ON THE COVER
Civil engineering student Connor Eshleman welds UAA’s steel bridge entry for the 2017 American Society of Civil Engineering Pacifi c Northwest Student Conference. Sixteen Seawolves spent spring semester designing, fabricating and practicing the construction of their bridge for the timed competition against 20 regional institutions April 20–22. This ties in to this issue’s theme, “Bridging the gap,” illustrating ways UAA is making college education more relevant for students.

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The online magazine can be found at: tinyurl.com/alumnispirit

Civil engineering student Connor Eshleman welded UAA’s steel bridge entry for the 2017 American Society of Civil Engineering Pacific Northwest Student Conference. Sixteen Seawolves spent spring semester designing, fabricating and practicing the construction of their bridge for the timed competition against 20 regional institutions April 20–22. This ties in to this issue’s theme, “Bridging the gap,” illustrating ways UAA is making college education more relevant for students.
Graduating as a Seawolf is a tie that binds all alumni from the University of Alaska Anchorage. It is this common link that has allowed us to pursue success in professional endeavors and beyond. Leveraging these connections for achievement or maintaining the bridge to one’s alma mater provides a variety of positive benefits. Whether it is a contact that opens the door to your next career opportunity or a friendly face to connect with over coffee, continued involvement with UAA can take place no matter where you are.

Efforts to engage alumni in the greater Seattle area kicked off this spring with a collective UA networking event and panel discussion centered on leadership. Additional alumni mixers are slated to take place throughout the spring and into the fall.

I challenge you to get involved with your local alumni chapter and nurture your valuable green and gold network.

Sincerely,

Cassidy Davis
B.A. Journalism & Public Communications ’10
UAA Alumni Association Pacific Northwest Chapter

To find out more about other alumni in your area or ways to get involved, contact the UAA Office of Alumni Relations at 907-786-1942 or seawolf.forever@alaska.edu.
Enzina Marrari, B.A. Art ’05, felt dissatisfied. She was 19 years old and had started college in her home state of Illinois, but the transition didn’t feel right. Then she heard a friend talking about Alaska in a passing conversation. “Something clicked in my brain,” she said. “I thought, ‘Alaska sounds like a really good adventure, and I’m craving adventure.’”

So, Marrari started researching colleges to see if she could transfer. She soon discovered UAA and made the move to Anchorage, a community she found very friendly and supportive.

Professor Hugh McPeck, then head of the UAA sculpture program, was one of those supportive people she met here. He encouraged Marrari to stay focused at the times when she felt particularly burnt out from the stress of working while going to school. He became her mentor while she was in college and continued to be a friend and advocate following her graduation. His death three years ago was a blow to students, both past and present, as well as to the art community.

Marrari said McPeck helped her shape her artistic vision. Today, she uses her art to express personal concepts and ideas to create a shared experience around them.

Her primary message to people who may feel awkward about stepping foot into an art gallery: Art is accessible and available to everyone and doesn’t require any special skills to appreciate. Art is something everyone could do, she said, if they set aside their fears.

“We can always find justification or excuses not to do something, and it’s often fear-based,” she said. “I truly think everyone can create.”

Now, Marrari works as curator of public art for the Municipality of Anchorage and manages the public art program. The program, based on state and federal law, mandates municipal structures or facilities with construction budgets greater than $250,000 allocate 1 percent of the budget to acquire permanent artwork for the site. For projects with budgets that exceed $1 million, artwork must be selected through a juried public process.

Public art tells the story of our community and state, while reflecting our sense of identity. “Public art invigorates and revitalizes our public spaces,” she said. “It shows a community that cares about its city, that takes care of its city, that wants its city to reflect its beliefs.”

Marrari also teaches art courses at UAA and coordinates art shows for Middle Way Café. The café provides local artists of all stages with a space to showcase their work. “I do it because I love this community;” she said. “I care deeply about helping to create a sense of connection. Maybe that comes from wanting there to be a space for people to feel they belong to something.”

