

# UAA

ALUMNI **SPIRIT**

Spring 2017 • ISSUE 07

UAA BUDGET UPDATE | BRIDGING THE GAP | KRU: 25 YEARS ON THE EDGE

# AMAZING STORIES

BEING WRITTEN EVERY DAY.



Set against a backdrop of the Chugach Mountains, the Parrish Bridge spans Providence Drive to connect the Engineering & Industry Building (EIB) and the Health Sciences Building. Alumnus Mike Fierro, B.S. '89, M.S. '01, served as lead structural engineer for the EIB and also designed the Parrish Bridge, named in honor of longtime university supporters Ann, B.B.A. '78, and Al, Honorary LL.D. '12, Parrish.



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS

### 6 ENZINA MARRARI

Alumna creates community through art as manager of Anchorage's public-art program.

### 8 PEDRO MELGAR

Meet the critical-care nurse manager at one of Alaska's major hospitals.

### 9 CHRIS ROBINSON

This Kentucky educator is spending a year at the Smithsonian.

### 10 ERNESTINE HAYES

Life as a Tlingit Kaagwaantaan clan member inspired the work of the Alaska State Writer Laureate.



## FEATURES

### 12 UAA BRIDGES THE GAP

UAA is committed to helping grow a college-going culture across Alaska by bridging gaps for prospective students, maximizing their chances for success.

### 16 KRUA: 25 YEARS

Throwback to Feb. 14, 1992: R.E.M.'s 'It's the End of the World as We Know It' was the first song KRUA 88.1 FM broadcast.

### 18 MOVING FORWARD IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

UAA leaders are moving the university forward through a changing Alaska landscape.

## DEPARTMENTS

### 4 From an Alumna

5 From the Chancellor

### 20 Alumni Life

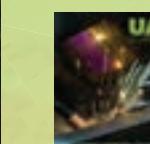
### 24 Alumni News Briefs

### 25 Don't Miss

### 26 Class Notes

### 27 Lens on Campus

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



### ON THE COVER

Civil engineering student Connor Eshleman welds 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.

Editor  
*Jessica Hamlin*

Writers  
*Joey Besl*

*Kristin DeSmith*

*Anne Gore*

*Tracy Kalytiak*

*Kirstin Olmstead*

*Michelle Saport*

Graphic Designer  
*Brett Rawalt*

Staff Photographer  
*Philip Hall*

UAA Alumni Association  
Board of Directors

*Lea Bouton, M.A.T. '10*

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*Rachel Morse, M.B.A. '08*

Assistant Vice Chancellor for  
Alumni Relations

*Andrea Story, B.B.A. '95*

UAA Office of

Alumni Relations

907-786-1942

[seawolf.forever@alaska.edu](mailto:seawolf.forever@alaska.edu)

[uaa.alaska.edu/alumni](http://uaa.alaska.edu/alumni)

AlumniUAA

UAA Alumni



Cassidy Davis, B.A. '10, served as moderator at a UA alumni event in Seattle on Jan. 31, 2017.

## FROM AN ALUMNA

Graduating as a Seewolf 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](mailto:seawolf.forever@alaska.edu).

## FROM THE CHANCELLOR

We are experiencing dynamic change in our institution and in our state. Yet our UAA 2020 strategic plan, which will see us through the next three years, has reaffirmed that we are an institution that is committed to student success, excellence, access and affordability. (For more on UAA 2020, see page 19.)

In this issue we share how these values are helping us make education and training more relevant. You will also read about amazing alumni making their mark on our ever-changing world.

As UAA continues to evolve, we will remain focused on enriching our students' experiences on their path to higher education, lifelong learning and successful futures.

We are all UAA. Together we are setting our course and becoming a better, stronger institution.

Tom Case  
Chancellor



Chancellor Tom Case addresses faculty and staff at a recent UAA 2020 gathering.

