Students Stay Sharp with Bloomberg Terminal

A Bloomberg Terminal is a top-of-the-line computer system, providing access to Bloomberg Professional news and databases. A standard in the finance industry, nearly all financial firms have subscriptions to the Bloomberg services, and it is known for revolutionizing the way bankers, analysts, traders, and others access real-time financial information.

This past fall semester, McKinley Capital Management, LLC gifted a Bloomberg Terminal to the Student Investment Fund (SIF) at the School of Management. McKinley Capital Management, LLC was founded in 1990 by Bob Gillam and is based in Anchorage. They are an independent, institutional investment manager specializing in growth equities.

After his visit in September, where Bob Gillam met with the SIF students and offered some of his own sage investment advice, he decided SOM needed another Bloomberg Terminal. The second terminal provides greater access and has helped every SIF student become more proficient in using Bloomberg’s financial data.

2012 UAF Business Leader of the Year

The UAF School of Management is proud to announce the 2012 Business Leader of the Year: Dan Gavora. Nominated by his peers and chosen by a committee of students, faculty, and previous Business Leaders of the Year, Dan is the 36th recipient of this award. Dan will be joining the ranks of leaders chosen for their business achievements, leadership, community service, and educational support.

Dan has lived in Alaska since his parents moved here when he was less than a year old. Growing up in Fairbanks, Dan learned the value of community involvement at an early age. His parents instilled a strong work ethic and a sense of caring that serves him still today. Dan’s father, Paul Gavora, was the very first Business Leader of the Year recipient in 1977. Dan and Paul are making School of Management history as the first father and son to both receive the Business Leader of the Year award.

Dan Gavora is President/CEO of Doyon Utilities, LLC. For the nearly 10 years before joining Doyon Utilities, LLC, Dan

See GAVORA, page 7
A Letter from the Inside

Choosing a field of study is one of the most difficult choices students face. How do you decide which major is right for you? Do you go with your passion, a lifelong dream, or a career path with a better chance of a job after graduation? For those of us searching for a successful career we can also be passionate about, the School of Management (SOM) is a powerful stepping stone to the professional world.

I’ve lived in Alaska all my life and until recently, I had yet to realize the enormous amount of opportunities Alaska presents for businesses and residents until I became a business administration major. I spent two years at another university as well as a semester abroad. With those experiences in mind, I believe the School of Management is one of the best institutions in the country with intense devotion to excellence and welcoming faculty.

A majority of the SOM faculty have extensive research backgrounds and professional work history with big firms or smaller businesses. This experience is what makes SOM faculty credible sources and knowledgeable instructors. The friendly, open-door atmosphere at SOM is unlike anything I experienced at the other university I attended. The professors and staff here are accessible and always eager to help. A good mentor goes a long way in the development of our education and SOM is chock full of them.

Your gift is vital to the success of students like me and supports experiential learning, student organizations and scholarships. Your support provides students with memories and experiences that will shape the rest of our lives.

Consider giving to the School of Management today.

Visit www.uaf.edu/som/giving.

Jake Hovenden
Class of 2013

SOM student Jake Hovenden shares his perspective.

New Investment Opportunities

A Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) is an investment vehicle which has grown in popularity over the last several years. A REIT uses the pooled capital of many investors to purchase and manage income property and mortgage loans. They generate returns through revenue from leases, mortgages, and selling properties that have appreciated in value. REITs are traded on major exchanges, like stocks, but receive favorable tax treatment and offer attractive dividend payouts.

We are in the initial stage of raising capital to create a REIT fund, offering the opportunity to be part of a groundbreaking trust, one of only a few in the nation housed on a university campus. Gifts to this fund are matched 3-1 by SOM and UAF. Once the REIT is established, funds will be managed by students taking the Real Estate course, led by Professor Craig Wisen. This new fund provides an additional experience similar to the Student Investment Fund, a class which greatly enhances the school’s commitment to experiential learning, and will eventually fund need-based scholarships.

