

UAA

ALUMNISPirit

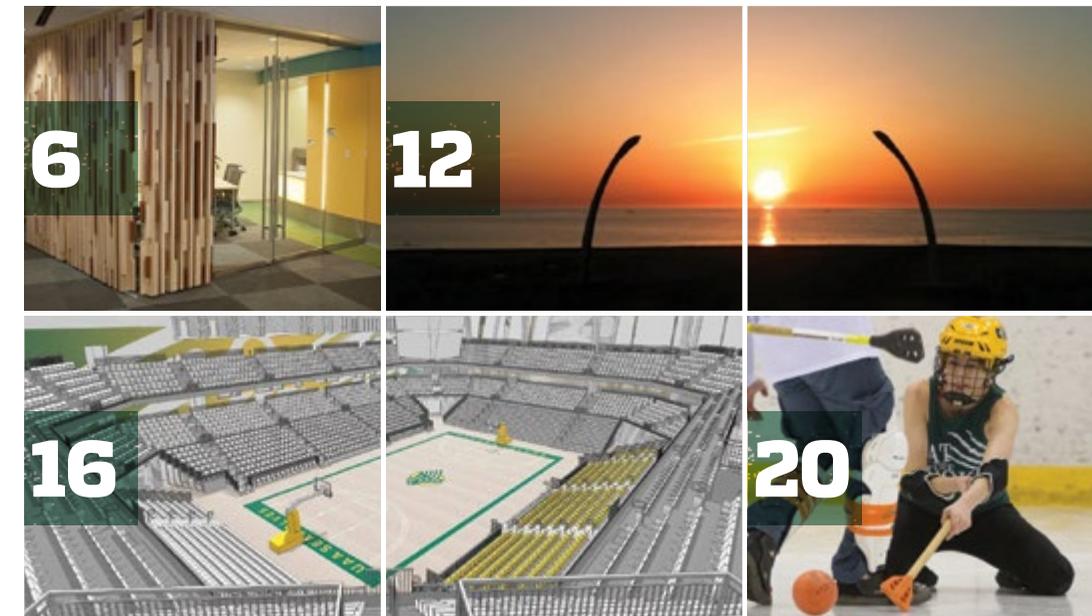
Spring 2014 • Issue 01

PREMIER ISSUE

Alumni profiles | New sports arena | Community research



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ON THE COVER

The cherry and birch feature at UAA's new Alumni Center symbolizes light streaming through an urban forest.

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FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the first edition of our new magazine, *UAA Alumni Spirit*.

This twice-yearly print publication, along with its regularly updated online edition, signals a fresh approach to connecting with our impressive graduates. There are 43,000 of you living and working around Alaska and across the United States. You fill roles as entrepreneurs, engineers, scientists, commercial fishermen, teachers, pilots, doctors, nurses, artists, policymakers, parents and leaders.

Besides telling your amazing stories, we'll offer updates on groundbreaking work your alma mater initiates on behalf of a better Alaska and a better world. We want your Seawolf legacy to be a bright and guiding star as you advance toward your own dreams.

Our publication is influenced by a new editorial advisory board made up of UAA alumni. Thank you **Löki Gale Tobin** (B.A. Psychology and Sociology '06) **J.R. Zufelt** (Journalism and Public Communications student '01-'06), **Cassidy Davis** (B.A. Journalism and Public Communications '10) and **Dan Carpenter** (B.A. Journalism '05).

This, then, is our beginning. Help us shape a publication you want to read. Your stories are our stories. We're excited to share them.

Kathleen McCoy, *Editor*



CLARK MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL CREATES AN ORDERLY OASIS FOR CHILDREN

By: Tracy Kalytiak

Not so long ago, Clark Middle School was just another exhausted-looking structure standing in the midst of Mountain View, a community too often used as a punchline in jokes about crime and squalor.

Some of Clark's students were lucky to have enough love and support in their lives to move them toward happy futures. But some students—too many—lived without nurturing parents, predictable meals, reassurance and discipline. Clark's principal, Cessilye Williams (M.Ed., Educational Leadership '02), has spent 13 years working to better the lives, education and community of 1,150 children in her care.

She walked the halls of the old Clark for six years, a brace of keys swaying from her hand. And now she walks the halls at the reborn \$65-million Clark. An

assemblage of fobs, carabiners and newer keys slung over her shoulder mingles companionably with the constellation of pearls and gold adorning her neck.

Classroom doors offer glimpses of children engaged in what they are making, writing and hearing. "I can't remember the last time I set my alarm," Cessilye said. "I'm up, ready to go, with great energy to get started. My barometer for the education we offer at Clark is, would it be good enough for my own children?"

She's as strict at Clark as she likely was with her own children—UAA alumna Jazmine Williams, 24, B.B.A. Marketing '13, and son Scott, 19, who attends Fort Valley State University in Georgia. (Cessilye's husband, Timothy, is

yet another UAA alumnus, M.S. Global Supply Chain Management ('04).

She instills in students a sense of respect for themselves, for others and their still-pristine school. When Cessilye spotted a scatter of peas and broccoli on the carpet of an otherwise-orderly hall, she didn't hesitate or call a custodian. Even though she was wearing heels and perfectly creased gray slacks, Cessilye bent, scooped the spilled vegetables into her hand and disposed of them in a nearby garbage container before resuming her walk.

"I'm proud of the transformation of our school's reputation," she said. "I want to be a partner in our students' learning."

FOLLOW ONLINE: *Cessilye Williams is the opportunity bridge to successful achievement for her talented students.*
Read more at greenandgold.uaa.alaska.edu/alumni-spirit/profiles/



NEW ALUMNI CENTER MAKES HOME FOR ALUMS ON CAMPUS

By: Jamie Gonzales

For alumni who want to come back to campus, but aren't sure where to start, your alma mater has your back. In February, we opened the doors to the new Alumni Center at UAA. Tucked between the UAA/APU Consortium Library circulation desk and Kaladi Brothers Coffee, the glassed-in space sees thousands of students pass by every week.

