Achievements

Provost Paul Reichardt was named 2007 winner of the Edith R. Bullock Prize for Excellence in service to the University of Alaska. Reichardt’s steady leadership at UAF and unimpeachable integrity were cited by the UA Foundation’s Board of Trustees in making the award. Reichardt began his career at UAF as an assistant professor of chemistry in 1972 and has served as provost since 1998. He is retiring at the close of the academic year.

Susan Henrichs, dean of the UAF Graduate School, will succeed Provost Paul Reichardt when he retires this summer. Henrichs came to UAF in 1982 and first served as an assistant professor in UAF’s Institute of Marine Science. She has served as Graduate School dean and vice provost since 2003. Henrichs will collaborate with Reichardt to ensure a smooth transition and will officially take over the position July 1.

Recent major gifts will enhance student opportunities at UAF. A $5 million six-year grant from the Rasmuson Foundation will allow the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences to develop a new undergraduate fisheries curriculum. Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. pledged $500,000 over the next five years to bolster programs such as the Rural Alaska Honors Institute, the School of Management’s MBA program and the Science for Alaska Lecture Series. The Liz Claiborne and Art Ortenberg Foundation pledged $25,000 per year for 10 years for students working in international wilderness conservation.

The Drums of Winter, an award-winning 1988 documentary film on Yup’ik Eskimo music and dance co-produced by Leonard Kamerling of the UA Museum of the North, was added to the National Film Registry of the Library of Congress. Nearly 1,000 films were nominated in 2006, but only 25 were selected.

In Progress

UAF’s Vision Task Force gathered 55 leaders from Alaska and across the country March 6–7 to help develop ideas and recommendations for how to become one of the best arctic research and teaching universities in the world by our 100th anniversary in 2017. More meetings will take place into June.

International Polar Year events underway include the IPY Visiting Author Series. Tim Flannery and Dava Sobel spoke on campus in March and Tom Barnett in early April. Upcoming events include K-12 art and writing contests, science symposiums and conferences.

The civil engineering department hosted the Pacific Northwest steel bridge competitions April 12–14. This regional competition is part of a national bridge-building competition for civil engineering students. This is the first year the regional competitions were scheduled in Alaska.

What's Next

UAF’s 85th commencement takes place May 13. Gen. Hugh Shelton, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will receive an honorary degree and deliver the commencement address.

The International Arctic Research Center building will be named after Syun-Ichi Akasofu in a naming ceremony April 27 to honor the former director of the Geophysical Institute and the founding director of IARC.

UAF’s Summer Sessions sponsors a live broadcast of National Public Radio’s Talk of the Nation: Science Friday, with science correspondent Ira Flatow Friday, June 8. Other new Summer Sessions programs this year include the intensive MAyerss, where students can earn three upper division credits in two weeks.

Chancellor Steve Jones addresses the Vision Task Force in the Wood Center Carol Brown Ballroom on the Fairbanks campus.
Winners again! The Nanook rifle team won its ninth NCAA national championship March 10 on their home range in front of the largest crowd ever at a collegiate rifle match. The trophy’s polish gleamed a little more brightly with the announcement that six Nanook team members were named All-Americans. Here, Chancellor Steve Jones and Gov. Sarah Palin congratulate team members Matt Rawlings, Matthias Dierolf, Patrik Sartz, Christian Lejon and head coach Dan Jordan while the Nanook mascot looks on.

A: Several groups of UAF student leaders visit Juneau each year during the legislative session. Students and faculty in the College of Rural and Community Development met with Gov. Sarah Palin during their Understanding the Legislative Process seminar.

B: Junior Jonathan Hutchinson prepares an ice stanchion as students from UAF’s College of Engineering and Mines raise the 2007 ice arch in front of the Rasmuson Library on the Fairbanks campus. The arch was raised with assistance from local construction firm GHEMM Co.

C: Members of the UAF Jazz Band, directed by Assistant Professor Karen Gustafson, practice for a performance in the Charles Davis Concert Hall on the Fairbanks campus.