

For immediate release

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High-res jpegs are available by request via email

What’s new?

* Grads will donate gowns to UAA alum’s impoverished hometown in Moldova
* Student speaker: Xavier Mason, from underachiever to socially responsible entrepreneur

**More than 1,350 UAA graduates prepare to make their mark on the world**

Commencement at 1 p.m. Sunday in Alaska Airlines Center

The University of Alaska Anchorage celebrates the spring class of 2015 graduates at
1 p.m. Sunday, May 3, in the Alaska Airlines Center. This ceremony honors the accomplishments of more than 1,350 undergraduate, graduate and professional school students, more than 700 of whom are walking in the ceremony.

“I’m impressed every day by our students’ persistence and ingenuity,” said UAA Chancellor Tom Case. “I’m honored to be the first to formally welcome the graduates to the ranks of UAA’s nearly 50,000 alumni.”

Xavier Mason, who grew up in Anchorage, speaks on behalf of graduating students. A born entrepreneur, the management and marketing major has started several organizations, including HandMade, which sells the handiwork of local homeless people, and VisualAid, an inspirational magazine for African orphans.

A 2014 UAA graduate, Mariana Morari, is launching a new program at this year’s commencement. Morari grew up in the Republic of Moldova in a farming community with high unemployment. She was so inspired by UAA’s commencement last year, she is collecting unwanted graduation gowns after this year’s ceremony and plans to mail the gowns to her hometown for next year’s graduating seniors, who otherwise could not afford a traditional graduation ceremony.

(MORE)

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Also during commencement, retiring faculty members are receiving awards:

Judith F. Green, Professor Emerita of Library Science
Laura Kelley, Professor Emerita of Human Services
Jerzy Maselko, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry
Linda McCarriston, Professor Emerita of Creative Writing and Literary Arts
Clay Nunnally, Professor Emeritus of English
Rosellen Rosich, Professor Emerita of Psychology
Marcia Trudgen, Staff Emerita, Institute of Social and Economic Research

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE

The University of Alaska Anchorage is Alaska’s largest university, educating more than 21,000 students annually and offering programs in more than 200 areas of study. UAA’s mission is to discover and disseminate knowledge through teaching, research, engagement and creative expression. Learn more at uaa.alaska.edu.

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