UAF centennial marks 100 years of serving Alaskans

A century ago, the concept invited little more than ridicule from those in the Lower 48: A college in the fading gold mining town of Fairbanks, Alaska. But Alaska’s sole territorial delegate to Congress, knowing that higher education would be vital to the health of his adopted frontier home, was undeterred. In the spring of 1915, Congress passed a bill to allocate lands for colleges in Alaska. Two years later, the Alaska Territorial Legislature passed a bill establishing the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines. My alma mater was born.

Those hard-fought beginnings laid a foundation for higher education in Alaska that continues to deliver the tools for self-determination our founders dreamed of. That tradition of tenacity has served us well, from the day our first students arrived, through the growth of our research programs and the establishment of an entire system of higher education throughout our state. The University of Alaska Fairbanks has served Alaskans through the Great Depression and the second World War, through the pipeline boom and the “desert years” that followed, and through the state’s economic high of ever-climbing oil prices. Today, as our state struggles with a recession, UAF endures, educating Alaska’s brightest future leaders, solving our world’s toughest research challenges and providing people from Barrow to Ketchikan with the information and expertise they need in their homes and businesses.

My connection with UAF started in 1975, when I arrived as an incoming freshman on the road to bachelor’s and master’s degrees. I did not have the option to go Outside; how lucky for me! I received a first-class education right here that enabled my professional success and helped shape me as a leader, successful businesswoman and advocate for my community and the university. More importantly, UAF helped me become an educated person. UAF has significant presence in my family: my spouse, brother, sister and son are all graduates. I’m sure there are many stories and experiences like this all around our state and community. Why is this university important to me? While it is an institution that has statewide presence and it educates all Alaskans, it comes down to how it can impact one individual and one family. Where would we be without this opportunity and this first-class university?

It would be nearly impossible to list all the ways the University of Alaska Fairbanks has shaped our state. Our alumni are the engineers that designed your home and the roads you drive to work every day. We are your child’s teacher and the owner of your favorite local business. We are artists and scientists, writers and doctors. We are 100 years of the teaching, research and public service that keeps our state strong.

We’ve been through ups and downs alongside our state and will be here into the future. We are celebrating throughout 2017 and hope you will celebrate with us.

Congratulations UAF. I can’t wait to see what you do next.

Jo Heckman
UAF alumna, 1979 and 1985
Member, UA Board of Regents

Big ideas highlight university innovation

Since James Wickersham launched an ambitious plan to start a university in the Alaska frontier, the University of Alaska Fairbanks and its predecessors have been the birthplace of many ideas that have influenced the young state it calls home.

Examples of that ingenuity have been spotlighted throughout this publication. Look for the UAF100 Ideas logo to learn more.

Those ideas, whether they’re new research discoveries, classroom advances or clever inventions, have become part of the fabric of UAF. Some were groundbreaking, shaping Alaska’s history and its people. Others are smaller in scope, but highlight the innovation UAF has fostered during the past 100 years.

The university community has spent the year collecting some of those “Big Ideas” from that history as a way to illustrate the unique influence that UAF has had during its colorful history. A small sample is included here.

For a look at more of the ideas that have emerged from UAF during the past century, go online to https://uaf.edu/centennial/uaf100/ideas.
A new college in the wilderness of Alaska

In 1915, it was an audacious idea — to create a college in tiny, remote Fairbanks, Alaska. Already, the gold rush town was fading. But the man who named the town, James Wickersham, admitted no embarrassment in also proposing a college for it.

As Alaska's nonvoting territorial delegate, Wickersham pushed members of Congress to set aside land for the college at an existing federal experiment farm near Fairbanks. Even his allies lacked enthusiasm, though.

"An agricultural college anywhere else in Alaska — and I'm not sure but one at this place — would be a joke," said Rep. James Mann of Illinois.

Nevertheless, Wickersham convinced Congress to pass the bill. President Woodrow Wilson signed it on March 4, 1915. On the Fourth of July, Wickersham dedicated a concrete cornerstone for the college on the ridge west of Fairbanks.

It took two more years for the Alaska Territorial Legislature to approve the idea. An Anchorage senator called Fairbanks a "temporary placer camp" unfit for a college. The Anchorage Times said the college would only "loot the limited funds of the territorial treasury."

The 1917 Legislature approved the college — by a margin of only one vote in the House. Gov. John Strong signed the bill on May 3, launching an institution that celebrates its centennial this year.

The new university's president was Charles Bunnell, a recently deposed

Continued on page 6
Blue and Gold Gala

Saturday, February 11, 2017 • 6–10 p.m., Carlson Center

Celebrate UAF’s centennial with fine dining, music by Pamyua and salutes to these honorees:

**Emil Usibelli Distinguished Teaching, Research and Service Awards Recipients**
- Mary Ehrlander
- David Newman
- Laura Conner

**Philanthropists of the Century**
- The late Elmer and Mary Louise Rasmuson
- Grace Schaible
- The Usibelli family

**Distinguished Alumna Award Recipient**
- Virginia Farmier ’84

**William R. Cashen Service Award Recipient**
- Jo Ryman

$100 per person.

Seats are limited.

For details visit www.uaf.edu/chancellor/gala/.

Net proceeds will benefit UAF students through the Centennial Cornerstone Scholarship and Fellowship Endowment.

Thank you to our generous sponsors as of 1/17/17:

**Centennial:**
- Alaska Communications
- BP
- Doyon, Limited
- Cary S. Keller, MD, FACSM/
  - Sportsmedicine Fairbanks
- Sumitomo Metal Mining Pogo

**Gold:**
- Bettisworth North Architects
- and Planners
- ConocoPhillips Alaska
- Fairbanks Daily News-Miner
- First National Bank Alaska
- GHEMM Company
- Keyes & Associates
- New York Life

**Blue:**
- Dr. Phyllis Pendergrass and Chuck Lemke, Dr. Hannah Summerfelt, and Asa Pendergrass
- Siemens Industry
- UAF Alumni Association
- UAF Community and Technical College, provided by Dean Michele Stalder
- Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc.