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“There’s a level of accountability when you see $600,000 on the board, and the stock is moving - you’re working for more than just a grade. You have to be accountable to stakeholders. When you’re looking at these equations and the end result, you’re thinking, “This is real money; this is real life.” ”

–P. Craig Millard, Student Investment Fund
Scholarship support is one of the most powerful ways to impact the lives of UAF students. Scholarships open the doors to the future, providing students with the necessary support to fulfill their educational aspirations. Regardless of passion and commitment, students often don’t have the economic means necessary to pursue their dreams. Scholarships reduce the financial uncertainties that may get in the way of a student pursuing his or her academic career.

For the donor, a scholarship gift provides a meaningful way to have your name, or that of another family member, friend, former teacher, or mentor, associated with the UAF School of Management. It is because of generous donors we were able to help 26 students with over $54,000 in private funding this academic year.

You can make a difference!

Your donation helps current and future students prepare for professional success. We are grateful to those who make a difference each year. Whether large or small, gifts to SOM help us offer scholarships, high-quality academic programs, and top faculty.

Invest in students today.

Call Tammy Tragis-McCook (’99,’00) at 907-474-7042, or e-mail her at tammy.tragis@alaska.edu

“I want my children to have the role model I never had growing up; to show them how hard work, perseverance and dedication will change their future. I had an outstanding freshman year at SOM and I’m excited to see what the future holds.” –Rebecca Leivdal
Featured Donor: Northrim Bank

“As a community bank, Northrim’s success is dependent on the strength of Alaska’s economy. The UAF School of Management prepares future generations of Alaskans to understand the fundamentals of economic activity, and to be active participants in the state’s economy. We are proud to support the Northrim Financial Learning Center, which gives students access to powerful tools for active learning.”

—Joe Beedle, President and CEO of Northrim Bank

Northrim Bank, a commercial bank with 10 branches statewide, is deeply committed to community involvement. Every day they show that commitment through active lending programs and support of local programs.

Northrim Bank has generously donated $30,000 a year to the School of Management for the last four years, a total of $120,000. These unrestricted gifts supported the Student Investment Fund (SIF). SIF is one of UAF’s premier programs. Students manage a $100,000 endowment, established in 1991, that is now valued at $650,000. This fund, featured on CNN and in Fortune magazine, is considered one of the top-performing student funds in the United States. Each year, earnings from the fund ($10,000 this academic year) are used for need-based scholarships for SOM students.

The SIF suite was officially named the Northrim Financial Learning Center during a dedication ceremony this fall. With Northrim’s support, we were able to provide state-of-the-art equipment and financial databases used to position the SIF as one of the most valuable experiential learning centers in the state, if not the nation. Additionally, Joe Beedle, SOM alumnus ’75 and Northrim Bank President and CEO, serves on the SIF Board of Directors.

Introducing our two new staff members:

Anita Hughes
MBA Program Coordinator
SOM Assessment Officer

Why did you want to work at the School of Management?
I love working with MBA students. This opportunity allowed me to come back to what I think I do best; recruiting and advising. I’m also analytical beyond belief so the assessment part of the job appealed to me.

What do you like about Alaska?
I like the “bigness”. Big, majestic scenery and wildlife. I was born in Southeast Alaska but had never been to the Interior, so after being raised in Oregon, this was something to try - an adventure.

What makes you a great asset to the SOM team?
I bring experience with other MBA programs from other places. I think diversity of perspectives is a great thing for any program. I’m pretty easy to get along with and I’m a workaholic - I hope that’s an asset!

If you could time travel, what useful advice would you give your college student self?
Stop listening to the party line about everyone hating math and not being able to do it and just learn it. Lots of it. There have been so many things I got interested in later in life where a solid foundation in math would have been so helpful.

