LaSite Alaska, UAA’s unique website promoting literacy in its broadest sense, has garnered the attention of First Lady Laura Bush. In a formal greeting from the White House now posted on the site, Mrs. Bush calls LaSite Alaska “an outstanding web community for families, teachers and Alaskans of all ages.” The Anchorage Daily News noted in a recent editorial that “Mrs. Bush’s praise should be echoed by everyone concerned with the site’s goal of promoting literacy, cultural diversity and well-being throughout Alaska.”

LaSite Alaska has been featured in local and national media including The Chronicle of Higher Education, USA Today, Education World, and School Library Journal. The site received a 2003 Contribution to School Literacy in Alaska Award from the Governor’s Commission on Tolerance.

Launched three years ago, the site is a window into the many ways that stories play a role in the lives of Alaskans. With a growing list of partners that includes the Anchorage School District, The Anchorage Museum of History and Art, The Alaska Center for the Book, and other community-based organizations, LaSite Alaska’s content is based on the interests of a broad spectrum of Alaskans, and includes arts and cultural activities. In a new Traditions & Cultures section, the site will explore narrative as a healing tool—a relatively new area of interest to researchers and scientists—and Spatz plans to build an interactive research on the subject.

A National Endowment for the Arts grant provided funding for the site, and Key Bank is a major corporate sponsor of the program. Microsoft has also become a sponsor, with an interest in electronic media to promote literacy and to bridge the digital divide between urban and rural areas.

For more information, visit http://litsite.alaska.edu

LITERACY PROGRAM

For those who follow UAA sports, it was no surprise when Tobias Schwoerer took first place in the grueling 26 mile Crow Pass trail run this summer. While at UAA, Tobias was the first man in the last 10 years in NCAA Division II to be an All-American in both Nordic skiing and cross country running in the same year. He was UAA’s Athlete of the Year in 2001 and in 2002, and team captain of both the running and ski teams. Tobias was also named GNAC Conference Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year for 2003.

Tobias scholar-athlete, Tobias excelled in his studies, taking Dean’s list and Chancellor’s list honors. His interest in the interactions between economics and the environment fueled his undergraduate research project on the Chignik sockeye salmon cooperative fishery. “I think UAA is one of the best places in the world for a student like me—someone who wants an excellent education and winter sports. I love the outdoors and I love Alaska. In my four years, UAA became a home to me with wonderful and very interesting people and that has had a very big impact on me.” Tobias is currently working as a research assistant for the Institute of Social and Economic Research at UAA. In 2004, he will begin pursuit of an interdisciplinary Ph.D. in his studies, taking Microsoft consultants are helping to explore web delivery of online tools for K-12 curriculum alignment in the Anchorage School District.

Tobias is currently working as a research assistant for the Institute of Social and Economic Research at UAA. In 2004, he will begin pursuit of an interdisciplinary Ph.D. in his studies, taking Microsoft consultants are helping to explore web delivery of online tools for K-12 curriculum alignment in the Anchorage School District.

First Lady Laura Bush Recognizes UAA Literacy Program

FIRST LADY LAURA BUSH RECOGNIZES UAA LITERACY PROGRAM

FIRST LADY LAURA BUSH RECOGNIZES UAA LITERACY PROGRAM

OUTSTANDING GRADUATES

While at UAA, Margaret Dewhurst was the face of the University Honors program. Not only did she excel in her studies, but she also championed the program as a public spokesperson and served on the Honors Student Advisory Board. As a freshman she traveled to England as a research assistant to Dr. James Muller, and as a junior she participated in the first Honors Program exchange with the University of Washington. At the same time, she managed to ski with the cross-country ski team, sing with the University Singers Choir, and pack in adventure with the Outdoor Club.

Margaret is particularly known and admired for her ability to inspire other students, “says Ron Spatz, Dean of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship and Director of the University Honors Program. “Taken together, her academic achievement, her leadership skills, and her engagement in the life of the campus, make Margaret an ideal representative of an engaged UAA student.”

“UAA has been a perfect place for me to both acknowledge my roots and spread my wings,” says Margaret. “My college experience has not only affirmed my love for Alaska, it has taught me so very much about myself. I now know that I am up for any challenge put before me.”

Margaret is beginning her graduate studies in psychology at the University of Minnesota this fall.