

UAA

ALUMNI SPIRIT

Fall 2019 • ISSUE 12

ALUMNI WORKFORCE IMPACT | GLOBAL GRADS | RESILIENCE IN UNCERTAINTY

AMAZING STORIES
BEING WRITTEN EVERY DAY.



Workers from UAA Facilities Planning & Construction and the Municipality of Anchorage gather to survey the creek culvert replacement project, which fully closed traffic on Providence Drive between UAA Drive and Spirit Drive from September to October.

Published by UAA University Advancement



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**FROM THE EDITOR
(AND AN ALUMNUS!)**

When I graduated in 2010, I was certain that my Seawolf days were behind me. I'm thankful I couldn't have been more wrong. In the years since, I've found connection after connection back to the university, both big and small. Eventually I was led back to UAA as a writer for the Office of University Advancement. I jokingly tell people that it's how I get my tuition back, but in reality, for me the value is telling the inspiring stories of our alumni, students and faculty.

This issue of Alumni Spirit is all about impact — specifically the impact alumni have on their local and global communities. Alumni like Brian Kraft, who uses education to advocate for the protection of Bristol Bay; Lukas Easton, whose first mass-produced dinnerware collection just hit the international market; and Terzah Tippin Poe, who lectures at Harvard and around the world on issues that include sustainability, indigenous rights and climate change policy.

Also on the topic of impact, on page 8 you can hear from some of Anchorage's industry leaders in the fields of health care, engineering and communications on why they rely on UAA to produce invaluable members of the workforce. To talk about alumni community impact is to also talk about this year's Alumni of Distinction awardees. Read about their contributions to Alaska's legal, aviation and forensic nursing fields on page 16.

I hope you feel inspired to make your own impact after reading the stories in this issue. A great place to start is right here with your alma mater, which can be as easy as volunteering at an event, donating to a scholarship fund or reaching out to let us know what you're up to.

With Green and Gold Spirit,

Matt Jardin, B.B.A. '10
Editor

**FROM THE OFFICE OF
ALUMNI RELATIONS**

This is my favorite time of year. Fall brings forth a medley of vibrant colors, symbolic of the new energy created from activity of students returning to campus. I am reminded of the simple words of Mr. Fred Rogers: "Often when you think you're at the end of something, you're at the beginning of something else."

Seawolf Nation is more than 57,000 strong, and approximately 2,000 students will transition to become alumni this year. UAA alumni are out in full force, influencing communities across the world. You serve as mentors, ambassadors, advocates, leaders and role models. You also provide generous financial support and invaluable volunteer hours, helping pave the way for generations of Seawolf alumni to come.

The long days of summer presented the university with significant challenges. Through times of uncertainty, Seawolf Nation stood strong. You wrote letters, sent emails, provided testimonies and made your voice heard. Thank you for your extraordinary effort on behalf of UAA and the UAStrong Campaign.

On Oct. 4, the UAA Alumni Association welcomed 327 grads back to campus for Homecoming Breakfast. We celebrated the new Alumni of Distinction, connected the most powerful network of alumni in Alaska, and raised over \$44K to support student scholarships and programs. Events like these remind us that our best days are still ahead.

As alumni, you continue to shape UAA. Your alumni office is here to celebrate your achievements, look for ways to expand your opportunities and provide resources for you to realize continued success after graduation. Whether you are near or far, we will support, serve and help you find your connection.

Tanya Pont
UAA Director of Alumni Engagement



CHANCELLOR SANDEEN'S FIRST YEAR



Dr. Cathy Sandeen joined UAA as chancellor in September 2018. What neither she nor the university community could have anticipated early that fall were the shakeups, both literal and figurative, that would rock the university in late 2018 and throughout 2019.

In November, just two and a half months into her tenure as chancellor, Anchorage experienced a 7.1 magnitude earthquake, resulting in a campus closure. For five days, teams of UAA facilities employees worked tirelessly to reopen 70 campus buildings so that students could complete their fall studies and graduate on time. A few months later in February, the governor released his proposed operating budget, calling for a \$134 million reduction to the university system's state-funded operating budget. For the next six months, funding for the university system remained uncertain until university leadership signed an agreement with the governor for a \$70 million cut over three years. UAA's cut for the 2019-20 academic year was \$12.4 million.