Hope Bickmeier
Project Coordinator for the Northern Leadership Center

Why did you want to work at the School of Management?
SOM has a reputation for being both community- and student-centered. I wanted to join a department where I could be part of UAF as well as an active member of the Fairbanks community. The NLC will allow me to work directly with students and leaders throughout Fairbanks and Alaska.

What do you like about Alaska?
There’s breathtaking beauty, fascinating people, and more events taking place than I could ever attend. I’ve lived a lot of places and I’m convinced that Fairbanks has more to offer than any other town its size anywhere.

What makes you a great asset to the SOM team?
I bring a passion for my work and I fully believe in the NLC’s mission. I’m eager to help develop some of Alaska’s future leaders while promoting the exceptional education offered by SOM.

If you could time travel, what useful advice would you give your college student self?
Besides telling myself to get rid of every pair of tapered jeans I owned at the time, I would encourage myself to keep an open mind about opportunities in life. What a blessing that I didn’t get everything I wanted during my college years! Happiness and success can sometimes be found in the most unlikely places.
Faculty Spotlight

Charlie Sparks

A professor of Accounting at SOM, as well as Accounting Program Chair, Charlie received his BBA at UAF, and his MA and Ph.D. at the University of Iowa. Charlie was born in Alaska and has lived here all his life. Charlie enjoys the outdoors - camping, hiking, fishing, hunting, picking berries, you name it. He particularly enjoys the spectacular mountains and the wilderness.

Why did you choose to specialize in Accounting?
My first accounting instructor was the legendary Tom Bartlett. His was one of the first courses I took at UAF that really engaged and challenged me. As I progressed through the accounting program, I discovered it was a career path with many options, offering significant professional opportunities for advancement. I knew it was the “fast track” to top management.

What is your favorite class to teach?
I would have to say Accounting Information Systems—it is the foundation for most of what accountants do every day. It requires a strong understanding of the principles of internal control and the ability to critically apply these principles in a variety of contexts and entities.

What advice do you have for current students?
Hold off on getting that neck tattoo until you’re established in your career! Seriously, study hard and develop an understanding rather than just focusing on grades. By making connections between courses and your professional career, you develop more intellectually and have a stronger career focus.

Alumni Focus

Keith Bartusch

Keith Bartusch is Vice President of Denali State Bank. He graduated from the UAF School of Management in 2005 with a Bachelor of Business Administration.

Tell us about a memorable teacher or class.
My most memorable teacher was Dr. Susan Herman who taught Organizational Theory and Behavior. Dr. Herman had a presence about her that made me just want to stop everything and listen to what she had to say. Her ability to communicate and listen was perfect. Not a day goes by in my everyday work habitat, where I don’t reflect upon something that was preached about in Organizational Theory and Behavior by Dr. Susan Herman.

What is your favorite campus memory?
My favorite campus memory was playing hockey for the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Every time I put the gold and blue on to play, I wasn’t just representing myself as an athlete, but representing the entire University.

What does being an UAF alum mean to you?
One, its unique and different. Whenever someone outside of Alaska asks me where I went to school, and I tell them I am a UAF alum, they are automatically intrigued and want to know more. Being a UAF alum automatically separates myself from the Lower-48 pack.

What advice would you give to current students?
The same advice I received from previous students. Enjoy every day and appreciate everything UAF has to offer, because your college days go by extremely fast. Boy that is the truth!

Book you are currently reading? Outliers by Malcom Gladwell
Your last music download? Pearl Jam - best band ever. Not my opinion, but a fact.
What's on your bucket list? Play a round of golf at Pebble Beach or Augusta National
What inspires you? My two sons, Owen and Nolan. They inspire me to work hard and set good examples so I can provide for them, as well as mentor them through their life experiences.

SOM professor Charlie Sparks shows off his King Salmon.

“UAF is one of the best-kept secrets around! It offers top quality degree programs with excellent faculty and personalized attention—and at an exceptional value relative to other universities.”

