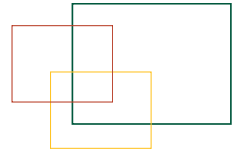


Celebration of Students

Friday, April 25, 2025 | 3:00 PM
Fine Arts Building, Recital Hall, Room 150



Jelly Firmin-Blossom
Alaska Native Studies

Jelly is pursuing an Associate of Arts degree in Alaska Native Studies. She has previously earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology degree from UAA in Spring 2024. She is a McNair student, in the Honors College and a nominee for the MLK Legacy Award in 2025. Currently, Jelly is a research assistant for Nughejagh, a UAA project that focuses on traditional indigenous healing, and has presented work for this project at the AFN Youth & Elders event at the Dena'ina Center. Jelly has a roaring passion for research, learning, and desire to contribute to the well-being of her communities. After graduation, Jelly intends to obtain her master's degree followed by a PhD to further this passion.



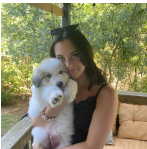
Damian Bartlett
Anthropology & Geography

Damian is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology. He is a member of the Anthropology Club and its President for the academic year. In this position he oversaw volunteer and outreach events such as UAA Campus Kick-Off, the Campbell Creek Science Center Archaeology Day, UAA STEM Day, and Trailside Elementary School Math and Science Night. After graduation, Damian intends to continue his research through a PhD in Anthropology as he believes there are far too many interesting people, places, and times to commit himself to just one for now and is excited to learn a little about everything first.



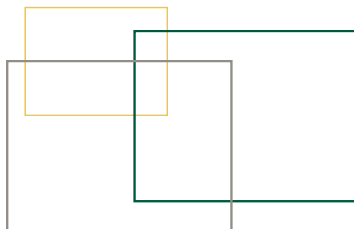
Taylor Bailey-Parsons
Art

Taylor is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Natural Sciences with a minor in Art. She is an advanced handbuilt ceramics student who focuses on animals and the human figure as subjects for exploring environmental issues through the human connection and impact to the natural world. Taylor actively participates in the UAA Ceramic Clay Body Club. This year Taylor received the Best in Sculpture Award for her piece, 'Don't Look', at the Juried Student Art Show in the Hugh McPeck Gallery. After graduating, Taylor intends to obtain a Bachelor of Fine Arts and become a Scientific Illustrator while continuing her passion of ceramics.



Cloe Milbauer
Biological Sciences

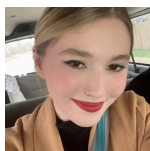
Cloe is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Natural Sciences with a concentration in pre-health professions. Her academic interests are biology and animal science. For the past 8 years, Cloe has volunteered at her local rescue and currently practices as a veterinary nurse. After graduation, she intends to further her education through a veterinary school or additional certifications to further her veterinary skills.





Niquelina Smith
Chemistry

Niquelina is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry. Her research interests are agricultural and environmental chemistry, which originates from her upbringing on a small farm. Currently, she is involved in undergraduate research examining herbicide residue in Alaska. Niquelina works as a research technician studying the influence of biochar amendments on herbicide persistent in agricultural soils. With Dr. Redman, she has contributed to a peer-reviewed manuscript in Environmental Science & Technology: Water as part of her undergraduate research. After graduation she plans to contribute to the Alaskan community the skills and knowledge she has gained from her research.



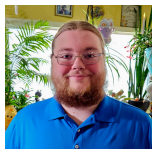
Rebekah Watkins
English

Rebekah is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in English. She is one of the student editors for the 2025 edition of Understory, the Department of English's annual anthology of excellent student work. She is passionate about the power of literacy, communication, and critical thinking and enjoys nurturing her love of reading and writing into valuable and marketable skills. After graduation, she intends to obtain a master's degree and a PhD while working in the professional writing field.



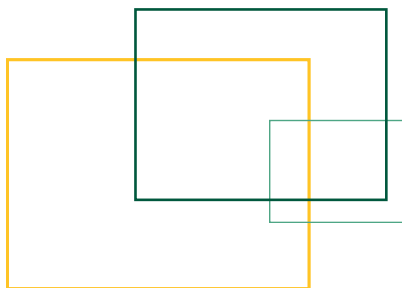
Kaylen Hall
Geological Sciences

Kaylen is pursuing her Bachelor of Science in Geological Sciences with a minor in Geographic Information Systems. Kaylen's focus is environmental geology but also expresses a strong interest for exploration geology. As her field instructor once said, "Why not pursue both?". This mindset continues to inspire her on her path forward. Her husband and two children are her support throughout her studies. Before pursuing a masters degree, Kaylen intends to gain valuable experience in the industry.



