

UAA

ALUMNISPIRIT

Fall 2018 • ISSUE 10

NEW FACES ON CAMPUS



MEET THE NEW CHANCELLOR | RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS | ALUMNI LEADERSHIP

AMAZING STORIES
BEING WRITTEN EVERY DAY.



Spirit and UAA's new athletic director, Greg Myford, presented Chancellor Cathy Sandeen with a personalized hockey jersey at a welcome event on Friday, Sept. 21, 2018, at the Alumni Center on UAA's campus.



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ON THE COVER

The campus wildlife is ready for class! A mama moose and her calf photographed outside the UAA Administration/Humanities Building in July 2018.

EDITOR

Jessica Hamlin

WRITERS

Joey Besl
Matt Jardin, B.B.A. '10
Kathleen McCoy
Catalina Myers

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Brett Rawalt

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

James Evans, B.A. '16

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**UAA OFFICE OF
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907-786-1942
seawolf.forever@alaska.edu
uaa.alaska.edu/alumni



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FROM AN ALUMNUS

I remember clearly my first day as a freshman. I was lost. Physically, I was ‘map challenged’ and didn’t make any of my classes, or even the classes I accidentally attended, on time. Internally, I didn’t know who I was or wanted to be.

My time at UAA was truly transformative. I was fortunate to study abroad twice, co-found an amazing fraternity and discover my passions. These opportunities allowed me to meet, engage with and befriend some of the most sincere, genuine and knowledgeable administrators, professors, staff and students a person could ever hope to meet.

I know that many alumni feel the same as I do — that it is on us to do what we can to share our experiences.

Go. Help. Connect. Give. Whether it’s sponsoring a scholarship, mentoring a student or getting involved with the Alumni Association — any effort you are willing to put forward can make a difference in someone’s life. This is our time to take UAA to even greater heights.

Xavier Mason

Xavier Mason, B.B.A. Marketing & Management '15
Editor & Chief Storyteller, VisualAid
Candidate, University of Oxford I+I M.B.A.

FROM THE EDITOR

This is an exciting time for UAA. There are many new faces on campus (our cover model ungulates included). This fall we welcomed a new chancellor, Dr. Cathy Sandeen, and she’s been busy getting to know the campus and the community — meet her on page 6. Someone you may be seeing or hearing from soon is UAA’s new director of alumni engagement, Tina Teaford — learn more about her on page 16. Other recent appointments include the vice chancellor for administrative services, and new directors in athletics, philanthropy, and marketing and communications. All are at work to make UAA even more amazing.

In December, we’ll celebrate fall graduates at commencement, welcoming them into the ranks of alumni. If you’re in town, we’re always looking for volunteers. Please contact us if you’re interested in lending a hand.

If it’s been awhile since you’ve been on campus, check out our recently launched virtual campus tour, which allows people from across the globe to get an up-close, in-depth look at our beautiful campus. Take a look online at uaa.alaska.edu/visit and see how much we’ve grown.

Lastly, the photo below showcases Career Networking Night, a fruitful event that pairs alumni mentors with current students. This is an excellent example of just one of the many ways alumni are able to Go. Help. Connect. Give. to their alma mater. We look forward to seeing you on campus soon!

With Green & Gold Spirit,

Jessica Hamlin

Jessica Hamlin
Editor



Mechanical engineering senior Robert Clark speaks with UAA alumna Virginia Groeschel, B.S. Civil Engineering '06, at the Career Networking Night event on Sept. 27, 2018.



NORTH TO ALASKA

UAA CHANCELLOR CATHY SANDEEN TOUCHES DOWN IN THE 49TH STATE

With Xtratufs on her feet and a copy of James Michener’s novel *Alaska* in hand, new University of Alaska Anchorage Chancellor Cathy Sandeen is ready to step into her role of helming the state’s largest university.

With four academic degrees and more than 30 years of experience in higher education, Sandeen’s impressive background suggests she was born into the world of academia, but the Oakland, California, native came from working-class roots.

At 17, Sandeen’s father dropped out of high school to join the military in World War II. After the war, he married and settled into California life, first working as a plumber and then starting his own business. Sandeen is a first generation graduate. Neither of her parents attended college, and for her, venturing into higher education was like heading into a new frontier.

“I really got inspired by the discipline of communication. It’s such a broad, interesting area,” Sandeen said.

She went on to earn a master’s in broadcast communication from San Francisco State University, a Master of Business Administration in management from the University of California Los Angeles and a doctorate in communication from the University of Utah.

Upon receiving her doctorate, Sandeen realized she wasn’t ready to leave academia and was on track to become a professor, but she ended up in academic administration — a job she excelled at.

After 22 years in administrative roles with the University of California system, Sandeen spent eight years in Washington, D.C., serving as vice president for education attainment and innovation at the American Council



Chancellor Sandeen gets to know members of the campus community at a welcome event on Sept. 21, 2018.

