



UNIVERSITY
of ALASKA
FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FOUNDATION

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A Message from UA Foundation Leadership

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your incredible support throughout the past year. Your generosity enables the University of Alaska system's three universities to fulfill their missions of inspiring learning, advancing knowledge through teaching, research, and public service, and emphasizing the North and its diverse peoples. We are extremely grateful for the trust of our donors, which continues to fuel this important work for Alaska and beyond.

The ability to enter a period of growth and focus on our vision for the future, rather than solely on immediate stability, is largely thanks to our donors. As expressed by UA President Pat Pitney earlier this year, "Alaska is facing significant workforce shortages in teaching, healthcare, construction, and other sectors. Our working-age population is declining due to both out-migration and aging."

A thriving university system is crucial for meeting our state's workforce needs and providing the next generation with opportunities to choose to remain in Alaska. UAA, UAF, UAS, and their community campuses educate over 90% of all students pursuing higher education and training in Alaska, and 80% of our graduates find employment in Alaska within a year of graduating. When we speak about a workforce pipeline for Alaska, the university is it.

The future of our state is directly linked to having access to high quality, affordable public universities that cater to students, not only in our largest cities, but also in our smallest communities throughout Alaska. The UA system enables Alaskans to build their lives here, and our excellence attracts many individuals from outside who choose to make our state their home. Last year, we witnessed an increase in both first-time freshmen and UA Scholars, a trend we are excited to see continue.

The University of Alaska system furthers the dream of a bright future for generations of Alaskans. Continued support and investment in our universities, along with the wide range of programs they offer, are more crucial now than ever. We express our deepest gratitude for your generous support.

Laura Bruce, CFP, ChFC
Chair, Board of Directors

Tod A. Burnett, Ed.D.
President



Dr. Jessica Black Receives 2023 Bullock Prize in Recognition of Her Service to the UA System

The University of Alaska Foundation Board of Directors awarded the 2023 Edith R. Bullock Prize for Excellence to Dr. Jessica Black, associate vice chancellor for rural, community and Native education at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and has been a faculty member since 2006.

The Bullock Prize is awarded annually to a member of the university community who understands that a truly great university grows due to personal commitments to excellence. The Prize includes an unrestricted \$20,000 award and is the most prestigious award presented by the UA Foundation each year.

“Dr. Black’s extraordinary contributions to UAF as a researcher, assistant professor, and project leader, and her commitment to transforming higher education to be more inclusive and equitable, have created a welcoming environment where Alaska Native knowledge is embraced, and where Alaska Native students, faculty, and staff are welcomed,” said Laura Bruce, UA Foundation board chair.

“While her expertise and knowledge are sought out across the globe, she is widely respected as a leader in the local community, and within the university for helping others understand how we can all benefit from an indigenous perspective.”

At UAF, Dr. Black teaches courses in Alaska Native governance, policy, leadership, and research. Her research focuses on Alaska Native well-being, specifically on the importance of salmon and other natural resources. She is the co-principal investigator for a National Science Foundation (NSF)-funded research project titled, *Tamamta (All of Us): Transforming Western and Indigenous Fisheries and Marine Sciences Together*, that will transform graduate education in fisheries and marine sciences. She is also the lead principal investigator on another NSF grant, *Tamamta Iqallupet Anirtungnaqluki: We are Trying to Save Our Fish*, which is a statewide research project that aims to build relationships, gather indigenous stewardship knowledge and practice, and document inequities in fisheries science and management.

“Dr. Black is an accomplished researcher, educator, and administrator,” said UAF Chancellor Dan White. “As an accomplished scholar and dedicated community volunteer, [she] demonstrates a strong commitment to inclusion and equity in higher education and contributes to strengthening UAF’s role as a **global leader in Alaska Native and Indigenous programs.**” ■



UA Foundation Hosts Celebration of Alaska Native Partners

The University of Alaska Foundation Board of Directors hosted the Celebrating Alaska Native Partners dinner in June 2023. The event brought together Alaska Native corporations, education foundations, tribes, and businesses with UA Foundation board members, UA regents, UA system office leadership, and leaders and students from UAA, UAF, and UAS. The evening kicked off with a performance by the Acilquq dance group.

Roald Helgesen, COO of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, a UA Foundation board member and UAA alum, took the stage to welcome everyone and express his pride in the partnership between the UA system and Alaska Native corporations, tribes, and nonprofits. He highlighted the impact that Alaska Native people have on education and their contribution to building a world-class university system in Alaska.

Aaron Leggett, president of the Native Village of Eklutna Tribal Council and UAA alum, delivered a land acknowledgment, recognizing the indigenous heritage of the land.

Emily Edenshaw, president and CEO of the Alaska Native Heritage Center, a UAA alum, and UAF Ph.D. candidate, shared her insights and goals in promoting education and cultural preservation.

