

# President's Report

UNIVERSITY *of* ALASKA

2002-2003



UNIVERSITY  
*of* ALASKA

*Many Traditions One Alaska*





UNIVERSITY  
of ALASKA  
*Many Traditions One Alaska*



2002-2003  
President's Report

anchorage

valdez

kodiak

palmer

kenai

fairbanks

nome

bethel

dillingham

interior-aleutians

kotzebue

tanana valley

juneau

ketchikan

sitka

## Faculty and Staff: **Accomplishments**

# President's Letter

Last fall, for the first time in the history of the state or territory, the majority of Alaska's college-bound students stayed at home to pursue their higher education goals. In fall 2003, 55% of Alaska's college-bound students enrolled at campuses of UA. Compared to 40% only 5 years ago. That's 3600 more Alaska university students who are choosing our university because of the quality of our faculty, the affordability, accessibility, and responsiveness of our programs.

As they embark on their college careers, these young people will make new friends and they will meet the university's faculty and staff who will inspire them, motivate, teach them and get them excited about the potential of their own lives.

Faculty and staff are the heart and soul of our great institution, and this report celebrates their achievements. The outstanding individuals portrayed in this report were chosen from among their colleagues who also devote their careers to advancing knowledge and encouraging students to become all that they can be.

We're proud of these members of the university and present them here as examples of a profession which is essential to the advancement and well-being of Alaska now and in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Allen", with a stylized flourish at the end.



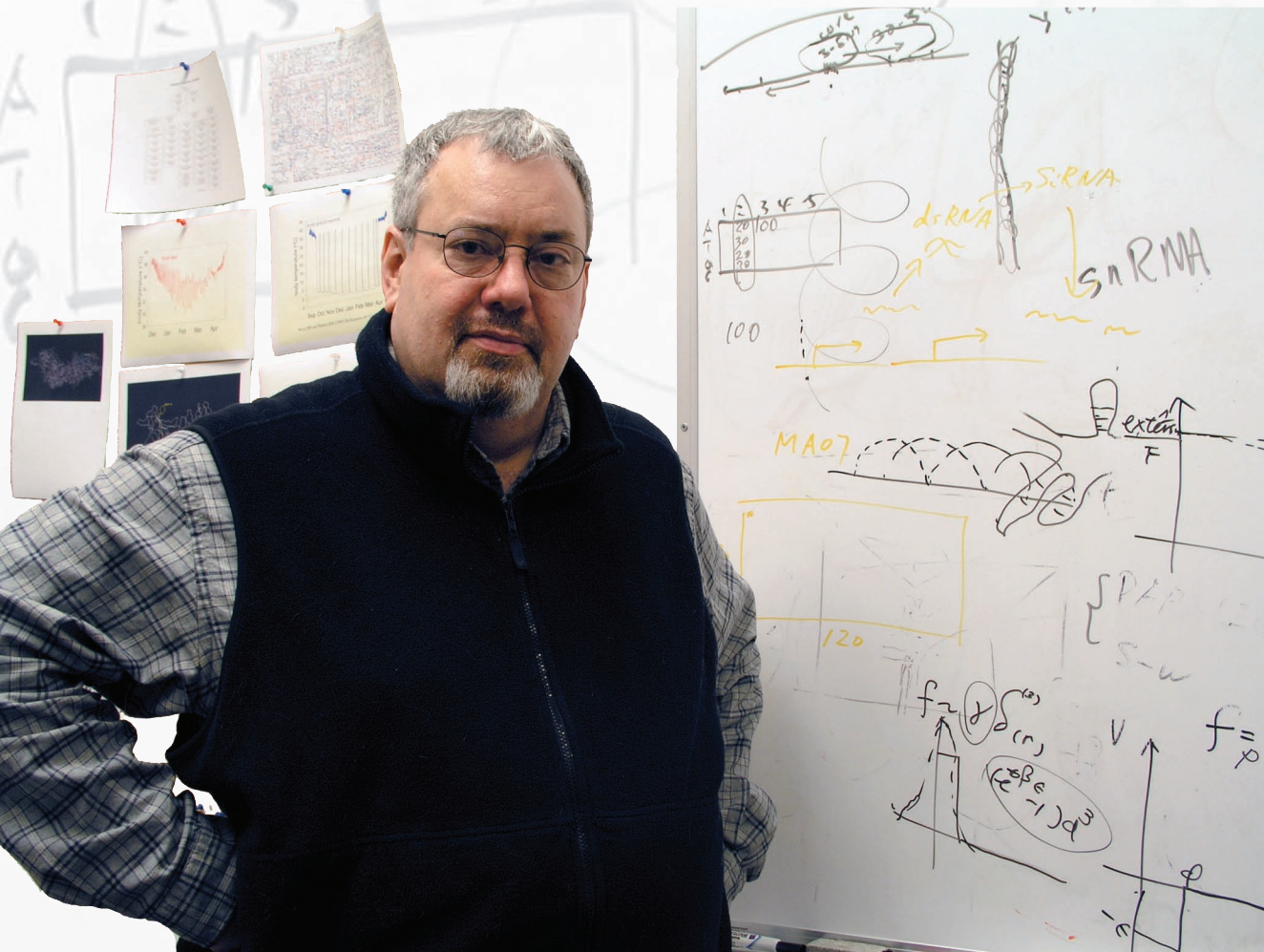
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*UA President Mark Hamilton proposed the President's Professor program to support the university's responsiveness and capacity to assist the state with its most important challenges and has set aside specific funds for up to eight senior faculty positions. Areas identified as opportunities for study include global climate change, fisheries and ocean sciences, Alaska Native languages and culture, global logistics, bioinformatics, satellite data retrieval and analysis, behavioral health sciences and educational technology.*

