



RESEARCH

University of Alaska Fairbanks
OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR

IMPACT

SPRING 2026

R/V *Sikuliaq*'s first Antarctic voyage

INSIDE:

- New planetarium fulfills a vision
- Serving up a dietary breakthrough
- Sky-high project boost for student engineers



Vice Chancellor for Research Report

Welcome to the third edition of *Impact*. This issue highlights exciting research and community connections that take place in every corner of our state, and in some cases, far beyond, such as the maiden voyage of the Arctic-focused R/V *Sikuliaq* to Antarctic waters. The stories we tell in these pages reflect our ever increasing global visibility as a polar research powerhouse.

I am especially impressed by all we continue to accomplish when we consider the enormous change and uncertainty experienced by the research world over the past year. Through all of the ups and downs, UAF researchers kept going, carrying out impactful research that is deeply connected to state and national priorities and to the communities we serve. I thank all of our

researchers for their perseverance and commitment to our mission.

Of course, none of this work would be possible without our partners. The opening of the Walt and Marita Babula Planetarium, featured in these pages, is a reflection of the way that dreams can become reality through partnership. I thank all of our partners, whether federal, state, military, tribal or community, for working with us to better understand and shape our world.

I invite you to join us in celebrating the work of America's Arctic University and in continuing to build the partnerships that will carry us forward.

– **Laura Conner**

Vice Chancellor for Research
University of Alaska Fairbanks

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COVER:

R/V *Sikuliaq* moves through the ice-covered Weddell Sea as NSF-supported researchers study how sea ice melt shapes biogeochemistry in the marginal ice zone. The work advances understanding of how changing sea ice and meltwater fluxes influence plankton communities, primary production, and carbon export in the Southern Ocean. Credit: Ellen Buckley / University of Illinois



Aerial photo of Poker Flat Research Range.
UAF Geophysical Institute photo by Bryan Whitten

Bridging Research & Community

JANUARY



UAF photo by Eric Engman

IANRE Circumpolar Connections

Across the circumpolar North, communities face similar challenges in building resilient and sustainable food systems due to harsh climates, remote geographies and rapidly changing environmental conditions. The Institute of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Extension at UAF began its monthly seminar series, which runs through April, to engage researchers, students and community members in dialogue about food systems and agricultural challenges throughout the Arctic region. Sessions featured a 30-minute presentation followed by open discussion, encouraging audience participation and interdisciplinary connection.

FEBRUARY



UAF Geophysical Institute photo
by Eric Marshall

New planetarium's name revealed

A decades-long dream of a planetarium at the University of Alaska Museum of the North comes to fruition this spring when the 65-seat facility opens to the public in late April.

The planetarium will be named for Walt and Marita Babula, the formerly anonymous donors whose \$7.4 million donation funded the construction. The couple's gift is the single largest ever to the University of Alaska from living individuals.

See more on pages 8-9

MARCH



Photo by Phillip Wilson

COAST-X, Institute of Northern Engineering

The COAST-X mission began its 1,500-mile snowmachine trip from Bethel to Utqiagvik along Alaska's western and northern coasts, documenting environmental change. Led by UAF researchers, the project partners with coastal communities, combining field measurements and local knowledge to better understand changing Arctic coastlines and impacts.

APRIL



UAF photo by Marina B. Santos

Science Potpourri

Designed to spark children's curiosity about science, Science Potpourri has been a K-12 outreach tradition at the University of Alaska Fairbanks since the 1980s. This free, all-ages event features hands-on activities, science shows, liquid-nitrogen ice cream, scavenger hunts and educational crafts in a safe, fun environment for young learners.

UAF Research

facts and figures

WHERE UAF RESEARCH HAPPENS

UAF research is place-based, student-driven and mission-critical to Alaska and the Arctic. With over 90 research field facilities and locations, UAF research is happening across the state of Alaska in many impactful ways.

Catch a glimpse of some of the research facilities here at UAF. View and interact with the map via QR code for a comprehensive list of facilities in Alaska.



