



What advice would
you give a new UA
System employee?

What advice would
you give a new UA
System employee?

*“Keep your chin up and ignore the
politics.”*





What advice would
you give a new UA
System employee?

“Treating other with respect, kindness and keeping a sense of humor has benefited me the most. Be willing to keep learning as there are so many facets to the University. As times change we must strive to keep our skills relevant to benefit our students and our colleagues. For our ultimate report card comes from our students when they graduate and enter the work force.”

What advice would you give a new UA System employee?

“Ask yourself why you are here. If you are committed to professional growth and longevity at UA, show up, engage, do your best work, strive to be better, ask questions, dare to do more than is asked, be prepared for change. There will always be change. Own your work, your mistakes, and your success. Be flexible, responsive, on-time, dedicated, ethical, committed, and responsible. Find balance. Leave the office.

Attend orientation and commencement. Those are the days to truly see the collective fruits of our labor. I mean, it's why I'm here.

What advice would
you give a new UA
System employee?

*“Find what makes you happy and
brings you joy. Live simply, but with
vision.”*

What advice would
you give a new UA
System employee?


*“Never work alone. Always reach out
to your peers and superiors for
guidance, assistance, and company.”*

What advice would
you give a new UA
System employee?

“I had no idea when I started that I would stay beyond three years. Since then, UA has become a Family to me where I meet new relatives all the time and have also fare-welled a few.”



What advice would
you give a new UA
System employee?



“The advice I would give to UA employees aspiring to earn their years of service at UA would be to develop a career plan with your goals and interests in mind.”

What advice would
you give a new UA
System employee?

*“Spend your Foundation fund balances,
& use your annual leave.”*



What advice would
you give a new UA
System employee?

“Commitment to serving the people of Alaska has been a core value for me throughout my entire career. Sincere engagement and understanding the intrinsic value of what the University means to Alaska - providing our state's workforce, leading the world in Arctic research, and playing a critical role in economic growth and cultural preservation - have all been a driving force for me.”



What advice would
you give a new UA
System employee?


*“Patience. Be open to new
experiences.”*

*“Find ways to get to know your
coworkers’ likes beyond work, support
each other, keep learning, and have
some fun along the way!”*

What advice would
you give a new UA
System employee?

*“Be grateful for the network that
develops over time and have fun along
the journey - time flies!”*

**What are you most
thankful for over the
course of your career
at the University?**



What are you most
thankful for over the
course of your
career at the
University?

*“Some of the folks I have gotten
to work with over the years.”*

*“The support of family, friends, peers
and the community..”*

*“The opportunity to develop
professionally and personally.”*

What are you most thankful for over the course of your career at the University?

“Wonderful supervisors.”

“I'm thankful for the colleagues and mentors who have coached and supported my professional growth.”

“The freedom to pick my projects and the freedom to develop the skills I am most passionate about.”

What are you most thankful for over the course of your career at the University?

“Kindness, friendships, support and opportunities.”

“Opportunities to invest in myself; my master's degree, the professional development, and leadership opportunities within my sector.”

“Being part of something big that has been important for the state of Alaska.”

“I am most thankful for the opportunity to develop new skills and gain more knowledge over the course of my career at the University.”

What are you most thankful for over the course of your career at the University?

"I am thankful for the flexibility."

"Support of incredible co-workers and the opportunity to grow."

"I'm thankful for the opportunity to telecommute."

What are you most thankful for over the course of your career at the University?

"The wonderful mentors."

"The great team I work with every day."

"Being able to share the gift of education with my children. (My oldest are taking German 100 this year as part of the dual enrollment program.)"

"I am extremely grateful for All the people in my life who have made it a wonderful experience, lessons learned 'bad times', and mostly all the good times."

ORDER OF EVENTS

WELCOME

Genevieve Bright & Lauren Hartman

OPENING REMARKS

President Pat Pitney

LONGEVITY AWARDS PRESENTATION

5-year | 10-year | 15-year | 20-year | 25-year

- **Alaska Airlines Voucher Raffle** –

OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE & DEPARTMENT AWARDS

Student | Department | Non-Exempt | Exempt

THANK YOU TO OUR 2021-2022 SYSTEM OFFICE STAFF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES!