*The President's Professors program is funded by the University of Alaska Foundation.*





## President's Professors at UAF:

John Walsh

Global Climate Change

Gordon Kruse

Fisheries and Oceanography

Buck Sharpton

Remote Sensing

Thomas Marr

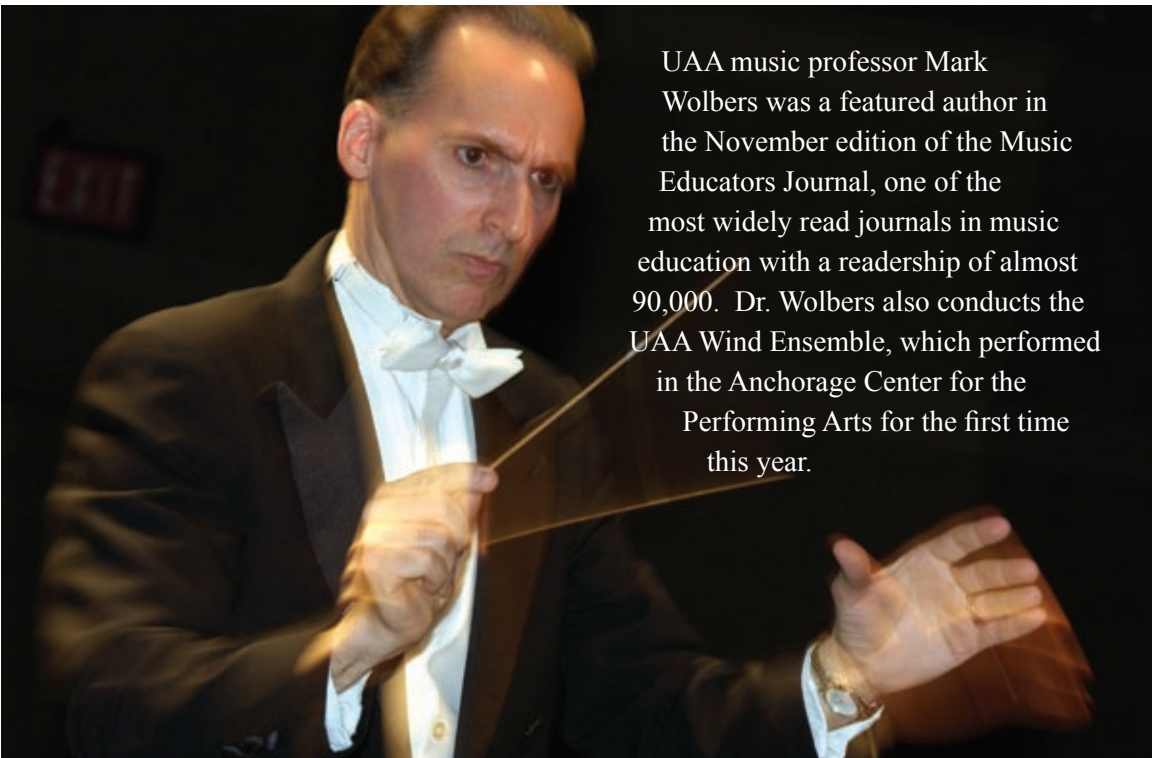
Bioinformatics and  
Computational Biology

**T**homas Marr, Professor of Bioinformatics and Computational Biology, was appointed a President's Professor at UAF. Marr joins President's Professors John Walsh in global climate change, Gordon Kruse in fisheries and oceanography, and Buck Sharpton in remote sensing.

Marr is currently chairman of the Informatics committee for the International Human Genome Diversity Project. UAF's bioinformatics program focuses on the science of managing and interpreting vast amounts of data on gene expression and protein synthesis as well as complex ecological data. It involves faculty, staff and students in the institutes of Arctic Biology and Marine Science, departments of Biology and Wildlife and Mathematical Sciences, the Arctic Region Supercomputing Center and the graduate program in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

**M**ark Wolbers received his Doctorate of Musical Arts in Clarinet Performance from the University of Michigan where he was a recipient of both Rackham and School of Music Fellowships. He has performed as a symphony musician with numerous orchestras, and as a soloist and chamber musician.

