



UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA
FOUNDATION REPORT 2019



UNIVERSITY
of ALASKA
Many Traditions One Alaska



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You make a difference in the lives of others each day. Your gifts to the University of Alaska Foundation provide access to education, set our students on the path to success, and fund critical research that impacts not only Alaska, but our nation and our world. We are tremendously grateful for your support and are pleased to share some of the successes your gifts have helped make possible.



Alan Straub (right) at the 2016 UAF Alumni Reunion on the UAF Campus. He is pictured here with William Mendenhall—one of Alan's former professors and mentors at UAF.



HELP FOR STUDENTS ON THEIR EDUCATIONAL JOURNEY

For many students, scholarship support is the determining factor in their ability to attend college. Gifts to student programs provide hands-on learning experiences and help to develop critical thinking skills that will set new graduates apart and propel them into success in their desired careers.

For Alan Straub '66 civil engineering, the decision to support the University of Alaska Fairbanks was made during his own time as a student. The quality of education and opportunities provided motivated him. A self-described hands-on kind of guy, Straub was named the top engineering student during his senior year due in large part to his work constructing an ice arch. The ice arch project proved to be so meaningful to Straub that he created a fund to support it, ensuring that students continue to have unique learning experiences. Straub wants to make sure that students, faculty, and programs have the resources needed to graduate high caliber engineers. In addition to supporting the ice arch project, Straub also established a fund to aid student competitions and a scholarship in civil engineering.

Straub's desire to help and support engineering at UAF inspires the students who benefit from his generosity. "I remind myself that my effort and my journey through each semester has a purpose, and that is to get out into the world and help people," says Wenshi Fraser (*pictured*), one of the 2019/20 recipients of the Alan Straub Civil Engineering Scholarship.



A SKILLED WORKFORCE

FOR ALASKA'S BRIGHT FUTURE

Thanks to generous private support, the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) School of Nursing program has extended its reach by offering distance learning in 15 communities throughout the state.

This significant program expansion was supported in part by Bartlett Regional Hospital (Juneau), Foundation Health Partners (Fairbanks Memorial Hospital), and Providence Health and Services (Providence Hospital Anchorage).

Nurses are already in high demand in Alaska, and that need is expected to increase exponentially in the coming decade. For Rachel Thomson '19, the decision to leave California and study nursing

at UAA was simple: she was accepted quickly, and the program would take less than two years to complete. Now working in the Progressive Care Unit at Providence Alaska Medical Center in Anchorage, Thomson reflects fondly on her time in school:

“At the heart of the nursing program at UAA, there are great people who want the students to succeed. My favorite and most challenging professor, Dr. Tom Hendrix, genuinely cared about us not only as students but as future nurses.” Thomson also notes that her favorite course, *Critical Care Nursing*, was offered in an online format and led by instructor Rosemary Timmerman, who Thomson remarks as “incredible.”





ESSENTIAL RESEARCH FOR
ALASKA AND THE ARCTIC WITH

GLOBAL IMPLICATIONS



THE FISH WEIR

University of Alaska Southeast's Auke Creek Fish Weir provides some of the most comprehensive data on salmon available in the world. This data, collected for nearly 40 years, has a tremendous impact on the local and state economy and the future of fisheries.

According to Professor David Tallmon, the weir at Auke Creek is an amazing resource for both the state and federal government in terms of fisheries management, and it is providing invaluable experience to UAS students.

Private gifts provide stipends to support UAS students during unpaid internships at Auke Creek. The students have the unique opportunity to gain both hands-on field experience as well as laboratory experience as they work alongside researchers from UAS and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

When Bob King moved to Bristol Bay, he saw firsthand how salmon drives the local economy and the culture of the local people. A longstanding supporter of the UA system, King speaks to his dedicated support of UAF College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences and the UAS salmon research at Auke Creek:

"I've enjoyed my many years in Alaska and want to give something back for future generations. The university system is key to bringing residents into the fold as active, educated members of our community. They train Alaskans for jobs here in Alaska that strengthen our local communities."

continued...



Dr. Zhaohui Yang

ON THE FOREFRONT

Another critical area where Alaska is at the forefront is climate change. Research conducted at UAA helps position the university as a leader in arctic research and proactively deals with the impact on our communities and society as a whole.

Philanthropic support, like that provided by the ConocoPhillips Arctic Science and Engineering Endowment, makes such research possible. “It allows us to support graduate students, which is key to any research project,” states Dr. Zhaohui Yang, Professor and Chair, Department of Civil Engineering. “Students are needed to test hypotheses and gather exploratory data. This type of support is also important for young faculty.”

The partial results of one project supported by the endowment, *monitoring subsidence for arctic infrastructures by SAR (synthetic aperture radar) interferometry*, were recently presented at an international conference, furthering UAA’s integral role as a global leader in arctic research. The arctic is so vast that this satellite-based technology is important for remote sensing of ground movements and their impacts caused by climate change. Involvement in this type of research also makes UAA graduates desirable candidates in the workplace and for the next level of academia.