<https://www.uaf.edu/research/research-at-uaf/index.php>





Troth Yeddha' Campus

The **Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy** builds community resilience to climate change through research, adaptation planning, and science communication. As a NOAA-supported team, they provide actionable science to help local, state, and tribal stakeholders make informed decisions in a rapidly changing environment.



Georgeson Botanical Garden:

The farthest-north botanical garden, Georgeson is well-known for its work with peonies – which bloom in June and July – as well as its research, education and outreach about high-latitude horticulture.

The **High Bay**, located at UAF in the Joseph E. Usibelli Engineering Learning and Innovation Building, is a structural testing laboratory that is outfitted with a 30-ton overhead crane and a strong floor constructed of super-reinforced concrete. The space is intended to be used by students and faculty to test building components for large structures.

Did you know?

ASF

The **Alaska Satellite Facility** will soon be storing much more data, this time from the new U.S.-India NISAR satellite. NISAR will send about 35 petabytes annually to ASF.

That's more in one year than ASF has stored from the European Space Agency's Sentinel-1 satellite, ASF's most-popular dataset, over that satellite's 11-year lifetime.

1 petabyte
= 1,000 terabytes
= 1 million gigabytes

Modern personal computers typically have 256 gigabytes to several terabytes of storage.

LARS

We have muskoxen: The Large Animal Research Station is the only research facility in the world with a captive herd of muskoxen. LARS houses a combination of muskoxen, reindeer and wood bison.

IANRE

Longest-running field station: Fairbanks Experiment Farm contains the longest continuously running weather observation station in Alaska. The experiment farm began recording the weather on July 1, 1911, 115 years ago.

TOOLIK

Coldest field site: Toolik temps dropped to -45.3°C on Jan, 5, 2026. The lowest temperature recorded at Toolik was -57.6°C on Jan. 26, 1989.



UAF photo by
Marina B. Santos

UAF is one of only a handful of institutions in the country that can claim the triple crown status of **Land, Sea and Space** Grant Institution.

Here on Troth Yeddha'

Amped up about AMPPS! Student-driven project flies high on Poker Flat launch

By Rod Boyce

Inside a 58-foot-tall two-stage NASA sounding rocket packed with engines, fuel and a large payload for the primary NASA aurora mission, a dainty bit of electronics the size of a tuna can was hitching a ride.

That small package was an electron spectrometer built by a team of University of Alaska Fairbanks students led by Quetzal Larrick, who goes by "Q" to most. He's the lab manager at the Space Systems Engineering Program of the College of Engineering and Mines. The program is also part of UAF Alaska Space Grant, which is part of the Geophysical Institute.

The 3D-printed device is called AMPPS, the Additively Manufactured Plastic Plasma Spectrometer.

AMPPS was born in the summer of 2018 when a retired NASA physicist visited the College of Engineering and Mathematics Space Systems Lab and introduced the idea of building a small plasma spectrometer to detect individual electrons that cause the aurora and to measure their energies. Larrick was a sophomore.

It didn't become an integrated instrument project, however, until the winter of 2023-24.

"That's after I finished my thesis, which was about the power supply for AMPPS," Larrick said. "That gave us the foundation to finally think of it as a whole instrument called AMPPS instead of as several separate projects."

CEM students joined the AMPPS effort two years ago: Mary Bolling, Ayman Elta-hir, Jonathan Rayborn and Bruce Smith.



"They are still working with me now," Larrick said. "We didn't have all the pieces of AMPPS working together as a unit until late summer 2025."

Then came a surprise announcement in the fall of 2025: the chance for AMPPS to piggyback on an aurora rocket launch out of Poker Flat Research Range. AMPPS went up Feb. 9 on the Black and Diffuse Aurora Science Surveyor mission, led by Marilia Samara of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center.

"I'm thankful to Marilia Samara and the people from Goddard for welcoming us into the project and believing in the AMPPS team," Larrick said. "And I'm thankful for the UAF faculty who have supported my work over the last few years: Denise Thorsen, Don Hampton and Mark Conde."

And how does he feel now that AMPPS has flown?

"It feels great," he said. "This was a really exciting and lucky result from a stressful situation."



