



COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND
SECURITY MANAGEMENT

University of Alaska Fairbanks

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2021

It is More Than “Just a Class”

Celebrating 30 years of success and growth of the Student Investment Fund provides a perfect opportunity to look back on how being a part of SIF positively impacted those who took the class in years past. On Tuesday, Nov. 30, SIF students gave a showcase presentation to alumni to highlight the current portfolio and offer predictions on the future.

Mary Lindahl, a former CBSM faculty advisor, recalls how the SIF came about. “SIF was initiated after the students joined an AT&T Collegiate Investment Challenge. Chancellor O’Rourke said if the students can do that well on paper, we’ll give them some real money to manage. We received \$100,000 on April 15, 1991.”

Dan Flodin, SIF president in spring 1994, recalls when he was a student, “I pitched Microsoft as a buy-in my first semester in 1993 and it turned out to be one of the biggest successes in the early SIF history. I still reflect on my UAF education, both undergraduate and graduate, and SIF was probably one of the most enriching classes. You don’t just study theory, you get to practice it and do things.”

Tammi Weaver, UA Statewide Chief Treasury Officer, oversaw the accounting for the SIF for the UA Foundation from 1993 to 2017, comments “The ability for business students to actively trade securities using real money, adhering to guidelines, conducting research and presenting to peers and an advisory committee is an incredibly valuable experience. This class is a success story on



The first six UAF Student Investment Fund presidents

Continued on the back page...

Uniting Students, Community and Donors



Social media image of Lorna Shaw promoting the \$1,049 challenge.

In 2021, the University of Alaska System hosted its second annual Giving Day. Alumni, friends and family, donors and current Nanooks showed their support to the tune of over \$1,000,000! The College of Business and Security Management raised a total of \$66,133 from 58 donors and challenges. Together we made a difference for the leaders of tomorrow.

UA Giving Day is not just an event for alumni and friends to reminisce about days past, but also an opportunity for current Nanooks to share how UAF and CBSM have supported their professional growth and opportunities. Students were encouraged to share social media shout-outs pictures or stories that resonated with their social groups.

Student organizations and scholarships have been an area of great need for CBSM in recent years. UA Giving Day provides the college with opportunities to raise funds that directly support these areas. This year, CBSM chose three areas of interest to fund: CBSM Student Support, CBSM Student Retention Scholarships and the CBSM Dean’s Excellence Support Fund.

Continued on the back page...

Climbing the Mountain to Success

Current College of Business and Security Management student, Jenifer Garcia, who is dual-majoring in accounting and business administration, always knew she wanted to be the first in her family to get a college education.

It took one accounting class taught by instructor Ruth Prato, and Jenifer was eagerly applying to the accounting program. She knew that a bachelor's degree in business administration was the key to her future; she wholeheartedly embraced the CBSM experience. Not only has Jenifer taken a mix of in-person and e-learning classes, but she has also maintained active membership with two CBSM student organizations - Great Alaskan Accounting People and Associated Students of Business.

"The most rewarding part of CBSM has been the clubs. I love being a part of the student organizations because I feel I belong in a group of people that are on similar academic paths. It is great to have that support from others who are also in your major."

~ Jenifer Garcia



Jenifer Garcia ziplining

Jenifer is a military spouse, which provides additional opportunities for support. Through her connections with both the military and university communities, she has found resources to assist with not only tutoring but also childcare. With the help of several support systems, Jenifer strives to maintain a balance between her school and home life. While Jenifer needs to be involved in her daughter's activities, she still manages to find time for her self-care. She is currently taking a weight training class at UAF along with her academic courses.



Jenifer Garcia with husband, Steven Garcia, and daughter at Castner Glacier, Delta Mountains, Alaska

"Maintaining balance doesn't always work, so sometimes I have to say no to certain obligations. It's really important to take care of myself, my health, and my family, which is everything to me. But at the end of the day, it all works itself out, and I'm incredibly lucky to be able to do what I love."

~ Jenifer Garcia.

As a first-generation student, Jenifer has also found an additional pillar of support from UAF Student Support Services. Jenifer credits the enormous role that the academic advising through SSS has played in her success. While applying to the KPMG Master of Accounting with Data and Analytics Program, Jenifer got help from both CBSM and Student Support Services, where she was able to have her application packet reviewed by an advisor prior to submission. The additional support gave Jenifer confidence as she applied to this prestigious program.

The KPMG MADA Program helps participants combine advanced accounting and data analysis skills and apply them to problems outside of the classroom. Students study an integrated curriculum of accounting, audit, tax courses and receive hands-on experience with real-world technologies including advanced data and analytics. In addition, they take part in an internship with a KPMG audit or tax team during the program and are offered full-time positions with the firm upon successful completion of the program.

After Jenifer's acceptance into the program and with Ruth's help, she gained more connections with recruiters, tax associates, and managers. She said, "I feel like being accepted into the KPMG MADA program is a testament to the caliber of education that I'm getting at UAF."

Jenifer's experience at CBSM gave her the key to a successful future for her and her family. Jenifer and her spouse are providing a bright future for their daughter, and as a first-generation student, Jenifer is showing her daughter and herself that dreams can turn into reality.

