

aurora

Fall 2015

A shared century

Celebrating one place, two traditions



Sikuliaq's sailors

Schaible's life of
learning

A Nanook in Hollywood

For alumni and friends of the University of Alaska Fairbanks



Correction
Several illustrations accompanying the spring 2015 Aurora article on the Inupiat to English Dictionary were misattributed to George West in the dictionary's introduction and in the article. James Jordan drew the illustrations for an early, smaller version of the dictionary while he pursued his master's degree in quaternary studies at UAF in the 1980s. Jordan is now on the faculty at Antioch University in Maine but continues to work in Alaska and is a research affiliate with the UA Museum of the North.

■ Something to say, spring 2015

This was such a powerful and inspiring story. I appreciate this article on so many levels. It is a breath of fresh air to see this Iñupiat dictionary, an obvious labor of love, and to know what it means for the language and future generations of speakers.

This is a huge gift to the Iñupiat people. It is comparable to the work completed by Ray Collins (McGrath) and Betty Petruska (Nikolai) with the Upper Kuskokwim dialect as well of the work of Irene Reed (Jacobson, et. al.) up at UAF. Very powerful and inspiring and should be read by every Alaskan.

—Mark Biberg

So inspiring! Aarigaa to read of someone's tenacity and drive to work on and finish such an important and huge project. Quyaana to Edna for doing this. I have a close tie with her and her husband. I was a biology major at UAF in the early '90s. Her husband was one of my instructors. But one semester I took Edna's Iñupiat class with her dictionary. Mumigaaluk (James Nageak) was teaching at the time. I loved that class so much because there's so much that was to be learned that I never learned in my elementary school days in Kotzebue. I took class after class each semester. I couldn't get enough of it. One day, Mumigaaluk asked me to sub for him in teaching the 101 class. I asked "Me?" Sure enough, I learned even more. (When you teach something, it goes deeper in you.) It was after one of those teaching classes, using Edna's dictionary, that I decided to switch my major to elementary education. Sure enough, I graduated with a B.A. in elementary ed and taught at the very school I grew up in.

I've moved on to other things in life, but I still teach my culture, language and traditions every day, and I always find myself going back to Edna's work. What I'd love to see in my area is an Iñupiat charter school that teaches all these things. Our state school is not concerned with such things, nor do they have the money. It's not their fault; they're not charged with such a task. We need a school in which our own goals, our own desires for our youth can be funded, taught and accomplished. That's the only way it'll get done.

We may never know of or come to realize the impact and future implications of our work. Edna's work of a dictionary may ultimately change the entire paradigm of indigenous education in rural Alaska. The baton has been handed to us and we must make sure to do our part with the same grit and determination Edna had; otherwise, it may all be for nothing, as her aapa put it.

—Lance Kramer '01



While attending the July cornerstone rededication, Leslie Patton Wilfer (right) and her cousin, Nancy Patton Hanks, point out their grandfathers in a 1915 photo of the original dedication ceremony for the cornerstone.

■ The bluff on the bluff, spring 2015

I was excited to see the photograph of the dedication ceremony of the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines cornerstone featured in "The bluff on the bluff" back cover story of the Aurora spring 2015 issue. In October 2013, I discovered this same photo in memoirs written by my grandfather, Everett W. Patton, in 1985. He identified himself and his brother, Beach Patton, as the two little boys in the white hats in the front row. Their father, Rev. J.J. Patton, pastor of the St. James Methodist Church, gave the invocation and benediction at this ceremony on July 4, 1915. Everett later became a pioneer in the early Alaska tour and bus transportation industry. His career started while working for Austin E. "Cap" Lathrop giving lectured tours to visiting dignitaries around Fairbanks' sights that included the University of Alaska Museum, Creamer's Dairy and Gold Dredge No. 6 at Gold Hill.

The University of Alaska has been an integral part of our family's life in Fairbanks, and we salute UA on its centennial milestone!

—Leslie Patton Wilfer

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By Sam Bishop

For retiring Chancellor Brian Rogers, it's been 45 years from lemonade stands to galas, boom and bust cycles, and all things Nanook in between.



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By Sharice Walker

UAF's new, world-class research vessel is often billed as the big story, but it's the people on the ship who bring it to life.



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By Sam Bishop

The rededication of UAF's cornerstone 100 years after its laying and a blessing of Troth Yeddha' Park brought together the university and Native communities during a day of celebration July 6, 2015.



22 Amazing Grace

By Sam Bishop

The life of Grace Berg Schaible '49 is as dynamic and inspiring as Alaska, a place she has loved and helped build, as advocate, philanthropist and Alaska's first (and only) female attorney general.



26 All the stories are true

By Tori Tragis

It's a Hollywood cliché: Small-town kid makes it big in the movies. But it really happened for Ben Grossmann '95, and he has the photos to prove it.

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On the cover: Chancellor Brian Rogers and Tanana Chiefs Conference President Victor Joseph hold a Gwich'in staff as they lead the crowd walking from Troth Yeddha' Park to Cornerstone Plaza on July 6.

Volume 8 No. 1

Published twice a year for alumni and friends of the University of Alaska Fairbanks

SHIFT WORK

Brian Rogers retired in August after serving seven years as UAF's chancellor. His interim replacement is Mike Powers, who has served on the UA Board of Regents since 2011. A 30-year resident of Fairbanks, Powers has been an executive at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital for nearly three decades, first as chief financial officer and, for the past 20 years, as chief executive officer.

One immediate challenge for Powers will be to shepherd UAF through a \$20 million shortfall this fiscal year, the result of reduced state funding. He will



At left, Brian Rogers meets with Mike Powers, interim chancellor, in August. Jim Johnsen, at right, is the UA system's new president.

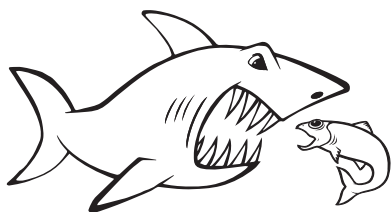


Photo by Monique Mueck

also help the University of Alaska's new president, Jim Johnsen, launch a search for the permanent chancellor, a process that could take up to a year.

Powers reports to Johnsen, who assumed responsibilities in August. The appointment marks a return to UA for

him, having served in several executive roles, including vice president of administration and chief of staff. He was most recently a senior vice president at Alaska Communications. Johnsen succeeds Patrick K. Gamble, who retired from UA after five years as president.



SHARKS LOVE SALMON, TOO

Sharks might be a reason for low king salmon returns in Alaska.

Researcher Andrew

Seitz '06 noticed unusual temperature readings from satellite tags on king salmon in the Bering Sea. Temperatures jumped from the typical 40- to 55-degree water king salmon swim in to 65 to 80 degrees in just seconds.

"The only habitat with temperatures in that range in the Bering Sea is in the belly of a warm-blooded predator," said Seitz. "Marine mammals ... have body temperatures approximately the same as humans, about 97-100 degrees, leaving only one other culprit."

The aptly named salmon sharks are able to keep their body temperature warmer than the surrounding water, and their guts are typically 65-80 degrees.

Two tags spent about three days inside the bellies of salmon sharks, apparently consumed along with the fish they were attached to, before being expelled back into the Bering Sea.

Seitz doesn't know for sure yet if salmon sharks affect the number of king salmon in the Bering Sea, but said scientists need more information about how and why older salmon die at sea. He plans to further investigate predation on large king salmon by salmon sharks this summer. Read more at

<http://bit.ly/uaf050730>.



UA President Pat Gamble, right, presents an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree to Ron Senungetuk, second from left, at Commencement 2015, accompanied by Provost Susan Henrichs, far left, and Chancellor Brian Rogers, second from right.

CAP AND GOWN

Some 1,350 students earned more than 1,450 certificates and degrees during UAF's 93rd commencement ceremony in May. Honorary degrees went to geologist Thomas R. Marshall Jr., Yup'ik elder Gust Bartman, and artist and professor emeritus Ron Senungetuk. In 1967, Senungetuk designed the ceremonial mace carried in commencement processions since then.

Tony Gasbarro '79, another professor emeritus, and civic leader Karen Parr '66 received Meritorious Service Awards. Academy Award winner Ben Grossmann '95 was the guest speaker (see story on page 26), and Lakeidra Chavis '15 was the student speaker. Seventeen faculty and staff were granted emeritus status, including Chancellor Brian Rogers, who retired in August. (See story on page 6.)

MORE PLANTS, FEWER PIKAS?

It's possible that, as climate change allows trees and shrubs to push into formerly treeless alpine habitats, the critters that live there are getting pushed out. The population of collared pikas, singing voles and Arctic ground squirrel populations have declined throughout much of their range, possibly because their alpine and tundra habitats are losing ground to bushier vegetation formerly restricted to lower elevations and latitudes. Read more about the findings from UA Museum of the North researchers at <http://bit.ly/uaf031611>.



Photo by Moose Peterson.

SMOKE OUT

There'll be no more lighting up on any University of Alaska campus as of Dec. 31. The UA Board of Regents adopted a smoke-free policy for campuses statewide in December 2014.



SLOW GAS

The release of greenhouse gases from Arctic and sub-Arctic permafrost may be more gradual and prolonged than previously thought, which may allow society more time to adapt to environmental change. The prevailing theory has been that, as permafrost thawed, carbon would be released suddenly as a kind of "carbon bomb" that would significantly accelerate climate warming. That might not be the case, according to A. David McGuire '83, '89, U.S. Geological Survey senior scientist and climate modeling expert with UAF's Institute of Arctic Biology. He and Vladimir Romanovsky '96, a permafrost expert with the UAF Geophysical Institute, helped co-author the report in the April 9 issue of the journal Nature.

"The data from our team's syntheses don't support the permafrost carbon bomb view," said McGuire. The researchers hope their findings will be included in future climate models. You can find the full story at <http://bit.ly/uaf040930>.

ARCTIC SCIENCE EXTRAVAGANZA

About 700 of the world's top experts on Arctic science and policy will be in Fairbanks when UAF hosts the 2016 Arctic Science Summit Week, the Arctic Observing Summit and the Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials Meeting in March. The meetings will attract members of international organizations to coordinate research and policy programs, and to share information on Arctic studies. Learn more at <https://assw2016.org>.



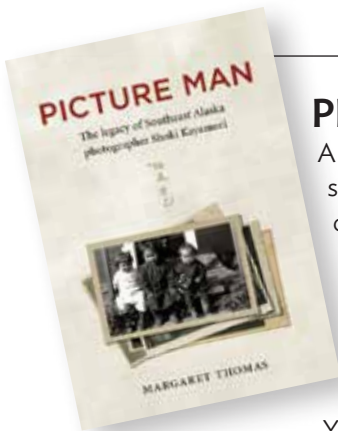
PICTURE MAN

A new book showcases the photographs of a Japanese man who spent decades in a Southeast Alaska village but committed suicide after government officials named him a potential spy on the eve of World War II.

"Picture Man: The Legacy of Southeast Alaska Photographer Shoki Kayamori," by Margaret Thomas, tells the story of Kayamori, who, in 1912, arrived with his box camera in the Tlingit village of

Yakutat. For three decades,

he photographed daily life in the village, but as World War II drew near, government officials cast suspicion on him. Kayamori committed suicide, leaving behind an enigmatic photographic legacy. "Picture Man" is available from the UA Press at www.uapress.alaska.edu.



Photos by Shoki Kayamori.



Photo by Erin Pettit.

BOOMING BUBBLES

Bubbles from melting glaciers and icebergs are loud. Erin Pettit, a glaciologist from the Department of Geosciences, was part of a team that examined noise levels in three bays in Alaska and Antarctica. Bubbles make more noise than all other sources, including machines such as ships and sonar devices, raising questions about how underwater noise will affect animals as climate change increases the rate glaciers melt into the ocean. Pop over for more detail at <http://bitly.com/LoudBubbles>.



Photo from <http://geoforce.alaska.edu>.

TEEN SCIENTISTS

After four years of geologic learning adventures across the nation, 15 high school students from North Slope communities graduated in July from UAF's GeoFORCE Alaska program (<http://geoforce.alaska.edu>). The rising seniors were the first class to graduate. GeoFORCE Alaska aims to interest Alaska rural and minority students in math and science by taking them on a week-long field trip for each of the four summers after eighth grade.

The free program is funded entirely through donations, with many sponsors representing industries that rely on Alaska's natural resources. One goal of the program is that students will pursue higher education that leads them to careers in Alaska's high-tech workforce.

KUDOS



UAF photo by J.R. Ancheta.

2015 American Society of Civil Engineers' regional student steel bridge competition
1st place, all seven categories
<http://bit.ly/2015CEMsteel>



2015-2016
Fulbright Arctic Initiative scholar
Gwen Holdmann, director, UAF's
Alaska Center for Energy and Power
http://news.uaf.edu/uaf_fulbright/



Photo by Lorraine Naaktgeboren.

John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship
Erin Shew, graduate student,
Arctic and northern studies
<http://bit.ly/ShewFellowship>



Photo from www.harmslab.org/people/

2015-2016
Fulbright Arctic Initiative scholar
Tamara Harms,
assistant professor of ecology
http://news.uaf.edu/uaf_fulbright/

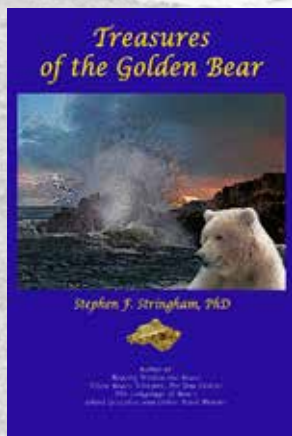


Society of Petroleum Engineers'
regional faculty Distinguished
Achievement Award
Abhijit Dandekar,
professor of petroleum engineering

TREASURES OF THE GOLDEN BEAR

Stephen F. Stringham '74
2014, WildWatch

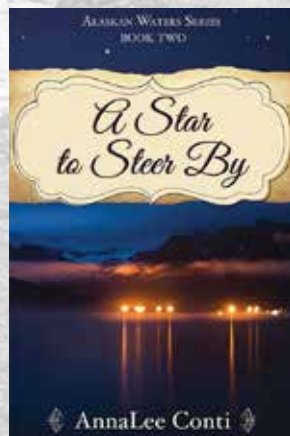
When Bril frees a trapped grizzly bear, she never dreams of all the adventures they'll share or that it will lead her to a fortune in gold. Nor does the O'Shea gang expect that robbing her is like Goliath provoking David. ... Bril has learned survival skills from her Yurok Indian father, and poise during crisis from her mother, Princess Suchovsky. These are situations where wit and character are more potent than guns ... especially when Bril gets help from the griz and "The Beast That Swallows Gold." — *Excerpted and adapted from the back cover*



A STAR TO STEER BY

AnnaLee Conti '67
2014, Ambassador International

Tales of big money to be made in Alaska in 1920 lure 19-year-old Norman Pedersen, a Norwegian fisherman, to immigrate to South-east Alaska to make his fortune. He plans to return to marry the love of his life, Kristina Michelsen, who promises to wait for him, even if it takes years. But Norman becomes entrapped in a "prison" of his own making. Will he ever be free to follow his heart and find his true "star to steer by"? — *Excerpt from the publisher's description*