<https://ssep.alaska.edu/ampps/>

UAF Geophysical Institute
photo

A grad student's classroom activity builds confidence across backgrounds

By Kat Reichert

UAF graduate student Anne Moore turned classroom innovation into a published chapter in *Communication Activities for the Classroom*.

The chapter, titled "The Impromptu Construction Wheel," is available through Springer Nature's Link platform.

For Moore, a master's student in professional communication in the College of Liberal Arts, the publication is rooted in her life story. Born and raised in the mountains of Guatemala, she has lived in six cities, traveled to 40 countries and has long been engaged in work with historically marginalized communities across the United States.

Those experiences, together with her move to the U.S. in 2020 and eventual settling in Alaska, sharpened her awareness of how culture, law and policy shape everyday communication and classroom dynamics.

"As a foreign-born professor, I noticed the dynamics in the classroom post-COVID felt awkward, and most of the students were shy," Moore said.

She also saw how a prolonged period without face-to-face interaction had affected students' confidence and sense of connection.

Her response was a fast-paced, low-stakes activity that gets students building speeches in real time. Instructors and students brainstorm potential topics, ranging from campus issues to playful prompts like whether cereal counts as soup, then load them into an online "wheel" and spin to receive a randomized assignment. Students either

develop a barebones impromptu speech in just a few minutes or build a full 5–7 minute persuasive presentation to deliver in a later class.

"The primary goal of this activity is to promote creativity, address glossophobia [the intense fear of public speaking], apply the techniques of persuasion and nonverbal communication via an impromptu speech, and consider the role of dramaturgy in public speaking," Moore writes.



<https://www.uaf.edu/cla/news/2025/spin-speak-connect.php>

BELOW:

Anne Moore overlooking Athens, one of many places that enriched her understanding of how people connect, speak and share their stories.

Photo courtesy of Anne Moore



UAMN Planetarium

By Rod Boyce

A decades-long dream of a planetarium at the University of Alaska Museum of the North comes to fruition this spring when the University of Alaska Fairbanks opens the new 65-seat facility to the public.

The planetarium is named for Walt and Marita Babula, the formerly anonymous donors whose \$7.4 million donation funded the construction. The couple's gift is the single largest ever to the University of Alaska from living individuals.

The project itself is a testament to the lasting impact of philanthropy in our community, said Mike Sfraga, UAF's interim chancellor.

"Aspirations and grand visions like our new planetarium can sometimes seem out of reach," he said. "We are so grateful for the partnership that has enabled Walt and Marita's vision to be realized and create this extraordinary place that will educate and inspire Alaskans and museum visitors for generations to come."



The planetarium is a collaboration between the museum and the UAF Geophysical Institute. The addition to the museum's west side will provide a new forum for highlighting UAF's research and Alaska's cultures.

The Babulas expressed their vision in a written statement.

"Most importantly, it will enable space science education opportunities for K-12 and higher education students," the couple wrote. "We also envision the planetarium as a place that will spark the curiosity of Alaskans and visitors

ABOVE:

