

aurora

Celebrating a century at the University of Alaska Fairbanks

1917-2017

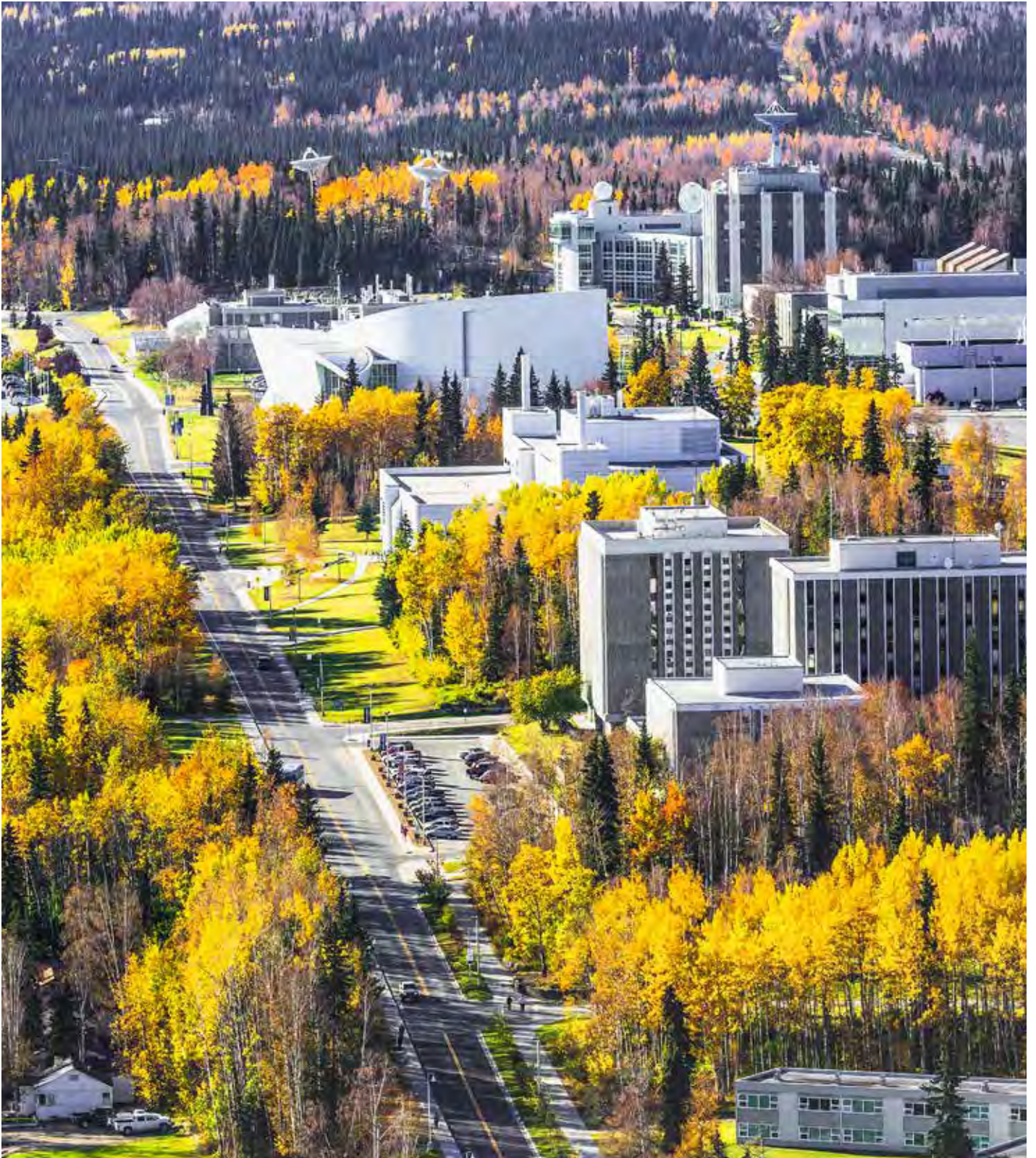




Photo by N. Wien

Old Main, the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines' first building, sits on Troth Yeddha' in this 1925 photograph taken by famed aviator Noel Wien.

**UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA
FAIRBANKS**

Chancellor
Daniel M. White

Director of University Relations
Michelle Renfrew '98

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD

- Gail Dabaluz '10
- Libby Eddy '92
- Barbara Fujimoto '13
- Shannon Johnson-Nanalook '11
- Forrest Kuiper '99, '00, '12
- Rachel Lauesen '04
- Mary Beth Loewen '02, '07
- Shannon McCarthy '88
- Brenda Riley '02
- Peter Van Flein '87
- Amanda Wall '01, '05
- Cindy Wright '88

AURORA ADVISORY BOARD

- Andy Angaiak
- Joan Braddock '77, '83, '89
- Amber Darland Jordan '02
- David Marusek
- Charlene Ostbloom '95
- Paul Reichardt
- Lorna Shaw '96, '05
- Peggy Shumaker
- Peter Van Flein '87

AURORA MAGAZINE

Managing editor
Kim Davis

Editors
Sam Bishop
Tori Tragus '94, '99

Designers
Kari Halverson
Venus Sung '13, '14

Photographers
JR Ancheta '15
Todd Paris '83 (retired)
Zayn Roohi

Production specialist
Andrea Swingley

Web designer
Sherrie Roberts '07

Produced by UAF University Relations, 09/2017. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect official positions of the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Photos by UAF photographers unless otherwise noted. Send comments or letters to the editor to aurora.magazine@alaska.edu or to P.O. Box 757505, Fairbanks, AK 99775, or call 907-474-6726. We reserve the right to edit for grammar and length. Visit us on the web at www.uaf.edu/aurora/.

The University of Alaska Fairbanks is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. UAF is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and educational institution.

UAF does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, citizenship, age, sex, physical or mental disability, status as a protected veteran, marital status, changes in marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, parenthood, sexual orientation, gender identity, political affiliation or belief, genetic information, or other legally protected status. The University's commitment to nondiscrimination, including against sex discrimination, applies to students, employees, and applicants for admission and employment. Contact information, applicable laws, and complaint procedures are included on UA's statement of nondiscrimination available at www.alaska.edu/titleIXcompliance/nondiscrimination/.





From the chancellor

Reaching 100 years old, even for a college, is a major accomplishment. I'm proud to have been associated with UAF for more than one-fifth of those years, and I'm looking forward to many more as chancellor.

I hope this commemorative edition of Aurora magazine will stir fond memories and make you proud that UAF is part of your life's journey.

Daniel M. White



An image of “UAF100,” painted with a cellphone by UAF chief photographer JR Ancheta, is captured by a 30-second exposure under the aurora at the Poker Flat Research Range in February 2017. The figure at bottom right is a researcher awaiting a rocket launch at the range.

Contents

1
From the chancellor

4
A mine for learning

14
Alumni across the decades:
1920s -1940s

26
From the ground up

36
Alumni across the decades:
1950s -1970s

48
From a cabin to a
rocket range



56

Alumni across the
decades: 1980s-2010s

72

The care and feeding of a
territory

80

Campus myths and
legends

90

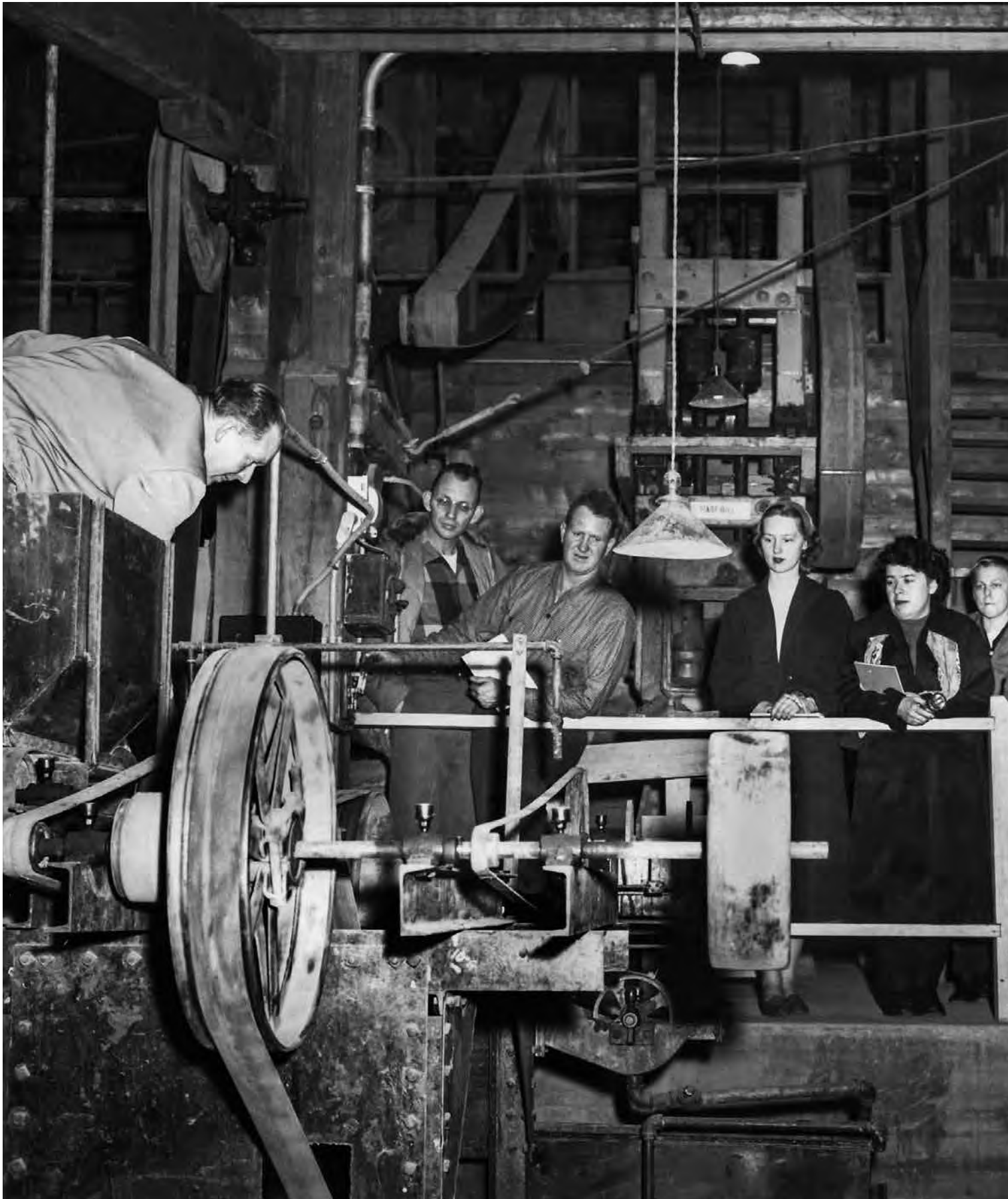
Celebration!

96

In memoriam

97

Citations and resources



Rasmuson Library archives (for complete citation, see page 97)

Earl Beistline, far left, demonstrates features of the campus mining ore mill in this undated photograph. The mill was one of several components in a model operation created early in the university's history to educate students in practical aspects of mining. Beistline was dean of the mining programs for decades.

A mine for learning

BY SAM BISHOP

A 5-foot square tunnel runs for hundreds of feet under the Fairbanks campus. This is not a utilidor, one of those passages for pipes and wires into which mischievous students occasionally sneak.

It's older, deeper.

And students built this tunnel, for students. No sneaking was necessary to gain entry — just a little training and, sometimes, a paddle swat on the backside.

The University of Alaska Fairbanks began in 1917 with a more specific title — the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines. The tunnel, started shortly after the college opened for classes in 1922, helped make real the second half of its name.

It was a mine, or at least a rough model of one.

For decades, the tunnel, called an “adit,” helped give a dose of practical training to students learning from books and lectures in the buildings on the surface of College Hill. The adit has long since been plugged, but the emphasis on practical learning that it represented lives on at the university's modern mining school.

The tunnel entered the hillside near today's heat and power plant.

“It went in on the level, so I expect it must have been about 100 feet deep when it got under the university buildings,” said Ray Smith '43 in an interview earlier this year. “There was a fairly good-size room right at the end.”

Smith served as president of the student Miners Society during his time at the college, so he not only took mining courses in the adit but also used it to initiate new society members.

“We had the new students go through the tunnel, which required them to stoop, since the adit was only about 5 feet from floor to roof,” he recalled in January, shortly after turning 100. [See profile on page 22.]

“Members of the society had paddles that they would whack the students' butts with as they walked crouching along the tunnel,” Smith said. “They would straighten up and hit their head on the roof. That taught them the value of the miner's helmet.”

That was just one lesson learned in the tunnel, where students went for their required course in practical mining techniques.

Patrick O'Neill '41, '53, '76 (Hon.) learned how to throw dirt. That skill got him noticed and promoted a few years later, he said.

“One of the things I learned was, instead of taking a shovel full of dirt and turning around, was to throw it over your shoulder,” O'Neill said in an interview in January 2017. (He turned 102 in August.)

After each round of drilling and blasting at the tunnel end, students shoveled the loose rock and dirt, called muck, into small cars on a set of railroad-like tracks. They'd then push the cars out the tunnel by hand and dump them, O'Neill said. It was hard work but an expected part of the practical mining course.



Rasmuson Library archives (for complete citation, see page 97)



Students in the university's mining program labor in the model mine operation, which the university established early in its history to give students practical experience. At top, a student in the training adit, the university's mine under campus, guides a drill into the rock to make a hole for an explosive charge.

At bottom, students dump a rail-mounted cart after mucking out the results of a winter blast in the adit.



Rasmuson Library archives (for complete citation, see page 97)

Notable moments from UAF'S FIRST CENTURY

1906

U.S. government establishes agricultural experiment station next to Tanana Mines Railroad track five miles from Fairbanks

1915

March: U.S. Congress approves land grant for Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines at experiment station site

July 4: James Wickersham dedicates cornerstone

During his college years, O'Neill often worked for the Fairbanks Exploration Co.'s dredging operation in Fox, just north of Fairbanks. One night, a tunnel that carried water to a dredge caved in, and O'Neill was called out to help.

"I was on the face shoveling and throwing it over my shoulder and working fast," O'Neill said. "One of the big bosses at the F.E. Co. came out ... and he asked the foreman, 'Who's that kid up on the face doing the shoveling?'"

The "big boss" was Jim Crawford, the F.E. Co.'s Fairbanks manager, and he offered O'Neill a promotion.

"He said, 'Next spring, come to see me and I'll get you into the engineering work, which I'd been trying to do,'" O'Neill said. "I'd spent five years on the pick and shovel."

Overcoming the obstacles

Both O'Neill and Smith, who started as nearly destitute students, went on to distinguished careers. After working his way up to dredge superintendent at the F.E. Co. and earning a master's in 1953, O'Neill took a job running a mine in South America and became an executive in several international mining companies. Smith, after a stint as a faculty member at UA, went on to the presidency of Michigan Technological University from 1965 to 1979.

They credit their success not only to their training in Fairbanks but also to financial assistance and encouragement from Charles Bunnell, the university president from 1921 to 1949. Bunnell and his faculty overcame the adversities of a remote



We had the new students go through the tunnel, which required them to stoop, since the adit was only about 5 feet from floor to roof."

location to create a high-quality model mine, and he recruited students vigorously.

"He was determined to get something going. He was very resourceful and creative," said Leslie Noyes, who interviewed more than 300 people from the late 1980s through 2000 while writing "Rock Poker to Pay Dirt: The History of Alaska's School of Mines and its Successors."

Noyes, who now lives in Golden, Colorado, noted that Ernest Patty '53 (Hon.), the School of Mines' first geology professor, outlined his thinking in an article for the March 1928 edition of the campus newspaper, the Farthest-North Collegian.

"There are too many graduates from our mining schools who lack the confidence to go into a mine, set up a machine, drill and blast a round, and put in a set of timbers," Patty wrote. So he required School of Mines students to take at least one course

in practical mining. The first year, they dug 156 feet of tunnel, Patty reported.

Patty and Bunnell also put together a collection of more than 2,000 mineral specimens that was "one of the most complete in Western America," according to an article in the February 1924 Collegian. "These are not sealed away in museum cases but are available for close examination and detailed study ... to serve the needs of the engineering students and the men who come in from the 'hills' each winter to take the short course for miners and prospectors."

Students began digging the adit immediately after the college opened in 1922, Noyes reported.

"They secured timbers for the mine by wading through deep snow to cut spruce trees from the flats," she wrote. "The finished model of a mine consisted of a timbered adit with air and water lines, a blacksmith shop and compressor house."

Digging ore from a hill is only the start of the mining process, though. To simulate a real operation, the school obtained a small mill with two stamps to crush the ore. Another mill did a similar job using steel balls in a cylinder. The operation also had a classifier to recycle ore that didn't get crushed well on the first try. A flotation cell allowed the ore to be treated with chemicals to separate the gold.

If there was gold, that is. The ground under the Fairbanks campus didn't seem to hold any obvious worthwhile minerals. So the model mine also tested ore from miners around the area and turned over the results.

1917

May 3: Territorial Gov. John Strong signs law creating AACSM

Board of trustees appointed

1918

Construction begins on first building

1921

Charles E. Bunnell chosen first president

Smith recalled also stuffing Mining Society initiates into some kind of a rotating barrel separator during rites. “It was a tough go for the new students, but effective,” he said wryly.

Looking for work

By the late 1930s, the mining school had become the dominant academic enterprise within the university.

In 1941, just before World War II decimated enrollment, the university graduated its largest class to date, Noyes noted. Of the 35 graduates, 15 came from the School of Mines. Of the 307 students enrolled in the 1940-1941 academic year, 88 were in mining. In addition, about 500 students took short courses in communities around the state, Noyes reported.

People entered the field because they could see it offered a chance of employment, said Paul Metz '75, a UAF professor of geological engineering in the Department of Mining and Geological Engineering, the descendant of the School of Mines.

After studying at Michigan Tech while Ray Smith was president, Metz came to Alaska in 1968, earned his master's in 1975 and has worked at UAF since.

“During the Great Depression, there were no jobs anywhere else,” Metz said. “That’s how Ray Smith and his partner came here in the late 1930s, looking for work.”



School of Mines Dean Earl Beistline, left, and UA President Ernest Patty inspect a working model of a gold dredge, No. 2 ½ Nyac. William Race '42 gave the model to the university in 1958, 20 years after it was built for the New York Alaska Gold Dredging Corp. The company operated full-size dredges at Nyac in Southwest Alaska. Such dredges were an important source of employment for students and graduates of the university's mining programs.

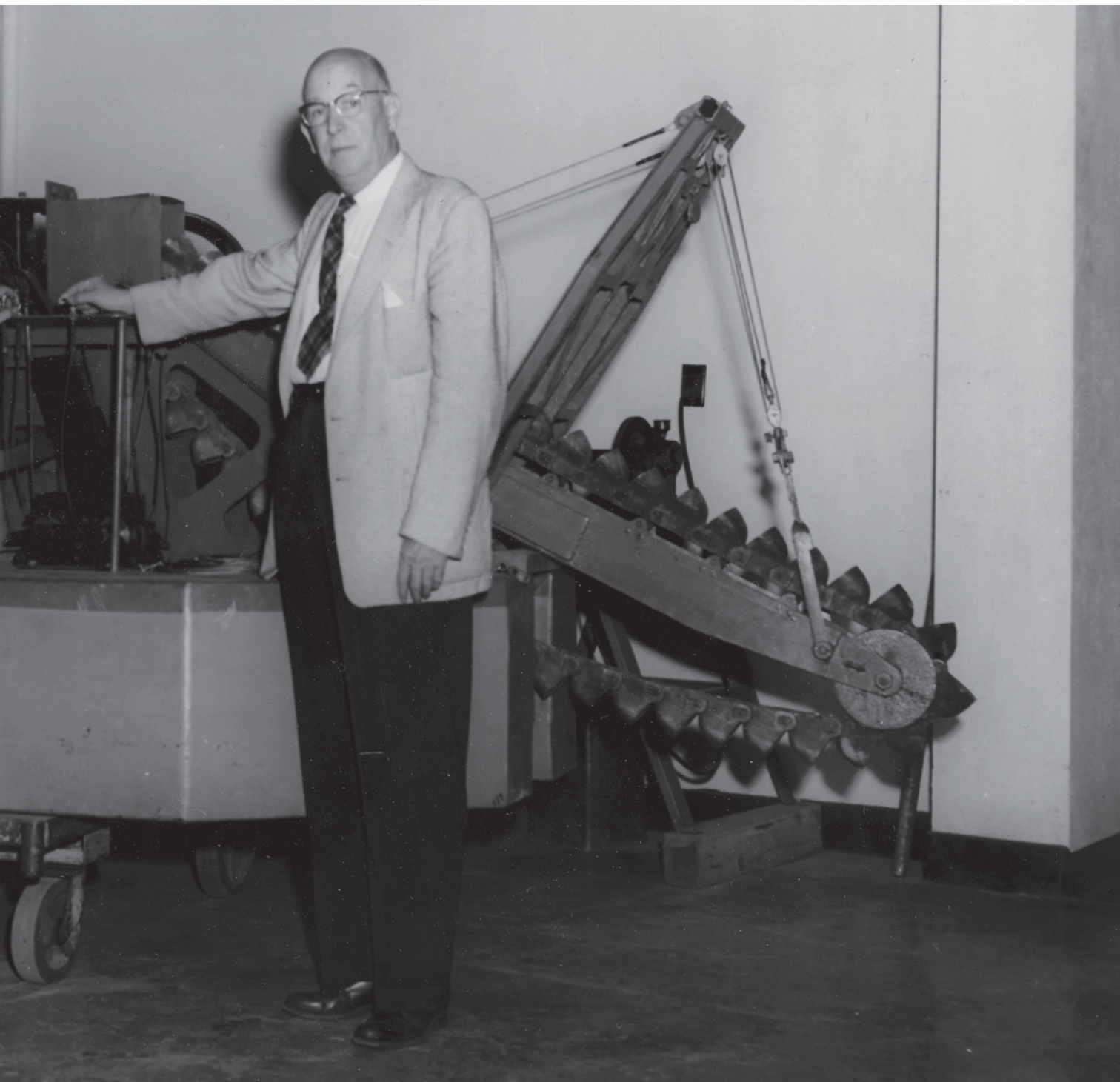
1922

Main Building completed

Sept. 13: AACSM dedicated

Sept. 18: First day of classes
Registration \$2; no tuition

Men's basketball team forms with seven players



Rasmuson Library archives (for complete citation, see page 97)

Student association forms

First book accessioned in library: "Alaska — Its Meaning to the World"

President Woodrow Wilson donates autographed 10-volume "History of the American People"

1923

Farthest-North Collegian's first volume published



At top, Garth Anderson joins mining students who were restarting work at the Silver Fox Mine in 2014. Anderson's father, Tury, staked the claims after World War II and donated them to UAF in 1977. The mine is located off the Elliott Highway near its intersection with Old Murphy Dome Road. Students are in charge of the mine, which gives them real-life experience with the challenges in running a safe, efficient operation.



At bottom, mining and geological engineering Professor Gang Chen leads a Rock Mechanics lab at the Silver Fox Mine in April 2017.

1923

Official school colors chosen: azure and gold

First annual freshmen bonfire symbolizes passing of torch of knowledge (known today as Starvation Gulch)

East wing added to Main Building, occupied by School of Mines

John Sexton Shanly is AACSM's first graduate, earning a bachelor's degree in agriculture

Students also found ready summer employment at the F.E. Co. dredges or other mines in the state.

“The biggest source of training of all, hands-down, were the dredges,” said Tom Bundtzen ’73, ’81, president of Pacific Rim Geological Consulting in Fairbanks. Bundtzen earned a bachelor’s in general geology and then a master’s in economic geology. [Bundtzen’s brother, Bob, is profiled on pages 44-45.]

Bundtzen, as president of the Alaska Mining Hall of Fame, has spent many hours researching and writing biographies of inductees. He found that the F.E. Co., a subsidiary of the U.S. Smelting, Refining and Mining Co., employed numerous students both during their college years and afterward.

“Many of their engineers, who would later become dredge superintendents and dredge masters, came out of the university,” he said.

In need of experienced faculty, the university also drew upon former students who had supported their educations and careers through mining.

Earl Beistline ’39, ’47, ’69 (Hon.), who served as dean of the mining school from 1949 to 1982, as a student had worked summers for the F.E. Co. driving cold-water points to thaw the ground before dredging.

“USSRM hired most of us and kept us interested in our studies,” Doug Colp ’40 told Noyes. In 1965, Beistline hired Colp, by then an internationally recognized dredging and placer mining expert. Colp taught for the next decade.

Ernie Wolff ’41 worked at various Alaska mining enterprises before earning a doctorate in Colorado. He returned to lead the university’s Mineral Industry Research Laboratory from 1969 to 1983.

Extracurricular blasting

After World War II, Alaska’s dredges declined, and all but one shut down by 1965. Nevertheless, the School of Mines continued to enroll a record number of students, and the model mine continued to operate. Photographs from the 1958 year-book document students drilling, blasting and mucking out the mine.

However, it closed shortly afterward when administrators grew worried about the blasting and drilling, Noyes reported. A few incidents in the mid-1950s made such worries more than theoretical.

The night before a hockey match with civil engineering students, the mining students drilled into the rink, planted some dynamite and blew holes in the ice. That was easily corrected with some water that refroze, but another incident was less benign.

Shortly after Ernest Patty returned to the university as president in 1953, mining students with access to the dynamite set off an outdoor charge to liven up a student dance. The explosion blew out windows in Nerland Hall and the Chapman Building.

Because Chapman at that time housed the federally chartered Geophysical Institute, the FBI investigated. The perpetrators were caught and fined.

“

I’m glad my boys can handle powder, but there’s a time and place for it.”

1924

First graduate student, Thelma Bruce, enrolls to study how to increase yield of Alaska blueberries through cultivation

Women’s basketball team forms with six players

Margaret (Thomas) Murie is AACSM’s second graduate, earning a bachelor’s degree in business administration

1925

First all-men’s dormitory opens



We are open enrollment; we are not selective, yet you see our little program up there with the best universities in the world.”

“I’m glad my boys can handle powder, but there’s a time and place for it,” Patty reportedly said afterward.

After the adit closed, practical mining courses moved for a time to Beistline’s Blue Bird claims near Ester. Beistline gave the claims to the university in 1960.

