

## Extra Credit

### Another brick in the wall.

Ty Keltner used his spare time while completing his M.B.A. last academic year to create a model of the Gruening Building out of LEGO® bricks. At a cost of more than \$1,100, the project was more ambitious than many graduate student theses. Keltner also built a web comic strip, complete with construction workers, local media personality Darryl Lewis and Gov. Sarah Palin. The model will be on permanent display in Wood Center.



UAF alumni in this story: Ty Keltner, '02, '08, and Darryl Lewis, '88

View Keltner's web comic strip chronicling his LEGO® construction project at [www.uaf.edu/aurora/](http://www.uaf.edu/aurora/).



# AURORA

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Learn by Doing

*Alaska 4-H prepares students for real life*

## Beneath the Surface

New discoveries in the Aleutians



America's Arctic University



**Alumnus** within: see pages 21 – 24



Alumni and friends,

It's September again, one of the best months of the year for watching the aurora borealis. The aurora is beautifully varied and constantly evolving. It inspires a sense of curiosity and mystery. Scientists try to capture its essence, artists its evanescence. This blending of art and science, of many strands into a spectacular whole, makes *Aurora* a fitting name for the new magazine of the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

*Aurora*, some of you may recall, was also the name of a UAF magazine years ago, but that is also fitting: we look north to the future but we never forget the past.

We can't get too carried away by the aurora metaphor. The real aurora is elusive and fickle. It never shows up when you want to impress visitors. It flares up suddenly and brilliantly, then disappears just as quickly. UAF, on the other hand, is here to stay — constantly changing, yes, but with purpose and care. Our inspiration comes from the limitless heights of the northern sky, but our progress is firmly grounded in Alaska itself.

To our readers in Alaska, celebrate the return of the northern lights in the cool September air, then come inside where it's warm and enjoy this first issue. To our friends Outside, I hope the colorful mix of stories reminds you of the vibrancy of Alaska and its premier university. Welcome to *Aurora*.

Brian Rogers  
Chancellor  
chancellor@uaf.edu



Learn about Chancellor Rogers at [www.uaf.edu/chancellor/](http://www.uaf.edu/chancellor/).

ABOUT THE COVER



Colorful sea anemones are found near hydrothermal vents in the Islands of the Four Mountains in the Aleutian chain. Researchers from UAF made more than 400 dives and explored 1,000 miles of coastline during a two-year assessment program. Story begins on page 6. Photo by Shawn Harper.

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University of Alaska Fairbanks

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America's Arctic University  
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ON THE WEB



Look for this icon for information about enhanced content, including multimedia, online.

## Digging up the past

Students at this summer's archaeological field school near the Gerstle River spent five weeks sifting through thousands of artifacts dating back to some of the continent's first inhabitants.

Assistant Professor Ben Potter, who's been involved with the site since the mid-90s, said their discoveries are globally significant.

"The site has a number of qualities that are extremely rare in the subarctic, whether in North America or Asia," Potter said. "First of all, we have incredibly good preservation of organic materials that typically deteriorate in acidic soils of boreal forest settings. Another reason it's important is that it's extremely well stratified. The soil lays down like a layer cake, which helps us identify specific occupations and the artifacts that are associated with each other."

Potter also said that the site is unusual in the number of artifacts unearthed.

"To this point I think we have around 10,000 to 12,000 fragments of stone tools and some of the tools themselves," he said.

"We've probably got about 500 tools that we've found so far in our excavations. For all of these reasons, it's an extremely significant site."

For their work at the site, which consisted of digging eight hours a day, six days a week for five weeks, students earned six academic credits.

Thomas Allen, an undergraduate anthropology major from Fairbanks, was particularly impressed with what he was helping to find at the Gerstle River site.

"Stones and bones are cool, but what they can actually tell you about what people were doing here 10,000 years ago, that's really why I'm out here."

**"Stones and bones are cool, but what they can actually tell you about what people were doing here 10,000 years ago, that's really why I'm out here."**

— Thomas Allen, anthropology major

@ Watch an audio slideshow of the Gerstle River dig at [www.uaf.edu/aurora/](http://www.uaf.edu/aurora/).



## Susan Butcher Institute names founding director

@ See David Monson discuss the new institute at [www.uaf.edu/aurora/](http://www.uaf.edu/aurora/).

UAF has created the Susan Butcher Institute, a program that aims to cultivate public service and leadership skills in Alaska residents. Butcher's husband, David Monson (pictured below),



Photo by Nora Granter

will serve as the institute's first executive director. He will develop a range of programs intended to inspire people, especially youths and emerging leaders, to improve their own communities through public service, volunteerism and taking on new challenges. The institute expects to offer a wide variety of workshops and seminars starting in fall 2010.

## LARS opens barn doors

Muskoxen, caribou and reindeer greeted more than 600 visitors at the spring open house at the Institute of Arctic Biology Robert G. White Large Animal Research Station.

The station hosts the annual event to give the public a chance to see the spring calves and learn about large-animal science before the station officially opens for the summer.

Visitors saw how ultrasound is used to assess animal body condition and witnessed how muskoxen digest the coarse woody plants that make up their diet at interactive science displays hosted by scientists and students. Guides stationed along the tour path provided a running commentary of natural history about the animals and the facility.



## Decades of observing the restless Earth

For the last 20 years, Alaska has been a safer place, despite being home to more than 50 historically active volcanoes. This security comes from the service and research conducted by a team of scientists with the Alaska Volcano Observatory, a joint project among the UAF Geophysical Institute, the U.S. Geological Survey and the Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys. The observatory was founded in 1988, just 18 months before the eruption of Mount Redoubt in Southcentral Alaska.

@ Watch Okmok volcano erupt in July 2008 at [www.uaf.edu/aurora/](http://www.uaf.edu/aurora/).



UAF photo by Kay Koerner

## Agriculture in action

Summer visitors to Fairbanks were able to see agricultural research in progress via a collaborative project between the School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences and the greenhouse at Pike's Waterfront Lodge. Research professional Jeff Werner (pictured above) and Professor Meriam Karlsson headed the project, which examined how

to grow sustainable food crops in rural communities. Werner and Karlsson designed the greenhouse and a teaching tool to explore planting and operating techniques. Local members of the youth organization Future Farmers of America planted and maintained a crop of hydroponically grown tomatoes, cucumbers, celery and other vegetables. The greenhouse was open to the public throughout the summer season; FFA members planned to sell the vegetables as a fundraiser for the local organization.

# New 'Nook leaders Growing our own

## Home ice advantage

UAF alumnus Dallas Ferguson is the new head coach for the Alaska Nanook hockey team. Ferguson was a four-year letter winner in his days as a player for the Nanooks and served as team captain during his senior year in 1996. His post-college career includes four years as a pro, two years as an assistant coach for the Fairbanks Ice Dogs and four years as the Nanooks' assistant coach.

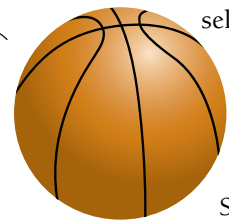


**“Dallas has the plan, passion and broad support necessary to provide a foundation that Nanook hockey has been missing.”**

— UAF athletic director Forrest Karr

## Seasoned veteran joins the team

Darryl Smith, a 17-year coaching veteran, was selected in July as the new head coach for the women's basketball team. Smith's experience includes 15 combined years as a head coach at Metropolitan State College of Denver, Wichita State University and Butler Community College. Most recently, he served as assistant coach for the NCAA Division I University of Nevada. Smith has a 267-163 career record, including four conference championships and four NCAA tournament bids.



**“Darryl's passion for teaching and learning is instantly recognizable.”**

— UAF athletic director Forrest Karr

A five-year, \$700,000 gift from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation will help support Native students seeking doctoral degrees at UAF. The money will fund up to four competitive graduate fellowships each year for students in the dissertation-writing phase of their studies. The goal of the program is to increase the number of Native people holding doctorates and in turn increase the number of Native faculty members at colleges and universities.

**“The need for programs like this is vital across the United States, where there is significant under-representation of indigenous peoples on the faculties of colleges and universities.”**

— Brian Brayboy, president's professor of education



UAF photo by Matt Nolan

## Icy climate clues

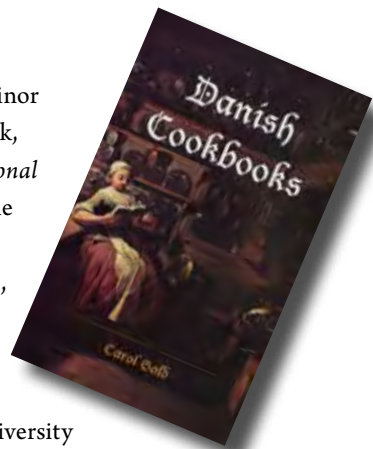
Institute of Northern Engineering Assistant Professor Matt Nolan and an international team of researchers pulled a 150-meter-long ice core from McCall Glacier in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge this summer. “The ice core is the longest extracted from an arctic glacier in the United States,” Nolan said, “and may offer researchers their first quantitative look at up to two centuries of climate change in the region.”



View an EarthSLOT movie of the McCall Glacier at [www.uaf.edu/aurora/](http://www.uaf.edu/aurora/).

