

SPRING 2026  
**COMMENCEMENT**



YOUR JOURNEY. YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR IMPACT.



# THE LEGEND OF THE SEAWOLF



UAA's athletic teams were not always called the Seawolves. The original team name was the "Sourdoughs," a reference that many only associated with a kind of bread. Wanting a replacement, UAA's first athletic director and basketball coach Bob Rachal went to the library in search of inspiration, looking for something formidable and distinctive from Alaska's rich cultural history. He found what he was looking for in the Tlingit legend of Gonakadet, also known as Wasco or Sea Wolf. The man/creature in the legend was strong, generous and humble. He also had the power to transform. What better character to represent an athletic team! Rachal used the image that accompanied the story as the first Seawolf logo in 1977.

***ONCE A SEAWOLF, ALWAYS A SEAWOLF.***





UNIVERSITY *of* ALASKA  
ANCHORAGE™

# COMMENCEMENT

SPRING CLASS OF

# 2026

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026  
1 P.M.  
ALASKA AIRLINES CENTER

The University of Alaska Anchorage awards degrees and certificates in commencement ceremonies held each December and May as directed by the Board of Regents of the University of Alaska Statewide System of Higher Education. All degrees and certificates are conferred by the authority of the Board of Regents.

The University of Alaska ([www.alaska.edu](http://www.alaska.edu)) is an Equal Opportunity/Equal Access Employer and Educational Institution. The University is committed to a policy of non-discrimination ([alaska.edu/nondiscrimination](http://alaska.edu/nondiscrimination)) against individuals on the basis of any legally protected status.

## THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

Oh, say, can you see,  
 By the dawn's early light,  
 What so proudly we hailed  
 At the twilight's last gleaming?  
 Whose broad stripes and bright stars,  
 Through the perilous fight,  
 O'er the ramparts we watched,  
 Were so gallantly streaming?  
 And the rockets' red glare,  
 The bombs bursting in air,  
 Gave proof through the night  
 That our flag was still there.  
 Oh, say, does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave  
 O'er the land of the free  
 And the home of the brave?

Francis Scott Key

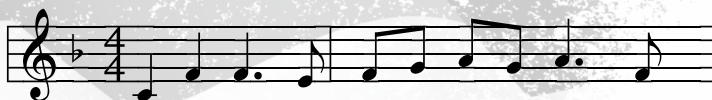
## ALASKA'S FLAG SONG

Eight stars of gold on a field of blue,  
 Alaska's flag, may it mean to you;  
 The blue of the sea, the evening sky,  
 The mountain lakes and the flow'rs nearby;  
 The gold of the early sourdough's dreams,  
 The precious gold of the hills and streams;  
 The brilliant stars in the northern sky,  
 The "Bear," the "Dipper," and, shining high,  
 The great North Star with its steady light,  
 O'er land and sea a beacon bright,  
 Alaska's flag to Alaskans dear,  
 The simple flag of a last frontier.

## UAA ALMA MATER

*Affectionately* ♩ = 66

Mark Wolbers



1. U A A, we love thy moun - tain peaks, your  
 2. U A A, re - spect the spe - cial worth, of  
 3. U A A, pre - serve your o - pen doors, a



wood - ed land, graced\_\_ with\_\_ trails and creeks. Oh,  
 each and all, let - ting truth in - fuse the Earth. Oh,  
 sec - ond chance, giv - ing hope to dreams and more. Oh,



U A A, re - call the yield - ing night, the  
 U A A, be - come the schol - ars home, a  
 U A A, help those who seek your light, the a -



gain - ing day, learn - ing strikes the shad - ows bright.  
 place of books, knowl - edge is our fu - ture gold.  
 cad - e - my, show - ing all we learn for life!

## SEATING MUSIC

### UAA Wind Ensemble

Directed by Dr. Christopher Song  
 Assistant Professor of Music Education

**THE BOARD OF REGENTS  
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**Aaron Dotson**, Vice Chancellor

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**Tom Green**, Interim Vice Chancellor

for Student Affairs

**Tanya Pont**, Vice Chancellor for Advancement,

Acting Director of Athletics

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# ORDER OF EVENTS

Processional . . . . . Pomp and Circumstance  
Audience, please remain standing

Alaska Native Dancers . . . . . Yurapik Drummers and Dancers

Presenting of the Colors . . . . . UAA Army ROTC Color Guard

The Star-Spangled Banner . . . . . Krista Spath

Alaska’s Flag Song . . . . . Alison Pogue

President’s Message . . . . . UA President Pat Pitney

Congratulations from the Faculty . . . . . Matthew Cuellar  
Faculty Senate President

Recognition of Emeritus Status  
Honorary Degree and Meritorious Service Awards . . . . . Provost Denise Runge  
UA Board of Regents

Student Speaker . . . . . Rainey Spurlock  
B.A. Communication

Chancellor’s Message and Speaker Introduction . . . . . Chancellor Cheryl Siemers

Commencement Speaker . . . . . Sheri Buretta  
A.A.S. Accounting '91

Recognition of Deployed and ROTC Graduates . . . . . Chancellor Cheryl Siemers

Presentation of Candidates for Graduation . . . . . Provost Denise Runge

Welcome from the Alumni Association . . . . . Jenny Di Grappa, M.P.A.  
B.S. '14, C.T.1 '14

UAA Alma Mater . . . . . Alison Pogue and Krista Spath

Conferring of Degrees and Certificates . . . . . UA Board of Regents

Recessional . . . . . Audience, please rise

# 2026 EMERITUS

The position of emeritus is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a full-time professor or staff member who has retired after a minimum of 10 years of faithful service to the University of Alaska.



**Daria Carle**

*Professor Emerita of Library Science  
UAA/APU Consortium Library*



**Kitty Deal**

*Professor Emerita of Education  
School of Education (Kodiak College)*



**Steven Godfrey**

*Professor Emeritus of Art  
College of Arts and Sciences*



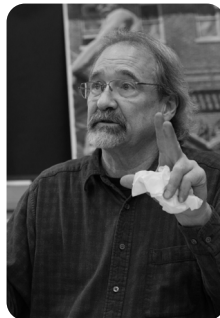
**Jennifer Harty**

*Staff Emerita  
School of Education*



**Patricia Jenkins**

*Professor Emerita of English  
College of Arts and Sciences*



**Garry Mealor**

*Professor Emeritus of Art  
College of Arts and Sciences*



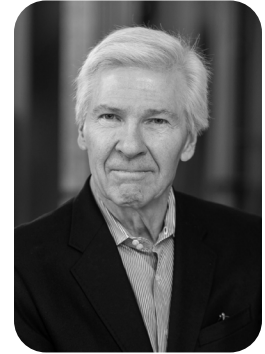
**Sudarsan Rangarajan**

*Professor Emeritus of Languages  
College of Arts and Sciences*

# HONORARY DEGREE AWARD

## RON DUNCAN

*Honorary Doctor of Laws*



Ron Duncan's visionary leadership has helped define Alaska's telecommunications landscape.

As co-founder and CEO of GCI, Duncan transformed the way Alaskans live, learn, work and connect, turning a modest entrepreneurial idea into a decades-long campaign to close the digital divide in one of the world's most rugged and remote environments.

Duncan's Alaska story began in the 1970s, when he visited from Harvard Business School and saw an unmet need: Fairbanks lacked a cable system. That early spark of innovation led to a partnership with local business leaders and, eventually, the 1979 launch of GCI from a small Anchorage apartment. His goal? To introduce competition into Alaska's long-distance telephone market — a move that would permanently change the state's communications industry.

Over the following four decades, Duncan built GCI into Alaska's largest telecommunications provider, with more than 1,800 employees and over \$4 billion invested in infrastructure. Under his leadership, the company laid more than 10,000 miles of telecom lines, including 6,000 miles of subsea fiber, bringing broadband, mobile service and reliable connectivity to even the most isolated parts of the state.

But Duncan's work was never just about fiber optics and satellites. A commercial pilot for more than 40 years, he also brought an aviator's sense of problem-solving and persistence to his work — qualities that earned him a long-standing role as a director and former board chair of the National Business Aviation Association. Whether flying his own planes or navigating regulatory obstacles, he brought the same can-do ethos to both runways and boardrooms.

GCI's innovations under Duncan's leadership include satellite-based voice systems that made rural calling affordable, competition in local telephone markets, widespread wireless infrastructure and now 5G services and long-haul microwave networks. These milestones weren't inevitable; they were the result of strategic policy work, regulatory engagement and relentless coalition-building.

Beyond business, he has been a tireless advocate for fiscal policy, public-private collaboration and mentoring future leaders. His commitment to Alaska's long-term development, equity and innovation reflects the values he embodies: integrity, resilience and service. Those who know him personally describe Duncan as decent, loyal and quietly committed to doing the right thing.

Today, Duncan's impact can be seen in the fiber that runs beneath tundra, the wireless towers dotting remote villages and the educational and medical breakthroughs made possible by fast, stable internet.

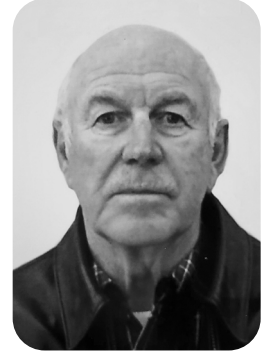
# HONORARY DEGREE AWARD

## JIM JANSEN

*Honorary Doctor of Laws*

Jim Jansen's life reads like a blueprint for purposeful leadership in Alaska. As chairman of Lynden – the multimodal transportation enterprise he has represented for 56 years – he has turned personal resourcefulness into statewide prosperity.

Born into trucking and construction, Jansen first came north in 1967, hauling ore at the historic Kennecott Mines. He later served as a Navy Seabee with a tour of duty in Vietnam, honing the mechanical ingenuity that would later define his management style. Returning to Alaska, he joined Lynden as a dispatcher, terminal manager, general manager, president, CEO and board chairman. He is an avid outdoorsman, and an 18,000-hour ATP rated pilot who is powered less by titles than by a willingness to lash a trailer or make a sales call. His wife Vicki of 58 years, three children and six grandchildren all live in Alaska.



Under Jansen's steady hand, with a team of outstanding people, Lynden evolved from a small trucking outfit into one of the state's largest private employers, comprising Alaska Marine Lines, Lynden Transport, Alaska West Express, Knik Construction, Lynden Logistics, Bering Marine and Lynden Air Cargo. The 1995 launch of the air-cargo subsidiary married his passion for aviation with a long-range vision of seamless land-sea-air logistics, allowing groceries, medical supplies and heavy equipment to reach some of the world's most remote communities. Throughout that expansion, a simple creed guided operation: be safe, work hard, be ethical and deliver quality.

Colleagues say Jansen's word is his bond. When the U.S. Capitol needed a 74-foot Sitka spruce for the National Christmas Tree, Lynden's crews were the ones who moved it from the Tongass to Washington, D.C. Employees praise the "open door" culture he fosters. Lynden's exemplary safety record and low employee-turnover rate are enduring proof that principle can coexist with profit.

