

# UAA Research News

*From the Office of Sponsored Programs*

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## Welcome to Our Second Newsletter

by Dr. Kim Peterson, Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Studies

In this newsletter, we continue to highlight scholarship and other activities of UAA faculty and staff. As an institution we take considerable pride in the diversity and extent of such talents and accomplishments. But beyond the values of living in a thriving academic environment, our potential to achieve greater scholarship is influenced by our ability to form meaningful connections among our faculty and staff. We spotlight individuals and programs in the hope that new interactions and opportunities are potentially discovered.

The Office of Sponsored Programs continues to build support for faculty and staff engaged in externally funded activities. UAA has passed thirty million dollars in external support for training, service and research this fiscal year, and we anticipate continued growth of externally funded programs. We are here to assist both faculty and staff wishing to pursue funded projects.

## Rasmuson Grant for Music Department

Last October, the Music Department was awarded \$25,000 from the Rasmuson Foundation for the purchase of new musical instruments. This was good news for Karen Strid-Chadwick, Professor and Chair of the Department of Music because, like other departments on campus, she is facing increased enrollment. This rise in the number of students seeking a Bachelor of Music degree with an emphasis in music education has put a strain on the department's instruments.

All music education students are required to take a methods class for every instrument family. These classes are taught on rotation every two years and, in the past, the Department of Music has had to rent 10 to 15 instruments every year at a cost of \$7,000 to keep up with the demand. Eight violins, six classical guitars, and a five-octave marimba have been purchased so far, funded by this award.

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*Walter Olivares, Associate Professor of the Music Department,  
with one of the new violins*

*Rasmuson Grant to  
the Music Department*

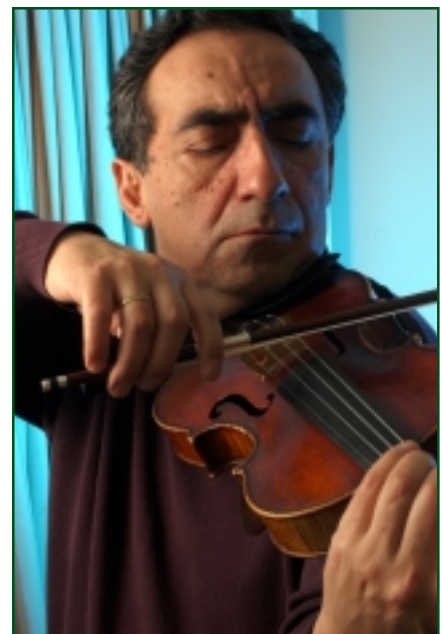
*The TREND Program,  
Small Business  
Development Center*

*Center for  
Human Development*

*Alaska Museum  
of Natural History*

*Introducing the Office of  
Transportation Research*

*Alaska Geriatric  
Education Center*



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## Rasmuson Grant for the Music Department *(Continued)*

The Rasmuson grant has also funded 44 hours of field recordings of music by Native Alaskans for the Library of Congress American Folklife Center. These recordings are part of a music collection being assembled by music instructor Craig Coray, who is responsible for the development of a native music program. Coray plans to have the

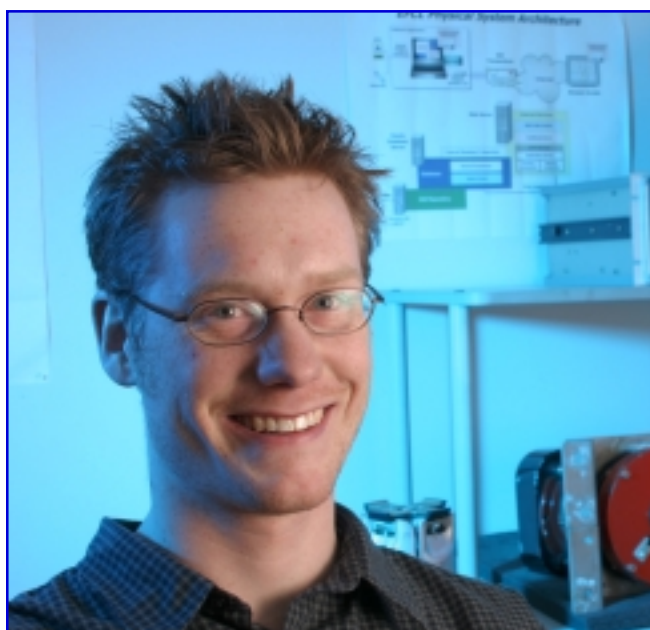
music transcribed so it will be available for native students, music students and other scholars for research. He has recently acquired matching funds from the Alaska Humanities Forum. The UAA Department of Music is an accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Music. For information, see <http://music.uaa.alaska.edu/>.