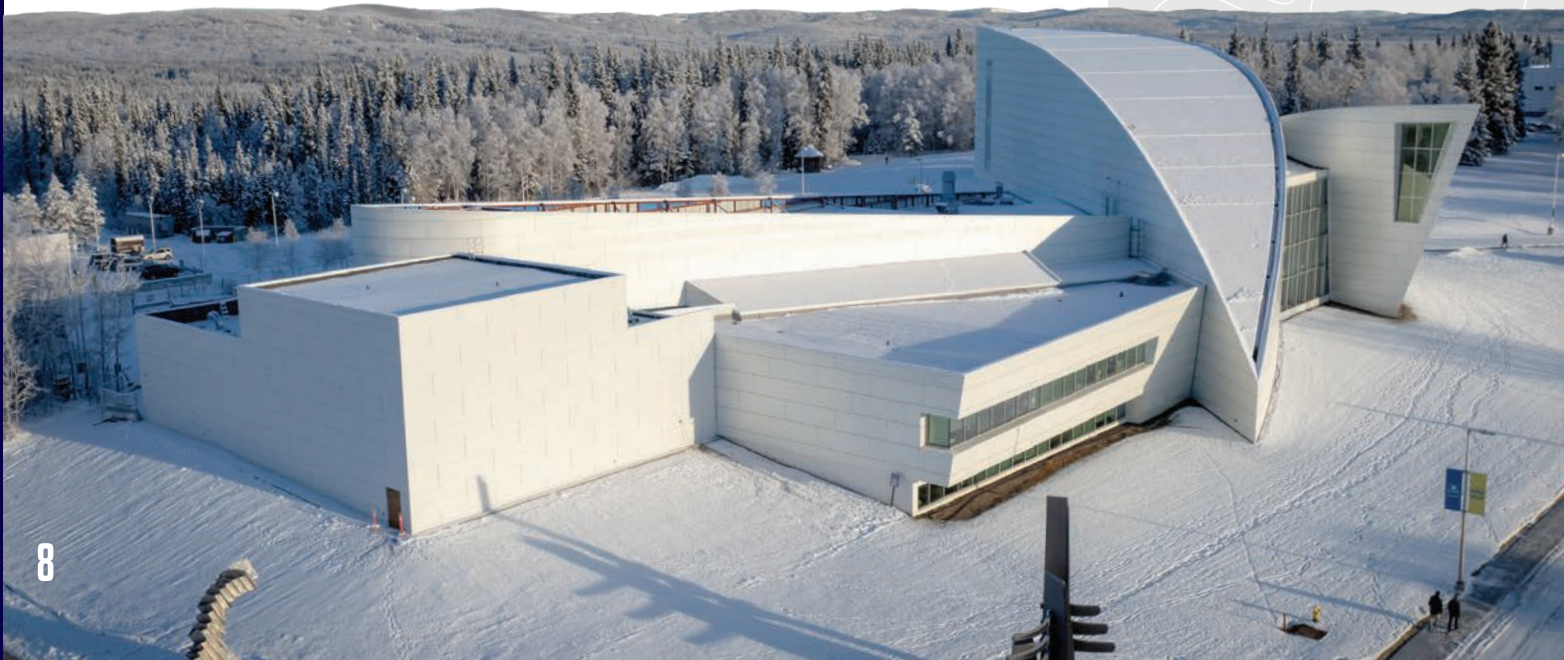
A crew member works on the planetarium structure inside the new museum addition.

UAF GI photo by Bryan Whitten

BELOW:

Snow surrounds the UA Museum of the North, including its new planetarium addition (at left), in November 2025. Crews continue to work inside the enclosure.

UAF GI photo by Eric Marshall





The new Walt and Marita Babula Planetarium includes 65 seats under an 11-meter dome.

Photo by Bryan Whitten

from around the globe about our Alaska culture and vast universe.”

The 5,700-square-foot planetarium will include an 11-meter dome, two high-resolution projectors, four image-generation computers and theater-quality sound.

In addition to being a draw for visitors to Interior Alaska, the planetarium will also serve prekindergarten-12th grade school groups, UAF students and faculty, and host special events.



Walt and Marita Babula visit the planetarium construction site at the University of Alaska Fairbanks on Oct. 11, 2025. The Babulas sit with planetarium donors Cary and Sarah Keller, flanking newly hired planetarium director Omega Smith.

UAF GI photo by Bryan Whitten



<https://www.uaf.edu/aurora/archives/winter-2025/coming-soon-out-of-this-world-experience-at-new-uaf-planetarium.php>

From the Field



<https://www.uaf.edu/cfos/newsroom/media/research-highlights.php>

“

We're at the mercy of Mother Nature pretty much anytime we're at sea

”

R/V *Sikuliaq* sails south for the winter. Way south.

By Jeff Richardson, College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences

After spending much of its first decade as a platform for Arctic science, the research vessel *Sikuliaq* is focusing on a different type of polar research in early 2026. The ship operated in Antarctica for the first time this year after arriving at the southernmost continent in mid-January.

The 261-foot ice-capable vessel, which is owned by the U.S. National Science Foundation and has been operated by the UAF College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences since 2014, supported three Antarctic research projects that were previously hosted by vessels that no longer have contracts with NSF. The charter for the research vessel Laurence M. Gould expired in 2024, and

NSF ended its lease with the research vessel Nathaniel B. Palmer last year.