Charla Bodle

Linda Hall

Genevieve Bright

Lauren Hartman

Audrey Coble

Kelley Lassey

Scott Fronzuto

Monique Musick

Jackie Gengler

Chelsey Okonek

5 Years of Service TRIVIA!

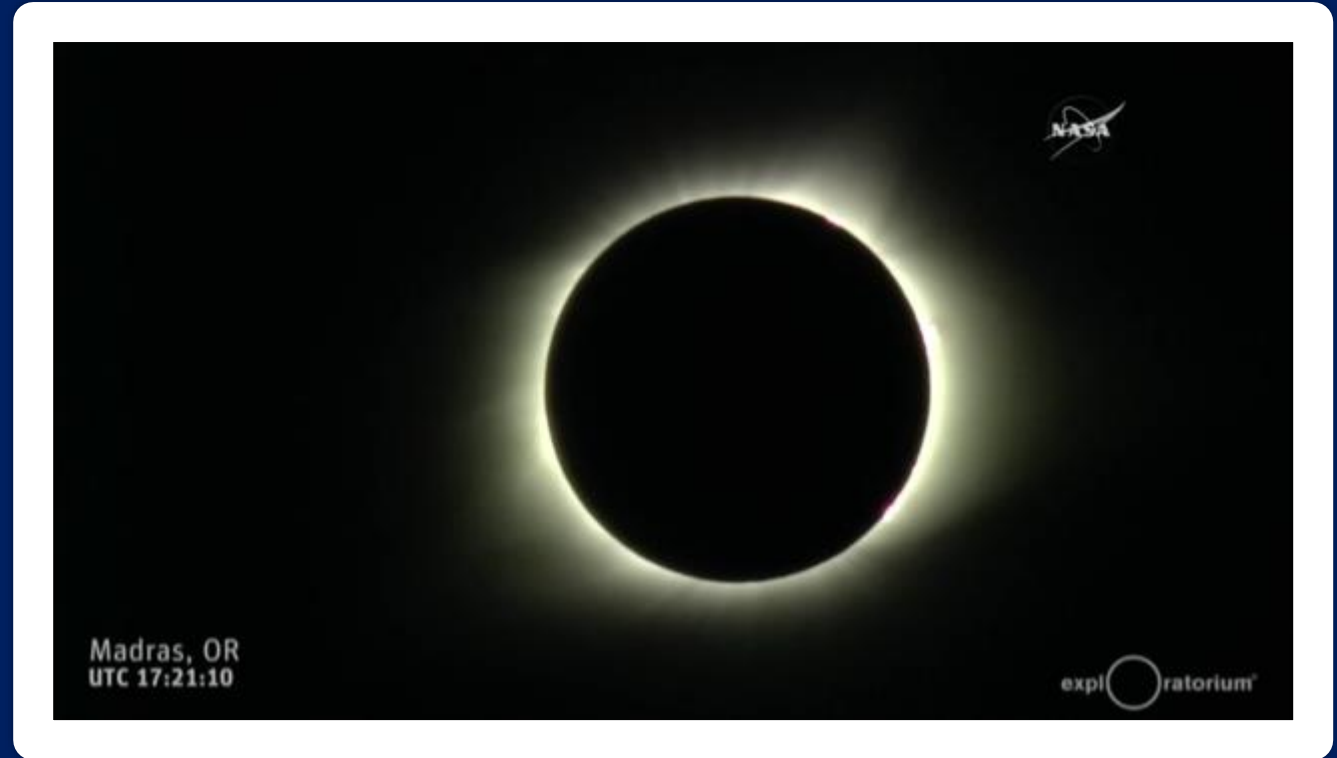
2017 was 5 YEARS ago...
or in Covid terms, 1 minute.

What was happening 5 years ago?

Which of these space-related significant natural phenomenon occurred?

- A. We successfully destroyed the sun
- B. One of Jupiter's moon was destroyed
- C. A solar eclipse covered most of the US, from Oregon to South Carolina

Answer: C. Solar eclipse



The eclipse reaches totality in this image from NASA TV over Madras, Oregon, August 21, 2017

A large, solid dark blue circle serves as the background for the text.

5 Years of Service

Peter W Schultz

Software Analyst

Peter moved up to Alaska about six years ago to seek a new life away from the stress of Silicon Valley, California and quickly found a job at OIT. Peter enjoys programming and writing, and is currently working on a novel about relationships between exceptional characters.





Vanessa Saephan

Risk and Insurance Manager

Vanessa has lived in Alaska nearly 30 years and it's been a love and hate relationship. However, she continues to develop a greater appreciation for the state and all it has to offer. Vanessa studied Business Management at UAA. She just started to downhill ski couple winters ago and regrets not starting sooner. Vanessa loves to travel, but wants to be a tourist in our own state one of these days as she still hasn't seen the northern lights nor been to Chena Hot Springs. Outside of work, her two kids (14yo and 10yo) and two dogs (mini-schnauzer and maltipoochon) keeps her fairly busy.

5 YEARS OF SERVICE

Austin J. Somaduroff

HR Data Analyst

Austin has lived in Alaska all his life. He originally moved to Fairbanks for his undergrad (B.A. Music - Voice) and has bounced back and forth between Anchorage and Fairbanks ever since. He believes both areas are beautiful in their own way. Austin spends his time corralling his two kiddos and hanging out with his wife.