UA President Pat Pitney emphasized the importance of integrating indigenous knowledge and values into UA's culture. She highlighted the Alaska Native Success Initiative and its leaders at the three universities in ensuring the representation and success of Alaska Native students, faculty, and staff. ■

49 Hours for Alaska

UA GIVING DAY 2023

Over 49 hours in February 2023, UAA, UAF, and UAS alumni, friends, and businesses across the world donated, celebrated, and advocated the importance of investing in higher education. Our community unlocked nearly 100 new large donations, which were leveraged to increase the number of supporters for UA system programs. ■

\$1.29M+
RAISED FROM
1,793
DONORS

GIFTS RECEIVED FROM
50
U.S. STATES,
WASHINGTON, D.C.
& 10
COUNTRIES

37 COLLEGES,
SCHOOLS,
& PROGRAMS
SUPPORTED THROUGH GIFTS TO
248 FUNDS



for alaska

Campaign Update

The *For Alaska* campaign achieved new heights in fiscal year 2023, surpassing \$248 million in contributions from over 20,000 unique donors. We are grateful to the people, businesses large and small, foundations, and other donors who support the University of Alaska system.

For Alaska is the first comprehensive fundraising campaign to raise private support for students, faculty, programs, and facilities across the UA system. Funds raised during the campaign strengthen every UAA, UAF, and UAS campus and learning center across the state. The *For Alaska* campaign continues until June 2024, increasing the long-term financial stability of Alaska's public universities. ■

CAMPAIGN TOTAL

(July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2023)