R/V *Sikuliaq*'s introduction to the region highlighted both the excitement and challenges of remote Antarctic science. The Weddell Sea, where the initial research projects were conducted, was ice-free last January. When the ship arrived this year, the area was blanketed in multiyear ice, preventing R/V *Sikuliaq* from reaching a research site on Seymour Island. The ship and science team adapted their plans so they could reach it later.

"We're at the mercy of Mother Nature pretty much anytime we're at sea," R/V *Sikuliaq* Marine Superintendent Doug Baird said.

R/V *Sikuliaq* is rated to navigate ice up to 2.5 feet thick. At one station early in the cruise, a research team measured the ice in part of the Weddell Sea at 7.5 feet, buried beneath 18 inches of snow.

"There are some icebreakers that could get through it, but very few," Baird said.

Those conditions caused some delays before research could resume. A coring project on Antarctica's Seymour Island is for a study of the effects of a mass extinction event during the Cretaceous Period. While those scientists were ashore, a team in the Weddell Sea studied how changing sea ice and meltwater are affecting the ecosystem of the Southern Ocean.

The final cruise aimed to collect and evaluate a species of ascidians (sea squirts) along the west side



UAF CFOS photo by Kyra Sims



of the Antarctic Peninsula using a combination of diving, remote-operated vehicle work, and small-scale trawling.

Katrin Iken, a marine biology professor at UAF, assisted with the collection process, which included scuba dives up to 130 feet deep. She did similar work in Antarctica as a Ph.D. student, postdoctoral researcher, and most recently in 2019 as a CFOS professor.

"It's known that this species produces metabolites that have been proven effective against cancer," Iken said.

"There are a bunch of different questions being asked during this cruise about the compounds they produce and how local environmental conditions affect them."

R/V *Sikuliaq*'s roughly three-month stay in Antarctica sparked uncommon interest, Baird said.

"It's opened us up to people who follow the Antarctic science program, and opened them up to people who follow R/V *Sikuliaq*," he said. "It's been a nice blend of two different audiences."





“
Rocket launches
are quite a
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”

Poker Flat Launches

By Rod Boyce

Three missions with four rockets were sent skyward in an unusually short timespan at Poker Flat Research Range. That's a big success for the Poker crew on a much tighter schedule than in previous years at the range north of Fairbanks.

The first went up Jan. 30 and was followed by a week of scheduled downtime. The second launched Feb. 9, and a two-rocket mission went up the next day.

"The team at Poker Flat is amazing, and I'm proud to be part of it," said Kyle McAllen, deputy director of Poker Flat and of the High-frequency Active Auroral Research Program. "We were able to launch four rockets in just four days of launch opportunities. And three of those launches occurred in just two days."

The University of Alaska Fairbanks Geophysical Institute owns Poker Flat, located at Mile 30 Steese Highway, and operates it under a contract with Wallops Flight Facility, which is part of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center.

This is McAllen's first season leading Poker Flat, but he has been associated with the range for many years.

Before joining the Geophysical Institute, McAllen managed NASA's \$34 million Heliophysics Strategic Technology Office at Wallops in Virginia. He has also served as launch and test director at Wallops, where he led a diverse portfolio of missions including International Space Station commercial resupply, National Reconnaissance Office orbital launches, Department of Defense testing and evaluation, Navy Fleet Forces training exercises, and suborbital sounding rocket missions from Wallops Island and Poker Flat.

"Poker Flat is important to the nation, the state and especially to the Fairbanks region, and I know how much this facility means to the community," McAllen said. "Rocket launches are quite a spectacle, and we enjoy not only the science they provide but also the joy they bring to those watching."



<https://www.gi.alaska.edu/news/third-2026-mission-launches-poker-flat-research-range>



LEFT:

Poker Flat's launchpads, including two with retractable coverings, are visible in this aerial photo.

UAF GI photo by Bryan Whitten

ROCKETS, OPPOSITE PAGE:

This composite photo shows the launch of two rockets, 30 seconds apart, on Feb. 10 in a mission to better understand how changes in the ionosphere influence the aurora's appearance.

