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## SUZANNE LINFORD

Linford's Loyalty Shines Celebrity Spotlight on UAA's Culinary Arts

Loyalty, dedication and commitment are all marks of a life-long friend of UAA, Suzanne (Sue) Linford. This September marked Linford's 24th year supporting UAA's Culinary Arts, Hospitality & Restaurant Management program and volunteering at the Celebrity Chef Invitational, UAA's signature, black-tie event to support culinary student scholarships and maintenance of state-of-the-art learning facilities.

Linford owns Linford of Alaska Inc., a local wholesale food distribution company that has been serving Alaska since 1973. Each year, Linford sponsors a table for her employees to enjoy the Celebrity Chef Invitational while she volunteers in the kitchen, cooking and plating dishes for guests alongside celebrity and local chefs, culinary students and community volunteers. She even has a chef's jacket embroidered with each year of her involvement to prove it.

One year, Linford was asked to take over the cooking, which required deep frying. She smiled with a slight cringe, recalling, "Oh, I smelled like oil!" But she admitted she missed being in the kitchen this year. "When I'm in the kitchen I don't have to dress up. I just put on chef clothes."

Linford's first gift to Culinary Arts was in 1992. Why? "Because I was asked," she plainly stated.

Linford explained why she continues dedicating her time to the event and investing in the program: "I like a challenge. I sell food. I don't cook. To see what's possible and how to do it is a good learning experience." Giving back at the local level is also important to Linford—local business, local talent, local students.

Next fall marks the 25th Celebrity Chef Invitational, and if we're lucky, Linford's 25th year as a friend and loyal UAA donor.

Read more about Sue Linford's contributions to UAA at [supportua.org](http://supportua.org)

By Kelly Donnelly, Development Officer



# 2016 REPORT TO DONORS 'THE VIEW VAST BEYOND US'



## Thank You!

Thanks to you and other generous donors like you, the University of Alaska changes lives through education. With just over 7,300 donations the university raised over \$16.6 million this year.

Because you've chosen to make education a cause you support locally, to the benefit of all Alaskans...

Because your philanthropy funds scholarships for students who could not otherwise attend the university, supports faculty who spark students' imagination, and contributes to new knowledge and problem solving through research...

Because of all that, we thank you. We could not do it without you.

Please explore the full version of 2016 Annual Report to Donors online at [www.supportua.org](http://www.supportua.org) to read just a few inspiring stories of those you've helped and those, like you, who have joined you in supporting the University of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Scott and Susan



## 'THE VIEW VAST BEYOND US'

As a poet, Peggy Shumaker looks for telling details. Joe Usibelli does the same as an engineer. Yet, Shumaker observed in a recent poem, such details can crowd out the bigger picture – "the view vast beyond us."

No worries. When it comes to building a good place to live, Shumaker and Usibelli clearly haven't lost that broader view.

"It's our home," Usibelli said in 2011 when asked why he and his family contribute so much to Alaska's communities. "And there are a lot of people in the home who need help, so we help them."

Usibelli, chairman of the Usibelli Coal Mine Inc. board, and Shumaker, a professor emeritus of English at UAF, have made the university one of their focus areas when delivering that help.

Shumaker began giving Alaskans insightful lines of poetry decades ago. She started writing as a young child with "spectacularly mismatched" parents in Tucson, Arizona.

"So I wrote, because the page was the one place I had any measure of control," she said. "I made up stories and songs and poems. I wrote to my great-grandmother all in rhyme, and she would write back all in rhyme."

Shumaker earned bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Arizona. She first taught at UAF in 1985, left for a few years and returned in 1988.

Usibelli, meanwhile, was leading Alaska's largest coal mine. His father, Emil, who immigrated from Italy in 1907 at age 14, moved to Alaska in 1935. He started a coal mine near Healy after World War II began.

Usibelli moved to Fairbanks for high school, then earned a civil engineering degree at UA in 1959. Five years later, he and his young family were driving home to Alaska from graduate school at Stanford University. Guards at the Canadian border told him his father had died in a mine accident just hours before the Good Friday earthquake. At age 25, he found himself in charge of the company.

It prospered. Usibelli turned over the presidency to his son in 1987 but remains board chairman.