Contact the UAF Office of Development and Alumni Relations at 907-474-2619 for more information.

UAF is an AA/EEO employer and educational institution. 01/2017

---

**University of Alaska Museum of the North**

Open year-round on the UAF campus.

Summer Hours: Daily; 9am-7pm
Winter Hours: Mon-Sat; 9am-5pm
907 Yukon Drive • Fairbanks, AK 99775 • www.uaf.edu/museum • 907.474.7505
Thank you UAF Golden Heart Meeting Ambassadors!

In the last seven years, Explore Fairbanks and more than 50 University of Alaska Fairbanks Golden Heart Meeting Ambassadors have collaborated to host 69 meetings in the Fairbanks community. These events represent a wonderful partnership over the years bringing meetings, conferences, conventions, symposiums, workshops and colloquies to Fairbanks. Explore Fairbanks sends best wishes to UAF during this Centennial Celebration year.

Golden Heart Meeting Ambassadors invite their association or organization to meet in Fairbanks. Call the Explore Fairbanks Meetings & Conventions team at (907) 459-3765 or email meetings@explorefairbanks.com and learn how you can become an ambassador.

Lemongrass

Thai Cuisine since 1996

Presenting authentic cuisine from Chaing Mai, Thailand to Fairbanks, Alaska!”

Happy 100th year UAF!

Lunch 11-4  •  Dinner 5-10

456-2200

388 Old Chena Pump Road, 99709

www.LemongrassAlaska.com

Congratulations UAF

100 years

Beaver Sports is pleased to have employed UAF students and graduates for the past 45 years.

3480 College Road  Fairbanks, Alaska  www.beaversports.com

The Fairbanks North Star Borough Administration and Staff are proud of your commitment to Arctic research, education, athletics and the arts in our community.

Thank you!

TERRI OLSEN

2142 AIRPORT WAY #A

FAIRBANKS, AK 99701

907-452-1264

terriolsen@allstate.com

Insurance subject to availability and qualifications. Allstate Property and Casualty Insurance Company: Northbrook, IL.

© 2007 Allstate Insurance Company
A new college in Alaska

Continued from page 3

judge. The tale of his hiring became part of the small-town lore.

While a group of trustees was chatting in a downtown drugstore about who should be the new school’s leader, Bunnell reportedly walked by. One of the trustees, Harriet Hess, recommended him for the job on the spot.

“There, of course, is the man we should get,” she said.

Bunnell took the position, shaping the university through its tumultuous early decades. His subsequent 28-year service as president has yet to be matched.

The new institution had a modest beginning.

The campus consisted of two buildings — the president’s residence and the Main Building. That two-story frame structure included everything from the campus powerplant to laboratories, offices and classrooms. On opening day, Sept. 18, 1922, six faculty members, in addition to Bunnell and his secretary, were on hand to greet the six students who enrolled.

That was considerably fewer than the 150 predicted by the Fairbanks Commercial Club in 1917 when it was promoting the establishment of an agricultural college and school of mines in the Tanana Valley, according to the late UA professor and historian William R. Cashen. But there was high hope when the Alaska Railroad was complete in 1923 that students from the coast and railbelt would come north to enroll.

Registration continued for three weeks after instruction began, allowing enrollment to double during that time. The final registrant of the year was John Shanly, a Cornell University dropout who enrolled as a senior. He became UA’s first graduate in 1923.

In 1935, the alumni association asked for a change of name. The Legislature approved and the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines became the University of Alaska on July 1 of that year. The Board of Trustees was renamed the Board of Regents.

In the century since it was launched, the university has continued to evolve alongside Alaska and its people.

In the 1970s, UA added rural campuses and was reorganized to include separate institutions in Fairbanks, Anchorage and Juneau, each with their own chancellor. The University of Alaska system now includes about 400 buildings throughout the state and teaches roughly 35,000 students, who can choose from among 500 degree, certificate and endorsement programs.

UA has grown to become an international research institute, a proud winner of NCAA athletics championships and a key engine in developing Alaska’s workforce. This year the university will celebrate its first 100 years, while looking forward to the challenges of the century ahead.
UAF shapes U.S. Arctic research policy

Geophysical Institute Director Juan Roederer had a good view of U.S. Arctic research policy in the early 1980s, and he didn’t like what he saw. Critically important Arctic research had been piecemeal and scattered, leading to inefficiencies and gaps in knowledge. It led Roederer to become a key player in Congress’ passage of the 1984 Arctic Research Policy Act, which set the nation’s agenda for future work.

On Jan. 11, 1983, Roederer published a piece in the science journal EOS, laying out his argument for establishing a national Arctic research policy. He wrote, “Federal agencies funding research in the Arctic, or doing research in the Arctic, were doing so without any mutual coordination, even without any mutual knowledge of what the other agencies were doing. The result was costly duplication; and certainly there was no sufficient funding for research in the Arctic.”

Roederer’s advocacy and direct involvement led to the signing of the bill, which established the Arctic Research Commission, mandated a five-year Arctic research plan for the nation, and called for international collaboration and cooperation in research. Roederer became the vice chair and later chair of the ARC. The commission continues to advise the U.S. government on research priorities today.

Uncovering evidence of a land bridge

Student James Jacobsen made a discovery on the edge of the Fairbanks campus in 1933 that changed our view of the world. After finding stone artifacts when he dug a post hole at the crest of the bluff on the southeast end of campus, Jacobsen told Charles Bunnell, president of the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines.

