

Teaching it real

A veteran's story

Water wheels

aurora

Spring 2015

A language defined:

*Edna MacLean and friends
complete the Iñupiaq dictionary*

For alumni and friends of the University of Alaska Fairbanks

LETTERS

■ I was happy to read the fall 2014 issue of Aurora until I got to the last page where it stated that the University Fire Department was formed in 1964. 1964 was the year in which the new firehouse was built and put into service. Prior to that time, the main fire truck (we had two rigs) was kept in the basement of the carpenter shop and the crew slept in the basement of the girls' dormitory, which was Hess Hall.

We had an active volunteer fire department, which responded to not only campus calls but also alarms outside the Fairbanks city limits from Lemeta to the rural area behind the campus, including Farmers Loop and the surrounding area.

The chief of the department was also a student. He had been appointed by Ben Atkinson because of his previous military and civilian background in firefighting. While he was classified as a volunteer, he was paid a token salary by UAF. At that time, there were about nine or 10 firemen who helped maintain the safety of the area. Three of the crew had previous military experience.

I appreciate Aurora magazine.

—Dave Bouker '65

Editor's note: The article was changed in the online version to clarify that the celebration in July recognized the 50th anniversary of the creation of the student firefighting program in its current form and the construction of the fire station.

■ Aurora is certainly a beautiful publication. Much more sophisticated than the old Polar Star, which I edited in 1950-1951. Of course, through no fault of yours, there isn't much news that relates to my era. But keep us on your mailing list.

—Bill Holman '55, '58



Troth Yeddha' Park

■ The fall 2014 issue of Aurora captured my attention with the article about "Troth Yeddha" (wild potato ridge), the Native name for College Hill. I served on the faculty of the School of Agriculture and Land Resources Management from 1984 to 1990, and one of our interests in resource management was to increase awareness and understanding of Alaska Native cultures and how they manage resources. One easy step forward was to use Native languages for traditional gathering places and landmarks.

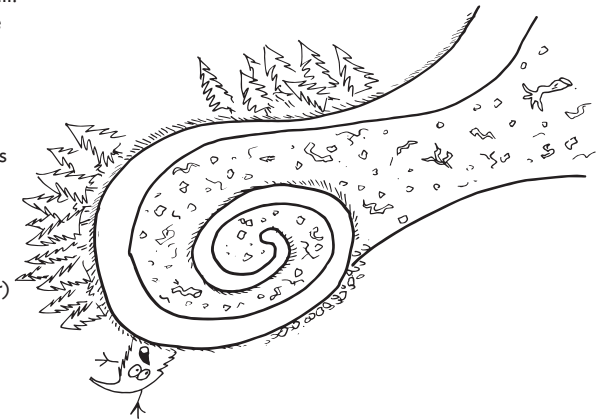
I remember discovering the Native name for College Hill in the Ahtna Athabaskan Dictionary (James Kari, 1990, Alaska Native Language Center) and recommended using the name in an article published in the journal Arctic (June 1992). I also remember great discussions with other faculty on campus — Bob Weeden and Alan Jubenville come to mind — about how Native ways could enrich how we, coming from the Western tradition, thought about the resource education we offered.

It is profoundly heartening to read about this change on campus, as I know it means a great deal to Alaska Native people and students and speaks very highly of the direction taken by UAF leadership and faculty.

I taught in the Rural Alaska Honors Institute (Native high school preparation for college program) several summers and did most of my academic research on integration of Native ways with Western ways. That research led to my being selected, in 1989, to be a Kellogg Leadership Fellow, which led to international study of and consulting on the interaction of indigenous people with Western culture in the area of resource use.

Now that I am retired, it is very heartening to know that something we kicked around as a good idea some 22 years ago has become reality. Masseur'.

—Tom Gallagher



■ *Great job — congratulations. I loved the article (and the associated graphics), "Attack of the debris lobes."*

—Chris Mungall '70, '73

P.S. For all us geeks, do tell us one of these days how they did the clever scrolling additions online.

Web designer's note: I used a JavaScript called skrollr.js. It uses data points to represent the scroll distance on a page. It was pretty neat to learn and use.



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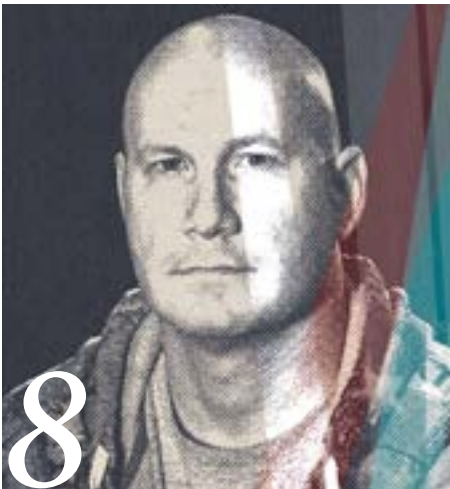
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◀ **Something to say**

By Sam Bishop

After 40 years of intermittent, painstaking work, Edna MacLean's dictionary of Iñupiaq words contains more than 19,000 entries. The dictionary doesn't explain just words. It also helps explain a people's culture and way of life.



6 Tsunamis, cocaine and a laboring cow

By Meghan Murphy

Creative faculty members engage students with lessons grounded in the tactile, not just the textbook.

8 The gradual degree

By Tom Hewitt

Some students go from high school straight to college. Others drop out of high school first, and then they go to war.

14 Then again: Susie Klingner '64

Interview with alumna Susie Klingner: "I always had a bit of a nomadic, wild streak in me."

24 Current opportunities

By Tori Tragis

Damming a river to generate electricity isn't always feasible for villages. What if you instead let the river run free?



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Submissions from alumni and students

Volume 7 No. 2

Published twice a year for alumni and friends of the University of Alaska Fairbanks



LUNCH WITH LOLA

Lola Tilly’s namesake building no longer brings students together for breakfast, lunch and dinner, but the beloved professor’s portrait still watches over them as they eat. That’s because a painting of Tilly ’63H* now hangs in a new, 420-seat dining area at Wood Center. The modern Dine Forty-nine cafeteria opened in August, replacing the 51-year-old Lola Tilly Commons. “It’ll be a hub for campus life,” Wood Center Director Lydia Anderson said at an Aug. 8 ceremony, a prediction quickly fulfilled.

*H = honorary degree

ARCTIC ICHTHYOSAUR

A 12-foot-long partial skeleton of an ancient marine animal found in the Brooks Range more than 60 years ago has been confirmed as an ichthyosaur by researchers at the UA Museum of the North. Earth sciences curator Pat Druckenmiller estimates this particular marine reptile was nearly 30 feet long, a rare fossil discovery for the state. “Ichthyosaurs were amazing animals,” Druckenmiller said. “The Alaska specimen is a type called a shastasaurid, which includes the largest marine reptiles to have ever lived — some rivaled the size of living blue whales.” Read more at <http://bit.ly/arcticichthyosaur>.

UAF photo by Patrick Druckenmiller.

ICE AGE INFANTS

An archaeological team has discovered two infants buried more than 11,000 years ago in the Tanana River valley.

The bones of the two ice age infants are the youngest human remains from that era ever found in the Americas. Analysis indicated one infant survived birth by a few weeks, while the other died in utero.

Ben Potter, associate professor of anthropology, led the team that discovered the infants in fall 2013 at the Upward Sun River site. The team published a paper on the find in November 2014.

Potter’s team found the infants directly beneath a 2010 excavation of the cremated remains of a 3-year-old child.

“Taken collectively, these burials and cremation reflect complex behaviors related to death among the early inhabitants of North America,” Potter said.

Read more at <http://bit.ly/iceageinfants>.



Photo courtesy of Ben Potter.

Professors Ben Potter, left, and Josh Reuther excavate the burial pit at the Upward Sun River site.

PEACE BY PIECE

There are lots of ways to solve a dispute, from fisticuffs to court battles. As a lawyer, Brian Jarrett hewed to the latter, but found it inadequate. “We need alternatives, a multidoor courthouse with options. While there is a role for standard litigation, we also need creative solutions to conflicts.”

Jarrett, now an assistant professor in the Department of Communication, founded and is editor-in-chief of the Alaska Journal of Dispute Resolution, which publishes peer-reviewed articles on alternative dispute resolution, restorative justice and therapeutic jurisprudence. He also developed the annual Global Cyber-conference on Dispute

Resolution, now in its fifth year. (UAF offers a minor in dispute resolution, the only program of its kind in Alaska.)

“The participation is truly remarkable,” Jarrett said of the conference. “[One year] Tlingit peacemaker and magistrate

“Communities are stepping up to develop their own solutions.”

Mike Jackson spoke about traditional dispute resolution in Kake, and, in response, a Maori peacemaker stood up on camera from New Zealand and shared Maori ways of resolving conflict.

These two communities were speaking across the globe to share their own peacemaking processes. It’s a wonderful shared learning experience for everyone.”

“People are ready for change,” said Polly Hyslop, the journal’s managing editor and a Ph.D. student in indigenous studies. “More and more communities are stepping up to develop their own solutions. They’re adapting what they learn at the conference to make peace in their communities.”

Adapted from the original story by Danny Dyer in the 2014 issue of Clarity magazine, published by the College of Liberal Arts. You can download the issue at www.uaf.edu/cla/.

GALLERY GIFT

The UA Museum of the North went through a major expansion nearly 10 years ago, but the makeover did not extend to the original Gallery of Alaska, built in 1980 and home to the beloved Otto Bear, at left. The museum is now able to begin work on a \$5 million upgrade of the Gallery of Alaska thanks to a \$1 million personal gift from Professor Emeritus Peggy Shumaker and Joe Usibelli ’59, ’96H*. The renovation project is slated to take place in five phases, which will allow the gallery to remain open to visitors. The gift from Usibelli and Shumaker creates the foundation for the project and its fundraising campaign. When complete, the Peggy Shumaker and Joe Usibelli Gallery of Alaska will have modern lighting and displays that will protect artifacts, along with hands-on elements to make the exhibits an interactive experience for visitors of all ages.



#OttoBear



Bear photo courtesy of UA Museum of the North. Above photo courtesy of Joe Usibelli and Peggy Shumaker.

NIH GRANTS EXPAND BIOMEDICINE IN ALASKA

UAF researchers who received two major grants from the National Institutes of Health aim to change not only the way biomedical research is done in Alaska but also who does it. Using \$42.6 million during the next five years, they want to connect their research to communities and train more Alaska Native scientists.

In August, NIH granted \$18.8 million to continue the Alaska IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence. INBRE links the three UA campuses as they expand biomedical research and train students. Among other things, the program provides seed money for innovative research projects and training.

The second NIH grant, in October, provided \$23.8 million to the Biomedical Learning and Student Training program. BLaST will offer scholarships, workshops, seminars and facility funds across the state, including at nine rural educational institutions. “We see it as a pipeline with multiple entry points and multiple exit points,” said Karsten Hueffer, an associate professor of veterinary microbiology and one of three BLaST leaders.



UAF photo by JR Ancheta.

Biomedical faculty members Arleigh Reynolds, Barbara Taylor and Karsten Hueffer are lead researchers on a \$23.8 million grant from the National Institutes of Health for the BLaST program.

FROZEN FROG-SICLES

Repeated freezing and thawing in late fall may prompt Alaska’s wood frogs to produce a lot more of a chemical that allows them to survive the winter, UAF researchers have discovered.

Wood frogs overwinter under duff and leaf litter, where they freeze hard for seven months. Usually when living cells freeze, they expel water, dry out and die. Frogs prevent the drying and dying by packing their cells with glucose, a kind of sugar.

