

KUAC 50 years young

KUAC FM celebrates its 50th anniversary this October as the first public broadcasting station in Alaska. They are collecting stories on how people's lives have been changed by KUAC.



To submit your story, visit
www.kuac.org.



If God SENT AN ANGEL TO EARTH, *would you listen?*

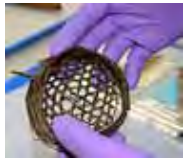
UAF's new film degree has produced its first film. Theatre Department Professor Kade Mendelowitz wrote and directed *The Messenger*, which premieres in April.

The Messenger's plot: Michael, a self-proclaimed angel and messenger of God, is invited to be a guest on America's latest hit talk show, where doubters have hatched a plan to assassinate him.

"Now that the film degree at UAF is official," says Mendelowitz, "this was the perfect time to produce this piece."



To find out more, visit *The Messenger's* blog
at www.theatreuaf.org/themessenger/.



Harvard Returns Eskimo Artifacts

A large collection of archaeological artifacts has returned to Alaska, nearly 60 years after the objects were excavated near Point Barrow. The Birnirk collection, now at the UA Museum of the North, represents a phase of prehistoric Eskimo culture dating back to 500 A.D. The Birnirk site is the type site for the Birnirk culture, which occupies a key juncture in the branches of Eskimo prehistory and the first decidedly Eskimo phase of cultural development seen on the Alaska mainland. The collection contains almost 26,000 items, ranging from hunting tools and harpoon parts to snow goggles and snow knives. The collection is owned by the U.S. Navy and was housed for decades at the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Technology at Harvard University.



UAF photos by Theresa Bakker.





UAF photo by Theresa Bakker.

Russian blockhouse back at post

An 1841 Russian blockhouse is again sitting tall on the grounds of the UAF Museum of the North. The house, one of the oldest Russian-era structures in Alaska, now has a new foundation, a new roof topped with tundra sod, and new logs to replace rotten ones. The blockhouse will serve as the trailhead marker for a planned interpretive trail on campus. (Funding source: Save America's Treasures)



Helping Kids

SLIM DOWN

That's the goal of a grant to reduce childhood

obesity in the Pacific region. Cooperative Extension Service's Bret Luick is the lead investigator for the Alaska portion of the project. Luick, a foods and nutrition specialist, says part of that means encouraging more exercise and healthy foods.

Researchers will work with communities throughout the region to inventory resources, identify barriers to healthy lifestyles, and design and evaluate culturally appropriate programs.

"This is about children achieving and maintaining healthy lifestyles," says Luick.

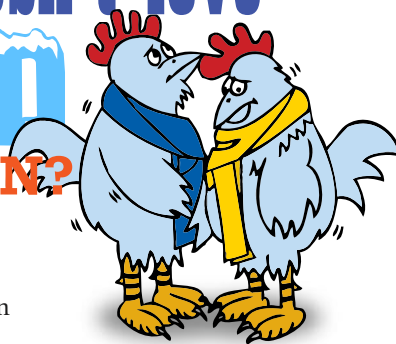


A+ Still accredited after all these years

UAF received notification of reaffirmation of accreditation from the commissioners of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities in February. Next up in the accreditation process is a year one report for the next seven-year cycle. UAF has been continuously accredited since 1934.



Who doesn't love COLD CHICKEN?



Or a whole coop of them, for that matter. Cooperative Extension Service has released

a DVD, *Winter Chickens*, on raising chickens in Alaska. The DVD, which was filmed in community development agent Mara Bacsujlaky's chicken coop, near Fairbanks, is an illustration of what one can expect and is not intended as a comprehensive how-to guide. It contains information about housing and equipment, feed and costs, as well as thoughts about the challenges and benefits of keeping a laying flock through the winter. The DVD is geared to the cold and dry conditions of Interior and northern Alaska.

"It's the down and dirty of keeping laying hens through an Alaska winter," Bacsujlaky says.

Copies of the DVD may be ordered through Extension for \$5 by calling 1-877-520-5211.



Around

Campus



Trails across a Dreamscape

In places where the air gets cold enough to freeze seawater, sea ice creates a fantastical landscape. In Barrow, whale hunters start packing down snowmachine trails over this blue-white dreamscape in March.

Matt Druckenmiller spent the last couple years of his doctoral research at UAF creating meticulous maps of whalers' snowmachine trails across the ice and collecting detailed information on ice thickness.

As he created the maps by walking or snowmachining trails with a GPS, Druckenmiller had time to appreciate how different life is in the far north.

"It really is a dangerous and committing venture to be camped miles offshore in such dynamic (ice) conditions," Druckenmiller says.

"These hunters are truly sea ice experts ... Their ingenuity in dealing with such a harsh and variable environment also plays an important role in their hunting success."

