Microbiology (Biol 240) and Volcanoes, Earthquakes, and Volcanoes Past, Present, and Future (GEOs 120x). We appreciate the commitment of the three faculty members who made this latter course a reality.

Science and the Arts

In May 2008, two very different academic disciplines from UAF united to offer tandem field courses in Barrow, Alaska. The courses, GEOs/MSL 695, Field Techniques in Interdisciplinary Sea-Ice Research and FLM/ANTH/JRN/NORS 495/695 Visual Anthropology and Scientific Documentary with Digital Video included a total of 33 students from eight countries, 5 core instructors and 12 guest lecturers.

The intent was to offer a hands-on experience for students to see some of the spectacular landscapes and marine environments of the region.

United by an effort to publish a handbook on sea-ice research methodology the sea-ice course evolved from the combined work of Dr. Hajo Eicken, Dr. Rolf Gradinger and their colleagues from Japan and Finland. As part of the Fourth International Polar Year the sea-ice course received support from the National Science Foundation, the UAF Cooperative Institute for Arctic Research, the North Pacific Research Board, the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences and the International Arctic Research Center.

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The final handbook and accompanying DVD will be submitted to the University of Alaska Press for publication in 2009.

Field schools

Assistant Professor of Anthropology Ben Porter offered a successful Archaeological Field School near the Gerstle River in the shadow of the Alaska Range. Five weeks of work by the students uncovered artifacts dating back to the continent’s first inhabitants. To date the site has produced about 10,000 fragments of tools.

The International Volcanological Field Schools in Kamchatka and Petropavlovsk were offered for the 5th year and according to coordinator Pavel Lebedev both offerings were highly successful. The courses are offered through UAF’s Department of Geology and Geophysics in cooperation with Kamchatka State University and the Institute of Volcanology and Seismology in Petropavlovsk, Russia.

Kasitsna Bay Lab is one of Summer@UAF 2008. "Sea-Ice Research & Documentary Classes" will be held in this beautiful coastal community, and the lab is a great place to experience the natural beauty of Alaska.

For kids!

In addition to the two weeklong culinary camps for youth, a two-week Spanish Camp for kids 7 to 10 years of age was offered on campus. The participants learned the Spanish words for animals, clothing, numbers, and animals as well as being introduced to song, games and food of Spanish origins.

Weekend Focus classes on the rise

Both credit and non-credit classes offered in the weekend format swelled in 2008 by 33% over the previous year.

New offerings in the credit division included Wilderness First Responder Refresher, Introduction to Field Entomology, Drawing Nature: A Way of Learning, Interior Alaskan Mosses, and Marine Vertebrates of Kachemak Bay. The Field Entomology class rounds out the ever-popular offerings in Flora, Birds and Mushrooms. The Wilderness First Responder Refresher course was extremely popular and is slated to be included in the 2009 season.

Non-credit offerings were diverse with large enrollments early on. Courses included Birch Bark Weaving, Bookbinding, Botanical Illustration, Digital Portrait Photography, and two woodworking courses (Treasures from the Forest and Basic Woodworking).

Guest lecturers

Four nationally renowned individuals were invited to give FREE lectures on campus during Summer@UAF 2008.

Of Spanish origins. In late June, sociologist and author, Michael Kimmel presented a lecture entitled “Mars and Venus or Planet Earth: Women and Men in a New Millennium” to a crowd of hundreds. His lecture addressed the change that has occurred over several decades in women’s rights and how those changes have affected the relationships between men and women. As an expert on men’s issues Dr. Kimmel emphasized that the reality for men today is different from the one that generations before experienced. A lively question and answer period followed the lecture.

UAF alumna, Dr. Jean Kirsch along with her husband, Dr. Thomas Kirsch, gave a public lecture and a graduate seminar on “Jungian Theory and Applications.” For Jean, a 1964 UAF graduate who went on to medical school at Stanford University, this was a homecoming. While back on the UAF campus, Jean was able to reconnect with some of her mentors from her UAF college days.

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From the Director:

Summer@UAF, Summer Sessions’ new logo, captures our essence so well. Summer@UAF is a time when the sun is high and UAF opens the campus doors wide to welcome students, community members, and visitors alike. Summer@UAF was not just our 350 classes, or our 2,320 students, or the 8,914 student credit hours. Summer@UAF was all of this and more. It was the FREE movies and we had 31 of them. It was the FREE lectures and we had 15 of them that included NPR’s Susan Stamberg, sociologist Michael Kimmell, and Jungian analysts Drs. Jean and Tom Kirsch. It was the 5 FREE concerts compliments of Wood Center Activities. It was all the campus tours: the Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival, Fairbanks Shakespeare Theater, the Alaska Book Festival, the International Permafrost Conference, the Midnight Sun Run, the Alaska Research Academy, the Music and Visual Arts Academies and so much more. With the chancellors help we provided parking areas that were free.

But the heart of the Summer Sessions mission is our students. This summer we wanted our marketing efforts to remind everyone that students are our focus and reason for being. As we plan the summer schedule, the question we always pose to department chairs is what do students need? At UAF six years can be the norm for graduation. In this era of staggering costs of education, Summer Sessions has striven to pare down that timeline, as we have expanded the number of core academic courses, especially in the natural sciences and engineering. MAyMester and WINTERmester with their compressed format allow students to complete a three credit course in two weeks, have also proven to be a boon for our students.

All of our students are important, but our office staff would like to give kudos to Ral Vandenberg, our student worker, who made our office complete with her humor, energy, and competency. She was a daily reminder of the Summer@UAF mission.

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) awarded $1,000,000 endowment
OLLI provides unique learning opportunities for those 50 years of age and older. Three years ago the UAF Alaska Lifelong Learning (ALL) program was approached by the Bernard Osher Foundation to apply for a grant that would assist ALL in expanding its program and provide direction to other Alaskan communities in developing similar programs. The grant provided $100,000 in funding for three years and if at the end of that time there were 500+ members, the UAF OLLI would receive $1,000,000 endowment. ALL became OLLI and the target membership goal was reached. On October 21, UAF Chancellor Brian Rogers was notified that the UAF OLLI program was awarded the $1,000,000 endowment. Congratulations to Program Director Barbara Lando for her vision that has become a vibrant reality.

MAyMester expands to meet student needs
MAyMester offers students a unique opportunity to earn three credits in two weeks. MAyMester 2008 expanded to include lower division classes and opened registration to all students with at least a 2.5 GPA. This resulted in a 50% increase in course offerings and a 74% increase in enrollment.

Science course offerings expanded in 2008
Physics 101X was offered for the first time and student response was positive. Engineering Science offered Statics (ES 209) and Dynamics (ES 210) and students came to UAF from around the country specifically for these courses. We also welcomed Petroleum Engineering to summer with two 1-credit course offerings in 2008. As a special topics course, Electric Car Conversion (ES F105), was popular and proved an appropriate offering.

Fundamentals of Biology I and II (BIOL 105 & 106) had record enrollments. General Chemistry I & II (CHEM 105x & 106x) and Human Anatomy and Physiology (BIOL 111x & 112x) continue to be high-demand summer science courses. We also were fortunate to offer Beginnings in