*"I truly think everyone can create."*

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

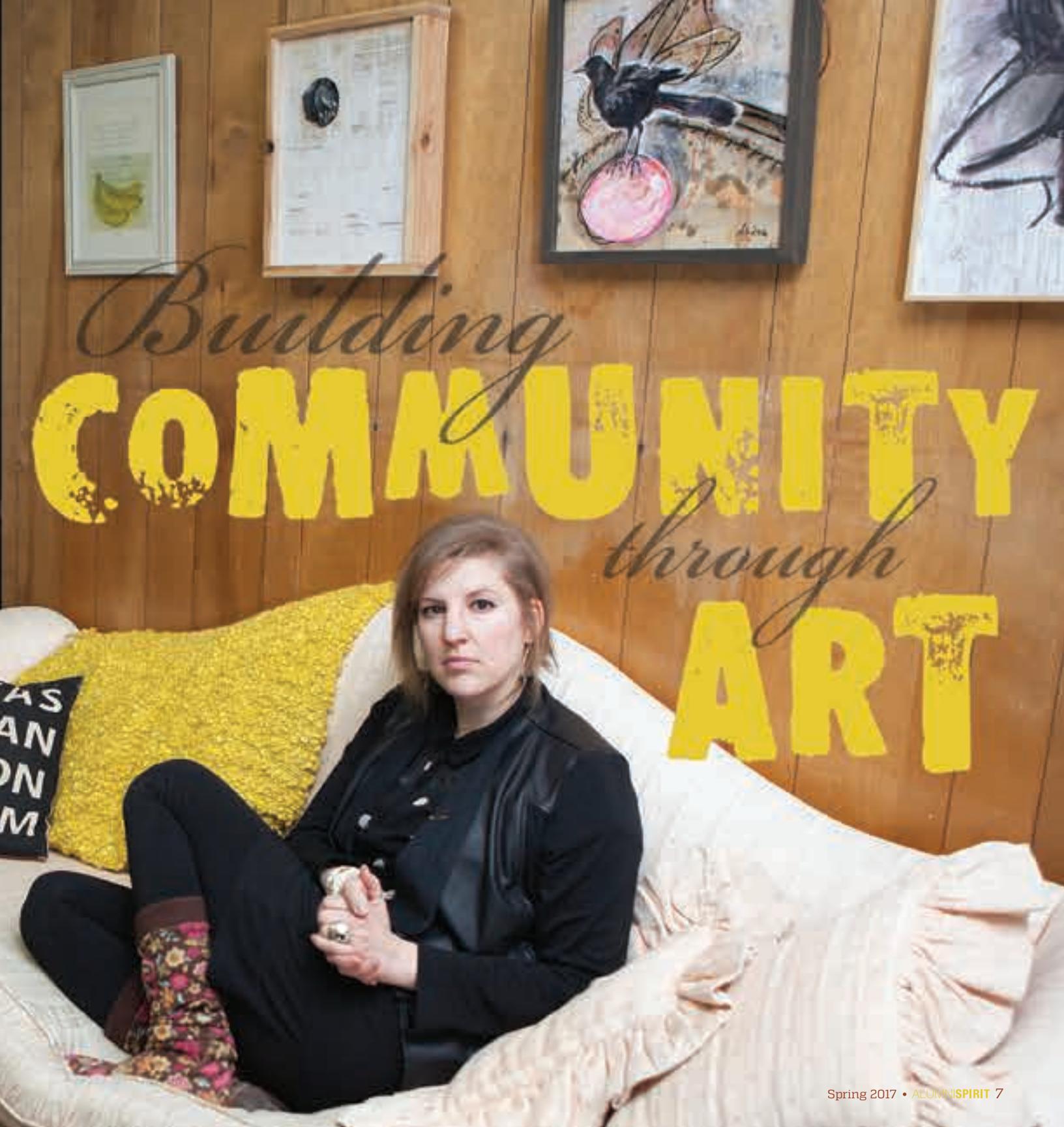
budget to acquire permanent artwork for the site. For projects with budgets that exceed \$1 million, artwork must be selected through a juried public process.

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 expressions accessible to us. I think it creates a platform for discussion that other ways don't."*

—Enzina Marrari





## NURSING GRAD TAKES CARE IN CAREER

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."

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."





## UAA ALUMNA EARNS ALASKA STATE WRITER LAUREATE HONOR

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](http://tinyurl.com/alumnispirit).

Photo by Michael Penn.

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.