Composite photo by Bryan Whitten

Researcher Spotlight

Meet Institute of Arctic Biology postdoctoral fellow Jessica Johnson

By Rod Boyce

Jessica Johnson, a postdoctoral fellow and former doctoral student in biological sciences, studies how tiny chemical clues in the body can reveal what people eat.

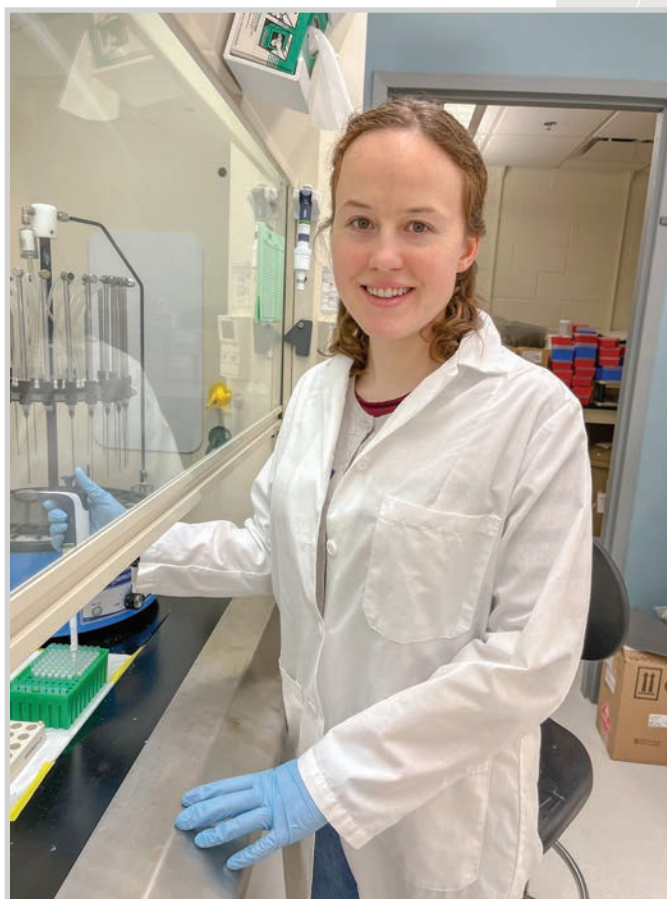
Johnson's research at the UAF Institute of Arctic Biology's Center for Alaska Native Health Research focuses on stable isotopes, naturally occurring forms of elements that can act like dietary fingerprints. By studying these subtle signals, she hopes to better measure how much added sugar and animal protein people actually consume and to compare those findings with what people report in large health studies.

Her work aims to improve the accuracy of nutrition research and deepen understanding of how diet shapes health.

Johnson's most recent work shows that a chemical marker in the body can reliably reveal how much added sugar and how many sugar-sweetened drinks a person consumes. The marker works in people of different ages, sexes, races and diets.

The findings were published in *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* in late 2025. Johnson is the research paper's lead author.

"We now have an objective way to measure a person's intake of added sugar or sugar-sweetened beverages," Johnson said.



That information can then be associated with rates of obesity and chronic disease to improve research.

Johnson earned her bachelor's degree in biology in 2011 from Tufts University, located in the greater Boston area where she grew up. She completed a master's degree in oceanography and coastal sciences in 2017 at Louisiana State University, where she studied the food web and ecology of Gulf Coast salt marshes.



<https://www.uaf.edu/news/new-research-can-reveal-how-much-you-drink.php>

Photo courtesy of Jessica Johnson

GI GRADUATE STUDENT PROFILE, GABBY NOWAK

Meet Geophysical Institute graduate student researcher Gabrielle Nowak

By Rod Boyce

Graduate student researchers are the future of science and an integral part of our UAF Geophysical Institute family.

So let's meet one of them.

Here's Gabrielle "Gabby" Nowak from the Geophysical Institute's Space Physics Group. Her advisor is assistant professor Doğanca Ozturk.

Q: Where are you from? Tell us about that place.