SOM alumni Keith Bartusch holds his youngest son, Nolan.
Lemonade Day: A sweet opportunity for students and kids

Associated Students of Business (ASB) is organizing the very first Fairbanks edition of Lemonade Day Alaska on Sunday, May 6, 2012. Lemonade Day is a free, fun, experiential learning program that teaches K-12 youth how to start, own and operate their own business – a lemonade stand. The objective of Lemonade Day Alaska is to give children of all socioeconomic backgrounds the opportunity to learn about starting their own business.

With your help, we plan to impact 3,500 kids in Alaska. The children will learn creative ways to earn money, invest it, and give it back to others. The real payoff will be years down the road, but the effects of teaching financial literacy are immediate. Together we can build Alaska’s future by strengthening foundations today.

Lemonade Day! Alaska

3rd Annual Arctic Innovation Competition

The School of Management awarded over $19,000 in cash prizes Friday, October 21st after the final round of presentations in the 2011 Arctic Innovation Competition (AIC).

The AIC, in its third year, drew 218 ideas from 163 competitors. Entrants were asked to propose new, feasible, and potentially profitable ideas for solving real-life problems and challenges.

Semi-finalists include Sabrina Yarsley, a mother-of-two soon to be a mother-of-three; a UAF mechanical engineer, one of two competitors named Tom Johnson; and 1958 UAF alumnus 91-year-old Edward Ashby, the oldest competitor so far. This year’s intriguing ideas included: heated trailer brakes, a bathtub assisting device, a text message system for public transportation, an energy-saving exhaust vent cover and a temporary tattoo that help prevents sunburns.

The competition was fierce, but making it through three comprehensive rounds of blind screening and the guest judge panel to emerge at the top were:

• $10,000 winner: Billy Koitszch & Bob Ostrom, HyrdoHeater
• $5,000 winner: Jeremiah Costly, Reciprocating File
• $2,000 winner: Fr. Joshua Resnick & Seraphim McGann, Power-Dense Motor for Marine Applications
• $1,000 winner: Edward Ashby, Individual Assisting Device for Bathtubs

Visit www.arcticinno.com for more information, including pictures and a complete list of judges and contestants.

Get ready for AIC 2012!
The submission deadline is September 30th and the final showdown will be held on October 19th.

SOM Dean Herrmann (far left) visits the ASB Lemonade Day Alaska booth at the 2011 Tanana Valley State Fair.

Dahlia, age 5, helps her family sell lemonade at a Rotary meeting to spread the word about Lemonade Day Alaska.

UAF Photo by Maureen McCombs

UAF Photo by Rebecca Hurbi

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Fall 2011 Guest Speakers

Dr. Pablo Blesa
SWEET Guest Speaker Series

SOM student organization Students Who Enjoy Economic Thinking (SWEET) hosted guest speaker Dr. Pablo Blesa this past September. Dr. Blesa is an expert in political relations between Europe and the Arab world. His academic disciplines are in history, political science, and journalism, and he has been a visiting scholar at Berkeley.

While visiting the UAF campus, Dr. Blesa gave two presentations of “European Debt Crisis” where he discussed the financial challenges facing the European Union.

Nikolai Wenzel
SWEET Guest Speaker Series

SOM student organization Students Who Enjoy Economic Thinking also hosted guest speaker Nikolai Wenzel this past December. Nikolai Wenzel, Ph.D. is a visiting Assistant Professor of Economics at Florida Gulf Coast University, and is on leave from the Wallace and Marion Reemelin Chair in Free-Market Economics at Hillsdale College. His research focuses primarily on constitutional political economy, philosophy and economics, and wine economics.

This is his second visit to the UAF campus, and Wenzel gave two presentations of “Prices, Information, and Incentives: Microfoundations of the Financial Crisis” where he discussed the origins of the U.S. economic downturn.
SOM student Shelby Carlson shares what she’s looking forward to this semester.