Sandeen is excited to put her roots down in the far north. She visited UAA several times prior to starting to get acquainted with staff, faculty and community partners, as well as

“I was a pretty good student, and I liked school,” Sandeen said of herself as a young student.

After high school, Sandeen attended Humboldt State University and earned a bachelor’s degree in speech pathology. Though, it didn’t quite seem like the right fit.

She credits her professors in guiding her toward the field of communication, providing encouragement when she had doubts of fitting in and finding her niche.

on Education. Most recently, she was the chancellor of the University of Wisconsin Colleges and UW Extension.

“I’ve gone from Northern California to Southern California to the East Coast and then to the Upper Midwest and now to Alaska, and I’m really happy about it. I feel like it’s a good fit,” said Sandeen. She added that she’s thrilled to be back in a land of oceans, mountains and trees. “At my core, I am a Westerner, and I think there’s a certain spirit of innovation, creativity and risk-taking that we’re kind of born with — and I feel that in Alaska.”

familiarize herself with campus. She’s excited for the year ahead and the challenges that come with navigating higher education.

“Throughout my career, higher education has been challenged,” Sandeen said. “I have really experienced a lot of change management, and I realize that people who come to work at universities — faculty and staff — do it because it gives meaning to their lives. It’s not just any old job.”



Each year, students and faculty collaborate on research projects spanning the university's departments from engineering to health care to biology. Graduate and undergraduate students receive tremendous opportunities to conduct research in the field, like gathering climate data to predict coastal erosion in Alaska, to creating experiments in the lab to see if humans can survive in low-level oxygen environments. The university is constantly networking with local experts and agencies statewide to provide cutting-edge information covering issues facing our state and world, from climate change and technology in engineering to advancements in health care. The university's vast research potential opens the doors for UAA's students and faculty to explore and test the limits of their fields.

HOW VULNERABLE ARE ALASKA'S BATS TO WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME? Bats in Alaska? It's true! And the Last Frontier could be the last refuge in the country for the little brown bat, also known as *Myotis lucifugus*, from the devastating

Institute, and UAA's Alaska Center for Conservation Science, worked to monitor and tag bats on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER). The two-year assignment from JBER comes as the plight of the little brown bat gains momentum. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is evaluating whether they warrant protection under the Endangered Species Act. The state of Alaska has identified all Alaska bats as Species of Greatest Conservation Need in their Wildlife Action Plan. This requires ongoing monitoring of bats, their hibernating behavior and habitat choices as a strategy to preserve their health.

Little brown bats are an integral part of the ecosystem. They spend their summer evenings eating night-flying insects, and at 7-10 grams and sized a little smaller than your clenched fist, these bats can eat half their weight each night in bugs. In agricultural areas, they help immensely in



Jesika Reimer, assistant zoologist at UAA's Center for Conservation Science, worked to monitor little brown bats on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson this past summer.

THE PROBLEM SOLVERS: UAA researchers tackle issues in Alaska and beyond

white nose syndrome (WNS). This disease has afflicted 11 species of hibernating bats in North America and has decimated populations from New England to the Northwest, and has started pointing north.

What would happen to Alaska's little brown bats if WNS showed up in the 49th state?

No one knows for sure, but that's why Alaskan and Canadian scientists from federal, state and university agencies have recently formed a northern working group to gather and share important research information about these tiny bats.

This past summer, researchers from the Applied Environmental Research Center, a part of the UAA Business Enterprise

eliminating pests. Their beneficial impact to agriculture and forestry systems in the Lower 48 is estimated at \$4 billion. Bats are considered a "sentinel species," meaning they can be used to detect risks to humans by providing advance warning of a danger, usually in terms of an environmental hazard.

WNS affects hibernating bats, and about half of the 47 types of bats in the U.S. and Canada do hibernate. Estimates are that close to six million bats across the U.S. have succumbed to WNS.

Asked to describe WNS and its impact on bats in just a few words, David Blehert, a scientist with the USGS National Wildlife Health Center, starkly called it "an ecological disaster."