In spite of a first year characterized by uncertainty, Sandeen's resilience helped carry UAA. She bolstered the spirits of faculty, staff and students with her frequent communications characterized by candor and transparency. Her primary message throughout this difficult time remained clear: Our students must be our focus. As she enters her second academic year, she continues that message with a commitment to student learning and success. She is also focused on strategic planning, student recruitment and stakeholder meetings, as she aims to meet UAA's open-access mission and commitment to serving Alaska's higher education needs.





Rising Tide Communications owner Kate Consenstein, B.A. '11, is proud to show off her Seawolf staff.

How do you measure the impact of a university? Over the years, UAA faculty, staff and departments like Career Exploration & Services have prepared thousands of students to become qualified and valuable workers in a wide range of industries, both in Anchorage and around the world. From health care, engineering, communications and beyond, one constant remains: Anchorage companies hire Seawolves.

LOOKING DOWN THE ROAD: PROVIDENCE HEALTH & SERVICES

How integral is Providence Health & Services (PHS) to Alaska? Not only does Providence Alaska Medical Center (PAMC) make up the second half of the namesake UMED District — the area UAA and the hospital call home — but the wider PHS organization is the largest non-government employer in the state.

That status naturally results in the employment of a large number of UAA nursing alumni. For the organization, the decision to hire UAA grads is easy. Hiring managers found local hires are already invested in the community and familiar with the demands of working in remote Alaska, which can be surprising to those who move from the Lower 48.

“It allows us to be a good community partner,” said **Karen Turner, B.A. Journalism and Public Communications '95**, human resources director for PAMC. “UAA graduates them and we scoop them up, and they stay instead of taking that knowledge out of state. It’s a win-win.”

The jump from UAA to PAMC is also as easy as crossing the street. By the time students graduate, they’re familiar with the trip since a key component of



From left: Providence Alaska Medical Center director of clinical practice, research, and staff development **Carrie Doyle**; chief nursing executive **James Reineke**; and human resources director **Karen Turner, B.A. '95**.

the curriculum are clinicals — on-site training supervised by seasoned nurses. Clinicals have the added benefit as functioning as semi-interviews, which can make it easier for students to return to PAMC after graduation.

“What you’re taught versus reality can be difficult. Residency programs help with that transition,” said **Carrie Doyle**, director of clinical practice, research and staff development for PAMC. “That’s why we like to see students back here. They find out about the residencies available to them after graduation, and we hire them right in because we’re already familiar with them.”

Similarly, it’s just as easy for hospital

staff to visit the university, and many do, crossing the street to serve as adjunct professors or guest speakers. Moreover, PHS leadership have partnered with the university for years to recommend and shape academic programs that are needed in the health care field.

“It’s an exciting partnership in regards to workforce development,” said **Jim Reineke**, chief nursing executive for PAMC and regional chief nursing officer for PHS. “What will health care look like over the next decade and what programs don’t exist today but need to be there? We work together to see what’s coming, where the gaps are and how we can fill that.”

THE LONG GAME: PND ENGINEERS

In the heart of Anchorage's Spenard neighborhood is PND Engineers Inc.'s spacious two-story headquarters. The engineering consulting firm rooted in the Alaska community since its founding in 1979 has offices statewide and in Washington, Oregon, Texas and British Columbia. The firm has a long-standing history of hiring UAA College of Engineering (CoEng) grads, and recently hired a handful of newly graduated engineers.

"We hire a wide cross section, but more often than not, with time, most of the people we hire from UAA or UAF tend to be with the company for 10 years or more," said **Paul Kendall, B.S. Civil**

Engineering '01, who's been a principal and senior engineer with the company for 15 years. "From an employment standpoint, it helps us with retention. Additionally, it also provides us with engineers who have a background in the types of things we do even if they don't realize it, just because they've lived around it for so long."

Kendall helped in the hiring of new local talent from CoEng's most recent cohort of engineering graduates.

For PND, having a local pool of well-educated engineering students is invaluable to their company. Of their more than 100 employees company-wide, about 20% are CoEng graduates,

according to Kendall. Hiring local students who are willing to work, live and understand the challenges of living in Alaska makes recruiting and retention in their company much easier, he said.