Charles “Chilkoot” Ward ’86, UAF’s current director of utilities, said no visible trace remains of the university tunnel’s mouth today. The power plant operators do have one artifact from the adit — an ore car they use as a flower pot.

Industry ups and downs affect school

Interest in the mining school waned along with the industry’s fortunes during the 1960s, Metz and Bundtzen said. The program underwent several reorganizations and name changes.

“There was a 20-year period when there wasn’t a whole lot going on, and that ironically was the period of time when I was going to school,” said Bundtzen, who arrived in 1968 as a biology major.

In the mid-1970s, Metz helped Wolff, the MIRL director, teach mine surveying, which requires a tunnel.

“We were bemoaning the fact that the little adit was gone,” Metz said. “We actually did the work in the utilidors, which was terrible because it was so bloody hot in there even in the late spring, and the same in the fall.”

Interior Alaska’s mining industry began to recover in the late 1970s and early 1980s, Metz said. Gold prices rose dramatically. Metz and others at the university received multiple federal and state grants

to do detailed mineral assessments across Interior Alaska.

“That database provided a huge, huge impetus for exploration by the private sector,” he said.

The exploration led to two major gold mines — Fort Knox and Pogo. Several other potential large mines are under study.

The resurgence of mining has helped rejuvenate the mining program at UAF. Kinross, which operates Fort Knox, and Sumitomo, which operates Pogo, have donated more than \$2 million each to a mining endowment at the College of Engineering and Mines.

The university reacquired a model operation in 1977 when longtime Fairbanks miner Tury Anderson donated his Silver Fox Mine, just off the Elliott Highway north of Fox. UAF faculty can now use it to teach mine surveying, rock mechanics and exploration geophysics. As in the old days, students do the work.

“There is a faculty member in charge, but the students run it,” said Rajive Ganguli, professor of mining engineering and the current director of the Mineral Industry Research Laboratory.

Two years after UAF received the Silver Fox Mine, the statewide university system also created the Mining and Petroleum Training Service in Southcentral Alaska to provide short, nonacademic training courses. In 2015, the service purchased the Delta Mine Training Center, located 30 miles southeast of Delta Junction. Management of the training programs recently moved under the UAF Cooperative Extension Service umbrella.

1925

West wing added to the Main Building; top floor holds first gym

President Bunnell applies for post office, requesting address of College, Alaska

First hockey team established; two McCombe brothers introduce the sport to Fairbanks

Jamie Cameron is AACSM’s third graduate, earning a degree in home economics



Students Glen Morgan, left, and Ernest Holt, center, listen as Teresa Lantz, assistant professor of process technology, demonstrates how to use a bubbler to monitor water levels in a tank in July 2017. Morgan and Holt were participating in the UAF Community and Technical College's mining mill operator training program at a facility leased from the Fairbanks Pipeline Training Center off Van Horn Road.

Modern mills use highly computerized systems, but instruction in their use is generally weak, Ganguli said. So UAF recently developed a “dynamic mill simulator” for students to use. On a computer screen, students can change the RPM of a rock-crushing drum, adjust a belt’s speed or add more water, all in a virtual mill.

They’ll see instantly how their actions affect the entire system.

“It’s very similar to what an operator would see,” Ganguli said.

Researchers at MIRL worked with instructors at UAF’s Community and Technical College to create the simulator, using a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. The simulator first will be used in CTC’s two-month mill operator training

program but then will be available free to anyone.

The Department of Mining and Geological Engineering also tries to keep its faculty grounded in the industry, Ganguli said.

“We usually do not hire faculty unless they have practical mining experience,” he said. “We don’t want armchair mining engineers.”

The approach seems to be working, Ganguli said. Senior capstone projects have done quite well recently in international competitions, he said. Mining Global magazine ranked UAF in the top 10 U.S. colleges for mining in February 2015. In February 2017, a UAF mining engineering team won first place in the

mine design competition for students held during the Society of Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration’s conference in Denver, Colorado.

“We are open enrollment; we are not selective,” Ganguli said, “yet you see our little program up there with the best universities in the world.”

That status began in a tunnel that now lies empty some 100 feet under Charles Bunnell’s statue in Cornerstone Plaza on the Fairbanks campus.

The history is closer to the surface than it appears. Alumni installed Bunnell’s statue in 1988. Among the organizers of the effort was Patrick O’Neill — the man who learned how to handle a shovel in the tunnel below. **21**

1926

U.S. Bureau of Biological Survey establishes a cooperative research station (where Duckering is later built) to study Alaska livestock and caribou

1927

Otto Geist, at President Bunnell’s request, launches first archaeological expedition to St. Lawrence Island to begin the college’s museum collection

Main Dorm built for women; holds college dining room

Alumni across the decades

1920s-1940s

John Sexton Shanly '23

In 1922, as today, a university degree required roughly four years of study. Yet the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines, which opened for classes that year, produced its first graduate — Jack Shanly — the following spring.

Shanly pulled off this feat with help not only from the transfer of his earlier college credits but also, by some accounts, from the fervent advocacy of AACSM's President Charles Bunnell.

Bunnell first met Shanly as the future graduate filed for a homestead at Fairbanks' federal land office in summer 1922.

"As they conversed, Bunnell saw in Shanly his first graduating class — and to have a graduate to mark the end of the first year's operation was highly desirable," wrote William Cashen in "Farthest North College President," his biography of Bunnell.

Shanly had studied several years at Cornell University in New York before volunteering to drive ambulances in France during World War I, according to Cashen. When the U.S. entered the war in April 1917, Shanly returned to the U.S. and began flight school in Florida. The war ended before he saw combat.

So he headed west, working as a logger in Oregon and as a laborer on an Alaska Railroad construction crew. He then spent two years mining coal in Healy.

Graduating Shanly from AACSM in 1923 required some pushing and pulling.

"The faculty did everything they could to offer the courses necessary for completion of his degree requirements in one year," Cashen wrote. "It was nip and tuck in chemistry, but Shanly finally edged safely over the line."

Chemistry wasn't the only obstacle. The other was Shanly's primary professor, according to a 2005 article by Fairbanks Daily News-Miner columnist Dermot Cole '79.

Jessie Bloom, wife of AACSM Trustee Robert Bloom, recalled that the agriculture professor believed Shanly was "not fit to graduate," Cole reported.

Jessie Bloom, in writings Cole found at the UAF Rasmuson Library's Alaska and Polar Regions Collections and Archives, said Bunnell overruled the professor.

Whatever his academic challenges, Shanly was well liked. Fellow students elected him class president. Despite Prohibition, he brewed homemade beer at his homestead cabin, according to firsthand observations from a faculty member — the future UA President Ernest Patty '53 (Hon.).

After graduation, Shanly worked as principal of the Nenana High School briefly, then left Alaska.

Shanly lost title to his homestead cabins in 1926. Independent Lumber took them because the construction supplies bill remained unpaid, according to a biographical paper written by a New York teacher, Thomas Patton, and cited by Cole.

Though he never lived in Alaska again, Shanly visited regularly. He married twice and had three daughters.

In 1937, Shanly sold his homestead to Bunnell, who subdivided it. The land underlies much of College, the community southeast of campus.

Shanly produced educational movies for a time and eventually became a federal Food and Drug Administration inspector. In 1956, he launched a second career in Buffalo, New York, as an international travel tour operator. He died in 1971 at age 77 when a car struck him near his home in Cuba Lake, New York, where he had retired.

Shanly's eldest daughter, Patricia, attended UA in the late 1940s and married Brad Phillips '50, who became a well-known tour boat operator and state senator from Anchorage. She died in an automobile crash in the 1960s.

In 2004, Shanly's once-controversial diploma was discovered among items Phillips had in storage in Anchorage. It's now in the Rasmuson Library's archives, with a copy hanging in the UAF chancellor's office.

— Sam Bishop

1927

First graduating class larger than one; two women and five men receive degrees

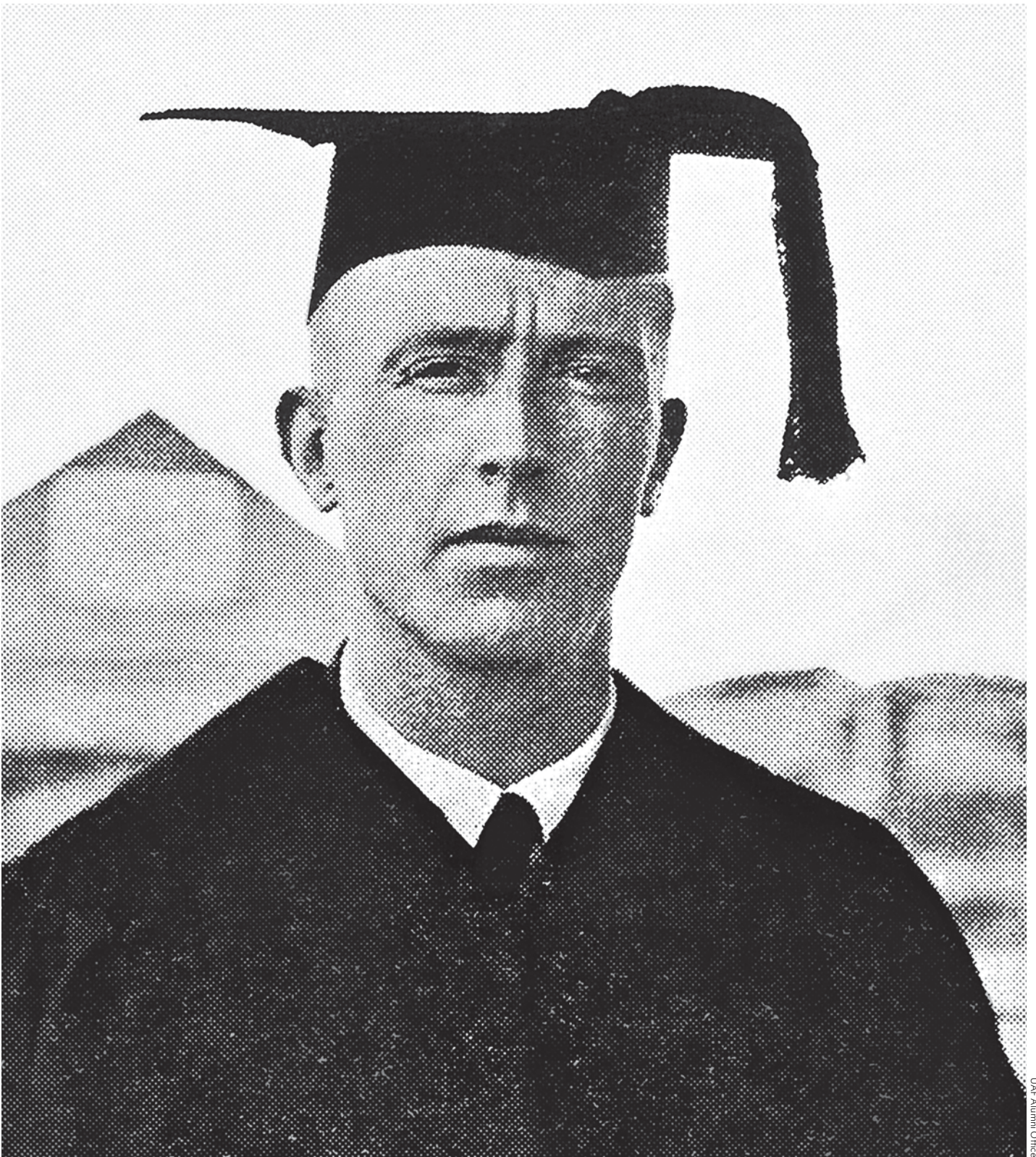
Professor Ernest Patty creates a course in real-life mining to give his students practical experience

1929

Rockefeller Foundation grants \$10,000 to the college to study the aurora

1930

Congress awards the Biological Survey \$40,000 to ship 34 young muskoxen from Greenland to the college



UAF Alumni Office

1931

The college's first auroral observation station, set up by physics Professor Veryl Fuller, opens for research

College bus service between Fairbanks and campus begins; train service ceases

Federal government transfers control of the Agricultural Experiment Station to the college

Gymnasium is built, the first permanent concrete structure and now first floor of Signers' Hall



Rasmuson Library archives (for complete citation, see page 97)

Genevieve Parker Metcalfe, second from left, stands with teammates from a women's basketball team early in the school's history.

1933

First yearbook is published, called Denali, indigenous name of Alaska's tallest mountain

Stone artifacts discovered on campus; they match tools from Asia, bolstering the idea that the first Alaskans arrived via a land bridge

1934

Ground is broken for the Carl Ben Eielson Memorial Building

Northwest Association of Secondary Schools, Colleges and Universities accredits the college as a four-year institution

Genevieve Parker Metcalfe '28

Genevieve Parker Metcalfe grew up among miners, so in a different era it might not have been surprising that she became a mining engineer herself. But she earned that degree from the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines in 1929, and for a time she was celebrated as the sole female mining engineer working in the nation.

Metcalfe's parents, Fred and Genevieve Parker, married in Fairbanks in 1905, just a few years after it arose as a mining supply camp. When his daughter was 7 years old, Fred Parker left his sawmill business in town and the family moved to a mining claim on Fairbanks Creek.

"Lacking peers, my great interest was the mine," Metcalfe wrote later. "I ran errands all over the place, taking small tools and messages to outlying areas. Midafternoons, I shouldered a yoke to take around hot coffee or iced tea plus cake, pie or cookies — to the delight of the men working a hard 12-hour shift."

She grew up visiting with some of the men who first discovered gold in the area, including Felix Pedro's partner Tom Gilmore, for whom Gilmore Dome is named. The world-class Fort Knox Mine today harvests gold from a vast pit on the dome's northern flank a few miles west of Fairbanks Creek.

The Parker family moved back to town in 1921. Metcalfe attended high school and then enrolled at AACSM in 1924, just two years after the institution opened for classes. She edited the Farthest-North Collegian school newspaper, ran sled dogs competitively and played on the women's basketball team.

After earning a science degree in 1928, Metcalfe asked Professor Ernest Patty '53 (Hon.) if she could earn a mining engineering degree. Patty and other professors encouraged her, but the question was debated by the university's trustees, some of whom doubted that mining companies would employ her.

"I remember one of the lawyers telling me, 'Now be sensible. Take a good domestic science course,'" she told Leslie Noyes, author of a 2001 history of the mining school, "Rock Poker to Pay Dirt."

Metcalfe declined the advice but still faced obstacles. The Fairbanks Daily News-Miner reported that "the boys of the Mining Society," a popular fraternity-like club, declined her full membership.

The problem might have been the secret initiation ritual. "Stripped down to their skivvies, initiates relived the Trail of '98

by being dunked in a tub of ice-cold water (to simulate losing their raft in the waters of Lake Bennett) and drank raw oysters and eggs from an assay crucible," Noyes wrote.

Nevertheless, Metcalfe went on to write a 64-page thesis, "The Evolution of Placer Mining Methods in Alaska," that far exceeded the minimum requirements for her degree. For the study, Metcalfe interviewed Gilmore and some of the other early miners she met while growing up.

"Even now, 75 years later, her thesis is considered an important reference on Alaskan placer-mining history," according to Metcalfe's biography at the Alaska Mining Hall of Fame website. "Her contribution to the understanding of early placer

mining technologies and to the history of the Fairbanks mining district will always be considered primary references for those subjects."

Like many AACSM graduates, Metcalfe went to work at the Fairbanks Exploration Co. after graduating. In 1930, she left for a job with its parent company, the U.S. Smelting, Refining and Manufacturing Co., in Boston.

"Being a woman mining engineer, Genevieve became a celebrity of the day," her Hall of Fame biography noted. The Engineering and Mining Journal featured an article on Metcalfe with a photo of her driving a nine-dog team. She even met President Herbert Hoover that year. Metcalfe, writing to Noyes, said she was welcomed into Boston's professional and academic engineering community. She said some male colleagues lamented that their wives, who had studied alongside them, couldn't get recognized as engineers.

"Of course it was easier to recognize that sort of thing in Alaska — particularly early Alaska — than in other places," Metcalfe told Noyes. "It was just assumed in Alaska that a woman could do most anything because the women worked as hard as their husbands."

Metcalfe resigned to raise a family after marrying John Metcalfe, a fellow engineer at USSRM, in 1934. They had a daughter and a son. Following John's company career, the family moved to Salt Lake City, Fairbanks, Nome and then, in 1942, Massachusetts again, where they remained. John died in 1970, and Genevieve followed in 1995.

— Sam Bishop

"I remember one of the lawyers telling me, 'Now be sensible. Take a good domestic science course.'"

1935

AACSM is renamed the University of Alaska; a Board of Regents replaces the Board of Trustees

Flora Jane Harper Petri, an Athabaskan, becomes the first Alaska Native graduate (See profile on pages 18-19.)

1938

Rockefeller Foundation grants \$17,000 to the university to write a history of Alaska, deemed the Alaska History Research Project

Hess Hall for women, the first permanent concrete dorm, opens

Flora Jane Harper '35

Flora Jane Harper was the granddaughter of one of the most successful pre-Gold Rush traders in the Yukon River country, but her famous ancestor bestowed her with little advantage in life. She grew up poor, part of a large family that fled deadly disease outbreaks while struggling in a society where their mostly Athabascan heritage often was a liability.

Harper overcame these obstacles and more to become the first Alaska Native person to graduate from the University of Alaska. She did so in 1935, decades before racial discrimination fell into disfavor in the nation's social and legal systems.

Harper's famous grandfather was Arthur Harper, an Irish trader who arrived in Fort Yukon in 1874. He married Seentahna, a 14-year-old Athabascan girl from the Koyukuk River region. Before separating almost 20 years later, they had eight children, including Sam, Flora Jane's father.

The couple's youngest son, Walter Harper, became the first man to stand atop Denali in 1913, a member of the Episcopal Archdeacon Hudson Stuck's successful climbing team.

Flora Jane was born in Rampart in 1910 to Sam and Louise Harper. The family moved to Nenana seeking protection from the 1918 Spanish flu epidemic.

In Nenana, Sam worked for the railroad, but supporting a six-member family wasn't easy. When Flora Jane was 10, her father sent her and three siblings to Chemawa, a boarding school for Native Americans in Oregon.

"It's either that or starve," he reportedly said.

Flora Jane wasn't able to return to Alaska for nine years. After graduating from high school in Portland, she contracted tuberculosis and spent almost a year in a hospital.

Once back in Alaska, Harper enrolled at the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines. She graduated with a home economics degree in 1935, the year the school became the University of Alaska.

Harper taught at the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Chilocco boarding school in Oklahoma and its Alaska schools in Wrangell, Sitka and Eklutna. She married Walter "Pete" Petri in Wrangell in 1941. They had a daughter in 1943, and the family moved to Anchorage in 1949.

Jan Harper-Haines '65, the daughter, wrote about her perceptions, as a child, of her mother's quiet struggle to maintain her self-esteem in the decades that followed.

"From the time she was a child Mom had sought respect, a desire that propelled her to graduate from the University of Alaska," Harper-Haines wrote in 2012 on the blog "Growing Up Anchorage."

Most troubling were the slurs that "smeared all Natives, even my mother, who didn't drink," Harper-Haines wrote. "People don't see me," she'd say, resigned as she shelved books in the Loussac Library where she worked. "They see a drunken Indian on Fourth Avenue."

The desire for respect made Harper uncomfortable with her husband's occasional, strongly worded letters to the editor and prompted her to "damn well make sure we looked presentable."

"She felt it was her responsibility to help improve the image of Native people. She knew others were watching. She was right," Harper-Haines wrote.

After retirement, the couple moved to Sequim, Washington. Pete died in 1990, and Flora Jane died in 1992. In 1994, the University of Alaska Fairbanks named the Harper Building on Geist Road after her. The building houses UAF's Interior Alaska Campus.

Athabascan elder Poldine Carlo, of Fairbanks, recalled being taught by Harper when she was in high school and how it made her feel at the time.

"[She] was the first Native person to graduate from the university, and she was my home ec teacher in Eklutna," Carlo said at a 2015 event at Troth Yeddha' Park on the Fairbanks campus. "I was so proud of her."

— Sam Bishop



1935 Denali yearbook

1939

ROTC established (required by the Morrill Act)

1940

Enrollment reaches over 300 students

1943

UA begins charging tuition, as funds are needed to build more dorm space

1943-1945 U.S. Army takes over two-thirds of campus; Hess Hall becomes military hospital



Interior Alaska Campus

1944

Enrollment declines sharply due to WWII; there is talk of closing

1946

President Truman authorizes a Geophysical Institute at UA to conduct Arctic and polar research

After WWII, enrollment increases to 300 students

Associated Students of the University of Alaska is created



UAF University Relations

1946

ASUA publishes The Polar Star, the first campus newspaper completely under student control

1947

UA funds from Territorial Legislature are frozen; Bunnell keeps school open through help from Alaskans and his own money

First summer session is held

Earl Beistline '39, '69 (Hon.)

Earl Beistline, one of UAF's most respected and longest-tenured teachers, might never have entered the profession had it not been for the sensational exit of his predecessor.

A "veritable drama of love, law and politics" opened a teaching job for Beistline, according to Leslie Noyes, author of "Rock Poker to Pay Dirt: The History of Alaska's School of Mines and its Successors."

Beistline's predecessor married the school's nurse in January 1946, and displeased administrators asked her to resign. If she was forced out, her new husband said, he would quit, too. The dispute went all the way to the Legislature, but the couple lost and left the university.

Suddenly, midsemester, the school needed an instructor to complete classes. The dean called Beistline, an alumnus who had recently returned to Fairbanks after serving in World War II.

"Thus began his 36-year career as an educator with the university. He loved to teach," his family reported in Beistline's 2012 obituary.

A former student once described Beistline as possessing a "hurry-up but happy, no-nonsense style." That style, conveyed by his ever-present smile and energetic pace, made Beistline a popular leader not only at the university but also in Alaska's mining industry for decades.

Beistline was born in Juneau in 1916, the son of a miner who spent several years in the Fairbanks area before going to work for the Alaska Juneau Gold Mining Co. in Juneau. During the Great Depression, Beistline saw how mining buffered the territory against the economic ravages elsewhere, and he became a lifelong advocate for the industry.

In college, Beistline played hockey, managed the basketball team and was elected student body president. During summers, he drove cold-water points to thaw ground for the Fairbanks Exploration Co. dredges.

Beistline served in the Aleutian Islands during World War II. After returning to the university as an instructor, he earned his professional engineer degree with a thesis on an innovative sampling technique he developed for a company dredging a Salcha River tributary.

Beistline married Dorothy Hering of Fairbanks, and they eventually had four children: Ralph, Bill, Kathy and Linda. (Dorothy later owned and ran Daisy A Day flower shop, and an endowment in her memory helps maintain the Georgeson Botanical Garden.)

University administrators steadily promoted Beistline, first to dean of the School of Mines in 1949, then to dean of faculty in 1960. He became provost in 1970 and later served as academic vice president for the statewide system.

Beistline helped create the Mineral Industry Research Laboratory in 1965. Despite his influence, in the early 1970s he lost a contentious bid to retain the geology department in the mining program.

While a strong advocate for his own views, Beistline always remained a gentleman. He convinced UA President William Wood '89 (Hon.) to allow a Vietnam War protest on campus, then attended it even though he disagreed with the demonstrators.

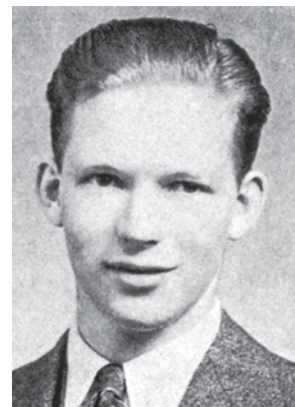
After retiring from the university in 1982, Beistline consulted for the industry and operated a placer mine on Eagle Creek with Doug Colp.

In 1986, Beistline helped form the Alaska Minerals Commission to advise the state on mining policy. As chair, he lobbied legislators on issues important to the industry in Alaska.

With Wood, Beistline helped create the Alaska Mining Hall of Fame in 1997 and was inducted a decade later. In 2006, he became one of the few Alaskans accepted into the National Mining Hall of Fame.

When Beistline died in 2012, a Fairbanks Daily News-Miner editorial said he had "left a legacy of service to Alaska that has been matched by few people in our state."

— Sam Bishop



1938 Denali yearbook

1949

Voters elect entire new Legislature, which rewrites Alaska's tax code, instituting the territory's first income tax to cover essential services such as the university

Terris Moore becomes UA's second president; President Bunnell is named president emeritus

Geophysical Institute opens

Ray Smith '43

Ray Smith never expected to attend college. In his small Maine hometown, those who did so were viewed as “kind of peculiar.” So in August 1939, when he and his friend Lloyd Atwood hiked the railroad tracks from Fairbanks to the University of Alaska, it was to find a job, not an education. The pair of 22-year-olds were out of money and hungry, having just arrived from the East Coast.

Reaching campus in late afternoon, Smith and Atwood found a man digging a ditch on the northwest corner of the Main Building. The man said he didn't think there were any jobs around; he was just happy to have one himself. But he added that they could get a meal at a nearby house.

After a brief debate won by their growling stomachs, the pair knocked on the door, Smith told Leslie Noyes, author “Rock Poker to Pay Dirt,” a history of UAF's mining school published in 2001.

A woman invited them in and said “President Bunnell” would join them shortly.

“A moment later, out pops this rotund guy all dressed up in a suit, and it was our ditch digger, President Charles Bunnell!” Smith said.

Over dinner, Bunnell asked the pair to enroll. Smith and Atwood said they had no jobs, money or place to stay. Bunnell offered them an old cabin near campus in exchange for repairs and noted that tuition was free. There was no refusing the man.

“He changed my life in the couple of hours I first met him,” Smith said last year, shortly before turning 100. “He remains a hero in my book of memories. I went from a broken upstart to a university president with his boost.”

But that's getting ahead of the story. First, Smith and Atwood had to survive the winter. They built an outhouse and root cellar, cut firewood and chinked the leaky cabin. They snared hares, picked berries and shot grouse, ducks and caribou. They recruited another roommate — Ernie Wolff '41— who some

years later would join the university faculty and run its Mineral Industry Research Laboratory.

After graduating in 1943, Smith served in the Army during World War II and married Beatrice Bennet in Maryland. They eventually had two sons. After the war, they returned to Alaska, where Smith began teaching at the School of Mines.

One highlight, he recalled, was preparing students for a final exam. “My method of teaching was to teach my students to think ‘why,’” Smith said.