## Tasty tome

History Professor Carol Gold became a minor celebrity in Denmark after her 2007 book, *Danish Cookbooks: Domesticity and National Identity, 1616 - 1901*, made headlines throughout the country. Gold did several interviews in Denmark about the book, which offers insight on gender roles, literacy, identity and nationalism via three centuries of cookbooks. The book was published in both the United States and Europe and won a design award from the American Association of University Presses and a third place award from Gourmand, an international association devoted to promoting publishing on cooking, in the category “Best Culinary History.”



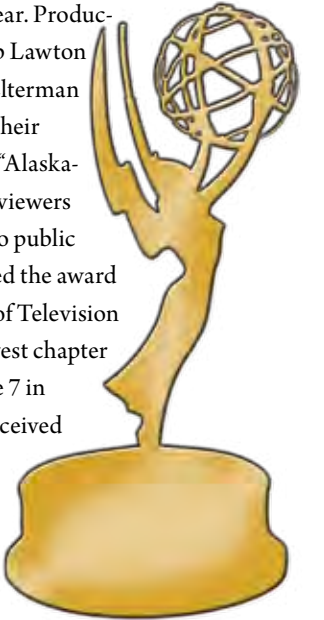
## Cut, colored and coiffed

Nearly two dozen students joined the student body of the UAF Tanana Valley Campus this spring as the inaugural cohort in the campus' licensed cosmetology pilot program. The students spent the spring basic cosmetology theory and moved on to practical training at local salons during the summer. They are expected to complete the three-semester program in December and will be eligible for state licensure upon graduation. TVC created the pilot program in response to reports from local salon owners of a serious shortage of licensed hairdressers in the greater Fairbanks area. At the time, owners reported at least 70 openings for licensed hairdressers.



## KUAC captures gold

KUAC TV producers added to their gold cache in June, bringing home television's top honors for the third consecutive year. Producers Claudia Clark and Deb Lawton and writer/editor Aaron Elterman won an Emmy Award for their KUAC TV production of “Alaska-One Image Spots,” where viewers share their commitment to public television. The trio received the award at the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Northwest chapter award ceremony held June 7 in Seattle. The station also received two other Emmy nominations. This is the fourth consecutive year the station has been nominated for Emmy Awards.



**“Winning three years in a row is an honor and a tribute to the talent found at KUAC.”**

— Claudia Clark, KUAC producer

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## By the numbers: TOTE Family Fun Fest

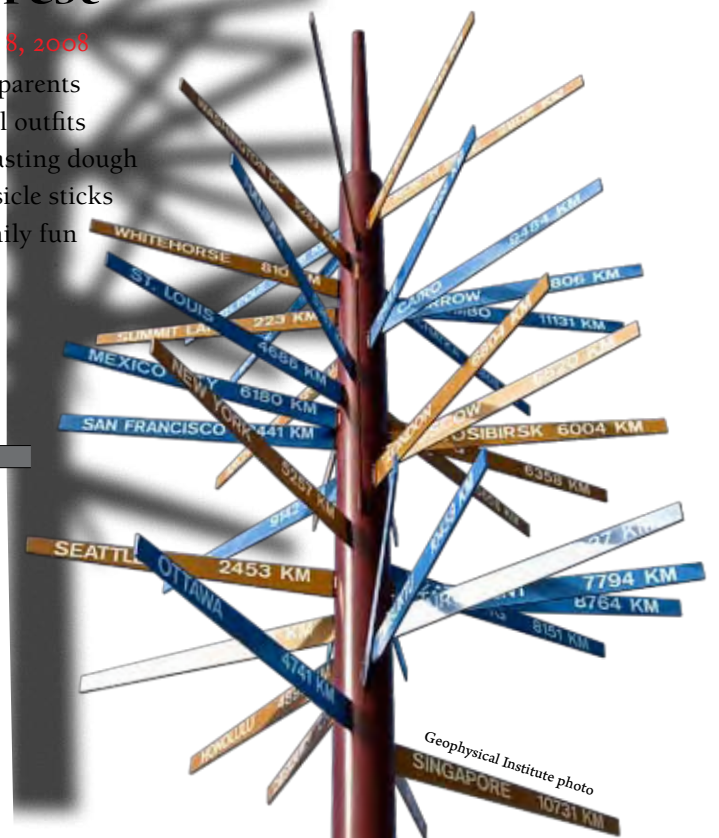
UA Museum of the North – June 8, 2008

- ★ 1 circus tent ★ 600 kids and parents
- ★ 400 Alaska Native paper doll outfits
- ★ 120 pounds of homemade casting dough
- ★ 300 owl pellets ★ 1,600 Popsicle sticks
- ★ 1 PBS celebrity ★ 4 hours of family fun

UAF photo by Keyna Fisher

## Miles from where?

This summer, UAF installed a refurbished version of West Ridge's iconic milepost sign. The sign was originally erected on West Ridge in 1973 as a symbol of UAF's Geophysical Institute's global reach in terms of research and collaboration. The original milepost sign was taken down in 2002 due to a major construction project. The current monument is an updated version of the original design.



Geophysical Institute photo

# New discoveries in the Aleutians

By Carin Bailey Stephens

*Héloïse Chenelot could feel the Steller sea lion's sharp teeth through her dive hood. She was 30 feet underwater, on a dive near Tigalda Island in Alaska's eastern Aleutian Islands. Six divers were in the water, but Chenelot and her colleague, Max Hoberg, seemed to be particularly attractive to the young marine mammals.*

Hoberg ducked his head down into the kelp and held still. Three sea lions surrounded him. Juvenile or not, the animals were huge — each probably weighed around 300 pounds. One of the animals gently wrapped its mouth around Hoberg's head, too.

"If they wanted to, they could crush your head in their jaws, but they didn't. They were just curious, and they were amazingly gentle," Chenelot said later. "A lot of thoughts go through your mind right then ... but bolting to the surface in panic is obviously not an option. So you just have to think positive, calming thoughts."

The researchers eventually cut the dive short and swam slowly to the surface.

It was the first of 440 dives the team made in the little-explored Aleutian Island chain during the summers of 2006 and 2007. There were more than 1,000 miles of coastline to explore, from near Unalaska-Dutch Harbor in the east all the way to Attu Island at the western end of the chain.

As he climbed aboard the R/V *Norseman*, a 108-foot converted crab fishing vessel and the "topside" headquarters for the divers, Stephen Jewett wondered whether sea lions would be a problem on every dive. The lead diver on the expedition and chief dive officer for the University of Alaska for the past two decades, Jewett was in charge of the divers' safety, and curious sea lions were just one of many factors he had to consider.

The divers never had any problems with sea lions again. In fact, they saw relatively few of the endangered animals on the two-year expedition. What they did see, however, was an underwater world that none of them will ever forget.

Jewett and the rest of the UAF dive team, which included Reid Brewer, Chenelot, Roger Clark, Roger Deffendall, Shawn Harper and Hoberg, were part of a larger team of scientists aboard the *Norseman*, all with a mission to assess the overall health of the coastal waters of the Aleutian Islands. Sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and managed jointly by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and UAF, the project focused on measuring contaminants in the water around the Aleutians and determining the productivity and biodiversity of the underwater flora and fauna of the region. The project was part of the nationwide EPA Environmental and Monitoring Assessment Program, where regions are characterized by surveys of 50 randomly selected sites. Doug Dasher, a water quality scientist with ADEC, was the principal investigator on the project.

Although the region may appear remote and pristine, the islands and their coastal waters are not immune from human activity. Concerns that numerous areas in the vast Aleutian region may be contaminated, principally by petroleum products and some PCBs and heavy metals, were an impetus for the study. Many of these sites are related to World War II and Cold War activities. One is midway along the Aleutian Arc at Amchitka Island, where the United States conducted multiple nuclear tests. The largest of those tests, Project Cannikin, resulted in a 5-megaton underground blast in 1971.

Many scientists are concerned that contaminants pose potential threats to the marine ecosystems in the Aleutian and Bering Sea regions.

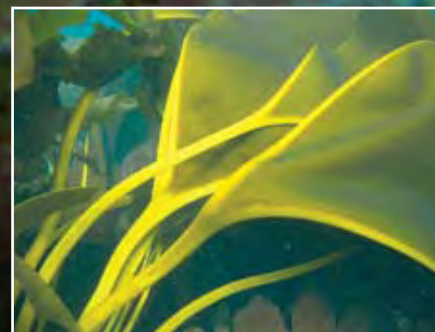
UAF alumni featured in this story: Héloïse Chenelot, '03; Max Hoberg, '75; Stephen Jewett, '77, '97; Reid Brewer, '03; Shawn Harper, '99.

## BENEATH THE SURFACE

Background: A colorful *Triopha catalinae* nudibranch, or sea slug, glides along the seafloor in the Aleutian Islands. Photo by Héloïse Chenelot.

Inset (left): A newly discovered sea anemone species is called a "walking" or "swimming" anemone because it can detach and drift with ocean currents as it feeds. Photo by Héloïse Chenelot.

Inset (right): A kelp the scientists discovered, called golden V kelp (*Aureophycus aleuticus*) because of the color and shape of its blades, represents a new species and genus. Photo by Max Hoberg.





Diver Reid Brewer swims through dragon kelp (*Alaria fistulosa*). Photo by Shawn Harper.

