

A chef in a white uniform is working in a kitchen. Bright yellow and orange flames are rising from a stove in the foreground, partially obscuring the chef. The background is blurred, showing other kitchen equipment and lights.

# UAA

## ALUMNISPirit

Fall 2017 • ISSUE 08

GO. HELP. CONNECT. GIVE. | ENGINEERING AT UAA | DAY IN THE LIFE: CULINARY ARTS

**AMAZING  
STORIES**  
BEING WRITTEN EVERY DAY.



As Alaska's economic landscape changes, UAA has reaffirmed our focus on student success, guided by UAA 2020 — a strategic plan to enhance excellence at UAA and improve Seawolves' persistence and graduation rates. Learn more at [uaa.alaska.edu/uaa2020](http://uaa.alaska.edu/uaa2020).



**ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS**

- 6** **DIPPER DONUTS**  
Power duo André Horton and Laura Cameron open a new craft donut shop in Anchorage.
- 8** **JONATHON TAYLOR**  
From student commencement speaker to deputy press secretary for Alaska's governor.
- 9** **PAT & PATTI TRUESDELL**  
After putting four kids through college, they turned to UAA for their own degrees.
- 10** **VIORICA MARIAN**  
Alumna researches bilingualism and the brain.

**FEATURES**

- 12** **ON A LEADERSHIP TRAJECTORY**  
Engineering is a top priority for UAA and the university continues to grow partnerships to further engineering education in Alaska.
- 16** **DAY IN THE LIFE: CULINARY ARTS**  
Get a behind-the-scenes glimpse of what it's like to be a culinary arts student at UAA.
- 18** **HOMECOMING BREAKFAST**  
UAA welcomed alumni back to campus on Oct. 13 to connect and celebrate three 2017 Alumni of Distinction.

**DEPARTMENTS**

- 4** From an Alumna
- 5** From the Editor
- 20** Alumni Life
- 24** Alumni News Briefs
- 25** Don't Miss
- 26** Class Notes
- 27** Lens on Campus

The online magazine can be found at: [tinyurl.com/alumnispirit](http://tinyurl.com/alumnispirit)



**ON THE COVER**

Flambé! UAA alumna and assistant professor of culinary arts Chef Naomi Everett, '00, '11, '16, served as lead chef for the 25th annual Celebrity Chef Invitational on Sept. 20, 2017. To prepare for the black-tie, five-course foodie extravaganza, Chef Everett shared the kitchen with six fellow UAA culinary arts graduates and a group of culinary arts and hospitality students. Read more about the culinary program on page 16.

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Lea Bouton, M.A.T. '10, in her classroom at Anchorage's Dimond High School.

## FROM AN ALUMNA

Go. Help. Connect. Give. What does that look like for you?

For many of us, our lives look different than they did as students. We often have families, jobs and other commitments — it is easy to let your connections to your alma mater fade. I can assure you, however, that there is no better time than now to renew those affiliations.

Supporting UAA doesn't have to look like a million-dollar donation, or even a season pass. It means working it in on your terms. For my family of five, that means attending a lot of volleyball games, volunteering on the Alumni Association Board of Directors, and working to get my current students access to the stellar engineering programs being built in the Engineering & Industry Building (read more on page 12). Your support, on whatever level is meaningful to you, absolutely makes a difference.

I urge you to get involved today. Go catch a game, contact the Alumni Relations office to find an alumni chapter, or support your favorite program with a donation. You won't regret it!

Lea Bouton  
M.A.T. Education '10  
President, UAA Alumni Association Board of Directors

## FROM THE EDITOR

In the coming pages, you'll read about the "sweet" story of an alumni power duo that partnered to open a craft donut shop, an alumna in Chicago who is doing world-renowned research in bilingualism, UAA's commitment to engineering education in Alaska, and what a day in the life of a culinary arts student looks (and tastes) like.

You'll also meet the Truesdells, a pair of alumni who — after putting four kids through college — decided it was their turn to earn degrees and chose UAA to do so. They're a solid example that education is a lifelong endeavor.

Throughout this issue, you'll see different opportunities to go, help, connect or give to your alma mater. We would love to connect with you and see you back on campus! Email us anytime at [seawolf.forever@alaska.edu](mailto:seawolf.forever@alaska.edu).

With Green & Gold spirit,

Jessica Hamlin  
Editor, Alumni Spirit



GO.



HELP.



CONNECT.



GIVE.

# M.B.A. ALUMNI GO GOURMET



There's a new donut in town, and this artisanal brainchild comes from UAA alumni **André Horton, B.B.A. '09, M.B.A. '11** and **Laura Cameron, B.B.A. '07, M.B.A. '16**.

André has succeeded in the worlds of professional skiing, photography, finance, technology and advertising while Laura has made a name for herself as a powerhouse in the corporate arena — but craft donuts may just be the most obscure thing added to their lists of successful feats.

Dipper Donuts will be located in the heart of Anchorage's Spenard neighborhood and its inception was far from simple. What started off as a venture to buy out and run an existing local donut shop snowballed into a full-blown business endeavor to launch a new brand, an innovative product and a community staple.

"I quit my job and took a deep dive into my new venture," André said. "Three months later, the owners changed their minds on selling. It was pretty soul-crushing."

A self-proclaimed "nut" for the consumer experience, André saw the demand and lack of creative competition as a massive opportunity. "I realized Anchorage — or Alaska — does not have a gourmet donut shop," he said. "So, my failed deal spawned the creation of Dipper Donuts."

André made it his goal to become a student of the baking industry. He spent hours analyzing customer behavior, baking and coffee operations, supply chain management, sales cycles, unit costs and everything that makes a donut shop successful.

For Dipper Donuts, the word *gourmet* is equally a creative standard for their brand as it is an emphatic promise to deliver the "real deal." With the skill and finesse of in-house French pastry chef Rebecca Reed, they're producing classic sweet donuts, savory donuts, gluten-free donuts, vegan donuts, and even kronuts (a cross between a croissant and a donut) — with locally sourced ingredients and several innovative, Alaska-themed flavors.

After joining entrepreneurial accelerator *Launch Alaska* and giving a presentation on his donut deal gone wrong, André reconnected with Laura, an old friend and classmate who he describes as a feisty and driven strategist who gets things done.

