Construction Management alum helps build new sports arena

Anchorage residents driving through the U-Med District are watching the Alaska Airlines Center rise from the ground up. As the building takes shape, Cornerstone General Contractors Inc. coordinates the assembly of UAA’s newest addition. Recent CTC construction management (CM) alum Jacob Mathiesen has been there from dirt work to roof.

“Going from school to the Alaska Airlines Center you have good school spirit coming off of graduation—working on the alma mater,” said Mathiesen. “It’s fun, you want to make it the best you can and you think this is going to be great for us (UAA).”

Mathiesen graduated from UAA this spring with a B.A. from the CM program and a minor in business management. He interned with Cornerstone the past three years.

“It’s really good to do school and an internship at the same time because they build on each other,” said Mathiesen. “You start at the bottom when you’re in the field, but in the classroom you learn about the higher levels and the decisions that have to be made.”

Since the CM program’s inception, Cornerstone has been a huge supporter.

The company has purposefully hired UAA CM student interns throughout the year, eventually incorporating them into the Cornerstone family. For Cornerstone, supporting UAA just makes sense.

“UAA graduates have been well trained. We invest years of training in our student interns,” said Mark Palmatier, an owner who has been with the company for 12 years. “Being an Alaska company supporting an Alaska university goes hand-in-hand with our core values.”

UAA’s CM program, developed to meet Alaska’s demand for construction professionals, offers students two education tracks, an associate or bachelor’s degree. Comprehensive course loads cover topics from managerial accounting and business law to technical writing and ethics.

Mathiesen is proud of his green and gold affiliation and the opportunity to help build the university. Every day on the job is different and presents unique challenges, but that’s what inspires him.

“I love it,” Mathiesen said. “It’s not something that’s changing every day. It’s something that’s changing every minute.”

As you travel down Providence Drive check out the timeline of Cornerstone’s projects on the university landscape. UAA’s CM graduates have been essential to those successes, and Mathiesen is a proud contributor to the university’s legacy.

Read more about CTC’s CM program and Cornerstone here bit.ly/15z6Tux.
Plus 50 workforce credential

Last November, CTC graduated the first class of Plus 50 Bridge to College & Careers Instruction Program students.

The program, initially geared toward adults over age 50 whose goal is to attend college or become actively employed, is now open to all students. Participants are trained in technology, math, communications, personal financial management and job search preparation.

“The computer program far exceeded my expectations,” said Edward Bouwens, a program participant. “It will help me present myself to employers.”

In August, the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities approved the program as a workforce credential. It is now housed in CTC’s new Continuing Education Department. For more information, visit www.uaa.alaska.edu/continuinged.

FedEx donates Boeing 727

Over the past decade, FedEx has made it a corporate practice to assist schools, museums and airport fire departments by donating jets to support their educational missions. In February this year, the company donated a Boeing 727 to the CTC Aviation Technology Division.

University officials, staff and the public viewed the event as the massive 727 was flown from the Ted Stevens International Airport to the Merrill Field Airport. The donated airliner, which took its first flight Feb. 14, 1979, will be used to train students in transport aircraft maintenance.

The 727, dubbed “Two Bears,” is named after the now-grown son of Hugo Yturralde, a FedEx manager in Anchorage for more than 28 years.

Professor awarded FLEUR grant

A faculty member in CTC’s Construction & Design Technology Division (CDT) was awarded a Faculty Leadership in Expanding Undergraduate Research (FLEUR) grant by the University Honors College. The grant helps faculty create undergraduate research opportunities and was the first for a CTC faculty member.

“We are expanding the envelope, expanding the body of knowledge,” said CDT Assistant Professor Joel Condon. “We wanted to get CTC students involved with FLEUR.”

Condon used the funds to collaborate with colleague Kramer Woodard, a well-known architect and associate professor at the University of New Mexico. Condon created a hands-on classroom design using Woodard’s models of prefabricated emergency disaster shelters. Students tested their design skills creating models of the prefabricated shelters and gained valuable real-world design experience.

“This (FLEUR grant) opened up many possibilities for exposing students to interesting and exciting projects and the potential to engage students in exploration and research in their field,” said Condon.

Read more about Condon’s FLEUR grant at bit.ly/18AvLC5.

Professor named instructor of the year

CTC Transportation & Power Division alum and instructor Darrin Marshall (A.A.S. Automotive Technology ’02, B.S. Technology ’12) was awarded the 2012 Technical Instructor of the Year from the International Association of General Motors Automotive Service Education Program (GM ASEP).