\$248.07M

+67%

Increase in annual alumni giving

+33%

Increase in annual average total giving

222

New scholarship funds

170

New endowments

UA Foundation Financials

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

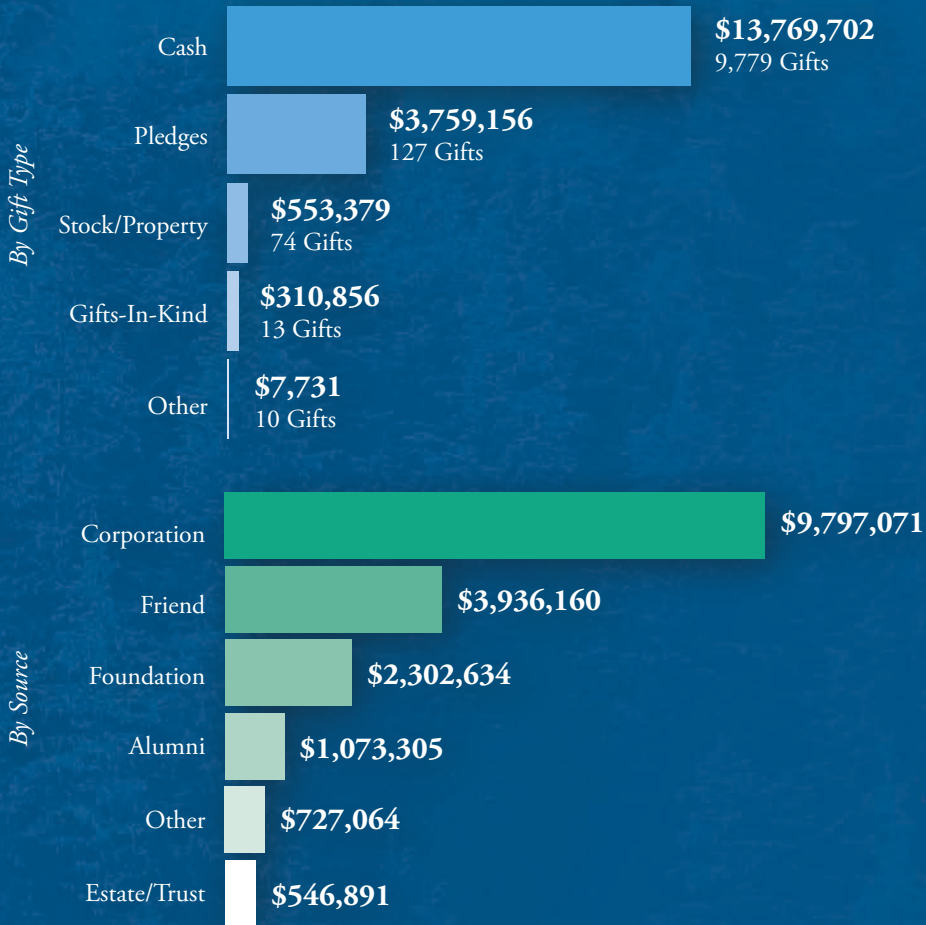
10,003

TOTAL GIFTS MADE

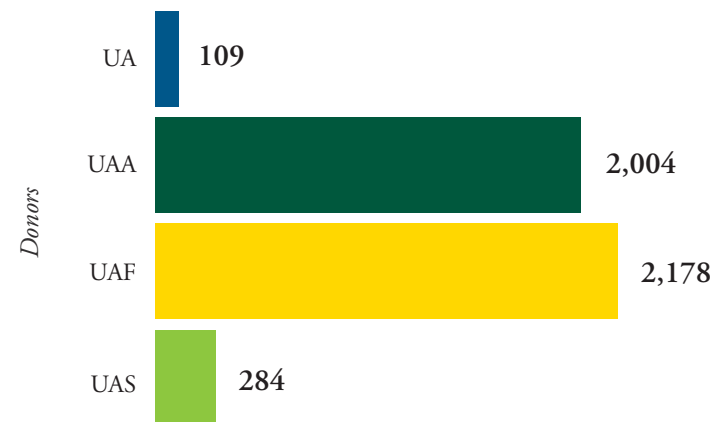
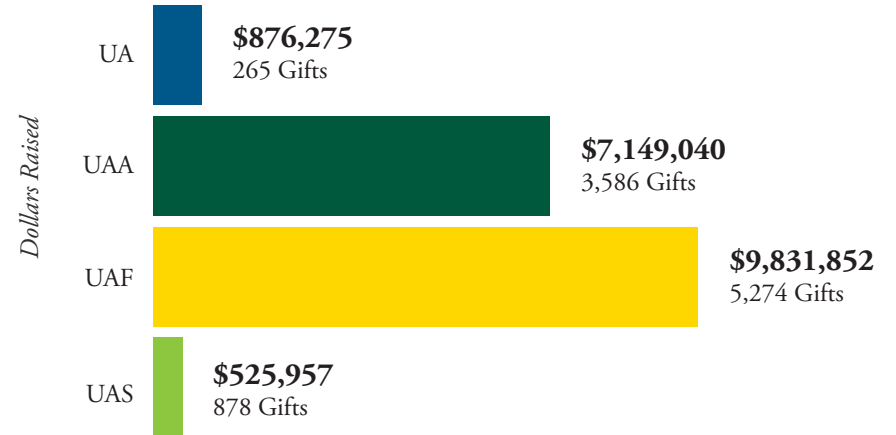
\$18.4M

TOTAL DOLLARS RAISED

GIFTS AND PLEDGES



GIFTS AND PLEDGES PER UNIVERSITY



SCHOLARSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS

\$4.19M
DOLLARS AWARDED

1,823
STUDENTS RECEIVING
SCHOLARSHIPS

2,249
AWARDS

ASSETS *(as of June 30, 2023)*

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 4,015,825
Interest and Dividends Receivable	\$ 491,938
Contributions Receivable, Net	\$ 7,969,435
Other Receivables	\$ 920,061
Other Investments	\$ 64,365,955
Pooled Endowment Funds	\$ 463,705,491
Remainder Trusts Receivable	\$ 690,053
Bequests Receivable	\$ 5,058,572
Other Assets	\$ 316,677
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ <u>547,534,007</u>

FUNDS DISTRIBUTED

	UA	UAA, UAF, UAS	Total
Athletics	\$ —	\$ 2,364,116	\$ 2,364,116
Business and Management	\$ 148,582	\$ 1,349,146	\$ 1,497,728
Campus Support	\$ 961,895	\$ 2,556,327	\$ 3,518,222
Community and Technical College	\$ 250,000	\$ 561,628	\$ 811,628
Education	\$ 88,000	\$ 47,115	\$ 135,115
General Support	\$ 136,899	\$ —	\$ 136,899
Health	\$ —	\$ 647,664	\$ 647,664
Liberal Arts and Social Sciences	\$ 1,000	\$ 785,236	\$ 786,236
Science and Engineering	\$ 58,085	\$ 3,980,573	\$ 4,038,658
Students and Public Support	\$ 332,316	\$ 3,185,657	\$ 3,517,973
Student Aid	\$ 811,875	\$ 4,170,989	\$ 4,982,864
TOTAL FUNDS DISTRIBUTED	\$ <u>2,788,652</u>	\$ <u>19,648,451</u>	\$ <u>22,437,103</u>

26 New Endowments, Scholarships, and Endowed Chairs

LaDessa Hall Nordale Endowed Chair in Business Administration

Supporting the LaDessa Hall Nordale Endowed Chair in Business Administration at the UAF College of Business and Security Management. Established by the Anthony J. Nordale and the LaDessa Hall Nordale estates.

ASUAF Academic Excellence Scholarship

Supporting tuition and other educational expenses for high achieving students enrolled full time at UAF. Established by Associated Students of UAF.

ASUAF Leadership Scholarship

Supporting tuition and other educational expenses for students who make positive contributions that strengthen the UAF community through their leadership. Established by Associated Students of UAF.

Ukrainian Student Support Endowment

Supporting tuition and other related expenses for students from Ukraine who attend UAA. Established by Jim H. Bowers.

Hugh McPeck Gallery Art Student Scholarship

Supporting tuition and other related educational expenses for students who demonstrate the commitment and dedication to develop their potential as a drawing or sculpture artist at UAA. Established by Ann McPeck Gabler and Dr. Sean P. McPeck.

Mary Kaye Denkewalter Memorial Endowed Scholarship

Supporting tuition and other related educational expenses for students majoring in art at UAF, with preference for students studying jewelry making and silversmithing. Established by Alaska Metal Arts Guild.

Roselius-Desorcie Hockey Alumni Association Road Trip Endowment

Supporting the Division I hockey program at UAF, with an emphasis on enhancing student-athlete experience on and off the ice and encouraging camaraderie among teammates. Established by an anonymous donor.

Colton Parayko Hockey Camp Scholarship

Supporting scholarships to student-athletes who are members of the UAF varsity hockey team. Established by Colton W. Parayko.

Ronald Senungetuk Art Endowed Scholarship

Supporting tuition and other related educational expenses to undergraduate and graduate students with a Native Art concentration at UAF. Established by Turid Senungetuk.