"She asked, 'What is your plan?' I told Laura I didn't have one, but that I was mulling over just starting from scratch,"

he said. "I realized [in order] to take up a new operation from scratch, I would need a business partner I could rely on 100 percent. So, Laura and I joined forces, and we haven't looked back yet. Having a strong female entrepreneurial business partner is simply amazing."

Laura echoed a similar excitement about working with André. "I knew his track record and knew we could knock it out of the park," she said. "We share similar values that show up in the quality of work we do and our plans to support people — our employees and our community. [There are] so many options for partnering across the community to achieve something bigger and better than what's been done before."

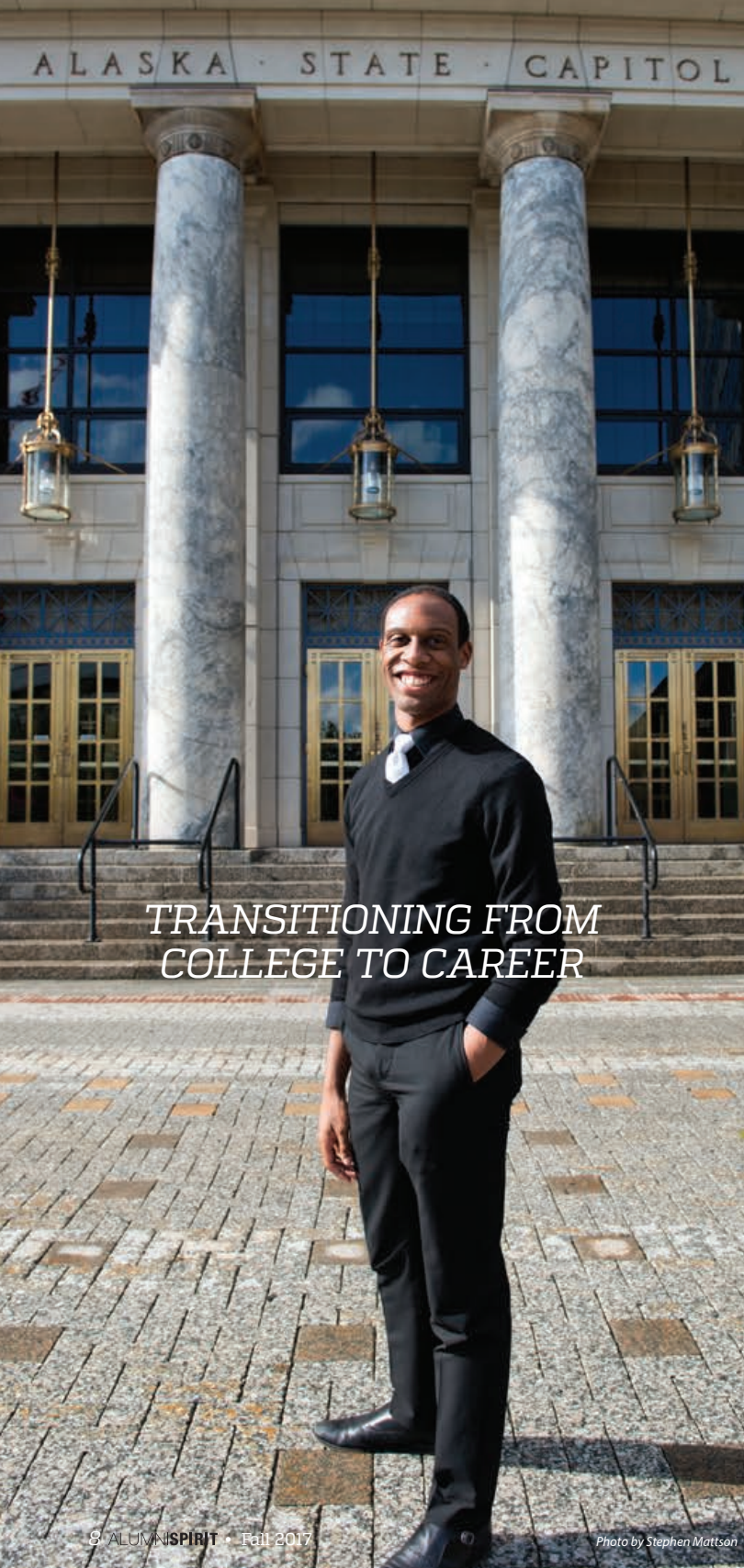
Both Laura and André acknowledge that their collaborative history from their business school days created a solid foundation for this dynamic partnership. Beyond their years-in-the-making power duo status, they both proudly identified as nontraditional students at UAA. Their unique experiences and timelines pursuing their educational goals were far from ordinary, but laid the groundwork for greatness.

"I was a single mom and worked through college full time," Laura said. "I got my start helping nonprofits in college, like the Alaska World Affairs Council. I was a part of UAA's first cohort of Leadership Fellows and played intramural volleyball. My education taught me how and where to put in the work to get great results. I tell people UAA is Anchorage's best kept secret."

While André has always been a jack-of-all-trades, he believes the variety in UAA's robust curriculum and support network seemed to feed this dynamic and empower him as an entrepreneur. He recently joined the Chancellor's Advisory Board to stay plugged into UAA.

"My education at UAA has taught me to deal with life's ambiguities very well," André said, reflecting on his time as a college student. "There was not a single class I took at UAA that did not influence and equip my present state. What you get out of any education is what you put into it. I wholeheartedly believe I got a world-class education. In hindsight, UAA equipped me to be the entrepreneurial polymath I am today."

Dipper Donuts is slated to open this fall in Anchorage, located at 1209 W. 36th Ave.



## TRANSITIONING FROM COLLEGE TO CAREER

In May 2016, **Jonathon Taylor, B.A. '16** was finishing up his senior year at UAA and preparing his remarks as student speaker for spring commencement. A year later, he has transitioned from full-time college student to deputy press secretary for Alaska Governor Bill Walker.

Last fall Jonathon packed up his belongings, said goodbye to family and friends, and headed for Juneau.

“It was rewarding and a good experience, and I can add that to my bucket list — moving to a new town where I don’t know anybody,” he said.

When he arrived, he hit the ground running, preparing the governor for events, fielding media calls and collaborating on communication strategies. But Jonathon is no stranger to hard work. While attending UAA, he competed with the university’s debate team and was voted student body president — all while taking classes and holding a full-time job.

Jonathon says transitioning to the governor’s office was smooth. He felt confident and prepared for his role, crediting his adaptability from student to professional to his UAA experience.