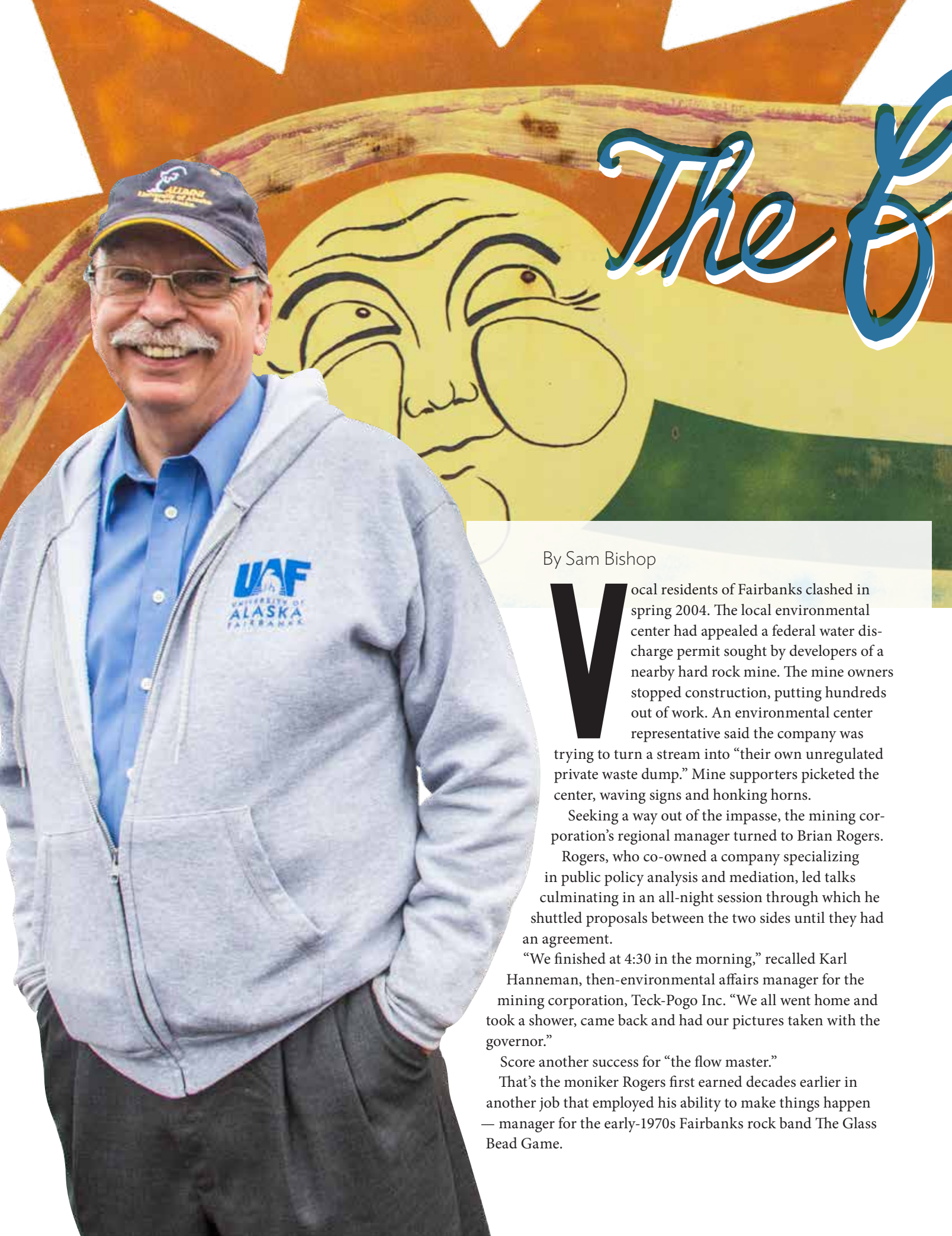
THE LOST MARBLE NOTEBOOK OF FORGOTTEN GIRL AND RANDOM BOY

Marie Jaskulka '04
2015, Sky Pony Press

Forgotten Girl, a 15-year-old poet, is going through the most difficult time of her life — the breakup of her parents, and her mom's resulting depression — when she meets Random Boy, a hot guy who, like her, feels like an outcast and secretly writes poetry to deal with everything going on in his life.

In "The Lost Marble Notebook of Forgotten Girl and Random Boy," the couple's poems come together to tell their unique love story. — *Excerpt from the publisher's description*





The Glass Bead Game

By Sam Bishop

Vocal residents of Fairbanks clashed in spring 2004. The local environmental center had appealed a federal water discharge permit sought by developers of a nearby hard rock mine. The mine owners stopped construction, putting hundreds out of work. An environmental center representative said the company was trying to turn a stream into “their own unregulated private waste dump.” Mine supporters picketed the center, waving signs and honking horns.

Seeking a way out of the impasse, the mining corporation’s regional manager turned to Brian Rogers.

Rogers, who co-owned a company specializing in public policy analysis and mediation, led talks culminating in an all-night session through which he shuttled proposals between the two sides until they had an agreement.

“We finished at 4:30 in the morning,” recalled Karl Hanneman, then-environmental affairs manager for the mining corporation, Teck-Pogo Inc. “We all went home and took a shower, came back and had our pictures taken with the governor.”

Score another success for “the flow master.”

That’s the moniker Rogers first earned decades earlier in another job that employed his ability to make things happen — manager for the early-1970s Fairbanks rock band The Glass Bead Game.

Flow Master

Background image: UAF photo by JR Andrich.

More than 40 years later, Rogers retired Aug. 31 with the title of “chancellor emeritus” of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, but “flow master” captures best the essence of the man, judging by testimony from friends and colleagues.

“He is one of the more effective people I’ve ever met, a leader in the best sense of the word, who has vision and knows how to motivate people and bring together people of all sorts of persuasions and backgrounds,” said former professor Vic Fischer.

Fischer, who also served as a delegate to the Alaska Constitutional Convention and in the Legislature, first encountered Rogers in the early 1970s when the future chancellor sold lemonade from a truck on the Fairbanks campus. Rogers’ retirement followed decades of varied work and public service, but much of it, like that lemonade truck, has linked him to the university.

From firefighter to band manager

Now that he has retired, neither Rogers nor his spouse, Sherry Modrow, expect those connections to dissolve. “Sherry and I will continue to be involved in the university,” he said. “I’ve had some affiliation since 1970. That’s 45 years. You don’t walk away from that.”

The affiliation began as a 19-year-old student. Rogers, originally from Blue Hill, Maine, arrived in Fairbanks looking for work as a wildland firefighter. A fraternity brother at Brown University had made good money fighting Alaska fires in summer 1969 and talked Rogers into returning with him.



Photo courtesy of Brian Rogers.

Customers line up at The Lemon Tree on the Fairbanks campus during a summer day in the early 1970s. Brian Rogers still has the now-weathered artwork that decorated his food truck, and a photograph of it provides the background image above.

“1970 was not a big fire season,” Rogers recalled wryly. Alaska left a big impression, though. “I fell in love with Alaska and decided I would transfer to the University of Alaska.”

Rogers’ already keen interest in public affairs prompted him to run successfully for a student government post in his first year. He also entered the newspaper business, working for The Polar Star, a predecessor of The Sun Star, and at the Fairbanks-based All-Alaska Weekly. He did some reporting for the weekly, and then became Polar Star editor in 1972.

To make money in the summer, Rogers created The Lemon Tree, a one-ton post office truck outfitted to sell lemonade. Fellow student Luke Hopkins, now Fairbanks borough mayor, installed a custom door. The truck, which Rogers operated in summers from 1971-1974, was enormously popular.

In summer 1974, Rogers managed The Glass Bead Game’s five-week tour of Alaska. Susan McInnis sang with group. “At some point along the way, it occurred to us that Brian was the flow master,” she said. “We needed to be paid. Brian figured it out. We needed someone to talk to the people who were going to hire us. Brian did that. He made that happen.”



UAF photo by JR Ancheta

Sherry Modrow and Brian Rogers enjoy the 2013 Chancellor's Gala. The annual events have raised more than \$280,000 for university programs and community partners since 2010.

"He did it with grace and skill," she said. "That's kind of the way I've looked at him."

The same year, Rogers started building a house on Birch Hill, cut his ponytail and ran for state legislative office. He didn't win, but he kept looking for ways to enter politics.

Finishing school became secondary to other interests and needs. Rogers "essentially ran out of money, had to get a job," he said.

Thriving on issues

In spring 1975, Rogers went to see Mike Bradner, a Democratic state legislator from Fairbanks. Bradner said he had a secretary's position open. "Before I could say another word, he said, 'I'll take it,'" Bradner recalled.

Rogers met Modrow the next year when they served together on the board of directors for the Fairbanks Solstice Festival, an annual music fair. Rogers and Modrow married in 1979.

During the mid-1970s, Rogers worked in Juneau, first for Bradner and then other Democratic legislators. Rogers was energetic and astute, said Bradner, who today publishes two subscription newsletters, the Alaska Legislative Digest and the Alaska Economic Report.

"If he didn't have an assignment, he found one," Bradner said. "He was also a data person, and that was probably good in those days. It was pre-Internet. He'd show up with his charts."

From student to university advocate

By Sherry Modrow

Born and mostly raised in Alaska, I enrolled at the University of Alaska in 1967 and lived in Wickersham Hall. I relaxed in the Constitution Hall SUB (student union), dragged myself to 8 a.m. classes, joined the small gymnastics team and made good friends.


Out of money, I took a year off, returning in 1969. A scholarship-funded summer of study in France and the support of professors Hollerbach, Gordon and Pourny saw me through to a B.A. in French. I graduated in the 50th commencement — 1972 — also President Wood's final term, and I returned in the 1980s for a master's in teaching.

With many friends in common, surprisingly Brian and I did not know each other until 1976, when we wrote bylaws and nonprofit papers for the Summer Solstice organization. We married in 1979 and made his cabin a house as our boys came along. Great memories include family time at fish camp on the Yukon River.

Our son Chris earned a B.A. in journalism from UAF and works in Colorado. Tracy returned home after college for his M.S. in natural resources; he and his wife, Heather, moved to Seattle last year.

After Brian became interim chancellor, we wanted to use the chancellor's house to bring people together. Its comfortable atmosphere helped create positive relationships on campus as well as with community members. We maintained a busy schedule of receptions, dinners, meetings, house concerts and lawn parties. I loved getting to know talented faculty, staff, alumni and students.

I continued professional work at Information Insights until 2012. Meanwhile, adopting the title of university advocate gave some cachet to my campus volunteer role. My first major initiative at UAF, the Chancellor's Gala, has become a successful community fundraiser. I served on the UA Museum advisory committee, the planning group for a Center for Salmon and Society, and the centennial committee; and I traveled with Brian for UAF and the University of the Arctic.

Moving forward, I hope to help with fundraising initiatives for Troth Yeddha', Alaska Center for Energy and Power, and centennial scholarships and fellowships. Always a proud Nanook, I am delighted to have had this unique role as the UAF chancellor's spouse. 



Modrow receives a hug from husband Brian Rogers as the two are applauded for their service to UAF on July 6 during the 100th anniversary rededication of the university's cornerstone.



Photos courtesy of Brian Rogers and Sherry Modrow

At left, Rogers stands next to his Subaru wagon and campaign vehicle in 1978. Fairbanks-area voters elected him to the state House that year and again in 1980. At center, Rogers places a ring on Sherry Modrow's finger during their wedding in 1979. At right, Rogers and Modrow with sons Chris, standing, and Tracy at their Yukon River fish camp in 1987.

“He was very social, and that helps,” Bradner added. “I can’t ever remember him have a serious dislocation with anybody.”

In 1978, at 28 years old, Rogers ran again for the state House as a Democrat and was elected. As a legislator, Rogers continued his affiliation with the university, becoming chair of the university budget subcommittee in the House Finance Committee.



Rogers, as UAF chancellor, tosses the traditional rotten watermelon from the top of the Gruening Building during SpringFest 2013.

“He thrived on the issues, not the politics,” Bradner said. “He knew the politics; he was good at it, but he thrived on the issues.”

At the time, large sums of oil tax money began to arrive in the state treasury, following the 1977 start-up of the trans-Alaska oil pipeline. “When state revenue increased, I was able to get

major amounts of new money into the university, with over a 30 percent increase one year,” Rogers said.

Rogers was re-elected in 1980, but a 1981 coup in the House put Anchorage Republican Rep. Joe Hayes in the speaker’s chair. Rogers decided not to run for re-election in 1982.

He and Modrow went fishing instead.

A great way to raise kids

Modrow, whose father worked for Wien Airlines, grew up in Nome, Kotzebue and Fairbanks. After high school Outside, she began attending UAF in the late 1960s. While in school, she lived for several years with the family of her mother’s best friend, Wien flight attendant Jeanne Wright. Wright’s part-Athabaskan husband, Al, founded an air service. They also ran a fish camp on the Yukon River where Modrow spent part of each summer.

When Modrow’s grandmother died, she left some money, so she and Rogers used it to buy a commercial salmon fishing permit for the middle Yukon. In 1982, they built their own fish camp on an island downstream from the Dalton Highway bridge.

Rogers and Modrow also started raising a family, with sons Chris born in 1980 and Tracy in 1984.

“We joked that it was semi-commercial fishing, but it was a great way to raise kids on the river, a great way to enjoy the summer in Alaska,” Rogers said.

They continued to fish through 1999, even while working at their town jobs and dabbling in other enterprises, including shared ownership of the All-Alaska Weekly in the late 1980s.

A better policymaker

Commercial fishing wasn’t going to keep Rogers busy during winters, though. So, in fall 1983, he entered Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government and earned his master’s degree the next June.

“I just have always respected his skills. He’s out there. He’s enthusiastic with people. He’s an incredible policy and data analyst.”

Fischer, the former professor who served in the Legislature with Rogers, said he encouraged Rogers to attend the Harvard school.

“It made him an even better public policymaker and administrator,” Fischer said of Rogers’ time at Harvard.

Three days after graduating, Rogers went to work as budget director for the University of Alaska’s statewide system in Fairbanks. In 1986, oil prices dropped, forcing deep cuts and a restructuring of the system, in which Rogers had a large role.

Rogers rose to the position of UA vice president for finance before leaving the university in 1995. He and Modrow joined Ellen Ganley and her spouse, Rick Lonn, to form the consulting firm Information Insights the next year. The company provides clients with research-based issue analysis, but Rogers also specialized in moderating large meetings and negotiating agreements, such as the Pogo Mine deal.

“I just have always respected his skills,” Ganley said. “He’s out there. He’s enthusiastic with people. He’s an incredible policy and data analyst.”

Return to the university

In 1999, Gov. Tony Knowles pulled Rogers back to the university by appointing him to the UA Board of Regents. Rogers spent eight years on the board, including three as chairman.

“The university had not been able to do much in terms of programs and facilities in the ’90s, and then really exploded, much of it in Anchorage and not Fairbanks,” Rogers said. “But we were able to add degree programs, a lot at the vocational area,

things like process technology ... and I think really put a much firmer foundation under UAF’s rural campuses.”

Rogers’ appointment came about a year after regents had selected retired U.S. Army Gen. Mark Hamilton as the university’s statewide president.

Hamilton said his relationship with Rogers was “overwhelmingly very good and very collaborative.”

“We certainly had some disagreements and were very adamant in our stances,” Hamilton said. “He, being the chair, would win.”

Hamilton remained president 12 years, long enough to name Rogers as interim chancellor in 2008 when the previous chancellor left.

“Here was Brian, who was chair of the board of regents, where he was my boss, then at UAF, where I was his boss,” Hamilton said. “But the relationship never changed.”

Choosing Rogers as permanent chancellor after the interim period wasn’t difficult, he said.

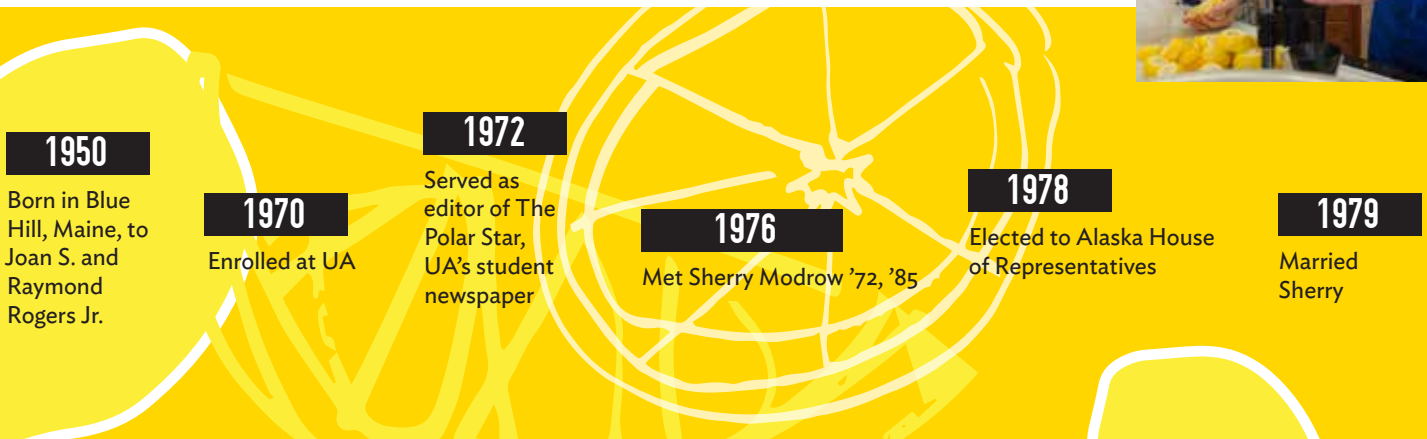
“When you have an interim like that, the people who might otherwise apply will kind of just check the air a bit and say ‘How’s he doing?’ and ‘Do you think the president likes him?’ or ‘Does the faculty?’ And if they say ‘Yes, everybody likes him,’ they say ‘Why bother?’” Hamilton said. “So it was pretty much by acclamation.”

