Achievements

More than 50 teams from schools around Alaska participated in the 2011 KidWind Design Challenge, a new statewide competition that tests students’ ability to design a wind turbine. The competition was sponsored by UAF’s Alaska Center for Energy and Power and the Renewable Energy Alaska Project, in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Energy Wind for Schools program.

Jazz Fest drew more than 450 middle school and high school students and 22 groups from around Alaska for performances and intensive workshops with UAF music faculty members and guest artists.

A keel-laying ceremony for the RV Sikuliaq took place in April in Marinette, Wis. The 261-foot oceanographic research ship will be owned by the National Science Foundation and operated by UAF Vera Alexander, SFOS dean emerita, and Bob Elsner, SFOS professor emeritus, have been involved with the planning and development of the ship for several decades. Their initials were welded into a steel plate that will be affixed to the Sikuliaq’s keel.

Three UAF students were recognized for their efforts to encourage campus sustainability by receiving the first UAF Green Carpet awards. The awards, which recognize students who have demonstrated leadership in advancing sustainability on campus, were awarded to Heather Currey, a sophomore in biology; Ryan Good, a senior psychology major; and Jessie Huff, a senior working toward an interdisciplinary bachelor’s degree in renewable energy in rural Alaska.

Theresa Arevgaq John was appointed by President Obama to the National Advisory Council on Indian Education. John is an associate professor in the Department of Alaska Native and Rural Development at UAF. She is on the Alaska State Council on the Arts board and received the Governor’s Distinguished Humanities Educator Award.

In Progress

Construction crews will be busy on campus this summer with the Life Sciences Facility, the new School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences greenhouse, continuation of the electrical distribution renewal project, as well as projects in Skarland Hall, Constitution Hall and the Harper Building. Renewal of the third floor of the 604 Barnette St. Community and Technical College building is also underway.

Enrollment for the fall 2011 semester is underway. The Office of Admissions and the Registrar has offered a drawing for an Apple iPad as an incentive for students to register early.

Programs for youth on campus this summer will challenge, educate, entertain and exercise young people from elementary grades through high school. Programs in the arts include the Summer Music Academy, the Fairbanks Suzuki Institute and the Visual Art Academy. Academic and leadership offerings include Alaska Business Week, the Rural Alaska Honors Institute, the Justice Academy, Spanish for Young Adventurers, the UAF Summer Leadership Institute, Upward Bound and the Alaska Summer Research Academy. For the sports-minded there are volleyball camps and the UAF Summer Recreational Camp, and for those who are interested in food there is a menu of culinary arts programs ranging from parents and tots cooking together to international cuisine.

What’s Next

A $500,000 gift from ConocoPhillips Alaska will establish the UAF Engineering Endowment to support students in the College of Engineering and Mines by augmenting engineering laboratories, increasing the availability of academic support services, and building undergraduate research opportunities. ConocoPhillips has a longtime association with CEM through student internships and a tradition of research collaboration.
The Alaska Center for Energy and Power held a groundbreaking ceremony for the Energy Technology Facility Lab Modules in May. When complete, the facility will include four bays to conduct energy-related research.

Trumpeters rehearse with the UAF Wind Ensemble.

Paramedic student Peter Casey teams with nursing students Rachel Osborn, center, and Kerri VanDeventer to transport a patient during a drill in the emergency room at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital.

Engineering major Michael Stanfill tightens the spokes on a bicycle — one of 20 being assembled and loaned to students as part of a new campus sustainability effort.