Photo by David Pringle

Heat pumps would work in Alaska

Ground-source heat pumps offer an economically viable heating option in some places in Alaska.

A heat pump captures energy from the earth to use for heating or cooling. The system consists of underground tubing filled with heat-transfer fluid, an electric pump and a heat distribution system.

Researchers assessed the performance and economic viability of the technology in five Alaska communities and found that heat pumps could meet or beat other heating systems in Fairbanks, Juneau and Seward.

"Even though the ground-source heat pumps have high up-front capital costs ... they end up costing less over 15 years just because you save so much money on annual energy costs," says co-author and graduate researcher Dominique Pride. (*Report: UAF's Alaska Center for Energy and Power and the Cold Climate Housing Research Center*)

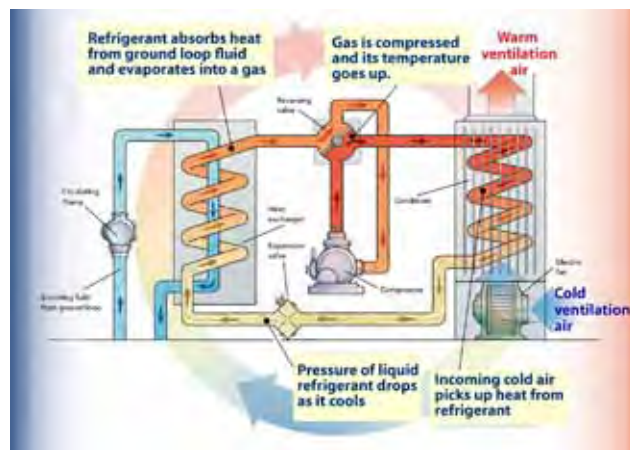


Image adapted from Fine Homebuilding.

CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES ON THE LIFE SCIENCES FACILITY ...

... on the West Ridge of the Fairbanks campus. The facility is scheduled for occupancy in summer 2013. Watch the building's progress by webcam at <http://facilities.alaska.edu/uaf/sitecam/view.htm>.



Photos courtesy of UAF Facilities Services.

KID CAMPS

summer 2012

Justice Academy May 21 – 25, registration deadline May 21
www.uaf.edu/summer/youth-programs/

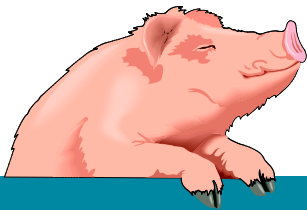
Summer Music Academy June 4 – 15 for students finishing grades 6 – 12 www.uafsumtermusicacademy.org

Visual Arts Academy June 4 – 15 for students finishing grades 6 – 12, application deadline May 11 www.uaf.edu/art/artacademy/

Alaska Business Week July 14 – 21, application deadline June 1
www.alaskachamber.com



For more opportunities at UAF for kids, visit
www.uaf.edu/uaf/community/programs/



This little piggy went...

... to the UA Museum of the North. A new pipeline super pig has been installed on the museum's grounds, courtesy of Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. It replaces a pig given to the museum in 1984.

A pig is a device inserted into a pipeline to clean it, separate products or dewater the line; to inspect the pipeline; and to perform other special duties, such as plugging isolated pipelines. The trans-Alaska pipeline system is "pigged" every eight days.

Visitors can inspect the pipeline pig any time or day. Since it is too large to be curated inside, it is located on the northwest corner of the building, along the edge of the parking lot.



Photo courtesy of UA Museum of the North.

FREEZE-DRIED FISH **FAST**

A new technique cuts the freeze-drying time for pink salmon from 20 hours to about nine. The process heat-treats the raw fish to make the moisture in the salmon easier to remove. The result: tasty freeze-dried salmon cubes that can be served in soups, salads and other dishes.

Each year, Alaska fishermen catch more than 30 million pink salmon, the most abundant Alaska salmon species. Most of the catch is canned or made into frozen fillets.

It's a long way from new technique to new product, but researchers say this is a good first step. (Partners: UAF's Alaska Sea Grant College Program and the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences; the Nha Trang University [Vietnam]; and the USDA Subarctic Agricultural Research Unit. Funding: U.S. Department of Agriculture)



GIFT OF LAND

Fairbanks physician Jeffrey Zuckerman and his family recently donated to UAF a 50-acre parcel of land near Fairbanks in honor of their daughter, Bianca Zuckerman, '10. She graduated with a double major in Spanish and psychology and a minor in biology, and is now seeking a doctorate in physical therapy in Texas. According to the gift agreement, the land will be sold by the university. The proceeds will establish an endowment to benefit two academic programs, Spanish and psychology, as well as research by faculty member Kelly Drew at the Institute of Arctic Biology.

