaska.edu/bor/policy-regulations/)

UAF Faculty Senate policy on academic freedom  
[www.uaf.edu/files/uafgov/fspolicy\\_acadfree.html](http://www.uaf.edu/files/uafgov/fspolicy_acadfree.html)

Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities standards for academic freedom  
[www.nwccu.org/Standards%20and%20Policies/Eligibility%20Requirements/Eligibility%20Requirements.htm](http://www.nwccu.org/Standards%20and%20Policies/Eligibility%20Requirements/Eligibility%20Requirements.htm)



By Brooke Sheridan



# The Future of Alaska Food

*There is a difference between being fed and being nourished — both fill the belly, but only one sustains the body. In many remote Alaska villages, getting healthy food is difficult, uncertain and expensive.*

It's not much of an overstatement to say villagers don't always know where the next season's meals will come from. Consider fishing: each year there is the possibility that the salmon fishery on the Yukon River might be closed. When that happens, villagers along the river catch fewer fish, which increases the need to bring in a moose for a fresh meat source. Weather and seasonal variations, however, have altered the behavior and distribution of moose. They no longer congregate reliably near the river, forcing hunters to travel further inland by four-wheeler or snow machine, which can be prohibitively expensive due to fuel costs.

There are lean hunting seasons when villagers are often left with only one option: the local store. Fresh foods are hard to find in village stores, and what remains are usually highly processed boxed and canned goods with little nutrient value. The imminent threat is not starvation, but clinical malnutrition. The prevalence of food-related health problems such as type II diabetes, obesity and heart disease are at an unprecedented high in many villages.

"Villages are vulnerable right now," says Craig Gerlach, professor of anthropology, and many villagers "are malnourished, especially where access to country foods is limited."

Part of his solution: bring back the old-style kitchen garden, now familiar mostly to community elders, and turn it into a larger, village-shared, village-run garden. Sounds easy enough, but as any first-time gardener knows, the first few years establishing a garden are incredibly labor-intensive, and the process is not necessarily intuitive — especially when gardening has been effectively out of fashion for two or more generations.

Sustainability is a key goal in Gerlach's work, a collaborative effort that includes the development of long-term, community gardens in many remote Alaska Native villages. Gerlach is a professor in UAF's Center for Cross-Cultural Studies, and has faculty research appointments in the Engineering, Science and Technology Experiment Station and the Institute of Arctic Biology. He also works closely with colleagues in the School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences. The projects are integrated under the social vulnerability study of Alaska's rural communities, the Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy, and various village-supported farming and gardening initiatives.

From people whose food-procurement traditions hinge on hunting and fishing, the argument frequently arises that "we're hunters, not farmers." But Gerlach emphasizes the difference between agriculture as a way of life and gardening as a supplement to the traditional, meat-based diet. Villagers are witnessing the positive effects of maintaining community gardens, and are beginning to understand their power to augment lean hunting years on their own, without outside help. The term villagers use is not "sustainability," but "self-reliance" — the power of individuals to contribute to the long-term health of their communities.

A major factor in determining the success of the gardens is, of course, Alaska's climate. "The growing season is short," says Gerlach, "but incredibly productive." The further north, the shorter the season, but high tunnels (see *Aurora*, spring 2010) and greenhouses can artificially extend the growing season.



UAF alumna in this story: Heidi Rader, '06



The question Gerlach says he gets most often is not “Why?” but “How do we start?” He often directs villages in the Tanana Chiefs Conference to Heidi Rader, who works for UAF’s Cooperative Extension Service as a TCC tribes extension educator. Rader has been invited to 21 of the 37 villages in the region, where, among other things, she has introduced different types of mulches and shelters to village gardeners.

“I’ll bring out infrared-transmitting plastic mulch, which heats up the soil and blocks weeds, or frost cloth, which is kind of like a blanket for plants but it lets in light and water,” Rader says. “Season extension can be a little more high maintenance because you have to find another way to water [than from rainfall], which can be an issue for villages without running water.”

Gerlach emphasizes that gardens are not meant to replace subsistence, but to improve food security with supplementary, even alternative food resources. The success of fishing and the hunt varies from season to season, and it’s important for people to be able to get other sources of fresh food. It’s more cost-effective than relying on the store, and it contributes to the health of the individual and the overall health of the community.

Sustainability is not a goal specifically for remote villages. The idea of “locavorism,” or the consumption of locally produced goods, is gaining popularity in many parts of the country. Alaskans, however, face a unique challenge, when compared with models of food production in the rest of the country, in the form of shorter growing seasons. Gerlach has studied farming in Sweden, and notes that, given parallels in the two ecosystems, some Swedish systems could be applied to sustainable food production in Alaska.

Sweden does have more integrated subsidy and regulatory systems. Alaska efforts to produce and distribute locally raised foods face stumbling blocks in the forms of economics, policy and U.S. Department of Agriculture regulations, which are based

on Outside models of agriculture, many of which can’t be applied in Alaska. Also, Alaska has a much smaller population and less infrastructure for moving goods cheaply and efficiently. Some individual growers are finding small success in an unofficial barter system, but in order to establish a market dominated by locally produced food, growers need to find effective methods to process and distribute their products, and pioneer methods that will adhere to regulations without costing growers more than they’ll eventually earn. Prospects are improving, however: the USDA is beginning to recognize the need for a separate set of regulations specifically for Alaska. Gerlach believes this change will become evident in the next few years.

Regulations and other logistics aside, the most crucial elements in creating a sustainable food culture in Alaska are Alaskans themselves. Enthusiastic community leaders, in particular, are instrumental in generating local awareness and support for new ways of growing, eating and buying food. In rural Alaska, many villagers are taking the initiative in promoting local sustainability by writing grants, working with agricultural research services and cultivating their own expertise in gardening.