“I would point to a few things: The first is, the press secretary when I came here is an alum of UAA, so that was kind of cool,” Jonathon said. “The second thing is, a lot of the faculty and the classes I took were very focused on the real world and how things actually work.”

Since nabbing his role with the governor, Jonathon is happy to work for a cause close to both his and Gov. Walker’s hearts — making Alaska better. He’s settled into life in Alaska’s eclectic capital city, offering this advice for college seniors and recent graduates.

“The first thing is that relationships and contacts that you have matter,” he said, emphasizing that college is a time to network and get to know professionals within your field. “The second thing is, use college as an opportunity to take risks and explore.”



Catch up with Jonathon at a future Juneau Area Alumni chapter event! Find out how you can be involved: [seawolf.forever@alaska.edu](mailto:seawolf.forever@alaska.edu).

**Pat Truesdell: A.A. '91, B.S.W. '94, M.S.W. '97**  
**Patti Truesdell: A.A. '99, B.Ed. '02**

Think your commute is rough? Meet the Truesdells, Pat and Patti. For years, Pat drove from Soldotna to UAA. Patti earned her education degree at Kenai Peninsula College (KPC), but now teaches 98 miles away at Hope School. It hasn’t been easy. But neither would change a thing.

High school sweethearts, the Truesdells married young and raised four kids in Soldotna. Pat worked on the North Slope, Patti at the local hospital.

After 20 years, Pat made a change. “I remember one day I was walking across the hospital parking lot [at Patti’s job] and kind of had an epiphany, that I had choices in life,” he recalled. “I could go back and get an education.”

“He was a role model,” Patti said. When their kids came home, there was dad doing algebra homework at the kitchen table. Pat earned an associate degree from KPC in 1991, then headed to UAA for the social work program. For several years, he carpoled north each Monday and Wednesday — even for 8 a.m. classes.

Next was Patti’s turn. “I got to a place where it seemed like everybody in my family had their college education except me,” she said. “So I went to school and got mine.” She studied education at KPC, graduating in 2002 at an age when many teachers think about retiring, and worked in various Peninsula schools before landing in Hope. “They didn’t care I was 56 years old. They just needed a teacher,” she said. “This community just wrapped their arms around me.”

Education made a difference in their lives. Patti was named a 2016 BP Teacher of Excellence, and Pat owns Lighthouse Counseling in Soldotna. “I think education is the great equalizer in America,” said Pat. “My way of thinking, it’s probably the most valuable thing you can buy.”

The Truesdells have been married 47 years and have 13 grandkids (two currently study at UAA). Patti’s students tease her about senior citizen discounts on field trips, but she’s not done teaching.

“I didn’t get started on this until late, so I still feel like I’m challenged every single day,” she noted. “I’m just happy with my life. [Getting an education] was the greatest decision I ever made.”

## LIFE IS A HIGHWAY



## BILINGUALISM AND THE BRAIN

Do yourself a favor. Learn a second language.

Bilingualism provides a constant brain workout, can delay the onset of Alzheimer's and even changes the way we see the world (yes, literally). That's according to research from **Viorica Marian, B.A. Psychology '94**, who's presented at worldwide conferences and been featured everywhere from *Time* magazine to *The Washington Post*.

Viorica, the 2015 Alumni of Achievement recipient, grew up in Moldova and first visited Alaska as a teenager on a diplomatic exchange. Democracy and Western education struck her as much as the glaciers and wildlife. She picked up a UAA application as a wishful souvenir, hoping Soviet-era policies might bend. "As soon as it became possible to come to the United States as a student, I filled out the application for UAA," she said.

The university, particularly Professor Robert Madigan, provided research training that prepared her to pursue advanced degrees at Emory and Cornell. She now leads a busy bilingual research lab at Chicago's Northwestern University and oversees million-dollar National Institute of Health grants.



Viorica Marian accepts the 2015 Alumni of Achievement award, presented by 2014 recipient Ted Trueblood, M.S. Civil Engineering '80. Viorica, an active member of the Chicago Alumni chapter, was nominated for the award by fellow alumni in the Chicago area.

Viorica — who speaks Romanian, Russian and English — researches bilingualism and the brain, an increasingly valuable field in an increasingly mobile world. She's discovered bilinguals process information in both languages constantly; there is no on/off switch. That increased cranial workout can delay diagnoses like dementia and Alzheimer's.

Bilingualism also affects memory: "You'll be better at remembering an event if you switch to the language in which that event happened," Viorica said. You'll also access it quicker and with more detail. This has implications everywhere from the counselor's couch to the witness stand.

More incredibly, bilingualism changes the way people see the world. "I don't mean it metaphorically, I mean it quite literally," she said. Using an eye tracker, Viorica's lab discovered eyes move differently for bilinguals, flashing to similarly-sounding words in both languages when asked to find an object.

Viorica has brought her findings around the world, though it all started at UAA, where she presented her honors thesis on bilingualism.

"I have wonderful memories of UAA," she said. "It's where my American story started. ... For me, UAA is a special place. I've been very lucky to be doing what I love."



Connect with the UAA Alumni Association Chicago Alumni chapter at [seawolf.forever@alaska.edu](mailto:seawolf.forever@alaska.edu) or on Facebook.

When Brian and **Amy Meissner, M.F.A. Creative Writing '04**, met, they were immediately struck by how much they had in common. Both had come from modest backgrounds and were attending the University of Nevada, Reno on a full scholarship. "We even had all the same scholarships," Brian noted.

"I wanted to go to Parsons School of Design," Amy admitted. But her parents had reinforced a message — don't ever be in debt. In-state tuition and scholarship aid made it possible for Amy and Brian both to graduate debt-free, and it's one of the reasons they decided to give to UAA. "We had lots of support, and now we're in a position to help others," Brian explained.

Amy is an accomplished textile artist and two-time winner of the Rasmuson Foundation's Individual Artist Award. Brian is an architect who has designed and developed many landmark buildings across Alaska, including UAA's ConocoPhillips Integrated Science Building.

Given their backgrounds, it's not surprising the Meissners feel strongly about supporting arts and humanities at UAA. They have contributed to the university in many ways, including in volunteer capacities with the University Honors College (Brian) and as a reader for the *Alaska Quarterly Review* (Amy).

In 2009 they established the Brian and Amy Meissner Creativity Award at UAA, a \$1,000 prize given to one student each year for a project in the visual arts.

