

Chancellor's Report

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

February 2006

Accomplishments

UAF won the Governor's Cup for the fifth year in a row and the eighth time in the 13-year history of the cup as the Nanooks hockey team trounced the UAA Seawolves 3-1 in the four-game series.

Five senior UAF ROTC cadets were selected as distinguished military graduates. The four men and one woman were ranked among the top 20 percent among nearly 4,000 cadets across the nation.

Stephen Jewett, School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences research professor, was selected as a 2006 Fulbright senior specialist. Jewett will participate in a scientific exchange in Chile.

Forrest Karr was named athletics and campus recreation director. Karr joined UAF in August 2004 to coordinate athletic academics and oversee National Collegiate Athletic Association compliance.

Lee Haugen joined the College of Rural and Community Development as director of the Northwest Campus in Nome. A UA faculty member for 20 years, Haugen most recently served as assistant professor of education in the UAF School of Education.

The women's athletic luncheon raised more than \$10,000 for women's athletics. More than 150 people attended the fifth annual fundraiser.

Creating Alaska, a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the creation of the Alaska state constitution, took place on the Fairbanks campus Feb. 3-5. As part of the year-long celebration, UAF hosted 54 young leaders from around Alaska for the Conference of Young Alaskans in January.

In Progress

The 2006 Science for Alaska lecture series continues in Anchorage and Juneau through Feb. 27. The popular free lectures in Fairbanks, Anchorage and Juneau feature scientists from UAF, UAA and UAS as well as experts from state and federal agencies. The annual series is sponsored by the Geophysical Institute.

The Alaska Volcano Observatory continues to closely monitor eruptions of Augustine Volcano in Cook Inlet. AVO, a cooperative program of the UAF Geophysical Institute, the U.S. Geological Survey and the Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys, has monitored Alaska's hazardous volcanoes since 1988.

Since the University of Alaska Museum of the North's new wing opened in September, more than 25,000 people have visited the museum, an increase of 140 percent over previous years. Construction of the Rose Berry Art Gallery is well underway in anticipation of the May 2006 opening.

What's Next

Summer Sessions is offering several innovative incentives to encourage students to take advantage of summer programs, including in-state tuition for everyone and two new tuition waivers. Registration for summer classes begins Feb. 20.

The 33rd annual Festival of Native Arts, "Native A.R.T.: Appreciation, Respect, and Tradition," will be dedicated to the late Hilda Ashcraft. The festival will take place March 2-4 in Davis Concert Hall, the Regents' Great Hall and the Wood Center.

The annual community 20-kilometer Skiathon classic cross country ski race will take place on north campus ski trails March 11.

The University of Alaska Museum of the North will open a new permanent installation, "The Place Where You Go to Listen," March 21. Produced by Fairbanks composer John Luther Adams, the sound and light experience draws on the cycles of day and night, seismic activity and the aurora.

Internet2 Day will feature lectures and demonstrations to be aired across Alaska and the nation March 23 via the next generation global network. Innovative high speed applications one thousand times faster than the current Internet are being developed using Internet2, enabling communication, business and research to occur where they were formerly not possible.

Summer Sessions and KUAC will bring Michael Feldman's *Whad'ya Know* National Public Radio program to campus July 7 for a live broadcast from the Charles Davis Concert Hall. The two-hour comedy/quiz/interview show reaches approximately 1.4 million listeners weekly.

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musings from the chancellor

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Crossing Thresholds

We've crossed the threshold of a new year. It seems like just yesterday that we entered 2005. It's been a long time since those endless summers of our youth, when time crawled. Now, the entire year rushes past! In fact, this past year moved so quickly that we actually won the Governor's Cup twice in 2005—the fourth consecutive victory in March and the fifth one on New Year's Eve. I'm so proud of our team and coaching staff, and so happy for all who support Nanook hockey. The Governor's Cup marks us as champions on the ice. I look forward to a 2006 that will even more firmly establish us as champions in all that we do—in athletics, and in the classrooms, laboratories, studios, field stations, lecture halls, theaters and the many other venues where we conduct our teaching, research, scholarship, outreach and service.

