

Natural Resource News

UAF School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences

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D. FITZGERALD

Scenarios Network for Alaska Planning

Program supports Alaska decision makers

To address rapid environmental change, Alaska's managers and policy makers need timely access to research that shows how current changes may shape future conditions. In response, the Scenarios Network for Alaska Planning has been created to develop scenarios based on the most current information available.

The University of Alaska program links the university with government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and industry to help them develop well-informed plans for communities, transportation, coastlines, infrastructure, and forests and other natural resources.

"SNAP was a grass roots vision developed by university faculty and championed by Craig Dorman, UA vice president for academic affairs and research, as a means of making our climate change research more important regionally and more relevant globally as well," said SNAP director Scott Rupp, associate professor of forest sciences at SNRAS, which is hosting the program. UA President Mark Hamilton is supporting the program's launch with an investment of \$1.5 million over the next two years.

"SNAP represents a major investment by President Hamilton and the university in activities related to the International Polar Year and in our efforts for years to come," said Rupp.

The program coordinator is Nancy Fresco, who recently earned her doctorate in the UAF Regional Resilience and Adaptation interdisciplinary graduate program. Rupp will be on sabbatical leave during the 2007–2008 school year.

SNAP products will include maps and projections of future conditions; objective interpretations of scenarios; detailed explanations of the assumptions, models, and methods that describe controls over projected future conditions; and information on the uncertainties inherent in the projections. The products and data used to produce them will be openly available to all potential users.

Any stakeholder can access network services and expertise by becoming a collaborator, which entails engaging with SNAP to define the problem, the information most essential for solving it, and the best means of information delivery.

Program development is supported by oversight and advice from a five-member steering committee and a nine-member science advisory committee. Also participating are the Institute of Social and Economic Research at UAA and, at UAF, the Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy, the International Arctic Research Center, the Arctic Region Supercomputer Center, the Center for Global Change and Arctic System Research, the Geographic Information Network of Alaska, the Geophysical Institute, the Institute of Arctic Biology, the Institute of Northern Engineering, and the bioinformatics program.

For more information, contact Nancy Fresco at 907-474-2405, University of Alaska Fairbanks, P.O. Box 757200, Fairbanks, AK 99775-7200. E-mail: ffnlf@uaf.edu. Fax: 907-474-6184.

Funding for forestry and agriculture lags—

Enhanced land-grant funding tied to USDA reorganization

Although their exact form is undetermined, it is certain that organizational and funding changes are coming for both the University of Alaska and land grant colleges nationwide. The following background on funding was prepared by CREATE-21, a group composed of representatives from America's land grant and related universities that reports to the Policy Board of Directors of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges. (CREATE-21 is an acronym for "Create Research, Extension, and Teaching Excellence for the 21st Century." See CREATE-21 Executive Summary: A Bold Proposal at www.create-21.org/FAQ.htm.)

Situational Analysis

Between 1970 and 2005: the US population increased by 100 million; the GDP grew by 293%; federal revenues, outlays, and domestic spending all rose dramatically; and funding for health/medical research at NIH increased by \$22.6 billion (882%). (All constant 2000 dollars unless noted.)

However, USDA funding for food, agriculture, and natural resources research grew at an average annual rate of just 1.85 percent over the last 35 years. In the last 15

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Funding lags *continued from 1*

years, USDA base funding for State Agricultural Experiment Stations actually dropped by \$27 million while base funding for the Cooperative Extension Service declined by \$45 million.

Even the National Research Initiative—the principal food, agriculture, and natural resources competitive grants program—received less funding in FY 2005 (\$180 million, current dollars) than each of 25 states received in NIH grants during that same twelve-month period. Used with permission of NASULGC (www.nasulgc.org).