## The TREND Program, Small Business Development Center

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Funded research in the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) has some unique qualities. Within SBDC, an affiliate of the University of Alaska, is the Technology Research and Development Center (TREND), which aids small businesses in finding researchers and funding to develop new technology in Alaska and strengthen Alaska's economy.

Featured among TREND's many services is assistance in applying for Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grants and contracts. SBIR began in 1982 with legislation that requires any government agency which spends over \$100 million on extramural research and development to set aside a portion of that for small businesses. There are 10 federal agencies that participate in the SBIR program.



The SBIR program is a three-phase program. Phase I is a feasibility study to evaluate the scientific and technical merit of an idea for six months and up to \$100,000. Phase II allows further expansion of Phase I and can be funded for two years and up to \$750,000. Phase III is for the commercialization of the results of Phase II, and requires the use of non-SBIR federal funding or funding from private industry. For businesses to qualify, they must be for-profit, have less than 500 employees including all affiliates and be 50% U.S. owned. Benjamin Linford, TREND's Program Manager, stated, "It's pretty unusual for a grant program to require a for-profit status since grants are generally designed for non-profits."

The for-profit requirement of SBIR does not rule out University involvement. Therefore, University faculty may start up, spin off, or partner with private for-profit ventures and conduct their research with SBIR funding. In fact, SBIR has a sister program in the Small Business Technology Transfer program which requires applicants to partner with a research institution such as a University or a federal lab.

TREND assists in connecting small businesses with University faculty through their TrendNet network. The addition of faculty expertise greatly increases the chance of success for small businesses that may not have as much research experience. **TREND would like to see more faculty, whose research could develop a practical application, get involved with TrendNet especially in light of recent legislation.**

*Benjamin Linford, TREND's Program Manager*

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To encourage this connection between researchers and the private sector, the Alaska State Senate unanimously passed legislation that allows the University President to negotiate with researchers and faculty members on intellectual property rights. The bill, HB 282, will provide incentives for the University and its faculty to make use of their research for practical applications in the private sector.

Alaskan SBIR applicants can also take advantage of TREND's Phase 0 and Bridge grant programs. TREND partnered with Alaska Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) to offer both Phase 0 and Bridge grants. Nationally, EPSCoR has programs in 22 states including Puerto Rico and, through broadening

participation in research, EPSCoR looks to increase the connection between universities, government agencies and private industry.

Although TREND is housed at the University of Alaska Anchorage, it is a statewide program. For more information, please visit their website at [www.trendalaska.org](http://www.trendalaska.org).

**Note:**

**Learn more about technology transfer policy and practice at UA. Attend a Council on Scientific Research meeting in ADM 204 on April 22, 8 –10 AM. Highly qualified consultants will be there to give advice and guidance.**

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## Center *for* Human Development

“Our role is to increase the capacity of Alaska to fully include people with disabilities into all aspects of community life,” stated Dr. Karen Ward, Director of the Center for Human Development (CHD). The UAA CHD is one of 61 University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities across the United States and its territories as authorized under the 1999 Developmental Disabilities Act.

Although CHD is part of a national network of University Centers for Excellence, it concentrates on issues specific to Alaska. Unlike many other Centers and Institutes on campus, CHD's broad mission includes provision of interdisciplinary academic training, community education, direct services, and information dissemination as well as research. For example, the Self-Employment Project provides training, technical assistance, and direct services for individuals with disabilities and their families who want to be self-employed.