TURTLE RESEARCH LEADS TO EUROPEAN TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY

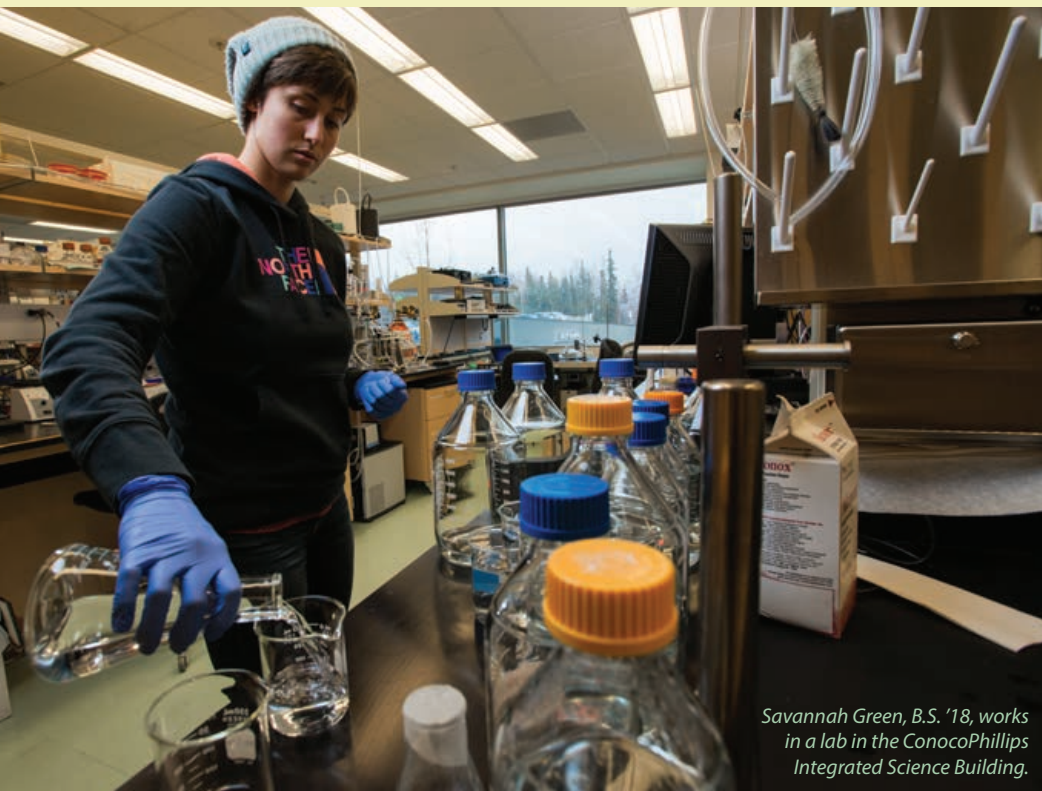
It comes as no surprise that humans need oxygen to live, but what is surprising is what red-eared slider turtles can tell us about our mammalian ability to survive in low-oxygen environments. UAA health sciences alumna Savannah Green, B.S. '18, and pre-dentistry student Diarmid Hall, both spent their summer in the lab researching the biology behind low-oxygen survival strategies of turtles. Although both Green and Hall are researching an overarching idea, they are working on different hypotheses as well as different body parts and functions within the turtle research.

Green's work asks how — under low

oxygen conditions — the turtle is able to shunt blood flow to life-essential organs like the heart, brain and liver while constricting blood flow to the less essential gut.

Hall's research uses cardiac tissues bathed in chemicals that can either speed up muscle contraction or slow it down to determine how nervous system control of the heart is changed under different temperature and oxygen environments.

Both Green and Hall work in Professor Jonathan Stecyk's lab in the ConocoPhillips Integrated Science Building and were able to present their findings at the Society for Experimental Biology Main Meeting in Florence, Italy, this past summer.



Savannah Green, B.S. '18, works in a lab in the ConocoPhillips Integrated Science Building.



Tracey Burke

A CAREER IN COMMUNITY SERVICE: SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK PROFESSOR TACKLES FOOD SECURITY IN ANCHORAGE

In Alaska, 102,670 residents, or 1 in 7 people, struggle with hunger. About 20 percent of those struggling to obtain a healthy meal each day are children, according to data collected from a 2016 Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap Report. Tracey Burke, a professor in the School of Social Work, has dedicated her career to researching food insecurity issues in urban and rural Alaska communities — and how to solve them. Most recently, she's collaborated with Amanda Walch, an assistant professor in the School of Allied Health's Dietetics and Nutrition Program, on a project for the Food Bank of Alaska and St. Francis House Food Pantry on a two-phase project providing data on how the overall health and well-being of families and individuals using food pantries is improved when they have access to nutritious food and food scarcity is taken off the table.

According to Burke, food pantries offer families a little wiggle room in their tight budgets, and they're able to use the money not spent on food to pay bills. Additionally, nutritious food pantry options keep parents and children healthy, which means the adults are able to work and the kids are in the classroom — a win-win for everyone.

STUDYING STATEWIDE COASTAL EROSION FROM THE EDGE OF ANCHORAGE

It's been almost a year since civil engineering student Euan-Angus MacLeod has been recording ground temperature on Anchorage's coast just a few miles from UAA's campus. For the last decade, summers in the far north have trended warmer, and the climate community braces themselves each year for more record-setting summers.