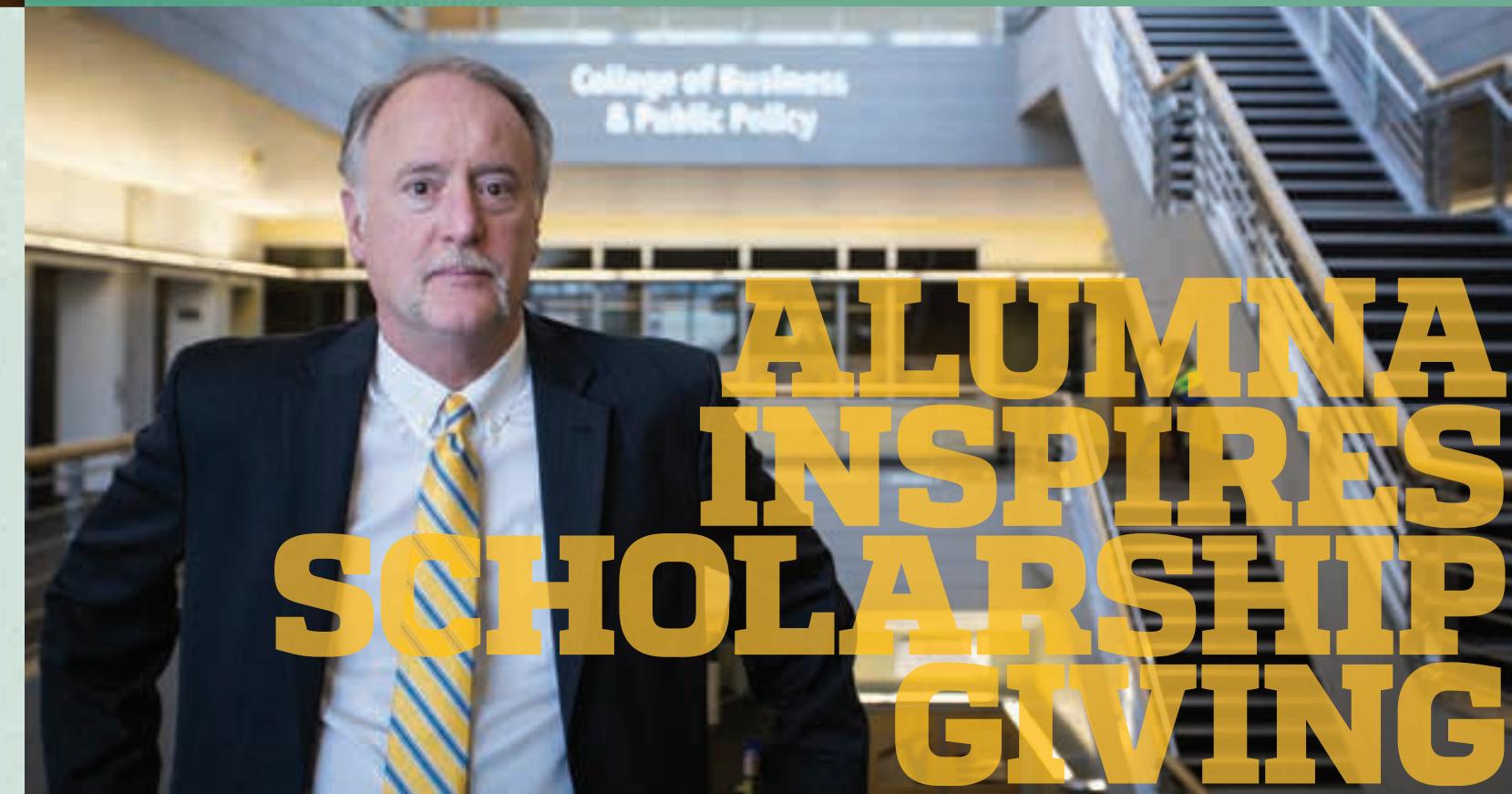
To date, 18 accounting students have received a Melissa J. Wolf Memorial Accounting Scholarship. But, the impact of Wolf’s vision is much larger. When he saw the difference that even a small scholarship could make for a student in need, he established two more—the Greg Wolf Global Logistics Scholarship 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.”

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907-786-4847**



# UAA SPANS GAPS, IGNITES PASSION FOR LEARNING

*Shaylin Moore builds a balsa wood bridge during a two-week Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program Middle School Academy on UAA's campus in January 2017.*

*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 tuition 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 is a little house," Sedlacek replied: "It reminds me of 'Hakuna matata'... only 'Lacuna matata.' If you see cells in a lacuna, you need to think cartilage."

All 11 students appeared engrossed in their instructor's lecture as it moved from that *Lion King* reference into a fascinating thicket of science: descriptions of hyaline cartilage, isogenous cell nests and the way these

cells — in elastic tissue — resemble the eye of a peacock feather.

Every student in that UAA anatomy and physiology class wore a white lab coat. Every student appeared professional.

Three, however, were different: They were 17-year-olds who opted to participate in Alaska Middle College School (AMCS). The Mat-Su Borough School District program provides a bridge between high school and UAA and makes it possible for high school students to earn college credit.

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 to the Alaska Middle College; it's free,'" Delta remembered. "I was like, 'What? There's a middle college?' So I looked into it."

Now, she takes a bus twice a week to classes in Eagle River; her A&P lab is at Mat-Su College, where Mat-Su Middle



A UAA health professions academy collaboration with Clark Middle School offers students a chance to explore possible future careers in health care and learn academic steps they'll need to take to accomplish their goals. Here, Clark students visit the UAA Nursing Simulation Lab. (Photo courtesy of Carey Brown, UAA.)

College School will be based beginning this fall once the Anchorage School District begins its own middle college at the UAA extension in Eagle River.

"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's goal is to earn an M.D.

## GIVING KIDS A HAND UP

AMCS 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 like (supervised) college students
- 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.

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.

ANSEP shepherds these students into its high school acceleration academies — for kids in grades 8-11 — and then into a program that provides a "college and career visioning" opportunity for graduating high school seniors. Summer Bridge students enroll in a college math course and participate in a paid summer internship in engineering or science. Students who successfully complete that class and internship are eligible for scholarship funding to attend the University of Alaska.

