

CAMPUS HISTORY



*The Anchorage Goose
Lake Area in 1950.*

The Early Years

Historical Development of the Campus

In 1954 the Anchorage Community College was founded and it was not until the 1960's that the campus was moved to the Goose Lake area, now known as the University Medical District (U-Med). The community college took form in 1970 when four buildings were completed and occupied. This group of buildings was formed around a rectangular maintained green space. Each of these buildings is still in use today. In 1972 the Cuddy Center was built, which provided a place for the community college students to eat, gather, and also learn about the hospitality industry.

The Alaska Senior College was founded in 1971 to the east of Chester Creek and the first building built was the Consortium Library which was constructed to be shared by all three learning institutes in the U-Med District: Anchorage Community College, Alaska Senior College, and Alaska Pacific University. By 1974 the College of Arts and Sciences Building (now referred to as the Social Sciences Building) was added to the Alaska Senior College, and was connected physically to the Consortium Library.

The Anchorage Community College meanwhile added Building K and Building J (now referred to as the Professional Studies Building and the Auto/Diesel Technology Building) in 1973 and 1975 an addition to the Professional Studies Building was constructed as a Performing Arts Building (now referred to as the Wendy Williamson Auditorium and Memorial Lecture Hall). Towards the latter part of the 1970s the campus added the Sports Center and Campus Center buildings which began to enrich student life at the community college.

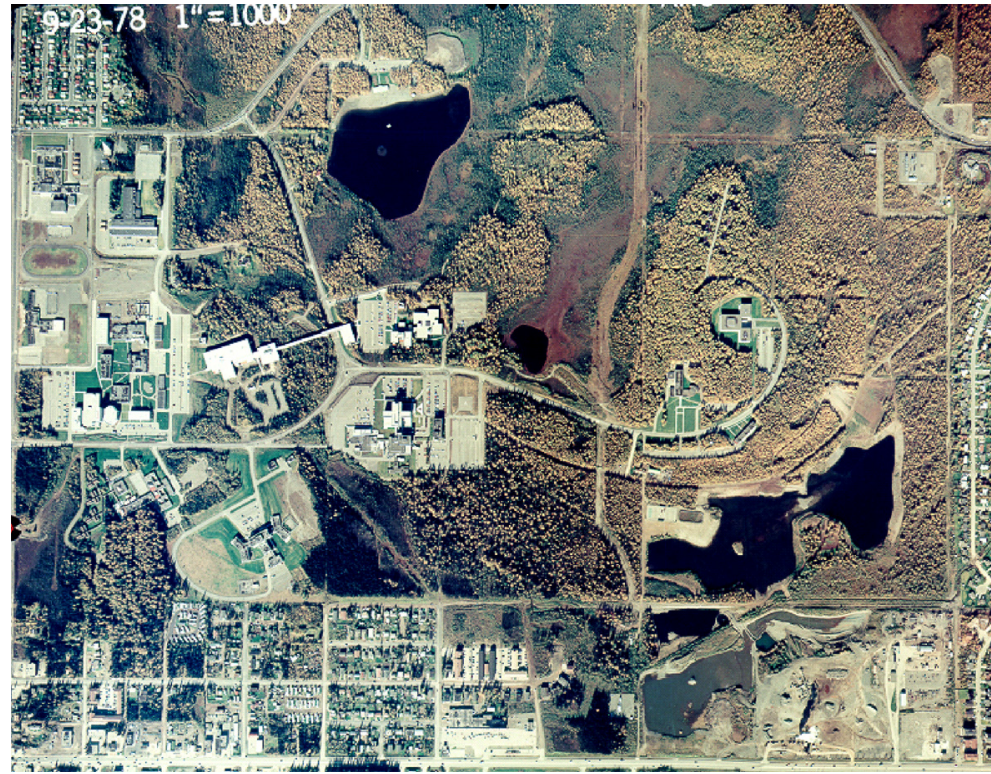
In 1977 the Alaska Senior College became the University of Alaska, Anchorage. Also at this time the Science Building was built, which expanded the UAA campus to two buildings. By the start of the 1980s UAA began to expand rapidly. First came the Engineering Building, then the Administration and Humanities Building (now referred to as the Administration Building), and student housing was built and occupied by 1985. The advent of student housing marked a significant change to the campus atmosphere. Until then, all had been commuter students. The last building built in the 1980s for UAA was the Fine Arts Building built to the northeast of the Administration and Humanities Building.



1960- Power lines were extended across Goose Lake.



1967- Northern Lights Boulevard was extended east.



1978- Campus growth begins in earnest.

Since 1978, no substantial change has been made to the street network serving UAA and its neighbors.