In response to this situation, the CREATE-21 group proposed an overhaul of the way federal government supports the land grant mission of scientific research, extension, and teaching. Two major changes proposed in CREATE-21:

- **Creation of a National Institute for Food and Agriculture** within the US Department of Agriculture, which would integrate the research, education, and extension programs currently divided among the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES), Economic Research Service (ERS), and US Forest Service (USFS). The institute will provide: (1) enhanced “competitive” funding to support vital fundamental and applied research/extension projects; and (2) continued “capacity” funding (funding provided by formula to the land grants) for intramural research at USDA and research, education, and extension programs at land-grant and related universities/institutions.
- **Reorganization of the US Department of Agriculture**—Functions, facilities, programs, projects, activities, and personnel from ARS, CSREES, ERS, and USFS R&D will be integrated within the new institute. (Intramural and university-based functions will be retained within the new organizational structure.) The institute will be: (1) an independent agency reporting to the Secretary of Agriculture; (2) led by an eminent scientist/educator, appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate for a six-year term; and (3) guided by a National Stakeholder Advisory Council.

Supporting arguments given for the proposal include: increased organizational flexibility (a variable structure organized initially around six major problem/solution areas); improved budgetary efficiency (elimination of duplicative programs and activities and a streamlined bureaucracy); enhanced program integration (bringing the intramural research capacity of ARS, ERS, and USFS R&D more closely together with the research, education, and extension capacity of America’s land-grant and related universities/institutions); increased stakeholder involvement (a new National Stakeholder Advisory Council and other mechanisms for more and better input at all levels). Details of proposed funding changes can be found at: create-21.org/proposal/proposal.htm.

“It is inevitable that there will be changes to capacity fund distribution,” said SNRAS/AFES Dean and Director Carol Lewis.



“Along with the other experiment station directors nationally, I support CREATE-21. The addition of new competitive funds that will provide more equitable consideration for the smaller states and institutions will be beneficial to Alaska.”

The CREATE-21 proposal has now taken the form of **HR Bill 2398**. It revises the proposal by dropping the Agricultural Research Service, the Economic Research Service, and Forest Service Research and Demonstration from USDA reorganization, but retains the other key elements. The bill also includes NASULGC’s other Farm Bill proposals. According to NASULGC, “The House Agriculture Committee has indicated no interest in agency mergers as initially proposed in CREATE-21. Therefore we strongly encourage the land-grant system’s support of HR 2398.” Sponsored by representative John Barrow of Georgia, the bill was introduced and referred to the House Committee on Agriculture on May 21.

Summary of the house bill as introduced

Creating Research Extension and Teaching Excellence for the 21st Century Act of 2007 or CREATE-21 Act of 2007:

- Establishes the National Institutes for Food and Agriculture, which shall be located in Washington, DC. Transfers specified authorities of the Department of Agriculture and other authorities to the Institutes.
- Sets forth organizational and funding provisions.
- Amends the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to repeal authority for the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board.
- Eliminates specified funding provisions respecting agricultural research at 1890 land-grant colleges.
- Extends and revises specified agricultural programs, including research, extension, and education programs.
- Directs the Secretary of Agriculture to establish the Borlaug International Agricultural Science and Technology Fellowship Program to provide fellowships for scientific training in the United States to individuals from eligible countries who specialize in agricultural education and research and extension.

Note that this bill is in the first stage of the legislative process where the bill is considered in committee and may undergo significant changes in markup sessions. The related Senate bill is S. 1094, “A bill to reauthorize and provide additional funding for essential agricultural research, extension, education, and

related programs, to establish the National Institutes for Food and Agriculture as an independent agency reporting to and coordinating with the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes,” which was sponsored by Senator Debbie Stabenow of Michigan, introduced in April and referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Along with the national formula funding challenge is the question of special grants, or earmarks, which at AFES have been funding research on new crops and markets and controlled environments.

“USDA is still under a continuing resolution for their FY 07 federal budget, and the debate over earmarks continues,” said Lewis. “We received earmark funds in FY06, but we don’t know what we will receive in earmark funds next fall. Research proposals meant for FY 07 are on hold because there has been no call for proposals. It is uncertain how the continuing resolution will play out for USDA. At the present time, I am assuming that we will have no earmark recovery.”

