

UAF photo by Todd Paris

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## FEATURED STORY: *New scholarships created*

Private financial support funds scholarships and directly impacts UAF School of Management (SOM) students.

A UAF scholarship fund is an opportunity for donors to change lives and promote economic security for students. For the donor, it offers the chance to honor a family member, give back to their alma mater or build a legacy.

Two new scholarships at SOM are already making an impact:

### **Fred Smits MBA Business Scholarship**

Fred Smits, Executive Director of

Infrastructure Technology Services at OIT, passed away unexpectedly in 2011. Fred had been with the UAF since 1997, providing steady and sure leadership for the critical services that keep the university's online systems running. Fred was an alumnus of the SOM, graduating in December 2010 with his MBA.

In remembrance of his long and dedicated service to the University of Alaska, the Fred Smits Business Scholarship was created. Due to the generosity of over 70 donors, the scholarship is fully endowed, surpassing the goal of \$25,000 and enabling the first recipient to be

Story continued on page 5



UAF photo by Tammy Travis-McCook

(left to right) Walker Wheeler, Sue Smits, and Dean Mark Herrmann.

## *2014 Business Leader of the Year*



Photo courtesy of Lorna Shaw

Lorna Shaw is the newest Business Leader of the Year.

The UAF School of Management is proud to announce **Lorna Shaw** is the 38th Business Leader of the Year.

Lorna is the External Affairs Manager at Sumitomo Metal Mining Pogo, LLC where she oversees community, public and government affairs.

Lorna has served as Chairwoman of the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce and she also serves on the boards of directors for other industry and business organizations, including Alaska Miners Association, Resource Development Council, Alaska State Chamber of Commerce, Alaska Center for

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JOIN US FOR THE BANQUET!

**Friday, April 18, 2014**

FOR TICKETS AND DETAILS, VISIT  
[WWW.UAF.EDU/SOM](http://WWW.UAF.EDU/SOM)

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**Bobby Desrochers**

*"The vast networking and leadership opportunities at SOM have given me the tools I need to succeed after graduation."*

## *Inside the SOM experience*

My college career started in the fall of 2010 after graduating from Monroe Catholic High. After learning about the School of Management's (SOM) AACSB accreditation, ranking it among the top 10% of all business schools in the world, and the success of its alumni, I realized attending SOM would be beneficial to me in the long run.

As my first semester flew by, I discovered the Associated Students of Business (ASB) student organization. Like many students, I initially attended meetings for the extra credit and the free lunch. I quickly realized there was much more to this student organization. I volunteered to scoop ice cream at the Fairbanks Concert Association and helped with the Spring Semester Icebreaker, a networking event for students and business leaders. I had so much fun working with this group of remarkable students that I decided to take on greater responsibility. By the end of my freshman year, I was elected president of ASB and served in that role for two years.

I'm proud of what I accomplished as ASB president, including bringing the children's

financial literacy program Lemonade Day to Fairbanks and serving as chair of the 2012 and 2013 Business Leader of the Year event.

Shifting into a different gear, I currently serve as vice president on the SOM Student Advisory Council. One of my proudest accomplishments was working with Dean Mark Herrmann to represent the UAF student body at the UA Board of Regents meeting and advocate on behalf of differential tuition.

The vast networking and leadership opportunities at SOM have given me the tools I need to succeed after graduation.

I cannot thank SOM and all of its generous donors enough. They have helped me become the person I am today. I would like to ask you to join me as I contribute back so that other SOM students may have as great of an experience as I had.

Bobby Desrochers  
Class of 2014

## *Newsletter Sponsor:* Spirit of Alaska

Through empowered professional staff, community involvement, and innovation, Spirit of Alaska Federal Credit Union provides its members with superior service, stability, and profitable growth. As the largest locally-owned and operated credit union in Fairbanks, they are committed to providing their members with state-of-the-art technology and the best service possible.

The credit union was started with \$32 in a metal cash box funded by four teachers who wanted an alternative financial institution from

banking. More than 50 years later, Spirit of Alaska Federal Credit Union serves over 10,000 members. There are approximately 65 employees staffing four branches and mortgage lending, consumer lending and business lending. Spirit of Alaska has experienced steady growth and while continuing to provide its members with quality service.