"This is a beautiful home for alumni where we hope you'll come visit us," said Assistant Vice Chancellor for Alumni Relations Rachel Morse (M.B.A. '08). "Beyond this great space, though, what we're excited to offer you is a dedicated staff of Alumni Relations professionals and a dynamic Alumni Association board who are all committed to helping you connect with each other and with

the vibrant student community."

Alumni Association board member Leverette Hoover (B.S. Technology '96) sees his service on the board as a great way to give back to UAA and help give a leg up to UAA's next generation of graduates. The new Alumni Center gives them a home for outreach activities.

"I would like the board members to volunteer at least 4-8 hours a month, having open-door discussions with any student who would like to stop by and network with industry leaders to learn about different businesses," Hoover said. He sees board members and UAA's alumni network as great resources for students who want to know more about hiring practices, get an insider's perspective on their résumés, receive mock interview coaching or just learn what to expect after graduation.

"My counselors and professors, as well as industry partners and other students, were very engaged to ensure

my success," he said. "When I graduated, I made a commitment to myself that someday I would do whatever I could to make a difference in supporting others' academic adventures, and hoped that I could make a difference."

The university repurposed the Alumni Center real estate from an alcove of little-used lockers and pay phones to create the dedicated space for alumni.

If you've been looking for a good excuse to come back to campus, a visit to the new Alumni Center might be just the thing. If it's been awhile since your last visit, friendly staffers can talk to you about ways to reconnect and give you the inside scoop about what's happening on campus.

"One of the great things about working on campus is the energy students bring and the excitement young people figuring out their lives have," Morse said. "That excitement goes by our door all day, every day. Who wouldn't want to hang out here?"



UAA Alumni Relations worked closely with ECI/Hyer to design an alumni center that is open, colorful and alive. It features conference meeting space and casual corners for conversation. The space is always available to alumni. Stop in!



UAA LITERARY ARTIST: NOTES FROM A REMOTE AND ABUNDANT LIFE

Sara Loewen earned her M.F.A. in creative nonfiction from UAA in 2012. In this excerpt from her book of essays, *Gaining Daylight: Life on Two Islands* published in the Alaska Literary Series by the University of Alaska Press in 2013, we witness a morning window on life at Uyak Bay, her family setnet site on the west side of Kodiak Island. Read more of her work online at the UAA Alumni Spirit website, including a Q & A on her work and life and an excerpt in her own voice.

Excerpt from "To Know a Place"

This morning I climbed down from the loft and looked out at gray sky and water; the cabin still in the mountain shadow that sunrise washes toward the shore. By midsummer, this hillside is a dense green too thick to hike, except

FOLLOW ONLINE: Listen to Sara Loewen read an excerpt and enjoy a Q & A along with the full narrative.

for a crater of exposed rock from an old landslide that carried tub-sized boulders a thousand feet to the beach. A caramel movement caught my eye. A bear sat on the ridge. Both of us taking in the view.

Who else has shared this view? Watched the sun set in June as if it was following a game trail along the mountains across the bay? A disappointed gold miner who left dishes and a rusted bed frame that we hauled from the creek. Alutiiq families who gathered the shells and bones that sift and settle under my garden beds and raspberry patch.

Uyak is surrounded by five thousand years' worth of Alutiiq settlements—a reminder that we live by our bellies.

People stayed here for the food that washed in with tides and seasons, for the traffic of otters, seals, sea lions, whales and fish.

To the west, millions of salmon once returned to the Karluk River. Halibut and cod wander beneath sockeye and humpies skipping into the air and up the bay. Daily, the sea steps back with a waiter's flourish. Butter clams, octopus, littleneck clams, cockles, mussels, whelks, urchins, chitons. A salad of seaweed is strewn along the beach—brown, popweed, bull kelp and ribbon. There's an old saying on Kodiak: *When the tide is out, the table is set.*

VOLLEYBALL ALUMNA HAS NEW PASSION: RIDING 500-POUND SLEDS

By: Jamie Gonzales

A select few celebrated Valentine's Day this year at subzero in always-classy bunny boots and timeless black snow bibs. The Iron Dog Trail Class riders set the mood for their 1,108-mile trek with a symphony of revving snowmachine engines at the wind-scrubbed Big Lake starting gate.

Distinctive among the 10 teams of Trail Class riders were the three racers for Iron Dog Team BRA, the only women on the lake set to ride that day. Joining UAA engineering and volleyball alumna Rachel Kidwell (B.S. Civil Engineering '11) on their purple-and-pink-wrapped sleds were teammates Becca Charles and April Lorah. (They strung together first initials to arrive at their head-turning team name.)

"We go from Big Lake to Nome," Rachel said, while making last-minute checks of her machine. "The Pro Class riders go from Big Lake to Nome, Nome to Fairbanks."

The Trail Class ride along the traditional Iditarod Sled Dog Race route is often a "trial run" for rookie snowmachine racers to see if they feel ready to tackle the 2,000-mile Pro Class version of the Iron Dog.

Rachel has been riding for just four years, but she jumped in with both feet.

"After I got done playing volleyball at UAA, I started to get into snowmachining," she said. "I just kind of fell in love with it. In volleyball, I was always competitive. It's a team organized sport you can prepare for, so this is my replacement in a sense and I think I might actually like it more."

RACHEL KIDWELL



The Alaska Motor Musers Club introduced her to teammates Becca and April. About a year ago they started planning their Iron Dog debut—going on training runs, working on their wrenching skills, retrofitting their machines, pushing themselves in physical and strength conditioning workouts and finding sponsors.

To date, just one female team has completed the Iron Dog Pro Class race. Rachel thinks it's about time for some more women to break into the elite racing ranks.

"There are some phenomenal riders in this state and I know they could give these guys a run for their money. We're hoping that if they see we can do it, a lot more will get involved."

To read Rachel's full engineer-by-day-snowmachine-racer-by-night story, check out the *UAA Alumni Spirit* website. You can also find photos and videos of Rachel and Team BRA on the trail and learn how they fared on the 5-day race.

FOLLOW ONLINE: Rachel Kidwell was an engaged UAA student who seized opportunity and fun all along her college career. Read more at greenandgold.uaa.alaska.edu/alumni-spirit/profiles/

FOR THIS CERAMIC ARTIST, IT'S ALL ABOUT THE STORY

By: Kathleen McCoy

Artist Ed Mighell knows the power of story. Every ceramic tile he shapes, presses and fires using his own special clay recipe from Bootlegger Cove is part of his story.