Byron Phelps
History

Byron is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in History. He is praised for his excellent historical research, writing, and analytical skills while raising the level of discussion with his insights. After graduation, he intends on obtaining a masters degree and then a PhD in a field of history.





Avery Williamson
**Journalism and
Public
Communications**

Avery is a leader in every organization she touches. She is a student-athlete on the cross-country running team and the UAA track and field team. In the 2024-25 season, she earned GNAC All-Academic honors as well as earned USTFCCCA All-Academic honors. She was the sports editor at *The Northern Light* and now works for the *Seawolf 5th Line*, the booster and communications organization for Seawolves Hockey, where she writes and does other communications outreach. During her spare time, Avery enjoys running, reading, and relaxing with her cat. After graduation, Avery intends to use her journalism skills to promote and raise awareness regarding wildlife conservation.



Miya Scheid
Languages

Miya is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts as a dual major in English and Japanese with a minor in Creative Writing. She is a student intern working on *Understory*, an annual anthology of student works produced by the English Department. Miya seeks to continuously learn and grow her understanding of Japanese culture and language to make her grandmother proud. After graduation, she aspires to become a published author, blending both Japanese cultural influences and Western-style creative writing into her work.



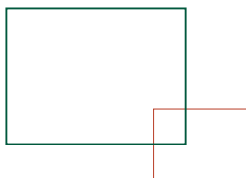
Jack Pellerin
Mathematics and Statistics

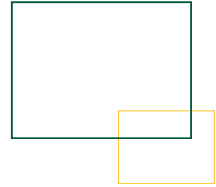
Jack is pursuing his Bachelor of Science in Mathematics with a minor in Physics. He has been a mathematics and Writing tutor for the department while aiding informational sessions for new majors. While his childhood dream was to become a broadcast meteorologist, Jack has pivoted to pursue a career as a professor of mathematics or complete research in medicine. After graduation, Jack intends to obtain a degree in higher education to continue his learning.



Matt Warshawsky
Music

Matt is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Music. He has previously earned a Master's degree in Atmospheric Chemistry and has many years of experience creating software solutions for scientific and industrial companies around the world. After retiring from this career, Matt pursued his passion for piano and began his studies here at UAA. Three years into the degree, he has found it much more fulfilling than a new sports car ever would be. His wife agrees.





Bailey Demir
Philosophy

Bailey is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy with a minor in Alaska Native Studies. She has offered two research presentations for this year's Philosophy Conference and is praised for bringing together community engagement with philosophical thinking. Her academic interests include philosophies of mind, subjectivity, ethics, and accountability. Outside of her studies, Bailey enjoys long walks with her dog, reading widely and discussing deeply. After graduation, Bailey hopes to be a part of the development of alternative resources for processing through conflict and enabling accountability in the Anchorage community, independent of the criminal legal system.



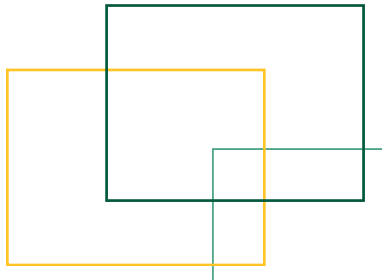
Tate Carlson
Physics and Astronomy

Tate is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering with minors in Mathematics and Physics. This year, Tate has been conducting experimental research on spacecraft propulsion in the UAA Plasma Physics Laboratory. He has received an Alaska Space Grant undergraduate Research Apprenticeship award for his work, and his research presentation on argon plasma production using an anode layer ion source recently won best overall poster at the annual Space Grant Symposium in Juneau. Earlier this year, he presented his work with his fellow Plasma Lab researchers at a NASA workshop in Washington D.C.. Next year he plans to continue his physics research by investigating radio frequency plasma sources for use in Hall thruster plasma studies.



Julia Wagner
Political Science

Julia is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a minor in Psychology. On the basis of her academic record and faculty recommendation, she was invited to, and attended two honors seminars; one on "The Federalist and America's Founding," and the other on Political Economy in Seattle, Washington. After graduation, she intends to go to law school to become a family law attorney where she can pursue her passion in working with children and advocating for them in terms of the law.





Ted Tedrick
 Psychology

Ted is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a minor in Philosophy. His current interests include examining how group membership may affect one's experiences with the healthcare system. In the classroom, his commitment to clarity of expression and interdisciplinarity has led to innovative solutions on assignments addressing ethical dilemmas involving justice, equity, power relations and vulnerability. After graduating, Ted plans to pursue a career in law where he intends to pursue a future as a public defender.



