



CHANCELLOR'S REPORT ON PHILANTHROPY FALL 2020



UAF DEVELOPMENT & ALUMNI RELATIONS

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Cover: Students practice social distancing during fall 2020 orientation. Above: A young bull moose walks out onto a braided river in Denali National Park and Preserve.

Dear Friends,

Earlier this year, Chancellor Dan White likened UAF benefactors, students, staff and faculty to the resilient Nanook, our iconic mascot. As a community known for its grit and determination, Nanook Nation grows even stronger during challenging times when we pull together.

The UAF Office of Development and Alumni Relations is committed to staying in touch and working with you, even while we must "social distance" for the time being. While campus and community might look different these days, we're energized and focused. Our mission of building community is essential. Community support helps UAF to conduct world-class research, teach students and provide critical public service. This remains constant. Alumni often tell me how UAF changed their lives, all for the better. We must continue and expand that opportunity for today's and tomorrow's students.

Although everyday life is different right now, we move forward. Throughout this Chancellor's Report on Philanthropy, you will see how UAF benefactors, like you, are invigorated. These stories reflect your dedication. We are inspired knowing that you and many others are uniting to support education, your alma mater, and a brighter future for Alaska and beyond.

Thank you for your generosity.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Ripley". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kate Ripley '11 MA
Interim Director
Development & Alumni Relations

INSPIRING STORIES



ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

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Judy Dellinger '94 BA
Major Gifts Officer

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Snow patterns decorate mountain peaks in Denali National Park and Preserve.

ASUAF

The Associated Students of the University of Alaska Fairbanks Trust Fund board voted unanimously to give \$10,001 to the new Student Support Fund during the university's 2020 Blue and Gold Celebration.

The board's gift came in the spirit of competition, after members learned that a number of high-profile donors had pledged \$10,000 donations.

Weeks later, as the COVID-19 pandemic began to upend students' lives, the ASUAF Senate also unanimously agreed to allocate the remainder of the association's budget to the Student Support Fund. It gave \$20,000, helping to combat food insecurity through the UAF Food Pantry and providing much-needed emergency financial assistance to students.

When unplanned events occur, outgoing ASUAF President Bernard Aoto said, it's important for students to know their fellow students support them. "For me it wasn't really of question why we needed to support students last year," he said. "It was why weren't we already doing that?"

As someone who grew up below the poverty line, living off support programs like Section 8 housing and food stamps, Aoto said he understood firsthand how that can impact someone's academic progress.

GROWING COMMUNITY, INSPIRING PHILANTHROPY

"It was the financial and social support of my friends and teachers in high school that allowed me to excel academically and become the person I am today," Aoto said. "As a student in college, although it's always important to rely on your own capabilities, stuff happens. It's important as a student to know that when stuff happens, your fellow students have your back. Not only does it keep you in school, but it creates a community."

The Associated Students of the University of Alaska Fairbanks — UAF's student government — has roots in the first class of students. John Sexton Shanly, the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines' first graduate, was also the first student body president during the 1921-1922 academic year. When the school later became the University of Alaska, the student government came to be known as the Associated Students of the University of Alaska.

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Bernard Aoto '20 at the 2020 Blue and Gold Celebration.
UAF photo by JR Ancheta.



Left: ASUAF students and staff gather outside the ASUAF offices. Right: ASUAF officers present associate professor Alexander Hirsch, left, with the Outstanding Faculty of the Year award for 2018-2019.

ASUA, and its successor, ASUAF, have advocated for students throughout the past century. ASUA was present while the Alaska State Constitution was being drafted in 1956 in what would become Constitution Hall, then the student union building. When former university President Ernest Patty banned alcohol from campus in 1957, ASUA stood alongside hundreds of other students in protesting the decision. During that protest, students created what later became known as the Tradition Stone.

The student government was also instrumental in establishing various buildings and programs for the benefit of the student body, including the Wood Center, Student Recreation Center and Student Support Services.