Curiously, wild frogs build up far more glucose than frogs



in the lab, biology graduate student Don Larson found. “In the field in early autumn, it’s freezing during the night, thawing slightly during the day, and these repeated freezing episodes stimulate the frogs to release more and more glucose,” Larson said. Lab frogs weren’t exposed to a similar cycle.

The feats of freezing frogs may one day help transplantation of human organs. “If science can figure out how to freeze human organs without damage, it would allow more time to reach people in need of organs,” said Larson.

Watch a video about wild wood frogs at <http://bit.ly/frogsicles>.

Photo by Brian Gratwicke.

KUDOS

2015 Alaska Journal of Commerce Top 40 Under 40

Nicole Cundiff, assistant professor of business administration, Northern Leadership Center director, <http://bit.ly/2015top40>

2014 Autism Society Volunteer of the Year

Joanne Healy, assistant professor of special education, <http://bit.ly/uaf082612>

2015 Governor’s Award for the Humanities

Aldona Jonaitis, UA Museum of the North director, <http://bit.ly/2015GovAwards>

2015 Governor’s Award for the Arts

Margo Klass, adjunct instructor of art, <http://bit.ly/2015GovAwards>

2014-2016 Alaska State Writer Laureate

Frank Soos, professor emeritus of creative writing, <http://bit.ly/2015GovAwards>

UAF’s American Indian Science and Engineering Society

won three awards at the 2014 national conference, <http://bit.ly/aises>.



The Creatures at the Absolute Bottom of the Sea

Rosemary McGuire '05
2014, UA Press

A man witnesses a tragic accident that calls his own life into question. A young woman meets her high school sweetheart after many years and seeks to make sense of the separate paths they've taken. A soldier home from Iraq tries to rebuild his life in a remote Alaska village. These are fishing stories, told as such stories are meant to be: simple, often coarse, and tinged with the elemental beauty of the sea. They reflect rugged lives lived on the edge of the ocean's borders, where grief and grace ride the same waves. Rosemary McGuire, a fisherman herself, captures the essential humanity at the heart of each tale. No one comes through unscathed, but all retain a sense of hope and belief in earthly miracles, however humble. A dazzling debut, "The Creatures at the Absolute Bottom of the Sea" will leave readers with a sense of the fragility and beauty inherent in eroded lives spent in proximity to danger.

Edge of Nowhere

John Smelcer '86, '87
2014, Leapfrog Press

Sixteen-year-old Seth Evanoff and his dog, Tucker, are swept off his father's fishing boat during a storm in Prince William Sound, Alaska. For months, the shipwrecked teen and his dog island-hop their way across the sound on their journey home. All the while, Seth's father never gives up hope. "Edge of Nowhere" is much more than an adventure-survival novel. It's also a story about reconciliation, a father's love for his son, about heritage, and about struggling to overcome grief. Throughout the book is the message that we all need to unplug ourselves occasionally from technology and media, especially young people. Adapted from a true story.

Prayer in Wind

Eva Saulitis '93, '99
2015, Boreal Books/Red Hen Press

“Prayer is often an inward gesture; the self in contemplation, in quiet reflection or retreat, eyes closed and hands still. The prayer-poems of Eva Saulitis' newest book, however, reach out as they reach in. They give attention to the birds, family, friends, machinery, history, skies and horizons. The fact that illness, which can be such an isolating and alienating experience, finally brings the poet into this rich, nuanced relationship with the world is both moving and inspiring. 'Prayer in Wind' is a hymn to life itself and all that conspires to make it meaningful.”

—Elizabeth Bradfield

Alumni VOICES — Blogs to bookmark

Dana Stabenow

Dana Stabenow '73, www.stabenow.com

Swingley Development

Chris Swingley, matriculate, <http://swingleydev.com/blog/>

Tsunamis, cocaine and a cow in labor

Professors trade the podium for real-life learning

By Meghan Murphy

Students yearn for inspired, engaged teachers. Teachers crave interested, attentive students. Balancing that equation takes more than desks arranged in circles with an invitation for everyone to share. It takes relevance — not easy in a world that sometimes redefines “relevant” as quickly as the next app’s arrival.

Faculty at UAF innovate to get it done. The College of Natural Science and Mathematics’ dean, geology professor Paul Layer, used to explain rock strata with — what else? — layer cakes.

Eponymous free cake is good, but the innovation universe is expanding. “Just look at what they’re doing,” Layer said of his faculty.

It’s smok’n



“Prepare to be wowed,”

said David Newman, physics professor. Plumes of mist filled the air as a square object hovered several inches above a circular track of magnets. With a push of his finger, the object zoomed in loops, like a smoking UFO on an intergalactic speedway. The object is a special material that becomes a superconductor when cooled in liquid nitrogen to minus 321 degrees Fahrenheit. Normally, the superconductor would deflect magnetic forces, Newman said, but it has slight “cracks in its armor” that allow some magnetic forces through and around it, locking it in space. “This is the most incredible physics demo I’ve ever seen,” he said.

The private life of moose

Fighting, mounting and rolling around in urine. It must be rutting season for Denali National Park’s moose. Kris Hundertmark ’02 takes his students to watch the fun each fall.



“I want to discuss the rutting behavior of moose, and they’re so visible in the park,” said the associate professor of wildlife biology.

Last fall, Hundertmark pointed to a bull moose rolling in a pit. He explained that the animal was spreading urine on its fur. The organic cologne may trigger ovulation in cow moose. Who knew?

Have a cow

Associate Professor Lisa Lunn, a veterinarian, calls it “the birth of innovative teaching.” The Veterinary Medicine Department recently received a cow that will give birth — a lot — so aspiring veterinarians can practice delivering calves. She said not to worry. The cow has the size and look of a Holstein, but it’s a simulator. “This will help students gain confidence through



repeatability, which you wouldn’t get if you use live animals,” Lunn said. Plus, she added, it won’t kick you.



“Cluck, cluck,” said the dinosaur

Live relic dinosaurs roam Sarah Fowell’s classes. The associate professor of geology uses chickens, direct descendants of dinosaurs, to help students learn how prehistoric tracks became fossils. With lettuce, the students lure the birds across clay, sand and other substrates. Students examine the foot impressions and discuss what they reveal. “I like students to simulate situations in the past and gain a hands-on understanding of how scientists learn about life long ago,” Fowell said.

Seeing tsunamis in Alaska

Seeing a tsunami usually requires being in the wrong place at the wrong time, but there is a right place and a right time to see it in Alaska, said Alexei Rybkin, mathematics professor. Each summer, Rybkin brings undergraduate students to Cook Inlet. They watch the tidal bore, a wave up to 7 feet high that sometimes stretches across an arm of the inlet. Rybkin predicts the onshore run-up of such waves through equations that students convert to algorithms, step-by-step procedures that can be applied to different places.

“We study how a tsunami wave enters shallow water, how far it propagates and what exactly a given tsunami wave is going to flood,” he said.

Cocaine lab

According to recent research, 90 percent of U.S. currency bills carry traces of cocaine. Sarah Hayes, assistant professor of chemistry, has students in her class test whether their dollar bills are among them.

Students put their bills in a solution to extract traces of cocaine (if there are any) and other substances. They place the



solution in a gas chromatography-mass spectrometry instrument, which has a coiled 75-foot column. The substances “run” through the column until like ones group together, Hayes said. When they cross the finish line, a detector identifies them, including the cocaine.

Such techniques are used in criminal forensics and explosive detection, but they’re also a blast for students.

“I think science is fun and creative, and I wish students learned this earlier on,” said Hayes. How early? “Like babies.”

Weather permitting

Rich Collins doesn’t teach weather and climate in a windowless classroom. Actually, he doesn’t even use a classroom. The professor of atmospheric sciences has his online students go outside and look at the sky. Students use a tool kit to measure the local weather. They share weekly, online weather reports through slide shows with their own voice-overs. The best weather systems involve students across the state, Collins said.

“If a weather system brings rain to the Aleutians, snow to the southern slopes of the Alaska Range and then a chinook to Fairbanks, we’ve hit a home run for the semester. Everybody gets to be part of that story,” he said.

In living color

Math and biology students teamed up in a class last spring to do some coloring, and it was definitely outside the usual lines.

The teams tinkered with the genome of the bacterium *E. coli*, inserting genes and regulatory elements to express the colors red, blue or yellow. Using data generated from the experiments, students created mathematical models to help them understand and uncover factors affecting gene expression.

Kristin O’Brien, associate professor of biology, and Elizabeth Allman, math professor, taught the Synthetic Biology class.

Allman said she enjoyed the class’ trial and error. “You don’t start knowing all the answers,” she said. “If you did, it wouldn’t be so much fun.”

Meghan Murphy is public information officer for the College of Natural Science and Mathematics. Before coming to Alaska, she led tours for a nuclear missile facility turned national historic site, worked with nonreleasable raptors and helped elementary schoolchildren muck through the Everglades. In Alaska, she worked for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge before jumping across town to UAF.

Web extra: See video of some of these classes in action at www.uaf.edu/aurora/.

*The gradual degree:
from boot camp
to a bachelor's*

By Tom Hewitt



Growing up in central Michigan, Greg van Houten didn't seem like the most likely candidate for a career in law enforcement — or even college.

"I had some trouble growing up," van Houten said, with an air of understatement.

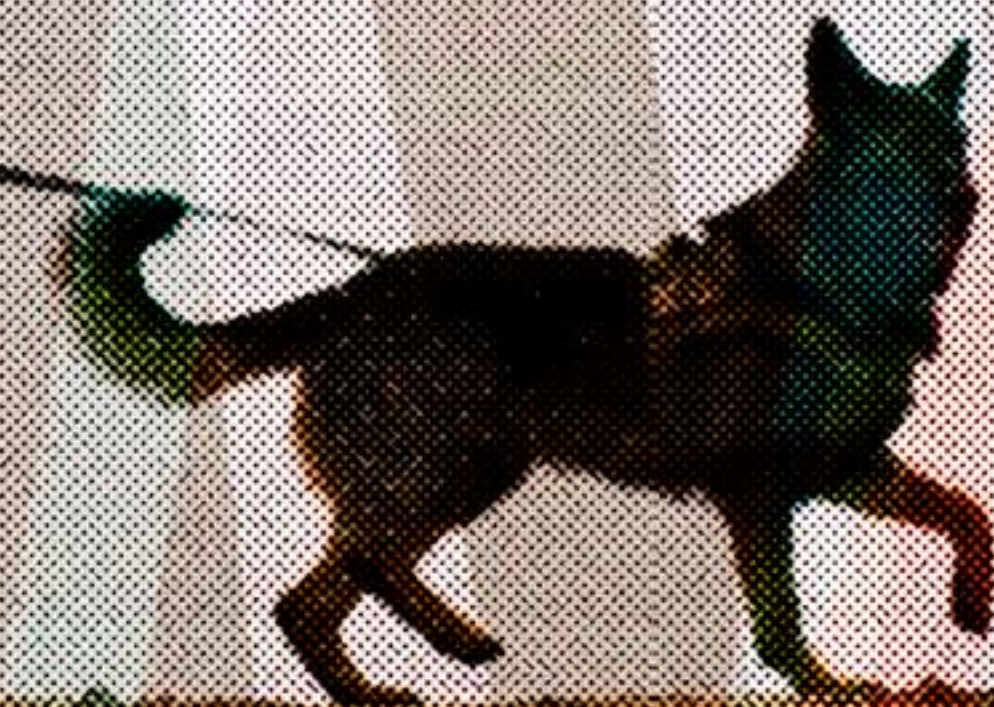
"With high school, and authority." He clears his throat.

It was the early 1990s, and van Houten didn't see much value in school. He missed a lot of class, and it showed on his transcript. "I had a grade point average of about 0.001," he said with a laugh, scratching his short brown hair at the line where his camo Ferguson baseball cap ends just above his ears. "I dropped out my junior year."