On the flip side, the recent graduates said landing a position at PND is coveted since they have a reputation of excellence throughout the engineering community. Additionally, their main offices are located in Anchorage, which is a huge bonus for many UAA graduates who want to live and work in Alaska.

"The fact that they're based here in Anchorage is appealing, even though

they have offices Outside," said surveyor **Colton Jessup, B.S. Geomatics '17**. "Everything goes through the Anchorage office still, which I like."

Kendall added that the company is an employee-owned model and that he's pretty proud of the fact that he works at a company where many of the employee-owners came from UAA's engineering school.

"The fact that you have a university that provides capable people, who are from here and more likely to stay, has proven itself to be a positive outcome over and over again," he said.

AHEAD OF THE CURVE: MSI COMMUNICATIONS

Touring MSI Communications' modern office space in downtown Anchorage can feel like visiting a startup; but don't let appearances fool you, their roots in Alaska go back more than 20 years.

Founded in 1995, MSI began as a home business when president **Laurie Fagnani, B.A. Journalism and Public Communications '86**, wanted to branch out on her own after the birth of her daughter.

In the years since, MSI has steadily grown to position itself as the go-to communications agency for players in Alaska's major industries.

"Some of the key drivers of our economy — oil and gas, tourism, mining, Native corporations — that's our niche," explains Fagnani. "We found that when somebody grows up in Alaska and attends the university, they have a keener sense of those markets."

Of the 20 people who now work at MSI, three are UAA alumni, one



From left: account executive **Keith Baxter, B.A. '06**; associate creative director **Tara Storter, B.A. '02**; founder and president **Laurie Fagnani, B.A. '86**; and web developer **Bryan Meshke, adjunct professor**

is adjunct faculty, and another has recently enrolled. Journalism and public communications is the most popular program.

"The journalism program was a fantastic platform," shares associate creative director **Tara Storter, B.A. '02**. "I wanted to design back when there was no market for that in Anchorage, but there was an advertising component and public relations, so it gave me a good foundation."

"It was great how much community integration UAA had," adds account executive **Keith Baxter, B.A. '06**. "The staff always made opportunities for us to meet with community leaders. As a student, I found it to be enriching and I appreciated them taking an interest in us that way."

The value MSI places on education is reinforced with web developer Bryan

Meshke, affectionately nicknamed "the professor" due to his other role as adjunct professor of web development at UAA.

"I've been teaching almost as long as I've been here. It was even a condition of my employment. I told them I needed to take an hour or two on these days to teach a class," recalls Meshke.

Fagnani considers Meshke's dual roles an asset, reasoning his secondary position pushes him to stay ahead of trends. Coupled with her observation that UAA grads sometimes have better insight into the state's industries, it's clear Fagnani views education with high esteem.

"It's a competitive market, and you have to show up every day with your A-game," she says. "I feel very fortunate that we have the university, and I really feel like I got the best degree. I use it every day."



From left: PND Engineers principal and senior engineer **Paul Kendall, B.S. '01**; senior engineer **Charles "Chip" Courtright, B.S. '06**; staff engineer **Claire Ellis, B.S. '19**; surveyor **Colton Jessup, B.S. '17**; and geotechnical engineer **Kannon Lee, M.S. '19**.

ICE & WATER

Common advice for anyone looking to start a business is to fill a need. **Brian Kraft, B.B.A. Marketing '92** — owner of Alaska Sportsman's Lodge on the Kvichak River and Bristol Bay Lodge on Lake Aleknagik — began his entrepreneurial journey by filling a need for raft rentals.

Kraft launched his raft rental and touring business mere months after graduating from UAA. While gearing up for a third season, he read in the news about a seized lodge on the Kvichak River. Sensing an opportunity, Kraft made a pitch to the attorney

looking after the asset: let him operate the lodge for two summers with the possibility of purchasing it outright after that.

When his trial run came to an end, Kraft wasn't given the opportunity to purchase the lodge as promised. Considering it to be the "best thing to happen," he partnered with a former client and moved down the river to build the brand new Alaska Sportsman's Lodge in 1997.

Today, both lodges are a hub where people gather from near and far for

everything from weekend getaways to long excursions. According to Kraft, one-third of his clients are local Alaskans, many of whom stem from his hockey connections while playing for the Alaska Aces, Gold Kings in Fairbanks, and perhaps most importantly to Kraft, the Seawolves.