Lewis said that the Wood Utilization Research group (the AFES project in Alaska that is a part of the national Wood Utilization Research group) is mounting their own campaign to place WUR in the Farm Bill. She is an active participant in this support, along with Val Barber, principal investigator for the



Alaska Forest Products Project (part of the national WUR) as is Deb Segla, the SNRAS/AFES grants coordinator.

“In a new effort, the AFES has joined Hawaii and the Pacific Islands in the Pacific Land Grant Association, also to be placed in the Farm Bill,” said Lewis. “The PLGA legislative language has been prepared and will be introduced in the Senate by Inouye and Stevens. For FY07, Hatch and McIntire-Stennis funds have been increased, apparently prompted by the expected loss of earmark funds. We will be allowed to carry these funds into FY 08, but they cannot be used unless we have nonfederal funds to match them. At this time, we do not have these matching funds.”

Alaska land grant challenge issued

University’s land-grant functions under review

Recent developments within the University of Alaska and UAF in some ways parallel the impending changes at the federal level (story on page 1). Meeting a challenge recently issued by UA President Mark Hamilton is expected to result in organizational change. Restructuring will be guided by an independent assessment of what structure will best promote fulfillment of the university’s land-grant mission.

Like many other aspects of Alaska, the development of agricultural research and extension services does not follow the pattern familiar in many other states. Although the 1862 Morrill Act authorized land-grant postsecondary institutions, it was not until 1915 that the Alaska Territory was given land-grant status, paving the way for the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines. After the college opened in 1922, seven years went by before federal legislation extended to Alaska the benefits of the Hatch Act (authorizing Agricultural Experiment Stations) and the Smith Lever Act (authorizing the Cooperative Extension Service) at land-grant institutions.

Alaska’s first experiment station sites were established more than twenty years before the college existed, and it was not until 1931 that the federal government transferred ownership of all experiment station facilities to the college. The Cooperative Extension Service officially became part of the college in 1930 and got its first full-time director in 1935, the same year the school was renamed the University of Alaska.

Today at the federal level, Alaska’s Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station and its Cooperative Extension Service are associated with the Cooperative State Research, Education,

and Extension Service (CSREES), a subdivision of the US Department of Agriculture (csrees.usda.gov/about/about.html). At the University of Alaska Fairbanks, AFES is aligned with SNRAS, while CES is administered by the UAF College of Rural and Community Development.

When the University of Alaska holds operations reviews in the spring and fall, a representative of each major administrative unit presents their unit’s accomplishments, relates them to expenditures, and details budget needs. In spring 2007, when the UAF presentation included comments on the budgets of the experiment station and the extension service, the potential shortfall in these budgets was termed the *land-grant crisis*.

“This crisis is related to flat funding from formula funds for both AFES and CES, although the cause of the shortfalls is much broader than that,” said Dean Carol Lewis.

The UAF presentation led to coining the term *new land-grant university*. In a memo to SNRAS/AFES personnel, Lewis paraphrased a statement made by UA President Mark Hamilton after the presentation as follows: *I will not continue to increase funding to maintain the same old approach used by AFES and CES to meet the land grant mission at UAF. We need a definition for the new land grant in Alaska. It is up to us to meet this challenge.*

“Maintaining our strategic directions within the land grant mission while facing challenging budgets has been a continuing problem for SNRAS/AFES and CES as we struggle to meet rising costs in a number of sectors,” Lewis said. “Each year for the past several years we’ve faced the potential for deficit spending; each year our business office works diligently to avoid a deficit, but

Program review *continued from 3*

the potential for deficit spending increases as well. This year, FY 07, we have reached a crisis as we once again struggle to maintain the budget for the school and experiment station, and the situation is the same for CES.”

Lewis said a case has been made to the provost and chancellor detailing the financial picture, “including that we will most likely go into FY 08 realizing that deficit spending is potentially here and certainly in our foreseeable future if we cannot collectively determine a way to solve the budget problems faced by SNRAS/AFES and CES.”