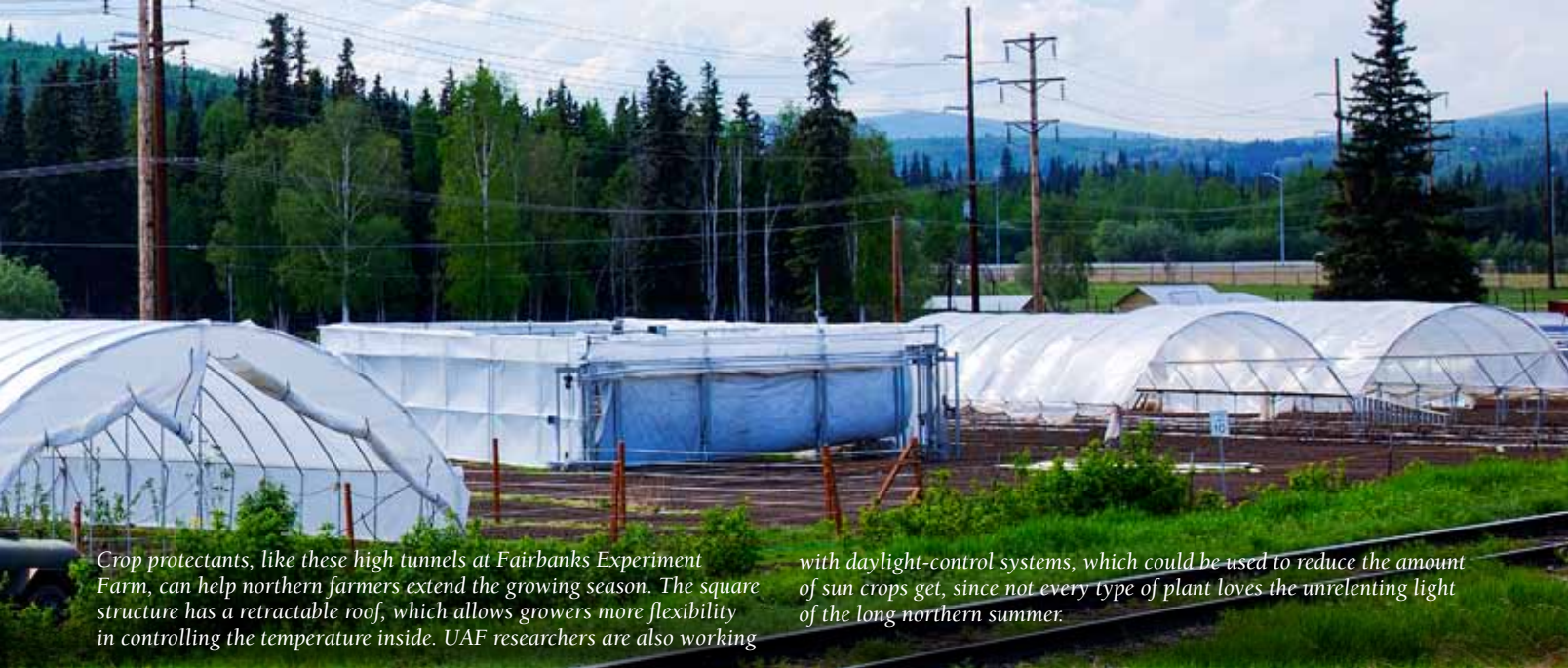
“Success will come from the bottom up,” says Gerlach, “not the top down.” The communities themselves are the most important elements of the process. “We have to modify Lower 48 models of gardening to the specifics of Alaska ecosystems. It will take local solutions and a lot of innovation.

“I think we well know what does not work here, but we are still thinking through and researching what will work here, what will allow Alaska growers to feed Alaska’s population.”



*Brooke Sheridan, '10, lives, writes, bakes bread and plays guitar in a cabin in the woods.*





Crop protectants, like these high tunnels at Fairbanks Experiment Farm, can help northern farmers extend the growing season. The square structure has a retractable roof, which allows growers more flexibility in controlling the temperature inside. UAF researchers are also working

with daylight-control systems, which could be used to reduce the amount of sun crops get, since not every type of plant loves the unremitting light of the long northern summer.

# Local livestock: It's what's for dinner

“Healthy food and healthy farm economies” — this is what Craig Gerlach and Milan Shipka have in mind when discussing raising livestock in Alaska. Alaskans import more than 85 percent of the milk and red meat they consume. There are relatively few farms and farmers in Alaska, but developing infrastructure and marketing strategies can help farmers in Alaska meet the state's needs.

The same problems that are inspiring the rebirth of the community garden — unpredictable hunting and fishing seasons, lack of availability of affordable fresh food — are inspiring a new generation of farmers in Alaska. Gerlach and Shipka believe that raising livestock in Alaska for Alaskans should be fostered as an integral part of food security. As with gardening, new models of farming and raising livestock must be developed for Alaska's high-latitude conditions.

Alaska farmers are currently raising reindeer, elk, yak, cattle, sheep, goats, poultry, waterfowl and, more recently, bison. However, relatively few farms and ranches are producing meat on a commercially viable scale for local markets and in-state consumption.

Wild game has long been considered the best or only source of red meat. But Alaska's changing ecosystems mean wild game can't be relied on. Sustainable domestic livestock-production systems must be created, Gerlach and Shipka contend.

The high-latitude agriculture group and others in the School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences are working with Alaska farmers and policy makers to develop systems so local producers can provide steady, healthy and dependable food supplies for a growing population.



