Museum Exhibit will bring R/V Sikuliaq to Fairbanks

By Sharice Walker, Public Information Officer

Fairbanks residents and visitors will have the chance to get acquainted with the Research Vessel Sikliaq this summer, several months before the ship arrives in Alaskan waters.

The University of Alaska Fairbanks School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences has partnered with the University of Alaska Museum of the North to develop a year-long special exhibit entitled “Arctic Odyssey: Voyages of the R/V Sikuliaq.”

The exhibit is scheduled to open May 10 and will feature multiple interactive experiences to explore the research vessel and many facets of ocean sciences.

Andres Lopez, who is an assistant professor of fisheries at SFOS and curator of fishes at the museum, is the guest curator for the special exhibit.

“The special exhibit on the Sikuliaq highlights the launch and beginning of operations of this new research vessel that the U.S. research fleet gets to enjoy now,” said Lopez. But the exhibit will feature much more than just the new addition to the research fleet.

“While the Sikuliaq is the entry into the world of oceanography, the exhibit will hopefully give the visitor an idea of what is it that oceanography does,” said Lopez, “What sorts of things do we want to know about the oceans, how they work, what are the things that live in the oceans, how they live, where do they get their food from, and all of these very basic questions about how ocean ecosystems work.”

Visitors will explore physical, chemical and biological oceanography, see several generations of data collection tools and get acquainted with some ocean sciences researchers.

Story continues on page 6.
Greetings from the Dean

by Michael Castellini, Dean
School of Fisheries & Ocean Sciences
University of Alaska Fairbanks

Perhaps the most common question I hear from those outside of our School is: “So, how is it going at SFOS these days?” Given that most of these encounters may be of fairly short duration and the person asking the question may have a personally specific interest in the School, I always smile to myself thinking: “Where do I start with all the great stories about what we are doing?”

I could start with the academic programs: A record number of newly enrolled fishery undergraduates in fall 2013, almost 20% of the entire PhD production for UAF last year; dozens of published research papers by students, undergraduate internship programs; student awards at scientific meetings; almost 40% of our entire faculty effort dedicated to teaching, staff awards for student support; and happy, smiling students in the hallways and lounges.

I could tell them about SFOS research: The over 300 grants/contracts that are active at any one time, with somewhere between 75 and 100 new grants awarded each year; about the more than 140 scientific papers published last year; the number of presentations at commission, agency and governmental venues; the visits to our facilities by dignitaries and site visits by funding agencies; about the Arctic presence of our research teams; undergraduate research opportunities; and the wonderful support of our research by philanthropic and specialized donations.

Perhaps I could start with our service and outreach programs: Classes given by faculty in local high schools; tours through our laboratories and job shadowing; programs: Classes given by faculty in local high schools; tours through our laboratories and job shadowing; the almost uncountable number of faculty hours spent on professional and local committees; the late nights spent reviewing a proposal or a paper for a colleague; or the hours spent in airplanes flying to a far-away location to represent SFOS at a scientific or professional meeting.

The R/V Sikuliaq is a popular topic: Construction, upcoming operation, scientific schedules and “when will it be here?” Radio, TV, and newspaper coverage; the ship centered exhibits being planned at the University of Alaska Museum of the North and the Alaska SeaLife Center; hiring, maritime law, safety, training, testing, and scientific planning.

I am always enthusiastic to talk about our people: the staff member who stays late on a Friday night to help complete a project; the faculty member taking time to help a student on a tough research problem; the student who steps up to volunteer on a UAF committee.

I could talk about all of these wonderful aspects of SFOS, but it would take all day. You have a chance in this latest newsletter to read many of these stories and to commend your colleagues, students and staff for what they are doing to make SFOS such a great place to work and learn.

Michael Castellini
Dean, School of Fisheries & Ocean Sciences
University of Alaska Fairbanks

**Giving Report**

by Teresa Thompson, Development Officer

Looking back over 2013, I realize how fortunate the UAF School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences is to have such talented faculty, staff and students. The amazing things we do are reflected in private funding. The fiscal climate in Alaska and our country could discourage giving, but our donors continue to come through for SFOS. Thank you so much.

Individual gifts ranging from $25 to $50,000 encouraged growth and benefited faculty, students and our state in many ways. A few examples of the impact are listed below.

**Anonymous donor gives $20,000 for third year in a row.** This donor, who also generously gives his time to the school, continues to support the Northern Gulf of Alaska Applied Research award. The award provides support for SFOS graduate students’ research projects. The research directly relates to state or federal fisheries management issues in areas such as oceanography, biology, socioeconomics, etc. The goal of this award is applied research.

**Juneau Hatchery gives $175,000 to support graduate students.** Douglas Island Pink and Chum (DIPAC), which operates the Macaulay Hatchery, established an endowment to support a fellowship at the SFOS Lena Point facility in Juneau. The fellowship will honor and memorialize DIPAC founder Ladd Macaulay, who was passionate about using the resources of DIPAC to support research. Macaulay fostered collaborative research relationships with the National Fisheries Service Auke Bay Laboratory, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and especially with the University of Alaska.