The SNRAS/AFES budget suffers two challenges related to federal formula and state funds. First, its federal formula fund and state general fund budgets have been flat. Second, all salaries and benefits that are not term funded (salaries for the majority of faculty and staff) come from these two funds. “This means that approximately 80% of our federal formula funds and state general funds are used for personnel,” said Lewis, “and a significant cost to us is the benefits and salary increases paid to faculty and staff. UAF does not provide funds to cover personnel costs for any of the salaries we charge to federal funds, and we don’t have sufficient state funds to cover all of our faculty and staff salaries, so moving all salaries to state funds is not a solution. Also, our operating costs continue to rise for our three facilities off the UAF campus and the Fairbanks Experiment Farm. This means we continue to manage a deficit. This is difficult, although we have done well in the face of this management challenge by increasing our competitive grant success and using the earmarks we were provided to lever new programs.”

Activities at both the experiment station and extension are guided by an annual Plan of Work. “I have emphasized its important role in shaping the land grant mission in every state and at every land grant university,” Lewis said in a recent memo to SNRAS/AFES personnel. “These are the strategic plans that provide national guidance for us in fulfilling the land grant mission. We use the plan to evaluate Hatch and McIntire-Stennis projects and it is against the Plan of Work that faculty annually write CRIS reports that explain how Hatch and McIntire-Stennis projects are progressing.” A new Plan of Work was developed in 2006 and 2007 to cover formula fund activities from 2008–2013. The previous plan was developed individually for AFES and CES, but the 2008 plan is a joint endeavor.

At CES the recent change in administration resulted in the formation of the CES Vision Task Group to consider how extension might be placed in the system to give it higher visibility, fulfill its mission, and serve as a gateway for UAF outreach. The group made four recommendations to UAF Chancellor Steve Jones: 1) create a new vice chancellor position that would oversee outreach and extension (denied); 2) remove CES from the College of Rural and Community Development (a possibility); 3) develop a plan to inform UA and UAF about CES (supported); and 4) develop the gateway concept for outreach at UAF (supported). Jones told the group to come up with a plan to meet three and four, using number two, that would accomplish the same thing as elevating CES in the UAF system to a reporting line to a vice-chancellor.



Vice Chancellor Bernice Joseph and Interim CES Director Pete Pinney addressed the CES Advisory Board and the CES faculty and staff in April. They also discussed the chancellor’s conclusions and directions with the CES Vision Task Group. One topic that is foremost is the reporting line for CES.

Across the United States, the extension services and experiment stations historically have worked hand in hand to make agriculture and forestry a success, but today they operate nationally under a new definition of these fields of endeavor. “For example, CES has branched out in some states and regions to include health care and inner-city welfare,” said Lewis.

“At the national level, SNRAS/AFES and CES are integrally connected through the Plan of Work, through our integrated activities, in our joint projects, and with our joint appointments. We were connected locally when President Hamilton made his statement about *the new land grant* and UAF presented the land grant crises at UAF.

“Because of our close connection, what happens to CES affects us. Therefore, we need to be aware of any changes and, if asked, participate in discussions about them.”

One suggested change has been that CES be more closely affiliated with SNRAS/AFES. In May Chancellor Jones decided to solicit a CSREES external review, which will result in recommendations to the UA Board of Regents on how the *new land grant* at UAF might best be configured. It is expected that any recommendations resulting from the review will be presented to the University of Alaska Board of Regents in December.

—Doreen Fitzgerald

Sixth boreal forest conference held

About eighty researchers from the circumpolar north attended the sixth International Conference on Disturbance Dynamics in Boreal Forests, which was held at UAF May 30 through June 2. The theme of this year's meeting was the effects of climate change on disturbance dynamics. Hosted by SNRAS, the meeting was organized by program chair John Yarie and committee members David Valentine and Scott Rupp. All are professors in the forest sciences department at SNRAS.

