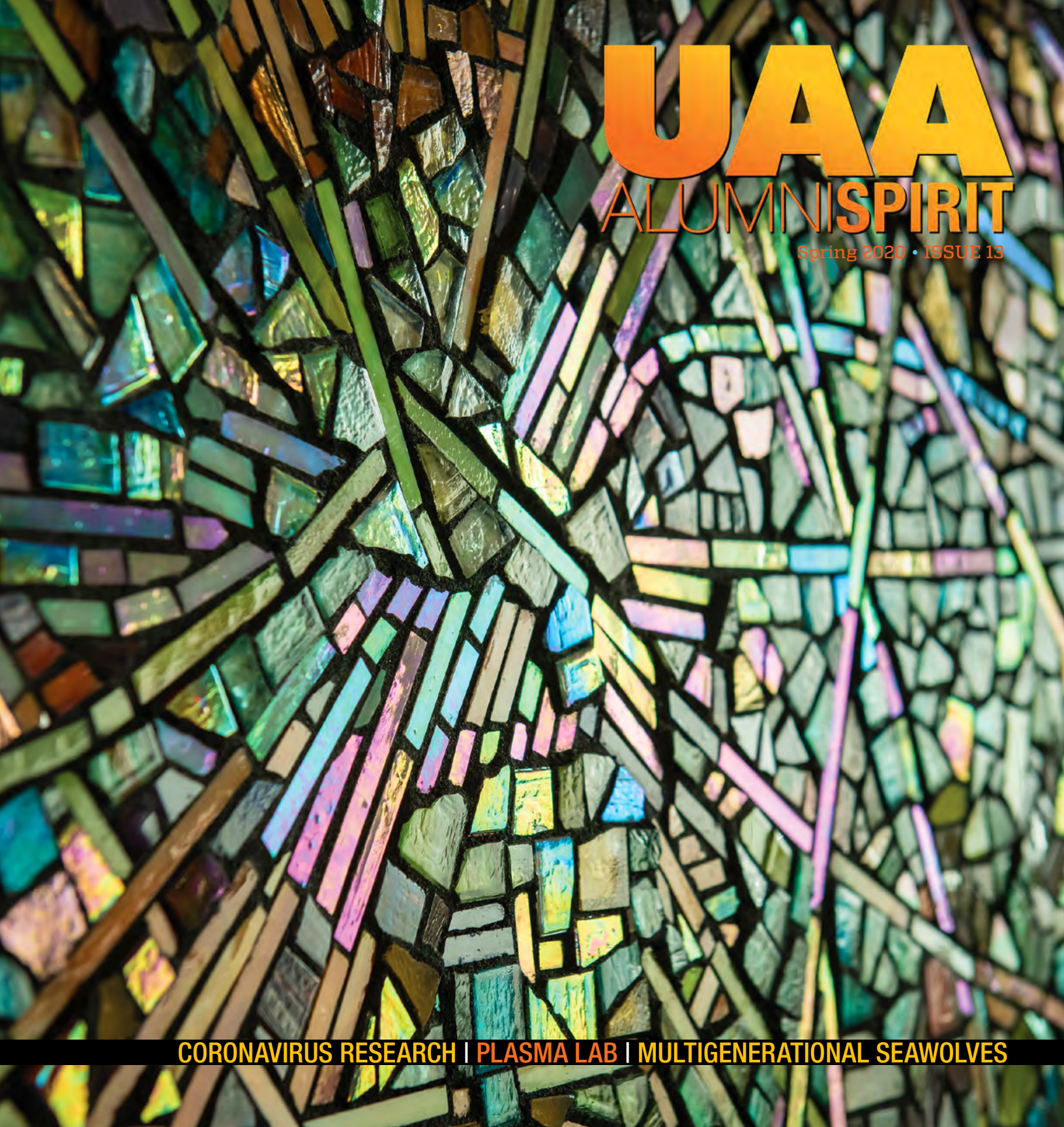

UAA ALUMNI SPIRIT

Spring 2020 • ISSUE 13

CORONAVIRUS RESEARCH | PLASMA LAB | MULTIGENERATIONAL SEAWOLVES

AMAZING STORIES
BEING WRITTEN EVERY DAY.

Future Seawolves explore the UAA campus with new student orientation team member Bao Her during Howl Days new student orientation.

ALUMNISPIRIT Spring • ISSUE 13

Published by UAA University Advancement

FEATURES

SPOTLIGHTS

DEPARTMENTS

ON THE COVER
Unveiled in September 2019, glass and mycelium mosaic "Networks" by Alaska artist Sheila Wyne hangs in the first floor of UAA's Engineering and Industry Building.

UAA ALUMNISPIRIT

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FROM THE EDITOR

What a semester.

It can be alarming how sudden the status quo can change, as I'm sure all of you can attest. For instance, the magazine you're reading right now is completely different than what was planned just a few months ago. However, in the clamber to organize this issue amidst constantly shifting news, I've seen how quick alumni, students, faculty and staff are to adapt, and more importantly, help one another.

Fittingly, this issue of *Alumni Spirit* is about preparation. Driving that theme home is our feature story focusing on some of the UAA researchers who have been studying coronavirus for the last 15 years and what their work can tell us about COVID-19.

Some of the Seawolves you'll hear from in this issue include recently appointed Alaska Communications president and CEO Bill Bishop, whose natural sciences degree paved the way toward his eventual telecommunications career in surprising ways. Also featured is current mathematics and civil engineering double major Katherine Sakeagak, whose mother and father — both UAA and ANSEP alumni — helped ready her for her own journey.