Clark, the most diverse middle school in the nation, has a high percentage of students who come from lower-income families and also, a significant number of parents who either didn't attend or didn't finish college.

These parents might not know what questions to ask, who to talk to, or what help they can offer their child in navigating the intricate process of getting into college.

Clark's program gives these students support they'll need to create firm footing for their futures: learning which 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.

Maximizing the potential for student success is top of mind for people like



L-R: Aaron Rowbotham, Mara James, Laura McDowell and Antoinette Street work to assist students at the Hub in the Student Union.

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

COH's Carey D. Brown, M.P.A. '08, who helms UAA's partnership with Clark's junior health professions academy.

"All of the students get scrubs, a lab jacket, stethoscope," he said of the two-hour, every-other-Saturday sessions. "Our thought was that statistics show the earlier you can get to students, the better off they'll be after they're admitted as freshmen. We expose them to the various health professions, refine where their interests might lay. Practitioners talk to them and they do hands-on activities. The students have to take notes on the career, pay scale, courses needed to get into it, the science and math — to get that going in their minds as early as possible."

### GROWING A COLLEGE-GOING CULTURE

Collaborations between UAA and community schools may help relieve a serious problem: A majority of Alaska high school graduates attending UA schools are not prepared for entry-level courses in math and English.

From 2006–2015, just under 61 percent

of 15,016 first-year college freshmen from Alaska's 37 largest high schools required some degree of developmental coursework, according to a college-readiness study ANSEP conducted.

The data show:

- Students are passing college preparatory courses in high school with high grades, then repeating those classes when they arrive at the university.
- The state is spending millions of dollars annually for students to take classes in high school and then paying again when the courses must be repeated at the university.
- Students and their families are spending millions of dollars in additional college costs because their students are arriving at the university underprepared.

The solution? ANSEP's study recommended developing joint long-term goals and milestones for improvement within the K-12 and university systems, including aligning the academic curriculum and 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.

the UAA Annual Fund for Excellence to launch UAAAspire, 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, anywhere." 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 mindset that hasn'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."

### I'M TWO YEARS AHEAD'

Back in that lab in Mat-Su, Delta, her AMCS colleagues Gillian Galloway and Brennan Easley, and the other eight students peered through microscopes



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."

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.

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 62 [UAA] 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.*

# 25 YEARS ON THE EDGE

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. That's an unofficial name, he noted. "We didn't need call letters. You could hear us shout better than you could on the transmitter."

The reception was weak. Every song came with a low persistent hum. "It was probably helping students learn the business more than it was entertaining on the other end," he said.

"[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."