The most noticeable effect of warming summers? Coastal erosion. Especially, erosion on the state's north and west coast where warming is thawing and destabilizing coastal permafrost and driving sea ice retreat.

MacLeod's data from Earthquake Park will help engineers, like UAA civil engineering professor Tom Ravens, who oversaw the project, create erosion forecasts for areas like the



Civil engineering student Euan-Angus MacLeod records ground temperatures at Anchorage's Earthquake Park.

Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, where some 50 communities sit six feet above sea level and will be directly impacted by Alaska's quickly eroding coastlines. In most coastal areas, waves from the ocean's constant beratement of the shoreline are the main cause of erosion, but in the Arctic, where the coast is mostly ice, temperature plays a huge factor.

"Adding that thermal component really complicates how you approach problems," said MacLeod. He installed his temperature monitoring system last October, a homemade recording system of a data logger inside an ammo box that recorded the ground temperature every hour. His findings weren't surprising that the greatest variation in soil temperature occurred closest to the surface and earliest in the season, which was expected. Despite the findings, the information is valuable for predictive modeling not just in Anchorage, but across the state.

MICROBIOLOGISTS WORK WITH NASA TO OBSERVE E. COLI IN SPACE TO FIND MORE EFFICIENT BIOFUEL

E. Coli in space! Sounds like the title of a science-fiction thriller, but in this case, the truth is stranger than fiction — and actually useful in helping researchers develop technology to produce a biofuel that could rival oil.

For the past three years, UAA assistant professor of biological sciences Dr. Brandon Briggs has worked as the principal investigator on a project researching a way to produce the biofuel known as isobutene — not to be confused with isobutane — more efficiently. Isobutene is a gas that serves as a key component in a variety of everyday products, from rubbers,



Brandon Briggs

plastics and detergents to lubricants and gasoline additives — all of which rely on isobutene.

Currently, the only method to develop isobutene is a process known as steam cracking, which takes crude oil and subjects it to high pressure and temperatures. The process is energy intensive and a significant contributor of carbon dioxide and methane emissions.

Briggs' research utilizes microscopic organisms, specifically, a strain of E. Coli found in humans' digestive system and wastewater to develop isobutene into a biofuel that could compete with oil. His project caught the attention of NASA, which fast-tracked the project to study how E. Coli would perform under microgravity conditions by sending samples up to the International Space Station.

Read more UAA research stories online at greenandgold.uaa.alaska.edu.

BUILDING BETTER HOMES BY INVESTING IN COMMUNITY



THREE YEARS AGO, the Love Church sat empty on Spenard Road between an abandoned adult entertainment venue, a closed down gas station and an old post office, waiting to be torn down to become overflow parking for an incoming apartment building.

Today, the church remains, and it goes by a slightly different name: The Church of Love (COL). Where the adult venue used to be stands the completed apartment complex. Although the residents don't have the extra parking, what they got instead was something more important.

"It's a cultural hub and neighborhood center that serves the larger community," described lifelong Anchorage resident **Candace Blas, B.A. International Studies '14.**



For the past year and a half, she has served double-duty as manager of COL and community outreach coordinator for its owner, nonprofit housing developer Cook Inlet Housing Authority (CIHA).

These days it's easy to view COL as a surefire success, but it turns out that wasn't always the case. Before she joined, Blas reveals that COL's fate as a parking lot was all but concrete.

"Before they could tear the building down, CIHA was approached by artists with the need for a space to work on big projects," she said. "Artists were having a blast in this building and CIHA was able to see a demonstrated use of this building and recognize its value."

What CIHA witnessed was art's power to enrich communities. This realization matched perfectly with the

organization's mission to revitalize the neighborhood and contributed to their evolution as community developers rather than just housing builders.

With their newfound direction, CIHA reached out to the board at Anchorage Community Works (ACW), an art cooperative with a similar penchant for empowering community through creativity.

The intention was to establish relationships with more of Anchorage's artists and to research existing resources and community organizations. While ACW was more than happy to share its knowledge, one board member in particular took it a step further: Blas herself.

"I felt this call to be involved. So when CIHA came to talk with ACW, I followed up," she recalled.

After reaching out to CIHA, Blas was brought on as an assistant to lay the foundation for COL and coordinate events. After the community's overwhelmingly positive reception to the church, it became clear that officially hiring Blas was crucial to run COL and maintain its mission.

Learning about COL's history might give the impression of it being an art cooperative. But Blas and CIHA stress that the building is much more than that and is available to anyone.

"COL exists because of community and a definite need for a space like this for our neighbors, Spenard and Anchorage at large. We embrace all the colors of Spenard. To have a place where they can gather is important," explained Blas.

Though the area around COL has improved drastically in the last three years, the work to build a better community is never done. CIHA is about to begin renovations to make the church more accessible to those with disabilities.