As always, if you feel particularly inspired to reconnect with your alma mater after reading this issue, we here at the Office of Alumni Relations are ready to hear from you. Never hesitate to reach out for ways to volunteer (once events are safe to bring back) or just to let us know what's new in your life.

With Green and Gold Spirit,

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

FROM THE PARENT OF ALUMNI

It is funny where life can take you. Sometimes, there is great purpose driving you to a destination in your life. Purpose sparked by an idea that comes to you at first as a fuzzy goal that needs clarity of purpose. Clarity of purpose often requires more help than what family and friends alone can provide. This is where a great school can make a difference.

UAA was that great school that set both our son and daughter on the journey to successful careers. Daniel was halfway into his freshman year at UAA when he found a new, unique training opportunity offered by the Community and Technical College. He was intrigued by the fast-track nature of the training, a 90-day boot camp training apprenticeship in non-destructive testing (NDT), a critical skill set for identifying corrosion in pipelines and metal structures, a vital need in oil and gas industry safety programs. He was accepted into the first NDT boot camp offered in 2009. Daniel completed the 19-credit program, received his certificate of apprenticeship and was offered a job the same day to work at the Kuparuk oil field on the North Slope where he continues to work today.

Our daughter Rachael's journey came later in life in her early 30s. Rachael's out of state college education began right after high school, but life happens, and her college track was put on hold before she could graduate. In the years that followed, she met the love of her life, married and had their first child. Not long after her son was born, Rachael enrolled at UAA in the accounting program offered by the College of Business and Public Policy. A few years later, Rachael received her undergraduate degree in accounting, finishing her senior year while pregnant with her daughter. Just before graduation, Rachael was recruited by the national accounting firm BDO in Anchorage where she continues to work today.

Finding clarity of purpose is never an easy thing. In the case of our family, it was because of UAA that our son and daughter found their path and achieved their goals. Thank you UAA!

Bill Popp
President & CEO
Anchorage Economic Development Corporation

UAA is here when you need us

Many of you have heard me describe UAA as Alaska's modern, relevant, connected urban-metropolitan university. We are Anchorage's hometown university, and we're here to solve real-world problems. At no time has the value of UAA to this community been more apparent than during our current response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For the last 15 years, UAA biology researchers have studied coronavirus strains developing tools that can now be applied to the virus that causes COVID-19. Our researchers partnered with the Centers of Excellence for Influenza Research and Surveillance to standardize, catalog and make data accessible worldwide to paint a clearer picture of regional coronavirus variants.

The UAA College of Health coordinated with relevant university offices, the Alaska Board of Nursing and the accrediting agency to graduate up to 72 nursing students early so that they can join the health care workforce in Alaska. Students completed their course requirements on an expedited timeline and applied for temporary licensure that qualifies them to practice for six months. They will follow up with completion of the licensing exam to become a permanent RN.

The college's Alaska Center for Rural Health and Health Workforce is working with the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services COVID-19 Task Force to quickly develop a medical supply survey tool to track supply usage and restock rates, which will be used by the state to prioritize and distribute critical medical supplies.

A UAA public health research team used epidemiological modeling to predict the number of COVID-19 hospitalizations in the Anchorage and Mat-Su. The team found without state and municipal intervention policies aimed at sheltering in place and social distancing, Alaska's medical infrastructure would become overwhelmed. Their report called for strengthening intervention measures to "flatten the curve" and was shared with Anchorage Mayor Ethan Berkowitz, Gov. Mike Dunleavy and Alaska Chief Medical Officer Anne Zink.

Furthermore, an economist within the UAA Institute of Economic and Social Research has conducted analysis on the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Alaska's economy. A faculty member in the UAA College of Business and Public Policy with expertise in international policy and disaster response is actively contributing to local planning efforts.

The federally funded Small Business Development Center within the UAA Business Enterprise Institute consulted with over 200 small businesses in the state on strategies to mitigate financial losses due to business closures. The institute's Manufacturing Extension Partnership worked with the Alaska Legislature on an amendment to SB241 that provides a liability waiver for local manufacturers to produce badly needed personal protective equipment (PPE) and allows local healthcare providers to use it.

The UAA colleges of Health, Arts and Sciences, and Engineering transferred PPE supplies to the state for distribution to health care workers. UAA research labs have transferred needed chemical supplies to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium for use in COVID-19 testing.

