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<td>Julie Biddle</td>
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<td>Edwin Bifelt</td>
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<td>Agatha Erickson</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Herzner</td>
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<td>Jamie James</td>
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<td>Tara McGrogan</td>
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<td>William Paneak</td>
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<td>Abigail Scannell Riggs</td>
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<td>Mary Weinard</td>
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</tbody>
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Since 2009, **25 students** have received **$230,000** in awards from the Alyeska Pipeline Service Company Alaska Native Scholarship.

The UAF mascot is the **Nanook**, a derivation of “nanuq,” the Inupiaq Eskimo word for polar bear.

### Estimated Annual School Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Freshmen (30 credits)</th>
<th>Juniors (30 credits)</th>
<th>Graduate Students (18 credits)</th>
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<td>Tuition and Fees</td>
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<td>Annual Total</td>
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Janice Agwiak  

Janice is currently pursuing her undergraduate degree in business management. Janice is motivated by her daughters and hopes that by attending college she sets a strong example for them. She also wants to show them that scholarships are a way to complete college.

Janice didn’t spend time reading while growing up, and attending college wasn’t a priority that was impressed upon her. Life in the village was very simple and she longed for her independence. She left her village to attend college full-time and to explore a different place.

In 2004, she received an award from the UAF for an outstanding student of the year at the Kuskokwim Campus. As she attended college full-time, she was also hired as the First National Bank of Alaska branch manager’s assistant.

Janice has worked hard for her independence, and now realizes it’s okay to see the world differently than her parents. She feels a college degree will help her get a better paying job and will set a solid foundation for her and her daughters. Her education and her daughters’ educations are her priority.
Agatha Erickson  
Spring 2016, Fall 2015, Spring 2012, Fall 2011

Agatha received her undergraduate degree in Native American studies with a focus on Alaska government and law from Dartmouth College. Agatha is Koyukon Athabascan and grew up in Hoonah. Agatha’s father is a teacher with a certification from UAF. Agatha and her mother received their BAs at the same time, and each flew thousands of miles to see the other graduate.

After working for three years at the Tanana Chiefs Conference, Agatha was named Rural Liaison for the Office of Senator Mark Begich in 2012. In 2014, she began working for Alaskans for Begich, helping to build and oversee one of the largest rural field campaigns in Alaska’s history. Since leaving the campaign, she has continued working for Mark Begich at his newly formed consulting firm Northern Compass Group as the Director of Indigenous and Rural Affairs.

Agatha is now returning to complete her MBA because she believes the skills she will gain are necessary to move forward in her chosen field of public policy and law. After earning her MBA, Agatha plans to attend law school. Between these two degrees, she believes she will possess the knowledge and skills to make a positive impact on Alaska policy and political leadership.

Elizabeth Herzner  
Spring 2017, Fall 2016, Spring 2016, Fall 2015

Beth is a first generation college student who is currently working on her bachelor’s degree in business administration. She is also pursuing a UAF Co-Curricular Opportunities for Leadership Development Certificate and is part of the Honors program. She relishes the learning environment and plans to be a lifelong student by taking courses, attending lectures, or researching topics on YouTube. Beth plans to obtain her Certified Public Accountant certification and then attend law school after graduating from UAF, so she can practice law for her family’s reindeer ranch in Nome.

Beth is mostly Inupiaq Eskimo and with some German heritage. She grew up very sheltered without experiencing the mayhem most of the world experiences. Her father would often mention how beautiful the mountains are and how lucky the family is to live in Alaska. Beth grew up with traditional Inupiaq values, her favorite being that we should care for one another in this world and offer each other help whenever it’s needed and without reserve.

Shannon Demientieff  
Spring 2016, Fall 2015

Shannon is pursuing an undergraduate degree in accounting from the School of Management. She currently works full time as an administrative assistant doing work management and cost controls for the Alyeska Pipeline Service Company. When Shannon finishes her degree, she plans to apply for a business analyst or cost assistant position with the company.

Shannon is motivated by her husband and her two beautiful daughters. This scholarship relieves the financial stress of paying for her college courses. Shannon was raised in a traditional subsistence hunting and gathering lifestyle, with winters spent in township and summers in camps. Her strong work ethic and dedication are results of this upbringing, and these values foster success in her personal and professional pursuits.