### “Oh, my God, the beauty”

Shawn Harper, a UAF graduate student, photographer and amateur underwater videographer, grasps the rope attached to the rubber skiff and flips backwards, splashing into the water. It’s a graceful movement, slow and controlled, but nevertheless requires a total commitment from the diver as he tumbles into the 45-degree water. With one hand still holding the rope, Harper checks that his regulator and tank are working, and then he slips beneath the surface. He sinks slowly towards the bottom, about 40 feet beneath the skiff, bubbles trailing quietly behind him.

As he adjusts the buoyancy in his dive suit to hover a couple of feet above the seafloor, Harper’s camera captures a bouquet of dramatic colors — reds, oranges, yellows and pinks. Most of the seafloor in the region is composed primarily of boulders and rocks.

These rocky areas are completely covered with assemblages of brightly colored creatures and plants — sea stars, urchins, sea cucumbers, sponges, anemones, chitons and algae. Among this throng, a small fish or shrimp might suddenly appear, although it is often hidden within the brilliant colors. In many areas, it appears that the bottom has been painted pink because of a layer of coralline algae that grows as a hard crust on the rocky substrate. This organism, officially a plant, contains enough calcium carbonate to make it rigid and rock-like. Sea urchins, mollusks, chitons and other animals all feed on it, and entire

mini-ecosystems are built upon this unique algae species. (See sidebar on p. 9.)

Harper’s dive buddy, Max Hoberg, a marine taxonomist with UAF, says that when he first sank to the bottom on a dive in the Aleutian Islands, he was stunned by what he saw.

“I’d never seen anything like this before, other than in the tropics. It was just amazing. The sponges were bright reds, oranges, yellows. In some ways it is indescribable. You’re sitting there and your mind is going, ‘Oh, my God, the beauty,’” said Hoberg.

It wasn’t just the colors that made diving along the Aleutian coast unique. The divers would not have been able to see the vibrant hues if it weren’t for the outstanding underwater visibility. The seawater, in many places, was practically clear — or as clear as seawater can get. According to dive leader Jewett, the visibility was what made the underwater scenes so exceptional.

“Diving in the nearshore zone of the Aleutians is the best diving I’ve ever experienced in North America, especially from the standpoint of it being a cold-water dive. Visibility was just incredible. There were times when visibility approached 100 feet,” said Jewett.

Jewett adds that this kind of visibility is unusual, especially during summer in Alaska, where large glacier-fed rivers bring tons of sediment into the nearshore waters. The particles remain suspended in the water column, making it appear murky

and preventing light from penetrating. Typical good visibility underwater in Alaska is about 30 feet, so 100 feet is just amazing, Jewett said.

Even though the seawater is clear, it is packed with nutrients — inorganic and organic material that help provide sustenance for all marine creatures. Along the southern shore of the Aleutian Islands, the cooler, nutrient-rich waters from the deep ocean continuously replace the warmer, nutrient-depleted surface water. Jewett says the upwelling on the south side of the islands is part of the reason the area is so biologically productive.

“The diversity out there is unbelievable,” added Jewett. “The mixture of invertebrates, fishes and kelps in that nearshore zone was head-and-shoulders above anywhere else I’ve dived in my 35 years of diving in Alaska.”

### Working at depth presented challenges

Each person had a different job underwater. The first diver, usually Jewett, connected a 90-foot section of surveyor’s tape to the skiff’s anchor line and ran it out parallel to shore. As he or another diver videotaped the flora and fauna along the underwater line, a second pair of divers set along it three sets of quadrats, squares made out of white PVC pipe. The quadrats varied in size from about a yard square to less than a foot across.

Meanwhile, Mandy Lindeberg, an algae expert with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, walked the same area in the intertidal zone, where she collected seaweeds from tide pools and exposed beach.

Divers counted the number of organisms found in each quadrat, photographed them and collected samples. The area in the smallest quadrat, about 10 inches by 10 inches, was collected using a suction dredge. The underwater “vacuum” sucked the organisms into a collecting bag.

Collecting animals and seaweed from the seafloor offered challenges. One form of kelp is connected to the rocks with what scientists call a “holdfast.” The divers carried paint scrapers to remove the stubborn attachments. Sea urchins were also hard to collect without the sharp spines piercing the divers’ thick gloves.

### Working topside

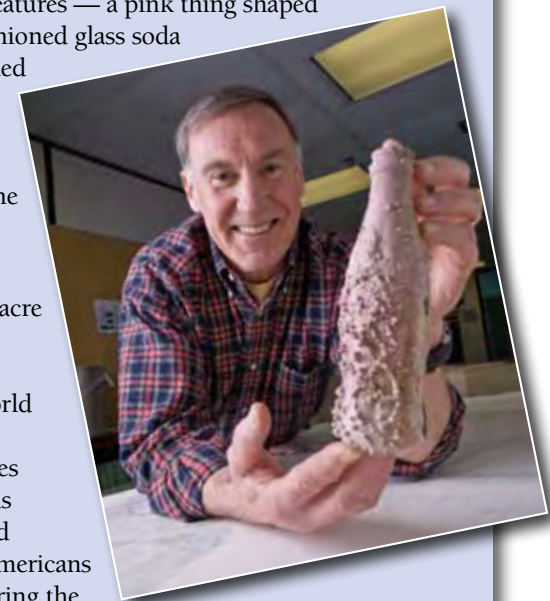
After up to an hour underwater and with collection bags attached to their waists, the divers returned to the *Norseman*, or as they put it, went “topside.” Once on the vessel, they labeled their sample collections, organized photos and videos, and prepared samples for future study.

“There really wasn’t any downtime,” said Chenelot. “If there was, we usually spent it talking to our fellow researchers about the interesting things we’d found and seen.”

## Pink algae, a Coke bottle and a world war

Stephen Jewett saw it on the bottom, among the seaweed and marine creatures — a pink thing shaped like an old-fashioned glass soda bottle. He picked it up with the rest of his collection and brought it to the surface.

The team was diving in Massacre Bay on Attu Island, the site of the only World War II combat on United States soil. Thousands of Japanese and hundreds of Americans were killed during the battle.



The *Norseman* had run into bad weather and the crew was anchored for protection from the winds. Unable to sample where they had planned because of weather, the divers decided to investigate Massacre Bay.

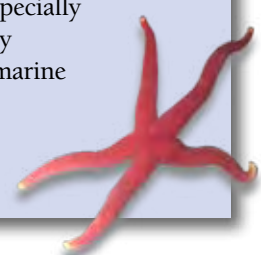
World War II artifacts were strewn on the seafloor, including coffee cups, silverware, ammunition and ammo casings, and even fully loaded shells. Among the artifacts were lots and lots of old Coca-Cola bottles.

According to Jewett, Coke was the main soft drink available during the World War II era. “This is what soldiers and sailors drank out here,” said Jewett.

Many of the submerged artifacts were coated with the hard pink crust of a coralline algae that grows extremely slowly. The Coke bottle Jewett found might have been discarded by a serviceman in the early 1940s, making the thin coating about 60 years old.

The pink algae is one of the oldest living plants on Earth. According to Jewett, a thickness of 8 inches can be up to 700 years old. The algae, called *Clathromorphum nereostratum* and *Lithothamnion* sp., are found throughout the Aleutian Islands, and lend a bright rosy hue to the rocks and boulders of the seafloor.

Another unique feature of these coralline algae is that they are extremely vulnerable to disturbances in the marine ecosystem. Some of them are especially sensitive to ocean acidification, and may provide important clues to changes in marine ecosystems due to global warming.



The divers and research team also had adventures above the water. After all, they were in one of the most seismically active regions in the world. Around 2 p.m. on July 13, 2007, they felt a fairly strong earthquake. According to Jewett, the tremor “traveled up the anchor line and up through the water column” and rattled the boat. Dasher immediately got on the radio to make sure the team was safe from potential tsunamis. The quake was magnitude 5.8 and only 30 miles away, but no tsunamis were generated.



### Cold hands, warm water

One week later, while the team was anchored near the Islands of Four Mountains, one of the three active volcanoes on the islands, Mount Cleveland, began to belch black smoke and ash. The *Norseman* was only about five miles away.

“We could see ash falling ... one side of the volcano was all black and one snow covered,” said Jewett. “I suppose it’s a common occurrence in the Aleutians, but we got to witness it.”

As the team worked near Kagamil Island, they discovered a series of volcanic vents, called fumaroles, hissing steam and gases into the air. Jewett and the others wondered if vents could also be found underwater. The divers donned their equipment and slipped into the sea. As soon as they were under the surface, they could see bubbles rising from the seafloor.

Armed with a thermometer and bottles to collect water samples, Jewett cautiously approached one of the hydrothermal openings. The water above the vent was 100 degrees Fahrenheit, or as Shawn

Harper put it, perfect for a diver in cold water to warm his hands. The divers also found vents in the sandy areas of the seafloor.

“You could put your hands in the sand; it was nice and toasty,” said Jewett.

The divers found *Beggiatoa*, sulfur-dependent bacteria, growing directly above the vents. Tests are underway to determine the chemical composition of the seawater from the site.

A few feet away the divers found the same creatures as in other areas — sea urchins, anemones, sponges and other organisms — seemingly unaffected by the high water temperature and gases.

### Newly discovered species

The divers discovered what they believe to be a previously unknown family of kelp in the same area. Scientists usually discover a new species of an organism, or maybe a new genus. But to discover a new family is, according to Jewett and algae expert Lindeberg, a very big deal.