Wolbers is a founding member of the Alaska Pro Musica trio. This faculty trio from the University of Alaska Anchorage recently completed a second concert tour of Chile, South America, and released its first CD titled Contrasts. During the first tour of Chile, Wolbers and Alaska Pro Musica pianist Timothy Smith, performed the world premiere of Leslie Hogan's Sonata for Clarinet and Piano. In 1996, Alaska Pro Musica was invited to perform at the "Semanas Musicales" International Music Festival in Frutillar, Chile. The performance was hailed as "the best concert" of the chamber music series.



UAA music professor Mark Wolbers was a featured author in the November edition of the Music Educators Journal, one of the most widely read journals in music education with a readership of almost 90,000. Dr. Wolbers also conducts the UAA Wind Ensemble, which performed in the Anchorage Center for the Performing Arts for the first time this year.

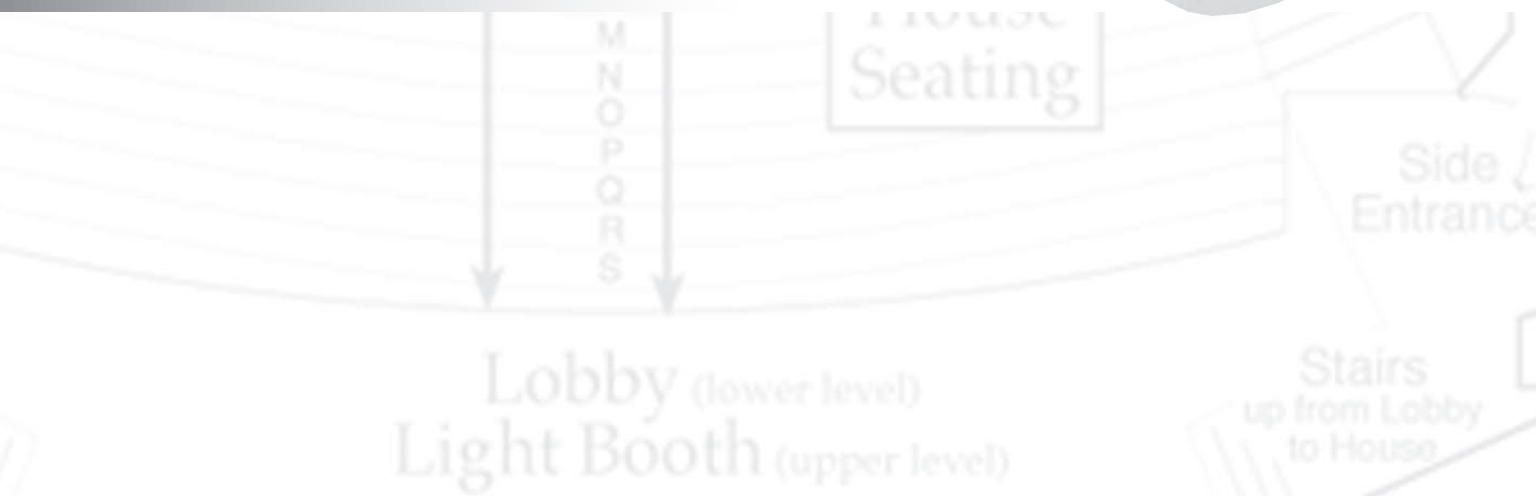
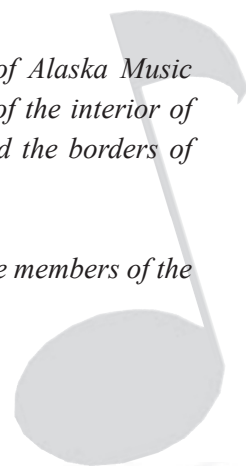
In addition to performing, Dr. Wolbers has been active as a conductor, clinician and educator. His past teaching experience includes the University of Michigan, San Jose State University, San Jose City College and as a public school music educator in Michigan. Currently, Dr. Wolbers is the Associate Professor of Clarinet at the University of Alaska Anchorage where he also directs the University Wind Ensemble and oversees the Music Education degree programs. Dr. Wolbers is the Region VII Representative for the Alaska Music Educators Association and the Alaska State Representative for the Society for Music Teacher Education.



*The University of Alaska is dedicated to providing leadership in the musical arts for the state of Alaska through teaching, performance, composition, publication, community outreach, and other creative and service-oriented endeavors related to the field of music.*

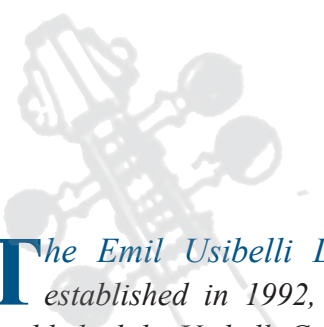
*With over two dozen active ensembles systemwide, the University of Alaska Music Departments are major components in the cultural and musical life of the interior of Alaska. The faculty and students' musical activities reach far beyond the borders of Alaska with performances at diverse locations throughout the world.*

