

# CHANCELLORS REPORT

UAF CHANCELLOR DANIEL M. WHITE

On Philanthropy

WINTER 2017

## HELGA AND BILL WATTERSON - NANOOKS FOR LIFE



Bill and Helga Watterson - UAF sweethearts, alumni, and donors.

themselves. UAF's modest campus, small classes and friendliness simply fit them both. While on campus, Helga studied sociology and french and Bill gained experience as a starting player on the Nanook basketball team while earning a degree in engineering. Bill and Helga agree that if they were to do it again, "we would not do anything different."

It all started at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks, where two wide-eyed kids from Berlin and Western Washington met. "UAF was our matchmaker and provided us the confidence to continue our education and found Watterson Construction. After more than 52 years, we are the best of friends," said Bill. Helga and Bill Watterson have a special connection to UAF. Although Helga and Bill found each other at UAF, before that they each found

The Wattersons were married in May 1965, and set a goal to continue their educations in California. In 1967, Helga completed her bachelor's in sociology from San Jose State University, and Bill earned a master's in Construction Management from Stanford University. Bill's Seattle-based contractor work took them to Thailand, Fairbanks, Arizona and Juneau. January 1972 saw them returning to Anchorage,

where Helga became a flight attendant for Wien Airlines. In 1981, they founded Watterson Construction, which Helga joined as office manager in 1986.

Helga's penchant for travel is infectious, and together, they have been to Africa four times. They celebrated their 50th anniversary at Victoria Falls in May 2015. Throughout their worldwide travels, Bill and Helga always seem to keep a special place for the Golden Heart City.

Helga and Bill have supported UAF for decades. Most recently, to celebrate UAF's centennial, they gave to the College of Engineering and Mines Building Enhancement Fund, Nanook Men's Basketball, and the Charles C. Georgeson Botanical Garden.

For more information on how to give, please visit: [www.uaf.edu/giving/ways/](http://www.uaf.edu/giving/ways/)

## UCM SUPPORTS EMPLOYEES

Usibelli Coal Mine recently made a generous gift to UAF's new heat and power plant. This gift will support the dedicated staff who work hard behind the scenes to maintain the quality of life on campus for UAF students and faculty.

The new facility will replace the current heat and power plant, built in 1964. Usibelli Coal

Mine recognized the need for support beyond the classroom and generously gave towards this project, set to be complete by fall 2018. Usibelli's gift will improve the work spaces of the dedicated staff who keep UAF warm and plugged in.

This powerful gift is one of many examples of Usibelli's generosity. Usibelli Coal Mine has six named scholarships and an award for faculty excellence, and has also avidly supported many capital projects across UAF, from the

UA Museum of the North to the Engineering Learning and Innovation Facility. The Usibelli Coal Mine and the Usibelli family continuously invest in the Fairbanks community, earning recognition as UAF Philanthropists of the Century.

UAF is grateful for our enduring friendships and the generous donors who make this community such a special place.



## VetMed honored with new scholarship



Dr. Stuve, Valerie Stuve, and Dr. Tom Welsh share a hug in Fairbanks

In honor of Dr. Val Stuve's contributions and commitment to veterinary medicine in Alaska and his 43-plus years in the field, friends and family established the Dr. Val D. Stuve Scholarship for Veterinary Medicine. This scholarship will provide critical support for UAF students studying in the 2+2 VetMed Program, a partnership with Colorado State University. Dr. Stuve's wife, Valerie, and longtime friend, Dr. Tom Welsh BS UAF '79 and DVM CSU '84 of Fort Collins, Colorado announced the scholarship endowment during the Alaska State Veterinary Medical Association Symposium on Oct. 9 in Fairbanks. In conjunction with the symposium, friends, family, faculty and students gathered at a luncheon to celebrate Dr. Stuve's impact on veterinary medicine, and many gave generously to the scholarship.

To give to the Dr. Val D. Stuve Scholarship for Veterinary Medicine, please visit [www.uaf.edu/giving/Final-Stuve-Endowment-Contribution-Card-for-web.pdf](http://www.uaf.edu/giving/Final-Stuve-Endowment-Contribution-Card-for-web.pdf)

## SAVE THE DATE

Blue and Gold Gala  
Feb. 9, 2018

Visit [www.uaf.edu/chancellor/gala/](http://www.uaf.edu/chancellor/gala/) for updates on ticket information and partnership opportunities!

## Of Note

Rambabu Pothina, the first student funded by the Mining Engineering Research

Endowment, defended his doctoral degree dissertation on Oct. 31. Kinross Fort Knox and Sumitomo Metal Mining Pogo created the endowment. “Neither this line of research ... nor Rambabu’s Ph.D. would be possible without the endowment,” said Rajive Ganguli, professor of mining engineering and Pothina’s advisor. “Since the topic is cutting edge, it is very possible that his research will bring opportunities, such as commercialization, or contracts from mining companies.”