Heather R. Swanson

HRIS Specialist

California native Heather Swanson moved to Anchorage in 2002. She began as an IT Helpdesk Technician with UAS in 2005 and continued until 2010, when she returned to Anchorage to work as an Adaptive Computing Specialist for a year with UAA DSS. She returned to DSS in 2016, staying until 2020 when she was offered a position as an Instructional Designer / Accessibility Specialist in AI&E. In August of 2021, she moved to Human Resources at the System Office in a split position - part time Information Systems and part time ADA accommodations specialist. She enjoys gardening, traveling, and cooking. She has 3 children, 2 dogs and a plethora of fish keeping her busy at home.



10 Years of Service TRIVIA!

The year 2012.....

What was happening 10 years ago?

What happened in 2012?

- A. The Olympics were held in London
- B. The NY Giants won the Super Bowl
- C. The space shuttle Endeavor had its final flight

Answer: All of them. Got ya!



What was the biggest (highest grossing) movie in 2012?

- A. The Hunger Games
- B. James Bond: Sky Fall
- C. The Avengers



Answer: C. The Avengers, at \$623,357,910



A large, solid dark blue circle serves as the background for the text.

10 Years of Service



Niki Countryman

Senior Internal Auditor

Niki grew up in Kotzebue, Bethel, McGrath, and North Pole hunting, fishing, flying, rafting and exploring. Along with attending the Air Force Academy, Niki has had the pleasure of taking courses from each of the universities in Alaska and held such jobs as a med tech in Hawaii, a chemist on the North Slope, a consultant for an NGO in remote Indonesia, and a CPA on the Kenai Peninsula. Niki's love for learning and getting to know people from all cultures and backgrounds seems to have been the best preparation for joining the Audit and Consulting team in 2014.

10 YEARS OF SERVICE

Elizabeth Lilly
Fiscal Officer

10 YEARS OF SERVICE



Roxi DeAnn Lowery HR Personnel Technician

Roxi has been in Alaska since 2002. She has worked for the University since 2004. Roxi enjoys doing outdoor activities with her husband and two boys, especially salmon fishing.

10 YEARS OF SERVICE

Matt Cooper
General Counsel

Harry Need

Senior Director of Philanthropic Services

Depending on the day you ask, Harry is an exhausted father of a three y.o., a volunteer rabble-rouser, a VW van knuckle banger, an old ski patroller, or an aspirational guru of fly-fishing. Most weekdays, UA pays him to help potential benefactors and their professional advisors discover and develop values and priorities into significant gifts. In addition to working with donors, Harry also leans into Anchorage Estate Planning Council as President, the South Addition Community Council on their executive board, and as a past president of the Alaska Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, and the Fairview Community Council.



10 YEARS OF SERVICE



Matthew Shiffler Learning Spaces Administrator

Matt has lived in Fairbanks since 2011, and can't see himself living anywhere else. He enjoys woodworking, playing with his kids, and reading.

10 YEARS OF SERVICE

Wei Guo
Financial Accounting Director

10 YEARS OF SERVICE

Teri Cothren

Associate Vice President



Teri has been in three workforce development departments between UAA and the UA System Office. She has officially been with UA Workforce Development the longest, having started in 2013 thanks to a referral from a colleague who encouraged her to apply. Teri has been fortunate to work with dedicated people throughout her time at the University and appreciates working for an organization that empowers people, especially Alaskans, to have better lives.

She is a proud graduate of UAA and is on target to receive a Master in Public Administration this May from UAS. Teri and her wife, who is a graduate and longtime employee of UAA, enjoy being aunts to their nieces and nephews, love to travel, and have fun kayaking to take in Alaska's scenery.

15 Years of Service TRIVIA!

It was the year 2007...

What was going on 15 years ago?

This song topped the charts in 2007 with the
most sales:

- A. Big Girls Don't Cry – by Fergie
- B. Umbrella – by Rihanna
- C. Hey There Delilah – Plain White T's
- D. Crank That – Soulja Boy

Answer: D. Crank That – by Soulja Boy with
2,909,900

A large, dark blue circle serves as the background for the text.

15 Years of Service

Debbie Carlson

Senior Budget Officer

Debbie, her husband, and their three daughters came to Alaska the summer of 2003 - driving from Georgia with their dog and a fish tank full of fish. That fall Debbie came to the university to volunteer and assist where needed which lead to a position at the UAF Bursar's office. Debbie moved on to School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences as they needed assistance. From there, she transferred to UAF Facilities and made her way to the System Office in 2008.

