

Teacher troubadour

No news North?

Life after oil

aurora

Spring 2013

Launch
of the
Sikuliaq

For alumni and friends of the University of Alaska Fairbanks

Shiny

In higher education marketing, we are quite familiar with “raccoon syndrome” — the tendency for us, and our bosses, to race from one bright and shiny object to the next, collecting them while out on our travels, bringing them home and leaving everyone else scampering in our wake to make the latest bright and shiny idea our own.

Sometimes, it’s the only way to get to where we want to be.

After a successful media launch of our updated brand in November, we knew it was time to

give *Aurora* a facelift. The old nameplate was becoming stale, sometimes overshadowing the beautiful art on our cover. We wanted to liven up our stories and showcase our talented campus photographers’ work with larger, more captivating photos. We researched and collected samples from other universities, trying to decide what would best show off the “real” UAF.

The results are in front of you. I hope you like it. And I hope you’ll tell us, one way or the other.

Kim Davis, managing editor
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P.S. For more on our brand, visit www.uaf.edu/branding/.



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of the University of Alaska Fairbanks

“It looks great
from any angle”

Bathing Beauty



By Sharice Walker

The October 2012 christening and launch of the Research Vessel Sikuliaq in Wisconsin were dramatic milestones in the ship's construction process.

The R/V *Sikuliaq* perches high above the crowd's heads, secured in launch cradles along the riverbank. Bathed in afternoon sunshine, the ship's freshly painted colors — black, white and arctic blue — are striking against the sky. A slight breeze ruffles the bunting decorating the bridge.

After nearly 40 years of planning, designing and redesigning, the christening and launch of the vessel are less than 24 hours away.

UAF Dean Emeritus Vera Alexander, '65, and Professor Emeritus Bob Elsner, the ship's co-sponsors, submitted the first proposal for an arctic region research vessel in 1973. For decades they continued to push for a ship designed for polar fieldwork.

Now, Alexander and Elsner are visiting the Marinette Marine Corp. shipyard, on the banks of the Menominee River, to review their assignments in a dry run of the next day's ceremony. Elsner lingers near the ship after the rehearsal, gazing intently at the product of so many years of work.

"It looks great from any angle," he concludes, smiling.

There is nothing dry about the actual ceremony the next morning. A relentless rain had moved in during the night, and gusts of wind buffet the crowd throughout the program. The first bottle of champagne falls victim to the wet conditions, slipping out of Alexander's hands and shattering on the ground without touching the ship. But Alexander is sprayed generously with champagne when the spare bottle smashes properly against the ship's bow. Then, moments after Elsner pushes the button initiating the launch, he is soaked in a jet of water that surges over the dock after *Sikuliaq* drops into the river.

Onlookers whoop and holler as the ship slides down the lowered beams and hits the water. Then they suck in a nervous breath as the ship lurches away from shore and angles precariously onto its side, toward the water. The cheering erupts even louder as the ship rights itself, the mast swinging back up into the air.

There's still work to be done on the ship's interior, and then it's off on its first voyage, through the Great Lakes, down the Eastern seaboard and through the Panama Canal before it arrives in Seward in January 2014.

When science operations begin in early 2014, the 40-year-old dream of a vessel designed for arctic research will finally be a reality. ■

Watch the launch of the *Sikuliaq* at www.uaf.edu/aurora/.

Sharice Walker, '04, is the public information officer for the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences.

By Cindy Hardy

WITH A HAMMER AND A SONG

TWO GREAT, RELATED THEMES IN AMERICAN MYTHMAKING ARE CREATION AND REINVENTION — OF COMMUNITIES, THINGS, EVEN OURSELVES. THE PROTEST SONG “IF I HAD A HAMMER” URGED LISTENERS TO CREATE A NEW SOCIETY WITH HAMMERS, BELLS AND SONGS. MUSICIAN AND TEACHER STEVE BROWN ISN’T OUT TO OVERHAUL THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE, BUT HE DID REINVENT HIMSELF, USING A HAMMER, A SONG AND, YES, A (SCHOOL) BELL.





"Well, this old gravel road used to greet me with a smile..."

Last summer, UAF's Davis Auditorium filled with fans of National Public Radio's live music program, *Mountain Stage*, for the taping of the second show in its two-day run. My friends and I found a few seats together in the back of the auditorium among a typical Fairbanks summer crowd — Hawaiian shirts and gray ponytails, younger folks in jeans and Carhartt cut-offs, little kids skipping down the aisles to their seats.

The lights dimmed and the familiar theme music — "There's a song" — came on. Larry Groce, the host, a bit smaller and balder than I had imagined, walked across the stage, microphone in hand, and welcomed the first local band, Steve Brown and the Bailers.

Steve Brown was the one I had come to see. He strolled out, guitar in his hands, wearing a black Western shirt with big blue and cream flowers on the yoke, a faded red ball cap shading his eyes. He bent over his guitar with a tall guy's slouch, tuning as the other musicians took their places. They began to play:

"Well, this old gravel road used to greet me with a smile

I've traveled it for years

Used to walk its many miles

But, oh, things change when you're not looking."

The music had a touch of country, a bit of jazz, a hint of folk, and the lyrics had a tough, heartbroken sound. This aw-shucks-looking guy, bent over his guitar, flashy but humble, got right to the heart of the matter.

I first met Brown in 2005 when he came to my office at UAF, looking for an advisor. He had sawdust on his ball cap and paint on his jeans. This was a guy who worked with his hands for a living, but he had intensity and, best of all as far as I was concerned, he wanted to be an English major.

"What do you see yourself doing with an English degree?" I asked.

"Well, I'm a carpenter now, but I'd like to be a high school English teacher," he told me. "And I write songs."

He knew what he wanted. He had a plan.

He signed up for 21 credits his first semester, and I was willing to help him puzzle together the pieces of a degree from a batch of transfer credits. When I tried to talk him out of taking so many credits, he insisted he could pull it off.

"Going for an English degree and figuring out all the credits were horrifying to someone who had been taking community college business classes," Brown later said. "I knew it would be intense, but I had a good work ethic. I was determined."

His first day of classes, he had the same professor for the first and last class of the day. The professor looked at him and said, "Didn't I have you in class this morning? How many credits are you taking?"

When Brown told him, the professor replied that he'd never make it. But he didn't know Brown.

Over the next two years, he would drop in every semester to talk to me. We'd talk about poetry and home remodeling and the music scene in Fairbanks. Then Brown graduated with his English degree and got his master's in education. Soon after, he was hired to teach English at Lathrop High School in Fairbanks.

Brown began writing songs when he was 15. He had been a Guns N' Roses fan, but

Tom Petty's focus on song rather than image impressed him.

"I knew that girls liked boys to sing a song over the phone," he says, "and Tom Petty was writing catchy songs."

Later, he heard an interview with Petty, describing how he wrote songs.

"He said that the best songs are where you're just sitting around minding your own business and the whole song comes to you," Brown says.

And that's how Brown writes. Songs come to him at night when he's trying to sleep, or a catchy phrase or guitar riff gets caught in his head.

"It doesn't always have to do with people I know or something that happens to me," he says.

Born in Oregon City, Ore., Brown grew up in the family home-remodeling business. His parents owned rental houses on the coast, and on weekends as a kid, he would go with them to work on the houses. In high school, remodeling became his job every afternoon after school.

"I always had the crappy jobs," he says. "I hated it. I never realized that I was learning something or that I'd use those skills to pay for college."



When he started to take the work seriously, he renegotiated his job with his brothers. He thought he'd stay in the family business in Oregon, that it would be his life.

After high school, he went to Marylhurst College, outside Portland, taking classes toward an associate degree in business.

"It was a school for people usually later in life," he says, "but an early scholars program took in a small group of high school graduates. I had to write letters to get accepted on scholarship."

Brown left school every day at noon to work on remodeling projects, the only person in his classes to do this, or, as he put it, "the only person from a working-class background." He thought his life was set out for him — bathrooms and kitchens stretching into the future, just waiting for him to remodel.

One day, he was driving down a back road and saw his favorite high school English teacher jogging. They started talking.

"She asked me, 'What are you doing with your life?' I said that I dreamed of going to Alaska, where my brother had gone, but I was stuck in this family business."

She asked him what he imagined himself doing instead, and he said, "You've done so much for me in high school. I'd like to do that."

That was the first time Brown had spoken to anyone about being a teacher, and, with his teacher's help, he began making a road map to get to his goal. It was a map with a few detours, of course.

"I was 19. I'd been in a difficult relationship — the English teacher helped me out with that — and I came to Alaska for a change of scene," Brown says. He got a job working for his brother's carpentry business. He bought five acres of land in Cripple Creek, outside Fairbanks, and began playing guitar with his friends there.

Picking strings turned into songwriting, and eventually to a songwriter showcase at Davis Concert Hall. After that, Brown began to make more contacts in the Fairbanks music scene. He went to the Juneau Folk Festival.

"People kept saying, 'Nice music. We should play together,'" Brown says. "I got on the radar."

But Brown was torn between Fairbanks and his family. Until 2005, he spent his winters in Portland, working in the family business and taking what he describes as "random classes" at the community college.

"I was working for my family to earn enough money to buy materials to build a house in Fairbanks," Brown says, "but they kept putting pressure on me to sell my Cripple Creek property and become a partner in the business."

But Brown had his own plans.

He returned to Fairbanks to go to school as an English major, following the plan his teacher friend had helped him lay out.

He joined the Carpenters union and began to save for school.

Brown's musical life never went on hold, even during the 21-credit semesters.

"In 2005, I was sitting at Old U Park, and I saw a girl with a water bottle that said 'Hot Club of Cowtown.' It was Robin Feinman. We became study buddies with guitars," says Brown.