Marshall was also recognized by GM as a World Class Technician. His colleagues in the association’s western region nominated him for the award, recognizing his commitment to training and teaching excellence.

“UAA is honored to have such a talented and respected individual training Alaska’s future technicians,” said Kelly Smith, division director. “We appreciate the nominations and are proud to have Darrin Marshall as our GM ASEP instructor.”

Student 3D drawings of exterior and interior prefabricated buildings.
Northrim donates $5,000 to Chugiak-Eagle River Campus

The University of Alaska Anchorage and Northrim Bank have shared a successful partnership over the years. In May, Northrim continued their support by presenting a $5,000 check to University of Alaska President Patrick Gamble and Chugiak-Eagle River Campus Director Cynthia Rogers at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Alaska Middle College School (AMCS).

The school, which opened its doors in fall 2012, is an early college program housed at CTC's Chugiak-Eagle River Campus. It allows junior and senior students in the Mat-Su Borough School District to earn credits toward a UAA associate of arts degree while completing their high school diploma.

Students can take classes satisfying both high school and UAA general education requirements. The program helps students become college-ready, in addition to shortening the time it typically takes to earn a degree. Last year, approximately 40 students enrolled at the school. This fall that number has increased to more than 80.

To learn more about AMCS, visit www.uaa.alaska.edu/eagleriver/amcs.

Dean Radcliffe Scholarship

Last November, a scholarship fund, established through the University of Alaska Foundation to benefit CTC’s Culinary Arts, Hospitality, Dietetics & Nutrition Division, was created to honor the memory of the late Dean Radcliffe, a former instructor in the division.

It was Radcliffe’s wish to have a scholarship in his name benefiting students pursuing a bachelor’s degree in hospitality and restaurant management. His family, in conjunction with the division, worked to honor his wishes. This fall Dyan Baguio will be the first student to benefit from this scholarship. Baguio, a senior, will graduate from UAA next spring and hopes to one day own her own hotel.

“My classes are helping me see all aspects of tourism and hospitality, giving me the bigger picture of everything from behind the scenes to the front of the house,” said Baguio. “The scholarship is going to help me not have any debt. It’s nice to know after college I won’t have any loans to worry about.”

Baguio has been working within the tourism and hospitality sector since she was in high school. After taking the hospitality and service class at King Career Center, she knew the hospitality and restaurant management program would help her achieve her dreams.

Safety first for aviation professor

When it comes to safety, Aviation Technology Division Professor Mark Madden is a leading educator.

A master certified flight instructor, he is one of only 106 aviation professionals worldwide to earn this prestigious recognition three times. For the past six years, he has served as a representative on the local Federal Aviation Administration Safety Team.

“Professor Madden is continuously at the forefront of aviation safety,” said Rocky Capozzi, division director. “He is always thinking of the most innovative methods to engage the aviation community.”

Earlier this year, the National General Aviation Awards Committee announced Madden as a regional General Aviation Award winner in the FAA Safety Team category. He was later named the national 2013 FAASTeam Representative of the Year. The program recognizes aviation professionals at local, regional and national levels for contributions to aviation, education and flight safety.

“I was impressed and honored to be the recipient of an award,” said Madden. “This award reminds me of the importance of this type of volunteer effort in the eyes of the FAA, and I look forward to continued collaboration with the FAASTeam organization in the future in an effort to help improve general aviation safety.”
Another year of amazing stories at the Community & Technical College! This year’s newsletter highlights CTC’s focus on student success and the college’s engagement with our mission. We strive to enhance, promote and provide quality education and training responsive to the needs of lifelong learners in a changing world through leadership collaboration within the community. To accomplish our mission, CTC operates seven locations in the Anchorage community to meet our students’ educational needs.

Our 63 full-time faculty and 59 staff serve more than 1,400 students majoring in CTC degree or certificate programs on the main Anchorage, University Center and Aviation Technology Center campuses. CTC’s extended sites in Eagle River and at Joint Base Eilendorf-Richardson enroll more than 3,000 students per semester in college-level business and general education courses. Each semester, CTC enrolls more than 2,100 students in developmental courses on the main Anchorage campus, preparing them for collegiate success. CTC is now expanding noncredit course offerings for professional development and personal enrichment from its new Continuing Education Department. The college’s first noncredit workforce credential for Plus 50 is highlighted inside.

CTC is proud to provide educational opportunities supporting student success in our community. Read more about the amazing stories of CTC alumni, students, faculty and staff by visiting the CTC Insider blog at ctcinsider.blogspot.com.

Karen Schmitt, Ph.D.
Dean, Community & Technical College