*The Music Departments at the Fairbanks and Anchorage campuses are members of the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM).*



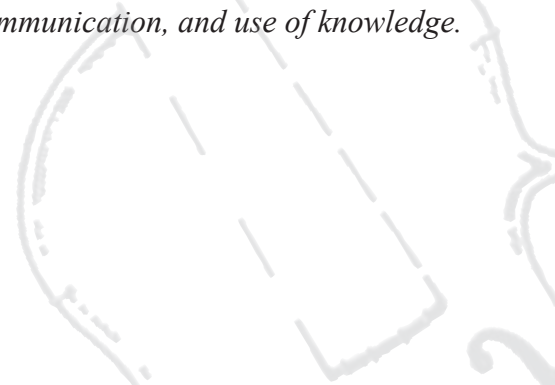


University of Alaska Professor of Violin, Kathleen Butler-Hopkins performed the Samuel Barber Concerto for Violin and Orchestra, Op. 14 with the Fairbanks Youth Symphony.



**T***he Emil Usibelli Distinguished Teaching, Research and Service Awards, established in 1992, are named in honor of Alaska pioneer Emil Usibelli, who established the Usibelli Coal Mine, a major contributor to the energy needs of Alaska and the company which funded the endowment to make these awards possible.*

*These prestigious awards are presented to individuals who display extraordinary excellence in one of three categories representing the land, sea and space grant mission of the University of Alaska Fairbanks - teaching, research, and public service. Individuals receiving the Emil Usibelli Awards are being recognized for their exemplary contributions to the discovery, communication, and use of knowledge.*



**Kathleen Butler-Hopkins**, Professor of Music, received the 2003 Usibelli Distinguished Service Award. She is dedicated to classical music performance and education, and has served in the demanding role of concertmaster for the Fairbanks Symphony, Arctic Chamber Orchestra, and Fairbanks Choral Arts Orchestra. She has promoted young talent as coordinator of the junior symposium of the Fairbanks Symphony Orchestra and through her activities in the Youth Symphony, as coordinator of the strings program of the UAF Summer Fine Arts Camp, and as chamber music coordinator of the Suzuki Institute. She has prepared many pre-college students to participate in a range of prestigious music groups and competitions, including the National Honors Orchestra. Butler-Hopkins studied at Juilliard, Curtis, Trinity, and Yale.





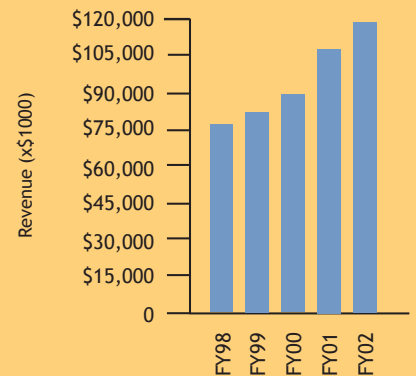
Jan Straley

**Jan Straley** is an assistant professor of marine biology at the University of Alaska Southeast Sitka Campus. She received her Bachelor of Science from the College of Fisheries at the University of Washington in 1975, followed by a Master's Degree in Biological Oceanography from the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences at the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 1994. Jan has worked primarily in the field of biology as it relates to fisheries and wildlife but her emphasis has been in whale research. Her focus has been on population dynamics, feeding ecology and social structure of humpback whales. Currently, she is studying the predation of Steller sea lions by killer whales and interactions between sperm whales and the longline fishery in the Gulf of Alaska. She has lived in Sitka since 1977 with her husband, John, a writer. They have a 15 year old son, Finn.

Research at the University of Alaska is a necessary element in the delivery of programs and services that are of value to the future of the state. The university has more than 70 institutes, centers, and schools that are internationally known for their contributions to research. Some of the topics that UA is recognized for are engineering, space physics, climate change, and social and policy research. UA continues to see an increase in total revenue from research, reporting more than \$119 million of revenue.

At its March 2003 meeting in Anchorage, the North Pacific Research Board reviewed 156 research proposals designed to address pressing fisheries management issues and marine ecosystem information needs off Alaska. The proposals requested nearly \$70 million in support. After hearing from its Science Panel and considering the scientific merits of the proposals along with its statutory mandates, the Board approved 30 projects totaling \$7 million. Jan Straley of UAS Sitka received \$180,000 for research on sperm whale fisheries interactions with longline gear.

**Total Revenue as a  
Result of Research**  
University of Alaska



**S**usan Sugai is the associate director of the Alaska Sea Grant College Program and a marine research scientist at the University of Alaska Fairbanks School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences. As associate director of Sea Grant she oversees Sea Grant-funded research and education projects and coordinates the program's strategic planning. As a research scientist, she has studied biogeochemistry of marine and lake sediments and taiga forest soils.

Sugai received her doctorate degree from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 1985. During her career she has studied issues such as the degradation of oil following the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill.

President George W. Bush appointed Dr. Susan Sugai to the United States Arctic Research Commission, which recommends national Arctic research policy.