Following a major restructuring of Alaska's higher education system in 1975, the University of Alaska's campus in Fairbanks became the University of Alaska Fairbanks. ASUA followed suit, becoming the Associated Students of the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

The ASUAF Trust Fund, the source of the \$10,0001 donation at the 2020 Blue and Gold Celebration, was established to manage income following the liquidation of assets

held by ASUAF when it operated as a separately incorporated business. The fund's board of directors includes students, staff and alumni.

Newly elected ASUAF President Riley von Borstel aspires to continue strengthening the community and intends to inspire a culture of philanthropy on the UAF campus.

"I will certainly continue ASUAF's philanthropic mission throughout this upcoming school year," von Borstel said. "I feel that now more than ever, due to the coronavirus pandemic, generosity and compassion from the university's student government will be a key ingredient to holding the university together."

Von Borstel said ASUAF is the link between the students and the administration. "It is vital that we are there for students when they need us the most," he said. "This year, I plan on focusing on giving back to the student body, Fairbanks community and our environment."

For more information about ASUAF, please visit asuaf.com

GREATER FAIRBANKS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CONNECTING STUDENTS WITH LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES

In 1991, the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce established its Education Trust. While not regularly participating in philanthropy, the chamber in 2006 created a framework in which it is able to receive gifts and award scholarships through its 501(c)(3) status. Since then, the chamber continues to grow its presence in higher education philanthropy, guided by the Education and Workforce Development Committee.

The chamber has awarded 28 scholarships since 2006 — two scholarships to UAF students each year. In 2018, the chamber's Education and Workforce Development Committee began to explore ways to ensure the scholarship program was organized in the most sustainable way. The committee decided that establishing an endowment with the University of Alaska Foundation was the best way to accomplish the goal of helping students focus on what's most important — education. The chamber had nearly \$22,000 at the time and needed to reach \$30,000 to reach the endowment level and award scholarships. Through the generosity of community and business members, the chamber achieved that goal in 2019.



The scholarship endowment encourages prospective traditional and nontraditional students to pursue higher education and workforce training in the Fairbanks community. The chamber knows Interior Alaska businesses demand educated, trained and readily available skilled workers. By providing this scholarship, the chamber hopes to connect students with the business community and immediate employment upon graduating.

Marisa Sharrah, president and chief executive officer of the chamber, recognizes that the chamber cannot be the only local contributor to higher education.

"The best way to support local economic growth and successful futures we all hope for is through investing in the future. Businesses and individuals should give," Sharrah said.

"Fairbanks is a thriving community with diverse businesses and entrepreneurial opportunities. Encouraging and enabling people to attain their educational aspirations locally, so they will work and contribute locally in the future, is the kind of full circle we all hope for."

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FAIRBANKS CHAMBER CONTINUED >

UAF produces the workforce that many chamber members and the community needs. Engineers, scientists, teachers, accountants, business majors and many more contribute to the Fairbanks economy right after earning their degree. Even before graduating, many students have access to coveted internship opportunities that solidify what they learned while at UAF. The chamber is able to connect these students with practical, hands-on experiences. Interior Alaska's businesses and economy rely on the strength of the UAF-chamber relationship.

It goes beyond commerce too. "Healthy business means healthy employees," Sharrah said. "The more-high paying jobs there are in Fairbanks, the better off we all are as we live, work and play in our community."

The chamber hosts many business presentations every year — over 100 — and it's common to hear stories about a business's connection to UAF. It could be about a research project to find optimization in the field, internship programs that produce the next generation of talent, or the sponsorship and philanthropic plans that support programs found on campus. Businesses realize the importance of UAF and are happy to have the opportunity to connect and contribute, Sharrah said.

Local businesses are ready to help. Through the scholarship endowment and the close relationship between UAF and the chamber, students are front and center.

For more information about the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce, please visit fairbankschamber.org. If you are interested in giving to the the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce scholarship fund, please contact UAF Development at 907-474-2619.