A call from an Army recruiter proved fortuitous. "I didn't even know he had my number," van Houten said. Taking the practice Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test that determines placement into a range of occupational specialties, van Houten missed the cutoff score by one, getting a total of 49 out of 100. Undeterred, the recruiter drove him to Grand Rapids to take the test for real. He scored a 55. He was in.

It was 1993, and what was then known as the Persian Gulf War was over. Neither van Houten nor anyone else knew there would be another. It probably wouldn't have made a difference if he had, though. Even though he joined up in peacetime, he expected another war would come eventually.

Come it did. Van Houten served two tours in Iraq before leaving active duty in March 2014, at which point he enrolled in classes at UAF's Community and Technical College. He had plenty of company. Even as the campus saw a slight decline in overall enrollment over the past five years, the number of veterans taking classes skyrocketed by more than 60 percent. Members of the Fort Wainwright-based brigade have streamed into classrooms across campus, making good use of the GI Bill for the 21st Century.



Van Houten's decision to attend college reflects a nationwide trend as well. Soldiers no longer have lengthy deployments on the horizon, and they can anticipate the armed forces drawing back in peacetime after more than a decade fighting two wars. Just as basic and advanced infantry training prepared them for the battlefield, UAF and schools around the country are helping prepare soldiers for the transition into civilian employment.

Van Houten's path to UAF took years to cover, though, and it had many bumps.

Waiting for the call

After he first joined up, he spent eight years moving from duty station to duty station. Tennessee and Kentucky. Germany. North Carolina. "I look back at all the duty stations, places I went to, and I just wish I'd gotten out more," he said. Still, he saw plenty. He also got married and had two daughters. It was a marriage that, like many in the service, became strained when van Houten would go out on weeklong training trips. The marriage lasted as long as he and his wife could sustain it, but after terrorists brought a war to America's doorstep, they couldn't sustain it long.

By Sept. 11, 2001, van Houten was stationed at Fort Bragg, participating in airborne training. At his morning PT session, van Houten arranged with his squad leader to take an hour or two off before reporting for duty that day — he had bills to pay in town.

He went home to change clothes and didn't turn the TV on before heading out to run his errands. "I got to the place to pay my bill, and they were closed, and I thought, 'What's going on?'" van Houten said. "Then my phone rang, and it was my squad leader." Minutes later, he was headed back to base as fast as he could, and spent the rest of the morning watching CNN. He and his fellow soldiers gave up their cell phones in preparation for orders they expected would follow almost immediately. "At Fort Bragg, we were basically waiting for the call: 'Get your guys ready, go to green ramp, get in the airplane and go.' But that never happened."

Instead, as the Army geared up for war in Afghanistan, van Houten was trained as a recruiter. He proved less apt at the task than the man who had changed his life at age 18. "I just wasn't very good at it," van Houten said. "It could be because I told the truth. I wasn't going to sugarcoat it for them."

But while van Houten might not have been the world's best recruiter for the Army, he did recruit — in a manner of speaking — the most important soldier of his life: He met a woman named Julie who was in the process of getting back into the service. She had left the military a few years prior, but after the Sept. 11 attacks she decided to rejoin the Army. Van Houten took a personal interest in her case, and a courtship followed. The two married in 2004.

The couple didn't have much time to get used to married life. They joined a unit preparing to deploy to Iraq in 2005.



UAF photo by JR Anchia.

It was a brigade formed around a new armored fighting vehicle that had been named after two Medal of Honor winners from wars past. Greg and Julie headed north to Alaska, joining Fort Wainwright's 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

The 172nd SBCT deployed to Iraq in August of 2005, working to secure an area of operations around the city of Mosul in the north of the country. Greg was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment, known informally within the brigade as the 2-1. The battalion was headquartered at Forward Operating Base Courage, but the brigade's main force was at Forward Operating Base Marez. Less than a year before, FOB Marez had experienced the worst suicide bombing attack of the war when 14 soldiers were killed by a man who came into a crowded mess tent wearing an Iraqi Army uniform and a suicide vest.

Greg and Julie, deployed together, were in separate battalions but shared a Containerized Housing Unit, the sparsely appointed shipping-container bedrooms that were home for the majority of deployed soldiers. It was an odd, 21st-century military parallel of civilian life back home in America. Both went out to do their jobs during the day, and at night — at least, most nights — came back and spent the evening together. If the neighborhood hadn't been a northern Iraq city rife with insurgents and their jobs hadn't entailed carrying M4 rifles everywhere they went, it might have felt domestic.

Harsh introduction

By the time the 172nd arrived, things had calmed down somewhat at FOB Marez, but it was by no means quiet. Greg's unit had just finished its training rides with the soldiers they were replacing when they went on their first solo logistics patrol in September.

He was at the front of the patrol, driving an up-armored Humvee with his company commander in the passenger's seat and a gunner in the back. They hadn't been "outside the wire" — off base — for more than half an hour when the view through the windshield exploded. It was the loudest thing he had ever heard.

Back at the forward operating base, Julie was doing radio operations when she got an unexpected call from her company commander. He told her he had news about Greg. "You should sit down," Julie remembers him saying. "He told me Greg had gotten hit. It stuns you."

"We knew immediately what it was," Greg said. An improvised explosive device, by then common enough to have been dubbed an "IED," had exploded in the median, just in front of the vehicle. "We think it was remote — triggered remotely, by someone who was watching. Because where we were it was open desert." Fortunately for van Houten and the others in the Humvee, the bomber's detonation command had gone through one second too soon.

The IED had exploded 10 to 15 feet in front of the vehicle, shattering the bulletproof glass in the Humvee's windshield

but leaving everyone inside physically unharmed. After a quick survey of the vehicle's occupants made it clear no one was hurt, Greg pushed the pedal to the floor, the Humvee barreling the rest of the way to FOB Courage in what, by his reckoning, was no more than 15 or 20 minutes.

Compared to getting hit by a roadside bomb on his first night driving solo in Iraq, the rest of Greg's deployment passed relatively without incident, though the 172nd suffered more than two dozen deaths and 350 injuries during its 16-month tour.

Two years later, the brigade was back in Iraq again, having been reflagged in the intervening time as the 1st Infantry Division, 25th Stryker Brigade Combat Team. In late 2008, the brigade was farther south in Iraq, headquartered at Forward Operating Base Warhorse near the city of Baqubah, a short distance north of Baghdad. Their area of operations was the vast Diyala Province. The region, once known for its date farms, had been economically ravaged both by several years of war and al Qaeda factions' tactic of destroying the canal system feeding the area's farms.

*"WE HAD A
DEAL. I KEPT
HIM SAFE AND
HE'D KEEP
ME SAFE. IT
WORKED; WE
BOTH GOT
HOME OK."*

An unexpected companion

The van Houtens' second deployment was far more enjoyable than the first, owing more to the nature of Greg's assignment than the fact that he managed to avoid getting hit by an IED the second time around. Greg spent 12 months as a kennel master with the military working dog program, stationed at FOB Normandy.

"Dogs are so much smarter than people," van Houten said, and by the tenor of his voice it's clear he means it. The working dog he was responsible for was named Temper, and, to be fair, Temper was a very smart dog. A Czechoslovakian shepherd, he went out on patrols, seeking out explosives and helping deal with insurgents. "We had a deal," van Houten said, "I kept him safe and he'd keep me safe. It worked; we both got home OK. Wish I could find that dog now."

Julie, too, was fond of Temper. "I always think Temper saved my life," she said. One morning, Greg had gone elsewhere but Julie was still at the housing unit on base. "He said stay with the dog, and for some reason Temper stood in front of the door and wouldn't let me leave." Minutes later, a rocket attack rocked the base.

Other people, and one of the brigade's working dogs, weren't so lucky. More than a dozen soldiers died during the 2008-2009 deployment, and a military working dog named Jok was killed by an IED inside a house that soldiers were searching. Jok's death hit the brigade hard, especially van Houten's fellow kennel masters. In death, Jok was given the posthumous rank of sergeant. He remains memorialized along with the soldiers killed on the deployment.

Internal drive

Greg had started giving thought to life after the Army in between his two deployments, and after returning to Fort Wainwright from Iraq in 2009, he began looking into college more seriously. He initially took courses online from the University of Maryland and Ashford University in services offered by the Army, but it was hard for him to stay on track without in-person support. He decided to turn to an option closer to home: UAF.

"THEY'RE MAKING THIS HUGE TRANSITION FROM THE MILITARY INTO THE CIVILIAN WORLD, AND THEN ON TOP OF THAT THEY'RE MAKING A BIG STEP INTO THE ACADEMIC WORLD."



Veterans are a group with specialized and diverse needs, even more so than most students. Van Houten, for instance, opted to take as many of his classes as possible online. It's easier to fit them into your schedule, he said before offering up another reason — one that might be a bigger factor for him and other veterans. "Really, I don't like crowds," he said. "Not in the classroom or the store or anything. Bad things happen in crowds."

To help accommodate veterans' challenges attending university, UAF — like many universities — has a Veterans' Services office where soldiers and airmen can go for help navigating enrollment, choosing classes to ensure on-time graduation and dealing with a host of other problem spots.

The UAF Office of Veterans' Services was established to work with Greg and other soldiers like him, and there were many from the 125th Stryker Brigade who made the same choice to remain in Fairbanks after their service ended. "The idea was to get someone who is basically a veterans benefits expert to help access the whole range of VA benefits," said Phil Hokenson, who oversaw the office in the years following the Fort Wainwright Stryker Brigade's 2008-2009 tour. Hokenson himself was a member of the brigade, serving as a lieutenant in the 2-8 Field Artillery Battalion during their time at FOB Warhorse.

"Being a military student is a little like being a nontraditional student," Hokenson said, referencing another group of the student population that forms a large portion of the student body. "They're older, more serious. They've got more of a sense of purpose and discipline."

Still, despite that discipline, the switch from following orders to being entirely in control of their own schedule is a tough one for many of the veteran students Hokenson served, he said. "They're making this huge transition from the military into the civilian world, and then on top of that they're making a big step into the academic world. There's no one holding your feet to the fire. It requires a lot of internal drive."

With his military training and background, Greg opted to pursue a career in emergency management, with an eye on a law enforcement career. Currently a senior by credits, he still has at least a few classes left before he gets his degree.

Classwork isn't always easy for him. In addition to moderate hearing damage from a lifetime of loud noises — and one big bang when the IED hit his convoy — Greg also has occasional memory problems, having trouble at times remembering dates and events in his life. "It hasn't always been easy," Julie said, "but we're there for each other. Even though we were over there

together, I don't know much about what he did, and he doesn't like to talk about it too much. A lot of soldiers are the same way."

In fall 2014, Greg got the opportunity to combine his Army training and the skills he learned in UAF's emergency management courses. When a civilian patrol officer job came open at the Fort Wainwright Police Department, he applied at Julie's urging,

and in late September, he became the department's newest officer. As a police officer serving an Interior Army base,

Greg's experience in the military and his studies at UAF are both essential to dealing with the Army and its soldiers in a new role. Julie, who worked for three years as the supply officer

for UAF's and UA Anchorage's ROTC programs, also moved to the Fort Wainwright Police Department shortly after Greg got his job there. Once again, the couple will be sharing their on-the-job experience with one another — but this time there won't be rocket attacks.

Greg and Julie have no plans to leave Alaska. "I don't understand the young guys who come up here in the Army and say, 'I hate it here, there's nothing to do,'" he said. "I got up here and I knew right away — I'm never leaving. There's so much to do and see. I'll be here until I die."