Shannon believes that the harder you work towards your goals, the more personal satisfaction you will feel, and also that working together as a team is vital to the outcome of the workforce.
Jamie James

Jamie is a part-time student working towards her undergraduate degree in accounting; she plans on graduating in the spring of 2018. She currently works as an accounting coordinator, which is providing her with experience in the accounting field while furthering her classroom knowledge. Her job also offers advancement opportunities and she hopes once she gets her degree, she will be able move up within the company once she qualifies for senior positions.

Jamie comes from a large family and lived in Bethel. She says that when you grow up in a village, you never really think of college or careers. But, when her mom decided to attend UAF and earn a teaching degree, Jamie realized that she also wanted to pursue educational and career goals. With motivation and support from family and friends, Jamie applied to UAF and was accepted. She applied for the Alyeska Pipeline Native Scholarship because of its reputation and because she could not afford college without it. Since she is also a mother, Jamie wants to be able to show her children they can grow up to be whatever they want to be, just like she is doing.

Beau McClain

Beau is a senior finishing up the final year of his undergraduate degree in accounting. He is a first generation college graduate, fulfilling a lifetime goal of his. A roofing career was the initial plan for Beau, but after a few years in the industry he realized that growth opportunities were limited. He believes education is important and even after stumbling in his first attempt at college, Beau is proud of how far he has come. Once his degree is completed, he plans to begin testing for the Certified Public Accountant exam. Beau hopes to work for a well-established public accounting firm in Anchorage.

His family background is diverse, as his parents had divorced by the time he was three. His father’s side of the family are gold miners in Fairbanks and his mother stayed in the Anchorage area, where he and his brother would often visit. She would take them to do more traditional Alaskan activities, such as camping, hiking, and fishing.

Coming from a blended family has given Beau the opportunity to develop relationships in a unique way. He believes family is what you make of it and values the close ties developed throughout life. Beau views Alaska as a unique place that is vast and huge, yet small and personal with the connections that are made.

Tara McGroghan

Tara completed her undergraduate degree in business administration with a minor in music performance in the spring of 2016. She is currently pursuing her MBA at UAF. After working at the Tanana Chiefs Conference for three years in client development, she helped with various youth programs and work initiatives to lower the rate of Native families on public assistance. This insight into real problems in rural communities has shaped both her academic and her career choices. Tara is confident that with a degree in business administration, she will be able to pursue her career goals to better serve these local communities.

Born and raised in Fairbanks, Tara is the youngest in her family and is currently the only one who is working on a college degree. Her parents are hard workers and provided a nurturing environment for Tara while she was growing up. Her family was always there to support her in whatever she chose to do and she learned many things from them. Her mom taught her about Native culture, which in turn taught Tara how to be compassionate towards people who may be struggling in life.
William Paneak

William is a full-time student working on his undergraduate business administration degree with a concentration in finance; he plans on graduating in 2016. He is proud to say that because of scholarships he was able to complete his freshman year debt free. He hopes to graduate debt free by receiving more scholarships. William completed an internship with Petro Star and will continue his internship next summer. He hopes to gain more experience with this company and move up through its corporate ranks.

Born in Fairbanks, William is half Inupiaq Eskimo. He grew up hearing stories from his maternal grandfather and paternal grandmother about the hardships they faced struggling to feed their families in the winter. His grandmother was the mother of five boys and always had to worry about stretching money to make sure all her children were fed. As he listened to these stories, William learned valuable lessons and morals. Lessons like being thankful for what he has being the most important thing for him to remember. William hopes to use his degree and every other resource he has to make sure his future grandchildren will not have to worry about the same struggles as his grandparents did.

Michaela Murphrey

Michaela is currently working on her bachelor’s degree in emergency management through the Homeland Security and Emergency Management program. She is also a student intern with the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation’s Alyeska Pipeline Division.

This award provides Michaela a sense of confidence that Alyeska Pipeline has decided to invest in her future, a future that involves her investing back into the company by applying her skills and knowledge from her degree coursework.

Michaela’s father possesses outstanding compassion and dedication, as well as the traditional Inupiaq values of respect, communal society, and hunting traditions, and Michaela holds herself to these same important values. From her mother she learned compassion, humility, and the importance of family and kinship. In addition, her mother’s work as a UAF Rural Student Services advisor taught her patience. Both of her parents have given her different perspectives on how her education can make a difference on their cultural background for the future. She believes in the ASRC Energy Services vision statement: Honoring the values of our founders as we develop the future.

Casandra Nashookpuk

Casandra is currently working on her undergraduate degree in accounting. After graduation, she plans to attend more classes until she has enough credits to test for the Certified Public Accountant exam. Her educational end goal is a master’s degree in accounting. She is currently looking for a job or internship to gain experience in the accounting field.