Feinman sang bluegrass, something Brown hadn't tried before. She taught him how to harmonize and how to sing with volume. They began singing at a local coffeehouse and at parties. A party host introduced them to Todd Denick, a bass player, and they began playing bluegrass tunes together. After a year, Denick bought an upright bass, and they became Steve Brown and the Bailers. "We always had some guest artist who might or might not show up to the gig, so we made a joke out of it."

In 2008, drummer Kliff Hopson joined them, and they played more gigs.

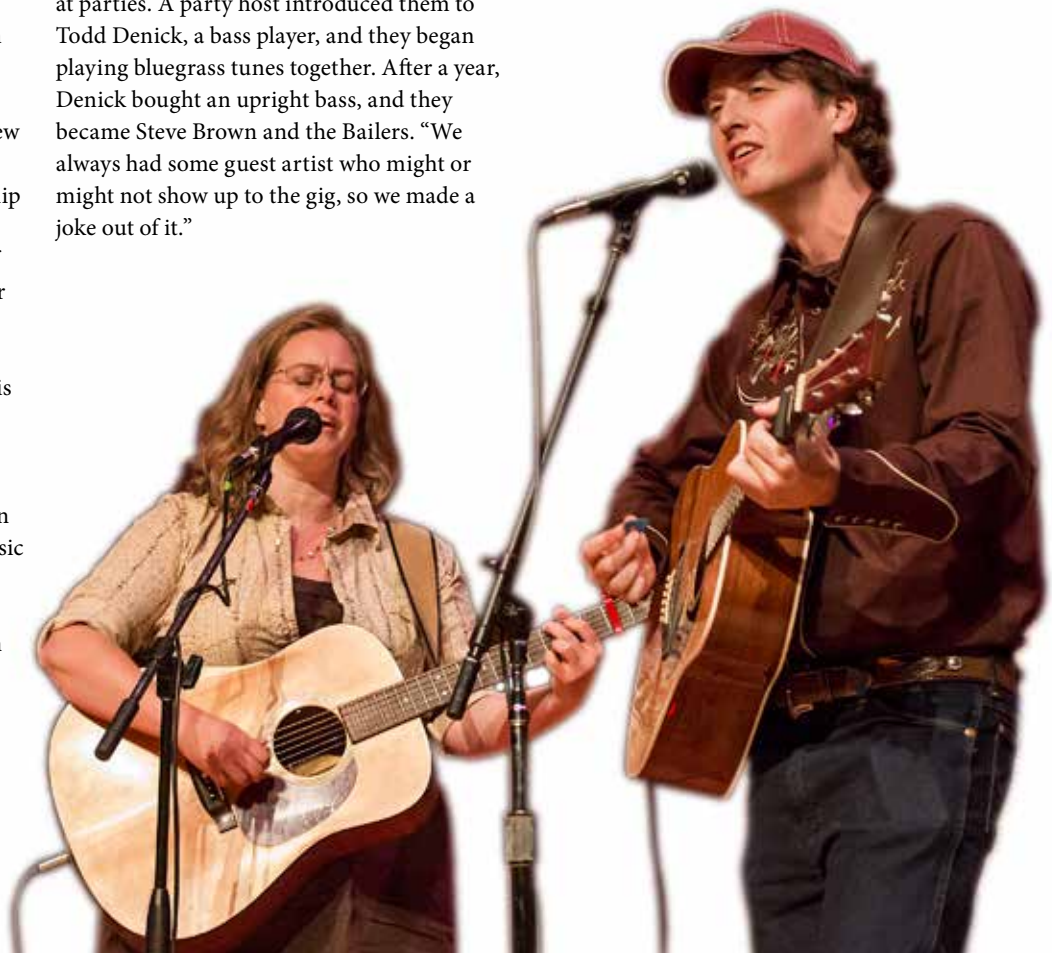
"Now people weren't just listening," Brown says, "they were tapping their feet."

The band decided it was time to lock down their membership and learn some songs: bluegrass, some cover tunes, and Brown's own songs. After a few more band members came and went, they stayed with the band they have now: Brown, Feinman, Denick, Josh Costello, Dave Parks and Alex Clarke, '87, — a mix of younger players and a couple of veterans of Fairbanks bands.

The band began to get some notice, especially after public radio's *The Folk Sampler* featured the Bailers on a national broadcast. The exposure eventually led to a 2009 spot on *Whad'Ya Know?*, another nationally syndicated radio program that would be taping its hybrid comedy/music/quiz show at UAF.

Brown enjoyed the rehearsal but was so nervous before the show that he didn't eat.

"I don't usually meet celebrities," Brown says, "but [host] Michael Feldman ... made it easy. When Feldman announced the band, the audience response was so positive, and they let us plug our music."





What really surprised Brown was the letters he got after the show.

“I got 10 handwritten letters from around the country, asking for CDs,” Brown says. “Who wrote letters in 2009? I wrote every one of those people back. How could it get better for a Fairbanks band?”

By the time Steve Brown and the Bailers appeared on *Mountain Stage* in 2012, their music had already seen a fair bit of national airplay. But *Mountain Stage* is a show that promotes singer-songwriters to a knowledgeable public radio audience. This was Brown’s big break.

The Bailers were the lead-off band for the second show, and they were the last band to sound

check. When they walked on the stage, Brown was nervous.

“There were three different sound guys talking to us through the speakers,” Brown later told me. “We had to cut half of our songs. Then we had to leave the stage for the opening of the show, and I left my guitar on the stage. When I went back out on stage, it was out of tune.”

But from where we were sitting at the back of the concert hall, we saw a guy cool as cool, walking around in the bright stage lights as the band played, singing his heartbreak songs, and, between sets, fiddling with his guitar, tuning it like a pro.

When the show was over, I waited to greet Brown outside. Musicians and their friends and

fans milled around, greeting each other. Finally Brown came out.

He looked a bit dazed but grinned big. And even though it was just my imagination, his hat looked like it still had a bit of sawdust on it.

But, oh, things change when you’re not looking. 🎸

Cindy Hardy, ’86, is a professor of developmental English at UAF. Her other life involves writing poetry, blogging, riding horses, dancing and gardening. She advises her students to do what they love best, whether it’s playing in a rock band or underwater research diving.

The band started out as Steve Brown and the Dwellers, as in cabin dwellers, but some members kept bailing out before gigs. Now with a more reliable lineup, Steve Brown and the Bailers consists of Alex Clarke, Todd Denick, Robin Feinman, Brown, Dave Parks and Josh Costello (not pictured).

THE NEW

Gary Gray started his new job last September as athletic director and chief cheerleader for 10 Nanook teams.

Originally from eastern Canada, Gray has spent most of his professional life as a college faculty member and administrator in the western United States, including Oregon, Iowa and Montana. He served as the athletic director at Montana State University Billings for 18 years before coming to UAF.

New north I like change. I was not bored at my old job. I just wanted some new challenges. I wanted to continue living in a beautiful part of the country, and Alaska fits the bill for wonderful quality of life.

Old north [The Patty Gym's] original old wooden bleachers are very challenging and not real comfortable. We'd been told maybe we could sand [the gym floor] down one more time. This building's 50 years old, and that's not going to change.

Fans in the stands We want the game environment to be positive and inviting and comfortable and a great place for people to come.


Headstrong We have some student-athletes who are just the cream of the crop academically, very high grade point averages, 3.8s, 3.9s, etc.

In good company It's no small accident that there's over a thousand institutional members of the NCAA. People understand what intercollegiate athletics, particularly NCAA athletics, brings to a campus, a community, to the individuals.

Disappearing act If we didn't have an athletic program there would be a lot of young men and women who would not have the value of getting an education at UAF because they would not be here.

Steady growth The key word is balance. You come as an 18-year-old, you leave as a young adult, college educated, degree in hand, career in mind, and you understand what you can contribute. That's a very, very important and exciting thing to balance.

NANOOKS

Div. I — Western Collegiate Hockey Association (beg. 2013 - 2014): Men's hockey 
Div. II — Great Northwest Athletic Conference: Men's & women's basketball • Men's & women's c

RECRUIT

BOOKS



Sporting man



Tried out for the Canadian Olympic volleyball team





Huge Red Sox fan



Has hiked almost all 700 miles of the Beartooth Mountains' trails



Started playing hockey at age 4 (he is Canadian, after all)

Open: Men's & women's rifle 
cross country • Women's volleyball 

Central Collegiate Ski Assoc.: Men's & women's skiing

 Pacific Collegiate Swim Conference: Women's swimming



Extreme Alaska is a multimedia newsroom project of the Journalism Department. It's a training ground as well as a multimedia news site that covers UAF and the greater Fairbanks community. The independently run *Sun Star* (not shown), staffed and produced entirely by students, publishes in print and online.

Extreme Alaska
www.uafjournalism.com

Sun Star
www.uafsunstar.com

Breaking the news

What is the state of journalism in Alaska?

By Lynne Lott

Libby Casey remembers feeling like she was in a movie as she jumped into a taxi and said, “Take me to the Justice Department!” It was her second day of work as the Alaska Public Radio Network’s Washington, D.C., correspondent. She was on her way to Congressman Don Young’s office for an interview when her phone rang.

U.S. Senator Ted Stevens had been indicted.

“I was covered in sweat and my hair was frizzed out beyond belief,” Casey recalls. Unfamiliar with her new hometown, she was surprised again when the cab dropped her just two blocks from where she’d started. Flustered but not shaken, Casey dove into the story. Less than a week on the job and she was reporting some of the biggest news Alaska had seen in decades. It was just the beginning.

Alaskans who travel frequently likely remember 2008 as the year Outsiders stopped asking “Do you live in an igloo?” and “Is it really dark all winter?” and started asking “What do you think of Sarah Palin?” Casey was one month into her job at APRN when John McCain tapped Sarah Palin as the Republican vice presidential candidate.

After years on the fringe of the national consciousness, of being a dream cruise destination or the place where someone a friend knew was stationed in the military, Alaska suddenly seemed to show up everywhere.