Spirit of Alaska is a dedicated supporter of UAF School of Management student organizations and Business Leader of the Year.



This newsletter edition is sponsored by **Spirit of Alaska Federal Credit Union.**

# Prepare for your career: Internships

Internships offer a glimpse of life after graduation and allow to students develop new knowledge and skills - while potentially earning a job offer. Read the following UAF School of Management student internship accounts for a first-hand look.

## Suzie Avant



Photo by Todd Paris

Suzie Avant is graduating in May 2014 with a degree in psychology and a minor in business. She plans to earn an MBA and pursue a career in marketing while working at Interior Graphics & Printing.

Interior Graphics & Printing appealed to me because I was familiar with the business and I knew I wanted to do a marketing internship.

I learned a lot from watching owner Michelle Maynor work and seeing how much she cares about her business and her employees. She has shown me the importance of investing in your employees, asking how they are doing and if they are comfortable in their work place.

## Erin McGowan



Photo courtesy of Erin McGowan

Erin McGowan is an interdisciplinary student earning a Bachelor of Technology in Industrial Operations Management.

I applied for an internship with Alyeska Service Pipeline Company because I like that they are an Alaska company. The work they do matters a great deal to our state and I wanted to be part of that.

The most important thing anyone considering an internship should know is that you are responsible for what you get out of an internship. You have to step up and ask questions or your summer will fly by and you'll be wishing you had taken more initiative.

## Amy Skya



Photo courtesy of Amy Skya

Amy Skya is earning her business administration degree and will graduate in May 2014. She interned at BP and has accepted a position with them as a financial analyst.

At BP, I worked on projects that made a difference within the company. I learned that communication within such an organization is extremely critical. People don't work independently; rather they are always relaying information to help one another. Information sharing is what helps a business operate efficiently and effectively. I also learned to take the initiative when it comes to attaining goals to get where I need to be.

## Kayla Bishop



Photo courtesy of Kayla Bishop

Kayla Bishop is an accounting student who interned at the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation (APFC). After graduation, Kayla plans to earn her MBA and CPA.

The most important thing I learned with my internship was that the people you work with truly want to help you. Everyone at APFC was so accommodating and helpful. They really wanted me to get the most out of my experience, and if you try to mirror that, and put in as much effort as you can to do your job well, they really appreciate it. My advice to students interested in internships is to not be afraid. You aren't alone and they expect to teach you what you need to know. Just try your best.

## Chris Piech



UAF School of Management photo by Elbie Umshenou

Chris Piech interned at the accounting firm BDO, formerly Mikunda, Cottrell & Co. Chris has accepted a job offer from BDO where he'll be working as an audit accountant after graduation.

I wanted to intern with BDO to find out if public accounting at a larger firm was the right fit for me. There is a lot of travel involved with auditing for such a firm, but that was one of the benefits! Getting to see different areas of Alaska is very exciting.

I was treated as a professional during my internship. I was expected to perform at a high level, but was able to ask for help when I needed it. I was assigned to several audits and treated as part of the team, which meant the world to me.

## Did you know?



The results of National Association of Colleges and Employers 2013 Student Survey show that the median starting salary for new graduates with paid internship experience was 40% higher than that of counterparts with no internship experience.

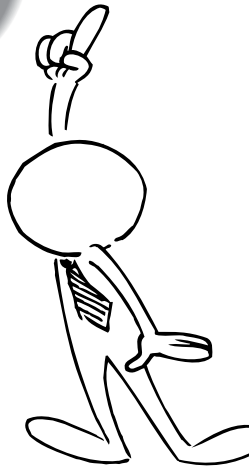
Learn more about paid internships at [www.uaf.edu/som/students/internships](http://www.uaf.edu/som/students/internships)

# 4 *Scholarship Recipients* 2013-2014

Scholarships are one of the most powerful ways to impact the lives of students. Scholarships open the door to the future, providing students with the support to fulfill their educational aspirations. Regardless of passion and commitment, students often don't have the economic means necessary to pursue their dreams. Scholarships reduce the financial uncertainties that may get in the way of a student pursuing his or her academic career.