Peaks of the southern Brooks Range highlight the scenery along this stretch of the Dalton Highway, about 250 miles north of Fairbanks.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT: MARILYN RUSSELL

INSPIRED BY PLACE-BASED LEARNING

Marilyn Russell is a people person. Whether greeting new folks to the neighborhood over the backyard fence or chatting up an acquaintance at the grocery store, she finds great satisfaction in getting to know people. As a lifelong learner who travels to quench a thirst for knowledge, Russell has built a life out of being a helper. She's a proud mother of two kids who are now having kids of their own.

After a career as an elementary school teacher, Russell became a dedicated community volunteer. Her son served in the Peace Corps in Guatemala and felt it would be a great fit for his mom. She remembers, "He said 'Mom, this is right up your alley,' so I applied and went over to West Africa."

By joining the Peace Corps and working in Burkina Faso, Africa, Russell fulfilled her lifelong passion for travel and helping others, and her already well-developed appreciation of Indigenous culture grew.

"Burkina Faso is a very poor country, but they are so rich in culture," said Russell. "They are rich in tradition, rituals, music, food, everything. It's wonderful to experience."

Russell lives modestly, so when she received an unexpected inheritance, it was only natural that she wanted to find ways to put that money to use helping people in her beloved adopted state of Alaska. Recently, she found a cause that she believes in. She pledged a gift of \$250,000 to support the One Health program at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

This unique program relies on a place-based approach to science. Faculty and staff with the Center for One Health Research study the interconnections among people, plants, animals and shared environments. In addition to blending animal and ecosystem studies, the program also incorporates Indigenous knowledge to address issues in the circumpolar North.

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Marilyn Russell. Photo by JR Ancheta

MARILYN RUSSELL CONTINUED >

When she learned about One Health, Russell was elated. "On the spot it just kind of clinched for me that this is what I wanted to support. It combined the things that I care so much about, animals — people and climate change. This program embraces the connection among them all," she said.

The gift arrives as interest in the One Health program is increasing. Today, public awareness and focus on the spread of disease from animals to humans is causing a renewed interest in how diseases like the current COVID-19 pandemic can be managed or prevented.

The pandemic already has had a terrible impact on Alaska and the world. Many people have been sick. Many people have died. It has impacted economies. No one is untouched. While we can't go back and change that, Center for One Health Research Director Arleigh Reynolds said we can learn from it.

"It is a tremendous learning opportunity, in terms of why it happened, how to manage it, and how to prevent things like this from happening in the future," he said. "This is a good time to be changing the way we think about things. To be looking at the world through a different lens and understanding those connections and how important they are. And now we can actually use them for good — to really make progress on big issues that are facing us right now."

New to UAF is the One Health master's degree, with the first group of incoming students beginning this fall. When designing the program, Reynolds hoped five students might enroll for the initial cohort. Participation has far exceeded expectations. There are now 22 students participating, with 25 planning to enroll next semester.