I'm excited about the successes we will mark in 2006. I'm thrilled to be affiliated with a university bold enough to declare itself America's Arctic University! As I've said many times, we draw great strength from our location. And we focus much of what we do so well on knowledge and scholarship associated with ensuring social, economic and environmental sustainability in this wide sweep of the far North. Our soon-to-be-released strategic plan will set the course for our achievements in 2006 and beyond.

Strategic Plan

The UAF Strategic Planning Committee delivered a draft plan to me prior to the holiday break. Representing a cross-section of the university and stakeholders, the committee prepared a solid document, which I had hoped to quickly translate into our final Strategic Plan 2010. However, this near-to-last step, with the draft plan in my hands, is taking longer than I intended. I've been struggling with how to frame a concise and compelling strategic direction for a university as complex as ours.

As I observed at the September Convocation, our university is, in fact, at least three clearly distinguishable institutions. The Tanana Valley Campus is a community college serving principally the Fairbanks North Star Borough region, with a service center at Delta Junction. Our community campuses (Bristol Bay, Chukchi, Northwest, Kuskokwim and Interior-Aleutians) and the Center for Distance Education serve a broad swath of rural Alaska, offering certificate, associate and some baccalaureate and master's degrees. These first two components are part of UAF's College of Rural and Community Development. Both focus on the workforce training, education and lifelong learning needs of Alaskans where they live and work.

The third "institution" within UAF is the Land, Sea and Space Grant, research-intensive university that is based in Fairbanks, with research and outreach tentacles across the state (e.g., Toolik Lake Field Station on the North Slope, Marine Advisory Program agents at multiple locations along the coast, Cooperative Extension in several communities and research staff at the Seward SeaLife Center). The research university meets knowledge-related

needs across Alaska and internationally; this element of UAF serves as America's Arctic University and as the circumpolar North's "go to" university for high latitude knowledge, discovery, learning and application. This unique research university identity draws most of our more than \$120 million in annual grants and contracts; attracts our world class scholars; beckons top quality Alaska, national and international undergraduate and graduate students; and establishes UAF as a university distinct from all others in the U.S.

Our three distinguishable institutions are in some ways independent, in other ways interdependent and in many ways fully integrated. Among the three entities we offer certificates, including GEDs, and baccalaureate, master's and Ph.D. degrees. No other single university in the country is as multi-dimensional. Our strategic plan will serve as a broad umbrella for all three elements of UAF. The reader and user will need to recognize that plan elements are variably applicable to the respective institutions. For example, discussions of academic quality pertain to all three facets, while elements addressing research are focused primarily on the Fairbanks-based research university.

I will offer other ideas for consideration of the Strategic Planning Committee, including a preamble that will speak to the three institutions in one. I believe that a major purpose of strategic planning is to help the university understand that institutional specialization is essential to maximize our impact within the state, region, nation and abroad. Our strategic plan should focus, in part, on distinguishing us from other universities—in-state and Outside. It should acknowledge that a premier research-intensive university cannot focus only on meeting the knowledge needs of a single state, especially one with less than 700,000 residents. It should clearly articulate our strengths. It should convincingly and compellingly present our desired destination and the tracks for getting us there. It should illuminate ongoing decisions. It should sit at our fingertips, not high up on some dusty shelf. It should tell us and others who we are, what drives us and where we aspire to be. It should be dynamic enough to accommodate shifts and modifications. It is a living document.

I appreciate the very difficult assignment the strategic planning committee undertook. I am clearly responsible for any delays—my own thinking about UAF and our future has evolved far beyond the charge I gave the committee last year. The current draft contains much of what we need for the final document, but I want to make sure that the final plan does all it can to lead us into tomorrow.

This is an abbreviated version of Chancellor Steve Jones' Musings from Jan. 23, 2006. The complete text can be found on the web at www.uaf.edu/chancellor/musings/.