For the donor, a scholarship gift provides a meaningful way to have your name, or that of another family member, friend, former teacher, or mentor, associated with the UAF School of Management. It is because of generous donors we were able to help 26 students with over \$55,000 in private funding this academic year.

Apply for scholarships by  
**Saturday, February 15**  
[www.uaf.edu/finaid/scholarships](http://www.uaf.edu/finaid/scholarships)



## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Your donation helps students prepare for professional success. We are grateful to those who make a difference each year. Whether large or small, gifts to SOM help us offer scholarships, high-quality academic programs, and top faculty.

## INVEST IN STUDENTS TODAY.

Call Tammy Tragis-McCook at 907-474-7042, or e-mail [tammy.tragis@alaska.edu](mailto:tammy.tragis@alaska.edu)

<b>Chalisa Attla</b>	Alyeska Pipeline Native Fellowship
<b>Julie Biddle</b>	Alyeska Pipeline Native Fellowship
<b>Brittney Bolt</b>	Jean B. Schmitt Scholarship
<b>Cassidy Brewer</b>	Green Island Scholarship
<b>Nadine Carroll</b>	Alyeska Pipeline Native Fellowship
<b>Rodney Carpluk</b>	Alyeska Pipeline Native Fellowship
<b>Jennifer Coisman</b>	E. Thomas & Raye Ann Robinson
<b>Mary DuRousseau</b>	Lois E. Meyer Accounting Scholarship
<b>Benjamin Hoch</b>	KeyBank Scholarship
<b>Rebecca Leivdal</b>	Associated Students of Business
<b>Crystal Lince</b>	William Paul Scholarship
<b>Ryne Olson</b>	Student Investment Fund and Dorothy Pattinson Accounting Scholarship
<b>Satya Partyka</b>	Lois E. Meyer Accounting Scholarship
<b>Chris Piech</b>	KeyBank Scholarship
<b>Richard Raines</b>	Goering Family Scholarship
<b>Sarah Sackett</b>	Associated Students of Business
<b>Mohammed Shubair</b>	Student Investment Fund
<b>Amy Skya</b>	Student Investment Fund
<b>Hailey Sundborg</b>	Hulda Huhttula Elieff Memorial Scholarship
<b>Kaitlyn Surdyk</b>	R.M. and Katherine Boyd Scholarship
<b>Chrstina Tachick</b>	Student Investment Fund
<b>Stephen Tibbs</b>	Dorothy Pattinson Accounting Scholarship
<b>Katie Wells</b>	Cook & Haugeberg CPAs/Tom Bartlett
<b>Walker Wheeler</b>	Fred Smits MBA Scholarship
<b>Emma Zeisel</b>	Totem Ocean Trailer Express Scholarship

The Alyeska Pipeline Fellowship allows me to work less and have more time to focus on scholastic activities and my family. I am doing my best to carry on the tradition of excellence that has become synonymous with this award.

– *Rodney Carpluk*  
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

# Scholarships

Continued...



Photo courtesy of Cassidy Brewer

Cassidy Brewer is the first recipient of the new Green Island Scholarship.

awarded this academic year.

Fred's wife, Sue, son, Jeff, and daughter, Julie, are actively involved in creating and maintaining the scholarship and feel it is a fitting way to honor Fred's life and preserve his memory. The first Fred Smits MBA Scholarship recipient, Walker Wheeler worked with Fred and feels honored to be the first recipient.

## Green Island Scholarship

Jim Pruitt, 1973 SOM alumnus, started the Green Island Scholarship this year. Jim wanted his gift to ease a student's financial burden with this need-based award. Mimicking his own experience at UAF, Jim chose to award freshmen or sophomore students in the Western Undergraduate Exchange Program.

The first recipient of this award is Cassidy Brewer, UAF volleyball player and freshman. Cassidy is from Washington and is enjoying studying marketing at an AACSB-accredited business school.

This scholarship is Jim's way of changing someone's life for the better. When asked for his advice for people thinking about starting a scholarship, Jim had this to say: "Don't wait! There are many deserving students that could use the help now."

# Business Leader

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Continued...

Economic Education and the UAF School of Management Community Advisory Board.

Prior to joining the mining industry, Lorna served for a number of years as a legislative aide to members of the Alaska State Legislature and as Assistant to the Chief of Staff for U.S. Senator Frank Murkowski.

