**ACHIEVEMENTS**

**A team led by UAF scientists** was awarded a $1.7 million National Science Foundation grant to study long-term and ongoing population trends in the Pacific walrus. The project brings together scientists from the U.S. and Canada with a range of expertise to study marine mammals whose sea ice habitat has been markedly receding in recent years.

**The Alaska Federation of Natives** recognized Alaska Native Language Center Director Larry Kaplan and Interior-Aleutians Campus Director Teisha Simmons. Kaplan received the Denali Award for his work on the Inupiaq language, and Simmons received the Hannah Solomon Award for increasing rural Alaskans’ opportunities in higher education.

**The Alaska Nanooks men’s basketball team** traveled in October to Barrow to scrimmage Post University of Connecticut. The scrimmage, which was played at the Barrow High School gymnasium, was organized with support from the Alaska men’s basketball booster club. It was the fourth NCAA basketball game played in Barrow, and the first since Alaska Anchorage defeated Lincoln (Ill.) Christian 119-77 in 1994.

**Author and alumna Mary Albanese** recently donated a collection of her personal papers to the Alaska and Polar Regions Collections and Archives at the Elmer E. Rasmuson Library. The papers feature material she used while writing her book *Midnight Sun, Arctic Moon: Mapping the Wild Heart of Alaska*, as well as other manuscripts, screenplay drafts, publications, photographs, TV pilot episodes and sound recordings.

**Mickey Renkerte won the $10,000** first prize for this year’s Arctic Innovation Competition for his idea of the Tape Boss, a dispenser with painting and caulking applications. The Arctic Innovation Competition is an idea contest created by School of Management faculty member Ping Lan, director of the MBA program.

**Paleontologists published a paper** this fall documenting the occurrence of a new group of dinosaurs in Alaska. In the past two decades, researchers have uncovered thousands of specimens on the North Slope now housed at the UA Museum of the North. Earth sciences curator Pat Druckenmiller partnered with Florida State University’s Gregory Erickson to document the collection. Their National Science Foundation proposal received $150,000 in 2012 to support two years of field research on the North Slope.

**Planning has begun for the Troth Yeddha’ Initiative**, a multiyear project to develop the green space between the Museum of the North and Reichardt Building. Johnpaul Jones, architect of the Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian, presented designs on behalf of UAF at the Alaska Federation of Natives convention held in Fairbanks.

**Preparations are underway** for the Alaska deployment of EarthScope/USArray’s national Transportable Array project. This project will produce high-resolution images of Earth’s interior while increasing understanding of the origins of earthquakes and faults. Five test stations are currently operating in Alaska and the Yukon.

**Inside Out campus preview day** will take place March 14. The campus open house for prospective students held in October saw a record number of nearly 250 prospective students and their parents attend, more than triple last year’s fall numbers. This year’s event included waiving application fees for attendees and offering on-site admission for the first time.

**The Alaska International Piano-e-Competition** will take place at UAF in summer 2014. Two dozen performers will be invited to Fairbanks to compete in the finals, out of more than 100 applicants who are expected to submit a performance piece electronically. Through advanced technology, including the use of pianos capable of transmitting the pianists’ performances through the Internet, the competition will be seen around the world.

**The Chancellor’s Gala** will take place Feb. 8, 2014, at the Westmark Fairbanks. This year’s event will benefit the Harry and Sally Porter Heart Center and the Alaska International Piano-e-Competition.
Chancellor Rogers and other members of his cabinet agreed to use a wheelchair for a day as part of Disability Awareness Month, organized on campus by the UAF Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity.

School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences alumna Nina Schwinghammer fans the flames at the fire-building competition at Ballaine Lake. UAF photo by JR Ancheta.

Cast members rehearse a scene from Theatre UAF’s production of Nickel and Dimed in the Salisbury Theatre.

Battleship is a popular intramural sport at UAF. Teams in canoes try to swamp each other’s boats during a tournament in the Patty pool.

Student firefighter Spencer McClean exits a burning building during a live training drill at the Fairbanks Fire Training Center in South Fairbanks. McClean was one of about 30 students participating in the University Fire Department’s Tuesday-night drill Oct. 22.

UAF’s fire science program, which provides hands-on training and practical vocational experience, will celebrate its 50th anniversary in July 2014.