Achievements

A new partnership between UAF and the Fairbanks North Star Borough allows UAF students, staff and faculty to use their PolarExpress card to ride free on all borough bus routes. More than 16 percent of the bus system’s riders travel to or from UAF.

The UAF annual giving program raised more than $250,000 from almost 500 alumni and friends, surpassing the 2008 goal. The Chancellor’s Annual Giving Student Initiative, funded from the annual giving program, is reducing student debt by raising the amount of funding available for scholarships. Beginning this fall, all endowed scholarships will award a minimum of $1,000.

UAF hosted the Eighth Conference of Arctic Parliamentarians in August. The biennial conference brings together international participants to address issues of importance to arctic nations. More than 150 members of national parliaments of all eight Arctic Council member states attended, as well as representatives of the European Parliament, indigenous peoples’ organizations and other governments and organizations.

The Alaska Space Grant Program Balloon Experiment and Research Program sponsored three balloon launches carrying radio transmitters, cameras and tracking instruments this summer. ASGP intends to expand BEAR to give UAF students the opportunity to conduct atmospheric research of their own design.

In Progress

Fifteen transition teams representing a cross section of UAF and Alaska diligently studied aspects of UAF from May through the end of July at the direction of incoming Interim Chancellor Rogers. The teams examined successes, frustrations and areas of focus, and developed recommendations. The teams’ reports guided themes for the Sept. 16 fall convocation, which was webcast and is available at www.uaf.edu/chancellor/.

School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences researchers Russ Hopcroft, Rolf Gradinger, Bodil Bluhm and Katrin Iken are taking leadership roles in the Census of Marine Life, a global effort involving more than 80 nations in a 10-year initiative to catalog all sea life. The census was named one of the world’s six most important experiments by Discover magazine.

UAF scientists will play prominent roles in the American Association for the Advancement of Science Arctic Division annual meeting Sept. 15 – 17 in Fairbanks. This year’s conference theme is Growing Sustainability Science in the North: The Resilience of the People in the Arctic.

The Susan Butcher Institute at UAF, launched this summer, is dedicated to cultivating public service and leadership skills for Alaskans. David Monson will serve as the institute’s executive director. The institute will offer programs to inspire people, especially youth and emerging leaders, to improve their communities.

What’s Next

UAF’s Student Leadership Conference Oct. 10 – 11 will feature keynote speakers from Invisible Children and the Student Association for Voter Empowerment. Students from all over Alaska are invited to attend for a modest fee.

The Forum of Young Alaskans will discuss Alaska public policy questions in the Wood Center Oct. 4. Using video conference and webcast technology, the forum will convene simultaneously in Anchorage, Juneau and Fairbanks.

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation pledged $700,000 to provide financial support to students in the dissertation-writing phase of their doctoral programs. The aim of this gift is to increase the number of Native students earning doctoral degrees. Beginning this fall the program will fund up to four competitive graduate fellowships a year for five years.
Photos, clockwise from below right.
Research Associate Professor Matt Nolan of the Institute of Northern Engineering holds a piece of an ice core from McCall Glacier in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The team extracted a core more than 450 feet long, the entire depth of the glacier, providing valuable clues to two centuries of climate conditions.

Instructor Charlie Mayo of St. Croix Falls, Wisc., teaches local residents Allyson Esmailka, left, and Barbara Ebbesson the fine points of birch bark basket weaving during a UAF Summer Sessions weekend focus workshop at Pioneer Park. This was the third year for In-State Tuition for All, a successful summer program which has resulted in a three-fold increase in nonresident credits granted.

Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival dancers perform at Salisbury Theatre. Guest artists from five countries and 23 states led more than 900 participants through widely varied programs in performing and visual arts during the festival.

Michelle Kavairlook of Koyuk calls home after the graduation ceremony for 47 students in the Rural Alaska Honors Institute program.

Mary Nordale (left) signs documents in August handing over possession of an original copy of the Alaska Constitution to the Rasmuson Library. The document, signed by her mother, Katherine Nordale, had been in the family for the past 50 years.