“It changed dramatically,” Casey says of the time following the Palin pick. “Suddenly people had this heightened interest in Alaska.”

Reality television jumped on the bandwagon. Following forerunner *Deadliest Catch* came *Alaska State Troopers*, *Ice Road Truckers*, *Sarah Palin’s Alaska* and more. Alaska now draws interest, viewers and readers like never before. While that intrigue may have leveled off, Casey says, “You can’t go back to unmarked snow.”

Around the same time, Alaska newsrooms underwent a different sort of change: media began to shrink as part of a national trend. Now as the state enjoys unprecedented coverage nationally, the state of the state — at least journalistically speaking — is far less certain.

The long and wired road

When the *Anchorage Daily News* hired Wesley Loy in 1991, the newspaper was one of two dailies in Alaska’s largest city. Loy’s job would be covering retail businesses in Anchorage and beyond. The paper had a reporter dedicated to the fishing industry and another with the oil and gas beat. All told, Loy was one of five reporters covering Alaska business in a department with its own editor.

Today, Loy says, “there is no business editor and no business reporters. They don’t even have a reporter covering oil and gas, the lifeblood of this state.”

“There were times back when [reporters] would fly out to places and cover things at the drop of a hat if it was a big deal,” says Casey Grove, ’06, who has worked at the *Daily News* for two years. “But that was before my time.”

The *Anchorage Daily News* is hardly the exception. When he started at the *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner* 18 years ago, managing editor Rod Boyce says, the paper boasted double the number of reporters it has now.

None of the reductions happened overnight. Journalism enjoyed a heyday in the 1970s and ’80s. It was a golden age for reporters, brought on by coverage of the Vietnam War and Watergate. Journalists enjoyed enormous popularity, and while the paycheck didn’t always match the prestige, hundreds of bright young people entered journalism’s ranks hoping to be the next Woodward and Bernstein. In Anchorage, the *Anchorage Times* and the *Anchorage Daily News* duked for the title of “best newspaper on the Last Frontier.”

Pulitzer Prizes were won in the process. Yet even after the *Times* shuttered in 1992, Alaska’s media presence remained robust. Communities as small as Dillingham possessed both a radio station and a newspaper.

Then, the Internet

The rise of the web caught journalism off guard. Media outlets scrambled to build websites without a revenue model in place. Craigslist, with

its free online classifieds model, poached revenue from daily and weekly newspapers. On-demand television and iTunes provided ample opportunity for music, news and information without having to go through traditional means.

With newspaper and station websites, “there was this ‘if you build it, they will come’ mentality,” says Charles Mason, professor and chair of the Journalism Department. “No one bothered to think about how they would pay for it.”

Media outlets faced cutbacks as advertising dollars decreased. In February 2009, Colorado’s oldest newspaper, the *Rocky Mountain News*, ceased publication. A month later, the



Newspapers have always lived on the margins — the defunct *Anchorage Times* stopped running long before the Internet — but the modern wired world poses new threats to paper-based media.

NEWS



In 1991, Wesley Loy was one of five business reporters at the *Anchorage Daily News*. Today, “they don’t even have a [dedicated] reporter covering oil and gas, the lifeblood of this state.”

Seattle Post-Intelligencer shut down its printing press in favor of a web-only presence, gutting the reporting staff in the process. Newspapers alone saw a 30 percent drop in ad revenue in the first quarter of 2009. The *New York Times*, the *Boston Globe*, the *Chicago Tribune* and other major American newspapers faced layoffs, contract buyouts and other cutbacks. TV newsrooms and radio stations, both public and private, found themselves in similar circumstances.

When Casey left her job as a reporter at KUAC-FM in Fairbanks in 2008, she wasn’t replaced for almost four years. Loy took a contract buyout from the *Daily News* in 2009.

“When I left the *Anchorage Daily News*, it was a really depressing place,” Loy says.

“There had been multiple rounds of people being laid off, bought out, encouraged to leave. And that atmosphere of uncertainty was ...” Loy hesitates, “wearing.”

The *News-Miner* didn’t replace reporters and photographers who moved on, which whittled the newsroom to five reporters. The *Anchorage Daily News*, by

some counts, has a newsroom less than half the size it was in 2002. Alaska Newspapers Inc., which published six weekly newspapers in rural Alaska, including Seward, Cordova and Dutch Harbor, shut down its operation in mid-2011. Though other interests eventually purchased several of the papers, few retained reporters in the towns they covered.

“Across the state it seems like the size of the nuts-and-bolts reporting staff has declined in the last four to five years,” says the *News-Miner*’s Rod Boyce. “And that means readers are getting less, and what they are getting might not be as comprehensive.”

Loy, who now works as a freelancer after his career at the *Daily News*, agrees. “I used to write stories that would take a week or two weeks to develop,” he says. “And I could count on the *Anchorage Daily News* for a paycheck while I put that together. Now, as a freelancer, I’m more in the business of producing what I would call a commodity, just thousands of words. The reporting is thinner.”

That which does not kill news ...

Tony Hopfinger spent more than a decade working in Alaska journalism, first as a reporter at the *Anchorage Daily News*, then as a reporter and editor at the weekly *Anchorage Press* and finally as a freelance reporter for *Bloomberg News* and *Newsweek*. Though his freelancing commitments added up to a full-time job, Hopfinger noticed an odd trend.

“I was reporting, and I would come across things that I thought were good stories. But then I’d look in the newspapers and TV and they wouldn’t show up,” he says.

So despite a climate that seemed inhospitable to taking chances, Hopfinger and journalist Amanda Coyne launched *Alaska Dispatch*, an online-only news site with original content from a variety of contributors.

When it started in 2008, Hopfinger says, they didn’t have much money and relied on journalist friends and community members for much of the content. But again, Alaska’s

“

ACROSS THE STATE IT SEEMS LIKE THE SIZE OF THE NUTS-AND-BOLTS REPORTING STAFF HAS DECLINED IN THE LAST FOUR TO FIVE YEARS

”



growing reputation Outside and, specifically, Sarah Palin came to the rescue.

“Two weeks after we launched, Palin was picked,” Hopfinger says. “Our site crashed. The jury-rigged servers we were using had problems.”

The problems eventually turned into opportunities. Like the many bloggers who’d hitched their wagons to Palin’s star, the *Alaska Dispatch* used Palin and the Ted Stevens corruption trial as a launching pad for their journalistic endeavors. *Dispatch* eventually attracted the interest of an investor-publisher who now owns 90 percent of the company. In an industry filled with layoffs and downsizing, *Dispatch* starting hiring.

“So far it’s been a doubling factor,” Hopfinger says. “The readership, the revenue. It doubles every year.”

Hopfinger credits the venture’s success to its nimble nature. A printing press is expensive to run. Without a print product and associated infrastructure, Hopfinger says, the site can take chances and try new things. The *Alaska Dispatch* is now one of

only a handful of for-profit news websites operating in the country. The Internet can take away. It can also give.

“The *News-Miner* is not just a newspaper company anymore,” Boyce says. “We’re a communications company operating on multiple platforms.

News-Miner reporters uses Twitter, Facebook and the paper’s website to gather and write the news these days. *Newsminer.com* gets more than 1.5 million unique visitors every month, Boyce says. He credits this to the web’s reach, but also the new focus of the organization. Without as many reporters, they can’t do what they used to do.

“We’ve turned our attention to local,” Boyce says. “Because that’s the one thing we have that nobody else has. So we cover Fairbanks. That’s our primary goal.”

KTOO, Juneau’s public radio and television station, takes a similar tack, according to new-media producer Heather Bryant, ’12. Instead of a radio station, a television station or a website, Bryant says, they’re “content creators.” Her position didn’t exist

before 2012. The “new-media producer” is a relatively recent addition, especially to Alaska newsrooms. Positions such as these fill the gaps created by downsizing. They also speak to the industry’s future.

“I’m going to be producing content primarily for the website,” Bryant says. “But it could be used on TV or radio.”

Today’s newsrooms also rely more heavily on users for both feedback and content. When the *News-Miner* redesigned its print edition in 2007, it included a page known as “Our Town.” It showcases reader poetry, photos and stories. Sometimes a reader sends in a particularly compelling photo, Boyce says. The paper might follow up and ask that person to write an essay or article.

“I’m not sure that if we had a big, fat old staff here we’d be engaging those people,” Boyce says.

Those people — readers, viewers, listeners — fill an important role, especially when they provide content or comments that lead to a story. They bridge the gap between

Newsprint is no longer at the forefront of the information revolution — mobility is.

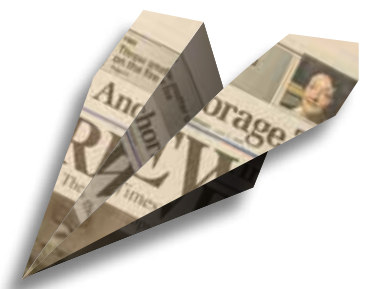
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the journalism of the past, in which journalists told the public what the journalists thought was important, and the journalism of today, in which news consumers engage on a level that makes them active participants in the news process.

With the web, KTOO producer Bryant says, “there’s an element of people being able to participate immediately in what I’m doing. Now it’s become a dialog. And that’s a great way for journalism to be heading.”

Reporting the future

In his essay “Newspapers and Thinking the Unthinkable,” media theorist Clay Shirky explores this new future for journalism. The Internet, he writes, is no less a revolution than Gutenberg’s printing press. While everyone now knows that the ramifications of movable type extended far beyond the printed word, what no one talks about is what life was like immediately after the printing press became a reality. Shirky points out that it was a chaotic time filled with upheaval, conflict and rapid change. In answer to the question about what will work for journalism now, Shirky writes, “Nothing will work, but everything might.”