Debendra Das and Katherine Cross-Das

Alaska Native Students Scholarship

Supporting tuition and other related educational expenses for UAF liberal arts students who are members of, or eligible for membership in, a federally recognized tribe in Alaska and demonstrate financial need. Established by Dr. Deben K. Das.

Charles Gilbert Mull Field Camp Endowed Scholarship

Supporting tuition and other related educational expenses for UAF students majoring in geoscience and attending a geology field course. Established by Michael T. Whalen.

Dr. Beverly Beeton Endowment for History Studies

Supporting tuition and other related educational expenses for UAA or UAS history majors or minors, or students with a history concentration majoring in social sciences or humanities. Established by the Beverly Beeton estate.

Claudia Clark Journalism Scholarship

Supporting tuition and other related educational expenses for UAF journalism students. Established by Jeremy T. Vermilyea.

Marla Denise Roberson Memorial

Nanook Volleyball Scholarship

Supporting tuition and other related educational expenses for student-athletes on the UAF women's volleyball team. Established by Darren R. Baumunk.

Alaska Native Organizational Management

Distinguished Professor

Supporting the Alaska Native Business Management program at UAA. Established by the George A. Geistaust estate.

Jessie O'Bryan McIntosh Endowed Fund

Supporting scholarships for UAF students. Established by the Jessie O'Bryan McIntosh Trust.

SLB Alaska Native Endowed Scholarship

Supporting tuition and other related educational expenses for UA system students who are a member of, or eligible for membership in, a federally recognized Tribe in Alaska. Established by Schlumberger Oilfield Services.

Jodi L. Pfeiffer Memorial Student Support Endowment

Providing financial support for UAA students enrolled in the Physical Therapist Assistant program and are members of the Alaska Physical Therapy Association. Established by an anonymous donor.

Desorcie-Moria Hockey Alumni Association Excellence Endowment

Supporting the UAF athletics department and student-athlete recruitment for its hockey program. Established by an anonymous donor.

Sheri Buretta Family Endowed Scholarship

Supporting tuition and other educational expenses for UAA students who demonstrate financial need. Established by anonymous donor.

UAS Alaska GED Achiever Endowed Scholarship

Supporting tuition and other educational expenses for UAS students who have earned an alternative high school equivalent diploma. Established by Michael A. Ciri and Jeri P. Cary.

Lee Huskey Award

Supporting an award for a senior graduating from a UAA economics program. Established by an anonymous donor.

Bill Stroecker Petroleum Engineering Scholarship

Supporting financial assistance for Alaska residents majoring in petroleum engineering at UAF. Established by the Bill Stroecker Foundation.

Bill Stroecker MBA Scholarship

Supporting financial assistance for Alaska residents enrolled in the MBA program at UAF. Established by the Bill Stroecker Foundation.

Christine Chandler Memorial Scholarship

Supporting tuition and other related educational expenses for nursing students at UAA. Established by Randy H. Magen.

Kinross Alaska Future Leaders Endowed Scholarship

Supporting tuition and other related educational expenses for UAF students who are historically underrepresented in the resource development industry. Established by Kinross Alaska.

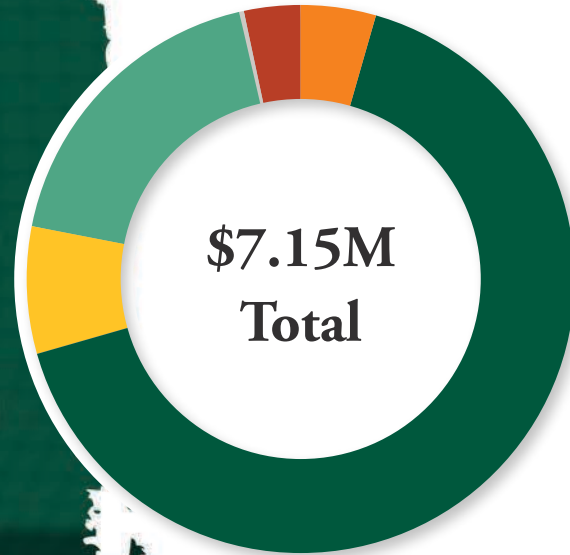




UNIVERSITY of ALASKA
ANCHORAGE™

UAA Financial Snapshot

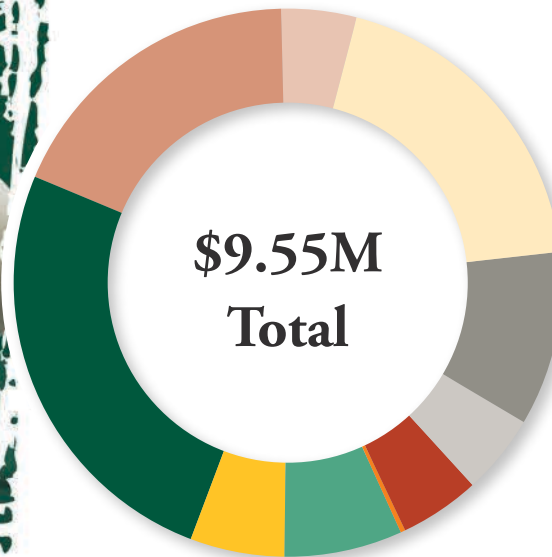
July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023