The next summer, Bunnell encouraged visiting students Jack Dorsh and Albert Dickey to keep digging. The pair had been collecting mammoth bones washed out of the mud by local mining operations. At what came to be known as the Campus Site, Dorsh and Dickey found numerous arrowheads and other worked stones. They sent them to the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, where Nels Nelson noticed that many were “identical in several respects with thousands of specimens found in the Gobi Desert.”

The close resemblance supported the idea that humans came to North America from Asia. “The Bering land bridge hypothesis for human colonization of the New World was now supported by fact,” wrote Alaska archaeologist Charles Mobley in his 1991 book, “The Campus Site.”

In 1936, University of Alaska anthropology Professor Froelich Rainey uncovered another 500 artifacts. Additional digs through the 1990s unearthed more than 9,000 stone tools, charcoal pieces and bones.
Museum helped secure research mission

By Theresa Bakker

The University of Alaska’s first president, Charles Bunnell, envisioned the institution as a center of Alaska research. What better way to support that vision than with a museum intended to preserve the state’s artifacts and natural history specimens?

At the beginning of the 20th century, as a collecting rush by outsiders looking to obtain Northwest Coast materials was tapering off, there were only two museums in Alaska, according to University of Alaska Museum of the North senior ethnology and history collection manager Angela Linn.

“As the university began to create a personality for itself, so did the museum, in focusing on collecting expeditions and research driven by large-scale questions of anthropology and paleontology,” she said.

According to tradition, the university museum began in 1922 as a single display case in Bunnell’s office featuring his personal collections of Alaska Native material culture. Four years later, Otto Geist mounted the school’s first official expedition that would form the nucleus of the museum’s collections.

From that effort came the university’s first museum exhibit in 1929. It included an array of artifacts and fossils, along with tools and clothing collected from Alaska Native communities visited by Geist. He told a reporter at the time that “Alaska presents a veritable treasure ground for scientific specimens of prehistoric races, with the key probably to the migration of ancient man.”

After statehood, the museum’s growth followed waves of change in Alaska. In 1961, the university transferred its mammal, bird and plant collections to the museum, followed by a fish and marine invertebrates collection. After the 1970s pipeline boom, the museum expanded its art and ethnology collections. And in the 1980s, resource management legislation prompted the collection of new natural and cultural history materials from across Alaska.

During these decades, the museum made its home in a variety of locations on the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus, first on the top floor of the Eielson Building and then in Signers’ Hall. In 1976, the Friends of the University of Alaska Museum petitioned the Legislature to appropriate funds for a permanent museum. The museum moved to a new building on the campus’ West Ridge in 1980.

This was the first time the museum, its staff and collections were all housed under one roof. Visitors were welcomed to explore the Gallery of Alaska, a unique display that still provides an overview of the art, culture and history of each region of the state.

In 1991, the museum created a genomic resources program, which now contains more than 200,000 tissue samples from specimens archived in the collections. And in 2000, the museum established an insect collection.

Although the 40,000-square-foot museum was a vast improvement, it was always intended to be the first phase of a larger building. By the early 1990s, museum staff began a campaign to expand the museum with an unprecedented partnership between the public and the private sector.

The new facility opened to the public in 2006 with a new name, the University of Alaska Museum of the North. Today, the museum is a top visitor attraction and a thriving research center, preserving more than 1.5 million artifacts and specimens that represent thousands of years of cultural traditions and millions of years of biological diversity. Since its re-opening, the museum has become an architectural icon for Alaska that attracts more than 90,000 visitors each year.

Through the decades, the museum’s leaders have agreed with the original vision of Charles Bunnell, that research can drive us to excellence and that bringing the fruits of that research to the public would be the key to our success as a state and a community.

“Alaska presents a veritable treasure ground for scientific specimens of prehistoric races, with the key probably to the migration of ancient man.”

-Charles Bunnell
One of the most remarkable displays of community support for the University of Alaska occurred just after World War II, when Alaska’s business leaders opened their pocketbooks to keep the institution open. It probably wasn’t legal, but it kept UA going.

The 1947 Legislature appropriated about $10 million for territorial operations in the fiscal 1948-49 biennium; however, taxes were expected to raise only $6.25 million. So the territory’s administrative board froze expenditures to the university, among other agencies.

By November 1947, the university’s checking account was down to $1,000. “Lack of Funds May Force University to Close Doors Before School Year Ends” said the top headline in the Dec. 1, 1947, edition of the Farthest North Collegian.

President Charles Bunnell advanced the university $20,000 for the December payroll and used some accounting maneuvers to keep the doors open during the spring semester.

Meanwhile, UA Regent Austin “Cap” Lathrop, who owned the main coal mine in Healy, led an effort to solicit interest-free loans from the business community and offered $25,000 himself.

During the following year, pledges totaled $200,000. Bunnell put up the final $5,000. Gov. Ernest Gruening promised to repay the loans, which the territory’s treasurer had said weren’t proper.

The Legislature adopted income and property taxes in 1949, relieving the territory’s budget shortfall and providing a large budget increase for the university.

Looking forward to advocating for a vibrant and successful hometown campus for another hundred years.

— Your Chamber board, committees, staff and membership
1917
The Legislature passed a bill to create the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines and accept a 1915 federal land grant. Territorial Gov. John Strong signed the bill on May 3, establishing AACSM as an institution committed to public service, teaching and research.

1921
Several members of the AACSM Board of Trustees were meeting in a Fairbanks drugstore to talk about finding a president when Charles E. Bunnell walked by. Trustee Harriet Hess reportedly said, “There, of course, is the man we should get.” Bunnell became the new college's first president.

1923
AACSM awarded its first degree — a Bachelor of Science in agriculture — to Jack Shanly. Heading for adventure after serving in World War I, he met President Bunnell while filing for a homestead. Bunnell talked him into enrolling at the college.

1921
AACSM awarded its first degree — a Bachelor of Science in agriculture — to Jack Shanly. Heading for adventure after serving in World War I, he met President Bunnell while filing for a homestead. Bunnell talked him into enrolling at the college.