15 YEARS OF SERVICE

Oscar Martinez

Lead Operator

Oscar has been married for 28 years to his best friend and high school sweetheart. They fell in love with Alaska, and settled in Fairbanks after his military service of 14 years. Oscar and his wife have a daughter, and all three are UAF alumni who will continue to help and support in any way they can. Oscar has been living in Alaska for 26 years.

15 YEARS OF SERVICE

Lael M. Oldmixon

Executive Director, Alaska 529 and UA Scholars Program

When Lael moved to Alaska in 2006, she did not anticipate the life-altering impact the state and the University would have on her and her career. 16 years later, she is settled into an exciting and adventure-filled life with her partner, Mark, and their two children, Quinn and Mae.

Lael notes that her professional career has been incredibly rewarding, mostly due to tremendous colleagues and mentors. Her passion for post-secondary access and attainment is fueled by her work in higher education and within the 529 industry.

Lael has also been fortunate to have made deep and meaningful connections with friends through her book club, the Fairbanks running community, and a few volunteer boards. She finds great joy in helping others, gardening, and experiencing small and big adventures with her family.

Lael says, "I live in gratitude."



15 YEARS OF SERVICE

Sherri Soileau
HR Accountant

15 YEARS OF SERVICE

Cara Brunk

OIT Service Catalog Manager

Cara was born and raised in Fairbanks, left just before high school, and returned as an adult, eventually earning her MBA from UAF. Some of Cara's hobbies are skiing with her family, cooking, and gardening. Cara and her husband Forrest are parents to two awesome daughters. They all share a love of the woods with Zoe, their intense pudelpointer. Cara is grateful to her coworkers at OIT who make it fun to video in to daily stand ups, and especially her supervisors for their support through the years.

15 YEARS OF SERVICE

Sacha Layos
Paralegal/Executive Legal Administrator

Sheri Billiot

Cost Analyst

Sheri was born in Fairbanks, and is a lifelong Alaskan. Sheri graduated from North Pole High School, and then from UAF with a Bachelor's in Business Administration. She is in the process of finishing up an Associate's in Applied Accounting and an Occupational Endorsement in Supervision and Personnel Management from UAF.

Sheri enjoys nature walks, yoga, reading, and watching movies with her daughter. Her daughter will be graduating from high school next year, and then headed on to college. They have two cats who are inquisitive, sweet, and a bundle of fun.



15 YEARS OF SERVICE

Karesa Kramer Fiscal Technician

Karesa began work as a fiscal technician with the Alaska 529 and UA Scholars Program June 7 of this year.

Before taking this position, Karesa served as an accounting technician with the UA Foundation.

Karesa was born in Anchorage and raised in Tok, Alaska. She earned an associate degree of applied accounting and science from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Karesa now lives in Fairbanks with her husband Ryan and son, Kagen.

Patti Wilson

Claims Manager

Patti is a long-time Alaskan who was raised on a homestead on the South Fork of Eagle River. She joined the System Office of Risk Services in Anchorage as claims manager in 2006, after many years as a licensed independent insurance adjuster in the private sector. She enjoys her large and exuberant family, visiting other parts of Alaska, volunteering in her church and prison ministry, and especially being a grandma.



15 YEARS OF SERVICE

Linda J. Hall

Accountant

Linda started at Statewide in February 2006 in Cost Analysis and has been with the University of Alaska Foundation's accounting department since December 2007. She earned an associates degree from the University of Alaska Anchorage and has more than 30 years of increasing experience in accounting. Before joining UA she worked in accounting at Alaska USA Federal Credit Union for almost 15 years, and at CIRI (Cook Inlet Regional, Inc.) for another five years. She enjoys the variety of work and learning opportunities, and says it's the responsibility she feels for helping the Foundation steward contributed funds that inspires her commitment to her work.