The new kelp is called golden V. It was found in only two places in the region of the hydrothermal vents, each an area of about 100 square yards, although the divers spent most of a day circumnavigating Kagamil Island looking for more.

“There is a possibility that there is a correlation between the golden V kelp and

### 20 new species and counting

Over the course of two summers and 440 dives, the scientists who surveyed the nearshore region of the Aleutian Islands discovered at least 20 new species. As the samples collected during the dives continue to be analyzed, scientists expect that even more species will be discovered.

Roger Clark, a marine taxonomist and consultant, is currently sorting and describing the new species. Complete scientific results from the dives are expected in 2009.



1 new walking or swimming anemone



4 new snails



1 new genus, perhaps family, of kelp



8 new sea stars



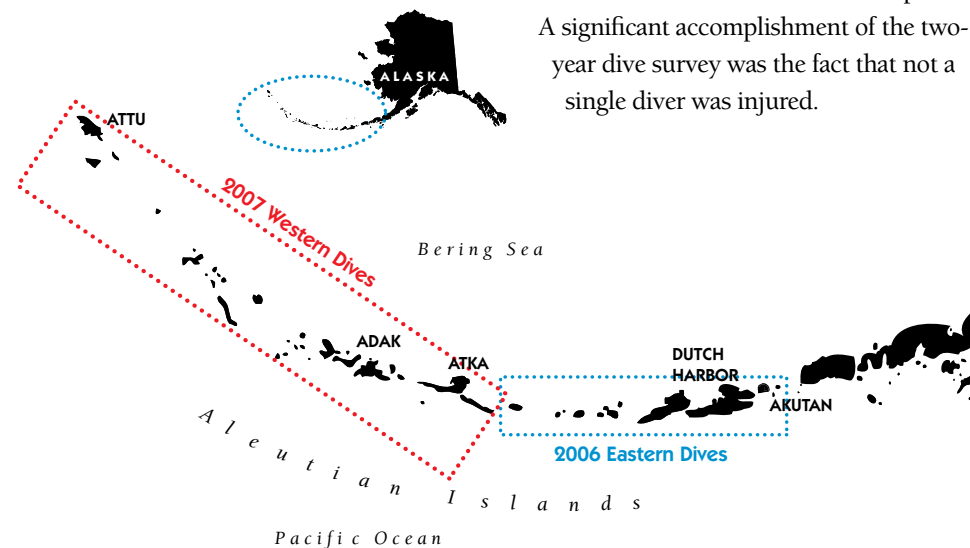
6 new chitons

the chemical constituency of the water near Kagamil Island, but we don’t know yet,” said Jewett.

### A long way from home

The scientists on the *Norseman* were a long way from home, and it was Jewett’s job to make sure the team returned in one piece.

A significant accomplishment of the two-year dive survey was the fact that not a single diver was injured.



Opposite: Reid Brewer hands an underwater video camera to diver Shawn Harper. A deck hand and Roger Deffendall are also in the boat; Stephen Jewett is the diver on the right. Photo by Doug Dasher.

Above: The team in front of Kagamil Island in 2006. Left to right: Stephen Jewett (UAF), Jim Gendron (Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation), Héloïse Chenelot (UAF), Mandy Lindeberg (NOAA), Roger Clark (Insignis Biological Consulting), Shawn Harper (UAF), Max Hoberg (UAF), Terri Lomax (ADEC), Reid Brewer (UAF) and Doug Dasher (ADEC). Photo by Stephen Jewett.

Right: The *Norseman* in Eagle Bay, Unalaska Island. Photo by Shawn Harper.

“We were completely accident-free. We had six to seven divers and almost every diver was in the water almost every day. Our UAF divers are really top-notch,” added Jewett.

For the most part, the team was alone out in the Aleutians.

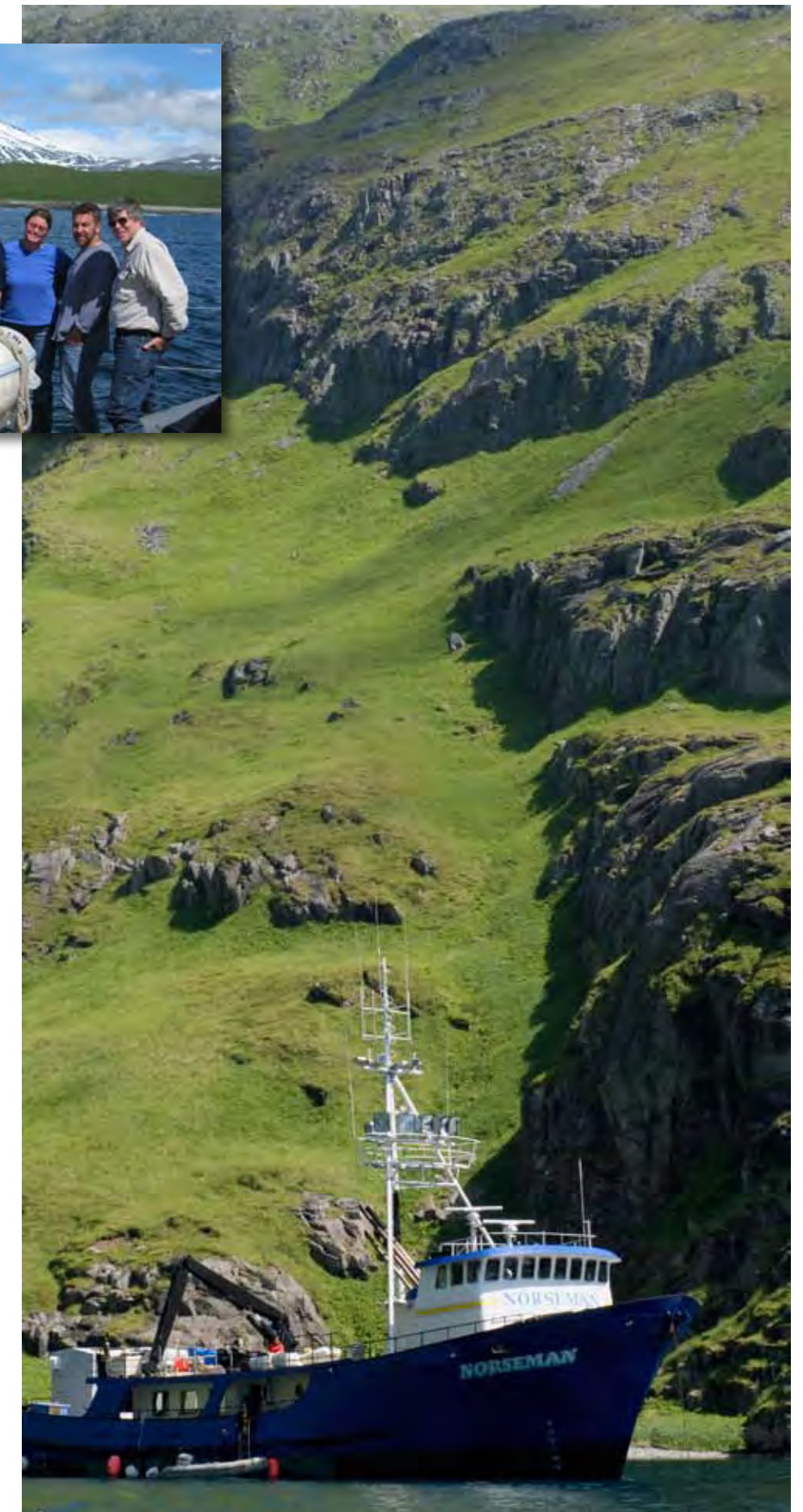
“There is no traffic out there. One day we anchored up on a bad weather day, and there was a halibut fishing boat there. Occasionally we would see off in the distance a large ship going by,” said Jewett. “You’re on your own in the Aleutians. If you need help, it may be a long ways away.”



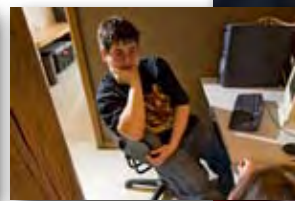
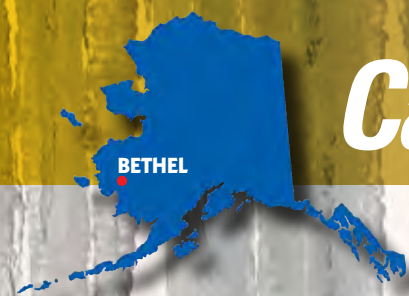
Carin Bailey Stephens is the public information officer for UAF’s School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences.



View video from the dives at [www.uaf.edu/aurora/](http://www.uaf.edu/aurora/).



# CampusProfile KUSKOKWIM Campus in Bethel



35-aneek allrakunek arlulatellra — 35 years of enterprise

UAF's Kuskokwim Campus has influenced the lives of thousands of rural Alaskans since it opened in 1973.

Using innovative technologies, KuC delivers instruction to students in far-flung villages throughout the state, but primarily those of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.

In the early days, providing education to village residents required instructors to travel by small aircraft and rely heavily on VHF radio for messages. Later, instructional television was beamed to villages that could receive KYUK's broadcast signal, turning KuC's instructors into TV celebrities. Today new tools and technology make it possible for KuC's instructors and staff to interact with students in ways that were unimaginable 35 years ago.