 Learn more about Alaska's food supplies at [www.uaf.edu/aurora/](http://www.uaf.edu/aurora/).



# Young at art

Story and photos by Andrew Cassel

*UAF alumnus in this story: Todd Sherman, '79*





Inspiration is the bridge between an object in the real world and the piece of art it can become. Some may see, say, a simple ball of wire, but an artist's inspiration can change that ball into a sculpture.

Each summer the Visual Art Academy teaches students in the sixth to 12th grades how to fan the spark of an idea into the blaze of inspiration needed to create a piece of art.

Professor Todd Sherman has taught many of the nearly 400 students who have attended the academy over the last six years. "The best way to teach inspiration," Sherman says, "is to show them things that have inspired me."

Sherman says a roadblock to artistic inspiration is the world around us. At the academy students leave behind the

distractions of 21st-century life and immerse themselves in an environment of creativity. Professional artists surround them, and they are exposed to images unlike anything they may have seen before.

Academy members then begin to make their own works. Ryan Burke, who was 14 when he participated in the academy last summer, says finishing a piece of artwork "felt good because I made it with my own two hands."

Sherman says that when students see a peer painting or sculpting or carving, that student realizes that the potential to create beauty lives inside them. "I learned that no idea is a bad one," Burke says. "The other [students] had a lot of interesting and different projects."





Sherman doesn't consider himself separated from the creative process while he is leading the classes. "Teaching art is making art," he says, "and making art is about sharing ideas." Sherman says that while this process can be slow at first, "the more they create the more ideas they will get."

Those ideas, Burke adds, are all around us. He says the experience helped him realize that ideas "come from your imagination, others and your surroundings." Isaac Newton got an idea from his surroundings: he wondered why an apple fell the way it did. That idea changed science.

Burke and the other students learned how to follow an idea from inspiration to realization. Any of them now have the power to change the way we think about the world and ourselves.



*Since he moved to Alaska, Andrew Cassel has been a radio DJ, TV news anchor, fish processor, movie theater manager, friend, lover and acclaimed actor. A senior theatre major, Andrew is the multimedia coordinator for UAF Marketing and Communications.*



See more of the academy at  
[www.uaf.edu/aurora/](http://www.uaf.edu/aurora/).

*The teachers and the taught make art side by side. A student-crafted bird perches to the left, above, while a wire figure made by instructor Kate Schroeder surveys the room.*

*Opposite: Ryan Burke gets wrapped up in his next art project to take home: a life-size body cast. Now, his mom wonders, where are they going to keep it?*





AURORA

# “Man with messy hair”

By Nancy Tarnai

If you can imagine something as slight as a niche hidden in the enormous expanse of Alaska, then watch Jerry Lipka at work, and it's clear he's found his.

“The best part of my job is I'm still learning,” he beams. “It's an extraordinary position to be in, to try to create a new math curriculum and work with school districts for the betterment of kids. This is a fantastic opportunity.”

For 30 years, Lipka has collaborated with Yup'ik teachers and elders to transform traditional knowledge into math skills in the classroom. Lipka, principal investigator for UAF's Math in a Cultural Context and professor of education, is painstakingly careful about his research and publications, which incorporate Yup'ik knowledge into math curricula.

Born and raised in New York City, Lipka grew up ingrained with a sense of fairness and equity from an early age.

“My whole career is wrapped around that very core element,” he says. “I remember always feeling like that.”

As a youth he worked as a busboy in the Catskills, sold hats at the World's Fair and hawked balloons on the boardwalk at the Democratic Convention in Atlantic City.

Lipka earned a master's degree in business at City College of New York, but the world of business was a bad match, and he switched to education. It was 1967, a time of conflict and change, when communities started to seek more control of their schools.

“The intrigue of politics, schooling and power came to me at the very start of my teaching career,”

Lipka says. Yet it was the human dimensions of teaching that interested him the most.

He taught third grade in an experimental, locally controlled district in Harlem; he was the students' third teacher that year. He made a point

of visiting parents in their homes, giving them encouraging messages about what their children were doing in school. Meeting the families, he says, was one of his best teaching experiences.

At the time, he attended a workshop led by Caleb Gattegno, who popularized the use of Cuisenaire rods to teach math concepts. (Cuisenaire rods are colored rods of varying lengths from 1 – 10 cm.) Lipka found them an excellent way to teach multiplicative structures, introduce the concept of variables and encourage flexible thinking. Later, he applied the Cuisenaire approach in his work blending Yup'ik math concepts with Western methods.

“The very foundation of our mathematical approach is built on spatial relationships, using body proportions to measure,” Lipka says. “I used the rods yesterday in my office. They definitely influenced my thinking as I develop materials today.”

After earning a doctorate at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Lipka joined UAF's Cross-Cultural Education Development Project in 1981. The program's purpose was to increase the number of teachers in Alaska, particularly indigenous teachers. High turnover rates then, like now, can hurt the education process in the long run.

Lipka worked in Southwest Alaska, in the villages surrounding Dillingham, where he and his wife and children lived for 11 years.

“I was met with openness,” Lipka says. “The people adopted me and my family and always had a place for us. It was a very hospitable place.”

His focus was changing the schools to reflect the knowledge of local communities. In the

process he met with elders who spoke only their native language and who communicated with Lipka through bilingual aides. “I learned a tremendous amount from those meetings,” Lipka says. “Inviting the elders was the best thing we've ever done.”