1947
The Alaska Legislature bounced its own check, leaving the University of Alaska with no territorial funds and essentially bankrupt. President Bunnell managed to keep the school open with help from Fairbanks business leaders and his own personal funds.

1944
During World War II, enrollment dropped sharply to fewer than 70 students; there was talk of closing the university.

1955
The Alaska Constitutional Convention began on the Fairbanks campus. The following year, delegates signed the constitution for the future state of Alaska in the gymnasium (now Signers' Hall) with future Gov. Bill Egan presiding.

1957
Observers at the Geophysical Institute were the first people in the Western Hemisphere to see Sputnik, the Russian satellite, on its first orbit around Earth.

1959
Alaska became the 49th state on Jan. 3 when President Dwight Eisenhower proclaimed that Alaska's voters had consented to the terms of the statehood act passed by Congress the previous July. The university became a branch of the new state government.

1983
The Rural Alaska Honors Institute was established at UAF to encourage successful college careers among primarily rural, Alaska Native high school students. Hundreds of young men and women who attended RAHI have graduated from UAF in the decade since, and many hold leadership roles in Alaska Native institutions across the state.

1988
The Alaska Volcano Observatory, a joint program of the U.S. Geological Survey, the UAF Geophysical Institute and the State of Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys, was established. AVO monitors and studies Alaska's hazardous volcanoes, predicts and records eruptive activity, and promotes ways to deal with volcanic hazards.

1994
The Student Recreation Center opened next to the Patty Center.

1996
The first online course was offered. Today, a third of students enroll in one or more of UAF's 400 eLearning courses. About a fifth of all credit hours earned at UAF are online.

2004
The rifle team champion prone shooter was graduating.
Margaret E. Thomas became the first woman to graduate, with a degree in business administration. After graduation she married Olaus Murie. The couple became prominent conservationists who helped found the Wilderness Society and led the effort to establish what became the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Physics Professor Veryl Fuller created the college's first aurora observation station, which took advantage of Fairbanks' geographic location directly under the northern lights' most frequent path.

Students Ivar Skarland and George Karabelnikoff cut the first ski trail on campus. The trails gradually expanded throughout the wooded campus and the private and public property to the north.

Flora Jane Harper, an Athabascan woman, was the first Alaska Native graduate and a member of the AACS M's final class — it became the University of Alaska later that year. She taught at federal boarding schools and then worked for the Anchorage library.

The University of Alaska's sports teams, formerly known as the Polar Bears, became the Nanooks.

The university served as an evacuation site and emergency shelter for the more than 7,000 people relocated from Fairbanks when the Chena River swelled over its banks and caused massive flooding in August.

Poker Flat Research Range was established 30 miles north of Fairbanks. It became the largest land-based research rocket range in the world, the only high-latitude range in the United States and the only university-owned rocket range in the world.

The University of Alaska was reorganized into three universities, each with a chancellor: the University of Alaska Fairbanks, the University of Alaska Anchorage and the University of Alaska Southeast (in Juneau). A fourth branch held the community colleges, rural campuses and the Cooperative Extension Service.

The traditional Sparktacular on Dec. 31, 2016, kicked off the celebration.
Rural campuses brought education close to home

By Leona Long

Moving away from home to attend college can be a difficult transition for anyone. For rural Alaskans, leaving their community to attend one of the University of Alaska’s urban campuses can be a culture shock.

Sometimes, the classes that rural students take in Fairbanks or Anchorage have more students than the number of people who live in their home community.

In 1972, the Kuskokwim Campus was founded in Bethel, the first of five rural campuses. Today, Kuskokwim Campus, Bristol Bay Campus in Dillingham, Northwest Campus in Nome, Chukchi Campus in Kotzebue, and Interior Alaska Campus in the Interior extend the University of Alaska Fairbanks’ reach by providing access to education closer to home.

“UAF’s community campus mission makes it possible for rural Alaskans to earn certificates, associates, bachelors, and a master’s or doctorate degree without having to choose between their education and their connection to their communities, families and way of life,” said Evon Peter, vice Chancellor of rural, community and Native education.

“The College of Rural and Community Development’s rural campuses deliver academic and vocational education so our students can fill the important jobs in their communities. We help empower our students to build sustainable communities and improve the quality of life for all rural Alaskans.”

In partnership with employers and community organizations, the campuses educate a skilled workforce to fill high-demand jobs important to rural Alaska, such as child development, tribal management, nursing and allied health care, education and construction. Alaskans graduating from these programs can help close the revolving door of educators, health care providers and other professionals in rural Alaska. Unlike their counterparts from the Lower 48, the workforce educated by UAF is more often place-based and committed to staying in their communities.

With a service area spanning 160 rural communities and diverse Alaska Native cultures, rural campuses work to provide culturally-relevant education. When possible, classes include perspectives in indigenous knowledge. Some academic programs like ethnobotany and rural human services are taught by teaching teams made up of professors and elder instructors who share their cultural wisdom. The campuses also offer classes in Alaska Native languages, traditional arts and crafts, and topics like welding.

The campuses strive to fill workforce needs while offering enrichment classes that help Alaska Native traditions, art and languages thrive, Peter said. “UAF’s rural campuses are an anchor for the communities they serve,” he said.

Writing the book on engineering for Alaska and the Arctic

University of Alaska Professor Eb Rice literally wrote the book on Arctic engineering with his 1975 tome, “Building in the North.”

Rice’s influential work on cold-weather construction was decades in the making. Soon after he began teaching at UA in 1955, Rice realized that the Lower 48 engineers, architects and contractors were often unsuccessfully trying to apply skills they learned in warmer climates to Alaska projects.

The most infamous example of a misguided design was the initial plan for the trans-Alaska pipeline — burying it underground, “just like we do it in Texas.” Sending the hot-oil line through hundreds of miles of permafrost would have been a disaster. Instead, the design that was later approved — considered a landmark of modern engineering — was molded by Rice’s teachings.