In fact, playing hockey at UAA is what brought Kraft to Anchorage from Chicago, calling it "a magical time that changed the trajectory of my life. Without the opportunity to play hockey and go to UAA, I would not be doing what I'm doing today."

For as long as he's operated his lodges, Kraft has been a tireless advocate for protecting the area from the controversial Pebble Mine. Like any entrepreneur, he first saw the value it could bring in terms of jobs. But as someone who's made a second home in Bristol Bay, Kraft became aware of the impact such a project poses on the area.

"The more I dug into it, I found out it's a tough industry to have in an aqueous location dependent on the intact ecosystem in order to survive," said Kraft. "So I started Bristol Bay Alliance. The organization wasn't

pro or anti, it was about educating people about mining. But it became abundantly clear that this type of habitat disruption and consumption is not good for the region."

Even with his advocacy, two thriving businesses, plus a family of similarly-minded and successful entrepreneurs, Kraft makes a point to stay connected to such an integral part of his life by contributing to his alma mater and to Seawolf hockey, especially as this year marks the UAA sport's landmark 40th anniversary and the game's impending return to campus.

"I care deeply about the program so I try to be as connected as I possibly can be," said Kraft. "We did play a couple games at the Seawolf Sports Complex, although it wasn't called that back then. As a player it was electric to be there where things were hopping. I'm excited to see what happens and I'll be there to support it."

From Utqiagvik to Cambridge



UAA alumna, **Terzah Tippin Poe, B.A. Journalism and Public Communications '98**, has lectured all over the world on global issues ranging from sustainability and indigenous rights to social justice and business. She currently calls Cambridge, Massachusetts her home and walks the halls of Harvard University, helping cultivate the next generation of global leaders.

A Harvard graduate herself, Poe holds master's degrees in liberal arts and environmental management and sustainability. Her resume not only includes her role as a Harvard instructor but also as a consultant for international companies, offering her expertise on climate change policy and advocating for Arctic Indigenous people at public speaking events worldwide. She is no stranger to the world stage and despite her jet-set career, she remains grounded in her Alaska Inupiaq roots.

Poe's family is from Utqiagvik, although she was raised in Fairbanks, she spent her summers learning her Alaska Native heritage in the North Slope Borough town. Her father instilled a love of reading early in her childhood, which launched her lifelong ambition to pursue education — an endeavor she continues today as she works toward earning her Ph.D. But it wasn't until her mid-twenties, working as a bartender, she realized she needed a formal education to accomplish her goals and dreams.

"The learning environment for me at UAA was inspirational," said Poe of her undergraduate experience. "I was exposed to not only some of the best teachers in the state of Alaska but also to award-winning and Pulitzer prize journalists and professionals."

Poe was taught by some of Alaska's most iconic names in journalism and said that their lessons still hold for her today, laying a solid foundation for the life and career path of her dreams.

"I think the education I received from UAA was on par with the advanced degree I received from Harvard — both degrees built on each other," said Poe. "If I was going to impart anything on students who are thinking about going to UAA or already attending, you can do anything with this degree, it is the thing that will open doors."

It is argued by some that success is dictated not by what you know, but rather who you know. In any case, ceramics alumnus **Lukas Easton, B.F.A. Art '17**, has both bases covered.

During his last semester at UAA, Easton met fellow ceramics student Ade Waworuntu, whom he credits for helping him power through his early morning classes. That spring, Waworuntu — who owns Jenggala Keramik, a ceramic production company in Bali, Indonesia — expressed interest in Easton's carving style and invited him to design a new line of dinnerware for the company.

After post-baccalaureate studies at the Rochester Institute of Technology in late 2017, Easton was able to move overseas to work in Bali for three months. Easton's collaboration with Jenggala resulted in a 13-piece dinnerware set featuring a motif of the Frangipani, a popular flower used extensively throughout Indonesia.

While tackling an international-scale project can be intimidating, the fact that Easton always considered the global impact of ceramics helped ease the transition. His undergrad thesis project, "Visceral Visions," channeled the use of ceramics as an ancient storytelling device by featuring a series of large vessels with carvings addressing issues regarding politics, climate disruption and violence.

"I'm still blown away that there was so much support," said Easton. "Maybe because ceramics is based around a kiln, which historically there might be only one kiln in town. So it became a very community-based event, it creates this tight and supportive culture. Everyone is rooting for everyone else. You're your own entity, but it's like a big team sport."