It's clear, too, that whatever Greg and Julie van Houten do, they'll be doing it together. "We have ups and downs like anyone else, but we push

through them," Julie said. "In the Army, you need to know that the person you're with has your back. That's what makes it so important for people. And we've got each other's backs." ❧

*"WE HAVE UPS AND DOWNS
LIKE ANYONE ELSE, BUT
WE PUSH THROUGH THEM."*



Photo from U.S. Army

Born and raised in Fairbanks, Tom Hewitt is a former UAF journalism student and now serves as the opinion editor at the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner. Along with two other UAF journalism students and a professor, he had the privilege of embedding with Fort Wainwright's 1-25th Stryker Brigade during its 2008-2009 deployment in Iraq. As a reporter and editor, he tries to let people tell their own stories and to screw up as few things as possible.

Web extra: Greg van Houten participated in student photographer JR Ancheta's Veterans Day portrait project in November. Take a look at the tribute and find out more about services for veterans at www.uaf.edu/veterans/.

THEN
AGAIN

SUSIE

KLINGNER

CLASS OF 1964



Susie Klingner returned to Fairbanks for the first time since graduation for her 50th class reunion in September. While on campus, she gave an oral history interview with archivist Leslie McCartney of the Alaska and Polar Regions Collection, Rasmuson Library.

After Susie graduated from UAF in 1964, she went back home to the Midwest to teach. She taught varying ages, from preschool to university level, and varying subjects, from ballet for football players to math, science and horticulture. She spent much of her time traveling the world as well, including several trips to Israel, where she gave a lecture on Alaska in Hebrew. An excerpt from her interview follows.

Photo from 1964 Denali Yearbook

We were a close student body. I was unable to attend a dance because of a babysitting job in one of the dorms. Dorothy Benton, who was to be crowned queen, moved the soon to be crowned king, the court, and the dancers from the dance floor to the dorm just so that I could be present at the crowning event.

Q: How did you come to Alaska originally from Quincy, Illinois?

A: I always had a bit of a nomadic, wild streak in me. I was 19 years old, and I had written for the college catalog [to be sent to me], and when I read it, I was hooked. It was because of the professors that they had there, [especially] Dr. Skarland for anthropology. I told my father I wanted to be a cultural anthropologist. My father had his own engineering firm along the Mississippi River, and he told me if I wanted his help, I had two choices: I could be a teacher or a nurse. I chose teaching because I could study different cultures at the same time.

[After I got here] I met Dr. Skarland in the commons one day when I was feeling sad and missing my grandfather. He told me I could call him Grandfather.

I lived in McIntosh, a converted men's dormitory. The Lathrop [Hall] boys would come over when the aurora was out and play their guitars underneath the windows for us. This was back in the day when they locked us in the dorm at night.

Q: What year did you come to UAF?

A: 1962-1963 and 1963-1964, my junior and senior years. My early childhood school was an influence on my choice to come here. It was a small country school, first through eighth grades, and I loved the closeness between teachers and students. I chose UAF because of the small teacher-student ratio. I also had read about Dr. Michael Krauss [and was interested in linguistics]. I thought compared to Harvard that I might go up there and not spend very much money. Tuition was only \$100 at that time for out-of-state students, and after one semester you were considered Alaskan and didn't have to pay anymore.

I admired every professor I had; they gave you so much time. In class and out of class. They would come to the commons and talk to you. You could go to their offices. I remember being in Dr. Kang's office for four straight hours; he was helping me understand the different sounds of "s" in Korean. Dr. Krauss taught us Hebrew after we [Sandra Scott Stringer, Greg Zwiebel and Jacqueline King] petitioned him to teach it. [He was doing research on Eyak at the time]. I signed it not knowing that I'd be spending four hours every Sunday studying Hebrew with Dr. Krauss! His scholarship was outstanding. He really cared about us — he really helped me to blossom and to grow, and to



see language in depth and how the structure is put together. Later on at what is now the University of Colorado I wrote a paper on modern noun formation in Israeli Hebrew. One hundred percent, without Krauss's instruction I couldn't have done that. It also helped me later in life. I lived in Jerusalem and studied archaeology at Hebrew University under Ya'akov Meshorer, the curator at

the Israeli Museum. I want to say on this tape: "Thank you, Dr. Krauss." There was a U.S. Army chaplain, Rabbi Sy Gitin, who came to teach the spoken language, and I didn't like him very much. Dr. Krauss told me that my reading and writing ability in Hebrew and my speaking ability in Hebrew was the difference between a genius and a fool, so he suggested I learn from the rabbi. It taught me to be open to things that were difficult for me and to broaden myself.

Q: You came here wanting to study anthropology but ended up in education?

A: I ended up studying education and taking a really wide variety of classes. I felt I could not be an effective teacher if I didn't know many subjects. I wanted a wide variety of studies so when I relate to children in the classroom, I can find out what their interests are and how I can enhance their learning ability to make them reach their goals. My original goal was cultural anthropology and I knew I could come here and

be immersed in other cultures so I was basically doing cultural anthropology even if my degree didn't say so. I continued to do that in the Middle East and wherever I traveled: with the Aboriginals in Australia and different cultures all over Europe.

Q: What are some of your memories of campus?

A: On Engineers Day, engineering students filled up a psychology professor's hallway with chairs so he couldn't get out of his office. Earlier that same day there was a horrible explosion and a close friend of mine, Karen Wahto '64, who lived across the hallway from me in McIntosh, ran over to my room because something had blown out her window. The mining students woke everyone up with the sound of explosives that unintentionally blew out several windows around campus. There were chemicals in the toilet so after you went to the bathroom the water turned green.

In McIntosh Hall we could do anything we wanted, decorate our doors, etc. In the winter many would be more sedentary and depressed so I would do things to make others happy. I used to ride a bike up and down the hallway and I would go outside at least once a day no matter the temperature. While in the dorm I would put one foot on either side of the stairwell and wiggle my toes up the wall to the ceiling and read my book there, literally climbing the walls. 🐼

Web extra: The complete interview is available for checkout. Visit <http://catalog.library.uaf.edu>.

FULL
FRAME



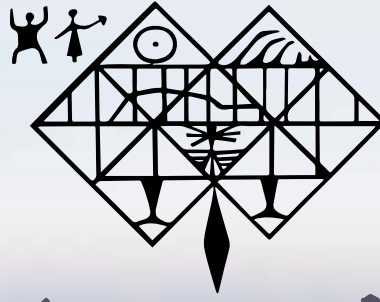


a strong floor

Contractors place almost 400 yards of cement in the floor of the high bay of UAF's new engineering building on Aug. 28. The 4-foot-thick "strong floor" is the only one of its kind in the state. The floor has embedded anchors every 4 feet on center. The anchors will allow engineers to push or pull on large beams or bridge girders and to simulate lateral loads such as those experienced in an earthquake. The diamond-shaped modules house sensors that will measure the strength of materials subjected to forces.

The engineering building is estimated to cost \$111.6 million. The Alaska Legislature provided a majority of the money, but, as of this publication's deadline, \$31.3 million remains unfunded and a completion date is uncertain.

The university expects to raise another \$6.5 million in private donations to complete the fourth floor for the Alaska Center for Energy and Power. The center analyzes and develops innovative, practical energy sources for Alaska and beyond. (See story on page 24.) Usibelli Coal Mine has committed \$500,000 to the fundraising effort.



Uqaluksrat: Something to say

Story by Sam Bishop

Photos by Ella Quimby

Illustrations from the Iñupiaq to English Dictionary

Edna MacLean heard a discouraging question early in her decades-long quest to create an Iñupiaq-to-English dictionary.

“My dad was the one who told me: ‘Don’t you think all you’re doing is for naught?’” MacLean recalled.

MacLean said she now understands that her father’s question came straight from his traditional upbringing as an Iñupiaq man on Alaska’s North Slope.

“Taunting was one of the ways of child development, of instilling in your child the urge to succeed and go on ahead. You rose to the challenge if you had the strength to do so,” she said.

As a young woman in the early 1970s, though, she didn’t take such a detached view of her dad’s comment.

“He got me angry, so I just kept on going.”

The anger turned to joy as she delved into the language and found herself on a journey of discovery. The joy sustained two intense periods of work — separated by a 20-year detour — that culminated in the publication of the Iñupiatun Uqaluit Taniktun Sivuniñit/Iñupiaq to English Dictionary in September 2014.

MacLean and others see the dictionary as an essential tool in saving the North Slope’s Iñupiaq language and promoting literacy in it. With just a few thousand speakers remaining, the dictionary arrives at a critical time, yet it never would have been finished were it not for

Edna MacLean, author of the Iñupiaq to English Dictionary, stands on the shoreline at Barrow in November with the Arctic Ocean behind her.



MacLean's persistence in pulling together her knowledge and that of many others.

MacLean began her career at UAF as an Iñupiaq instructor in 1972 and then moved up to associate professor, all the while working on the dictionary. But in 1987 she took a position in the Alaska Department of Education. Then she earned a doctorate in Iñupiaq folklore from Stanford University. For the next decade, she served as president of Iḷisaḡvik College in Barrow.

She didn't return to the dictionary project until

With just a few thousand speakers remaining, the dictionary arrives at a critical time.

2006, first under a university president's professorship created specifically to allow her to finish the work and then as an independent consultant on a federal grant.

To complete the dictionary, she put in 12-hour days until finishing the project in 2014.

In the final few years, MacLean worked on the second floor of the Anchorage house that she and her husband, Steve, bought in 2011. (He retired in 1997 from a career as a UAF biology professor.)

"I drove him crazy," she said with a laugh.

The third floor, besides having a nice view of the trees along a creek, offered plenty of square footage for documents.

"I just took up all that space," she said.

The dictionary, published by the University of Alaska Press, reflects the voluminous source material. It contains more than 19,000 entries across 988 pages.

The press director at the time, Joan Braddock '77, '83, '89, said the dictionary had to be printed on a slightly thinner paper than was ideal, just to fit the vast work into one volume. It still tips the scale at 5 pounds, 5 ounces.

The dictionary does far more than define North Slope Iñupiaq words in English, though. It dissects the intricacies of Iñupiaq grammar and of the unique culture reflected in word meanings.

"It ranks with the very best dictionaries of North American languages, and, in some ways, although she gives credit to a lot of people, is more the work of one person," said Michael Krauss, UAF professor emeritus. He founded the Alaska Native Language Center in 1972 and worked for decades with MacLean. "There are other dictionaries done by Native speakers, but none nearly comparable in sophistication."

Opening lines

MacLean began collecting knowledge for her dictionary long before she knew she was doing so.

MacLean's father, Joseph Ahgeak, did not personally favor speaking English. In fact, he posed his challenging question to his daughter in Iñupiaq, the only language he would use.

Ahgeak had dropped out of school at the third-grade level, probably because he had been punished for speaking Iñupiaq, his daughter said.

"He said 'English is not my language. I'm going to speak my own language,'" she said.

So when she persevered in the dictionary project as a young UAF professor, he joined her effort wholeheartedly, despite what seemed to be his initial skepticism.

"He would answer any question I had. He did not hesitate," she said.

MacLean's parents, both of whom have passed away, were among her most important sources of Iñupiaq words and concepts.

Her mother, Maria, was the daughter of the famed trader Charles Brower, a white man who came to

the North Slope in 1885, and his wife, Asianguataq, an ardent hunter and trapper. Another family, whose members spoke only Iñupiaq, raised Maria until she was 7 years old. When she returned to the Brower household, she learned English from her father.

"She obeyed the school district and spoke English to us, and my father spoke Iñupiaq to us, so it was a bilingual environment," MacLean said of her own upbringing.

She found that environment extended to the Wrangell Institute and Mt. Edgecumbe High School in Southeast Alaska, where the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs sent many Alaska Native children of her generation. She arrived at the Wrangell Institute in 1957 and finished at Mt. Edgecumbe in 1963.

