

SEPTEMBER 2021

UAF Nanook Navigator & Student Success Newsletter

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Undergraduate Amanda Andrew works on an assignment in the chemistry lab at UAF's Kuskokwim Campus in Bethel. UAF Photographer: Todd Paris

Dates & Deadlines

October 1: FASFA Opens

October 4: Midterm Grades Due, UAOnline

October 14 & 15: [UA Student Success Convening](#)

October 15: Deadline to apply for fall 2021 graduation

October 25: Spring 2022 course list available at UAOnline

October 31: [Title IX Training](#); UA Blackboard

Annually: [FERPA Training](#)

Upcoming Items & Reminders

Upcoming Items

- ⇒ **Alaska EPSCoR Seed Funding:** The Alaska NSF EPSCoR Fire & Ice project is pleased to announce the availability of a series of seed grants to University of Alaska faculty, staff and students. Grants will be awarded in four categories: Faculty Research Seed Grants of up to \$20,000 each; Student Research Seed Grants of up to \$4,000 each; Education and Outreach Seed Grants of up to \$12,500 each; and Visualization Seed Grants of up to \$2,500 each. <https://www.alaska.edu/epscor/awards/>. DEADLINE 10/15.
- ⇒ **Pearl Brower** to lead Alaska Native success, diversity, inclusion work at UA
- ⇒ Student groups can apply for a grant of up to \$1,000 from the **UAF Alumni Association**. The funds will support projects that identify specific needs and improve campus opportunities for current students. The application **deadline has been extended to Thursday, Oct. 1**. If you are a student or work with a student organization, you are invited to make a request through the [UAFAA Benefactor Fund Request Form](#). [See here for more information.](#)
- ⇒ A nonbinary, genderqueer, genderfluid, gender non-conforming, trans identifying and gender questioning support group for currently enrolled undergraduate and graduate students. Join Thursdays 1:00-1:00PM September 16– December 9th. Email uaf-sh-cc@alaska.edu for Zoom link and password
- ⇒ **First-Year Foundations (Extended Orientation):** [September 3– October 31st](#). We hope to improve student's first-year experience at UAF by providing a collection of activities that we feel help our new Nanooks to; engage further with the UAF community, learn about vital resources on campus, challenge themselves in their beliefs and ideas, and of course, start building practical skills to help them succeed as a student at UAF.
- ⇒ **University of Alaska Human Resources** is providing several upcoming professional development opportunities for fall 2021. Training is provided by Deer Oaks, our employee assistance provider. [Register for the training sessions here.](#)
- ⇒ **UA Disability Services Annual Conference:** October 26– November 5. Email uaf-disability-services@alaska.edu for registration links.

Reminders

- ⇒ **URSA Mentor Awards-** Every fall, full-time UAF faculty members, postdoctoral researchers, and graduate students from all disciplines and campuses are eligible to apply for awards of up to \$5,000 for mentoring undergraduate research and scholarly learning opportunities. Funding options include; fellowships for undergraduate students, travel for undergraduate students, limited travel for the mentor, and supplies and/or services to help support undergraduate research and scholarly activity initiatives. DEADLINE 9/12.
- ⇒ **Information for faculty and staff:** <https://www.uaf.edu/uaf/facstaff/index.php>
- ⇒ **Learning Resources Flyer**
- ⇒ Accommodations for people who experience disabilities: <https://www.uaf.edu/disabilityservices/>

Student Success Stories

- ⇒ UAF senior design project goes to market
- ⇒ Indigenous graduate students focus on co-production of knowledge



A full November moon rises over the ridge behind the UAF campus. UAF Photographer: Todd Paris

Events & Opportunities

For All

September– December: University of Alaska Human Resources– [Professional Development](#)

October 4: Alaska EPSCoR Graduate Student Speaker Events: 9-10 AM, Heather Coletti and Amy Holman. Email taborland@alaska.edu for Zoom link.

October 15: Alaska EPSCoR Graduate Student Speaker Events: 9-10 AM, Chris Siddon and Daniel Esler. Email taborland@alaska.edu for Zoom link.