Efforts are also underway to refurbish the other CIHA-owned properties surrounding COL, such as the old post office and the newly reclaimed gas station lot.

Despite the changes, one thing that remains constant is Blas' continued involvement.

"I feel through my work here at COL and CIHA that I'm really posed well to have a big impact on what Anchorage becomes," she said. "And that's a place that's forward moving, progressive, very inclusive and supports the arts."



If you've ever cycled along a bike path, you can thank an engineer. And if you've ever biked in Anchorage, you can likely thank alumni-stacked **CRW Engineering** — where nearly half the employees hold engineering degrees from UAA.

Among many other projects in its portfolio, the firm has worked citywide to add bike lanes, improve sidewalks and add bicycle signage. CRW has also been instrumental in designing segments of Anchorage's well-traveled multiuse pathways, including the Campbell Creek, Chester Creek, Ship Creek and Coastal Trail systems.

CRW is deeply rooted in Alaska. It began as a civil engineering firm in 1981 and has grown to more than 65 staff members. The company added surveying and electrical engineering in 2005, mechanical engineering in 2013, and structural and geotechnical engineering this year. The firm only accepts in-state projects and has assigned staff to projects in 160 communities so far.

To meet Alaska's unique engineering needs, CRW needs a staff that's especially familiar with the state's landscape and

challenges. Most employees have local roots. Nearly half the staff — 33 in total — hold engineering degrees from UAA, and many of them started as college interns.

"What's appealing to us is that we're hiring local, and when we hire local, they stay," said Managing Partner Michael Rabe, B.S. Civil Engineering '84, of the firm's strong internship program.

"We enjoy hiring UAA students not only because they're local and they're committed to staying in Alaska, but we find that their education is not every bit equal [to schools Outside], it's superior because of the emphasis on the Arctic and cold regions engineering. They're excellent candidates," Rabe said.

That's an opinion shared among many local engineering firms, he noted, whether they build bike paths, plumbing systems, landfills or landing strips.

"Having a local resource to draw qualified candidates from is imperative," he said. "We would not be able to run our business here without UAA."



A still from the upcoming PBS KIDS show "Molly of Denali."
(©2018 WGBH Educational Foundation)

In this age of "peak TV" where more programs are available than ever before, people of color are still underrepresented. **Princess Daazhraii Johnson, M.Ed. '17**, hopes to change that.

Johnson, who is Neets'arii Gwich'in Alaska Native, serves as creative producer for "Molly of Denali," an animated show premiering in summer 2019 on PBS KIDS and the first nationally distributed children's series to feature an Alaska Native lead character.

Tantamount to the show's educational component is that it gives Alaska Native youth the opportunity to see themselves represented positively in the media. "Having more input into how our image is represented in media is huge," Johnson said.

Johnson's position on the show seems tailor-made for her unique background in advocacy, filmmaking and education.

Originally planning to go to law school, Johnson was invited to the Native American and Indigenous Film Program at

the Sundance Institute. She then returned to Alaska to take advantage of the state's burgeoning film incentive. Back home, her career pivoted to advocacy as she became the executive director of the Gwich'in Steering Committee.

Then her path pivoted once more. "Something in me wanted to be prepared and delve deeper into these issues," Johnson said. "It was finally time to get my master's."

Through UAA's Center for Research and Alaska Native Education (CRANE) graduate program, Johnson studied ecofeminism, ecojustice and ethical consumerism, and earned her master's degree in education in 2017.

As if "Molly of Denali" wasn't trailblazing enough, the production plans to offer workshops for fellow Alaska Native creatives. Johnson likens these efforts to a larger movement, as more people of color are writing, producing and directing.

"There's still a long way to go. But I think right now, Hollywood has their eyes open. My hope is that we continue to see these changes."



A HUB FOR UAA ALUMNI



CHANGE YOUR STATUS TO ENGAGED



GO

GO to an alumni event, like the annual Alumni ParTee: Nine in the Spine returning Feb. 27. Alumni events occur all year round, from athletic events to panel discussions. Check out our website and Facebook page (links below) to find an event that fits your interests and join the fun.



HELP

HELP by volunteering at a campus event. Welcome new students during Campus Kick-Off, share your knowledge with jobseekers at Career Networking Night or welcome soon-to-be alumni at commencement. Whether you have a little bit of time to spare or a lot, it goes a long way.



CONNECT

CONNECT with fellow Seawolves by sending us your cool photos or sharing your life updates. Did you move to a new home? Are you expanding your family? Have you landed that dream job? Or maybe you went on a gorgeous hike in town? Big or small, tell us about it!



GIVE

GIVE the gift of education by donating to the Alumni Association Scholarship. For many students, scholarships are the difference between debt and a degree, or attending college at all. Your support empowers the next generation of Seawolves to reach their academic goals.

