



Riding the Wave to his Dream Profession

UAF alumnus Tyler Loudermilk graduated in 2019 with a bachelor's degree in homeland security and emergency management. With all of his classes online, Tyler was able to earn his degree remotely. He currently works as an emergency services coordinator for the County of San Luis Obispo. We recently spoke with Tyler to get his perspective on his School of Management experience.

As Tyler researched universities, he visited the Federal Emergency Management Agency's website and discovered UAF was listed under FEMA's Higher Education College list. It was important to him to attend an accredited program with experienced instructors. With UAF's small student-to-instructor ratio, Tyler knew this would be a good opportunity to connect with his instructors.

Tyler admits he was nervous about pursuing a bachelor's degree. Being married with three kids under the age of 10, working full time in the fire and emergency services fields in California, and having a passion for surfing, he wasn't sure how he would succeed. With a nationally-ranked online degree program, UAF provided the freedom and flexibility to work on assignments at his own pace, on his own schedule.



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Tyler Loudermilk with his wife Briana and their three kids - Finley, Hanalei, and Makoa

Innovation Reimagined

After more than decade, the UAF Arctic Innovation Competition underwent major changes this year. AIC 2020 was cancelled due to the pandemic, which also led to the event being moved from the fall to the spring, a change that is here to stay. AIC 2021 went from a one-day, eight-hour event hosted in person to a multiday virtual event. All AIC events were livestreamed and recorded, allowing friends and family around the world to share in the excitement.

AIC is open to all ages, and that means family members often work together. Joining from Nome, the Walrath family entered three ideas, two of which made it to the semifinals. Doug, the father, entered his idea, CTE Delivery in a Covid Environment, in the main division, where he received an honorable mention. His kids, Denali and Dylan, won second place in the cub division with their idea, Easy Stop Sled, which also won the cub division Fan Favorite award.

"I could see the kids gaining confidence as they worked through their semifinal script," said Doug. "Each mistake was a learning experience, and it was so awesome to see their progress. They've gained confidence for future entrepreneurial experiences and speak of continuing to college because of this experience."



UAF Chancellor White with the winners of the main and junior divisions of AIC

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Faculty Focus - Amanda White

Amanda White is a stand-out instructor, director, mentor and community member. It was just a few years ago when the School of Management gained an incredible leader who has changed the lives of countless students. So, what attracted Amanda to SOM?

“My partner worked seasonally in Alaska for five years before we officially decided to make the move to Fairbanks,” Amanda said. “When I would visit, I really enjoyed the community, access to the outdoors and unique experiences that Fairbanks offers.”

Amanda’s passion is helping students become successful in a career that they are not only good at, but that they love. Her dedication as a leader inspires her unique teaching style. Amanda’s courses are hands-on, applicable learning experiences that help students engage in the content being presented to them. Her classes venture far from reading textbooks and memorizing information; they are experiences.

“It is the little moments that matter to me,” she said. “Giving students the space and courage to explore new careers, to take the next step, to try something they didn’t think they could.”



Amanda and her dog exploring Denali Park



Official School of Management headshot

In 2019, Amanda was recruited by SOM to lead an emerging program. As the director of applied management, Amanda leads a program designed for individuals who are looking to advance a career to the management level in technical fields. The Bachelor of Applied Management program attracts students because its flexibility allows them the freedom to work full time and earn their degrees. The program is built to accommodate busy lives and to encourage students to pursue their passion.

With Amanda at the helm, the BAM program flourishes and has grown dramatically since 2019. It’s not only students who benefit from this program. Employers benefit by keeping their employees long term and watching them advance into management positions within the company.

Amanda’s dedication to student development goes beyond the classroom. In fall 2020, new students were faced with the difficult task of coming into a new school when student organizations couldn’t meet in person, student orientation was virtual and there was little to no personal interaction on campus. Amanda decided that nothing was going to stop her from welcoming new students to SOM, and she launched the SOM mentoring program. As of May 2021, the program officially completed its first full year of virtual mentorship. Amanda stepped up and made the already intimidating transition into college easier for new students and gave upper-level students the opportunity to connect and mentor those students.

Amanda is the faculty advisor for not one, but two SOM student organizations. She is the co-advisor for Students Offering Leadership Development and advisor for the Associated Students of Business. Both organizations focus on enhanced learning in an unconventional way. With Amanda’s involvement in these organizations, students have the chance to experience incredible opportunities outside of the classroom.

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Fun Facts About Amanda

I LOVE THE SMELL OF ...

Pine Sol — not kidding!

WHAT IS YOUR HIDDEN TALENT?

I enjoy being creative at home. Block printing, jewelry making, dying pillow cases, etc. I wouldn’t say it is a talent, but it is something I enjoy!

IF YOU HAD THE POWER TO SOLVE ONE AND ONLY ONE PROBLEM IN THE WORLD, WHAT WOULD IT BE AND WHY?

