

**Rasmuson Foundation Fisheries Education Grant
Monthly Report
University of Alaska Fairbanks
School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences
November 2007**

***Preface:** To keep faculty and administrators at UAF, UAS and the Rasmuson Foundation aware of the ongoing activities of the Rasmuson Foundation grant to UAF for enhancing academic programs in fisheries and ocean sciences, a very brief monthly report will be prepared. This report is intended to be informal and informative. Questions regarding activities in this report should be directed to Dr. Trent M. Sutton (e-mail: tsutton@sfos.uaf.edu).*

1. Curriculum Review, Planning, and Development

a. The Bachelor of Science in Fisheries, Bachelor of Arts in Fisheries, and Minor in Fisheries curricula are currently under review by the UAF Faculty Senate. There were a few initial, relatively minor questions that were addressed soon after submission. The primary review and discussion of these documents will take place during the winter 2008 semester.

b. There have been some initial discussions regarding the development of a one-year Certificate in Fisheries and two-year Associate of Science in Fisheries degree programs. These programs would be made available to the rural campuses and would feed directly into the B.S. and B.A. in Fisheries degree programs.

2. New Course Offerings

a. There have been no new undergraduate courses developed or submitted for approval since the last monthly update. At this point, the course offerings and schedule are set for the spring 2008 semester.

3. Development and Renovation of Physical Facilities and Infrastructure

a. The video conference equipment has arrived for 203 O'Neill Building and will be installed no later than Christmas. This classroom (www.sfos.uaf.edu/fisheries/facilities/) will be completely operational for the spring 2008 semester and spring classes have been scheduled for this room. We have already hosted several multi-day workshops in the new classroom. Video conference equipment was installed in Juneau at the Anderson Building on November 9th. The equipment is operational and being used for classes and seminars.

b. Renovations of the undergraduate teaching laboratory complex in Arctic Health Research Building will begin once a final bid from UAF Physical Facilities has been developed and approved. Trent Sutton answered the final round of questions regarding this project in mid-November, and the final estimate should be completed prior to Christmas.

c. Construction of the new facility in Juneau at Lena Point continues to be on schedule for fall 2008 occupation. Temporary heat is expected to be in place in early December. Electrical rough in of walls on level one is near complete. On level two, a majority of the interior studs have been placed, ductwork has been installed on office side, and work is ongoing in lab area. Electricians have roughed in a lot of level two walls. Level three, stud layout is ongoing, duct work has been ongoing. Penthouse work has been limited to mechanical shafts. Air handlers are scheduled to arrive in December. Roofers are working on canopies and other roofing items.

4. Expansion and Engagement of Faculty

a. Searches for four fisheries faculty positions, two marine biology positions, and three ocean observing positions are ongoing. (<http://www.sfos.uaf.edu/employment/>). Initial meetings of all search committees have taken place, and the review of applications will begin on 07 December. By 20 December, all search committees will have narrowed down their respective applicant pools to a short list of candidates.

b. The Fisheries Division completed their biometrician faculty search, announcing in mid-November that Dr. Franz Mueter has accepted that position. Franz has been teaching a statistics class in SFOS for the past two years, and his faculty position will start in Juneau in summer 2008.

5. Undergraduate Student Recruitment and Retention

Recruitment Events

- Katie Murra met with prospective Marine Biology graduate student Patrick Berk on October 29.
- Katie Murra met with prospective Marine Biology graduate student Carly Miller and her mother, Connie Miller on October 30.
- Katie Murra gave classroom presentations at the Delta High School Career Day on November 7 with UAF admissions coordinator Jessica Bennett, and College of Engineering and Mines (CEM) recruiter Ryan Smith.
- Katie Murra attended the Lathrop High School Career Day on November 9.
- Katie Murra met with UAF Assistant Director for Recruitment, Hope Bickmeier, and Vice Chancellor for Student Enrollment Services, Tim Barnett, on November 12 to discuss the Non-Alaska resident tuition waiver for out-of-state tuition charges for qualified incoming undergraduate fisheries majors.
- Amanda Rosenberger met with UAF student Casey McConnell on November 21 to sign him on as a B.S. Fisheries major.

- Katie Murra talked with UAS students Sarah Ballard and Matt Catterson, and UAF B.S. Fisheries student, Jon Livermore (currently in Juneau) about fisheries course distance delivery options.
- Katie Murra and Amanda Rosenberger met with prospective undergraduate student, Will Chouinard on November 27.
- Katie Murra created a rough draft of a new undergraduate fisheries brochure that highlights both the B.S. and B.A. degrees in fisheries.

Retention Events

- Christina Neumann and Madeline Scholl organized the annual Thanksgiving Feast on November 21 for all SFOS students, staff, and faculty.

University and External Events

- Katie Murra, Trent Sutton, and Amanda Rosenberger attended the second annual “Pathways for Increasing Alaska Native and Rural Alaskans in Fisheries and Marine Science” meeting held in Fairbanks, AK at the UAF campus in the newly renovated SFOS classroom on November 1 and November 2. The workshop was organized by MAP Leader Paula Cullenberg and attracted about 30 participants. Denis Wiesenburg welcomed the participants on the first morning and attended the wrap-up session on the second day.
- Katie Murra displayed the SFOS booth at the second annual “Natural Resources, Fisheries and Sciences” Career Day at the UAF Reichardt Building on November 8. The event is sponsored by UAF Career Services, SFOS, the College of Natural Science and Mathematics (CNSM), and the School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences (SNRAS).
- Trent Sutton gave the following presentation (Charting a New Course for Fisheries Undergraduates in Alaska) at the Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society meeting held in Ketchikan in mid-November. Denis Wiesenburg also attended the meeting and gave a presentation on “The Need for a Comprehensive Alaska Fisheries Research and Education Plan.” Bill Smoker, several other SFOS faculty, and many of our students also attended.

6. Participation of FITC/Kodiak and Other SFOS Sites and Programs

There have been no new developments in the past month with SFOS sites outside of Fairbanks and Juneau in regard to the Rasmuson initiative.

7. Articulation Opportunities to Existing AA and Certificate Programs

While at the meeting of the Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society in Ketchikan, Trent Sutton met with Barbara Morgan, UAS-Ketchikan, to discuss progress on development of an articulation agreement between the two programs. Barbara is

waiting for final approval from her superiors and, when she receives that, Trent will submit the documents to the UAF Admissions Department for program review .

8. Allocation of Rasmuson Budget and Matching Funds

Budget:

Rasmuson: \$1,500,000

UAF Match: \$500,000

Spent and encumbered as of 11/28/2007

Rasmuson: \$652,855.22

Match: \$486,851.16

9. Status of Fund Raising for Match

On 06 November, the University of Alaska Board of Regents approved the FY2009 budget request that will go forward to the Alaska legislature. The UA budget request includes \$1,000,000 for 'fisheries' which is the match for the Rasmuson Foundation grant. The \$1,000,000 would be added to the base budget for SFOS to provide continuing support for the fisheries expansion.

During the month of November, we worked to have the Governor include the fisheries funding in her budget request by asking our supporters in the fishing industry to write or send an e-mail to the Governor supporting funding of the \$1,000,000 in matching funds. Denis Wiesenburg contacted 25 individuals throughout the state seeking their support. By the end of November, seven letters or e-mails had been sent to the Governor. Most of the senders received a response from Ms. Karen J. Rehfeld, Director, Office of Management & Budget. The Governor is now developing the FY2009 operating and capital budgets that will be released to the public sometime in December.

Prepared by Denis Wiesenburg, Trent Sutton, and Katie Murra