“Art matters. I don’t think art is a luxury. I don’t think it’s a commodity. I think it’s a language. I think it makes ideas and thoughts and expression accessible to us. I think it creates a platform for discussion that other ways don’t.”

–Enzina Marrari

“I truly think everyone can create.”
Chris Robinson, M.Ed. Educational Leadership ’08, broke down in tears when he started his new job — not because of the stress, but because of its significance.

As the first full-year teacher-in-residence for the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI), Chris, an educator with Creek and Georgia Cherokee roots, helps the Smithsonian Institution strengthen its educational outreach worldwide.

“As someone with American Indian ancestry, to know that I’m helping and giving back to the ancestors, it’s just more than I can describe,” he said.

After graduating from Sheldon Jackson College in Sitka, Chris taught everywhere from the U.K. to Larsen Bay before arriving in Anchorage to teach at East High, earn his master’s in educational leadership and, coincidentally, meet his future wife, former UAA women’s basketball coach Brandi Dunigan Robinson.

Outside of his Smithsonian appointment, Chris and Brandi are raising their family in the Appalachian foothills of Richmond, Kentucky, where Chris teaches at Model Laboratory. The K-12 school is part of Eastern Kentucky University, where Chris is pursuing a doctorate in education. He mentors education majors in his classroom and teaches two nationally unique courses in Egyptology and field archaeology.

This year, he’s helping NMAI develop and write curricula for indigenous communities of the Western Hemisphere that will be available online through Native Knowledge 360, which, like his role, is funded by a Cargill Foundation grant.

Every region of the Americas has an indigenous history, and Chris hopes to create accurate, informative, entertaining and easily adopted lessons for teachers worldwide. His UAA degree allows him “to see the content not just through teachers’ eyes but also administrators’ eyes.”

Though he hasn’t broken down in tears again, the impact of working at NMAI hasn’t faded. “I walk the galleries at least three or four times a day just to be a part of it, and never lose sight or lose focus of where I am and what needs to be done.”

As manager of the critical-care unit at Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC), Pedro Melgar, B.S. Nursing Science ’02, and his team provide the first line of treatment for the state’s most severe injuries and illnesses. Whether patients arrive from across the street or across the ocean, due to a stroke or a sled accident, if it’s an emergency in Alaska, they’re likely coming to see Pedro and his team.

It’s an extreme environment — medevac patients often arrive on life support — but it suits him perfectly. You learn the most when situations are the most intense, he says. It’s a lesson he learned as a teenager arriving in Anchorage with zero knowledge of English.

Originally from Arequipa, a dense hilly city high in the Peruvian Andes, Pedro moved north with his parents and sisters to be closer to family. He’d finished high school in Peru, but was still high school age by American standards. Rather than start high school again, he turned his attention to UAA, starting with an English as a second language course and branching out to old favorites like chemistry, biology and math. When an in-class nursing presentation caught his eye, he stayed after to learn more and walked out with his first job in the field.

Pedro earned his nursing degree in 2002 and quickly found work — maybe too much work. For four years, he worked full time at both Alaska Regional and ANMC, while raising twin toddlers with his wife. It was intense and, yes, he learned a lot.

Today, his schedule is calmer, even if his workplace isn’t. He represents the critical-care unit at hospital-wide meetings and, as nurse manager, makes sure equipment is maintained, supplies are available, and more than 90 nurses are current on skills and training. Any nurse, with any question, can come to him for support. It’s a team atmosphere Pedro is happy to be a part of. “I love the unit,” he said.

And that unit continues to grow as recent nursing grads join the team, many recommended by his instructor friends at UAA. “The time I spent at UAA was really great,” he recalled. “Now I get nurses that come in new to the ICU, and I see myself in them. You just want to share what you know and help them.”
When Melissa J. Wolf, B.B.A. Accounting ’90, passed, her husband, Greg Wolf, wanted to honor her memory with something meaningful and lasting.

“Flowers are nice, but they only last a few days,” Wolf explained. “I wanted our friends and family to be able to contribute to something that would have a bigger impact.” So, in 2002 he established the Melissa J. Wolf Memorial Accounting Scholarship to offer financial assistance to full-time accounting students in need.