KuC's academic offerings include certificates in community health, rural human services, information technology and applied business; associate degrees in early childhood education, human services and tribal management; and a new bachelor's degree in Yup'ik language and culture. Sixteen students were ready to enroll in the program in fall 2008.

"The B.A. in Yup'ik language and culture is an exciting and timely development — children here still speak Yup'ik as their first language," said Mary Pete, KuC's director. "As immersion programs expand, teaching staff in the region are looking to Kuskokwim

Campus for leadership as they enhance their own skills and credentials."

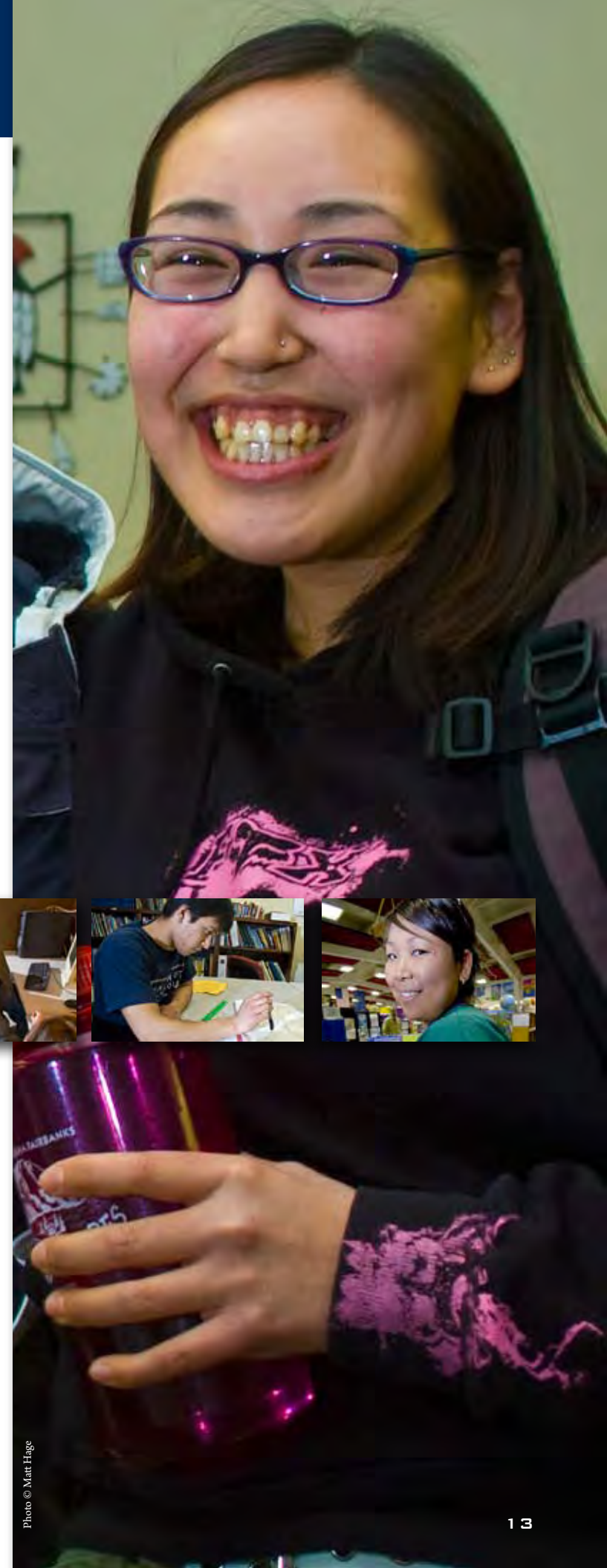
The Kuskokwim Campus has conferred more than 2,300 certificates and degrees on people from throughout the region.

KuC's efforts at promoting adult basic education have resulted in more than 1,400 students receiving GEDs, allowing many to realize lifelong dreams of a high school diploma and encouraging others to advance their careers and pursue higher education.

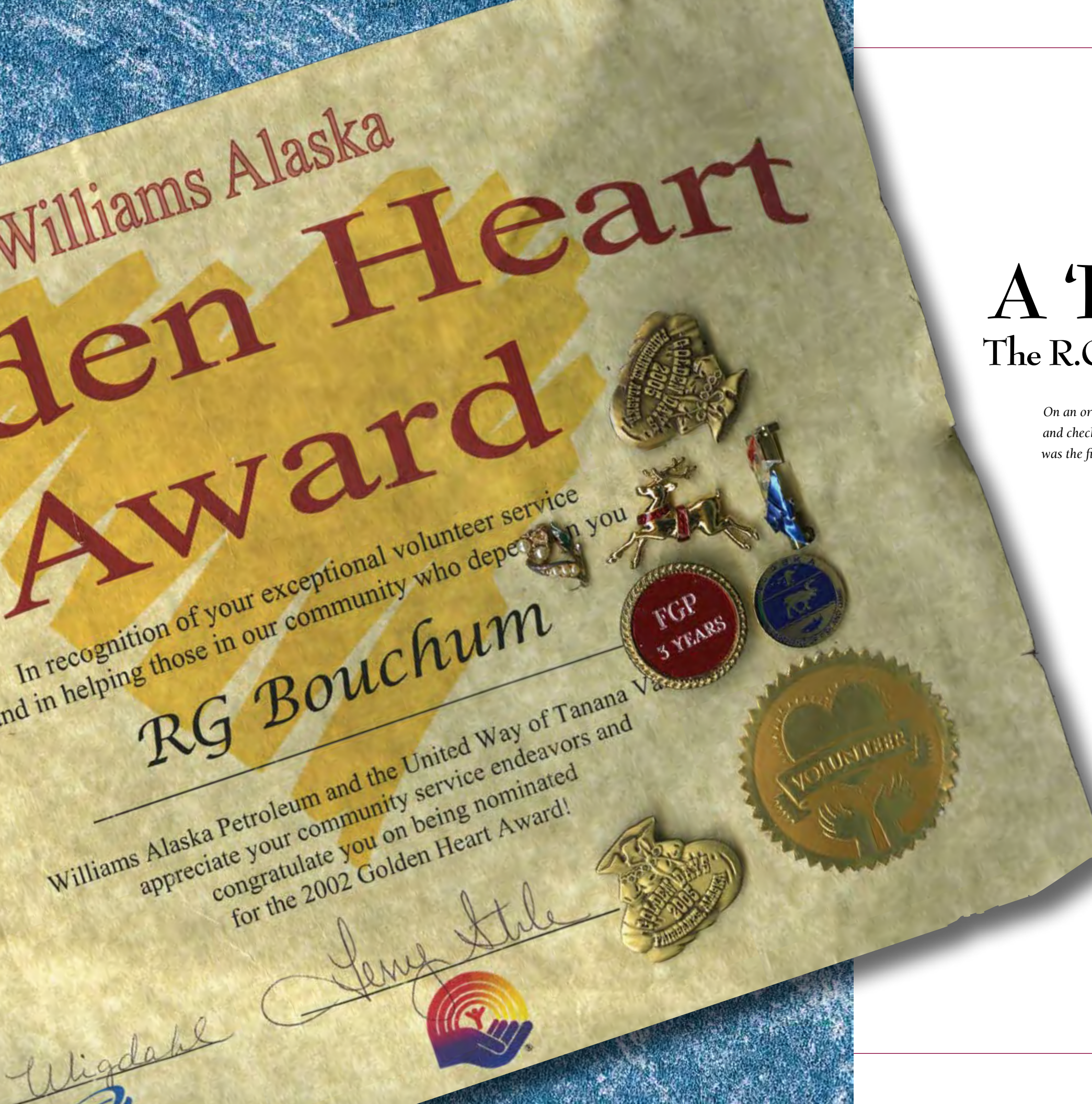


UAF alumna in this story: Mary Pete, '79, '84

Listen to an APRN news story on the new Yup'ik bachelor's degree at [www.uaf.edu/aurora/](http://www.uaf.edu/aurora/).







# A 'Real Good' Story

## The R.G. and Onnie Bouchum Scholarship

By LJ Evans

*On an ordinary day in 1997, Dorothy Jones sat in her office on the third floor of Signers' Hall and checked her e-mail, but one of the messages waiting for her was anything but ordinary. It was the first letter she had ever received from her 77-year-old father, R.G. Bouchum, who was just learning how to read and write.*

"I came unglued. I cried and cried," Jones said. "It was a shock to get my very first written communication from him ever, and it was an e-mail, of all things."

Jones, who was serving the chancellor as assistant for equal opportunity at the time, had counseled her father to stay busy after her mother died in 1991.

"He was lonesome. He had nothing to do ... so I said, 'Go back to school,'" Jones said.

A woman for whom R.G. did yard work in his hometown of Longview, Texas, recommended the East Texas Literacy Council. It was his tutor there who had him first write out in longhand the message he wanted to send his daughter in Alaska, then type it on the computer keyboard.

"It was a simple message, really, just a couple of lines," Jones said. "And at the end of the message the tutor wrote, 'R.G. did this all by himself!'"

Jones said he told her later that when he put his hands on the keyboard the first

key he hit was a P. He held it down, not anticipating the effect that would have, until there was a whole string of P's.

"He got all upset because he thought he broke it. He told me he'd 'P'd' all over it!"

