ACHIEVEMENTS

National Science Foundation Director Arden Bement visited campus Aug. 17 to learn more about research activities at UAF. His visit came a week after NSF awarded an $8 million grant to UAF for IAB’s Toolik Field Station.

A campus-wide crisis exercise took place Aug. 18. Administrators and emergency responders practiced crisis management procedures, interagency coordination, evacuation strategies and communication tactics.

The University of Alaska Museum of the North expansion project celebrated major milestones with the opening of the new east entrance Aug. 10 and a ribbon cutting Sept. 10. Renovation work continues on the original building.

A grand new entrance leads visitors onto the UAF main campus via Thompson Drive at Loftus and Geist. Ribbon-cutting ceremonies with Gov. Murkowski and other officials took place Aug. 23; the entrance opened to traffic Aug. 25.

Usibelli Coal Mine donated $200,000 in August to the Usibelli Honors Scholarship and to a new scholarship to be determined with new College of Engineering and Mines Dean J. Richard Williams.

The chancellor appointed Buck Sharpton, president’s professor of remote sensing, as chancellor’s director of research, and School of Management Dean Wayne Marr as chancellor’s director of economic development. In their additional roles, Sharpton will chart research directions and Marr will help coordinate new collaborations with industry and business.

IN PROGRESS

The Tanana Valley Campus and the University of Alaska Museum of the North are working with Fort Wainwright units to assist soldiers and their families while the soldiers are deployed to Iraq.

The UA Museum of the North exhibit Light Motifs: American Impressionist Paintings from The Metropolitan Museum will be on display Sept. 18–Nov. 13 featuring 27 paintings by artists such as Mary Cassatt, John Singer Sargent and Childe Hassam. This is the first time an exhibit of this stature has come to Fairbanks.

Celebration of Cooperative Extension Service’s 75th anniversary continues with an open house in Juneau Sept. 24 from 11 a.m.–2 p.m. at the House of Wickersham.

Construction of the Biological Research and Diagnostics Facility is on schedule and on budget. Occupancy is scheduled for 2006.

WHAT’S NEXT

Chancellor Jones will share his vision for UAF’s future at the fall convocation Sept. 29 in Schaible Auditorium.

The UA Alumni Reunion, Nanook Traditions, takes place Sept. 29–Oct. 1. Winners of the Distinguished Alumnus award, the Alumni Achievement Award for Business and Professional Excellence, awards for Community Support and University Support and the William R. Cashen Service Award will be announced at the luncheon.


Bernice Joseph, executive dean of UAF’s College of Rural and Community Development, will be keynote speaker for the 2005 meeting of the Alaska Federation of Natives set for Oct. 17–22 in Fairbanks. During a reception in their honor, Alaska Native elders from around the state will bless the new wing of the UA Museum of the North.

A fund-raising luncheon for women’s athletics will take place Wednesday, Nov. 9 in the Patty Center. Tours of recently renovated Athletics facilities will be available before and after the luncheon.

The Nanooks will be joined by Southern Mississippi, San Diego State, Montana State, Illinois-Chicago, Kennesaw State, Lamar and Denver for the BP Top of the World Classic Nov. 17–20 in the Carlson Center.
message from the chancellor

Our university is defined by where we are.  
UAF is America’s arctic university.  
Our research, teaching and outreach are intimately intertwined with this special place here in America’s high latitudes. Whether it’s arctic biology at Toolik Lake, cold water marine mammals at Seward, Native health at Kuskokwim or the Fairbanks Cold Climate Housing Research Center, our programs are inseparable from our location here in the far North.

Our university is also defined by what we do.  
UAF is Alaska’s research university.  
The education we offer—both undergraduate and graduate—is research-based and northern-linked. Look at our listing of research centers and institutes, count the number of undergraduate students engaged in research projects as employees, interns or project assistants. Graduate students are conducting cutting edge research day in and day out.

The world is shrinking as technology and transportation bridge the planet. Climate change manifests most rapidly here in the high latitudes, affecting our economic, social and natural environment. Our 360+ million-acre classroom is a place of dynamic shifts and constant perturbations: volcanoes, earthquakes, wildfires and all the other natural phenomena that affect us. No other university offers such a rich setting for high latitude inquiry and learning. This theme will help frame the new UAF Strategic Plan, which we will launch in January 2006. UAF is Alaska’s research university and America’s arctic university, offering research-based education focused on sustaining ourselves in a place of change.

By always working to grow better than we are, we will continue to be Alaska and the circumpolar North’s “go-to” university for knowledge, discovery, learning and application.

Stephen B. Jones