In contrast, a fellow professor pushed memorization.

“At the conclusion of the final exam, my students were far superior,” Smith said. “I was proud of them.”

After three years, Smith left to earn a doctorate. In 1959, Michigan Technological University hired him to teach, and in 1965 he became its president.

In that role, he employed the personal touch he saw Bunnell model decades earlier.

Paul Metz '75, now a UAF professor, was a geological engineering student at Michigan Tech when Smith became its president. Metz left a message inviting Smith to dinner at an old boarding house where Metz and about 20 other



1941 Denali yearbook

students lived.

To Metz's surprise, Smith accepted. “So he came over and chatted and stayed til late at night” telling stories of Alaska, Metz recalled.

Ten years later, Metz was studying under Ernie Wolff for his master's at UAF. On a trip to Michigan, Metz visited Smith again, this time at Wolff's insistence. “We sat all night long chatting about the university,” Metz recalled.

Smith served as Michigan Tech's president until 1979, overseeing a great expansion.

Smith's first wife, Beatrice, died in 1998. He married Rachel Malcolm three years later. They live in Green Valley, a retirement community in southern Arizona.

— Sam Bishop

1949

Arthur Nagozruk Jr. is the first Inupiaq to graduate

Farthest-North Collegian publication ends in order to remove competition for news and advertising between it and the student newspaper, The Polar Star

1952

Salvatore De Leonardis and John Hakala earn the first graduate degrees, master's degrees in wildlife management

1953

Ernest Patty, one of the original faculty members in 1922, becomes the third president



Arturo Gabaldon

1954

President Patty begins major construction projects across campus

First community colleges established in Anchorage and Ketchikan

1955

Alaska Constitutional Convention convenes on Fairbanks campus

Masahisa Sugirura earns first UA Ph.D., in philosophy and geophysics



1956

Delegates sign the constitution for the proposed state of Alaska in the gymnasium, now Signers' Hall

President Emeritus Charles Bunnell dies at age 78

1957

Students create Tradition Stone to commemorate the "death of drinking" after President Patty bans alcohol the previous year

1958

University Fire Department forms with student volunteers

Jane MacKinnon '47

Jane MacKinnon remembers precisely how many students studied at the University of Alaska when she started school in the mid-1940s. That's because she knew all 33 of them.

The Fairbanks campus, depleted by student enlistments during World War II, was a tightknit community for those who remained. Every student lived in a single dormitory, along with some of the teachers. They were joined on campus by visiting soldiers, since Hess Hall served as an Army hospital during the war.

"There was a closeness," said MacKinnon, who graduated in 1947 with a degree in business administration. "There weren't many of us on campus, but we were all good friends. You were acquainted with everybody, even the professors."

The campus was small enough that some classes consisted of a student meeting individually with a professor. Some of their names — Bunnell, Duckering, Schaible and Skarland among them — are on the sides of campus buildings today.

But MacKinnon, 93, said the cozy atmosphere suited her well. She'd graduated from Nome High School, where her father owned a flying service, and enjoyed small-town life there after her family moved from Seattle. After spending the year after high school in Anchorage, MacKinnon felt the urge to attend school, and she wanted to remain in Alaska.

"I decided I had to do something with myself," she said.

MacKinnon said the cost of college was \$125 per semester, including room and board. For entertainment the small group would hold dances or ski to a nearby farm to have dinner

with anthropology Professor Ivar Skarland. USO tours would occasionally pass through as well, including one headlined by Bob Hope.

Those years left a lasting impression, both personally and professionally.

In Fairbanks, Jane met her future husband, J.S. "Skip" MacKinnon Jr., who was also attending college. Jane and Skip moved to his hometown of Juneau, where she used her business degree to work in the office at Alaska Laundry and Dry Cleaners. The business has been operated by the MacKinnon family in Juneau since the late 1800s.

"I got a good education, and I've used it all my life," she said. "It was a wonderful time."

MacKinnon maintained her university ties by serving as a board member of the UAF Alumni Association in the 1990s. Jane and Skip were followed at UAF by their son, E. Neil MacKinnon, who earned a mining engineering degree. A great-grandson, Mason Smith, plans to attend UAF in the fall.

Neil described the feel on campus as "different but the same" between his mother's era in the 1940s and his graduation in 1972. But by the time Jane returned to Fairbanks during her Alumni Association years, she said the transformation was remarkable.

In a half-century, the sleepy campus where everyone knew each other had grown into a hub for education and research.

"I think it's wonderful. It's really improved," she said. "The buildings and the whole atmosphere of the place have just changed so much."

— Jeff Richardson



1938 Denali yearbook

1959

Vice President Richard Nixon visits UA to boost the Republican Party in the soon-to-be-born state of Alaska

June 30: Congress passes the Alaska Statehood Act

Jan. 3: Alaska becomes the 49th state

1960

Alaska Legislature establishes the Institute of Marine Science



Rasmuson Library archives (for complete citation, see page 97)

GOVERNMENT FARM
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA
DUB Johnson

Several men gather to measure the height of grain growing at the Fairbanks Experiment Farm in the early 1900s. The university's Fairbanks campus sits on land originally designated by the federal government as an agricultural experiment station.



From the ground up

Agricultural college researches food
for the Far North

BY JEFF RICHARDSON

When it was established in 1917, the foundation of the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines was made clear by its name. The new school in Fairbanks would train students to harvest the state's resources, whether they were grown from the earth or pulled out of it.

Yet the school that would become the University of Alaska Fairbanks has always had a complicated relationship with agriculture. Federal agriculture science funding was responsible for keeping the college afloat during its lean early years, and UAF research still contributes to Northern farming today. But from the start, the college's students have largely pursued other subjects — only five students graduated with ag degrees during the 14 years

the college prominently featured the word “agriculture” in its name.

The university's agricultural roots were born about a decade before the university was established. The site where UAF is today was the location of the Fairbanks agricultural experiment station, which was started in 1906 to find crops that could grow in the Interior.

It wasn't easy. Eight years after the station opened, Superintendent J.W. Neal reported that the chaotic weather in the Tanana Valley was still a constant frustration.

“From observations reported there seem to have been no two seasons alike within a reasonable period of years,” he wrote. “Indeed, the variance is so great that one seldom fails to encounter some unexpected fault in the weather.”

Rasmuson Library archives (for complete citation, see page 97)



At top, a galloyak roams a Fairbanks Experiment Farm field sometime before 1932. The experimental animals, a cross between Galloway cattle and Tibetan yaks, couldn't reproduce and so that year made a one-time appearance on the school cafeteria menu.

At bottom, the first reindeer bull calf of the year stands beside his mom in April 2013 at the Fairbanks Experiment Farm.



1960

William R. Wood becomes the university's fourth president

UA receives one of its first computers, an IBM 1620, considered a state-of-the-art computing machine

1961

Old Main demolished after the Bunnell Building is completed next to its former location

Michael Krauss teaches the first Alaska Native language class, Yupik

But there were reasons, both practical and financial, why agriculture was emphasized in such a challenging location.

Agriculture in the Interior tended to follow mining in Alaska's early days, since those miners had to be fed. Early agricultural efforts were needed to help support the stream of gold seekers and homesteaders who were moving into the territory.

"Prior to refrigeration you had no choice but to grow a lot of it here," said Carol Lewis '76, who retired in 2012 as dean of the School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences and director of the Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station after a nearly four-decade career. "That's what you needed to do back then."

A university that emphasized agriculture also brought badly needed funds to a young school that was perpetually broke. James Wickersham '35 (Hon.), Alaska's delegate to Congress, claimed that he accidentally discovered the federal Morrill Acts and figured they'd be a good vehicle for seeding the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines. The federal acts, which were designed to promote agriculture, included a gift of land and \$50,000 per year.

Annual federal ag funds were the only money the university could really count on in its early decades, according to UAF historian Neil Davis '55, '61. In his book "The College Hill Chronicles," Davis wrote that the funding was "absolutely crucial to opening the doors of the new school on College Hill, and to keeping them open during the early years."

Farm workers lived in a dormitory on the new campus, and grew various types of hay,



The yaks did not take well to being milked. You could do it, but it was not very simple."

brome, oats, barley and wheat. Vegetable crops included legumes, peas and potatoes, along with livestock such as ducks, geese, rabbits, sheep, goats and cattle.

But even as the money flowed, learning how to be an Alaska farmer at the state's university was never a popular option. Lewis isn't sure what courses were even offered in the early days, because records about students who studied agriculture during that era are scarce.

"Not many people took those classes," she said. "It was a hands-on place, and people who worked on a farm at that time weren't going to go to college."

A history of experimentation

Although the college had few ag students, the campus was an innovative environment where researchers maintained a willingness to try untested new agriculture techniques. Throughout the university's

history, those efforts ranged from lasting successes to comical failures.

An early project of the respected botanist C.C. Georgeson, who oversaw Alaska's Agricultural Experiment Stations, was to cross Tibetan yaks with Galloway cattle from Scotland. The result was an experimental breed called galloyaks that could endure cold Alaska winters, according to "The Cornerstone on College Hill," by UAF Professor Terrence Cole '76, '78.

But the era of yaks and their cross-bred cousins was short-lived. Galloyaks couldn't reproduce, and yaks weren't enamored with becoming farm animals.

"The yaks did not take well to being milked," Lewis said. "You could do it, but it was not very simple."

According to legend, the era of the galloyak came to a sudden end in 1932 when one of the animals broke into the garden of the university's president, Charles Bunnell. The subsequent winter of galloyak-themed menus revealed another drawback of the animals — the tough meat was almost inedible.

In the years that followed, other livestock efforts were similarly challenging.

A 4-H leader and cooperative extension agent tried to raise chickens in the southwest Alaska village of Aniak, only to discover that their feet would freeze to the ground during bouts of nasty weather. Efforts to conduct hog and dairy cow research flourished during the years when technology in Alaska was equivalent to that in more temperate states, but were halted over time once that work could be done more cheaply in the Lower 48.

1962

Women's rifle established; the team sweeps the national championship six times within the next seven years

Alaska voters approve bond to begin construction of an Arctic Research Center on the campus' West Ridge to focus America's research in the North

Alaska community colleges are brought into the university system by an act of the Legislature

Oct. 1: KUAC FM radio station signs on the air

UA research has continued in Alaska-based livestock feeds, including fish meal and barley additives.

The most successful livestock project at UAF kept its aim closer to home. Reindeer research, which has been conducted in Alaska since the 1920s, was shifted to UAF oversight in 1983. The program has provided Alaska herders with education about breeding and offered guidelines for slaughtering and butchering.

The UAF program also underscores the do-it-yourself nature of agricultural research in Alaska — no other school in North America conducts reindeer research.

“We’re it, which is cool but it’s also frustrating,” said Gregory Finstad ’81, ’08, who manages the program. “In the beef industry there are dozens of universities doing a diversity of research. We have to do everything.”

Other early crop innovations that emerged from the university have helped shape farming in the state.

Georgeson became well-known for giving free seeds to Alaska pioneers, with the condition that they write him back and tell him how their plants fared. The effort allowed him to compile a basic record of how plant varieties grew throughout Alaska. Those records led to the broad distribution of many staples of Alaska gardens, most notably the Sitka-hybrid strawberry, which is grown throughout the state today. That tradition continues today at UAF’s Georgeson Botanical Garden and numerous seed societies established across Alaska.

The quest for hardy crops didn’t end with Georgeson. During a busy period from

1953 to 1987, the Agricultural Experiment Station enjoyed a period of innovation that would have made the horticulturist proud. More than 40 strains of Alaska crops were developed, from Alasclear potatoes to Weal barley.

Pat Holloway, a retired UAF horticulture professor, said UAF’s Don Dinkel revolutionized Alaska gardening in the 1960s by figuring out that plastic mulches were effective at warming soils. The professor’s unorthodox technique has become a standard remedy for growing in cold garden beds.

“He did all of the research to figure out if that would be useful, and it’s everywhere now — he was way ahead of his time,” Holloway said. “That’s part of the experiment station.”

Perhaps the most influential bit of ag research was sparked by a tidbit that Holloway overheard at a greenhouse conference in 1999. A flower grower mentioned that peonies, a beloved decorative flower, bloomed at a different time of year in Alaska than anywhere else in the world.

That detail made Holloway wonder whether the state could fill a small void in the world peony market, which led Sen. Ted Stevens to include \$13,000 in an earmark to pay for peony plants and roots at UAF. Two years later, a vendor in London cold-called Holloway at her office. He was ready to place an order for distribution — 100,000 stems a week. At the time UAF, with a modest 20-by-60-foot plot, was the only peony grower in the state.

“I was just dumbfounded,” she said. “I thought, ‘What in the world is going on?’”

1962

Project Chariot, a plan to create a harbor in Northwest Alaska using hydrogen bombs, is shelved after UA scientists and others raise alarms about radiation fallout

1963

Alaska Legislature creates the Institute of Arctic Biology

1964

UAF athletic coaches and student skiers, including Nat Goodhue ’65 and Gail Bakken ’65, organize the first Equinox Marathon

Sports teams, formerly known as the Polar Bears, become the Nanooks



At top, Pat Holloway, who first promoted peony production in Alaska while a UAF horticulture professor, enjoys a bloom of the Leslie Peck variety in early July 2017 at the Georgeson Botanical Garden.

At bottom, people gather at the Georgeson Botanical Garden for a musical performance in June 2017. UAF Summer Sessions arranges the Music in the Garden series of concerts on Thursday evenings in summer.

1965

University Fire Department firehouse is built

Vera Alexander earns a doctorate in marine science, becoming the first woman to receive a Ph.D. from the university.

1966

ASUA becomes official part of university hierarchy, giving students more say in university decisions

Faculty tenure becomes established policy



Mingchu Zhang, professor of agronomy and soil sciences with UAF's School of Natural Resources and Extension, samples mature wheat in 2011. The wheat is being studied as a potential Alaska crop.

1966

Moore Hall becomes first co-ed residence hall

1967

Fairbanks campus serves as evacuation site and emergency shelter for more than 7,000 residents after the Chena River floods town in August

1969

Rural Student Services is reorganized to help provide people from rural areas of Alaska access to higher education

The Geophysical Institute's Poker Flat Research Range, 30 miles north of Fairbanks, launches its first rocket

That validation has led to a peony boom in Alaska during the past decade. It's spurred more than 100 farmers to plant the flowers, which can sell for as much as \$5 a stem. A peony growers association has bloomed around the young industry, which has been called Alaska's next big export crop.

"We could close the loop on peony seasons and make it a year-round flower," Holloway said. "That's something everyone in the world wants."

Early agricultural roots

Those victories and challenges emerged from a university that has often been conflicted about its agricultural roots. Holloway said there has always been a tension between academics and agriculture, even among those who established the college.

Wickersham loved the potential of a land-grant institution, selecting a location next to the modern-day Fairbanks Experiment Farm because he knew the nearby fields would be conveyed as part of the school's mission. But Bunnell faced criticism for how he carried out that role. Congress replaced Bunnell as director of the experiment station in 1947, upset that federal funding seemed to be going more toward University of Alaska operations than farm research under his watch. The station remained part of the university and has continued under UAF to this day.

But in many respects, through changes in Alaska and its university system, the

underlying goal remains the same today as it was a century ago. One of the primary arguments for supporting agricultural research in Alaska is due to a bleak reality: Residents of the state need to do a better job of feeding themselves.

In the early 20th century, small farms and dairies supplied a sparse population of settlers, but not without the help of food shipments from the Lower 48. Alaskans are even worse off today, said Alaska Farm Bureau President Bryce Wrigley. The state imports more than 95 percent of its food, which he said sets up its residents for immediate shortages if that flow is ever crimped.

Wrigley believes developing crops that are well-suited for Alaska is a key to reversing that trend, and that UA has been a leader in that effort. Northern varieties need to be able to mature during a short growing season, and ideally produce good yields during that time.

He cites the UAF-developed Sunshine barley variety, a hull-less grain with stiff stalks that can withstand a harsh winter. He has about 150 acres of Sunshine barley planted at his Delta Junction farm, which he has used to make flour since 2011.

Wrigley said it's important that the state continue to fund ag research for the North, even in an era of tight budgets.

"There's nobody else who's doing that right now," Wrigley said. "It's something we need to maintain our food security up here."

Finstad said that reality is one of the best arguments for continued reindeer

“

We could close the loop on peony seasons and make it a year-round flower.”

1970

UA enrollment hits 3,645 students, an increase of nearly 400 percent since 1960

Federal government names UA a Sea Grant institution

Elmer E. Rasmuson Library and the Fine Arts Complex open

KUAC FM becomes the first member station of National Public Radio in Alaska



Fall colors brighten the hillside surrounding the Fairbanks Experiment Farm on Sept. 17, 2014. The farm was founded on this site in 1906 as one of several federal agricultural experiment stations in Alaska. It later became part of the university.

1970

University researchers spend next three years on several studies related to construction of a trans-Alaska oil pipeline

1971

Center for Cross-Cultural Studies opens

KUAC TV begins broadcasting, bringing public television to the Interior

Mandatory restricted hours end for women living in residence halls




research, since it bolsters a product that is well-suited to Alaska. He believes many Alaskans aren't focused enough on where their food is from, but said those priorities could change quickly.

"I think it's going to take a severe catastrophe to scare the crap out of everyone," he said.

Even amid that reality, Lewis said she can't help but see the university's influence in gardens and farmers markets throughout the state. Hoop houses that cover rural vegetable beds are a remnant of outreach and education from a half-century ago. The locally grown potatoes, strawberries and cabbages that feed Alaskans now are often a product of years of research at a university farm.

"UAF should be proud of that work," she said. "It should blow its own horn about that."

Holloway believes the legacy of agriculture around the Fairbanks campus runs even deeper. Those fields of grain and vegetables set apart the one-time mining town from other Alaska communities that boomed and quickly disappeared.

"I think that's one reason why Fairbanks didn't fade away like other gold rush towns," she said. "Agriculture brought stability to this area and gave people a reason to be here." 

1972

Alaska Legislature establishes the Alaska Native Language Center

Ernest Gruening Building and William Ransom Wood Center open

Kuskokwim Community College in Bethel opens

Prohibition ends on campus

1950s-1970s

Neil Davis '55, '61

T. Neil Davis rebuilt aircraft engines at age 16, conjured a rocket range from scrap at 36 and wrote erudite yet amusing books on wildly diverse topics until his death at 84 last year.

An incident in his book “Rockets Over Alaska” might best illustrate the UAF professor’s unconventional genius.

At NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center in the early 1960s, Davis planned to send sensors into the upper atmosphere using rockets launched from a ship. Before the sensors went on the rockets, NASA’s test facility had to spin them to make sure they’d survive the launch. But a more prestigious satellite project knocked Davis’ sensors off the test schedule just before the ship was to sail.

Instead of giving up, Davis and his crew hung a sensor from a tree with two ropes, walked it in circles until it was wound up tight and then released it, letting the sensor spin rapidly. The testing facility picked up the signals and confirmed the sensor had spun fast enough to meet the launch criteria. The sensors and their rockets got on the ship.

So did Davis, and he spent the next month sailing the southern seas and launching his devices into the ionosphere.

That work and other projects provided the technical expertise and contacts that helped him establish the Poker Flat Research Range just north of Fairbanks a few years later.

The U.S. military was looking for a northern range in 1968 because Denmark had nixed several experiments in Greenland after a U.S. B-52 carrying nuclear bombs crashed there.

The military contracted with UAF’s Geophysical Institute, even though it had no rocket range. So Davis, by then the institute’s assistant director, and about half the institute’s staff built one in a hurry, and the first rocket launched in March 1969.

Davis developed that ability to make do early on, as his parents moved across a Depression-strangled America looking for work.

“It was very difficult,” he said in late November 2016 while sitting at the home he and his family built on Miller Hill Road, just west of campus. “We were pretty poor, actually.”

In 1942, Davis’ parents moved to Alaska when his father got work with the military. Davis and his younger brother followed two years later after their parents homesteaded southeast of Fairbanks.

Far from town, Davis took correspondence courses for school. “Somehow school was not right — the only course I finished was one on gasoline engines,” he said.

In 1947, Wien Airlines hired him as an intern mechanic. Within a year, at age 16, he was rebuilding the big radial engines in DC-3 aircraft.

He finished high school in Iowa. There, he met his future wife, Rosemarie. From 1953 to 1962, they had three children: Patricia, Douglas and Deborah.

Davis earned his bachelor’s in geophysics from UA in 1955, a master’s from the California Institute of Technology in 1957 and a doctorate from UA in 1961.

Davis took an early retirement from UAF in 1981. As grant money for scientific work tightened, he had begun to find the job frustrating. The state’s enticing retirement rules at the time tipped his decision.

“I still feel guilty about doing that,” he said in November. “I figured I still owed it to the Alaska public to do what I can.”

What he could do was write. He’d found the talent when he started a weekly newspaper column about Alaska science in 1976.

So Davis became an author, completing a dozen books. He explained permafrost in one and the aurora borealis in another. He chronicled the University of Alaska’s early decades. He told the story of his experience with the health care system as daughter Patricia died of cancer.

The books never made money, he said.

They were his gift to Alaska, a generous return on that early retirement.

— Sam Bishop

Editor’s note: Neil Davis died at his home Dec. 10, 2016, just 10 days after he was interviewed and photographed for this article.



1955 Denali yearbook

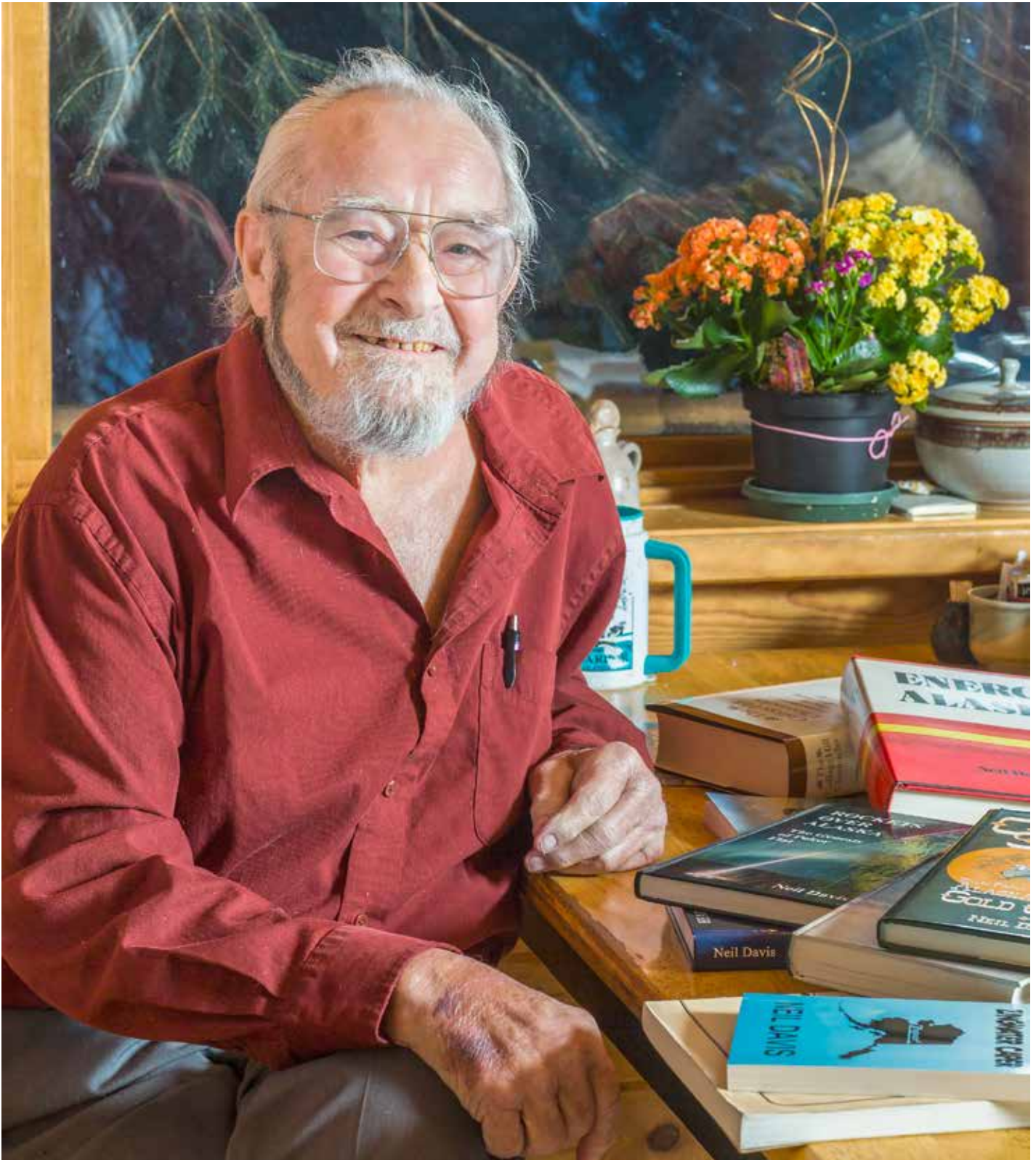
1973

President Wood retires, and Robert W. Hiatt succeeds him

UA Foundation is established

THEATA, a magazine of nonfiction articles by Alaska Native students, is published

Nanooks win first intercollegiate basketball championship, the NAIA Division I title



1974

Tanana Valley Community College opens in downtown Fairbanks

First annual Festival of Native Arts celebrates Alaska's diverse cultural traditions

Fairbanks Symphony Orchestra takes up permanent residence in the Charles W. Davis Concert Hall

"The Native Peoples and Languages of Alaska" map is published, showing regions where 20 Alaska Native languages are spoken



1975

University reorganizes as a statewide office overseeing three main campuses — in Fairbanks, Anchorage and Juneau — and a community college division

Northwest Community College opens in Nome

Bristol Bay Community College opens in Dillingham

Professor Eb Rice publishes “Building in the North,” a guide to cold-weather construction in Alaska

Ann Tremarello '57

Ann Tremarello arrived at the University of Alaska with a simple goal: Put in her time and go somewhere else.

Her family was planning to move in 1953 from Virginia to Elmendorf Air Force Base, near Anchorage, where her father was being stationed. He wanted his daughter, who had just graduated from high school, to stick close to home.

"He felt I was too young to live that far away," she said. "He said, 'There's a college up there somewhere. Go there for a year.'"