With design work on the dinnerware complete, Easton has returned stateside to pursue graduate studies at Alfred University in New York. Back overseas, his work has hit the market in Indonesia and Japan. With any luck, his work may be poised to reach even further after being featured at a hotel conference in Dubai.

"I've visited quite a few schools now and UAA has an absolute stellar ceramics program," said Easton. "I never would be where I am without that rock solid foundation. The entire time I was there, I was held to an unwaveringly high standard that's unmatched."



Kiln it overseas

\$44K BY 9 A.M.

On Oct. 4, hundreds of graduates gathered at the Alaska Airlines Center for the annual Homecoming Breakfast. Guests honored the achievements of this year's trio of Alumni of Distinction awardees and generously gave to support current UAA students. The gathered alumni community raised over \$44,000 in donations and sponsorships to benefit UAA programs and scholarships.



Alumni Emerging Leader
Vanessa Norman
B.B.A. Management
and Marketing '04

Norman, born and raised in Port Graham, gives back to the community by volunteering and working on issues that she is passionate about. As an attorney at the Anchorage office of Davis Wright Tremaine LLP, her responsibilities include advising businesses both in Alaska and the Lower 48, with special emphasis on guiding Alaska Native corporations on general corporate matters. She also serves as co-chair of the firm's Attorneys of Color affinity group.

Alumni Humanitarian
Angelia Trujillo
B.S. Nursing Science '97
M.S. Nursing Science '04

As a leader in the field of forensic nursing in Alaska, Trujillo works tirelessly in a joint effort between health care and law enforcement that's as much about advocating and supporting patients as it is about solving crimes. Back at UAA as a community health nurse professor, she runs the Alaska Comprehensive Forensic Training Academy, a program dedicated to enacting community-level change and broadening the scope of victimization via education and hard data.

Alumni of Achievement
Jacki Holzman
M.S. Environmental Quality
Science '92

Holzman is the deputy regional administrator for the Alaska region of the Federal Aviation Administration. Her position is the latest in a 27-year career with the FAA and helps keep the organization afloat by connecting operations and stakeholders to address aviation safety. Holzman also remains connected to her alma mater by serving as a mentor for the UAA College of Business and Public Policy's Leadership Fellows and Leadership Fellows Junior programs.



If you had to pick one word to sum up the kind of year 2019 has been for UAA, a fitting word could be *uncertainty*. Serendipitously, Homecoming Breakfast keynote speaker **Dr. Kathleen Sutcliffe, B.S. Nursing Science '78**, knows a thing or two about uncertainty. In fact, the Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of Business and Medicine at Johns Hopkins University built her career studying how organizations in high-reliability industries can prepare for the inevitable. To say she wrote the book on the topic would be an understatement — she's written three.

"We can never know all the ways that organizations can fail, so you just have to be as prepared as possible," said Sutcliffe. "All organizations are going to have surprises, just like all human beings, but resilience is more ordinary

than we think. In part it's facing adversity with other people."

While the topic of anticipating and coping with uncertainty can be applied to virtually any field, Sutcliffe relates it most to health care, and for good reason. Before studying management and organizational behavior, Sutcliffe originally worked in health care, holding positions as health care program manager for the State of Alaska, and director of health and social services at Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association (APIA).

Making the transition from nursing to management and organization theory during her time at APIA, she naturally drew heavily from her nursing education. Unexpectedly, however, was the impact a seemingly unrelated class would have on her.

"I had taken a basic HR management course at UAA and I absolutely loved it," said Sutcliffe. "Then when I was at the APIA, I knew I was in the wrong thing. I was always thinking about organizations were doing this, and why this entity was doing that, and what about all these political applications, etcetera. I just wanted to know why systems were working the way they were working."

On the surface, Sutcliffe acknowledges that the jump from health care to organizational theory can appear vast. However, she explains that the two fields are closer than they seem, noting that both draw on her fascination to learn how complex systems — humans on one hand, companies on the other — operate, how they can be protected and how they can recover.

ON BEING ENGAGED

These five alumni share some of their favorite memories of UAA, and the importance of remaining connected as Seawolves. To watch their full video testimonials, visit uaa.alaska.edu/alumni or facebook.com/alumniuaa.