“Melissa got a great education at UAA,” he said. “She had a successful and exciting career and attributed that to the education she got at UAA.” It was his hope that with a scholarship in her name, other students might get that same chance.

To date, 18 accounting students have received a Melissa J. Wolf Memorial Accounting Scholarship. But, the impact of Wolf’s vision is much larger. When he saw the difference that even a small scholarship could make for a student in need, he established two more — the Greg Wolf Global Logistics Scholarship for business students specializing in global logistics management, and the Gail Marshall Memorial Scholarship for students in UAA’s Culinary Arts, Hospitality & Restaurant Management program. In total, Wolf’s scholarships have benefited close to 30 students and awarded nearly $15,000 in financial aid.

To raise funds for the scholarships, Wolf solicits donations from friends, family and professional contacts. A lifelong Alaskan and businessman, he understands the many ways UAA adds value to our community, and why the collective support of many is so important.

“All of us benefit from the university, and all of us are capable of contributing to its success,” he said. “You don’t have to be a millionaire. Even a small gift can make a big difference.”

LEARN HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR A STUDENT OR SUPPORT EXCELLENCE IN ANOTHER AREA OF PERSONAL MEANING TO YOU:
UAA.ALASKA.EDU/GIVING
907-786-4847

UAA’s Culinary Arts, Hospitality & Restaurant Management students.

Sixty-five years ago, Ernestine Hayes, M.F.A. Creative Writing ’03, was a Tlingit first-grader living at “the edge of the village” in Juneau. The time she spent indoors with her grandmother or outdoors with other Tlingits or alone, felt comfortable: “I never questioned that I belonged.”

Hayes then found a parallel world of “unknowable, enchanted people who prepared and ate unknowable, enchanted food” — where people treated her with hostility and indifference.

Hayes’ books and essays reveal the turbulence and triumphs she experienced as a Tlingit Kaagwaantaan clan member growing up in Southeast, and how those shaped her life. Her work has appeared in Studies in American Indian Literature, Tipton Poetry Review, Alaska Quarterly Review and Cambridge History of Western American Literature.

Now, Hayes is the 2017 Alaska State Writer Laureate, the second Alaska Native woman the Alaska State Council on the Arts and the Alaska Humanities Forum has chosen to receive the honor.

After a long absence from Alaska, Hayes returned at the age of 40 — homeless, unemployed and broke — and went on to enroll at the University of Alaska Southeast as a 55-year-old freshman. Her decision to then pursue a UAA Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing and Literary Arts and return to Juneau to teach at UAS was more than she could have dreamed.

“It’s been plain luck and a lot of determination that has brought me to this juncture, along with the support and encouragement of many, many people.”

One of those people was UAA writer Sherry Simpson, who served on Hayes’ M.F.A. thesis committee. “She finished a three-year degree in two years through sheer hard work, incredible focus, and drive,” Simpson said. “I can’t think of a better person to inspire, teach, and challenge us.”

For expanded stories on our four featured alumni, visit tinyurl.com/alumnispirit.
In a world that’s become more connected and competitive, UAA has sought ways to make college education and training more relevant for its students by giving better value: making their total dollars count, enhancing their efforts to earn timely degrees, offering classroom and field experiences that will shape them into graduates with expertise that sets them apart.

Too many prospective students are underprepared, however, when they first try to take college classes they need, costing them (and the state) time and money. Here, we’ve written about UAA’s efforts to create a college-going culture: sparking kids’ interest in college, bridging knowledge and bureaucratic gaps beforehand and maximizing their chances for success once they get here.

“What’s a lacuna?” instructor Kayla Sedlacek asked her students, who sat at microscope-dotted tables in a lab at UAA’s Mat-Su College.

“It’s like a little house,” several of her pupils responded, in unison. “It’s a lot more mature,” she said of AMCS. “In high school there’s always some kid in the back who doesn’t enjoy the class and is making it difficult. Here, everyone’s very focused on school and supporting each other rather than just going because they have to go.”