With multiple sources of external funding, the Project can aid individuals with disabilities in the development of a business and marketing plan or provide financial assistance to pay for business set-up costs such as business license fees or a piece of equipment. The project also

trains service providers about Social Security Work Incentives as well as micro-enterprise development. The Center's interdisciplinary academic training is conducted in collaboration with other UA academic units. The Learn as You Earn Program offers a Certificate and Associate's Degree in Applied Science in Disabilities in partnership with Prince William Sound Community College. This distance delivered program is designed especially for

*(Continued, page 5)*

*Dr. Karen Ward, Director of CHD*



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## Alaska Museum of Natural History

“We have a magical story unfolding here,” said Professor Anne Pasch, UAA Professor Emeritus of Geology.” The Alaska Museum of Natural History (AMNH) has a new home and will be part of the excitement generated by the new Mountain View Arts & Cultural District.

Professor Pasch, along with Adjunct Professor Sabra Reid, founded the Alaska Museum of Natural History in 1989. It is the only museum in the state solely dedicated to Alaska’s natural history: archeology, geology, botany and zoology. The mission of the museum is “to collect, conserve, preserve, research, interpret and exhibit material related to Alaska’s natural history to enrich the knowledge and lives of residents and visitors.”

The museum opened in the fall of 1994, but after seven years the AMNH was asked to move from its location in Eagle River. When Anchorage Neighborhood Housing spear headed the concept of revitalizing the Mountain View area with the development of an Arts and Cultural District there, AMNH was asked to be a part of this new community. With funds provided by the Anchorage Assembly through a federal Community Development Block Grant, AMNH purchased a 12,000 square foot building in Mountain View.

With ownership of the building at 201 N. Bragaw, the museum staff is now in the process of retrieving its materials. Plans are to restore exhibits so the museum can reopen by May 31, 2004. The AMNH is one of the first non-profit organizations to move into Mountain View as part of the revitalization process. Long range plans include extensive remodeling of the building to include a lobby, library, classroom and elevator.

The new AMNH location is six times larger than its former facility. Pasch sees it as a place for serious scientific collections, an expanded education program and an improved exhibit hall. Materials will be catalogued, conserved, and made available to researchers from around the world. Robert Blodgett, an invertebrate paleontologist with the



*Dr. Ann Pasch, UAA Professor Emeritus of Geology*

U.S. Geological Survey, has already approached the museum about accepting his extensive collection of Alaska fossils that includes new species.

Plans are underway for the AMNH to feature a polar dinosaur exhibit in 2005. It was organized by an internationally recognized paleontologist, Pat Rich. This exhibit is the first one ever assembled to feature high latitude dinosaurs and other associated fossils. It includes materials from Alaska, the Antarctic, Australia, New Zealand, and the tip of South America. According to Pasch, “Dinosaur fossils were first found in North America in the 1850’s, but dinosaurs were not known to be in Alaska until the 1980’s. The new discoveries at high latitudes have made a dramatic impact on the way we think about the behavior of these fascinating creatures.”

When the museum opens it will feature the only mounted dinosaur skeleton in Alaska. It is a replica of a juvenile hadrosaur, about 15 feet in length. It is very similar to “Lizzie,” the hadrosaur found in the Talkeetna Mountains in 1994 and to the juvenile duckbills common in the North Slope dinosaur beds. The replica is being purchased on a “time payment” plan, so enthusiasts are encouraged to “buy” one of its 200 bones. With sufficient donations, it will become a permanent exhibit. Details can be seen on the Museum’s web page at [www.alaskamuseum.org](http://www.alaskamuseum.org) or call 907-274-2400.

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## ***Introducing the Office of Transportation Research***

With new research projects at the University of Alaska related to transportation in the State of Alaska, UAA, UAF and UAS are working together to develop the university's ability to find answers to important questions encountered by those planning or constructing transportation systems in the state. UAA established the Office of Transportation Research in the fall of 2003. Dean Robert Lang of the School of Engineering serves as Director of the Office of Transportation Research.

Dr. Lang came to UAA in 2002 from California Polytechnic State University where he was Chair of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department. The Office of Transportation Research includes research in the College of Business and Public Policy and the Community and Technical College as well as the School of Engineering.

Dr. Lang noted that the State of Alaska has many unique issues facing the transportation industry where the majority of populated areas are inaccessible by road. The current research being conducted comes from a variety of areas in transportation. Examples include the Capstone Project and Alaska Experimental Forecast Facility in the Division of Aviation Technology in the Community and Technical College, a study concerning the effects of stud-tired tire use in Alaska, and a strong-motion instrumentation design of the Port of Anchorage Bridge underway in the School of Engineering.