Gabby: I'm originally from West Michigan. I grew up in Grand Haven, which is a small beach town on the shore of Lake Michigan.

Q: Tell us about your education path. Where were you before coming to UAF? What stage are you at in your graduate program?

Gabby: I attended Central Michigan University as an undergrad, where I majored in physics with an astronomy concentration and minored in mathematics and computer science. As a first-generation college student, I was a part of the McNair Scholars Program and had the opportunity to participate in research studying the spectra of Be-type star disks. As a graduate student at UAF, I changed gears from astronomy to space physics. I am currently a Ph.D. candidate.

Q: Tell us about your general field of research. What do you find interesting about it?

Gabby: A major subset of space physics work has to do with investigating Earth's magnetic field and its interaction with the solar wind. Space weather can impact aspects of everyday life — from communications, GPS navigation and power outages to aurora forecasting. This is what I found most exciting about space physics and encouraged my decision to transition from astronomy. The work still feels exploratory and large-scale but is also more tangible and human-focused.

Q: Why did you choose UAF?

Gabby: I was initially attracted to UAF because of the location. I've always enjoyed winter sports, and Fairbanks is a prime location for cross-country skiing. Speaking with some of the physics graduate students is what cemented my decision, however. Thanks to discussions with graduate students over Zoom and email, I was able to get a sense of the university and department culture, which helped me decide that UAF was a good fit for me.



Read more of our Q&A with Gabby and watch a video.

UAF photo by Eric Marshall

Research Group Showcase

Center for Alaska Native Health Research

The Center for Alaska Native Health Research in the UAF Institute of Arctic Biology was established in 2001 through an infrastructure grant from the National Institutes of Health as part of the Institutional Development Award Program, which supports the development of Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence in states that receive lower levels of NIH funding such as Alaska.

CANHR's COBRE funding has expired, but the center is sustained by independent research programs that receive federal funding from multiple agencies, including the NIH, National Science Foundation, Department of Defense, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

The center also receives strategic initiative funding from the state to continue to grow its research programs at UAF and statewide.

CANHR's mission is to increase our state's research capacity and community engagement in research to improve Alaska Native health and to apply the knowledge gained from research to improve health for all Alaskans.

The program was founded with a focus on understanding what biological and behavioral factors contribute to the higher rates of some chronic diseases among Alaska Native people.



CANHR's research today directly addresses national health priorities identified by the president's Make America Healthy Again Commission with a strong focus on chronic disease prevention and improving young people's mental health and well-being.

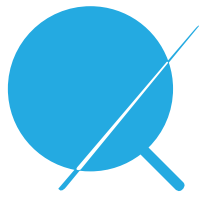
Research advancements by the CANHR program have led to new projects and programs expanding to other regions and to other communities including addressing health in Alaska's military installations and among Alaska Native veterans.

Spring boating after break up.

Photo by Abraham Rivers



<https://www.uaf.edu/canhr/>



CENTER FOR ALASKA NATIVE HEALTH RESEARCH

SUBJECT MATTER AREAS

Chronic disease

Basic science and intervention research to improve diet, nutrition and physical activity. Projects draw on community strengths and values to promote food security, healthy eating and physical activity among families and communities.



Mental health and suicide prevention

Exploratory and intervention research to reduce risk and increase resilience, social connectedness and well-being. Projects draw on community and cultural strengths to increase protective factors such as social connectedness, healthy leadership and having meaning and purpose.

MAJOR INNOVATIONS AND ADVANCEMENTS

Working to improve young people's mental health and well-being

This innovation led to the establishment of the Qungasvik (Tools for Life) intervention as the nation's first Alaska Native evidence-based practice showing impacts for improving mental health outcomes in 251 young people.



DoD use of CANHR research with Alaska Native communities

This innovation led to the development of a new initiative in CANHR, the Military Health Research Consortium, that applies research knowledge and methods from prior projects in a military service setting.