Beyond the warehouse gates, Jansen invests his expertise in Alaska's future. He is a vocal advocate on infrastructure, trade and economic policy, and his civic leadership has earned the Commonwealth North Walter J. Hickel Award, AGC's Hard Hat Award, the Alaska Aviation Museum Lifetime Achievement Award, the Alaska Chamber's William A. Egan Outstanding Alaskan of the Year honor and the Alaska Oil and Gas Historical Society Lifetime Achievement Award.

# MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

## TALIS COLBERG

### *Meritorious Service Award*

Talis Colberg has spent a lifetime serving the people of Alaska – with a career defined by public service, education, community and deep roots in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley.

Colberg's lifelong connection to Matanuska-Susitna College (MSC) began in 1974 as a high school student hired by then-director Al Okeson as an algebra tutor at what was then Palmer Community College. That modest start sparked a career that spanned decades and culminated in his distinguished tenure as MSC director from 2010 to 2023. In recognition of his exceptional leadership and commitment, the University of Alaska awarded him the rare and prestigious title of Director Emeritus in 2023.



Colberg's commitment to education is underscored by an impressive academic foundation, including a Ph.D. from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, a J.D. from Pepperdine University School of Law and a B.A. from Pacific Lutheran University. Returning to MSC as an adjunct professor in 1992, he would go on to teach 72 courses in history and law over nearly two decades. His dedication to students earned him an honorable mention for the 1999 Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Teaching. Colberg continued as an adjunct professor with the university in the evenings, while his day job included roles as a Matanuska-Susitna Borough assembly member, a twice-elected borough mayor and three years as Alaska's attorney general.

Beyond the classroom, Colberg's leadership transformed MSC. As director, he advanced the quality of education available to students and empowered faculty by recognizing and deploying their unique talents. He strengthened the ties between the college and the community, leading the campus through significant milestones such as the construction and opening of the state-of-the-art Glenn Massay Theater. Always grounded in humility, Colberg ensured that past leaders were honored, frequently inviting former directors Al Okeson and Glenn Massay to campus events, placing community history and tradition above personal recognition.

His contributions extend well beyond the college. His public service resume includes roles as vice chair of the Alaska Historical Commission, board member and chair of the Alaska Humanities Forum, board member and president for the Alaska State Fair and Honorary Consul for the Republic of Latvia. In 2015, he received the Alaska Governor's Award for Distinguished Service to the Humanities in recognition of his impact on civic life and historical scholarship.

Reflecting on his legacy, Colberg said, "Watching my students attain successful moments in their own lives has been wonderful." With wit, intellect, kindness and a reverence for those who came before him, Colberg's legacy is one that is woven into the very fabric of the Mat-Su Valley, one defined not by titles, but by lives changed.

# MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

## MARY K. HUGHES

### *Meritorious Service Award*

Mary K. Hughes is one of Alaska's most influential advocates for higher education, public service and civic leadership. Her decades of service to UAA and the broader University of Alaska (UA) system have made a lasting mark on generations of students, faculty and leaders throughout the state.



Hughes graduated from UA at College, Alaska, with a Bachelor of Business Administration in management in 1971, later earning her Juris Doctorate from Willamette University College of Law in 1974. Her educational foundation launched a distinguished legal and civic career that has spanned both public and private sectors. She served as a partner and of counsel with the law firm Hughes, Thorsness, Gantz, Powell and Brundin, bringing her legal and strategic expertise to key government roles, including Alaska State Director for U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski's office and the Anchorage Municipal Attorney.

Hughes holds the distinction of being the second longest-serving member of the University of Alaska Board of Regents, first appointed in 2002 by Gov. Tony Knowles. For nearly 23 years and three full terms, she became known for her professionalism, keen governance insight and trademark sense of humor. Her commitment to education spans roles on the board of directors for the University of Alaska Foundation (of which her father, John C. Hughes, was a founding member), as a trustee and Life Trustee Emerita for Willamette University and through her nine-year board membership on the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges.

Beyond her professional accolades, Hughes' enduring legacy is defined by an extraordinary record of community service. Her leadership has shaped countless institutions, including the Alaska Bar Association, Alaska Bar Foundation, Anchorage Economic Development Corporation, Providence Alaska Foundation, Alaska Humanities Forum and advisory councils for both Alaska Airlines and TOTE Maritime. Her influence and advocacy have fortified the philanthropic and educational landscapes of the state. As the leader of the John C. Hughes Foundation, she continues to encourage generous philanthropy through challenge grants and strong support of higher education for future generations.

Hughes' contributions have been recognized with numerous awards and honors that reflect her steadfast commitment to excellence. Her legacy is further enriched by her devotion to her family including her spouse Andrew Eker, three children, eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, whose lives reflect the same values of service, leadership and generosity.

More than a leader, Mary K. Hughes is a pillar of Alaska's educational and civic progress, and a true champion for future generations.

# COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

## SHERI BURETTA

*Honorary Doctor of Laws*

Sheri Buretta is a trailblazer in Alaska Native leadership, whose enduring commitment to community, education and cultural preservation has left a lasting impact across the state. As chair of the Chugach Alaska Corporation board of directors for more than 25 years, Buretta has guided one of the most successful Alaska Native corporations to remarkable growth. Her leadership is rooted not only in strategic business acumen but also in a deep sense of responsibility to future generations.



Born in Anchorage with ancestral ties to the Native village of Tatitlek in Prince William Sound, Buretta graduated from UAA in 1991 with a degree in accounting from the College of Business and Public Policy. That education laid the groundwork for her to step into increasingly influential roles across both corporate and civic spheres.

Since assuming board leadership in 1998, Buretta has helped transform Chugach, employing more than 6,000 people and generating hundreds of millions in annual revenue. Under her guidance, Chugach has consistently reinvested in shareholder programs, education and cultural initiatives. She has helped position Chugach not just as an economic engine, but as a community builder, advancing its mission through volunteerism, philanthropy and advocacy. Some of her biggest accomplishments were to include Alaska in the California Carbon market, land deals that conserve and generate profits, drive efforts to create Alaska Native Settlement Trusts and Land exchange legislation, as well as opening enrollment to future generations.

Beyond her role at Chugach, Buretta has served on other influential boards, including the Alaska Federation of Natives, Tatitlek Corporation, Exxon Valdez Oil Public Advisory Council and the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council. Her work with the Chugach Heritage Foundation, the Chugach Museum and Russian Orthodox Sacred Sites in Alaska has preserved important cultural knowledge and empowered new generations of Alaska Native leaders.

Buretta's impact is especially profound in higher education. From 2015 to 2023, she served on the University of Alaska Board of Regents, including three years as chair. Her tenure was marked by thoughtful, equity-minded leadership focused on student access, educational quality and institutional sustainability. She brought a sharp understanding of financial management and an unwavering belief in the power of education to uplift Alaska Native communities.

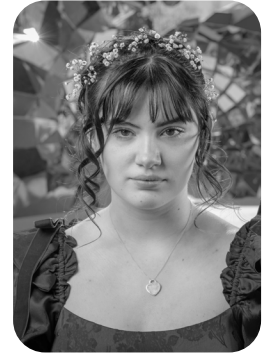
Through every role – corporate executive, regent, cultural advocate and mentor – Buretta has embodied the core values of respect, service and stewardship. Her legacy is one of purposeful leadership that not only advances economic development, but honors tradition, builds opportunity and strengthens the fabric of Alaska.

# STUDENT SPEAKER

## RAINEY SPURLOCK

Rainey Spurlock first enrolled at UAA when she was 13, taking classes at Mat-Su College alongside her grandmother. Now, at 17, the communications major and undergraduate commencement speaker for the spring Class of 2026 is UAA's youngest-ever graduate, according to available records.

Spurlock credits her grandmother and adoptive mother, Brenda, for imbuing her with a love of education and learning growing up. Not only did she homeschool her, but she also set an example by regularly taking college courses for fun. So when a school counselor suggested Spurlock take a college class online, her grandmother had an even better idea: "Why don't we just go together and take classes?"



Spurlock entered college without any prior background or expectations – she had never written an essay before and didn't know what a bachelor's degree was. Although initially intimidating, she quickly settled into the experience thanks in part to her grandmother's support.

After a few successful semesters, the duo decided to pursue degrees together, opting for the B.A. in communication. For the younger Spurlock, who graduated high school at 15 and previously taught speech and debate, the major combines her love of public speaking, acting and communicating.

"I'm very proud of a lot of the things that I've done in my time at UAA. I've done a lot, just grown so much as a person. I feel like I can attribute a lot of my success to everything that I've learned in my communications degree," said Spurlock, who also started her pop music career in earnest during her time as an undergraduate.

For much of the past year, she's traveled back and forth from Nashville collaborating with a team to produce several songs set to be released under the name Rainey Lane. She's also partnered with her grandmother to launch a nonprofit called Your Path, Your Purpose that encourages other students, especially those in rural Alaska, to follow their boldest dreams – leading by example with her own accomplishments.

"I'm no genius, you know? I was just able to believe in myself and to work hard, and not doubt myself or my intelligence, and to follow my ambition," said Spurlock on graduating with her bachelor's degree at 17. "I really want to share that. I want people to realize how accessible their dreams are, and to really take hold of all the opportunities that they can to get what they want."

In addition to earning bachelor's degrees and starting a nonprofit together, Spurlock and her grandmother are already working in tandem toward another dream: obtaining their master's in project management from UAA.

With so many opportunities and potential paths ahead, Spurlock encourages the graduating class to pause and appreciate themselves.

"You have done something that so many people are not able to do, that so many people dream of doing and completing. You have done something so amazing. You should be so proud of yourself."

# GRADUATE STUDENT SPEAKER

## SAM KRAKOWER

One of the most enduring metaphors for America is the melting pot – a place where different experiences, identities and specialties come together to create something much stronger than any element alone. For Lt. Cmdr. Sam Krakower, interdisciplinary studies graduate and graduate student hooding ceremony speaker for the spring Class of 2026, that metaphor reflects both his academic journey and professional path.



Born and raised in southern New Jersey, Krakower’s educational path began at the United States Coast Guard Academy, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in government while also commissioning as a Coast Guard officer. In the early days of active duty, he gained experience at sea and in leadership, including commanding a fast response cutter in Key West, Florida, navigating the nation’s sole heavy polar icebreaker from Seattle to Antarctica, and participating in a congressional fellowship that deepened his understanding of policymaking. These experiences ultimately positioned him for an advanced education assignment at UAA focused on Arctic policy and security, which aligns with the Coast Guard’s growing strategic interest in the region. Krakower is the second Coast Guardsman ever to receive this assignment.

The Arctic security program Krakower pursued is interdisciplinary by design, as the region’s challenges cannot be viewed through a single lens. Security concerns in the Arctic intersect with environmental change, economic development, Indigenous sovereignty and shifting geopolitics, and his coursework and research reflect this complexity by drawing from multiple schools and disciplines.

“The best thing [about this program] has been the freedom to pursue different classes from different schools, and getting different interpretations of why the Arctic matters from educators who are engaged, active and just love to teach,” said Krakower.

Central to Krakower’s research is a comparative analysis of maritime choke points, particularly the Greenland-Iceland-United Kingdom (GIUK) Gap and the Bering Strait. Historically, the GIUK Gap has played a critical role in defense and trade. Krakower’s work explores how lessons from that strategic corridor might inform approaches to safeguarding U.S. and Alaska interests in the Arctic and contribute to more informed policy decisions and operational strategies.