GIFTS AND PLEDGES

Alumni	\$334,626
Corporation	\$4,732,663
Estate/Trust	\$1,113
Foundation	\$541,184
Friend	\$1,302,455
Planned Gift Commitments	\$20,000
Other	\$236,979

2,004 Donors



FUNDS DISTRIBUTED

Athletics	\$1,841,756
Business and Management	\$977,888
Campus Support	\$447,976
Community and Technical College	\$453,568
Education	\$46,422
Health	\$644,667
Liberal Arts and Social Sciences	\$546,977
Science and Engineering	\$2,441,169
Student Aid	\$1,740,358
Students and Public Support	\$413,866

1,193 Scholarships Awarded



Pioneering AI for Alaska Industries

As artificial intelligence continues to permeate various industries, discussions emerge regarding job displacement, ethical concerns, accuracy, and trust. As a collaborative effort, the Alaska Data Science and AI Lab (ADSAIL) at UAA recognizes these open questions as opportunities for fostering dialogue, raising awareness, and promoting responsible AI use.

ADSAIL brings together UAA's College of Business and Public Policy, College

of Engineering, and the community. The lab's mission is to explore AI, machine learning, and data science, while nurturing the minds of future data scientists and AI researchers.

Now a hub for multidisciplinary learning, the lab is a space for hands-on learning, enabling experiential education, and collaborative projects. Through cutting edge technology, including virtual, augmented, and mixed reality systems, the lab provides

students and community members with a playground for innovation and exploration. Students at UAA can work on practical projects and network with industry professionals. As the founding donor and partner, McKinley Management's partnership with the lab adds internships in the field for students.

"We're hoping that people can use it [AI] to make their work more efficient and solve problems they couldn't solve

before, whether that's for a research project or a business problem," shared Kendrick Mock, Dean of Engineering and Professor.

The lab's legacy lies in its endeavor to educate, inspire, and enable innovation. Providing these tools, knowledge, and ethical foundations empower Alaskans to make their work more efficient, solve previously insurmountable problems, and usher in a future where technology serves the state of Alaska. ■

50 Years of Elevating Culinary Success

Connections and celebrations happen over food. That's why the UAA culinary program, featuring Lucy's and the bakery cart, is such a strong pillar in the campus community. This network extends beyond the campus as UAA alumni chefs partner with culinary programs from all around Anchorage, connections that have made for a successful 50 years. Notable this year, the program surpassed fundraising goals, made record sales, and secured reaccreditation – maintaining its status as the only culinary program in the state approved by the American Culinary Federation.

UAA alum, James Beard Award nominee, and Altura Bistro owner Nate Bentley showcased his culinary mastery at the 2023 Celebrity Chef Invitational, a fundraiser for the culinary program and scholarships. He was joined by chefs from South, Southside Bistro, Kenai Princess Lodge, and Hotel Captain Cook.

Chef Kellie Puff, an associate professor and chair of UAA's Department of Culinary Arts, emphasized the invaluable experiences students gain in the culinary arts program. "Our students get that real unique opportunity of working alongside these chefs, this talent, and getting to know them and interact with them in ways that they wouldn't normally get," Puff said. "Having that interaction and making that connection, that's always the difference."

Chef Puff credits her successes to her origins at UAA, including multiple television appearances and jobs that took her around the world. "Since being in this program, I have done so many different things in my life that I don't think I would have ever even dreamed of doing." ■





Technology Gift Powers First National Bank of Alaska Finance Lab

The very nature of finance speaks of long-term legacies. That's the foundation for Peak Trust Company's \$50,000 donation to the UAA College of Business and Public Policy. The funds supported the technology needs of the new First National Bank Alaska Finance Lab. CEO Matt Blattmachr, a UAA alum, views this donation in honor of the company's 25th anniversary as an investment in its future employees and the future of Alaska by means of a strong finance program in the state.

"For our team members who have lived in Alaska and have gone to UAA, there's a good chance this is where they want to be for the long haul. I'm grateful to the opportunities UAA provided me, and I know my colleagues feel the same," Blattmachr said.

Investing in the future and building a meaningful story along the way has long been a focus of Blattmachr.

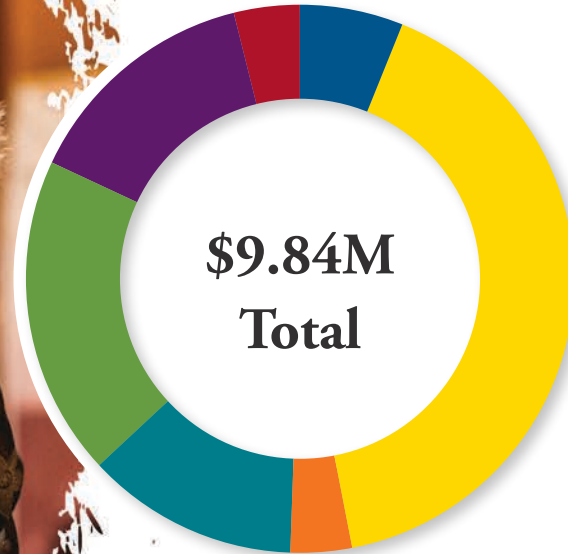
"What I love about trusts and estates is in many ways wealth is so much more than just money. It's the accumulation of a person's life's work, including their values and beliefs, and what they want to have done with it is a powerful thing," said Blattmachr. "We'd like to be part of the equation that helps people properly manage it for good, so others learn the stories behind them, doing full justice to their values and legacy."