Delta Summitt was sitting in the nurse’s office at Palmer High School last year, talking with someone about scholarships, when she first heard of AMCS. “They said, ‘Why don’t you go on the bus twice a week to Mat-Su College, where Mat-Su Middle School Academy is just one of many community collaborations UAA has forged in recent years to prepare middle- and high-school students for college by igniting their awareness of college via summer camps and profession-based or enrichment academies.

• The UAA-based Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP) brings fifth-, sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders to live on campus. They work on science and engineering projects with professionals, build a computer; and learn how math and science are used in real-world careers. ANSEP Middle School Academy alumni may deepen that experience in STEM-Career Explorations, a five-day residential program.

• The BP-sponsored Summer Engineering Academies at UAA and, starting last year, at Mat-Su College, give middle- and high-school students a taste of the engineering opportunities offered through UAA — including civil, mechanical, electrical, geomatics and computer science. Kids program robots, build bridges and use a wind tunnel to see how wing aerodynamics works before creating their own tunnel.

• UAA alumna Cessilye Williams, M.Ed. Educational Leadership ’02, principal of Clark Middle School, and UAA Assistant Professor Terry Nelson of the College of Business and Public Policy (CBPP), in 2014, launched a middle-school-appropriate version of Nelson’s Leadership Fellows program called Leadership Fellows Juniors.
Maximizing the potential for student success is top of mind for people like COH’s Carey D. Brown, M.P.A. ’08, who helms UAA’s partnership with Clark’s program gives these students support they’ll need to create firm foundations in math and science classes they’ll need to succeed in high school and college, as well as information about exams, financial aid and scholarship resources, and social skills.

Clark’s Leadership Fellows Juniors quickly attracted faculty and staff at UAA’s College of Education, College of Health (COH) and CBPP’s Information Systems and Decision Sciences Department.

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From 2006–2015, just under 61 percent of Alaska’s 37 largest high schools are not prepared for entry-level students from lower-income families who are first-generation college students. As this alignment begins, UAA is implementing a quality-control system aligning the academic curriculum and university systems, including implementing a quality-control system that provides useful feedback for all. As this alignment begins, UAA is smoothing the path to college for high school students from lower-income families who are first-generation college students.

UAA’s newly established University Hub aims to encourage high school students to become college students and then, once they’re here, become successful college students. Theresa Lyons, executive director for Student Outreach and Transition, says her office will use an award from the UAA Annual Fund for Excellence to launch UAAxpire, a new bridge program to assist and encourage students at East, West and Bartlett high schools. The award offers personalized assistance at the schools with completing financial aid, navigating college admissions and enrollment processes and applying for scholarships.

The new program is crucial because the U.S. Department of Education didn’t renew a grant that funded programs at UAA like Educational Talent Search (ETS), which Lyons said served 750 students in the Anchorage School District, at six middle and high schools. Two-thirds of the ETS population were low-income and first generation students, Lyons said.

The big picture: Creating a college-going culture and an educated populace. “People have to know not just that the college exists, but how to get here and how to stay here,” she said. “We must retain them, and they’ve got to graduate. Twenty percent of the people who get a UA Scholars Award don’t even go, any more.” Access is a large part of the reason, she said.

Having a relationship with the school district and visiting the schools are important, Lyons notes. “You’re talking about a minority of folks that haven’t conceived college.” While students may have the intellect and ability to attend college, they must be able to visualize themselves here and feel comfortable interacting and making friends. “All of those things matter.”

“TWO YEARS AHEAD!”

Back in that lab in Mat-Su, Delta said she felt correct!” Sedlacek said.

At the next table, Delta said she felt confident about what lies ahead for her, in college. “It’s definitely made me more mature, forced me to grow up faster than I probably would have, which is a good thing,” she said. “But I’m two years ahead. I’m going to have [UA] credits when I graduate. And that looks really cool on a transcript.” Be sure to check out our online story, which delves into the ways UAA builds bridges to the future by finding ways to connect students with undergraduate research and field experiences, mentors, job shadowing, leadership and internship opportunities and other experiences that move students into careers — sometimes even before graduation.

