

# Chancellor's Report

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

June 2005

## ACHIEVEMENTS

**The School of Education received national accreditation at the highest level** available for teacher preparation programs. The school met the most rigorous standards set by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.

**The Emil Usibelli Distinguished Teaching, Research and Service Awards** for 2005 were awarded to Professor of Volcanology John Eichelberger for research, Professor of Statistics Dana Thomas for teaching and Associate Professor of Biology Abel Bult-Ito for public service. Each received \$10,000 from an endowment established by the Usibelli Coal Mine.

**President Hamilton formally installed Steve Jones** as chancellor during UAF's 83rd commencement ceremonies. A total of 1,054 certificates and degrees, including a record 234 master's degrees and 25 Ph.D.s, were conferred May 15 in the Carlson Center.

**More than 200 sponsors, recipients and department representatives** attended the scholarship and award breakfast in April; nearly six dozen students were honored.

**UAF civil engineering students** placed first in the Northwestern Regional Steel Bridge Competition in April. The team went on to compete at the national level in Orlando, Fla., May 27–28.

**Mary Ciuniq Pete** will be the new director of the College of Rural Alaska's Kusko-kwim Campus in Bethel, effective July 11. Originally from the village of Stebbins, since 1996 Pete has served as director of the subsistence division for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

## IN PROGRESS

**The University of Alaska Museum of the North** Gallery of Alaska reopened to visitors May 14. Construction continues on the new wing. The museum was selected as one of 100 sites across the nation to display images and accompanying materials from NASA's Hubble space telescope. The exhibit will be on display at least through fall so it can be incorporated into the museum's school tour program.

**Summer Sessions' Jumpstart Program** has tripled enrollment in its second year. Sixteen incoming freshmen will participate in programs that familiarize them with university life and work in a part-time job on campus while they attend classes to earn six credits toward their academic programs.

**The Strategic Planning Committee** is seeking feedback from stakeholders. Participate by visiting [www.uaf.edu/strategic/](http://www.uaf.edu/strategic/) and responding to the list of questions.

**Seven swimmers** have signed up so far for Coach Scott Lemley's fledgling women's swim team. Four are Alaskans and three are from the Lower 48.

**Jim Movius and Eileen Montano** donated \$35,000 for the College Rotary Scholarship at UAF. The scholarship benefits graduates of high schools or GED earners within the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

## WHAT'S NEXT

**More than a thousand participants are expected on campus** June 10–14 for the Evolution 2005 conference, jointly sponsored by the Society for the Study of Evolution, the Society of Systematic Biologists and the American Society of Naturalists. Summer Sessions is coordinating the conference, and the Institute of Arctic Biology and the University of Alaska Museum of the North are the hosts.

**School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences** researchers will again be part of NOAA's Ocean Explorer Expedition to the Arctic Ocean June 27–July 26. Eleven researchers and graduate students from UAF will join scientists from the U.S. and Russia to inventory biodiversity in the Canada Basin.

**The Alaska Summer Research Academy** July 18–29 will engage about 100 middle school and high school students in research and hands-on experiences in science, engineering and computer technology, and areas within the liberal arts including archaeology, filmmaking, finance, law and journalism.

**The Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival** will match artists and performers with students for classes in music, dance, theater, writing, visual arts and ice skating on campus July 17–31. More information is available at [www.fsaf.org](http://www.fsaf.org).

*The University of Alaska Fairbanks is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. UAF is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and educational institution. UAF photo of Chancellor Jones by Todd Paris.*

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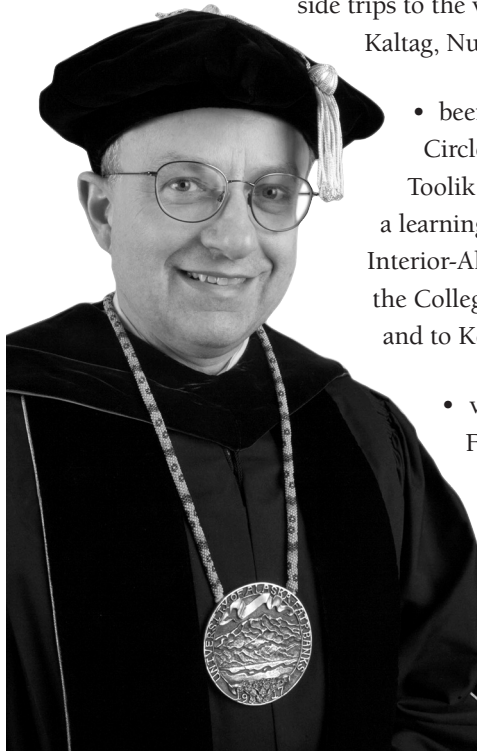
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## message from the chancellor

Upon completion of my first academic year as chancellor of UAF, it is time to reflect on how incredibly magnificent I've found our state, this university and the people and communities we serve. My installation as chancellor has been a process rather than a unique event. Along this installation and revelation journey I have:

- made it to each of our rural community campuses (Bethel, Dillingham, Kotzebue and Nome) at least twice, plus made side trips to the villages of Kasigluk, Kaltag, Nulato and Unalakleet.



- been north of the Arctic Circle four times—to Toolik Lake, Fort Yukon, a learning center for the Interior-Aleutians Campus of the College of Rural Alaska, and to Kotzebue twice.

- visited the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences Seward Marine Center, including the *Alpha Helix*, toured the Alaska SeaLife Center and also

stopped by the SFOS Juneau Center.

- toured our sister campuses at the University of Alaska Southeast and the University of Alaska Anchorage.
- come to know faculty, staff and students at UAF as well as people in the Fairbanks community. I already feel as though this is home.

That is just an abbreviated list—there are many more individual steps that together have composed the installation process.

My visits to the rural communities served as both literal and symbolic capstones for the installation journey. I recognize full well that I still have a long climb up the learning curve ahead of me. President Hamilton officially placing the university medallion over my head at the beginning of commencement ceremonies in Fairbanks was the culmination of the installation process.

There are many people traveling this UAF trail with me. Together we're passing through a vast landscape with occasionally harsh conditions, making our way toward a destination in service to our students and to the people of Alaska. We continue the work of those who came before us, and through the strategic planning process we are charting the course for 2010 and beyond. All of us are making preparations and taking steps to reach our desired outcomes.

I look forward to the journey ahead with great anticipation.

*Stephen B. Jones*