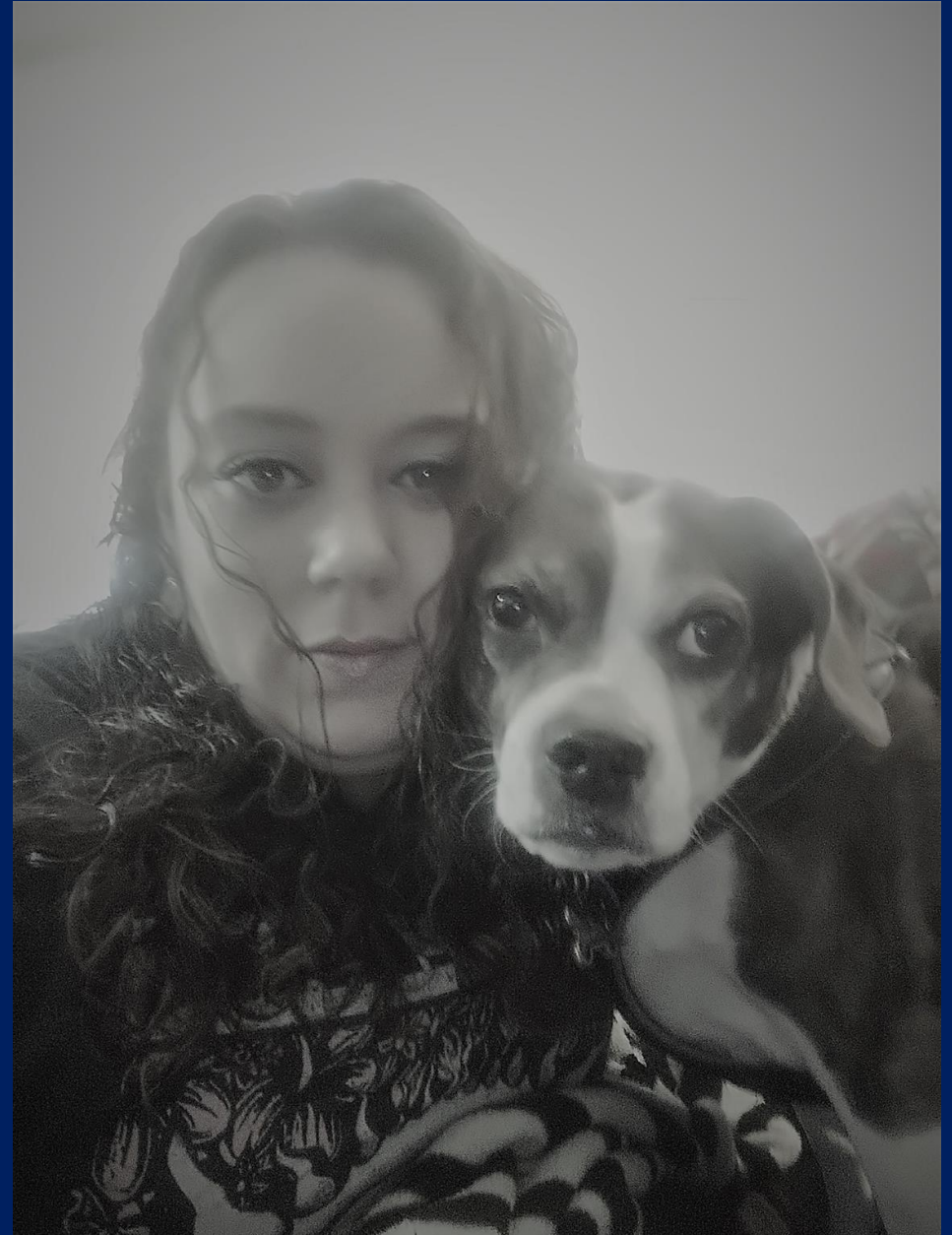
Linda is almost a lifelong Alaskan. She was born in San Francisco while her father was attending college, and her family moved back to Alaska when she was 6-months-old. Her mother's family has been in Alaska since the early 1800's - Lake Clark was named after Hall's great-great grandfather.

Linda moved to Fairbanks to live close to her daughter and grandchildren. She also enjoys watching astronomy TV shows about black holes, the galaxy and space exploration with her grandson, and in her spare time she enjoys taking walks, reading and crocheting.

Amanda R. Watt

Director of Data Administration

Amanda has lived in Alaska for over 35 years. She enjoys gardening, swimming, and petting every dog she possibly can. Amanda has a spoiled 12 year old boxer beagle mix that she dotes on, and claims complete responsibility for him being spoiled.