Sugai will serve as an academic representative to the United States Arctic Research Commission through February 26, 2007.

*"This is a great honor and a responsibility that I look forward to. There are numerous environmental, social and political changes occurring throughout the Arctic that deserve attention at the national level."*

Dr. Susan Sugai



Dr. Susan Sugai aboard the R/V Alpha Helix



**The Arctic Region Supercomputing Center (ARSC)** provides state-of-the-art computational services and visualization resources to local research groups such as the Geophysical Institute, the Institute of Marine Science, and the Institute of Northern Engineering, as well as researchers from other academic institutions nationwide and federal agencies. With the resources provided by the center, researchers make significant contributions to science and engineering at the state, national, and international levels.

*Some of the research areas currently supported by ARSC are regional and global climate modeling; ocean circulation and tsunami modeling; proteomics and genomics; and the physics of the magnetosphere, ionosphere, and upper atmosphere.*



*Barbara Horner-Miller and Virginia Bedford at the Arctic Region Supercomputing Center (ARSC).*



**Barbara Horner-Miller**, Associate Director at ARSC, was elected Chair of the International High Performance Supercomputing and Networking Conference, SC2006. The international conference brings together thousands of experts from high performance computing and networking industries to learn about new scientific applications and recent research in the field. The conference's showroom floor boasts exhibits from organizations such as NASA, IBM and Cray Inc. Each year, conference organizers temporarily construct the fastest network in the world for the week of the conference.

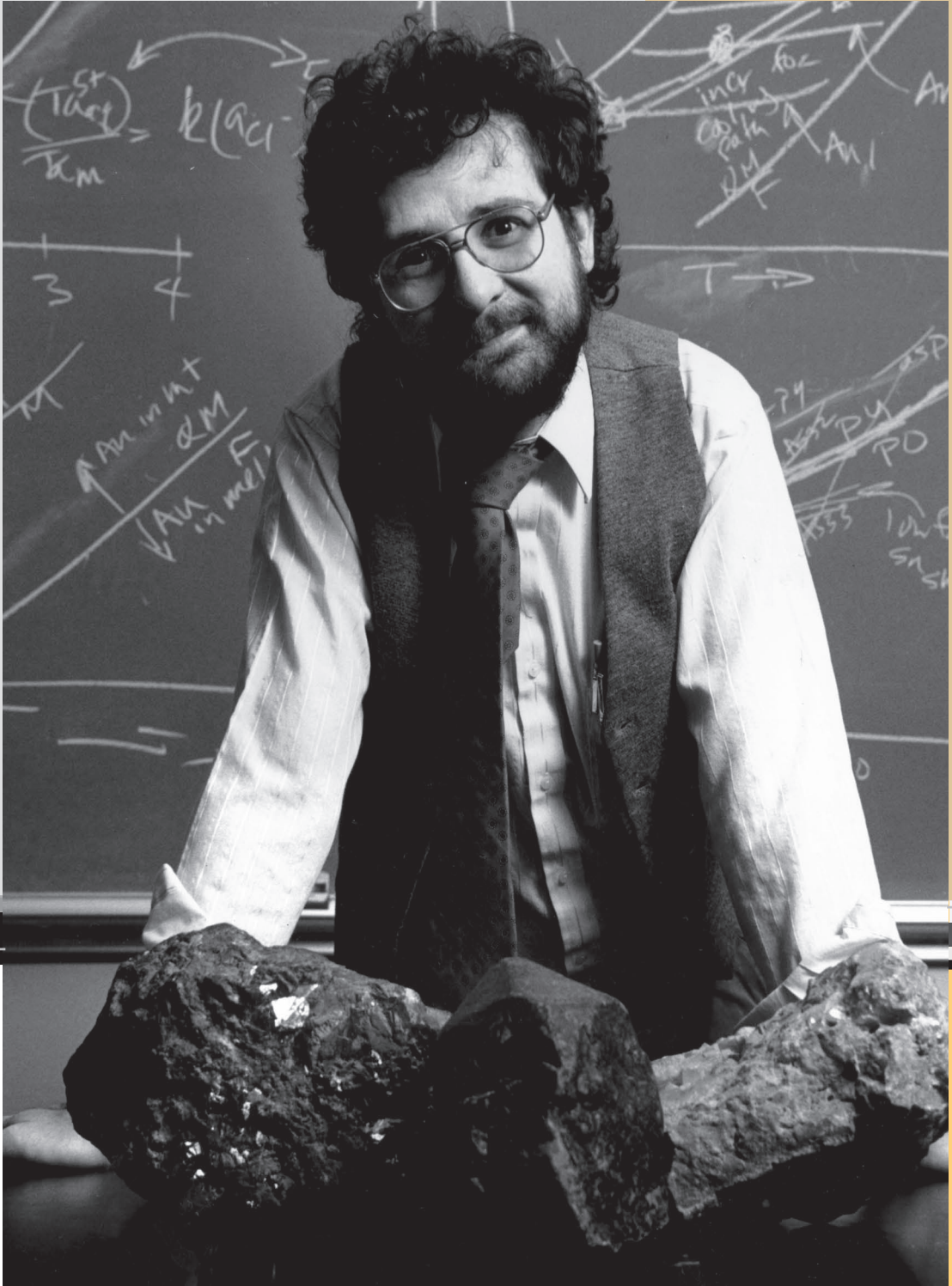
As chair of the SC2006 conference, Horner-Miller will handle the conference's \$3 million budget, as well as organize thousands of square feet of exhibit floor space, two days and ten tracks of tutorials, and three-and-a-half days and six tracks of technical talks, one track of which will be broadcast around the world.