For a decade now, this UAA alumnus (B.S. Civil Engineering '92; B.F.A. Printmaking '06) has been selling his art at local markets and by commission. But Mighell says buyers want more than something beautiful. "They buy the story" behind the work, he says. His education and career choices have shaped an evolving tale of artistic quest enriched by cultural heritage.

His early life was shaped by an Inupiaq mother and a Caucasian father, employed with the Army Corps of Engineers. Though Mighell was born in Harrisburg, Pa., he has toddler memories of visiting Point Hope, his mother's home, and seeing seals and rustic wooden boats hauled up on the beach.

As a youngster, he faced his mother's early death and trailed his working father across the globe to Ethiopia, Yemen and Egypt. After drifting

through a number of jobs in his 20s, he settled into earning a civil engineering degree at UAA. "It's what

my family did," he said. "I thought, if they can do it, I can too."

That degree led to a successful career. He even returned to Point Hope, this time on a water-sewer project for his mother's village. He came to appreciate the perks of his professional life: high salary, paid vacations and a company car.

Still, something was missing. Mighell describes feeling frustrated and uninspired, often cooped up in a cubicle running cost analyses. Tugging at him were the art classes he'd always pursued, one a semester, as he progressed through engineering school and his life after. Art professor Garry Kaulitz finally suggested he bundle all those credits into a B.F.A. a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in printmaking.

Mighell took that advice, and stepped off into the uncertainty of a whole new career, this time as a full-time artist. He learned of a once thriving ceramics tradition in his mother's region—useful, hand-shaped pots fired amid burning embers. While that craftsmanship is now gone, Mighell feels the connection as he presses his designs in clay on a printing press. He shares this story and other details of Alaska Native art with those drawn to his contemporary tilework. It's all part of his story.



ED MIGHELL



FOLLOW ONLINE: Twice in his life, UAA degrees launched Ed Mighell in new directions. Read more at greenandgold.uaa.alaska.edu/alumni-spirit/profiles/



ALUMNI AT UAA: JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Whether it's fun at the April 3 "9 in the Spine" Alumni ParTee (yes, that was golfing in the above-ground walkways at UAA!), or the growing success of the Green & Gold Gala raising scholarship funds for UAA students, the sense of momentum around UAA alumni just keeps growing.

New chapters are signing on every week. Nona Gunn, with UAA Alumni Relations, is guiding the emerging interest based on geography and academic or professional interest.

UAA has long enjoyed active participation from two existing chapters:

- College of Engineering
- Aviation

Just since January 2014, seven others have come on

board, approved by the UAA Alumni Association Board of Directors in February:

- UAA Alumni Chapter of Houston, Texas (this chapter, for now, also includes a lone alumna in Dallas)
- Seawolf Athletics (student-athletes)
- University Honors College
- Juneau Area Alumni
- Alumni for the Advancement of College Health Professionals
- Justice Alumni
- D.C. Area Alumni

In the works are four more chapters:

- Seattle
- Music
- San Antonio
- ANSEP

NONA GUNN

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JENNIFER WISEL

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The philosophy behind our chapters is based on the alumni-to-alumni connection.

These chapters are alumni led and create incredibly useful networks between alums, students, the community, professionals and UAA.

With the new Alumni Center now open, these engaged alumni and chapters have a visible and beautiful new home on campus. The Alumni Center (see story p. 6-7) is a significant space that proclaims

the university's esteem for its former students—that their time at UAA is a recognizable part of the university's history.

Creating and joining a chapter is easy. The best way to get started is to contact Nona Gunn (see below). She can place you in a chapter or help you create one. To begin, all you need are two alums and Nona's phone number! Chapter membership is free and alumni Wolfcards are free. Find out more online at www.uaa.alaska.edu/alumni/.

FOLLOW ONLINE: Visit UAA Alumni Relations for links to our new alumni Facebook page and our LinkedIn networking page. www.uaa.alaska.edu/alumni/

ST. LAWRENCE ISLAND



Photo by Tiffany Irmihigan, Savoonga, St. Lawrence Island



The red dots on the map indicate the location of military sites. The black dots indicate the location of the island's villages.

UAA SCIENTISTS, ACAT AND COMMUNITY RESEARCHERS INVESTIGATE ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINANTS

By Kathleen McCoy

The work of two UAA scientists, Frank von Hippel and Loren Buck—collaborating with community members and an advocacy organization—may finally link environmental contaminants to diseases and defects that have plagued the St. Lawrence Island community of 1,500 for decades.

Just 38 miles from Russia and 162 miles from Nome, St. Lawrence Island is so



Photo by John Postlethwait, University of Oregon

scrubbed by vigorous Bering Sea weather that it would seem invulnerable to modern, man-made scourges.

Not so. A legacy of two Cold War military sites abandoned in the 1970s, plus the surprising phenomenon of environmental contaminants from around the globe that drift to the Arctic, have turned this pristine and wind-whipped landscape into a repository of leftover chemistry known to be dangerous to humans.

PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyl) from the abandoned military sites, along with the drifting PBDEs (polybrominated diphenyl ethers, used to make furniture and electronics fire resistant)



Photo by Samarys Seguinot-Medina, ACAT

and PFCs (perfluorinated compounds, used to make fabrics stain-resistant and keep Teflon pans slippery) long have been suspected in island illnesses and deaths.

Savoonga health aide Annie Alowa sounded the alarm in the late 1970s over concern with the abandoned military

site at the Northeast Cape, located close to a popular subsistence food-gathering spot.

Alowa was joined by Pam Miller, founder of Alaska Community Action on Toxics, and eventually by Dr. David Carpenter, a New York medical researcher

"IT IS REALLY PERSONAL." SAYS VI WAGHIYI. "MY DAD DIED OF COLON CANCER. MY MOM HAD COLON CANCER. I HAVE HAD THREE MISCARRIAGES MYSELF."

who had done similar work with the Mohawk Nation of Akwesasne, N.Y. They produced a study in 2002 that showed St. Lawrence Island residents had elevated levels of PCBs, with 7-9 times as many in their blood as average Americans, due to their global transport and accumulation in Arctic subsistence foods. Residents who hunted and fished near the Northeast Cape had the highest levels, showing that contamination from nearby military sites contributed to the elevated levels.