**CoBank pledges $100,000 over four years to the Alaska Young Fishermen’s Summit (AYFS) and other professional development opportunities for fishermen.** This gift is the result of CoBank’s recent commitment to contribute $5 million to fund agricultural research and education at land grant universities and other institutions throughout the United States. The summit was first held in 2007 with the goal of preparing the next generation of fish harvesters as they move into fishing businesses. More than 320 fishermen have honed their business and public participation skills at the summits.

**Pollock Conservation Cooperative gives $680,000.** The Pollock Conservation Cooperative continues to support a professor of Marine Policy and important research in the state. Research projects include studies on fishmeal, Bering Sea Pollock Fisheries, and Steller sea lions among others.

**Former SFOS Employee gives $57,500.** Again this year, one of our extremely generous donors gave toward a marine research fellowship, the National Ocean Sciences Bowl and another SFOS fellowship. Our students are extremely fortunate to benefit from the generosity of this donor.

**UAF Donor Recognition Event.** The annual donor recognition event was held in December at the UA Museum of the North. Over 150 attendees celebrated philanthropy at UAF honoring the contributions of Linda Hulteb, the Pollock Conservation Cooperative, Liz Claiborne and Art Ortenberg Foundation, and Paul and Birgit Hunter. The university also announced a new major gift of $1,000,000 from Kinross Fort Knox.
STUDENT AWARDS


Jennifer Dushane – 2013 Alaska Marine Sciences Symposium Best Doctoral Student Poster Presentation, 30 Years of Data from Stamped and Hunter-harvested Cook Inlet Beluga Whales: Creation of a Web-based Database.

28th International Wakefield Fisheries Symposium: Best Student Oral Presentation – Adrian Gall, Change in the Marine-Bird Community of the Chukchi Sea over the Past 35 Years. Best Student Poster – Lauren Divine, Can you stomach it? Regional diet and stable isotope analysis of snow crab (Chionoecetes opilio) in the Alaskan Arctic.

Rasmuson Fisheries Research Center 2013 Fellowship Recipients: Michael Courtney, Thomas Farrugia, Courtney Lyons, Megan Peterson and Charlotte Regula-Whitefield

Christy Howard – UAF 2013 Research Day Dean’s Choice Poster Award sponsored by UAF Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Activity (URSA) and URSA awards for spring and summer 2013, Habitat and Growth of Juvenile Red King Crab in Two Locations in Southeast Alaska.

Center for Global Change & Arctic System Research 2013 Student Research Grant Recipients: Lauren Bell, Carlos Serratos, Anna Szymanski, Sarah Traiger and Jonathan Whitefield


Anna Szymanski – International Polar Marine Diatom Workshop Best Student Poster.


Thomas Farrugia – American Association for Advancement of Science Arctic Division 2013 Best Student Presentation, Nutritional and Contaminant Analyses of Skates in the Gulf of Alaska: Shaping Future Skate Demand.

American Fisheries Society 2013 Alaska Chapter Meeting Best Student Posters: Bryce Mecum, Kevin Fraley and Lauren Bailey

Congratulations

Photos above: (Top row) Fisheries Ph.D. recipient Tammy Hoem Neher. SFOS Fisheries program graduates who attended UAF commencement exercises May 12. (Middle row) M.S. student Parker Bradley shakes hands with UA President Patrick Gamble. Brenda Norcross and her PhD student Katharine Miller pose for pictures. Balloons are released in the Carlson Center at the close of commencement. (Bottom row) SFOS Faculty members Andrew McDonnell, Courtney Carothers, Andrew Seitz, Stephen Jewett, and Andres Lopez gather before procession. Fisheries undergraduate student Patricia McCall flashes her family double thumbs up. Photos by Sharice Walker.

2013 GRADUATES

Spring

Justin Carney, M.S. Fisheries. Major Advisor: Milo Adkison. Comparing the Performance of Two Commercial Salmon Management Strategies Using Run Reconstruction and Model Simulations

Michael Courtney, B.S. Fisheries

Elizabeth Kandor, B.S. Fisheries

Justin Leon, M.S. Fisheries. Major Advisor: Megan McPhee. Freshwater Growth and Recruitment of Yukon and Kuskokwim River Chinook Salmon: A Retrospective Growth Analysis

Deven Lisac, B.A. Fisheries

Michael Lunde, B.S. Fisheries

Patricia McCall, B.S. Fisheries

Katharine Bollinger Miller, Ph.D. Fisheries. Major Advisor: Brenda Norcross. Predicting Distributions of Estuarine Associated Fish and Invertebrates in Southeast Alaska

Jason Stolarski, Ph.D. Fisheries. Major Advisor: Trent Sutton. Growth and Energetic Condition of Dolly Varden Char in Coastal Arctic Waters


Eric Wood, B.S. Fisheries

Summer

Kelley Tu, M.S. Marine Biology. Major Advisor: Amy Blanchard. Small Scale Variability in Benthic Food Webs in the Northeastern Chukchi Sea
Seth Danielson was hired as a Research Assistant Professor of Oceanography in March 2013. Danielson is a familiar face at the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, he has been working and attending school here for 20 years. In 1993, Danielson took a job as a driller for the Polar Ice Coring Office at the Institute of Marine Science. Since then, Danielson earned a M.S. in 1996 and a Ph.D. in 2012, both in Oceanography, while also working as a member of the research staff at SFOS.

