The Office of Intellectual Property and Commercialization is staffed by:
- Associate Vice Chancellor of Research Dan White
- Intellectual Property Specialist Adam Krynicki
- Technology Commercialization Officer Peng Gong
- Business Director Nickole Conley
- Communications Coordinator Mary Bellamy
- OIPC Interns Anton Gorodniuk, Daniel Luo, Brittany Lewis

The Office of Intellectual Property and Commercialization works with University of Alaska Fairbanks faculty, staff, and students to protect and promote UAF’s innovative activities and bring the results into public use.

OIPC’s physical offices are located on the first floor of the Denali Building, 3352 College Road, Fairbanks AK, 99709
Visit us online at www.uaf.edu/oipc
Letter from the Associate Vice Chancellor

Innovation is a vital component of regional and national prosperity, and the University of Alaska Fairbanks is committed to creating an economic transformation through the creativity and entrepreneurship of our faculty, staff and students.

In 2010, UAF began to revitalize the Office of Intellectual Property and Commercialization. The overarching goal of the office is to protect and promote UAF research and technologies. As part of the effort to expand OPIC’s portfolio, two new employees joined the office in early 2011, and another employee came on board in 2012.

The start of Fiscal Year 2012 brought a rapid increase in intellectual property activity at UAF. The university received 32 Invention Disclosures in FY12, which is more than the combined total of all Invention Disclosures at UAF since 2005.

OIPC engages both inventors and economic developers to facilitate the commercialization of promising early-stage technologies that arise during the course of research. As part of our outreach efforts, the office hosts regular meeting with local business developers. At these meetings, university inventors have the opportunity to present their current research. The discussion and feedback from these meetings has helped to guide development of UAF intellectual property.

I invite you to review our annual report and learn more about the ongoing efforts at OIPC. We are eager to connect our research and technology with commercial developers that can help create usable products and processes.

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Nickole Conley
Business Director
Joined UAF: 2003
Hometown: North Pole, Alaska

Adam Krynicki
Intellectual Property Specialist
Joined OIPC: May 2011
Hometown: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Peng Gong
Technology Commercialization Officer
Joined OIPC: June 2012
Hometown: Wuhan, Hubei Province,
People’s Republic of China

Brittany Lewis
Office Coordinator
Joined OIPC: May 2012
Hometown: Las Vegas, Nevada
As an office, OIPC believes that a great idea can change everything. The office’s work focuses on the idea of developing UAF innovation that integrates with the needs of Alaska, advances the local economy, and improves the society.

To get an idea from concept to real-world applications takes a blend of vision and expertise. The employees at the Office of Intellectual Property and Commercialization complement each others’ skills and work together to create a small but highly functional office.

In May 2011, OIPC hired Adam Krynicki, Esq to serve as Intellectual Property Specialist for the office. Krynicki is a graduate of Duquesne University School of Law and has experience working with technology transfer at the University of Pennsylvania. Krynicki moved to Fairbanks from North Carolina, and hit the ground running on his arrival. He has worked to develop relationships with the local business community and create a vibrant internship program at OIPC.

In June 2012, OIPC welcomed Peng Gong as the new Technology Commercialization Officer. Gong moved to Fairbanks from North Carolina, where he attended law school in Raleigh and earned a Ph.D. in biomedical engineering at UNC Chapel Hill. Gong is working with inventors to determine commercialization potential, to conduct patentability and prior art research, and to conduct invention triage.

As the OIPC Office Coordinator, Brittany Lewis handles the daily needs of the office. She manages the intellectual property database and website and works as an assistant to both Adam Krynicki and Peng Gong. Lewis joined OIPC in May of 2012 and is also currently a student at UAF.

Business Director Nickole Conley rounds out the OIPC staff. She handles all financial and human resource issues for the office. Conley has worked for UAF since 2003 and also serves as the Chief Financial Officer for the College of Engineering and Mines.

In addition to the regular staff, OIPC has created an internship program. The new program gives undergraduate and graduate students a chance to develop skills in market research and intellectual property protection. During the spring semester, OIPC employed two graduate students, Dan Luo and Anton Gorodniuk. Luo and Gorodniuk performed prior art searches and advised the office of their findings.
Inventor Profile

Keith Cunningham

Years at UAF: 3 - Keith is a Research Assistant Professor at the Scenarios Networks for Alaska & Arctic Planning

Area of Expertise: Geographic information systems, remote sensing

Active Cases on File: 4

Miscellaneous Bio Information: Keith rode his Ural motorcycle & sidecar to Alaska in 2009. Known has his Siberian snow-cycle, it is his primary transportation.

Commercialization as
Keith Cunningham wasn’t aware he was an inventor. When he was younger, he thought he’d work at a government job for his entire life. Fortunately for both Cunningham and UAF, he soon found that government work did not agree with him and transitioned to a small engineering firm where he began to write mapping software and build custom spatial models.

