Dear Board of Regents,

More than 2,500 students, parents, faculty, and staff turned out for Freshman Convocation and Campus Kick-Off on August 25. Keynote speaker, Dr. Yoky Matsuoka provided inspiration and advice, telling incoming freshmen to think of their lives as a book, the earliest chapters of which are written by their parents. College, she said, is a place where they have an opportunity to write their own chapters.

Going live this fall, supporting student success, are faculty alerts warning of students falling behind for all 100–level Anchorage campus courses. We’re offering workshops on study skills, career clusters, safety, making degree plans and protecting GPA, throughout the year. Newly reconfigured space for UAA’s Military and Veteran Resource Center opens in September on the first floor of the Student Union.

We welcome our new dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, John Stalvey, and new WWAMI director Jane Shelby. I’d also like to thank our strong interim provost and deans as we continue to conduct nationwide searches for the School of Engineering, College of Education, College of Health and provost.

Faculty, staff and students are doing a dynamite job of responding to this busy and exciting time of year. UAA is off to a great start for 2012-2013.

Best Regards,

Tom Case, Chancellor
UAA moving forward

Research, Innovation and Commercialization:
UAA created and registered Seawolf Holdings, Inc. and its subsidiary Seawolf Venture Fund LP that will provide early stage investment for startups and support our entrepreneurial and innovation research focus.

The National Science Foundation awarded $20M to the “Alaska Adapting to Changing Environments (ACE)” collaborative project between UAA, UAF and UAS. Lilian Alessa, professor of biology and director of the UAA Resilience and Adaptive Management Group, is co-principal director with UAF professor Peter Schweitzer and UAS associate professor Sanjay Pyare.

The first analysis of the economic effects of invasive species in Alaska finds that governments and nonprofit groups spent about $29 million from 2007 to 2011, or nearly $6 million a year, to manage those species. Tobias Schwörer of UAA’s Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) and Rebekka Federer and Howard Ferren of the Alaska SeaLife Center did the analysis funded by several federal and state agencies.

Alumni leadership:
Carol Wren (M.S. Vocational Education ’10) is keynote speaker at Alaska Federation of Natives Convention. An Alaska Native of Inupiaq heritage, Carol is the director of Employment and Training Services at Cook Inlet Tribal Council.

Program success:
The Paralegal Studies Certificate Program at the Justice Center celebrated its 20th anniversary this summer. The Paralegal Studies programs at UAA and UAF are the only American Bar approved programs in Alaska.

UAA Japan Center and Montgomery Dickson Memorial Project funded by the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership, held its inaugural summer institute and continues programming throughout 2012-2013.

2011-2012 UAA Honors College Office of Undergraduate Research awarded students 59 awards totaling more than $126,000. This is more than 65 percent over last year’s total number of students and amount awarded.

UAA adds men’s and women’s Indoor Track & Field this year.

Personnel:
Chris Mizelle, director of Facilities, Maintenance and Operations for the last five years of his 28 years at UAA, retired in August. Chief Information Officer and Vice Chancellor Rich Whitney retires at the end of September after a dozen years at UAA. We will conduct searches for both positions.

Public Square:
UAA hosts the 38th annual conference of the International Association of Aquatic & Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers. The international organization is meeting for the first time in Alaska.

Development:
An anonymous donor made a Celebration Circle level gift ($50,000+) to establish the Distinctive Design as a Collaborative Player in the Performance Arts Endowed Award.

Ermalee Hickel made a pledge payment ($25,000+) in support of the Governor Walter Hickel Papers.

Barbara Ellen Clinton made a gift and pledge ($25,000+) to the Edward Rollin Memorial Endowment.

Joe and Carolyn Floyd made an Aurora Circle level ($10,000 to $24,999) gift to establish the Joe and Carolyn Floyd Kodiak Scholarship at Kodiak College.

F. Robert Bell made an Aurora Circle level gift to the F. Robert Bell and Associates Engineering Endowed Scholarship.

Weidner Property Management made a $500,000 pledge payment in support of the Weidner Chair of Business Management.

Bartlett Regional Hospital pledged $150,000 supporting expansion of the School of Nursing.

Providence Health System in Alaska made a $75,000 pledge payment in support of the UAA School of Nursing.

The Atwood Foundation contributed $50,000 to the Atwood Chair of Journalism and $10,000 to the Elaine Atwood Scholarship.

Central Bering Sea Fishermen’s Association contributed $50,000 to ANSEP.

The Alaska Repertory Theatre donated $40,574 to establish the Alaska Repertory Theatre Endowed Award.

ConocoPhillips Alaska contributed $34,500 to the ANSEP Summer Bridge Program.

First National Bank Alaska contributed $25,000 to Small Business Development Center’s Buy Alaska program and $5,000 to the Kachemak Bay Writers’ Conference.

BP Exploration contributed $15,000 to the Last Frontier Theatre Conference.

Doyon Ltd. contributed $10,000 to Excellence in Alaska Native Community Advancement in Psychology (ANCAP).

Pebble Limited Partnership contributed $23,088 to support the Excellence in Geology.

Teck Alaska Inc. made a $12,126 pledge payment in support of the Visiting Professor of Public Policy.

Verizon Foundation contributed $10,000 in support of the ANSEP Middle School Academy.

Kennecott Exploration Company contributed $10,000 to Excellence in Geology.

Northrim Bank contributed $5,000 to the Alaska Business Plan Competition General Support and $5,000 to the Eagle River Campus General Support.