Courting the community

Unbidden standing ovations marked Rogers’ last few months at the university. Faculty stood and clapped at the commencement ceremony. Staff did the same at a luncheon the next week. And when a variety of community and campus people gathered to mark the 100th anniversary of



UAF photo by JR Ancheta.





Rogers helps open an expanded Wood Center, featuring a new dining facility, in August 2014. Rogers, as a student, voted for bonds to build the original center, which was completed in 1972.

the university's cornerstone in early July, they jumped up and clapped again.

Rogers said he had a hard time speaking after the faculty honored him with their applause at commencement. "I don't know how often administrators get ovations from faculty, but that one was very meaningful to me," he said.

As chancellor, Rogers said, he had a few central accomplishments of which he is proud.

He energetically promoted the university's reputation as the expert institution on Arctic science and policy. While that work required an international vision, Rogers also concluded that building a closer connection to the Fairbanks and Alaska community was necessary for the university to make essential improvements, he said.

"I came in knowing that the community and the university were not as connected as we needed to be," he said. "I spent a lot of effort on the community connection."

During Rogers' tenure, UAF completed the Murie Building, expanded Wood Center, launched a new veterinary medicine program, got a start on the new engineering facility and secured funding for a new heat and power plant.

Modrow and Rogers serve freshly squeezed lemonade for UAF employees during Staff Appreciation Day in 2013.

Such expansion required community support to secure legislative approval and funding, particularly for the heat and power plant. "The entire community mobilized to say that to have a campus in Fairbanks, Alaska, you need to have heat," Rogers said.

The Wood Center expansion forms a curious bookend to Rogers' long history with UAF. As a student, Rogers voted for the bonds, backed by student fees, that provided the construction money to complete the original building in 1972. Then he worked briefly on a crew repairing the rubber roof membrane, which had been damaged by a fuel spill.

As a legislator, Rogers secured funding to pay off the bonds so students were no longer burdened with the fee.

"I came in knowing that the community and the university were not as connected as we needed to be ... I spent a lot of effort on the community connection."



Rogers receives an ovation during the commencement ceremony in May 2015, just a few weeks after announcing he would retire in August.

1980

Son Chris '04 born

Elected to state House again

1984

Son Tracy '12 born

Earned master's degree from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, hired as UA budget director three days later

1995

Retired from UA as vice president for finance

1996

Formed Information Insights with partners Sherry Modrow, Ellen Ganley and Rick Lonn

1999

Appointed to UA Board of Regents by Gov. Tony Knowles, served until 2007

2008

Appointed interim chancellor at UAF by UA President Mark Hamilton

2015

Retired as UAF chancellor emeritus



UAF photo by JR Andehra

Rogers reviews old student newspapers with Sam Allen, editor of The Sun Star, during a 2014 open house at the newspaper's office in Constitution Hall. Rogers served as editor of The Polar Star, a predecessor, in 1972.

“But the part I’m proudest of is this latest addition,” Rogers said. The 34,000-square-foot expansion, which opened in August 2014, houses the new central campus dining facility and was financed with a private-public partnership.

Rogers’ focus on connecting with the community also has increased private donations to the university. “People don’t donate if they don’t feel like it’s something they want to be a part of,” Rogers said.

Rogers encouraged more alumni to give. It seems to be working. “Our alumni giving is up by double digits every year,” he said.

Modrow, who adopted the title “university advocate,” has been an integral part of the fundraising effort.

“UAF has gotten a two-for-one,” said Bob Shefchik, who worked as Rogers’ executive officer from 2009 to 2013. “Sherry has been there — not just being the hostess at the receptions — she’s played an integral role.”

Stressful times

Rogers issued an email to university employees on April 16, just as the Legislature was approving deep cuts to the institution. Rogers announced that he would retire as chancellor in August and would not seek to lead the statewide system following President Pat Gamble’s retirement, which was scheduled at about the same time.

“I am an optimistic person,” Rogers wrote in the email. “That has required me to internalize the issues and decisions we are making, to maintain that positive outlook. This stress is negatively affecting my health, and I cannot ignore this effect.”

In a June interview, Rogers added that there was a little more to the story.

“It became clear that the board [of regents] was split on my candidacy [for the presidency],” he said, “and as I thought

about the stress of working for a divided board, that wasn’t appealing. So I think that had as much or more to do with it.”

Hamilton, the former president, said Rogers’ decision makes sense on another level. “The presidency is going to be so difficult in this economic downturn,” Hamilton said. “He [would] be presiding over a significant diminishment of resources, and that’s a shame.”

Just doing the job might be impossible for someone who has spent a career within the system, he said. “You end up facing having to take down programs that you helped to start.”

Rogers warned against the damage greater cuts could inflict.

“It’s my hope that the state will realize that if we don’t want to crash the state’s economy, we need to keep investing in higher education, and that’s going to require some broad-based taxation. It’s going to require some Permanent Fund income. It’s going to require the balancing of oil production, price and taxes at an appropriate level. And probably some more budget cuts. We need to do all of those,” Rogers said.

Looking out for others

Rogers leaves an impressive professional legacy, but people who know him also speak of his personal charm and generosity.

“He’s the smartest man in the world, even though he doesn’t act like that,” Shefchik said. “He’s got a kind heart.”

Shefchik said he’d seen Rogers in a variety of settings and always admired his lack of ego.

“It’s my hope that the state will realize that if we don’t want to crash the state’s economy, we need to keep investing in higher education.”

“He’ll leave a good idea for a better one, even if it’s his,” Shefchik said.

Pat Pitney, Rogers’ former vice chancellor of administration who now works as budget director for Gov. Bill Walker, said she would never have gotten her current job without Rogers’ advocacy.

“He teaches people, without being a teacher,” she said. “He really helps people improve every step of the way, by example



Photo courtesy of Brian Rogers and Sherry Madrow.

ODE TO THE MUSTACHE



By Jesse Manchester '10, '12

I remember the first time I saw him. I was just a wide-eyed undergrad at an awards ceremony, intimidated by the dignified guests.

And there he was.

He was up there at the podium, silently demanding the attention of distinguished members of the campus community. He lay with such quiet confidence as the chancellor gave his prepared oration. I don't really remember what the chancellor said, but the impression his mustache had on me will continue to influence my life for decades to come.

The legendary Chancellor's Mustache has become an institution at UAF and has ushered in a new era of renewed masculinity and revitalized veracity on campus. The truest hipster does not aim to inspire — they just are inspirational. The Mustache just is.

That first introduction to the Chancellor's Mustache at the ceremony inspired me. It was uplifting to see such a traditionalist own his identity in a world of conformity. In an effort to explore my identity, I grew my own mustaches — yes, plural. I tried all the different types I could: the chevron, handlebars, Fu Manchu, the dirty Sanchez, Caesar Chavez, the railroad tycoon, the Tom Selleck — you name it, I tried it.

I was lucky enough to have several opportunities to work closely with the Chancellor's Mustache. Early on, I managed to take a picture with him and the coveted Tradition Stone with some of my brothers in the Alpha Phi Omega co-ed service fraternity. Later on in my career, I also got to be there as the Chancellor's Mustache was on display when we threw the first watermelon drop during SpringFest. My brothers and I even built a bonfire as an homage to the Chancellor's Mustache during the university's annual Starvation Gulch.

Congratulations on Brian Rogers' retirement. I would like to thank him for his stalwart service to the students over the last six years. But mostly, thank you for the Chancellor's Mustache. 🍷

Rogers used this photograph during his successful 1980 campaign for a Fairbanks seat in the Alaska House.

but also by the work he gives them to do, the free rein he gives them to accomplish it.”

McInnis, the Glass Bead Game vocalist who later spent many years as a radio and television journalist at KUAC, said Rogers always seemed to find ways to combine a caring nature with his work.

“When he got the job as chancellor, I sent him a note: ‘The flow master rises again,’” McInnis said. “I’m sure he must be aware of in what ways he is intelligent, and how his ambition — which I don’t consider a bad thing — can merge with his skills and his heart to have a fulfilling life.” 🍷

Sam Bishop is an editor and writer at UAF Marketing and Communications. Born in Alaska, he previously worked as a newspaper journalist in Fairbanks, Anchorage, Juneau and Washington, D.C. He has lived in Fairbanks long enough that his recollections of Rogers date back to the time when the former chancellor had not only a prominent mustache but also a ponytail.



Listen to an upcoming interview with Brian Rogers by Rob Prince, associate professor of journalism, on KUAC FM and <http://kuac.org>. Check the station's website for the broadcast schedule.

Rogers holds a T-shirt featuring an interpretation of his mustache that was auctioned during the 2014 Chancellor's Gala.



Jesse Manchester is a multiyear alumnus of UAF, with bachelor's degrees in political science and foreign languages already earned and a master's in secondary education on its way.

Sikuliaq's crew delivers the ship home

Story and photos by Sharice Walker

Several minutes pass before I sense that I'm not standing in the blackness of the room alone. As my eyes adjust to the dark of the ship's bridge, I'm startled to discover a sailor standing just a whisper away. We're hurtling through a strait that, somewhere in the February night, narrows to 800 meters. "Seems like a lot," third mate John Hamill says, "but it's really not for a ship in the dark."

It's easy to imagine a dragonhead carved into the top of the Research Vessel *Sikuliaq's* distinctive foremast, and tonight the ship seems to be channeling a particularly strong Viking vibe. In the tight strait with a fast-moving current, the ship surges forward, then draws back on invisible haunches before lunging forward again and again. The *Sikuliaq* is new to Alaska waters, and after five years of construction it is finally headed to its home port, Seward, Alaska.

Exterior deck lighting illuminates the mast against the black of sky and sea, framed on either side by white spray violently cast off the bow. I grip a railing to steady myself. Faint lights periodically blink from a lighthouse in the distance. There is land out there, and I can't make out any of it. I wonder how the crew can.

"You know how when you are trying to look at a star, and every time you look at it directly it disappears, but if you look just to the left you can see it again?" asks boatswain Paul St. Onge. "Just do that all night. Don't really look at anything at all, and you can see it."

St. Onge is standing a watch on the bridge along with Hamill and deckhand Kari Anderson. They form little more than shadows slightly outlined by the faint glow of computer monitors dimmed by red plastic sheets to preserve night vision. St. Onge and Anderson softly call out numbers, operating in tandem to navigate the ship through Icy Strait and Cross Sound toward the Gulf of Alaska.

Hamill enjoys maneuvering through the narrow passage. "When you're out in the middle of the Pacific Ocean and you haven't seen another ship in days, it's an awful lot of just trying to stay alert," he says. "It's actually a lot easier when you've got things to think about."

I'm thinking about the five days I'll spend exploring the new research vessel and getting acquainted with the ship's crew while crossing the Gulf of Alaska from Juneau to Seward. The *Sikuliaq* is the first ship the National Science Foundation has built in more than three decades. Its construction has generated national and international interest among the ocean sciences community. The School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences operates the ship, which is designed specifically for polar research. The *Sikuliaq* should drive Arctic science forward, but it can't do that without the men and women who make up its crew, many of whom have planned for years to be here.



John Hamill, the *Sikuliaq*'s third mate, reviews a recently completed man-overboard exercise with other crew members on the research vessel.

“... Everything that I did was structured for getting my license and getting myself set up to get a job on this ship.”

The sailor and the farmer

In addition to his shifts in the wheelhouse as a bridge watch officer, Hamill serves as the ship's safety officer. The bear-like 40-year-old's trainings are thorough and detailed, his inspections meticulous — skills likely honed during his 14 years in the military.

Hamill is a veteran of both the Army and the Coast Guard. He radiates unflappable invincibility, from his high and tight haircut down to the tan cargo shorts he wears every day of the February voyage from Juneau to Seward.

Originally from Nebraska, Hamill started sailing while in the Army, then bought his own 18-foot sailboat. He left the Army for the Coast Guard. “I decided I really liked being on boats,” he explains.

Ten years later, the *Sikuliaq*'s siren song enticed Hamill away from the Coast Guard. He enjoyed his time stationed in Alaska and discovered the *Sikuliaq* while Googling Alaska research ships. “At that point, I think they were just getting ready to lay the keel,” Hamill recalls. In 2011, he exchanged emails with then-project

manager and UAF Seward Marine Center Director Dan Oliver, a retired Coast Guard captain, and took the leap.

“This was my number one goal,” he says. “Everything that I did was structured for getting my license and getting myself set up to get a job on this ship.”

Hamill attended the Alaska Vocational Technical Center in Seward to obtain his merchant marine license and prepare for the shift from military vessel to research vessel.

In addition to indulging his fondness for boats, Hamill's time in the Coast Guard led him to an even greater love. A fellow sailor studying online through Liberty University introduced Hamill to the biology instructor, Amy Hetrick, who lives in Albion, Washington.

The two began a correspondence that grew into a courtship, an engagement and, on May 2, 2015, a wedding celebration.

Once the *Sikuliaq* left the shipyard in Wisconsin in July 2014, Hetrick traveled to ports along the route to Alaska to greet Hamill. She met him at Woods Hole, Puerto Rico, Hawaii and Seward. “Nobody ever met him in port in the Coast Guard,” Hetrick says. “I'm going to change that.”

The pair credits the success of their relationship to their independent natures and long-distance coping skills.

After years of living on her own, Hetrick is comfortably self-reliant. She has

a master's degree in biology, handles her own house maintenance and raises livestock, including cattle, goats, sheep, chickens, ducks and rabbits. She also keeps a dog and three cats for company. "Yep, a sailor married a farmer," she jokes.

"I know she knows how to fix a car," Hamill says. "She knows how to fix things around the house. She actually has more experience with most of that than I do. And anything that she can't handle, she's got a huge support network of friends who can show up with anything from a screwdriver set to a full-size bulldozer."

The go-to GoPro guy

The challenges of a sea-going profession are familiar to Bernard "Bern" McKiernan, who spent 13 years working on a research vessel for Columbia University and 12 in the Navy before coming to work for UAF as a *Sikuliaq* marine technician.

"Being away is probably the hardest thing. You try not to miss all the milestones of life, but inevitably you will miss some," he says. "You've got to have

someone at home who can manage things and is able to handle the fact that they're married, but they're a single mom, because they are dealing with discipline, they are dealing with all the things that come up."

With wild black hair, a full beard and an anchor earring, the 6-foot-4-inch McKiernan resembles a pirate more than a devoted family man. But, in the half of his face not covered with hair, his vivid blue eyes dance and his laugh lines deepen when he talks about his family members, who are a long way from Alaska.

His wife, Kelly, and their 16-year-old daughter live in the small town of Liberty, New York. Their 22-year-old son is a student in the UAF process technology program at the Community and Technical College and works at the Fairbanks campus heat and power plant.

The 47-year-old McKiernan points out there are also some benefits to the unusual work schedule. "Anyone who has less than five months of vacation a year is just not doing it right," he jokes. "I have six to eight weeks to tackle a whole new

kitchen, if I wanted, instead of hack jobs every weekend."

Marine technicians such as McKiernan configure the ship for the scientists' needs and help with the instruments.

McKiernan compares the new ship to an empty house that needed furniture. Because the ship is designed for science, technicians can install that "furniture" more easily. "There's a lot of dedicated cable trays, transits and science connectivity," McKiernan says. "In order to do what traditionally was a nightmare, to run cables when scientists came onboard, is an easy dream. We can plug and play and have science up in a couple of hours."

McKiernan also prowls the ship setting up cameras to record the *Sikuliaq's* adventures. He turns the footage into movie trailer-style clips. McKiernan's interest stems from using a GoPro to record the cross-country trip he took from New York to Alaska in 2014 to bring his son, Stephen, to UAF.

"I started making it into a movie, and I really got into it, and I was like, let's just GoPro all the time, and now I'm the 'GoPro Guy,'" McKiernan says.

Bern McKiernan, marine technician on the *Sikuliaq*, prepares to place GoPro cameras on the research vessel during its trip from Juneau to Seward in February.



"We can plug and play and have science up in a couple of hours."

The hawsepiper

The *Sikuliaq*'s schedule has it arriving in Seward around noon on Feb. 23. After making quick time across the Gulf of Alaska, the crew takes a day in Resurrection Bay to conduct safety drills and instrument training. The sky is gray and spitting rain.