Casey Grove graduated from UAF with a job offer in hand — at a mine. Days before he was set to begin he got another job offer, this one from the *Anchorage Press*. The *Press* offered him significantly less money. Grove didn’t hesitate.

“It seemed fun,” he says. “It seemed like a lot more fun than going mining. It was like an adventure.”

“Because Alaska is so rich with stories, I think young journalists are getting a chance to cover

stories that they wouldn’t 10 or 20 years ago.”

Today’s journalists and journalism graduates face a job market significantly different from that of 20 years ago. Traditional newsroom jobs like Grove’s, who now works at the *Anchorage Daily News*, are more difficult to find.

“We’re in some really confused seas right now,” Loy says. “It’s a weird time. It’s especially befuddling to those of us who grew up, at least in terms of our careers, in a steady, stable environment.”

But if “everything might” work, it’s also an exciting time. Loy maintains a blog called *Deckboss*. He regularly reports news on Alaska’s fishing industry. He doesn’t make money from the blog, he says, but “some of us are natural born newspeople. We’re gonna tell the news, by God, whether we’re paid to or not.”

“The new generation of journalists needs to have an entrepreneurial spirit,” says Mason, the journalism professor. “Today’s students aren’t going to go into jobs that exist right now. They’ll make their own way.”

That entrepreneurial spirit is a lot like what Alaskans call the pioneer spirit. As the state enjoys its tenure in the media spotlight, Alaska will continue to draw those seeking a singular experience, personally and professionally. That may make Alaska journalism more adaptable than Lower 48 newsrooms grappling with the same issues.

“I think a lot of journalists go to Alaska for the adventure and then they stay,” says Libby Casey, who now works as a host and producer for C-SPAN’s *Washington Journal*. “There are

some compelling, interesting and rewarding stories in Alaska.”

High-caliber journalists from across the country work in small Alaska newsrooms by choice, Casey says. That’s one thing that won’t change any time soon. Alaska’s glaciers, open spaces, mountains — and mountainous personalities — will continue cast a wide net, capturing the dreams of journalists Outside and homegrown, novice and seasoned.

“I’m still excited about coming to work each day,” Boyce says. “It’s still a fun biz. I get to learn new things as an individual. We’re always exploring.”

Though the way Alaska journalism looks might change, people will always be curious. And people will always want to tell Alaska’s stories.

“I look forward to continuing to add more people,” Hopfinger says of *Alaska Dispatch*’s future. “The fun part is being able to do bigger and better stories. All of us, as journalists, want to contribute something to the conversation.”

“I get to bother people who should be bothered, and I get to tell good stories at the end of the day,” Grove says. “You can’t ask for much more than that.”

Lynne Lott teaches journalism at UAF. She came to Alaska in 1997 seeking journalistic adventure and never left.



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First woman graduate honored

The name “Life Sciences Facility” is accurate, but it’s not very evocative. Now the building where the life sciences are studied and taught has a name that evokes both history and science: the Margaret Murie Building. The first woman to graduate from the University of Alaska, in 1924, Margaret Murie was a conservationist and the author of *Two in the Far North*, which recounted the travels and work she undertook in Alaska with her husband, biologist Olaus Murie.

Hire fliers

PILOTS KEEP ROADLESS COMMUNITIES CONNECTED WITH THE REST OF ALASKA, so here’s a dip of the wing to the new aviation wing and flight simulator at the Chukchi Campus.

“Homegrown pilots know the local terrain and weather conditions,” says Director Asik Pauline Harvey. “And we will be training local pilots for aviation jobs in this region.”

The \$1.8 million construction and renovation project was funded by the U.S. Department of Education and included renewable energy systems to reduce operating costs. Chukchi Campus also provides training in renewable energy techniques.

A lung long time ago

THE MOST ANCIENT LIFE FORMS BREATHED UNDERWATER. So what made our ancestors come up for air? UAF researchers think they’ve identified the founder of our lung legacy. The story’s a little complicated and too long to be a brief, but it involves coughing lampreys, and who doesn’t want to learn more about coughing lampreys? Get a breath of fresh insight into our oxygenating ways at <http://bit.ly/lampreylung>.

Icelandic ideas

FOUR STUDENTS, FIVE DAYS AND A WHIRLWIND TOUR OF ICELAND. Looking for possible Alaska applications, the students visited geothermal and hydropower plants, an aluminum smelter, and even a mushroom production facility. The students got help from mentors at UAF’s Alaska Center for Energy and Power to do research through interviews and site visits. The trip was coordinated by the Institute of the North, a nonprofit organization that studies and promotes Alaska’s role in the Arctic.

Wealth of words

NAQENAGA NILNGHAZDLU IS A DENA’INA phrase that means “our words (or language) brought together.” Stories, dictionaries, photographs, recordings and other material documenting the language and culture of the Dena’ina and other Alaska Native peoples have been brought together in the recently dedicated Michael E. Krauss Alaska Native Language Archive in the Rasmuson Library. Moving the materials from the Alaska Native Language Center to the library will allow for better preservation of and access to these important resources.



Photo courtesy of the Bureau of Land Management.

Bison Bob

He died some 40,000 years ago, but **Bison Bob’s** a big beauty to UAF researchers Pam Groves and Dan Mann. They were paddling by an eroding bank on a northern Alaska river on an assignment for the Bureau of Land Management when they spotted the skull of a steppe bison sticking out of the mud. For four days, they excavated a nearly complete skeleton of the animal, which still had some of his reddish-brown fur preserved in the frozen muck. Read more at <http://bit.ly/bisonbob>.

FULL Frame

Starvation Gulch, a fall tradition on the Fairbanks campus going back to 1923, was the inspiration of Charles E. Bunnell, the university's first president. Students built a mock town to serve as an entertainment facility by day and fuel for enormous bonfires by night. Bunnell wanted the fires to symbolize the passing of the torch of knowledge.

Students nicknamed the town "Starvation Gulch," an ostensible poke at the pioneers who first settled in Fairbanks. It became the official name of the annual festival and has served since then as an icebreaker of sorts to welcome new people into the college fold. Student groups build monuments that the chancellor sets alight to heat up the cold September night.



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Α Φ Ω
The 2012
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ENERG CIVILIZATION

By Doug Reynolds, illustrations by Harrison Carpenter

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE IS ADAPTED FROM THE PROLOGUE TO ENERGY CIVILIZATION, PUBLISHED IN 2011 BY DOUG REYNOLDS, PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS WITH THE SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT. THE BOOK EXPLORES HISTORICAL ECONOMIES RELATIVE TO ENERGY SUPPLIES.

In January 1991, Saddam Hussein, the president of Iraq, proclaimed that the struggle to control Kuwait would be “the mother of all battles.” But Hussein’s words rang hollow, as it took a mere 100 hours for Iraq to lose Kuwait to the U.S.-led forces. However, Hussein’s words may have had more meaning than expected. During the famous Iraqi retreat some 700 oil wells were torched, and it took eight months to extinguish them. Nearly a billion barrels of crude oil were lost, the equivalent of \$100 billion, which does not include the cost of the effort to extinguish the fires or of the war in the first place. Given the expense of the Gulf War and the subsequent invasion of the coalition into Iraq — actions that involved the security of oil supplies — you might say that oil is the mother of all resources, and may indeed be worth more than one war.

In the 1970s, I knew energy was the key to the world’s future, and I assumed, like most economists, that new technology would come to the rescue. After all, we know that necessity is the mother of invention. I have now come to a very different conclusion: rather than invention, necessity is the mother of adaptation. Counting on technology to solve a crisis is at best a 50-50 proposition.

But counting on adaptation to respond to a crisis is 100 percent reliable. Adapt and thrive. So, I decided to adapt ahead of time and find the most successful strategy to use less oil, partly as a research experiment, partly to make a significant lifestyle change at my own pace, and partly to explore a new future.

Fairbanks is a perfect place to carry out such an experiment because the Fairbanks economy is intensely dependent on oil. There is a major oil pipeline and a refinery near town, and the majority of residents use fuel oil to heat their homes and gasoline to drive their cars. However, contrary to what you might expect in an oil-producing state, Fairbanksans pay more for gasoline than most Americans, even with a refinery nearby. Additionally, the town is heavily dependent on tourism and mining for employment, industries that rely on oil to transport tourists, employees and machinery. Finally, according to the weather service, we have 100 percent probability of snow on Christmas. So, how to adapt?

On a cold day in Fairbanks, it can reach 40 below zero and be pitch dark. The sun doesn’t rise until midmorning. In spite of this, I have managed to bicycle to work nearly every day to save fuel and money. I wish I could tell





WHAT IF ALMOST EVERY FAMILY IN FAIRBANKS WERE FORCED BY THE HIGH COST OF ENERGY TO RELY ON WOOD OR COAL HEAT?

you of the beautiful scenery I pass on the bike path and along the river, of the way a simple black spruce looks covered in snow, of how the snow makes even a dark morning seem brighter, but really it's a tough ride. I wear heavy snow pants, a parka, gloves, boot gloves, a face mask and a helmet fitted for ear warmers. I also have studded bike tires, which cost more than studded automobile tires. I have two front headlights, one on my helmet and one on my bike handlebars, front and back blinkers, and reflective tape all around. Yet still drivers do not always see me.

The cold is often so bitter, my tires begin to flatten as the cold reduces tire pressure, so I have to make sure they're fully inflated. My breath freezes on my face until ice builds up around my eyes, but I can't wear goggles or glasses because they fog up instantly and I can't see. (One of my graduate students found a solution, though — snorkeling gear.) It's fair to say I look strange as I come in from the cold with ice all over my face.

I don't ride my bike to the store or take my kids in my bike trailer in the winter. Beside the potential of being hit by a car or getting frostbite, my kids would complain the whole way. I do know a mom who manages to bike

her kids to preschool in winter here, but for most people bicycling just isn't a viable alternative to a car.