Gillian Galloway, left, and Brennan Easley are high school students earning college credit in a UAA anatomy and physiology class as part of Alaska Middle College School.

“TWO YEARS AHEAD!”

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Meanwhile, Sedlacek walked around, talking with students she encountered about mesenchymal cells, elastic tissue and stained cells.

“This one I thought was skeletal muscle,” Brennan told her. “You’re correct!” Sedlacek said.

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Gillian Galloway, left, and Brennan Easley are high school students earning college credit in a UAA anatomy and physiology class as part of Alaska Middle College School.

Sedlacek had set up on the tables, identifying different types of cells. Gillian and Brennan peered down through the eyepiece of one of those microscopes.

“This looks like cardiac,” Gillian said. “I’m almost certain.”

Brennan looked at the same cells. “It doesn’t have those little hash marks, right?” he said. “So would it be smooth muscle?”

“This looks like smooth muscle,” Gillian agreed. “It looks dense; it has fibers running in the same direction, but there’s no striations.”

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Mixed drinks in the laboratory. Frosted-blue eye shadow. Capes and lasers. No, it's not some glam superhero origin story ... just three among hundreds of shows aired on KRUA since it launched Feb. 14, 1992.

College radio first came to Anchorage in 1987, at 50 watts on the AM dial, and only near campus buildings. “That was the antenna, the building itself,” explained Glenn Hagberg ’87, first station manager at Campus Radio.

“[KMPS] was more of an experimental lab,” recalled John Raffetto ’92, KRUA’s first FM manager. “Suddenly the prospect that the entire Anchorage bowl could tune in was electrifying.”

Ambitious students had support from community mentor Augie Hiebert, an Alaska media pioneer who spent his 70s encouraging UAA’s plucky pink-haired teenagers on their FM quest. He donated equipment and engineers, had his D.C. lawyer help with FCC licensing and calmed local broadcasters anxious over the new addition.

The transition took several years, and delays continued through to launch day. While Raffetto was experiencing technical difficulties at the Hillside tower, future station manager Suzi Pearson ’94 was ill and resting in the office, not at her post in the studio (the engineer, meanwhile, grew increasingly anxious, as he’d made Valentine’s Day promises to his wife).

Hours behind schedule, Raffetto and Pearson finally connected to flip the switch (this is the era before cell phones). KRUA volunteers, dispatched citywide like sentinels, turned their dials to The Edge, 88.1. “It was crazy,” Pearson laughed. “Suddenly we had a college radio station in Anchorage.”

The first song — fitting of the transition — was It’s the End of the World as We Know It, by R.E.M. Hours behind schedule, Raffetto and Pearson finally connected to flip the switch (this is the era before cell phones). KRUA volunteers, dispatched citywide like sentinels, turned their dials to The Edge, 88.1. “It was crazy,” Pearson laughed. “Suddenly we had a college radio station in Anchorage.”

It was really cool to see we actually had a scene and to learn about it and to be part of it,” said Sam Trout ’98, who started volunteering as soon as he finished high school. “It was definitely one of the best experiences I had, through college and even afterwards. We were a tight family, so many different personalities involved. It was just an amazing time.”

Recent station manager Audriana Pleas ’14 dittoed that. “I can’t count how many people I’ve met through the station,” she said. “When you go through KRUA, you have a family forever.” Like alumni before her, she makes a point to stay connected. “She is our spiritual advisor,” joked Wright Franklin, current station manager.

At its second birthday, KRUA brought the Violent Femmes to the Egan Center. For year 25, KRUA featured three acts at the Wendy Williamson, including DJ Spencer Lee (Spencer Shroyer ’09), yet another KRUA grad.

Generations of KRUA students know that tidbit by heart, but they’re more likely to tell you a station manager from the ‘90s went on to date Steven Tyler.

KRUA culture launched in town, too — station managers assembled zine-like bulletins via Adobe PageMaker, DJs took shows live to a dance hall in Spenard.