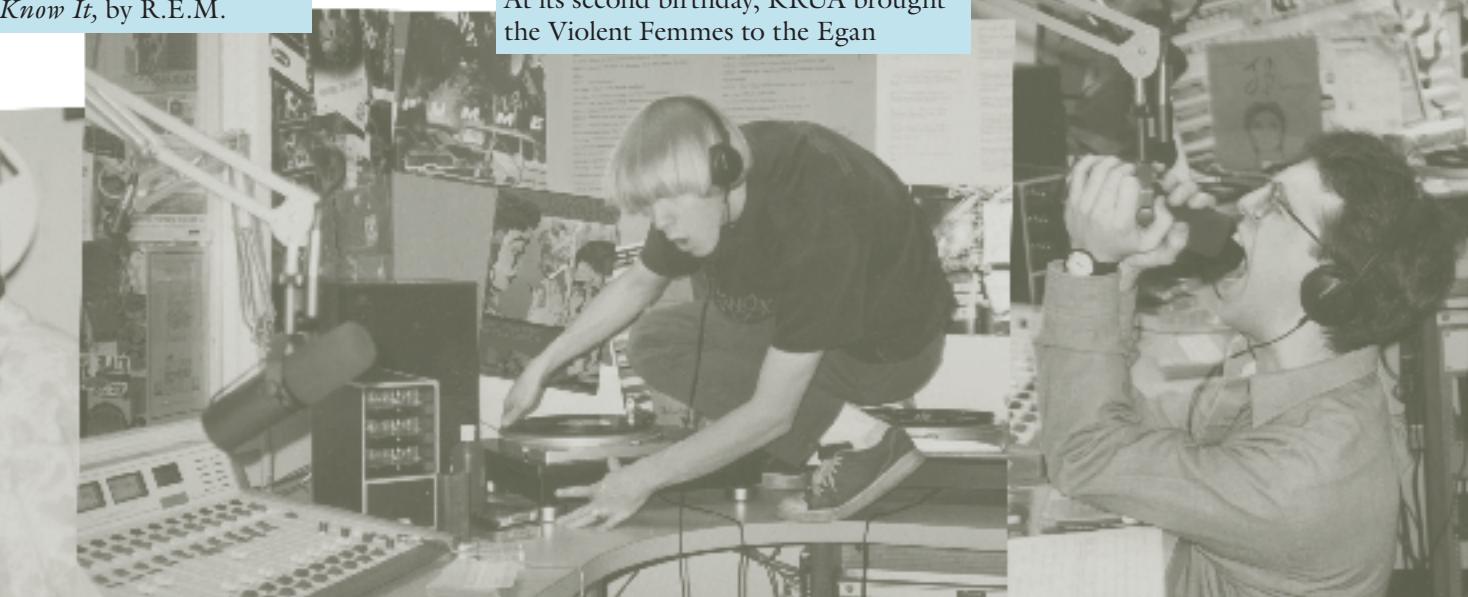
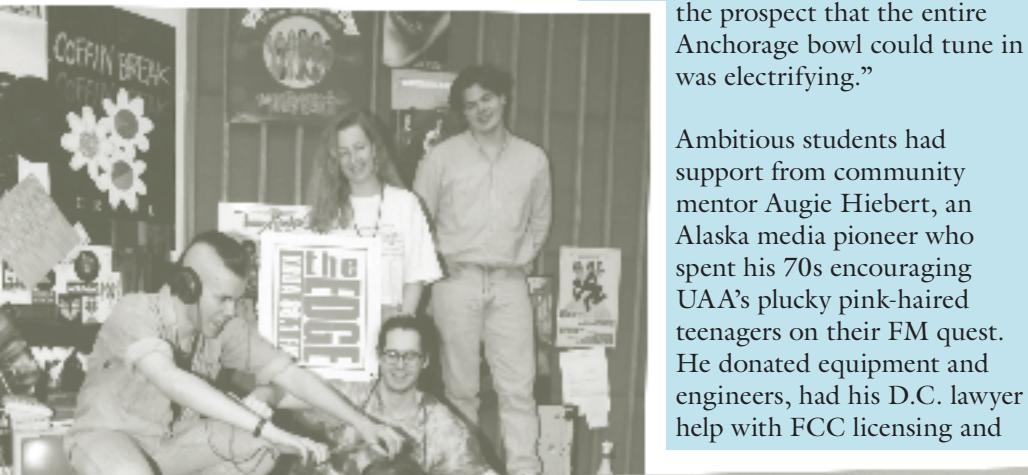
Ambitious students had support from community mentor Augie Hiebert, an Alaska media pioneer who spent his 70s encouraging UAA's plucky pink-haired teenagers on their FM quest. He donated equipment and engineers, had his D.C. lawyer help with FCC licensing and

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.



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.

"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.

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 UAA.

"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 had envisioned when we started."

*Listen live from anywhere in the world at [kruaradio.org](http://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, Bayshore Country Club, and DJ, Tunemasters Anchorage

**Wolf Kurtz '87**  
Engineer, Seward Public Radio Seward

**Margaret Knowles Pease '89, '97\***  
Sr. Service Support Lead, Nintendo Redmond, Washington

**John Raffetto '92\***  
CEO, Raffetto Herman Strategic Communications Seattle, Washington

**Suzi Pearson '94\*, '04**  
Executive director, AWAIC 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**  
Nurse and director of VivaVoom Brr-Lesque Anchorage

**Neil Torquiano '07\***  
Producer, WJXT-TV Jacksonville, Florida

**Audriana Pleas '14\***  
UAA Academic Innovations and eLearning staff member, freelance journalist and DJ Eagle River

Share your KRUA memories with us at [seawolf.forever@alaska.edu](mailto:seawolf.forever@alaska.edu) or [Facebook.com/AlumniUAA](https://Facebook.com/AlumniUAA).