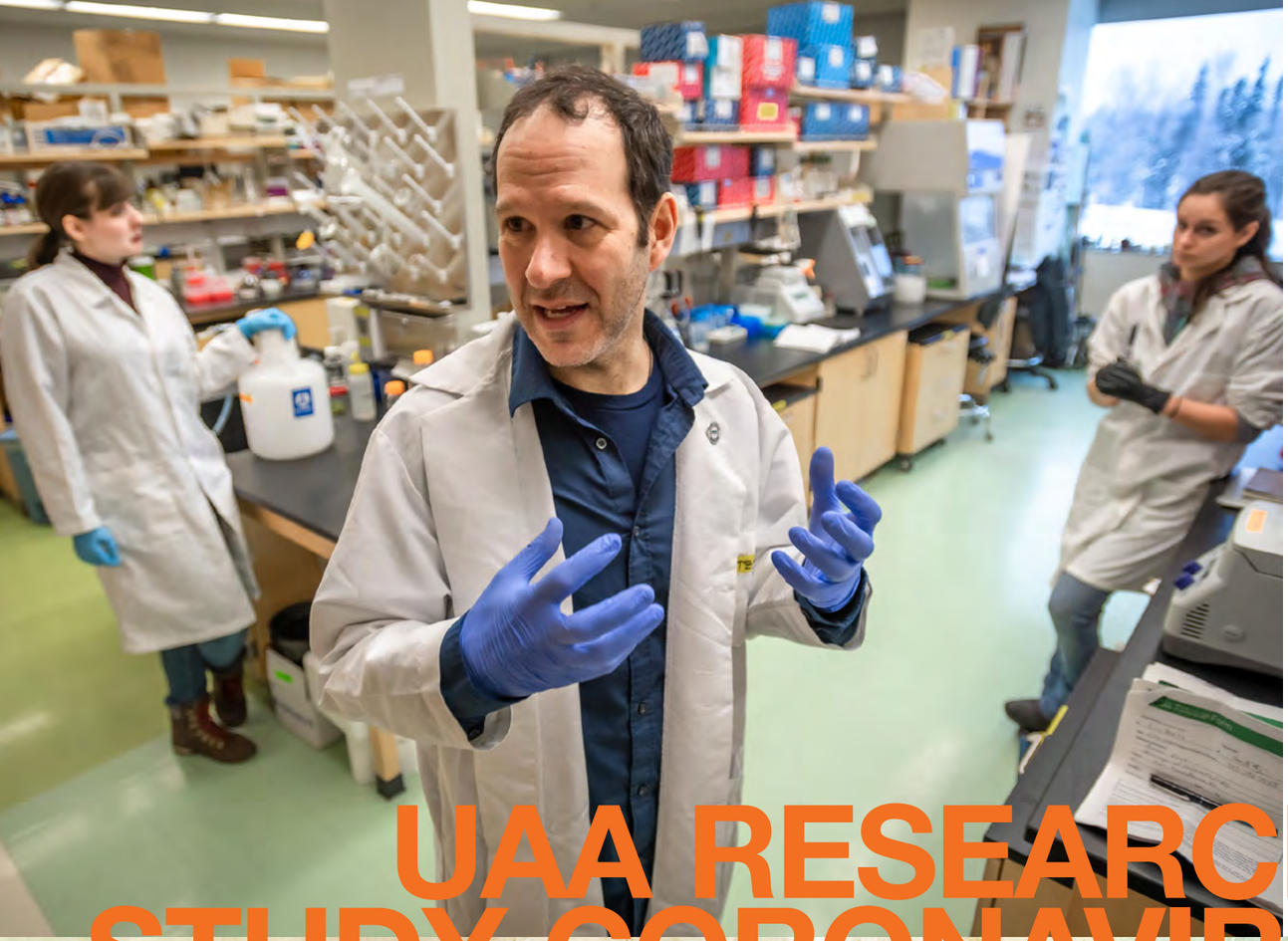
UAA's Alaska Airlines Center has been converted into a medical alternate care site to treat patients in the event local hospitals experience an influx of COVID-19 patients. UAA is making space available in two residence halls to house health care workers if the need arises, and dining services is standing by to provide support. UAA's community campuses responded similarly.

Lastly, we've produced a video series called Ask a UAA Expert featuring timely, relevant information from faculty with expertise pertinent to our COVID-19 response.

This work and more commenced immediately as part of Alaska's COVID-19 response without anyone having to ask. That's what being a relevant, connected university means. UAA is not the ivory tower. I have always said UAA excels at applied research that solves Alaska's most pressing problems. It is no surprise to me that UAA has stepped up magnificently in this current crisis. This is your hometown university. UAA is right here wherever, whenever you need us.

UPDATE ON PROGRAM REVIEWS

On March 23, I announced my decisions on both administrative and program reductions for FY20-21. The total reduction assigned to UAA beginning July 1, 2020 is $11.8 million. The UAA community has spent hundreds of hours reviewing data, developing scenarios and identifying potential cuts. There is no doubt UAA will contract with a more focused mission across every function and campus. I am confident this path will allow UAA to sustain excellence and the ability to serve the state of Alaska. Decisions are posted on the Expedited Program Review and Administrative Review websites. Program reductions account for 27.4% of the total reduction, and administrative reductions account for 72.6%. Ultimate authority rests with the Board of Regents, which will issue final decisions this June.



UAA RESEARCHERS STUDY CORONAVIRUS IN MIDST OF PANDEMIC

For some Alaskans, Tuesday, Jan. 28, was the first time having to confront the effects of coronavirus, as a plane evacuating 201 Americans from Wuhan, China, the city at the center of the recent COVID-19 outbreak, made a pit stop in Anchorage to refuel before continuing to its final destination in Southern California.

For many more Alaskans, the pandemic went from overseas news to right at our front door as Gov. Dunleavy continues to enact public closures in compliance with social distancing recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

But for several UAA researchers, studying coronavirus and other infectious diseases has been all in a day's work for more than 15 years.

Led by UAA associate professor of biology Eric Bortz, Ph.D., his team's current coronavirus research is a progression of work started in 2014. Back then, UAA researchers swabbed bats discovered in Southcentral Alaska to search for traces of various diseases, including coronavirus.