Rice infused UA’s engineering program with the basic rules of building in the Arctic, factoring in weather, logistics, permafrost, insulation, sanitation and safety. He later promoted regulations and educational materials that ensured people building in Alaska had the necessary training to plan, design and construct safe, efficient projects in the state.

Those lessons continue today at UAF’s Institute of Northern Engineering, which is home to many of the world’s leading researchers in cold climate science and engineering.

Anna Liljedahl, research assistant professor with UAF’s International Arctic Research Center and Institute of Northern Engineering, works with Will Wright of the Delta Soil and Water Conservation District to collect snow samples from the surface of the Jarvis Glacier, about 45 miles south of Delta Junction.
Too many college graduates from U.S. engineering schools had no idea how to “set up a machine, drill and blast a round, and put in a set of timbers,” Professor Ernest Patty observed in the March 1928 edition of the Farthest North Collegian.

Patty, one of the original six faculty members at the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines, made sure that wouldn’t happen at his school. Every student in his program would take a class in real-life mining, Patty decided that year.

The campus sat on a lump of schist topped with fine loess — both of little value from a miner’s standpoint. Nevertheless, the School of Mines students set about blasting a shaft into the hill. They loaded mine cars with the debris and rolled them out the shaft. As they worked, they cut spruce logs from the flats south of the campus and squared them up for tunnel support timbers.

The school also acquired a ball mill to crush ore and the equipment to analyze its mineral content. Since the college’s schist didn’t contain much of interest, it took ore from local miners to crush and analyze.

The training helped students get summer jobs in the local mines, which gave them the money to stay in school. Many grew into industry leaders in not only Alaska but across the globe.

Students LeVake Renshaw and Tom Rosaduick strain to dump muck from a mine car while training at the University of Alaska mine in 1958.
UAF, military have tradition of partnership

By Marissa Carl-Acosta

The growing partnership between the University of Alaska Fairbanks and Fairbanks-area military installations began in the 1970s, when the UAF Community and Technical College began offering night classes on Fort Wainwright and Eielson Air Force Base. This year UAF will be launching numerous programs designed to increase support for active-duty military, veterans and their family members. The Fort Wainwright and Eielson Air Force Base education centers have a list of courses that are offered on base.

Over the decades, initiatives have evolved. Students have come and gone — some graduating in Fairbanks, others around the world via online or distance education options. But one thing has remained relatively constant over the last 30 years: Ramona McAfee, a 1978 UAF graduate, and her impact on UAF's partnership with the military community.

“I had no clue that working with the military and helping them define and achieve their educational goals would become my passion,” said McAfee, who grew up in a military family and started working with Fort Wainwright soldiers in 1987. Today she is the program manager for Northern Military Programs at UAF’s Community and Technical College. McAfee and others at UAF have spent decades developing services to support the thousands of military families in Fairbanks. Among the new initiatives added this year will be Transition University, an event that will break down everything service members need to know about transitioning to higher education. Attendees will learn about VA benefits and other services, as well as where they can typically find these resources no matter where they choose to go to college. Frank Boldt, assistant professor in UAF’s Justice Department, is spearheading this project, saying “it would have been a valuable asset” when he decided to pursue a bachelor’s degree after six years in the Army. A successful higher-education experience is important to Boldt, who also advises the Student Veterans of UAF club and goes to Fort Wainwright each Monday to answer questions about getting started at the university.

UAF’s Northern Military Programs also has offices at Fort Wainwright and Eielson Air Force Base. This year will also bring a program aimed at increasing awareness among UAF faculty and staff. Educating more people on campus about veterans’ unique circumstances will provide a more seamless experience for the service member, McAfee said, as will a special fund to enhance veteran-related programs, services and facilities.

Alaska Nanooks alumnus gives an assist to hockey goalies

It was a simple question that had vexed Wylie Rogers for much of his life: Why couldn’t somebody figure out a better way to secure a hockey net? Rogers, a former Nanooks goalie, had seen countless practices delayed when goalposts were accidently dislodged from their steel moorings. So when UAF business professor Ping Lan asked Rogers and his other MBA students to come up with a solution to an irritating problem, the idea for the Wylie Post was born.

The Wylie Post is surprisingly simple, consisting of a pair of zinc-coated spikes that are embedded in the ice and a rubber post that secures the net. Unlike traditional moorings, which are inserted into a deep tube in the ice, it doesn’t require drilling a hole. And while the net stays put if a goalie pushes off of a post, it still pops loose if a skater crashes into the net.

With Lan’s encouragement, Rogers developed a prototype for the Wylie Post in 2014 and won the Alaska Student Kicker Award at UAF’s Arctic Innovation Competition. The product is now in use by university and minor league hockey clubs across the country, a development that Rogers hopes will ease the anxiety of his fellow goalies.

“I had no clue that working with the military and helping them define and achieve their educational goals would become my passion.” — Ramona McAfee
A chance comment at a Fairbanks agricultural conference led indirectly to Alaska’s first successful horticultural export: peonies.

UAF Professor Pat Holloway, who spent her career researching potential crops for Alaska farmers, happened to mention that Alaska peonies mature in July and August. An Oregon flower grower who attended the conference told her that peonies do not mature elsewhere in the world at that time. If peonies could be grown commercially in Alaska, they could fill an international niche.

Holloway planted the first experimental field of peonies at the Georgeson Botanical Garden in 2001. She has spent more than 15 years experimenting with varieties and growing methods and developing information for growers. Outreach and site visits by Holloway and Cooperative Extension agents extended knowledge about growing peonies.