Casandra was raised by her father’s parents - Aapa (grandpa) and Aaka (grandma) are what she called them in Inupiaq - in Point Hope. As a young child, her grandmother would encourage her to be a better student in school. Aaka had dreams of Casandra going to college getting a job that would provide for her and her family. Unfortunately, Cassandra’s grandparents passed away before she completed high school and she was basically living on her own. Although she had a few bumps after high school, Cassandra is well on her way to obtaining her degree and beginning a career. She will be the first ever in her family on either side to obtain a degree and is looking forward to a promising career, motivated by her three beautiful children to stay on course.
Selina Sam  Spring 2016, Fall 2015, Spring 2015, Fall 2014, Spring 2014

Selina recently changed her major from business administration to rural development; she expects to graduate in 2016. She is honored to have received this award and thankful for the help moving her education forward. Selina strives to challenge herself and understands her hard work now will allow more business opportunities in the future.

Growing up in rural Alaska has given Selina a love for being outdoors with her family. During her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family while going moose hunting and berry picking. During the winters, she can be seen riding her snow machine to her family cabin where they recently began trapping. Selina also embraces her Alaska Native culture through her dance group and by making beaded sun catchers. She was crowned Miss Nuchalawayya in 2012.

Selina appreciates Tanana’s close-knit community and wishes to stay close to where she grew up. Choosing to enroll at UAF allowed Selina to visit home more frequently, such as this past summer when she returned to Tanana to complete four online courses from home. Selina hopes that with her degree, she can begin to improve communities around Alaska.

Sonja Sommer  Spring 2016, Fall 2015

Sonja is a part-time student working on her undergraduate business administration degree with a focus on general business; she plans to graduate in May 2016. She also holds an associate’s degree in accounting. As she completes school, she also is working in the business field as a receptionist and administrative assistant to gain experience. Sonja hopes that with the completion of her degree she will be able to begin moving up the ranks in the business world.

Sonja was born and raised in Fairbanks and her single mother was a great influence on her. Although her mother didn’t have the chance to finish her college degree, she was able to show her daughter the importance of education. Also beginning school as a single mother, Sonja will be the first person on her mother’s side to finish a college degree and only the fourth out of more than 30 cousins on her father’s side to do so. Sonja wants to show her daughter the importance of a college education, just like her mother did for her. Sonja knows that having a college degree will open many doors in the job market and she can’t wait to put her degree to excellent use.

Amber Vaska  Spring 2016, Fall 2015, Spring 2015, Fall 2014

Amber is currently working on her undergraduate degree at UAF with a focus on business administration and expects to graduate in May 2018. With her degree, she hopes to influence the Native healthcare system to create a healthier future for all Alaska Natives.

Amber’s family moved to the rural village of Aniak when she was in the 5th grade. Growing up in Aniak, Amber absorbed the Yup’ik culture through subsistence fishing, berry picking, and hunting. Furthermore, this experience opened her eyes to her passion of the Alaska Native games. Amber believes these experiences have influenced her toward a career that will allow her to give back to the community that has provided her with so much.

Now an adult and mother of a beautiful son, Amber faces the challenges of balancing life as a full time mom, student, and employee in order to fulfill her goal of giving back to the community. Today, she remains active as an athlete in the World Eskimo Indian Olympics (WEIO) and the Arctic Winter Games. Amber also volunteers at the Fairbanks Rescue Mission and Fairbanks Senior Olympics, and helps to raise funds for the Effie Kokrine Native Charter School.
Mary Weinard

Mary is currently a full-time student working on her undergraduate degree in business administration; she plans on graduating in May 2016. She hopes this degree will increase her chances of being hired and provide her with the knowledge and expertise so she can do her job well.

Mary was born and raised in Alaska. No one in her immediate family has ever attended college, which makes her a soon-to-be first generation college graduate.

By getting her degree, she hopes to inspire others in her home village and region to pursue college degrees, as well. She leads by example by exploring opportunities that could lead to great rewards down the road.

Once Mary graduates, she hopes to start her career in Anchorage at the NANA Regional Corporation, Inc., the native corporation of which she is a member.

Chalisa Attla

Chalisa completed her B.B.A. in accounting in December 2014. She plans to become a Certified Public Accountant while pursuing her MBA. Chalisa works at Robinson & Ward and hopes one day to work as a CPA for the Native community.