"The intent is to ignite a spark ... to create an opportunity for someone to complete an artistic project and maybe surprise themselves in the process," Brian said. "Awards can give an artist's work an audience they wouldn't otherwise have," Amy added, "and that's so important at a young age."

Among the first in their families to graduate from college, the Meissners appreciate the value of living in a university town and raising their children here. "We're excited about what's happening at UAA, and we think it's time for people our age to get more involved," Brian said.



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Dr. Viorica Marian (left) and Ph.D. student Peiyao Chen (right) prepare an electrode cap to measure research participant James Bartolotti's neural activity while listening to bilingual speech. (Image used with permission by Dr. Viorica Marian)



# CREATIVE INVESTMENT

## UAA COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING: ON A

# LEADERSHIP TRAJECTORY FOR ALASKA

Two years ago when Fred Barlow joined UAA's College of Engineering as its new dean, he was clear what drew him to Alaska: tremendous opportunity.

He'd just finished a successful near-decade at the University of Idaho in Moscow, where he most recently served as chair of the electrical and computer engineering department. He also helped launch a microelectronics research lab funded by a gift from Micron Industries. The firm endowed a professorship, and Barlow was the first recipient.

Life was good, if not always easy. With the national recession in 2008, he'd faced tough budgets, with his department emerging on the other side leaner, smarter and more competitive.

So nothing that Alaska faced — not the least of which is a shrinking state budget destined to influence the public university's future — could scare him away. Instead, he saw promise — UAA's location in bustling Anchorage, the state's proximity to evolving Arctic issues, a historically strong faculty and the College of Engineering's growing

capacity to help solve city, state and global engineering challenges.

"It's an ambitious agenda that can only be accomplished by a strong, collaborative team of highly qualified and engaged faculty and staff," Barlow said. "I'm very fortunate to have such a strong team."

His faith is well placed. In just two years, UAA's College of Engineering is already different, with important new initiatives to support its ambitions. The list is long: growth in student enrollment, added faculty, a refined vision for the future of the college, emphasis on K-12 collaboration, and state-of-the-art laboratories poised to partner with government and industry on solving engineering challenges, as well as deliver students more prepared for the real world.

### NEW PH.D. OPPORTUNITY

Perhaps the crown jewel of these last two years is also the result of teamwork between UAA and UAF's engineering colleges, forged by both deans and supported by industry. One key result:

Anchorage engineering students can now enroll in and complete UAF's longstanding doctoral engineering program without leaving home, providing Anchorage's many professional engineers with access to a Ph.D. program that lets them maintain their work and family life in Anchorage. This was made possible by dropping the UAF residency requirement and pairing UAA and UAF faculty as co-chairs on dissertation committees.

Barlow and UAF Dean Doug Goering both consider it a major victory.

"It is a win for Fairbanks," said Barlow, "because they'll be graduating more Ph.D.s. But it's also a big win for Anchorage, too, because it will lead to more and more research collaborations between the two colleges."

Dean Goering concurred. "There are a number of very capable students in Anchorage who have wanted this for a very long time. We just didn't have the mechanism until we worked out all the details this past year."

Associate Professor of Civil Engineering Scott Hamel talks with a student in the Engineering & Industry Building's materials testing lab.



Similar thinking is potentially making way for Anchorage students to participate in two UAF programs that the Alaska mining industry says are essential to its success: mining engineering and geologic engineering. Under a 2+2 scenario, the first two years of foundational math and basic engineering studies could be completed in Anchorage, with the final two years finished in Fairbanks.

The two colleges also share more distance classes than ever before; their mutual goal this year is to offer 10, up from just two classes last year.

### NEW COLLEGE FACULTY, NEW K-12 RELATIONSHIPS

One fact of life has helped draw the two schools and Alaska industry partners even closer together.

"Something we try hard to get people to see is that our big competition is not between UAA and UAF," said Barlow. "It is Alaska versus schools Outside. We still lose a lot of homegrown talent to schools in the Lower 48, despite the opportunities for a world-class engineering education right here in Alaska."

That reality has fueled the drive toward nationally competitive facilities and curricula, and maintaining and adding top-notch faculty. Fall semester



Fred Barlow, dean of the UAA College of Engineering.

opened with three new tenure-track faculty in UAA engineering: Sebastian Neumayer in computer systems engineering from MIT's Lincoln Lab; Raghu Srinivasan in mechanical engineering from the University of Hawai'i; and Ahmed AbuHussein in electrical engineering from the University of Memphis.

Another strategy to keep potential students in state is to introduce them early to engineering and to UAA. Alaska teacher Vicki Nechodomu was hired in June as the first K-12 coordinator for the College of Engineering. She acts as the college's chief liaison with educators in surrounding school districts.

Just weeks ago, she helped launch an engineering academy at Clark Middle School. Additionally, Nechodomu is letting local high school students know they can start earning college credit by successfully completing introductory engineering classes.

Dimond High's involvement with the national Project Lead the Way program is one avenue. Another is a newly articulated concurrent enrollment opportunity between the engineering college and the Anchorage, Mat-Su and Kenai school districts. In this case, a high school teacher uses UAA's own curriculum to teach a UAA introductory course, for which the high school student can earn college credit. A pilot class in CAD drawing at Colony High School last year successfully tested the idea; Nechodomu hopes to nail down more opportunities this year.

Alumna Lea Bouton, M.A.T. '10, teaches chemistry and engineering at Dimond (see her letter on page 4). She, along with Dean Barlow and



Materials testing at the Engineering & Industry Building with Stephanie Davis, B.S. Mechanical Engineering, '16.

fellow alumni Leverette Hoover, B.S. Technology '97, and Scott Campbell, M.A.T. '05, arranged a field trip last fall for approximately 60 students, mostly high school juniors, to visit campus and tour the engineering facilities. Bouton says there are plans to hold the trip semiannually to encourage aspiring engineers to remain in Alaska upon graduation.

“Prior to the field trip, many students felt that college wasn’t affordable for them, or did not realize the degree possibilities and facilities at UAA,” Bouton said. “The field trip significantly impacted their plans post-high school, and several of those students are now planning on UAA Engineering upon graduation. From our perspective, a lot of credit goes to Dean Barlow for working to recruit our students.”