Looking ahead, Krakower will serve as the operations officer on the Coast Guard’s newest icebreaker, U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Storis. Once on board, he will apply his academic insights to real-world missions in the Arctic. His long-term goal is to continue contributing to operations, research and policy that help clarify the strategic importance of the region to audiences beyond Alaska, fostering a greater awareness of the Arctic’s role in national and global security.

“Most folks in the Lower 48 don’t understand the importance of us being an Arctic nation,” said Krakower. “These programs are extremely helpful in communicating why the Arctic matters and why Alaska matters, and I’m looking forward to the opportunity to immediately give back to this great state.”

*\*Sam Krakower spoke during the Graduate Degree Hooding Ceremony on Saturday, May 2, 2026.*

# WELCOME

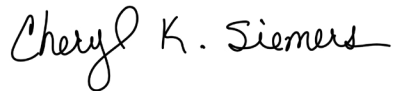
Dear Seawolves,

Congratulations to the spring graduating Class of 2026! Today, we proudly celebrate your academic achievements and the dedication, resilience and purpose that brought you to this important milestone. You have worked hard, overcome obstacles and realized growth in ways that will shape your future and the communities you serve.

Commencement is a meaningful crossroads. As this chapter closes, new paths will open to present exciting, new opportunities. As you choose your next road, be confident in the strength of your experiences and the momentum of 73,000 Seawolf alumni carrying you forward. You are part of a proud legacy, and you are ready to lead with purpose and intention.

It has been an honor to support your learning, research and your many accomplishments. Thank you for choosing UAA as part of your educational journey.

Congratulations, and best wishes as you begin this exciting new chapter!



Cheryl Siemers  
UAA Chancellor



# WELCOME

Dear UAA Class of 2026,

Congratulations! Today, you join the ranks of more than 100,000 University of Alaska alumni who are building a stronger, more empowered Alaska.

Graduation is an extraordinary achievement, one that requires dedication, patience and hard work. I am deeply proud of all you have achieved during your time at UAA.

Realizing your goals gives you the power to transform your life, seek new opportunities and achieve more than you ever thought possible. The determination that brought you here today will continue to serve you in your career and in your life.

The world needs your insight, creativity and enthusiasm, and Alaska is ready for you. You are our educators, engineers, health care experts and entrepreneurs. Alaska industries and businesses know that the knowledge and skills you've gained at UAA make you highly qualified to enter these fields.

While today celebrates your success, we also recognize those who helped you reach this moment. University leaders, faculty and staff applaud you, but nothing compares to the support of your families, friends and loved ones.

The University of Alaska community is unlike any other. You have a strong system of alumni, faculty, staff and supporters cheering for your success. I encourage you to stay connected, stay curious and stay engaged.

As the proud mother of three UA graduates – one from UAA, one from UAF and one from UAS – I've seen firsthand the challenges students face and the sacrifices they make to get to this point. More challenges await, but I hope you pause to savor this milestone. You've earned it.

As I prepare to retire, I do so with deep gratitude. Serving the University of Alaska has been one of the greatest honors of my life. Being part of your journeys – and the journeys of thousands of students before you – has filled me with hope, pride and admiration. Although I am stepping away from my role, I will always remain one of your biggest supporters.

Once again, congratulations, Seawolves! I wish you all the best as you take on what lies ahead. I know that you'll make a positive impact on our state and on our world.

Sincerely,



Pat Pitney, President  
University of Alaska



# ACADEMIC TRADITIONS

## Robes, Mortarboards, Hoods

An academic legend tells of a wise old Greek who dressed his students in mason’s sackcloth robes with mortarboards because “their destiny is to build. Some will build cities, some will build lives – perhaps one of them will build an empire; but all will be builders on the solid foundation of knowledge.”

Whether or not the ancient Greek dressed his students in sackcloth and mortarboard, the academic robes worn today by graduates and faculty trace their beginnings to the mid-12th century, when small groups studied under the tutelage of a scholar (often a monk or priest). These students chose to dress in a robe similar to that of their teacher. Through the centuries, this traditional scholarly dress did not change much. Each individual scholar donned special colors, fur and fabrics, as did his students. In contrast to those Old World customs, today’s academic robe has a basic organization that allows you to identify even more about the scholar.

Today’s scholars are the university faculty. They wear academic robes with colorful hoods reminiscent of the medieval monk’s cowl. The size and colors of the hood tell the observer what discipline the scholar pursued and from which college or university he or she graduated.

UAA master’s degree graduates will be wearing their hoods today, for they have gone beyond the bachelor’s degree to learn more and become scholars. The University of Alaska Anchorage’s colors are gold and green, hence these colors on the hood. The velvet trim on the hood signifies the scholar’s field.

## Academic Regalia Colors by College

College of Arts and Sciences	Anthropology	Golden Yellow
	Biological Sciences	Golden Yellow
	Clinical Psychology	Golden Yellow
	Creative Writing and Literary Arts	Brown
	English	White
	Clinical-Community Psychology (Ph.D.)	Dark Blue
Graduate School	Interdisciplinary Studies (M.A.)	White
	Interdisciplinary Studies (M.S.)	Golden Yellow
College of Business and Public Policy	Business Administration	Drab
	Global Supply Chain Management	Golden Yellow
	Public Administration	Peacock Blue
	All Disciplines	Orange
College of Engineering		
College of Health	Dietetics	Gold
	Nursing	Apricot
	Public Health	Salmon Pink
	Social Work	Citron
School of Education	Education	Light Blue

Some colleges and universities use the soft beret, but the prevailing style of cap is the traditional square mortarboard, decorated with a long tassel. You may notice some faculty wearing a soft beret-style cap.

It does not matter whether the tassel is worn on the left or right of the mortarboard, but it is often customary to change the tassel to the other side after receiving the diploma.

While you may not be able to identify the origins of each specific academic robe and hood appearing in today's commencement ceremony, you can reflect that from the certificate graduate in his black gown to the Doctor of Philosophy, students and professors alike are paying homage to more than 800 years of academic tradition.

### **University Mace**

The grand marshal carries the University of Alaska Anchorage mace in the commencement procession and places it in a stand on the stage during commencement ceremonies to signify the importance of the occasion. The UAA Alumni Association commissioned the mace in 1990 and two talented UAA employees created it. Dr. Vern Oremus, former dean of UAA's previous College of Career and Vocational Education, used a lathe to create the wooden staff and head. Professor of Art Mariano Gonzales designed and produced the sterling silver torch at the top of the mace. The mace symbolizes UAA as a university of distinction and is traditionally entrusted to the faculty in recognition of their critical role in the education of our students.

# CLASS OF 2026

## COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

DR. JENNY MCNULTY, DEAN

\*Cum Laude, \*\*Magna Cum Laude, \*\*\*Summa Cum Laude

### DOCTORATE DEGREES

#### Doctor of Philosophy

#### Clinical-Community Psychology

Sharnel Vale-Jones

### MASTER'S DEGREES

#### MASTER OF SCIENCE

#### Applied Geological Sciences

Leah C. Boccignone  
Elizabeth B. Freeman

#### Biological Sciences

Nicholas B. Beckage  
Sean R. Fitzgerald  
Natalie M. Hunter  
Kyle Kolda  
Sara R. Wilhelm

#### Clinical Psychology

Edmond I. Arroyo  
Halle L. Beaver  
Ella L. Bryner  
Alyssa K. Cimino  
Samantha A. Foster  
Chloe A. Hathcoat  
Keli A. Langmead  
Mark I. McArthur  
Bernice M. Nisbett  
Alexandra L. Timmins  
Abigail J. Van Nortwick

### GRADUATE CERTIFICATES

#### Children's Mental Health

Daphne R. Ang  
Dayl Bacher  
Halle L. Beaver

Ella L. Bryner  
Alyssa K. Cimino  
Jeraud A. Green  
Brianna T. Jones  
Yana Yves S. Knox  
Mark I. McArthur  
Marissa S. Ridgley  
Abigail J. Van Nortwick

### BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

#### BACHELOR OF ARTS

#### Anthropology

Justin L. Cox  
Grace H. Kwon\*\*\*  
Arek X. Osborne  
Ellen B. Smiley\*  
Kayla N. Tiernan\*

#### Art

Tia P. Allen\*\*\*  
Anthony A. Capala\*\*\*  
Chantel J. Hodges  
Peter Krupski\*\*\*  
Candace E. McCutcheon\*  
Jonathan Patrick M. Nuesca  
Kimberly L. Roth\*\*\*  
Jennifer L. Simpson  
Liliana M. Walton\*\*

#### Biological Sciences

Amour Gautam\*  
Ashleigh N. Mulherron\*\*

#### English

Savannah R. Clary  
Abigail S. DeBuse  
Winter M. Grasso\*  
Deborah S. Kornchuk  
Loretta A. Kramer  
Brandon J. Mills\*\*\*  
Courtney E. Pearson\*  
Miya U. Scheid\*

Sofia N. Wimberly\*\*\*  
Serene L. Xiong\*

#### History

Aunika M. Alch  
Jackson K. Godsey  
Peter I. Hilbish  
Nikolaus A. Nagel  
Isaac B. Richardson\*\*\*  
Cyril F. Simeonoff  
Nathaniel N. Tuttle  
Josue Valle\*\*  
Jessie R. Wilson

#### Interdisciplinary Studies

Nichole S. Bearden  
Ethan C. Combs\*  
Melissa D. Forrest\*\*\*  
Emma M. Hill\*  
Micah L. Nauls\*\*  
Kelly L. Trefon

#### International Studies

Daniel T. Vo\*\*

#### Journalism and Public Communications

Nolan D. Baird  
Anja V. Burnett  
Emalee T. Edwards\*\*  
Taylor Guetschow\*  
Emily A. Hufford\*  
Willem R. Krieter  
Sean M. Luitjohan  
Nathaniel A. Peterson\*\*  
Trevor L. Thompson\*

#### Languages

Leilani A. Elder  
Zachary A. Oshesky  
Miya U. Scheid\*  
Caleb S. Youn\*\*

#### Music

James P. Bodolosky Jr.

#### Philosophy

Bailey C. Demir\*\*\*  
Thomas E. Myhre\*\*\*  
Sean Nino\*\*\*  
Alexandria S. Parran\*  
Michael E. Thomas Jr.