McKiernan's cameras are rolling, and he is working in the Baltic Room with deckhand Kari Anderson. Anderson's preferred work clothes are Carhartt cargo pants, and both she and McKiernan sport orange life vests and hard hats. They're helping drop and raise the CTD rosette, an instrument that measures conductivity, temperature and depth of the ocean. Anderson's long, light brown hair is pulled back, and the top of her head, 5 feet 5 inches above the deck, barely reaches the rosette's top bar.

Anderson is an enthusiastic worker who balances intense focus on her tasks with easy humor. As an able seaman, or deckhand, she does a little of everything — steers the ship, stands watch, operates cranes and winches. Yet she is not a full-time crew member; the *Sikuliaq* employs only a single permanent individual for each position, so Anderson provides temporary relief. She works full time on the Alaska Marine Highway System's ferries.

Anderson's family, the founders of Anderson Tug & Barge Co., settled in Seward when she was 4 years old so she could attend school, and she started working on boats at 16. Tour boats, schooners, tugs, yachts, research ships, ferries — “they just seem to keep growing in size,” she jokes.

“The research ships are probably my favorite, for two reasons — because the people who work here really want to be here, and I enjoy the interaction with the scientists,” she says. “I like learning about what they are studying and that we have a real mission, a purpose for being out.”

Anderson attended Duke University, earning a degree in biological anthropology and anatomy. Like Hamill, she completed her maritime training at AVTEC. She earned her first license at

22. Now 35, she is a hawsepiper, someone who advances by logging time at sea rather than attending a maritime academy, where graduates earn a third mate license and a college degree. (A hawsepiper is the hole in a ship through which an anchor chain passes.)

Anderson's years at sea give her a clear view of the risks. She has experienced 100-knot-wind gusts in Antarctica and 30-degree-plus ship rolls while crossing the northern Pacific Ocean on the *Sikuliaq*. “That is really difficult just for working or eating or sleeping or everything,” she says.

Anderson attended a presentation in 2008 given by Dan Oliver, who was director of the UAF Seward Marine Center at the time. “After that, I started working on some other research ships, in Alaska and Antarctica, and then applied to be relief crew here and jumped up and down when they said yes,” she says.

As the *Sikuliaq* moves up Resurrection Bay toward Seward, rare sunlight splits the clouds and illuminates the city. Community members line up, waving to the ship. The *Sikuliaq* lets out several horn blasts and turns a circle before joining a fireboat escort for the final approach to the dock.

Anderson describes the moment as “magical.”

“It's been a unique experience being from Seward and being able to be part of the ship's crew, because the community has been so excited about the ship for years,” Anderson says. “I'm pretty proud that I got to be a part of that process. That was a great feeling.”

Sharice Walker '04, former public information officer for the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, made her first sea voyage, heavily medicated against seasickness, aboard the *Sikuliaq* as the ship approached its home port of Seward, Alaska. Walker is now the community and public relations director at the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District.

Web extra: See the *Sikuliaq* in action, including its travels through the Panama Canal and its first ice trials up North, at www.uaf.edu/aurora/. “Like” R/V *Sikuliaq* on Facebook to follow its continuing journey.

“...because the people who work here really want to be here, and I enjoy the interaction with the scientists.”



Kari Anderson, a *Sikuliaq* deckhand, points to a spot in the sea during a man-overboard exercise held while the research vessel was en route to its home port of Seward in February.



UAF photo by JR Ancheta

A vision

By Sam Bishop

The convergence of two events 100 years ago in Fairbanks set the stage for a unique day of centennial celebrations at UAF this past summer.

Back in 1915, Alaska’s territorial delegate to Congress, James Wickersham, spent July 4 dedicating a cornerstone for the college he hoped would be built here. The following two days, Wickersham met with indigenous chiefs from the Tanana River region.

One hundred years later, on July 6, the university staged a reconvergence by rededicating the cornerstone and celebrating an initiative to honor Alaska’s Native peoples and anchor indigenous studies in a new center. These were the first major public events leading up to the 2017 centennial commemoration of the university’s formal establishment by the territorial legislature in 1917.

The day began at Troth Yeddha’ Park, which takes its title from the Athabascan name for the ridge on which the university sits. Hundreds of people gathered to hear leaders speak about the significance of the park and center.

“Today we celebrate coming together as a community and working side by side,” said Evon Peter ’98, vice chancellor for rural, community and Native education and a former Arctic Village chief.



Albert Johnson Photograph Collection, Archives, University of Alaska Fairbanks

At top, speakers and participants in the July 6, 2015, events gather by the cornerstone. From left are: *Sindy Mendez-Espino '15, Wally Carlo, Annette Freiburger '13, Sam Enoka '95, Nancy James '05, Trimble Gilbert, Anna Frank, Aaron Schutt, Doug Goering '84, Jo Heckman '79, '85, John Coghill, Mike Sfraga '84, '97, Howard Hornbuckle, Byron Mallott, Scott Jepsen, John Eberhart, Brian Rogers, Steve Mitchell '89, '06, Evon Peter '98, John Davies '70, '75, Karl Kassel and Ethan Schutt.*

Below, Fairbanks residents and visitors gather at the wooden box used to cast the cornerstone in 1915. From left, are: *unknown, A.J. “Tony” Nordale, Frances Carpenter, J.L. McPherson, Dr. R.R. Myers, Harry E. St. George and Berkley Manford.*

“We celebrate UAF’s commitment to Native education and their plans to build [an] indigenous studies center ... which will bring [us] together in a way which will be a foundation for our future advocacy and research for the benefit of our tribes.” — Victor Joseph, Tanana Chiefs Conference president



UAF photo by J.R. Archera

unfolding

After the Troth Yeddha’ event, the crowd walked from the park to Cornerstone Plaza for the rededication. The day was hot, as it was for 1915’s dedication.

Alaska Lt. Gov. Byron Mallott, UA Regent Jo Heckman ’79, ’85 and several others spoke about the university’s value to the state. Chancellor Brian Rogers said the university provides a foundation for progress in Alaska, and the cornerstone symbolizes that role.

“The cornerstone represents hopes, reminds us of the audacity and fortitude of the people who started this university 100 years ago, dreaming one day that their children and children’s children would have a place where free thinking, exploration and inquiry would enrich their lives,” Rogers told the crowd. “So may this cornerstone also represent our commitment to those ideals as the university enters its second century, and to that purpose I hereby rededicate our cornerstone at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.”

Web extra: See more photos from the rededication event at www.uaf.edu/aurora/.



Albert Johnson Photograph Collection, 1905-1917, UAF-1989-166-384-Print, Archives, University of Alaska Fairbanks.

At top, participants in the July 6, 2015, ceremony at Troth Yeddha’ Park enjoy a traditional Athabascan dance after the speeches. They include, from left, Travis Cole; Jerry Isaac, former Tanana Chiefs Conference president; Victor Joseph, current TCC president; and Evon Peter ’98, UAF vice chancellor for rural, community and Native education. The Rev. Trimble Gilbert of Arctic Village is at far right.

Below, chiefs from the Tanana region gather for a portrait in 1915 while in Fairbanks for meetings with James Wickersham and other federal officials. Seated in front, from left, are Chief Alexander of Tolovana, Chief Thomas of Nenana, Chief Evan of Koschakat and Chief Alexander William of Tanana. Standing at rear, from left, are Chief William of Tanana, Paul Williams of Tanana, and Chief Charlie of Minto.

On this page, clockwise from right: Poldine Carlo '01H* (left) and Anna Frank, both of Fairbanks, enjoy a moment at the ceremony at Troth Yeddha' Park. Carlo spoke at the ceremony, recalling the university's long record of serving Alaska Native students. While attending the boarding high school in Eklutna, Carlo took a home economics class from Flora Jane Harper, who in 1935 had become the university's first Alaska Native graduate. "I was so proud of her," Carlo told the crowd.

Alaska's Territorial Delegate James Wickersham reads his speech at the dedication of the cornerstone on July 4, 1915. Wickersham gave a lengthy account of the passage of the federal act through which Congress granted land to the future Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines in March of that year.

Steve Mitchell '89, '06 re-enacts excerpts from Wickersham's 1915 speech. Mitchell said he would not deliver the entire original oration — to do so would require at least an hour. "Judge Wickersham was a man of foresight, but he was not a man of few words," Mitchell quipped.

*H=honorary degree



UA Photo by JR Ancheta

"We who are gathered here today do most solemnly dedicate these grounds and this cornerstone to the everlasting support of the principles of free government, free speech and free schools for which our forefathers fought." — Territorial Delegate James Wickersham in a 1915 speech re-enacted by Steve Mitchell



UA Photo by JR Ancheta



Wickersham Collection, Alaska State Library

“This university really has become a cornerstone of our community and of the state of Alaska, a success arising from the dedication of countless individuals.”

— Chancellor Brian Rogers



Above, Chancellor Brian Rogers speaks to the crowd at Cornerstone Plaza before rededicating the university's cornerstone on July 6. Many in the audience took advantage of the shade offered by the buildings surrounding the plaza, escaping sunshine that sent the temperature to 88 degrees. The heat was a fitting feature for the day; on the day of the cornerstone's original dedication, July 4, 1915, the temperature in Fairbanks hit 83 degrees, according to National Weather Service records.

At right, Howard Luke '96H* enjoys having an “elder selfie” taken by Travis Cole before the ceremony at Troth Yeddha' Park. Luke, who turns 92 this year, was born at Linder Lakes, downriver from Nenana, but has lived at the Chena village site on the Tanana River's south bank near Fairbanks since 1937. In recent decades, he has taught traditional Athabascan lifestyle skills and beliefs.



SUIDWES-AFRIKA



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A 1987

TULLI

Grace Schaible

DR + MRS ARTHUR SCHAIBLE

AMAZING GRACE

By Sam Bishop

Grace Berg Schaible's father was a carpenter — a master carpenter who apprenticed in his home country of Norway starting in the late 1800s at age 11. Which is to say he knew how to work wood as well as any man. Had he not, UAF might be a lesser place today.

Schaible's father, Hans Berg, didn't put up any campus buildings in Fairbanks. Rather, he helped shape his daughter's intellect by building a set of bookshelves in Juneau when she was a young child.

Schaible's association with UAF dates to her arrival as an undergraduate in 1944. Now 89, she lives in a spacious riverside condominium tucked off a quiet street corner in Fairbanks. A lawyer who served as an Alaska Permanent Fund board member, state attorney general and UA regent, Schaible remains among the university's most ardent supporters and generous benefactors.

Her career, pursued at a time when few women followed such paths, demonstrates an unusual level of determination, intelligence and charm, according to friends.

"We've always called her Amazing Grace," said Barbara Schuhmann, who worked as an attorney in Schaible's Fairbanks law office for decades. "She has always been very thoughtful, organized and competent. She just knows her stuff."

However, those attributes might never have propelled Schaible on the path she chose if it weren't for her father's bookshelves, which had a curious connection to UAF themselves.

The shelves didn't hold books for the young girl. Rather, her father built them for James Wickersham, the Gold Rush-era judge who became the Territory of Alaska's delegate to Congress.

In 1915, Wickersham secured congressional approval of the federal land grant that gave UAF a place to exist and catalyzed the institution's creation in 1917. After losing his delegate's seat and moving to Juneau in the 1930s, Wickersham asked Hans Berg to build him a library.

"But the library wasn't big enough for all the books," Schaible told an interviewer in 2006, "so Wickersham said, 'Mr. Berg, you have children. Would you like to have some books?' ... So my father came home with *The Book of Knowledge*. He came home with the 'History of the Peoples of the World.'"

The books helped spark Schaible's imagination and ambition, which in turn gave her an abiding focus on higher education — starting with her own at UAF.

After more than 70 years of association, she still finds that "there are things going on there all the time that interest me," she said in a mid-April interview.

Early confidence

Schaible, in a lengthy series of interviews in 2006 as part of the American Bar Association's "Women Trailblazers in the Law" project, described an idyllic childhood in Juneau.

Her father and mother, a Swedish immigrant, married in Juneau in 1915 and had three children, Schaible being the youngest. They lived in the center of the city's residential area, but she recalls her father hunting and fishing for their meat. Her mother, Mandis, put up much of the family's food.

Her childhood differed from most in one respect, though. A close friend, she said, was the daughter of the principal of the Bureau of Indian Affairs-run school and had to attend its functions.

"She didn't like being the only Caucasian in the room and so she'd drag me along, and as a result I got to know these kids, long before they were ever permitted to go to our schools," Schaible told the ABA interviewer.

World War II delayed Schaible's college career after she graduated from high school in 1943. She stayed in Juneau, where her abilities had already caught the attention of some prominent Alaskans. At 17, she worked for Frank Heintzleman, the head of the U.S. Forest Service who would later become territorial governor. She then got jobs with the BIA and the superintendent of Juneau schools.

Schaible attributes her early success to being an officer in the Mason's Rainbow Girls. "I had to learn procedures, like that of parliament," she said in April. "That gave me confidence in my ability to persuade people by talking to them."

While working at the school superintendent's office, she met Charles Bunnell, the first president of the university. Bunnell was on a recruiting swing through Juneau in 1944 and had a message from her high school classmates in Fairbanks: She should come north.

Her father resisted, at first, Schaible said in 2006. "I don't want you graduating from Moose College," he said, but agreed that she could at least start there.

Small-state connections

In fall 1944, she came to Fairbanks. She stayed two years before trying George Washington University in Washington, D.C., where she hoped to advance a dream hatched while reading Wickersham's books.

"I wanted to find out about how one gets into the diplomatic service," she said. "That was easy — I couldn't. I didn't have a rich father." So she came back to finish a degree in history at UAF in 1949.

She ended up working as secretary for both President Bunnell and his successor, Terris Moore.

This early acquaintance with the university's leadership set a pattern. "I've known all the presidents of the university except one," Schaible said.

Schaible returned to graduate school at George Washington University in the early 1950s. There, the campaign for Alaska statehood was ramping up. Schaible became a regular guest at the home of Alaska's Democratic territorial delegate, Bob Bartlett, and his wife, Vide. That small-state connection had been established earlier when the Bartletts lived in Juneau and were fixing up a house. Vide Bartlett consulted with carpenter Hans Berg on the job, so Schaible got to know her.

Returning to Juneau from Washington, D.C., in the summers, Schaible worked on her thesis — a study of federal legislative influence upon Alaska — in the territorial library. There, she roamed the stacks with the recently deposed Ernest Gruening, a Democrat who had served as Alaska's federally appointed governor from 1939-1953. He was writing a book on the territory's history.

"The territorial librarian didn't like him," Schaible said in 2006. "And so he would go to her for help finding something that he wanted, and she'd say 'It's on the shelf.'" So Schaible would find the material.

Alaskans tended to vote for Democrats at that time, and Schaible allied herself with that end of the political spectrum early in life, breaking with her father's inclinations.

"I was a Democrat from the time that my father said, 'I don't want to be bothered listening to you,'" she said.

Helping create Alaska's laws

With her experience, connections and master's degree, Schaible was invited to join the newly formed Alaska Legislative Council as a researcher before the 1955 session of the Alaska Territorial Legislature.

"All of a sudden we were in a legislative session and they were having me draft bills — like I knew what in blue blazes I was doing," she said in the ABA interview.

Tom Stewart, a Juneau attorney and later judge, talked her into trying Yale Law School, his alma mater, because it had a tradition of graduating women.

She hated Yale initially.

"Classes started and I felt as lost as any human being can be," she recalled in 2006. "I thought, 'Oh, what am I doing here? I don't belong here.'"

Schaible quit the school briefly, but Yale officials convinced her to return.

While in Connecticut in late November 1957, she picked up a copy of *The New York Times*, and the word "Alaska" in a headline caught her eye. The story said Druska Schaible, head of the UA biology department and wife of Dr. Arthur Schaible, had died in a fire at the Lathrop Building in downtown Fairbanks.

Schaible knew both of them. She had dated the doctor when she was an undergraduate in Fairbanks. She wrote to express her sympathy, and that note rekindled the relationship. They

married in New York City on Christmas Day 1958. She graduated from Yale several weeks later, just as Alaska became a state.

Life changed dramatically for the young woman. The couple had the means and the interest to put her childhood dreams of traveling the world within reach. They went to South Africa, the doctor's home country, on their honeymoon.

An unusual career

Schaible wasn't the sort to rely solely on her husband's success, though. Returning to Fairbanks, she joined the law firm of McNealy, Merdes and Camarot. Partners Ed Merdes and Henry Camarot had been at the legislative council in Juneau when she worked there.

The bar accepted her in 1960, and she became the first attorney sworn in under the laws of the new state.