Say hello to Tina Teaford, UAA's new director of alumni engagement. Even though Teaford just started the job, she's no stranger to the university or community service.

Originally from Colorado Springs, Colorado, Teaford first came to Alaska to work for Lake Clark National Park. After two summers in the park, the only thing she was more sure of than going to law school was returning to live in Alaska.

As soon as Teaford graduated from the University of Oregon School of Law, she made good on her promise and moved to Anchorage to clerk for a Superior Court judge.

Outside of a brief run as a private practice attorney, the public sector is where Teaford felt most passionate. She held positions as a municipal prosecutor, assistant attorney general and finally magistrate judge where she spent the majority of her legal career.

During her climb up the legal ladder, Teaford maintained a strong volunteer presence, donating time to Anchorage Youth Court, Anchorage School District, United Nations and Alaska Center for the Performing Arts.

As a magistrate judge, Teaford presided over cases focused on criminal offenses and allegations of domestic violence. Her duties required her to listen carefully, make well-reasoned decisions and maintain transparency — all characteristics essential to strengthening UAA's alumni connection.

"I love the aspect of providing a public service, but the role of a magistrate judge can be fairly isolating because of the need to remain neutral," Teaford shares. "Opening the door to higher education and having the opportunity to do more outreach and make personal connections is something that's incredibly exciting for me."

Since stepping into the position in July, Teaford has wasted no time going on her listening tour. She plans to build on what's already working, and develop new strategies to connect with alumni waiting to be engaged and even with students working to become alumni.

"I'm using this time to understand where we are and to listen," she said. "That's an ongoing process. Alumni are

part of this family and get to direct what that family dynamic looks like, and we're here to facilitate that."

Having already become an integral part of the Alumni Association board of directors, Teaford has no shortage of praise for how satisfying her transition has been.

"This board is amazing, and I'm honored by how welcoming they've been," she shared. "To have everybody on the same page and excited to accomplish the same thing is fantastic."

Not only is Teaford's move to Alumni Relations the culmination of a career in community service, but also a natural progression for someone whose family tree is made up almost exclusively by lawyers and educators. Even Teaford's husband, who is a lawyer by training, eventually became an administrator for the Anchorage School District.

"Those two professions have always been a strong part of our history and our family, so transitioning to higher education was a natural move for me, and I'm excited to bring my career full circle," describes Teaford.



WAKE UP AND CELEBRATE

On Oct. 12, hundreds of graduates gathered at Lucy Cuddy Hall for Homecoming Breakfast. The annual early-morning alumni celebration featured a performance of the alma mater by the UAA Glee Club, a greeting from new UAA Chancellor Cathy Sandeen and a welcome from Anchorage Mayor Ethan Berkowitz about the valuable role UAA plays in the city, where 1 in 10 adults is a graduate.

Guests honored the achievements of this year's trio of Alumni of Distinction awardees and generously gave in support of student scholarships. The gathered alumni community raised more than \$26,000 in donations for UAA programs and scholarships, all by 9 a.m.



PAYING IT FORWARD



ALUMNI HUMANITARIAN

Jocelyn "Josie" Wilson
M.B.A. Business Administration '09

A southern California transplant sent to UAA for a year-long work assignment, Wilson stayed when she fell in love with the university and community and has been giving back ever since. Her philanthropic efforts are as wide-ranging as her interests, which include playing violin for hospital patients, founding leadership programs and raising \$11 million for Alaska's only family homeless shelter.



ALUMNI OF ACHIEVEMENT

Jennifer Thompson

Family is the cornerstone of Thompson's business. Starting as an intern at PR agency Bernholz and Graham in 1999, she became president and CEO in 2006 and purchased the firm in 2009, renaming it Thompson & Co. Under her leadership, they've grown from four employees to 24 and added offices in other parts of the country while fostering a culture that emphasizes family, collaboration and growth.



ALUMNI EMERGING LEADER

Jason Hart

B.B.A. Management '07, M.B.A. General Management '10

With the passing of his mother at the age of 12, Hart felt compelled to make health care for Alaska Natives better. After serving in the Air National Guard, he became clinical practice manager at Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. He also serves as acting vice president of medical and multi-specialty clinics at the Alaska Native Medical Center, where he oversees more than 20 clinics.

"I always thought it would be cool to go to my hometown school," said Ian Wheels, B.A. Political Science '04. Born and raised in Alaska, he left briefly to attend college Outside but quickly realized his heart was home in the Last Frontier.

Wheels returned, pursued a political science degree at UAA, attended law school and in 2009, at 26, opened the doors to Law Office of Ian Wheels. That same year, he established the First Fruits Scholarship for Working Students at UAA. Now, Wheels' practice is flourishing; he's married with four children; and life is good. Looking back, he remembers the struggle of juggling 18-plus credits each semester, holding a full-time job and watching every penny earned.

