Achievements

Three UAF researchers are among 486 nationwide to be named fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. John Kelley and Michael Castellini of the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences and John Walsh of the International Arctic Research Center were honored at the AAAS annual meeting in Chicago in February.

The University of Alaska Museum of the North has been reaccredited by the American Association of Museums. The AAM accreditation program recognizes museums for their commitment to excellence, accountability, high professional standards and continued institutional development. Less than 5 percent of the nation’s museums are accredited.

A KUAC TV production, Mr. Alaska: Bob Bartlett Goes to Washington, premiered on public television stations statewide in January as Alaskans begin a yearlong celebration of the 50th anniversary of statehood. The documentary continues the narrative begun last year with KUAC’s Emmy-winning production, The 49th Star.

Artwork by UAF faculty member and artist Da-ka-xeen Mehner was included in an exhibition at the Alaska House gallery in New York City this winter. The exhibit examines how Mehner and other featured Alaska Native artists create work that questions and sheds light on the complicated issues surrounding their identity as Alaska Natives.

The University of Alaska Foundation, with support from BP and ConocoPhillips, sponsored participation of 11 UAF undergraduate students in the Washington Center Campaign 2008 Presidential Inauguration Seminar, which took place during the presidential inauguration in Washington, D.C. The academic seminar provided a backstage view of the inauguration process and focused on the newly elected president and the formation of a new executive administration.

The Calypso Trail on UAF’s West Ridge was renamed the Viereck Nature Trail in honor of Les and Teri Viereck, both longtime university supporters. Les, who died last summer, was a researcher, instructor and forest ecologist. The Vierecks have been involved with UAF for five decades. UAF will look for ways to enhance users’ experience on the Viereck Nature Trail, including improvements to the trailhead and additional interpretive signs.

In Progress

The University of Alaska International Polar Year Young Researchers’ Network is sponsoring a photo and video contest to encourage photographers and videographers to document today’s Alaska. Winners will be showcased in a film and photo festival to be held this spring in Fairbanks.

The Alaska Center for Energy and Power is hosting a community lecture series in Fairbanks the third Wednesday of each month at Noel Wien Library.

Two Alaska Native doctoral students have been named as the first Mellon fellows. Theresa John and Jordan Lewis will each receive a $30,000 stipend, research and travel funds in addition to tuition and fees.

What’s Next

The Alaska Airlines Governor’s Cup ice hockey series kicks off Feb. 27 in Fairbanks. The Nanooks hope to win the cup back from UAA, which has won the tournament the last two years.

The 36th Festival of Native Arts takes place March 19 – 21. The student-organized festival celebrates artistic expression of all the major Native cultures of Alaska through dance-group performances and a crafts fair.

The 2009 Science for Alaska lecture series continues in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau. The popular annual series, sponsored by the Geophysical Institute, UAF and Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, features scientists from UAF, UAA and UAS as well as experts from state and federal agencies.

The University of Alaska Museum of the North hosts the 23rd annual Chocolate Bash April 4. The theme this year is “Eight Stars of Chocolate” to celebrate the anniversary of statehood. The fundraiser features an evening of decadent desserts, fine wines and live music at the museum.
UAF skiers break from the mass start of more than 140 athletes participating in the high school and adult men’s competition of the Flint Hills Town Race at Birch Hill in Fairbanks. The Nanooks defeated the UAA Seawolves to win the Alaska Nordic Cup.

Photos, clockwise from far left

- UAF’s student rocket project members pose with the rocket’s cone before a launch at Poker Flat Research Range. Undergraduate students (left to right) Ben Kellie, Dan Peters, Devin Hahne, Tess Casswell and Jesse Frey helped develop the payload’s instrumentation.

- Nivia Modelo-Martin, guidance and counseling major and Chancellor’s Annual Giving Scholarship recipient, studies in the Rasmuson Library on the Fairbanks campus.

- UAF petroleum engineering graduate student Andrew Johnson works on his master’s project in the Duckering Building hydrates lab. Johnson is studying methods of separating crude oil from water.

- UAF students Mariah Acton, left, and Anna Dale organized a week-long vigil in Constitution Park in temperatures as low as 20 degrees below zero to draw attention to the plight of homeless people.