Dean Barlow is further crystallizing UAA’s areas of engineering expertise: power systems with an electrical engineering focus and corrosion with a mechanical engineering focus. “Because

Communications systems and power systems are ongoing big problems in the state, Barlow said. “Business and industries realize they have problems with power at their remote locations. They need electrical engineers to solve that.” With an aging oil pipeline infrastructure and the ongoing impacts of climate change, an emphasis on corrosion also fills a pressing need.

### STEPPING UP TO THE CHALLENGE

Despite Alaska’s fiscal crisis and its impact on the university, UAA and UAF engineering leaders have found new ways to collaborate, aided by industry’s very clear message to the Alaska Legislature.

it makes sense for the state,” Barlow said. “We are trying to pick a few specific things to be very, very good at.”

“Industry made it crystal clear that they need both programs,” Barlow said. “Years and years ago, Alaska industry



UAA civil and environmental engineering professor Aaron Dotson led a team of engineers, scientists, health scientists and students to construct and operate a prototype on-site water reuse system. L-R: University of Colorado Boulder student Kaitlin Mattos, UAA student Gregory Michaelson, Professor Aaron Dotson and UAA student Cara Lucas.

outlined a need for 300 engineering graduates a year. Together, our two programs are achieving that goal.”

While both schools have long had industry advisory committees, they now share a joint advisory council, a subset of each school’s committee that meets monthly via video conferencing.

Goering says this industry support has led to better facilities at both schools. While UAA opened its 81,000-square-foot Engineering & Industry Building in 2015 and the next year completely renovated its circa-1983 engineering building, UAF is set to open its new, partially complete Engineering Learning and Innovation Facility in January and begin renovation of its older engineering building shortly thereafter.

UAA’s new facilities include 21 engineering labs, from a software design studio, to a pavement testing lab, to cold rooms capable of research projects at minus 30 degrees Celsius, to materials testing labs — places where you can safely apply enough pressure to test breaking points.

All these labs support the undergraduate mission by allowing students to design and build something, and then bring it into a lab and actually test it themselves. “It is a huge learning experience,” said Andrew Metzger, a civil engineering professor.

But a facility like the big structures lab, which Metzger directs, is also a vehicle to forge partnerships. Businesses literally can hire the university to work on their technical issues, Metzger said.

What can you test at UAA? You name it. In the structures lab, actuators

(motors that power testing equipment) are capable of manipulating 100,000 pounds, or 55 tons. That’s the size of a fully loaded semi truck. They can move that weight slowly, or they can literally bounce it up and down or shove it to the side.

Ron Burkhardtsmeier, a manufacturer of foam panels in Wasilla, watches his design undergo testing at the Engineering & Industry Building. He

configuration doubles that capacity, Metzger said.

Getting the word out about the university’s testing labs and its willingness to partner with government and industry is important, Metzger said. Three business models make it easy for those collaborations to begin.

Visit [tinyurl.com/alumnispirit](http://tinyurl.com/alumnispirit) to read about how UAA engineering professors



The 81,000-square-foot UAA Engineering & Industry Building features 21 engineering labs, which allow students to design and build something, and then bring it into a lab and test it themselves.

waited almost two years for UAA to open the lab so he could get testing done in the state. (Read more online about Burkhardtsmeier’s partnership with UAA.)

Metzger said a recent generous gift from ConocoPhillips helped the lab purchase an additional hydraulic piston. Now tests can apply 220,000 pounds of tension (pulling) or 330,000 pounds of compression (pushing). A different

continue to work on the state’s biggest problems.



Connect with the UAA College of Engineering Alumni chapter at [seawolf.forever@alaska.edu](mailto:seawolf.forever@alaska.edu) or on Facebook.



# Days of Our Knives



Want to see where Alaska's butchers and bakers and crème brulee makers get their first taste of a culinary career? Enjoy this backstage tour of one day inside Lucy Cuddy Hall, home of UAA's Culinary Arts program.

**6:29 A.M.** ■ It's hours before most college students wake up (and, really, some probably just went to sleep). Cuddy Hall is silent, save for the low hum of mass refrigeration. Stovetop pilot lights flicker in the darkness. It's calm in the kitchen, but it won't last long.

**6:30 A.M.** ■ Chef Vern Wolfram and Chef Naomi Everett '00, '11, '16, flick on the lights to start the new day. Students follow close behind. Culinary classes start early. They have to when some last five hours, four days a week. "It's like a part-time job," noted a student while carrying onions and

leeks from the storeroom to his prep table. (One perk of a 7 a.m. class? Parking spots are everywhere.)

**7 A.M.** ■ Chef Naomi and Chef Vern team-teach the beginner's course, A La Carte Kitchen. Half the students start in Chef Naomi's restaurant-style lab and half in Chef Vern's bakery before switching kitchens mid-semester. The fresh chefs tuck hair under their white caps and hurry to find a classroom desk. Metric conversions are on the whiteboard. Nutritional information is on the PowerPoint. Chef Vern runs down the next recipe while, down the hall, Chef Naomi

sets the expectations for the day.

**8:45 A.M.** ■ Beginners are working at their stations by the time advanced culinary students stream toward the lockers. With black caps on and knife sets in hand, they're about to settle in for a five-hour course as well, but one with far more responsibility.

**9 A.M.** ■ It's still early when Cuddy Hall explodes in energy and triples in population. Kitchen aides take over the beginner course. Chef Naomi and Chef Vern shift to their advanced classes. More culinary students

pour through the west doors for classes in sanitation, purchasing and cost control.

A hungry line forms outside Lucy's restaurant, in the main room of Cuddy Hall. Two beginning chefs leave their stations and wheel out the bakery cart to meet them. For the next two hours, they'll sell their class's creations to the UAA community. For most culinary students, the bakery cart provides a first brush with retail work as they dish out ham-and-cheese croissants, soft chocolate rolls, biscotti, strudel and scones.

**11:30 A.M.** ■ It's time for Cuddy Hall's crescendo, with Lucy's — the program's fine dining restaurant — opening for the day. Lucy's is a fully functioning restaurant, with reservation seating, crisp white tablecloths and hospitality students taking the orders. Advanced students design the menu with pairing, plating and pricing in mind. It's part class, part lab and all pressure.

**12 P.M.** ■ After a long morning, the beginners grab their backpacks and exit the kitchen. The ticket printer bleats out

orders from Lucy's. "Hot plate!" a student shouts as she hurtles by with a pan of seared pork. Next week, she'll rotate from the grill station, maybe to vegetables or sauté, learning every angle of the menu. The students know how to prepare each dish efficiently as a team. They know the spiced duck tagine takes more time to prepare than the roasted quail Caprese, and they know who's responsible for drizzling pomegranate honey on the acorn-stuffed squash. Chef Naomi is on hand to oversee, correcting mistakes and commanding orders. "Behind!" another chef barks, clearing his way to the oven.