"I wasn't rich, so I had to work and pay for life while I was going to school," he said. "Any little scholarship I received made a huge difference to me while I was in school."

Wheels' scholarship is a way to pay it forward to current UAA students working to achieve their dreams of academic and financial success, which for Rhiannon Fleener, a UAA visual arts senior, was a perfect match.

"Something that was really important to me was that I pay for my education myself," said Fleener, who worked and saved up for two years so she could attend UAA.

The First Fruits Scholarship, along with others, allowed Fleener to fund her education without student loans.

"Scholarships allowed me to go to school and complete my education," she said, reflecting on the importance of alumni giving. "I think it's important for people to have the opportunity to get a university education."

Since its creation, the First Fruits Scholarship has helped 32 students. "I've always loved giving — that's just something that's really important to me," Wheels said.



GIVE

LEARN HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED, MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR A STUDENT, OR SUPPORT EXCELLENCE IN ANOTHER AREA OF PERSONAL MEANING TO YOU.

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ALUMNI LIFE

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

PAGE 20: Lea Bouton, M.A.T. '10, and Dimond High School teacher, entering a jet for the Arctic Thunder Air Show. ■ Ylli Ferati, B.B.A. '12, managing the bar at his family's Fiori D'Italia restaurant in Spenard, recently tabbed Alaska's best whiskey bar by Thrillist. ■ Paula Kangis, B.B.A. '00, with Arctic Slope Telephone Association Cooperative, helping organize the Top of the World Golf Tournament in Utqiagvik (formerly Barrow) during the annual Piuraagiaqta Festival.



PAGE 21: Current and former Seawolf volleyball players pose following the annual alumni exhibition match at the Alaska Airlines Center. (Photo courtesy of UAA Athletics) ■ Writer/director David Block, M.A.T. '91, and actress Becca Mahar, B.A. '12, on stage for their latest production, "Dr. Fortean's Klondike Gold Elixir and Wild Big Alaska Show!"



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PAGE 22: *Carla Baxely, B.S. '01, senior project engineer with R&M Consultants Inc. Airport Engineering Group. Baxely has designed runways all across the state. ■ Gabriel Mahns, B.A. '00, practicing traditional pottery as part of the Mike Mansfield Fellowship Program in the Ishikawa Prefecture in Japan. ■ E.J.R. David, B.A. '02, talking about his latest book release.*



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



PAGE 23: *Rhodes scholar and GCI intern Samantha Mack, B.A. '16, poses next to the C-SPAN Bus during its visit to the UAA campus as part of its 50 Capitals Tour. ■ Robert DeVassie, B.A. '02, biking to work. The transportation engineer is passionate about and involved in active transport across Alaska.*





The Northern Light celebrates 30 years with alumni panel

The Northern Light, UAA's student-run newspaper, celebrated its 30th anniversary with a week of festivities, starting with a panel discussion featuring four alumni staffers who have gone on to forge successful careers in journalism, communications and outreach: former editor-in-chief and director of Alaska Teen Media Institute Rosie Robards, B.A. '05; former sports editor and digital content specialist at Thompson & Co. Thomas McIntyre, B.A. '14; former features editor and account coordinator at Rising Tide Communications Natasha Price, B.A. '06; and former arts and entertainment editor and producer at Alaska Public Media Ammon Swenson, B.A. '18.

Swimmers raise more than \$40,000 to eradicate polio

Lifelong swimmer Bridget Simpson, B.A. '93, swam the 32-mile Lake George in New York in a tag team relay with fellow swimmer Louise Rourke. The fundraising swim was organized by the Saratoga Springs Rotary Club with a 2-to-1 donation match from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to raise awareness for polio eradication, a disease Rourke contracted when she was 6 months old.



Alumni Association bids farewell to three longest-running members

At the annual Alumni Assembly meeting in July, the Alumni Association board of directors recognized exiting members Leverette Hoover, B.S. '96, Mark Filipenko, B.B.A. '00, and Andrea Story, B.B.A. '95, for four years of leadership and service — the longest terms of any board members. Filling the vacancies are Katie Bender, M.P.A. '10, Tim Gravel, B.B.A. '89, and Stacey Lucason B.A. '18.

Do you have your Alumni WOLFcard?

Whether you graduated last May or last decade, all alumni are eligible for a free Alumni WOLFcard. Benefits include discounts on athletics tickets, bookstore merchandise, concerts and events, in addition to access to library resources and the ability to purchase a campus fitness pass. Contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 907-786-1942 or seawolf.forever@alaska.edu to verify your alumni status and get your card.

Full steam ahead for Alaska Industrial Paint

Alaska Industrial Paint, founded by Kevin Stalder, B.A. '90, recently purchased a four acre, 42,000 square-foot set of warehouses to accommodate coach, school bus and semi-truck repair and paint work. The expanded division will be called Alaska Collision Specialists. Alaska Industrial Paint got its start by securing a contract with the Alaska Railroad, which used to ship its trains to Seattle every year for repair and paint work.