One winter, I did some consulting in downtown Fairbanks. I had to be in several places around town during the week, which meant I couldn't ride my bike as easily. I ended up taking the bus to the university, one downtown and sometimes yet another one back to the university before going home on a fourth bus.

First I would go out and wait for the first bus from my home, wearing all my winter clothing. There was about a 40-minute delay between the bus to campus and the next bus to downtown, so I would run to my office, check my email and try to take care of campus business before I ran — fast — to the next bus to get to my consulting office.

During the 25-minute ride downtown, I read reports, graded papers or wrote analyses. I could have focused on the

“time-waste” factor since I could have covered the same distance in fewer than 10 minutes by car. Instead, I came to realize that efficiency wasn't about how my environment caters to my needs, or about finding technology that adapted to what I needed. It was more about how I adapted to my environment and the existing technology. Often I'd end up talking with other passengers. Sometimes I got work done on the bus and sometimes not, but there was a sense of community that in many ways made up for the downside.

**Necessity is the mother of adaptation.
crisis is at best**

**But counting on
100 percent reliable. Adapt**



Conserve before consume

I've spent several years living in Europe, so I know Europeans are greatly concerned over energy conservation.

A lot of buildings now have very good insulation and tight doors and windows. But when you have a lot of insulation and little ventilation, you get humidity and mold, causing as many health problems as bad air.

So one of the habits I noticed all across Europe was to open windows for at least 15 minutes a day, even in the dead of winter.

Back in Alaska, I added insulation and sealing to my home. Sure enough, my humidity level indoors skyrocketed, and I got iced windows and the beginnings of mold problems. So I intentionally reinstalled air leaks, with a heat recovery ventilator. HRVs are used in Fairbanks and elsewhere, but they cost thousands of dollars to install and use energy themselves.

Although I added insulation and participated in weatherproofing programs offered by the state, quite frankly, in Fairbanks that just isn't enough. Most people in Fairbanks use oil, a very expensive fuel, to heat their homes. The bills are dragging many folks under. I wanted something cheaper.

Luckily, there is a world-class coal mine 100 miles southwest of town. While fuel oil is delivered at around \$4 per gallon

of gasoline equivalent, coal is about \$1.50 per GGE. Even though the coal does not burn as efficiently as fuel oil, it still saves half the energy cost of fuel oil. So I bought a coal-fired hydronic boiler for my backyard.

This coal system automatically feeds coal to a burning chamber every time the house calls for extra heat. It was expensive, well over \$15,000 dollars after all the installation, but the reduction in fuel costs has made up for that. I eventually added an insulating shell around the boiler to reduce the need to fill the coal bin and haul away the ash as often, and I heightened the chimney to make it more efficient and even cleaner burning. Those changes made the boiler about twice as efficient and half as smelly.

I sat on a committee for energy options in Fairbanks in 2008 to discuss these looming concerns of expensive heating fuel oil coupled with extremely cold temperature inversions in the winter. The inversions cause coal and wood burning particulates, as well as pollutants from vehicle exhaust, to remain close to the ground, where we breathe them in. (The downtown coal power plant has a scrubber to remove the particulates.) The

particulates can be as small as 2.5 microns, which has been shown to be unhealthy. But with fuel oil so expensive and natural gas unavailable in Fairbanks, the only cheap heating

options available are those that pollute — wood or coal.

The question for the committee was, what if almost every family in Fairbanks were forced by the high cost of energy to rely on wood or coal heat? Clearly, the particulate matter would be horrendous. The entire town sits on the front lines of the world's energy and environmental crises. The committee for energy options advocated bringing natural gas to town. Three options were vetted. One was the construction of a small-diameter natural gas bullet pipeline from Prudhoe Bay to Anchorage, which would go past Fairbanks and provide relatively cheap natural gas for both major metropolitan areas. That could take six years from start of construction to finish. Another option was to put super-cooling liquefied natural gas modules on the North Slope, turn the North Slope's natural gas into LNG and then truck the LNG to Fairbanks, which would take two years to develop. A third option was to drill for natural gas and build a small, eight-inch pipeline from the drill site to Fairbanks. That would take three years, if they found natural gas, which they haven't.

Another idea was to use heat from the downtown coal-fired power plant to warm homes and businesses — district heating. Already, hot steam and hot water from the power plant is piped around the Fairbanks downtown area to heat houses and buildings, a system often called cogeneration. More houses could use that heat source if more



Counting on technology to solve a
a 50-50 proposition.

adaptation to respond to a crisis is
and thrive.

pipes were laid, but the commission determined this alternative to be too expensive. Another alternative, which I saw used in the former Soviet Union, was to put pipes above ground rather than underground, all over the city. It's ugly but cheap. The Soviets did it often.

[The committee also explored alternative-energy options, and Reynolds offers an analysis of some alternative energies in the book.]

A recommendation for the two-year LNG option was pushed, but because the commercial interests needed time and incentive to try their options, nothing was done with the recommendation, and Fairbanks continues to head into greater environmental and economic decline. But that is typical. Energy transitions by their nature are divisive, expensive and economically devastating. There are no easy technologies, no cheap solutions, no clear path — only extremely difficult and painful adaptations.

There are no easy answers to high energy costs. People will simply have to pay more for energy, including electricity, and will have less money for vacations, consumer goods, even necessities. Rather than waiting for that man-on-the-moon

technological breakthrough or the perfect hydrogen fuel cell car, it is better to start right now to change your lifestyle. Prepare to change your job, or accept lower wages, or live with other families, or use alternative transportation, or use coal to heat your home. Just don't prepare for the easy life that technologists have promised.

Ultimately, people will make do. We were made to adapt. Now people will have to manage again, and with environmental problems to boot. When I taught in Kazakhstan, a student told me, "It could be fun for everyone to live in a yurt." And so it could be. Just remember to wear your reflective gear and snorkel. ▲

Doug Reynolds, professor of oil and energy economics, has been at UAF since 1997. He has done research in oil and natural gas supply, natural gas pipeline projects and nonrenewable resource scarcity. He has studied energy issues in Kazakhstan, Mexico, Norway, Russia and Poland, and has done energy consulting for the State of Alaska.

Artist Harrison Carpenter was born in Fairbanks and raised in Delta Junction, Alaska. He will graduate from UAF this spring with a BFA in art. He is particularly interested in the urbanization of landscapes.



HIVE OF INDUSTRY

Sometimes they come before you've even built it. In the last 10 years, enrollment in the College of Engineering and Mines has doubled, to 749 students in fall 2012, but the space for them to learn has stayed the same.

"Right now we are breaking classes up into three or four sessions," says Billy Connor, director of CEM's Institute of Northern Engineering. "[The introductory class] is a good example. We have no classroom for 80 students."

Lab and research space are other commodities in short supply. But a proposed engineering building between Duckering and Bunnell will give more room for everyone, from classrooms to research facilities. Placing the structure between the traditional homes of CEM and the School of Management holds potential for collaboration between engineering and business majors. (The School of Management's enrollment has increased 88 percent this past decade, to 635 students).

"Engineering now is much more interdisciplinary than it's ever been," says Connor. "We need to understand what people want, communicate with them and provide what they are looking for."

Alaska could theoretically import its engineers and businesspeople, but as Doug Reynolds points out in *Energy Civilization*, the 49th state has specific physical constraints and requirements that require specific structural and business expertise.

That's prompted companies like BP, ConocoPhillips Alaska, Kinross Fort Knox, Shannon & Wilson Inc., Shell Exploration and Production, Sumitomo Metal Mining Pogo, Teck Alaska Inc., and Usibelli Coal Mine to donate to UAF more than \$3 million over the last two years alone.

Dan Snodgrass, who manages operations at Kinross' Fort Knox Mine, outside Fairbanks, likes hiring UAF graduates. "They're used to an arctic environment. It is much different working in an arctic environment versus other areas or other countries around the world."

UAF's practical approach is also a big plus. "I believe that makes a good engineer: somebody who's got a little mud on their boots now and then," he says. "So when they get back in the office making their plans, they've got a little empathy for the individuals carrying out those plans."

The good race

By Ned Rozell

As we rolled through the parking lot, 100 steps from the grassy field where the Equinox Marathon ends and begins, the starting cannon boomed. It was not the first time I had arrived late for the Equinox start, but everything else was different that morning. My little blondie, 3-year old Anna, was there with me. She was in her Chariot stroller, with a blanket over her feet.

I was following a compulsion to do the race any way possible. With Anna's mom, Kristen, up ahead in the pack, and us with no babysitter, the Chariot was a means for me to cover the miles. Expecting a 3-year-old to sit still for nine hours was nuts, and selfish, but I wanted to honor my lifetime bib. And I wanted to share the experience with my little girl, because my Equinox Marathon memories (including first meeting Kristen at the race) go back half my life.

With smoke curling from the cannon, the crowd bobbed up the hill ahead of us. I suppressed a comical urge to pass people, and shoved the Chariot up the first steep hill of the Equinox. My eyes watered while ascending the old UAF ski slope, a bit overwhelmed that I was healthy/lucky/alive enough to again run the race.

Twenty-one years earlier, I had started up this same hill in a T-shirt and nylon shorts. I wished I had more insulation when it snowed on Ester Dome that day, but I made 'er home in 4 hours, 18 minutes. Not a great time, but at that moment it was the most impressive thing I had ever done.

I've run this race most of the years I've lived here, with an intact streak since 2001. I was trained up for my best ever time in 2000. But then my dad died that August, and I was back East during race time. Since then, I've thought of him, and the tennis tiger who was my mom, during the hours it takes me to cover the 26.2 miles up, on and over Ester Dome. That's the part where I get misty, and thankful my carcass can still move that far.