**12:30 P.M.** ■ The last guests take their seats in Lucy's. Lunch orders dwindle, but desserts pick up. In the bakery, the ticket printer zaps out a new order. A student scurries over to call it out to the class. Coffee panna cotta. Spiced chai s'mores. Torch the bananas Foster and get it out the door.

**1:40 P.M.** ■ Kitchen cleanup. Stressed students take a deep breath, stretch their necks and sheath their knives. Chef Naomi

and Chef Vern continue calling orders until the woodblocks are clean, the steel tops are sparkling and the sauces are stored.

**2 P.M.** ■ By midafternoon, the full day is already done. By 5 p.m., even the staff and professors will head out. Cuddy's kitchens are again awash in pilot lights and refrigerator hums. But it'll all start over tomorrow.



See for yourself. Make a reservation for Lucy's at [uaa.alaska.edu/lucys](http://uaa.alaska.edu/lucys) (P.S. - There's a dessert bar each Friday!)

*Odds are you've enjoyed a dish or two from UAA culinary grads in Alaska. Here's where a few are today. Asterisks indicate team leads at UAA's 2017 Celebrity Chef Invitational.*

*Kellie Puff '02, '13\*  
Chef Instructor, King Career Center*

*Clayton Damm '08  
Catering Director,  
The Hotel Captain Cook*

*Aurora Parker '08\*  
Head Pastry Chef, Moose's Tooth*

*Alexa Stallone '09, '13  
Executive Chef, Alaska Railroad*

*Erica Pryzmont '10\*  
Owner/Chef, Pingo Bakery - Seafood House (Nome)*

*Nate Bentley '12\*  
Executive Chef, Simon & Seafort's*

*RJ Kruckenberg '17\*  
Chef, Crow's Nest,  
The Hotel Captain Cook*





## A MORNING TOAST

### ALUMNI HUMANITARIAN

Cessilye Williams  
M.Ed. Educational Leadership '92

*As principal of Clark Middle School — the most diverse middle school in the nation — Cessilye Williams encourages and inspires nearly 1,000 students each year. Alaska's principal of the year for 2015-2016, Williams has built unique, purposeful learning pathways, including several UAA-partnered academies, for her Mountain View students.*



### ALUMNI OF ACHIEVEMENT

Timothy Gravel  
B.B.A. Accounting '90

*Timothy Gravel has kept Kaladi Brothers Coffee grounded on its road to expansion without losing sight of its "Catalyst for Community" mission. The company had one café and six employees when Gravel joined 20 years ago. Today, he leads more than 200 employees, roasting 1.2 million pounds of coffee each year, at 15 cafés and one restaurant across the Pacific Northwest.*



### ALUMNI EMERGING LEADER

Michelle Sloper  
B.A. Psychology '08

*Since earning her Ph.D., Michelle Sloper has been making a nationwide difference from her hometown of Haines. As a professional evaluator, Sloper partners with community-based programs across the country to assess and improve their impact. Whether she's guiding grad students or developing a program's impact, Sloper is invested in helping others achieve success.*

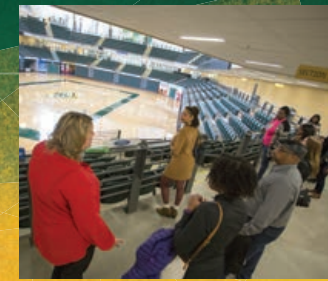


On Oct. 13, hundreds of graduates returned to campus for Homecoming Breakfast. The early-morning alumni celebration kicked off with a performance of the alma mater by the UAA Glee Club, followed by a welcome message from Anchorage Mayor Ethan Berkowitz about the valuable role UAA plays in the city, where one in 10 adults is a graduate.

Guests toasted the achievements of this year's trio of Alumni of Distinction honorees (left) and generously gave in support of student scholarships. The gathered alumni community raised more than \$66,000 in donations for UAA programs, all by 9 a.m.



# GO. HELP. CONNECT. GIVE.



## GO.

Welcome back! Alumni events occur all year long. (9 in the Spine, above, returns Feb. 28.) Find one you like and join the fun.

Whether you hike our trails in summer or attend a hockey game in winter, we're happy to have you back.

## HELP.

The UAA Alumni Association is always on the move, and we need your help telling the university's amazing stories. Share your career experience with students, volunteer at a campus event (like Commencement, above), or help plan one you want to see.

## CONNECT.

The Alumni Association connects grads across #SeawolfNation (like the multicultural alumni group, above). Find a chapter that matches your location, degree or interests, or start your own. Update your contact information and stay in touch.

## GIVE.

For many students (like Amy Nalesnik, early childhood education major), scholarships are the difference between debt and a degree, or even attending college at all. Help the next set of Seawolves reach their academic goals. A gift to UAA is an investment in Alaska's future.

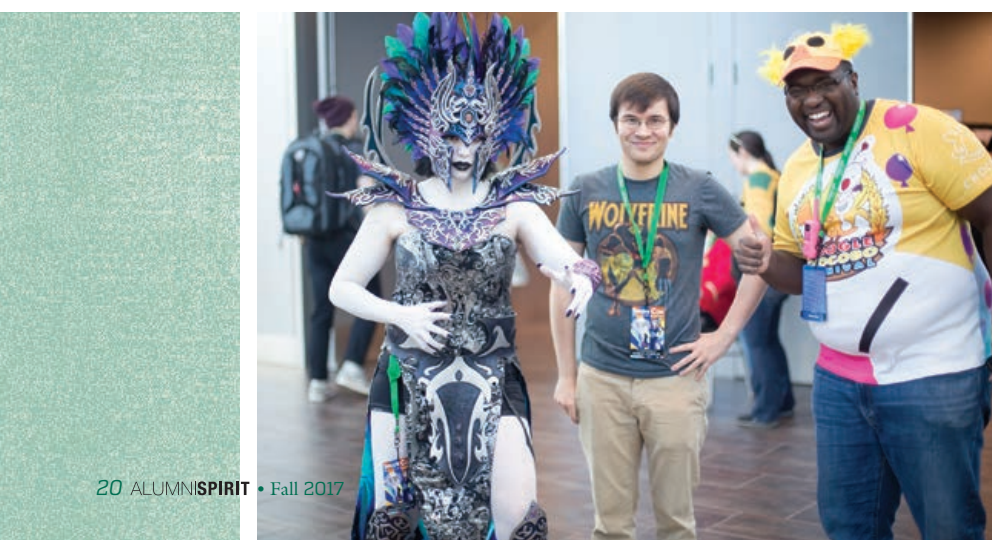
THIS IS YOUR UAA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION. WE HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU SOON!