Horner-Miller has more than thirty years' experience in the computing field. She spent the first part of her career working with scientists and engineers programming to solve computational problems using state-of-the-art computers at world-class institutions. For the past fifteen years she has worked in user services at these institutes in positions of increasing scope and responsibility. During her career, she has frequently served as a liaison between her organization and other industry, government, and educational organizations as well as participated in professional organizations.

**Virginia Bedford**, ARSC Technical Services Director, was recognized as a High Performance Computing Modernization program (HPCMP) Hero for 2003. Bedford was praised for her extensive work in creating formal and informal cross-collaborations within the HPCMP and high performance computing communities.

Bedford has 20 years' experience working with computers and high performance, state-of the art computing systems. She has focused on operating systems support and systems management with an emphasis on high quality user support. For the past nine years she has worked to enhance the infrastructure of the Arctic Region Supercomputing Center and has added expertise in information and network security. She is active in vendor user groups.

**R**ainer Newberry, Professor of Geology and Geophysics, received the 2003 Emil Usibelli Distinguished Teaching Award. Newberry has taught at UAF since 1982. He received bachelor's degrees in both Geology and Chemistry at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and his master's and Ph.D from Stanford in Geology. Newberry teaches at all levels in the geology department from introductory classes to graduate courses in Geochemistry and Economic Geology. He is a major organizer of the geology department's summer field camp, a six-week course required for students seeking UAF's bachelor of science Geology degree. Newberry commonly teaches four courses a semester, advises graduate students, and serves as undergraduate advisor for a majority of the more than forty undergraduate Geology and Earth Science students. Colleagues describe his teaching style as one of engagement with a hands-on approach to science. Many former students are now major players with the Alaska Geological Survey and in mining and consulting companies in Alaska.





*Dr. Letitia Fickel in Mongolia outside of School #1 in Arhangi, pictured with State Pedagogical University instructors Bayarchemeg on left and Nera on right.*

**Dr. Letitia Fickel**, Assistant Professor of Education, spent two weeks in Mongolia leading two workshops for the State Pedagogical University for their Teacher 2005 Project. Funded by the Mongolian Foundation for Open Society (Soros Foundation), the Teacher 2005 Project is focused on teacher education enhancement and reform and the development of school-university collaborative partnerships. In the workshops, Dr. Fickel worked with approximately 100 teachers and university faculty to help them redesign their primary and secondary teacher education programs to reflect reform-minded trends and practices.

An American Educational Research Association conference paper written by Dr. Fickel, College of Education Secondary Social Studies faculty member, and Dr. Ken Jones, former College of Education Elementary Mathematics faculty member, has been selected for publication on the IndianEduResearch.Net site. The paper is entitled The Tundra is the Text: Using Alaska Native Contexts to Promote Cultural Relevancy in Teacher Professional Development.

The university has been working with the state Department of Education & Early Development to enhance teacher education programs, and revise its teacher education programs to include a 5th year MAT that will require teachers to obtain a discipline based BA and a 5th year intensive in-school internship with a master teacher.

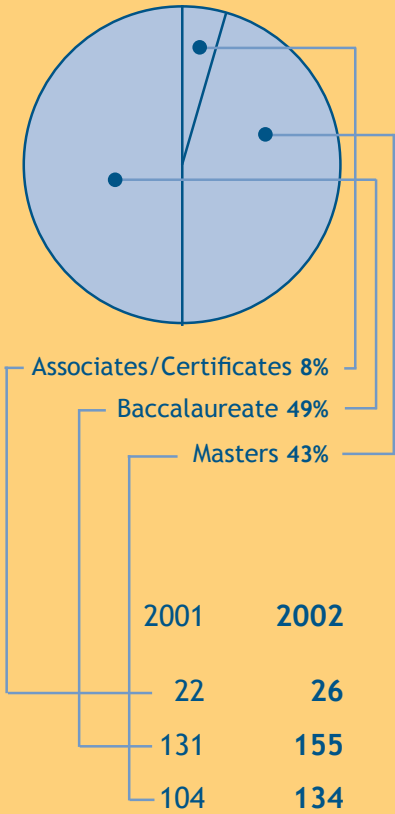
Many partnerships have been established between the high schools and their local college campuses, including a joint vocational/technical high school in Fairbanks, the “College Connection” program, financed by the City of Juneau, which pays the full cost of college tuition for advanced placement students who take college courses, and collaborations in several communities allow high school students to gain up to one year of post-secondary vocational training while they complete their high school curriculum.