Lorna graduated *cum laude* in 1996 with her BBA and *summa cum laude* in 2005 with her MBA from the UAF School of Management. The UAF Alumni Association recently awarded Lorna with the 2013 Alumni Achievement Award for Business and Professional Excellence

The UAF Business Leader of the Year award is entering its 38th year. Originally started by the student organization, Associated Students of Business, today the award recipient is chosen by a committee consisting of students, faculty, and previous award recipients. The recipient is chosen based on business achievements, community service, and educational support.

# Record-breaking 5th year



UAF photo by JR Ancheta

Mickey Renkert was awarded \$10,000 for his idea which makes taping, painting, and caulking a breeze with his 7-in-1 tool.

The 2013 Arctic Innovation Competition received a record-breaking 327 ideas submitted by 251 competitors. Entrants were asked to propose new, feasible and potentially profitable ideas for solving real-life problems and challenges. A panel of judges consisting of local business leaders and entrepreneurs chose the top four ideas, awarding over \$30,000 in prize money. Winners included:

- **\$10,000** - 1st Place: Mickey Renkert, *Tape Boss*
- **\$5,000** - 2nd Place: Brian McKinnon and Harry Leffler, *Alumaski for Alaskan Rivers*
- **\$2,000** - 3rd Place: Mark Gunkel, *Spot on Bow Sight*
- **\$1,000** - 4th Place: Rick Patton, *Food Smoke Adaptor*

The AIC Jr. division entered its second year, with over 30 ideas submitted by innovators ages 17 and under. **Kinross Ft. Knox** sponsored the 2013 junior division, supporting budding inventors and entrepreneurs. Winners included:

- **\$500** - 1st Place: Nathaniel Cook, *Heart Monitoring Shooting Glass*
- **\$300** - 2nd Place: Garrick Oberndorfer, *Adjustable Keel Leveler*
- **\$200** - 3rd Place: Luther Jenson, *Removable Felt Soles*

More information about AIC winners and ideas can be found at [www.arcticinno.com](http://www.arcticinno.com)

## Featured Donor: Robinson & Associates



Employees at Robinson & Associates try their hand at river rafting.



Robinson & Associates is a full-service accounting firm offering a wide range of business and individual services to meet the needs of clients. Located in Fairbanks, they assist clients throughout the state, including Valdez, Cantwell and Delta.

Robinson & Associates has close ties to the university. Many staff are UAF graduates, adjunct faculty, or continuing education students.

All employees are encouraged to get out of the office and enjoy what Alaska has to offer. Staff interests include fishing, gardening, hiking, camping, boating, hunting, snow machining, local theater productions, raising chickens and even beekeeping! The firm's Health & Wellness Program encourages employees to be healthy and thus more productive through paid gym memberships, chair massages, and fresh local produce in the summer.

Robinson & Associates supports local business and entrepreneurs, encouraging the community to utilize the resources of the Interior. To that end, Robinson & Associates has supported the UAF Arctic Innovation Competition (AIC) since 2012. The AIC stimulates economic development in the community. AIC helps put SOM on the international map and the entries always impress!

From the student organization Great Alaskan Accounting People (GAAP) and the Small Business Development Center, to the Arctic Innovation Competition, Robinson & Associates believes in the viability and the value of the people of Fairbanks. They believe community partnerships shape a positive future for Alaska.

## Differential Tuition

After almost two years of research, evaluation, and students, administrators, and the community, the time had come for a decision to be made. In September, the UAF School of Management (SOM) Dean and students presented to the University of Alaska Board of Regents, advocating differential tuition for SOM. In the end, the Board of Regents turned the decision over to University of Alaska President Pat Gamble.

President Gamble and UAF Chancellor Rogers have since approved a "tuition surcharge." Beginning in the fall semester of 2014, students in upper-division business classes will pay an additional \$35 per credit. Graduate courses will cost an additional \$68 per credit hour.

The additional funds will support the rapid growth the School of Management has seen in enrollment, allowing SOM to hire quality faculty and offer more class sections. The tuition surcharge will allow SOM to maintain its world-class AACSB accreditation, which showcases SOM as a quality business school.