Around that time, the Usibelli family decided it wanted "to do something for the university," he said. That idea became the Emil Usibelli Distinguished Teaching, Research and Public Service Awards, first given in 1992.

"I was at a reception for it, and one person came up to me, who was not a recipient, and told me that what we were doing was a good thing," Usibelli said. "That was Peggy. I'd never met her before. But I said, 'You know, there's a lady with a lot of class.' And I was absolutely right."

Read more about Peggy's and Joe's lifelong support for UA at [www.supportua.org](http://www.supportua.org)



# 2016

REPORT TO DONORS

## KOLENE JAMES

**UAS Coordinator of the Alaska Native & Rural Student Center**  
Kolene James has been a loyal donor since 2011.

"I'm an alumni and I started as a Wooncheen club member at UAS. In my time as an undergrad we saw the benefits from the folks who donated to the Foundation. We were able to use the funds to host really culturally relevant events and I never forgot that because it made my time as an undergrad special. Once I graduated I knew it was my turn to contribute. My time here was just enriched by the donations of other alumni so I wanted to provide those programs to enrich our students' experience.

I invite you to check out the beautiful programs hosted on our campuses by coordinators like us throughout Alaska and give to what inspires you."

Speaking of the regular contributions that James has been giving as a UAS employee through payroll deductions James says, "It doesn't hurt - I barely miss it from my paycheck. I have two college students and a middle schooler and we still get to travel and enjoy life so I barely notice it."



## KATHY RUDDY

"I'm inspired to contribute to the university to ensure that Tlingit language and culture continues to thrive in the community for future generations. I was inspired to give in recognition of Cyril George and Dick Dauenhauer. The legacy of those two individuals needs to walk into the future. I want to help ensure that the collections are available for many students to come."

I get a lot of joy from it. Think about the future; how you would like to be remembered."  
Says Ruddy.

**Kathy Ruddy has been a devoted donor since 2003 championing support for the Cyril George Alaska Native Knowledge Collection at the UAS library and establishing the W.G Ruddy Glacier Valley Rotary Scholarship Endowment.**

"Kathy is part of equity at UAS. She helps meet that unmet need."

-Kolene James



## DONALD AND JAN O'DOWD



**Donald O'Dowd, past president of the University of Alaska (1984-1990) and his wife Jan O'Dowd have been loyal donors to the University ever since Dr. O'Dowd assumed the UA Presidency. Now retired and living in California the O'Dowds continue to remain active supporters U of A.**

"We started giving to the University because we felt it was an obligation to support the institution that we worked for. We have done this at the other Universities we were affiliated with and we continue to do so to today.

We still give to support UA because we continue to believe in the University and its mission. The University will need even more private support in the future and we are pleased to make an annual contribution to insure the well-being of the University in the years ahead.

We are also grateful that our gifts are being used to provide support for Alaska students, especially those for whom the scholarships can make a real tangible difference in their lives. Occasionally we even receive thank you letters from the scholarship recipients. We remain involved in the University and its activities - just recently we attended a reunion of some of the Regents and principals involved in the 1986 University restructuring effort - and our on-going gifts are another facet of that involvement."

## JEFF AND SUSAN COOK

"We started supporting the University because, as members of the Fairbanks community we saw how much the University strengthened and connected with, all the businesses in town. During my time in real estate, working for Flint Hills, and on the Board of Fairbanks Memorial Hospital Foundation I saw first-hand what a great recruiting tool the University is - allowing us to attract high quality employees to live and work in Fairbanks. From the University's programs for High School students, through its technical programs in Petroleum Technology and Nursing to the OSHER Lifelong learning program for older students, the Georgeson Botanical Garden, and KUAC, the University is deeply connected to the people of our community. We just figured that if you have that kind of valuable asset in your city, contributing so much to the quality of life here, you better support it.