Linda Harding, Schaible's closest friend and a frequent traveling companion today, met Schaible at the law firm in the late 1960s. Schaible coaxed Harding out of a job at the court system. Harding said she loved to listen to Schaible's travel stories.

"She would come in, sit on the desk, light a cigarette and talk," Harding said. "I had work to do, but, as long as she was talking, I was certainly listening."

The firm has evolved into Cook, Schuhmann & Groseclose. Barbara Schuhmann arrived there in 1976 as a new lawyer. Her husband, fellow attorney Bob Groseclose, had grown up in Fairbanks.

"We wanted to come back to Alaska at that point, so I got this offer from this law firm in Fairbanks," Schuhmann said. "Even better, it had a woman who was a partner. It was very unusual in those days."

After arriving, Schuhmann found herself even more impressed with her new boss. "She's very low-key — soft-spoken, I would say," she said. "She just exudes competence."

By the mid 1970s, Schaible's primary duties were with the Arctic Slope Regional Corp., one of 13 created to accept land title and money provided by Congress through the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

Schaible said the ASRC work was the highlight of her private practice years. Not only were the issues interesting, but so were the people and communities.

"She spent quite a bit of time in Barrow because that's where their headquarters were and she just absolutely loved it," Schuhmann said.

Schaible also traveled to smaller villages. "She'd have to go by snowmachine [from the airports] into the meetings."

Harding said villagers appreciated Schaible's down-to-earth style.

"She would take food up there and cook for them," Harding said. "She made many fast friends."

Schuhmann said Schaible did the same across the state because she radiates a genuine interest in other people. "Some

**"I don't want you
graduating from
Moose College."**

people are kind of show-offs. They're trying to impress. They worry about what they wear or what they're driving," she said. "Grace has never been in that category."

Harding said Schaible's disinterest in flashy vehicles also fit well with her passion for raising enormous white Great Pyrenees dogs. "It needed to be a utilitarian car," Harding said dryly.

Serving Alaska

By 1986, Schaible expected to retire from the law firm shortly. Her husband had died six years earlier, and she still wanted to do the traveling they had planned. She also had many other interests, such as the Sitka Summer Music Festival. Democratic Gov. Bill Sheffield made her a university regent in 1985.

Newly elected Gov. Steve Cowper, a fellow Fairbanks lawyer, called Schaible and said he wanted to appoint her as Alaska's attorney general. Schaible had supported Cowper's candidacy privately but said nothing publicly out of appreciation for Sheffield's choice of her as a regent.

"So it came as quite a surprise to me that he wanted me as his AG," Schaible said in 2006. "He said, 'I am having a cabinet of really quite young people and I just, sort of, need an old — a mature — person.'"

Schaible accepted but stuck to her promise of staying only two years. She then continued to work part-time "of counsel" at her law firm. She also wasn't quite done with public service. In 1995, Democratic Gov. Tony Knowles appointed her to the Alaska Permanent Fund Corp.'s Board of Trustees, where she spent two years.

She'd first served as a fund trustee when she was Cowper's attorney general. She also knew former Gov. Jay Hammond, a Republican whom many consider the fund's founder because of his advocacy for the 1976 constitutional amendment that created it. They graduated from UA together in the class of 1949.

During the fund's first few decades, managers placed most of the money in conservative investments such as bonds. Schaible and others successfully argued for the stock market. The majority of the \$53 billion fund is now invested in stocks.

"And that's really what made the fund, not the bonds," Schaible said in April.

Traveling and giving

Schaible retired from work and most volunteer boards by about 2000. She turned her attention primarily to travel and philanthropy.

Her favorite trips in recent decades have been to Svalbard, the islands north of Norway, where she watches polar bears from small cruise ships.

"I like the idea that I can trust people to carry forward what I want to accomplish."

"I just loved traveling in the high Arctic and I still do," she said in April. "I'm headed out on June 1 to spend three weeks in Svalbard watching polar bears."

The ships take visitors to one of the Earth's most remote, inhospitable lands, but passengers are not roughing it, said Harding, who has been to Svalbard with Schaible three times.

"I think of it as having a condo in Miami. Everything is taken care of, and it moves, so you don't see the same thing," Harding said.

At Schaible's condo in Fairbanks, the decorations follow the same theme: polar bears. Every wall, shelf and table holds an image, sculpture or other item inspired by the species.

The living room's central wall features an enormous polar bear painting by Todd Sherman, now UAF's dean of the College of Liberal Arts. Her collection includes every polar bear photograph by Tom Mangelsen and every polar bear image by artist Robert Bateman. In 2006, she estimated she had as many as 1,000 items.

She has willed the collection to the UA Museum of the North, which she also supports with monetary gifts.

"She's given so much, both in donations and artwork," said Aldona Jonaitis, the museum's director.

Jonaitis met Schaible 22 years ago when she arrived to take the job. They teamed up on a fundraising campaign to expand the museum, along with Joe Usibelli Sr., then chairman of Usibelli Coal Mine Inc. The museum project was completed in 2005.

"I don't think the museum would be where it is without Grace," Jonaitis said.

Schaible, who chaired the UA Foundation Board of Trustees from 1997-2003, said she believes in philanthropy.

"I like the idea that I can trust people to carry forward what I want to accomplish," she said.

Harding sees Schaible's generosity toward the university as the natural extension of her experience with the institution.

"She came here not as a wealthy person," Harding said. "She was very capable, and people discovered that about her and gave her the full opportunity to bloom, and she felt the responsibility to pass that on." ❧

Sam Bishop is a writer and editor at UAF Marketing and Communications. Born and raised in Alaska, he worked as a newspaper journalist for 27 years. He first met Grace Schaible in 1987 when she became attorney general. She left the post three weeks before the Exxon Valdez oil spill, news of which Bishop first told then-Gov. Steve Cowper on the morning of March 24, 1989.

Web extra: Read extensive interviews with Grace Schaible at the American Bar Association's "Women Trailblazers in the Law" project website, <http://bit.ly/schaibleinterview>. Quotes from the interviews, conducted in 2006, were used in this story.

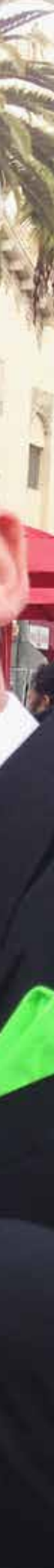
A photograph of Ben Grossmann on a red carpet. He is wearing a black tuxedo with a white shirt and a black bow tie. He has a beard and is wearing glasses. He is smiling and giving two thumbs up. In the background, there is a black car, a palm tree, and a building with a sign that says "Hollywood".

ALL THE STORIES ARE TRUE

By Tori Tragis

Photo courtesy of Ben Grossmann.

Ben Grossmann on the red carpet at the 2014 Academy Awards.



Ben Grossmann '95 is a professional liar. Putting it more charitably, and accurately, he's a professional storyteller. The UAF grad is a hot ticket in Hollywood, making visual effects for movies, so his storytelling is the ultimate fake-it kind, where the villain and hero chasing each other across a cityscape are really just two people running around in front of a blank screen that's later populated with computer-generated images.

Grossmann tells tall tales of interstellar terrorism ("Star Trek Into Darkness") and of an orphan living in a clock tower ("Hugo," for which he won an Oscar). He's a big-budget guy from small-town Delta Junction, Alaska, so when he rhapsodizes — convincingly — about the clever and can-do spirit of Alaskans, it's hard not to be simultaneously seduced and suspicious.

Alaskans, he told the class of 2015 during his commencement address in May, have their feet on the ground and their head in the clouds. They are practical and innovative. They can do pretty much anything they want because Alaska has taught them to be resourceful and responsible.

It's everything Alaskans believe about themselves, and the thing is, he seems to mean it.

"He is still this very grounded individual," said Sam Harrel, a longtime friend and former colleague. "He's still this solid, willing-to-talk-to-you nice guy from Alaska."

Harrel has known Grossmann since they worked together as photographers at the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner some 20 years ago. Grossmann was a kid, working as a UAF intern and then as a stringer. He got himself other media jobs, too, as a weather man on the local evening news, cameraman for commercials, DJ at KSUA. His university education, which he began at age 15, was equally peripatetic; officially he was working toward a bachelor's in political science, but he spent a lot of time learning

photojournalism from Professor Charles Mason.

"I'm in Hollywood now," Grossmann said, "working side by side with the world's most famous, most financially successful photographers, and in numerous cases my expertise in photography — which comes from classes I took in journalism and broadcasting at UAF — outweighs the classes of people who went to the best cinematography schools in the world. I'll get into arguments with them and I'm like, 'I'm telling you, I know I'm right because I learned this in college.'"

"Almost always I'm right."

Grossmann was born in Washington, D.C., but moved as a baby to Alaska when his father was posted to Fort Wainwright. The family eventually settled in Delta Junction, where Grossmann spent his teen years until his early entry to UAF. In Fairbanks he did everything he wanted to and most of what he had to. Attending class was sometimes a problem. And when he was done, he was done, never mind the handful of credits needed to get his bachelor's. (He eventually applied for and got his associate degree.) When the starter on his decrepit Saab broke down around Christmas 2001, rather than wait for the part to arrive, he decided to get it himself.

"I had a friend push-start the car and I drove straight to San Francisco without turning the car off," he said. "I shut the car off there because I could jump-start it again on a hill."

His next stop was Los Angeles. "Might as well jump right to the hardest place to break into the business," he reasoned.

It was, quite literally, his road to success. "Push-start your car and drive without stopping," he recommended, not totally tongue-in-cheek. "Seek out something you've never done before or that seems impossible at the time. And then try to do it and that's how you end up here."

"Here" is the Hollywood of success, one he shares with his wife, Ariane, and their young daughter, Scarlet. "Here" is Martin Scorsese and J.J. Abrams asking him to

make movies with them. "Here" is lots of hard work — some nights Grossmann sleeps just two or three hours, if at all. He is very clear on two points. One, he puts in many hours at a very fast pace. In that sense, he has earned his spot on the awards stage. Two, his achievements are rooted in being Alaskan.

"There's no shortage of ways Alaska will kill you for the stupidest little things," he said. "In Alaska you develop this sense of responsibility that says I am going to do great things and I am going to take great risks, and at a minimum I am going to rely on everything that I do to prepare to make it successfully through those circumstances. Because Alaska is beautiful and it encourages you to take risks and do great things and go to great places and see things that no one's ever seen before.

"It's not telling you that you can or can't do anything. It's only reminding you that if you fail for any reason, that it's going to kill you."

Having lived Outside for many years now, Grossmann sees key traits Alaskans learn in balancing the extremes of phenomenal beauty and potential disaster. There's a willingness to go it alone but also a readiness to help each other, especially at 40 below. An understanding that not everything comes with an instruction manual or a safety net. An acceptance that sometimes you don't know what's going to happen next, but you better figure out how to deal with it when it does.

"Alaskans arrive with this natural problem-solving ability that comes from engaging in this situation or place or encounter that they've never experienced before," he said. "Alaskans approach everything fresh like a child but with the responsibility of an adult, and you just can't get that anywhere else. So when you come to a place like Los Angeles you're a fish out of water but you can pretty much just plow right through any problems you encounter."

Grossmann's version of the Alaska character — no rules, plowing on through — is equally applied to himself,

Photo by Chris LeDoux '01, courtesy of Ben Grossmann.



Six Flags commercial photos by Kenny Solomon, courtesy of Ben Grossmann.

Left: Grossmann discusses a Steadicam shot with a camera crew on the Warner Bros. backlot in Burbank, California, in 2006. Top and bottom right: Grossmann directs a team of Chinese acrobatic performers and members of the Justice League during a commercial shoot for Six Flags in Hollywood in 2005.



“Immense talent, just greatly talented,” said photojournalism professor Charles Mason. “Of course I didn’t know exactly what he’d end up doing. I probably didn’t think about Hollywood, but you knew he was going to do something great.”

of course. His former professor, Charles Mason, recalled a photo assignment the young Grossmann submitted for a class. The assignment was art, Grossmann said at the time, and therefore didn’t have to follow the basic rules of photography. Mason’s contention was that you have to learn the rules before you break them.

“I don’t know if I ever actually said this to him or if I just thought it,” Mason said, “but I remember thinking, ‘You know, you’re going to go far, just not in this class.’”

He did learn the rules eventually, starting with the basics: Get a job. His very first gig in Hollywood was as a temp, mostly running errands and doing fill-in desk jobs. Then he got hired to work on a Disney TV show as a wire- and rig-removal artist — someone who makes the wires holding up the actors disappear on screen; he did the same thing for the 2002 movie “Spider-Man.” His curiosity and energy took care of the rest.

“He knows everything about the technical side but he also understands art,” Mason said. “Not everybody can do that. I think he’s become kind of a fixer

[in Hollywood] that way, talking to the technical and artistic sides and bringing them together.”

As a visual effects supervisor, Grossmann spends a lot of time bridging the many gaps between vision and execution. He sees his job as being that of a project manager as much as — perhaps more than — a creator himself. He might oversee teams in several countries working on individual aspects of a project (which might be just one shot in one scene), each one in its own time zone, scheduled to hand their part to the next time zone over, clocking out as the next team clocks in.

“It is such a complex, highly challenging orchestration of moving parts speaking different languages with different cultures,” Grossmann said. “The difficulty and truly the real art of this job is being able to produce art through that assembly line. That’s the hard part.”

Grossmann is probably not going to live permanently in Alaska again. His friend Harrel,

“PUSH-START YOUR CAR AND DRIVE WITHOUT STOPPING”

who has visited him in California, said the fast-paced LA scene suits him.

“He was always moving too fast and thinking too far ahead to stick around here,” said Harrel, who still lives in Fairbanks.

But Grossmann returns often to his home state. Maybe that’s why his praise of the Alaska character rings true. Instead of vacationing in Greece, he goes to Girdwood, maybe in part to keep his frontier skills sharp and his northern cred intact.

“You don’t fully appreciate what you learn by being in Alaska until you’re not in Alaska anymore.” 📺

Tori Tragis is a writer and editor for UAF Marketing and Communications. She knew Ben casually in college. His language was a lot saltier then, but what he had to say was always interesting, and that hasn’t changed.

Web extra: Watch Ben Grossmann’s entertaining commencement speech at <http://bit.ly/uaf060822>.



Outtakes



Worlds within worlds

“A movie set is batshit crazy insanity where you have to be prepared to do anything at a moment’s notice, and everything that you do is costing \$1,000 a minute, or sometimes \$2,000 a minute, so the amount of pressure to over-perform and exceed and excel ... You’re literally on a floor where some people are making \$6 an hour and they’re standing right next to someone who’s making \$600,000 a day. You take all those people and put them in a pressure cooker and then you don’t tell them what they’re going to do until you need them to do it. Now imagine the protocol and the decorum and the rules that are unspoken and unwritten for how that society plays itself out. It’s pretty amazing. I think it’s actually what separates really successful people from people who never get the job again, because if you can’t learn how to do that then you’re not part of the team. You’re not part of the family. You get left behind and that’s it. And you’ll never really know why because if you didn’t get it, you don’t get it, so you don’t know.”

One second can take forever

“Look at the movie ‘Hugo.’ [There is one shot] doing something that we didn’t do in any other shot of the entire movie. That was a one-off. That was a prototype. I couldn’t take a team of people that did a bunch of other stuff and say, OK, now do this. I had to go hire a completely different specialized team of people whose whole lives were built around doing that one thing, and they did that one shot, and I had to babysit them through the entire process. And then I had to present it to Martin Scorsese and get it approved and in to be edited and into the studio, and that’s one shot, and I have 800 to go.”

Magical thinking

“People think you just go on set and you wave your hand and you drink a mocha and you go like, ‘Ah, I think we should have dinosaurs over there!’ and people go wow! and then it happens. But if you actually saw the complexity that goes on behind the scene, it would take forever to understand just what the hell is going on.”

On working for Martin Scorsese

“Of all the movie sets I’ve ever been on, a Martin Scorsese set is the most challenging. It is the most exceptionally focused, rare set because everyone is expected to be the best. One mistake and your career is over. It is a very intense place to be. To do a Martin Scorsese set right is really difficult, and then to do it so you’re doing it acceptably — that’s like above and beyond anything. But then do it with grace and humor and show off a little bit — it takes years to get to that point.”



Ben Grossmann, Karen Murphy, Rob Legato, Martin Scorsese, Adam Watkins and Alex Henning the night they won the award for Outstanding Supporting Visual Effects in a Feature Motion Picture at the Visual Effects Society Awards in 2012.

Photo by Alex J. Berline/AdinaJes, courtesy of the Visual Effects Society and Ben Grossmann.