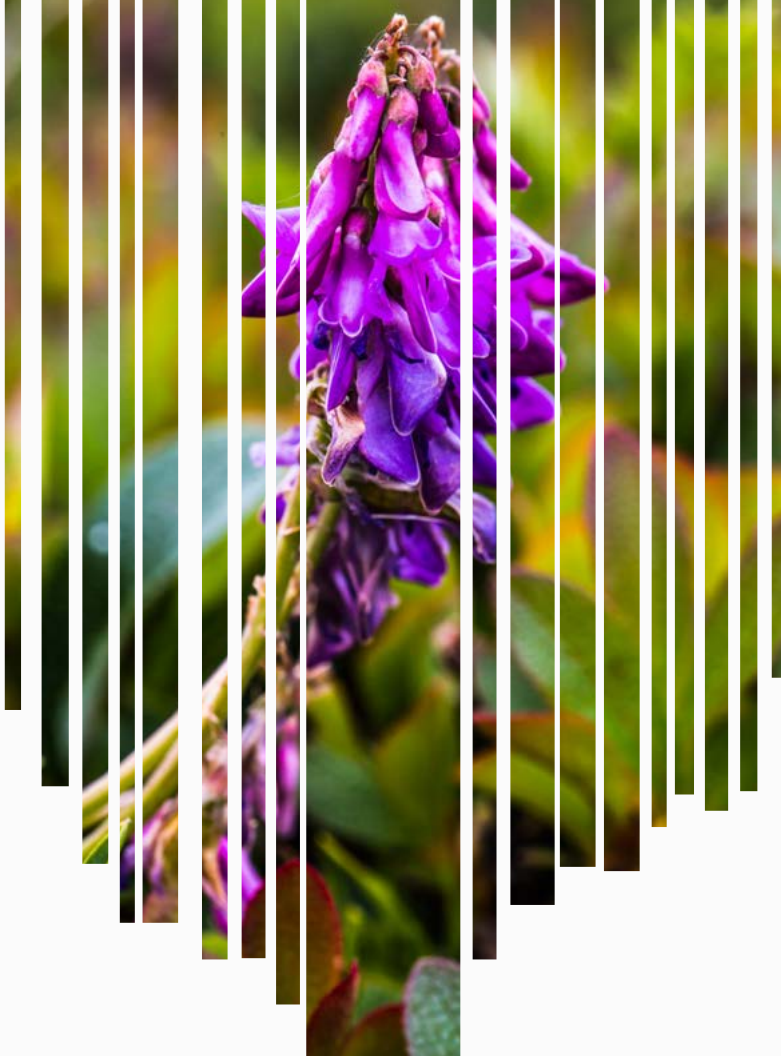
"With the program now being available entirely online, we have a student from Sweden, one from Africa, an MD from Bangladesh, folks from the East Coast and Canada, and most of the folks are from Alaska," said Reynolds.

The students have diverse backgrounds as well: from public health nurses, to school teachers, to a pre-law student, to pre-veterinary, to people from small communities across Alaska.

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Marilyn Russell and Arleigh Reynolds.
Photo by Teresa Chepoda Usibelli



MARILYN RUSSELL CONTINUED >

Reynolds said Russell's gift will make an immediate impact in this landscape. "Marilyn's generosity is going to allow folks who live and work in rural Alaska to be able to afford this program and take what they learn back to their communities and help their communities. It's really powerful.

"The concepts and ideas at the core of the One Health program are closely linked to the development of a sustainable future in the Arctic. Working with people in these communities to help solve problems is a way to ensure that these communities thrive in the future.

"We've found a way to actually put One Health into action," Reynolds said. "By the time our students come out of this program, they will know how to go into communities and listen, which is a pretty important skill. They engage with stakeholders and build a management plan that actually works for the community. And that's such a novel approach today, and I think our students are all excited to do it."

It is also exciting to Russell. It makes her proud for Alaska and in the potential for the state to be a model for the entire country. She imagines the program taking a leading role in coordinating and finding commonalities, not only in the diversity of people and bringing them together, but in the topics that can be explored.

Reynolds agrees the potential for the program is tremendous. "To be starting a new program like this and have this kind of support that will allow us to bring this many students on board, and make it so that it's not going to be a financial burden for them, so that they can go out and do the kind of work they're passionate about — it's hard to put words around that."

With the current fiscal challenges across the state and at the university, Russell hopes her philanthropy will help inspire others, not only individuals, but the stakeholders of Alaska, its residents and lawmakers, too. "I really care about getting more students in the program and enhancing their education. And maybe inspiring somebody else to contribute too."

When asked what advice she would give to the incoming students, Russell said the students that have entered the program are already leaders. "I would tell them, 'Don't stop. Just keep going and keep believing in yourself. You can do this. We need you'."

For more information about the UAF One Health Program, please visit uaf.edu/onehealth.

