

History of the University of Alaska Anchorage

- 1906- Congress provided for the election of a delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives from the Territory of Alaska. The delegate would serve on committees, could speak on the floor of the House, and could even introduce bills. But he would not be able to vote.
- 1912- The Home Rule Act passed by congress was an effort to give Alaskans say in their own destinies. Out of this was created the Territorial Legislature which would meet every two years in Juneau with eight senators and sixteen representatives. These men would be equally divided among the four Judicial Divisions and were to be elected by the people in these areas.
- 1915- Judge James Wickersham, who had been elected as Alaska's Territorial representative to the US Congress in 1908, 1910, 1912, & 1914, introduced a bill to grant the Territory of Alaska sections of land (which included and Agricultural Experiment Station near Fairbanks) on which to build an agricultural college and school of mines.
In March that year this bill was approved by Congress
- In April Judge Wickersham was back in Alaska picking out a site for the college. A parcel of land was selected a little more than four miles out of Fairbanks.
- July 4th, the first cornerstone was laid (this was more ceremonial and symbolic because the college would not be built until much later)
- 1917- Both Territorial Senate and House of Representative passed a bill establishing the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines. Governor Strong signed it into law.
A Board of Trustees for these schools was appointed by Governor Strong.
- 1921- The Territorial Congress was more favorable to the school and passed bills to furnish and equip the building and hire a staff so that students would have a higher educational institute in Alaska.
- Judge Charles Bunnell was elected by the Board of Trustees to be the first President of the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines.
Judge Bunnell graduated from Bucknell University in 1900 (Pennsylvania); came to Alaska to teach which he did for seven years' worked in a bank and as a hotel manager while he studied law by mail; passed the bar exam; an began to practice law in 1909 in Valdez. In 1915 Judge Bunnell was appointed Federal judge of the Fourth District and moved to Fairbanks, the district's main city.

- 1922- September 18, the school opened. Six students registered. Six more registered later in September and October bringing the total to twelve for the first semester. There were six teachers.
Subjects taught were agriculture, home economics, and mining.
- 1923- The address of the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mine, heretofore given as Fairbanks, was officially designated as College, Alaska.
- 1933-34- Publication of the first yearbook – “Denali”
- 1935- July 1 the name of Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines changed to the University of Alaska.
Trustees of the school met in Juneau and asked the legislation to vote on the name change. It passed with little opposition.

A board of Regents would replace the Board of Trustees.

Two hundred farm families were placed on homesteads in the Matanuska Valley. The University was totally involved in this – helping select the families, clearing land for them, directing building of temporary quarters, and helping them get settled.
- 1949- President Charles Bunnell retires. (He died in 1956.)
Dr. Terris Moore is appointed to take his place.

Francis Farquar, a friend of the governor, Ernest Grunig, and of Dr. Moore, visited Alaska with a friend of his, Garfield Merner. They told Dr. Moore about a military program called the United States Armed Forces Institute (USAFI) which provided for college-level classes on military installations. Already government financial support was paying for the East Coast to provide courses and the University of California provided for the Pacific area. And the University (California) was ready to move to Alaska onto military bases here.
There had been pressure from the Juneau legislation to expand the University of Alaska out of Fairbanks and into other communities. Dr. Moore saw the USAFI program as a means to begin this expansion. He lobbied Lass and Elmendorf AFB, the Air Force in Washington, DC, and the University of California to obtain these classes for Alaska under the control of the University of Alaska.
- 1950- USAFI which provided for these college-level courses on military installations for both military personnel and civilians, (civilians admitted only if military personnel did not fill the number of seats available) opened at Ladd Air Force Base under the direction of the University of Alaska.

A similar branch opened that summer at Fort Richardson, mainly military personnel registered, but some civilians in the Anchorage area also attended.

1951-53- Dr. Moore, Regents Elmer Rasmuson, and Earl Albrect worked diligently to expand the University campus away from Fairbanks only in the form of Community Colleges. The idea to save huge expenditures was not to construct buildings but to use military and high school classrooms already available in the communities.

