

Fall 2020 Welcome Letter

As the new Director of the Graduate School, I want to take this opportunity to welcome our new and continuing graduate students for the fall 2020 semester. Whether you are beginning or continuing your studies, I would like to thank you for your commitment to graduate studies at UAF in these extraordinary times. I and the rest of the Graduate School team, Shelly Baumann, Felicia Burud, and Erin Kirchner, are here to support you succeed in your graduate studies. Our current plan is to reopen for in-person business in mid-August while still being available virtually.

To our new students, our Fall Orientation for new graduate students is Friday, August 21, and is an online event. You can find all the details on our website www.uaf.edu/gradschool. To our continuing students, I am impressed with the stories I have heard from faculty members about the progress you have continued to make over the summer as you have adapted to the realities of this pandemic. Despite these challenges, the opportunities for graduate study that attracted you to Alaska and UAF remain, and new opportunities will continue to emerge.

In these times, it is more important than ever to stay connected and informed. As well as maintaining contact with your advisors, programs, and peers, please keep in touch with us at the Graduate School. We want to hear your stories, both to celebrate your successes, and help you address any challenges. You can email us at uaf-grad-school@alaska.edu. Hearing from students across the university allows us to understand the challenges that are common to all students as well as those specific to certain groups of students. We will be keeping our website updated with details about our operations this semester. The site supports live chat with the staff. We will also share information through our listservs ([GradAcademic-L](#) and [GradSchool-L](#)) and Facebook page.

Thanks once again for choosing to study at UAF, and all the best for the new academic year.

-Richard Collins, director of the graduate school