Recent Changes and Current Status

The community college's last buildings were constructed in 1983, these were the Allied Health Building and the Book Store. A second and final merger occurred in 1987 in which the Anchorage Community College merged with what had been the Senior College to become a single entity: University of Alaska Anchorage. This expanded UAA's capacity as a university to offer more disciplines through the various colleges and also expanded its enrollment.

More buildings were constructed in the 1990s: the Business Education Building, Student Housing, and the Parking Garage which is located between the Sciences Building and the Social Sciences Building. The Business and Education Building was the first new building built on the former community college campus. This building is also the starting point for the enclosed elevated walkway referred to commonly as the "spine." The elevated walkway was not entirely enclosed until 2002, providing full weather protection. Currently it includes informal student gathering spaces, study areas, and extends from the Business Education Building to the Consortium Library.

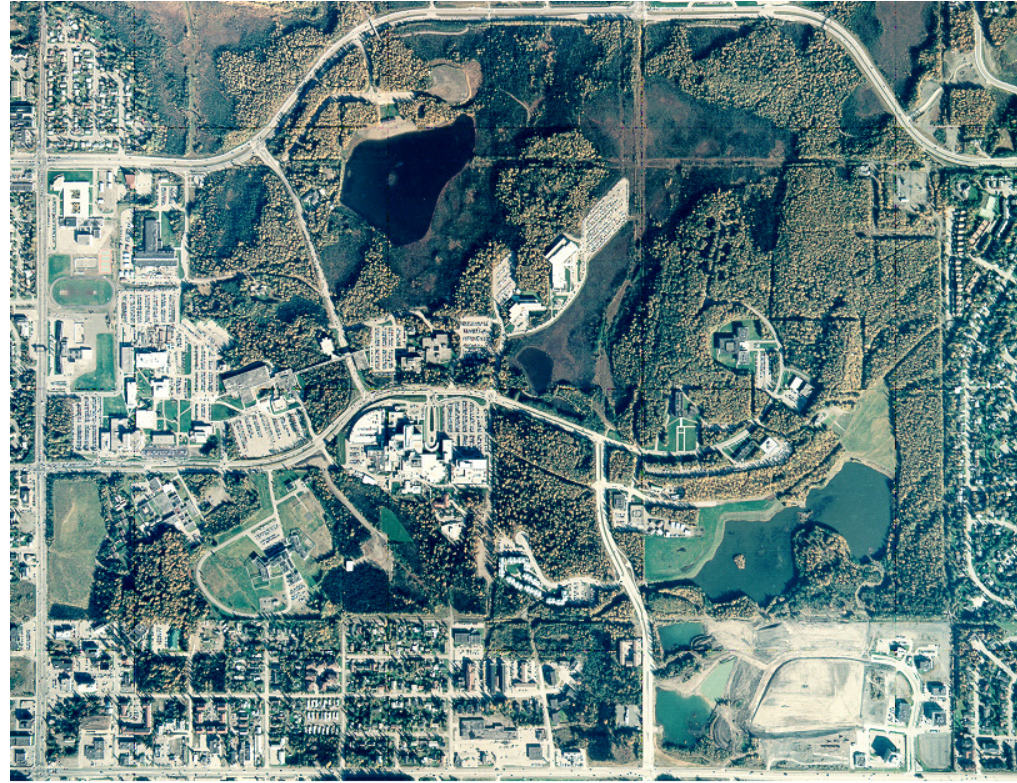
Other additions have been made to the UAA real estate holdings in the past ten years. There is the Aviation Building at Merrill Field, the 7th and A Street Building in downtown Anchorage, the University Center, and the Diplomacy Building which is located in the U-Med District near the Alaska Native Tribal Consortium Medical Center. All of these buildings provide teaching, research, and learning spaces for the university.

Two recent buildings on campus are the addition to the Consortium Library and the Ecosystems Biomedical Laboratory (EBL). Since preparation of the 2004 master plan, further significant additions have been made: the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP) building, the Integrated Sciences Building, and the adjacent parking garage. Also, land on the south side of Providence Drive has been acquired for establishment of Health Sciences facilities.

The UAA campus has evolved in the last 35 years from its beginnings as a community college to a full scale university that competes on a national level in academics, research, and athletics. It also provides a unique experience to students as a university in a major sub-Arctic city.



Older buildings with obsolete systems and limited floor-to-floor height will be evaluated for replacement by sustainable and spatially flexible buildings.



1988- Parking lots had become the most conspicuous facilities on campus.



1998- A period of consolidation for the UAA campus, housing was added.



2001- The need for forward planning of the campus became apparent.



How the University and Medical District in Anchorage looked in 2008.

