Dr. George M. Happ has served the University of Alaska Fairbanks with distinction in teaching, research and public service from 1995 to 2010.

He has made transformative advances in the University’s biomedical research enterprise by creating and leading the National Science Foundation’s Alaska EPSCoR program in 2000 and the National Institutes of Health’s Alaska BRIN/INBRE program in 2001; and, after facilitating new faculty hires for these programs, continued to mentor them by helping them obtain funding for research, providing informal advice and showing an interest in their careers.

He is greatly admired as an accomplished scientist who led an ambitious research program to monitor avian influenza in waterfowl transiting the circumpolar North; and in so doing has directly mentored graduate and postdoctoral students; and has published numerous papers spanning cellular biology, insect physiology, immunology and disease ecology.

He has increased the University’s outreach through EPSCoR’s unique opportunity for rural high school students to participate in cutting-edge genetics research without leaving their high schools; and has further encouraged the efforts of talented rural high school students through an intensive summer course in which they conducted original genetics research in University labs, working directly with faculty.

The University of Alaska Fairbanks expresses its deep appreciation to Dr. George M. Happ for his contributions to the State of Alaska and the University.

May 16, 2010