Students

September 16-December 9: A nonbinary, genderqueer, genderfluid, gender non-conforming, trans identifying and gender questioning support group for currently enrolled undergraduate and graduate students. Join Thursdays 1:00-1:00PM September 16– December 9th. Email uaf-sh-cc@alaska.edu for Zoom link and password

October 5: 4-6, Murie Auditorium, Call for research projects: 2021 [BLaST mixer](#); [register here](#)

October 12: [Information Session for Parents and Families](#)

October 17: Community Engaged Learning Awards [applications due](#)

October 27: [Career Fair](#) 11 am– 3pm

Thursdays: 6:30 pm, ASUAF Senate Meetings in Wood Center C&D, asuaf.office@alaska.edu

December 1: [Research grants available through Alaska Space Grant– applications due](#)

Student Success Members

Year-Round: On-Demand Webinars available for free

October 14 & 15: Virtual Student Success Convening [Registration](#)

Instructors

Year-Round: Faculty Development

October 10: Call for proposals: BLaST faculty pilot project awards [applications are due](#)

October 7: New Opportunities in Research Operations [Webinar](#)



Spotlight

Name: Daniel Darrow
Title: Term Instructor
Department & College: Foreign Languages and Literatures, CLA
Roles: Instructor and Advisor

Why are you passionate about UAF students and their success? I was a First Gen college student and had to learn “while on the job.” I enjoy helping students create an academic plan

Favorite part about being an instructor? In the classroom, I really like seeing when a student gets that “aha moment.”

What is your favorite feature in Nanook Navigator? The latest feature I’ve really enjoyed has been the link provided to my calendar from “my availability.” Students can set up an appointment for advising/help (whether they are my advisees or just in the classroom). I posted this link on my homepage in Canvas and quite a few have used it already. Nanook Navigator makes it really easy.

How long have you been utilizing Nanook Navigator? A couple of years now I think. It all blends into one lately. Pink Floyd’s “Is there anybody out there?” is on continuous repeat in my head during the pandemic.

Tips, advice, or ideas to support other Nanook Navigator users or student success practices? Sync your Google Calendar to Nanook Navigator to make it easier to make appointments, launch advising campaigns, etc. Use the notes & report on appointments features during/after meeting with students that can be shared by other advisers and to help you remember which classes you discussed, issues, etc. One really effective tool I found was using the “message student” under alerts. Most students respond right away when you send an SMS message as opposed to an email. This way you don’t have to share your cell phone number with anyone- the text comes through Nanook Navigator.



Support for Student Success

Academic Support Resources

Resource [flyer](#) and [website](#).

Self-Care Strategies for Faculty

Those of us who work in higher education should purposefully attend to our important needs, even if only for a short time each day, write Janet Alexander and Beth Kelch.

Here's what can go wrong as students navigate important decisions—and 3 ways to ensure they succeed

Explore this infographic to understand the kinds of pivotal moments students encounter, how they cause students to stumble, and what schools can do to help.

How to Break Down the Barriers to Student Success in Higher Education

Discover how to strengthen your student success initiatives by aligning definitions across campus and supporting a unified, long-term objective.

Language Matters

We need to reflect on how we wield our words as scientists and educators, especially when doing work to make academe and science more diverse, writes Maria Qadri.

3 ways to equip faculty to support student mental health

Less than 30% of faculty members have said they've received mental health discussion training from their institutions. Here are three ways to provide the resources and support your faculty needs to identify students in distress and connect them with campus resources.

10 Ways to Make Your Fall Classes Better

Applying lessons from the pandemic shift to remote learning.

How 2 universities support grad student mental health

Graduate students are six times more likely than the general population to experience depression and anxiety—but they are rarely the focus of mental health outreach efforts.

5 items to proofread before you hit Send on that email

You don’t need a half hour to proofread every email; a 10-minute once-over can catch most mistakes. Here’s a list of items you can quickly double-check before you hit send on that email.

The Missing Link in Academic Advising: The Faculty Perspective

For all the talk about holistic undergraduate advising, one thing is rarely championed: collaboration between staff counselors and faculty members.

Nanook Navigator Resource Website: <https://uaf.edu/gs/nanooknavigator/index.php>

Log into Nanook Navigator: <https://uaf.campus.eab.com/>

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