On this chilly September morning, it was time to show my girlie the miles that are such a part of my life. I'm not sure if Anna will be a runner, or even an athlete, but she was going to see the crowd that comes out to cheer everybody on beneath the yellow and orange trees, wrinkle her nose at the musk of highbush cranberries, and feel the heartfelt smiles and hand slaps of the old friends we passed on the out-and-back. She would breathe in the spirit of the day.



Photo courtesy of Ned Rozell

Ned and Anna Rozell show off their finisher's patch after completing the 2009 Equinox Marathon.

As we climbed up the big hill through spruce and aspen, another Equinox memory nudged me. There, in my mind's eye, was Paco, a friend from college, sitting down right there on the trail, eating berries, resting for another push with a punchy smile on his face. He was trying to once again complete the race without training. Paco, a UAF photography student from Mexico, loved the Equinox. Learning of his murder in Fairbanks one day in October almost 20 years ago was some of the most shocking news I've ever received. I thought of him — that gentle, smiling soul — and mouthed another *thank you for my blessings*.

The richest blessing was the little girl with me. She entered the scene a few years ago, blowing the walls off the me-centered box I'd constructed and maintained for 43 years. With her, everything was new again, from the hoot of a great horned owl to the crunch of little boots on fresh snow.

The miles with Anna did not drag that day. She napped, she walked some, she never complained and she looked forward to the cookies at the aid stations before devouring them.

Nine hours into that glorious day, with Anna on my shoulders as we closed in on the finish line, a woman ran past us. We had seen her before, several times; she had been checking on friends who, like us, were the true back of the pack. As she had several times before, the woman yelled words of encouragement. They were the perfect summation of our new, extra-slow and extra-meaningful version of the Equinox.

“Watching you two today has been beautiful.” 🐘

Ned Rozell, '90, is a science writer at UAF's Geophysical Institute.

Equinox Marathon: 50 years running

RUNNING OR HIKING THE EQUINOX MARATHON AND RELAY IN SEPTEMBER IS A RITE OF SEASONAL PASSAGE FOR MANY FAIRBANKSANS, AND THE PATCH THAT ONLY FULL MARATHON FINISHERS RECEIVE IS A BADGE OF HONOR. IT'S RECKONED BY MANY TO BE AMONG THE TOUGHEST MARATHONS IN THE COUNTRY.

UAF's involvement has been integral to the Equinox from its inception. The course begins and ends in front of the Patty Center, and miles of the route wind over UAF's ski trails. Like many sporting events, maybe all of them, the Equinox has many layers and many stories. You can compile quite a list of startling statistics over 50 years of 26.2 miles, and some deeply personal observations, such as those shared by Ned Rozell on page 23.



The original Equinox Marathon finisher's patch, designed by Gail Bakken, one of the race's founders. The coveted patch today remains virtually unchanged and is still handed to every person who finishes within 10 hours.

- 1963** The Equinox Marathon is founded by UAF ski coach Jim Mahaffey and UAF skiers Nat Goodhue, '65, and Gail Bakken, '65, among others. The inaugural race features 143 starters and 69 finishers. Goodhue in 3:54:22 and Bakken in 6:08:00 are the winners. The race begins and ends, as it has every year since then, in front of the Patty Center.
- 1964** The Equinox is the largest marathon in the world, and will be again in 1966 and 1967.
- 1969** With no entry fee, a record 1,630 people register. There are 1,160 starters (260 runners and 900 hikers) and 821 finishers. Entry fees of \$1 for hikers and \$2 for runners are instituted the next year, and fewer people sign up.
- 1972** The Boston Marathon, begun in 1897, allows women to run officially for the first time. The Equinox has allowed women to compete from its inception.
- 1984** ▼ Stan Justice, '75, runs 2:41:30 to set a record that still stands and has never been seriously threatened.
- 1990** A two-person team relay race, quickly a popular option, is added. The next year it is bumped up to a three-person relay.



UAF photo by Samuel Winch.



UAF photo by Maureen McCombs.

2,400

Elevation (feet)

400

Start

Belega hill

UAF trails

"Muskox farm"

Bottom of Ester Dome

Ullihaven

To

1992 The race is not officially held due to heavy snowfall, but several dozen runners complete the course anyway. Counting that year, the Equinox is one of the longest continuously held marathons in the country.

1995 Race fans can demonstrate their dedication by purchasing a lifetime bib, which means they have a guaranteed prepaid race entry every year; by the 2012 race, 50 lifetime bibs have been sold. Fans can also pay for sturdy metal signs used as route or milepost markers. Many of these are purchased by families or friends to commemorate deceased runners.

2002 Susan Faulkner, '95, breaks the women's record by more than three minutes in 3:18:16. Her record still stands.

2009 For those for whom a marathon just isn't quite long enough, race organizers add a 50-kilometer/31.2 mile ultramarathon.

2010 Steve Bainbridge, '93, retires as the longest-serving Equinox race director; he first took over as RD in 1995. John Estle and Susan Kramer step in as co-directors. (Estle also served as RD from 1985 – 1989.)

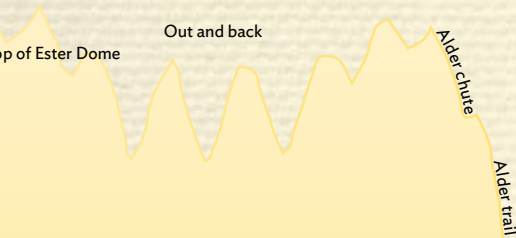
2011 The ultramarathon distance increases to 64 kilometers/40 miles.

2012 The 50th Equinox sees 1,251 entrants, exceeding 1,000 participants for the first time since 1969. A record 825 people (counting one for each relay team) finishes. Eric Strabel is the fastest man in 2:45:15, and Emily Routon is the fastest woman in 3:25:40. The last official hiker comes in at 9:36:00. Five women and 27 men complete the ultramarathon: Ivaylo Benov is the men's winner, in 5:36:02; Stephanie Kuhn is the first woman, in 6:45:20. The youngest marathon finisher is Alexander Greene, 9; the oldest is Phyllis Church, 77. Finishers are from 29 Alaska communities, 14 states and four other countries — Canada (3), England (2), Germany (1) and Japan (5).

2013 The Equinox is inducted into the Alaska Sports Hall of Fame.

Sources: Matias Saari, Steve Bainbridge, John Estle and www.equinoxmarathon.org

Learn more about one of the world's toughest marathons at www.uaf.edu/aurora/.



Equinox Marathon course profile



Fairbanks artist Kes Woodward created this limited edition giclee print to commemorate the 50th Equinox Marathon.

Back to the UAF trails

26.2 miles

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Photos by Todd Paris, JR Ancheta and courtesy of FNA.





1950s

Bill Holman, '55, '58 — “While continuing to take classes at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Alabama Huntsville and the Huntsville Senior Center, I am also teaching classes at both venues. I offer a Russian class at both facilities and a Consciousness Illuminated course at OLLI. What we attempt to do in the Consciousness Illuminated courses is to utilize the breadth of many pre-existing outlooks (of class members) in a forum (not lecture) to discuss various prominent books in order to shed more light on the subject of consciousness and thereby increase the depth of our respective understandings.”

George Schaller, '55, '92, is vice president of Panthera and a senior conservationist at the Wildlife Conservation Society. His book *Tibet Wild: A Naturalist's Journeys on the Roof of the World* was published last fall by Island Press. Read a review at <http://nyti.ms/ZBVVBj>.

1970s



▲ **Patricia Evans Olson, '70** — “I wrote a collection of stories from my experiences living cross-culturally in nine countries from 2002 – 2010. Available at amazon.com, *Frogs in the Loo and Other Short-Term Missions Tales* chronicles the journey my husband, **David B. Olson, '72**, and I took as we worked in Christian radio around the globe. We are now semiretired and living in Lancaster, Pa.”

Terese Kaptur, '76, '86, director of the **Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival**, and **Mark Sherman, '80, '83**, were married in February 2012 in the university fire hall. They met at UAF while students in the mid-70s when Mark was a firefighter. Their first date was a tour of the fire hall.

Zeljko Runje, '79, is vice president for offshore projects at Rosneft, a Russian oil and gas company. Before that he was vice president at Exxon Mobil Russia.

Terese Kaptur, '76, '86, and Mark Sherman, '80, '83, were married in the university fire hall.



1980s

Bernadette Yaayuk Alvanna-Stimpfle, '80, '07, was appointed to the Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council by Gov. Parnell. She is the Eskimo Heritage Program Director at Kawerak Inc. and an Inupiaq instructor at UAF's Northwest Campus in Nome.



▲ **Todd Paris, '83**, showcased his photography in a First Friday exhibit in Fairbanks in October 2012. View his work at <http://parispub.smugmug.com>.

India Spartz, '85, became director of special collections for the University of Arizona Libraries in April 2012. Prior to that she was senior archivist at Harvard University's Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology. She is a member of the Society of American Archivists and the Academy of Certified Archivists.

▼ **Shirish Patil, '87, '95, '07**, was awarded the Society of Petroleum Engineering's Distinguished Member award in October 2012. Distinguished membership is limited to 1 percent of SPE professional members and



acknowledges members who have attained eminence in the petroleum industry or the academic community, and/or who have made unusually significant contributions to SPE. Shirish is internationally recognized as a leading expert in the areas of natural gas hydrates and improved oil recovery.

Jeff Roach, '87 — “On May 24, I completed the U.S. Air Force Air War College at Maxwell AFB in Montgomery, Ala. I am an Alaska Army National Guard lieutenant colonel. I received a master of strategic studies degree and met the educational requirements to be promoted to general officer in the U.S. military. To accomplish the Air War College mission, students demonstrate mastery of dual challenges — academic enhancement and professional development through course work, independent research and international travel. To meet these challenges, the college develops the knowledge, skills and attitudes in its students that are significant to the profession of arms with emphasis on air and space power and its application in joint and multinational war fighting. I was one of 245 students in the class of 2012. I conducted research on national sovereignty in the Arctic and traveled to the Philippines and Thailand to meet my regional studies requirement.”

