

Chancellor's Report

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

April 2006

Achievements

The UAF rifle team captured the 2006 NCAA National Championship March 12. It's the Nanooks' eighth national championship and seventh in the past eight years.

The world came to UAF during Internet2 Day March 23. UAF faculty, staff and researchers highlighted their work using the high-speed, high-bandwidth network developed by the Internet2 consortium. Officials also announced an agreement to extend the reach of Internet2 in Alaska.

UAF professor, conductor and pianist Eduard Zilberkant was named President's Professor of Fine Arts. His appointment makes him the eighth president's professor in the state, five of whom are at UAF.

Keith Criddle, professor of resource economics at Utah State University, was appointed to the new Ted Stevens Distinguished Professorship of Marine Policy. Criddle previously served as interim dean of UAF's School of Management and has also worked with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

The College Rotary Club surpassed its goal of \$135,000 in contributions to its endowed scholarship. The scholarship awards \$1,500 each year to four UAF students from the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

Shirish Patil, associate professor of petroleum engineering and Faculty Senate president, was chosen as the 2005 Alaska Society of Petroleum Engineers Engineer of the Year. This annual award recognizes the state's top engineer, as voted upon by engineering societies across Alaska.

The Chukchi Campus hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony Jan. 30 to celebrate a 1,500-square-foot expansion which nearly doubled the campus' classroom space.

In Progress

Provost Paul Reichardt, UAF's chief academic officer since 1998 and a faculty member since 1972, announced plans to retire in 2007. A committee will undertake the search for his replacement during the 2006–2007 recruiting cycle.

Larry Hinzman was named deputy director of the International Arctic Research Center in preparation for taking the helm at IARC upon retirement of IARC Director Syun-Ichi Akasofu in 2007.

Numerous UAF experts are participating in the International Polar Year 2007–2008. UAF is leading the way as host of the education and outreach office and plans to schedule regular public IPY lectures throughout the next two years.

The Alaska Seafood Processing Industry Leadership Institute, organized by UAF's Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program and the Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development, will take place in multiple sessions from April 2006–March 2007. The program offers participants advanced training in management and leadership, seafood processing, marketing and logistics.

What's Next

North Pole High School UA Scholars will be honored at the fourth annual UAF Day at North Pole Saturday, April 22. More than 30 departments will showcase UAF programs and activities.

The University of Alaska Museum of the North will open the new Rose Berry Alaska Art Gallery May 1. The gallery, which doubles the museum's exhibit space, showcases the full spectrum of Alaska art, from ancient ivory carvings to contemporary sculpture.

UAF will unveil a new donor wall at a reception May 3 in the Regents Great Hall to recognize benefactors for their support. Annual, lifetime and Legacy Society donors will be honored.

UAF will award an honorary doctor of science degree to commencement speaker Joanna Burger, a meritorious service award to Charles Gray and a posthumous honorary doctor of science degree to paleoclimatologist Nicholas Shackleton during 84th commencement ceremonies Sunday, May 14 at the Carlson Center.

The 12th annual College of Fellows Flower Planting will bring dozens of volunteers on campus to fill flower beds with blooms Wednesday, May 31.

Summer Sessions will host former Gov. Steve Cowper presenting a lecture entitled "Alaska's Place in the Global Energy Picture" Thursday, June 8.

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musings from the chancellor

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Lesson Learned From a Clumsy Fall

Many of you have noticed my right hand, wrapped since mid-December--first with standard beige elastic bandage, then from mid-January with Nanook royal blue adhesive, courtesy of Dr. Cary Keller. The wrap and my now routine left-hand-extended-in-greeting serve as a difference that draws attention and prompts inquiry. I've told the story repeatedly: a clumsy slip, an awkward jam, seven stitches (completely healed) and a damaged ligament (slow to mend and painful to a vigorous handshake).

I appreciate your expressions of concern, and I'm grateful for the lesson provided courtesy of my poor agility. The wrapped hand signaled a very real distinguishing feature, generating genuine interest and giving me a chance to tell my story, even if it is a self-deprecating tale of careless stair-climbing.

The lesson and its applicability to UAF? Quite simply, nobody pays any special attention to us if we're just like every other person or university. Prospective students don't discover us, potential employees don't seek us out, desirable partners never connect with us, donors find worthy causes elsewhere and grantors fund other proposals. Fortunately, our university proudly wears its Nanook-blue equivalent of my wrapped hand. Our distinguishing feature did not spring from a clumsy stumble. Instead, we "wear" a reputation for high latitude excellence, earned by a deliberate focus on discovery, learning and outreach that is intended to ensure our society's understanding and long-term sustainability in this place of considerable and constant change.

Our identity as America's arctic university distinguishes us, draws attention to us and gives us a chance to tell our story. We are clearly different in substantive ways, from any other university in our state and nation. Emphasizing our brand and enthusiastically and aggressively telling our story will attract students, employees, partners, grantors and donors to a degree previously unrealized. Our distinguishing feature will permit us to raise the bar, strengthen our university and better meet the knowledge-related needs of Alaska and the circumpolar North.

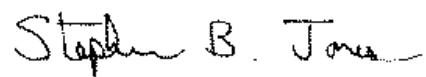
My personal goal is to jettison the distinguishing bandage and return to shaking with my right hand well in advance of commencement season! Our UAF goal is to accentuate the brand, proudly tell our story and aggressively realize our potential to be a positive force for tomorrow. Another

practical and symbolic lesson from my mishap--you can still make it to the top of the stairs even if you stumble on the way up. Ad summum!

UAF Strategic Plan 2010

Our new UAF Strategic Plan 2010 plots our course into the future and clearly capitalizes on our unique identity and mission. We expect to unveil the Strategic Plan 2010 in spring, fresh from the printer. I compliment and acknowledge the year-long effort of a committed UAF 2010 planning committee, co-chaired by Tim Barnett and John Kelley, and composed of a cross section of university and community stakeholders: Jackie Alleyne-McCants, Earlina Bowden, Joan Braddock, Carla Browning, Rick Caulfield, JoAnn Ducharme, Ian Herbert, Deb Horner, Kevin Huddy, Greg Krier, Wanda Martin, Alecia McCoy, Laura Milner, Barbara Oleson, Ian Olson, Shirish Patil, Roger Smith, Steve Smith, Steve Sparrow, Peter Stortz, Dana Thomas, Teresa Thompson, Crystal Wilson, Marc Wohlford and Miranda Wright. They accomplished a great deal, presenting a draft plan to me in mid-December. Because my own understanding of UAF, Alaska and our mission had matured since my January 2005 charge to the committee, I made requests and suggestions after the holiday break that strayed somewhat from what I had envisioned a year earlier. Committee members were both patient and responsive, and delivered a final product that all of us can employ as a living document, informing decisions we make over the next several years. When you see any of them, please thank them for an extraordinary accomplishment. I am grateful for their effort and proud of their achievement.

Our UAF "book" has so many "covers," each capable of providing an enticing hint at the high quality people, programs and experiences that lie within! The UAF Chancellor's Report Ad Summum will hit your mail boxes soon. Celebrate UAF—America's Arctic University!



This is an abbreviated version of Chancellor Steve Jones' Musings from Feb. 28, 2006. The complete text can be found on the web at www.uaf.edu/chancellor/musings/.