

## In This Issue...

- Words from Wayne
- Executive Management Meeting Highlights
- Welcome New Faculty
- SOM Faculty Spotlight
- Hello from Bristol Bay
- CIFAR (Cooperative Institute for Arctic Research) Fellow
- Beta Gamma Sigma
- Kudos to our Students
- SOM Student Organizations
- Accounting Week
- May 2005 BBQ



Wayne Marr, Dean

## Fall 2005 Semester is Well Underway

### *Words from Dean Wayne Marr...*

To all students and faculty - Welcome back to the Fall semester! We worked diligently over the summer to bring quality programs to our students during the 2005 - 2006 academic year. In the past several years, we have had an increase in enrollment at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. We have four new faculty members which are profiled in more detail in the newsletter below. We welcome them to the SOM family as well.

We are expecting to obtain our AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) academic reaffirmation granted this academic year for the SOM after working primarily on outcomes assessment. We thank the dedicated faculty that have been involved in this effort. Our accounting reaffirmation will take a bit longer but we are actively pursuing the separate accounting reaffirmation from the AACSB.

We are continuing to pursue ideas that make our programs more valuable to our students and Alaska. We are working on economic development, leadership, entrepreneurship, and closer relationships with other Schools on campus including the College of Rural and Community Development and the College of Engineering and Mines. We also continue to work more closely with UAA's College of Business and Public Policy. These topics will be expanded on in greater detail in coming newsletters.

Go Nanooks!

**Please be sure to check out the  
School of Management's new web site at  
<http://www.uafsom.com/>**

2005-2006  
Executive  
Management  
Committee  
Members:

Greg Goering, Chair  
Jacob Joseph  
Susan Herman  
Mark Herrmann  
Laura Milner  
Mike Pippenger  
David Porter  
Doug Reynolds  
Craig Wisen

The Executive  
Management Committee  
meets every Monday  
afternoon at 2:00 p.m. in  
Room 201.



Professor Joe Little



Professor Jerry Madden

## Update from the School of Management's Executive Management Committee...



**Web Based Alumni Survey:** Committee members finalized the SOM Alumni Undergraduate Assessment Survey. Our hope is that the survey results will reflect student views and if necessary help us make changes to our curriculum. (<http://www.uaf.edu/provost/Surveys/ExitSurveys/SOMAlumniSurvey.html>)

**BusinessWeek Pilot Program:** This fall 25 students in BA 462 (Corporate Strategy) will be participating in BusinessWeek's on-line program (<http://www.businessweek.com/>). The program

should enhance our program and assist our students in applying concepts to the real world of business.

**Notification Policy When Out of Town:** The committee approved the notification policy as follows: "Due to the number of faculty that are out of town periodically the Executive Management Committee would like the school to have one point of contact for notification of travel. Thus notify the Associate Dean whenever you will be out of town during the standard academic contract normal business hours by providing an emergency contact number and dates that you will be away."

**AACSB Progress Reports:** The School of Management and the Accounting Program's Progress Reports are due to the International Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) by October 15<sup>th</sup>. David Porter is working with the Accounting faculty to prepare the Accounting report while Greg Goering is writing the SOM report.

## Welcome to Our New Faculty

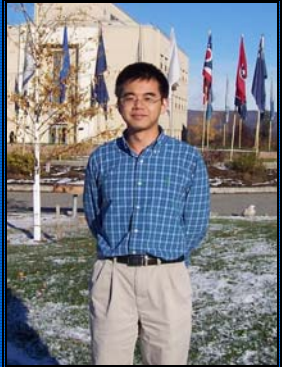
We have 4 new faculty members on board this semester. Please read a little about them:

**Dr. Joe Little, Economics.** Joe received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of New Mexico. His research interests include the Economics of Outdoor Recreation, Public Lands Management, Non-Market Valuation, and Rural Economic Development. He taught several Economics courses and was a Research Assistant at UNM. He enjoys skiing, hiking, backpacking and playing basketball. He and his wife drove up to Fairbanks this summer from Albuquerque and had a great trip.

**Dr. Jerry Madden, Business Administration.** Jerry received his Ph.D. in Business Administration from Penn State University, where he majored in Finance. His teaching has emphasized Business Finance and Investments subjects. Most of his teaching has been within New England universities. In addition to his visiting appointment at UAF, he has had visiting appointments with Syracuse University, the University of Missouri, and the University of Washington. His research concerns capital markets issues, modeling and analyses of mergers and acquisitions, and financial planning. Jerry enjoys watching college basketball, playing hoops, and outdoor photography.



Professor Branka Valcic



Professor Yijiang Zhao

**Branka Valcic, Economics.** Branka received her MS in Applied and Resource Economics from UAF's Department of Economics in 2001. She is a Ph.D. candidate in Environmental and Resource Economics at Oregon State University. Her research interests are marine resource economics with emphasis on overexploited marine ecosystems, marine protected areas, bioeconomics, and spatial analysis. When Branka is not working she is busy playing her cello or enjoying and exploring the great outdoors.

**Yijiang Zhao, Accounting.** Yijiang is a Ph.D. candidate in Accounting at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He earned his Master and Bachelor degrees at Xiamen University in Fujian, China. His research interests include Corporate Governance and Financial Reporting Quality Voluntary Disclosure. He worked for Pan-China CPA Co. Ltd for 3 years where he participated in auditing several state-owned enterprises and publicly-traded corporations. "Zhao's" hobbies include surfing the net and playing table tennis.