UAF alumni in this story: Dora Andrew-Ihrke, '83; Annie Blue, '09, honorary degree; Evelyn Yanez, '84

He recognized immediately the wealth of knowledge the elders held. Moreover, they were willing to share. Their rich stories, though entertaining, subtly instilled mathematical concepts in everyday practices: how to read the life of a tree, how to identify one's location and how to navigate through the wilderness.

Another lesson the elders passed on was the role of social relationships and the critical importance of being of one mind. Elder Henry Alakayak didn't speak much English, and Lipka spoke even less Yup'ik, but they became very close. "From Henry I learned about relationships and harmony," Lipka says. "I got the importance of a group moving in the same direction if you want to accomplish something."

He says the elders told him they wanted to reveal what was once hidden. He credits Yup'ik elders and teachers with giving him invaluable insights as they developed the math curricula and professional development workshops. Foremost among his teachers is renowned storyteller Annie Blue, now well into her 90s and still sharing stories of her people's traditions whenever Lipka asks.

"That the elders trusted us with their knowledge is what made this work," he says.

Two of the teachers, consultant Evelyn Yanez and adjunct faculty member Dora Andrew-Ihrke, have worked with Lipka from the beginning of the project. "If we hadn't gotten the knowledge from the elders we would have lost so much," Yanez says. "It was the right time with the right people."

Lipka doesn't present himself as the big man or the boss, Yanez says. "He acts like us. He's so much a part of us that some of our kids call him Uncle Jerry."

In fact, Lipka received a new name, "Angutekegetaar" (the very good man), in a Yup'ik naming ceremony. They gave him

a second name, too, a lighthearted one that translates to "man with messy hair."

"If it weren't for Jerry I don't think I would call myself Yup'ik, a real person," Yanez says. "Because of Jerry I became proud of who I am. I learned more about who I was."

Andrew-Ihrke says Lipka made it possible to focus on things some Yup'ik had taken for granted. Through working with him she gained pride in her culture, something she did not have growing up.

Lipka's meetings and workshops have a pattern, she says. "We observe, learn, try, and we go on from there in the traditional manner. I really like that. Thank you, Jerry."



*Nancy Tarnai is a 1980 Auburn University journalism graduate who has vacillated between newspaper reporting and public relations around the U.S. for the past 30 years. Currently the public information officer for the School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences, she has found the perfect job because there is something new to learn every day.*



Listen to Lipka speak with Native elders at fish camp at [www.uaf.edu/aurora/](http://www.uaf.edu/aurora/).

*Dora Andrew-Ihrke, Evelyn Yanez and Jerry Lipka build community and collaboration into the Math in a Cultural Context program. Yanez (center), tells a story about an elder who was dying and asked to speak to Yanez on one of her last days. "She told me to tell Jerry hello and to tell him she enjoyed working with him and us," Yanez says. "She was always so thankful for what we were doing."*





# “Everything builds character”

By Nick Steyn

Before Jordan Hendry was a Stanley Cup-winning Chicago Blackhawk, he played defense for the Alaska Nanooks. Before the fame and riches, he did manual labor around the Fairbanks campus. He'd be the first to tell you that it's all a natural progression.

“I used to shovel snow and cut grass and all that other stuff they do that I really didn't like doing,” Hendry says. “Everything builds character. You work hard when you're younger to make you the man you want to be.”

That man is now a professional defender who signed a \$600,000 contract extension in September to play his fourth season with the Blackhawks. He earned the payday after moving from the team's seventh defender to a role in its starting line last season.

The Blackhawks went on to defeat the Philadelphia Flyers in six games, and Hendry got the chance to hoist the coveted cup high above his head.

“When you're growing up, you always want to win the Stanley Cup,” Hendry says. “Nothing changes this year. We don't want to disappoint anyone. We want to repeat and win the cup every year.”

Hendry appeared in a career-high 43 games and contributed eight points (two goals, six assists) on offense.

Hendry skated for the Nanooks from 2002 – 2006 and finished his collegiate career with 11 goals and 25 assists in



Photo courtesy of the Chicago Blackhawks.

Jordan Hendry became the second UAF hockey player to hoist the Stanley Cup when he was part of the winning 2010 Chicago Blackhawks team. Former Nanook Shawn Chambers skated for the New Jersey Devils when they won in 1995 and the Dallas Stars when they won in 1999.

112 total games, including a 14-point season as a senior.

“It's a great hockey program to be a part of, and it's where you learn to play like a professional hockey player,” Hendry says. “College hockey is a fast-paced game, and it made me ready to make the jump to pro.”

After UAF, he signed undrafted with the Norfolk Admirals, the Blackhawks' farm team, in March 2006, and made his professional debut at the end of the 2005 – 2006 season.

The summer that followed proved a busy but fruitful one for Hendry. In July 2006, he signed a two-year contract with the parent club; a month later he finished his bachelor's degree in business administration.

He made his NHL debut in January 2008, the sixth former UAF player to make it to North America's premier hockey league. After appearing in 40 games, Hendry signed another two-year contract.

Hendry has remained a presence at UAF and in the Fairbanks community throughout the past four years. He appears regularly on campus, at the rink and in the varsity weight room, and he recently bought a house in town.

“I think it’s great doing events at UAF. I get to see all these kids come out here. I sign the autographs and they get big smiles on their faces. It means a lot. I think it’s important for guys that used to play here to stay in touch with the team and the school they used to play at,” Hendry says.

### Still a Nanook fan

Hendry remains a fan of Nanook hockey.

“I like following these guys because they really are an exciting team,” Hendry says. “I listen to the games on the Internet. When there’s arguments between the former college hockey



UAF photo by Jamie Roland.