*Dr. Robert Lang, Director of the OTR*

The goal of the Office of Transportation Research is to provide the state, and other transportation industries in the state, with a resource for needed research and forecasts. Proud of the quality of research currently being conducted in transportation at UAA, Dr. Lang stated, "We have world-class faculty and researchers at UAA that can do really wonderful things within transportation research." Now UAA is better able to consolidate and focus its transportation research and statewide funding efforts.

For more information concerning the Office of Transportation Research, please visit their website at [www.engr.uaa.alaska.edu/transportation](http://www.engr.uaa.alaska.edu/transportation) or contact Dr. Lang at 786-1859.

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## **Center for Human Development (*Continued*)**

paraprofessionals working in a variety of community agencies around the state.

CHD also conducts evaluation research primarily for state and community agencies, such as a study to assess the impact of the federally funded Alaska Federal Health Care Access Network (AFHCAN) Telemedicine Project. Dr. Patrick Moran, CHD's Director of Research and Evalua-

tion, along with Dr. Ward, is working with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium to determine the impact of telemedicine in Alaska from a rural provider, business, and technology perspective. The mission of the AFHCAN project is to improve health care access for federal beneficiaries in the State of Alaska through a sustainable telemedicine system. For more information, contact CHD at 272-8270 or visit their website at <http://www.alaskachd.org>.

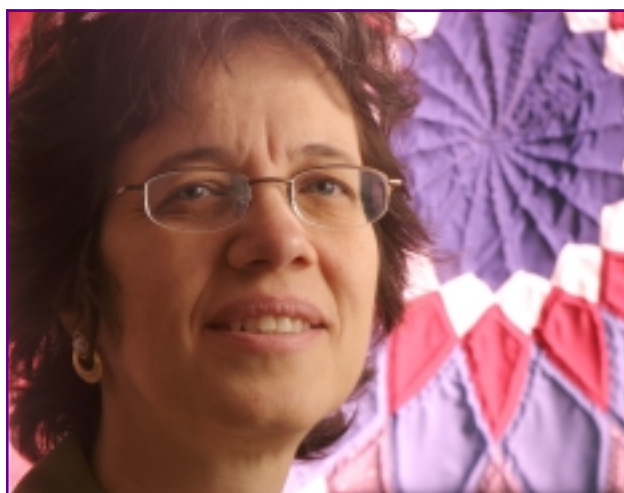
# Alaska Geriatric Education Center

Between 1990 and 2000 the number of senior citizens in Alaska increased by 60% while the growth rate for the United States was 13.2%. This increase in the elderly population coupled with the unique circumstances of life in Alaska led to the creation of the Alaska Geriatric Education Center (AKGEC). Formed as a consortium between

the University of Alaska Anchorage, University of Alaska Fairbanks, and the University of Alaska Sitka, AKGEC, directed by Dr. Rosellen Rosich, is here to support the continuation of training for health professionals and faculty.

AKGEC is designing a distance education program to ensure that the rural senior population has access to well trained health care professionals. As well as training current health care professionals, AKGEC is establishing a clinical training model for students in geriatrics, including residencies and traineeships. Currently AKGEC is working on an on-line library and clearinghouse where healthcare providers can go for the most current research documents in gerontology.

As well as AKGEC director, Dr. Rosich is also Associate Professor in the Psychology Department. The Alaska Geriatric Education Center is housed under the UAA Center for Human Development. For more information, visit their website at [www.alaskachd.org/gerontology/](http://www.alaskachd.org/gerontology/) or contact Dr. Rosich directly at 786-1739 or [afmr@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:afmr@uaa.alaska.edu).



*Dr. Rosellen Rosich, Director of AKGEC*

## New PR Brochure from OSP

Faculty and staff have received a copy of the Office of Sponsored Programs PR brochure entitled *Building UAA's Research Excellence Through Externally Funded Programs.*

If you would like copies for any project, for funding or PR purposes, call 786-1099 for more copies.

Please share any extra copies with the Anchorage community and others who may be interested.

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