Arctic Solar Ventures named a 2018 Top Solar Contractor

Solar Power World has recognized Anchorage company Arctic Solar Ventures as a Top Solar Contractor. The annual list celebrates "the achievements of U.S. solar developers, subcontractors and installers within the utility, commercial and residential markets, and ranks contractors by kilowatts installed in the previous year. Founded in 2015 by Stephen Trimble, B.A. '08, Arctic Solar Ventures is Alaska's first-ever Top Solar Contractor awardee.

UAA Crafts Fair

Saturday, Dec. 1, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
UAA Student Union

The annual UAA Crafts Fair hosts over 100 crafters selling handmade Alaska products.

UAA Bookstore Customer Appreciation Day Sale

Thursday, Dec. 6, 8 a.m.–6 p.m.
UAA Campus Bookstore

Freshen up your green and gold gear! Join the UAA Bookstore for a progressive sale at its Customer Appreciation Day: 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.

Fall Commencement

Sunday, Dec. 16, 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.

Save the Date: 2019 Alumni ParTee Nine in the Spine

Wednesday, Feb. 27, 5:30 p.m.
UAA 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. Contact Alumni Relations at 907-786-1942 or seawolf.forever@alaska.edu to get involved.

Think Tank Series

Thursday, Nov. 15, 11:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m.; **Thursday, Feb. 21, 11:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m.;** **Thursday, March 21, 1–2:15 p.m.;** **Thursday, April 11, 11:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m.**
UAA/APU Consortium Library, Room 307

Join the UAA Center for Community Engagement and Learning for its Think Tank series. Each event features a nonprofit agency that presents a challenge or issue, and attendees brainstorm solutions for the organization. More information: uaa.alaska.edu/ccel.

2019 Symphony of Sounds

Saturday, Feb. 23, 7 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 24, 4 p.m.

UAA 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.

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

Browse the broad array of theater, dance and music performances scheduled for the 2018–2019 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@alaska.edu, 907-786-4849.



CLASS NOTES

2003

Christen Van Treeck, B.B.A. '03, is the senior project manager at Carlile Transportation Systems. Van Treeck celebrated a 21-year career with a feature story in the *People of Saltchuk* magazine alongside her husband and high school sweetheart Leon Dwiggin, safety director at sister company Delta Western Petroleum.



Judson Adams with his brother and father following his graduation from Loyola Law School in New Orleans.

"Names of Animals" in an effort to preserve the Inupiat language for future generations.

2015

Judson Adams, B.A. '15, graduated from Loyola Law School in New Orleans with his Juris Doctor in May 2018. He is currently studying to take the Alaska Bar Exam in February 2019.

2017

Byron Lowe, B.B.A. '17, was promoted to oversee the Enterprise Rent-A-Car location in the McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas and manage a staff of 45 people. Lowe began working for Enterprise in 2017 in their management training program. While attending UAA, Lowe worked as a student caller with Phonathon and moved his way up to become supervisor.

2005

Phillip Olt, A.A. '05, acquired his Ed.D. in adult and postsecondary education administration from the University of Wyoming in May 2018 and has accepted a position as assistant professor at Fort Hays State University in Kansas.

business development. Parsons was previously account manager at *Alaska Business Monthly*.

2010

Sunny Gill, M.P.H. '10, is a longtime competitive cyclist and finished in second place in the Armed Forces Cycling Classic, Clarendon Cup in Arlington, Virginia.



More than 20 percent of the staff at Anchorage ad agency MSI Communications are Seawolves! From left: web developer Bryan Meshke, UAA adjunct professor since 2015; founder and president Laurie Fagnani, B.A. '86; associate creative director Tara Storter, B.A. '02; account executive Colleen Bailey, B.A. '18; and account executive Keith Baxter, B.A. '06.

2006

Keith Baxter, B.A. '06, was hired as assistant executive for MSI Communications. Born and raised in Soldotna, Baxter was previously the director of member relations for the Kenai Peninsula Tourism Marketing Council.

2013

Britt'Nee Brower, A.A. '13, partnered with her Native corporation, the Ukpeaġvik Inupiat Corporation, to release a coloring book titled

2005

Holly Parsons, B.A. '05, joined Alaska Regional Hospital in June 2018 as the new director of



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.
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LENS ON CAMPUS

Thomas McIntyre films the "Lunch with the Legends: A Chat with TNL Alum" panel, featuring (from left): moderator and TNL copy editor Mariah DeJesus-Remaklus, himself, Natasha Price, Rosey Robards and Ammon Swenson.



HOWL FOR THE HOME TEAM



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