Those findings were an eerie echo of research that began in Canada in the 1980s. Researchers there were surprised to find that the Inuit women on supposedly pristine Baffin Island in eastern Canada had highly elevated levels of PCBs, pesticides and heavy metals.



Vi Waghiyi



Pam Miller

"That was a wake-up call for the entire planet," says Miller. "That finding alone prompted the United Nations to negotiate the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (the POPS treaty)." Initially 12 chemicals were banned; that list has grown to almost 25, including certain PFCs and PBDEs that are now found on St. Lawrence Island.

Since then, Miller and Vi Waghiyi, a Yupik leader, mother and grandmother from St. Lawrence Island, and others, have engaged in national and international forums to ban environmental contaminants. Indigenous peoples of the north are more at risk due to their geographic location and reliance on subsistence foods, especially long-lived, high trophic animals like bowhead whale, walrus and seal.

The two UAA scientists and ACAT used these early studies to secure a five-year, \$2.2-million RO1 research grant from the NIH to fund an extended community-based research project. Their team includes village leaders on the St. Lawrence Island Working Group as well as community researchers trained in scientific sample collection.

Together they are checking contaminant levels in traditional foods, household dust and human blood serum. Another component is looking at freshwater fish, the ninespine stickleback and the Alaska blackfish, found in both contaminated and control sites on the island.

The team is comparing contaminant levels and investigating how these chemicals disrupt the health of stickleback and blackfish. "We think that a lot of the health problems we see here are due to endocrine disruption caused by these contaminants," von Hippel said. The research team plans to report results to the working group this summer.

The team is also doing work that wasn't part of the original grant and may yield significant findings, including an investigation of how contaminants affect gene expression in stickleback on St. Lawrence Island. Humans share 70 percent of their genes with bony fishes. If researchers locate the particular genes affected by the contaminants, they can quickly find out if humans also have those genes, a tool that became available only a few years ago. "Then we have a target for how these contaminants are affecting human health [which] could lead to therapies," von Hippel said.

The losses on St. Lawrence Island have been steep. "It is really personal," says

The NIH grant provided funding to train community researchers in sampling techniques to advance the investigation.



Vi Waghiyi. "My dad died of colon cancer. My mom had colon cancer. I have had three miscarriages myself."

As dark as the impacts have been, von Hippel, Miller and Waghiyi remain optimistic. They see a remedy.

"You can prevent the inputs," von Hippel said. "And where you have a contaminated site, you can clean it up. It may take a long time, but there are ways to clean it up."

The collaborative team hopes that the science will inform state, national and international policies to reduce harmful chemical exposures.

Right: Doctoral student James Willacker helped teach community researchers how to sample fish during a training program paid for by the NIH grant.



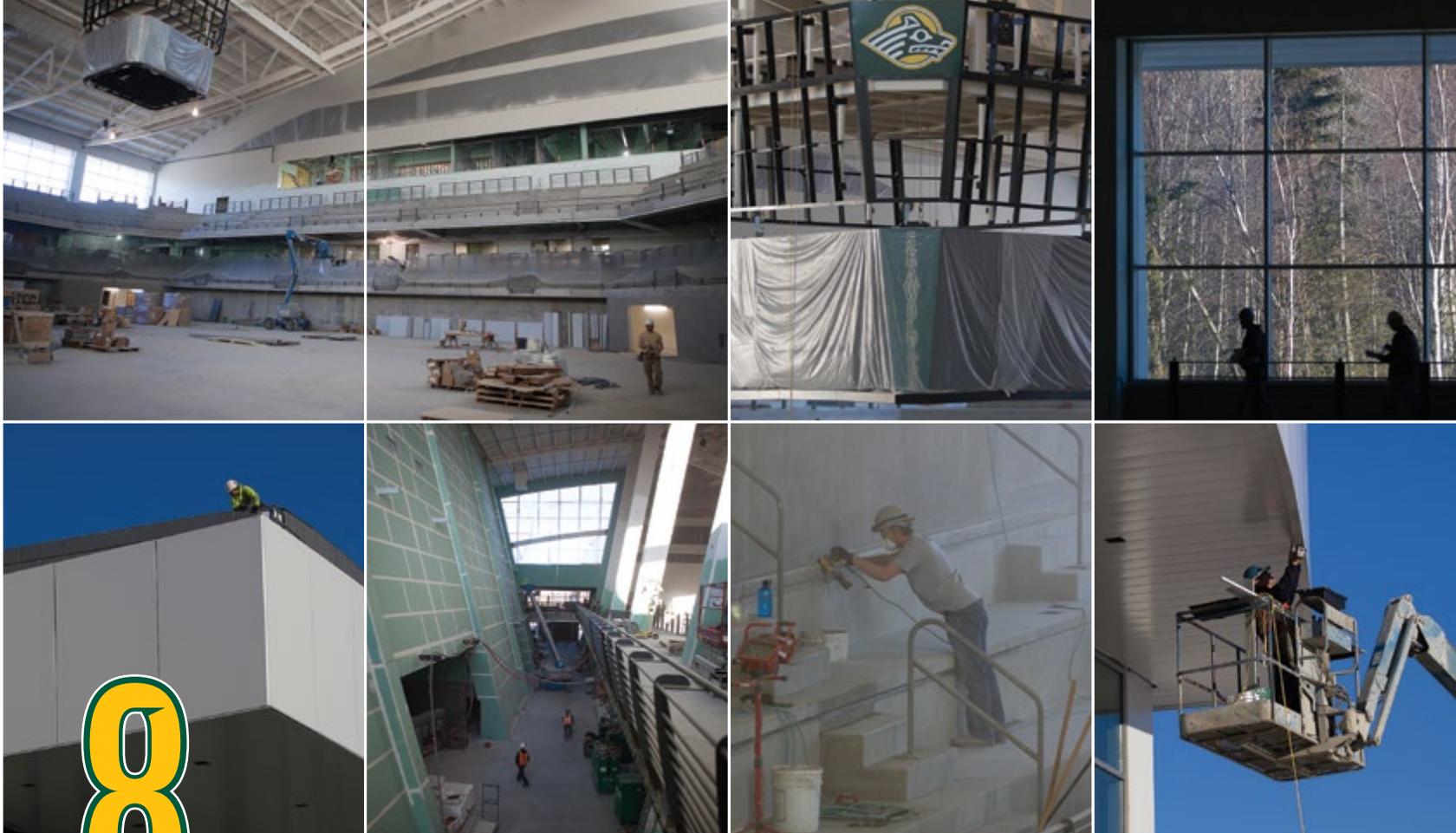
Photos this page by Samarys Seguinot-Medina, ACAT