"For some of us from larger villages like Barrow, we went in cohorts of 100," she said. "And we had each other for support. We could speak Iñupiaq with each other, but not in the classroom."

After high school, MacLean enrolled at UAF. During Christmas break in 1964, she traveled to Barrow, where she met her future husband. He was working at the Naval Arctic Research Laboratory. During the second half of the 1960s, the couple earned degrees at Lower 48 universities before returning to Fairbanks in 1971.

"One could tell it was going to be the last generation."

Krauss happened to be in need of an Iñupiaq instructor. "I told him I couldn't do it because I had a little child," MacLean said. "He called me again after some time, and, when I started to decline again, he said 'It's your duty.' I think it was that statement that made me curious. Who was this guy? So I went to see him," she said.

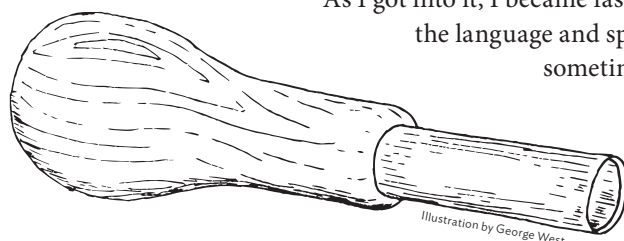
Krauss offered to teach her how to read and write in Iñupiaq. "I thought, 'Ah, that sounds interesting,'" she said.

MacLean started working on word lists, then became an instructor.

"As I got into it, I became fascinated with the structure of the language and spent hours and hours, maybe sometimes until 4 o'clock in the morning, doing research at home before I would teach the next day," she recalled.



Mollie Itta, who helped verify words in the Iñupiaq to English Dictionary, high-fives dictionary author Edna MacLean in Barrow in November.



ikuun scraper for animal skin

The classroom turned into a language lab. She would stand at the blackboard and write while she and her students puzzled through the words and grammar.

The moments of discovery were exhilarating.

“So we were trying to figure out why a vowel, with what is called a weak ‘i’ and a strong ‘i,’ behaved differently, and how it affected the postbase, or suffix, that was following and the configuration of the consonants,” she said of the task before the class on one memorable day. “And then it clicked, and I remember saying a swear word.”

She stood facing the blackboard, heard the students inhale in surprise and felt her face redden. She knew two of the students were ministers, one a Jesuit who planned to go to King Island in the Bering Sea and another a Baptist bound for missionary work in Greenland.

“And I turned around and they started laughing, and the preachers were laughing as well, so it was OK.”

Krauss smiled when he recalled those early days.

“It was my great privilege to be in a key position here and teaching how to write, in their own language, what turned out to be, historically speaking, with the exception of Central Yup’ik, the last generation of Native speakers,” he said. “One could tell it was going to be the last generation. There were students of college age who spoke Iñupiaq, but there were no small children. It was a tragically ideal historical period to have that privilege.”

Chorus of voices

While MacLean’s name is on the dictionary, it also is the product of many people and earlier, smaller dictionaries developed by other scholars and missionaries.

She began work on the earliest version at the request of her students at UAF. “After I taught maybe two or three years, the students said they needed some kind of little dictionary because the Webster-Zibell dictionary wasn’t enough,” she said.

That 2,000-word list, by Donald Webster and Wilfried Zibell ’13, had been published in 1970 by the Summer Institute of Linguistics, a project associated with Wycliffe Bible Translators.

“That was the first dictionary we started working off,” Krauss said. With Krauss’ guidance, MacLean, her students and others at the Alaska Native Language Center began collecting more words wherever they could find them.

Larry Kaplan, today the center’s director, was one of those collectors.

Kaplan had started studying Iñupiaq as a master’s student in California with Edith Rowray, who came from Barrow. Arriving in Alaska in 1974, he joined the effort to document the language.

“I worked with people who were born in the 19th century, and they were very fluent speakers,” he said. “They barely spoke English, or didn’t, in some cases, and they were very rooted in Iñupiaq language and culture.

“The elders knew so many synonyms. Some of the younger people who spoke fluently would often know only one word for something,” he said. “When I spoke with old people, with their very rich language, they had a half-dozen synonyms for the same concept, so it was a real eye-opener for me.”

At UAF, Iñupiaq speakers James Nageak ’73 and Leona Okakok also helped collect words. Okakok and Kaplan interviewed elderly speakers such as Arctic John Etalook, Edith Tego-seak and Gene Numnik, all of whom were living in Fairbanks.

Krauss said historical documents were invaluable sources as ANLC interviewed speakers. Interviewers used words they found in the documents to elicit correct pronunciations and definitions from North Slope Iñupiaq speakers. Among the documents was a well-known 1927 dictionary of the Greenlandic dialect, but they found other, more obscure sources.

“For example, there’s a set of file slips at the Smithsonian by a missionary named Spriggs from 1905, just hand-written slips, with maybe 5,000 words, poorly transcribed,” Krauss said.

The new dictionary is confined to the North Slope dialect, but, in developing it, MacLean and others compared words with all the closely related Inuit languages from Western Alaska to Greenland.

“If it’s not in this dictionary, we know that the North Slope dialect doesn’t have it, because we’ve checked,” Krauss said.



Illustration by George West

amaaq- to carry (her/him/it) on one’s back



Listen to an upcoming interview with Edna MacLean by Rob Prince, associate professor of journalism, on KUAC FM and <http://kuac.org>. Check the station’s website for the broadcast schedule.

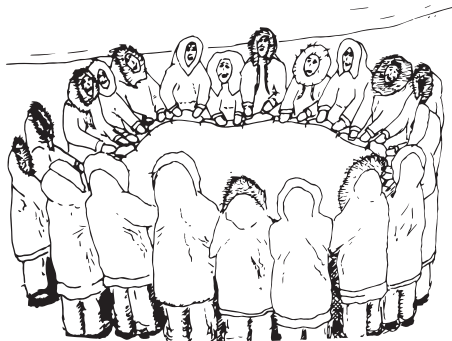
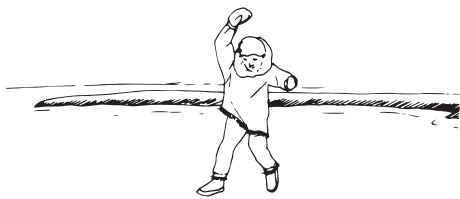


Illustration by George West.

nalluaqtit people who are holding the blanket

The definitive Iñupiaq dictionary needed to be printed

In 1981, the ANLC and the Iñupiat Language Commission of the North Slope Borough published a preliminary Iñupiaq dictionary compiled by MacLean. It had about 3,000 entries. MacLean saw much more to do, so she continued to work on various features, but it remained incomplete when she left UAF in 1987.

“Edna fiercely concentrates on the job at hand,” Krauss said. “I never saw anybody so focused.” For a time, that was frustrating. “You couldn’t talk to her at all [concerning the dictionary] for about 20 years because she had other tasks to do,” he said.

When MacLean came back to the project in 2006, all the documentation from the 1970s and 1980s was still available. She not only used that material but also once again turned to numerous Iñupiaq speakers living across the state for help.

To support MacLean’s work, Kaplan secured two years of funding for a president’s professorship from the statewide university system. Then, in 2007, Krauss obtained a \$1.2 million National Science Founda-

tion grant, part of which paid for MacLean’s efforts through completion of the dictionary.

Disagreements about the specifics of the grant funding, however, kept the project independent of the ANLC, which

has produced and printed several other dictionaries of Alaska Native languages. So the UA Press undertook the final editing and printing of the dictionary.

“I think we all bought into the argument that the definitive Iñupiaq dictionary needed to be printed,” said Braddock, the press director. “Our mission is to serve the state, and if this couldn’t be published somewhere else, then we needed to take it on.”

However, finding money to cover the cost of the Iñupiaq dictionary was difficult, Braddock said.

Eventually, the North Slope Borough gave the press \$65,000 to produce about 1,000 copies of the dictionary. Under the arrangement, the borough’s school district received 300 copies, Braddock said.

The borough’s money not only paid for the printing but also helped hire an experienced editor, Tom Alton ’74, ’98, to prepare the document. Alton had just retired from ANLC and was, in Braddock’s words, “the perfect person.”

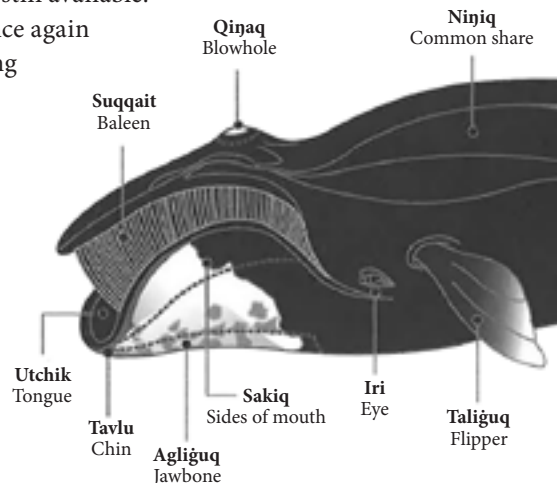
The main section of the dictionary, excluding an index and several topical appendices, contains between 14,000 and 15,000 North Slope Iñupiaq words, Krauss said. That matches, in size, Knut Bergsland’s exceptional dictionary of the Aleut language, published by ANLC in 1994, he said.

“So it comes very close to — well, there’s no such thing as a complete dictionary, of course — but it comes as close as possible to unabridged full coverage of that dialect,” Krauss said.

MacLean also finished a version for the web in 2011.

Guide for a new generation

“You can get a book to teach you almost anything,” Charles Brower once said, according to a posthumous profile, “King of the Arctic,” published by the Alaska Sportsman magazine in 1959. The trader, MacLean’s grandfather, quit school in New Jersey at 14 but was famous for his intellectual curiosity. He spoke Iñupiaq so well that a person whose back was turned to him wouldn’t know he was a white man, according to his daughter, as told in Margaret Blackmun’s 1989 biography, “Sadie Brower Neakok: An Iñupiaq Woman.”



“Our mission is to serve the state, and if this couldn’t be published somewhere else, then we needed to take it on.”



Illustration by George West.

kammak a pair of boots

Charles Brower didn't learn Iñupiaq from a book, though. A book, Krauss said, cannot teach a language. "It has a record of the words of the language, yes, but it is not the instrument," he said.

A language can be revived at many different levels, from purely ceremonial to fully functional, Krauss noted. MacLean's dictionary could play a part in an Iñupiaq revival, he said. "It's absolutely essential, but not all you need, to revive the language," he said.

MacLean said she sees the dictionary as one piece in the effort.

"I'm hoping the dictionary makes it easier for people to develop other materials that they can print, or translate, or interpret," she said.

Kaplan said the dictionary, because it makes that process easier and more standardized, "is a great, great thing for language learners."

"And Iñupiaq needs that, because the younger generations don't usually grow up speaking the language, learning it at home," he said. "They mostly study it at school."

Long ago at UAF, MacLean saw something happen in her college classroom that might not only help Iñupiaq survive but also improve the academic performance of children in North Slope schools. She saw people having fun while becoming literate in their own language.