In addition, the university is working closely with local schools to develop programs in all areas of the K-12 system to include advance placement courses for high school students for joint high school-college credit, job training programs and vocational education opportunities. Summer programs are also being offered to high school students in areas of finance, math, arts, music and English.

**UAA’s College of Education’s** mission is to employ diverse ways of knowing, learning, and viewing the world in order to promote the intellectual, social, creative, emotional, and physical development of students, families, and communities.

*In their mission to provide instruction, service and research to the Alaska community, the College of Education offers undergraduate and graduate curricula and programs designed to prepare personnel for various professional roles related to education in a variety of learning environments.*

University of Alaska  
Teacher Education  
Degrees Awarded

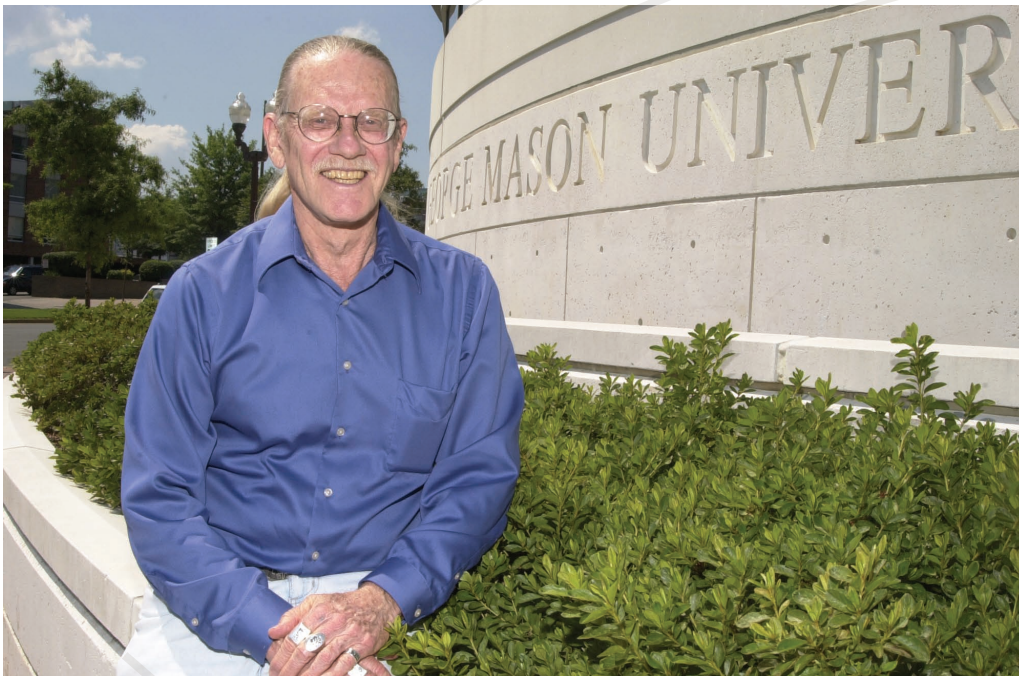




**T**he Rasmuson Chair was named for Elmer Rasmuson, an Alaska banker and philanthropist who died last year leaving the university a \$5 million bequest to establish the chair; making it the university's first fully endowed chair funded entirely by a private contribution.

*Purpose of the chair is to bring to UAA distinction and leadership in the study of economics and its relevance to Alaska's future. The goals of the chair are to advance teaching of economics in Alaska, to advance economic research on topics of importance to Alaska, and to advance public policy in Alaska through service to the state.*

*Applicants for the chair are solicited by an international search, and a search committee selected by the UAA chancellor reviews the applications. The person holding the chair has achieved distinction in the field of economics. The chair is also to have the talent and desire to inspire learning in economics, both in formal teaching and in outreach activities in both rural and urban Alaska. The term of the endowed chair is for not less than one nor more than five years.*



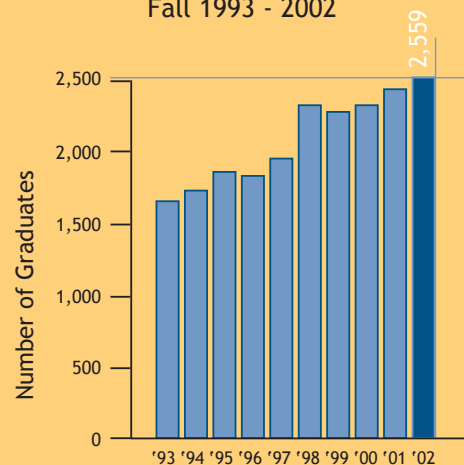
**D**r. Vernon L. Smith, winner of the 2002 Nobel Prize in Economics, was named the first Rasmuson Chair in Economics. Dr. Smith is joined in Alaska by Candace, his wife and partner. During their seven-month stay at UAA they are engaging in intensive discussions with faculty and community groups regarding issues of concern to Alaskans such as fisheries, rural electrification, budget crises and railbelt growth. They are also working on advancing the mission of the university. Dr. Smith was recognized by the Nobel Committee for his work in founding the discipline of experimental economics.