The Alaska Peony Growers Association says that 69 Alaska growers have planted peonies, and more than half are still waiting for their first crop, since it takes three to five years for plants to mature. Weather challenges led to disappointing sales in 2015, but the 2016 crop was stronger. The final numbers aren’t in yet, but one large grower sold 60,000 stems and others reported good sales. Depending on the buyer, stems sell from $3 to $7 and higher. Alaska peonies have been sold to markets in the U.S., Canada, Taiwan and Singapore.

Research at the University of Alaska Fairbanks has led to a peony-growing boom in Alaska.
Starting Feb. 1, visitors to the Fairbanks campus can take a trivia tour to enjoy learning about UAF in its 100th year. Pick up a tour card in Room 327 Signers’ Hall, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (or download and print your own), complete 20 questions from various locations around campus and claim a fun prize at the end.

School groups are welcome!

To download a tour card, visit www.uaf.edu/centennial/tour/.

The first Tanana Valley Fair was held in 1907 at the corner of 2nd and Wickersham in downtown Fairbanks. The old building held a variety of exhibits, shows and booths. It was a first for Fairbanks, enjoyed by both the “city folks” and the areas “homesteaders.” Folks knew this building as the Moose Hall and then the Wickersham Hotel, which does not exist today. Adding to the excitement, the first prize awarded was for $1.00 for a supersized cabbage! Now remember this is 1907 and times were hard, so this was a HUGE prize. Between 1908 and 1923, the Fair was held in several places around Fairbanks, including a roller rink, Wickersham Hotel and the Main School building. In 1952, the Fair moved to its permanent location of 1800 College Road.

Two local people, George W. Glasser and Harry Badger, were the brains behind the incorporation of the Tanana Valley State Fair. On July 7, 2914, the Tanana Valley State Fair Association (TVSFA) became official. The TVSFA has a vision to encourage agriculture, livestock and industrial interests throughout the Tanana Valley and the Interior of Alaska. In 1924, the first official Tanana Valley State Fair was held and it only rained two out of the three days! The only years the Fair was canceled was during the war time years of 1942-1946. Weather is a big factor in having a fair, and in 1967, the Fair was postponed due to the flood. In 1981, it rained every single day of the Fair! This is truly a “Fair Weather” agenda.

In 1952, the Fair leased 40 acres from the University of Alaska. A coliseum was built in 30 days by volunteer labor (this building no longer exists on the grounds) along with a pole barn, showcasing exhibits. As the Fair began to grow, another 40 acres were leased from the Department of Natural Resources. In 1967, a campground was added. As the agricultural event grew, show barns were built in 1970. The Totem Center was built in ’73, which now houses the Fair’s main offices. Electrical upgrades were made in ’75 and the installation of sewer and water in ’79. The Carroll Philips Horse arena was built in ’76 and then moved in 2000 to its current location.

The Tanana Valley State Fair Association purchased 40 acres from the University of Alaska in 1995. The Fair hires seasonal help for grounds crew, entertainers, office personnel and managers. Many employed with us are UAF students and graduates. This gives them much needed employment while attending UAF in the summer.

The Fair represents the end of summer and harvest time throughout the Interior of Alaska. We have 27 competitive divisions, showing the hard-work of local people. Over nine decades the Fair has held divisions for vegetables, grains, handiwork, livestock, fine arts, equine, education, culinary, quilting, clothing and many more. Exhibitors, both young and old, can show their interests and abilities in any or all divisions. Popular attractions include: the Giant Cabbage Contest, the Baby Show, Old Timer’s Day Luncheon and the Talent Search, along with many activities for the whole family. Our Midway provides rides, games of chance and excitement for all to enjoy. The grounds are busy with over 300 commercial, games, nonprofit, craft booths and of course the famous “Fair Food” we all love! The Fair is a 501(C) (3) organization with a nine-member advisory Board of Directors. Membership is open to the public, and membership applications can be found on our website or through the Fair office. Membership runs for one year from January 1 to December 31. Members can also apply to run for our Board of Directors seats. Our main sources of revenue are gate receipts, booth rentals, midway sharing, off-season rentals and our campground. Local businesses also provide the much needed sponsorships to help finance the fair.

The Tanana Valley State Fair is always held on the first Friday of August and now runs 10 days. The 2017 Fair dates are August 4 – 13. The theme is “Raven about the Fair”, our colors are yellow and black, our official flower is the sunflower. We are accepting original art work for our theme poster through February 28, 2017, and can be emailed to the fair or hand delivered to the Fair office. You can find all the information on our website, www.tananavalleyfair.org.

Come be a part of the best entertainment in Interior Alaska! There are many stories about the Fair and if you would like to share them with us, we would love to hear them.
Congratulations UAF for 100 years in our Community!

Raven Landing Center provides a full spectrum of activities each month. In February, the month for lovers, we entertain ourselves with:

- Public events: The United Way Comedy Roast of Gary Wilkin on 2/2/17
- Party events: The Senior Luau in Raven Hall 02/10/17
- Educational events: Wednesday night Resident Lecture Series @ 7 p.m.
- Social events: Wine Tasting Series with Bruce Abbott 02/23/17; Beer Tasting with Nicole Pearce 02/28/17
- Music events: Cello concerts; Piano Recitals; Harmonica Lessons; Guitar lessons
- Meetings: College Rotary and Energy Lunch Bunch each Monday
- Private events: Birthday parties; bridal or baby showers; small business sales events

Raven Landing Center
Senior Community
949 McGown St, Fairbanks, AK 99701
(907) 328-5454
www.ravenlanding.org/

Country Kitchen
Fine Coffee • Cookware • Gifts
WASHINGTON PLAZA MALL • 3413 AIRPORT WAY FAIRBANKS AK • (907) 479-3900

Congratulations UAF on 100 Years in Fairbanks!

WANT TO GET YOUR HOUSE SOLD?
Testimonial from Evelyn Pruter - Call Joan to get the job done, and fast! My home had been on the market for over 2 years. Then I listed with Joan, she staged and sold my home in less than one month.