“When you’re failing and dropping out of college you think, someday I’m going to do something so good that they’re going to call and ask me to come back to speak. And then I got that phone call. I didn’t actually expect that to happen at all.”

Have puck, will travel

Nanook hockey alumni traveled from across the nation to reminisce at a reunion in June.

Hockey alumni chapter president Scott Roselius '81, the hockey chapter board and several volunteers organized the four-day event. It was attended by more than 75 hockey alumni, coaches, staff and friends, including some who traveled from as far away as Toronto, Ontario, to see old friends and make some new ones.

For more information about future Nanook hockey alumni reunions or joining the hockey alumni chapter, contact Roselius at scott@tvtv.com.



Photos by Paul Burke.

Clockwise from top center

Telling tales of Nanook hockey: Paul Burke, Terry McLean '64, '80 and Ken Gain. Making fun of '80s hairstyles in old yearbooks was part of the fun — standing left to right are Lou Bassler '82, Jeff Belluomini '82, coach Ric Schafer (1980-1987), Dima Kulmanovsky '95, '99; sitting left to right are Chris Ford and Jeff Owens with his son. Golf was one of the many activities at the reunion.



UAF photo by JR Ancheta.

Sam Enoka '95, UAF Alumni Association board president, spoke at the rededication of the cornerstone on July 6, an event sponsored by the association.

“The cornerstone has been dedicated twice before this; in both cases, the alumni association was prominently involved, as we find ourselves today,” Enoka said. “Why do the alumni care so much about this historic symbol? Personally, I think it’s because

it represents our rich history and deep roots in Fairbanks, as well as serving as a foundation upon which we are building the future of Fairbanks and all of Alaska. It’s a fundamental symbol of the university itself and has pointed us to the future since it was placed here on this hill in 1915.”

Upcoming alumni events

Oct. 15

Alumni networking event, Seattle

Dec. 12

Governor’s Cup reception before
UAF vs. UAA hockey game, Anchorage

February

Chancellor’s Gala, Fairbanks
Alumni networking event, Juneau
UAF Impact Legislative Fly-in, Juneau

March 5

Governor’s Cup reception, Fairbanks

April

Alumni wine tasting

For more information, visit www.uaf.edu/alumni/events/.

From the editor — *Thank you* for the abundance of class notes updates we received with the subscription surveys, the most we've ever had! If you don't see your note here, look for it in the next issue. If you'd like to submit a new update, send a message to aurora.magazine@alaska.edu. We love photos, too. You can change your subscription options any time at www.uaf.edu/aurora/survey/.

1950s

Dave Klein '53 — “I took part in a UAF summer field course in June that focused on environmental change evident from vegetation plots and transects adjacent to the Dalton Highway on Alaska's North Slope. My responsibility was to relate wildlife, from caribou to mountain sheep, to waterfowl and other birds, to voles and their predators, to vegetation changes in the 45 years since I did wildlife investigations there with several graduate students doing theses research.”

Bob Lear '53 — “Enjoying our retirement in Sun City West, Arizona. Still doing some RV travel.”



Anne Kahle '55, '62 — “You should Google me to see my life story, including where U of A led me. I'm the first Anne Kahle you come to if you Google my name. The one in Solar System Exploration: People: archive: Anne Kahle.”

Pedro Denton '56 and Maxine Vehlow Denton donated several original oil paintings depicting mining history in Alaska to the College of Engineering and Mines in September 2014 for eventual display throughout the Duckering Building.

Gladys Meacock '59 — “I've lived in Anchorage since 1959 except for 10 years winter snowbirding and six years in Haines, Alaska. I retired from teaching, worked as a conference grant reviewer and coordinator, and JOM tutor counselor. I am caregiving my husband, George, stricken with Alzheimer's, but keep busy playing duplicate bridge and writing.”

1960s

Gary Bowen '64 — “Retired in 2011 from consulting engineering. Now live in Mill City, Oregon.”

Elizabeth Parent '64 — “I am professor emerita, San Francisco State University. In the Marin County 2015 fair I won two third-place ribbons for adult floriculture.”



Vera Alexander '65 received the first-ever achievement award from the Pollock Conservation Cooperative Research Center, a commercial-fishing consortium, in January 2015. Future awards will be called the Vera Alexander Award for Marine Science and Education. Read more at <http://bit.ly/uaf050113>.

Jan Petri (Harper) Haines '65 — “My short story ‘Magical Athabascans’ will appear in the spring issue of First Alaskans Magazine. Another story, ‘Triumph to Tragedy,’ about my great uncle, Walter Harper, is scheduled for the spring issue of Last Frontier magazine. I also write for the site <http://growingupanchorage.com>. A soft-cover edition of my book, ‘Cold River Spirits,’ (first published in 2000) was released in 2011. I write under my mother's family name, Jan Harper Haines.”

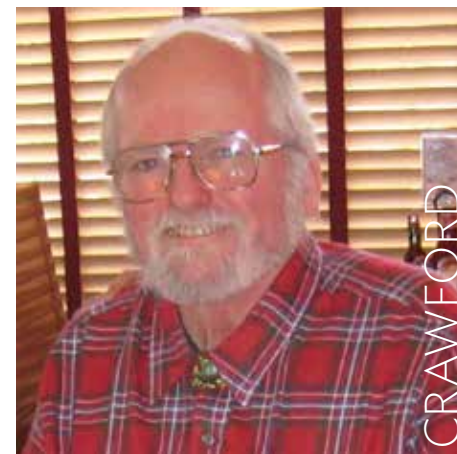
Arthur David Leon '65 — “I am presently in a senior housing apartment house where I pay market rate.”

Stuart Watkins '65, '68 — “This year I published a picture story children's book, ‘The House That Ran Away.’ I also published ‘Kona, Hawaii, Walking Alii Drive,’ a collection of pictures of unusual and beautiful sites most do not see as they walk Alii Drive: unusual mailboxes, beautiful gates, decorated homes and enjoyable places to eat.”

L. Keith Miller '66 — “I am quite involved with conservation/stream restoration activities, serving as coordinator of cold-water stream restoration for the Middle Rogue Steelheaders and as the Upper Rogue representative for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program statewide advisory committee.”

Richard Radke '66 — “Worked in satellite tracking for College Minitrack. Moved to Seattle, Washington, and worked as an operations engineer. Switched careers, became a minister for the Church of Christ. Started a congregation Oct. 5, 1969, and still preaching, counseling, helping people to draw closer to Christ almost 44 years later. Married to Charlene who attended UA 1964-1966. Have two children and six grandchildren.”

Rose Marie Van Enkevort '66, '81 — “Alive and kicking, more or less!”



Bob Crawford '67, '71 — “I'm a group moderator at <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/LiteStream/info>.”

Richard Finnie '67 — “I am currently working as a volunteer in a program called Partnership for Youth Justice where we counsel youth ages 10-17 who have committed a minor crime (shoplifting, etc.), and then we assign a punishment related to the crime such as community service, counseling, restitution or a fine. We can also order the youth to stay home, go to school or refrain from contacting certain individuals. This is part of the King County Superior Court juvenile system of Washington.”

Gordon Morris '67 — “Have taken up permanent residence in Arizona. Have many family members living in Alaska — North Pole to be exact, daughter Dhana Jo Krause.”

Ron Skinner '67 — “Retired but not having as much fun as I had getting used to sleeping neath the Midnight Sun, taking in the wonders of the greater Fairbanks area.”

Michael Tauriainen '67, '72 — “We are well, living in Sterling, still enjoying running our civil engineering firm in Soldotna (since 1978). We have an excellent crew — 10 total. Only complaint is they keep me too busy and I don't get enough time to fly, fish and goof off.”

BJ Vinson '67 — “In March we had the good luck to go to an all-inclusive resort in Playa de Carmen. Had a week of great weather and good food and fun. I spent the next week in Paamul with my brother for more fun. The day before I returned, Oklahoma was hit with a couple of tornadoes. Kevin and our dog had to spend some time in our storm shelter!”

Laurence Dean '68 — “Retired science teacher living in Lewiston, Idaho.”

Dennis Nielsen '68 — “Earned an M.S.W. at the University of Utah 1970. Worked at LDS Family Services in Boise, Idaho, until retired and now work part time as counselor. Married 50 years with six children, 22 grandchildren and working on the greats.”

Gerald Pollock '68 — “Retired from teaching in village and small schools and from owning and operating small tourist lodges. Retired to travel.”

Gregory Brown '69 — “I lived in Northwest Ohio and worked for a large county library system. After 35 years it was time to do something different. Retirement was a workable option, so I left Ohio in 2006. The past nine years in Columbia, Missouri, have passed quickly. CoMO is home to the University of Missouri, a lively small city with plenty of cultural events. I have entertained myself watching movies at a local independent movie theater, going to art gallery openings and auditing classes at MU. So great to be on campus among young folks, being in class with them without having to do papers or take exams.”

Thomas Compton '69 and Patricia Compton '69 — “We currently are ‘semi-retired,’ living on our beef cattle ranch near Durango, Colorado. Tom is chairman of the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, and Penni is a full-time exceptionally ‘grand’ grandmother.”

Jimmie Kanaya '69 — “UAF offered me the opportunity to complete my education as normally required for promotion in the commissioned ranks to colonel. I was fortunate to have qualified professors in my classes that were required for graduation and subsequent promotions. Thank you.”

Richard May '69 — “Retired, divorced, six kids, eight grandkids.”

1970s

Rosa Foster '70 received a VIP award from the Alaska Association of Elementary School Principals in 2014. She is a retired elementary school principal.

Lynndeen Knapp '70 — “Retired from 30 years in education and now retired from being an Alaska tour director. Just enjoyed my 50th class reunion from Lathrop High School held this summer. Grandmother to two grandsons, Glenn Steer and Clayton Steer. Living in Mexico part time.”



Marion Erp '71 — “Retired from the State of Montana, loving retirement in Big Sky country. Active in training, showing and playing with my dogs in agility and other performance areas, as well as hiking around my beautiful adopted state.”



Wess-John Murdough '71 — “I completely retired from work at the end of 2013. I was a librarian (received an M.L.S. from the University of Hawaii in 1975) and I worked in several positions in San Francisco since 1976. I spend most of my time in San Francisco and four months of the year in Hawaii. I'm finally writing the book I have always wanted to write but never had the time.”

Gayann (Barnsley) White '71, '81 — “Still teaching at American River College and Sacramento State University, California. Daughter lives in Anchorage with three children and son lives in California with two daughters.”

Mike Rugani '72 — “I continue to live in Tacoma, Washington, and work for the Army at Fort Lewis, Washington. My work brings me in contact with another 1972 alumni, Taylor Jones (also retired U.S. Army). We enjoy catching up with each other and share many stories of our great college experience.”



Jay Jackson '73 — “I am the founder and executive director of an all-volunteer nonprofit — Helping Hand for Nepal (since 2001) — doing humanitarian projects in medicine, education, sanitation and water. We are heavily involved in earthquake disaster relief following the devastating earthquake in Nepal on April 25. Aftershocks continue, causing mudslides during this monsoon season. I will go to Nepal in November, assessing what we have done so

far and vetting projects for continued work in disaster relief. We celebrated our fifth annual fundraising event in May: Painting A Day for Nepal. Local Alaska artists donate an original painting created just for our silent auction. We also have two endowments: the HHN Education Endowment (provides scholarships grades 1-12, 75 percent to girls, for children who would not otherwise be able to attend school), and the HHN Medical Emergency Endowment (when funded at minimum level of \$1 million it will provide emergency lifesaving surgeries for those who cannot afford this care). I resigned my position in the [Anchorage] mayor's office to do my Nepal work full-time as a volunteer. Nepal is one of the world's poorest and least developed countries."



John Wilt '73, '80 is the administration of justice program coordinator at Danville Community College. One of John's first marathons was the Equinox Marathon. On Nov. 14 John will run his 70th marathon in Richmond, Virginia. John and his wife, Jean, make their home in Danville, Virginia.

Gordon Betts '74, '75 — "After retirement from my 'real job' of 38 years I started my own wildlife control business, Dragon Catchers. It keeps me as busy as I want to be and gives us some extra spending money."

Gregory David Moore '74 — "All three generations of our Alaska family are well and busy this season working, studying, fishing and playing music."

Stephen Stringham '74 — "See www.bear-viewing-in-alaska.info."

Margie Van Cleve '74 — "I moved to Arizona in 1997 after traveling for a year cross-country in my RV. I keep in touch with friends still in Fairbanks and saw several when I visited Alaska last July. Brought back many memories."

Debbie Hurwicz '75 — "Working for Thrivent Financial in Redondo Beach as a financial consultant. My mom, Carol Berg, worked at the UAF library 1970-1978 and died Jan. 13, 2015."

Robert Livingston Jr. '75 — "I served six years as a helicopter pilot in the Marine Corps. I am a U.S. Coast Guard-licensed captain, a Professional Association of Diving Instructors master scuba diver trainer, a Motorcycle Safety Foundation rider coach and off-road rider coach and a SUVIA ATV rider coach. [I'm] soon to retire to Missouri."

Carl Sampson '75 — "We left Juneau in 1992 and spent seven years on a small farm in Minnesota. Now we're just outside Salem, Oregon. I'm still in journalism and enjoying it. I'm managing editor of the Capital Press, a regional website and newspaper covering agriculture in Oregon, Washington, California and Idaho. My wife, Patti, and I have four boys: one is finishing a master's degree in history at Marquette, one is teaching in Spain, one's a sophomore at Pepperdine, and the baby is a high school senior. This June is our 30th wedding anniversary."

Valerie Dobbs '76 — "In July 2015, Cathy Brown visited me in Great Falls, Montana. We met at UAF in 1978 and have been good friends ever since. Cathy currently lives in Kaneohe, Hawaii. We plan to get together and travel to Alaska in the future."

Dan Dunaway '76 — "Still retired in Dillingham, Alaska, and enjoying raising our two teen sons."

Donald Kelly '78 — "Currently professor, Center for Life and Health Science, Mohawk Valley Community College, Utica, New York. Chair of college senate, president emeritus, Human Anatomy and Physiology Society."

Kaye Forrest '79 — "Kaye (Herman) Forrest from Ninilchik, Alaska. Worked at Doyon, Fairbanks North Star Borough as land specialist, moved to Ephrata, Washington. Executive assistant for Brown and Brown until present. Married with two boys."

Gordon Johnson '79, '84 — "I'm in my 29th year of teaching at Clymer Central School in Clymer, New York. I teach high school math and some college math. Reading the Aurora brings back many good memories of UAF. I worked many years at Wood Center."

John Kelly '79 — "Still at SRI International as director of the Center for Geospace Studies where the upper atmospheric facilities group manages the AMISR incoherent scatter radars including PFISR, located at the UAF Poker Flat Research Range."

Kent Taylor '79 — "Just came back from Fairbanks [in July] from my wife's 40th Lathrop High School reunion. Had a blast visiting the old stomping grounds, which don't look the same. Lots of construction and activity going on. Living now in Anchorage. Working for Xerox Corp. for 35 years and counting."

1980s



Thomas Anthony Dinnocenzo '80 — "I am retired and living on Kodiak Island, enjoying fishing, hunting and my summer vegetable garden."

Susan Erickson '81 — "Graduated with a Ph.D. in marine biology. Have been a veterinarian since 1986 practicing in Portland, Oregon, since 1993."

Kurt Richter '81 — "Named Innovative Employee of the Year for 2015!" [In the Center for Teaching and Learning at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.]



James Miller '82 — "It's been so many years ... I've worked at the MIT Artificial Intelligence Lab, the World Wide Web Consortium, and now Google. I've moved from Fairbanks back to Boston and then to Seattle. I spent a number of years singing in the Seattle Opera Chorus. My photograph is from a production of Wagner's 'Ring Cycle,' in which I appeared (in the fourth opera) as a German knight of the 12th-ish century."



Paul Newbry '83 — “Living in Corvallis, Oregon, working for the Oregon Judicial Department. Married to high school sweetheart. Three sons. The lineup is me, Kristin, Scott, Joe, Chad. My daughter Anne, my second child, passed away at age 7 ½. I think of her every time I list my family or am asked ‘How many children do you have?’”

Lynn Lorrain Schuler '83 — “As an advisor for my middle school’s Math, Engineering, Science Achievement club, the largest in New Mexico, I completed the Space Academy for Teachers at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama, this summer.”

Rezvan Ramezani '84 — “I have been working at South Coast Air Quality Management District for 26 years now. I also teach environmental engineering classes at USC [University of Southern California] and general engineering classes at [California State University, Long Beach]. I haven’t been to Alaska for a long time, busy with kids, but Alaska is where my heart is.”

