



# STORIES OF IMPACT

## Chancellor's Report on Philanthropy

### Dear Seawolf Nation,

As we begin to make headway in the spring semester, I have so much to be thankful for, and I want to celebrate you and all you have done to make our continued success possible.

### UAA enrollment increased for the first time in years

UAA's year-to-year enrollment headcount and student retention percentages are increasing for the first time in many years.. UAA saw some tough years with declining student headcounts and credit hour loads dropping 10-12% per year during the pandemic. In a positive turnaround, UAA enrollment is trending up 1.8% (Feb. 10) year over year.

With more students returning to campus, UAA is focusing on fostering and rebuilding our sense of community. Two such examples are the development of the Alaska Native Gathering Place and the recent grand opening of the University of Alaska System's first Pride Center on Jan. 17. The Student Union was full of students, faculty and staff celebrating the event.

The Rasmuson Foundation provided an initial investment to help UAA learn from our Alaska Native students, faculty and staff what elements would be most beneficial in a new Alaska Native gathering place. We are taking all the information we gathered and creating conceptual designs and outlining what the space will look like.

I am proud that UAA is growing our diversity, equity and inclusion culture, and I look forward to seeing how these new spaces contribute to the UAA community.

### UAA's internal and external stakeholders are investing for the long haul

Not only are more students coming back to UAA, but it is heartwarming to see all the investments from our internal and external stakeholders.

For instance, Dr. George Geistauts, who devoted 42 years of teaching students in UAA's College of Business and Public Policy (CBPP), and gifted \$350K to the college to establish a Distinguished Professorship in Alaska Native Organizational Management as part of his estate plan. If he could be here, I am confident he would be proud of how Dr. Sharon Lind, assistant professor of management in CBPP plans to grow this program with his investment.

Marcia Trugen, staff emerita at the Institute of Social and Economic Research , recently established the Vic Fisher Undergraduate Research award.

The UAA community also came together to establish the Sheri Buretta Family Scholarship, which will provide financial assistance to students who demonstrate financial need and are Alaska residents.

Thank you for your incredible efforts that form the backbone of our university's success. Your support is how we fulfill our mission and serve our students. Your support and generosity empower our students to dream big and continue to pursue their passions.

With green & gold gratitude,

Sincerely,

Sean Parnell  
UAA Chancellor



Read stories of impact and continue to check back for updates highlighting the Anchorage campus and community campuses.



## Recent Benefactor Highlights (Leadership-level gifts of \$10,000+, Nov. 21, 2022–Feb. 14, 2023)

### **Ann Fienup-Riordan**

UAA/APU Consortium Library  
Non-Foundation

### **Anonymous**

Excellence in Aviation Technology

### **Anonymous**

ANSEP Alumni Scholarship

### **Anonymous**

Excellence in Culinary Arts

### **Bart B. Quimby**

Excellence in Civil Engineering Students  
Professional Development

### **ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.**

Alaska Native Science & Engineering  
Program General Support  
ConocoPhillips Integrated Science  
Building Planetarium Support

### **David W. Sonneborn**

UAA General Scholarships

### **Denali Medical Resource Specialists, LLC**

Excellence in Skiing

### **Dolly N. Barton**

Darla Dolly Barton and Dany Rivera  
Nursing Scholarship

### **Ellen Lekisch**

Toni Croft Developmental Education  
Scholarship

### **ExxonMobil Corporation**

Alaska Native Science & Engineering  
Program General Support

### **First National Bank Alaska**

Bernie Klouda Memorial Scholarship  
Excellence in Finance Endowment  
Spendable  
Masterpieces of the Theater Endowment  
Spendable

### **Foundation Health Partners**

School of Nursing Expansion - FMH

### **Fran H. Rose**

Excellence in Arts and Sciences

### **GCI Communications**

Building Futures

### **George A. Geistauts**

Alaska Native Organizational Management  
Distinguished Professor

### **John R. Stalvey**

Excellence in Arts and Sciences

### **Kathie K. Bethard**

Excellence in Hockey

### **LPL Financial**

ISER Excellence

### **Marcia L. Trudgen**

Vic Fischer Undergraduate Research

### **Rasmuson Foundation**

Alaska Native Science & Engineering  
Program General Support

### **Sallie Hamm**

Matanuska-Susitna College Non-  
Foundation

### **Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium**

Della Keats Summer Enrichment Program

### **Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.**

Alaska Native Science & Engineering  
Program General Support

### **The Alaska Community Foundation**

Ted and Gloria Trueblood Arctic  
Engineering Endowment

### **U.S. Treasury**

Alaska Native Science & Engineering  
Program General Support



On March 31, three distinguished UAA alumni were honored for their outstanding contributions in their chosen fields and communities at the university's annual Alumni of Distinction Celebration Banquet.

### **Maggie Winston**

Alumni Humanitarian

### **Kenneth McCoy**

Alumni of Achievement

### **Marie-Sophie Boggasch**

Alumni Emerging Leader