Tremarello's plan to make a quick exit from Alaska failed, but there isn't a hint of regret in her voice. She not only graduated from the University of Alaska, she also played a crucial role in welcoming new students to Fairbanks in the decades that followed.

She retired in 2002 after a long career as the registrar. During her tenure at UAF, Tremarello watched as the campus grew from a remote outpost to a modern university.

When Tremarello enrolled at UA, that journey seemed unlikely.

She stepped onto a tiny campus with 400 students — just one-fifth the size of her Virginia high school. Since it didn't offer her preferred degree of interior design, she took shorthand and typing, figuring she'd eventually "get a job and go somewhere else."

But after a year, she told her father that she'd try another. When she met her future husband, Joe Tremarello '56, '68, as a sophomore, suddenly Fairbanks seemed like a good place to stay.

"After that, all thoughts of leaving left my mind," she said.

Tremarello said the campus was "rough by today's standards," with few buildings and limited class offerings, but the colorful, close atmosphere drew her in. An eclectic blend of students and instructors knew each other and would often socialize. The school's president, Ernest Patty '53 (Hon.), even policed the punch bowl during dances to keep students from spiking it with booze.

Those ties continued after she graduated in 1957 with a business administration degree. After briefly working for an accounting firm in downtown Fairbanks, the newly married

Tremarello decided she wanted to work closer to their on-campus apartment.

The registrar, Laura Jones, offered Tremarello a job, where she was one of three "worker bees" who did it all — churning out transcripts, recording grades and processing scholarships.

She would also do dictation for Jones, who answered all queries personally and sent new students a list of college supplies. Years later, Tremarello learned she had been telling

students to bring their goulashes to campus, using the spelling for the Hungarian comfort food rather than the wet-weather footwear.

"I was horrified when I found out, but the university survived in spite of me," she said with a laugh.

Tremarello remained in the office for the rest of her long career, ultimately seeing her once-tiny campus grow to 9,000 students. By the time she retired, Tremarello had overseen the evolution from a manual filing system to the computer age, with a few other record-keeping overhauls in between.

Her best memories, however, were about helping students make the sometimes-difficult transition to college. By the time she left UAF, Tremarello had the moniker of a favorite aunt — Ann T.

"I loved working with students — that was probably the best part of my job," she said. "It was the way I felt we could help."

— Jeff Richardson



Ann Maxwell with her future husband, Joe Tremarello, in the 1957 Denali yearbook.

1976

Howard A. Cutler becomes first UAF chancellor

For the first time, UAF enrollment figures show more females (53 percent) than males (47 percent)

1977

UA has a financial crisis, with an estimated \$10 million shortfall; President Hiatt is forced to resign

In September, regents hire Neil Humphrey as seventh president of UA; he resigns after four months due to the university's severe financial ills

Linda Gordon '65

Song inspired Linda Dahl Gordon to enroll at the university in Fairbanks. "I almost went to the University of Washington," she said. "But when I was in high school I heard the Choir of the North perform. I thought, 'I want to be a part of that.'"

"If I hadn't been at school that day, everything would have been different."

Instead, in 1960 the young woman from Anchorage headed north after graduation to sing under the direction of Ron Berg. Her instincts had been right: The renowned university choir won the Pacific Northwest title her freshman year.

Gordon stopped singing when Berg left the university the next year, but she had already found something else to take its place.

"In gym you had to sign up for two classes," she said. "I signed up for rifle and skiing. Rifle happened before the snow fell, so I never did learn to ski."

That's because even though Gordon had never shot before, she ended up winning the first individual women's title in the country. She helped make the Nanooks the first team to win the national championship, and helped them win again the next two years. She is clear, though, that the team's driving force was its coach, Master Sgt. E.F. Horton, for whom the shooting range in the Patty Center is now named.

At the time, the rifle team was part of ROTC, and many on the team were novices, but the master sergeant-cum-coach had the right mix of discipline and motivation.

"Sgt. Horton was just the best," she said. "If you wanted to shoot at 11 at night, he'd open up the range for you."

Linda Gordon's future husband, George Gordon '62, was also a member of the team. They were one of three couples who went from teammates to spouses.

"We never would have met otherwise," she recalled. "He was three years older, studying electrical engineering, didn't take the same classes."

George Gordon got his degree in 1962, Linda Gordon graduated with a degree in education in 1965, and they became successful business owners and developers in Fairbanks. Shortly before George Gordon's death in 2014, the pair endowed a scholarship for the Nanook rifle team, a little twist of fate since she had once declined a rifle scholarship offered to her.

She remembers during her college years "being broke all the time, but all of us were in the same boat."

"Dean [Edward] Voldseth gave me a scholarship, but I turned it down because I didn't think I was poor enough," she said.

UAF was smaller then (and less bureaucratic, she noted) but still rich in opportunities.

"My fondest memories are the opportunities given to me by the university," she said. "Being secretary of the student body, beating the choir at the University of Washington, the rifle team — I couldn't have done that at Washington."

"I was lucky to have such great people. It makes you who you are today, puts you in a good situation when you get out of college. You don't give up."

— *Tori Tragis*



1963 Denali yearbook

1977

First issue of Permafrost, an English Department journal of student fiction, poetry and photography, is printed

1978

In February, regents appoint Foster Diebold, the board's executive secretary, as interim president

1979

Regents appoint Jay Barton as UA's ninth president

Chukchi Campus established in Kotzebue, 26 miles north of the Arctic Circle



1980

Journalism Department begins publishing The Northern Sun newspaper

University of Alaska Museum of the North opens to the public, moving from Signers' Hall to the Otto Geist Building

Alaska Native Studies degree offered

Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival created



Darcy Harrod '04

1980

Institute of Marine Science begins operating 133-foot Research Vessel *Alpha Helix* out of Seward for the National Science Foundation

1981

Patrick O'Rourke succeeds Howard Cutler as UAF chancellor

First publication of *The Sun Star*, the student paper born in merger of *The Northern Sun* and *The Polar Star*

Enrollment tops 5,000 students for the first time

Alan Straub '66

When Alan Straub arrived in Alaska soon after statehood, he was a freshly married young man with a new job as an auto mechanic.

Straub and his wife, Linda, had bought a station wagon and left their California hometown in search of adventure. But as they drove through Fairbanks, Straub realized he didn't have much of a plan for his new life in the remote outpost.

"I didn't really have a clue what I was going to do," he said with a chuckle.

The answer came when they passed the University of Alaska. A lifelong tinkerer, Straub figured he could make good use of his time in the North by studying engineering.

It was a good decision. Decades after his 1966 graduation from UA, Straub's imprint is on bridges and buildings across the U.S. His projects include Aloha Stadium in Honolulu, the tanker docks in Valdez and the Auburn Bridge in California, which towers 731 feet above the American River.

"Engineering just felt right to me," he said.

Straub had always been happy to build things. When he was 12 years old, he put together a '37 Chevy engine on his family farm in Northern California. He'd eventually become a journeyman mechanic in a local car shop, a job he enjoyed despite the feeling that it wouldn't provide much of a future.

He was only partly right. It led to the offer to fix cars in Alaska, where his career in engineering took shape and he found new outlets for his urge to build.

The most visible example came during Straub's senior year, when he planned the construction of a massive three-legged ice arch in the middle of campus. The structure, which he and fellow engineering student Mark Fryer '66, '67 built by packing snow into forms and soaking it with water, was 40 feet across, 15 feet high, and powerful enough that someone could use a swing suspended from the center of it. Straub said they recruited Miss Alaska, Carla Sullivan, to give the first demonstration.

That kind of effort caught the attention of faculty, who named Straub the top engineering student during his senior year.

"I about fell out of my chair — it just flabbergasted me," he

said. "There were guys a lot smarter than me, but I was a hands-on kind of guy."

That quality helped steer Straub toward a varied engineering career. He worked on teams that built bridges in Interior Alaska, jails on the East Coast, and steel bridges and structures along the West Coast. In 1980 he became an owner of Christie Constructors, joining two former co-workers as partners in the Richmond, California, company. He even dabbled in auto racing, setting a class record with his Porsche GT3 at a local road race track.



Straub changes a tire near Circle Hot Springs in 1966, a task he recommends everyone learn to do before it's needed.

Straub, 77, remarried after connecting with a high school classmate in the 1990s. He and his wife, Rosemary, spend much of their retirement hauling a fifth-wheel RV touring the U.S. They've made it to all 50 capitals and to 13 presidential libraries since 2010, and the RV has been to every state except Arkansas and Hawaii.

A particularly memorable visit was to Alaska, when the couple stopped at the campus where Alan studied as a young man. The friendly reception they received in Fairbanks made an impression on Rosemary, mirroring the feeling Straub experienced more than a half-century earlier.

"She picked up the warmth from the people there, and that's always the feeling I got from the University of Alaska," he said. "I've got a great love for that place."

— Jeff Richardson

1983

UAF signs agreements with schools in Japan, Denmark, Canada, the People's Republic of China and the Soviet Union

Rural Alaska Honors Institute created to improve access to successful college careers of primarily rural, Alaska Native high school students

Honors Program begins

KUAC TV has the largest per-capita audience during prime time among all public television stations nationwide

Robert Bundtzen '71

Spend any time talking with Robert Bundtzen and you'll hear the word "home" a lot. "Home" means Alaska. Sometimes it refers specifically to Fairbanks, or it could be Anderson or maybe Anchorage, but there's never any doubt that home is Alaska, for him and for his three siblings, for most of their lives. Bob Bundtzen's brother, Tom '73, '81, is a Fairbanks-based geologist [see "A Mine for Learning" on page 4]. Sister Cheryl Bundtzen-Bradley '87 is an accountant in North Pole. A second sister, Susan McCloughry, was a nurse in Fairbanks until her death in 2000.

Bob Bundtzen was born in North Dakota and first moved to Alaska when he was 11, in 1960, where he attended University Park Elementary in Fairbanks. He spent the next three years in a one-room school in Anderson while his father worked as an electrical engineer at the Ballistic Missile Early Warning System station in Clear, which was being built at the time.

"Art Anderson sold some of his land and people moved up there and lived in trailer houses," Bundtzen said. "That's what we lived in — a trailer house.

"We had a one-room school. Twelve students, four of them Bundtzens."

The family moved Outside when his mother was diagnosed with cancer, but after she died, they returned to Fairbanks.

"I had already been accepted to the University of Colorado, but I wanted to stay home," Bundtzen said. "I asked [UAF] if it was still possible to enroll. They said sure, so I said goodbye to the University of Colorado. I wanted to stay in Alaska."

"I had some great teachers, especially Dr. [Gerard] Swartz," Bundtzen recalled. "He taught some great courses in biology and parasitology. And there was lots of skiing, lots of going out into the wilderness, although I will say we worked pretty hard as premed students. We had to keep up the grades so we could get into medical school. Early on I decided I wanted to be a physician, and I worked towards that."

Bundtzen got his bachelor of science degree in 1971, then went to the University of Washington as part of the first cohort

of the WWAMI (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho) Medical Education Program for medical students from the Northwest. He met his wife, who was training in pathology, during a fellowship in Madison, Wisconsin. After their education was done, it was inevitable: "We came back home."

This time home meant Anchorage, where Bundtzen has a private practice as an infectious disease consultant.

"Physicians call me when they have a more difficult case that they feel they want more information," he said. "Sometimes it's diagnosis, sometimes treatment. Pneumonia, HIV, AIDS, immunocompromised patients, stuff like that."

He also works with Anchorage-area hospitals on infection control issues and measures.

Though he now spends his days in a hospital setting, those early years in Anderson ("in the middle of the taiga") taught him about the outdoors.

"We did lots of trapping during the winter, hunting, fishing," he said. "I did run dogs but really didn't know that much. Just used three dogs to pull our gear when we'd go trapping.

But it did kind of make me want to do more in regards to dog mushing."

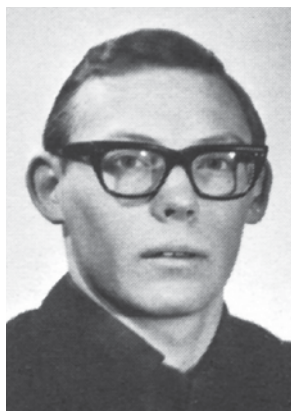
And how. Bundtzen has run the Iditarod 15 times.

"I scratched twice at Shaktoolik," he said. "I had leaders that were mentally tired, but I've finished every other time."

Bundtzen's dog team, currently at 27 dogs, lives in his front yard, part of several acres in the Stuckagain Heights neighborhood in Anchorage. He runs them on the Chugiak dog trails about 30 miles away or trucks them wherever the snow is good. Bundtzen most recently helped a fellow Anchorage physician train for the 2017 race, but he hasn't completely ruled out another trip of his own to Nome.

His schedule will be getting a little more crowded, though — his two young grandchildren have moved from Hawaii to Anchorage, where their father, an IT professional, now works. It's a family tradition, where all paths lead back home to Alaska.

— *Tori Tragis*



1969 Denali yearbook

1984

Signers' Hall, former gymnasium and museum, remodeled as main administration building

Donald O'Dowd becomes 10th UA president

A 60-unit residence, the Student Apartment Complex, opens, relieving a campus housing shortage by accommodating 240 single students



Congress passes Arctic Research Policy Act; Geophysical Institute Director Juan Roederer becomes chair of the Arctic Research Commission, created by the act

KSUA FM hits the air Sept. 6, playing the Steely Dan hit "FM"

President Ronald Reagan visits UAF on a rest stop during his return trip from China to the U.S.; he meets Pope John Paul at Fairbanks International Airport



1985

Alaska Legislature creates the Sydney Chapman Chair; Syun Akasofu named the first recipient

Duckering Building and Rasmuson Library expand

1987

UA system restructures as a result of budget cuts; community colleges become responsibility of the four-year institutions

Terese Kaptur '76, '86

Like the gold miner in the Robert Service poem, Terese Kaptur came to Alaska for a good reason: to get rich. But although she didn't get rich, she fell under the same spell as the miner, even after she went back home to Michigan.

"I couldn't get Alaska out of my system," Kaptur remembered. "I thought about it all the time."

Kaptur first went to Alaska in summer 1970. Her boyfriend had fought wildfires there the previous year and said it was a financial bonanza. Kaptur wanted a shot at it, and even though 1970 was a dud for conflagrations, she returned for another stint in 1971. That was a better year fire-wise, which was good because Kaptur needed the money: She had enrolled at UAF for the fall semester.

Kaptur had always been good at music and math. But it wasn't until she auditioned for Professor Jean-Paul Billaud that she truly focused on music, which has been the sustaining force in her life ever since.

Earning a music degree in piano and composition was demanding.

"It was basically a double major," she said.

She also worked as the department's music librarian.

The library was a room filled with sheets of music scattered all over, scores and genres intermingled with one another.

"It took two semesters to sort that out," she said. "But I learned a lot about that library!"

The Music Department was small, something that was part of her attraction to UAF and that stood in contrast to the large, competitive University of Michigan, which she also considered.

"[UAF is] more intimate," she said. "The compositions I wrote — my classmates played them, faculty played them. I'd never

have had that opportunity or been able to play principal position at the University of Michigan, and that's still true today."

Kaptur also began writing grants for herself and other students. It was a skill she would later employ as director of several nonprofit arts associations throughout the country, including the Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival. She uses that venue to fulfill her deepest belief: that in addition to bringing joy and inspiration, music can heal.

One such healing program is with renowned harmonica player Mike Stevens. In cooperation with the Fairbanks festival, he has traveled to various Alaska villages several times to work with young people to encourage musicianship as an alternative to other, destructive life choices they might make. [See related story in the spring 2014 Aurora.]

Kaptur practices what she preaches. After she was diagnosed with cancer in the late 1990s, she underwent a number of operations. Her reaction to anesthesia was debilitating — worse, she said, than the surgery itself. After much research, she found a way to effectively anesthetize herself through music based on her own, highly personalized compositions. It was, no doubt, an outcome of her college

education that she could never have anticipated in 1971.

But the outlines of that approach were there even then.

"The biggest gift from being part of the UAF community was the sense of nurturing," Kaptur said.

"The faculty there inspired us and believed in us to achieve our potential and reach beyond it. They were ambitious for us. ... They raised the bar really high for us."

— *Tori Tragis*

"The faculty there inspired us and believed in us to achieve our potential and reach beyond it. They were ambitious for us. ... They raised the bar really high for us."

UAF restructures with branch campuses in Bethel, Nome, Kotzebue and Dillingham, along with multiple rural education centers

John Butrovich Building opens to house statewide administration

Faculty Senate forms


1988

Interior-Aleutians Campus established, with home base in Fairbanks

From a cabin to a rocket range

BY ELLE FOURNIER

A test rocket launches from the UAF Geophysical Institute's Poker Flat Research Range, about 35 miles northeast of Fairbanks, in February 2017.



An old cabin outfitted with a camera and a radio became UAF's first auroral research station in 1930. Professor Veryl Fuller's work in the dark wilderness outside that cabin, located off the Richardson Highway several miles southeast of Fairbanks, set the tone for auroral research into the 21st century.

Government officials interested in the aurora's disruption of radio communications arranged a \$10,000 grant to Fuller so he could determine the height of the ionosphere. That's the region of the Earth's atmosphere where certain long-range radio waves propagate — and where the aurora appears.

At the cabin and a second location on campus, Fuller and his students used their radios to coordinate the simultaneous capture of night sky pictures. They then used the difference in the images to triangulate the aurora's height.

The year Fuller established the auroral research station, Syun-Ichi Akasofu '61 was born more than 3,000 miles away in Saku, a city west of Tokyo in central Japan. Akasofu's introduction to the aurora was through one of his mother's favorite songs, called "A Wanderer's Song," which includes a line about the aurora.

"She used to sing it like a lullaby," Akasofu recalled.

Fuller died in 1935, leaving his work to be finished by Professor Ervin Bramhall. In 1937, their findings were published in "Auroral Research at the University of Alaska."

The years following were a difficult time for research at UAF, as many faculty and students left to serve in World War II. However, in 1946, an act of Congress established the Geophysical Institute, still the home of UAF's auroral research.

Back in Japan, after starting college in 1949, Akasofu got a job at a magnetic observatory, partially to fund his mountaineering excursions. He maintained the instrument that records changes in Earth's magnetic field. He noticed the instrument constantly changing.

"I asked the manager of the observatory what was causing those changes. He said, it must be aurora in Siberia or Alaska," Akasofu said. "That was the second time that I heard about the aurora."

The experience sparked Akasofu's interest. While a college student in Japan, he attended a geophysics conference. "I must have asked some question to the lecturer. He said, 'Have you read the Chapman-Ferraro paper?'"

The lecturer was referring to a paper written by Sydney Chapman '58 (Hon.), an Oxford University professor, mathematician and geophysicist who soon

“
I got a letter from then-president of the university, William Wood, giving me tenure. I did not know what it meant.”

became instrumental in the Geophysical Institute's success. At a time when Alaska was not yet a state and the Fairbanks population was just over 5,000, as a visiting professor Chapman would bring much-needed star power to the University of Alaska.

Akasofu sought out Chapman's paper but found it so dense that he “decided perhaps the aurora was too difficult to study,” he recalled.

Nevertheless, Akasofu set out to understand the article and resolved to write to Chapman with some questions.

“I learned that [Chapman] was an Oxford professor, the top guy in geophysics. I hesitated to write to him,” Akasofu said. “So I left it. I didn't really know what I was doing, and I was climbing mountains, mostly.”

Akasofu learned that Chapman, after recently retiring from Oxford, had begun to spend three months at the Geophysical Institute every year. Eventually Akasofu worked up the nerve to write Chapman with about 10 questions.

“I never expected he would respond, being a top guy in the field,” Akasofu said. “But, surprisingly, I got a reply. Some of the questions he could not answer.”

In his reply, Chapman suggested that Akasofu come to Alaska to study under him.

“The GI sent me money for the airfare, so I had no choice,” Akasofu said, laughing.

Cameras and rockets

Working closely with Chapman, Akasofu finished his Ph.D. in 1961. (He also took

a few breaks for mountain climbing, including an ascent of Mount Silvertip.) After graduating, Akasofu continued his research at the GI and focused on a new technology — the “all-sky” camera.

With these cameras, researchers could “take a picture of the whole sky at many, many locations,” Akasofu said. “It was the first time in history that we could study the aurora over the entire polar region at the same time, almost like looking down by satellite.”

Using the data, Akasofu began studying explosive auroral activity, a phenomenon he would describe in his 1964 paper, “The Development of the Auroral Substorm.” It became the foundation for future research.

Soon after the publication of this pivotal paper, Akasofu was promoted to professor at the university.

“I got a letter from then-president of the university, William Wood, giving me tenure. I did not know what it meant,” said Akasofu. “Perhaps a couple months after, I got a phone call from the president, saying ‘I gave you tenure. Why didn't you respond?’ I said, ‘I didn't know what it was.’”

The years after Akasofu became a professor were marked by growth at UAF. To host rockets designed to penetrate and study the aurora, it built Poker Flat Research Range, the first and only university-owned rocket range in the world. The first launch came in 1969 after a rushed initial construction led by Neil Davis '55, '61, the Geophysical Institute's assistant director. [See a profile of Davis on page 36.] The facility was completed in 1972.

1988

Synthetic Aperture Radar antenna installed on top of the Geophysical Institute to receive, process and archive data from Earth-orbiting environmental satellites

National Polar Ice Coring office moves to Fairbanks campus

Project Jukebox created in Rasmuson Library's Oral History Program



Chuck Deehr

In 1959, Syun Akasofu stands by an antenna near where the International Arctic Research Center sits today. The antenna was the only structure on West Ridge at the time.

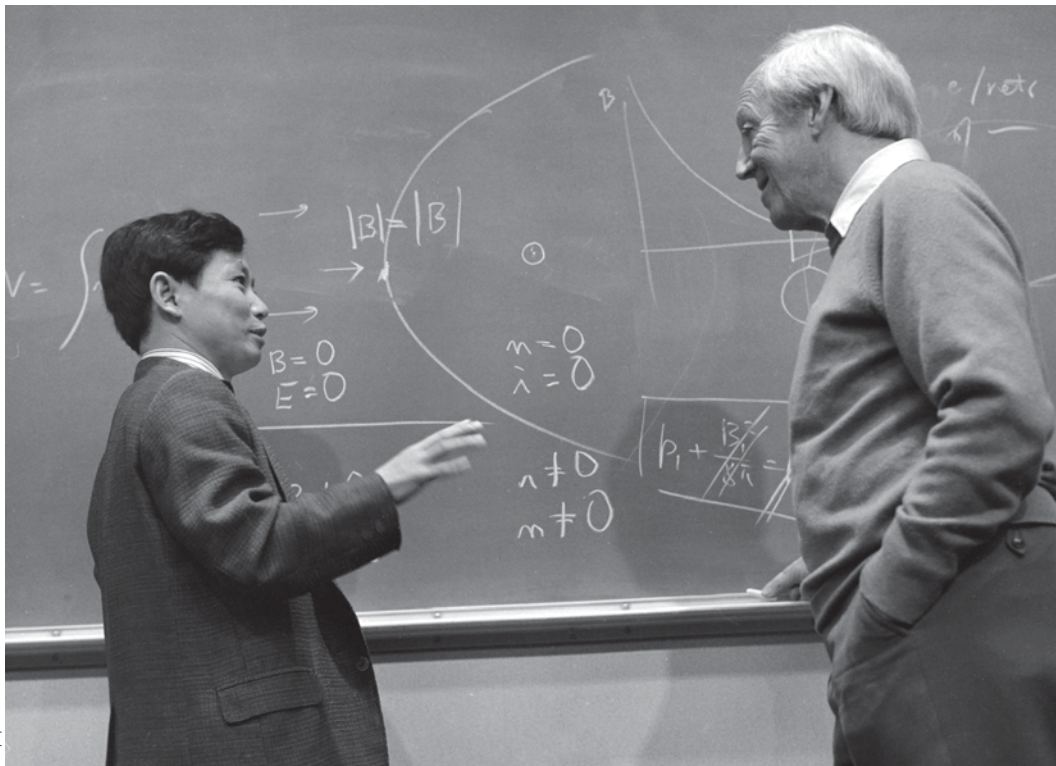
1989

UA Scientific Diving Program begins; it expands in 2000 to include student courses

Scientists aboard R/V *Alpha Helix* are among first investigators of the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill in Prince William Sound

Groundbreaking held for new natural sciences facility, later named Reichardt Building

Faculty approve new core curriculum



Geophysical Institute

At top, Syun-ichi Akasofu speaks with Swedish physicist Hannes Alfvén at UAF in 1974. Alfvén, who won the 1970 Nobel Prize in Physics, was an aurora expert who had engaged in a long debate with Akasofu's mentor, Sydney Chapman. Akasofu invited Alfvén to visit the Geophysical Institute.



Harry Groom

At bottom, Chuck Deehr looks at his all-sky scanning photometer on the roof of the Ester Dome auroral observatory in about 1965. The photometer measured the intensity of emissions from sodium, lithium and atomic oxygen in the night sky.

1989

Jerome Komisar becomes 11th UA president

Former President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, visit UAF

Among U.S. universities, UAF receives the most National Science Foundation funding per researcher

1991

Joan Wadlow becomes first woman to be UAF chancellor



UAF graduate student Jason Ahrns photographed these sprites, or red lightning, with his personal D7000 Nikon camera in 2013 using a \$120 35mm f/1.8 lens. He captured the color images while helping photograph sprites from a National Center for Atmospheric Research aircraft that carried \$100,000 worth of equipment able to shoot black and white images at 10,000 frames per second.

In 1986, Akasofu became director of the Geophysical Institute, a job that required him to focus more broadly on geophysics.

The digital revolution

The next year, Don Hampton '90, '96 began his graduate work on the aurora, after having been drawn to UAF by Alaska's wilderness.

"What we had been doing back in the 1980s and 1990s was trying to understand the details of what was causing the light that we observed," said Hampton.

By the time Hampton returned to UAF to take a position as a research faculty member in 2006, many of those details were understood and new technology had greatly propelled auroral research. Though with more sophisticated technology than in Fuller's days, cameras still provide a wealth of data for studying auroral

processes. Researchers are benefiting from technology that has caught up with theory, said Hampton, now a GI assistant professor.

"The thing that's really changed is that we've got an embarrassment of riches in digital technology now. So, I can buy a fairly cheap camera that is even better than we had back then, and it's all digital," Hampton said. "That's really opened up the possibilities in doing auroral research."