To project and manage the future structure, diversity, and function of the boreal forest, it is important to comprehend how climate interacts with the disturbances that currently drive stand and ecosystem dynamics, particularly fire, insects, and disease. There were several conference objectives: assess current knowledge about the present and potential effects of climate change on circumboreal disturbance dynamics; assess the likely effects of climate change on the future management of forested ecosystems across the circumboreal region; initiate the development of an integrated research framework to address these effects at a circumboreal scale; and facilitate exchange of ideas among circumboreal countries.

It is expected that interactions between climate change, disturbance dynamics, and species resilience will lead to rapid, important, and surprising changes in vegetation composition



and the structure and function of boreal forests. These changes will be driven by alteration of the disturbance dynamics in combination with species' abilities to regenerate in a changing climatic regime. The conference proceedings are available at: uaf.edu/snras/afes/pubs/2007%20IBFDDC%20Proceedings.pdf.

Specialty foods hold promise for Alaska entrepreneurs

Stephen Hall, author of *From Kitchen to Market*, was the featured speaker at an early May conference on Alaska home grown specialty and gourmet foods and their business potential. Hall is president of Food Marketing International, a company that coaches specialty food firms that would like to expand their business. About fifty people attended the meeting, which was held in Fairbanks at the UAF Tanana Valley Campus Hutchison Culinary Arts facility. It was sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Service and organized by Coral Howe, small business development specialist, with assistance from family development agent Roxie Rodgers Dinstel and foods specialist Kristy Long.

"Our aim was to provide resources to guide small business owners through the food product development process, said Howe. "We hope participants gained something from the nationally recognized speaker, but also that they will start networking with each other."

One major challenge for Alaska entrepreneurs is geography, not only as it pertains to marketing and distribution, but to communication as well.

"It's often difficult for people to work with peers, so we scheduled some time for them to visit with each other," Howe said.

The first day of the conference featured a trade show, which included taste-testing participants' products and allowed attendees a chance to explore business partnerships.

"Almost all jam and jelly makers buy their supplies from the same suppliers, but they usually buy in small quantities and end up paying more," said Howe. "If producers could network and

buy these products as a unit, this could make a huge difference in their profit margin. The conference will help lay the groundwork for this type of partnership."

Roundtable discussions on the meeting's second day were moderated by small-business professionals exploring such topics as brand design, website development, and customer service. The sessions focused on experiences of industry professionals, business experts, and Alaska's own successful specialty food entrepreneurs.

"The expense of getting products to market, can be enormous," said Howe, "The aim is to help small business become profitable through a combination of brainstorming, education, and cooperation."

Although many small food producers do very well regionally, there is potential for branding Alaska products in a larger market.

"The conference allowed producers to explore how to brand Alaska products and how to create an Alaska image," said Howe. "Alaska products just may fill a niche market for fresh, organic, and unprocessed products."

The event was also useful for people interested in starting product production, restaurateurs interested in carrying local products, and others in the food business. Many of the explored concepts apply to small Alaska business outside the food industry.

Coral Howe can be reached by phone at (907) 474-1512 or e-mail: coral.howe@uaf.edu.

Cyberinfrastructure Vision for 21st Century Discovery

www.nsf.gov/pubs/2007/nsf0728/index.jsp



Developed in consultation with the wider science, engineering, and education communities, this document lays out an evolving vision that will help to guide the National Science Foundation's future investments in cyberinfrastructure. At its heart is the development of a cultural community that supports peer-to-peer collaboration and new modes of education based upon broad and open access to leadership computing; data and information resources; online instruments and observatories; and visualization and collaboration services. Cyberinfrastructure enables distributed knowledge communities for research and education that collaborate and communicate across disciplines, distances and cultures, extending beyond traditional brick-and-mortar facilities, becoming virtual organizations that transcend geographic and institutional boundaries. This vision is new, exciting, and bold.

This vision will require the broad participation and collaboration of individuals from all fields and institutions, and across the entire spectrum of education. It will require leveraging resources through multiple and diverse partnerships among academia, industry, and government. An important challenge is to develop the leadership to move the vision forward in anticipation of a comprehensive cyberinfrastructure that will strengthen innovation, economic growth, and education.