Chalisa is the first in her family to attend college. As a child of the foster care system familiar with instability, she created her own foundation attending boarding school in Galena, becoming an athlete and graduating with honors. She believes it doesn’t matter where you come from, as long as you’ve learned from past circumstances and push forward to improve, you can go anywhere. Chalisa is very appreciative of everyone who reached out and showed compassion to her when she needed guidance.

Chalisa is a Koyukon Athabascan originally from Hughes. She is a proud mother to her son and wants to be a good role model for him. Chalisa hopes to be an inspiration that anything is possible if you put your mind to it. She feels honored and very grateful for the opportunity to pursue her educational goals.

Kayla Bishop

Kayla received her accounting degree after graduating in May 2015. She would like to become a certified public accountant and is considering a master’s degree.

Kayla believes her family is the driving force behind her academic success. Her parents have largely influenced her world views and have always encouraged education as a top priority. College was never optional for Kayla; it was definite. Now that she has her degree, she hopes to help improve the lives of Alaskans everywhere.

Kayla was the Vice President of the UAF accounting organization, Great Alaskan Accounting People (GAAP). She also regularly volunteered for the Volunteer Income Tax Association program. Kayla volunteered for the Business Leader of the Year event for two years. Kayla also helps out with the Circle K organization, which promotes fellowship and leadership skills in college students.
Nadine Carroll

Nadine received her MBA degree in 2015. As a first generation college student in her family, Nadine wanted to set an example for others to follow.

Nadine has been a Tribal Administrator for the Birch Creek Tribal Council for the past three years and has previously been employed with Alaska Native businesses and organizations including Doyon, Ltd. and Interior Regional Housing Authority.

Growing up in the small village of Fort Yukon, Nadine has faced many challenges living in rural Alaska. Now a mother and professional adult, she wants to keep her childhood values, such as the importance of education and culture, strong in order to serve as a role model to others in her community.

Nadine credits her success towards furthering her education to her parents, whom always worked hard to give unconditional love and support. She plans on giving the same amount of support towards her own child.

Lynn Church

Lynn received her undergraduate degree in business administration and graduated in May 2015. After graduation, she plans to continue her education in the MBA program.

Growing up in Alaska, Lynn understands the need for a well-educated workforce and believes her passion for business will help her succeed.

Raised in rural Alaska, Lynn faced many obstacles with her education, including her struggle with a learning disability. As a child, she was frequently labeled as being “special” by her teachers, which only drove her to try harder. After refusing to let her disability control her life, Lynn is working towards being the first college graduate in her family.

Lynn credits her success of overcoming her learning disability to her family, whom she believes gave her hope for the future. Family members like her Uncle Larry inspired her to make education a top priority and challenged her fears of failure. Lynn’s family has given her a sense of strength that will help her succeed in earning her degree and propel her towards a career in business after graduating.

Julie Biddle

Julie received her undergraduate degree in business economics at the University of California Santa Barbara in 1995. After earning her degree, Julie went to work for Doyon, Limited. Julie chose to continue building her business skills by pursuing her MBA degree with an emphasis in capital markets at the UAF School of Management. She graduated in May of 2014 as a member of the Golden Key International Honor Society.

Julie is from Fort Yukon. She graduated from Lathrop High School in Fairbanks. Julie is proud of her Native heritage; her late mother was Gwich’in and her father is Navajo. Being a first generation college graduate, Julie recognizes the importance of education and strives to be a good student and role model for her children by continually seeking out opportunities for learning and development. Julie is currently a financial analyst with Doyon, Limited.
Jennifer Maguire Adams

Jennifer received her undergraduate degree in English with minors in applied business and Alaska Native studies in 2004. She earned her MBA in fall 2013, thanks to the Alyeska Pipeline Alaska Native Scholarship.

Jennifer and her family have a long history at UAF. Her late father, Bob Maguire, earned his M.A. in education from UAF and worked as a teacher and principal for 30 years throughout Alaska before he finally retired, worked at the Doyon Foundation, and retired again. Her mother, Cora Maguire earned her B.A. in education and worked as an elementary teacher and in other educational positions across Alaska for many years. Her sister, Gail, earned her nursing degree from UAF and works as an R.N. at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital and her brother, Jeremy, earned a wildlife biology degree from UAF and now works for Seattle Public Schools in Seattle, Washington. In July 2015, Jennifer married UAF alumnus Fred Adams, who earned his aviation maintenance degree at UAF and works as superintendent of quality assurance for the Air National Guard at Eielson AFB.