SEAWOLVES

FOLLOW ONLINE: Watch the new arena take shape in a 30-second time-lapse video. <http://bit.ly/1hwOVS5>



8

REASONS TO VISIT THE NEW ALASKA AIRLINES CENTER

UAA Athletic Director Keith Hackett calls the new 197,000-square-foot Alaska Airlines Center (AAC) taking shape on campus a “communiversity” project. The new \$109-million home for Seawolf Athletics will host hundreds of athletic competitions, concerts, dances, meetings, conferences, youth camps and commencements, annually. Although the doors won’t officially open until August 2014—and all signs point to an on-time, on-budget opening—UAA staffers are already fielding calls from community groups eager to stage their events in the new 5,600-seat performance arena and 500-seat auxiliary gym. Here are some reasons alumni may want to come calling this fall:

1 You are a UAA super fan. Fans are assured a great view in both the performance arena and the auxiliary gym. “There isn’t a bad seat in the house,” Hackett said. “This will be the premier facility for Division II athletics in the NCAA in the entire country,” Hackett said. “There is no place that will have a better venue to host Division II basketball and volleyball and Division I gymnastics—nowhere close to this.” UAA’s volleyball players will be the first to debut in the performance arena.

2 Indoor, two-lane jogging track and a 1,300-square-foot fitness center. Maybe you’re into mall-walking, maybe you’re not. If not, here’s another indoor fitness option alumni can take advantage of. You’ll have the opportunity to purchase a membership at the new fitness center, which will be open access for current students. Go ahead, see if you can outrun a 20-year-old. Fair warning: We field national champion runners on our track & field and cross country teams.

3 Wood-fired pizza, beer and wine.

All that activity cheering in the stands and panting on the jogging track are bound to make you hungry. A brand-new full-service restaurant will be built into the second floor of the new AAC. An Alaska company, NANA Management Services (NMS), has been awarded the contract and promises to delight guests with wood-fired pizzas, beer and wine 360 days a year, seven days a week, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Bonus: There's a killer view from the patio should you opt for outdoor dining during the balmy months.

4 Bruce Springsteen.

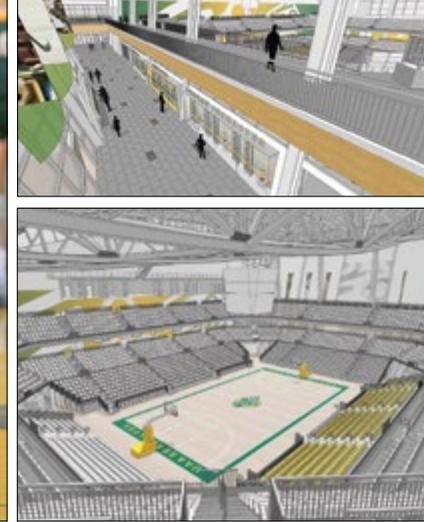
OK, we don't know if The Boss is really coming to UAA, but we can hope. UAA opted to work with a professional management company to ensure visitors to the AAC have a top-notch experience.

"We're working with Global Spectrum. They're owned by Comcast," Hackett said. "What we get from Global Spectrum is probably the most prominent arena and stadium management company on the planet—over 200 venues across the world."

Management companies like Global Spectrum are affiliated with a "stable"

of touring shows that are contracted to perform in the venues they manage. UAA's Concert Board has the opportunity to work with Global Spectrum and connect with the likes of Springsteen, Jay Z, Beyoncé, Pink, Bon Jovi, Kenny Chesney and the Harlem Globetrotters.

"We worked really hard with Sparling down in Portland to make sure it was set up as a great facility for concerts, for commencement, for comedic acts and with the tweak of some buttons, it becomes a great place to have a basketball game. It's all done digitally," said Kevin Silver, UAA's associate



Commencement comes back to campus beginning December 2014, when UAA will start hosting two ceremonies each year. The new arena has been dubbed a "communiversity" project for the support it will provide to both college and community athletics and events.

athletic director and part of the team that's overseen the progress of the AAC from concept to reality.

5 Lucky you, your company bought a box suite.

If you're on the nice list at work, you just might get a chance to experience VIP viewing from one of the five box suites overlooking the performance arena. On sale now for \$25,000 a year with three-year contract preference, the suites can seat 12, with full-service catering from NMS. The cost includes season passes to all home games in the arena and dibs on show tickets as they become available.

6 Pomp and circumstance might just reel you in.

Roughly 30 years ago, UAA outgrew the Wells Fargo Sports Complex as a venue to host commencement. Starting in December 2014, UAA will move to two commencement ceremonies per year—one for spring grads and one for fall and

summer grads. Both will be hosted in the AAC.

7 You really want to learn, once and for all, what exactly a seawolf is.

Chances are you've met Spirit. You may have even carried a Flat Seawolf to your more far-flung destinations (Traveling Spirit has his own Facebook page). But if you were asked to explain the mythology, you might scratch your head. The Legend of the Seawolf is set to greet visitors near the entrance of the AAC, detailing the origins of UAA's mascot.

