From the Director:

Summer Sessions 2007 was a symphony of educational opportunities for students, community members and Fairbanks visitors alike. Enrollment continues to increased with many out of state students enjoying the benefit of instate tuition during the summer. Students in over 300 classes created art, tackled the rigors of academic programs, and explored Alaska in destinations including Denali, the Brooks Range, and Katmai. Pre-academic programs flourished. Music, Art, and the Alaska Summer Research Academies all gave future students a chance to sample the incredible future they can have at UAF. Noncredit classes in provided excellent opportunities to acquire skills in recreation, photography and culinary arts. We even have a 2007 Summer Sessions cookbook composed of the recipes emanating from the Summer Café’ (Culinary Arts Food Experience) classes.

Outside of the classroom, our beautiful flower filled campus reverberated with a myriad of activities that made UAF the place to be this summer. A live two hour national broadcast of Face the Nation: Science Friday brought millions of listeners to Fairbanks for a discussion of global climate change. We launched the Alaska Book Festival. Free movies were available three nights a week. The Discovering Alaska lecture series gave students, the community, and visitors alike an opportunity to see Alaska through the eyes of authors and artists with a true passion for the Great Land. Hundreds of people sat on chairs and blankets on the beluga field to enjoy the music of the four Beluga Nights concerts. A thousand students participated in Jo Scott's amazing Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival, and Fairbanks Shakespeare Festival continues to add to the cultural quality of campus life.

UAF was definitely the place to be in summer 2007.

Michelle Bartlett, Director
UAF Summer Sessions
MAYmester Launched
MAYmester, a two week intensive at the end of May, allowed students to complete three upper division credits before heading off to their summer endeavors. The four MAYmester courses (BA F390, COMM F353, ECE F440, JUST 300X) with combined enrollments of 69 students left students (and faculty) exhausted from the intensity but thrilled to have an extra three credits under their belts and a full summer ahead. MAYmester 2007 biochemistry major, Scott Hummel commented: “I was a part of the May-ester y’all tried, and I thought it was INCREDIBLE! I was hoping you guys would also do one in the Fall. It really works well for those of us local folks who like to enjoy their summers, get some extra classes done, and work enough to avoid college debt.” Both faculty and students provided insightful comments on the program and we look to expand and improve it in 2008.

Academics
Core courses, math and science foundation courses, professional development courses, special interest courses, weekend focus courses, and developmental education courses were all part of the academic regimen offered in summer 2007. Some core courses and other academic courses were bursting at the seams with registrations. CHEM 105X and 106X as well as BIOL 111X and 112X had to add second sections. The Math Department offered a full slate of courses and enrollments were unusually high. Differential Equations in the condensed format of a Summer Sessions 6-week session had 28 students! STAT 200, a requirement for several majors, drew a full house.

The following courses offered in shorter time frames for professional development or general interest are noteworthy. Rudy Gens’ SAR and INSAR one-credit week-long courses filled with students from all over the United States. Joseph Thompson’s weekend one-credit humanities course Gods and Planets won top honors for the summer course with highest enrollment at 42 students.

Talk of the Nation: Science Friday comes to Fairbanks
Friday, June 7, a live broadcast of Talk of the Nation: Science Friday was held in the Charles Davis Concert Hall. It was the first time that there has been a two-hour live national broadcast from Alaska. The show’s focus was global warming. The first hour addressed the Biophysical Changes in the Arctic and Alaska and host Ira Flatow interviewed glaciologist Will Harrison, geophysicist Matthew Sturm, and ecologists F Stuart “Terry” Chapin and Torre Jorgenson. The second hour addressed the Effect of Climate Change on Alaskan People & Culture and the guests were Fran Ulmer, former Director of the Institute of Social and Economic Research, James Berner, Director of Community Health Services with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Craig Gerlach, UAF professor of Anthropology and La’Ona DeWilde, resident of Huslia and Ph D. Candidate in Biology at UAF. Almost 800 attended the broadcast and many lined up in the aisles to ask questions. The broadcast was underwritten by the UA Center for Research Services, UA Statewide, and the Fairbanks Convention and Visitors Bureau.

awards!
UAF Summer Sessions received three awards at the 2007 Western Association of Summer Session Administrators annual meeting in Boise, Idaho:

Best Website for Best Practices and Design
Best Catalog: One-Two Color Separation
Gary Award for Best Marketing
The Alaska Book Festival is born

The inaugural Alaska Book Festival was held July 13–14 spotlighting more than 30 invited artists. Poetry, history, cooking, science fiction, photography, mystery and children’s literature were some of the genres explored. Various formats were used including author readings, panel discussions and book-signings.