20 Years of Service TRIVIA!

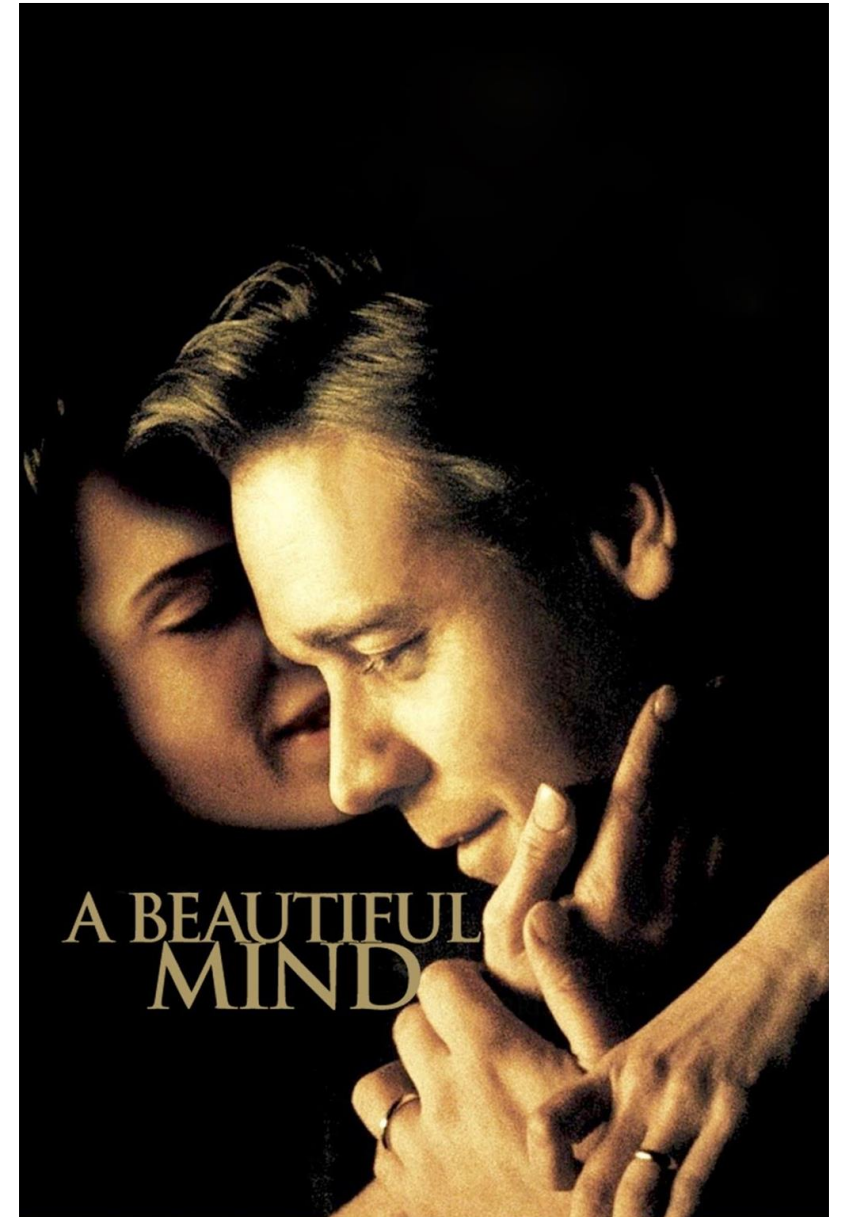
2002

What was happening 20 years ago?

What movie won an Oscar for Best Picture in 2002?

- A. Lord of the Rings – Fellowship of the Rings
- B. A Beautiful Mind
- C. Star Wars Episode 2 – Attack of the Clones
- D. We Were Soldiers

Answer: B. A Beautiful Mind



A large, solid dark blue circle that serves as the background for the text.

20 Years of Service

Alesia M. Kruckenberg

Director Strategy, Planning & Budget

In 1996 Alesia, along with her two young daughters, relocated from Baltimore to Fairbanks. Fairbanks is now also home for her three grandchildren. Alesia earned both a paralegal and accounting degree from UAF and her master in public administration degree from UAS.

She began her career with the university in 2001 as an Administrative Assistance for the System Office Risk Services. Four years later she accepted a budget analyst position with the System Office Strategy, Planning and Budget, today she manages the department.



Collin Lichtenberger Lead Network Engineer

Although being born here, Collin lived outside before returning to Alaska in '92 and has been a resident since. He is raising 6 wonderful children with his amazingly dedicated wife and is grateful to God for all the opportunities that Alaska has afforded his family.

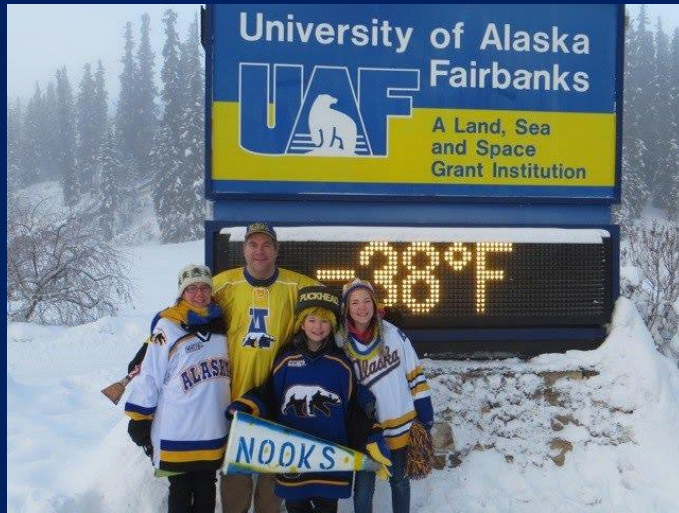
20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Margie Schwartz Data Center Operator



Margie came to Alaska in 1991 with the Air Force, and retired from the 18th Fighter Squadron on Eielson AFB in 1995 as an avionics technician. Margie has made the 47 mile commute from Salcha to the University from 2001-2021, and now lives in west Goldstream. Margie's hobbies include hunting, fishing, and exploring the Greatland, and helping those in need. Margie has been with her lifelong partner, Moreah Fritz, for 23 years, and they are ready to start stamping their passports next year!