UAF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

SUPPORTING STUDENTS AND ALUMS IN A COVID WORLD

As cases of COVID-19 increased in March, students were asked not to return to campus after spring break, and employees shifted to working from home. For the first time in its 100-year history, the University of Alaska Fairbanks had no students on campus as classes moved online and in-person events were cancelled.

At that moment, everything changed. Instead of planning traditional celebrations, like the cupcake reception after commencement, the team began to imagine new ways of connecting. For the next few weeks, UAF Alumni Association executive director Theresa Bakker and associate director for student engagement Ronnie Houchin planned a variety of events that would take place entirely in a virtual space.

"We still wanted to meet our goals," Bakker said. "We were committed to finding a way to celebrate the accomplishments of our students and welcome our newest alumni to the community."



The team decided to sponsor a week of activities, asking graduating students to share stories about what motivated them to finish their degrees and to recognize the mentors who helped them achieve their dreams. Each day, a few submissions were drawn for prizes sponsored by the UAF Alumni Association.

This Grad Week celebration culminated in a two-hour live event, hosted by Houchin and Pub manager Michael Willis, featuring the traditional welcome by Chancellor Dan White, guest speakers and recorded messages from alumni. More than a thousand people participated in the virtual Grad Bash, from all over Alaska and across the United States. Alumni showed up in the comment section to cheer on the graduates. Family members sent their congratulations.

With the success of those events, the UAFAA decided to make the annual Nanook Rendezvous reunion virtual with a whole week of activities that all alumni, staff and friends of UAF could participate in.

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More than 3,000 viewers watched a Motivation Monday program, which included a live workout with UAF coaches and student athletes sharing tips for staying motivated when they are off the playing field. Another 3,000 viewers joined the Garden Walk Wednesday broadcast, featuring a virtual tour of the Georgeson Botanical Garden with manager Katie DiCristina.

A new event coordinated by the alumni association, called Fairbanks Friday, included five local alumni-owned or supported businesses. They each offered special blue-and-gold-themed menu items and gave away stickers and other goodies.

This commitment to adaptation also showed in the organization's giving this year. To meet its commitment to supporting students and campus projects, the alumni association is helping student organizations adjust to a changing environment in the wake of COVID-19. It is seeking applications for awards of up to \$1,000 to help students adapt.

UAFAA is also committed to making an annual leadership gift in support of strategic initiatives on campus. At its spring meeting, the UAFAA board of directors voted to donate \$50,000 to the new UAF esports program.

Esports are competitive events where teams play the same popular video games that many people play at home. Thanks to streaming services like Twitch and YouTube, professional gamers have become celebrities, building legitimate fanbases and earning lucrative sponsorships.

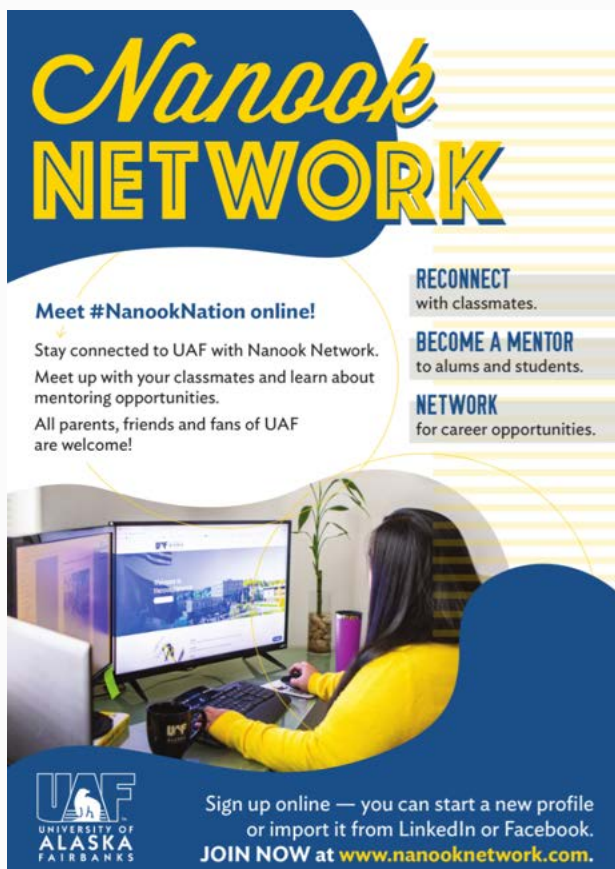
It's more than playing video games! Esports connect people and make the world a little smaller. They promote diversity and inclusion, build self-confidence and cultivate soft skills such as teamwork, problem-solving and empathy.