Many volunteers have scrawled their name on the studio wall, and the station left its mark in return (see sidebar). “KRUA launched my career. There is no doubt about it,” said Raffetto, who produced radio pieces for U.S. Sen. Ted Stevens’ D.C. press office after college, thanks to Hiebert’s help. Pearson, too, credits Hiebert for encouraging her to seek a graduate degree at UA.

“I didn’t realize it at the time, but it was the radio station that gave me the relationships and the know-how to do great work the minute I got out of college,” Raffetto noted. “More than any single class or professor, it was the radio station.”

Now in Seattle, he still tunes in when he’s back in Anchorage. “It’s exactly what we envisioned when we started.”

Listen live from anywhere in the world at kruaradio.org.

Whatever happened to those voices on your radio? See what KRUA staffers have pursued since graduation. Asterisks indicate a journalism and public communications graduate.

Glenn Hagberg ’87* Event manager, Bayside Country Club, and DJ Transmissions Anchorage

Wolf Kurtz ’87 Engineer, Seward Public Radio Seward

Margaret Knowles Pease ’89, ’97* St. Service Support Lead, Nintendo Redmond, Washington

John Raffetto ’92* CEO, Raffetto Herman Strategic Communications Seattle, Washington

Suzi Pearson ’94*, ’04 Executive director, ANWC women’s shelter Anchorage

Sam Trout ’98* Freelance illustrator and designer Seattle, Washington

Matt Hopper ’03 Singer-songwriter Portland, Oregon / Phoenix, Arizona / Wasilla

Kamala Derry Stiner ’03 Singer and director of VivaVoom Brr-Lesque Anchorage

Neil Torquiano ’07* Producer, WKJZ-TV Jacksonville, Florida

Audriana Ples ’14* UAA Academic transitions and eLearning staff member, freelance journalist and DJ Eagle River

Share your KRUA memories with us at mgoldfish@alaska.edu or Facebook.com/AlumniUAA.
There is often a difference between the House-proposed budget and the Senate-proposed budget. Before the legislative session ends in mid-April, House and Senate members meet in conference committee, decide on a combined budget, pass it, and then present it to the governor for final approval. If the Legislature is still in session, the governor has 15 days — Sundays excluded — to veto any portion of the budget; if the Legislature has adjourned, the governor has 20 days, excluding Sundays. The budget then becomes law.

Though running a university requires a significant investment from the state of Alaska and those who choose to attend, the return on that investment is strong. A college degree holder earns a lifetime average of $1 million more than a person who only earns a high school diploma. The state can count on a high return on its investment, too; a highly trained and educated local workforce returns several millions of dollars on a high return on its investment, too; a highly trained and educated local workforce returns several millions of dollars each year to Alaska’s economy. Funding higher education is partially funded by the state of Alaska. These funds — along with private donations, tuition and earned revenue — help support programs at all UA campuses. The budget is developed in two categories: one-time capital requests and ongoing operational expenses.

UA’s budget planning process for the upcoming fiscal year begins in the spring with UA President Jim Johnsen, statewide staff and university leadership discussing institutional priorities to meet state needs. In June, the president and administrative staff lead a discussion with the Board of Regents to build the upcoming operating and capital budgets.

The funding priorities for the budget are based on a number of factors, including student success efforts, industry and state needs, and program demand. Each university submits its budget request to Statewide in August. Later in the month, there is a statewide budget meeting to discuss the priorities at each university and the budget is submitted to the Board of Regents for a first review at the September Board of Regents’ meeting. The board approves the budget at its November meeting and submits it to the governor for consideration.

The governor can choose to forward the budget to the Alaska State Legislature as is, or modify it to reflect his or her priorities. After the Legislature receives the governor’s proposed budget in January, it can make additions or subtractions. Much discussion and debate goes into this part of the budget-approval process. Students, faculty, staff and alumni often travel to Juneau to meet with legislators about the needs of the university. The Alaska community also participates in the process through public testimony and other communications with their legislators.