20 YEARS OF SERVICE



Mike Brase

OIT Executive Director, Infrastructure and Cloud Services

Mike is a lifelong Alaskan with a career committed to public service. He came to work for the University of Alaska in the spring of 2001 as the Manager of the Network Control Center group within Statewide ITS, and currently serves as the OIT Executive Director of Infrastructure and Cloud Services.

Mike's current areas of focus include ensuring University engagement with upcoming broadband infrastructure opportunities, enabling continued research efforts and capabilities by improving our enterprise data center resilience and capacity, and working to grow and improve the telecommunications and network services across the University system.

Prior to his University service, Mike was an Analyst/Programmer V for the State of Alaska, as well as a Network Specialist for the City and Borough of Juneau. Before he began his IT career, he spent several years working for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in many remote locations across Alaska for the divisions of Sport Fish and Commercial Fisheries.

Outside of work, Mike volunteers in the Fairbanks community as a coach for several youth sports including hockey, baseball, and track & field, First Lego League robotics, as well as serving on local community advisory boards involving IT topics. He enjoys spending focused family time attending Nanook hockey games, being outdoors turning gas into noise with jet boat and snow machine, training Labrador retrievers, as well as hunting, fishing and trapping across the Interior.

Mary Gower

Chief Equity and Compliance Officer

Mary is a University of Alaska Fairbanks alumna, earning her BBA and MBA. In addition to her corporate, small business and university administration work, Mary also taught for six years as an adjunct faculty member at UAF School of Management. She served on the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Action Collaborative, ACT Alaska Council, UAF Alumni Board, "The Network" as an executive member, as the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce membership chair, and other professional and community roles. She and her husband Jim are enjoying raising a sports-focused family; they can be seen on any given weekend around Fairbanks at sporting practices and events.