### The value of education

R.G. Bouchum (he always said it stood for "Real Good") grew up on a sharecropper's farm in Texas as one of nine children. His father made sure all the girls got college educations because he didn't want them to be dependent, but he figured the boys could always find work. R.G. made it to the fifth grade before he had to quit school to work in the fields. He learned the alphabet but couldn't quite string it all together to actually read. After he married Onnie V. Miles in 1943, she handled any business that required the ability to read and write.

R.G. and Onnie understood the value of education, and they were determined that their children would have a better life. For many years they worked long hours

UAF alumna featured in this story: Dorothy Jones, '77

at extra jobs to make it possible for their daughters, Bobbie J. and Dorothy, to go to college. R.G. was always eager to tell anyone who would listen about his daughters, especially Dorothy, who became an associate professor at UAF teaching computer applications.

It was to honor her parents' high regard for education that Dorothy and her husband, Lloyd, decided in 1997 to establish the R.G. and Onnie V. Bouchum Multicultural Scholarship at UAF. The scholarship was first awarded in 2000.

Last year's scholarship went to Unika Nelson, a junior communication major. (See sidebar below.)

UAF Summer Sessions director Michelle Bartlett said the Bouchum scholarship is a reflection of her good friend Dorothy's relationship with both of her parents.

"From her parents she got the values of hard work and a good education," Bartlett said. "This scholarship is a wonderful way that she has honored her parents. It's not

only about what they gave her but also what she's done with it."

### A truck driver who couldn't read

For many years R.G. supported his family as a truck driver — a challenge for someone who couldn't read, but he developed strategies to compensate.

When he needed help, he stopped and asked for directions.

If someone was with him who could read, that person helped him decipher the paperwork that said what should

be delivered where, and he had the warehouse workers load the truck in such a way that he could tell where things needed to be delivered.

But when his beloved Onnie died, he could no longer handle his personal affairs, so he took Dorothy's suggestion and decided to learn how to read. He had always been a hard worker, and he approached acquiring these new skills with the same determination. His stories so impressed Brenda Brown, a staff member and one of his tutors at the East Texas Literacy Council, that she helped him compile his memoirs into a book, *One Man, One Book*.

"With each lesson I found that I learned as much or more from him than he could ever learn from me," Brown writes in the book's introduction.

In the book's first story, "Life on the Newsome Farm," R.G. tells about growing up in East Texas.

When we were living on the Newsome Farm out in Ore City, Daddy was sharecropping — working on the halves. If he made two bales of cotton, the boss man got one and Daddy got one. That was the usual arrangement for sharecroppers.

For extra money, the kids gathered the eggs and Mama would take them to town ... and sell them. She would pack them in a bucket or box lined with cotton seed. She would put a layer of cotton seed in the bottom and then some eggs, layering them all the way to the top.

Most folks don't know about cotton seed, but my mother sure did. Cotton seed is not so soft, but the seed always had cotton stuck to it and made a nice sized, soft ball about the size of your little fingernail. A lot of cotton seed was perfect for lining the bucket Mama used to take eggs to town.

## You're never too old to learn.



### Unika L. Nelson

"I love understanding how people interact with each other in different situations. There's no right or wrong approach," says Unika L. Nelson, a communication major and the 2007 recipient of the R.G. and Onnie V. Bouchum Multicultural Scholarship. She was planning to major in music, but switched because she loved her first-semester communication class so much.

Originally from Detroit, Mich., Nelson has lived all over because her dad is in the Coast Guard. She graduated from Kodiak High School in 2004 and attended her first semester at Kodiak College, then transferred to UAF in spring 2005. She is thinking about pursuing a career as a college admissions diversity director.

"I think that's really important. There are so many different types of people, not even just talking about race, but culture, ethnicity. Not everyone learns the same, communicates the same, thinks the same. It's so important that people are aware of that."



Inspired by this story? Support this or other scholarships at UAF at [www.uaf.edu/giving/](http://www.uaf.edu/giving/).



R.G. Bouchum keeps an eye on a throng of Fairbanks Community Food Bank volunteers from his wheelchair in this 2001 painting by Charlen Jeffery Satrom.

### A home at the food bank

In 1998, after R.G. had a stroke and could no longer stay alone at his home in Texas, Dorothy and Lloyd persuaded him to come live with them in Fairbanks. Not able to sit still very long, he was soon volunteering with Foster Grandparents and participating in many activities at the Fairbanks Resource Agency's Senior Center. One of the volunteer jobs he took up with a passion was at the Fairbanks Community Food Bank.

The staff there quickly figured out that R.G. had some very special gifts.

"His job looked like it was just repackaging rice and flour," said Samantha Kirstein, the food bank's executive director. In reality, she says, his job was to share stories about his life and his strong work ethic with young people who were in need of some attitude adjustment.

The courts or the school district sometimes send young first offenders to perform community service in lieu of jail time or detention. One of the places they can put in their hours is at the food bank.

Bouchum lived in Fairbanks with his daughter Dorothy Jones and her family from 1998 until his death in 2007.

"We connected them with R.G. and he told them great stories," Kirstein said. "It wasn't easy growing up a black man in Texas during the time of segregation, but even with all the challenges he'd met in his life, even though he was wheelchair-bound, he was still working."

"If he couldn't get their attention any other way he'd take off his socks and show them his stump," Kirstein said.

That stump was a harsh reminder of R.G.'s first winter in Fairbanks. Despite urging from Dorothy and Lloyd to come indoors after a big snowfall, he kept shoveling their driveway and ended up with frostbite, which cost him his leg because of circulation problems. But even the amputation didn't keep him from helping out with chores and volunteering at the food bank, Dorothy said.

Because Bouchum couldn't read throughout most of his life, Kirstein notes that all the challenges he faced were compounded.



Photo courtesy of Dorothy Jones

"He was illiterate not because of his brain power — he was one of the smartest people we ever had around — but because he didn't have the opportunity."

"Everything he had to share with us was very worthwhile," Kirstein said.

R.G. was flattered by the scholarship his daughter set up in his and Onnie's name, and he met the scholarship recipient each year until his death in November 2007 at age 90. Although his e-mails have ended, R.G. Bouchum's extraordinary accomplishment at age 77 embodies his philosophy: you're never too old to learn.



LJ Evans is a writer and editor for UAF Marketing and Communications.

LEARN



BY DOING

## Alaska 4-H prepares students for real life

By Debbie Carter

When **Owen Ala** raised pigs, sheep and steers with his Kenai Peninsula 4-H group and butchered his first animal in fourth grade, he never realized how handy that experience would become in medical school.

Ala, 29, began a five-year residency in orthopedic surgery at an Albuquerque, N.M., hospital in summer 2008. He is one of a group of distinguished Alaska 4-H alumni who have gone on to succeed in college and in a variety of careers.

The 4-H program, part of UAF's Cooperative Extension Service, emphasizes a hands-on approach to learning life skills, citizenship and leadership. A handful of 4-H agents across the state run the program with the help of more than 1,100 youth and adult volunteers.

Local 4-H clubs emphasize learning about cooking, sewing, gardening, science and raising livestock, as well as government and a host of other topics. 4-H kids have also participated in a moose hunt, earned emergency medical certification and studied crime scene investigation. Club members themselves choose what to emphasize.

### Kids and parents learning together

Nancy Veal grew up with 4-H in eastern Oregon, and she became a market livestock leader on the Kenai Peninsula when her own kids were of 4-H age. She volunteered for 20 years and has led 4-H programming on the Kenai the past eight years.

Veal has seen Ala and others grow up and become teachers, business owners, farmers, veterinarians and doctors. Some former 4-H'ers, like herself, have become 4-H leaders.

The program continues to be successful, she believes, because kids and parents are involved and learning at the same time. The kids work with guidelines, project books and deadlines. Those who raise livestock are accountable for an animal's welfare.



Photos courtesy of Owen Ala

Dr. Ala, who graduated from Cornell University medical school in May, says the skills required for dissecting a cadaver or performing surgery are very similar to the skills required for butchering a pig or steer. Through 4-H, he learned the basics of anatomy.

"I kind of had a leg up," he said.

His 4-H public speaking experiences also help him present research to large audiences and patient case histories to doctors.

"You become more responsible," she said.

Since 4-H kids care for their animals, they also learn a lot of veterinary medicine. Ala learned how to give shots, dehorn and castrate animals, and dress wounds. Caring for animals and making multiple visits to doctors for his own health issues, including broken bones, encouraged his interest in medicine.

Last fall, as he has done on several visits home, Ala butchered a pig with a group of 4-H'ers, taking time to talk to them about bones, muscles and organs.

The main philosophy Ala learned from 4-H is that you just jump in and learn. That approach helped in medical school, he said. "I was much more comfortable getting in and doing things because I've been doing it my whole life."



Childhood photo courtesy of Chelsey Schell Kuester

### "You can do it!"

**Chelsey Schell Kuester**, who spoke to a 4-H youth leadership forum on the UAF campus earlier this year, said 10 years of 4-H gave her the confidence to try new things and the message, "You can do it!"

"It's that simple seed that they planted," she said. "It's a huge confidence builder."

Kuester, 26, started participating in 4-H at age 5 when an older sister joined a sewing class. The leader encouraged her to sew also, and she made a doll, then doll clothes, and her own clothing by the time she was 7.