# MOVING FORWARD IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

## HOW THE UNIVERSITY BUDGET WORKS

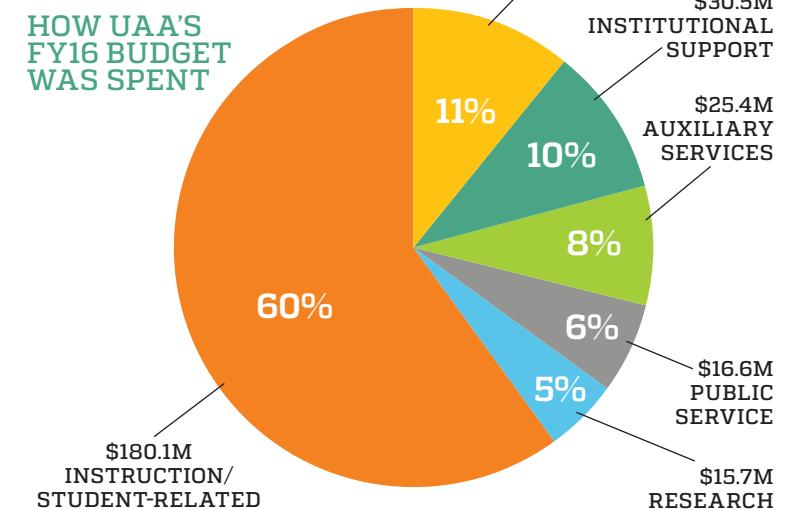
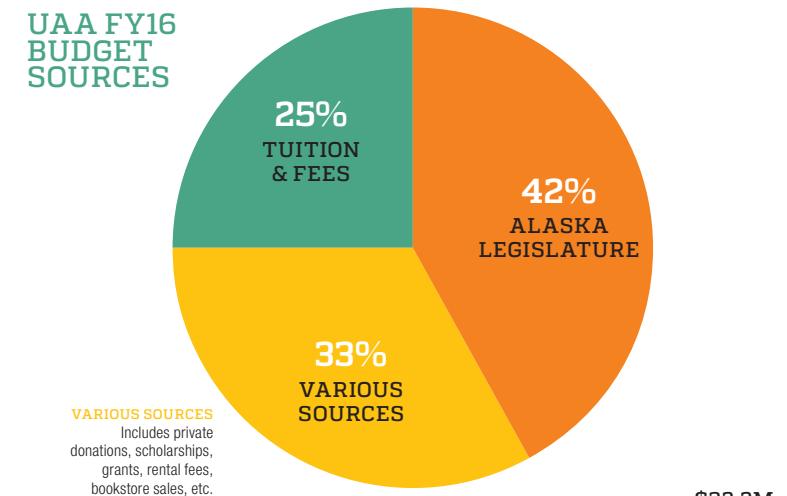
### University Budget 101

As a public university, the University of Alaska (UA) 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 systemwide 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 it 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.



**INSTRUCTION/STUDENT-RELATED** Includes academic support, instruction, student services, library services, scholarships and athletics.

**PHYSICAL PLANT** Includes maintenance, repair, renovations and utilities.

**INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT** Includes administrative expenditures such as human resources, business offices, facilities planning, information technology and administration.

**AUXILIARY SERVICES** Includes student housing, food service and dining halls, bookstore, vending machines and other special services.

**PUBLIC SERVICE** Activities whose primary purpose is to make available to the public the various unique resources and capabilities of the university in response to community needs or problems.

**RESEARCH** Activities directly related to scientific and academic research. Non-general (grant) funds support most of UAA's research.

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 each year to Alaska's economy. Funding higher education is definitely an investment in Alaska's future.

## HOW THE UNIVERSITY IS RESPONDING

### UAA 2020

UAA 2020 is UAA's new strategic plan headlined with three ambitious yet achievable goals for the next three years. Informed by critical reflections on UAA's planning processes from its accreditation self-study, UAA 2020 provides focus for this institution in the short term. The three goals are:

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED

The voices of alumni, faculty and staff have been critical to this process. Visit these websites for detailed information on these initiatives and what you can do to make your voice heard. Stay informed about the university's budget and legislative matters by subscribing to the Capitol Report at [alaska.edu/state/report](http://alaska.edu/state/report). Please continue to engage in this important process.

UA BUDGET AND  
LEGISLATIVE RESOURCES  
[alaska.edu/state](http://alaska.edu/state)

UAA 2020  
[uaa.alaska.edu/uaa2020](http://uaa.alaska.edu/uaa2020)

STRATEGIC PATHWAYS  
[alaska.edu/pathways](http://alaska.edu/pathways)

- Advance a culture of institutional excellence that inspires and enables student, faculty and staff success. *Identify and remove significant barriers to student, faculty and staff success; Improve access to and satisfaction with academic advising; Employ process efficiencies (improvements) that lower the cost per award*
- More students persist and complete their educational goals. *Increase the ratio of credits students earn to credits attempted (a component of Satisfactory Academic Progress) by 5 percentage points by 2020; Increase new entering student retention from their first fall to the subsequent fall to 55% in the third goal year; Increase the rate at which students persist from their second to third year to 45% in the third goal year*
- Graduate more students to fill Alaska's needs. *Increase number of graduates in high-demand job areas by 2% per year; Improve traditional graduation rates to 35% by AY25*