seawolf.forever@alaska.edu | 907-786-1942 | [uaa.alaska.edu/alumni](http://uaa.alaska.edu/alumni)

# ALUMNI LIFE

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

**PAGE 20:** Natural Sciences grad **Jasmine Gil '17** researching tundra fires near Kuka Creek, halfway between St. Mary's and her childhood home of Bethel, through the NSF-funded Polaris Project of Massachusetts. ■ **Braxton Bundick '10**, on right, with a few participants at Senshi Con in October. Bundick has helped Anchorage's annual animation and gaming convention since 2013. ■ ANSEP grad **Jessica Hunt '11** is raising her family and teaching high school math in her home community of Emmonak, near the mouth of the Yukon River.



**PAGE 21:** Justice grad **Ken McCoy '97** was recently promoted to deputy chief of the operations division at the Anchorage Police Department. ■ Men's basketball teammates (from left to right) **Kemmy Burgess '06**, **Jesse Brown '10**, **Michael Keddington '08**, and **Aaron Lawrence '06** reunited at Lake Tahoe.



**PAGE 22:** Jennifer Allen, B.F.A. '02, is a studio potter in Morgantown, West Virginia, as well as a ceramics lecturer at West Virginia University. ■ Former Seawolf athlete **Stew Kearney**, who played for UAA from 2002-2004, joined the Royal Air Force in 2007 and now plays for the United Kingdom Armed Forces basketball team. ■ **Sarah Barajas '12** representing UAA at Balboa Park in her hometown of San Diego.



**PAGE 23:** CBPP grads **Joel Kopp '90** (left) and **Michael Carney '86** both work in economic affairs for the U.S. State Department at the U.S. Embassy in Abuja, Nigeria. ■ After staffing a multi-day clinic in Papua New Guinea with Youth with a Mission, nursing grad **Christine Ross '09** snapped this photo on the walk back to the medical boat.



# ALUMNI LIFE

Have pics of your life after UAA? Send them to [seawolf.forever@alaska.edu](mailto:seawolf.forever@alaska.edu).



From left, Hannah Sindorf, Rachel Sindorf '05, '07, Jessica Borelli '08, Phillip Borelli, UAF grad Ken Richter '01 and Cassidy Davis '10.

### Seattle Area Alumni chapter convenes again

The Seattle Area Alumni chapter, in partnership with UAF and UAS alumni, held another event for graduates on Tuesday, June 13. UAA alumna Rachel Sindorf, B.A. '05, M.A. '07, a Seattle-based marketing manager, hosted a presentation on business development tools for career and personal advancement. More than two dozen alumni and friends of UA stopped by for the presentation and conversation.

Don't miss the next Seattle meetup. Contact [seawolf.forever@alaska.edu](mailto:seawolf.forever@alaska.edu) to connect.



### The next generation of alumni

Are you preparing to send a kid off to college this year? If you live out of state, why not point their academic compass North? All dependent children of UAA alumni, regardless of the parent's degree or the child's current location, are eligible for in-state tuition. Visit [uaa.alaska.edu/admissions/resident-tuition](http://uaa.alaska.edu/admissions/resident-tuition) to learn more.

### The 2020 experience

The university has renewed its vision on student success with UAA 2020, its short-term strategic plan. Earlier this year, UAA's faculty, staff and leadership collectively prepared three goals that will guide the university for the next three years. The plan focuses on student success, aiming to inspire and enable students as they work toward graduation and reach their educational goals. Learn more at [uaa.alaska.edu/uaa2020](http://uaa.alaska.edu/uaa2020).

### Alumni nights with Seawolf Athletics

HOWL low can you go? How about \$6 tickets for alumni. Just buy online and use these exclusive alumni codes for the top matches of the season. Visit [uaa.alaska.edu/alumni](http://uaa.alaska.edu/alumni) for direct ticket links.



Nov. 11: Volleyball vs. Concordia  
Code: CONVB

Nov. 28: Men's Basketball vs. UAF  
Code: UAFMBB

Dec. 2: Women's Basketball vs. NW Nazarene  
Code: NWNWBB

Dec. 8: Hockey vs. UAF  
Code: UAFHKY2

Jan 14: Gymnastics vs. Cortland  
Code: CORTGYM

Jan. 20: Men's Basketball vs. W. Washington  
Code: WWUMBB

Jan. 25: Women's Basketball vs. W. Washington  
Code: WWUWBB\*

\*Ticket also gains entry to earlier Men's Basketball vs. Concordia game.

Feb. 3: Gymnastics Seawolf Invitational  
Code: SWIGYM

Feb. 10: Men's Basketball vs. Cent. Washington  
Code: CWUMBB

Feb. 15: Women's Basketball vs. Seattle Pacific  
Code: SPUWBB

Feb. 16: Hockey vs. Bowling Green  
Code: BGUIHKY

### GCI Great Alaska Shootout

Nov. 21–25 | Alaska Airlines Center  
[GoSeawolves.com/shootout](http://GoSeawolves.com/shootout)

This Thanksgiving, the Seawolves host the 40th and final Great Alaska Shootout. The city's national spotlight tournament first tipped off in 1978, inside Fort Richardson's Buckner Field House. Next, the Shootout's golden age brought top talent like UCLA, Michigan State, Duke and Kentucky to Sullivan Arena. If you're near Anchorage this Thanksgiving, help close the Shootout's last chapter by filling the Alaska Airlines Center as UAA's men and women host 10 Division I teams for the final tourney.

### UAA Crafts Fair

Dec. 2 | 10 a.m.–5 p.m. | Student Union  
[uaa.alaska.edu/craftsfair](http://uaa.alaska.edu/craftsfair)

Shop for unique Alaska-made crafts at the juried UAA Crafts Fair. Browse a wonderful array of items — including pottery, woodwork, fiber art, jewelry, glass, bath products and more — all handmade in Alaska. Speak directly with the artists and learn the story behind each piece. This annual fair is one of the holiday season's best opportunities to shop for gifts (or treat yourself).