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## Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Laura Milner

Professor Milner has been at the UAF School of Management since 1986 making her the longest serving BA Faculty member. She was also the first female Full Professor in SOM. Laura is the only SOM faculty member to ever have a Fulbright. Laura has taught in over 10 countries on 5 continents. She has procured over 1/2 million dollars in sponsored activities from over 20 different organizations, but most notably the U.S. Department of Education.

Laura has over 40 publications and has made over 50 presentations (mostly on international advertising and international tourism). She is serving on the editorial boards for 3 journals. Laura has served on local boards, most notably the Fairbanks Convention & Visitors Bureau and the Fairbanks Industrial Development Corporation. She has served as MBA Director since 2003 as well as chairing UAF's IRB (Human Subjects Committee). She has supervised student consulting projects with over 50 organizations. Laura's latest academic thrust is working toward partnerships for SOM with Alaska Native Organizations.

Some of Laura's honors include (but are not limited to):

- 3 time winner of UAF's Outstanding Advisor Award
- Won Dennis Demmert Alaska Native Student Appreciation & Recognition Award
- Emil Usibelli Teacher Award Nominee
- State of Alaska Case Competition Professor of the Year Nominee

Laura has been happily partnered with Barbara Brooks for 16 years and they were recently married in Canada. She enjoys karate, walking, biking, snow machining, and traveling.



Professor Laura Milner

(Photo © Patrick J. Endres /  
Alaskaphotographics.com)

## *Hello from Bristol Bay!*

### *By Professor Charlie Sparks*



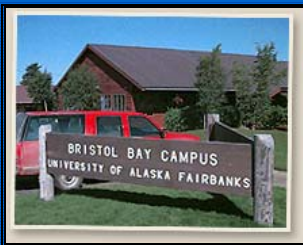
Dr. Charlie Sparks

This past week I attended the Bristol Bay Regional Summit in King Salmon. The Summit's primary objective was to initiate the development of a comprehensive plan for the Bristol Bay region. The villages that make up the region are at various stages of developing community level plans that will serve as a guide for the development of infrastructure. It is envisioned that these community level plans will be folded into a regional plan to guide the region's leadership for prioritizing and integrating capital projects.

Governor Murkowski addressed the gathering on Tuesday and spoke on his progress regarding the Alaska gas pipeline and an oil and gas lease sale in the region planned for October. He acknowledged the crisis created by recent high energy costs in a region which already faces high fuel and transportation costs. He renewed his commitment to the Power Cost Equalization Fund that provides funding for rural power generation to offset the high cost of electricity in rural Alaska.

The Summit also addressed the need for economic development through workforce development. Several workshops presented ways for communities to retain existing jobs or create new businesses in their areas. Several speakers emphasized programs to support value-added fish processing and vocational training for construction trade skills to take advantage of existing resources and opportunities. The Bristol Bay campus is central to realizing these goals through its applied business programs and the Southwest Alaska Vocational Education Center (SAVEC).

Discussions with many of the participants also revealed the need for broad band internet service throughout the region to support economic development and educational initiatives. E-commerce is viewed as a key to supporting much of the entrepreneurial activities discussed and bringing high speed internet to many rural areas will benefit these efforts. Currently courses offered to rural sites via distance delivery are by audio link. Expansion of high speed internet service will greatly enhance the quality of these courses. I am looking forward to working with Dr. Deborah McLean-Nelson, the Director of the Bristol Bay campus to secure grant funds to improve the communications infrastructure in the region.



Bristol Bay Campus  
Dillingham, Alaska





## Kudos for our Students and Graduates...

2005 SOM MBA Spring graduate **Virginia Bedford** is off to the Ph.D. program at Carnegie Mellon.

2005 SOM MBA Spring graduate **Alice Crow** has been hired at Tanana Chiefs Conference.

2005 December graduate **Darren Tiemstra** is now at Flint Hills.

2005 MBA Graduate **Jennifer Ma** secured a permanent position at the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation as an Investment Analyst II/Equities.

2004 Summer MBA graduate **Mac Sele** was hired at Pennon Construction in Seattle, Washington.

2003 MBA Graduate **Brian Cade** is now a financial Advisor at Morgan Stanley.

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### *SOM Student Organizations*

The School of Management has several very active student clubs. Please check them out on our web site at: [www.uafsom.com](http://www.uafsom.com)

**ASB** - Associated Students of Business (<http://www.uafsom.com/asb.html>)

**GAAP** - Great Alaskan Accounting People (<http://www.uafsom.com/gaap.html>)

**SIF** - Student Investment Club (<http://www.uafsom.com/sif.html>)

**BGS** - Beta Gamma Sigma (<http://www.uafsom.com/bgs.html>)

**Accounting Week** is taking place from October 17<sup>th</sup> through 21<sup>st</sup>. For more information please check out Career Services at <http://www.uaf.edu/career/> and GAAP at <http://www.uafsom.com/gaap.html>.



*Professors Tom Robinson and Greg Goering grilling up the good stuff!*

### *Last Spring's SOM BBQ...*

The **2nd Annual End-of-the-Year BBQ** was a great success! The weather was fantastic, the hamburgers and hotdogs were cooked to perfection by Tom Robinson and Greg Goering, and the ping pong table was the location of many competitive and recreational games. We served over 300 hamburgers and 100 hotdogs. Thanks to all who attended and thank you to all who helped put this great event together for the School of Management. We appreciate all your hard work!

*If you have any ideas or suggestions regarding the Newsletter, please contact Debbie at [fndlf1@uaf.edu](mailto:fndlf1@uaf.edu). Thank you.*