Enrollment at the University of Alaska reached its highest level this past fall after three years of growth, increasing by an overall 13% over the past two years, with a total of 33,516 students enrolled for credit. Federal receipts are up; university receipts are up; private and corporate giving is up; research work and funding is up; partnerships continue to flourish. The university has expanded workforce training programs, including new health care curriculums in addition to the university's nursing school, and other programs that target jobs in resource industries. A promise of future economic development and the tools to develop so much potential have been key to UA's recent success.

*"I came here with the idea in mind to learn as much as I could, to talk to as many people and community groups as possible, to engage with the university's excellent faculty and others on issues of importance to Alaska and Alaskans, to explore areas of cooperation between UAA and George Mason University, to help advance the UAA's reputation for excellence and its economics program, and to help explore the questions of economic development and sustainability, especially in rural Alaska, that is imperative to the growth of the state."*

**Dr. Vernon Smith**

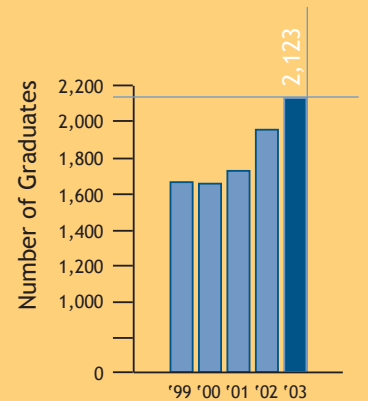
University of Alaska Statewide  
First-Time Freshmen  
Fall 1993 - 2002



**H**ugh Gray was honored with an Aegis Award for his editing of *Caring, Cooperation and Community* a training video produced by the Center for Teacher Education on how to become a prepared, informed, reflective and responsive teacher. The awards are presented for excellence in industrial and non-commercial video production. Gray was judged by his peers in the field editing and was selected from a prestigious group that included productions from the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, the University of Miami, NASA Television and WGBH.

He has been involved in educational video production for over 34 years, has a BA in Radio-TV Speech and a Master's Degree in Educational Technology. In 2001 he began his first job at UAS as a Temporary Broadcast Technician, which entailed running the audio and video board for satellite broadcast of classes from the UAS campus. Eventually he took on the responsibility of downlinking and uplinking broadcasts for the Alaska Public Health Television Network. In November, 2002, he was hired as a full time Producer-Director, producing, directing, taping and editing instructional video programs, on-campus speakers and campus special events, as well as helping to assist with the training of student broadcast operators.

**Number of UA Graduates  
Living and Earning Income  
in Alaska  
FY03**



The University of Alaska prides itself on the accomplishments and contributions of its faculty and staff. Working together they help provide an increasing number of classes and degree programs that will build a solid foundation for the future of Alaska. The university employed a total of 7,686 employees in the fall of 2002, with an increase over last year of 4.9 percent. The faculty and staff are what make the university and its programs such a tremendous success.



# BOARD OF REGENTS 2002-2003



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(1999-2007)



Elsa Froehlich Demeksa  
Vice Chair  
(1997-2005)



Frances H. Rose  
Secretary  
(1999-2007)

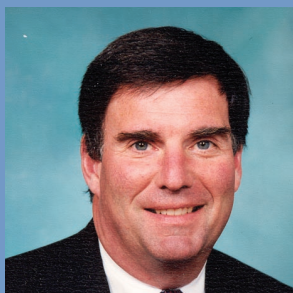


Joseph E. Usibelli, Jr.  
Treasurer  
(1999-2007)

*The University of Alaska is hereby established as the state University and constituted a body corporate. It shall have title to all real and personal property now or hereafter set aside for or conveyed to it.... and shall be governed by a board of regents...The board shall, in accordance with law, formulate policy and appoint the president of the university.*

*Alaska Constitution, Article 7, Sections 2-3*





Michael J. Burns  
(1997-2005)



James Hayes  
(2003-2011)



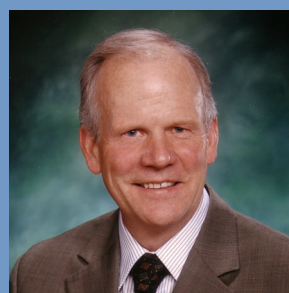
Cynthia Henry  
(2003-2011)



Mary K. Hughes  
(2002-2009)



Kevin O. Meyers  
(2000-2007)



Michael Snowden  
(2003-2009)



David J. Parks  
(2003-2005)



Mark Hamilton  
UA President



# UNIVERSITY *of* ALASKA

*Many Traditions One Alaska*

The University of Alaska is an equal opportunity and affirmative action employer and educational institution.

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