Nick Armstrong-Crews
B.S. Computer Science '03, B.S. Mathematics '04, B.S. Natural Sciences '05
Senior Software Engineer, Google

“Now that I’m reconnecting more with UAA, I’m finding a lot of value in that connection. UAA did a lot for me many years ago. ... I really appreciate that I’m welcomed here with open arms and respected, and every opportunity is given to me to reintegrate and again be a part of it [UAA].”



Nicole Knox
B.S. Civil Engineering '04
Civil Engineer, R&M Consultants Inc.

“I think being an alumni of UAA is so important; you feel like you’re part of the community. ... It feels wonderful to me to donate financially to scholarships and meet the recipients of those scholarships, and just know that I’m hopefully making their career through UAA just a bit easier.”



Ragu Bhargava
B.B.A. Accounting '88
Co-Founder and CEO, Global Upside Corp.

“What brings me back again and again to UAA is life cycle — as you mature your priorities change, and at this stage in my life I realize I need to contribute to the success of others. ... If they [students] need help with something that I have expertise in, I am more than willing to share.”



Tim Gravel
B.B.A. Accounting '90
Owner/CEO, Kaladi Brothers Coffee

“UAA taught me perseverance. I had instructors that helped get me through some hard times. ... It’s nice to look back and support people that are going through what you went through. ... I see the value I’ve received from UAA, and now it’s time to give back and help somebody else get through a rough time or to give some encouragement so they can go off and do great things.”



Tisha Benson
A.A. '05, B.S. Nursing Science '13
Public Health and Ambulatory Care Nurse, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

“Overall, I think UAA taught me grit, and to have that perseverance and passion to just keep going. ... I’ve maintained my connection with UAA by volunteering my time with students, particularly the Recruitment and Retention of Alaska Natives into Nursing program.”

Find your
connection



907-786-1942 ■ SEAWOLF.FOREVER@ALASKA.EDU



REDISCOVERING A DREAM

“It took 20 years for me to come back to college,” said Frank Woo, a 41-year-old non-traditional student who recently received his associate degree and was awarded both the Key Bank and Grace Gift scholarships. Woo said about three or four years ago, he had a conversation with his wife, who encouraged him to go back to school and complete his education. “I honestly had given up on it during that time, I had thought that I was done with studying and going to college.”

Originally from Los Angeles, Woo moved to Anchorage with his mom and helped run the family restaurant, Tofu House before they sold it. Initially, the dream and plan was to attend university. He had aspirations of being a doctor, but fell on hard times and struggled to work and go to school at the same time, and in the end, he had to let go of his collegiate ambitions.

Fast forward 20 years and Woo, who now works as a case manager providing assistance services to seniors and the disabled, has earned his associate degree and is working

toward achieving his bachelor’s in accounting. For Woo, it’s a dream he’d let go of a long time ago, but with motivation from his wife and the generous philanthropic support through the Key Bank and Grace Gift scholarships, he is fulfilling a lifelong goal.

“For me personally, these scholarships have been a really big help, because school is not cheap,” said Woo of receiving the Key Bank Scholarship and his most recently awarded Grace Gift Scholarship. “Being more free financially helps you focus more on your education and on your goal, which improves the end result.”

Woo said it’s been 20 years in the making, but that he’s hoping to graduate within three years. It will be an emotional moment for him — one that he gets misty-eyed thinking about now. But he knows that all the late nights and long hours will pay off when he looks into the bleachers of the Alaska Airlines Center and sees his kids and wife smiling down.

ALUMNI LIFE

FIND THEM PURSUING THEIR DREAMS ALL OVER ALASKA, THE UNITED STATES AND THE WORLD.

PAGE 20: Tia Thompson, A.A.S. '19, demonstrating her welding skills before shipping off to the North Slope to work for Schlumberger. ■ Katie Behnke, B.A. '12, protesting at the Save Our State Rally. ■ Bethel-raised writer and UAA English professor Don Rearden, M.P.A. '05, gives a reading from his latest co-authored memoir, *Warrior's Creed: A Life Preparing for and Facing the Impossible*.



PAGE 21: Kaladi Brothers Coffee co-owner Tim Gravel, B.B.A. '89, serving the new Team Spirit Seawolf Blend on the Cuddy Quad. ■ English grad John Kendall, B.A. '11 (right), and his brother and current UAA student James Kendall (left) premiere their short film *Dasher* at the Anchorage Museum.