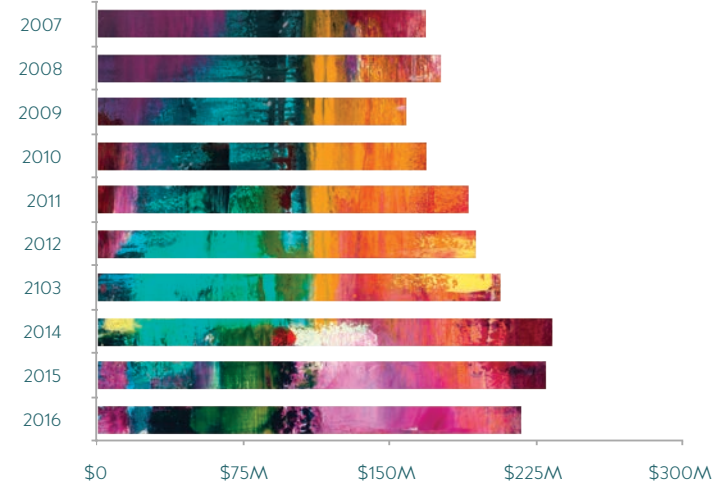
We continue our support each year because we believe philanthropy makes a big difference to the future of the institution- and by extension, to the future of Fairbanks."



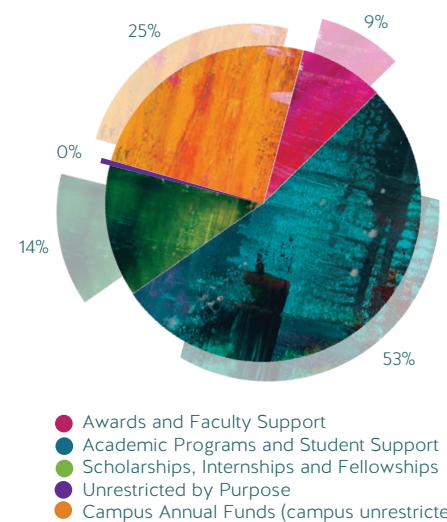
**Past University of Alaska Regent and past member of the UA Foundation Board of Trustees Jeff Cook and his wife Susan have been loyal donors to the University since before there was a Foundation (1974).**

## BY THE NUMBERS

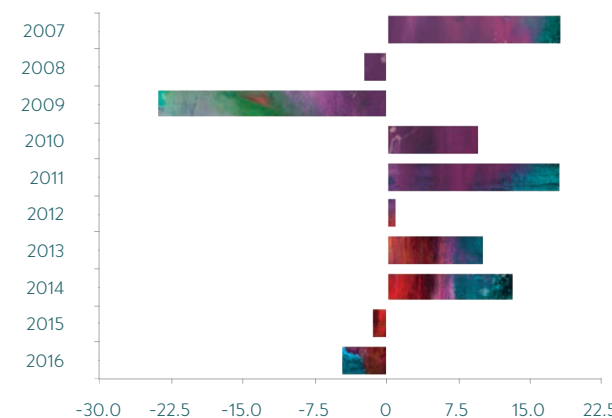
UA Foundation Net Assets



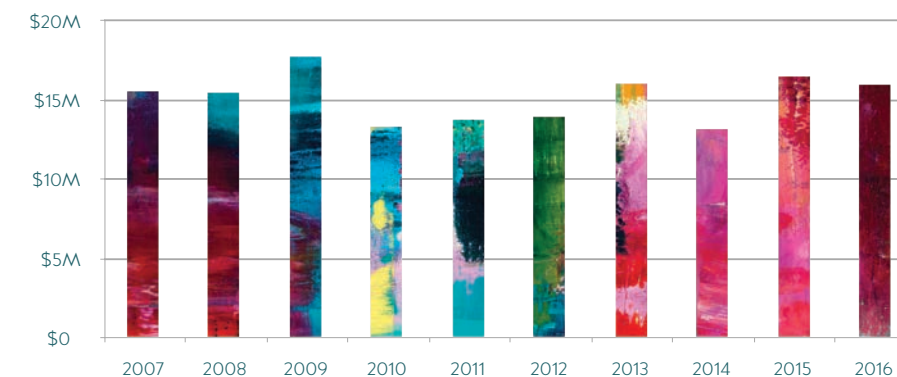
Gifts to UA Foundation



UA Foundation Pooled Endowment Fund Net Returns:



UA Foundation Distributions for the Benefit of UA



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