

Chancellor's Report on Philanthropy



Summer 2012

BP supports petroleum lab at the College of Engineering and Mines



A generous \$110,000 gift from BP will provide funds for state-of-the-art lab equipment for the petroleum development lab in the College of Engineering and Mines. The equipment will offer research opportunities to graduate students, to help train future petroleum engineers and strengthen Alaska's current and future workforce. This is in addition to last fall's generous \$4 million in-kind gift of a working wellhead and equipment to the UAF Community and Technical College process technology program. Students will be able to learn on a working model like ones they will encounter in the field.

Scholarship and Award Breakfast

More than 200 donors, students and UAF representatives attended the 15th annual Scholarship and Award Breakfast, "Inspiring Student Success," on April 10 in the Wood Center Carol Brown Ballroom. The annual event allows scholarship recipients to celebrate the generosity and impact of their donor's support. Generous donors make it possible for UAF to award more than 450 scholarships totaling over \$1 million annually, with an average award of \$1,000. Scholarships continue to be a top priority for students at UAF. Scholarship donor Wynola Possenti '68, '75 and student recipients Theresia Schnurr and Elijah Verhagen spoke at the event.



Christa Hollerbach with Kelsey Bearden, recipient of the Scholarship for International Education.

Students reach out to donors

UAF recently conducted its inaugural spring phonathon program to raise support for the university and help build lifelong relationships. Student callers contacted alumni and friends based on college or school affiliation. Many students



Chancellor Rogers (center), Sherry Modrow and Mike Sfraga with UAF Development's Megan Damario (left) and Ross Imbler (right) and phone program students.

said they were inspired by the generosity of alumni and their willingness to give back to their alma mater. During the fall and spring phonathons, over 16,000 phone calls were made, raising more than \$57,000 from nearly 400 donors, including more than 100 new donors. The program's original goal was exceeded by more than \$22,000 due to the generosity of donors and the enthusiasm of the student callers.

Emil Usibelli Awards recognize UAF faculty

The 2012 Emil Usibelli Distinguished Teaching, Research and Service Awards were presented May 8 at a reception at the UA Museum of the North. This year's recipients were [Debendra Das](#), professor of mechanical engineering, for teaching; [Sergei Avdonin](#), professor of mathematics, for research; [Kenji Yoshikawa](#), research professor of water resources, for service. The three \$10,000 awards are funded annually from a generous endowment established by Usibelli Coal Mine in 1992. Named for pioneer Alaskan miner Emil Usibelli, the awards recognize faculty member's exemplary contributions to the discovery, communication and use of knowledge. The Usibelli family and Usibelli Coal Mine have established and support several named scholarships at UAF, made significant gifts to the UA Museum of the North, and continue to support many areas of the university. Their generosity has inspired others, including Dr. Das, who donated his award to his named scholarship, as well as past award recipients who have continued the circle of giving at UAF.



Kenji Yoshikawa, Debendra Das and Sergei Avdonin at the Emil Usibelli Awards ceremony.

Alaska's First University

2011 – 2012 giving summary

The FY12 fundraising goal for UAF of \$11,000,000 was surpassed, thanks to the support and commitment of our generous donors who believe in UAF's mission. To date, more than 3,600 donors have contributed \$13,967,523. UAF is grateful to the individuals and corporations who have supported the university over the years, and for the positive impact these gifts will have on students and programs.

Third annual Employee Giving Initiative

The 2012 Employee Giving Initiative kicked off in April. To date this fiscal year, more than 550 employees have made a gift to UAF, donating over \$250,000. Co-chairs Susan Sugai '85, associate director for the center for global change and arctic system research, and Glenn Juday, professor of forest ecology, are dedicated to global and climate change research. They both support the Robert Belous Research Endowment fund, established by Judy Belous, who donated \$28,500 in honor of her late husband. Judy is also a member of the UAF Legacy Society and has included UAF in her estate plans.



Achievements

Individual

An [anonymous](#) gift of \$20,200 was made in support of the Northern Gulf of Alaska Applied Research Fund.