Bats are ideal for studying coronavirus due to their status as a common reservoir of its strains. Mutated coronavirus strains jumping from bats to humans are known to be the cause of the SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) outbreak in 2003 and the MERS (Middle East respiratory syndrome) outbreak in 2012.

Researchers at UAA's Alaska Center for Conservation Science (ACCS), bands and radio tags a Little Brown Bat (Myotis lucifugus) on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) near Anchorage, Alaska.

"Chance favors the prepared mind," said Bortz. "Our ability to understand this new coronavirus is because people have been working on coronaviruses in bats and human populations for a long time. Really since SARS broke in 2003, it was put on the radar as a potential novel human epidemic virus in a way it hadn't really been before. Because of that, we've been looking for bat coronaviruses in Alaska and developing tools that can then be applied to the novel coronavirus or other emergences of viruses out of nature."

Across campus, a similar line of preventative thinking was happening. Sparked by 2009 H1N1 outbreak, the following 2014 Ebola outbreak and a general fascination with how countries respond to catastrophic risks, UAA assistant professor of economics Kevin Berry, Ph.D., was publishing work concerning the precautionary measures countries can take to mitigate the spread of disease and how populations respond to outbreaks.

"I didn't think this was going to be topical at the time, but I looked at whether we should spend money domestically or overseas — adopting testing capacity in a place where outbreaks occur, or whether we wanted to have excess hospital beds in the United States," said Berry. "Investing in capacity overseas acts as self-prevention, whereas investing in capacity in the U.S. is self-insurance, and those two are complementary — you can get the same level of protection by investing fewer total dollars if you do both."

News of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic specifically refers to a particular strain, officially known as the coronavirus disease 2019 or COVID-19, which, at the time of this writing, has more than 2.1 million confirmed cases worldwide, over 677,000 confirmed cases in the U.S. and 309 in Alaska.

Working under Bortz to learn as much as they can about the novel coronavirus are graduate student William George, doctoral student Maile Branson and research professional Elaina Milton.

After researchers on the 2014 bat project were able to sequence the discovered coronavirus genome, George joined the project as a graduate researcher in 2018. He began analyzing the surface spike glycoprotein and comparing the similarities with other known coronavirus strains. He concluded that its potential to become more infectious wasn't likely due to key similarities with other identified coronavirus strains, particularly one found in Colorado.

On the current team, George is taking an if it ain't broke, don't fix it approach by applying his established methodologies on coronavirus genomes that more closely resemble the strain from recent news.

"What I've been doing is analyzing next generation sequencing data to see if I can extrapolate the coronavirus and bioinformatically piece it back together," said George. "Once that occurs, you can look for novel mutations and build a phylogenetic tree and go, 'Aha! Here are the coronaviruses we know and here's how they can branch off into something else.' How the Wuhan coronavirus comes into play, since we have these protocols for sequencing and surveillance, we can take them and apply it to COVID-19."

In addition to George's prior sequencing work, Branson, whose area of study involves influenza, can apply what she knows about how viruses can jump from species to species and how they can cross vast distances.

"There are many different subtypes of influenza," said Branson. "Some of them can infect people and some of them prefer birds, but there's actually quite a bit of mixing. Bird migration and animal movement are what drive our flu season. So in looking at influenza specifically in birds, it could precipitate a pandemic event or strain at any point in time."

By continually surveilling and sequencing coronavirus, the Bortz lab hopes to learn how it might mutate, like whether it will become more or less contagious. Once they get a clearer picture of the novel coronavirus structure, they may be able to discover possible preventative measures.

"If somebody has the common cold coronavirus, does that give any cross-protection against the new one? If somebody survived SARS, do they have antibodies that might block or dampen infection by the novel coronavirus? So those are the things we're thinking about and communicating with the scientific community," said Bortz.

A global-scale outbreak, of course, requires an equally global effort to study. Using Twitter, Bortz and company have been collaborating with researchers around the world on their coronavirus findings, giving a whole new meaning to going viral.

More formally, the Bortz's team has partnered with the Centers of Excellence for Influenza Research and Surveillance to standardize, catalog and make accessible data to everyone around the world, with the hope of painting a clearer picture of regional coronavirus variants.

"Say Will designs additional primers and applies what he learned from the bats to the novel coronavirus. We haven't tested those primers because we don't have novel coronavirus samples here in Alaska," said Bortz. "If there's a mismatch, it gives you false positives or negatives, or maybe they just came down with a cold or the flu. We have to update the sequences constantly because the virus mutates. Analyzing the sequence and having as many minds working on this is a great thing."

The sharing of information at all levels is also crucial to forming an effective global pandemic response plan. That openness has already been implemented at the state and university level, as noted by UAA associate professor of public policy and administration Chad Briggs, Ph.D., who's run numerous disaster scenarios during his time with the military and at other institutions. In fact, his expertise on the subject is recounted in his book, *Disaster Security: Using Intelligence and Military Planning for Energy and Environmental Risks.*

