Chancellor Jones addresses the delegates of the Vision Task Force Nov. 1 in the Wood Center Carol Brown Ballroom. Behind him are co-chairs Provost Emeritus Paul Reichardt, Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. President Kevin Hostler and Denali State Bank President Jo Heckman.

Achievements

**UA Museum of the North** researchers used a new technique to hunt for dinosaur specimens along the North Slope’s Colville River this year. Instead of digging on a narrow beach, they excavated a 19-foot-deep tunnel into the bluff. The results paid off — more than a hundred 70 million-year-old specimens were recovered, many in excellent condition.

**UAF actively participated in the 2007 Alaska Federation of Natives conference** in October. The College of Rural and Community Development hosted events on campus for youth and Wisdom Bearers and many other departments interacted with AFN attendees.

**BP Alaska extended its support** for the annual BP Top of the World Classic men’s basketball tournament by pledging $575,000 over the next five years. BP first sponsored the Top of the World Classic in 2000, and will maintain its role as the tournament’s title sponsor through 2012. This contribution marks the largest sponsorship agreement in the Athletic Department’s history.

**Faculty filled two new endowed chairs** this fall. Associate Professor Mary Childers Mangusso, Arthur T. Fathauer Chair in History; and Professor Joel Shurkin, Charles W. Snedden Chair in Journalism, met representatives of the donors whose gifts established their positions at a reception in October. An endowed faculty chair requires a donation to the university exceeding $2 million. UAF now has four endowed chairs.

**The International Polar Year outreach office** sent a K-12 educator resource guide to every school in the state to help teachers integrate IPY into their lessons. In addition to the educator resource guide, the IPY office announced art and writing contests for Alaska youth. Both contests will run through March 2008.

**The Arctic Region Supercomputing Center’s new Sun Opteron Cluster**, named Midnight, is the first Sun supercomputer at the center and the first in the Department of Defense High Performance Computing Modernization Program nationwide. Major computing resources on Midnight will be committed to modeling global climate change.

In Progress

**The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation** has asked UAF to submit a full proposal for funding an indigenous studies program. UAF received a $40,000 planning gift in July from the foundation to begin creating a program aimed at increasing the number of Native Alaskans with Ph.D. degrees.

**The Cold Climate Housing Research Center** will discuss research to develop and test a variety of wood-burning technologies as a practical energy alternative to oil at a public lecture at the UA Museum of the North Dec. 6.

What’s Next

**The Alaska Nanook women’s basketball** team will host the annual Mt. McKinley Bank North Star Invitational tournament Nov. 23 – 24. The competition gathers some of the country’s finest Division II women’s basketball programs for two days of spirited competition.

**The Alaska Nanook men’s hockey team** hosts the second round of the Governor’s Cup games against UAA Dec. 28 – 29 at the Carlson Center. The Nanooks will attempt to regain ground lost after they were outshot by the Seawolves in the first two games of the series.

**The Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy** is sponsoring a series of statewide teleconferences on climate change topics as a joint endeavor between UAF and UAA. The teleconferences will promote dialogue among scientists, organizations and individuals who need information related to climate change in Alaska to make well-informed decisions.

**The annual Festival of Native Arts** is scheduled for Feb. 28 – March 1, 2008. Fairbanks families and organizations expect to host approximately 650 Native dancers from Alaska and Canada, who will provide festival attendees with a diverse array of Native culture.
The UAF fisheries program is expanding thanks to a generous six-year grant from the Rasmuson Foundation. The School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences has developed a new undergraduate curriculum and increased opportunities for fisheries students.

A new fish techniques class, made possible by the grant and co-taught by Amanda Rosenberger and Trent Sutton, offered students hands-on learning opportunities while collecting live samples for study back in the lab. Above, a student displays the distinctive dorsal fin of an arctic grayling from the Chatanika. At right, senior Naomi Brodersen keeps careful records of the data. Below left, junior Andrew Garry awaits students returning with samples from Ballaine Lake. Below, students check a gillnet set to collect specimens from Ballaine Lake.