Linda Thomas, '87, is vice chair of Alaska Pacific Bancshares' board of directors. She is a CPA and vice president and chief operations officer for Alaskan Brewing Company.

Stephen Walkie Charles, '88, '12, was appointed to the Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council by Gov. Parnell. Walkie is an assistant professor of Yup'ik at UAF.

Bernice Joseph, '88, '98, was named Citizen of the Year for 2012 at the Alaska Federation of Natives convention in October. Read more and listen to an interview with her at <http://bit.ly/josephnews>.



Rich Koenig, '88, '90, is the director of Washington State University Extension. His stated goal is to reach out to farmers.

Chris Simon, '89, '94, is the rural education coordinator for the Alaska Department of Education. His job, based in Fairbanks, includes improving the department's outreach to rural communities and Native organizations, promoting the governor's education priorities to prepare students for college and job-training success, building a rapport with legislators, and identifying new ways to improve the delivery of education in rural Alaska. He is married to **Letha Chimegalrea Simon, '89, '04**, and they have three children.

Khalid Al Subai, '89, is a research director at Qatar Foundation and leads the Qatar Exoplanet Survey, a group of scientists researching the possibility of other life forms in the solar system. Read more at www.arabianbusiness.com/star-gazing-462982.html.

1990s

Mary Jane Fate, '92, received the Shirley Demientieff Award for advocacy on behalf of Alaska Native women and children from the Alaska Federation of Natives in October 2012. Earlier in the year she received the Citizen of the Year award from Doyon.

Jackie Baker, '94 — "I moved from Fairbanks in '93 to the D.C. area and operate a small nonprofit preschool, which was rated a top preschool in the Northern Virginia area. Our website is www.classroomofdiscovery.org."



Jackie Baker, '94, operates a small nonprofit preschool in Virginia.

Phil Summers, '96 — "It's official, our new company is up and running! Logic Healthcare is a game changer in the health-care IT industry! It has been a long road with many sleepless nights and many days without seeing my family, but I am very happy to present our company, www.logichealth-care.com."



Phoebe Bredlie, '99, joined the Fairbanks office of R&M Consultants Inc. in the airport engineering group in September. Bredlie was previously employed by the Alaska Department of

Transportation and Public Facilities and has 13 years of general civil design and construction engineering experience.



▲ **Joe Dudley, '99** — "I am currently working for Science Applications International Corp. providing scientific and technical services to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and other federal agency clients. My major subject matter focus is currently in the public health, emerging diseases ecology/epidemiology, disaster

emergency preparedness and response, and climate change sectors. I still maintain research affiliations with the Institute of Arctic Biology and the UA Museum of the North. You might want to check out my 'Dance your PhD' video, which was entered in a competition sponsored by *Science* magazine, at <http://gonzolabs.org/dance/videos/>." Joe's drawing accompanied his thesis abstract.

Katlin Hanson, '99 — "I continue to work as a fieldwork supervisor at test sites utilizing deep vadose zone remediation technologies with Glen Chronister for the CH2M Hill Plateau Remediation Co. and the Department of Energy at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation near Richland, Wash. The first full-scale plutonium production reactor, B reactor, was constructed in eight months in 1943 at Hanford, and the plutonium from this reactor was used in the Fat Man bomb detonated over Nagasaki, Japan, in 1945. I have been working at Hanford since September 2009 and was a buyer technical representative/fieldwork supervisor for the CHPRC deep well drilling group from 2009 to 2011. See the chapters of the Hanford story at www.hanford.gov."

2000s

Carol Gering, '00, '08, was named executive director of UAF's eLearning and Distance Education in September 2012 after serving as interim director for two months.

Mona Jensen, '01, retired from the State of Alaska in February 2012 and moved to Arizona in July.

Ty Keltner, '02, '08, was featured as a bigfoot investigator on *Legends Of* on the Travel Channel. Watch the trailer at www.travelchannel.com/video/alaskas-legends.

Irma Goodwine, '03, was reappointed by Gov. Parnell to the Statewide Independent Living Council. Goodwine, who lives in Bethel, has been director of the Association of Village Council Presidents' vocational rehabilitation program since 2000.

David Abrams, '04 — "My debut novel, *Fobbit*, was recently published by Grove/Atlantic. *Fobbit* is a dark comedy about the Iraq War and has been hailed by Publishers Weekly as 'an instant classic.' For more information about the book, visit www.davidabramsbooks.com."

Pearl Kiyawn Nageak Brower, '04, '10, became president of Ilisagvik College in June 2012, after spending three months as interim president. She had served as dean of students and institutional development before that. Ilisagvik College is the only federally recognized tribal college in Alaska.

Lynn Burkett, '04, married Richard Kimball in September 2012. Lynn is the planning and resource development manager for Aging and Long Term Care of Eastern Washington in Spokane, where the couple lives.

Sara Harriger, '04 — “For our current project at www.47japanese farms.com, our goal is to visit, before the end of 2015, each of Japan’s 47 administrative districts, or todou-fuken (sort of like a county or a state, but not as autonomous as the latter), and do a farm stay with a local family or farmer in each one. We trade our labor for room, board, Japanese practice, and learning about local culture and attitudes about farming. We look at farming as a commercial and as a subsistence activity, and I anticipate we will also look at hunting and fishing subsistence activities and commercial activities in the course of our project. We have also started a small oral history project to record interviews with survivors of the 3-11 disasters in Tohoku.”

April Gale Laktonen Counciller, '05, '10, was appointed to the Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council by Gov. Parnell. She is an assistant professor of Alutiiq language and culture at Kodiak College and the language manager at the Alutiiq Museum.

Heidi Rader, '06, published *Alaska Farmers Market Cookbook*, a collection of recipes organized by season. She is the tribes extension educator with the Cooperative Extension Service and Tanana Chiefs Conference and teaches agricultural skills in remote areas of the state. Read more and purchase her book at www.heidirader.com.

Brittany Dykstra Davies, '07, '08, received her MD degree from the University of Washington School of Medicine in June 2012. She is a resident of internal medicine at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.

2010s

Peter Flaig, '10, is a geologist at the University of Texas at Austin. Each summer he spends about a month in northern Alaska with his wife, Dolores van der Kolk, studying rocks, rock faces and stratigraphy in rivers and shorelines. Read more at <http://bit.ly/flaiggeologist>.

Kendall Christine Bethune, '12, married **Jordan Charles Ross, '12**, in June 2012. They live in Anchorage where Jordan is attending medical school at the University of Washington through UAA, and Kendall is pursuing a master’s degree at UAF.

Oceana Francis, '12, was offered a tenure track position as an assistant professor in civil and environmental engineering at the University of Hawaii.



Four former Nanooks were inducted into the Nanook Hall of Fame in October 2012: John Estle (cross country/Nordic skiing coach, 1982 – 1990, represented by his nominator, Anne-Berit Smith), Ellen Hannan, '81, (basketball, 1977 – 1981), Pavla Havlova, Matric., (cross country/Nordic skiing 2005 – 2006) and Heather Harrison, '93, (volleyball, 1990 – 1991, represented by Sheena Cummings, director of athletics development). Read more at <http://bit.ly/alaskananookshalloffame>.

Matriculates

Patrick Knight — “Attended UAF military extension sites at Eielson and Elmendorf/ Ft. Richardson 1980 – 1986. Graduated UAA 1988. Went on to law school at the University of North Dakota (1993 – 1996). Just published first novel, *Race Against Global Warming*, under nom de plume Thomas Martin in dedication to my grandfather. New series of political environment books coming out in December 2012.”

Brianna Reagan displayed her art project WORD in a First Friday exhibit in Fairbanks in September 2012. Find out more about her and her art at www.briannareaganart.com.

PLEASE JOIN US!

NANOOK
Rendezvous

UAF ALUMNI REUNION
 SEPTEMBER 19 – 21, 2013

Earl H. Beistline, '39, '47, '69 honorary degree recipient, and dean and professor emeritus, Dec. 14, 2012, Fairbanks

Kristen Rathman Bradley, '96, Nov. 30, 2012, Fairbanks

Max C. Brewer, '65 honorary degree recipient, Sept. 21, 2012, Anchorage

David C. Brickell, '71, Sept. 18, 2012, Fairbanks

Joyce Renee Brown, '98, Dec. 19, 2012, Fairbanks

Sheldon A. Clark, '61, Feb. 3, Towanda, Pa.

Howard H. Cloud, '90, Dec. 6, 2012, Homer

Robert Theodore Cooney, professor emeritus, Feb. 14, Choteau, Mt.

Miles L. Coverdale, '64, Jan. 19, Anchorage

Enid Cutler, matriculate and widow of Chancellor Emeritus Howard Cutler, Dec. 28, 2012, Royersford, Pa.

Ron Dupee, Facilities Services staff member, Jan. 1, Fairbanks

Kimberly I. Farnsworth, '84, Oct. 29, 2012, Sparks, Nev.

Theodore F. Fathauer, '13, former trustee, Jan. 20, Fairbanks

Emma A. Freeland, '64, Nov. 21, 2012, Spokane Valley, Wash.

Willa Jean Frey, '66, '79, Nov. 29, 2012, Fairbanks

Marion Rast Gillespie, '68, Nov. 29, 2012, Lewisburg, Pa.

Emily Lou Golden, '98, Jan. 7, Boise, Idaho

Arnold Griese, professor emeritus, Feb. 1, Fairbanks

B.L. "Nick" Hackenberger, '57, Aug. 8, 2012, Tigard, Ore.

Dolores M. Heine, '73, Sept. 29, 2012, Redmond, Wash.

Edward R. Hollifield, former Facilities Services staff member, Aug. 16, 2012, Fairbanks

Kenneth J. Huseby, '52, Jan. 24, Anchorage

David J. Jacobson, '90, Sept. 16, 2012, Fairbanks

Jeannene Jeffress, '67, Dec. 8, 2012, Greer, S.C.