8 If you ever sported an official Seawolf jersey, you're invited to the first-ever Seawolf Athletics Alumni Reunion.

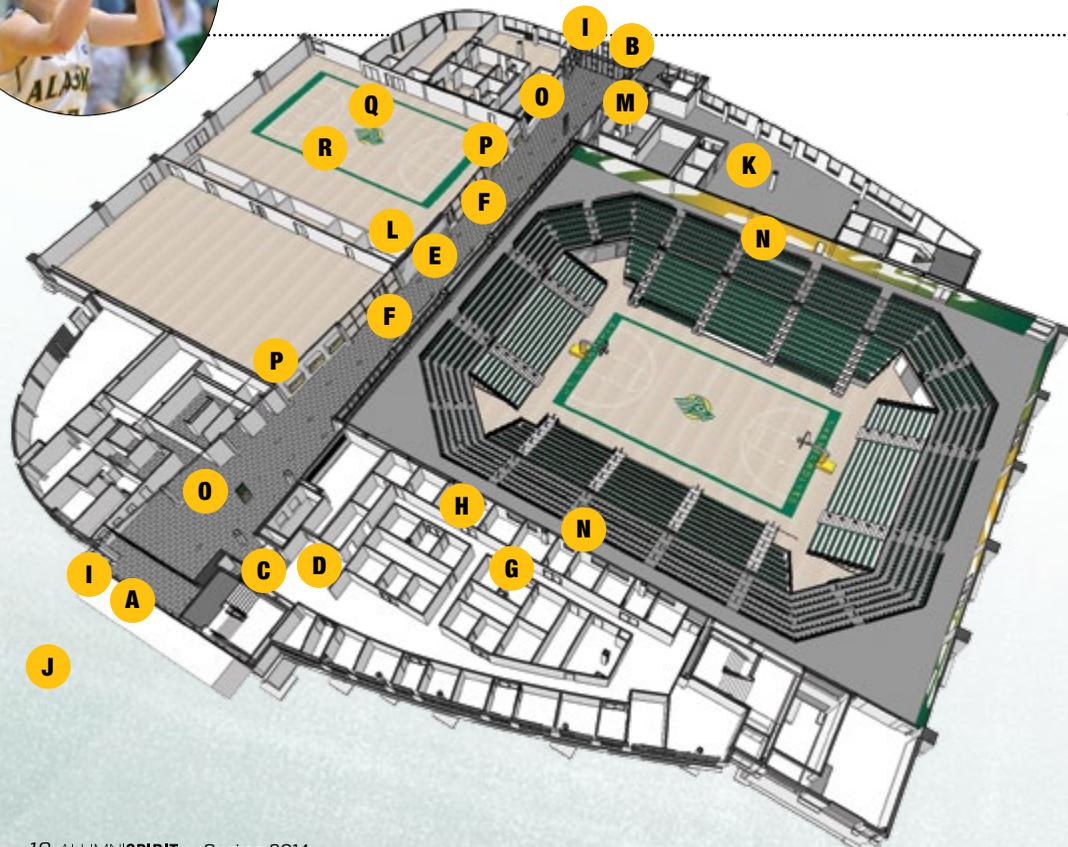
We want to welcome our Seawolf Athletics alumni back to campus Sept. 5-7, 2014. Come rub elbows with your old teammates and meet the newest generation of student-athletes. Tell them how you trudged uphill both ways in

the snow to put UAA Athletics on the map and get them those state-of-the-art training facilities and locker rooms in the AAC. Say, is that an underwater treadmill for rehabbing injured athletes? Yes, yes it is.

Still undecided? Check out the web extras online for a virtual tour of the facility. A tour of even the unfinished center has changed more than one mind. Showing new student-athlete recruits around the AAC is Silver's new favorite task.

"They look around and say, 'Well, this really complicates my decision,'" he said with a laugh.

When the doors open, Hackett said, "People are going to know that business and intercollegiate athletics at University of Alaska Anchorage have changed."



- "The Seawolves Live Here" - Bronze Sculpture - **A**
- Donor Recognition Wall - **B**
- Artifact - Athlete of the (current) Year - **C**
- Historical Branding (Gym Floor) - **D**
- National Tournaments - **E**
- Legends (Hall of Fame) - **F**
- Coach ID - **G**
- Team Branding - **H**
- Major ID - **I**
- Team Banners - **J**
- Commitment - **K**
- Interactive Media - Heart of the Arena - **L**
- Fitness - **M**
- Graphic Branding - Echo of the Seawolf - **N**
- Digital Bulletin - **O**
- Trophy/Artifact Displays of Excellence - **P**
- Retired Jersey Banners - **Q**
- Great Alaska Shootout Banners - **R**

WINTERFEST 2014

In month five of every snow-encrusted winter, Seawolves like to shake things up with indoor and outdoor fun. This year's festivities were Feb. 21 through March 1, and included a first-ever Winter Design Project on the Cuddy Quad.



Herminia Dim, professor of art education, pioneered a 12-foot D.I.Y. "Flow of Color" sculpture made of recycled bottle caps.



Warming barrels lured visitors to the Cuddy Quad, where snow sculptures and snow painting invited personal expression.



Broomball, an ice game that borrows strategies from hockey, is the perfect way to let off winter steam during Winterfest.





Outside, an army of tiny snowmen (no carrots for noses, please; too tempting for our campus moose), ice music, multi-colored frozen gloves, sculptures of all sorts.



Inside, facial hair galore at the 4th annual Beard and 'Stache Competition.



WINTERFEST 2014



KEITH HACKETT

FROM WOLF PACK TO SEAWOLF: NEW ATHLETIC DIRECTOR MOVES UAA FORWARD

By: Tracy Kalytiak

Six months ago, Keith Hackett walked into a just-subsiding maelstrom that ended with UAA's hockey coach and athletic director being fired.

"I knew about the unrest, the fractures," Hackett said. "My responsibility was to come in and keep an open mind. I was prepared for the opportunity, to try to move us forward. The past is prologue."

The person who first thought of the adage, "A stranger is just a friend I haven't met yet," probably had someone just like UAA's ebullient new athletic director in mind.

Hackett walks to on-campus appointments—smiling, waving, offering a warm handshake. Appointments pack his calendar, yet Hackett knows

the resonance of a caring gesture—he sends handwritten thank-you notes, on Seawolf-emblazoned cards.

He works in a crevice of the Wells Fargo Sports Complex, amid a soundtrack of soft bleats from his desk phone, buzzes from his cell phone and, every few seconds, a cheerful "ding" announcing another email landing in his computer's inbox.