Digital images are cheaper and faster to obtain, so far more can be analyzed, he explained.

Akasofu left his position as GI director in 1999 to found the International Arctic Research Center, which focuses on climate change. He retired in 2007, though he continues to give talks and publish.

Akasofu, now 86, declined to say where he thinks aurora research should go from here.

"It's about time I should let the young people do it," he said. "I shouldn't say too much of what they should do."

Akasofu did share one idea — use auroras on other planets as a clue to extraterrestrial life.

"One way to look for Earth-like life is to look at the auroral light. Earth's aurora, the most intense light comes from oxygen atoms," he said. "That oxygen is supplied by plants. So if we could detect oxygen light in the extraterrestrial planet, I think there is a very good chance that Earth-like life exists there."

Today, UAF's unique location in the auroral zone draws a new generation of space physicists.

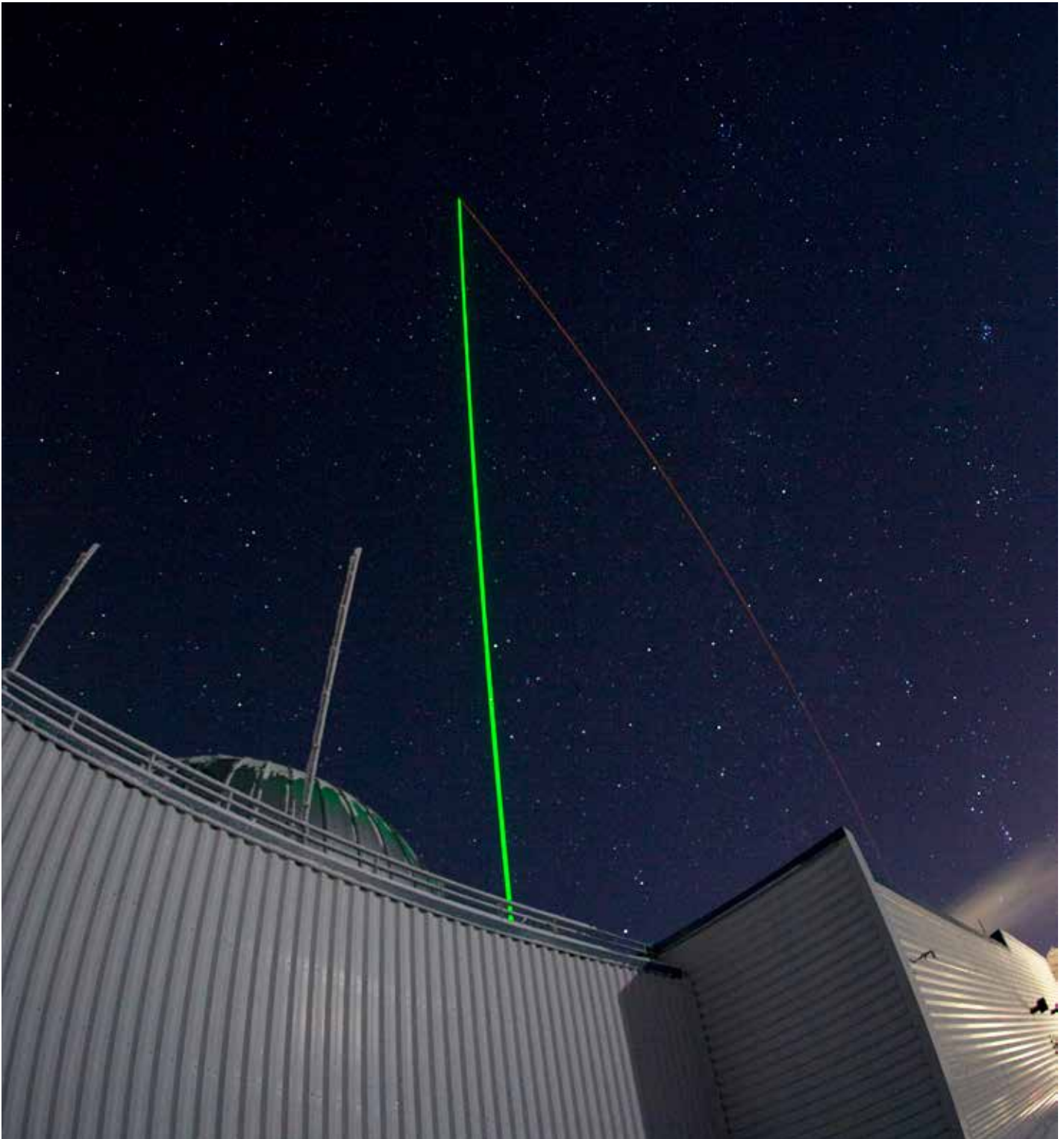
"I always wanted to see the aurora, because I had never seen it, even though I am from Siberia," said Victoriya Forsythe, a Ph.D. student in space physics who

NASA gives UAF Space Grant status, making it one of very few combined Land, Sea and Space Grant institutions in the U.S.

First synthetic aperture radar data-gathering satellite launches from Poker Flat

Blue and gold UAF license plates become available from the Alaska Department of Motor Vehicles

Nonresident tuition fees waived for students whose parents are UAF graduates



A lidar beam, consisting of a laser and radar, shoots 50 miles into the stratosphere to help monitor conditions before a rocket launch at UAF's Poker Flat Research Range about 30 miles north of Fairbanks in January 2015.

1991

Department of Engineering celebrates its 50th continuous year of accreditation

UAF's computer sciences program is accredited, the first in Alaska

UA Foundation donates \$100,000 to business students for investing in stock market

1992

UAF celebrates its 75th anniversary



Victoriya Forsythe, a doctoral student in space physics, uses radars in Antarctica to study the aurora.

“

I feel like part of an international network.”

focuses on radar aurora, a type not visible to the human eye.

Graduate students researching the aurora today have found their experiences at UAF challenging but rewarding, just as Akasofu did 60 years ago.

“When you first started working in your field, and you go to conferences, you have no idea what anyone is talking about. You just grin,” said Jason Ahrns, a space physics Ph.D. student. “Then [as you continue your studies] you feel like you become a specialist. Suddenly you get into a conversation, and you actually know more than the other person.”

Opportunities extend beyond Fairbanks; Ahrns has traveled to remote parts of

Alaska and Norway while working with aurora-capturing cameras. Forsythe employs radars in Antarctica, part of a research effort involving nine countries.

“I feel like part of an international network,” Forsythe said.

Studying energy’s impact

Many current auroral researchers focus on the energy that creates the aurora. With the world’s increasing reliance on satellites and other technology, mitigating the effects of that energy has become increasingly important.

“Tens of gigawatts of power are being dumped [into the Earth’s upper

atmosphere], even during a moderate solar storm. That’s a lot of power,” said Hampton. “So one thing we are interested in is when we get a large aurora, a major storm, how is that going to affect our communications?”

A storm like 1859’s Carrington event, during which auroras could be seen even in equatorial regions, could have an immense impact today.

“If something like [the Carrington event] happened nowadays that would significantly destroy our normal life,” Forsythe said. “Researchers Homeier and Wei recently calculated that ... the U.S. would have a couple trillion dollars in damage. Knowing when it will happen, lots of things can be done to mitigate it.”

Auroral research at UAF has become multifaceted. In 2015, the GI acquired the High-frequency Active Auroral Research Program facility, a vast antenna array near Gakona used for ionospheric research. Scientists also study the aurora using radars, rockets and networks of all-sky cameras.

The field has come a long way, not only in the types of research but also in the types of researchers, Forsythe said.

“Our field is very much alive, very dynamic; we have a much larger diversity in our field,” Forsythe said. “Gender-wise, I think it’s much better.”

While researchers have made enormous strides since Fuller first set out to that isolated cabin, Forsythe said, many aspects of the aurora remain unexplained.

“The field still has lots of grand challenges,” she said. 

First-ever UAF student-designed and -built rocket launches from Poker Flat

School of Career and Continuing Education changes its name to Tanana Valley Campus

UAF ranks third among 70 four-year colleges in the Pacific Northwest in attracting National Merit Scholars

Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, the first Greek social fraternity in the state of Alaska, establishes its Alpha chapter on campus



Jason Shafto, Full Moon Photography

1993

A record 6,200 students represent the Fairbanks campus' largest spring enrollment ever; community is asked to open homes to students in fall

Rural Student Services offers two-year program in mental health and substance abuse counseling within the context of Native culture and tradition

Denali, one of the world's largest-memory supercomputers, goes online at the Arctic Region Supercomputing Center

Using a UAF-designed drill bit, UAF scientists set a record by coring through the Greenland ice cap to a depth of 3,035.7 meters

1980s-2010s

Dolly Garza '80

Like many new college students, Dolly Garza arrived in Fairbanks in fall 1975 with only the faintest outline of a career plan.

Garza didn't head to college with a major or even a sense of what she wanted to study. The Ketchikan High School graduate enrolled at UAF mainly because of a family connection — her uncle, Dennis Demmert, was head of the Alaska Native studies program.

Garza spent her first year taking economics classes before deciding that the home economics program was more to her liking. But that degree program was eliminated the next year, leaving her looking for a Plan C.

"I was in a quandary of what do with my life," she said.

Garza, who grew up in a Haida family, found the answer in a familiar place. Many of her relatives were fishermen, and with their encouragement she enrolled in the UAF fisheries biology program.

It's a decision that shaped her next four decades, which included three fisheries degrees and a long career as a Marine Advisory Program agent with Alaska Sea Grant. Garza retired in 2006 as a professor emeritus of fisheries. It's quite a legacy for someone who entered the profession with a decidedly laid-back view of her career goals.

"I had the dream of sitting in one of those towers, counting sockeye as they go by in the rivers," she said with a laugh.

Garza said Demmert helped her aim a bit higher, and that Rural Student Services in particular helped ease her transition to college. She laughingly recalled her freshman papers "looked like they were bleeding to death" after going through a red-ink edit from a patient English professor who helped her polish her writing skills.

By the time she graduated in 1980, Fairbanks was a second home.

"When I got there, I cried because there was no ocean," she said. "When I left I cried because I was going to miss it."

After receiving her bachelor's degree in fisheries science at UAF, Garza attended the University of Washington for graduate school. Toward the end of her studies, she saw a bulletin board ad for a Marine Advisory Program agent in Kotzebue and landed the job. After a few years, she took the same job at a new MAP office in Sitka, eventually wrapping up her career in her hometown of Ketchikan. Along the way, she took a sabbatical to acquire a doctorate in marine policy from the University of Delaware.

Her work largely focused on helping local fishermen and rural residents understand the vast array of laws and regulations impacting their lives.

Garza also became a noted author and expert on coastal food sources. Her book "Common Edible Seaweeds of the Gulf of Alaska" has been a resource on

the subject since it was published by Alaska Sea Grant in 2005. She continues to teach seaweed workshops, offering education about the abundant but underutilized food source in Southeast Alaska and British Columbia.

"It is a passion," she said. "It's such a beautiful, healthy food, and we just ignore it."

Today Garza lives in British Columbia on the island of Haida Gwaii, where her husband, Russ Jones, is leading an effort to implement an islandwide coastal plan. She focuses much of her time on weaving and sewing Haida regalia.

— Jeff Richardson



Quentin Fong

Dolly Garza picks Alaria seaweed during a trip to Kodiak in 2005.

UAF's Ted DeLaca is named senior scientist on the first nonmilitary scientific mission on a Navy nuclear submarine under the Arctic ice pack

Northern Momentum, UAF's first private fundraising campaign, raises \$15 million, surpassing its \$10 million goal

Jack Keating becomes provost in Chancellor Wadlow's restructuring, which eliminates three of four vice chancellor jobs in place when she began in 1991

1994

UA Board of Regents mandates a statewide assessment to streamline the university and adjust to declining state revenues

Charles Stevenson '85, '88, '89, '95

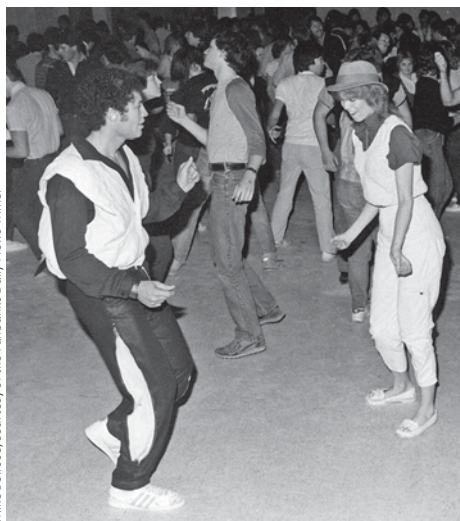
Charles Stevenson remembers waking up because someone was “moving my face.” It was the professor in his economics class. While taking an exam, Stevenson’s head had dropped to the desk, and it didn’t stir until the class period was done.

“Professor [Bill] Workman was trying to pull the exam from under my face,” Stevenson recalled. “I was out cold, drooling.”

Stevenson was a very busy man during his five years at UAF in the early 1980s. He worked several jobs. He took a full load of classes. He played intramural sports and served as a student senator. He DJ’d dances. Sleep wasn’t on his agenda until it forced its way there.

His pace hasn’t slowed much since.

After a career in which Stevenson rose to superintendent of the state jail in Fairbanks, he moved to Anchorage to become vice commander of the Alaska Air National Guard’s 176th Wing. That led to a move to the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., which brought him his latest assignment: deputy commander of Joint Task Force Guantanamo.



Charles Stevenson, left, takes to the floor in the Hess Rec Center during a dance he helped DJ as “Grandmaster Dr. C” in 1984.

Yes, that Guantanamo, the U.S. Navy base in Cuba where detainees from the war on terror are held. Stevenson, now an Air Force brigadier general, was sent there in late 2016 to be second in command.

Stevenson, in a phone interview in December 2016, said he couldn’t talk about the detainee operations.

But he acknowledged that he had never envisioned such a place in his career path.

“Who would think an Alaska guy would be involved in something like this?” he said.

Stevenson arrived in Alaska with his mother just before entering third grade in Anchorage. By sixth grade, they were in

Fairbanks. His mom worked as a cook in trans-Alaska pipeline construction camps, at Fort Wainwright and finally at Clear Air Force Station.

After graduating from Monroe High School in 1979, he started at UAF in accounting with a 12-credit load. Finding himself bored, he got a security job on campus.

While Stevenson was on duty one day, he said, justice Professor Gary Copus asked him if he wanted to take classes and get paid for it.

“I said, ‘What are you talking about?’” Stevenson recalled. “He said, ‘We have an intern program for justice majors.’”

So Stevenson switched majors and got an internship at the Fairbanks Correctional Center. He started June 1, 1980, became a full-time employee a year later and didn’t leave until he retired with 20 years of service.

After graduating in 1985 with his justice degree, Stevenson earned two more at UAF in physical education by 1989. Inspired by the training, he arranged basketball tournaments between city league and jail teams. Prisoners got their trophies and videos when they left jail. Stevenson recently saw an ex-inmate in Anchorage who thanked him for the effort, saying, “Those were good times.”

In 1994, Stevenson married his wife, the former Kristine Pomeroy '94, who also grew up in Fairbanks. They have three children.

Stevenson kept studying. He got a bachelor’s in business at UAF in 1995 and, after retiring from the jail in 2001, earned a degree from Southwestern Law School in Los Angeles. But when the state needed a new jail superintendent, he applied, got the job and returned to the facility on Wilbur Street. In 2004, he had the dubious privilege of being in charge the night someone tried to break into the jail with a front-end loader.

Meanwhile, Stevenson had been working his way up in the Alaska National Guard’s 168th Air Refueling Wing at Eielson Air Force Base. So, after leaving the jail superintendent job in 2012, he took the 176th Wing vice commander position in Anchorage. Three years later, he and his family were off to Washington, D.C.

“The Lord was good and opened doors, or I pushed through them,” Stevenson said of his still-evolving path.

— Sam Bishop

1994

Student Recreation Center opens next to the Patty Center, funded by student-approved activity fees

UAF names a building on Geist Road in honor of Flora Jane Harper Petri, who in 1935 became UAF’s first Alaska Native graduate

1995

Natural Sciences Facility opens in September, the first new classroom building on the Fairbanks campus in almost 25 years

Howard Cutler, UAF’s first chancellor, dies Nov. 17 at his home in Fairbanks



Pentagon

1996

Wickersham Hall is designated co-ed

A 25-person rural student residence hall funded by the Arctic Slope Regional Corp. opens; it's later named for the late Rep. Eileen Panigeo MacLean, an alumna

1997

UA Museum of the North repatriates first human remains to Alaska Natives on St. Lawrence Island

Japan, the United States and the State of Alaska sign agreement to build the International Arctic Research Center at UAF

Karen Gaborik '91

As the school district superintendent in Fairbanks, of course Karen Gaborik believes in education, taking the scholarly approach, all of that. You'd expect studiousness in someone who was the student commencement speaker. She's certainly no academic slouch: bachelor's in speech communication from UAF, teaching certificate and master's degree in special education from the University of Alaska Anchorage, topped off with a Ph.D. in education administration from Argosy University.

But in her senior year when she was asked in spring 1991 to speak on behalf of her graduating class?

"I was floored," Gaborik said, smiling wryly. "Because my first two years — I had a *lot* of fun."

All that fun had put her well into the center of campus life.

"I think I was selected as speaker because I was so engaged in the student community," she said.

Gaborik's first home was Lathrop Hall. She later became a resident assistant in Wickersham.

"It wasn't my first choice, but I loved it," she said.

"I have great memories of dorm life. I'm so glad I lived on campus."

Being an RA led her to the student ambassador program, through which she visited area high schools to promote UAF. In that role she was able to practice public speaking, which was part of her major.

"Marsha Stratton's public speaking class really inspired me," she said. "I took as many classes as I could from the speech department. Public speaking — performance — was something I enjoyed."

Public speaking is a regular part of her job as school district superintendent, and education is something of a birthright.

Gaborik comes from a long line of educators, including a grandmother who was the first female dean at the Oregon Institute of Technology. Gaborik's mother went to Alaska to teach, first in Anchorage, then in Fairbanks. Her father, a Vietnam vet, made his way to Fairbanks courtesy of the military. (The pair met at the Malemute Saloon, in nearby Ester.)

After Gaborik earned her communication degree at UAF, her father encouraged her to get her teaching certificate as a backup. She wasn't sure she would like it, but those first classes in the Teach for Alaska program at UAA convinced her otherwise.

Gaborik grew up in Salcha, a small community near Fairbanks. She graduated from Eielson High School, where she would later return to teach. UAF was, she said, a natural choice. She was an avid cross-country skier, and she hoped to continue that as a Nanook.

But then she took a rifle class with coach Randy Pitney on a whim, and her focus shifted.

"I redshirted the first year, but I made a good run after that," she said. "Made All-American."

Gaborik spent many long hours practicing with the rifle team, an activity that required a mix of camaraderie and independence.

"It's a reflective, disciplined sport," she said. "It appealed to my introspective side."

Ultimately, though, friends and professors loom largest in Gaborik's mind.

"Most of my memories are around people," she said. "When I think of UAF I think of them."

— *Tori Tragis*

"I have great memories of dorm life. I'm so glad I lived on campus."

1997

UAF scientists use Alaska Satellite Facility's blue antenna atop Elvey Building to create first detailed radar map of Antarctica

1998

Mark Hamilton becomes 12th UA president

IBM donates a new AS/400 computer to UAF's computer science program

Synchronous internet tutoring, developed through UAF's writing center, makes tutoring easier and more accessible to rural students



1999

High-speed internet lines installed in all campus dorms

On Dec. 11, a boiler tube in the heat and power plant breaks. Employees restarted the plant after 10 hours at minus 22. Officials had been an hour from evacuating campus

MAPCO Alaska and IBM donate \$335,000 in computer hardware and software, the largest-ever computer donation in UAF history

Chancellor Wadlow retires; Marshall Lind, former University of Alaska Southeast chancellor, becomes fourth UAF chancellor



Ruben Perez

1999

Student Apartment Complex renamed the Howard Cutler Student Apartment Complex after the first UAF chancellor

2000

Alaska Native Language Center publishes the Koyukon Athabascan Dictionary by Jules Jetté, Eliza Jones and Jim Kari

2001

UAF becomes part of UArctic, an international network of Northern universities, researchers and indigenous peoples

Sven Haakanson '92

Sven Haakanson is like a lot of UAF students, to a point. He's from Alaska — Old Harbor, on Kodiak Island — and he enrolled because it was affordable, although he expected to have to work his way through college.

Despite having spent his last year and a half of high school in Anchorage, Haakanson worried that life in a small village had left him unprepared for university.

"I didn't know if I'd be able to graduate," he said.

Rural Student Services was his safety net. Going from a place where he knew everyone to a place where he didn't know the person sitting next to him was a challenge, he said.

"They helped me adjust. I was the first in my family to go to undergraduate school and graduate."

The original plan was to get an English degree and a teaching certificate, then teach in the winter and fish in the summer. But he took some classes in anthropology and caught the notice of his professors, who arranged for Haakanson to fly to Denmark for a conference where UAF anthropology Professor Lydia Black was to deliver a lecture. That changed everything.

"Dr. Black was amazing. I was sitting there, on the other side of the world, listening to her talk and learning about my own people," he said, referring to his Alutiiq ancestry, "and wondering why I hadn't learned all that at home."

He tried to carry two majors once he got back to UAF, but combined with getting a teaching certificate, it was too much. The certificate alone was a full-time job, one he undertook in Magadan, Russia, which, in 1991, was just beginning to open up to Westerners.

"That experience in itself was very formative for the things I've done since," Haakanson said. "It allowed me to learn Russian, speak it fluently, and have an experience very few Americans have the opportunity to do. Up until then we propagandized

how the Soviets and Communists were this and that, and I got there and saw the people were just trying to live and survive, like us."

It also gave him a lot of alone time.

"There was a group of us that started off in September, and by December there were two of us left, and in January I was left by myself for the last six months."

That total immersion helped him undertake his dissertation research on the Nenets people of Siberia. After graduating from UAF in 1992 with a degree in English and that teaching certificate,

he was offered a scholarship to do his Ph.D. at Harvard. He went on to direct the Alutiiq Museum in Kodiak, and he won a MacArthur Fellow "genius grant" in 2007. He now teaches anthropology at the University of Washington and is a curator at the Burke Museum.

Haakanson maintains his strong ties to Alaska. He serves on the board of directors for Koniag Inc., consults for the Rasmuson Foundation and attends the annual Alaska Federation of Natives conference, among other things. He is very clear about his early inspirations.

"I got to know Lydia Black and Perry Gilmore and David Smith," he said, recalling his anthropology and education

teachers. "UAF — you have so many wonderful professors. I struggled with not having good writing, but they challenged me to go beyond my comfort zone. That was the kind of thing I loved about UAF."

He paused, getting ready for another story from his student years.

"I applied for my passport [to go to Denmark]," he said. "It was coming in on a Friday and I was supposed to leave that Saturday. The campus post office closed at 5, but they stayed open another hour so I could get there. That's the kind of thing that shows how wonderful UAF and people in Fairbanks were."

— *Tori Tragis*

"Dr. Black was amazing. I was sitting there, on the other side of the world, listening to her talk and learning about my own people," he said, referring to his Alutiiq ancestry, "and wondering why I hadn't learned all that at home."

William Wood, the university's fourth president, dies at the age of 94; memorial services held on campus

Professor Pat Holloway plants peonies at Georgeson Botanical Garden, jumpstarting efforts to sell the Alaska flowers in midsummer (See story on page 26.)

Professor Brian O'Donoghue's journalism students begin reviewing the case of four men convicted of killing a Fairbanks teen; the men go free in 2015

Reija Shnoro '06

Reija Shnoro knows it's a cliché, but the story is true: When she was a child growing up in Finland, she saw a documentary about Alaska, and she knew that's where she had to be.

"It showed the wilderness, the animals," she recalled. "I think it was called 'This Is Alaska Wild!' I still remember sitting on the floor, too close to the TV, and I thought — 'Alaska? OK, I'm totally going there one day.'"

It wasn't that life in the rural North was exotic to Shnoro. The small village she grew up in, Mieslahti, sits some 350 miles northeast of Helsinki in central Finland, at

about the same latitude as Delta Junction, Alaska, but with a third of its population. Still, there was that pull. So when she decided to study abroad during law school at the University of Lapland, she looked at Norway, England and Alaska, and knew where she would go.

That was in 1999. She stayed a full year, went home to finish her classes, then came back to UAF in 2002. Returning to Finland, she worked in the legal field for two years before once again enrolling at UAF in 2004, this time to pursue a master's degree in Northern studies.

"I knew I wanted another degree," she said. "My choice was either Finland or Alaska. Northern studies seemed like what I wanted to study."

While the sub-Arctic wasn't a complete surprise to Shnoro, one aspect of Interior living did catch her off guard.

"I was surprised it is really way colder," she said. "It gets cold in Finland, but Fairbanks is definitely colder."

Shnoro met her husband in Fairbanks, an American archaeologist who moved north to work as a consultant. They recently bought a home (plus "eight chickens that came with the house").

Even after many years in Alaska, Shnoro still impresses her friends and family in Finland with her adopted home.

"Just the fact I live in Alaska is a big deal," she said, chuckling. "People [in Finland] are afraid of all the animals — you know, moose running around everywhere."

When Shnoro isn't facing down rampaging ungulates, she helps international students navigate the paperwork and immigration compliance to study at UAF. She works with degree-seeking students, from when they first apply for a visa to helping them secure paperwork for postgraduate practicum training.

"I want to see an increase in international students coming this way, and also UAF students using the study-away program in foreign countries to get that experience," she said. "It's good for a university to have students from other countries and cultures. It brings a lot to a university." It's a position she is especially well-qualified for, given her training as a lawyer and her own experience as an international student.

"I've been in their shoes, so I know," she said. "If a student needs to talk, I can tell them my experience. They know it's not only them — the feelings, concerns, excitement, but feeling worried at the same time. Other people have done it, too. They're not alone."

— *Tori Tragis*

"People [in Finland] are afraid of all the animals — you know, moose running around everywhere."

2002

The School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences and the Russian Academy of Sciences establish a marine science laboratory in Vladivostok, Russia

UAF's College Bowl team wins regional championship game of academic knowledge and recall, sponsored by Associations of College Unions International

Ann Tremarello retires after 47 years, becoming the longest-serving employee ever at UAF (See profile on page 38.)