Today, Cunningham is one of the most prolific inventors working with the Office of Intellectual Property and Commercialization. He has four active cases on file, ranging from volcanic ash detection to the use of LiDAR for real estate appraisal. Cunningham credits his time working at the engineering firm for the development of his ideas. “I learned to listen closely to what the customers want,” he said. “And you would never say you couldn’t do it.” His knack for listening to requests has helped fine-tune his inventions to meet specific needs in the market. “You have to think about the inventions,” he said. “If I can’t figure out where the money path is, it is time to change paths.”

Cunningham focuses his work on using those technologies to solve specific problems, and tries to find a way to use technology to complete a task normally done by hand. For example, he developed a way to streamline the real estate appraisal process using an optical remote sensing technology called LiDAR. Using Cunningham’s method, a computer can use elevation data and analyze changes to a building for assessment purposes. “If we can automate, there’s the return on that investment,” said Cunningham. “I spend $1 here and get back $10. It’s a no-brainer for the government.”

With his experience in geographic information systems and remote sensing, Cunningham formed a small business doing geotechnical consulting before coming to work for the university. Having an office one floor up from OIPC has made it easy for him to consult with Intellectual Property Specialist Adam Krynicki. Based on his early inventorship, Cunningham knows that he needs help commercializing his idea to make them successful. “It’s easy for me to come up with ideas, but I don’t necessarily have the depth to seize the intellectual property,” he said. He points out that he was building datasets 20 years ago that are similar to the current NavTech mapping data. “I was after innovation, rather than commercialization,” he said. “So many great ideas slipped out of my grasp because I didn’t have a commercialization backbone.”

Once I’ve found a novel solution, I’m ready to move on to the next thing. My strength is as an innovator, not as the person who maximizes the return. I can spin out ideas, but I need a mill behind me to act on those ideas.

Dr Cunningham and OIPC negotiated a conflict of interest plan and a joint-ownership agreement so that Cunningham’s small business could win a Small Business Innovation Research grant in partnership with UAF. His business was notified this summer that the research will be continued for two additional years. OIPC intends to spin this joint research off into a viable commercial entity.
The Office of Intellectual Property and Commercialization began a renewed effort to develop UAF’s IP in 2011.

As a result of the efforts made by the Universities’ inventors, the number of inventions disclosed to the office more than doubled in Fiscal Year 2012.

In previous years, OIPC averaged just under four invention disclosures per year. The office had received eight disclosures in 2006, which was the previous record. In FY12, inventors submitted an all-time high of 32 disclosures at UAF.

Getting to the higher numbers was no easy task. After Krynicki joined OIPC, he outlined an ambitious plan to present information about the office to various departments and groups at the university. The increased outreach efforts brought about results.

In addition to exploring new inventions, OIPC also stepped up its efforts to protect university research efforts, and helped faculty and staff to craft non-disclosure agreements.

After reviewing the disclosures, OIPC sought out the best ways to promote each invention. The office filed three provisional patents and prepared an additional three patents for future submission. OIPC also found two inventions were marketable under an open source license, and executed both of those agreements.

During a routine review of prior invention disclosures, OIPC discovered some previous efforts had been made to license a piece of software to an outside company. The office reopened negotiations, and ultimately signed a commercial license for UAF. A full story is available on Page 10.

Although the office has taken the initial steps, it can take up to three years to see the results of filing patents or seeking other intellectual property protection. OIPC has established a solid outreach and development program and is working to establish trusting relationships, build an office infrastructure, and demonstrate that we can perform and contribute to the Alaska technology enterprise ecosystem.
by the numbers

- Engaged over 49 faculty, staff, and student inventors in our process
- Reviewed 48 contracts for intellectual property language
- Explored 41 Inventions
- Received 32 new Invention Disclosures
- Executed 19 Non-Disclosure Agreements
- Closed 4 Invention Portfolios due to the existence of prior art and/or low marketability
- Executed 4 Open Source Licenses
- Filed 3 new Provisional Patents
- Prepared 3 new Provisional Patents
- Executed 1 Proprietary License
- Created 1 Collaborative Research Agreement
- Created 1 Material Transfer Agreement
Student-developed software licensed to CA company

The University of Alaska Fairbanks recently signed a commercial licensing agreement that gives California-based software company SeaSpace the exclusive use of SwathViewer, software developed at UAF Geographic Information Network of Alaska by Dan Stahlke.

Built for speed and efficient use of bandwidth, SwathViewer provides easy access and manipulation of global imagery and mapping data. The software enables users to rapidly zoom, pan, and layer multiple images and mapping data together without installing additional software. The software implements a rich, powerful, and lightweight user interface that can run inside a user's browser with minimal network load requirements. Stahlke began development of the software in 2006.

SeaSpace is a global leader in remote sensing and provides remote sensing solutions to a variety of users, ranging from research to military to emergency response. The company will incorporate SwathViewer into their software applications, increasing the value of their current product line and making the technology available to clients worldwide.

The office has been developing guidelines for commercializing UAF inventions and has seen a sharp rise in the number of invention disclosures submitted in the new fiscal year.
Publication Design: Mary Bellamy

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