Dear Board of Regents,

On May 1, we celebrated Commencement at our Anchorage campus. I am pleased to report that UAA had a record graduation of 2,270 students, receiving 2,240 certificates and degrees. All of our community campuses reported graduation rates higher or equal to last year.

Prior to graduation UAA was the successful bidder on a prime parcel of land offered for sale by the Alaska Mental Health Trust. The land, at the corner of Lake Otis and Providence Drive, is situated at the entrance to campus, providing the perfect spot for a signature building, and is an investment in UAA’s future.

Senator Lisa Murkowski visited the ConocoPhillips Integrated Science Building in April and was impressed with the level of undergraduate, graduate and postdoctorate nationally significant research being conducted. The facility is helping UAA recruit and develop great faculty and build a culture of research that is providing expanded opportunities for our undergraduate students.

The senator peeked into the Planetarium while a group of students from Mirror Lake Elementary were watching a show. We couldn’t have planned this better – showing how we are providing K-12 students fun and informative ways of learning about science while encouraging them to think about going to college at UAA.

The first week in May we kicked off our partnership with the Chugach National Forest with the Classrooms for Climate symposium. The symposium brought students, managers and researchers together to share information about the social, cultural, physical, biological and economic effects of climate change.

I am delighted to take over the helm as chancellor of UAA and look forward to working with you, President Gamble, our sister MAUs, UAA faculty, staff, students and community supporters, to continue making UAA a great university.

Sincerely,

Tom Case, Chancellor
STUDENT SUCCESS

Student success program has contributed to persistence gains in the following student pilot cohorts in its first year 2009-10:

- Alaska Native (+2.0%)
- Undeclared baccalaureate degree-seeking (+2.3%)
- On-campus residential (+6.0%)
- UA Scholars (+1.7%)
- Students enrolled in College Survival Skills (+5.0%)

An electronic Recycling event collected 29,114 pounds of electronics, batteries and other materials—almost 15 tons—for a savings of more than $10K.

FACULTY SUCCESS

Associate Professor of Social Work Tracey Burke is the winner of the 2011 Selkregg Community Engagement and Service Learning Award.

Associate Professor of Philosophy Dr. Raymond Anthony received a NSF, Arctic Social Science Division Grant to host a Climate Ethics Works-in-Progress Conference at UAA in September.

Virginia Fay, Assistant Professor of ISER, and Tobias Schwoerer, Research Associate, received three research awards totaling $153K to continue their work with the Chaninik Wind Group and other entities.

RESEARCH SUCCESS

Thomas Ravens, Professor and Chair of Civil Engineering, received research awards totaling $157K from the North Pacific Research Board and the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

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RESEARCH SUCCESS

UAA received 29 awards totaling more than $3.7M between March 30 and April 30, 2011.

DEVELOPMENT SUCCESS

The University awarded more than 450 scholarships this year to more than 300 students. UAA has more than 200 privately funded scholarships, with 11 new ones created just this year.

Susan Bramstedt of Alaska Airlines received the inaugural Seawolf Service Award.

UAA’s Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER) announces the new George Rogers Emerging Scholars Fund in honor of ISER’s 50th anniversary.

50 years!  1961-2011

COMMUNITY CAMPUS SUCCESS

Kenai Peninsula College

Senator Mark Begich visited Kenai Peninsula College, addressed about 50 students, faculty and staff and was made honorary adjunct.

KPC is home to the Central Kenai Peninsula Photo Collection.

Kodiak College

Kodiak College Assistant Professor of Business/Accounting Kathryn Hollis-Buchanan recently taught a community class in Ouzinkie on how to write an effective business plan.

Prince William Sound Community College

PWSCC student Margarita Zembzyczka placed 21st in the nation at the USCA National Indoor Collegiate Archery Championships.

Mat-Su College

Matanuska-Susitna College Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society held their first annual banquet featuring Iditarod musher Dee Dee Jonrowe. The event raised over $3K.