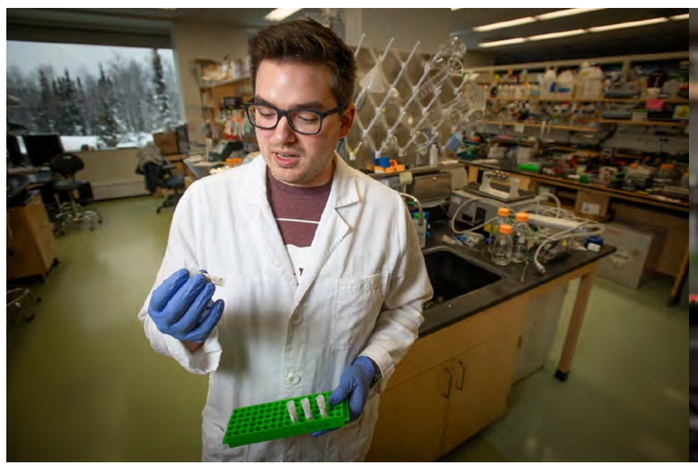
"Some interesting lessons that have come out of the wargames are the need to be really open about what's happening and the role misinformation can play," said Briggs. "That's why I think it's good that Anchorage and the governor's office are really stepping forward and saying we need to get ahead of this before it hits. It's also good that [UAA Chancellor Sandeen] shut down travel to the rural villages, just because they're uniquely vulnerable due to access to health care."

Part of the ongoing COVID-19 conversation includes looking ahead at the inevitable economic impact. In mid-March, Congress quickly introduced, approved and sent to the president for signing an economic relief bill to assist those working in industries most affected by the pandemic-caused business closures, which in Alaska, largely consists of the tourism industry.

"Alaska has had recessions, but they've all been oil driven. We've never not had a considerable number of visitors," said UAA associate professor of economics Mouhcine Guettabi, Ph.D. "On the bright side, Alaska is fortunate that it has reserves. The state economy will be fine two years from now or five years from now. There are fisheries and people will start traveling again, so there are things to be optimistic about in the long run. The question is how do you live through or minimize bad outcomes in the next six months, or year, however long this lasts? It's uncharted territory to say the least."

Back in the lab, handling all of the team's invaluable data is Milton, who has earned the title of data guru from Bortz. She also serves as the point of contact for the Bortz lab, offering clarity amid a lot of ambiguity and sensationalism.

"I want to let Alaskans know that we're here at UAA and we're ready to handle this," said Milton. "We have an offshoot of the CDC here in Anchorage and we have confidence in the public health department to also handle it, so we're at the ready."



CONNECTING THE NEIGHBORHOOD

In October 2019, **Bill Bishop, B.S. Natural Sciences '92,** was named president and CEO of Alaska Communications. Despite his new title, Bishop's priorities remain consistent over his 14 years serving in various leadership positions for the organization.

"There are two constituents that have my focus: our employees — we have about 600 employees in the state — and our thousands of customers. So my personal stamp will be within those two constituencies," said Bishop. "I want our folks happy when they come to work and happy when they leave, and I want a level of trust to be heightened when it comes to our customers and the experience they have with Alaska Communications."

Originally from Texas, Bishop's appreciation for Alaska's interconnectedness developed while growing up in North Pole. In high school, he played football which allowed him the opportunity to travel to different communities and villages around the state. That appreciation was reinforced when he spent a year attending the University of North Texas.

"I was one of those kids who wanted to leave Alaska and never come back," said Bishop. "I left right after my freshman year at UAF, went and played football in college in Texas and realized Alaska wasn't so bad. At that point, I knew that Alaska would be home."

Even though Bishop returned to Alaska, he relocated to Anchorage to see even more of the state. The next step was continuing his education at UAA where he majored in natural sciences as he originally planned on becoming a doctor. Although his eventual career is a departure from his degree, Bishop credits his time at UAA for granting him the skills invaluable to leading a company like Alaska Communications.

"The quality of education I got at UAA was tremendous, but from a degree point of view, there's little overlap," said Bishop. "But there were a lot of experiences I learned during my time at UAA that have carried me through what I think has been a successful career. Most of those experiences were around how to treat people."

Bishop's transition from natural sciences grad to telecommunications executive seemingly happened overnight. After his time at UAA, he reconnected with a friend from Fairbanks working for McCaw Cellular Communications — which eventually became AT&T — who helped him secure a job in the company. The position not only set Bishop on the path toward management through a leadership training program, but also by helping him discover his true passion: using technology to connect people and emphasize the importance of community.

"I want people to understand how important being local is, not from just a business point of view, but a community point of view," said Bishop. "Alaska is a small state, and our employees and customers are our friends and neighbors. Frankly, that's one thing I love about our state."

An officer and a reinvention

According to a 2018 report from the Postsecondary National Policy Institute, 5.2 million veterans — or 28% of all veterans — have completed a postsecondary degree since the GI Bill began in 1944. UAA alumna **Jill King, M.B.A. Management '13,** is among those ranks.

Before becoming a Seawolf, Alaska transplant or military member, King was an intrapreneur from Florida, traveling the country as a marketing representative for Chick-fil-A. When she needed a change, she struck out as an entrepreneur and opened an Italian ice business.

Seeking another change, King moved after visiting a friend in Alaska. That shake-up included a career transition. An ad for the Army National Guard promising a $20,000 enlistment bonus piqued her interest, but the opportunity to constantly reinvent herself sealed the deal.

While in the Alaska Army National Guard, King used her GI Bill to pursue her M.B.A. at UAA. A two-year program, King worked toward hers from 2009 to 2013 while juggling commitments to the guard, including monthly training, three months of officer candidate school, five months of officer leadership school and to top things off, planning a wedding.

"There were times where I had to take semesters off. Any time I had to, my professors allowed me to continue my schoolwork no matter where I was," said King. "My trainings took me as far as Cambodia and Mongolia, and it's interesting to have to telework from these areas, but it always worked. UAA was really good at working around my schedule."