ALUMNI LIFE



Have pics of your life after UAA? Send them to seawolf.forever@alaska.edu.

PAGE 22: Joley Hodgson, B.A. '18, beginning her new job as production assistant for SportsCenter at ESPN headquarters. ■ Pita Pit franchise owner Billy St. Pierre, M.B.A. '10 (center), expands into the hotel business with the Talkeetna Inn. With him to check out the new venture is Linda Leary, M.S. '04 (left), and her husband Mike Leary (right). ■ Therese McKeever, B.S. '94, enjoying the water on Eagleville Lake in Coventry, Connecticut.



PAGE 23: Professional photographer/cinematographer Don Chon, B.S. '12, making a rare appearance in front of the camera while on assignment (@don2chon). ■ Jenny Jemison, B.S. '08, presenting to 5th and 6th grade students at Structure Destruction Camp, part of BP Summer Engineering Academies.





Creative writing alumna named co-editor and co-publisher

In late 2018, longtime food writer and creative writing and literary arts alumna Amy O'Neill Houck, M.F.A. '15, took over as co-editor and co-publisher for local food magazine *Edible Alaska* with writer Jeremy Pataky. *Edible Alaska* is part of a wider network of Edible Communities — 90 independently-owned magazines in the U.S. and Canada dedicated to telling stories focused on the complete culinary experience.

Anthropology alumna awarded top honors

Last May, anthropology alumna Anne Velardi, M.A. '18, traveled to Peterborough, Canada, to accept the award for best master's thesis in the field of aging studies from the European Network in Aging Studies. Velardi's thesis, titled "Cultural Age Markers and Differential Treatment Due to Age," aimed to uncover the ways society defines people as old via attributes she dubs cultural age markers, — like gray hair, wrinkled skin, difficulty with technology or political conservatism — and compare how those age markers are perceived by different communities. In addition to determining the ways we label people as elderly, Velardi's thesis looked at how society is conditioned to internalize perceptions based on age markers. Those perceptions later inform how the elderly are treated, particularly when it comes to matters of employment.

UAAAA board of directors welcomes new members and director

Big things happened at the annual Alumni Assembly, held on June 13. This year, we welcomed three new board members to the UAA Alumni Association: Jessica Horwatt, B.B.A. Information Technology '97; Jessica Jacobsen, B.S. Construction Management '13; and Jonathon Taylor, B.A. Political Science '16. We also announced former UAA associate athletic director of development Tanya Pont as the new director of alumni engagement.

Former Seawolf sets world record twice

Six months after setting the world record for fastest marathon by a double amputee at the Boston Marathon with a time of 2 hours, 42 minutes and 24 seconds, alumnus Marko Cheseto, B.S. '13, M.S. '18, rewrote the record book again by completing the Chicago Marathon in 2:37:23, beating his old time by five minutes. Prior to Cheseto, the record was held by Richard Whitehead of Great Britain who completed the 2010 Chicago Marathon with a time of 2:42:52. After setting the new record, Cheseto revealed he had received a sponsorship from Nike as an adaptive athlete.



UAA Bookstore Customer Appreciation Day Sale

Thursday, Dec. 5, 8 a.m.–6 p.m.
Alaska Airlines Center

Freshen up your green and gold gear! Join the UAA Bookstore at its temporary location in the Alaska Airlines Center for a progressive sale: 8 a.m.–3 p.m., 25% off; 3–4 p.m., 30% off; 4–5 p.m., 35% off; 5–6 p.m., 40% off.

UAA Crafts Fair

Saturday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Student Union

The annual UAA Crafts Fair hosts over 100 crafters selling handmade Alaska products. This is a juried fair and has a strong reputation for presenting high quality, unique items, including handmade crafts, woodwork, glass, jewelry, bath products, fiber art and pottery!

Fall Commencement

Sunday, Dec. 15, 1 p.m.
Alaska Airlines Center

Join UAA in welcoming a new class of alumni! Commencement could not happen without volunteers who contribute their time and energy to make this day a success. Volunteer to be a part of the celebration at uaa.alaska.edu/commencement.