Jennifer says she is forever grateful and would not have completed her graduate degree without the Alyeska Pipeline Alaska Native Scholarship. In April 2015, Jennifer accepted the position of director of planning and development at Fairbanks Native Association.

Edwin Bifelt

Edwin received his undergraduate degree in business administration with a concentration in finance in 2008. He graduated with his MBA in May 2013. He now owns Zane Hills Capital, his own consulting firm offering strategic planning and land management services.

Edwin is from Huslia, where his mother and father, Audrey and Fred Lee, as well as his siblings, Josephine, Leona, LeAnne, Joseph, and Edward, still live. Edwin is Koyukon Athabaskan and is the first college graduate in his immediate family.

As a student, Edwin worked at K'oyit'lots’ina, Limited where he oversaw shareholder relations and land management. After graduation, Edwin launched his own company called Zane Hills Capital. When not working, Edwin enjoys hunting, trapping, and camping.

Edwin says receiving the scholarship was an exciting opportunity that allowed him to focus on school instead of worrying about educational expenses. He said it was an honor to receive the award and know that organizations such as Alyeska Pipeline Service Company support students like him.

Rodney Carpluk

Rodney earned his undergraduate degree in economics with a minor in business administration in May of 2014. He is currently pursuing his M.S. in resource and economics at UAF.

Rodney was born in Bethel, Alaska and spent much of his childhood in Mt. Village. Growing up in rural Alaska, Rodney realized the importance of family and culture. This shaped his current values of hard work, respect for others and taking opportunities that are offered.

Rodney spends most of his time studying and spending time with his family. When he has time, Rodney volunteers at soup kitchens, community trash pickups and food banks. He enjoys participating in the World Indian Eskimo Olympics and Alaska Native basketball tournaments.

Rodney is the younger brother to Nelson Carpluk, former Alyeska Pipeline Scholarship recipient and current Alyeska Pipeline Service Company employee. Rodney and Nelson have the distinction of being the first two siblings to be awarded this scholarship.
Rachel Roy

Rachel received her B.B.A. in accounting at the UAF School of Management and graduated with her MBA in 2011. Rachel currently works as the senior corporate tax accountant at Doyon, Limited. Her long-term goal is to be CFO at one of the Alaska Native corporations, and she is well on her way.

Family has remained an important part of Abigail’s life. The first person she told after receiving the scholarship was her husband, Rob, and she says she couldn't have succeeded without the support of her family. Together, Rob and Abigail have a son, Timothy, named after Abigail’s father. They also have a baby girl named Adrianna.

Abigail is thankful for the support she has received from the community. Being awarded this scholarship was the deciding factor in Abigail pursuing her MBA, and she looks forward to giving back to future students.

Nelson Carpluk

Nelson received his BBA in Finance from UAF in May 2009. He chose to pursue his MBA because he felt motivated to further his education. After graduating with his MBA in December 2010, Nelson was hired as a business analyst at Alyeska Pipeline Service Company. His hobbies include basketball, hiking and traveling.

Nelson was born in Bethel and has two younger siblings, Rodney and Joanna. He was raised in Mountain Village, where his mom, Lenora, was born. The Carpluk family moved to Fairbanks in 1992 when Nelson was in first grade so that Lenora could finish her education and the kids could attend school. Nelson went from living in a village with 800 people to attending an elementary school with 600 children. He attended Monroe Junior and Senior High School. Both his parents have degrees from UAF and Lenora currently works for UA Statewide recruiting rural teachers.
Tara McGrogan graduated from UAF in May 2016 with a BBA in marketing and a minor in music performance; she is currently pursuing her MBA at the School of Management. Tara interned with Alyeska Pipeline Service Company’s department of Corporate Communications in the summer of 2016.

“I had heard about Alyeska’s great relationship with its employees, and it was one of the reasons I applied for the internship. I was immediately drawn to the corporate culture. They have core attributes each employee embraces and integrates into their daily routine. Every employee is treated as a vital part of the organization.

Working in the communications department allowed me to sharpen my writing skills and produce content for the monthly newsletter. I was able to meet people in the engineering, environmental, and health and safety departments and learn how to communicate information that they provided – including steps Alyeska takes to make its daily operations efficient, safe for employees, and friendly toward wildlife and surroundings.

I received the best piece of advice on my first day from Alyeska’s President Thomas Barrett: What a student gets out of an internship is entirely up to them. Make the decision to learn as much as the company is willing to teach, because an internship is an excellent opportunity to ask questions and learn about a potential career.”