

Chancellor's Report

prepared for the UA Board of Regents

September 2004

Achievements

Staff members from the Geophysical Institute, Facilities Services and the UAF Fire Department joined forces in late June to defend UAF's Poker Flat Research Range, the only non-federal, university-owned range in the world, from wildfire. Only a surveillance RADAR facility and two Connex storage containers were lost during the blaze which caused evacuations and threatened subdivisions during this summer's unprecedented fire season.

Matt Emmons, UAF alumnus and former rifle team member, won the gold medal for the U.S. in the Olympic 50-meter prone rifle competition in Athens. While at UAF, Emmons led the rifle team to four straight national championships and claimed three individual smallbore titles. He became the first U.S. shooter in 40 years to qualify for three Olympic rifle events and won the gold using a rifle borrowed from former Nanook teammate Amber Darland.

Robbie Herrick, newly appointed research associate professor of planetary geoscience, commuted 4,500 miles on a bicycle from Houston, Texas, to report to his first day on the job at UAF's Geophysical Institute July 1. Herrick is the second person to be hired into the growing planetary geoscience program. He joins other GI researchers in seeking information about Alaska and the Arctic to better understand planets and their satellites with cold, ice-bearing surfaces.

Denis Wiesenburg assumed his duties as the new dean of the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences July 1, as did **Eric Madsen** as the new dean of the School of Education. **Wayne Marr** is the new dean of the School of Management and started work Sept. 1. The former School of Mineral Engineering plus engineering is now called the College of Engineering and Mines with Professor Emeritus **John Aspnes** serving as interim dean.

In Progress

UAF has restructured its Center for Nanosensor Technology, creating an Office of Electronic Miniaturization, to help differentiate between faculty-focused research and design and production capacities. A state-of-the-art microelectronics packaging line has been installed in a specially built cleanroom in the Natural Sciences Facility.

Finishing touches are being added to the Hutchison Institute of Technology on Geist Road. HIT is a partnership between UAF's Tanana Valley Campus and the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District. The Hutchison Center is now home to eight of TVC's certificate and degree programs, including automotive, aviation, culinary arts, diesel/heavy equipment, drafting, process technology, professional piloting and welding.

Early trends indicate the number of graduate students at UAF will be well over 1,000 this fall, largely due to UAF's ability to attract more than \$100 million in research funding. In August, the directors of the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation were in Fairbanks to award, respectively, \$17.5 million for INBRE (IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence) and \$13.5 million for EPSCoR (Experimental Programs to Stimulate Competitive Research).

What's Next

The UAF Alumni Reunion, Nanook Traditions, takes place Sept. 30–Oct. 2. Winners of the distinguished alumnus/alumna award, the alumni achievement award for business and professional excellence, the William R. Cashen service award, and awards for community achievement and university support will be announced at the reunion.

A health career pilot program is being delivered to Galena high school students this semester, with expectations of growth to other rural high schools. The program is the result of a joint effort between UAF health care researchers and the Tanana Chiefs Conference who hosted a successful Summer Health Academy in Galena in July. Students will earn college credit toward allied or behavioral health certificates and degrees, while gaining preparation and skills needed for academic success.

UAF's West Ridge Research Building opens this fall to provide space for several new high technology programs. New funds will support faculty hires in areas such as biomedicine, bioinformatics, contaminants engineering, nanotechnology and microsensor electronics.

A national search is underway for a coach to lead UAF's new women's swimming team into NCAA competition in fall 2005. Athletic department officials hope to hire a coach soon to allow time to implement program requirements and recruit quality student athletes.

Perseverance Theatre's statewide tour of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* comes to UAF's Salisbury Theatre for seven performances Oct. 18-24. Using Shakespeare's words, and adding drumming, dance, masks and images inspired by Tlingit tradition, the project aspires to fuse two great cultures in producing an exciting new interpretation.

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 by Todd Paris.

Chancellor Steve Jones • fychanc@uaf.edu





UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS
 Office of the Chancellor
 P.O. Box 757500
 Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-7500

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit
 Organization
 U.S. Postage
P A I D
 Fairbanks, Alaska
 Permit No. 9

If your name or address is incorrect or you are receiving duplicate mailings, please contact us at (907) 474-7581 or e-mail uafaddress@uaf.edu.

message from the chancellor

I drafted these comments Aug. 4, slightly more than halfway through my first week as chancellor. Judy and I are comforted and warmed by your many words of congratulations and welcome, and we are overwhelmed by the sense of privilege we feel in being selected to lead this university in its service to Alaska and the world beyond. We're thrilled to be part of the UAF community, and we are eager to become more familiar with the university



aculty,
 riends and
 and with this
 ite of Alaska.
 unate to follow
 he footsteps of
 Marshall and
 Lois Lind,

who led UAF with passion, vision and total commitment, leaving the university on solid ground, poised for an even brighter future. The accompanying achievements hint at Chancellor Lind's legacy, and serve as inspiration for where we go from here. Before hinting at where we go from here, allow me to suggest what we are now:

- an engaged land-, sea- and space-grant university serving the businesses, industry, communities and families across a very large state;
- the world's premier northern region research university;
- the nation's most comprehensive single institution of higher education, integrating a community college network with a research-intensive university, offering education products ranging from certificate to associate degrees to Ph.D.s;
- an engine of economic development for Alaska and beyond, preparing tomorrow's workers, citizens and leaders, generating new knowledge and technology, and developing scientific breakthroughs that will fuel economic growth and development; and
- a center for advancing diverse cultures and promoting the arts.

Where do we go from here? A month on the job does not provide a sufficient platform from which to offer a precise destination, but I will suggest that the initial mileposts will include accelerated fund raising, expanded research and a revised strategic plan for enabling UAF to transition from good to GREAT!

Stephen B. Jones