The Anchorage School District worked with Dr. Moore in setting up registration procedures for the first enrollment.

1954- Registration in an Anchorage junior high school and classes conducted on Elmendorf Air Force Base began the college-level courses available to the residents of the Anchorage area. There were 414 students and 21 teachers. Dr. LeRoy Good became the first director. Anchorage's community college was the first of many across the state.

1954-62 The community college operated as part of the Greater Anchorage Area Borough School District.

1960- Alaska Methodist University began offering classes to the Anchorage area students.

1962- The Alaskan legislation incorporated all of the state's community colleges into the University of Alaska's system of higher education.

1966- The Anchorage Regional Center was established by the state legislation to administer upper division and graduate programs in Anchorage. Donald DaFoe, formerly superintendent of schools in Anchorage became the first provost. Organization of the Center came about because of a demand here for a four-year college. Before this time the University of Alaska proceeded under the policy that only the Fairbanks campus would offer a four-year education and the various two-year institutions around the state would serve as feeder colleges with a student completing his degree program at UAF.

1968- The Anchorage Regional Center was expanded to become Southcentral Regional Center which administered upper division and graduate programs for the entire region. The Southcentral Region included ACC, Anchorage Senior College, Kodiak Community College, Kenai Community College, plus some widely scattered learning centers.

The administrative offices were located in a building on Northern Lights Boulevard.

It was the agitation in Anchorage for a four-year university which brought about the birth of the Anchorage senior College. With the emergence of such an institution, the first University of Alaska, Anchorage, came into being with ACC as the lower division college and ASC as the upper division

1969- Fall semester Anchorage Community College students moved into their five newly constructed buildings at Lake Otis Parkway and Providence Drive.

Daytime classes begin at ACC with this move.

1970- February – dedication of the new ACC buildings at Lake Otis Parkway and Providence Drive.

November – Anchorage Community College and Anchorage Senior College will be known as the University of Alaska.

This was done by the Board of Regents in order to decentralize the day-to-day operations of many regional centers and community colleges to establish unity of the university in order to provide essential services to all parts of the state.

Under this new system, university institutions offering both lower and upper division will be known as the University of Alaska followed by the name of the city.

The community colleges will be identified as the University of Alaska followed by the name of the city and Community College.

Thus, the community college in Anchorage would become:

University of Alaska Anchorage Community College.

1971- Beginning of full commencement program for UAA. The first one was held at West High School. 265 Masters, Baccalaureates, and associate degrees were awarded.

Before this time, all degrees, community college included, were issued from the Fairbanks campus.

Consortium began where students could cross-register between AMU and UAA – made possible by a federal grant, Title III from Health, education and Welfare Department.

There existed the possibility of registering with ACC, UAA, and AMU simultaneously to pursue a college degree.

1972- Anchorage Community College becomes accredited.

Accreditation means that an institution's own goals are soundly conceived, its educational programs have been intelligently devised, and its purposes

are being accomplished. It is accreditation that allows students to transfer credits freely from one college to another and assures them a good education by institutions meeting these accreditation requirements.

The five original buildings at ACC were dedicated to people connected with the early beginnings:

Building A	renamed	Eugene Short
Building B	renamed	Sally Monserud
Building C	renamed	Beatrice McDonald
Building D	renamed	Gordon Hartlieb
Building F	renamed	Lucy Cuddy

1973- The Consortium Library was built on land donated by Alaska Methodist University in exchange for use of the library. It opened for ACC, UAA, and AMU to be used jointly.

The second floor of the building was designated a senior college where upper division and graduate classes were taught. This was the start of the UAA campus.

UAA prepares for accreditation.

A student representative was appointed to the Board of Regents. Each university will vote on the student they want to represent them and these names and the students' credentials will be presented to the governor who will then select on to be seated on the Board of Regents for two years. (Other members of the Board of Regents are selected by the governor from lists of outstanding citizens with interest in and support of higher education in Alaska. Their tenure is eight years. At first there were eight members, now there are eleven who decide on all aspects of the university system. The Board of Regents has its own president selected by the governor who can vote on issues.)