#### Political Science

Leighan R. Gonzales  
Hudson T. Moe\*\*  
James D. Oglesbee\*  
Aaron J. Rayhbuck\*\*\*  
Annika J. Rohde\*  
Madison R. Starowesky  
Hannah B. Toomey  
Bishop O. Tosi\*\*  
Daniel T. Vo\*\*  
Julia M. Wagner\*

#### Psychology

Terrell Amos  
Julia G. Anderson\*\*\*  
Grace L. Asselin\*\*  
Norah Brown\*\*\*  
Conor Cole\*  
Marcus Dufour  
Shaylene E. Englishoe  
Darren Matthew B. Enriquez\*\*  
Jovi Garcia  
Vanessa M. Gozum  
Daniel Headdings  
Mia R. Hinchberger  
Kala I. Jenkins Washington  
Callie Little-Davis  
Kaitlyn G. Maddox  
Alexander J. Manrique  
Roica S. Mercado  
Elizabeth M. Moore\*  
Ethel Q. Padilla  
Mackenzie R. Rogers\*  
Jessica Clare M. Salao\*\*  
Meira D. Talamantes-May  
Ted Tedrick  
Kelsey M. Watts  
Audrey S. P. Williams  
Zoua Xiong\*\*

## BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS

### Art

Miriam E. Mockett\*\*

## BACHELOR OF MUSIC

### Music

Krista R. Spath

## BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

### Anthropology

Jena P. Boelens\*

Ivory P. Iverson

### Biological Sciences

Amayahlidwina F. Alenepi\*\*

Niquelina R. Folk\*\*\*

Artemis J. Hayden\*

David Kim\*

Bradley Loncar

Jadynn K. Mayor\*

Maia C. McCormack\*\*\*

Marcus Benjamin B.

Montoya\*\*\*

Victoria C. Shawback

Amanda J. Thomas\*\*\*

Myalin Vasquez\*

### Chemistry

Niquelina R. Folk\*\*\*

Sofia Porras

Alyssa Kristine P. Samson\*\*

Tori A. Schwantes\*\*\*

### Geological Sciences

Lauren A. Dormaier

Samuel E. Gebert

Kaylen K. Hall\*\*

Alyssa M. Holland

Ivory P. Iverson

Elias M. Neuffer

Isabella R. Rud

Julia H. Szerszenski\*\*

### Interdisciplinary Studies

Amber C. Cramer

Kyle L. Leverich

Veronica M. Sherman

### Mathematics

Cedric G. Deacon

### Natural Sciences

Jedediah E. Dean

Iqra M. Dubed

Aria D. Farris

Athanasios J. Giannulis\*\*\*

Raeanna L. Moss\*\*

Andrew E. Peterson

Alyssa Kristine P. Samson\*\*

Kyle L. Trujillo-Martinez\*

Isabel E. Ulofoshio

### Psychology

Dwyne Exequiel L. Cailan

Katelyn M. Carrillo\*

Nathanael Gregory Y. Castro\*\*

Taylor M. Ganey\*\*

Keterina R. Hawkins

Savannah D. Hudson

Hayden T. Lardomita

Jada I. Niles\*

Morgan J. Roylance\*

Christopher S. Taylor\*

Sophia E. Thompson

## ASSOCIATE DEGREES

### ASSOCIATE OF ARTS

#### Alaska Native Studies

Melissa G. Aningayou

Ayiana Browning

Matthew D. Dischner\*

Angelica J. Firmin\*

#### General Program

Arge E. Armada\*\*\*

Omar A. Arrieta\*\*

Rodel Y. Avinante Jr.\*\*

Akeem R. Bey

Logan A. Bush\*\*

Skyler Clemens

Madison T. Dyson

Blake S. Fitzgerald

Marie A. Foster\*

Emily C. Gillespie

Kayla Greenup\*

Colter T. Griffis\*\*\*

Alana M. H. Harris\*\*\*

Mae Hawj

Alysa J. Hernandez

Chevy J. Hicks

Hannah L. Hilty\*

Quinton C. Howling Wolf

Hannah E. Johnson\*\*\*

Kehaunie L. Kennedy

Sulynnette V. Ledesma

Randy A. Lo

McKaylie X. Luedde

Sophie L. Maki

Aemri T. Marks

Payton Mas\*

Makeyla C. Olde

Denisse Ortiz

Paris D. Pennington

Lysandra L. Pfeifer\*\*

David H. Powers\*

Alexander A. Puygao

Bryce Ramler\*\*\*

Brett Rawalt

Briana C. Rodriguez

Samuel J. Rollins\*\*\*

Jamie E. Simmons

Darin D. Sutton II

Sedzaeda Tiatia

Emma M. Westover\*

Christopher P. Woynicz\*\*\*

Angelenha M. Zaro

## ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE

### General Sciences

Annie Barbur-Cao

Gabriel F. Blanco

Jamillah C. Cayetano

David B. M. Cichon

Abigail G. Cook

Sydney M. Cook

Shayde E. DuBey\*

Darrin N. Fritz\*

Ainsley R. Haukaas

Dawson A. Keena

Jenny Kim\*\*

Lily D. Koitzsch

Tatiana V. Korthuis

Jihye Kwon

Bridget A. Larrabee

Lillianna C. Mendoza

Leesa M. Murph

Angelina M. Ocampo

Kimberly D. Ott\*\*

Trey J. Peterson

Javier Pineda

Abigail G. Rogness

Ryan P. Sommers\*\*

Daelynnette F. J. Spear

Preston T. Stiner

Corina M. Thrasher

Elayna G. Tunney\*

Amanda B. Whitehouse

## OCCUPATIONAL ENDORSEMENT CERTIFICATES

### Graphic Design

Anja V. Burnett

Camille C. Hawk

Kala I. Jenkins Washington

Beatriz Palomares

Ryan A. Werth

### Professional Writing

Devannie M. Diaz

Courtney E. Pearson

Serene L. Xiong

# CLASS OF 2026

## SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

DR. TONIA DOUSAY, DEAN

\*Cum Laude, \*\*Magna Cum Laude, \*\*\*Summa Cum Laude

### MASTER'S DEGREES

#### MASTER OF EDUCATION

##### Educational Leadership

Daniel V. Grimes  
Spenser D. Nelson  
Alexander P. Wilson

##### Special Education

Gina L. Wetzel

##### Teaching and Learning

Corilyn S. Adams  
A. Kirsten Boatright  
Sydney T. Boone  
Roz'lyn L. Grady-Wyche  
Jeraud A. Green  
Jasmine M. Haas  
Leah M. Johnson  
Brianna T. Jones  
Paula Jones  
Ashley N. Kramer  
Marli J. Manning  
Wanda L. Reams

#### GRADUATE CERTIFICATES

##### Educational Leadership: Principal

Dawn E. Fitzpatrick  
Ashley K. Haley  
Krista M. Howell  
Amanda K. Kyle  
Pamela L. Martes  
Katherine C. Simpler  
Heather J. Stewart  
Rogelio Villa, IV

##### Indigenizing Education

Corilyn S. Adams

#### Language and Literacy Education

Timothy R. Allison  
Madison H. Andrews  
Amanda M. Bolling  
Lindsey L. Glenn  
Jasmine M. Haas  
Rachel L. Kittoe  
Jessa Moum  
Shannon M. Thomas  
Anna Voronko

#### POST-BACCALAUREATE CERTIFICATES

##### Early Childhood Education

Aubree N. Kline  
Kattie P. Sutherland

#### BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

#### BACHELOR OF ARTS

##### Early Childhood Education

Meghan R. N. Blanning\*\*\*  
Madison A. Croghan  
Sharlay Mamoe  
Aubrey A. Mullen

### ASSOCIATE DEGREES

#### ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE

##### Early Childhood Development

Chelsea M. Carper\*\*\*  
Sydney R. Justus  
Kaeleigh E. Hoeldt\*\*  
Leslie J. Smith\*\*\*  
Lolonna C. Young

#### OCCUPATIONAL ENDORSEMENT CERTIFICATES

##### Infant and Toddler Development

Rayshana D. Alexander  
Ariel R. Andrews  
Danielle L. Bell  
Zarai N. Castro  
Alison DiCarlo  
Tanya Epchook  
Alysa J. Hernandez  
Marita K. Kameroff  
April D. McBride  
Lillian M. McPherson  
Regina M. Mike  
Jacqueline V. Nakkazi  
Cherie Nanalook  
Ava Urias

# CLASS OF 2026

## COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND PUBLIC POLICY

DR. TERRY NELSON, INTERIM DEAN

\*Cum Laude, \*\*Magna Cum Laude, \*\*\*Summa Cum Laude

### MASTER'S DEGREES

#### MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

##### General Management

Ethan Ackroyd  
 Mayce H. Azzam  
 Terri L. Coker  
 Pham Phuong Mai Do  
 LeAnn M. Duncan  
 Corina M. Froehle  
 Benjamin A. Fugler  
 Vihan D. Garg  
 Shane N. Hautanen  
 Ailie S. Johnson  
 Muhammad H. Khan  
 Anna C. Knopes  
 Jacob S. Mahoney  
 Austin L. McNeill  
 Robert K. Nash  
 Tara J. Nokelby  
 Kalani F. Tucker  
 Hahna M. Wood  
 Thai Xiong

#### MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

David W. Kley  
 Janelle A. Tingook

#### MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY

Mckayla M. Montgomery

### GRADUATE CERTIFICATES

#### Business Analytics and Artificial Intelligence

Megan M. Ernst  
 Benjamin A. Fugler  
 Caitlin Johannes  
 John Peckham  
 Alana R. Ulak

#### Executive Leadership

Benjamin A. Fugler  
 Heather J. Jensen  
 Malorie B. Lomer  
 John Peckham

### BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

#### BACHELOR OF ARTS

##### Economics

Thomas G. Cha

#### BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

##### Accounting

Sofia S. Acuna  
 Hyunggyu An  
 Angel Anne L. Ancheta\*\*\*  
 Megan E. Anshutz\*  
 Leslie M. Baker  
 Haley Bartlett\*\*  
 Gregory A. Driscoll  
 Choua Her  
 Mikael Joseph C. Hilario  
 Jilliana V. Huevo\*  
 Trevor O. Lairmore  
 Emily Mulholland\*\*\*  
 David A. Murray\*  
 Tyler S. Pinnell  
 Adam T. Pombert\*\*  
 Shane M. Preuit  
 Drew R. Rozema\*\*  
 David A. Slivka-Hawkins  
 Casey A. Steger  
 Elias L. Stierwalt\*\*\*  
 Autumn M. Tetlow\*  
 Robert L. Watson

##### Economics

Carlo Cordone\*\*\*  
 Claire Y. Dube  
 Luanna L. Greycbear  
 Damia E. Harris

Darrin C. Koloski

##### Finance

Logan Acheson\*\*\*  
 Quinton C. Howling Wolf  
 Clirim Hukali  
 Leonardo A. Loconte\*  
 Carmen S. L. Nielszen\*\*\*  
 Mitchel H. Schmett  
 Chelsea L. Sieh  
 Autumn M. Tetlow\*

#### Global Logistics and Supply Chain Management

Ian Steiner\*

##### Management

Tyler W. Abts\*\*\*  
 Lidiya K. Antonova  
 Molly L. Bell  
 Ella Bromée\*\*\*  
 Yi-Hsuan Chang  
 Tyler Cobb  
 Mia D. Cooley  
 Christopher O. Cox\*  
 Sebastian Diaz  
 Gracie L. Edgerton\*\*\*  
 Jayden M. Glaze\*  
 Tyler R. Graeber  
 Morgan T. Grant  
 Charlotte K. Hank  
 April A. Ingram  
 Nathanael M. Johnson\*  
 Kira L. McGaughey\*  
 An H. Nguyen\*\*\*  
 Owen P. Nordstrom\*\*\*  
 Mia R. Ridlon\*\*  
 Daniel Robles  
 Alicia M. Schwantes Baston\*  
 Ariel Schwantes\*\*\*  
 Riley M. Simasko  
 Paige M. Tvenge  
 Lila M. Watson\*  
 Jenna K. Whisenhunt\*\*  
 Jill L. Williams