Carly Flake
 Theater and Dance

Carly is pursuing her Bachelor of Business Administration as a dual major in Accounting and Finance with a minor in Dance. This semester, Carly stepped into the role of Dance Club President and has coordinated fundraisers, held club classes, and completed much of the administrative work. Carly is an early childhood ballet teacher specializing in ages 3-7 and, in the summer, helps direct the Music Machine, where she teaches dance to children ages 3-18. As she has already earned an OEC in Bookkeeping and is accredited in QuickBooks Online, Carly intends on earning her Certified Public Accountant accreditation after graduation.



2024-2025 CAS Scholarship Recipients

Over \$200,000 in CAS scholarships were awarded in academic year 24-25 thanks to the generosity of our donors.

Al Bramstedt Jr. Journalism Endowed Scholarship

Andrea Burtzel

Ardell French Memorial Endowment

Tori Schwantes

Arlene Kuhner Memorial Endowment

Crystal Laganson

Becky Patterson and Murphy Turner Endowed Scholarship

Peter Krupski

CAS Crossing the Finish Line Completion Scholarship

Jena Boelens

Chris L. Kleinke Scholarship

Vi Davis

Ella Schilling

Clay Body Award

Amy Schilling

Dean Berg Integrity in Journalism Endowed Award

Taylor Heckart

Pheonix Jacobson

Matthew Schmitz

Avery Williamson

Dr. Jon Baker Memorial Scholarship

Alexandra Timmins

Dr. Ruth A. M. Schmidt Memorial Scholarship

Dallas Brooks

Louie Jovanovich

Edward Rollin Clinton Memorial Endowment

Isaac Diltz

Matthew Falvo

Elaine Atwood Completion Scholarship

Nolan Baird

Anja Burnett

Karl Cranston-Simmons

Emalee Edwards

Linnaea Gossard

Taylor Heckart

Emily Hufford

Pheonix Jacobson

Sean Luitjohan

Truth Moody

Kadyn Osborne

Christina Patton

Nathan Peterson

Matthew Schmitz

Annelies Stephens

Sycely Wheelles

Shyler Umphenour

Avery Williamson

Everette K. Wagner Endowed Scholarship

Alex Mitchell

Kara Rahm

Victoria Sanders-Jordan

Excellence in Art

Peter Krupski

Excellence in Arts and Sciences

Jessica Hahn

Raye White

Excellence in Biology

Kori Orion

Jessica Stevens

Excellence in Ceramics

Amy Schilling

Excellence in Music

Michaela Browning

GCI Scholarship

Emily Hufford

Porter Schachle

Governor William A. Egan Award

Chuol Mut

HEAL NOW Clinical Psychology Scholarship

Abby Van Nortwick

Alicia Washington

Hecla Greens Creek Scholarship

Dallas Brooks

Elizabeth Freeman

Hugh McPeck Gallery Art Student Scholarship

Erin D Eimon

John Russell Gay Memorial Science Scholarship

Jena Boelens

Keriakia Hammer

Bryce Inman

Bella Kaliberda

Tammy Kiefer

David Kim

Marcus Montoya

Madison Pair

Bradley Smith

Ken Gray Scholarship

Jessica Brevard

Kris Knudson Memorial Scholarship

Raeanna Moss

Niquelina Smith

Marguerite Downey Memorial Music Scholarship

Gabriel Brandt

Gage Traylor

Max Llanes Behind the Camera Endowed Scholarship

Marc Sherman

Shyler Umphenour

Mickey Belden Vocal Performance Endowed Scholarship

Austen Hardy

Muriel Hannah Scholarship

Cate Crowell

Jay Johnson

Peter Krupski

Kayla Leu-Clark

Amelia McCormack

Alexander Soboleff

Paul G. Landis Art Endowed Scholarship

Sarah Cornils

Jay Johnson

Peter Krupski

Roger DeSmith Creative Art in Ceramics Scholarship

Taylor Bailey-Parsons

Ashley Jones

Taylor Lee

Saradell Ard Art Endowed Scholarship

Sarah Cornils

Jay Johnson

UAA Brian Wick and Hilary Davies Mathematics Scholarship

Aiden Reid

UAA Music First Year Student Success Support

Apryl Cardwell

Austen Hardy

Alyssa Henegar

*Other students in CAS received scholarships for athletics, financial aid, community scholarships, performance scholarships, etc., but are not recognized here. The scholarship recipients recognized here are because of philanthropy to CAS. Thank you!

Special thanks to our event supporter:



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