Accounting student and military spouse, Lyssa Kemper, was one of five students who traveled to Juneau to speak to the Board of Regents on behalf of the differential tuition

proposal in September. The following excerpt and photo is taken directly from Lyssa's testimony:

*"The School of Management is near and dear to my heart; it is a place where I have learned and grown. Because I have attended school out of state and am a military spouse, I believe this gives me a unique view of the UAF School of Management.*



*I believe it is so important to have differential tuition because we, as students, need our school to continue to be held to high standards. In order for students to remain competitive in the job market, we need a school that is top of the line.*

*Differential tuition would allow us to keep our accreditation, keep our great faculty and staff, and also allow more online and summer classes. It will keep the students graduating from the School of Management competitive and sought after."*

# Faculty Spotlight: Phil Younker



Photo courtesy of Phil Younker

Phil Younker (left) pictured with baseball mascot Mariner Moose and friends.

## WHERE IS YOUR DREAM VACATION?

I travel extensively, but the Eastern U.S., South Africa, and Australia are still on my list

## WHAT'S A RESOLUTION FOR 2014?

Start retirement and travel more

## LAST MUSIC DOWNLOAD?

Rolling Stones

Phil Younker is a business administration adjunct currently teaching the Student Investment Fund. His education background includes a BBA in Finance and Insurance from the University of Iowa and he is a CFA candidate.

## What is your most memorable experience of Alaska?

Hiking the Chilkoot Trail was memorable. I hiked it with my dad, who is in his 70s, and two hockey buddies. There was a fear factor due to the reputation of the Chilkoot, but it ended up not being as bad as I thought it'd be.

## What do you enjoy about teaching at SOM?

The students and their desire to learn inspires me to improve the quality of my own research. Watching students work so hard delivering quality presentations makes me raise my own game.

## What do you enjoy about teaching finance?

I live and breathe investing, so it's always great to share and hear ideas from others.

## How do you prepare students for the professional workplace?

Students experience authentic investing and research real companies in real time.

## Who is someone you admire, and why?

I admire both my parents. I'm proud of the risk they took and insight they provided me to be successful. Both of them pushed me beyond what I thought I could do, which I credit for a lot of my success.

# Alumni Focus: Charlie Kozak



Photo courtesy of Charlie Kozak

Charlie Kozak and his son, Andrew, ziplining in Kona.

## LAST MUSIC DOWNLOAD?

Sail by Awolnation

## WHERE IS YOUR DREAM VACATION?

Thai cooking class in Phuket

## BEST ADVICE YOU DIDN'T TAKE?

Over the years I had several people try to give me their opinion on what direction my career should go. Make sure you make your own decisions in life.

Charlie Kozak graduated from the UAF School of Management in 1997 with a BBA in Accounting and in 1998 with an MBA. He is the EVP/Chief Financial Officer for the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation.

## What is your favorite memory from UAF?

I have lots of great memories at UAF, but participating in Great Alaskan Accounting People (GAAP) is one of my fondest. Not only did it provide me with great career advice, but also exposure to the Alaska business community.

## Share with us about a memorable teacher.

I had several great teachers during my time at UAF. If I had to name one professor who really stood out it would be Tom Bartlett. He had a way of connecting with his students and challenging them to ensure they reached their highest potential.

## How did SOM prepare you for your professional career?

SOM provided me with several opportunities outside the classroom that expanded my horizons and helped shape me into the professional I am today. Whether it was GAAP, the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation internship or teaching AIS 101 during graduate school, the SOM provided me with excellent avenues to further my education and prepare me for my professional career.

Public speaking is something that didn't come naturally to me. However, the SOM provided numerous opportunities to refine my public speaking skills, which have benefitted me significantly over my career.

## What does being a UAF alumnus mean to you?

I am very proud to be a UAF alumnus. I recognize that I wouldn't be where I am today without the experiences and support I received from UAF and the SOM. I continue to actively support the program and look for ways to reach out to tomorrow's professionals.



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*The UAF School of Management staff embraced their inner minion for Halloween.*

SOM is one of only 178 colleges and universities in the world to hold the prestigious Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) accreditation for both the School of Management and its Accounting program.

UAF is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and educational institution.