### 'Foundations' art exhibit reception

Dec. 8 | 5–7 p.m. | Hugh McPeck Gallery  
[uaa.alaska.edu/sugallery](http://uaa.alaska.edu/sugallery)

The art gallery in the Student Union was renamed this past year to honor longtime faculty member Hugh McPeck, who passed away in 2014. Up next at the gallery is "Foundations," a faculty-curated exhibition of artwork created by UAA students in entry-level art courses. This showcase of emerging talent is a fitting homage to McPeck, who mentored countless artists — from their first 100-level art class to graduation and beyond — during his career.

### Opera-ganza

Dec. 16 and 17 | 7:30 p.m.  
Recital Hall  
[artsuaa.com](http://artsuaa.com)

The UAA Opera Ensemble celebrates its 15th anniversary with a performance of operatic hits from previous productions. Featured operas include *Akmaq and Nayak* (an Inupiaq version of *Hansel and Gretel*), *The Elixir of Love*, *Magic Flute*, *Marriage of Figaro*, *Die Fledermaus* and the Spanish *Zarzuela, La Gran Via*. The ensemble will be joined by alumni reprising some of their past performances.

### Symphony of Sounds

Feb. 24-25 | 7:30 p.m. and 4 p.m.  
Recital Hall  
[artsuaa.com](http://artsuaa.com)

Don't miss this extravaganza in true operatic style! One of the most unique concert experiences of the year, the Symphony of Sounds concerts deliver an extravaganza of musical entertainment in a nonstop collage format.

### 2018 9 in the Spine

Feb. 28 | UAA Spine  
[uaa.alaska.edu/alumni](http://uaa.alaska.edu/alumni)

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 18 student clubs. All funds raised support the UAA Alumni Association scholarship, which provides \$48,000 in annual support to current students. For more information or to get involved, contact Alumni Relations at [seawolf.forever@alaska.edu](mailto:seawolf.forever@alaska.edu).



# CLASS NOTES

## 1991

In August, **Lori Davey, B.B.A. Marketing '91, M.B.A. '99**, joined GCI as vice president of enterprise markets. Her sales and marketing career previously led her to management roles with Alaska Communications and Fairweather LLC. A prior president of the UAA Alumni Association board, she is also a U.S. representative on the Arctic Economic Council, focused on telecommunications and responsible resource development, and a trustee for the Alaska chapter of the Nature Conservancy.

## 1998

**Sean Case, B.A. Justice**, is a 17-year veteran of the Anchorage Police Department, where he currently serves as acting deputy chief of administration. This summer, Governor Bill Walker appointed him to

Alaska's Criminal Justice Commission advisory board for a three-year term.

## 2010

**John Sims, M.B.A.**, was named president of ENSTAR Natural Gas Company in August. He's been with the energy supplier since 2005, most recently as vice president of corporate resources, and is the first born-and-raised Alaskan to lead the public utility, which provides natural gas for more than half the state's population.

## 2013

**Paige Jameson, B.B.A. Accounting**, is a group senior accountant for Mood Media Corporation in Texas. She writes, "I live in the suburbs of Austin, Texas, and have bumped into some Seawolves around town (mostly at Costco). I enjoy seeing all things Alaska here in Texas, as it reminds me of home. My daughter wears

UAA gear almost weekly, as her blood runs green and gold."



*Paige Jameson's daughter Adalyn representing UAA in San Marcos, Texas.*

## 2014

**Amanda Luiten (previously McGill), B.S. Physical Education**, has returned to Dillingham, Alaska. She writes, "After graduation, I went on a rock climbing road trip, started personal training, then entered a graduate program at GCU. I am happily married, have a beautiful newborn daughter, and I am the PE teacher at my old middle/high school. I am coaching XC running and Native Youth Olympics. Before I moved back,

I had the pleasure of creating an NYO program in Anchorage, coaching an athlete to first place. I've also taught NYO to students on the East Coast. I plan to use my skill set to help our athletic department and community live healthy lifestyles here in Dillingham."

## 2015

**Nayade Perez, A.A.S. Human Services**, is a program manager for the adult reentry program at the Alaska Native Justice Center. She now has a new addition to her family, a toddler that keeps her busy. Nayade is planning on returning to UAA to pursue her B.A. in Human Services next fall.

## 2015

The Anchorage Chamber of Commerce awarded **F.X. "Dale" Tran, B.B.A. Marketing '15, M.B.A. '17**, the Gene Guess Humanitarian Award in September. The award

recognizes excellence and service to the Anchorage community and is the Chamber's highest honor; it was last presented in 2006. Individuals receive the award based on the magnitude of good they have done for the Anchorage community. Tran was the chief financial officer for Kaladi Brothers Coffee and a current master's student at UAA when he passed away unexpectedly this January. He earned a posthumous M.B.A. degree at commencement in May, accepted by his wife, journalism and communication professor Dr. Joy Chavez Mapaye, and their two daughters, Isabella and Abigail Tran.



*Dale Tran*

## LENS ON CAMPUS

*Step inside Inflorescence by the ConocoPhillips Integrated Science Building, and the world splits into hundreds of different views. Created by Heath Satow, the nature-inspired sculpture features more than 1,500 pieces of mirror-polished stainless steel. Satow visited UAA in June to install the site-specific sculpture, commissioned through the Percent for Art program.*



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

**[jobesl@alaska.edu](mailto:jobesl@alaska.edu) :: 907-786-1845**

The online magazine can be found at: [tinyurl.com/alumnispirit](http://tinyurl.com/alumnispirit)



## UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

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University of Alaska Anchorage  
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*Photo by Brenda Altman '75 from  
the Golden Gate Bridge overlook  
in San Francisco.*

*Brenda, an Air Force veteran,  
now lives in Vallejo, California.  
She earned law degrees from  
University of California, Hastings  
and Golden Gate University,  
practicing pro bono law for the  
San Francisco Bar Association,  
in addition to her career as an  
electrician. She is an active  
volunteer for organizations in the  
Bay Area, including the YMCA,  
California Academy of Sciences,  
and Friends of the Urban Forest,  
where she formerly served as  
president. Brenda no longer  
practices law, which leaves more  
time to use her season tickets for  
the Giants, and to catch Warriors  
games in person.*

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