Atlas of the Cryosphere

<http://nsidc.org/data/atlas/>



The National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC) has announced a new online map server application that allows visitors to explore and dynamically map the Earth's frozen regions. When viewed from a polar perspective, the available scenes include snow cover, sea ice extent and concentration, glaciers, permafrost, and other critical components of Earth's cryosphere. Users can zoom in to a specific region as well as overlay country borders, major cities, and other geographic information. The website is a tool for science and education efforts surrounding IPY and beyond.

Polar Early Career Scientists

www.kent.edu/Polar

The APECS is a new network that aims to bring together early career scientists from around the world, including undergraduate and graduate students, postdocs, and starting professors, who share an interest in the polar regions and the cryosphere as a whole. Membership in this association is open to all early career scientists interested in natural and social sciences of polar regions, from undergraduates through assistant professors or equivalent for nonacademic positions. Participation by engineers and those interested in the cryosphere in general is also being sought. The APECS is a new network that aims to bring together early career scientists from around the world, including undergraduate and graduate students, postdocs, and starting professors, who share

an interest in the polar regions and the cryosphere as a whole. The network's mission is to raise the profile of polar scientists by providing a continuum of leadership that is both international and interdisciplinary in focus. The interactive APECS website is the main contact point for APECS members and provides a forum to share news, connect with other polar researchers, and find jobs and events that might be of interest. Senior scientists are encouraged to register on the APECS website, serve as mentors for the organization, and post job openings and events

From the USDA Agricultural Research Service—



Blueberry skins and cholesterol level control may be linked. In an ARS animal study, hamsters fed an extremely high-cholesterol diet, supplemented with freeze-dried skins of rabbiteye blueberries, produced plasma total cholesterol levels 37 percent lower than those in the control group. Levels of LDL ("bad" cholesterol) were 19 percent lower in the blueberry-supplemented hamsters. The blueberry skin diet also outperformed one augmented with the lipid-lowering drug ciprofibrate. Blueberry skins contain constituents that can activate a protein involved in the breakdown and import of fats, including resveratrol and pterostilbene, which have been cited for their antioxidant properties. Another study has demonstrated pterostilbene's potential to fight colon cancer. These and other reports are available in the newest issue of the ARS **Food and Nutrition Research Briefs** website: www.ars.usda.gov/is/np/fnr/b

Fish skins and food storage: Freezer-stored foods taste best if they have just the right amount of moisture. In the future, invisible edible coatings made from gelatin may be a new use for gelatin extracted from the silvery skins of seagoing fish such as Alaska pollock. As reported in the ARS magazine **Agriculture Research**, food technologists Tara H. McHugh at the agency's Western Regional Research Center in Albany, Calif., and Peter Bechtel at the ARS Subarctic Agricultural Research Center at UAF are working on gelatin coatings that may provide a profitable and environmentally friendly alternative to the present practice of disposing of leftover skins by grinding them up and dumping at sea or processing into low-value fishmeal. The coatings, which look something like everyday clear plastic wrap, have no seafood taste or odor. Although fish gelatins aren't new, this work seems to be the first to establish the effectiveness of Alaska pollock gelatin. Read more at: ars.usda.gov/is/AR/archive/apr07/

ARS news is found at www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr

You can read issues of **Healthy Animals** at: www.ars.usda.gov/is/np/ha/. You can sign up for an e-mail subscription at the publication website.

The ARS **flavonoid database** is available at: www.ars.usda.gov/Services/docs.htm?docid=6231

ARS is the US Department of Agriculture's chief scientific research agency.

Notes

A poster presented by SNRAS graduate student **Sarah Runck** received the “Best Paper” award in Session 110 at the Soil Science Society of America national meeting in Indianapolis last winter. “This is quite an honor, because these meetings are heavily attended and this was not a student competition,” said Runck’s major professor David Valentine. Runck’s poster depicts the work she is doing with Valentine and John Yarie on long-term throughfall exclusion in interior Alaska. Citation: Runck, S.A., D.W. Valentine, & J.A. Yarie. 2006. Sensitivity of soil organic carbon dynamics to long-term throughfall exclusion in interior Alaska.