King took full advantage of being able to reinvent herself by working in as many areas of the guard as she could, including spending nine months deployed in Kuwait as logistics officer while commanding a company of 86 soldiers. Currently, King is an active guard reservist and resource manager in the recruiting and retention battalion.

"One thing I appreciate about the Army National Guard is there are so many areas you can go," said King. "There's always something new. You can reinvent yourself, and a lot of what we do carries over, not only to college, but to real world jobs and experiences."

The next generation: a legacy of ANSEP and UAA

Since Katherine Sakeagak was a baby, the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP) and UAA's campus have felt like home. In fact, there is a photo of Sakeagak's father, Willie, holding her as a wide-eyed baby in a photo celebrating one of ANSEP's earliest student cohorts.

Now an ANSEP and UAA student herself, pursuing a double major in mathematics and civil engineering, Sakeagak reflects on her family's legacy at UAA and the impact her parents made on her to seek a university education.

"I started becoming a part of ANSEP as soon as I was born because my dad was a part of the program," said Sakeagak. Both of her parents graduated from UAA, her father with a B.S. in civil engineering and her mother with a B.B.A. and minor in economics. Sakeagak's aunt has also gone through ANSEP, and her uncle is currently returning to school to pursue a degree in civil engineering.

"It's kind of nice to have family here," Sakeagak said. She's currently working on recruiting her younger brother to join ANSEP and said that looking back, the impact of watching her parents work hard to complete their degrees as a young girl inspired her to embark on her own UAA journey. "When I was born, my parents were still in college, so it took both of them a little longer to complete college, but I was able to see the work he [her father] did and I guess that inspired me."

Since joining ANSEP in middle school, Sakeagak has always loved solving problems. Through her program's guidance, she's realized the career possibilities her math savvy skills provide and earned internship opportunities with ConocoPhillips and an undergraduate research appointment with Dr. Erin Hicks, associate professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy.

"ANSEP helps students who are not in college experience what it's like to be in an educational community," Sakeagak said. "It's important to start students in this early — even if they're not going toward an engineering or STEM background, it's still beneficial."

The fourth state of matter

In the Natural Sciences Building in a windowless room lies a machine named the Multipole Plasma Trap, a stainless steel vacuum chamber designed by Nathaniel Hicks, Ph.D., an assistant professor in UAA's Department of Physics. He established the UAA Plasma Physics Laboratory in 2013.

Since then, Hicks' lab has grown from a few undergraduate researchers to a 10-person student team, boasting eight alumni, all from various disciplines ranging from engineering to biological science.

"It was really interesting for me to come here because of the possibility to involve students in the research and to create experiences they can get excited about," said Hicks. His early fascination with the fourth state of matter inspired him to pursue physics; focusing his career on plasma. "Plasma is not just a physics thing, plasma and the science of plasma is kind of an umbrella that spans many disciplines. I am really happy to bring in people from the medical and biological sciences. Maybe they'll go on and study more — a lot of the students I have worked with do and I am very proud of their efforts."

According to Hicks, plasma is the most common state of matter and more than 99% of material in the universe from stars to galaxies exist in the plasma state. Here on planet Earth, plasma occurs mostly in natural phenomena like lightning bolts or the aurora because of the extreme heat needed for it to exist.

"I wanted to study a particular way of trapping plasma," said Hicks, which after years of researching, is how the Multipole Plasma Trap came to exist. The vacuum chamber traps plasma in a "magnetic or electrical bottle" and allows him and his undergraduate research students the ability to study the various phenomena that go on in the plasma state. "The idea is to just have something very easy to do that can be done in a basic laboratory with not a lot of infrastructure required."

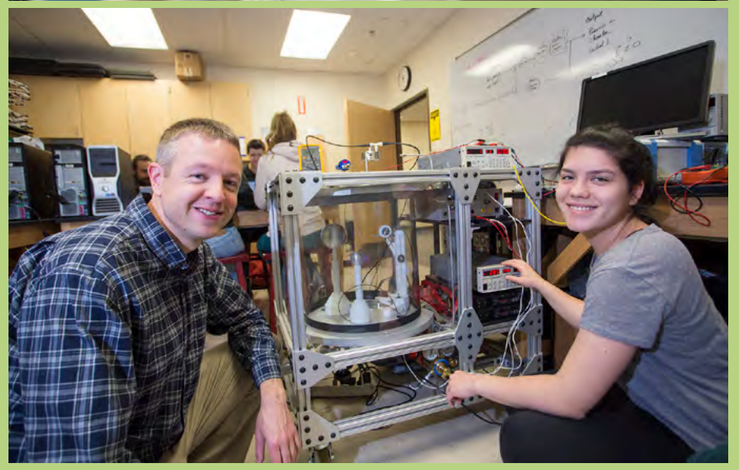
Brendan Stassel, B.S. Engineering '18, minor in physics started working in Hicks' lab in his junior year researching novel plasma propulsion systems for spacecraft. Besides the excitement of undergraduate research, Stassel said the experience not only prepared him for work in a laboratory but success in graduate school and beyond.

"I don't think any of that would have happened if I hadn't met Dr. Hicks and got into his Plasma Lab," Stassel said. His work in Hicks' lab landed him an internship with the Alaska Space Grant, led to a NASA internship in Huntsville, Alabama, which led to his graduate studies at the University of Michigan.