I wish everyone in the world had a paid year to explore their career options — meet with people, shadow, connect — without the pressure of jumping in right away.

Congratulations, Graduates!

Summer 2020, Fall 2020, and Spring 2021 Graduates

On Saturday, May 1, 2021, the University of Alaska Fairbanks celebrated its 99th commencement with a mix of in-person and virtual events. The morning featured a drive-in celebration on the Fairbanks campus, with many opportunities for fun (and safe) photos – followed by the virtual ceremony in the afternoon.

After an unprecedented year, our School of Management graduates celebrated the culmination of all their hard work as they received their diplomas. This was truly a year like no other, with students continuing to attend some or all of their classes virtually due to the ongoing pandemic. Despite the changes and hardships, our students remained committed through countless hours of hard work attending classes, studying, writing papers, preparing presentations, and taking exams. We are more impressed than ever by our students' ability to constantly adapt and succeed in achieving their academic goals.

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Beta Gamma Sigma

On Friday, April 30, 2021, SOM had the great privilege of honoring our Beta Gamma Sigma Inductees for 2021 with our second all-virtual ceremony.

Beta Gamma Sigma is a national honor society recognizing the highest scholastic honor a student can achieve in business administration at a university accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. To be eligible for membership in this distinguished organization, a student must rank in the top of their class.

- Top 10 percent of the Junior class
- Top 10 percent of the Senior class
- Top 20 percent of MBA students

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HSEM Order of the Sword & Shield

On Saturday, April 24, 2021, SOM held the 6th annual induction ceremony for our Homeland Security and Emergency Management students into the Order of the Sword & Shield National Honor Society. These students met the rigorous academic requirements for induction into the only honor society tailored to students in the homeland security and emergency management fields.

From the Order of the Sword & Shield National Honor Society website:

"The Order of the Sword and Shield, Omicron Sigma Sigma, is the first and only academic and professional honor society dedicated exclusively to homeland security, intelligence, emergency management, cyber and information security, and all protective security disciplines. The mission of the Society shall be to promote critical thinking, high scholarship and professional development; to further enhance the ethical standards of the protective security professions; and to cultivate a high order of personal living. In addition to its academic purpose, the Society is strongly committed to helping communities prepare for safety and emergency conditions and sponsors many types of informational events throughout the year."

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Riding...

(continued)



Tyler walks the beach with his son Finley and daughter Hanalei

The availability of staff and faculty outside traditional hours contributed to Tyler's success as a Nanook. Tyler said that the HSEM program also gave him the confidence to work with stakeholders and community members to execute mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery activities during high-pressure situations.

"I would recommend UAF to anyone who desires to receive a top-notch education in homeland security and emergency management," said Tyler. *"I now work in my dream profession, where I have the opportunity to put my skills to use every day. I can attest that UAF is the real deal."*

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SOM is one of only about 1.5% of colleges and universities in the world to hold the prestigious Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business accreditation for both the School of Management and its accounting program.

UA is an AA/EO employer and educational institution and prohibits illegal discrimination against any individual: www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination.

PHOTO CREDITS Pg 1: (header) UAF Photo; (top) Courtesy of Tyler Loudermilk; (bottom) UAF Photo by JR Ancheta.
Pg 2: Courtesy of Amanda White. Pg 4: (left) Courtesy of Tyler Loudermilk; (right) Courtesy of Doug Walrath

Innovation...

(continued)



Left: Walrath Family

Right: Denali and Dylan with their AIC winnings

Many people submit ideas to AIC year after year. Much like watching family members participate, participating more than once is beneficial because each competition is a chance to gain experience and learn how to improve next time. This was not the first competition for the 2021 main division winner, UAF electrical engineering graduate student Thimira Thilakarathna. Although the idea he submitted in 2019 didn't even make it past the first round of evaluations, his Small-Scale Barley Threshing and Winnowing Machine idea took the top prize this year. Entering multiple times gave him the experience needed to succeed.

Over \$40,000 in cash and prizes was given out to this year's competitors. In the main division, the top prize was awarded to Thimira Thilakarathna, who also won the main division Fan Favorite award. His winning idea, Small-Scale Barley Threshing and Winnowing Machine, is a blender-sized machine that threshes and winnows barley. The junior division winner, Danika Dawley's idea Backup Buoy, can be attached to the rope of any fishing gear left underwater, such as shrimp or crab traps, so that the gear can be retrieved even if it is severed from the main buoy. In the cub division, winner Johnathan Verhagen's idea AirDrone Filtr, cleans the air of pollutants, chemicals, toxins and dust using an ionizer and a HEPA filter. The prize money awarded to AIC competitors is provided by donors, which are primarily Alaska businesses. In addition to our presenting sponsor, Usibelli Coal Mine, and our other generous donors, we welcomed three new donors this year: Alaska 529, GCI and Mt. McKinley Bank. A complete list of all 2021 winners is available at www.arcticinno.com.

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