25 Years of Service TRIVIA!

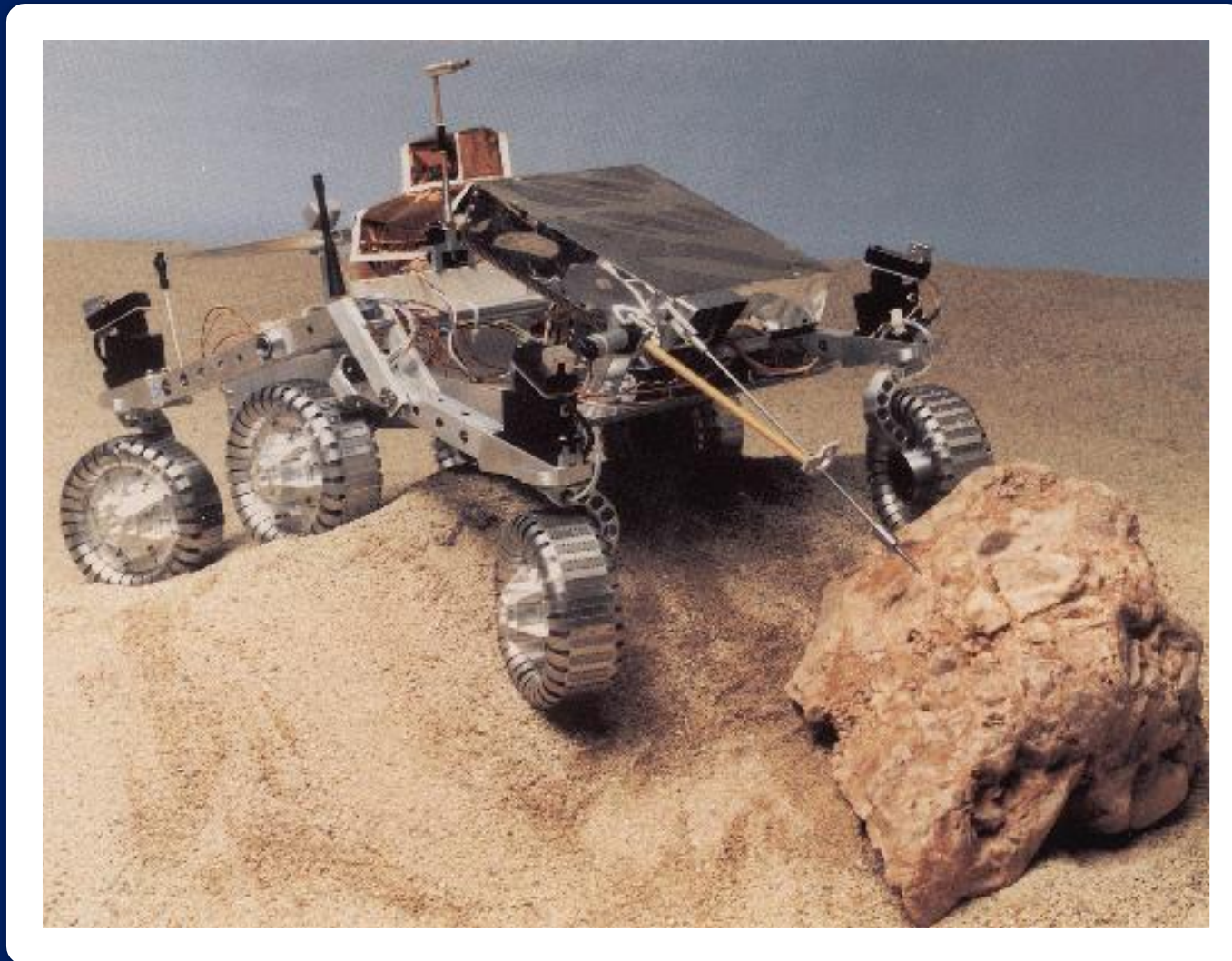
1997 – a quarter of a
century ago

In a galaxy far, far away...

Which Mars landing happened in 1997?

- A. Pathfinder
- B. Rover
- C. Curiosity
- D. Opportunity

Answer: A. Pathfinder



A large, dark blue circle serves as the background for the text.

25 Years of Service

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Shawn Armstrong

Sr. Network Engineer

Shawn has lived in Fairbanks since 1989, and began working in IT at UAF in 1995. In 1999 Shawn moved into a position in ARSC for a few months before transitioning to the Statewide IT organization and has been there ever since.

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

John Hebard
Director of Procurement and Contract Services



Raffle Time!

Outstanding Employees and Department

STUDENT OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE

Yali Wang

Yali has taken on several large website projects including a complete overhaul of the UA Journeys site, as well as regular updating of our news feeds and media tracking page, and is key to keeping our sites up-to-day and accurate.

Yali is always willing to take on new tasks and executes them quickly and accurately with a cheerful "can do" attitude.

The speed and quality of her work is remarkable. She has finished projects anticipated to last for days in hours, or week-long projects in days. Her dedication to her job that is highly commendable.

OUTSTANDING DEPARTMENT

Data Center Operations

DCO Operators went above and beyond their responsibilities in helping HR during this tax season and were able to accomplish the work with tax forms 3 days ahead of schedule. During times where departments were short staffed, the Operators took on additional duties.

As a 24/7 operations, DCO's commitment to the successful outcome to the University, Students, Staff and Faculty. DCO contributed to the continued operation for staff working remotely. DCO was tasked with maintaining continuous computer access and operations for many departments in the Butrovich building.

NON-EXEMPT OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE

Logan Juhl

Logan started with HRIS (Human Resources Information Systems) as a student and after learning an incredible amount of technical skills/knowledge very quickly, was hired as a full-time staff member.

Though he works behind the scenes and you may never know it was him, Logan has been an integral part of efforts to drastically increase quality of life for HR Coordinators as well as the UA community at large.

Logan is always one of the first to volunteer to take on HRIS tasks that must be performed regardless of the fact that it is a UA Holiday. His commitment to the HRIS Team and UA as a whole are exemplary.

Logan's positivity and can-do attitude has been inspiring over the last difficult year and is much appreciated in our day-to-day interactions.

EXEMPT OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE

Becky Lindsey

Becky approaches her work with humility, inclusivity and respect for her colleagues, and embraces the power of teamwork throughout all aspects of her job. She is productive, organized and experienced which leads to a high quality of work.

While it is a tremendous achievement to lead the effort that resulted in such an incredible outpouring of donor engagement and support, including the generous \$1.7M+ raised during both Giving Days, it is Becky's contribution to the team - her mentorship and leadership - that can't be measured.

Becky is an excellent mentor and coach, with a personality that naturally brings people together. She has fostered community during budget cuts, leadership changes, and many other challenges through her incredible ability to listen, ask questions and be solution-oriented. She has bridged the community at not only a statewide level, but at a global level, keeping the University of Alaska's mission at the center.



Thank you to ALL of the
outstanding staff at the
System Office!



Thank you to Alaska
Airlines who donated the
raffle prize!