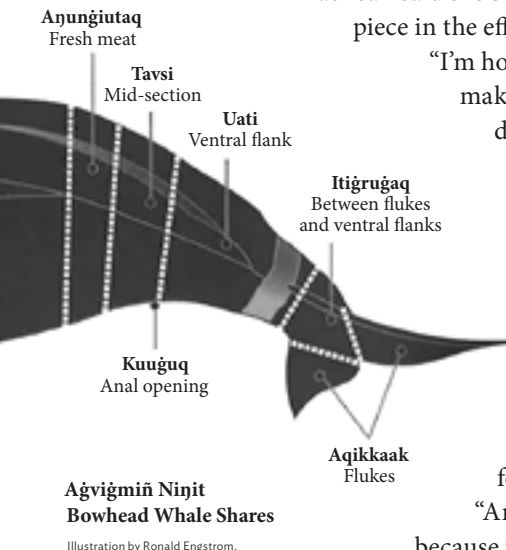
Literacy, a word MacLean uses repeatedly, is the ability to connect spoken and written words so a person can learn and express thoughts across both.

"You need that," no matter where you live, MacLean said. "Literacy is at the heart of all the low mathematics, low reading, low science scores and writing problems, achievement problems that are rampant in the rural districts."

Research shows that teaching indigenous languages in K-12 schools could help, she said. To develop literacy, though, a language must be written, she said.

"My granddaughter in New York, I'm constantly buying her books, but they're all in English. I want that kind of accessibility in buying books in Iñupiaq for my grand-nieces and grand-nephews in Barrow so their parents can read Iñupiaq to them," she said. "They're seeing the spoken word connected to the printed word, and that promotes literacy."

At the same time, MacLean hopes North Slope communities succeed in reviving public spaces where only Iñupiaq is spoken. The school district, she noted, wants to recreate something like the "qargi."



Agvigmiñ Ninjit
Bowhead Whale Shares

Illustration by Ronald Engstrom.



Wesley Aiken holds the Iñupiaq to English Dictionary while talking with Edna MacLean in Barrow in November. MacLean consulted with Aiken to verify words in the dictionary.

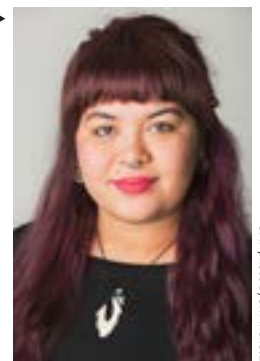
"That's the Iñupiaq word that means the community house where the whaling captains used to get together, and the rest of the community, to share hunting stories with each other so the younger people, the younger hunters, can learn things they haven't experienced yet," she said.

Someday soon, words from MacLean's dictionary could be heard in such qargit across the North Slope, because, even if a book can't teach you to talk, it can give you something to say. ❧

Sam Bishop is a writer and editor at UAF Marketing and Communications. Born and raised in Alaska, he worked previously as a newspaper journalist for 27 years in Fairbanks, Anchorage and Washington, D.C. His past reporting career took him to places across traditional Iñupiaq ground, including Little Diomed Island, Nome, Kotzebue, Noatak and Prudhoe Bay, but he didn't pick up any Iñupiaq language skills along the way.

Ellamarie Quimby is a master's student in fine art photography at UAF. She studied both fine art photography and art education at the Corcoran College of Art and Design in Washington, D.C.

Web extra: To find links to a 2011 online version of the Iñupiaq to English Dictionary and to articles about Edna MacLean's work with the Rosetta Stone software company, visit www.uaf.edu/aurora/.



UAF photo by JR Ancheta

By Tori Tragis

The power company in Tanana, a remote village of 230 people on the Yukon River, charged 76 cents per kilowatt hour for residential electricity in 2013, a pre-subsidy rate almost four times the price in Fairbanks. One reason: Tanana generated all its power with diesel barged up the river. Used differently, though, the Yukon River and others could become a path to cheaper power.

Rivers, said Jeremy Kasper '10, are pretty much wherever people live, they're reliable and they're free. As in cheap. Of course, free-running is also on point, because a freely running river can produce electricity without the financial, social and environmental costs of a dam.

Kasper directs the Alaska Hydrokinetic Energy Research Center, which is part of UAF's Alaska Center for Energy and Power. Hydrokinetic energy comes from river or ocean currents, rather than the flow from a dam's reservoir. Because a river's current is generally predictable and reliable — as opposed to the vagaries of wind, for example — it can be a primary source of electricity, and a renewable one at that.

"You want to put the renewable resource in," said Kasper, and not use the

generator at all — a process called idling off. "Idling hurts efficiency. Wind is hard. Rivers are persistent."

The potential for river turbines in Alaska is huge — some 250 communities not connected to a regional electrical grid are near large rivers. It is also admittedly limited — Kasper said they can be used only about five months out of the year in much of Alaska, when the waters aren't frozen. But that's five months when villages aren't paying for diesel, and five months when carbon isn't spewing into the air.

For the last three years, Kasper and his colleagues at the energy research center have been working with private industry and government agencies to test an in-river turbine as a possible alternative to diesel generators.

It hasn't been easy.

The center was first contacted by Alaska Power and Telephone, a privately owned utility working in 23 communities across the state, about a turbine test in the Yukon River near Eagle. The Denali Commission had funded AP&T to demonstrate the viability of hydrokinetic energy in Alaska. In 2010 AP&T and its partners anchored a turbine on a barge offshore of the City of Eagle,



An aerial photograph of the Yukon River in Alaska. The river is wide and flows through a valley. In the foreground, there is a small town with several buildings and a red barn. The background features rugged mountains under a blue sky with light clouds. The text 'rent opportunities' is overlaid on the image in a white serif font, with the 'r' and 'e' in 'rent' having a blue shadow effect.

rent opportunities

The Yukon River, shown here where it flows past Eagle, is one of the Alaska rivers that have been studied for their potential as a renewable energy resource.

where it nicely powered the upstream Eagle Village for about two weeks. Then debris in the massive river's silty water damaged the turbine, and the renewable energy run was over. AP&T turned to the Alaska Center for Energy and Power for help. The center's engineers realized that, before they could take advantage of the river's current, they needed to take care of the river's floating saboteurs, like tree branches, even entire tree trunks. They needed a debris diverter.

And they got one. Picture a barge sitting well off the riverbank, its bow facing upstream. Attached to the taut line anchoring the barge to the river bottom is a large buoy. The buoy helps keep the bow from being held too low in the river by the anchor

on the riverbed. The buoy also swivels, acting as a first line of defense against flotsam coming downstream. Two arms attached at angles to the buoy force other debris harmlessly away from the barge.

The turbine itself sits more or less in the middle of the barge, which has a rectangular opening through which the turbine is lowered until its blades spin from the force of the river.

That kinetic energy can be turned into power, but first it has to get from the turbine itself to a power grid. For small-scale projects, such as a village in Alaska, the grid doesn't have to be big. It can be micro, but you still have to get the power there.

"That's where everyone screws up," said Gwen Holdmann, ACEP's director. "They underestimate what it takes — that you just generate power and you're home free." She said that, too often, alternative-energy developers forget to look at a

situation holistically — what the climate of a particular area is like, its seasonal variations, its hazards.

Most of Alaska, for example, has winters that freeze even its largest rivers, so hydrokinetics can't be used year-round. Alaska's rivers also have a lot of debris.

Chile's rivers, on the other hand, don't freeze and they have less floating muck.



Jack Schmid, a research professional with the Alaska Center for Energy and Power, enters data at a recording station on the bank of the Tanana River near Nenana.

Chile is a long way from Alaska geographically, but it's on the same mental map for Dan Power. He's the president of Oceana Power Co. and one of the key players bringing together experts and funding sources to make in-river turbines an affordable energy option for rural communities around the world. Power would like to explore Chile's potential, but there are no labs in the country where he could test his company's turbine. Even within the United States, he said, he couldn't find the right combination of facilities and knowledge. Then one of his engineers, who had spent his boyhood summers in Alaska and maintained ties with the state, told him he should see if the Alaska Center for Energy and Power could help him.

It could.

"There's no one else who has the talent and expertise," Power said.

Power is a garrulous Tennessean with a knack for telling a good story (or several). He is also a businessman with a product he wants to move to market, but decades of working in Washington, D.C., in various capacities have taught him that sometimes progress comes slowly, methodically and purposefully. He's willing to wait.

There's more to testing a turbine than just the turbine. There was the debris diverter. Then there's a

One of his engineers told him he should see if the Alaska Center for Energy and Power could help him. It could.

fisheries study, conducted in part by undergraduate and graduate students. The students looked at the number of young salmon traveling in the same corridor where the barge-based turbine was placed near Eagle, and more recently in the Tanana River, to see if that vitally important fish could be harmed by the system. (The results are still being analyzed and are not yet available.) Then there was a snag — literally — that prematurely ended the 2012 season and that



forced staff to spend the 2013 summer season refining the debris diverter.

By September 2014 the diverter was ready, and Oceana wanted to test their turbine in Alaska's waters in the Tanana River near the small city of Nenana. ATCO trailer units, purchased from and set up by a local contractor, served as offices; a small generator hummed continuously in the background. A Nenana-based barge service had maneuvered the test barge into place several hundred feet offshore. Some half-dozen men, dressed warmly against the chill river wind and with life jackets snug around their torsos, milled about the barge. Some were Oceana staff, there to deploy the turbine. Others were from ACEP, making sure the debris diverter system was working well. For all Power's excitement that his turbine was finally going to be deployed, he ruefully acknowledged the aspect of hurry-up-and-wait.

"Science," he said, "sometimes just looks like a lot of standing around."

Power wants his company eventually to use lightweight, composite materials to make even smaller, more affordable devices for rural communities worldwide. Even a one-cabin homestead could potentially get its electricity from river currents. There are other possibilities, too: The Navy SEALs have said they want



Staff test the efficacy of the debris diverter by tossing branches into the Tanana River in August 2012.

something to support communications in the field.

For now, Power and ACEP are still conducting the research and verifying the data. They need to figure out how to relay energy from the turbine to different kinds of grids and whether there's a way to store excess energy. Each system's set-up will differ slightly, depending on the type of renewable energy used, the amount of power generated, the kind of grid employed and the availability of an excess storage facility. But ACEP's director, Holdmann, has another renewable resource at her disposal: location and expertise.

"Alaska has 12 percent of the world's microgrids powered by renewable resources," Holdmann said. Researchers at the Alaska Center for Energy and Power have conducted work or consulted on a number of the systems throughout the state. She stressed that the center is energy agnostic — that it doesn't rank one energy source over another.

Instead, she said, they work

with companies and communities to find solutions that meet specific local or regional needs.

Alaska has 12 percent of the world's microgrids integrated with a renewable resource.

Holdmann is optimistic about someday meeting the needs of villages beholden to barges and imported diesel when there's a free river floating right by them. "It's a completely solvable thing." 📍

Tori Tragus is a writer and editor for UAF Marketing and Communications. She likes writing any story that lets her take a field trip. This one took her to Nenana, and she is now lobbying for a follow-up field trip to see the river turbine in Chile.

Web extra: Watch the turbine go into the water and learn more about the Alaska Center for Energy and Power at www.uaf.edu/aurora/.



Jack Schmid and Paul Duvoy, research staff with the Alaska Center for Energy and Power, monitor the testing of the in-river turbine in the Tanana River in September 2014.

SOCIAL
CONNECTIONS



Rendezvous
Sept. 26-27, 2014



Save the date
for the 2015 reunion!
Sept. 25-26



From center left: Teal Rogers '14 and her mother, Liz Peltola '87; Lindsey Klueber at the Starvation Gulch bonfires; Grace Schaible '49, '91H*. From lower left: Shirish Patil '87, '95, '07, Frank Paskvan '85, winner of the 2014 Distinguished Alumni Award, and Abhijit Dandekar; Bob Miller and Nanook opening the 1964 time capsule.