# 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)

# ALUMNI LIFE

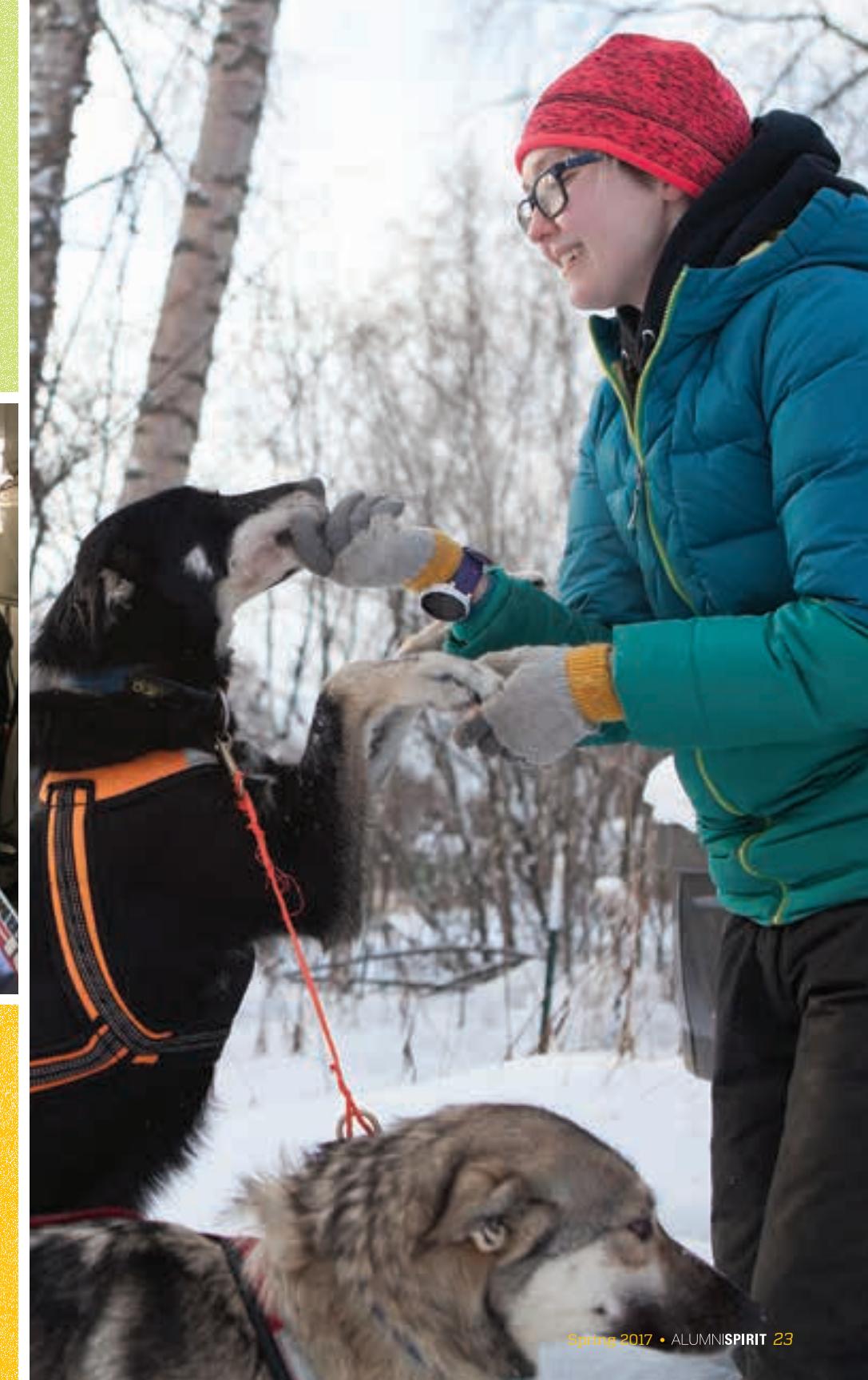


Have pics of your life after UAA? Send them to [seawolf.forever@alaska.edu](mailto:seawolf.forever@alaska.edu).

**PAGE 22:** "Hiking the Eklutna Lake Trail with my M.B.A. buddy, Sarah Warrington '15," Elena Harman '10, '14, writes. Artist Elizabeth Ellis '11 hangs a solo show at Dos Manos Gallery in Anchorage. **Josh Brown '06, '14** (right) who volunteered with Honor Flights this fall, escorts veteran Alvin Rogers from his Soldotna home to the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.



**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.





Richie Diehl '08 competed in his fifth consecutive Iditarod this spring, finishing in 24th place.

## Alumni at the Iditarod

Aniak'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. '02, 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 23), marshaled this year's Junior Iditarod — an event she completed four times as a teenager. Theatre Department Chair Dan Anteau, B.A. '96, had his students help Meredith sew 1,000 dog booties in the UAA costume shop this fall. Meredith has qualified for the 2018 Iditarod.

## Doctors, nurses, originators

Four women — Jyll Green, Jill Rife, Leigh Keefer and Robin Bassett — became the first class of graduates to accept Doctor of Nursing Practice degrees from UAA at fall commencement in December. The D.N.P. is UAA's second doctoral program (after clinical-community psychology) and launched in 2015.

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.



These women were the first to receive D.N.P. diplomas from UAA.