Hendry greets long-time friends and young fans at a meet-and-greet in Fairbanks. Nanook team physician Dr. Cary Keller (left, above) reconstructed Hendry’s knee after he injured it in a game against UAA in 2004.

players and the junior hockey players in our locker room, I brag about UAF.”

UAF and the Alaska hockey program have good reason to brag about Hendry, too. He’s a prime example for current and future Nanooks of what hard work and dedication on and off the ice can lead to.

Beyond the glitz and glory of being a professional athlete and a newly crowned Stanley Cup champion, Hendry is an educated, humble and well-rounded person. In addition to earning his BBA, he participated in the Student Investment Fund.

“Jordan is a role model for all student-athletes,” says Alaska’s head coach Dallas Ferguson. “He has always conducted himself with such class and professionalism.”

“His success comes as no surprise to me or anyone who knows him. Whether

it is in the classroom, on the ice or in the game of life, Jordan always did things the proper way. We are proud to call him a Nanook and wish him continued success in his career.”



Nick Steyn, a student intern with the Athletics Department, grew up in New Jersey, where he developed his sense of style and dance. He has a tattoo of himself punching a grizzly bear in the face based on actual events. On quieter days, he drinks cheap beer and writes love poetry.



UAF photo by Jamie Roland.

### 2010 – 2011 UAF Alumni Association Board of Directors

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[www.uaf.edu/alumni/](http://www.uaf.edu/alumni/)

## 1940s



**Bob Snider, '49,** and Luz Infante were married in September 2010. Bob dropped out of Capital University in 1942 to join the Army Air Corps. After

World War II he completed his degree at UAF while working for the U.S. Weather Bureau in Fairbanks. He did graduate study at the University of Chicago and the University of Michigan, and retired in 1989 as Michigan-area manager for the National Weather Service. His bride is a retired chemical engineer holding degrees from la Universidad de San Marcos in Peru and from Rutgers University. The couple lives in Ann Arbor, Mich.

## 1950s



**Jack Townshend, '55,** a long-time USGS geophysicist, was honored with the naming of a 46-acre research site on the Fairbanks campus. The Jack Townshend College International Geophysical Observatory is a network of eight state-of-the-art facilities that collect geomagnetic, seismic and geophysical data.

## 1960s

**Jim McCaslin Brown, '60, '63,** retired from Alaska Pacific University at the end of June 2010 after being conferred with the title of emeritus professor of environmental geology. He had a 50-year career as a geologist, was recently advanced to senior fellow of the Geological Society of America and was awarded the Legion of Honor with the Society of Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration.

## 1980s

**John Burns, '82,** was named Alaska's new attorney general in December 2010.

**John Carter, '85,** was promoted to major within the Alaska State Defense Force.

**Mari Høe-Raitto, '86,** and **Carol Kaynor, '10,** reprinted their book, *Skijor With Your Dog*, for the fourth time.



**Charissa Niedzwiecki, '86,** received a Faculty of the Month award in March 2010 from the National Residence Hall Honorary Association at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, where she has been teaching for the past 16 years.

**Jeff Roach, '87,** has accepted the position of northern region planning manager with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. His experience with DOT&PF planning includes serving as the northern area planner, the Fairbanks Metropolitan Area Transportation planner and most recently the aviation planner. As the northern region planning manager he is responsible for the northern region's capital improvement program for both highways and aviation, and for overseeing special planning studies and regional transportation plans.



**John Smelcer, '86, '87,** is an award-winning author of more than 40 books published in a wide range of interests. Besides his many novels and poetry collections, he has published books in history, mythology, anthropology, archaeology and linguistics, as well as anthologies, plays, screenplays and children's picture books. His short stories, poems, interviews and essays appear in more than 400 magazines and journals worldwide. Visit his website at [www.johnsmelcer.com](http://www.johnsmelcer.com).

## 1990s

**Wayne Don, '94, '04,** was selected as a 2011 Marshall Memorial Fellow. The MMF program, part of the German Marshall Fund of the United States, educates emerging American and European leaders on the transatlantic relationship and encourages them to collaborate on a range of international and domestic policy challenges. American fellows spend 24 days traveling to five cities across Europe, learning about the institutions and people that drive Europe's cities, regions, countries, and multilateral systems through meetings with local counterparts.

**Sanjay A. Naidu Kumar Sr., '91, '95,** received his MD from the University of Sint Eustatius School of Medicine in New York City in 2010 after completing his hospital clerkships in Yakima, Wash. He has been married for eight years to Radha Naidu Kumar and they have a four-year-old son, Sanjay II. While at UAF, "I had a KSUA radio

## President's column

By **Randy Pitney, '72**

Supporting UAF is part of our mission statement. It is my pleasure to report that UAFAA has continued our quest to support the university by remaining very active in advocating for UAF to the legislature. Finally, after 10 years, UAF will have a Life Sciences Facility on West Ridge. The funding is a reality for the facility after the general obligation bond passed resoundingly last fall. Groundbreaking will be this spring because of a very proactive administration. Spring 2014 will see researchers move in and students will start attending classes in the facility that fall.

The Life Sciences Facility will benefit not just UAF but the entire state of Alaska. It will greatly impact our ability to recruit and retain not only world-renowned professors, but also the most talented students. It most certainly will add to UAF's ability to obtain more grant monies too.

With another winter behind us and "in the books," I know most of you look forward to the changes spring brings. Commencement brings great changes for our graduates. We congratulate all of them for following through on their dreams and goals. Good job to our graduates for sticking to their plans and timelines, which at times must have seemed overwhelming with many sacrifices from you and family and friends.