*H = honorary degree

A note from Jay Holmes '64:

*in our Junior year
50 years! — seems like a while, but nowhere near 50 years
My warmest memory is dating and marrying my lovely wife —
Karen Johnston, 10 months later our first child appeared
and another year later — 1964 — we departed for law school
at U. of Wis. My beloved Karen died in 2004 on the Dance
Floor — doing something she loved.*



Kate Ripley '11 — “I started a new job as the director of alumni relations at UAF in December 2014, and also serve as executive director of the UAF Alumni Association. For the past decade I worked as public affairs director at the University of Alaska system, with the exception of the 2012-2013 academic year, when I joined my husband, journalism professor Brian O’Donoghue, and our three children for Brian’s Fulbright year in India. In my new role, I ask that all alumni send updates for Aurora magazine or the UAF Alumnus newsletter to uaf-alumni@alaska.edu, call 907-474-7081 or 800-770-ALUM (2586), or visit the submission page at www.uaf.edu/alumni/classnotes/. We really want to hear from you!”

ALUMNI:

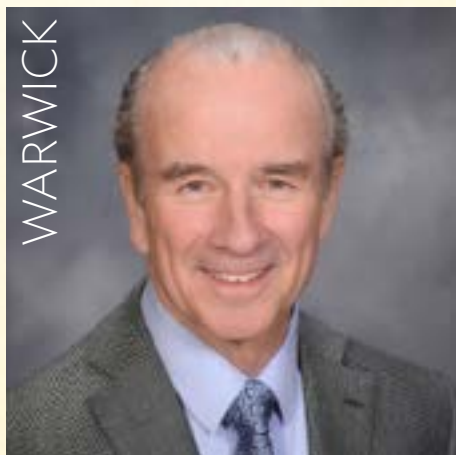
Have any old copies of the Farthest North Collegian? We’d love to collect them for our upcoming centennial celebrations if you are willing to part with yours. Contact Jeannie Phillips at jdphillips@alaska.edu for details.

UAF photo by JR Ancheta.

CLASS NOTES

1960s

George Gordon '62 and **Linda Gordon '65** established the George E. Gordon and Linda C. Dahl Gordon Rifle Team Endowment at UAF to provide scholarships for qualified rifle team students. George, who passed away recently, received an Alumni Achievement Award for Business and Professional Excellence in 2009.



Andy Warwick '66 was named the School of Management's 39th business leader of the year. Warwick began working as a certified public accountant in 1978. He and Rick Schikora formed the accounting firm Warwick and Schikora in Fairbanks shortly thereafter. Andy will be honored at a dinner in Fairbanks on April 17.

Gail McIver Phillips '67 — "My husband, **Walter Phillips '65, '68**, and I, along with several other friends who were all involved in the beginning of the Iditarod, have published an anthology of stories about how the race got started and how dedicated volunteers kept the race going during its first ten years. Check out our webpage at <http://Iditarodfirsttenyears.com>. The book will be available to the public in January 2015."

1970s

Dana Thomas '74 received the UA Foundation's Edith R. Bullock prize in 2014. The prize is the largest award presented by the UA Foundation's board of trustees each year. A longtime administrator and faculty member who helped develop the statistics program at UAF, he retired in December 2014 as the UA vice president for academic affairs. He was born and raised in Fairbanks.

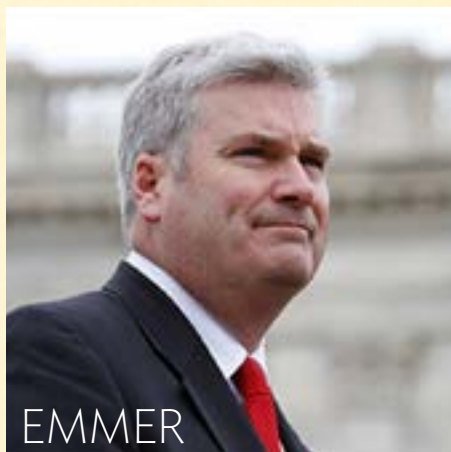
Mike Pollen '77 and his wife, Peggy, were named 2014 Distinguished Citizens of the Year by the Midnight Sun Council, Boy Scouts of America, in December. Read more about them at www.midnightsunbsa.org/distinguishedcitizen.html.

1980s

Curt Freeman '80 was appointed by Gov. Sean Parnell to a geologist seat on the Oil and Gas Competitiveness Review Board in July 2014. The board's purpose is to take a complete view of oil and gas exploration, development and production in the state and make recommendations to the Alaska Legislature. Curt, who lives in Fairbanks, is the president of Avalon Development Corp., the chairman of the Geologic Mapping Advisory Board for the Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys, and a member of the Alaska Miners Association and the Society of Economic Geologists.

Lenita Sheridan Graves '83 has published a book, "Guardian of the Gauntlet," under the pen name Lenita Sheridan. For more information visit www.LenitaSheridan.com.

Norm Davis '84 was inducted into the Alaska Wrestling Hall of Fame in February 2015. He has coached high school wrestling in Alaska since 1985, except while serving in the Marine Corps from 1986-1991. He lives in Fairbanks with his wife, Kim, their seven children (including **Norm Jr. '14** and **Michael Ana '12**) and one grandson.



Tom Emmer '84 was elected to Congress in 2014 as Minnesota's 6th district representative. Tom has seven children with his wife of more than 20 years, Jacqueline. Read more about him at <http://emmerforcongress.com>.

Mike Sfraga '84, '97 and vice chancellor for UAF University and Student Advancement was chosen by the U.S. State Department to help lead a new initiative to address issues faced by Arctic governments and people. He will serve as one of two "distinguished scholar leaders" of the Fulbright Arctic Initiative.

Dave Dreydoppel '85, '88 retired from the UAF Police Department in October 2014 after 30 years of service. Dave was a student firefighter while enrolled at UAF, eventually transitioning to the police department as a community service officer and ultimately dispatcher.

Wendy Brennan Wenke '87 completed a Master of Arts degree in security studies at the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security in September 2014. Wendy has held numerous positions within the Alaska National Guard, currently serving as the deputy director of the Joint Staff, Joint Force Headquarters, where she is responsible for the Alaska National Guard's ability to support command and control of assigned Army and Air National Guard Forces during domestic operations in accordance with the National Strategy for Homeland Defense/Security.



Cynthia Teniente-Matson '89 became president of Texas A&M University-San Antonio in February 2015. Previously she was vice president for administration and chief financial officer for the California State University Fresno and vice chancellor at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

1990s

Pat Pitney '90 became the Alaska state director for management and budget in November 2014. She was the vice chancellor for administrative services at UAF at the time of her appointment by Gov. Bill Walker.

Vicki McConnell '95 became executive director of the Geological Society of America in April 2015. She had been the state geologist for Oregon for the past decade. Read more about her at <http://bit.ly/UAFMcConnell>.

Cheryl Evans '98 is the director of communications at CRW Engineering Group.

CLASS NOTES

2000s



DRYGAS

Heidi Drygas '00 became the labor commissioner for the state of Alaska in January 2015. Previously she was general counsel for the Alaska District Council of Laborers. She runs a blog, Chena Girl Cooks, as noted in the fall 2014 Aurora.



POWERS

Shane Powers '01, '10 was named the 2014 Firefighter of the Year by the State of Alaska in October. Shane grew up in Fairbanks and has worked for the Fairbanks Fire Department for eight years, splitting his time as a firefighter assigned to an engine and a paramedic running calls with an ambulance. Read more about Shane at <http://bit.ly/FDNMShanePowers>.



THORSTEINSON

Kirk Thorsteinson '02 — “I was promoted to major in the Alaska Army National Guard effective April 16, 2014. After completing the UAF Army ROTC program and graduating from UAF I moved to Portland, Oregon, where I earned a Master of Divinity from Multnomah Biblical Seminary and received ordination through Central Bible Church in 2005. I am ecclesiastically endorsed by the Associated Gospel Churches and have served as chaplain for the 49th Missile Defense Battalion, 3-297th Infantry Battalion, 761st Military Police Battalion, and currently serve as the 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade chaplain. During 2006-2007 I served as the Security Forces North chaplain stationed at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and am a graduate of the Chaplain Captain Career Course. My awards include the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal and Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal. My wife Jennifer and I have a 4-year-old son named Craig. I live and work in Juneau where I am a human resources consultant with the Alaska Department of Administration's Classification Studies Team. I also serve as the chaplain for Veterans of Foreign Wars Taku Post 5559, American Legion Auke Bay Post 25, and have clergy privileges with the State of Alaska's Department of Corrections Chaplaincy Program.”

Sherri Wall '02, '05 was the second place winner of the 2014 Economist Educators Best in Class Teaching Award given by Cengage Learning and the National Economics Teaching Association in November. The awards recognize innovative and notable instructors of economics. View her winning video at <http://bit.ly/Wallvideo>.

Jesse Laner '03 is co-founder of C3 Real Estate solutions in Fort Collins, Colorado. Read more about him at <http://bit.ly/UAFJaner>.



WATTS

Patricia Watts '04 had her first novel, “Watchdogs,” a story of crime and passion set in Fairbanks, published in 2013 by She Writes Press. She works as an investigator in Anchorage and is completing a second book.



PEDERSON

Etsuko Kimura Pederson '05 — “I released my modern music CD for two and three pianos. This CD was funded by the Rasmuson Foundation Individual Artist Award for music composition. (This is the second time [I have] received the award.) All players of this CD are from the UAF Music Department: Dr. Zilberkant, Dr. Eder, Mr. Dowgray, Mr. Felkel and me. [Proceeds from] CD sales will be donated to the Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Relief Fund in Sendai, Japan.”

Congratulations to these UAF alumni who made the 2015 Alaska Journal of Commerce list. Read more at <http://bit.ly/2015top40>.

Pearl Kiyawn Nageak Brower '04, '10

Magenlee James '11

Charlie Kozak '97, '98

Glenna L. Muncy '98

Gordon L. Puller Jr. '10



MEHNER



UAF photo by Todd Paris.

Da-ka-ween Mehner '07, UAF assistant professor of Native arts, was named a 2015 Eiteljorg Contemporary Art Fellow by the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art in Indianapolis, Indiana, in December 2014. Read more at <http://bit.ly/UAFMehner>.

Penny Gage '08 has been program officer of initiatives with the Alaska Community Foundation since December 2014.

Rodney Collins '09, '12 was named Outstanding Student of the Year as a doctoral student in the School of Engineering and Environmental Science at the University of Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Transportation Center named him 2014 student of the year based on his achievements and the promise of his future contributions to transportation.

Brandon Uzzell '09, '11 is the manager of student records at UAF's Office of Admissions and the Registrar. Brandon supervises the records staff and oversees all processes, including semester registration setup in UAOnline, faculty web grading, the release of official transcripts, the posting of academic standings, and general customer service at the front counter.

2010s

Amanda Byrd '13 was featured in the Becoming Alaskan section of the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner in January 2015. Read the article at <http://bit.ly/amandabyrd>.



John Messick '13 and **Mollie Murray '12** completed a 2,185-mile thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail in 177 days. Read all about it on their blog at <http://readwritewander.wordpress.com>.

KNIGHT



UAF photo by Todd Paris.

Keri Knight '14 was named the Great Northwest Athletic Conference selection for the NCAA Woman of the Year Award in June 2014. Keri was an outside hitter for the Alaska Nanook volleyball team, a three-year starter and captain for two seasons, all while compiling a 3.85 GPA. For two years, she served as the Nanooks' Student-Athlete Advisory Committee president and was chosen as the 2013-2014 Nanook Athletics Advisory Committee Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year. She was also named the 2013-2014 outstanding student of the year for the School of Management.

Angela Wade '14 was certified as a police officer in the state of Alaska in April 2014 by the Alaska Police Standards Council. Angela is a tribal citizen of Chickaloon Native Village, graduated from the police academy at the UAF Community and Technical College and began working as a tribal peace officer with the Chickaloon Village Traditional Council Justice Department in 2013.

