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The Nanooks are holding their own among skiing’s elite. Seniors Marius Korthauer and Vahur Teppan were the top college finishers in their events at the U.S. Cross Country Ski Championship, bested only by members of the U.S. national team.

In Progress

The 2008 Science for Alaska lecture series continues in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau through February. The popular free lectures feature scientists from UAF, UAA and UAS. The annual series is organized by the Geophysical Institute and UAF University Relations.

The UAF Northwest Campus and Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program have launched a speaker series in Nome as part of the International Polar Year. This series is meant to facilitate discussions of current polar issues between local residents and academic experts. Topics include the effects of climate change on fisheries and the sea ice pack, storm systems and coastal erosion, and preservation of Native languages and art. The series runs through April 29.

What’s Next

The University of Alaska Museum of the North will host Inupiaq/Athabascan artist Erica Lord for a performance art installation March 6 – 9. Her work will reinterpret James Luna’s 1987 groundbreaking performance, The Artifact Piece. Lord’s performance provides a unique opportunity to stimulate dialogue on race, gender and cultural identity among Native peoples.

The 11th annual Scholarship Breakfast April 8 will honor the supporters who help fund more than $700,000 annually in scholarships and provide an opportunity for students to meet their benefactors.
Building a culture of philanthropy means showing donors how their gifts change lives. This fall, UAF hosted receptions that allowed donors and scholarship recipients to meet and share their experiences. From top:

Undergraduate Christine Peterson, Tessie and Doug Doyle, and doctoral student Kelly Newman pose during a reception at the home of School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences Dean Denis Wiesenburg. Newman and Peterson are recipients of the Kathryn “K” E. and John P. Doyle Scholarship, which was established by John Doyle and his family.

Undergraduate student Lexie Black poses for a photo with local philanthropist Bill Stroecker. Black is the recipient of the Helen Van Campen Journalism Scholarship. Stroecker established the scholarship in honor of Van Campen, an author and his longtime friend.

ROTC cadet Maj. Bridgette Navejar and donor Peggy Huber stand together during a reception this fall. Navejar received the C. Russell Huber ROTC Scholarship, which is named in honor of Peggy Huber’s late husband.

UAF music student Dean Shannon greets Edward Christiansen, as Alene Christiansen and UAF chancellor Steve Jones look on. Shannon is the recipient of the Edward K. and Alene R. Christiansen Music Scholarship.

Schaller fellowship awarded

Archana Bali arrived from India in the fall to begin studying caribou at the Institute of Arctic Biology’s Large Animal Research Station. Bali is a student in the Resilience and Adaptation Program and is the first recipient of the George Schaller Fellowship.

“It’s all really new science and in India there wasn’t a place offering coursework for interdisciplinary students,” Bali said.

The Liz Claiborne and Art Ortenberg Foundation established the fellowship for international graduate students at UAF whose conservation research will contribute to the survival of wildlife and the vitality of inextricably linked human communities. Schaller is a UAF alumnus and world-renowned wildlife conservationist.

Donors take opportunity to experience the power of their gifts

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Annual fund gains momentum

The UAF annual giving program is at its halfway point and is again on a record-setting track, with more than $134,000 raised to date. Outstanding supporters include longtime giver Kari Burrell; alumnus Peter Schust, who gave $20,000; and the Fairbanks Cancer Treatment Center, which pledged $50,000 over the next five years.