Appointments & Honors

2025 Top Agri-food Pioneer by the World Food Prize Foundation

Magdi Elsayed

Elsayed is a research assistant professor of weed science at the University of Alaska Fairbanks Institute of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Extension. The World Food Prize Foundation is honoring him for his work improving water productivity in regions facing climate extremes across Africa and the Middle East. That work included using saline groundwater in irrigation on farms, improving drought and salt tolerance in wheat using artificial intelligence-driven genotype selection, and studying efficient irrigation techniques on farms.



2025 Emil Usibelli Awards

Sabine Siekmann

Siekmann is a professor of applied linguistics at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and recipient of the 2025 Usibelli Distinguished Teaching Award. Recognized for her generosity, innovation and collaborative leadership, she advances language education and teacher professional development across Alaska. She partners with rural schools and communities to prepare Alaska Native language speakers and learners to become teachers. As director of UAF's English as a Second Language program, she has strengthened language advocacy and modernized curriculum. Since 2005, she has authored three books and 25 articles, mentored 43 graduate students and secured \$7.3 million in grants.



The American Peony Society recognizes the Georgeson Botanical Garden

For more than 25 years, people from around the world have visited Georgeson Botanical Garden to admire and learn more about the peonies that bloom there, 120 miles south of the Arctic Circle. In April, the American Peony Society designated the Georgeson as an official peony reference garden, one of nine nationally. A reference garden is an educational garden that introduces visitors to mature cultivars of species and exhibits the conditions under which plants should be grown. Visitors can compare specimens to their plants, helping them identify unknown or mislabeled cultivars. The Georgeson Botanical Garden is part of the Fairbanks Experiment Farm on the UAF Troth Yeddha' Campus.



Toolik Field Station receives legislative honorarium

April, 2025

Toolik received a legislative honorarium in April to celebrate UAF Toolik Field Station's 50th anniversary. The honorarium was sponsored by Sen. Robert Myers and presented at the Goldpanners UAF Alumni game last summer.



Publication Highlight

Peyuluk: Volcano

By Rod Boyce

One of Alaska's most active volcanoes has a starring role in a new school curriculum designed to teach students not only about volcano science and volcano hazards but also about the life of the people who live near the occasionally restless giant.

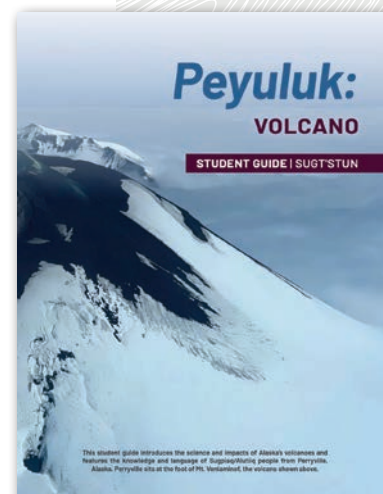
"Peyuluk: Volcano" provides lessons and materials about the community of Perryville and its looming volcano, Mount Veniaminof. "Peyuluk" is the word for volcano in the Sugt'stun language of the region's Sugpiaq/Alutiiq people.

The curriculum represents a months-long collaboration among Perryville residents, University of Alaska Fairbanks Geophysical Institute volcanology researchers, the Alaska Volcano Observatory and the Education Outreach Office of the Geophysical Institute.

"Peyuluk: Volcano" includes a teacher manual and lesson plans, student guides, basic volcano information for teachers, video, and Sugpiaq language pronunciation guide.

Perryville sits 22 miles south of Veniaminof, a 8,225-foot stratovolcano with a 6-mile diameter summit caldera. It is currently at rest but has been intermittently active, with its most recent eruption in early 2021 producing small ash plumes and lava within its summit caldera. A larger eruption in 2018 sent lava fountains and ash several miles into the air.

"Peyuluk: Volcano" is part of a collaborative project funded by the National Science Foundation through its Prediction of and Resilience against Extreme Events, or PREEVENTS, program. The \$2.56 million five-year grant to several Geophysical Institute researchers affiliated with the volcano observatory was one of 15 funded through the program.



<https://culturalconnections.gi.alaska.edu/curriculum/peyuluk-volcano>

UAF GI photo

Production Manager; Alanna Greenwell
Designer; Molly Putman
Antarctic View Photo by Margaret Mars Brisbin



Read more at
uaf.edu/research

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