The June 30 retirement of AFES Assoc. Director **Allen Mitchell** was marked by a retirement party honoring him June 15 at the Matanuska Experiment Farm. Mitchell first came to the experiment station in 1979 as an assistant professor of agronomy. His recent research has focused on turf grasses.

World Environment Day—Supporting International Polar Year (IPY), this year’s theme, “Melting Ice—A Hot Topic?” called attention to climate change effects on polar ecosystems and communities, and the ensuing worldwide consequences. The Royal Norwegian Embassy and the National Geographic Society hosted a public conference in Washington, DC,

that convened global warming experts for presentations on solutions and new technologies. Emission reduction, carbon capture, and renewable energies were emphasized. Celebrated annually on June 5, World Environment Day is a United Nations effort to stimulate environmental awareness worldwide.

Pat Holloway at the botanical garden recently heard from **Bob Weeden**, UAF professor of resource management, emeritus. After working for the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game from 1959 to 1969, Weeden then taught wildlife, management and biology at UAF. Retiring in 1990, he moved to southwestern British Columbia. Bob’s question to Pat was about identifying one of the rhubarb varieties he took from Alaska to British Columbia, where he also grows 160 varieties of heritage apples. He also mentioned that another variety of rhubarb in his garden was brought from Alaska in 1990, “the same root taken to Alaska from my dad’s garden where I was a boy in Massachusetts, divided in 1928 from an older root in his father’s farm, etc.” Weeden sent greetings to all and noted that both he and his wife Judy are enjoying good health.

Science Café is a series of informal presentations and discussions taking place in Fairbanks during the IPY, 3/2007–2/2009. Presentations are sought on topics from any polar discipline, including natural sciences, engineering,

arts, and lifestyle. Scientific and traditional speakers from any perspective are welcome. Science Cafés will take place throughout Fairbanks in coffee houses, pubs, restaurants, and in the public library. If you would like to share your research or expertise in a thought-provoking manner, contact Chris Petrich (chris.petrich@gi.alaska.edu). Science Café is an effort of the UA IPY Young Researchers’ Network. For more information visit: <http://ipy-youth.uaf.edu/>. Find more on IPY at uaf.edu/ipy/ and ipy.org/.

Proclamation: “An Act designating the first Tuesday of May as **Alaska Agriculture Day** passed the Alaska house and senate this spring and as of this writing awaits the governor’s signature.

After fourteen years of service with the business office that serves SNRAS and CES, **Julie Shalvoy** has accepted a position with UAF Human Resources and began her new human resources consultant assignment on June 1. “While we’ll greatly miss her presence in our office, it will be very nice to continue working with her in her new capacity at UAF human resources,” said James Levison, business office executive officer.

The CES/SNRAS business office has relocated to the extension state office building (former Forest Service Building) on

I’ve Got You Babe!



At this year’s Have a Heart Walk to benefit the American Heart Association, a heartfelt performance occurred when Sonny and Cher impersonators Mike Sfraga and Carol Lewis took to the stage. The duo appeared because the UAF Heart Walk team raised sufficient funds to ensure such foolishness. UAF Chancellor Steve Jones, Judy Jones, and the entire UAF team set a new pace for the May 19 Heart Walk as staff, faculty, and students exceeded their goal by raising more than \$42,000. The event, chaired by Steve and Judy, is designed to raise money and awareness for heart disease and stroke research and to promote physical activity and heart-healthy living. Organizers at SNRAS AFES were Margo Kramer, Wanda Tangermann, and Marilyn Childress.



Notes *continued*

the main Fairbanks campus due to renovations in the Arctic Health Research Building where the SNRAS administrative offices are. Phone numbers remain the same.