#### Marketing

Molly L. Bell  
 Leeanna C. Charoensook  
 Amy E. Cornils  
 Destiny R. Ferguson  
 Zachary R. Ibbetson\*  
 Dayton I. Keliikipi Jr.\*  
 Eldred John P. Paradeza\*  
 Nathaniel R. Tungul\*\*

### ASSOCIATE DEGREES

#### ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE

##### Accounting

Alicia M. Anawrok  
 Karen Anne G. Bautista\*\*\*  
 William D. Enstice  
 Amiel Kim R. Fernandez  
 Anthony Galyan  
 Jamie M. Gossman\*\*  
 Gracelyn R. Greenwood  
 Allison S. Lightle  
 Antonette G. Sabangan\*\*

##### General Business

Luis Castillo\*  
 Eunji Jeon\*\*  
 Seyeon Kim\*  
 Chaeyeon Shin\*

### OCCUPATIONAL ENDORSEMENT CERTIFICATES

#### Alaska Native Business Management

Tracy A. Parent

#### Bookkeeping

Wanda Brower  
 William D. Enstice  
 DeAnna E. Holly

Beraiah G. Logan  
Miranda M. Magee  
Alisha B. Santamaria

**Business Analytics**

Yijing Gao

**Entrepreneurship**

Stephen V. Nguyen  
Ryan A. Werth

# CLASS OF 2026

## COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

DR. KENRICK MOCK, DEAN

\*Cum Laude, \*\*Magna Cum Laude, \*\*\*Summa Cum Laude

### MASTER'S DEGREES

#### MASTER OF SCIENCE

##### Civil Engineering

Joshua F. Borders  
Alexander G. Litvinchuk  
Dianny A. Melgar  
Yimeng Zhu

##### Project Management

Cooper G. H. Arend  
Alec J. Blake  
Whitney Flores  
Kellie J. Puff  
Jacob S. Shercliffe  
Catherine A. Warden

### BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

#### BACHELOR OF ARTS

##### Computer Science

John P. Cooley  
Killian G. Hull

#### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

##### Civil Engineering

Alex L. Beaton  
Tanner R. Betts\*  
Blanca De Arvizu Sarrias\*\*\*  
Kyle DiCarlo\*\*\*  
Benjamin B. Effinger\*  
Renato A. Espejo\*  
Ryan C. Gray  
Aleksander V. Heil  
Thomas B. Kemper\*\*\*  
Byeongwoo Kim  
Orion W. Lavin-Marz\*\*  
TouLee Lor  
Caedon G. Merriner\*\*  
Joseph M. Pavia-Jones  
Tessa R. Sterner  
Maya L. Wall

Tylar R. Whitney

##### Computer Science

Viktoriia Antonchuk\*  
Brenden D. Boehme\*  
Ethan Z. Brandt\*  
Skyler A. Carman  
Macchelssy E. Dinganga  
Shayde E. DuBey\*  
Kristian J. Gordon  
Derek N. Hodgkins\*\*\*  
Lara Mae S. Imperial\*\*\*  
Caden J. Kane\*  
Austin W. Klein\*\*  
Jihye Kwon  
Angelo M. Nikolic  
Antonio E. Pennell  
Joshua W. Stopera\*  
Ruby G. Wright

##### Computer Systems Engineering

Lars E. Goozen  
Yara Y. Hassan  
Ethan A. Mandt\*  
Alex C. Saelee  
Zong Xiong

##### Electrical Engineering

Jeffery Andersen  
Tristan R. Curry  
Paulo D. De Francisca  
Blayke T. McCarthy  
David Nguyen\*\*  
Zachary A. Oshesky  
Jacob E. Roller  
Christopher G. Sorrow  
Kyle Patrick S. Verango\*

##### Geomatics

Lucas A. Lankford  
Riley Petty\*\*  
Lauren A. Pickett\*\*

##### Mechanical Engineering

Chun-Wei Chu  
Vanessa Mali Dehart

Juan A. Duriez\*  
Quillan B. Hink\*  
Casandra A. LeBlanc\*\*\*  
Ivan V. Leoncio  
Hadi S. Raja  
Ryan J. Roy\*\*\*  
Dade C. Sanderson\*\*  
Karl H. Schubauer\*\*\*  
Benjamin Sorensen  
Ian T. Thai  
Andrew M. Wariner  
Josie K. Wariner\*\*\*

### ASSOCIATE DEGREES

#### ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE

##### Geomatics

Kenneth J. Anderson

# CLASS OF 2026

## COLLEGE OF HEALTH

DR. JAY BUTLER, DEAN

\*Cum Laude, \*\*Magna Cum Laude, \*\*\*Summa Cum Laude

### MASTER'S DEGREES

#### MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

##### Public Health Practice

John D. Laurance IV  
Keely L. Livingston  
Amanda M. Moore  
Amanda S. Overholt  
Samantha M. Ponts  
Austen E. Rogers  
Larissa L. Todd

#### MASTER OF SCIENCE

##### Dietetics and Nutrition

Amanda L. Barlow  
Ema L. Fiedler  
Kaitlyn M. Gilmour  
Anna L. Parreira  
Celine M. Siddall  
Alexandria C. Tek  
Ryan G. Toney  
Victoria L. Tucker  
Paula Veshti

### POST-BACCALAUREATE CERTIFICATES

#### Paralegal Studies

BreAnna Y. Miller

#### Pre-Medical Studies

Zaina R. Harless  
Nathaniel Ryffe

#### Speech Language Pathology

Molly E. Dischner

### BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

#### BACHELOR OF ARTS

##### Criminology and Criminal Justice

Kenedie A. M. Grant

##### Justice

Akech M. Ajak  
Renee C. Fleenor  
Joshua Kim\*  
Caleb R. Lloyd

##### Legal Studies

David W. Hughes  
Elizabeth C. Phinney\*\*\*  
Devon M. Rofidal  
Nahla D. White\*\*  
Jennifer L. Young

#### BACHELOR OF HUMAN SERVICES

Rebecca L. Kruse\*

#### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

##### Dental Hygiene

Maronda S. Chuckran  
Madison V. DeSoto\*\*  
Janci K. Dick  
Michelle J. Duot-Kelley\*\*  
Caitlin M. Garcia\*  
Zaira M. Giordano\*  
Lauren E. Mai\*\*  
Rebecca R. Yerkes

##### Dietetics

Jacob P. Matheson  
Vivian Nguyen\*  
Ainsley M. Proffit\*\*\*  
Samantha K. Robinson\*\*\*  
Liliana Singleton\*\*

##### Health Sciences

Ritchelle A. Boyce\*\*  
Alyssa R. Bushey\*  
Dustin D. Call\*\*\*  
Olivia Carrier\*\*\*  
Madison J. Chacon  
Ronell S. Corral  
Audrey K. Guess\*\*\*  
Anthonia I. Halim  
Justice F. Hansen\*\*  
Trevor C. Howard\*\*\*  
Kaylee E. Ige  
Miranda L. Iverslie\*\*  
Hilary R. Larsen\*\*  
Camille J. Lesseig\*\*\*  
Ky R. Martin  
Sandy Mixayphon-Celario  
Presleigh M. Olsen  
Cassandra B. Sargento  
Raymond J. Scherer\*  
Matt W. Seline\*\*  
Hannah J. Sheridan  
Sarah S. Thao  
Sofiya S. Torba  
Morgan G. Zinn

##### Kinesiology

Cassidy Bryk\*  
Madelyn H. M. Gomez\*  
Savannah M. Gonzalez-Lebaron  
Stephen A. Hunt\*\*  
JoAllyn A. Johnson  
Shannon L. Klein\*\*  
Aleric G. Kompkoff-Anderson  
Benjamin G. Larson\*\*\*  
Elaina M. Mack  
Hailey Neefloon Anganaran I. Moses\*  
Alyssa Naugher\*\*\*  
Breeann C. Spain\*  
Spencer H. Zempel\*

### ASSOCIATE DEGREES

#### ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE

##### Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Maya E. Chaskin\*  
Emma N. Chaussee\*\*  
Josephine G. Crawford\*  
Wyatt Halm\*  
Tamiyah N. Moses\*\*\*  
Ashlynn M. Ramos\*\*\*  
Chloe M. Sweet

##### Fire and Emergency Services Technology

Josephine A. Monear  
Kayla M. Morgan  
Nathaniel M. Salas  
Jordan L. Wilson

##### Human Services

Justina N. Hamlin\*\*  
Matthew T. Rojas\*\*\*  
Dakota A. Walker\*

##### Medical Assisting

Margaret Barbosa  
Camai S. Beltz-Dobbins  
Sofia M. Nocelo\*  
Teagan M. Thorne  
Amarri R. Tremblay\*\*

##### Medical Laboratory Technology

Kelli L. Anderson

##### Paralegal Studies

Heather N. Biggs  
Courtney A. Moore  
Elizabeth C. Phinney\*\*\*

## Radiologic Technology

Leah N. Anderson  
Avery E. Bena\*  
Kelsey A. Bishop\*\*\*  
Cara K. Brown\*\*\*  
Samuel L. Carroll\*  
Andrea G. Ciabu\*\*  
Sarah Fernandez  
Sarah J. Frarey\*\*\*  
Florian Jamie D. Himaya\*\*\*  
Amaya J. Horning\*\*\*  
Myles Kahler  
Matthew J. La Frenz\*  
Belinda M. Ledford\*\*  
Ellianna P. Loudon\*\*\*  
Sierra R. Mitchell  
Mark Anthony O. Ong\*\*  
Autumn G. Records\*\*  
Madeline P. Redinger\*\*\*  
Trevor L. Rogers  
Jaymar A. Sagun\*  
Emily J. Stelzer\*\*  
Olivia G. Tucker  
Tristhy Jhane M. Tulabot\*\*  
Genelle A. Vreeland\*\*\*  
Elise M. Wright\*\*

## Speech-Language Pathology Assistant

Scarlett R. Enzweiler

## Surgical Technology

Ebony L. Adams  
Jelena C. Dorton\*\*\*  
Madeline L. Gardino\*  
Shannon L. Griner  
Isabel Guillen  
Emma N. Jordan\*\*  
Adrien L. Knowles  
Olivia N. Moberg\*\*  
Melissa K. Rauh\*  
Bailee G. Robinson  
Alyssa N. Rupert  
Raven Velasco  
Auston L. Vreeland\*  
Angela M. Waters

## OCCUPATIONAL ENDORSEMENT CERTIFICATES

### Children's Behavioral Health

Izabelle A. Newman  
April M. Cruz  
Michael Cunningham  
Charles M. Diaz

Tarah Hargrove  
Beraiah G. Logan  
Vivian Nguyen  
Aaron M. Osterback  
Leslie J. Smith  
Gabriel L. Swank  
Zane M. Trahan

### Community, Conflict, and Communication

Rebecca L. Kruse

### Conflict Resolution

Nicole M. Lockner

### Diversity and Social Justice

Rebecca L. Kruse

### Gerontology

Sarah S. Thao  
Morgan G. Zinn

### Interprofessional Child Welfare

Alicia M. Brault  
Robin R. Charlie  
Jacquelyn D. Menchaca  
Candace L. Richey  
Carol A. Samuelson  
Oriana D. A. Ziegler