In addition authors made guest appearances all over town, including Gulliver’s, Barnes and Noble, Two Street Station, McCafferty’s, College Coffee House, Literacy Council of Alaska, Alaska Coffee Roasting Co. and the Noel Wien Public Library.

Festival partners were the Rasmuson Library, UA Press and UAF Auxiliary Services, the Alaska Humanities Forum, the Geophysical Institute, the International Arctic Research Center, the UA Geography Program, and the Alaska Library Associations Northern Chapter provided financial support. The 2008 Alaska Book Festival is scheduled for August 7-10, 2008 and Ketchikan artist, Ray Troll will be the opening night’s speaker.

Earn and Learn Program places students in summer jobs

Earning money during the summer is essential for most UAF students. Summer Sessions’ Earn and Learn program provided employment placement for students who took two Summer Sessions courses. Students applied through a special HR website and worked with the Summer Sessions’ director for an appropriate job placement. This summer twenty-two Earn and Learn students worked in various positions including the following campus departments: UAF Admissions, Sea Grant, UAF Museum of the North, Registrar, Bookstore, Institutional Research, Safety and Security, Development, Grounds Crew, Physical Plant, Georgeson Botanical Garden, Purchasing, and Natural Sciences.

65 Summer Tuition Waivers Awarded

Summer Sessions continued to offer tuition waivers to summer students. This year 65 students received awards. Each award was for up to three credits of summer tuition. Students were responsible for any books and fees associated with the course. Two different categories of awards are given. The first is for students who have earned ten credits or less and do not have the resources to attend UAF. The second is for continuing students who have exhausted their financial aid and do not have the resources to attend summer classes. Over half of the students that were awarded the tuition waivers in fact took more than one class. Summer Sessions was extremely pleased with the efforts that students made to further their education.

Summer Discovering Alaska lecture series is a hit!

Summer Sessions launched a free lecture series attended by hundreds of Fairbanksans and visitors alike. Every Wednesday evening, May through August, a talented member of the Fairbanks community shared their vision of Alaska. Lectures included authors Roger Kaye, Anne Hanley, Carolyn Kremers, Marjorie Cole, Debbie Miller, Ned Rozell, and Mike Sfraga; photographers Ken Whitten, Dennis Witmer, and Len Kamerling; artist Todd Sherman; and songwriter Susan Grace. The lecture series so intrigued producer Tim Olson of Juneau’s Public Television Station, KTOO, that most lectures were filmed for broadcast during the coming months throughout southeast Alaska. The Discovering Alaska lecture series was made available through a partnership with the Northern Alaska Environmental Center, and in cooperation with the UAF Center for Research Services and the UA Geography Program.

Jacyln Hendrix Travel Awards continue

Summer Sessions continues the tradition of making available travel wards to summer faculty members. This program was created to provide professional development opportunities to summer faculty. This year __ awards have been made. Included in the professional development choices are:

Four movie series draw many fans

Free films were offered three nights a week this summer that were enjoyed by hundreds of students, visitors, and locals alike. While three credit classes based on film series, Hitchcock, Russian, and Spanish, were offered for credit, locals were invited to watch the films for free. Every Thursday evening, the film archives of the Rasmuson Library provided a fourth Alaska based series. Those films included many classics including, North to Alaska and the Cheekchakos. Summer Sessions is grateful to Dirk Tordoff and the Rasmuson library for providing this extraordinary service to the community.

China, 3 years in a row

This is the third year that Summer Sessions will be taking students to China. For seventeen days, twenty students will travel China’s Silk Road for an educational and cultural experience of a lifetime. As in years past, this program was created for Summer Sessions by the Chinatown Language Institute of Hangchou. The trip begins in Beijing and then proceeds to China’s far western cities of Kashgar and Urumqi, before heading east through the cities of Turpin, Xi’an, and finally the port city of Shanghai. Previous programs have been down the Yangtze River as well as Tibet.

UC Berkeley/UAF Collaboration provides exciting study abroad options

2007 provided new student travel opportunities. Summer Sessions teamed up with its counterpart at the University of California Berkeley to offer programs summer abroad programs in England, Portugal, Mexico, and Italy. Students could participate in these programs created by UC Berkeley, while earning credit from UAF. Next summer the opportunities will broaden with the addition of study abroad programs from Arizona State University.