The competition for these dollars is high; the Legislature makes decisions based on factors, such as student success efforts, industry and state needs, and program demand. Each university submits its budget request to Statewide in August. Later in the month, there is a statewide budget meeting to discuss the priorities at each university and the budget is submitted to the Board of Regents for a first review at the September Board of Regents’ meeting. The board approves the budget at its November meeting and submits it to the governor for consideration.

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HOW THE UNIVERSITY BUDGET WORKS

University Budget 101

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The governor can choose to forward the budget to the Alaska State Legislature as is, or modify it to reflect his or her priorities. After the Legislation receives the governor’s proposed budget in January, it can make additions or subtractions. Much discussion and debate goes into this part of the budget-approval process. Students, faculty, staff and alumni often travel to Juneau to meet with legislators about the needs of the university. The Alaska community also participates in the process through public testimony and other communications with their legislators.

HOW THE UNIVERSITY BUDGET WORKS

University Budget 101

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ALUMNI LIFE

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

PAGE 20: Imran Chaudhry ’16 celebrates his December graduation with a winter trip through the Middle East and Africa, including this stop at Aït Benhaddou in Morocco. Matt Hopper ’03 (right) performs with friend (and fellow Alaskan) Eric Tollefson at The Triple Door in downtown Seattle. (Photo by Christina Birkbine) Music education grad Sara Guhl ’06, ’07 teaches piano in her classroom at Wasilla High School.

PAGE 21: Paramedic grad Matt Sabelman ’07 (right) provides medical support for outdoor events around Bend, Oregon, through his company, Adventure Medics. (Photo by Joe Viger Photography) Natalie Hanson ’16 sets a national weight-class record in women’s powerlifting — 578.7 pounds! — at a January event in Milwaukee. (Photo by Adam Palmer, 9for9 Media)

PAGE 23: Former Skiwolves Eric Heil ’91, ’95 (left) and Dan McKay ’09, ’11 wax skis before competing at Arctic Man. Meredith Mapes ’16 marshals the 2017 Junior Iditarod. She will make her Iditarod debut next year.
For Keefer, this was degree number three from UAA. She earned her bachelor’s in 2004 after playing volleyball for the Seawolves. All four women hold master’s degrees in nursing from UAA.

friend or family member and commemorate a special occasion such as graduation, birth or anniversary. Bricks range in size and cost from $550-$550. The brick campaign ends May 1; don’t miss this chance to leave your mark. Each brick purchase supports UAA Athletics and all contributions are tax-deductible. Contact 907-786-1211 or tanorthcutt@alaska.edu for details.

Volleyball team reaches national final
The UAA volleyball team wrapped its best season in program history at the Division II National Championship in South Dakota. The nationally ninth-ranked women’s team hosted the West Regions in Anchorage, then advanced to the national finals before falling to Concordia-SP, Paul in the title game. The team boasted record crowds all season long, including the highest cumulative attendance among nearly 350 teams in Division II, as well as highest average attendance — 1,128 fans per game, nearly 500 more than any other program.

Anchorage Mayor’s Marathon & Half Marathon
Saturday, June 17, 7:30 a.m.–3 p.m. Bartlett High School/Delaney Park Strip A summer solstice tradition, the Mayor’s Marathon returns for its 44th year. The course runs from Muldoon to the Delaney Park Strip downtown — offering sweeping views of the city and the Chugach Mountains along the way. Race fees benefit UAA Athletics. Details and registration: goseawolves.com. Volunteers are needed to help with setup, aid stations and more.

UA alumni forum in Seattle
Alumni from across the University of Alaska system gathered at Seattle’s U.S. Bank Centre for a leadership panel on Jan. 31. The event — held on the 34th floor overlooking Puget Sound — included networking, reconnecting and an alumni panel moderated by Cassidy Davis, B.A. Journalism and Public Communications ’10 (page 4). Don’t miss the next Seattle meetup. Get in touch at seawolf.form@alaska.edu.