Amanda Bowman, B.S Mechanical Engineering '17, also joined Dr. Hicks her junior year, and over two and a half years worked on many of the lab's projects from the Multipole Plasma Trap to the Planeterrella.

"Because of my experience, I was able to get two research internships with NASA," said Bowman, who like Stassel, said Hicks' lab provided a springboard for opportunities and growth. "Having research going into grad school is huge as well as knowing how to work in a lab."

Visit the Plasma Lab at plasma.uaa.alaska.edu.



SEAWOLF OPPORTUNITIES SCHOLARSHIP CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF HELPING STUDENTS

"Would you rather work for 40 hours a week for two weeks and receive less than $1,000, or would you rather sit down, spend three hours, write a good essay and receive at least $1,000 in scholarships?" It's a question UAA junior Al Asuncion, who is pursuing a double major in accounting and finance, posits to the students he helps transition from high school to university. It's a question Asuncion asked many years ago as a high school senior and first-generation college student from Kodiak, who was wondering how he would pay for college.

But for Asuncion, his dedication to earning a scholarship paid off when he was awarded the Seawolf Opportunities Scholarship (SOS), a fund established a decade ago from a $7 million anonymous gift to the university. In 2009, UAA was among a dozen universities nationwide that received millions in anonymous funds to create scholarships. Now, 10 years later, SOS has benefited 248 Seawolves ranging in disciplines from accounting and finance to engineering and nursing.

"SOS allowed me to focus on my personal and academic success," said Asuncion. "If I had not received this scholarship, I would be having to find ways to fund my post-secondary education. This scholarship allows me to just focus on my academics and help other students receive scholarships as well."

Although Asuncion's focus is razor sharp on keeping up with his academics, he values giving back, which is a big reason he chose to attend UAA. He wanted to give back to his community while attending college and after graduating. Besides participating in the Honors College Council, Accounting Club, the Emerging Leaders Program and intramural volleyball, he's most proud of his work as a resident advisor. Through mentoring younger students, he's been able to pay it forward by helping others attain their university goals, through sharing his knowledge and expertise in navigating the scholarship process.

"This scholarship has not only impacted my academics, but how I approach other students and provide support so they can receive scholarships similar to mine and achieve their own personal academic success."

RETURN TO CAMPUS FOR HOMECOMING BREAKFAST

FRIDAY, OCT. 9

Save the date for the biggest Alumni Association reunion of the year: Homecoming Breakfast! Reconnect and reminisce with classmates while supporting current students at UAA. This year, we welcome keynote speaker and UAA alumnus **Ragu Bhargava, B.B.A. Accounting '89,** CEO of Global Upside Inc.

Most excitingly, join us as we celebrate the year's Alumni of Distinction recipients! Who might those be, you ask? That's still up to you to decide! Nominations for the 2020 Alumni of Distinction are open April 20 through July 10. You can review award criteria and submit your nominations at uaa.alaska.edu/alumniofdistinction.

We're excited to see who you nominate, and look forward to welcoming you at Homecoming Breakfast, Oct. 9 at the Alaska Airlines Center! Get your ticket or reserve a table at uaa.alaska.edu/homecomingbreakfast.

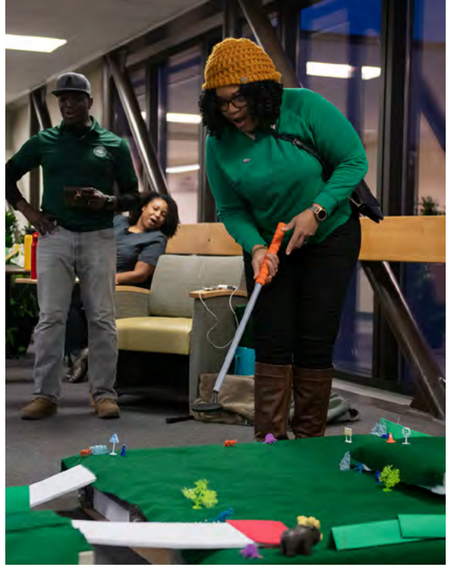
ALUMNI LIFE

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

PAGE 20: *University Police Department Officer **John Chu, A.A. '09,** on patrol. ■ TRIO Upward Bound director **Kaitlin DeMarcus, M.Ed. '17,** during a weeklong celebration of TRIO National Day of Service in February. ■ Newly promoted CRW Engineering Group principal **Erica Jensen, B.S. '06, M.S. '10,** on the runway at Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport.*

PAGE 21: *Alaska Center for Conservation Science assistant wildlife ecologist **Rachel Kelty, B.S. '17,** with a Western bumblebee in UAA's Herbarium in Beatrice McDonald Hall. ■ Mechanical engineering alumnus **Martin Henke, B.S. '16,** working to determine a simple and efficient way of keeping emergency backup batteries cool.*

ALUMNI LIFE



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

PAGE 22: *Blue Hawaiian Helicopters pilot* ***Sarah Snell, C.T.2. '07,*** *getting ready for takeoff.* ■ *Project management alumna* ***Ada Maduakor, M.S. '10,*** *playing mini-golf on campus during the annual Nine in the Spine.* ■ *2019 Alaska Literary Award recipient* ***Chaun Ballard, M.F.A. '17,*** *at the Calabash Literary Festival in Treasure Beach, Jamaica.*