1974- End of year a 950 seat auditorium and performing arts wing is under construction on ACC campus. This is called the UAA Performing Arts Center.

1975-75- Anchorage Senior College building is constructed. It is attached to the Consortium Library by a large hallway. Upper division and graduate classes will be taught here.

This section of the library building is called the Arts and Sciences Building.

Before this time, upper division and graduate classes were taught at West high School and on military bases, meeting in the evening only. Now day classes were added.

- 1976- The provost position at Anchorage campuses will be replaced with a chancellor. Unlike the provost who administered to a region (ACC and other small community college campuses outside of Anchorage) and reported directly to the president of the university system, the chancellor will be chief administrative officer and academic leader in charge of all university activities, research as well as academics at the UAA campus. Dr. John Lindauer became the first chancellor of the University of Alaska, Anchorage, succeeding Dr. Lewis Haines, the provost.
- Dr. Lindauer and his staff began planning the separation of Anchorage Community College and the Anchorage Senior College into two institutions.
- Reorganization in the University of Alaska, Anchorage made it possible for a student to begin their four year curriculum at UAA which would lead to a B.A. from the university. Before this time students were required to enter ACC and take designated courses in it's Academic Transfer Division as prerequisites to enter the university to obtain a B.A. degree. Students had to meet entrance requirements established for the university's four year degree programs to be eligible to enroll in these courses. Other courses at ACC could apply also for admission to the university.
- Master degrees were not offered in Anchorage from its university. (Graduates either had to go to Fairbanks or 'outside')
- 1976-77- Alaska Methodist University closed its doors.
- 1977- Separation of ACC and ASC was implemented into two separate teaching facilities.
- 1978- Alaska Methodist University reorganized as Alaska Pacific University – still with a Methodist affiliation but now with an interdenominational emphasis.
- 1980- Alumni Association formed for UAA.
- 1982- ACC becomes a separate college – independent of the other state and community colleges and CCREE (Community Colleges and Rural Education Extension).
It became on equal footing with the three Alaska Universities.
- 1984- ACC becomes the largest single educational unit in the entire University of Alaska system.
Classes were taught at more than twenty-five locations throughout Anchorage, Eagle River, both military bases by ACC's extension service.

- 1985- Cross registration between UAA and APU ended. The computers were incompatible.
- 1986- January – the first students’ dorms open and are called student apartments.
- This same month – UAA campus radio began broadcasting manned by students to serve informational need and recreational desires of the student body.
- October - -University of Alaska President, Dr. Donald O’Dowd, (this position is appointed by the Board of Regents) announced plans for reorganization of the entire university system. His idea was to merge UAA and ACC.
- This was in response to the State Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to cut statewide university funding by 15%.
- December – The Board of Regents voted to support Dr. O’Dowd’s proposal by eleven to one. (The dissenting vote was by the student representative.)
- 1987- January – A task force assigned by Dr. O’Dowd is to form the reconstruction plans of the Anchorage area colleges. This included three members from UAA, three members from ACC, and three members from CCREE.
- ACC came up with a plan to stay as a lower division college while UAA handled the upper division and graduate courses.
- UAA and CCREE voted to have one campus with vice chancellors heading various departments.
- ACC’s plan was eventually denied.
- April – UAA is Accredited (this would include the newly combined ACC and UAA)
- 1988- The state legislature refused to take action on the UAA/ACC conflict.
- Enough signatures were obtained to allow the citizens of Anchorage to decide the issue – if the two colleges united under one administration or if there were two distinct, separate functioning higher education institutes. A merger or not.
- November - The public voted to decide whether the Community College should split away from the University of Alaska and be governed by its own board and have its own budget. The Anchorage public voted against this and the Community College was integrated into the University of Alaska Anchorage system.

1989-

The UAA Performing Arts Center is renamed for John Wendell Williamson and will be designated as the Wendy Williamson Memorial Auditorium and Lecture hall.