Blattmachr's father, Doug, worked 50 years at Peak Trust Company before him. Much of his passion was sparked from this family connection, reinforcing the company's commitment to preserving the legacies of those it serves. ■



UAF Financial Snapshot

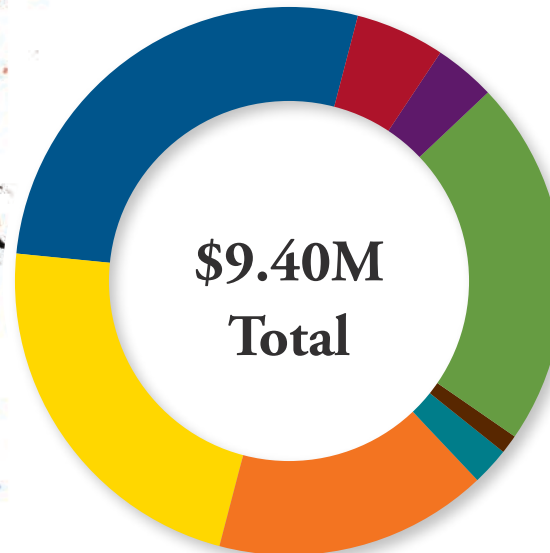
July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023



GIFTS AND PLEDGES

Alumni	\$709,948
Corporation	\$4,688,725
Estate/Trust	\$421,917
Foundation	\$1,421,161
Friend	\$2,161,501
Planned Gift Commitments	\$1,630,000
Other	\$428,600

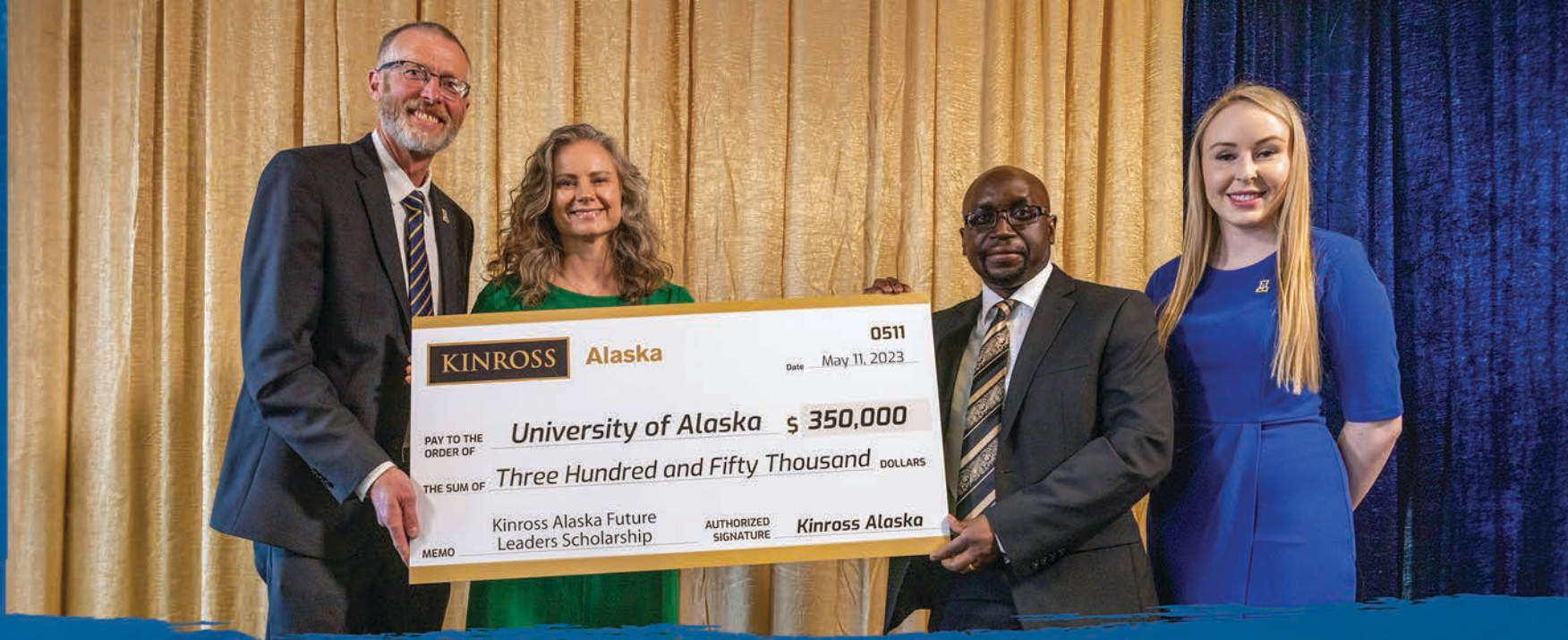
2,178 Donors



FUNDS DISTRIBUTED

Athletics	\$522,360
Business and Management	\$322,037
Campus Support	\$2,046,239
Community and Technical College	\$94,370
Health	\$2,997
Liberal Arts and Social Sciences	\$209,213
Science and Engineering	\$1,514,962
Student Aid	\$2,120,947
Students and Public Support	\$2,572,708

809 Scholarships Awarded



Record-Breaking Blue and Gold Celebration

Nearly 200 donors contributed more than \$435,000 for student scholarships at the Blue and Gold Celebration, exceeding amounts raised at previous events. These generous donations enable students across UAF to achieve their educational goals.

