

Spring 2021 Welcome Letter

As the Director of the Graduate School, I want to take this opportunity to welcome our new and continuing graduate students for the Spring 2021 semester. Whether you are beginning or continuing your studies, I would like to thank you for your commitment to graduate studies at UAF. I and the rest of the Graduate School team, Shelly Baumann, Felicia Burud, and Erin Kirchner, are here to support you in your success. Our office is available virtually and in-person by appointment.

To our new students, our Spring Orientation for new graduate students is Friday, January 8, 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 continue to hear from faculty members about the progress you have made this year as you have adapted to the realities of the pandemic. Despite these challenges, the opportunities for graduate study that attracted you to Alaska and UAF remain, and new opportunities will continue to emerge. To students who are preparing to graduate this semester, congratulations on reaching this milestone under extraordinary circumstances.

With the pandemic continuing, it is still important 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. Please join us for our graduate student town hall meeting on Thursday, March 4. We also have an ongoing series of seminars and an information session on student health insurance on Tuesday, February 16.

We will be keeping our website updated with details about our operations and programs this semester. The site supports live chat with the staff. We will also share information through our listserves ([GradAcademic-L](#) and [GradSchool-L](#)) and Facebook page. You can email us at uaf-grad-school@alaska.edu.

Thanks once again for choosing to study at UAF, and all the best for this semester.

- Richard Collins, director of the graduate school