Yang, a UAA faculty member for 16 years, likes the opportunities UAA has to offer. “We have direct access to sites and industry leaders, allowing us to help solve problems that are being faced in the field.” Helping to minimize and mitigate the effects of climate change will have a lasting impact on the state’s economy for years to come.







Amy Cooper

ENSURING INNOVATION IN TEACHING, DISCOVERY, AND SERVICE

The late James Pruitt '73 had a passion for supporting hard-working, nontraditional students and established a scholarship for such students after years of contributing to UAF via the annual giving program.

Following Pruitt's passing in 2018, the School of Management received a gift from his estate valued at \$3.4M and created the James Pruitt Endowed Chair of Management, its first-ever endowed chair. According to Mark Herrmann, Dean of the School of Management, "The chair is being used to grow our accounting faculty with the naming of instructor Amy Cooper as the initial recipient."

Cooper will obtain her Doctorate of Business Administration (DBA) while continuing to teach at SOM, thanks to funding from the endowment. Herrmann shared that a second faculty member is likely going to be funded through the gift to obtain

a DBA. "Keeping our best teachers in Alaska will greatly benefit our students. They will grow as academics and increase their value both in the classroom and as leaders in producing accounting and finance employees for the state's workforce."

Amy Cooper was overwhelmed and honored to be the first chair holder. "I did not start in academia, but in public accounting. I

KEEPING OUR BEST TEACHERS IN ALASKA WILL GREATLY BENEFIT OUR STUDENTS.

obtained my CPA license and worked in that profession for ten years. I came into academia as an instructor and discovered that I love teaching and encouraging students. This gift allows me to pursue my DBA, a dream that was seemingly impossible before now. Obtaining my doctorate helps strengthen the SOM foundation so that we can do so much more for our local and state communities."

POSITIONING STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS

Claire Everts, a senior in the UAF School of Management, benefitted from the Professionally Polished program, made possible through a gift-in-kind of clothing by Sheryl DeBoard '80, owner of *In My Element*, a Fairbanks boutique. Students earn clothes through extracurricular participation in workshops and events that focus on confidence building, interview preparation and presenting a professionally polished image.

“The program has been so important to the growth of my professional development—how to properly dress for an interview, a luncheon, or when meeting with a client” shares Everts.

The generosity of donors like DeBoard sets an example for students to follow, according to Everts. “The support impacts young professionals in a way that is going to help shape not only who they are, but how they decide to give back in the future.”



Sheryl DeBoard with SOM student Taylor Eckert who helped start the *In My Element* program.

EVERY GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Annual Giving activities, including the student calling program, have long been a source of engagement and provide a vehicle for donors to connect with UA students and support its programs. Some of the donors featured in this report, namely Bob King, Alan Straub and the late James Pruitt, actually began their support of UA through Annual Giving.

Through a successful collaboration with all three campuses, the coordination of Annual Giving efforts was centralized to the UA Foundation in 2018. Calling for UAS was added in 2019, and now student callers connect with thousands

OUR ALUMNI ARE GENEROUS, BOTH FINANCIALLY AND WITH LENDING A HAND TO CURRENT STUDENTS

of alumni and friends of all three campuses annually from the Anchorage-based call center. Today the phone program raises nearly \$200K annually for all three campuses.

The job of a student caller is one of the most challenging and rewarding positions on campus. You are making an impact on our callers and here's some of what they have to say:

“Our alumni are generous, both financially and with lending a hand to current students, and many of my calls have resulted in thoughtful conversation to consider when developing my post-graduation plans.”

—Julian (Kodiak, AK)

“Staying in Alaska for college was always a priority for me. Talking with alumni about their experiences at UAA, UAF, and UAS and learning about their time as a student has been a lot of fun.”

—Jackie (Sitka, AK)

“I enjoy the camaraderie on our Alaska campuses. The alumni I have talked to through the calling program have shared great stories.”

—Jerril (Fairbanks, AK)

“Working at the student calling program has been a great way to connect with alumni – so many are happy to talk and have even offered advice on how to achieve my goals.”

—Caitlin (Palmer, AK)



FISCAL YEAR 2019

UA FOUNDATION NET ASSETS

\$273,858,718

UA FOUNDATION POOLED ENDOWMENT FUND NET RETURNS

5.5%

UA FOUNDATION DISTRIBUTIONS FOR THE BENEFIT OF UA

\$17,513,910

UA FOUNDATION DISTRIBUTIONS FOR STUDENT AID

\$3,450,708



Amount distributed to the University of Alaska
(with percentage broken down by category):

AWARDS AND FACULTY SUPPORT

- 48% | Academic Programs
- 20% | Scholarships, Internships and Fellowship

UNRESTRICTED BY PURPOSE

- 17% | Public Service, Library & Other Support
- 14% | General Campus Support
- 1% | Athletics



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