CHANCELLOR’S MESSAGE

These first months of 2008 have been extremely exciting at UAA: Both the Seawolves men’s and women’s basketball teams won their respective West Regional Championships. Both teams also made it to the semifinals in NCAA Division II National Championship. Never before have both UAA’s women’s and men’s teams made it to the Final Four. This is the first time ever for the women and only the second time in 20 years for the men. The men’s team last competed in the semifinals in 1988.

The great enthusiasm surrounding Seawolf basketball success has made even more apparent the need for a new sports facility. Our #1 seed Seawolf men hosted West Regionals in our thirty-year old gym, the smallest facility of any team in the competition. The Wells Fargo Sports Facility has less seating than either Anchorage West or East High Schools. We’ve conducted meetings on and off campus to talk about all the options for meeting UAA student needs. I expect a report with recommendations very soon, which hopefully will help us take the next steps for our community.

In February UAA celebrated its 54th birthday in conjunction with the naming of the “Lewis E. Haines Meeting Room” in the UAA/APU Consortium Library. Dr. Haines was one of the most important figures in the foundation and development of the University of Alaska Anchorage. Appointed Provost/CEO of the Southcentral Region of the University of Alaska in 1969, Dr. Haines presided over the merger of community colleges into the University of Alaska, Anchorage; was the first Provost of the new University; and started or completed the five original buildings of the west campus, the Professional Studies Building, the Wendy Williamson Auditorium, the Wells Fargo Sports Center, the Student Union, the Science Building, the Social Sciences Building, and the original Consortium Library.

We have many reasons to thank Dr. Haines along with countless others who have helped UAA prosper and grow.

Sincerely, Fran Ulmer, Chancellor

PROGRAM SUCCESS

UAA Aviation Technology receives Collier Trophy

The National Aeronautic Association announced that the Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) Team of public and private sector aviation groups -- including UAA’s Aviation Technology Division -- will receive the 2007 Robert J. Collier Trophy. Leonard Kirk, Aviation Technology Deputy Director, will accept the Collier Trophy -- generally recognized as the epitome of aviation innovation and excellence -- from President George W. Bush at a formal dinner in June. UAA first got involved in developing ADS-B technology in 1999 with CAPSTONE which was designed to introduce new and emerging technologies to Alaska to reduce the accident rate. ADS-B uses satellite technology to guide airplanes in proximity to each other, weather and topography.

Library web site wins award

The UAA/APU Consortium Library’s Web site was chosen “College Library Web Site of the Month” for March 2008 by the College Library Section (CLS) of the Association of College and Research Libraries. CLS selects college web sites from which other institutions can learn. UAA/APU’s library home page is cited for its easy access and these noteworthy features:
• About the Library section featuring galleries of specific areas
• Faculty Toolkit providing Article Alerts and more
• Featured Collections – Alaska’s social, political, cultural and economic development

The web site is maintained by Dean Stephen J. Rollins, faculty and staff.

Alaska Quarterly Review celebrates 25 years

UAA’s award-winning AQR celebrated a quarter-of-a-century of literary excellence in February with a birthday party at the Loussac Library in Anchorage. A month-long exhibit of cover photos from AQR was displayed at the library to commemorate the event. Founded and edited by Dean of the University Honors College Ron Spatz, AQR has been called “One of the nation’s best literary magazines,” by the Washington Post.
**STUDENT SUCCESS**

**Honors student named Truman Scholar**
Candace Lewis, a junior at UAA, was selected as a 2008 Truman Scholar. UAA had two national finalists this year in the Truman competition: Candace and Kelcie Ralph. This is the third year in a row, and fourth time in five years, that a UAA Honors College student has been selected as a Truman Scholar. Candace joins previous Truman winners Umair Iqbal, Miranda Zindel and Erin Trimble. UAA has had 10 Truman Scholars total.

**UAA Theatre students travel to theatre festival**
UAA sent eight students to the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) for Region VII in Laramie, WY in February. Student travel expenses were funded through generous donations to UAA’s Masterpieces of the Theatre foundation account.

**UAA students focus on global warming**
UAA student organizations collaborated on a campus-wide teach-in in conjunction with a national teach-in engaging millions of students about solutions to global warming at the end of January. “Focus the Nation: Global Warming Solutions for America,” was sponsored by USUAA’s Committee on Sustainability, Sustainability Club, Bike Club, UAA Council on Sustainability, Center for Advancing Faculty Excellence and UAA Student Activities.

**FACULTY & STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS**

**UAA professor has new book published**

![Photo of Sherry Simpson](image)

UAA Creative Writing and Literary Arts Professor Sherry Simpson’s new collection of essays, *The Accidental Explorer: Wayfinding in Alaska*, was recently published. Simpson is the nationally acclaimed author of *The Way Winter Comes* (1998).

**UAA Director of Disability Support Services elected to national chair**

Kaela Parks, UAA Director of Disability Support Services, has been elected National Chair of the Disability Concerns Knowledge Community within the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA). The Disability Concerns Knowledge Community addresses issues of equal access and equal opportunity in higher education.

**ISER releases report on the viability of businesses in rural Alaska**

The latest report from UAA’s Institute of Social and Economic Research, “Viable Business Enterprises for Rural Alaska: What Works?” discusses the ways successful rural businesses deal with the barriers created by small markets, remote location, high costs and harsh climate.

**Justice Center releases groundbreaking report**
UAA’s Justice Center released “Descriptive Analysis of Sexual Assault Incidents Reported to Alaska State Troopers: 2003-2004,” providing the first statewide overview of sexual assault and sexual abuse of minor cases reported to the Alaska State Troopers. The report was funded by a grant from the National Institute of Justice.

**DEVELOPMENT NEWS**

**Icicle Seafoods donates $200,000 to UAA**

Icicle Seafoods, one of the largest seafood processors in Alaska, donated $200,000 to UAA. The donation will support expanded research and educational programs related to the state’s seafood industry. It will establish the Icicle Fisheries Fund at UAA’s Institute of Social and Economic Research as well as support programs at UAA campuses in Homer and Kodiak.

**Community Campus News**

**KPC student named New Century Scholar**
Crystal Dosser, a student at KPC’s Kachemak Bay Campus in Homer, was named Phi Theta Kappa New Century Scholar for Alaska. This honor represents the highest scoring students in the All-USA Academic Team for each state. Crystal will be awarded a $2,000 scholarship from Coca-Cola Foundation and Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation. She will be honored at the American Association of Community College’s convention in Philadelphia, PA on April 5-7. Phi Theta Kappa is the official honor society for two-year colleges.

**Mat-Su College celebrates 50 years**

The Matanuska-Susitna College recently celebrated its 50th anniversary by hosting a Winter Festival. More than 500 people helped celebrate during a day of festivities that included horse-drawn sleigh rides, a world premier movie, live reindeer, a presentation on grizzly bears, book signings, children’s storytelling and live music. Mat-Su will continue to present special events to members of its campus and community throughout the year in celebration.

**Chugiak-Eagle River Campus**

is providing employee screening for BP Alaska. Campus staff are working with 30 other states to make sure that potential BP employees from across the country are pre-tested for employment using the workkeys model.