2003

The men's basketball team wins the Top of the World Classic, becoming the first NCAA Division II team to win a tournament with Division I teams (See story on page 81.)

Fall enrollment numbers are up for the fourth year in a row, 18 percent from the fall of 1998

2004

Steve Jones becomes fifth UAF chancellor



2004

Matt Emmons '03 wins gold medal in the prone shooting event at the Summer Olympics

Fifty-five delegates gather at UAF as the Conference of Alaskans to make recommendations about the state budget and the Alaska Permanent Fund

2005

Nanook rifle team wins sixth straight NCAA championship

Expanded UA Museum of the North opens; the addition doubles museum's size to 83,000 square feet

Eric Hill '08

Eric Hill found himself out of sync with his fellow students when he began taking classes full time at UAF in 2006. It wasn't just his age, which was twice that of many fellow undergraduates. It was his work schedule.

"In so many years of mining work, you're getting up at 3 or 4 in the morning so you can get on the job by 5 or so," Hill said. "So I'd roll onto campus for classes, and it's 6:30 or 7. You go to the library or anyplace on campus and it's dead for the next two hours."

Hill, who today is general manager of the huge Fort Knox gold mine, started mining in 1988, right after high school. He moved to Fairbanks in 1997 to work at Fort Knox, which had begun producing gold the previous year. The mine, about 15 miles north of Fairbanks, poured its seven-millionth ounce in August 2016.

Throughout his years in the business, Hill took classes on the side, working toward an engineering degree.

"Finally I was like, I've got to put this all together before I lose focus," he said.

So he hit the books full time for four semesters and earned his mining engineering degree in 2008.

He knew such learning could come in handy. A few years earlier, a UAF class had inspired him to invent a solution to a longstanding problem at Fort Knox.

Fort Knox uses carbon to collect gold molecules from a solution. In the early 2000s, the mine could screen most but not all of that carbon from its final product.

"There's a bit of that carbon that gets so small that you can't capture it on screens, and we end up packaging that material up and having to ship it somewhere," Hill said.

That was inefficient. Working with hydrometallurgy Professor Steve Lin, Hill created a way to transfer gold from small carbon pieces to large ones that then could be screened.

"We did the research, did the lab work and ended up creating a patent on the process," Hill said. Fort Knox adopted the method for a time, and a technical paper about the process won the Society of Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration's Arthur Taggart Award in 2003.

Hill grew up in northern Nevada, where his family farms alfalfa. The mining industry boomed just as he graduated from high school.

"There were 14 active mines within the county I lived in," he recalled, so he hired on with one.

At that time, it was clear he would need an academic degree to get ahead.

"I started community college classes after work, a couple classes at a time," he said.

The industry eventually became less focused on promoting people with academic degrees, he said, so he advanced well even without one.

"But by that time, I'm so committed and so far down that road," he said, "it was important to keep growing."

Hill, who is engaged, has three children from an earlier marriage. The two youngest attend UAF, and his fiancée also has a mathematics degree from the school.

Hill said he appreciates UAF's approach to students like him who work and have families.

"They were very accommodating ... if you couldn't make it to class," he said. "I thought that was a testament to the staff up there."

— Sam Bishop

"We did the research, did the lab work and ended up creating a patent on the process."

2006

Legislature approves transfer of 250,000 acres of state land to UA; the Alaska Supreme Court nullifies the action four years later

Constitution Hall is added to National Register of Historic Places, 50 years after delegates drafted the Alaska Constitution there

Nanook rifle team recaptures NCAA championship after losing it for the first time in seven years in 2005

The university connects to Internet2, giving it a high-speed link to hundreds of other schools and institutions across the state and nation

Pearl Brower '04, '10, '16

"I loved UAF," said Pearl Kiyawn Nageak Brower. "I loved the programs I was in and the opportunities I was provided. Lots of various people supported and mentored me. It's definitely brought me to where I am today."

Today Brower lives in Utqiagvik, the new, official name of Barrow. She is the president of Iḷisaġvik College, a position she's held for five years. (She's worked there 10 years altogether.) Centered around Iñupiaq culture, Iḷisaġvik is a two-year tribal college that focuses on academic, vocational and technical education.

Brower grew up between the North Slope and a rural community in northern California, where she attended a community college for two years. But she was ready to move back to Alaska. Then two of her best friends told her about the school they were going to in Fairbanks.

"My friends convinced me UAF was where I needed to be," she said.

Brower had been studying anthropology, but she was also inspired by Professor Phyllis Fast, who pushed her to pursue a second degree, in Alaska Native studies.

"She was amazing," Brower said. "She really nurtured and encouraged me in all the right ways."

Brower's academic interests were rooted in her Iñupiaq heritage as well as her fascination with other cultures.

"I value what everybody's culture brings to the world," she said. "And I was wanting to be able to communicate truthfully what my culture was and who I was as an Iñupiaq woman.

Once I got to UAF, my interest in Alaska Native culture really

"Once I got to UAF, my interest in Alaska Native culture really expanded. I realized how amazing and wonderful all our Alaska Native cultures are."

expanded. I realized how amazing and wonderful all our Alaska Native cultures are."

Rural Student Services gave Brower a second home and people who remain her friends today. She and some in her group created the Native Student Organization in the late 2000s, complete with a governing board and a slate of activities.

"It was a nice group of peers. That was what was most meaningful to me."

Brower is enthusiastic in her memories of UAF but remem-

bers challenges as well. Alaska Native people weren't always well-represented in classes at UAF, so their perspective wasn't heard.

Likewise, she said most institutional programs did not always meet the needs of Alaska Native and rural students. Now in charge of her own school, she focuses on the specific needs of the largely Native population at Iḷisaġvik.

In the last few years, Brower has earned her master's and doctorate from UAF, all long-distance and all while working full-time. She also has a husband and a young daughter.

Brower was named to the Alaska Journal of Commerce's Top 40 Under 40 list in 2015, an honor she did not mention in an interview. What she did bring up was being named the undergraduate Alaska Native Studies Student of the Year.

"That was incredibly meaningful, having that kind of recognition," she said. "It made me realize that Alaska Native studies was something I wanted to do for the rest of my life."

— *Tori Tragis*

2006

Alan Tonne, Fairbanks Experiment Farm manager, plants barley in a big "100" shape to mark the farm's centennial

Geophysical Institute buys Insitu A-20, a 40-pound unmanned aircraft with a 10-foot wingspan; it can fly more than 20 hours at a time

Arctic Region Supercomputing Center wins a nearly \$100 million, five-year contract with the Department of Defense, its second

UAF administration raises admission standards and says it will divert less-prepared applicants into a pre-major program starting in 2008



2007

Biological Research and Diagnostic Facility opens, providing more space for animal care, necropsies, surgeries and diagnoses

New walking and snowshoeing trails are approved for North Campus forests; previously, only cross-country skiing was allowed in winter

International Polar Year kicks off in March, sparking more than 200 Arctic and Antarctic science projects, a quarter of them involving UAF researchers

UAF is ranked fifth among small institutions in a national study of productivity among faculty researchers



Demetri Giannitsis

2007

Nanook rifle team wins eighth NCAA championship in nine years before a crowd of 1,000 people at the Patty Center

John Walsh, of the International Arctic Research Center, is a lead author on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Fourth Assessment Report

UAF sells R/V *Alpha Helix*; the National Science Foundation gives UAF \$2.5 million to start work on a new ship

Student Recreation Center installs indoor climbing wall

Colton Parayko '16

While navigating the most pressure-filled environment of his career, Colton Parayko found an escape in an uncommon place.

Parayko, a defenseman for the NHL's St. Louis Blues, was capping an outstanding rookie season with a deep run in the Stanley Cup Playoffs. But between games, he filled his time by taking online courses from UAF.

The former Nanooks hockey player left Fairbanks after three years to begin his professional career in 2015, when he was just seven classes shy of a business administration degree. Instead of leaving those lingering requirements for another time, Parayko took distance-ed courses and kept studying during his first year in the NHL.

"It was a good opportunity for me to get away from hockey and do something else," he said. "When you're in a new job, especially one like this, it can be a little overwhelming. It gave me something else to think about."

Juggling hockey and studies didn't seem to hurt Parayko, who earned a spot on the NHL all-rookie team. He'd grown used to that routine during his time at UAF, which made a three-course schedule during the playoffs seem quite reasonable.

"We took five while we were at school, so it wasn't so bad," he said.

Parayko was rewarded with a diploma after wrapping up his final two courses in summer 2016.

Nanooks hockey coach Dallas Ferguson '00, recently hired as the Calgary Hitmen's head coach, isn't surprised by Parayko's dedication. He said his former player displayed a formidable work ethic during his time in Fairbanks.

"Colton's workload and willingness to improve in all facets of his life was something that stood out to me while he was a student-athlete at UAF," Ferguson said. "There was never a practice, game, training session or day that passed where Colton was not pushing himself to be a better version of himself."



Paul McCarthy

Colton Parayko skates at the Carlson Center in December 2014 during his third and final season with the Alaska Nanooks.

Earning a UAF degree capped an unconventional journey for the native of St. Albert, Alberta.

Parayko was drafted by the Blues in 2012, but decided as a teenager to pursue a college scholarship, unlike many Canadian hockey players who develop their games in the top junior leagues. Parayko was offered a spot with the Nanooks and invited to visit Fairbanks, where he clicked with Ferguson and UAF.

Fairbanks was cold, but just a bit more than his hometown, and it was fairly small, which was also part of its appeal.

"I really liked it," he said. "The people on campus were really friendly. They kind of opened their arms to you."

Parayko said he enjoyed both his studies at UAF and his role with the Nanooks, which included three winning seasons, many lasting friendships and strong

community support. But when the Blues offered a contract after his junior year, he made the difficult decision to turn pro with a year of college eligibility remaining.

But even after making an NHL roster, Parayko said there wasn't any doubt he'd continue to pursue his studies at UAF. The accomplished Nanook is already preparing for the next chapter of an impressive story.

"Hockey's only going to last so long," he said. "Hopefully I can do something with my degree when I'm done."

— Jeff Richardson

2008

Nanook rifle team claims 10th NCAA rifle championship, beating Army by six points

Brian Rogers named interim chancellor after Steve Jones resigns; Rogers is a former UA regent, system vice president and state representative

Dallas Ferguson '00, assistant coach and former Nanook defenseman, named eighth head coach in the hockey program's 28-year history at the NCAA level

Matt Emmons '03, wins silver medal in the 50-meter prone shooting event at the Summer Olympics in Beijing



Lydia-Fohn Hansen, right, prepares to board a single-engine aircraft as she heads to rural Alaska to teach.



Cooperative Extension Service

The care and feeding of a territory

BY DEBBIE CARTER

Within days of the Cooperative Extension Service's beginnings in Alaska, two pioneering agents set off on an ambitious field trip to bring practical skills to residents of the territory.

Extension became a department of the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines on July 1, 1930. Five days later, home economist Lydia Fohn-Hansen '59 (Hon.) and George Gasser '55 (Hon.), the assistant director of agriculture, left on the first Alaska Extension field trip. Traveling by train, plane and boat, they visited Matanuska, Eklutna, Anchorage, Seward, Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan, Wrangell and Cordova.

During the seven-week trip, Fohn-Hansen organized 4-H youth and home ec clubs, and she and Gasser surveyed Alaskans about the types of information they needed. Afterward, Fohn-Hansen

noted that the Extension service had an unusual opportunity to "point out methods in farming and housekeeping adapted to Alaska and to ameliorate some of the hardships of pioneering."

A three-month trip followed in September, when Fohn-Hansen returned alone to the same communities, plus Petersburg and Skagway.

Congress created the Cooperative Extension Service in 1914 to provide useful and practical information in the areas of agriculture, home economics and rural energy. The goal was to spread research-based information from land-grant colleges such as the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Although Extension began in 1914 in most areas of the United States, Congress did not extend provisions of the authorizing legislation, the Smith-Lever Act, to Alaska until 1930. Extension had a modest start in the territory, with an unpaid director



Cooperative Extension Service

4-H Club members in Southeast Alaska promote gardening during World War II. The Cooperative Extension Service helped support “victory gardens” and “victory canners” during World War II.

2008

UAF scientists find evidence that carbon pool beneath Arctic Ocean is leaking, with huge implications for climate change

2009

New Year’s fireworks to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Alaska statehood are delayed until mid-January by ice fog and cold

Arctic Region Supercomputing Center fires up its newest supercomputer, a Cray XT5 dubbed Pingo; the new machine almost quadruples the center’s capacity

Brian Rogers becomes UAF’s sixth chancellor after spending a year as interim



(AACSM President Charles Bunnell) and the two part-time agents, Fohn-Hansen and Gasser.

For five years, Fohn-Hansen served as the sole Extension home economist. She energetically traveled the territory, showing Alaskans how to can, cook fish and vegetables, sew, and make gloves and rugs. She wrote bulletins about nutrition, using berries, making patterns, knitting gloves and cooking Alaska foods. Because of a limited travel budget, she sent out a newsletter to Alaskans with practical advice. Circulation topped 1,000 homemakers by 1935.

“It was exciting work and I enjoyed every minute of it,” Fohn-Hansen told an interviewer in 1974. “It was pioneering, getting into communities, trying to explain what Extension Service was all about and trying to get people involved in programs that would make for better living in Alaska.”

The Matanuska Colony

Alaska Extension came of age in 1935, when it helped 200 families newly arrived from depressed farming areas in Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin. The government-sponsored Matanuska Colony was part of a New Deal experiment to resettle families on farms in the Matanuska Valley, just north of Anchorage. Many families lived in canvas tents while their homes were built and land was cleared.

Fohn-Hansen set up shop at the Matanuska Experiment Station in July 1935 and then moved into a tent in August. She stayed until late November to help the colonists adapt to their new home. Extension Director Ross Sheely also came. (He later resigned the directorship to continue working with the colonists.)

They needed a lot of help because of what Fohn-Hansen called “absentee planning.”

“The people in Washington sitting at a desk had no idea of what Alaska was like,” she said.

In a 1935 report, Fohn-Hansen said her tent served as a distribution center for bulletins on Alaska living, a market for handicrafts the women made and an unofficial employment agency for women looking for work.

Fohn-Hansen traveled to the 10 tent camps scattered around Palmer and demonstrated how to sew, cook, can, weave and spin. She led berry-picking expeditions. She also organized home demonstration clubs for the women and 4-H clubs for youths.

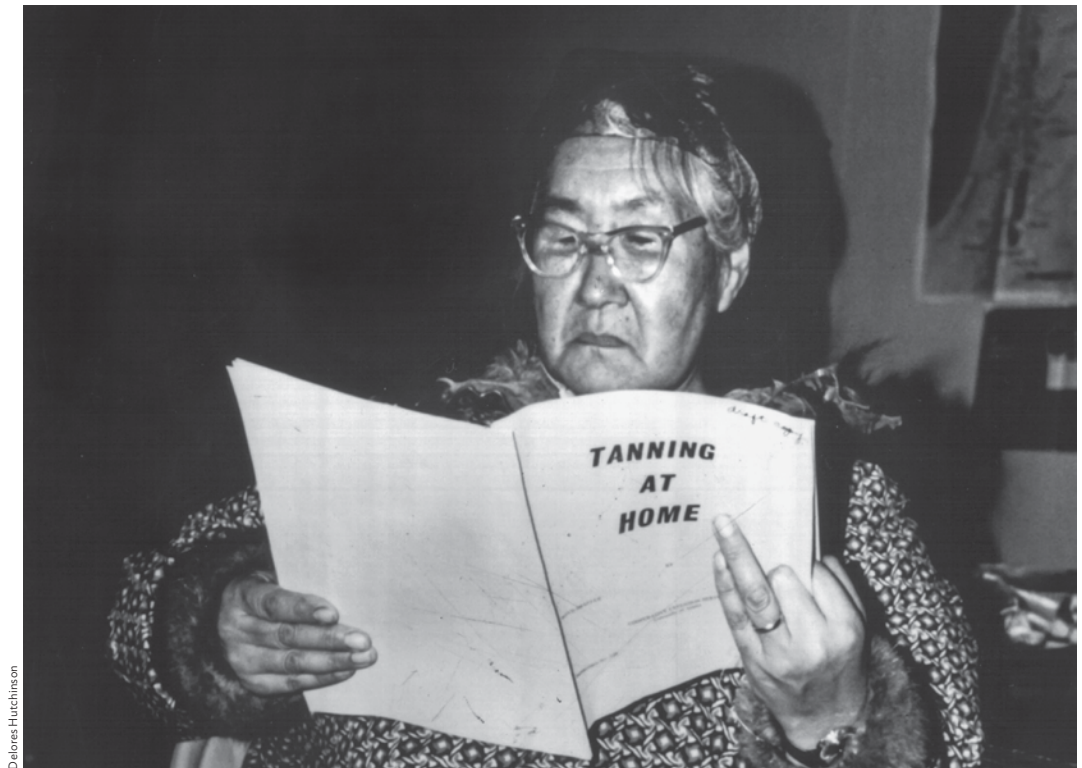
Among the colonists she helped were Bill and Viola Lentz, who had grown up on small farms in Wisconsin and arrived in May 1935 with an 8-month-old daughter.

Viola Lentz had been living with in-laws before she came to Alaska at age 21. She loved the new place, said Barbara Thomas, a daughter born 10 years later. “It was the first time she was alone with her husband

School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences releases a hull-less, early-maturing barley for northern environments

Journalism students and a professor embed with Fort Wainwright’s 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team 25th Infantry Division in Iraq (See story in spring 2010 Aurora magazine.)

Enrollment in the College of Engineering and Mines hits 700 in the fall, a 17 percent increase from fall 2008 and more than double the 2006 enrollment



Delores Hutchinson

At top, an unidentified woman reads a Cooperative Extension Service publication during a hide-tanning workshop offered sometime around 1980.



At bottom, Barbara Thomas stands outside the Palmer Extension Mess Hall building. In the inset, Thomas holds a family photo featuring herself, second from right. Her parents, Viola and Bill Lentz, standing to each side of her, came to Alaska in May 1935 as participants in the Matanuska Colony. To learn about living in the North, Viola Lentz took classes offered by the Cooperative Extension Service. Today, Thomas continues to take similar classes.

2010

UA President Hamilton retires; Patrick J. Gamble, a retired Air Force general and former president of the Alaska Railroad, becomes 13th UA president

Tanana Valley Campus becomes UAF Community and Technical College

UAF wins a Defense Department contract worth up to \$47 million to test unmanned aircraft systems

2011

Regents extend university's nondiscrimination protections to gay and transgender students, staff and faculty



Fourteen-year-old Ainsley Smith, left, and her sister McKenna, 11, work with horses during a 4-H Club event organized by the Cooperative Extension Service at the Tanana Valley State Fair's grounds in June 2017.

and the baby,” said Thomas, who today lives in Wasilla.

The family stayed in a tent until October. Viola Lentz joined a homemakers’ club that participated in all-day workshops at the experiment station. “Thousands of cans of salmon they canned that first summer,” Thomas said.

Thomas said Fohn-Hansen and subsequent agents taught her mother a lot, including how to use berries, can vegetables and wild game, and preserve eggs.

Like many of the colonists, the Lentzes produced and sold vegetables, livestock and eggs. They later went into dairy farming.

The homemaker club helped with community needs, such as sewing curtains for the gymnasium stage and finishing school desks. It also provided an important support group for the women, especially in the early days, Thomas said. Although

the family farm was sold around 1970, her mom remained active in the club until she was in her 80s.

Thomas joined a club when she and her husband returned to Alaska in 1993. She takes classes from the district home economist in Palmer and from other agents during an annual conference of homemakers, whose clubs comprise the Alaska Association for Family and Community Education. The conference grew out of the annual gathering of homemakers that Fohn-Hansen began in the 1940s at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks.

“The Extension Service is very important in the valley,” Thomas said. “It’s farm country, and it’s still rural enough for most people to have a garden.”

Field offices serve the state

As a result of its work with colonists, Extension opened its first full-time regional field office in Palmer in 1936. In the next 10 years, additional field offices opened in Anchorage, Juneau and Fairbanks. Extension helped Alaskans grow “victory gardens” during World War II, taught veterans how to farm after the war and brought classes to remote, rural villages. Over the years, it developed other field offices in Homer, Nome, Bethel, Soldotna, Sitka and Delta Junction.

Since its humble beginnings, Alaska Extension has helped residents face many more challenges, but its mission remains the same: to provide research-based, practical information to Alaskans. Subjects include nutrition and health education, food preservation, small-business

Hundreds of socks are flushed down toilets at Fine Arts Complex by unknown vandal, clogging sewer system and causing at least \$15,000 in damage

A new rock and ice climbing tower goes up just west of Student Recreation Center

Space scientist Bob McCoy becomes fifth director of Geophysical Institute since its founding in 1946, replacing retiring Robert Smith

Marshal James and Monique Love, owners of Frostbite Foods, dish up food for Isabella Steward during the restaurant's first Pig Out event July 15. James and Love opened the Fairbanks restaurant, located near the Gavora Mall, after taking Cooperative Extension Service courses and consulting with an Extension technician. Their family-friendly Pig Out event offered smoked pork, beef brisket, baked beans, potato salad and coleslaw, along with games, prizes and an eating contest.



development, gardening and agriculture, and youth education and leadership programs through 4-H and FFA (formerly Future Farmers of America). Twenty-six agents provide programs around the state.

Powering local foods

Marshal James and Monique Love enrolled in monthly food preservation classes in 2012 and learned how to can from Fairbanks district agent Roxie Dinstel.

"I had never canned in my life," said Love.

They sold vegetable starter plants and produce at the Tanana Valley Farmers Market. They added chips and salsa after Love made salsa with an overabundance of tomatoes and peppers — and it sold well. They worked with food research technician Kate Idzorek on understanding the

state's cottage food regulations so they could sell commercially.

"She walked us through all of it," said Love.

Operating as Frostbite Farms, they sold homemade chips, gourmet salsa and fish tacos from a food truck. This past December, they opened a restaurant called Frostbite Foods.

Sitting at a table in their new restaurant, Love said Extension has helped them succeed. "I don't think we would be doing this without it," she said.

Donna Rae Faulkner and Don McNamara, who operate Oceanside Farms in Homer, took Extension's Alaska Growers School courses online in 2013. Experts talked about raising chickens, bees and vegetables, planting seeds, managing risk and farming in rural areas. A practicum followed at Calypso Farms near

Ester, and they met several other farmers through the program.

"We got a good background," said Faulkner. "It really expanded our farm vision."

The couple already had a few high tunnels — a type of greenhouse made from large hoops — and a community-supported agriculture operation — a small farm serving people who subscribe for its products. Faulkner said the training inspired them to become full-time farmers. They bought a larger farm five miles out the East End Road in 2014. They now have eight high tunnels in which they raise 10 varieties of seed potatoes, as well as vegetables and fruits using organic methods. They distribute vegetables through a CSA and farm stand, and also sell chickens and turkeys.

2011

More than half of UAF students take at least one online course for first time in fall semester; only three percent of classes were offered online a decade earlier

2012

The Sun Star student newspaper creates online, searchable database of UA employee salaries

UAF student team takes first place in zero-emissions category of 2012 Society of Automobile Engineers Clean Snowmobile Challenge

Faulkner said Extension connects people through networks and brings together expertise at workshops and conferences.

Despite budget challenges due to decreased state funding, Extension Director Fred Schlutt said he expects the service to remain an important resource. Hundreds of publications, most of which

are free and available online, remain in demand and cover everything from raising chickens and checking for radon to gardening, cooking and preserving foods.

Schlutt said Extension will rely more on distance-delivery classes offered online or through the university's videoconference network. Because of different learning

styles and schedules, some clients also prefer distance-delivered classes.

Extension will also continue to offer the face-to-face and hands-on courses it has been known for since Lydia Fohn-Hansen's trip around the territory in 1930.

"That's our foundation," said Schlutt. **1**



Cooperative Extension Service

Lydia Jacobson and her friend Martha Park were teaching home economics at Iowa State University in 1925 when they saw a recruiting notice for two home economists at the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines.

The school had opened its doors three years earlier. Charles Bunnell, its president, happened to visit Iowa State on a recruiting trip, so Jacobson sat down with him for an interview.

"It was a hot, muggy June day," she recalled in an interview decades later. "Dr. Bunnell just sat and wiped his brow. We looked at each other for a few moments after the interview. I made up my mind; I wanted to go to Alaska. It would be a jaunt into the unknown. I was hired."

Both women came as an adventure. Jacobson married miner Hans Fohn-Hansen two years later. In 1930, she left the college home economics department and became one of the Cooperative Extension Service's first two agents in Alaska. She would stay in the state for nearly 50 years.

Fohn-Hansen became the first Alaskan to earn the U.S. Department of

Agriculture's highest honor, the Superior Service Award, in 1957. Two years later, she became the first woman to receive an honorary doctorate of humanities from the University of Alaska.

During her nearly 30 years with Alaska Extension, the influential agent wrote hundreds of publications and 4-H project books. As Extension's sole home economist, she toured the state carrying teaching supplies, clothing, bulletins, pressure canners, can sealers, patterns, garden seeds, needles, yarn and often a loom. She also reached out to Alaskans by newsletter and radio programs and initiated the first Extension television programs in 1955.

After retiring in 1959, Fohn-Hansen stayed active in the Fairbanks community until 1975, when she moved to Washington. She died in Lacey, Washington, on Nov. 6, 1986, at age 95. **1**

Regents dub the campus ridge "Troth Yeddha," the Athabaskan name meaning "wild potato hill"; the U.S. geographic names board follows suit in February 2013

Legislators appropriate \$46 million for a new engineering building at UAF, half the funding needed to build the design approved by UA regents

Matt Emmons '03 wins bronze in the three-position rifle competition at the Summer Olympics in London

UAF purchases a hangar on the Fairbanks airport's east ramp to house the Community and Technical College's aviation maintenance program

Campus myths and legends

A toast to the Tradition Stone

Ernest Patty '53 (Hon.), one of the university's original six faculty members, had a reputation as a crusader against unrefined behavior among students. He cemented that reputation in 1956 by banning alcohol, even though he said he acted not to promote good manners but to keep campus safe.

Patty revealed his taste for propriety early in the school's history. Confronted with his mining students' rough habits, he arranged with home economics Professor Lola Tilly '63 (Hon.) to hold weekly teas for them.

Although Patty later resigned his faculty position in 1935 to develop a successful mining company, the UA Board of Regents hired him back as president in 1953.