“Scholarships give students the tools they need to succeed, and they benefit our entire society by creating a more educated and equitable population,” emphasized former UAF Executive Director of Advancement Samara Taber.

A new scholarship established at the event by Kinross Alaska, a gold mining company, accounted for a significant portion of the evening’s contributions. The Kinross Alaska Future Leaders Endowed

Scholarship supports underrepresented students, such as women and indigenous peoples, in the resource development industry pursuing a vocational or baccalaureate degree.

“We hope this scholarship fosters an inclusive culture in the mining industry where people who have been historically underrepresented feel included and welcomed to contribute their perspectives, their values, and cultures,” said Kinross Alaska Vice President and General Manager Terence Watungwa.

Another highlight of the night was the Emil Usibelli Distinguished Teaching, Research, and Service Awards. Recipients were:

Distinguished Teaching Award

Amy Cooper, D.B.A., assistant professor and accounting program director at the College of Business and Security Management

Distinguished Research Award

Steffi Ickert-Bond, Ph.D., professor of botany in the College of Natural Science and Mathematics and curator of the UA Museum of the North herbarium

Distinguished Service Award

John George, professor and head of the fire science program at the UAF Community and Technical College

Invigorating Nanook Pride with a Gift from the Heart

One woman's kindness has supported the UAF Department of Athletics in its work to redesigning the Alaska Airlines gymnasium with new wall pads to improve safety for volleyball and basketball student-athletes, and updated scoreboard signage and banners.

Carter Crawford, known throughout the Fairbanks community, strived to contribute to the city's success and devoted her efforts to numerous volunteer and philanthropic opportunities. She stressed the importance of fitness for women and emphasized the importance of both mind and body in a successful person.

As a member of the Cornerstone Legacy Society at UAF, Crawford wanted to create a space for young athletes to thrive both physically and academically. Her passion for the Nanook athletic programs led her to donate her own condo to UAF's Department of Athletics when she moved to a new home as her mobility declined. The funds from selling the condo contributed to the Alaska Airlines gymnasium redesign.

"We're honored to have this wonderful gift," said Brock Anundson, UAF's director of athletics, "as it extends not just on the playing surface, but follows the student athletes with pride as they represent their university in the classroom and on the national scene. We are truly grateful." ■





Advancing Research and Innovation Critical to Alaska

Drones delivering cargo like medical supplies, 3D models that assist in glacier monitoring, and projects in partnership with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) that improve flight safety. These are just a few innovations the Alaska Center for Unmanned Aerial Systems Integration has worked on this year.

The Alaska Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration (ACUASI) at UAF is a research center that ties actionable research, field work, and technology together to serve as a resource not only for other university departments, but also for government agencies and the private sector as well.

“Our real goal here is to help the people of Alaska,” said Cathy Cahill, Ph.D., director of UAF’s ACUASI.

ACUASI has provided valuable resources, including a 3D model of the Aialik Glacier, displayed at the Kenai Fjords National Park’s visitor center, that assists in glacier monitoring efforts. The center also partners with the FAA on projects that improve flight safety. Currently, efforts are being made by both ACUASI and the FAA to have drones deliver various cargo, such as medical supplies, to remote communities. ■

We Work on Frozen Ground

Jim Rooney has dedicated his career to designing infrastructure built to withstand the conditions in the North. From the Dalton Highway to the trans-Alaska pipeline construction, the former president of R&M Consultants has always recognized the importance of studying and engineering in cold regions.

His donation of \$100,000 to assist with the development of the UAF Arctic Engineering Enrichment Fund, provides a scholarship that supports continued engineering research in cold regions.

The idea for the fund is to “hopefully enhance opportunities to become involved in civil engineering and dealing with frozen ground and issues related to permafrost.”

Director of the Alaska Infrastructure Development Center in the UAF College of Engineering and Mines, Billy Connor, expressed that he considered Rooney to be “one of the most respected geotechnical engineers in Alaska and is recognized internationally as an expert in cold-regions’ engineering.”