## 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.forever@alaska.edu](mailto:seawolf.forever@alaska.edu).

## 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

friend or family member and commemorate a special occasion such as graduation, birth or anniversary. Bricks range in size and cost from \$250–\$350. 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](mailto: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 Regionals in Anchorage, then advanced to the national finals before falling to Concordia-St. Paul in the title game. The team boasted record crowds all season long, including the highest cumulative attendance among nearly 300 teams in Division II, as well as highest average attendance — 1,128 fans per game, nearly 500 more than any other program.



UAA volleyball team members celebrate their best season in program history. (Photo by Skip Hickey.)

## DON'T MISS EVENTS AT UAA

### Spring Commencement

**Sunday, May 7, 1 p.m.  
Alaska Airlines Center**

Join UAA in welcoming a new class of alumni. Years of hard work and dedication culminate in this timeless academic tradition and celebration of student achievement. 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](http://uaa.alaska.edu/commencement). RSVP required to attend.

### Mother's Day with Alaska authors

**Saturday, May 13, 1–3 p.m.  
UAACampus Bookstore**

Celebrate an early Mother's Day with Alaska authors as they discuss their works. Speakers include: Alice Wright, M.Ed. Special Education '96, retired teacher and author of *Alaska Animals, We Love You*, a children's book of songs and poems; Lizzie Newell, B.F.A. Studio Art '97, who writes and designs science fiction novels, including her newest release, *The Tristan Bay Accord*; and Lael Morgan, journalist, author and co-founder of Epicenter Press.



### 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](http://goseawolves.com). Volunteers are needed to help with setup, aid stations and more.

### UAA 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 [ArtsUAA.com](http://ArtsUAA.com) and by phone at 907-786-4TIX.

**Chamber Ensemble  
Wednesday, May 3, 7:30 p.m.**  
One of the department's most prolific performers, John Lutterman, will lead his chamber ensemble in its final concert of the semester. Audiences can expect a classical repertoire from Bach to Mozart.

### University Sinfonia Saturday, April 22, 7:30 p.m.

The University Sinfonia, led by Oleg Proskurnya, will delight audiences with classical pieces for string instruments.

### Jazz Combos Wednesday, April 26, 7:30 p.m.

Karen Strid-Chadwick's Jazz Combos are back in action for their final concert of the semester. Playing jazz standards from Chick Corea, Duke Ellington and Thelonious Monk, the Jazz Combos are sure to have you singing along!

### Guitar Ensemble Sunday, April 30, 4 p.m.

Armin Abdihodžić and the UAA Guitar Ensemble are known for putting on eclectic performances of music ranging from Sérgio Assad to Led Zeppelin. Look for several alumni to join in and provide solo pieces.

### UAACampus Bookstore

One of the department's most prolific performers, John Lutterman, will lead his chamber ensemble in its final concert of the semester. Audiences can expect a classical repertoire from Bach to Mozart.

# CLASS NOTES

**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](http://frontierscientists.com).



Liz O'Connell '79 (left) digs at an archaeological site in Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.

**1984**

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

**1998**

**Chris Anderson,**  
**A.A.S. Foodservice Technology,** cofounded 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.



Chris Anderson '98 digs into the hops at Coachella Valley Brewing Co. in Thousand Palms, California.

**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.

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!"

assault prevention. She lives in Rockaway Beach, Oregon.

**2009**

Bust your way through the galaxy on Broken Space, a block-breaking adventure game from Anchorage-based Spiffyware. The game — designed by **Jason Burnell, B.S. Computer Science** — is now available for Apple products in the App Store. Learn more at [brokenspacegame.com](http://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."

**2013**

**Valerie Bundy, B.A. Psychology,** was recently named executive director of the Tillamook County Women's Resource Center, a nonprofit agency focused on domestic violence and sexual

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



**Joey Best**  
Alumni Communications Specialist  
[jpbest@alaska.edu](mailto:jpbest@alaska.edu)  
907-786-1845



**Jason DeLozier '13**  
Alumni Outreach Specialist  
[sjdelozier@alaska.edu](mailto:sjdelozier@alaska.edu)  
907-786-1941

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

## LENS ON CAMPUS



Aviation maintenance students take a practical laboratory final as part of a capstone course at the UAA Aviation Complex at Merrill Field Airport. With a 100 percent job placement rate, graduates are quick to secure jobs in the field and work in practically all aviation businesses throughout Alaska. Also, four of the program's seven faculty and staff are graduates of the program.



## UNIVERSITY *of* ALASKA ANCHORAGE

Photo by Jaad McElroy '09 at  
Casa Grande Ruins National  
Monument, Coolidge, Arizona.

Jaad lives with her family in  
Maricopa, Arizona. An early  
childhood development grad,  
she now travels Arizona with  
*First Things First*, a state-funded  
initiative providing health and  
education programs for children  
from birth to age 5.

Office of Advancement

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