Lynn Hardman '85 — “Please check my LinkedIn profile and blog — UAF may enjoy it! At www.linkedin.com/pulse/survival-fittest-lynn-hardman.”

Toni McFadden '85, '93 — “Retired from the Fairbanks school district after 28 years and now work for UA as the Alaska Teacher Placement manager. I enjoy working with all the school districts in the state helping with their teacher recruitment needs.”



Terry Vrabec '85, '05 — “Serving as the deputy commissioner for the Alaska Department of Public Safety in Juneau. I love working with the UAF Justice Department on law enforcement education opportunities as well as your Fairbanks-based police academy. Miss being at the campus!”

Richard Backer '86 — “Living in Vermont since 2013; hazardous waste program management in northwest Vermont; commercial honey production and beekeeping.”

Stephen Mack '86 — “General manager of Sweetwater Springs Water District, Guerneville, California.”

Michael Nelson '86 — “Team leader at new NATO headquarters, Brussels, Belgium.”



Charissa Niedzwiecki '86 — “Taught at University of Wisconsin-La Crosse for past 21 years. Wrote chapter with Pamela Morris called ‘Odd or Ordinary: Social Comparisons between Real and Reality TV Families’ in ‘Reality TV Anthology’ (2014), and defined ‘reality television’ for SAGE Encyclopedia of Communication Research Methods. Currently working in gerontology interdisciplinary program.”

John Smelcer '86, '87 is continuing postdoctoral studies in the anthropology of religion at Harvard University. He has six books forthcoming in 2015 and 2016, including a novel about the Aleut internment experience during WWII.

Eric Taylor '86 and Frances Mann '91 — “I am the migratory bird chief for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [in Eagle River, Alaska]. Fran is a supervisory environmental analyst with the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.”

Steve Laroe '87 — “I’m retired, attended 50th high school reunion, have five grandchildren. Going to Benin, West Africa, in September. Hello to all of my former classmates and students.”

Jeff Roach '87 — “Completed my second year as commander of the 38th Troop Command, a brigade-size unit of the Alaska Army National Guard. I lead nearly 1,000 soldiers serving in various units around Alaska. Soldiers under my command recently participated in international exercises in Cambodia, Mongolia and Australia. [I was] selected to attend the U.S. Army 2016 chief of staff of the Army Senior Leader Seminar in January.”



Moses Villalobos '87 — “Just completed 30 years with the State of Alaska airport police and fire department, the last six as chief of the Fairbanks International Airport Police and Fire Department.”

Bobette Bush '88 — “I retired from Kuspuk School District after 27 years and now living in Wenatchee, Washington. Gardening, cooking, horse handling at Alatheia, a therapeutic riding school, and dog walking at the local animal shelter with my 6-year-old grandson keep me busy.”

Barbara Greene '88 — “I returned to Tallahassee, home of my original alma mater (Florida State University). I shall always miss Alaska, but it is good to be closer to my remaining relatives at this point.”

Anne Harris '88 — “I am self-employed as a proofreader and editor specializing in documents which have been translated from German to English. Finally using my English degree!”



George Mueller '88 — “Retired and loving it. Living on Caddo Lake [Texas] — no other in the world has the wonders and beauty. Lots of bird and fish varieties.”



Karl Schleich '88 retired from the Mat-Su Borough School District in 2011 after serving as a principal and director since 1990. He served in Metlakatla from 1986-1990. Since 2011 he has worked as an educational consultant supporting schools and districts in Alaska and the Lower 48 in their improvement efforts with a focus on school climate and classroom management. This past spring he and his wife, Ley, participated in both of their daughters' graduations from college. Valerie graduated with honors from UAF with a double major in foreign languages and linguistics. Cori graduated from Western Washington University, also with honors, with a degree in environmental education. The photo is from Valerie's graduation in Fairbanks on Mother's Day.



Jordan Clouse '89 — “Commissioned through the UAF ROTC program, Nanook Battalion. Graduated law school in 1996 (Ohio) and currently a U.S. Army JAG Officer with the rank of lieutenant colonel serving as the staff judge advocate for Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico.”

James Nelson '89 — “Three years ago, I completed an M.S. in counseling and human resource development at South Dakota State University (3.84 GPA). My two sons, who were born in Kodiak, Alaska, are married and are enriching their lives with education and careers in nutrition (Shiraz) and metal fabrications (Bahji).”

1990s

Neal Kutchins '90 — “I have retired from the State of Alaska, but I continue to do income taxes. I also try to ride my Harley every chance I get.”

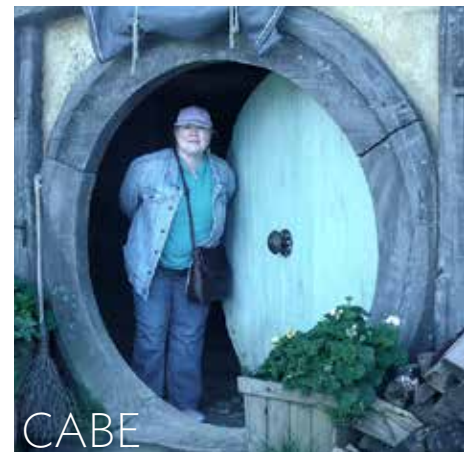


Robin (Wickham) Near '90 — “Al [Al Near '74] and I retired near Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and are enjoying life. We still have the two Icelandic ponies we purchased in Fairbanks in 1999. Here I am on Drago just before going on a trail ride.”

Lance Nutter '90 — “High school teacher at Canyonville Christian Academy, Canyonville, Oregon. Married 30 years to Sheri and have successfully raised two boys, Robert and Cameron.”



Linda Watson '90 — “I am a senior staff member for the Madison Street Veterans Association in Phoenix, Arizona, a peer-run organization of homeless and formerly homeless veterans offering personal, individualized resources and advocacy for all veterans.”



Judy Ann Cabe '91, '05 — “Now that my husband is retired, we are traveling more and seeing our seven grandchildren as much as possible. We celebrated 47 years of marriage this year.”

Elizabeth Congdon-McGee '91, '92 — “Just elected as the Alaska School Counselor Association president. Working at Whaley School in Anchorage as a school counselor.”

Todd Jack '91 — “Presently, we are busy working toward peace and prosperity in Eastern Europe and the U.S. My family's nonprofit, Building Technology Center for Learning (Building People Up, Not Breaking Them Down), is presently sponsoring a Mission to Moldova/Romania (www.earthchildrensmisson.org). Through music and crafts, we seek to build Christian bridges founded in economic growth. Fundraising is sluggish, but we persevere.”

James Schauer '91 — “Starting 21st year of teaching at Wilsonville High School in Wilsonville, Oregon (34th overall year of teaching). My studies at UAF (M.S. zoology) are integral to the marine biology, oceanography and AP statistics classes I teach.”



Jim Hibbert '92 — “After graduating from UAF with a B.A. in geography, I earned a B.L.A. in landscape architecture from the University of Oregon in 1998. Since 1999, I have worked for Caltrans (California Department of Transportation) at District 3 in Marysville and District 1 in Eureka. In 2005, I became a registered landscape architect in California. In 2013, I transferred to Bishop and became the district landscape architect for District 9. I live in Mammoth Lakes. Our office is responsible for all the state highways east of the Sierra Nevada mountains from Topaz Lake to Mojave and Tehachapi, including CA-190 in Death Valley National Park. I am mostly involved with visual impact studies, erosion control design and environmental restoration. As a Caltrans landscape architect our goal is to help design highway projects so they blend into the urban, natural and scenic environments. We are also responsible for designated scenic highways, vista points, roadside rest areas, urban highway planting and transportation art.”

James Alexander '93 — “I retired from a 22-year career as a U.S. Air Force officer, and for the past seven years have been working NASA aircraft operations at Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. As a senior project manager I have conducted payload integration, mission management, and flight operations on a variety of NASA aircraft and unmanned aerial systems performing scientific research at locations around the world. Research instruments and missions are sponsored by government, academia or industry. I am also a Gulfstream III flight engineer and mission equipment operator, and have been a safety crew member on the ‘zero-g’ microgravity research aircraft, which flies parabolic arcs to achieve brief periods of weightlessness.”

Mark Tacheny '93, '96 — “Recently retired from a 31-year career with the U.S. Forest Service. Started a second career as a security officer at a taconite mine in northern Minnesota’s Iron Range.”

Robin Thye '93 — “I currently live in western Colorado with my husband. Bob is enjoying retirement while I continue to teach second grade in the public school system. We have four grandchildren.”

David Vachitis '93 — “I was admitted to the master of physician assistant studies program at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia and begin studies in two weeks [August]!”



Mary Whalen '93 — “I am with the U.S. Geological Survey Alaska Science Center as a fish and wildlife biologist, information specialist. I have been involved in numerous projects with USGS: salmon research projects, oil spill research projects and, currently, web design and graphics development.”



Joel Akers '94 — “This is now my 11th year teaching for the Anchorage School District. For the past seven years I’ve been teaching third- and fourth-grade language arts and social studies in the Bowman Open Optional Program, and I love the families, students and teachers I get to work with. In my spare time I enjoy flying out to our family’s cabin at Whiskey Lake in our Cessna 180 (floats in summer and skis in winter), and spending time with my wife, Julie, and my son, Hayden.”

Sheryl Clough '94 — “I was awarded the San Gabriel Valley Lit Festival chapbook prize for the book ‘Ring of Fire, Sea of Stone.’”

Samuel Atta-Darkwah '95 — “Now a licensed petroleum engineer in Alaska. I am currently working with Eni Petroleum (Italian oil giant) in their Anchorage office as senior reservoir engineer. I can be contacted via email at kwakugywawu@gmail.com or samuel.atta-darkwah@enipetroleum.com. I will be glad to hear from all of you from the Class of 1995.”

Michael Hajdukovich '96 and Michelle Hajdukovich '96 opened TRAX Outdoor Center in Fairbanks in November 2014.

Curtis McNeill '96, '08 and Doreen McNeill '96 — “Curtis is an elementary school teacher in Fairbanks and enjoys integrating science into the learning environment. Doreen is the supervisor of the management biologists at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Fairbanks.”

Mark Teel '96 — “Technician with St. Charles Health Systems.”

Maryann Durocher '97 — “I’m heading into my seventh year of living in Texas and my fourth year of working at Texas State University.”

Matthew Weaver '98 — “My family and I moved away from Texas to Beverly, Ohio, in June 2013, where I am the pastor of the Beverly United Methodist Church and the fire chaplain for the volunteer fire department.”

Roger Topp '99 — “Big day Aug. 28 — I have officially lived in Alaska half my life. Started at UAF studying oceans, then fiction writing. Now I’ve made my home at the UA Museum of the North for a decade and a half where I study something new every week. Three cheers for universities and university museums.”



Lorna Shaw '96, '05, Ana Richards '05 and Sherry Modrow '72, '85 were named the 2015 Women of Distinction by the Farthest North Girl Scouts Council.

2000s

Michael Gore '00 — “I, my wife Angela and daughter Darcy Jo live in beautiful Crescent City, California, where I work as the district resource interpreter at Redwood National and State Parks. I look forward to returning with my family to Fairbanks and UAF later this summer — it’s been 16 years since my last visit!”

Norma Pfeiffer Kirshberger '00, '06 — “My husband, Lang, and I are dazed and confused new parents — we adopted three brothers all at once: Mathu, 13; James, our smiley second-grader; and Weston, who turned 4 in April. I am completing my second year of law school at the University of Arkansas Bowen School of Law in Little Rock.

My employer, Life and Specialty Ventures, supports higher education and rewards initiative; they are funding my four-year, part-time endeavor. I work full time as a paralegal supervisor, and upon graduation I will transition to an in-house attorney position. I am very excited about that future career change, but the looming bar exam tempers my excitement.

My husband is a registered forester and a livestock handler in Arkansas. Together, we (but really he) manage our rural family farm: timber, 60 head of cattle, horses, llamas, a donkey named Geoffrey, laying hens, bee hives, and large quantities of asparagus and eggplants. This fall we plan to begin raising pigs and sheep as well. Working in Little Rock provides a big market for our farm products.

Please email me at normaknit@gmail.com if you want to reconnect with a long-lost pal!”

Kathryn Sechrist '00 — “I am currently working on my master’s degree in fisheries at UAF.”



Ken Richter '01 — “I’m involved with several new volunteer projects and community programs here in the Seattle area. I’m also an invited pro panelist in various sci-fi conventions such as Crypicon and Norwescon.”

David Fischer '02 — “In January I was promoted to engineering manager in the Northern Region Highway Design Section at the [Alaska] Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.”

Mark Hanson '02, '03 — “Dove in Truk Lagoon [Micronesia], checked out the remains of Operation Hailstone of WWII.”

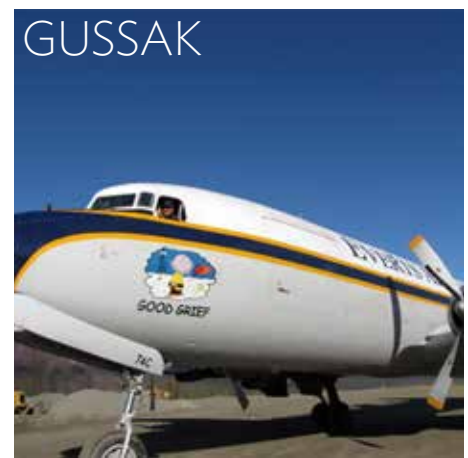


Amy Woodruff LaBrie '02 — “Married Keith LaBrie on Oct. 11, 2014. I work in athletic communications for the University of Miami men’s basketball team.”



Leslie Yvonne O'Connor '02, '03 — “I am currently in Afghanistan working as a civilian auditor for the military. In my spare time I work with a volunteer group establishing a TNR (trap, neuter, release) colony of stray cats to stay in place around the base. Cats are territorial and help keep the unvaccinated strays out that may bring diseases on base. I also just became a grandmother in March!”

Matt Emmons '03 won the national title in men’s prone and three-position rifle at the USA Shooting National Championships in June.



Joshua Gussak '03 — “Captain flying the DC-6 around the state of Alaska for Everts Air Cargo.”

Grace Reed '03 — “Have an M.A. in conflict resolution and restorative justice. My book ‘Negotiating Shadows’ was published by George Ronald Publisher in Oxford, England. Am a broadcaster for KBOO FM with my show, ‘Disability Awareness.’ Writing my next book. Also working on artwork for spirit books, found at my website www.negotiatingshadows.com.”



Jamie Colburn '04 — “After receiving my associate of arts degree from UAF in 2004 I moved to Arizona. I work at Arizona State University as an academic financial specialist in the School of International Letters and Cultures. I received a bachelor’s of liberal studies in 2010 at Arizona State University and will receive a master’s in education from Northern Arizona State University in May 2016.”

Eric Frederic '04 — “In May I was promoted to sergeant at the Colorado Springs Police Department.”



ROSNER

Carolyn Rosner '04 — “Since 2013, I’ve been working remotely from California’s Eastern Sierra region as a designer and web developer for UAF’s Scenarios Network for Alaska and Arctic Planning (www.snap.uaf.edu), a climate research, data-visualization and planning group. We are part of IARC, under the direction of Scott Rupp. In my spare time, I run, climb and explore the deserts and mountains around Bishop, California, with my husband, Mike.”



DZIEWIECZYNSKI

Sarah Dziewieczynski '06 — “Got cold after teaching high school in rural Alaska. Found the sun, and my husband, in Taos, New Mexico. Married for four years, we now have two baby girls: Zia born in early 2013 and Rowan in fall 2014. The hubby and I left our respective professional jobs (architecture for him, teaching for me) to take over a clothing and outdoor equipment resale shop. This allows us to be with our kiddos, focus on the homestead and dress really fashionably.”

Johan Kugelmann '06 and Susan Kugelmann '06 — “Johan is a sixth-grade math teacher in Rio Rancho, New Mexico. Susan owns Studio Thirty-One Thirty, a portrait photography studio.”

Elisabeth Dabney '07 is the executive director of the Northern Alaska Environmental Center in Fairbanks.

Adam Kelley '07 — “I now live in Sydney, Australia, and am pursuing a master’s in library and information science from San Jose State University. I wish UAF had an accredited library program.”

Carlise Giles '08 and Spencer Giles '09, '12 welcomed their second daughter, Addison Harper Giles, in January 2015. Carlise is a full-time mother and Spencer is a chemist at the Naval Research Lab in Washington, D.C.