Cindy Wright, UAFAA president, said the alumni association is proud to declare its commitment to the UAF esports program. "The esports industry is rapidly expanding, and this program presents an incredibly exciting future for our students, community and alumni," she said.

UAF plans to become the statewide hub for esports, a move that will help to modernize the student experience. The university recently hired its first UAF esports director and plans to open the esports center in spring 2021.

No matter where our students and alumni are, the UAF Alumni Association is dedicated to supporting them and paving the way for our next generation of Nanook Nation.

For more information about the UAF Alumni Association, please visit www.uaf.edu/alumni OR call 907.474.7081



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WITH GRATITUDE

This report reflects gifts and donations totaling \$25,000 or more to the University of Alaska Fairbanks between May 9, 2020, and July 31, 2020.

CORPORATE

Alyeska Pipeline Service Company gave to the Alyeska Pipeline Service Company RAHI Support Fund for the RAHI Alaska Native Summer Bridge Program, the Alyeska Pipeline Alaska Native Scholarship, and the Troth Yeddha' Park Support Fund.

ExxonMobil Foundation gave to the GeoFORCE Alaska Support Fund.

Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce gave to the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce Scholarship.

Northrim Bank gave to the UAF School of Management Support Fund.

Solaster Science donated an Alumaweld 18-foot Stryker boat with a Yamaha 90-horsepowers engine to the UAF College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences.

UAF Alumni Association gave to the UAF eSports Program Support Fund.

UAF Hockey Alumni Association gave to the UAF Hockey Alumni Association Scholarship for Men's Nanook Hockey.

INDIVIDUAL

Alan Straub '57 gave to the Alan Straub Civil Engineering Equipment Support Fund.

Catherine F. Cahill gave to the ACUASI General Support Fund and UAF Annual Fund.

FOUNDATION

Crankstart Foundation gave to the Crankstart Reentry Scholarship.



UAF also receives many other donations, and we thank each and every one of our benefactors for their support.

STAFF UPDATES

WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU
WITH ANY QUESTIONS YOU
HAVE ABOUT GIVING TO AND
ENGAGING WITH UAF



JUDY DELLINGER
MAJOR GIFTS OFFICER

Judy Dellinger joined the University of Alaska Fairbanks in June 2020 as a major gifts officer with a focus on UAF Department of Athletics. Originally from Hermiston, Oregon, Judy moved to Alaska in 1989 and earned her bachelor's degree in rural development at UAF in 1994.

With over 20 years of experience in the Fairbanks nonprofit community, Judy returned to her alma mater after serving as the executive and finance coordinator for Explore Fairbanks and the marketing consultant for JP Jones Community Center. Prior to that, Dellinger worked at Love INC in several capacities, including development director and executive director. Judy has also served as the executive director for the Greater Fairbanks Habitat for Humanity.

Judy currently serves as secretary on the board of directors at the FYND Out Free Pregnancy Center and as secretary on the management team of the Fairbanks Frontier Chorus, also known as The Fairbanks Sweet Adelines, where she has been a member since 2007.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON GIVING TO UAF, CONTACT THE OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT AT UAF-GIVING@ALASKA.EDU OR CALL 907-474-2619. YOU CAN VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.UAF.EDU/GIVING.



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