Peter Westley will be joining the Fisheries faculty in July. He was hired as an Assistant Professor of Fisheries and will be based in Fairbanks. Westley is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Washington School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences. His education includes a Ph.D. from Memorial University of Newfoundland, an M.S. from the University of Washington, and a B.S. in Aquatic and Fishery Sciences at the University of Washington. Westley grew up in Anchorage and describes himself as an evolutionary ecologist.

Faculty Comings…and Goings

Chock Crapo

retired April 2013 from the University of Alaska Fairbanks after 30 years of service, teaching, and research in the field of seafood science. Crapo joined the faculty at UAF in 1983 after working a decade in the seafood processing industry. For most of his university career he held a joint appointment with the UAF Alaska Sea Grant Advisory Program and the UAF Fishery Industrial Technology Center, now named the Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center. Crapo was granted professor emeritus status in May.

Izetta Chambers

left the Marine Advisory Program June 2013 after four years as the MAP agent in Dillingham. She planned to move her family out of state.

Zygmunt Kowalik

retired July 2013 from the University of Alaska Fairbanks after 29 years in the field of oceanography. Kowalik joined the faculty of the UAF Institute of Marine Science in 1984, before the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences was created. He also spent two years at the Geophysical Institute as a visiting professor before coming to UAF. Kowalik was granted professor emeritus status in May.

Reid Brewer

left the Marine Advisory Program August 2013 to pursue other opportunities as the program manager and associate professor of fisheries technology at the University of Alaska Southeast in Sitka. He was based in Unalaska for five years.

Izetta Chambers

left the Marine Advisory Program June 2013 after four years as the MAP agent in Dillingham. She planned to move her family out of state.

Peter Westley

will be joining the Fisheries faculty in July. He was hired as an Assistant Professor of Fisheries and will be based in Fairbanks. Westley is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Washington School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences. His education includes a Ph.D. from Memorial University of Newfoundland, an M.S. from the University of Washington, and a B.S. in Aquatic and Fishery Sciences at the University of Washington. Westley grew up in Anchorage and describes himself as an evolutionary ecologist.

Faculty and Staff Awards & Accomplishments

Katrín Iken and Matthew Wooler were both promoted to full professor in 2013.

The Alaska SeaLife Center honored Bodil Bluhm, Russ Hopcroft, Katrín Iken and Brenda Konar with the 2013 Alaska Ocean Leadership Award in Marine Research for their contributions to the decade-long Census of Marine Life research project.

In February, Bodil Bluhm, along with her co-authors on the paper “Diversity of the Arctic Deep-Sea Benthos," were honored with the 2012 Alexander von Humboldt-Memorial Award from the Senckenberg Society for the best 2011 paper in a Senckenberg journal.

Stephen Jewett

received the 2013 Conrad Limbaugh Memorial Scientific Diving Leadership Award from the American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS).

The North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) named former SFOS Dean and Professor Emeritus Vera Hopcroft as the recipient of the 13th annual Wooster Memorial Award from the University of Washington.

ExxonMobil provided $1.5 million to the University of Alaska for the center. The Center for Sustainable Ocean Research is housed at the Alaska SeaLife Center in Seward, Alaska. The goal of the center is to establish an eight-city network of marine science education centers, including a marine science center in Seward.

Every year the University of Alaska recognizes a staff member from each of the main campuses who has provided outstanding service to students. At the June Board of Regents meeting UA President Patrick Gamble presented the 2013 “Staff Make Students Count” Award for UAF to Gabrielle Hazelon, the administrative manager at the SFOS Juneau Center.

Gabrielle’s ‘service first’ philosophy means that students and faculty have the essential support needed to pursue research and educational endeavors that benefit the entire university community,” said Assistant Professor Anne Beaudreau, who nominated Hazelon for the award.

Hazelon has worked at SFOS for 22 years and provides administrative support to the approximately 60 fisheries students and 16 faculty of the SFOS Juneau Center.

Books Published

Fishing People of the North: Cultures, Economies, and Management Responding to Change. Co-authors include Courtney Carrothers, Keith R. Criddle, Paula J. Cullenberg.

Fishing for Pollock in a Sea of Change: A Historical Analysis of the Bering Sea Pollock Fishery. Co-authors include Keith R. Criddle.

Advances in Fish Tagging and Marking Technology. Andrew Seitz.


Stephen Jewett with the Conrad Limbaugh Memorial Scientific Diving Leadership Award. (Right) Book cover provided by Alaska Sea Grant.
SFOS faculty member Brenda Konar, assisted by graduate students Sarah Traiger and Lauren Bell, introduced Interior Alaska elementary school students to the creatures that live in kelp holdfasts during an Oct. 1 classroom visit. Pictured here: Eric Kelly searches the holdfast for organisms. Photo by Sharice Walker.