In conjunction with IPY, the **Cold Climate Housing Research Center**, UAF, and the Northern Forum will host “**Sustainable Northern Shelter in a World of Diminishing Resources**,” October 28–30 2007 in Fairbanks. Builders, architects, and planners will explore challenges and solutions for producing sustainable, appropriate, and durable buildings and infrastructure in the circumpolar north. For more visit: www.cchrc.org

Workshop Proceedings: *Bringing Climate Change Into Natural Resource Management* reports on a 2005 workshop to further the dialogue among scientists, land managers, landowners, interested stake-holders, and the public about how individuals are addressing climate change in natural resource management in the Western United States.. Published by the USDA Forest Service Northwest Research Station in Portland, Oregon (Gen. Tech. Rep. PNW-GTR-706). You can download a pdf file at: www.fs.fed.us/pnw/pubs/pnw_gtr706.pdf.

The **Sustainable Living Conference at UAF**, “Do It Yourself 2007,” & Earth Day Fair were held in April. Topics included clothing, energy, food, transportation, and building. Also held were an electronics recycling collection event and a sustainable living tour of Fairbanks.

The National Science Foundation convened a meeting of the **Interagency Arctic Research Policy** Committee principals in April 2007. The meeting summary and presentations are available at: www.nsf.gov/od/opp/arctic/iarpc/iarpc_mtgs_public.jsp. Comments and inquiries are welcome.

The **June issue of ARCTIC**, Volume 60, Number 2, the *Journal of the Arctic Institute of North America*, is now available. For information on becoming an AINA member and receiving the

journal, visit the Institute’s website at: www.arctic.ucalgary.ca/.

The 9th International **Conference on Permafrost** is June 29–July 3, 2008, in Fairbanks, Alaska. September 1, 2007 is the abstract submission deadline. For more information visit www.nicop.org or contact or contact Elizabeth Lilly: elilly@nicop.org



In Memoriam—

Former SNRAS Advisory Board member **Elton “Paul” Dinkins**, 78, of Eagle River, died at home April 10, 2007, after a long illness. Born March 14, 1929, in Bonifay, Florida, Paul attended the University of Tohoku for Japanese language and was in the US Army from 1948 to 1970, serving in the Korean and the Vietnam wars and receiving a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart.

He was owner of P&M Garden Services since 1976. Dinkins was an advocate for Alaska agriculture and horticulture. He was a leader in Alaska horticulture and recognized nationwide as an innovator. Dinkins is survived by his wife, Peggy Dinkins, children and grandchildren.

Another Alaska horticulturist, **Lee William Risse**, 78, died of complications from ALS at his home in Fairbanks on April 8, 2007. Born in Silver Creek, Wisconsin, Reese and his wife Margreta Anderson homesteaded off Chena Hot Springs Road near Fairbanks in 1954. There Risse, while working other jobs, turned his hand to horticulture, putting in lawns, raising thousands of bedding plants, and growing vegetables for sale.

Risse was preceded in death by his wife and is survived by his sister, children, and grandchildren.



The University of Alaska Fairbanks is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges. UAF is an AA/EO employer and educational institution.



Steve Swor at spring planting day, 2006.

—PHOTO BY
CONNIE HARRIS

Steven Craig Swor, lab assistant at the Matanuska Experiment Farm in Palmer, died May 15, 2007. Steve was born on February 17, 1969 in Anacortes, Washington.

Steve moved from Panama to the Mat-Su Valley in February 2006.

“Steven was a valued member of the farm’s community and will be sorely missed by those who knew him. I offer my condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues,” said Dean Carol Lewis. On June 16, SNRAS/AFES people held a farewell and celebration of life for Steven on at Matanuska River Park in Palmer.

He is survived by his parents, Philip and Betty Swor; brother, Mark; sister, Robin Burdick, of Palmer, Alaska; niece, Andrea, of Eagle River, Alaska; sister, Debbra Burdick, her husband, Marty, of Olympia; and nephew, Joshua, and niece, Mallory, both of Olympia. Steve graduated from Tumwater High School and Central Washington University. A memorial service was held May 21, 2007 in Olympia, Washington.

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