Take advantage of my experience and staging services. The combination of a proven success!

www.stageanddesignfairbanks.com

Congratulations UAF for 100 years in our Community!

The Turtle Club
Fine Dining & Cocktails

Featuring Our Famous PRIME RIB

Also Featuring
Lobster & King Crab
Halibut & Jumbo Prawns

ENJOY FINE DINING WITH US AND CELEBRATE ACHIEVING YOUR 100 YEAR’S IN OUR COMMUNITY. CONGRATULATIONS UAF!

2098 Old Steese Highway Reservations Suggested
Monday–Saturday, Open 6 p.m.
Sunday, Open 5 p.m.

Email: turtle@polar.net.com
www.alaskanturtle.com
457-3883

Happy 100th Anniversary, UAF!

ALASKA FUN CENTER
PROVIDING YEAR ROUND FAMILY FUN SINCE 1959
1817 COLLEGE RD. FAIRBANKS, AK 99709
(907) 452-3455 • ALASKAFUNCENTER.COM

FREE-WI-FI

Kawasaki
KUAC part of university, Alaska history since 1962

By Nancy Tarnai

KUAC-FM began broadcasting on Oct. 1, 1962, signing on from Constitution Hall on the University of Alaska campus. As the strains of Beethoven’s “Emperor Concerto” filled the airwaves, local residents heard a new voice in the wilderness that allowed Fairbanks to listen in on the rest of the world.

Ever since, KUAC has been serving the university, the Fairbanks community and Interior Alaska, growing and refining its services and “connecting Alaska to the world and the world to Alaska.”

KUAC was the first public radio station in Alaska, the first FM station in Fairbanks, and the first public broadcasting station to receive funding under the Higher Education Act of 1965. With that money, KUAC hired staff and purchased a tape-duplication system to help distribute several programs to Alaska commercial stations.

Television was added in 1971, making KUAC the first public TV station in Alaska. KUAC-TV 9 signed on the air between the hours of 5 and 10 each evening, introducing Alaskans to Big Bird and his pals from “Sesame Street,” “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood,” William F. Buckley’s “Firing Line” and “Masterpiece Theatre,” and opening a window onto the world.

Since its inception, KUAC has been recognized for its work with numerous broadcasting awards.

In 2006, KUAC TV won an Emmy award for “The 49th Star,” a program about Alaska’s struggle to become a state; that show also won Journalism Excellence Awards from the Alaska Press Club and the Society of Professional Journalists. KUAC TV has won numerous Goldie and Telly awards. “AlaskaOne Testimonials” won an Emmy in 2008.

The popular radio and television program “Alaska Live,” featuring interviews with musicians playing live in the studio, has been heard and viewed in more than 140 countries. The variety of performances ranges from the Air Force Band of the Pacific to cellist Zuill Bailey to acoustic guitarist Beppe Gambetta.

Since 1989, KUAC has also provided in-depth coverage of the Yukon Quest 1,000-mile international sled dog race, sending a reporter on the trail and offering daily updates throughout the event.

Today, KUAC-FM 89.9 broadcasts from the UAF Fine Arts Complex at 38 kW via Ester Dome. It is heard on translators throughout Interior Alaska in Nome, Tok, Eagle, Healy, Nenana, Delta Junction and Bettles, as well as on the HD radio waves with KUAC1, KUAC2 and KUAC3.

KUAC-TV broadcasts at 47 kW from Bender Mountain and also on translators in Healy, Nenana, Delta Junction and cable. On June 1, 2004, KUAC-DT began broadcasting the state’s first High Definition Digital Public Television service 24 hours a day.

In 2010, KUAC-FM was Fairbanks’ top-ranked radio station in all major categories. “These ratings are phenomenal and prove what we’ve known for years — that more people listen to KUAC, they listen longer and they turn to other radio stations less frequently,” said KUAC general manager Keith Martin.

Poker Flat Research Range becomes first university-owned rocket range

In 1965, T. Neil Davis and others at UAF’s Geophysical Institute began an unprecedented step in studying the aurora. They began work to build and operate the only university-owned rocket range in the world, where scientists could launch sounding rockets into the atmosphere.

The rocket range would have two unique advantages: The university employed a staff of space physics scientists, and the facility would sit just to the south of the zone where most auroras occur.

Construction on the Poker Flat Research Range began in fall 1968, and seven rockets were launched the following spring. A geophysical observatory was built in 1974 to house riometers, magnetometers and other instruments used in routine experiments, along with all-sky cameras and meridian-scanning photometers. The range has been continually improved since then. It now includes rocket assembly and launching capabilities, telemetry receiving stations and ground-based diagnostics needed to decide when to launch rockets carrying space, aeronomy and atmospheric science experiments. Ground-based instrumentation allows monitoring of auroral activity, magnetic storms, ionospheric perturbations and other space disturbances in real-time.

Poker Flat has launched more than 300 large rockets and 1,500 smaller meteorological rockets during the past 47 years.

1960s

just to the south of the zone where most auroras occur.

Construction on the Poker Flat Research Range began in fall 1968, and seven rockets were launched the following spring. A geophysical observatory was built in 1974 to house riometers, magnetometers and other instruments used in routine experiments, along with all-sky cameras and meridian-scanning photometers. The range has been continually improved since then. It now includes rocket assembly and launching capabilities, telemetry receiving stations and ground-based diagnostics needed to decide when to launch rockets carrying space, aeronomy and atmospheric science experiments. Ground-based instrumentation allows monitoring of auroral activity, magnetic storms, ionospheric perturbations and other space disturbances in real-time.

Poker Flat has launched more than 300 large rockets and 1,500 smaller meteorological rockets during the past 47 years.

UAF photo by Todd Paris

A replica of a sounding rocket, similar to those used for scientific study launched from Poker Flat Research Range, in front of the Elvey Building, home to the UAF Geophysical Institute.
A quarter-century ago, the University of Alaska Foundation made an uncommon show of faith in a group of untested business students: It provided them with a $100,000 fund to invest in the stock market.