Mary C. Kerner, '65, '74, Dec. 28, 2012, Fairbanks

James W. Matthews, professor emeritus, Jan. 28, Fairbanks

David Eric McDowell, '66, Aug. 13, 2012, Juneau

Frederick P. McGinnis, '67 honorary degree recipient, Sept. 2, 2012, Austell, Ga.

Betty Jean McKinny, '03, Sept. 5, 2012, Statesboro, Ga.

John F. Moses, '78, Jan. 3, Emmonak

Veronica Nicholas, '97, Nov. 3, 2012, Cantwell

Richard "OD" L. Odsather, '70, Nov. 28, 2012, Fairbanks

Frank M. Parr, '74, Aug. 15, 2012, West Columbia, S.C.

Stephen John Peters, '71, Jan. 2, North Pole

Austin S. Post, '04 honorary degree recipient, Nov. 12, 2012, Dupont, Wash.

Andrew Quanton, former museum staff member, Dec. 24, 2012, Fairbanks

Robert L. Rausch, '87 honorary degree recipient, Oct. 7, 2012, Seattle, Wash.

June Mary Reuben, '77, Oct. 7, 2012, Santa Cruz, Calif.

Roberta L. Rice, '69, Jan. 15, Fairbanks

Michael A. Romano, '65, Dec. 2, 2012, Statesville, N.C.

Alfred Dennis Ruff, '62, '67, Oct. 16, 2012, Alamogordo, N.M.

Freda Ann Russell, '99, Oct. 9, 2012, Fairbanks

John I. Schumacher, '43, Dec. 6, 2012, Grand Junction, Colo.

Peter B. Schust, '58, former trustee, Nov. 18, 2012, Paradise Valley, Ariz.

Paul L. Scott, '01, Oct. 14, 2012, Palmer

Dennis D. Southworth, '84, '86, Nov. 27, 2012, Fairbanks

John Lorenson Stephl, '55, Dec. 16, 2012, Wasilla

Eileen M. Stout, '68, July 14, 2012, Ceres, Calif.

Gordon E. Stryken, '89, Jan. 22, Fairbanks

Joseph M. Tremarello, '58, '68, Sept. 12, 2012, Fairbanks

Judith L. Watt, '60, Jan. 18, Richmond, Ind.

Harry A. Wilson, '67, Dec. 16, Arlington, Wash.

GOOD SPORTS

The 2012 – 2013 sports season is over. Here's how the Nanooks finished in conference or NCAA championship competition. What you won't see here is the number of weights lifted, miles run, ibuprofen taken, and airplanes boarded to get it done. Also not shown: blood, sweat, tears and cheers, regardless of the final standings.

★ ▼ **Men's hockey:** 6th in conference; won Governor's Cup for 4th straight year



Photo by Jason Colquhoun.

- ★ **Men's basketball:** 4th in conference; Mick Durham named conference coach of the year
- ★ **Women's basketball:** 10th in conference
- ★ **Men's cross country:** 8th in conference
- ★ **Women's cross country:** 8th in conference
- ★ **Men's skiing:** Team placed 2nd at NCAA regionals; Michael Fehrenbach won 10K classic, Logan Hanneman placed 2nd
- ★ **Women's skiing:** NCAA regional team champions; Alyson McPhetres regional champion in 5K classic and 10K freestyle
- ★ **Rifle:** 2nd-place team finish in smallbore at NCAA championship; 4th overall
- ★ **Women's swimming:** At NCAA championship, Bente Heller won Alaska's first-ever individual swimming national title and was 3rd in another event; Margot Adams placed 2nd in an individual event
- ★ **Women's volleyball:** 7th in conference

Catch up on all the Nanook news at www.alaskananoos.com.



The innocent eye: A remembrance of Adrina Knutson

By Leonard Kamerling

I'm looking at a portrait of an African man. His eyes blaze through the photograph, transfixing my stare. The moment of the photograph is perishable in time but decisive in its effect on the viewer. The man looks out from the photograph, questioning us and at the same time revealing secrets about himself. It's hard to look away. The more I look at this image the more I sense something of myself in him and something of him in me.

The photograph is one of dozens of extraordinary images from Africa taken by Adrina Knutson. Adrina was a senior in the UAF film program when she was killed in a car accident while working on the Maasai Migrants Film Project in rural Tanzania in August 2012. (The project is run by San Francisco State University.)

Adrina had what photographers and filmmakers call “an innocent eye,” an ability to see beyond the obvious, to see deeply into the humanity of her subjects and translate what she saw into powerful, evocative images. If you asked her about the origin of one of her photographs she'd say something like, “I met these two guys fixing a bicycle,” or, “I played with a bunch of kids coming home from school.” For Adrina, photographs were not just images but indelible records of relationships and trust.

Adrina had an enormous natural talent that was encouraged, honed and disciplined through her studies at UAF. She was fully engaged in her education and all it had to offer. She was the kind of student who brought out the best in teachers, who made them excited about teaching.

In Tanzania I watched her as we began our work in remote Maasai villages and was so taken with how at home she seemed. Although it was her first experience with fieldwork, she was able to forge friendships with



Maasai people and transcend the huge gulf of culture and language. She gave her trust freely and openly and received trust in return. You can see this in every photograph and video image she created.

Adrina and her filmmaking partner, Daniel Chien, were working on a film, *Darkness to Light*, about a Maasai family and the coming-of-age journey of their young son. They spent a great deal of time at the family's rural homestead, learning their way in the Maasai world and discovering the film that lay before them.

As the potential for their story opened, Dan asked Adrina to consider being the cinematographer for their film. She was moved by his confidence in her but worried that her production and camera skills might not be adequate. She turned to her journal to work it out. She wrote, “Just make it beautiful, Adrina. You know how to do that.” 📷

Adrina Knutson will receive a posthumous film degree in May 2013. A scholarship for film students is being established in her name. To find out more, email naomi.horne@alaska.edu or call 907-474-6464.

“Adrina trusted her place in the world, and in turn was trusted by others,” wrote Maya Salganek, assistant professor of film. “She approached life with wonder, and wonder surrounded her; the mundane seemed magnificent.”



Leonard Kamerling, '99, is curator of film at the UA Museum of the North and a professor of English at UAF. He has produced numerous award-winning documentary films on northern and indigenous cultures.

White Moon on Black Water

By John Smelcer; illustration by Larry Vienneau

All of the pews on the groom's side were full of his relatives — parents, aunts and uncles, cousins, brothers and sisters, and all of their collected families.

The bride's side was empty.

But she was beautiful in her long, white gown. She had dark brown hair, almost black eyes, and she was slender. Sleek even. No one knew much about her. She had no family and no job. The groom's father had to give her away. But what she lacked in history, she made up for in love. She loved the young man standing before her, softly holding her hands, and he loved her with all his heart.

"I do," the groom said, loud enough to be heard in the back row.

Within minutes the wedding was over, the handfuls of rice tossed, and the pews emptied.

"How much do you love me?" the new wife asked as they drove away to their honeymoon two counties over.

"Honey, you know I love you more than anything," the man replied, leaning over to kiss her.

"Would you give up your job to be with me?" she asked anxiously.

"Baby, that's crazy," the man said with a smile. "We gotta live."

The young wife didn't speak for a while.

Sensing her hurt, the husband tried to make amends. "Sure, honey. I'd do anything to be with you. Hell, we can live on love."

"Do you promise?" she asked, smiling, her dark eyes gorgeous in the sunset. "Oh, do you promise to love me no matter what?"

She reached over, took his free hand and held it tight.

"Sure," he replied. "No matter what."

Several miles later she spoke again.

"Turn left there," she said, pointing to a dirt road ahead.

"But, baby, we have reservations."

"Please," the woman pleaded, on the verge of crying. "Oh, please. I want to show you my home."

The newly wed husband was curious. He had never been invited to meet her parents. All he knew was that she was an only child.

"All right," he said, looking at his watch.

Two miles down the backcountry road, they came upon a small lake. A loon was swimming on the far side, and the sun was just above the treetops. It would be dark soon. The man recognized it as the place where they had first met. He had been fishing when she stepped wet and naked from the forest, explaining that she had been skinny-dipping and something had carried off her clothes.

The woman stepped from the car. She stood before her husband, still in his tuxedo, and slipped the long, white dress from her lithe brown body. She walked to the edge of the lake and turned around, motioning for the man to follow. Then, she dived into the cold, dark water. When she emerged, she was an otter. She was an otter woman, the very last one. She had left the lake to find a mate.

She floated close — effortless, watching, waiting.

The man stood on the shore until it was dark, until stars began to shine and the moon floated on the black surface of the lake like a

white lily pad, until everything he knew became like the night and he stepped, naked, into the uncertain water. ▀



John Smelcer, '86, '87, published "White Moon on Black Water" in his most recent short story collection, *Alaskan: Stories from the Great Land*, which won a gold medal in the 2011 eLit Books Awards.

Larry Vienneau was an associate professor of art at UAF from 1989 – 2001. He has illustrated numerous books on Native American oral traditions. He continues to teach art at Seminole State College in Florida.

The Nanook Nook showcases the talent of our alumni and students. If you have an original poem, essay, short story, artwork or photograph(s) you would like to share with our readers, contact aurora.magazine@alaska.edu for submission guidelines.

100 CENTENNIAL YEARS

1917 - 2017



Yesterday's News

Online journalism has dramatically affected the ways news is paid for and delivered. In the last decade, newspapers across the country have gone out of business, reduced their coverage or moved entirely online. But nervous newshounds should recall

that journalism has always been a risky venture, as attested to by this photo of the *Tanana News*, which only published between May and October 1913. Flip to page 10 to see what the information landscape is like in Alaska today.