Rooney is committed to sharing his knowledge about engineering in the North and ensuring that UAF engineering students continue to expand upon that knowledge. His contribution to the UAF Arctic Enrichment Fund, along with his two grandsons who have obtained civil engineering bachelor’s degrees from UAF, form a legacy. ■

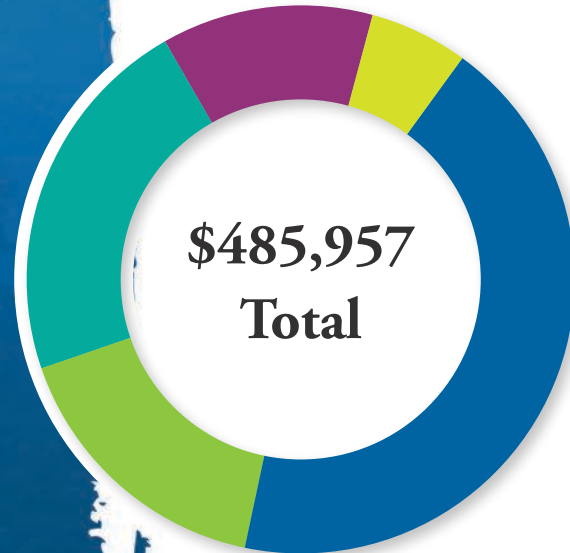




UNIVERSITY of ALASKA SOUTHEAST

UAS Financial Snapshot

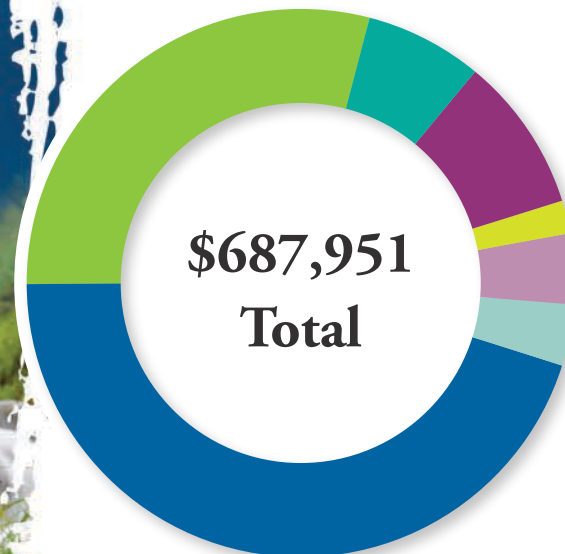
July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023



GIFTS AND PLEDGES

Alumni	\$28,730
Corporation	\$210,808
Foundation	\$79,584
Friend	\$106,734
Other	\$60,100

284 Donors



FUNDS DISTRIBUTED

Business and Management	\$49,221
Campus Support	\$62,112
Community and Technical College	\$13,690
Education	\$693
Liberal Arts and Social Sciences	\$29,046
Science and Engineering	\$24,442
Student Aid	\$309,684
Students and Public Support	\$199,063

247 Scholarships Awarded



A New Home for Research and Education

A new 12,000-square-foot, two-level teaching and research laboratory building near the main UAS campus will be a home for teaching and research associated with the university's distinctive marine-oriented environmental and interdisciplinary science programs. The new Auke Bay Integrated Science Building should be finished for classes by late 2024.

Former UAS Chancellor Karen Carey noted, "The new building will allow our faculty to be housed together and allow them to collaborate on their research and teaching. We have waited a long time for this building to come to fruition, and we are very excited as it continues toward completion."

The building will house several new and upgraded educational spaces and hands-on learning labs. Development has been underway since 2016, and construction finally began in early 2023.

The \$16.1 million project is funded through existing building capital funds, UAS building renewal and renovation reserves, proceeds from the sale of the Admin Services/Bookstore building, proceeds from the Board of Regents-mandated Juneau Campus Facility Fee, and internal reallocation of operating budget funds. Phase I of the project, consisting of demolition and site preparation, has been completed and Phase II construction is underway. ■

BUILDING FEATURES:

- Water/soils ecology lab with attached clean room
- Forest ecology/glaciology/geophysics lab with attached dry room
- Freezer room, chemical storage, and research storage room
- 40 student classroom
- Faculty offices
- Open workspaces
- Collaboration spaces



Opening Doors for Teaching Alaska Native Language Speakers

The number of Alaska Native language speakers and preservation of language continues to decline. UAS, thanks to a partnership and funding with Sealaska Heritage Foundation, is prepared to reverse that trend. The university now offers free Alaska Native language classes as part of an effort to revitalize the Lingít, Haida, and Tsimshian languages.

Alaska Native Languages professor X'unei Lance Twitchell shared his thoughts in a June 2022 KTOO article. Twitchell also serves on the Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council for the State.

“We kept saying, indigenous peoples did not choose to be in this situation. Our language was banished, it was prohibited, it was made illegal. We were tortured and abused and all kinds of things to get us to stop speaking. So, why should we have to pay to learn our own language? Education was a vehicle of oppression, genocide, and assimilation. So, our goal is to transform it into a vehicle of opportunity, equity, and healing. I think it’s going to be medicinal. I think it’s going to alter the course of the way things are going. And it’s really exciting.”

There is a clear need for, and interest in, language revitalization. For Arts and Sciences Dean Carin Silkaitis, M.F.A., the job is about supporting faculty and finding ways to say yes.

Dean Silkaitis told KTOO, “You have to open doors; you have to bring seats to tables. And I think creating a free curriculum is a way to create more access for people.”

The free classes are supported by Sealaska Heritage Foundation and a Language Pathways grant. ■



“

I think it's going to reach a point where we'll look back and we'll say, 'You remember how rare it was, when we didn't speak it, to hear Lingít? You remember when hardly anybody knew Lingít?' And then I think my hope is we look back at that and say, 'What a strange time that was.' ”

Alaska Native Languages professor
X'unei Lance Twitchell
in a June 2022 KTOO article

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