Hackett checks the phones, skims through the inbox, managing responses he will make to each contact.

He is confronting budget issues and, most critical, knitting together closer ties with student-athletes, alumni and the Anchorage community. If two gleaming additions to Hackett's office are any indication, however, the gears of forward motion seem to be meshing.

A Great Northwest Athletic Conference indoor track and field competition trophy celebrated UAA claiming four titles and sweeping the 5,000-meter podium. The second trophy honored UAA's women's cross country team, which captured fourth place at the NCAA Women's Cross Country Meet.

And there's been other uplifting news since Hackett arrived from Reno: The Seawolves hockey team ended the regular season with a winning record for the first time since 1992-1993—16-14-4—claiming the No. 6 seed in the Western Collegiate Hockey Association playoffs.

"I have the right tools, great people to work with," Hackett said. "Whatever circumstances are, they're nothing we can't fix. We're going to figure out a way to do this."

ATHLETICS HIGHLIGHTS

Compiled by Nate Sagan

PAST



1977-78: UAA becomes an NCAA Division II member, sponsoring hockey, men's and women's basketball, riflery and skiing.

1978: UAA begins one of the most storied traditions in college basketball with the inaugural Great Alaska Shootout – originally known as the Sea Wolf Classic. After five years at Buckner Field House, the event moves to Sullivan Arena from 1983-2013.

1988: Men's basketball becomes the first Seawolf team to reach an NCAA title game, losing the championship tilt to UMass-Lowell in Springfield, Mass.

1990-92: The Seawolf hockey team qualifies for three straight NCAA tournaments, including an NCAA quarterfinals appearance with a historic upset of Boston College in 1991.

2005: The Seawolf track & field teams are officially established. Since then, UAA has produced four individual national champions and finished in the top 10 in multiple NCAA meets.

2008: UAA's men's and women's basketball teams make simultaneous runs to the Final Four, becoming just the second school in NCAA Division II history to accomplish that feat.

PRESENT



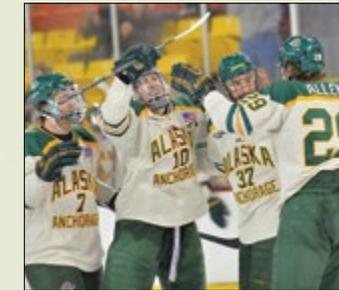
UAA's men's and women's basketball teams clinched their ninth and eighth consecutive winning seasons, respectively, with this year's performances.



The Seawolf volleyball team earned its fourth NCAA Tournament berth in the past five years in 2013, with local (South Anchorage HS) star Katelynn Zanders earning All-America honors.



The Seawolf cross country teams continued their dominance in 2013, sweeping the men's and women's team titles at the GNAC Championships. The women's team also went on to earn the NCAA West Region title and finished a program-best fourth place at the NCAA Championships.



Under the leadership of new head coach Matt Thomas, the Seawolves have become contenders again in the Western Collegiate Hockey Association, winning their own Kendall Hockey Classic and posting the program's first winning record in 20 years.



UAA's ski team produced the RMISA men's Nordic MVP with senior Lukas Ebner, while sophomore Marine Dusser was the runner-up in the women's Nordic standings. With a full 12-skier squad qualified for NAAs, the Seawolves are trying for yet another top-10 national finish.

FUTURE

In August, the Seawolf Athletic Department will move into the \$109 million Alaska Airlines Center on the corner of Providence and Wellness drives on campus. The AAC will be the competitive arena for men's and women's basketball, volleyball and gymnastics, as well as a training facility for all other Seawolf sports.

The Alaska Airlines Center will have an overall seating capacity of approximately 5,000, with the option to resize for smaller events.

The Great Alaska Shootout will move into the AAC in 2014, while the new facility will also provide the opportunity to host NCAA regional and national events. As a community arena as well, the AAC will be home to concerts, graduations, trade shows and more. The 2015 MPSF Women's Gymnastics Championships are already slated for the Alaska Airlines Center.



The Alaska Airlines Center will become a significant recruitment tool for the UAA campus and Seawolf Athletics. The new building will allow our coaches to recruit a higher caliber of student and student-athlete and put our teams in a position to compete for championships on an annual basis.

The Alaska Airlines Center will become a gathering place for many other campus, community and statewide events—including high school state championships—and allow Athletics and the rest of the campus to showcase what UAA is all about.

This page of alumni updates was compiled by Joey Besl, new to UAA as an alumni communications specialist. Going forward, we hope you'll file your moments of pride and achievement with us at the link at the bottom of this page, so we can share your success.



1992

Bobbie Sue Wolk, B.B.A. Accounting, has moved her accounting and executive coaching business, Rosewood LLC, back to Anchorage after living in Juneau for the past seven years. She has owned and operated her business for 20 years.

1997

Dawson Moore, B.A. Theatre, runs the Last Frontier Theatre Conference in Valdez, at Prince William Sound Community College. His

own plays have been produced across the country and internationally, and his play *Six Dead Bodies Duct-Taped to a Merry-Go-Round* was published in *Best American Short Plays 2010-2011*. For the past decade, he has produced the biannual 24-hour theater project, the Alaska Overnights, with TBA Theatre in Anchorage.

1997

Dirk Willis, B.Ed. Elementary Education, is the site supervisor for a Boys & Girls Club program at Turnagain Elementary in Anchorage.

He is also busy putting a book together about his time in Thailand, where he worked as a home-school teacher for a traveling American family.

1998

Jean Bundy, B.F.A. Art, is completing an online Ph.D. course through the Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts. She has traveled to Florence, Berlin and Paris through the program, and plans to start her thesis on the art of Winston Churchill in the next year. She writes art criticism for Town Square 49 on Alaska Public Media and recently covered the Whitney Biennial art show in Manhattan.

2003

Nicole Borromeo, B.A. Justice, recently joined the Alaska Federation of Natives as general counsel. After obtaining her juris doctor degree from the University of Washington School of Law, she returned to Alaska to work as a law clerk in Juneau and a legal associate in Anchorage before

assuming her current role. She is a Doyon shareholder and resides in Anchorage with her husband and son.