UA Music Recitals
The UAA Department of Music is winding down for the semester with a series of performances featuring students, faculty and alumni. All four recitals will take place in the UAA Recital Hall. Tickets are available online at ArtsUA.com and by phone at 907-786-4TIX.

UA alumni in the Iditarod
Anita’s Richie Diehl, B.S. ’08, returned for his fifth consecutive Iditarod this spring, after finishing a career-high 12th in 2016. Rookie Roger Lee, M.S. ’12, made his first attempt in 2017, but had to scratch in Shaktoolik, five checkpoints shy of the finish line. Theatre grad Meredith Mapes, B.A. ’16 (page 21), marshaled checkpoints shy of the finish line. Theatre grad Meredith Mapes, B.A. ’16 (page 21), marshaled checkpoints for the last time in program history. (Photo by Skip Hickey.)

Three women — Jyll Green, Jill Rife and Leigh Keefer and Robin Basset — became the originators — an event she completed four times as a teenager. Theatre Department Chair Dan Anteau, B.A. ’96, retired teacher and author of Alaska Authors as they discuss their works. Speakers include: Alice Wright, M.Ed. Special Education ’16, retired teacher and author of Alaska Animals, We Love You, a children’s book of songs and poems; Lizette Nevell, B.F.A. Studio Art ’10, who writes and designs science fiction novels, including her newest release, The Titan Bay Accord; and Lael Morgan, journalist, author and co-founder of Epicenter Press.

Leave your mark on campus with a Seawolf brick
Become a permanent and visible part of the UAA campus by purchasing a personalized, engraved brick to be located outside the Alaska Airlines Center. Show your Seawolf pride and buy one for yourself, or honor a
1979
Liz O’Connell, B.A. Journalism & Public Communications, is project director for Frontier Scientists, an education program that shares Arctic research with the public. With more than 30 years of career experience in broadcast media, Liz now works to produce and promote visual stories of groundbreaking research in the Alaska Arctic. Take a look at frontierscientists.com.

1984
Jeff Roach, A.A.S. Agriculture, received the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE) Certified Member accreditation. Airport executives complete an examination and application process to become an AAAE certified member. Jeff is the airport manager at Fairbanks International Airport, where he oversees all airport activities.

1985
Victoria Schultz, B.S. Sociology ’83, M.S. Social Sciences ’85, is in her 25th year as a psychology instructor at Wharton County Junior College in Wharton, Texas. She’s directed the college’s Human Services program since 2005, been named faculty of the year and received the school’s Excellence in Teaching award. In addition, she has presented her research at national and international conferences. She writes, “I greatly appreciate receiving my B.S. and M.S. degrees at UAA, for it allowed me to realize my passion for my career and provided a solid foundation for community service, research, teaching, and always searching for a better solution. I have been extremely blessed in my life with my family and my career and am so very thankful! Hats off to UAA!”

1989
Susan Weingartner, A.A.S. Nursing, has worked at Lourdes Hospital in Binghamton, New York, for 27 years. She was recently recognized for her distinguished service in oncology nursing, earning the hospital’s 2016 Honored Nurse award for clinical practice in direct patient care.

1998
Chris Anderson, A.A.S. Foodservice Technology, co-founded Coachella Valley Brewing Co. in 2013. Chris is well known for his award-winning farm-to-glass artisanal beers. Coachella Valley Brewing Co’s brews can be found in California, Arizona and Nevada.

2009
Bust your way through the galaxy on Broken Space, a block-breaking adventure game from Anchorage-based SpiffyVine. The game — designed by Jazon Burnett, B.S. Computer Science — is now available for Apple products in the App Store. Learn more at brokenspacegame.com.

2012
Daniel Gallagher, A.A.S. Fire and Emergency Services, wrote “Since graduating in 2012 with my associate degree, my wife and I had our third child and have moved quite a bit. I graduated from UAF in December 2016 from the Homeland Security and Emergency Management program.”
SEAWOLVES BY SOUTHWEST

We want to see the world from your water bottle, your hard hat or your mountain bike. Contact the Alumni Center and we’ll send you stickers in the mail (but don’t forget to show us where the stickers end up)!

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