Growing up in Michigan, her 4-H experiences revolved around arts and crafts projects, including sewing, macramé and glass etching — skills that leaders and parents contributed. During the summers, she canoed on rivers at 4-H camp, despite being nearly blind in one eye (and not being allowed to wear glasses while in a boat) and practiced shooting sports.

After graduating from college, Kuester became a television journalist in Fairbanks, where she reported on a variety of 4-H camps and activities that rekindled her interest in the program. This past January, she stepped into new territory by becoming the community development director for the Downtown Association of Fairbanks, which promotes the downtown area.

### A family affair

The screen saver on **Matt Bray's** computer features several domesticated goats clambering over rocks. Bray, who is finishing a doctorate in permafrost engineering at UAF, cannot remember life without goats — or without 4-H.

His mother, Annette, is a longtime leader and his sister, Maria, has served as a leader for a 4-H club north of Fairbanks for seven years. The family's current herd of goats numbers about 30, and they

have provided scores of the animals for 4-H youth and others who want to raise the Toggenburg and Saanen dairy breeds. Matt, 31, is the primary caregiver for the herd, but both Bray siblings provide showmanship clinics every year to 4-H'ers who want to learn about grooming goats and showing them at the fair. The family also serves as an unofficial source of goat-care information for goat owners.

Since Bray grew up around 4-H and raised animals, joining 4-H when he was 8

seemed like a natural progression. Every summer for about 10 years, he took care of pigs, calves and goat kids at the Tanana Valley State Fair. Keeping livestock at the fair meant that he practically lived there for the week to care for them.

"You take them to the auction and hope you get a good price," he said.

Most of what he learned about raising animals came from his family but 4-H provided an opportunity to get together with kids with similar interests.



Childhood photo courtesy of Matt Bray

UAF alumni featured in this story: Matt Bray, '01, '03; Maria Bray, '98

Unlike a typical 4-H livestock project, which involved raising animals for the fair, the Brays tended a year-round goat herd and handled most of the animal care themselves.

Matt continues to enjoy raising goats and the satisfactions that come with it, he said, such as assisting with a trouble-free birth of twin goat kids and the ability to produce milk from a healthy, known source.

“I work with goats for the little things — the small moments when they bring a smile to your face,” he said. “The greetings of a bunch of goat kids in the morning when you bring them their bottles of milk and you know they think you are the best person in the world. When the goats feel frisky and run and play and jump ... looking out and seeing a bunch of goats relaxing in the morning sun, chewing their cud with a look of complete contentment.”

### Learning leadership

**Rocki Hanscom**, a senior majoring in political science at UAF, said her 4-H experiences, which emphasized citizenship and government, helped shape her career interests. She is considering a career in foreign service or in international law.

Hanscom, 21, got her 4-H start as a Cloverbud, working in her mom’s community garden behind Denali Elementary School in Fairbanks. She entered produce and flowers in competitions at the Tanana Valley State Fair. During second grade, she acquired a pet guinea pig, Nestlé, and learned how to show him at the fair. She started giving demonstrations in second grade as well, on topics such as how to transplant a plant. She also learned arts, cooking and sewing, and participated in the fair’s bake-off and fashion review.

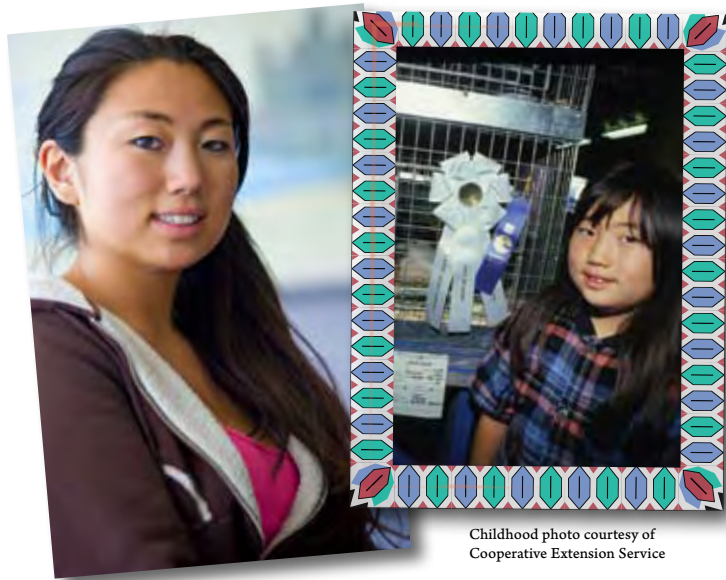
During eighth grade, Hanscom started working on a 4-H government project. She and other 4-H kids lobbied the Alaska Legislature on a livestock liability bill, which limited the liability of livestock owners who show animals in public places. Meeting with legislators, she said, “was a real educational experience.”

The following summer, she participated in a 4-H exchange to Maine and in Citizenship Washington Focus, a citizenship program for 4-H teens in the nation’s capital. She followed that up with a national 4-H leadership conference her freshman year of high school. She helped plan the event the following year and led a session for the conference.

Before her first semester at UAF, Hanscom became an intern for U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski and observed the dynamics of the senator’s office up close. She returned to the senator’s office in summer 2008 to coordinate the high school internship program.

4-H definitely improved her leadership and public speaking skills, and helped her pursue her interests in college, Hanscom said.

“A lot of people think that 4-H is animals and gardening and cooking and sewing but it’s just so much more than that,” she said.



Childhood photo courtesy of Cooperative Extension Service

“It’s helped me get to the next level, to get an internship.”

In Alaska, some 10,000 kids participate in 4-H sponsored events, whether it’s after-school clubs, special-interest classes or more traditional 4-H activities. They all fulfill the 4-H philosophy: learn by doing.



Debbie Carter, '81, is a writer and editor for the UAF Cooperative Extension Service.

See 4-H kids in action at the 2008 Tanana Valley State Fair at [www.uaf.edu/aurora/](http://www.uaf.edu/aurora/).

### The history of 4-H

4-H has rural roots. Its philosophy of practical, hands-on learning grew more than 100 years ago out of a desire to make public school education more connected to country life.

When Congress created the Cooperative Extension Service at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1914, it included boys’ and girls’ club work. Soon after, the youth organization became known as 4-H and its logo became a four-leaf clover with 4 Hs, standing for head, heart, hands and health. Today, 4-H is coordinated by Extension agents working with land-grant universities throughout the United States. 4-H clubs and related organizations now exist in other countries, too.

In most states, you can join 4-H if you are between the ages of 8 and 18. The 4-H program includes more than seven million members nationally. Most programs center around three areas: leadership, citizenship and life skills. The 4-H motto is “to make the best better.”

## Creating the perfect job

When **Navin Sharma, '79, '81**, couldn’t find the perfect job, he created it.

In 1997, Sharma discovered a way to merge his experience in nursing with a career in law enforcement. He was working as a full-time police officer with the Vancouver (Wash.) Police Department. Sharma, who began working as a nurse in the early 1990s, continued to work on call as an emergency room nurse at Providence Portland Medical Center, in Portland, Ore.

Sharma is credited as the driving force behind creating the tactical emergency medic unit for his police department. He remembers approaching the SWAT team’s commander about the idea of assigning specially trained emergency medical technicians to the team.

“I gave him a scenario where the airway of one of his SWAT officers was compromised,” Sharma says. “If the fire truck, which was several blocks away, responded to the call, it would have taken approximately six minutes, and the officer would have died.”

Sharma then illustrated how a tactical emergency medic on the SWAT team could quickly intubate the officer or begin performing advanced life support within a matter of seconds.

“Having a trained medic working as part of the SWAT or riot units can mean the difference between life and death.”



Navin Sharma treats a bomb squad officer injured in a blast.

“Ambulances and fire department paramedics aren’t usually versed in the tactics of a SWAT team or the riot squad and aren’t equipped for a situation where they could come under fire,” Sharma says.

“Having a trained medic working as part of the SWAT or riot units can mean the difference between life and death.”

The TEMS team now boasts four medics, including two EMTs and one paramedic, and was the first police-based team in Washington to offer advanced life support services, including medications, IVs and some advanced trauma life support surgical procedures.

Sharma says his background as an emergency nurse brings a fresh perspective to his police work.

He served as a volunteer firefighter, an emergency medical technician and

later a paramedic before going through nursing school.

Sharma found his work addicting and hopes his own nontraditional career path will inspire other nurses to consider second careers as tactical emergency medical personnel. However, after 10 years in law enforcement, he is no longer a police officer.

“I still work at Providence Hospital in the emergency department as a staff emergency and trauma RN and am involved in training,” Sharma said in a recent e-mail from Portland.

“The TEMS unit I helped set up is doing very well and continues to provide quality care to the citizens and officers during every critical mission.”

Sharma was recently appointed to the Oregon State Trauma Advisory Board and he made contributions to *Tactical Emergency Medicine*, the first textbook on the subject.

Excerpted with permission from an article by Linda Childers which appeared in *Nurse Week*. © 2005, Gannett Healthcare Group ([www.nurse.com](http://www.nurse.com)). All rights reserved.

## Alumni teach schoolchildren to say "I Know I Can"



Photo by Mary Gower, '94, '95

The University of Alaska College Savings Program and the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education expanded the "I Know I Can" outreach effort in 32 classrooms across Alaska this year. UA alumni volunteers read the colorful *I Know I Can* picture book to an estimated 730 school children.