2004

Judy Staveley, B.S. Biological Sciences, taught several years at UAA before continuing her studies at Johns Hopkins University. She lives with her family in the Baltimore area and teaches biological sciences and forensics at Frederick Community College in Maryland. Judy mentored the hockey and gymnastics teams while teaching at UAA and her son, only 2 years old when they left Alaska, still skates in a Seawolves jersey in Baltimore. She recently launched a magazine, *The Platform*, featuring a column from UAA classmate Dr. Kristen Eastman (B.S. Biological Sciences, '04). Her magazine is available online at theplatformmagazine.com.

2004

Jason Eisert, B.A. History '04, B.A. English '10, is graduating with an M.F.A. and M.A.T. from UAA this

spring and plans to apply for high school English teacher positions for the fall.

2007

Jacinda Walker, B.A. Journalism and Public Communications, currently works as a sales representative for Staples Advantage business-to-business sales. She now lives in Beaverton, Ore. and will return to Alaska this fall for her first ultramarathon, the Resurrection Pass Ultra 50-mile race.

2008

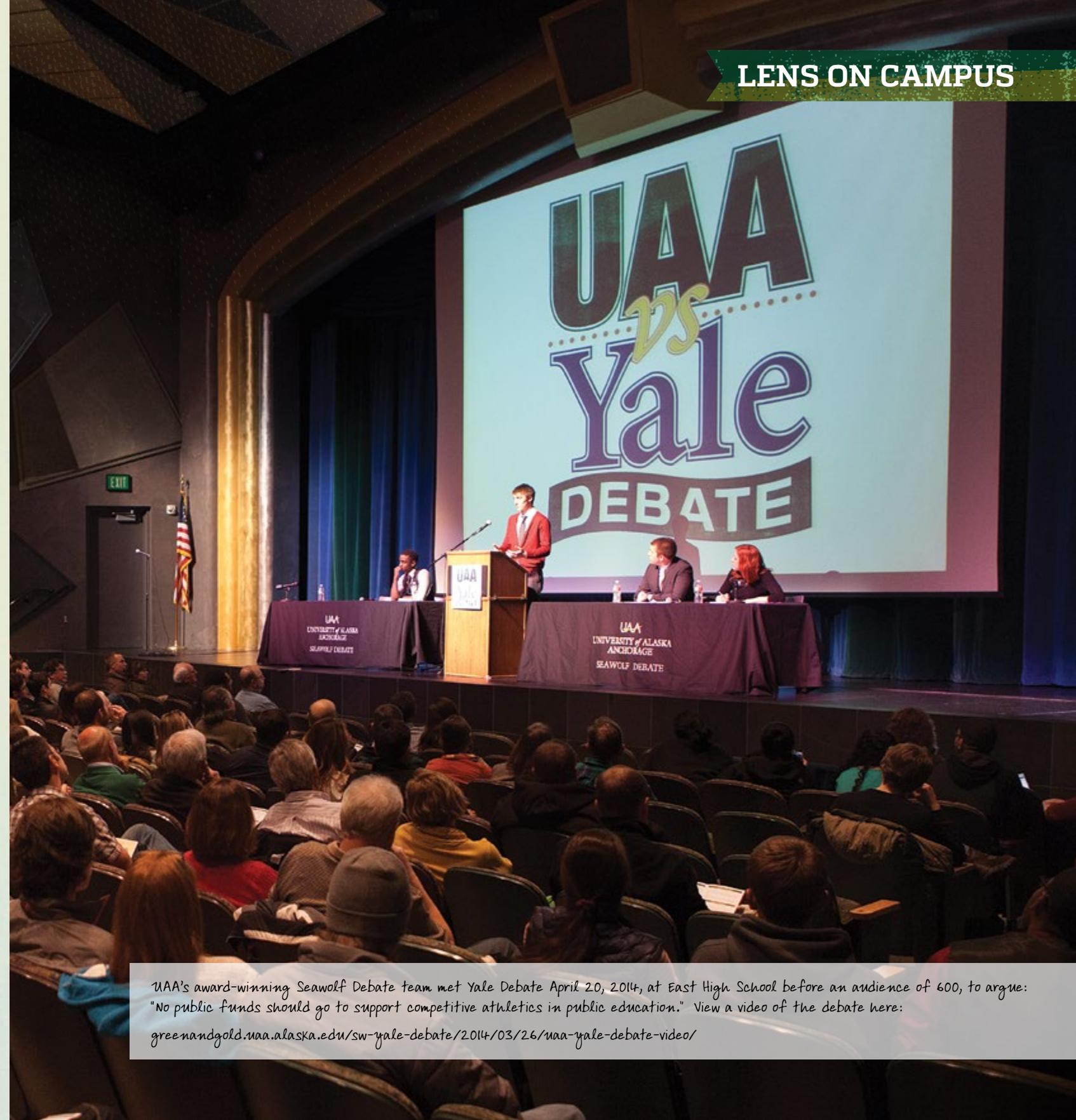
Heather Cavanaugh, M.B.A., currently serves as director of Marketing and Corporate Communications at Alaska Communications. Additionally, she acts as president of the Public Relations Society of America, Alaska Chapter and recently earned Accreditation in Public Relations (APR) from the Public Relations Society of America.



Alumni Stephen Trimble '08, Susan LaBelle '84, '97 and Sophie Minich '89 were honored at last fall's Alumni Relations Green & Gold Gala. This year's Gala will be held in the new Alaska Airlines Center, the first event to take place in this new facility.

SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE

Did you get a new job? A promotion? Did you join the service or get deployed overseas? On the home front, have you celebrated a wedding or the addition of a new member to your clan? Your UAA family wants to know. Please submit your news online at this link: greenandgold.uaa.alaska.edu/alumni/class-notes/ Any questions? Give UAA Alumni Relations a call at (907) 786-1942 or email uaa_alumnirelations@uaa.alaska.edu.



UAA's award-winning Seawolf Debate team met Yale Debate April 20, 2014, at East High School before an audience of 600, to argue: "No public funds should go to support competitive athletics in public education." View a video of the debate here: greenandgold.uaa.alaska.edu/sw-yale-debate/2014/03/26/uaa-yale-debate-video/



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