Change also comes to your alumni board as some board members term out, and we welcome their replacements. I am terming out, so I thank all of you for a rewarding experience serving as your president this past year. Again, thanks to all of you for your support.



talk show in 2004, *The Sanjay Kumar Show*, which also aired via the Internet. Some memorable guests were then Chancellor Marshall Lind, the Fairbanks chief of police, nurse Erda Fuller of the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital telling of charitable work in Iraq/Afghanistan, and Mrs. Kowalik (wife of UAF's Zygmunt Kowalik) discussing her plight as a child in the train as a WWII Holocaust survivor."



**Charles Russell, '92**, returned from a 16-month voluntary deployment to Iraq as a USDA Provincial Reconstruction Team agriculture advisor last June. He lives in suburban Columbus, was raised in Cleveland, and graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Superior and UAF. While in Iraq, Charles worked to establish a nongovernmental organization that is providing farmers with access to new technologies, equipment and low-cost credit. In recognition of his efforts, the U.S. Department of State presented him with a meritorious honor award.

**Jeremy Vermilyea, '92** — "After three years of running my own law office, I reluctantly decided to close my business, and I took a position with Bullivant Houser Bailey last year. It's a good fit, because I needed more support for my practice, and Bullivant needed an attorney with an established construction-law practice. Bullivant is a well-respected West Coast law firm with more than 150 attorneys in six cities in four states. My practice is still focused on representing commercial construction contractors, including

building contractors, road and bridge builders, rail contractors and heavy/civil contractors. I have an active construction practice in five states, including Alaska. I was just named one of Oregon's 2010 'Super Lawyers.' I am still based in Portland where I live with my wife, Kristin. Kristin is now working with me as a paralegal at Bullivant. I continue to be active and interested in UAF and recently attended the UAFAA's reception in Oregon, where a number of UAF grads reside. I'm a former board member and president of the association."



**Andrew Nicholas, '93**, a researcher in the Solar Physics Branch of the Space Sciences Division of the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D.C., received the 2009 Dr. Delores M. Etter Top Scientists and Engineers of the Year Award. Nicholas earned his master of science degree in space physics in 1993 at UAF under the guidance of John Craven, professor emeritus of physics at the Geophysical Institute. Andrew was given the award in July 2010 for overcoming engineering challenges encountered in space-flight sensor development. According to an NRL announcement, his creative and effective problem solving and leadership "allowed him to conceive and deploy state-of-the-art sensors with high scientific return."

**Ken Southerland, '93**, is a human resources manager for SEALASKA Native Corp.

**Mark Myers, '94**, has served as UAF's vice chancellor for research since January. Previously he worked as the Alaska Gasline Inducement Act coordinator for the state of Alaska and prior to that he was the director of the U.S. Geological Survey.

**Stephen Rice, '95, '96** — "Not too many expect to see a university banner above an NCO's desk and even less expect to see Alaska."



**Christy Terry, '95**, was hired as the Seward dock operations manager for the Alaska Railroad Corp. in November 2010.

**Gwen Blackburn, '96**, was hired as a producer for News 8 Austin in November 2010. "I started as the station was going through a major transition (new look and name). News 8 Austin officially became YNN — Your News Now — Jan. 10. I am very

proud and excited to be a part of the only 24-hours news station in Central Texas. I actually started my career in Fairbanks at KTUV at the receptionist desk and worked my way up to morning anchor/reporter. It was at that time I was given the honor to interview Rosa Parks. It is the highlight of my career. I am truly blessed to still be doing what I love!" See excerpts from Gwen's Rosa Parks interview at [www.youtube.com/user/GwendolynBlackburn/](http://www.youtube.com/user/GwendolynBlackburn/).



**Cam Wohlford, '97** — "Not to toot my horn, but I had the honor of being nominated and being a finalist for Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year for the entire nation through the International Fire Chiefs Association in August. I would like to encourage UAF employees and alumni to volunteer whether in the fire service or other [organizations]."

**Peter Dulgar, '98**, received his PhD from the University of Otago in New Zealand in August 2010.

**Ryan Tilbury, '99, '04, '10**, was appointed to the Alaska Veterans Advisory Council in December 2010. He is a transportation operations officer in the U.S. Air Force Reserve and, since 2004, has worked as a school counselor for the Yukon-Koyukuk School District.



UAF photo by Todd Paris.

## 2000s

**Adrienne Tveit, '01**, graduated from Washington State University in 2007 with a doctor of pharmacy degree. After that she attended the pharmacy residency program with the Alaska Native Medical Center, and she currently works at the Southcentral Foundation in Anchorage.

**Britt Arnesen, '02**, toured for her debut CD, *Continental Divide*, through Washington and Montana last summer/fall.



**Mary Kreta, '03**, former Nanook women's basketball player, is an admissions counselor at UAF.

**Grace Reed, '03**, is an Oregon author of two books, with a third book coming out soon. She specializes in helping people "negotiate their shadows," such as conflict, stress, confusion and addiction.

**Christopher Johnston, '04**, is a design engineer for the State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.

**Jonathan Huff, '05**, owns Alaska Universal Productions, an audio/visual multimedia company in Interior Alaska.

**Brad Oleson, '05**, helped his Caja Laboral Vitoria basketball team win the title in Spain's ACB League in 2010.

**Megan Damario, '06**, received a CASE Rising Star Award for District VIII in February. The award honors individuals with 3 – 5 years' experience in the advancement profession of philanthropy.

**Brian Jones, '07**, is a lead software programmer in a newly formed application tech company near Osaka, Japan.

**Lucy Avinnaq Boyd, '08**, is a strategy analyst for NANA Development Corp. in Lakewood, Colo.

**Jamie Beyerle, '09**, won gold and bronze medals in the World Cup Final in Germany in November 2010. Beyerle placed first in smallbore rifle and third in air rifle. She hopes to participate in the 2012 Olympics.