Eric Hill '08 received the 2015 Outstanding Alumnus Award from the College of Engineering and Mines. He is vice president and general manager for Kinross’ Fort Knox Gold Mine.

Talia (Ewig) Ahlquist '09 — “Got married to my sweetheart in August 2009. Gave birth to a beautiful baby boy in July 2013. Getting ready to give birth to another beautiful baby boy in September 2015.”

2010s

Eleanor K. Wirts '10 — “I am the owner of a new sled dog tour business in Fairbanks, Just Short of Magic, that opened in February 2013, and more recently a new yurt B&B, opened in October 2014. Both have been a huge success, but most importantly I LOVE what I do! There are 30 dogs here so please visit us at www.justshortofmagic.com. The dogs love having guests visit, so come for a sled dog ride — it’s super fun! Or stay the night and watch the fabulous auroras right from the deck of the yurt! Alaska at its finest!”

William Baker '11 — “All I can say it that I’m working 40 hours a week and am able to pay all of my bills as they are due. It’s not much, but I know that many from my class and the last few years are not able to say the same thing. For now I’m content to have a roof over my head, food in my belly and not be behind on any of my student loans. I’ve got dreams for my life, but for now just living on my own is OK.”

Emerson Eads '11, '13 — “My opera, ‘Color of Gold,’ was reviewed by the British periodical, Opera magazine. The Alaska Dispatch News has called it among the most significant events this year. Also, having a piano piece premiered in Denver by **Mallory Bernstein '11**.”

Andrea Kimmel '11 — “Exploring Acadia National Park in my free time, and teaching preschool in Downeast Maine.”



TOBIN

Löki Gale Tobin '11 — “I got married! And I started a new position as the annual giving manager at the Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center.”



SARTZ

Patrik Sartz '12 was featured in the Becoming Alaskan section of the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner in April 2015. Read the article at <http://bit.ly/AuroraSartz>.

Katharine Adams '13 — “I am currently working as a marine inspector with the U.S. Coast Guard in Morgan City, Louisiana.”



SHULMAN

Mark Shulman '13 — “We visited Tonga in July 2014 to visit with my wife’s extended family from Tonga. The photo was taken July 4 during King Tupou VI’s coronation in front of the king’s palace. Currently, my family and I live and work in Anchorage,

Alaska (I work for a large oil company). I have three boys: Eddie and Bradley (in the photo, Bradley in the stroller) and Mark III. Funny background story of my in-laws (which shows how small the world is getting): My mother-in-law, Debra Steger, was born and raised in Fairbanks (her and her family's names are on the founders' monument downtown). Moved to Anchorage and went to UAA and met my father-in-law, Ron Veal, at APU (attending through a foreign exchange program). So now 40 years later you have a picture of an alumnus from New Jersey holding a UAF flag in the middle of the South Pacific."

Lyndon Arbogast '14 — "I am the parts department manager at Stanley Nissan in Fairbanks."

Ryan Anderson '15 won second place in men's air rifle and third place in men's three-position rifle at the 2015 USA Shooting National Championships in June.

Matriculates

Alan Chaddon — "First retirement from U.S. Navy at age 39 in 1981. Second retirement from Lockheed Martin here in Orlando in September 2006. Enjoying the life here in the great sunshine state. Active in church. Taking it easy most of the rest of the time."

Dave Ebling — "I still have relatives in Talkeetna who have been in Alaska since 1964. After I left UAF I started government work at Elmendorf AFB in 1974. When I came back to New York I continued to work for the federal government at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Buffalo, which at present gives me 41 years in federal service. Time sure does fly! I have visited Alaska many times since my first departure and am still awe inspired. Many, many fine memories."

Duane Eisenbeiss — "Enrolled in mining engineering at UA around 1956. Lived in the basement of main dorm. Finished college at the University of California, Berkeley. Worked with the BLM in Fairbanks during each summer until out of college. After college I worked at North American Aviation and Lockheed Aviation as a research engineer until 1968. In 1996 I retired from being a pilot for United Airlines. Currently living in the northwest suburbs of Chicago, Illinois. About five years ago I returned for a visit to the Fairbanks campus. WOW, what a change. None of the old buildings remained except Constitution Hall that opened the year that I was there. Not much remained of the old Fairbanks that I remembered either. The museum is terrific. It was a fun visit. On July 30, 2015, my wife and I will be departing Illinois for a motor home drive back to Alaska for a second visit."

Sue Ellen Lyons — "At the time of reunion last year my husband, Vincent, had seemed to recover from lung cancer, his second time, but, sad to say, he has a new form of it again this summer so he and I are 'grounded' from travel and working on his support. He has made amazing contributions in archaeology and urban planning in his career — a really great man!"

Janet Parsons — "I'm 77 years of age. Had a great science teaching career for 27 years (1966-1993). Traveled to Australia twice, Sweden twice (spending time with cousins that took me five years to locate), [and took] a wonderful cruise down the east coast of South America. Presently very happy at home in west Seattle. Puget Sound country is the best place to live. P.S. My dad, T. Hugh Wilson, civil engineer, drew the original plat for the town of North Pole!"

Frank Stelwagon — "Retired from Lockheed Martin, worked at the Air Force Satellite Tracking Station in Kodiak for six and a half years. My wife, **Patricia '72**, taught school in Kodiak and received her master's from U of A." [Patricia died in 2010.]

Robinson Walker — "I attended U of A 1956-1957 — great professors, good teachers. I played on the basketball team when there were no other U of A campuses; played [against] Army, Air Force and games with local town teams. Professionally, I taught grades 3-8 and was an elementary school principal. I retired after 30 years in education. Our son, **Steven H. Walker '85**, attended U of A and was elected president of the engineering society."

David Walstad — "I am now retired, living in Las Cruces, New Mexico, caring for my 99-year-old parents."

Allura Weimer — "I have recently been sworn in as the district governor for the Lions of Multiple District 49B; this includes 25 clubs in Alaska and six clubs in Canada."

Emeriti

Carol Gold, professor of history — "The Western Association of Women Historians has named an award after me — the Carol Gold Graduate Student Award — for the best graduate paper presented at their annual conference."



MILNER

Laura Milner, professor of business administration — "Effective Aug. 1 I am a dean at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse."

Friends

Jim McDermott — "I am the new Alaska chair for SCORE (Service Corp of Retired Executives), and I will also continue on as small-business mentor with SCORE."

Randy Scott Owsley — "Still studying theoretical physics in Salcha. Excited about the Large Hadron Collider's discovery of a pentaquark."

Daniel Seiser — "I have had the privilege to provide consulting architectural and planning services to UAF for over 30 years and have been very impressed with the faculty and staff and the campus community I have interacted with and have become a donor to the UA Foundation because of my experiences."

Mary Taylor — "Today I have just renewed my driver's license — I will be 98 on Sunday. I am very happy and thankful for what I can do but still miss being able to go to the villages. Am terribly upset about what Russia is doing in the Arctic. I worked part time for Muktuk Marston during the Cold War, and it hurts."

IN MEMORIAM

William Thomas Abbott '70, March 30, Georgetown, Texas

Diane R. Adams '73, Feb. 4, Anchorage, Alaska

John Russell Bennetto '99, Feb. 5, Phoenix, Arizona

John H. Betters '74, March 2, Salcha, Alaska

Curtis Allen Bland '62, '66, May 11, Oak Harbor, Washington

Mildred Boesser '75, June 29, Juneau, Alaska

Patrice C. Buck '93, June 1, Fairbanks, Alaska

Lyle Douglas Cole, matriculate, March 9, Kasilof, Alaska

Rocky D. Duncan, matriculate, May 28, Fairbanks, Alaska

Jack Easterday '68, May 22, Everett, Washington

Morgan C. Edmunds '59, May 1, Winchester, Virginia

Donald H. Eyinck '51, May 7, Maplewood, Minnesota

Patricia F. Garrett '99, April 10, Anchorage, Alaska

Patricia E. Gentry '91, March 19, Florence, Oregon

John Thomas Hammond '59, Feb. 11, Palmer, Alaska

Alice G. Hodgdon '01, April 8, South Naknek, Alaska

John K. Hoegberg '89, Feb. 5, Fairbanks, Alaska

Edgar Huizer '48, April 27, Juneau, Alaska

Thomas E. Husson '71, April 6, Milton, Vermont

Kangrilnguq Paul John '10H*, March 6, Toksook Bay, Alaska

John W. Johnson '58, April 1, Petersburg, Alaska

Peter J. Knoke, former associate professor of computer science, July 7, Fairbanks, Alaska

Deborah M. Knutsen, former library employee, April 9, North Pole, Alaska

Aaron H. Kohring '11, July 2, Palmer, Alaska

Casey Koogler '83, June 24, Lake Havasu City, Arizona

Terry L. Marsh '97, Jan. 29, Fairbanks, Alaska

Ladd L. McBride '88, March 15, Fairbanks, Alaska

Monique Pourny, former professor of French, Jan. 16, Hilo, Hawaii

Aloysius J. Quebbemann '60, March 9, Saint Paul, Minnesota

Luella Mary Rasley, matriculate, May 1, Fairbanks, Alaska

Louis L. Renner, professor emeritus, March 24, Spokane, Washington

Paul S. Renschen, former military science faculty, April 26, Fairbanks, Alaska

Donald Shelby Robb '65, May 25, Universal City, Texas

Caroline M. Sanz '70, March 9, Vancouver, Washington

Eldor "Lefty" Schallock '62, March 4, Fairbanks, Alaska

Lillie M. Shellinger '74, April 8, Fairbanks, Alaska

Farra Sue Smith '10, '11 and former employee, May 5, Fairbanks, Alaska

Thomas Strickland '85, July 5, Wasilla, Alaska

Irene Ulmer '64, '68, Feb. 27, Fairbanks, Alaska

Deborah J. Uotila '82, May 6, Juneau, Alaska

Charley L. Walton, matriculate, March 4, Fairbanks, Alaska

*H=honorary degree



Nirendra Biswas

Professor Emeritus Nirendra N. Biswas was born in India on June 10, 1932, and came to the USA in the 1960s for graduate studies. He passed away Jan. 20 while visiting India, and was cremated in Kolkata, India. Nirendra completed his doctorate degree at the University of California, Los Angeles. He joined the Geophysical Institute in 1971 and served there until 2003, and made significant contributions to earthquake research in Alaska. He was instrumental in expanding the Alaska seismometer network from a mere handful to some 120 stations, which vastly increased researchers' understanding of Alaska seismic activity. He also initiated a strong-motion seismometer network in Anchorage, which allowed geologists, seismologists and engineers to address the city's critical infrastructure needs in relation to seismic activity. Nirendra's body of work gained an international acclaim that raised the prestige of the Geophysical Institute and the university to a level of world renown. A memorial service was held in June.

Patricia Kwachka

Professor Emerita Patricia Kwachka died at her home in Cullowhee, North Carolina, on May 20. Pat was born in Gainesville, Florida, in 1942, and grew up on an island in the Gulf of Mexico. She earned a doctorate in anthropology and linguistics in 1981 from the University of Florida. Considering job offers, she asked her young son, Alexis, where he would like to live. He told her to go where the fishing was best, so UAF gained an outstanding faculty member, Alaska gained an avid fisherman, and Pat met the love of her life, Jim Deitz. Pat was an expert in linguistic anthropology and built a distinguished record of scholarship. Her research with the Mississippi Choctaw Indians resulted in a new orthography and a Choctaw dictionary. Pat was a strong advocate for Alaska Native people and their languages. Her early work at UAF focused on helping Alaska Native students make a successful transition to the university. She was known as a strict but effective teacher, and colleagues and students appreciated her logical approach, fairness, warmth and infectious laugh. A memorial service was held in August.



UAF photo by Todd Paris.



UAF photo by JR Ancheta.

Jim Madonna '73

Professor Emeritus James A. Madonna passed away March 14. Jim was born in San Jose, California, on Jan. 10, 1938. He did everything with an intensity and determination that drove him to the top of whatever he set his mind to do. His interest in rocks and mining started early when, as a young boy, he accompanied his father to the Fortymile country. This love of geology eventually led him back to Fairbanks and UAF, where he earned a master's degree in geology and later worked as a mining extension professor. He taught many students and miners, and was proud to teach classes that were part of what the university was founded on. In 1996, he completed his doctorate at the University of Tasmania. Running became his focus in his later years, and he set records in races from 100 meters to marathons, including the 1,500-meter race at the Laughlin, Nevada, Senior Games. It was his final race. He commented to his fellow competitors, "We can't run like this forever." With those words echoing in the air, Jim passed away.

Wesley Wallace

Professor Emeritus Wesley Wallace died May 10 at the age of 64. Born in New York in 1950, he worked for the university from 1985-2015, and was named professor emeritus of geology at Commencement 2015, the day of his death. His father's Coast Guard career took the family to many duty stations, but two years on Kodiak Island in the mid-1950s sparked Wes' lifelong passion for Alaska. He conducted research in the Brooks Range and throughout Alaska, and communicated with the public about the geologic history of Alaska and its resource potential. His service to the university and his contributions to his field and to teaching are indelible. He served as an advisor and mentor to numerous undergraduate and graduate students, and was awarded the 2015 College of Natural Science and Mathematics award for Teaching Excellence in the Department of Geosciences. The family wishes to establish an endowed scholarship fund to support graduate student fieldwork and research. Donations can be made by check to the UA Foundation, P.O. Box 755080, Fairbanks, AK 99775 or online at <http://bit.ly/WesleyWallace>. Please mark your gift "In memory of Wesley K. Wallace."



Photo from UAF Geophysical Institute.

Forty days!

By Joel Rudinger '64

Forty days among these mountains,
crooked trails, fresh snow, steep slides of black shale
slick and glistening in the midday melt,
long shadows from the sun moving west in the morning, east after noon,
minute by minute passing over this wide land
of rivers and streams and mountains and taiga
with trees and weeds and cranberries patches,
fields of blueberries and flowers,
suddenly appearing new pockets of beauty,
new and unexpected bright spirit blazonings.

The solitary moose and bear, families of sheep, they wander free
with the goats and herds of caribou, and they, as do the wolves,
lay down and rise up day after day, year after year, in the gift of silence.

And the small animals: fox and rabbit and wolverine,
rise up and lay down day after day, year after year,
the hunter and the hunted, the stalker and the prey,
in the protection of silence.
And I am Here! Standing alone in ALL of this.

Every breeze I see is changing the direction of the grass,
and across the lake, nudging, pushing the dark ripples into waves
as fish move deep and slow as in a dream
along the shoreline beneath the water's edge;

the ptarmigans, the ravens, the eagles in flight,
the sky-filling flocks of honking geese
darkening the land in their great migrations
far above the shimmering, dancing, humming clouds of insects,
far above the quick scattering of mice and chipmunks.

Everything. Everything.
Every breeze or wind or gale or drop of rain or flake of snow
or flying leaf or falling feather that touches or brushes
against the face of these mountains alters their features forever.

And I want to throw off my pack in this ecstasy of time
and raise my eyes and arms to the sky, beaming, laughing.
And I want to holler from the core of my being:
"Yes, Yes, I am here. I am here.
Oh my God. I am here. Yes.

Forty days in this great wilderness."
Forty days and forty nights!
Was Moses ever so blessed?



Photo by Ray Whitehouse

Arriving at UAF as a 21-year-old, Joel Rudinger
already had a sense of history —

"my own history"

he wrote to us. "I came up to Fairbanks from Ohio
because I knew I had never done anything worth
remembering, and I wanted to start living a life of
potential and adventure."

A graduate assistant in the UAF English Depart-
ment from 1960-1964, he went on to become a
professor at the Firelands Campus of Bowling
Green State University in Huron, Ohio. He is now
retired with emeritus status.

Rudinger worked as a packer and assistant guide
for Hal Waugh in the Alaska Range, hunting for
Dall sheep and moose. His poem reflects upon
leaving the Post Lake area, in the upper reaches of
the Kuskokwim River's South Fork.



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“For the North, where our strength comes from — the cold, the ice — to teach us how to be strong people and do what needs to be done to survive.”
— Anna Frank

Retired Episcopal Rev. Anna Frank blesses the gathering at the cornerstone rededication on July 6 by the Bunnell Building. The event celebrated the 100th anniversary of the cornerstone’s dedication. “Today we ask our creator to bless this place,” she said. “The blessing upon all of you here today as you walk your own life, live your own life, raise your children to walk the same life, the blessings of our creator. And always remember those that are struggling that you can cast the strength on.” See more photos from the celebration on pages 18-21.