UA's charitable foundation made that unrestricted gift from private donations to the UAF School of Management in 1991, giving students the rare opportunity to merge economic theory with real-world financial stakes. Students in UAF's Student Investment Fund course have been responsible for the portfolio ever since, searching the market each year for promising stocks and undervalued gems.

The fund has more than delivered on its initial promise. After years of steady gains, its value surpassed $1 million in 2015.

In the upper-division business course, students gain real-world experience learning the principles of stock valuation and selecting investments. They're responsible for the day-to-day management of the portfolio, using a 60-point scoring model to determine which stocks to purchase.

Real investment dollars haven't only allowed students to acquire a more complex understanding of investment concepts, they've also benefitted other UAF students in financial need. Since its inception, the fund's earnings have supported more than $75,000 in scholarships and helped more than 50 UAF students.

In the upper-division business course, students gain real-world experience learning the principles of stock valuation and selecting investments. They're responsible for the day-to-day management of the portfolio, using a 60-point scoring model to determine which stocks to purchase.

An iconic map that shows where the 20 Native languages of Alaska were spoken during the 20th century has become a touchstone for efforts to document and revitalize those languages.

UAF linguist Michael Krauss created “The Native Peoples and Languages of Alaska” map after interviewing people across the state and analyzing their languages. The map was first published in 1974 and shows several languages that are in danger of fading, since few children speak the languages today.

Krauss, who came to the University of Alaska to teach French, eventually founded and became the longtime director of the Alaska Native Language Center. He led many efforts to document and preserve the languages on the map.

His map was not the first to locate Alaska Native languages, nor the last. Many earlier maps included errors, and many later maps used Krauss' work as a point of departure. Yet his map is recognized across the state.

“In Alaska today, the map is ubiquitous,” wrote Gary Holton, the former director of UAF's Alaska Native Language Archive. “It is found in nearly every government office and school, and it has become ingrained on the public consciousness, both Native and non-Native. The boundaries on the map have become so entrenched that they are often assumed to be statements of undisputed fact akin to the location of a mountain or a political boundary.”
JAN
31 ‘The Almost Forgotten Earthquake’
Assistant Professor Carl Tape, UAF
7 p.m., Raven Landing
On Aug. 27, 1904, seismic stations from around the globe recorded a magnitude 7.3 earthquake in central Alaska. Tape shares new insights at this kick-off event in the Science for Alaska lecture series.

FEB
11 Blue and Gold Gala
6 p.m., Carlson Center
Join us for an elegant evening with fine dining and live music by Pamyua, celebrating UAF’s first 100 years and our distinguished honorees.

18 Sourdough workshop
9 a.m., Room 154 Culinary Arts Building
Participants will make their own sourdough while learning from UAF nutrition educator Marsha Munsell about sourdough’s chemistry and its history in Alaska.

MAR
2–4 Festival of Native Arts
6 Athabascan astronomy
Chris Cannon
6:30 p.m., 202 Reichardt and outdoors
Learn about how a circumpolar humanoid constellation identified in Athabascan languages allows navigation and time reckoning in the sub-Arctic.

TBD Xavier Cortada,
UAF Centennial Lecture
In 2007, Xavier Cortada used the moving ice sheet at the South Pole as an instrument to mark time for the next 150,000 years. In 2008, he planted a flag at the North Pole to launch a reforestation eco-art effort. Cortada is an artist-in-residence at Florida International University.

APR
TBD ‘Vikings, Climate Change and Archaeology’
Professor Thomas McGovern,
Hunter College
McGovern will discuss studies of Vikings and others in the North Atlantic region and how climate change affects the work.

8 Science Potpourri
Noon to 3 p.m., Reichardt Building
Torch gummy bears, pop hydrogen-filled balloons and make nitrogen ice cream at the free annual Science Potpourri. Other activities include making take-home slime and watching lava rock melt.

MAY
3 Creation of college anniversary
Time TBD, Centennial Square (near Wickersham Hall)
On May 3, 1917, Alaska Territorial Gov. John Strong signed the bill to create what is now known as UAF. Join us on May 3, 2017, to celebrate our 100th birthday.

6 Commencement
1:20 p.m., Carlson Center

6 Gwich’in nature walk
3 p.m., Creamer’s Field (meet near barn)
UAF linguist Hishinlai’ Peter will share Gwich’in names for flora and fauna while exploring concepts of identity, culture and language acquisition.

8–11 Week of the Arctic — Arctic Interchange events in Fairbanks

JUL
7 Public art tour
5:30 p.m., location TBD
Tour UAF’s public art with Professor Emeritus Kes Woodward.

20–22 Nanook Rendezvous alumni reunion
Join fun activities for locals and visitors alike as reunion weekend returns to midsummer.

AUG
8 UAF Day at the Tanana Valley State Fair
Noon, Tanana Valley State Fairgrounds

SEP
30 Know your reindeer
3 p.m., UAF reindeer research farm
UAF Professor Greg Finstad will lead an interactive tour with the reindeer and talk about the importance of reindeer husbandry in Alaska’s rural communities.

NOV
5 Fairbanks Symphony Orchestra concert
4 p.m., Davis Concert Hall
Enjoy music composed for UAF’s centennial by graduate student Scott Hansen.

16 HooDoo centennial brew
5:30 p.m., HooDoo Brewery
Taste beer brewed with barley grown at UAF’s Fairbanks Experiment Farm and enjoy a short talk by brewer Bobby Wilken and the farm staff.

DEC
31 Sparktacular
8 p.m., UAF’s West Ridge
UAF’s centennial celebrations will end with the New Year’s Eve Sparktacular fireworks event.

Details are subject to change; for more events and the most current information, visit www.uaf.edu/centennial/events/.