### Medical Office Coding

Lily A. Clemens  
Kristine L. DiBartolo  
Amy L. Fuelling

### Pharmacy Technology

Sarahjoy A. Cristobal  
Emerye Murrell  
Kebang R. Ngiraklang  
Suesan A. Pifer

### Phlebotomist

Charmaine S. Agustin  
Laurelynn D. Cooksey  
Lacy J. McGahan

## SCHOOL OF NURSING

### MASTER'S DEGREES

#### MASTER OF SCIENCE

##### Nursing Science

Kacie D. Burks  
Jessica S. Czechowicz  
Wyatt K. Dunshie  
Lacie J. Patterson  
Teal M. Stanley

### GRADUATE CERTIFICATES

#### Psychiatric and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

Morgan J. Warren

### BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

#### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

##### Nursing

Marinolle M. Acoba  
Elise E. Adams\*\*  
Kara Altes  
Naomi M. Bailey\*\*  
Leah R. Beer\*  
Paula M. Boehlke  
Dalton J. Borton  
Maycee L. Broadway Phillips\*  
Kelsey D. Brown  
Lisa J. Burt\*\*  
Steven M. Cabatan  
Raven Carlo  
Matthew Christensen\*\*  
Nicole M. Coke  
Stephanie C. Conkey\*\*\*  
Ralzhiena L. David\*\*  
Daryl Delaguiron  
Ariana L. DiGloria\*  
Kiah G. Dihle\*\*\*  
Caitlynn M. Duncombe\*\*\*  
Macee R. Eklund\*  
Kyle W. Evans\*  
Justin Frick\*  
Sweetiemay G. Gali\*\*  
Lyanna M. Garver  
Megan S. Gerwin\*  
Janine A. Goodman\*\*\*  
Camryn H. Greene  
Stephanie C. Gross

Marlene G. Gutierrez  
Amber L. Holt  
Abigail G. Howell  
Rebecca C. Howell  
Kate M. Iten  
Rachael K. Johnson\*  
Hannah E. Joyner  
Shem M. Kebati  
Taylor R. Kiser  
Taryn Krzynowek  
Brandey Kumangai-Yamada  
Caylin M. Law  
Kayla A. Leu-Clark\*  
Jennifer L. Lomison  
Rachel A. Lozano\*\*  
Kylee M. Lyle  
Allysha Claire B. Maugham  
Robin A. Mayer\*  
Delia Mayoral Medina  
Breanna C. McCallum  
Summer R. Miller  
Giselle B. Neiser\*  
Jacob K. Ness  
Edgee P. Ocampo\*\*  
Jazliene Giene D. Pacis\*\*  
Melchora M. Pagsolingan\*  
Emine Papraniku\*  
Sofia A. Pfisterer\*  
Jeniel D. Probst\*  
Sofia A. Ramirez Clark  
Marco A. Rivera\*\*\*  
Emma C. Sauer  
Melissa A. Sawchuk\*\*\*  
Christiana J. Schmitt\*\*  
Emily N. Schubert\*  
Christina M. Seals  
Loc X. Silvers\*  
Ashley Soderstrom\*  
Isabel G. Sonnenberg  
Danielle L. Tessier\*\*\*  
Angelyn Mae Uy  
Sharon M. VanThomme\*  
Hannah C. Weeks  
Sheng Xiong

### ASSOCIATE DEGREES

#### ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE

##### Nursing

Jessica A. Abraham  
Brooklyn T. Bulf\*  
Erin R. Combs  
Holli B. Davis  
Whittney N. Evanson\*\*\*

Tellisha M. Frankhouser  
 Ashley S. Garvey\*  
 Jennifer L. Hammond\*  
 Katie Hester\*\*\*  
 April J. Ivey\*\*\*  
 MaryBeth K. Johnson  
 Marina M. Koonooka  
 Dollie M. Levy\*  
 Alloha M. Littrell  
 Tessa J. Luecker\*  
 Matthew C. Miller  
 Renae A. Olsen\*\*  
 Jeannette A. Read\*\*\*  
 Dyan Angelika L. Riparip  
 Lucas D. Robins\*  
 Sonja L. Schaeffer  
 Taylor Sedillos\*  
 Tanya D. Spears\*  
 Lynnette Strickland  
 Alexandra C. Sugarman-  
 Wallace\*\*  
 Nicole Tice  
 Angela K. Uno\*\*\*  
 Frankie Urquhart  
 Oleksandra Welch\*

**SCHOOL OF SOCIAL  
 WORK**

**MASTER’S DEGREES**

**MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK**

Daphne R. Ang  
 Dayl Bacher  
 Joenetta Benjamin  
 Helena M. Bifelt  
 Pamela E. Bjelland  
 Patricia L. Brewster  
 Joyce A. Brooks  
 Monique L. Carter  
 Ashlee M. Crum  
 Emily C. Crysel  
 Kyla A. Dammann  
 Nicholas C. Dawson  
 Chelsi M. Espinosa  
 Thomas W. Fletcher  
 Marie R. Fudge  
 Maija L. Hajdukovich  
 Krysta S. Harrison  
 Jennifer A. Hodges  
 Esme L. Imgrund  
 Angela L. Jackson  
 Tamra A. Jepsen  
 Adda R. Johnson  
 Hunter N. Johnston  
 Shalem A. Kitter  
 Yana Yves S. Knox

Paige Lagerquist  
 Leisha M. Lozano  
 Evalynn M. Mac  
 Joseph A. Malatesta III  
 Stefany Lakin-Malatesta  
 Kathleen A. Niedermeyer  
 Jade I. Nodes  
 Katherine Joy F. Pascua  
 Kadence M. Pettibone  
 Doreen K. Phillips  
 Cory R. Powers  
 Neely C. Reilly  
 Jesus Rodriguez  
 Julia B. Rodriguez  
 Jamison W. Schroyer  
 Willow R. Stewart  
 Olanda N. Thompson

**BACCALAUREATE  
 DEGREES**

**BACHELOR OF SOCIAL  
 WORK**

Jonathan S. Cuddy  
 Colby J. McMichael\*\*\*  
 Ulita T. Reutov\*\*  
 Zalah J. Robert\*  
 Amy D. Urbach\*  
 Ugo D. Woko  
 Isis Youngman\*\*  
 Samantha A. Zivica

# CLASS OF 2026

## COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

DR. RAY WEBER, DEAN

\*Cum Laude, \*\*Magna Cum Laude, \*\*\*Summa Cum Laude

### BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

#### BACHELOR OF ARTS

##### Communication

Allison Evans\*\*  
 Shanice N. Haley  
 Lacy M. McKeown  
 Jaren C. Miller  
 Ginger M. Price\*\*\*  
 Kati B. Renfro\*  
 Brenda K. Spurlock  
 Rainey B. Spurlock\*  
 Bishop O. Tosi\*\*

#### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

##### Applied Technologies Leadership

Michael D. Bell II\*\*\*  
 Gary M. Bullock\*\*\*  
 Thavichai Her  
 Ryan Jimenez\*  
 Elaina M. Mack  
 Isaiah J. Phillips Sr.\*\*\*  
 Justin A. Richardson  
 Marce A. Simeon  
 Quauhtemoc P. Suarez

##### Aviation Technology

Jonathan W. Barber\*  
 Andre M. Bergerson  
 Logan A. Bush\*\*  
 Kaleb Desjarlais\*\*\*  
 Ariana A. Desouza\*\*  
 Logan J. Dewolf\*\*\*  
 Johnathon T. Duke  
 Dina M. A. Elmostafa  
 Rhys E. Greensted  
 Damien T. Jones-Murphy Jr.  
 Michael J. Krol\*  
 Joseph M. Moon\*  
 Caleb R. Napier\*\*  
 Samuel J. Powers  
 Jordan L. Ricker  
 Elias E. Rodriguez

Thomas Rud\*\*  
 Hayden M. Schropp\*\*

##### Construction Management

Jay K. Audette-Smith\*\*  
 Jeffrey A. Cumbie\*\*  
 Hunter F. Eid\*  
 Christian Estremera  
 Olin Kelliher\*  
 Allison S. Medland  
 Jason A. Sheetz\*\*  
 Roman S. Smith

### ASSOCIATE DEGREES

#### ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE

##### Air Traffic Control

Talosaga D. Amituanai\*  
 Bryce M. Christensen  
 Kateri L. Everard\*\*  
 Jenine A. L. Gonzalez  
 Erik G. Holmberg\*  
 Tyler B. Maxell\*\*  
 Aspen B. Tunney

##### Architectural and Engineering Technology

Allison Aljibe  
 Hunter F. Eid\*  
 Zechariah J. James  
 Riley R. Lofland  
 Katherine B. McGill\*\*  
 Ginnette M. Navas Alfaró\*\*

##### Automotive Technology

Diego A. Gonzalez - Castro\*\*\*  
 Jasper G. Kuhne\*\*\*

##### Aviation Maintenance Technology

Levi A. Abbott  
 Johnathon Akers\*\*\*  
 Sunho Choi\*\*

Carlo Renziel R. Codiamat  
 Brittany L. Desjarlais  
 Whitley I. Dietz\*\*  
 Samantha B. Garrett  
 Nicholas G. Heise  
 Bashkim A. Hetemi\*\*  
 Shawn A. Howard\*\*\*  
 Rashaun Johnson  
 Ellie A. Lizarazu\*\*  
 Toy C. Owen\*\*\*  
 Chandler E. Trevino\*

##### Computer Systems and Networking Technology

Paolo Crizan Felizardo\*\*\*  
 Theodore Y. Lee\*\*\*  
 Khari Owens

##### Construction Management

Chengxue Jin  
 Jesse P. Losik\*\*

##### Diesel Power Technology

Chase Bowden\*  
 Ryan A. Foster  
 Aaron M. Hockett\*\*  
 Noah D. Koser  
 Jeffrey A. Steiner\*\*\*  
 Dylan K. Woodward

### CERTIFICATES

##### Automotive Technology

Chloe A. K. Dennis  
 David A. Paoli

##### Aviation Maintenance Technology, Airframe

Johnathon Akers  
 Kaleb T. Babcock  
 Owen P. Berger  
 Aaron W. Campbell  
 Matthew Crawford  
 Brittany L. Desjarlais  
 Whitley I. Dietz  
 Samantha B. Garrett  
 Mikayla A. Harrison

Nicholas G. Heise  
 Trace J. Kingsford  
 Ryan Lee  
 Allie R. Livermont  
 Ellie A. Lizarazu  
 Daniel Morriss  
 Toy C. Owen  
 Robin J. Pollock  
 Daisha Raymond Garcia  
 Finn V. Sonnerup  
 Arthur G. Weisberg  
 Phillip Zimmerly