PAGE 23: *Inupiat artist* ***Britt'Nee Kivliqtaruq Brower, A.A. '13,*** *manning her booth at the Charlotte Jensen Native Arts Market during the annual Fur Rondy celebration.* ■ *Aviation technology alumnus* ***Richie Diehl, B.S. '08,*** *kicking off the 48th annual Iditarod at the ceremonial start in downtown Anchorage.*

UAA ALUMNI NEWS BRIEFS

All about the ice

Each winter, the United States Coast Guard (USCG) monitors 6,700 miles of shoreline on the Great Lakes ensuring the safe passage of commercial vessels, fishing and recreational boats traveling the lakes during treacherous winter months, when ice can reach depths of eight inches or more. UAA alumnus Seth Campbell, B.S. Mechanical Engineering '14, M.S. Civil Engineering '19, and alumna Kelsey Frazier, B.S. Mechanical Engineering '19, M.S. Mechanical Engineering '20, have worked on the ice index project, also known as ICECON, for the past several years, through UAA's Arctic Domain and Awareness Center. Recently, Campbell passed along the baton to Frazier who has begun phase two of the project, focusing on the Arctic.

Alumni mini-golf raises $6,000 for scholarships

Thirty-five teams of alumni and friends gathered for the seventh annual Alumni ParTee: Nine in the Spine mini-golf event on Feb. 26. Teams played on two courses designed by student clubs and university organizations, stretching from the Cuddy Quad to the Alumni Center. A Winterfest tradition, this year's event raised nearly $6,000 for the UAA Alumni General Support Fund.

Seven alumni named to 'Top Forty Under 40'

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.

1991 hockey team inducted into Alaska Sports Hall of Fame

The Alaska Sports Hall of Fame will induct the 1991 UAA hockey team's win over Boston College in 1991 as its Moment for the 2020 class. At the time an independent team without a league, the Seawolves, led by coach Brush Christiansen, faced off against Boston College in a best 2-of-3 series that pitted the West Region's sixth-seeded team against the East Region's third-ranked squad. They beat the Eagles 3-2 in the opener, keyed by goals from Rob Conn, B.B.A. '98, and Brian Kraft, B.B.A. '91. The next night UAA clinched the series 3-1. Goalie Paul Krake was among the heroes, making 39 saves in the second game. The Seawolves eventually finished the campaign 22-17-4 to eventual national champion Northern Michigan in the NCAA quarterfinals.

1991 Seawolf Hockey team

WELCOME TO THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, SPRING CLASS OF 2020

Commencement is an important milestone for UAA students, families and friends. The celebratory weekend is a highlight for UAA faculty, staff and alumni volunteers as well, serving as a reminder of why we are here.

The day of your scheduled commencement, May 3, should not pass without recognizing that you are now UAA graduates. While the spring 2020 commencement and graduate hooding ceremonies cannot occur as planned, UAA's event planning committees are hoping to host those ceremonies at a later date per feedback received from a survey of soon-to-be graduates.

You have worked so hard and achieved so much. And, where this chapter of your amazing UAA story comes to a close, your next chapter as alumni begins. You are joining a network of more than 57,000 Seawolf alumni worldwide, and your UAA Alumni Association is pleased to welcome you to Seawolf Nation.

CLASS NOTES


Lew Gorman

1979

After 15 years with the Endangered Species Program, public administration and planning alumnus Lew Gorman III, M.P.A. '79, C.T.2. '81, retired from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and now chairs the Cherry Hill Environmental Board, serves as youth program coordinator of the USFWS Retirees Association and sits on the Boy Scouts of America National Conservation Committee.

1995

Aviation administration and technology alumnus John Hendrick, A.A.S. '95, B.S. '12, began a new position with the Air Force as equipment specialist where he works with life cycle logistics for new aircraft.


Chris Hamey

2000

English and accounting graduate Chris Hamey, B.A. '00, B.B.A. '04, was announced as chief financial officer for Residential Mortgage.

2000

Political science and public administration alumna Tessa Axelson kicked off the new decade by being appointed the new executive director for the Alaska Forrest Association.

2007

DOWL transportation engineer and civil engineering and project management alumna Irene Malto, B.S. '07, M.S. '19, M.S. '19, was nominated for Anchorage E-Week Engineer of the Year by the Society of Women Engineers.


Erika Veth

2008

After graduating from UAA, English alumna Erika Veth, M.A. '08, earned her Ed.D. from the Capella University and has recently become client development specialist with Millennium Solutions.

2008

Economics grad Chris Kolerok was recently named director for policy at Cook Inlet Housing Authority.

2012

In November 2019, journalism and public communications alumna Emily Keneggnarkayaaggaq Edenshaw, B.A. '12, was announced as the new executive director of the Alaska Native Heritage Center.

2017

Creative writing and literary arts alumnus Chaun Ballard, M.F.A. '17, became the recipient of a 2019 Alaska Literary Award.

2019

Economics alumna Jodie Gatti, B.A. '19, was promoted to social enterprise manager of the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.


Emily Edenshaw speaks at UAA's 2020 Spring Alaska Native Heritage Celebration in Cuddy Hall.

CONNECT.

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

LENS ON CAMPUS

A waning gibbus moon sets over UAA's Parrish Bridge.

SEE YOU SOON!

From Girdwood to Hawaii, happy hours to away games, online to IRL, your Alumni Relations team could be hosting an event near you. Take a minute to review your contact information, track where we're going next and discover virtual engagement opportunities by emailing seawolf.forever@alaska.edu or visiting uaa.alaska.edu/alumni.