KEEP IN TOUCH

Send us your news at www.uaf.edu/alumni/classnotes/ or email aurora.magazine@alaska.edu.

IN MEMORIAM



UAF photo by Sam Winch.

Lee Salisbury carries the mace at Commencement 1988, the year he retired.

Lee Salisbury, professor emeritus of speech, died March 8 in Bainbridge Island, Washington. He was 87.

Lee began teaching at UAF in 1955 and retired in 1988. Lee directed nearly 100 plays during his tenure with the university. He served on what is today the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission, and his work helped create KUAC FM.

Lee began his stage work as a young man in New York. He came to Alaska at the suggestion of his sister-in-law, Druska Schaible, who was UAF's dean of women and head of the Biology Department.

For many years, Lee was the speech and drama program's only faculty member. Plays were staged in the gym, which is now Signers' Hall. Productions had to work around basketball games and ROTC training. Schaible Auditorium, named for Lee's sister-in-law after she died in a fire, opened in 1957, but it lacked a real stage.

Lee's advocacy led to construction of the Fine Arts Theatre at the Regents' Great Hall in 1969. The Board of Regents renamed it the Lee H. Salisbury Theatre in 1993. Lee returned to Fairbanks in 2007 to direct the play "Picnic," celebrating the theatre department's 50th year.

Lee and his wife, Lesley, had four children — Lisa, Tom, Lex and Druska. Lesley died in 1998.

IN MEMORIAM



Photo courtesy of Trina Mamoon.

Joseph and his wife, Trina, at the Parthenon in Greece.

Joseph C. Thompson, an associate professor of philosophy and humanities, died from lung cancer Aug. 4, 2014, in Fairbanks. He was 49.

Joseph received his master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He was deeply committed to the Philosophy and Humanities Department, and to his students. He advised the UAF Socratic Society beginning in 2008, and lectured and participated in philosophical debates on campus on numerous occasions.

Joseph moved to Alaska in January 1999 to teach at UAF. He was a popular teacher who delighted in opening his students' minds to the vast and intricate possibilities of the world. "I'm getting paid to rave intelligently about things that I just love! Architecture, sculpture, mythology, painting, music, Shakespeare. That has got to be my favorite," Joseph said of his introductory humanities class during a 2010 Sun Star interview.

Joseph's intellectual energy was reflected in the classes he taught, among them History of Ancient Greek Philosophy, Contemporary Philosophical Problems, Feminist Philosophy, Aesthetics and German Metaphysics. He was also a keen speed chess player and spent many hours outside the classroom playing with his students.

Joseph's exuberance for teaching and learning earned him the 2014 Emil Usibelli Distinguished Teaching Award, UAF's most prestigious teaching award. He received several Excellence in Teaching awards from the College of Liberal Arts, among other commendations.

He is survived by his wife, Trina Mamoon, an associate professor of Russian and French at UAF. A memorial scholarship has been set up in his name.

Perry Douglas Adkison '66, Dec. 2, 2014, Bellingham, Washington

Patrick Louis Aloia '71, '74, Sept. 23, 2014, Surprise, Arizona

Ashley Argyle '03, Nov. 18, 2014, Park City, Utah

Walter F. Baldwin '61, Nov. 26, 2014, Sitka, Alaska

Archana Bali, Ph.D. student, Sept. 8, 2014, Fairbanks, Alaska

Michael A. Barber '06, Jan. 8, Fairbanks, Alaska

William Robert Bell '89, Nov. 5, 2014, Fairbanks, Alaska

Yvonne L.H. Betters, matriculate, July 19, 2014, Salcha, Alaska

Sue Ann Bowling '70 and retired faculty, Nov. 25, 2014, North Pole, Alaska

Raymond D. Cameron '72 and former research associate, Nov. 15, 2014, Ester, Alaska

Genevieve T. Carboy '58, '71, Feb. 1, Fairbanks, Alaska

Tr'enul'an Geraldine Charlie, former faculty, Jan. 31, Minto, Alaska

Debra Sue Chesnut '90, Dec. 3, 2014, Fairbanks, Alaska

Robert M. Curran '79, July 24, 2014, Ft. Collins, Colorado

Frederick C. Dean, professor emeritus, Nov. 28, 2014, Fairbanks, Alaska

Anne Robinson D'Olier '88, July 8, 2014, Sandpoint, Idaho

Patricia A. Doyle Morgan, matriculate, July 1, 2014, Fairbanks, Alaska

Edith Delta Durst '59, '63, Oct. 24, 2014, San Ramon, California

Edward M. Eastaugh '63, July 16, 2014, Anchorage, Alaska

John A. Efta '88, Aug. 25, 2014, Kenai, Alaska

Edward J. Eisele '67, Sept. 20, 2014, Stoughton, Wisconsin

Alice P. Evridge '92, July 5, 2014, Anchorage, Alaska

Robert C. Fisk '80, Aug. 16, 2014, Wasilla, Alaska

George E. Gordon '62, Nov. 29, 2014, Fairbanks, Alaska

Wilbur Perham Green '50, Oct. 14, 2014, Fairbanks, Alaska

Constance F. Griffith '63, Sept. 2, 2014, Reno, Nevada

Betty Hartley, matriculate, Oct. 26, 2014, Fairbanks, Alaska

Carl F. Heflinger, matriculate, Dec. 14, 2014, Fairbanks, Alaska

John K. Hoegberg '89, Feb. 5, Fairbanks, Alaska

Gerald E. Hubbard '73, '74, '80, Jan. 1, Houston, Texas

Lloyd Allen Johnson, matriculate, Aug. 16, 2014, Juneau, Alaska

Kathleen Y. Kennedy '99, Oct. 7, 2014, Fairbanks, Alaska

Roger Scott Leff '92 and former KUAC employee, Aug. 22, 2014, Fairbanks, Alaska

Craig A. McKinstry '87, '90, Nov. 21, 2014, Portland, Oregon

Michael J. Miller, former Facilities Services employee, July 4, 2014, Fairbanks, Alaska

Linda Rae Moffitt '76, Aug. 20, 2014, Anchorage, Alaska

Roland E. Monsen '97, Jan. 13, King Salmon, Alaska

Elizabeth Ellen Noyes '66, Dec. 13, 2014, Seattle, Washington

Dan R. Parker, Facilities Services employee, Dec. 16, 2014, Fairbanks, Alaska

Shirley Phelps '74, '80, Dec. 17, 2014, Tomball, Texas

Donald H. Piatt, matriculate, Oct. 27, 2014, Fairbanks, Alaska

Vincent M. Raimond '52, Aug. 12, 2014, Worton, Maryland

John E. Rawson '75, Dec. 11, 2014, Aberdeen, Washington

Michael D. Rohn '92, Jan. 30, Ester, Alaska

Edward N. Rolle '65, Dec. 28, 2014, Sherwood, Arkansas

Minnie Salmon '97, Sept. 17, 2014, Chalkyitsik, Alaska

Geraldine S. Shelton '84, Nov. 27, 2014, Spring Branch, Texas

Clifton W. Simons '86, Nov. 1, 2014, Barrow, Alaska

Mary H. Slotnick '59 and former associate professor, Nov. 3, 2014, Seattle, Washington

Wilma A. Spengler '68, Dec. 30, 2014, Hood River, Oregon

Louis B. Staudt '76, Nov. 11, 2014, Temple, Texas

William D. Stegemeyer '51, Aug. 10, 2014, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin

Christopher Lee Taylor, student, July 25, 2014, Fairbanks, Alaska

Robert W. Taylor '08, Dec. 10, 2014, Fairbanks, Alaska

Lillian E. Turner, matriculate, Dec. 3, 2014, Casper, Wyoming

Janet B. Underwood '80, Aug. 27, 2014, Kennewick, Washington

Agnes M. Walsh '91, Dec. 1, 2014, Anchorage, Alaska

Dawn Weyiouanna '77, '81, Dec. 6, 2014, Barrow, Alaska

Patricia Ray Williams, matriculate, Sept. 18, 2014, Anchorage, Alaska

Roger A. Winkler '62, Sept. 22, 2014, Aurora, Colorado

Yon Sun Yim, former Facilities Services employee, Dec. 13, 2014, Anchorage, Alaska

Shane Ryan Yoder '09, Nov. 5, 2014, Fairbanks, Alaska

From less than 3 degrees south of the Arctic Circle to 3 degrees north of the Equator

By Dawn Berger Babcock '85



If you had told me when I graduated from UAF in 1985 (wow, 30 years ago!) that I would be living in Southeast Asia for more than a decade, I would not have believed you.

My appreciation of cultural diversity grew during my college years and led to a career in higher education working with international students, scholars and medical residents. In 1992, I was selected to participate in Rotary International's Group Study Exchange program in Brazil. In 1994-1995, I took a sabbatical to travel for seven months in parts of Africa and South Asia. Eight months after my return to the United States, I met my future husband, who had a desire to work overseas. Six years later, in 2002, we moved to Jakarta, Indonesia. In 2006, we moved to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where we still reside.

Living overseas has been inspiring. Having graduated with degrees in anthropology and sociology, it has been a perfect fit. I travel whenever I can, and my love of photography re-emerged with the first digital camera my husband gave me. I immediately went out and took photos of our Jakarta neighborhood and surrounding kampungs (villages). The ability to communicate with my neighbors by instantly showing them their photos on the camera screen was remarkable.

For this essay, I selected some portraits of devotees who have shared their Thaipusam rituals with me. Thaipusam is a Hindu day of commemoration involving Lord Subramaniam (also known as

Murugan). It is primarily a Tamil Hindu religious observation that includes offerings, prayers and blessings, as well as acts of penance and thanksgiving. A very large gathering of devotees occurs annually at Batu Caves, one of the most popular Hindu shrines outside of India, located near Kuala Lumpur. Much of the temple complex is located inside the caves of a solitary karst tower made of Upper Silurian limestone.



The bluff on the bluff



Photo courtesy of Historical Photograph Collection, Rasmuson Library.

Save the date — please join us on July 6 to help rededicate the 100-year-old Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines cornerstone. Everyone is invited to commemorate UAF’s first centennial milestone.

James Wickersham admitted to his private diary that he was bluffing. In public, though, standing before 300 people atop a small rocky outcrop just west of Fairbanks on July 4, 1915, Alaska’s territorial delegate to Congress omitted all doubts from his grand 5,000-word speech. They were gathered, he said, to dedicate a cornerstone to a future university that would “become a fountainhead for the general diffusion of knowledge.”

Wickersham, writing in his diary two weeks earlier while preparing for the ceremony, acknowledged that he was pushing the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines as a “bold bluff” and “without the authority of law.” In addition, Wickersham wrote, his decision to hold a Masonic dedication ceremony (pictured here) so annoyed the Catholic Rev. Francis Monroe that he refused to attend the event.

Nevertheless, Wickersham’s bluff on the bluff worked. One hundred years after the cornerstone’s dedication, Wickersham’s vision flourishes as the University of Alaska Fairbanks. On

July 6 this year, the university will rededicate the cornerstone as a first step toward celebration of the institution’s centennial in 2017.

Three months before Wickersham’s speech, Congress approved land for the college on the ridge that indigenous Dene people called Troth Yeddha’ — wild potato hill. But the Alaska Legislature didn’t agree until 1917, having been delayed by Anchorage opponents who described Fairbanks as a “temporary placer camp” and the college as a way to “loot” the territorial treasury.

The cornerstone never served more than ceremony. It sat in Cornerstone Plaza for most of the past 100 years. Before construction began on the new engineering building in 2012, it was moved to storage for its protection. The rededication July 6 will return the cornerstone to public display. All are invited, and, with good weather, the crowd should eclipse the original.

Source: “The Cornerstone on College Hill,” by Terrence Cole ’76, ’78