At the Miner's Ball two years later, recent School of Mines graduate Don Stein '54 bought enough alcohol to heavily spike the punch, according to Leslie Noyes' 2001 book, "Rock Poker to Pay Dirt." Chaperones ignored the enhancement, as they had in previous years. The punch was smooth and strong. Students became quite intoxicated.

"Dr. Patty got a little peeved," Stein said. "Not too long afterward, he put out a notice banning alcohol on campus."

But Patty said a more serious incident catalyzed the ban. After a wild party in a men's dorm, a freshman threatened to jump from a third-floor window, Patty reported in his 1969 autobiography "North Country Challenge."

"I had had enough," he wrote. The Nov. 30 edition of the student newspaper, *The Polar Star*, gave his ban a huge, single-word headline: "Prohibition!"

Student protests culminated in a vigil at Constitution Hall on March 22, 1957. They dug a hole, threw in several hundred beer bottles and planted a 400-pound headstone with a welded plate declaring "Here lies tradition."

Patty said the protests amused him. But when the student body president carried a whiskey bottle into a dorm, "the gauntlet had been cast at my feet," he said.

He called a student meeting, reviewed the incidents that led to the ban and said he would resign if the school lost too many students because of his policy. But "I'm not going to debate it with you," he said. As he walked out, he wrote, "The students were all applauding and cheering."

Patty served three more years, and the ban continued under his successor, William Wood '89 (Hon.), until 1972, the year before Wood retired. (The Pub opened in Wood Center in 1975.)

Since the March 1957 protest, the Tradition Stone has passed through numerous hands, sometimes transferred via good-natured thievery. At some point, the stone broke into several pieces. In 1992, campus police confiscated the pieces during an unrelated investigation.

"Anxious to get rid of the stone, the university looked the other way in early 1993 when it was stolen once again," wrote UAF history Professor Terrence Cole '76, '78 in his 1994 book, "The Cornerstone on College Hill."

Megan Otts '08, a UAF journalism student, published an article in the Nov. 4, 2007, *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*

documenting the stone's recent sightings. The *Sun Star* said the Gay Straight Alliance had the stone in 2013 and the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity in 2015.

In fall 2016, the stone did not appear at Starvation Gulch festivities, where it often was spotted in past years. So, in February 2017, the UAF Student Activities Office created a flier and Facebook post asking who had it.

One Facebook commenter replied that tradition required secrecy to keep the stone "out of the hands of the university."

Lisa Latronica, student activities coordinator, said the SAO wanted to encourage the occasional display of the stone to keep its memory alive.

"We just want all the students to be able to enjoy it," she said.

However, she acknowledged, exposing the stone's location would increase the risk of yet another theft. Such is tradition.

— Sam Bishop



Original photo from Rasmuson Library (for complete citation, see page 97)

2012

Students move into new Sustainable Village, which offers living space in units designed to save energy and provide performance data

Research Vessel *Sikuliaq*, designed for Arctic science work, launches; the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences operates it for the National Science Foundation

2013

Federal Express donates used 727-200 for UAF's aviation maintenance program

School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences merges with Cooperative Extension Service to become the School of Natural Resources and Extension

Tip of the Top of the World

For a few days in November 2002, the Nanook men's basketball team played out a fairytale Cinderella story before increasingly exhilarated crowds during the BP Top of the World Classic tournament. The team was about as underdog as it could be, having won just four games the previous season. Now it was up against seven Division I teams. No Division II team had ever beaten a tournament field of DI opponents before. An early-round loss was inevitable.

Until it wasn't.

The Nanooks beat the first team handily, 78-55.

"We were playing Wisconsin-Green Bay. They didn't take us seriously," Al Sokaitis, the Nanooks coach at the time, recalled. "The website on their local news said we're [Wisconsin] playing a DII school, and they'd make the most of that."

Instead, the Nanooks made the most of Green Bay. Sokaitis knew he had a good team, but he had trepidations about their next opponent.

"Nebraska's just huge. Their front line is 6-11, 6-11, 6-10," Sokaitis said. "I spent most of time telling my players, 'Oh, they're not that big.'"

"But I'm thinking to myself, 'Damn, they're big.'"

During the UAF-Nebraska game, tension among Nanook fans began shifting to anticipation. Instead of being blown out of the



Original photo from the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner

Carlson Center, the Nanooks were holding their own.

The Top of the World Classic began in 1996 and quickly became an important annual event for many sports enthusiasts in the Interior. It attracted alumni and other fans from throughout the state and even Outside.

"It was a UAF and a city of Fairbanks thing," Sokaitis said. "I don't know if I've ever in my life been a part of something where so many gave so much to make not just the event but the team successful."

So when the Nanooks beat Nebraska 64-61, the mood in the town became

electric. The underdogs were going after the top dogs.

Weber State had been undefeated in their conference the year before, while UAF had mostly lost. But now, somehow, UAF had pulled together a rhythm that seemed hard to ignore.

The game started out inauspiciously. The Nanooks didn't take the lead until 11:21 in the first half. But after a steal by Chris Smith resulted in a bucket for Brad Oleson, the UAF team started a fire its opponent couldn't put out. Oleson, eventual tournament MVP, scored 17 points that night, with four other Nanooks scoring in the double figures. Together, they pulled off a historic upset, beating Weber State 77-65 and becoming the only Division II school to win a Division I tournament.

"It was a perfect storm in terms of players," Sokaitis said. "We had different personalities, from Texas, California, Alaska, and they were able to blend those differences so well. Quickness, speed, great basketball IQ, both scoring and defending."

"When that game ended, everybody was up. Fans were up, players were up," Sokaitis said. "I watched the crowd go crazy. It was just surreal to appreciate how far they'd come from the year before."

— Tori Tragis

Margaret Murie Building for biological sciences opens; it's named for the university's second graduate (1924), who became a famous wilderness advocate

UAF and Colorado State University sign agreement to form veterinary degree program at Fairbanks campus

Federal Aviation Administration chooses UAF's Alaska Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration to run one of six national test sites for unmanned aircraft

Mammoth-tusk cache remains hidden

A cache of mammoth tusks lies buried somewhere on the Fairbanks campus, but the location has been lost to fading memories and the march of generations.

Tens of thousands of years ago, such tusks and their mammoth bearers were regularly buried under Interior Alaska's windblown glacial loess.

But the mammoth tusks on campus were hidden for an entirely different reason — to protect them from thieves.

The tusks were acquired by Otto Geist '57 (Hon.) from gold miners in the Fairbanks area.

Geist was a prominent figure in the early history of the university. He emigrated in 1910 from Germany, where he had been trained as a machinist. In America, he worked as a farmer, mechanic, soldier and trucker before heading to Alaska.

While working on a Yukon River stern-wheeler in 1924, Geist met naturalist Olaus Murie and his wife, Mardy '24, '76 (Hon.), who had that spring become the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mine's second graduate.

The Muries convinced Geist to visit university President Charles Bunnell and show him some artifacts he had collected. At that meeting, Bunnell encouraged Geist to do more collecting.

In 1927, Bunnell backed the first of Geist's many university-sponsored expeditions. Geist returned with tons of material of both human and animal origin. His collection methods later fell into disfavor because they ignored indigenous people's interests. At the time, though, Geist was honored by some communities for his work in preserving the material.

In 1928, Geist found a new source of material. The Fairbanks Exploration Co. began washing millions of tons of muck down the creeks around Fairbanks as part of its industrial-scale gold dredging. The effort uncovered vast numbers of buried bones from Pleistocene animals, including mammoths.

The head of the F.E. Co. contacted the American Museum of Natural History, which sent a paleontologist to investigate.

The paleontologist and Geist teamed up to go collecting.

"This was the beginning of the familiar 'bone wagon' that rattled around the Fairbanks area for years thereafter," wrote Neil Davis '55, '61 in "The College Hill Chronicles," his history of the college's early days. "It provided summer employment to many students, often under the supervision of Otto Geist."

The bone wagon soon overwhelmed the storage capacity of not only the college but also museums elsewhere.

"Load after interesting load of old bones came onto the campus," Davis reported. "Piles of them grew around the buildings, and Geist even built a fence out of some of them at his off-campus home, as did at least one member of the faculty."

With so many artifacts just lying around, Fairbanks residents began to pack them off, Davis said.

So Geist and his student crew dug a hole and buried about 30 of the tusks. As the years went by, the pit's location was lost.

"Those tusks are still there," said Leo Rhode '40, former student and regent, in a 1981 interview with Davis. Rhode helped Geist bury the treasure.

"We should have put iron in with them so they could be found with a metal detector," he said.

Davis, who completed his book in 1992, added an asterisked note to his account of the burial: "The present-day worth of the tusks, if they are in first-rate condition, probably exceeds one-half million dollars on the retail market."

— Sam Bishop



2013

Professor Donald "Skip" Walker observes pronounced greening trend in Alaska's Arctic after studying years of satellite data

Sea Ice Prediction Network established, bringing researchers together to improve sea ice forecasts

Assistant Professor Tom Marsik at Bristol Bay Campus creates the world's most airtight residential building, according to World Record Academy

2014

Alaska Airlines paints two Q400 turboprop aircraft with colors and logos of University of Alaska campuses in Fairbanks and Anchorage

Plane crash sparked speculation

On July 12, 1944, a young soldier died when his small plane hit the Eielson Building, but his full story remains a mystery.

A group of soldiers from the medical staff at the temporary hospital in Hess Hall were playing volleyball next to the Eielson Building when the plane swooped over them.

“A minute later the players again heard the roar of an engine,” according to a Fairbanks Daily News-Miner article written years later by journalism student William King. “Shouts of annoyance suddenly changed to cries of terror when the onlookers realized that the plane was not going to be able to clear the heavy cables strung between the poles.

“Frozen in panic, the men watched the plane’s landing gear catch on the tightly strung wire, tipping the nose toward the ground and sending the whole craft hurtling just a few feet over their heads — into the base of the building. The plane telescoped into itself, and it took workmen hours to remove the pilot’s body from the wreckage.”

The News-Miner published King’s account on April 23, 1956, almost a dozen years after the incident. It was the most complete account yet, although King’s sources go entirely unnamed.

In the days following the crash, the News-Miner reported only that the young man was a student pilot and had taken off in Anchorage.

His name initially was withheld pending notification of kin, the paper said. His identity was never reported in later editions.

King did not report the name in 1956 either. The young man was a soldier, he noted.

“This [1944] was a war year. Many of the activities conducted at the university were of a confidential military nature,” King wrote. “Perhaps because of the delicacy of the situation, or because higher authority ordered a silence which since then has never been broken, the complete story never reached the public.”

King did describe an odd coincidence: The pilot’s ex-girlfriend was a student who worked in the Eielson Building. She lived on campus and planned to return to school that fall, he said.

“Although the girl was reticent about her connection with the dead flyer, she did say that she had ended their acquaintanceship, against his will, earlier in the year at Anchorage,” King wrote. She changed her plans and left Fairbanks as the summer ended that year, he said.

King did not identify the alleged ex-girlfriend. It’s not clear from his article whether he personally interviewed her or relied on



Original photo from Rasmuson Library (for complete citation, see page 97)

secondhand accounts from people who had known her years before.

The relationship, the apparent split and the subsequent crash left unanswered questions among people who knew the details, King wrote.

“Some look upon the accident as just that — an accident due to careless flying,” King said. “The more romantically inclined see it as the final gesture of a lovesick young man killing himself at the feet of the girl who spurned him. And then there are those who, with the authority of hearsay and imagination, maintain that the young man had more than suicide in mind when he pointed the nose of the plane toward the building in which his lost love worked. ... How would you have it?”

— Sam Bishop

Arctic Region Supercomputing Center absorbed by Geophysical Institute; staff continue to operate two supercomputers in Butrovich Building

Legislators approve financing for UAF’s new heat and power plant; the \$245 million cost to be covered by loans, bonds and a \$74.5 million state appropriation

The world’s best young pianists compete in the Alaska International Piano e-Competition at UAF; a Yamaha Disklavier piano shares the performances globally

The president who wouldn't leave

Charles Bunnell, the university's first president, stayed in his home on campus after retiring, and he kept an office in the Eielson Building until his death seven years later. His vocal presence likely contributed to the short tenure of his successor, but no one had the heart or political support to evict him. Some wonder if his presence might still linger.

Bunnell retired on July 1, 1949, after 28 years as president. He was suffering badly from diabetes. His wife had gone Outside with their daughter almost 20 years earlier, and they had not returned.

The board hired Terris Moore '67 (Hon.), a 40-year-old financial consultant from the East Coast, to replace Bunnell. Moore had a doctorate in business from Harvard, flew his own airplane and had climbed Denali and other Alaska peaks.

The board named Bunnell "president emeritus." He moved from the president's office, the Eielson Building's Room 208, across the hall to Room 207.

"The location of the president emeritus' office directly across from the president's

office was not a good arrangement," wrote William Cashen '37, a UAF math professor emeritus and university marshal, in his 1972 biography, "Farthest North College President." "Yet to have placed Dr. Bunnell in a more remote spot or in another building would have created ill will."

That ill will arose nonetheless.

At the May 1950 meeting, the regents voted to cut off Bunnell's salary. The board didn't intend to leave Bunnell penniless, according to Neil Davis '55, '61, a student who later became a geophysics professor. Davis, in his 1992 book, "The College Hill Chronicles," reported that regents just wanted Bunnell to move his residence and office off campus. Few people understood that, though.

Facing public wrath, the board offered Bunnell a deal: \$7,500 a year if he stayed on campus, \$10,000 if he left. "Bunnell refused the higher offer, and so the board caved in," Davis reported.

"Moore fully comprehended how devastating the current situation was to the university," Davis wrote. "The campus could not

help but remain divided into two camps as long as Bunnell wielded his influence."

By late 1950, Davis said, Moore had resolved to leave in 1953, a schedule to which he adhered.

Moore's successor, Ernest Patty '53 (Hon.), reported no similar conflicts with Bunnell. That's not surprising, given that Bunnell had endorsed Patty's hiring and Patty had been one of the original faculty members Bunnell brought to Alaska in 1922 when the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines opened for classes. Patty nevertheless acknowledged, years later, the impossible situation Moore had faced.

"It was a difficult job to fill Dr. Bunnell's shoes, particularly since the close-knit Alaska community resented [Moore] as an outsider. He had taken on a heartbreaking assignment," Patty wrote in his 1969 autobiography, "North Country Challenge."

Bunnell's health failed in September 1956. He moved to California to join his daughter and died there on Nov. 1.

Bunnell's steadfast devotion to the campus has caused some to wonder whether he might still haunt the place.

At his old home, for example? It serves today as a day care center and a lab school for childhood development students. The house, built in 1922, is the oldest structure on campus still in use.

Tina Christopher, who lived there when it was part of faculty housing in the early 1970s, told an interviewer in 2006 that her daughter once went sleepwalking outside in the winter but returned safely. She wondered if Bunnell might have had a hand in that.

"I'd like to think he sent her back home," Christopher said. "I was always comfortable there, so if the ghost was there, he was a good, kind, gentle one who protected us."

— Sam Bishop



Original photo from Rasmuson Library archives (for complete citation, see page 97)

2014

Dine 49, a new dining facility, opens in an addition to Wood Center; UAF will pay off the \$28 million, privately financed project in ensuing years

A concrete "strong floor" is placed in the new engineering building; the floor will allow researchers to strength-test large construction components

2015

University of Alaska Press publishes Edna MacLean's Iñupiaq to English Dictionary, a comprehensive guide to the Iñupiaq language

Interior-Aleutians Campus renamed Interior Alaska Campus; Bristol Bay Campus takes over in Aleutians area

The hammer and sickle prank

Political forces, a prank and a bit of sabotage converged to turn the University of Alaska's 1951 commencement into national news.

The prank occurred when two students attempted to replace the U.S. flag with a Soviet flag during the ceremony. Newspapers across the nation published articles about the unsuccessful switch.

The attention was unsurprising, given the politics both inside and outside Alaska at the time.

In the wake of World War II, fear of the communist Soviet Union and its expansion consumed the nation. The House Un-American Activities Committee's efforts to expose Communist Party members in Hollywood had become a high-profile matter.

In Alaska, statehood was the burning issue. So Territorial Gov. Ernest Gruening '55 (Hon.) brought California Gov. Earl Warren, a nationally known figure and Alaska statehood supporter, to the 1951 commencement to receive an honorary degree.

Just as the ceremony began, someone cut a cable running from campus to the KFAR radio transmission tower on Farmers Loop. So no one heard the planned radio broadcast of Warren's speech.

Neil Davis '55, '61, who was a new student on campus that year, described the details in "The College Hill Chronicles," his 1994 history of the university's early years.

It began when someone posted a crude Soviet flag over an Alaska map in the Main Dorm lobby. George Cunningham, an ex-Marine and successful student, took

offense and ripped down the flag. Sitting nearby was Richard Haley, a disgruntled Canadian student who was being kicked out for failing grades.

"Then somehow Cunningham got caught up in the bantering discussion, which now turned toward seeking a means to use the fake Red flag in a way that would create a good joke," Davis wrote. Both students were



annoyed at how much money the administration had spent on spiffing up the campus for commencement.

The next day while the ceremony took place in the gymnasium, now Signers' Hall, Cunningham and Haley managed to drop the U.S. colors from the campus flagpole. However, the administration had been tipped off and asked two ROTC students to watch out for trouble.

They prevented Cunningham and Haley from raising the Soviet flag. The pranksters ran off.

Initially, no media coverage of the commencement mentioned the flag incident or the cut cable.

"That could have been the end of the story were it not for Gov. Gruening," Davis wrote.

Gruening suspected the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, which had not yet endorsed statehood, was behind the cut wire. "He evidently contacted the News-Miner with a warning that the paper better put out some coverage," Davis said.

Fifteen days after commencement, the News-Miner published an article about the flag incident based on a news release from UA President Terris Moore '67 (Hon.). Wire services picked up the story and newspapers around the nation published it.

After a week of media inquiries and commentaries, Moore clarified his views in a second news release. He considered the incident a student "prank," he said. Also, Moore said, there was no evidence that the students had cut the wire to KFAR's transmitter.

Moore's news release didn't stop the outrage. Bob Bartlett '60 (Hon.), Alaska's delegate to Congress, asked the Un-American Activities Committee to investigate. The chairman declined, citing the committee's busy schedule pursuing Hollywood traitors.

Both Cunningham and Haley were expelled, Davis said, but no one ever found out who cut the cable.

— Sam Bishop

R/V *Sikuliq* arrives in home port of Seward in March

UAF adopts gender-inclusive housing rule for Bartlett Hall beginning in 2016; any two students of any gender who want to share a room are allowed to do so

Lee Salisbury, who created theater program in the 1950s and helped launch KUAC FM, dies in March at 87; he directed nearly 100 plays during his career

Work on engineering building stops in August, due to lack of funding from Legislature; only exterior complete

Safe harbor in the '67 flood

Original photo from Rasmuson Library archives (for complete citation, see page 97)



Heavy rains fell over Interior Alaska in summer 1967, and when the Chena River breached its banks on Aug. 15, it inundated much of the city. From its perch on a hill above the rising waters, the university, at the behest of President William Wood '89 (Hon.), became a haven for thousands of Fairbanksans forced out of their homes.

More than 7,000 people sought refuge at the university.

"In less than a day the university campus grew to the size of Alaska's fourth-largest city," wrote Terrence Cole '76, '78, a UAF

history professor, in his book "Cornerstone on College Hill."

"Evacuees camped anywhere with room enough to throw a sleeping bag, in dormitories, hallways, laboratories, offices, classrooms, and closets."

The university's scaled-back summer catering crew suddenly needed to provide thousands of meals per day for the unexpected guests, some of whom stepped in to help the beleaguered staff. The public relations department started a bulletin, *The High Water News*, which became *The (Lower) High Water News* and *The (Even Lower) High Water News*.

Before the water receded, it nearly flooded the campus' power plant. Ernest Kaiser, who attended classes and worked at UAF in the 1960s, recalled what happened in the fall 2014 issue of *Aurora*.

"I found the power plant superintendent, Jerry England," Kaiser wrote. "We checked the [water] level and thought it was a bit high but not a danger to anything yet. We checked it a cup of coffee later and found it had risen almost 6 inches; at that rate of rise, it would soon be spilling into the rail coal grate at the plant and flood the lower

level. If that happened, it would shut down all electrical power, heating and water."

The men immediately made plans to build a dike around the coal, the fuel that fed the all-important boilers. A contractor loaned a bulldozer. The Army responded with electric pumps and sandbags, which were filled and stacked by some 50 volunteers from the campus' newly expanded population.

Kaiser said the water nearly flooded the pumps but subsided with just 6 inches to spare. "Except for the volunteers filling and stacking sandbags, not many people found out how close to real disaster we came."

The situation was dire throughout the immediate area. The fall semester hadn't started yet, so most university students and many faculty weren't on campus, or only in a limited way. Some students were working or vacationing outside Fairbanks and couldn't get back into town. Professor Rudy Krejci was in Fairbanks at the time, but his home on Ballaine Road, just north of campus and above the flood waters, became its own kind of crisis center.

"We had about 25 people who escaped from downtown and moved into our house," said Krejci, now a professor emeritus. "I was at the university, too, but I paid more attention to the refugees in my house. Going to town for food for 25 people — you run out of food for 25 people very fast."

— *Tori Tragis*

2015

UAF eliminates several degree offerings, including philosophy, as budgets decline; UAF will "teach out" existing students in those majors

President Gamble orders 167 administrators to take 10 days of unpaid leave for fiscal year 2016, saying he expects the move to save \$600,000

Community and Technical College establishes its first wildland firefighting crew as part of its wildland fire science program

July 6: UAF rededicates the cornerstone created 100 years earlier; it also celebrates plans for Troth Yeddha' Park and a future indigenous studies center

Concrete mysteries

It's hard to say which inaccuracy about the Gruening Building is the most persistent. It might be the mispronunciation of its name. Or it might be the legend that the building was designed to withstand an assault from marauding students intent on upending The System.

Let's start with the name itself: It's "greening." Yes, the letters "ue" make most English speakers think of "blue" and "glue," but stop. This time, "ue" gets the "ee" treatment — like, well, "treatment," or "creek."

Brian Rogers, chancellor emeritus of UAF, was very clear on this matter in a 2013 documentary made by journalism Associate Professor Rob Prince and his students.

(Rogers has his own history with UAF. He attended UAF in the 1970s and served on the University of Alaska Board of Regents in the 1990s and 2000s before being UAF's chancellor 2009-2015.)

Concerning his qualifications to recommend a pronunciation, Rogers phrased it modestly in the documentary: "I know a little bit about the family." In fact, Rogers worked in the 1970s as a legislative aide to Clark Gruening, the grandson of the man for whom the Gruening Building was named.

A strong supporter of statehood, Ernest Gruening '55 (Hon.) was the territorial governor from 1939-1953, and Alaskans sent him to the U.S. Senate from 1959-1969. Gruening packed a lot into one life. He

was born in New York City in 1887. He got a medical degree from Harvard in 1912 but never practiced medicine, and instead became a journalist. He also became a Democrat, and, eventually, an opponent of the Vietnam War.

This is where the second persistent myth about the Gruening Building comes into play. The building was dedicated in 1972 during a period of unrest and civil disobedience on many U.S. campuses.

It's not uncommon to hear that its design, with its tall narrow windows and towering height (it remains the tallest building on the

The building certainly looks like a fortress. It was built in what's called the Brutalist style, all sharp angles and gray concrete. But if those narrow windows look like prime sniper positions, as some people say, wouldn't it be better if they could actually open?

Rogers said he heard a different explanation for the windows — that they were a last-minute change to the architectural design, which had originally allowed for no windows at all. After all, it's always dark in Fairbanks, so why would anyone need windows?

No one has found evidence that the architects intended for the Gruening Building to convert from classroom to citadel. It was more likely a reflection of the times that became a plausible explanation for later generations of students and employees to tell new arrivals.

Given the numbers of students who pass through its doors — it's virtually impossible to get a degree in Fairbanks without taking at least one class there — there's a lot of hand-me-down legend going on. Baffled by the building's name and design, people talk to each other, telling each other stories about their shared history, even if that history tends a little toward fable.

— *Tori Tragis*



Rasmuson Library archives (for complete citation, see page 97)

Fairbanks campus), would give university personnel a safe place from which to repel attacking students.

Yet Gruening himself was hardly a proponent of force, and allegedly said quietly after the building's dedication, "Don't they know I'm a dove?"

UAF in July announces plans to cut \$20 million from its budget as a result of reduced state funding; the cuts will eliminate more than 150 positions

UAF takes over the U.S. Air Force's High-frequency Active Auroral Research Program antenna array in Gakona; the array is used to study the ionosphere

Chancellor Brian Rogers retires at the end of August; Mike Powers, former CEO of Fairbanks Memorial Hospital and a UA regent, becomes interim chancellor

Chaos at the top

Some called it “The Year of Four Emperors.” The reference wasn’t to ancient Rome but rather to the university in 1977. Four presidents or acting presidents led the institution within a single 12-month period.

The turmoil reflected the conflict among regents, administrators, faculty, staff and students as the university tried to figure out what it should be and how to get there.

From the 1950s through the 1970s, the Fairbanks-based university had branched out into community colleges and four-year programs elsewhere in the state. Oversight of these various programs bounced from one Fairbanks administrator to another.

An accreditation team reviewed the university in October 1974 and “found ‘confusion’ and ‘uncertainty’ on reporting

lines, areas of authority, etc.,” according to Kathleen Stewart’s 1984 master’s thesis on the situation. “There was an ‘urgent need for a master plan.’”

In late 1974, UA President Robert Hiatt announced such a plan. The campuses in Fairbanks, Anchorage and Juneau would be led by individual chancellors. Hiatt would retain overall authority as statewide president. Howard Cutler became the first chancellor of the “University of Alaska, Fairbanks” in 1975. But the new plan didn’t solve the university’s problems.