*I Know I Can* features animal characters encouraging children to consider college and career choices, and to start thinking about those choices now. The university and ACPE started the program last year. UAF alumni who participated include **Ian Olson, '97**, **Tania Clucas, '95, '08** (pictured above) and **Tamara Hornbuckle, '86**.

### 2008 – 2009 UAF Alumni Association Board of Directors

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[www.uaf.edu/alumni/](http://www.uaf.edu/alumni/)

### 1950s

**Joe, '58**, and **Ann, '57, Tremarello** gave \$100,000 to create the Joseph Tremarello Sr. and Rose R. Tremarello Memorial Fund, in honor of Joe's parents, to support student-athletes on the men's and women's varsity basketball teams. Joe formerly coached the women's basketball team, and Ann served as university registrar for nearly 45 years, retiring in 2002.

### 1960s

**Vera Alexander, '65**, was honored with the dedication of a new smart classroom at UAF, room 201 in the O'Neill Building on West Ridge, renamed the Vera Alexander Learning Center. After receiving her doctorate in marine science at UA in 1965, Vera became an associate professor at the fledgling Institute of Marine Science on the Fairbanks campus. In 1980, she became the director of IMS. When the UAF School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences was formed in 1987, she became its first dean and served for nearly 20 years, until 2004. Vera is a professor emerita and is currently on the advisory board for the UAF Pollock Conservation Cooperative Research Center. She is also the president of the Arctic Research Consortium of the United States.



UAF photo by Allison Blanchard

### 1980s

**Milton Ludington, '87** — "My B.S. degree in civil engineering from UAF has allowed me to manage design and construction programs and projects all over the U.S. and the world. My recent three years in Iraq allowed me to lead the programming of \$1 billion in Iraqi national transportation and telecommunications projects for the Coalition Provisional Authority and serve as senior project manager for over \$100 million in Sadr City sewer repairs with Washington International/Black and Veatch JV, highlighting an eventful and exciting career. After many years I have recently returned to Fairbanks to accept a position with Ageiss Environmental as engineering project manager for the air force at Eielson AFB in connection with an exciting \$126 million renovation/new construction project. Thanks, UAF!"

### 1990s

**Nevada Bovee, '96** — "Blessings abound in my life with a new job, happy family, a fabulous trip to France and continuing to help others with neuro-linguistic programming and hypnotherapy. I recently joined the team as marketing manager for the University of Alaska College Savings Plan and the UA Scholars program, and am looking forward to helping families save for future college needs. Having met the challenge with three of our children, I know how important it is. After 30 years, I was reunited with some very good friends from middle school. We all met in France

## President's column

By **Gail Phillips, '67**

What a great way to start my term as the new president of the UAF Alumni Association by welcoming our alumni and friends to the university's new magazine, *Aurora*. The partnership between the alumni association and our university in recruiting, mentoring, advocating and supporting the next group of new alumni is never-ending. The alumni association board of directors is happy to assist in the task, but we also need the aid of the 28,000 UAF graduates and friends of the institution to continue with the momentum.

One way that you can help is by joining the alumni association. As a graduate or former student of UAF, you are always considered one of our alumni, but when you pay membership dues to join the alumni association you receive extra benefits. Examples of these benefits include rental car, hotel and condominium discounts, eligibility for in-state tuition for children of alumni, and scholarship opportunities for family members of alumni. The association is also in the business of connecting friends and making sure your tie to the university is not broken.

As the semester is just beginning and the next group of future Nanook alumni are working towards commencement in May, I would like to thank all of you who attended and helped make this university one of the nation's best. I look forward to seeing many of you this year, and remember — once a 'Nook, always a 'Nook.



this last May and had a wonderful time together catching up with each other's life experiences. I continue to study neuro-linguistic programming and recently received the associate trainer certification to add to my master practitioner certificate. It is great to apply some of the learning to the public relations class I am teaching at the Tanana Valley Campus. Life is good and being part of the UAF alumni is great!"

### 2000s

**Suzanne Evans, '01** — "Since I graduated from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, I started teaching art classes with the University of Alaska through Chukchi Campus and UAF in Fairbanks, Alaska. I also worked as a counselor counseling individuals throughout the state of Alaska that had substance abuse issues. I hope to work for a law office someday in the future! In 2001 I brought Irene Bedard cast and crew to Kotzebue, Alaska, from L.A., California, to perform for the community. It was a memorable moment to see her again. She encouraged young high school students to attend college after high school and that they can achieve their dream of what they want to be in the future."



**Jamie Barger, '02** — "After completing my Ph.D. at UAF, where I studied the regulation of metabolism during hibernation, my family and I moved to Madison, Wisc., so I could be a postdoc with Dr. Richard Weindruch at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. There I investigated the bioactivity of adipose tissue in mice and rhesus monkeys on calorie-restricted diets. I joined LifeGen Technologies in 2005 and serve as their head of project management. Recently I was lead author on a peer-reviewed publication about our team's investigation of the effects of resveratrol, a chemical found in red wine, on the aging process. The study has made international news, including *The New York Times*, *Wine Spectator* magazine, BBC News and Jay Leno's monologue on *The Tonight Show*."

View more class notes or submit your own at [www.uaf.edu/aurora/](http://www.uaf.edu/aurora/).

### In memoriam



Photo courtesy of Jim Moody, '55

« **Alaska Stewart Linck, Matric.**, legislator and territorial pioneer, March 23, Fairbanks. She received the Alumni Achievement Award for Community Achievement in 1996.

**Marie Quirk Fate-Haggard, '36**, June 3, Fairbanks. She served as Charles Bunnell's secretary for four years after graduation.



UAF photo by Sam Winch

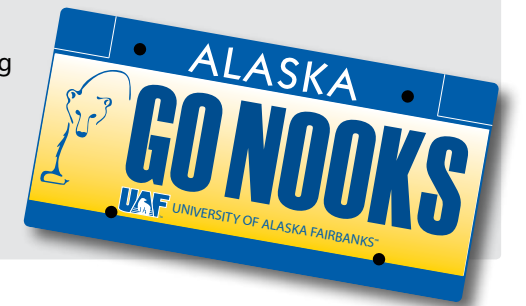
« **Glen D. Franklin, '36**, legislator and territorial pioneer, June 17, Fairbanks. He directed the purchase and installation of the Charles Bunnell statue at UAF.

**James V. Drew, dean and director emeritus**, July 9, Fairbanks. Memorial donations can be made to the Drew Outdoor Amphitheater at the Georgeson Botanical Garden at [www.uaf.edu/giving/](http://www.uaf.edu/giving/).

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## Alumni compete at Beijing Olympics



**Matt Emmons, '03, and Jamie Beyerle, Matric.,** two former members of the UAF rifle team and winners of multiple NCAA rifle championships, represented the U.S. at the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, China. Emmons (pictured at left) captured his second career Olympic medal, taking silver in men's 50-meter prone rifle. (He won the gold medal in the same event at the 2004 games in Athens.)

Emmons was on track to win gold in men's three-position when he accidentally misfired on his last shot, which knocked him off the medal stand and into fourth place. Beyerle, competing in her first Olympics, finished fourth in women's 10-meter air rifle and fifth in three-position.

Emmons' wife, Katy, a shooter for the Czech Republic, won the gold medal in air rifle and a silver in three-position.

Photo courtesy of USA Shooting

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# Events FALL/WINTER 2008

## athletics

SEPT. 27  
Women's volleyball vs. UAA

OCT. 17 – 18  
Brice Alaska Goal Rush men's hockey tournament

NOV. 28 – 29  
Mt. McKinley Bank North Star Invitational women's basketball tournament



DEC. 12 – 13  
Glacier Classic men's basketball tournament

FEB. 27 – 28  
Governor's Cup (two-game men's hockey home-and-home series) in Fairbanks/Anchorage

## arts

OCT. 10 – 11, OCT. 17 – 19  
*Winter Shorts* — Theatre UAF

NOV. 14 – 15, NOV. 21 – 23  
*Laramie Project* — Theatre UAF



NOV. 14  
*St. John of Damascus* — Choir of the North and Alaska Camerata with Fairbanks Choral Arts Orchestra

DEC. 1  
Ensemble 64.8

DEC. 13  
"Christmas Around the World" — University Chorus

## special events

SEPT. 16  
Convocation

SEPT. 25 – 27  
Alumni Reunion and Starvation Gulch

OCT. 6 – 10  
Engineering Week

OCT. 18 – 26  
KUAC FM Fall Fundraiser

OCT. 20 – 24  
Accounting Week



## exhibitions

Through NOV. 30  
UA Museum of the North special exhibit: "Hunting and trapping in Alaska's Interior"



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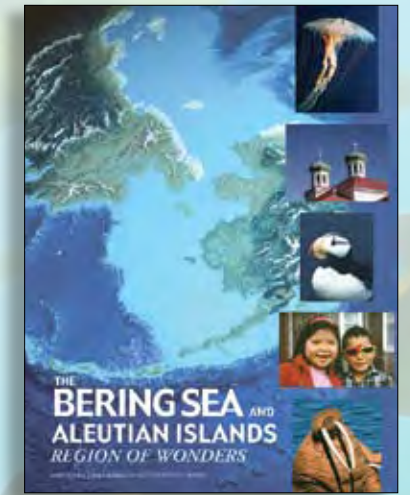
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