Putting the Spirit in Philanthropy

There are many reasons to give: to show gratitude, to be a part of something, or to make a difference in the community. Spirit of Alaska Federal Credit Union gives for all these reasons and was recently recognized for its generosity by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Alaska Chapter. Spirit of Alaska was named the 2021 Outstanding Small Business in Philanthropy.

Mark Herrmann, dean of the College of Business and Security Management, wrote the nomination letter for the AFP award.

"I feel that Spirit of Alaska FCU is deserving of this recognition because, more than making a profit, they are committed to the community," said Herrmann. "They are a leader in the credit union industry, setting the example for others to follow. I feel they best represent the spirit and intent of the Alaska AFP Outstanding Small Business in Philanthropy award."



Thumbs up for the win! Spirit of Alaska employees and supporters posing for a photo with the AFP award at the watch party

With monetary donations, in-kind gifts and sponsorships, Spirit of Alaska FCU seeks to uplift the Fairbanks community. For over a decade, SOA has provided support to dozens of non-profit organizations. Spirit of Alaska has contributed in numerous ways to area K-12 schools throughout the years.

SOA is a dedicated partner to the College of Business and Security Management in areas such as UA Giving Day, Business Leader of the Year, Student Investment Fund, Professionally Polished Program, and has a project in the works to renovate a learning center to accommodate the changing needs of students.

SOA provides funding for seven \$2,500 scholarships for CBSM students. This type of funding helps alleviate student debt, allowing busier-than-ever students to focus on their studies.

Spirit of Alaska FCU embodies what it means to give back to the community through philanthropic gifts, volunteerism and as an industry leader. Congratulations to SOA for their well-deserved award for the AFP Alaska Outstanding Small Business in Philanthropy.

Twelve Doors of Christmas

What better way to lighten up the College of Business and Security Management's halls for the holidays than a door decorating contest? CBSM staff and faculty were invited to participate in a festive door decorating contest facilitated by graduate advisor Angel Buchanan. The goal was to encourage people to have a little fun while also brightening their doors and highlighting CBSM's recent transition from School of Management.

"Since returning to the office, I've noticed that most doors are now closed due to COVID," Buchanan said. "A hallway of closed doors does not come across as very inviting, and I wanted to help make it more welcoming for our students and employees. The response was better than anticipated and the hallways now look fabulously festive!"



Marisa Martinez's door



GAAP's door



Dean Herrmann's door

After the decorations were complete, the contest was launched to encourage students to walk through the CBSM's halls and choose their favorite designs.

MBA student and accounting tutor Marisa Martinez won first place with a Bob Ross themed door. Student organization Great Alaska Accounting People won second place with their holiday themed door, and the third-place winner was the CBSM hockey themed door of Dean Mark Herrmann, who had a little decorating help from the assistant to the dean, Jillian Bjornstad.

CBSM is looking forward to making this a new holiday tradition!

More Than a Class...

(continued)

many levels and a student favorite.”

Kim McGinnis, the current faculty advisor for SIF, looks forward to the future and says, “As the finance industry grows and adapts, so, too, will the Student Investment Fund. I see SIF working more collaboratively with natural sciences and engineering, incorporating Environmental Social and Governance criteria into our bylaws and investment selection process. We are also exploring ways to offer online aspects of the class, to help expand access to rural and remote students.”

So, here’s to another 30 years of success with the Student Investment Fund! In the words of Tammi Weaver, “Congratulations on the 30th anniversary of the fund, and I wish you many more bulls than bears!”



Fall 2021 students and faculty advisor, Kim McGinnis, with alumni at the SIF 30th-Anniversary Showcase on Nov. 30, 2021

Uniting Students...

(continued)

During this event held Nov. 9th and 10th, every donation made - no matter how big or small - brought CBSM closer to unlocking several additional challenge donations. These challenges included gifts from Spirit of Alaska FCU, UA President Pat Pitney, Dean Mark Herrmann, and a group of 15 alumni, friends and businesses.

CBSM extends a special thank you to those who partnered with us to make such a difference. “Everybody wins! UA Giving Day is a great opportunity to reflect on the role UAF has played in my life and think about how I can support UAF providing opportunities to students,” said CBSM alumna Lorna Shaw ‘96 ‘05. “I know that UAF will spend the money raised in the way that most benefits the students.”

Several local businesses joined in the fun as Community Celebrities, including Bagels & Brew, Frank’s Menswear, In My Element and Jolly Roger. These businesses got involved by sharing the event on social media or donating a portion of their profits over the two-day period. Bagels & Brew even released a special menu item in celebration of the 49-hour event.

For all involved, thank you. CBSM is part of a remarkable community and with your involvement, our students will continue to grow and thrive. The strong community support is greatly appreciated and celebrated within the walls of Bunnell Building.



Give now to support students, develop academic programs, and prepare emerging leaders for a vibrant future.

Make your gift at engage.alaska.edu/uaf/cbsm or call (907) 474-7042.



You can read enhanced versions of the stories in this newsletter online, with expanded content and additional photos.

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CBSM holds both business accreditation and specialized accounting accreditation through the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International; this dual accreditation has only been achieved by 1.5% of AACSB universities worldwide.

UAF is an AA/EEO employer and educational institution and prohibited illegal discrimination against any individual: www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination.

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