**Nelson Carpluk, '09**, received the Alyeska MBA fellowship grant for 2009 – 2010. The grant supports Alaska Native students who pursue their MBA degree. He then applied for and was accepted into the Alyeska Summer Intern Program, working in Anchorage as a business analyst intern in the summer of 2010. Read more at [alyeska-pipeline.com/Inthenews/LatestNews/2010/October/Nelson/NelsonCarpluk.html](http://alyeska-pipeline.com/Inthenews/LatestNews/2010/October/Nelson/NelsonCarpluk.html).

**Ashley Cowger, '09**, won the Autumn House Press Fiction Prize for 2010. Her winning manuscript, the short story collection *Peter Never Came*, will be published in 2011.

**James Harris, '09**, in collaboration with Nate Liederbach, had *Of a Monster Child: An Anthology of Creative Writing Relationships*, published by Lost Horse Press in February.



UAF photo by Todd Paris.

**Colin Matteson, '10**, led his German Cottbus White Devils team to victory in the championship game in his rookie pro season. He now plays for the Ansett Basketball Club in Australia.

## Matriculates

**Helga Wilm** was honored with the dedication of the park between the Geophysical Institute and the Arctic Health buildings on West Ridge of the UAF campus as "Helga's Park." She retired as executive officer emerita in 2009 after 40 years at UAF.

## In memoriam

**Carl Bradford Brooks, Matric.**, Nov. 27, 2010, Fairbanks

**Melanie A. Burtis, former Northwest Campus faculty member**, Dec. 15, 2010, Nome

**Mary K. Carie, '93, '96, '99**, Jan. 12, Fairbanks

**Sylvia Mina Carlsson, '68**, Jan. 23, Anchorage

**Selwyn George Carrol, '70**, Dec. 21, 2010, Hampton, S.C.

**Paul William Caton, '60**, Oct. 24, 2010, Newport, Wash.

**Douglas B. Colp, '40**, Dec. 24, 2010, Fairbanks

**Pat Cook, Matric.**, Dec. 20, 2010, Fairbanks

**Joe M. Doblar, '69**, Oct. 15, 2010, Sioux Falls, S.D.

**Kevin Reade Engle, '87**, and GI staff member, Jan. 27, Fairbanks

**Laura L. Fenton, former staff member**, Feb. 5, Fairbanks

**Dennis Leroy Goff, '73**, Nov. 3, 2010, Waikoloa, Hawaii

**Steve W. Hackett, '77**, Feb. 26, Anchorage

**John M. Haines, '83 honorary degree**, March 2, Fairbanks

**Bill G. Hand, Matric.**, Nov. 30, 2010, Homer

**John M. Herring, '67**, Jan. 30, Anchorage

**Elaine M. Jacobson, '57, '62**, Nov. 29, 2010, Fairbanks

**Bernard H. Koebbe II, '79**, Feb. 4, Uncasville, Conn.

**Timothy Earl Krupa, '84**, Nov. 29, 2010, Fairbanks

**Ronald D. Newman, Matric.**, Dec. 5, 2010, Spokane, Wash.

**Lenora Alene Pepin, Matric.**, Nov. 27, 2010, Soldotna

**Andrea Simone Ruby, '09**, Dec. 21, 2010, Dillingham

**Navin K. Sharma, '79, '81**, Dec. 24, 2010, Portland, Ore.

**William G. Stroecker, '42**, Nov. 8, 2010, Fairbanks

**John H. Witter, '74, '78**, Jan. 13, Fairbanks



Got job changes, family changes, awards to brag about, or do you want to become a member of your alumni association? Visit [www.uaf.edu/alumni/](http://www.uaf.edu/alumni/) to stay connected. Tell us your good news and we will publish it in the next issue of *Aurora* or the *Alumnus* newsletter. Send photos, too!

**Elaine Woodruff, '69**, Nov. 22, 2010, Golden, Colo.

*From Joe Hayes, executive director of the UAF Alumni Association:*



We are sad to inform you we have lost a member of the alumni association board of directors and our alumni family, Kathryn Elaine Woodruff, of Golden, Colo.

Elaine was elected to the alumni board in 2006 and re-elected in 2009. She served half of her second three-year term as an at-large board member. She graduated from Our Lady of the Lake College in San Antonio, earned her MFA from UAF and then received her PhD from the University of Denver. She was a professor of English at Colorado Christian University.

She is survived by her husband, Thomas Woodruff, sons David and Robert, Robert's wife Karla, and grandson Carlos.

## Join the UAF Alumni Association!



## Benefits of membership

**UAF Alumnus newsletter**

**Discounts at:**

- Nanook sports events
- Theatre UAF
- Bookstore
- UA Museum of the North
- Large Animal Research Station



**Access to:**

- Outdoor Adventures student rates
- Wood Center, including the Pub, bowling alley, showers and laundry facility
- University libraries on all campuses
- Career Services counseling and job-search assistance programs
- Nonresident tuition waiver eligibility for students who are children of alumni; scholarship eligibility for UAF students who are children and/or grandchildren of alumni
- UAF alumni merchandise
- Special travel opportunities and discounts for active alumni
- Health and auto insurance and credit card offers exclusively for alumni through our affinity partnerships

For a complete list of benefits, visit [www.uaf.edu/alumni/](http://www.uaf.edu/alumni/).

## Membership form

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last, first, MI)

Spouse a UAF alum? Y or N

**Mailing address** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(City, state, zip/postal code and country if not U.S.)