2020 Symphony of Sounds

Friday, Feb. 21 & Saturday, Feb. 22, 7:30–9:30 p.m.
Fine Arts Building Recital Hall

One of the most unique concert experiences of the year, *Symphony of Sounds* delivers an extravaganza of musical entertainment in a collage format.

Save the Date: 2020 Alumni ParTee Nine in the Spine

Wednesday, Feb. 26, 5:30 p.m.
Student Union

Shake off that cabin fever with a night of indoor mini-golf at UAA! Each year during Winterfest, alumni teams play a cross-campus course designed by student clubs. All funds raised support the UAA Alumni Association scholarship. More information: seawolf.forever@alaska.edu or 786-1942.



See Seawolf Debate in action

The UAA Seawolf Debate program hosts several public debates throughout the academic year. Visit seawolfdebate.com to find out when and where you can witness UAA's renowned team in action.

Experience the arts at UAA

Visit artsuaa.com to browse the broad array of theater, dance and music performances scheduled for the 2019–2020 academic year. It's never been easier to save money or secure seats ahead of the general public with our Create Your Own Season program. More information: artsuaa.com or 786-4849.

Catch a game!

Come back to campus and Howl for the Home Team! Alumni Relations has partnered with Seawolf Athletics to bring you Alumni Nights, offering alumni a pair of free tickets to select games. Grab your tickets online at <https://bit.ly/2JomKHx> and enter promotion code ALUMNI. Stay up-to-date with Seawolf Athletics by texting SEAWOLVES to 90561 or visit goseawolves.com for more information.



CLASS NOTES

1991

Nursing science alumna Susan Eichholz, B.S. '91, received recognition for her 25-year career as a clinical supervisor in the hematology oncology department at the Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital in Lebanon, New Hampshire.



Melissa Livingston (top left) during the signing of Senate Bill 5415, the Washington Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

2011

Leader of the UAA Colorado Alumni Chapter and political science alumnus Karl Wing, B.A. '11, was recently promoted to solutions manager at Verizon.



Derek Luke

2011

Cornerstone General Contractors announced senior project manager and construction management alumnus Jonathan Hornak, B.S. '11, as its newest partner effective January of this year.

2013

In May 2019, educational leadership alumnus Derek T. Luke, M.Ed. '13, graduated from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law in Pennsylvania and secured a position with law firm Cozen O'Connor.



William Bishop

1992

Natural sciences alumnus William Bishop, B.S. '92, was promoted to president and CEO of Alaska Communications.

1992

Journalism and public communications alumnus John Golick, B.A. '92, joined UIC as general manager of the Rockford Corporation.

1994

Earlier this year, German and history alumna Melissa Livingston, B.A. '94, began a new job as policy analyst for the Office of Tribal Affairs at the Washington State Health Care Authority.

2006

Dietetic internship grad Joy Heimgartner, GCRT '06, was recently promoted to be one of the first advance practice level 2 clinical dietitians at Mayo Clinic in Minnesota.

2010

The Advocates for Human Rights and the American Immigration Lawyers Association honored project management grad Rebeca Mosquera, M.S. '10, from Akerman LLP as one of three lawyers for their pro bono efforts in a refugee case involving a group of 92 Somali citizens deported in 2017, known as the "Somali 92."

2011

In March 2019, Anchorage Mayor Ethan Berkowitz announced the appointment of accounting grad Anna Henderson, B.B.A. '11, to the position of general manager for Municipal Light and Power.

2014

Management and marketing alumnus Jordan Kwas, B.B.A. '14, began a new job as business development representative for Fuelled, an oil and gas surplus equipment broker in Calgary, Alberta.



LENS ON CAMPUS

Winter is on the way as the Seawolf Shuttle takes students off to class.



DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOUR ALMA MATER? CONTACT US TO SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE, SHARE A PHOTO OR UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION.

seawolf.forever@alaska.edu

WELCOME TO OUR FIRST E-MAGAZINE

WE'RE
GOING
DIGITAL.
COME
WITH
US!

Starting with the spring 2020 issue, Alumni Spirit magazine will be a mostly online publication. Make sure you don't miss the next edition. Review your contact information by emailing seawolf.forever@alaska.edu or visiting uaa.alaska.edu/alumni. In the meantime, check out the digital-only content for this issue and revisit past issues at tinyurl.com/alumnispirit.