[Michele Aubry](#) made a gift of stock valued at \$15,785.50 to the Harvey Shields Fellowship in Archaeology.

[Brian Rogers](#) and [Sherry Modrow '72, '85](#), pledged \$15,000 toward the Chancellor's College Completion Scholarship.

Corporate/Foundation

The [Georgeson Botanical Garden Society](#) made a \$45,000 gift to support the operation of the garden.

[McKinley Capital Management](#) donated \$22,558 in support of the School of Management.

[NANA Development Corp.](#) made a gift of \$10,000 to support the Alaska Business Week program, a summer business camp that gives students a hands-on learning opportunity to explore leadership skills and future career choices, as well as get a head start on college on the Fairbanks campus.

[Seisa Group](#) donated \$25,893.32 to the Seisa Science Fund to support the pursuit of science education at the International Arctic Research Center.

The [Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association](#) made a \$10,000 gift for Alaska salmon research at the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences.

[Tesoro Petroleum Companies](#) made a \$25,000 gift in support of the Alaska Business Week program at UAF.

In-Kind Support

Grace Berg Schaible '49 made an in-kind gift of two whale bone sculptures of polar bears valued at \$14,600 to the UA Museum of the North.

Legacy Society

The UAF Legacy Society recognizes donors who have made provisions to include UAF in their estate plans. There are currently 91 members. Recent additions include [Margret Lohfeld](#).

The UA Foundation sponsored a free annual estate planning seminar in Fairbanks, "Financial and Estate Planning in an Era of Change," on May 31, providing an opportunity for friends of UAF to learn about important considerations for wills, taxes, charitable giving and estate planning.

This list reflects gifts of \$10,000 and above made to the University of Alaska Fairbanks between Feb. 1, 2012, and May 10, 2012.

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Of note

[Dr. Cary S. Keller](#) of Sportsmedicine Fairbanks recently donated \$35,000 to UAF, with gifts to the Poole Student-Athlete Summer Scholarship and to the Dr. Cary Keller Scholarship. Dr. Keller is a steadfast supporter of UAF and committed to the success and health of student athletes. His generosity was recognized by the Alaska Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals with the 2011 Outstanding Philanthropist award and the FEA 2012 Friend of Education Award. Sportsmedicine Fairbanks will move to a new location (closer to UAF) in the Medical Dental Arts Building, 1919 Lathrop Street, Suite 105.



Dr. Keller (right) with his wife, Sarah and daughter, Alexis.

Students say thanks! In February, the Development Office held the first annual [Thank-a-Donor Day](#) in the Wood Center Carol Brown Ballroom. More than 100 scholarship recipients wrote personal notes to thank donors for their support and let them know the impact of their gift.



UAF scholarship recipient Jennifer Martelle writes a thank-you note.

The new GeoFORCE Alaska program, being launched this summer by the Rural Alaska Honors Institute, mirrors the successful program at the University of Texas. The program helps prepare students in grades 9 – 12 for future studies and careers in the geological sciences. Donors supporting this intensive field program include [ExxonMobil Corporation](#) with a \$10,000 gift, [Schlumberger Oilfield Services](#) with a gift of \$25,000 and [SolstenXP](#) with another \$25,000 gift.

[Mary Albanese '80 stopped by her alma mater to celebrate the release of her memoir, *Midnight Sun, Arctic Moon: Mapping the Wild Heart of Alaska*, and shared her geological adventures with aspiring young writers. Mary said "UAF was the icing on the cake" of her book tour, and that it felt like "I've come home again." She and husband Tom '79, CEO of Rio Tinto, increased support to UAF this year, making them one of the top annual fund donors to date.](#)

Advancement news. We are pleased to announce the merging of University Advancement and Student Services into a new division effective July 1. Mike Sfraga '84, '97, current vice chancellor of Student Services, will be the new vice chancellor of University and Student Advancement, following the retirement of Jake Poole, vice chancellor of University Advancement. We send Jake our best wishes and heartfelt thanks for his unwavering dedication throughout the years.

Save the date! The annual UAF donor reception takes place on Nov. 1 in the Regents' Great Hall.



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