**Class year** \_\_\_\_\_ **Major** \_\_\_\_\_

**or dates attended UAF** \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership options** (check one)

- \$35 annual (single)       \$95 for three years (single)  
 \$45 annual (couple)       \$125 for three years (couple)  
 \$210 life installments (single), annual payment for 5 years  
 \$250 life installments (couple), annual payment for 5 years

Call for special rates for alumni who have graduated within the past 5 years: 474-7581 or 800-770-ALUM.

**Payment enclosed** (check type)

Money order     Check     Credit card (circle type) MasterCard or Visa

**Card number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Exp. date** \_\_\_\_\_ **V-code** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

Complete and mail to: UAF Alumni Association, P.O. Box 750126, Fairbanks, AK 99775; visit [www.uaf.edu/alumni/](http://www.uaf.edu/alumni/); or call 474-7581 or 800-770-ALUM.

UAF photos by Todd Paris, except Theatre UAF image — UAF photo by Maureen McCombs; Wood Center photo © Lester Lefkowitz.

**athletics**

MAY 31 – JUNE 24  
S.M.A.R.T. Academy

JULY 6 – AUG. 17  
Recreational Camp



**arts**

APRIL 14 – 16  
Jazz Festival – in memory of **Bill Stroecker**, '59, featuring the U.S. Army Blues



APRIL 22  
Choir of the North concert



APRIL 22 – MAY 1  
Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale* – Theatre UAF

APRIL 30  
"An Evening of Jazz" – University Chorus concert

JUNE 6 – 17  
Visual Art Academy



UAF photo by Andrew Cassel.

**special events**

April 9  
Chocolate Bash  
Science Potpourri  
April 21 – 23  
SpringFest  
May 15  
Commencement



**exhibitions**

May through December  
UA Museum of the North special exhibit – "Switch On"

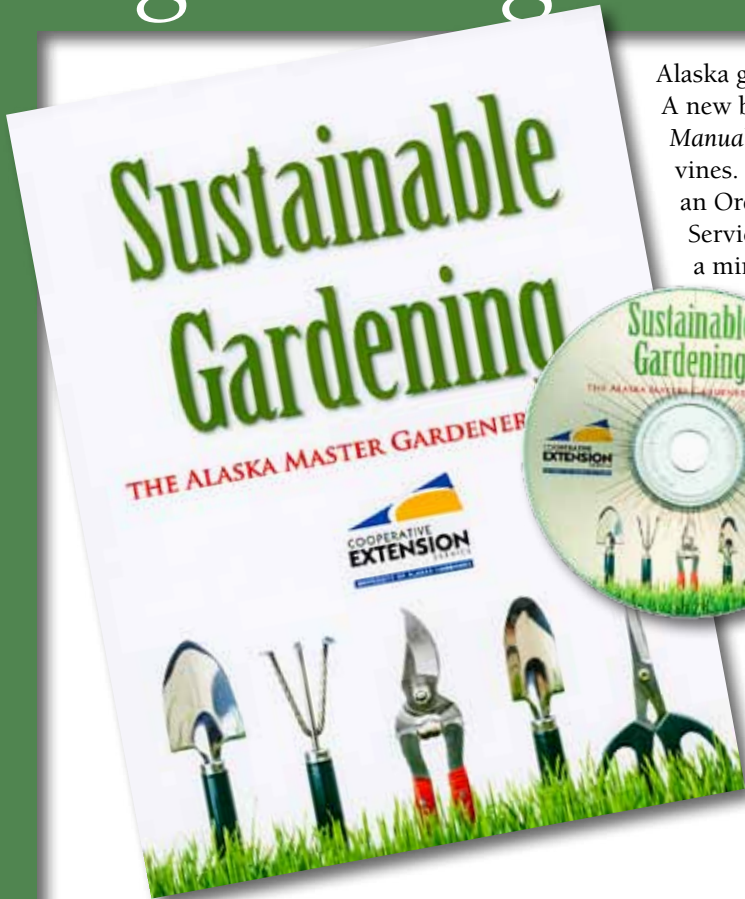


UAF photo by Maureen McCombs.



For more events, visit [www.uaf.edu/events/](http://www.uaf.edu/events/).

# A guide to gettin' down and dirty



Alaska gardeners grow their greenery under unique conditions. A new book, *Sustainable Gardening: The Alaska Master Gardener Manual*, will help them get the most out of their veggies and vines. The comprehensive gardening manual was adapted from an Oregon State University publication by Cooperative Extension Service agents. It emphasizes a holistic approach that promotes a minimal input of labor, water, fertilizer and pesticides while building the soil into a healthy living system. Topics include soils and fertilizers, propagation, berry crops, pruning, composting, flowers, greenhouses and season extenders, lawns, plant diseases, pesticides, and integrated pest management.

The 482-page manual sells for \$40 and is available as a CD for \$10. Order copies through Extension offices or call toll free at 877-520-5211.



Order online at [www.uaf.edu/ces/](http://www.uaf.edu/ces/).

# Extra+ Credit

**Look for the Nanook?**  
The UAF Nanook is hidden somewhere on the front cover of this issue and the past three issues. (No, not the bear in the logo at the bottom. We mean hidden.) The first person to e-mail [aurora@uaf.edu](mailto:aurora@uaf.edu) with the correct location on all four covers wins a prize. View all issues of *Aurora* at [www.uaf.edu/aurora/](http://www.uaf.edu/aurora/).  
Happy hunting!



*Q.*  
What's this contraption and what's it doing on the Fairbanks campus?

*A.*  
Find out on page 5.