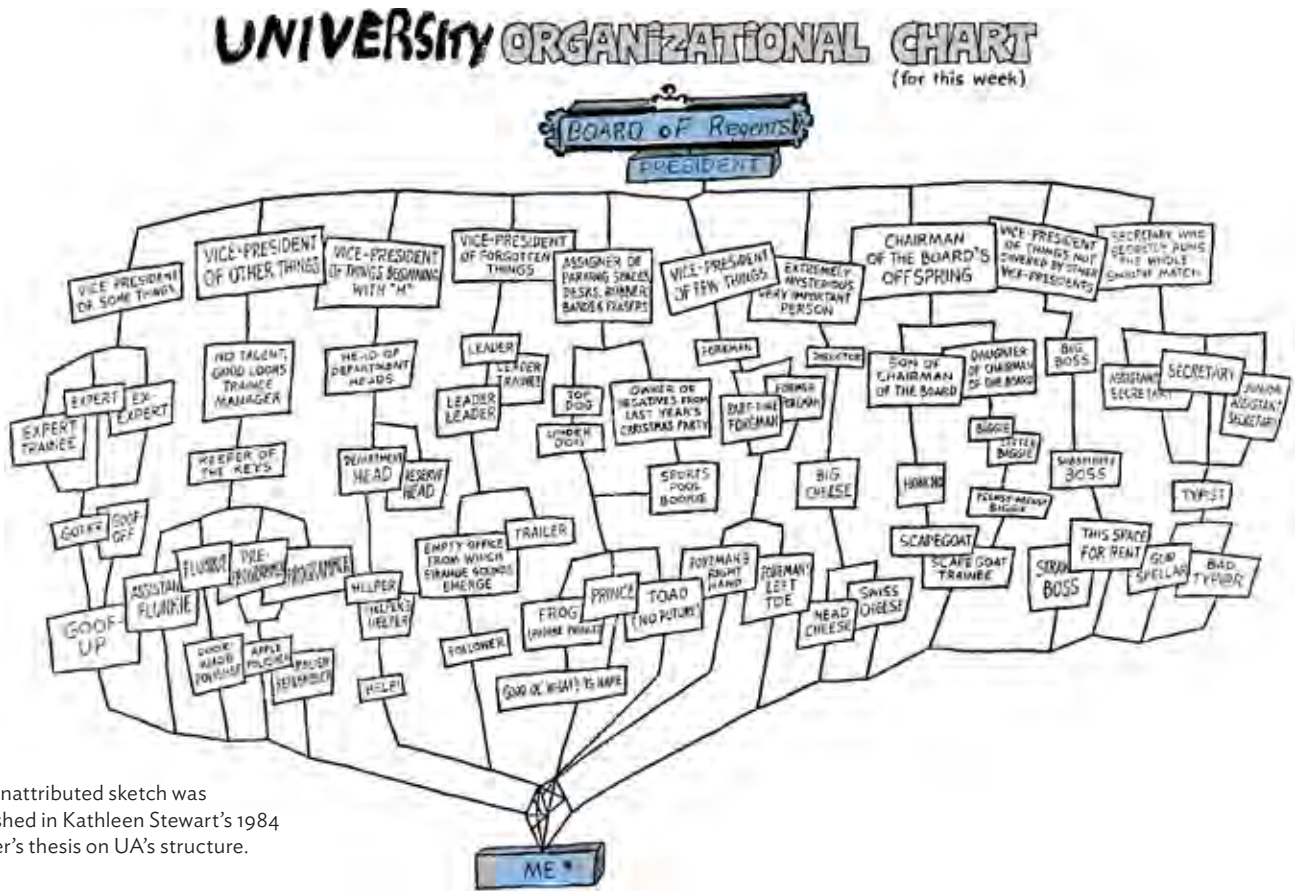
The Anchorage Community College teachers went on strike in mid-1975. In 1976, Sen. Chancy Croft, D-Anchorage, introduced a bill to break the community colleges away from the university entirely.

At the same time, the university introduced a new payroll system.

“Payroll, which affects everybody, was a disaster,” Stewart reported in her thesis. “In the first two-week pay period of July [1976], 800 checks had to be issued by hand. By the following payday, the system had improved to the point where approximately 358 were manually written.”

Then, in January 1977, Alaskans learned that the university had overspent its budget by millions of dollars. That started a cascade of presidential firings and hirings.

“Revelation of deficits (whether ‘real’ or the product of bad accounting software implementation) forced the resignation of President Hiatt in February,” wrote Will Jacobs, a University of Alaska Anchorage



This unattributed sketch was published in Kathleen Stewart’s 1984 master’s thesis on UA’s structure.

2015

President Gamble retires in September; Jim Johnsen, a former UA administrator, becomes the 14th UA president

2016

UAF students design and build a tiny satellite that rides into space aboard a rocket launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California in October

All tobacco products and nicotine vaporizers are banned on UAF campuses as of Jan. 1

Chancellor Powers’ one-year term as interim expires in May; Dana Thomas, a retired UAF faculty member and UA administrator, takes over as interim chancellor

professor emeritus of history, in his 2014 book, “Becoming UAA, 1954-2014.”

Regents hired Juneau’s Chancellor Charles Ferguson as interim president. In September 1977, Neil Humphrey became president. He lasted four months.

“Humphrey later admitted that the UA’s financial affairs were in such a mess that he feared criminal indictments might soon be brought against top university officials,” reported history Professor Terrence Cole ’76, ’78 in “The Cornerstone on College Hill.”

In the meantime, in late 1977, the UA Board of Regents formally approved the full reorganization begun by Hiatt three years earlier. The basic blueprint was similar to today’s, with three main campuses in Fairbanks, Anchorage and Juneau. However, the community colleges and Cooperative Extension Service were placed in a separate division under state administration until a 1987 reorganization returned them to the campuses.

President Humphrey left in early 1978. Regents tried to hire a finalist from an

earlier search, but that candidate turned them down. So regents appointed Foster Diebold, the board’s executive secretary, as interim president — the university’s fourth chief executive in less than a year.

Diebold served for 16 months until Jay Barton ’84 (Hon.) became president in 1979. Barton finally froze the revolving door — he stayed five years.

— Sam Bishop

An escalating controversy ended in stairs

Drop down two stair flights in a hallway off the northeast corner of the Regents’ Great Hall and you arrive at a dead end. A set of locked double doors blocks the corridor.

Instinct would tell you, correctly, that the corridor once continued beyond this point.

During the 1970s and 1980s, a regular stream of pedestrians used the passageway because it was the most direct route from the Great Hall to the Ballaine parking lot. The tunnel passed under Tanana Loop and popped out of the hillside about 40 feet above the lot. From there, a set of covered wooden stairs completed the connection to the parking area.

By the mid-1980s, though, the wooden timbers that supported the tunnel had begun to deteriorate, so the university closed the tunnel. The stairway, which also was suffering, was extended to the top of the hill, where people would then cross Tanana Loop to reach the Fine Arts Complex.

The pedestrians were not pleased. So Chancellor Joan Wadlow and university planners proposed to upgrade the route with a new tunnel — and an escalator.

The proposal, with its price tag of almost \$3 million, drew howls of derision. The idea was floated at a time when the university’s budget, like that of most state agencies, was suffering from the extended slump in oil prices that began in 1986. The Legislature was pondering cuts that were likely to eliminate almost 50 positions

and about 160 courses. To propose an escalator during such lean times appeared out of touch to many.

Others defended the idea, though. Theater- and concert-goers from the community tended to be elderly, they noted, and an escalator would greatly ease their access to the venues.

Wadlow withdrew the escalator proposal in December 1992.

“The campus and Fairbanks communities have spoken,” Wadlow said in a prepared statement. “The time is not right.”

The escalator was never built, and the tunnel never reopened. The stairs eventually were removed.

To maintain access to the Ballaine and Taku lots, the university instead installed a sidewalk and handrail along Taku Drive in 2002. The steep slope, often icy, was dubbed “Bobsled Hill.” So, in 2015, the university replaced the sidewalk and rail with an elevated staircase of metal grates along Taku Drive.

Today, only a few shrubby willows mark the old tunnel’s mouth on the hillside above the Ballaine parking lot. The situation still could change someday, though. The university’s 2010 Campus Master Plan lists construction of a parking garage on the Ballaine lot as a “long-term priority.” An artist’s rendering shows a five-story garage with an enclosed, elevated walkway from its roof to the Fine Arts Complex.

— Sam Bishop



2017

The School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, established in 1987, restructures itself and becomes the College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences

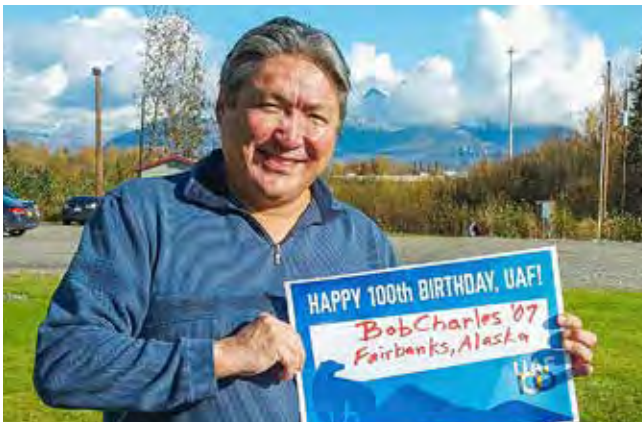
Dec. 31: UAF kicks off its 100th anniversary with a New Year’s Eve fireworks show set to music on KUAC FM

UAF celebrates its centennial with a variety of events and activities, including this commemorative edition of Aurora magazine

President Johnsen names Daniel M. White as UAF’s seventh full chancellor, with a July 1 start date

Celebration!

Memories and birthday wishes from UAF's alumni and friends



Tav Ammu '07

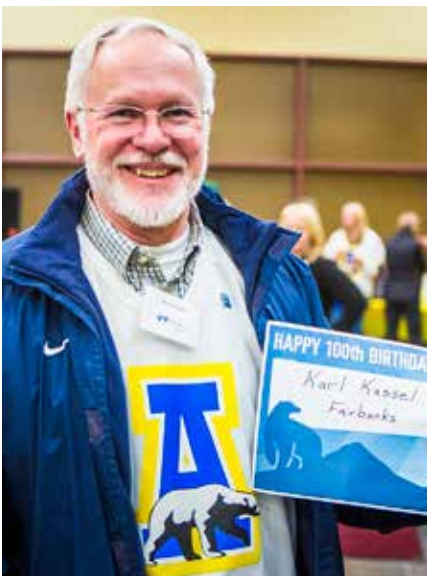
"It was so cold the exchange program to Hawaii and Australia were a must."





Guy Gallaway '62

"I have fond memories of U of A, the only University of Alaska. My memories include some rabble rousing when some of us on the first floor of Macintosh Hall published the underground newsletter *Charger* to oppose changes and restrictions introduced by William R. Wood. In one year there were three different student protest papers in addition to the annual Engineering Day paper. I have memories of cold classrooms in Old Main; you could see your breath, including a 7:30 a.m. math class, with those old windows that would not close. We all kept our coats and gloves on and the instructor wore gloves to write on the blackboard. White chalk does not stick to cold blackboards. I remember a second-floor class room in Old Main with blackboards on three of the walls. Math professor Jack Distad would use all three walls during lectures, starting at the top and writing in a spiral around the room. I remember the big dance in Old Main before it was demolished. We students demolished some interior walls on the first floor so we could have that party. I remember being in the first computer class offered, which did not have access to any computer, and studying the IBM 650, drum memory computer. The next semester we got the IBM 1620, which had a whopping 20K of memory. In 1962 Dennis Ruff and I were the first graduate students in computers. ... Because of the small amount of memory, you could not have much data stored. ... We invented and developed a pointer capability for Fortran and Fortran II that had to be manually inserted into an object program using punched cards. My most fond memories are meeting my college sweetheart, Carol Hall, marrying her in 1961, living in married student housing and graduating together in 1962. After 56 years of marriage, it doesn't seem that long ago."



Robin (Wickham) Near '90

“Some great professors (Sarkis Atamian, Gerry Berman, Cliff Brennan, Bill Schneider, Jill Bakker, Valerie Montoya and others) ... making good friends, riding the University supplied bus to and from Yak Estates ... Once the front door froze shut during a -50 degree cold spell and it was final exams week. Our neighbor heard me ramming the front door to break the ice seal and rescued me so I could get to class! I remember taking my two sons to Wood Center for the best deal ever on bowling nights. Lots of good memories of UAF and Fairbanks.”



Judy Stelson '60

“My husband, Jim Stelson (graduated in 1960, B.Ed.), is the one in the middle on the cover of the fall 2016 Aurora magazine! We lived on campus 1958-1960 in married student housing, and had wonderful experiences while there. Upon graduation, Jim became an Alaska State Trooper, then taught on base at Ft. Richardson in Anchorage. He received his M.Ed. at the University of Washington in Seattle, taught history and coached football and wrestling at East High School in Bremerton, WA—then on to Virginia, where he was an Education Specialist for the U.S. Army at Ft. Eustis, VA and KKMC, Saudi Arabia. What experiences we have had! Much traveling through the years, and we are now retired and living in Bremerton, WA. We have four beautiful daughters, one born in Fairbanks, one born in Anchorage, then two born in Bremerton. Two live locally, and two live in Amish country, Lancaster, Penn. Thank you for our years at UAF!”



Maggie Demers '03

“My first week in Alaska was spent with a great group of UAF students on Wilderness Welcome — a truly life-changing event that kicked off our first year at the university.

It was a wonderful experience to study at UAF. UAF prepared me for the workforce in ways I couldn't have imagined. Starting that first day of Wilderness Welcome, continuing through my studies, and to this day, UAF has been a central point in my life and is a place where I made some of my best, life-long friends, including Solveig Pedersen and Stephanie (Baldwin) Nailling. Steph and I were on a plane together from Seattle to Fairbanks in '99 to attend Wilderness Welcome; she was literally the first person

I met in Fairbanks and we went to UAF through graduation. Hard to believe we are approaching a 20th anniversary! Solveig and I met soon after and she is truly someone who makes the world, and my world, a better place. To this day these ladies are two of my closest friends.”





Agricultural field photo (top right) by Tom Douglas, 100 in people (middle left) by ACUASI

In Memoriam

Irvin W. Ailes '73, Oct. 29, 2016,
Chincoteague Island, Virginia

Pamela D. Anthony, former student services employee, Jan. 17, 2017,
Douglasville, Georgia

Marissa Atoruk '14, March 12, 2017, Wasilla,
Alaska

William F. Attwood '56, Dec. 26, 2016,
Houston, Alaska

Kenneth F. Austin '99, Dec. 20, 2016,
Maricopa, Arizona

Rosanne "Ro" Bailey, former administrator and retired Geophysical Institute employee, Nov. 2, 2016, Fairbanks,
Alaska

Julianne E. Baltar '15, Aug. 14, 2016,
Dillingham, Alaska

John F. Bartlett '89, Nov. 28, 2016,
Fairbanks, Alaska

Roy P. Basler '61, '65, Nov. 17, 2016, Menlo
Park, California

Donna Marie Baum '80, '92, Oct. 2, 2016,
Fairbanks, Alaska

John W. "Jack" Bernet, professor emeritus,
April 23, 2017, Fairbanks, Alaska

Anne E. Birkholz '71, Dec. 31, 2016,
Fairbanks, Alaska

Allen D. Brandt '04, Oct. 28, 2016, North
Pole, Alaska

Marylou C. Brewer '65 (Hon.), May 21, 2017,
Anchorage, Alaska

Derick Wade Burleson, associate professor of English, Dec. 28, 2016,
Fairbanks, Alaska

Margaret Cantwell '70, June 16, 2017,
Marlboro, Massachusetts

Dawn Elissa Carpenter '13, July 11, 2016,
Fairbanks, Alaska

Adela M. Cayous '68, Sept. 23, 2016, Vista,
California

Jerah Chadwick '88 and professor emeritus, June 7, 2016, San Antonio, Texas

Jean Chechowski '69, April 1, 2017,
Anchorage, Alaska

Cora Cook, matriculate, Jan. 24, 2017,
Fairbanks, Alaska

Edward M. Cox '47, Dec. 1, 2016, Fairbanks,
Alaska

Roy Darwin Crank '71, Jan. 27, 2017,
Tehachapi, California

Jeri K. Croucher '97, Oct. 17, 2016,
Fairbanks, Alaska

Flora Marie Davis '99, March 4, 2017,
Huntsville, Alabama

T. Neil Davis '55, '61 and professor emeritus, Dec. 10, 2016, Fairbanks, Alaska
(see profile, page 36)

Norma V. Dornack '59, March 30, 2017,
Onalaska, Wisconsin

Kenneth E. Dunshie '73, Aug. 25, 2016,
Fairbanks, Alaska

Gary L. Eddy '72, Sept. 20, 2016, Juneau,
Alaska

Lowell J. Ellis '71, Aug. 26, 2016, Haines,
Alaska

Marilyn Sue Enoka '84, March 12, 2017,
North Pole, Alaska

Ethel E. Ephamka '98, Nov. 24, 2016,
Anchorage, Alaska

Lottie C. Fleeks, matriculate, Aug. 27, 2016,
Fairbanks, Alaska

Yvonne M. Franklin, former HR employee,
July 23, 2016, Fairbanks, Alaska

Peter E. Galli '51, Nov. 17, 2016, Gilbert,
Arizona

Frances L. Gleason '69, Oct. 30, 2016,
Anchorage, Alaska

Joe Glover '79, April 15, 2017, North Pole,
Alaska

Sally V. Harris, matriculate, Oct. 20, 2016,
Portland, Oregon

Peter J. Heppe '87, Oct. 3, 2016, Anchorage,
Alaska

Jane E. Hixon '82, Nov. 25, 2016, Cypress,
Texas

Edward L. Hoch '88, '91 and former GI employee, Aug. 16, 2016, Juneau, Alaska

Bjarne Holm '73, Oct. 9, 2016, Anchorage,
Alaska

Joseph L. Hosch '69, Jan. 6, 2017, Salem,
Oregon

Raymond "Lee" Hurley '69, June 20, 2017,
Juneau, Alaska

Erica Keiko Iseri '97, '00 and international programs employee, Sept. 4, 2016,
Fairbanks, Alaska

Mary Ann Johnson '74, March 21, 2017,
Fairbanks, Alaska

Ruth M. Jones '63, Jan. 23, 2016, St.
Petersburg, Florida

Michael P. Kelly '66 and former UA regent,
Dec. 7, 2016, Fairbanks, Alaska

Stephen S. Kerner '76, June 11, 2017,
Fairbanks, Alaska

Michael P. Kirton '74, Aug. 5, 2016,
Dawsonville, Georgia

Jerry Lee Kisabeth '70, May 4, 2017,
Edmond, Oklahoma

Robert "Bill" W. Kranich '63, May 22, 2017,
Anchorage, Alaska

Matthew T. Kurzawa '60, June 24, 2017,
Panama City, Florida

Rita T. Lane '56, Nov. 24, 2016, Chugiak,
Alaska

Eugene R. Leavens '58, June 25, 2017,
Anchorage, Alaska

Donald C. Leistikow, matriculate, Dec. 13,
2016, Fairbanks, Alaska

Victor H. Lemay '91, Oct. 20, 2016, Boise,
Idaho

Claudia Jane Lively '00 and former adjunct faculty member, Oct. 7, 2016,
Fairbanks, Alaska

John J. Lounsbury, matriculate, Oct. 24,
2016, Fairbanks, Alaska

Kenneth C. Lowney '61, '73, July 7, 2016,
Anchorage, Alaska

Garold Dean Malcolm, matriculate, Dec. 27,
2016, Auburn, Washington

Richard H. Marlin '79 and former Geophysical Institute employee, Sept. 5,
2016, Fairbanks, Alaska

Phillip M. McCollum '75, '79, Aug. 11, 2016,
Lillian, Alabama

Deborah A. McCorkle, matriculate, Nov. 5,
2016, Fairbanks, Alaska

Robyn B. McFetridge '58, Jan. 14, 2017,
North Pole, Alaska

Charles B. McNeil '59, April 20, 2017,
Polson, Montana

Nelder Medrud '54, April 18, 2017, Boulder,
Colorado

Randall Wade Miller '96, Nov. 29, 2016,
North Bend, Washington

Jimmy Nelson Moore '70, July 14, 2016,
Temecula, California

William Mrak '84, July 19, 2016, Palmer,
Alaska

Rose Anne Murphy '94, Aug. 21, 2016,
Raheny, Ireland

Peter Nelson '73, Sept. 26, 2016,
Foxborough, Massachusetts

Anthony W. Nelson '79, '81, Feb. 11, 2017,
Fairbanks, Alaska

Delores K. Nerland '57, Oct. 16, 2016,
Chandler, Arizona

Frank E. Nyman '66, Jan. 30, 2017, Anchorage, Alaska

Barbara C. O'Dell '87, April 29, 2017, Fairbanks, Alaska

Douglas J. O'Neill '77, Feb. 1, 2017, Fairbanks, Alaska

Takeshi Ohtake, professor emeritus, Jan. 15, 2017, Denver, Colorado

Ethel Payton, matriculate, Jan 1, 2017, Kansas City, Missouri

Margaret Mary Peek '55, '57, March 20, 2017, Boise, Idaho

Deanna A. Pete, Kuskokwim Campus staff member, Oct. 24, 2016, Bethel, Alaska

Cynthia M. Pilot '13, Sept. 23, 2016, Koyukuk, Alaska

Jim Rearden '05 (Hon.) and former professor and department head of wildlife, Feb. 18, 2017, Homer, Alaska

William R. Rodenberg '65, June 20, 2017, Murrieta, California

Wilda J. Rodman Laughlin '87, Nov. 1, 2016, Juneau, Alaska

Doris J. Saario '55, '63, Feb. 23, 2017, Port Townsend, Washington

John Ward Schaeffer '04, Aug. 25, 2016, Kotzebue, Alaska

Grace Berg Schaible '49, '91 (Hon.) and former UA regent, June 10, 2017, Fairbanks, Alaska

Kristen Jean Schulz '98, July 11, 2016, Seattle, Washington

Robert Eugene Short '65, March 29, 2017, Eustis, Florida

Ronald O. Skoog '56, Sept. 20, 2016, Vacaville, California

James R. Slusser '94, Nov. 4, 2016, Fort Collins, Colorado

Earline Smith '70, Feb. 1, 2017, Juneau, Alaska

Pamela K. Sowell, retired staff member, April 6, 2017, LaGrange, Kentucky

Robert A. Stark '59, July 30, 2016, Miliona, Minnesota

Heidi M. Stark '90, '92, and former Human Resources staff member, Oct. 21, 2016, Fairbanks, Alaska

Sherry M. Stephens '71, Oct. 27, 2016, last residence unknown

Carolyn Stevens '71, Dec. 10, 2016, Anchorage, Alaska

Alicia Ann Stump '61, June 19, 2017, Westlake Village, California

John E. Swanson '70, July 15, 2016, Anchorage, Alaska

Guy L. Tarnstrom '71, Feb. 28, 2017, Chelmsford, Massachusetts

Bernice Betsy Tetpon '83, '87, '98, Nov. 11, 2016, Anchorage, Alaska

Yancey Thompson '81, '07, Nov. 27, 2016, Anchorage, Alaska

Joel William Titus '05, Sept. 2, 2016, Fairbanks, Alaska

Norman C. Toso '69, Dec. 5, 2016, Janesville, Wisconsin

Charles W. Tryck '41, '66, April 13, 2017, Anchorage, Alaska

Carol Ruth Watson-Byayuk '01 and former Bristol Bay Campus employee, Feb. 3, 2017, Togiak, Alaska

Wilford F. Weeks, professor emeritus, Feb. 10, 2017, Portland, Oregon

Barbara J. Weiss '83, Aug. 19, 2016, Lacey, Washington

George C. West, professor emeritus, Aug. 31, 2016, Green Valley, Arizona

D. Michael Wheat '73, Oct. 30, 2016, Fairbanks, Alaska

Justin "Scooter" Yurong, Community and Technical College faculty member, July 22, 2017, Fairbanks, Alaska

Citations for historical photos

Page 4, University of Alaska, General File/Vertical File—University of Alaska—Individuals, Accession number UAF-1958-1026-2500, Archives, Alaska and Polar Regions Collections, Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Page 6 (top), Earl Beistline Collection, Accession number 1985-093-616, Archives, Alaska and Polar Regions Collections, Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Page 6 (bottom), Earl Beistline Collection, Accession number 1985-093-623, Archives, Alaska and Polar Regions Collections, Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Pages 8-9, Earl Beistline Collection, Accession number 1985-093-228, Archives, Alaska and Polar Regions Collections, Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Page 16, University of Alaska, General File/Vertical File—University of Alaska—General, Accession number UAF-1958-1026-898, Archives, Alaska and Polar Regions Collections, Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Page 26, Albert Johnson Photograph Collection, 1905-1917, Accession number UAF-1989-166-445-neg glass, Archives, Alaska and Polar Regions Collections, Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Page 28 (top), Agricultural Experiment Station Albums, Accession number unknown, Archives, Alaska and Polar Regions Collections, Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Page 83, University of Alaska, General File/Vertical File—University of Alaska—Buildings, Accession number UAF-1958-1026-1992, Archives, Alaska and Polar Regions Collections, Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Page 84, Charles E. Bunnell Collection, Accession number unknown, Archives, Alaska and Polar Regions Collections, Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Page 86, University Relations Collection, Accession number UAF-1996-0144-01157, Archives, Alaska and Polar Regions Collections, Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Page 87, University Relations Collection, Accession number unknown, Archives, Alaska and Polar Regions Collections, Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska Fairbanks

More historical resources

Books

"The College Hill Chronicles," by T. Neil Davis, University of Alaska Press

"The Cornerstone on College Hill," by Terrence Cole, University of Alaska Press

"Farthest North College President," by William Cashen, University of Alaska Foundation

"Rock Poker to Pay Dirt: The History of Alaska's School of Mines and its Successors," by Leslie M. Noyes, University of Alaska Foundation

Films

"Look North" (1962), Alaska Film Archives, call number AAF-84

"Frontiers of Learning" (1957), Alaska Film Archives, call number AAF-39



University of Alaska Fairbanks
PO Box 757505
Fairbanks, AK 99775-7505

Duplicate mailings? Update your address or change your subscription options at www.uaf.edu/aurora/subscriptions/.



Members of Nanook Nation wear their blues and golds during the 2017 Golden Days Grande Parade in downtown Fairbanks on July 22. Judges awarded UAF's float, which celebrated the university's centennial, as the best noncommercial entry.



Thank you for celebrating with us!

To help students succeed, generous alumni and friends have given nearly \$9 million via the Centennial Scholarships and Fellowships Initiative launched by UAF more than two years ago. (That's \$3.8 million above the typical giving rate to scholarships in that time frame!) To contribute to UAF's next 100 years, visit www.uaf.edu/centennial/.