“Without the support from the Mining Engineering Research Endowment, this would have not been possible. I am deeply indebted to the generosity of Sumitomo and Kinross in supporting the endowment,” Rambabu said. Congratulations, Rambabu!



Rambabu defends his dissertation. (Photo by Rajive Ganguli)

## REI - INSPIRING GIRLS

REI – an internationally renowned outfitter – recently chose Inspiring Girls Expeditions to share in its \$1 million initiative to create more opportunities for women and girls in the outdoors. Inspiring Girls was one of 26 programs chosen from among 500 applicants.

Aimed at encouraging participation in the outdoors as a “place to opt out of cultural pressures to conform” the REI 2017 Force of Nature Fund is supporting equal access and equipage for women and girls.

Each year an expedition team of 8-9 teenage girls and 3 instructors spend 12 days exploring and learning about glaciers and the alpine or marine environment. Through scientific field studies with professional glaciologists, ecologists, artists and mountaineers, teams build critical thinking skills, gain self-confidence and make lasting friendships.

Congratulations, Inspiring Girls!

To learn more about the Inspiring Girls Expedition program, visit [www.inspiringgirls.org/](http://www.inspiringgirls.org/). To find out more about Force of Nature or REI’s class offerings, visit [www.rei.com/h/force-of-nature](http://www.rei.com/h/force-of-nature).

Photo courtesy Laura Andrich, Girls on Ice 2008.



## 9th Arctic Innovation Competition a success

The School of Management’s ninth Arctic Innovation Competition, which wrapped up at Wedgewood Resort on Oct. 21, was a huge success and drew far more entries than the previous year.

Submissions in the junior division (ages 13-17) went from five last year to 57 this year, with most entries involving more than one student. Many Interior Alaska schools assigned AIC projects in their extended learning program courses. Main event winners included

entries from Utqiagvik and Ohio. Thank you to AIC’s many supporters, listed at <http://arcticinno.com/>. You can also learn more about the AIC at that site.



Young contestants receive congratulations during the 2017 Arctic Innovation Competition event Oct. 21 while School of Management Dean Mark Herrmann enjoys the moment. Photo courtesy SOM.

## ELIF OPENING



Students pass by the new engineering building.

The ribbon cutting ceremony for the Engineering Learning and Innovation Facility on Dec. 8, 2017, marks the official opening of the state-of-the-art building.

This project was made possible through the steadfast support of corporate and private partners and the dedicated staff and faculty of UAF. Thank you to BP, ConocoPhillips Alaska, Usibelli Coal Mine, and all of our ELIF supporters!

To learn more about ELIF, visit: [uaf.edu/giving/centennial-initiatives/acp-celebrate/index.xml](http://uaf.edu/giving/centennial-initiatives/acp-celebrate/index.xml)

## Achievements

This report reflect gifts and donations totalling \$25,000 or more to the University of Alaska Fairbanks between July 26 and October 31, 2017.

### CORPORATE

**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GROUP** gave a vehicle to the Community and Technical College’s Automotive Technology program.

**CONOCO PHILLIPS ALASKA** gave to the ConocoPhillips UAF Engineering Endowment fund to support students in the College of Engineering and Mines.

### INDIVIDUAL

The late **GRACE BERG SCHAIBLE '49, '91** gave to the Schaible Health Care Services Scholarship fund and KUAC.

The late **PETER GALLI '51** established the Peter E Galli Memorial Economic Geology Scholarship Endowment and the Peter E Galli Memorial Veteran Scholarship Endowment.

The late **ROBERT KRANICH '63** made a bequest to UAF’s Engineering Scholarships.

**GLENNA WOOD** gave to the Glenna Wood Excellence in Systems Integration and Analytics fund.

### FOUNDATION

The **BERING SEA RESEARCH FISHERIES FOUNDATION** gave to the Alaska Crab Research fund.

The **BERNARD OSHER FOUNDATION** gave to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

### LEGACY SOCIETY

The Legacy Society recognizes donors who have made provisions to include UAF in their estate plans. New members include **PETER GALLI '51** and **ROBERT KRANICH '63**.

## SAVE THE DATE

**Governor’s Cup  
Dec. 9, 2017**

Join us at a pre-game reception for this ice-cold tradition, held at Strategies 360 from 4:30 - 6 p.m. in Anchorage. RSVP to [uaf-alumni@alaska.edu](mailto:uaf-alumni@alaska.edu)