##### Aviation Maintenance Technology, Powerplant

Levi A. Abbott  
 Jack J. Anderson  
 Timofey A. Burlachenko  
 Sunho Choi  
 Carlo Renziel R. Codiamat  
 Brittany L. Desjarlais  
 Whitley I. Dietz  
 Walter P. Faapo  
 Samantha B. Garrett  
 Bashkim A. Hetemi  
 Amanda K. Israelson  
 Christopher B. Johnson  
 Rashaun Johnson  
 Joshua R. Katzmarek  
 Devlin C. Kelley  
 Preston M. Kopp  
 Miguel Andrew M. Labio  
 Ryan Lee  
 Robert N. Macnevin III  
 Durim B. Musliu  
 Toy C. Owen  
 Robin J. Pollock  
 Daisha Raymond Garcia  
 Finn V. Sonnerup  
 Chandler E. Trevino  
 Arthur G. Weisberg  
 Kaleb L. Winslow  
 Won Yoo

##### Diesel Power Technology

Tyler J. Lime

**OCCUPATIONAL  
ENDORSEMENT  
CERTIFICATES**

**Baking and Pastry Arts**

Vivian Nguyen  
Janna M. Walker

**Cisco Certified Network  
Associate**

Austin Huntley

**Culinary Arts**

Greggory K. Pralle

**Electric Vehicle and Hybrid  
Specialist**

Chase Bowden  
Chloe A. K. Dennis  
Jasper G. Kuhne

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# CLASS OF 2026

GRADUATE SCHOOL

DR. COLIN MCGILL, INTERIM DEAN

**MASTER OF ARTS**

**Interdisciplinary Studies**

Rory F. L. Myklls

**MASTER OF  
SCIENCE**

**Interdisciplinary Studies**

Anthony M. Caliva  
Samuel A. Krakower  
Gildardo A. Mendoza Achee

# CLASS OF 2026

## UNIVERSITY HONORS COLLEGE

DR. RAY BALL, DEAN

\*Cum Laude, \*\*Magna Cum Laude, \*\*\*Summa Cum Laude

University Honors College Scholars are students who have completed all of the requirements of their disciplinary college and of their University Honors College academic program. University Honors College Scholars are wearing a green and gold twisted honor cord, plus an additional gold honor cord signifying traditional Latin honors.

† Community Engagement, †† Global & Multicultural Studies Track, ††† Leadership Track, †††† Research & Creative Activity Track

### UNIVERSITY HONORS SCHOLARS

#### COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

##### BACHELOR OF ARTS

###### Political Science

Aaron J. Rayhbuck\*\*\* ††††

###### Psychology

Grace L. Asselin\*\* †††

##### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

###### Biological Sciences

Amayahlidwina F. Alenepi\*\* ††

Marcus Benjamin B.

Montoya\*\*\* †

Niquelina R. Folk\*\*\* ††††

###### Chemistry

Alyssa Kristine P. Samson\*\*

††††

Niquelina R. Folk\*\*\* ††††

###### Natural Sciences

Alyssa Kristine P. Samson\*\*

††††

### COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND PUBLIC POLICY

#### BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

##### Management

Yi-Hsuan Chang †††

### COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

#### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

##### Computer Science

Viktoriia Antonchuk\* ††††

##### Mechanical Engineering

Cassandra A. LeBlanc\*\*\* ††††

### COLLEGE OF HEALTH

#### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

##### Health Sciences

Audrey K. Guess\*\*\* †††

Sandy Mixayphon-Celario ††††

##### Nursing

Rachel A. Lozano\*\* †††

### UNIVERSITY HONORS ASSOCIATES

#### COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

#### ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE

##### Computer Systems and Networking Technology

Theodore Y. Lee\*\*\* ††††

# GRADUATING WITH HONORS

## UNIVERSITY HONORS

Associate and baccalaureate degree students who are expected to graduate with honors in spring 2026 are wearing a gold honor cord. Throughout the program, they are recognized by the stars next to their names. Honors are indicated as follows:

Cum Laude\*                      Magna Cum Laude\*\*                      Summa Cum Laude\*\*\*

To be eligible to graduate with honors, associate and baccalaureate degree-seeking students must earn a cumulative GPA of 3.50 or above at UAA. Additionally, a student who is earning an associate degree must complete a minimum of 15 UAA resident credits, and a student who is earning a baccalaureate degree must complete a minimum of 30 UAA resident credits. Honors are awarded to associate and baccalaureate degree students with UAA cumulative GPAs as follows:

\*Cum Laude..... 3.50 to 3.74  
 \*\*Magna Cum Laude..... 3.75 to 3.89  
 \*\*\*Summa Cum Laude..... 3.90 to 4.00

## DEPARTMENTAL HONORS

### ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENTAL HONORS

To graduate with Departmental Honors in Accounting, students must be a declared Associate of Applied Science in Accounting or Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting major; satisfy all degree requirements for their degree program; meet the requirements for graduation with honors as published in the UAA catalog; complete 50% of business credits at UAA; and graduate with a cumulative UAA GPA of 3.75 or higher.

Angel Anne L. Ancheta***	Megan E. Anshutz*	Haley Bartlett**
Karen Anne G. Bautista***	Jamie M. Gossman**	Jilliana V. Huevo*
Emily Mulholland***	David A. Murray*	Adam T. Pombert**
Drew R. Rozema**	Antonette G. Sabangan**	Elias L. Stierwalt***
	Autumn M. Tetlow*	

### CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENTAL HONORS

To graduate with Departmental Honors in Civil Engineering, students must complete all requirements for a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. In addition, the student must successfully complete 30 credits applicable to the civil engineering degree with a GPA of 3.30 and be an active member for at least one year of both a national and an on-campus student chapter of a professional engineering society that addresses issues relevant to the civil engineering profession. The student must also either complete a design or research project, including an oral and written report, or document a minimum of eight weeks' work experience in an engineering or engineering-related position or pass the Fundamentals of Engineering Exam.

Blanca De Arvizu Sarrias***	Benjamin B. Effinger*	Renato A. Espejo*
Orion W. Lavin-Marz**	Joseph M. Pavia-Jones	Maya L. Wall

### **COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENTAL HONORS**

To graduate with Departmental Honors in Computer Science, students must be a declared computer science major, meet the requirements for graduation with honors as published in the UAA catalog, satisfy all requirements for a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.50 or above in their major requirements. In addition, students must show active participation in a computer science-related organization such as a UAA club or community group. Membership in a national professional organization such as the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) or the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) is encouraged but insufficient to meet this requirement.

Ethan Z. Brandt\*

Joshua W. Stopera\*

### **COMPUTER SYSTEMS ENGINEERING DEPARTMENTAL HONORS**

To graduate with Departmental Honors in Computer Systems Engineering, students must be a declared computer systems engineering major, meet the requirements for graduation with honors as published in the UAA catalog, satisfy all requirements for a Bachelor of Science in Computer Systems Engineering and maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.50 or above in their major requirements. In addition, students must show active participation in a computer science-related organization such as a UAA club or community group. Membership in a national professional organization such as the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) or the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) is encouraged but insufficient to meet this requirement.

Lars E. Goozen

### **CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEPARTMENTAL HONORS**

The Justice Center awards Departmental Honors for outstanding achievement in the study of criminology and criminal justice. To graduate with Criminology and Criminal Justice Honors, students must meet the requirements for a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Criminal Justice. In addition, students must earn a 3.20 or above cumulative GPA (including a minimum 3.50 Criminology and Criminal Justice Major GPA), and complete a Criminology and Criminal Justice GER integrated capstone, e.g. JUST A430 or JUST A434, with an honor grade (A).

Joshua Kim\*

### **ECONOMICS DEPARTMENTAL HONORS**

To graduate with Departmental Honors in Economics, students must be a declared economics major. In addition, students must meet requirements for a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Business Administration in Economics, maintain a GPA of 3.50 or above in their major requirements, complete ECON A492 Seminar in Economics Research with a grade of A or complete a research paper with a grade of A that demonstrates independent economic research in a semester-length independent study course.

Carlo Cordone\*\*\*

Claire Y. Dube

### **ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENTAL HONORS**

To graduate with Departmental Honors in Electrical Engineering, students must be a declared electrical engineering major and complete all program requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. In addition, students must be an active member of both a national and an on-campus student chapter of a professional engineering society, maintain a GPA of 3.50 or above in all courses applicable to the Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering, and gain approval for, complete and present a design/research project prior to applying for graduation.

David Nguyen\*\*

Jacob E. Roller

Kyle Patrick S. Verango\*

### **ENGLISH DEPARTMENTAL HONORS**

To graduate with Departmental Honors in English, students must be a declared English major. In addition, students must meet requirements for a Bachelor of Arts in English, maintain a GPA of 3.50 or above in all program requirements, complete six credits of 400-level topics courses and complete ENGL A499 English Honors Thesis.

Miya U. Scheid

### **FINANCE DEPARTMENTAL HONORS**

To graduate with Departmental Honors in Finance, students must be a declared finance major. In addition, students must meet requirements for a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance and maintain a GPA of 3.75 or above in their major requirements.

Logan Acheson\*\*\*

### **GEOMATICS DEPARTMENTAL HONORS**

To graduate with Departmental Honors in Geomatics, students must be a declared geomatics B.S. major and complete all major requirements. In addition, students must maintain a GPA of 3.50 or above in all courses required by the major and a cumulative GPA of 3.30 or above, complete a minimum of 30 resident credits with academic letter grades, be an active member for at least one year of a national or an on-campus student chapter of a professional geomatics society, document a minimum of eight weeks work experience in an engineering or geospatial science-related position or pass geomatics profession-related exams or certifications.

Riley Petty\*\*

Lauren Pickett\*\*

### **HISTORY DEPARTMENTAL HONORS**

To graduate with Departmental Honors in History, students must be a declared history major. In addition, students must meet the major requirements for the Bachelor of Arts in History, meet the requirements for graduation with honors as published in the UAA catalog, maintain a GPA of 3.50 or above in courses specific to the history major, complete HIST A377 Historiography with a grade of A and complete the senior seminar paper in HIST A477 with a grade of A.

Isaac B. Richardson\*\*\*

Josue Valle\*\*

Jessie R. Wilson

### HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENTAL HONORS

To graduate with Departmental Honors in Human Services, students must be a declared human services major. In addition, students must meet the major requirements for a Bachelor of Human Services, and maintain a GPA of 3.50 in all upper-division human services courses.

Rebecca L. Kruse\*

### JOURNALISM AND PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENTAL HONORS

To graduate with Departmental Honors in Journalism and Public Communications, students must be a declared journalism and public communications major and complete the major requirements. In addition, students must maintain a GPA of 3.50 or above in courses applicable to the major and complete JPC A403 Communications and Media Research or JPC A492 Capstone Seminar with a grade of A or B.

Emalee T. Edwards\*\*  
Nathaniel A. Peterson\*\*

Taylor Guetschow\*  
Trevor L. Thompson\*

Emily A. Hufford\*

### LANGUAGES DEPARTMENTAL HONORS

To graduate with Departmental Honors in Languages, students must be a declared languages major. In addition, students must successfully satisfy all requirements for the Bachelor of Arts in Languages, meet the requirements for graduation with honors as published in the UAA catalog, maintain an overall UAA GPA of 3.80 and maintain a 3.90 in courses taken in the primary language option beyond A302.

Caleb S. Youn\*\*

### MECHANICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENTAL HONORS

To graduate with Departmental Honors in Mechanical Engineering, students must be a declared mechanical engineering major and complete all program requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. In addition, students must maintain a GPA of 3.50 or above in all courses applicable to the Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering, and gain approval for, complete and present a design/research project prior to applying for graduation.

Juan A. Duriez\*  
Ryan J. Roy\*\*\*

Quillan B. Hink\*  
Dade C. Sanderson\*\*  
Josie K. Wariner\*\*\*

Casandra A. LeBlanc\*\*\*  
Karl H. Schubauer\*\*\*

### POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENTAL HONORS

To graduate with Departmental Honors in Political Science, students must be declared political science majors. In addition, students must successfully satisfy all requirements for a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science, maintain a GPA of 3.50 or above in courses applicable to the major, complete PS A492 Senior Seminar in Politics with honor grades of A or B and receive honors scores (based upon criteria established by the department) on a comprehensive examination for majors.

Hudson T. Moe\*\*

James D. Oglesbee\*

Aaron J. Rayhbuck\*\*\*

## SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENTAL HONORS

To graduate with Departmental Honors in Social Work, students must be a declared social work major. In addition, students must complete a minimum of 30 Bachelor of Social Work major credits at UAA, earn a GPA of 3.75 or above in upper-division courses specific to the social work major.

Jonathan S. Cuddy  
Zalah J. Robert\*

Colby J. McMichael\*\*\*  
Amy D. Urbach\*  
Samantha A. Zivica

Ulita T. Reutov\*\*  
Isis Youngman\*\*

## HONOR SOCIETIES

### BETA GAMMA SIGMA

Beta Gamma Sigma was founded as a national organization in 1913. Membership in Beta Gamma Sigma is the highest recognition a business student anywhere in the world can receive in an undergraduate or master's program at a school accredited by AACSB International – the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. AACSB-accredited schools are recognized as the top business schools in the world; only 6% of schools pass their rigorous standards for quality. To be eligible for membership, a student must be in the top 10% of the undergraduate class or in the top 20% of the graduate class. The mission of Beta Gamma Sigma is to encourage and honor academic achievement and personal excellence in the study and practice of business. Beta Gamma Sigma also strives to foster in its members an enduring commitment to the principles and values of the Society: honor and integrity. Beta Gamma Sigma members may be recognized by a blue and gold honor cord.

Terri L. Coker  
Caitlin Johannes  
Anna C. Knopes

LeAnn M. Duncan  
Ailie S. Johnson  
Elias L. Stierwalt\*\*\*

Benjamin A. Fugler  
Muhammad H. Khan

### DELTA ALPHA PI INTERNATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Delta Alpha Pi International Honor Society (DAPI) is an academic honor society founded to recognize high-achieving students with disabilities who are attending colleges (including community colleges) and universities as undergraduate or graduate students. Founded in 2004 at East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania, DAPI is open to undergraduate and graduate students with disabilities. Students initiated into Delta Alpha Pi International Honor Society must have completed 24 undergraduate credits and have an overall GPA of 3.10, or 18 graduate credits and a GPA of 3.30. Students must self-identify as an individual with a disability and demonstrate an interest in disability issues. DAPI is an opportunity for students with disabilities to be recognized for their academic accomplishments. The honor society helps facilitate leadership, advocacy and education for all students who choose to participate and help change negative perceptions associated with disabilities.

Patricia L. Brewster  
Abigail G. Howell  
Candace E. McCutcheon\*  
Elizabeth M. Moore\*

Dustin D. Call\*\*\*  
Emily A. Hufford\*  
Roica S. Mercado  
Rory Myklls

Justina N. Hamlin\*\*  
Eliza B. Lawler  
Sandy Mixayphon-Celario  
Ryan G. Toney

### PHI ALPHA NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK HONOR SOCIETY

The Phi Alpha National Honor Society, Epsilon Chi Chapter, serves to promote a closer bond among students of social work and to enter into more intimate fellowship with those dedicated to the promotion of humanitarian goals and ideals by a professional group for which quality educational preparation is deemed imperative. Students and faculty involved in social work education at the University of Alaska Anchorage foster high standards of education for social work and invite into membership those who have attained excellence of scholarship and distinction of achievement as students of social work. Students in Phi Alpha may be recognized by a medallion on a royal blue and light gold ribbon.

Daphne R. Ang	Joenetta Benjamin	Helena M. Bifelt
Pamela E. Bjelland	Emily C. Crysel	Jonathan S. Cuddy
Esme L. Imgrund	Angela L. Jackson	Paige Lagerquist
Colby J. McMichael***	Ulita T. Reutov**	Zalah J. Robert*
Jesus Rodriguez	Hunter N. Simmons	Willow R. Stewart
Amy D. Urbach*	Isis Youngman**	Samantha A. Zivica

## LEADERSHIP HONORS

### TOM CASE LEADERSHIP FELLOWS HONORS

The College of Business and Public Policy's Tom Case Leadership Fellows Program is a co-curricular mentoring program for exceptional graduate and junior or higher-level undergraduate students who are committed to leadership and professional development. Fellows are paired with influential mentors in the community and complete a demanding list of co-curricular requirements. These honorees have demonstrated their leadership in both the classroom and the community and are ready to meet the needs of Alaska organizations. Recipients of CBPP Tom Case Leadership Fellows Honors may be recognized by a green, gold and purple honor cord.

Terri L. Coker	Ailie S. Johnson	Mckayla M. Montgomery
	Paige M. Tvenge	

### UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP HONORS

Leadership Honors are awarded to recognize and honor the effort of an individual who has maintained academic excellence and whose leadership has significantly contributed to the University of Alaska Anchorage. The leadership contributions of these honorees have enhanced the educational mission of UAA and promoted individual and collective growth, thereby enhancing student life at UAA. Recipients of UAA Leadership Honors may be recognized by a crimson honor cord.

Yi-Hsuan Chang	Emily A. Hufford*	Alyssa Kristine P. Samson**
	Emily N. Schubert*	

# COMMENCEMENT COMMITTEE

Special thanks to this year's commencement committee, whose dedication and hard work made this celebration possible.

Dan Anteau	Jeff Earle	Anne Lazenby	Natalie Page
Chelsea Avichayil	James Evans	Liz Leary	Jake Paolucci
Phillip Bacher	Grace Gallagher	Eric Lopez	Brenna Povelite
Katie Bender	Agapito "Pete" Garcia	Jackelyn Lozano Vargas	Brett Rawalt
Chris Borst	Molly Gray	Austin Magalong	Michelle Saport
Keenan Britt	Mari Hahn	Cindy Marshall	Sam Sargent
Ryan Buen	Reba Hale	Chris McConnell	Aja Stewart
Lindsey Chadwell	Michelle Hansen	Isabel Mead	Eric Stratton
Zac Clark	Taylor Hansen	Jacob Mikula	Keith Turner
Grant Cochran	Joe Howell	Phillip Shane Mitchell	William Valentine
Cale Cornichuck	Shelley James	Kara Monroe	Kristen Vanderostyne
Matthew Cuellar	Matt Jardin	Catalina Myers	Claire Wenngren
Cheryl Devenny	Vicky Jimenez	Jordan Oldenburg	Renae Werner
Jon Dyson	Raegan Kelliher	Austin Osborne	Veronica Wright

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

On behalf of UAA, the commencement committee truly appreciates your participation. Thank you to the following people and organizations for making this a memorable celebration for our graduates and families:

**The many UAA staff, faculty, alumni and student volunteers**, who gave their time so generously.

**UAA Army ROTC Color Guard**, for the Presentation of Colors.

**UAA Alumni Association**, for providing the graduation gift.

**UAA Disability Support Services**, for providing American Sign Language interpreters.

**UAA Facilities and Campus Services**, for transporting supplies, organizing setup and keeping us safe.

**UAA General Support Services**, for coordinating printing and production of print materials.

**Seawolf Dining and Catering**, for feeding our volunteers and staff.

**Seawolf Store**, for sales of regalia and announcements.

**UAA AI and Robotics (AIR) Club**, for coordinating flower sales.

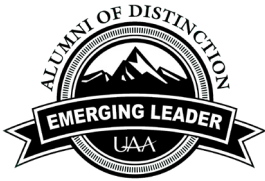
**Yurapik Drummers and Dancers**, for their Alaska heritage performance.

**Bill Zervantium Photography**, for capturing the magic moment for each student.

**Green Connection and Evalyn's Floral**, for providing our plants and flowers.

# 2025-26 ALUMNI OF DISTINCTION

Graduates, you have joined the ranks with these distinguished alumni who have made important contributions in their communities and whose actions honor the legacy of excellence at UAA.



**Alumni Emerging Leader**  
**Vladislav Finko**

B.B.A. Finance and Marketing '20  
M.B.A. General Management '23  
*Marketing Strategist, Alaska  
Wealth Advisors*

**Alumni Humanitarian**  
**Maile Johnston**

B.A. Biological Sciences '21  
*Law Clerk, Alaska Supreme Court*

**Alumni of Achievement**  
**Deborah Morton**

A.A. General Program '00, B.A. Sociology '02,  
M.Ed. Counseling and Guidance '05  
*Recruiting, Placement and Mentor Section  
Supervisor, Alaska Military Youth Academy*



*Nominations for 2026-27 awards open in fall 2026*

# Congratulations to the Class of 2026!

Dear UAA Graduates,

Congratulations on reaching this achievement. Graduation marks not only the culmination of your academic efforts, but the celebration of your perseverance, resilience and commitment.

Some of you may be in your 20s, stepping forward after a traditional college journey. Others may be in your 30s, 40s or 50s, balancing countless responsibilities along the way. Each of you brings a unique story shaped by challenges overcome, sacrifices made and determination that carried you forward.

My path to graduation took much longer than I anticipated after experiencing a traumatic brain injury late in high school. I started as a biology major, but found myself struggling with the required courses. I switched majors *and* universities three times, but thought I would at least be that “fifth-year senior.” My brain injury and other life events, however, extended my university journey until one day, I was finally able to complete my degree as well as a certificate. While the additional years weren’t in my plan, my final years – spent at UAA – changed my life by giving me new perspectives and taught me the importance of relentless engagement. I have spent the last 20 years of my life working and volunteering in the nonprofit sector, and am honored to be contributing to my alma mater by serving on the UAA Alumni Association board.

You are graduating at a time when the world can feel uncertain and complex. In moments like these, your role extends beyond personal success. Your communities – in Alaska and beyond – need your compassion, your ideas and your willingness to show up for one another. As you move forward, remember the importance of giving back, lifting others up and contributing to something larger than yourself.

Also make sure to give yourself permission to live fully in the present. It is easy to focus only on what comes next – the next job, the next goal, the next milestone. Joan Didion reminds us that, “Every day is all there is. We can’t relive yesterday and aren’t guaranteed tomorrow.”

Think of your future vision and live intentionally!



Jenny Di Grappa, M.P.A.  
B.S. '14; C.T.1 '14  
Board Member, UAA Alumni Association



UNIVERSITY *of* ALASKA  
ANCHORAGE™



Connect with UAA during the  
commencement ceremony on  
social media using

**#UAAGrad**

Welcome to the Alumni Association!

