

UAF photo by Todd Paris

the (official) NEWSLETTER

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FEATURED STORY *Business Leader of the Year*

Andy Warwick, a 1966 graduate of the UAF School of Management, has demonstrated leadership at both local and statewide levels in both public and private sector responsibilities. Andy has worked as a practicing CPA since 1978 and a short time later he and his business partner, Rick Schikora, established Warwick and Schikora, CPAs.

Despite being extremely busy running a business and raising a family, Andy found time to serve his community as well. Andy is a former State Legislator and State of Alaska Commissioner of Administration under Governor Jay Hammond. In addition, he served nine years on the Fairbanks School

Board, two years on the State Board of Education, and six years as Chair of the Alaska Natural Gas Development Authority.

Andy's leadership skills were instrumental to the creation of Fairbanks Sewer and Water, a start-up company formed in 1995 to privatize the Fairbanks water and sewer utilities, and he remains the Chair of the Board of Directors. Andy has been a member of the Doyon Utilities LLC Management Committee since its inception in 2005.

Andy is a life-long resident of Fairbanks. His grandparents arrived in September 1906 on a sternwheeler. His mother was born in

Story continued on page 6

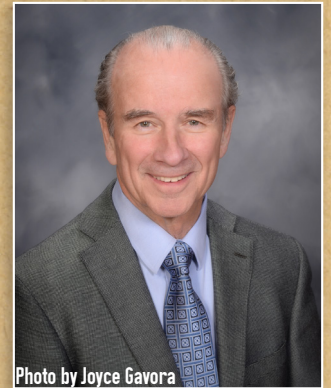


Photo by Joyce Gavora

Andy Warwick is the newest Business Leader of the Year.

Roast and Boast Keeps it Local

Northrim Bank and a SOM student team hosted a crowd of more than 200 for the 3rd annual Roast and Boast in November. Conducted as a marketing class project, the event allows the students to learn how to plan and manage a cross-promotional event, while supporting local businesses by featuring Fairbanks' favorite coffee roasters.

Story continued on page 6



Photo by Greg Martin Photography

Dean Herrmann, instructor Tammy Tragis-McCook and SOM students working at the event.

"I know my marketing and public relations skills have improved due to the experience," said senior Business Administration student Travis Cortez.

"Many who attended the event were overjoyed with the UAF student involvement. I could honestly feel the community's pride in the event."

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Photo courtesy of Elaine Williamson

Elaine Williamson

"I feel a connection to SOM and continue to stay involved in numerous ways... I encourage you to join me in a journey to SOM"

Elaine Williamson

Elaine Williamson

Audit Partner
Kohler, Schmitt and Hutchison CPA
BBA Accounting 1990, cum laude
SOM Accounting Advisory Board

Leading the Way for Students

My journey to SOM spans several years and some changed dreams. I graduated from the University of Washington with a Bachelor of Arts degree in history in 1984. The summer before graduation was spent in Fairbanks visiting my older sister and working at Gate 5, a local Fairbanks restaurant.

After graduation, I returned to Fairbanks with plans to stay for only one year while applying to law schools. Once I moved back to Fairbanks, I didn't want to leave. With UAF in my backyard, I enrolled in accounting courses in the School of Management. At first I wasn't planning on getting a degree, but after a few semesters it seemed logical to pursue a Bachelor of Business Administration in accounting. I decided it would be acceptable to change my journey.

In an accounting class, Professor Tom Bartlett made an announcement about the Alaska Society of Certified Public Accountants, and encouraged us to apply for its Paul Hagelbarger Memorial Scholarship. I was selected as one of the recipients. That summer, I received a phone call from Garry Hutchison, from Kohler, Schmitt & Hutchison, PC, (KSH) asking if I was interested in interning at the firm. Jean Schmitt, one of his partners, who had served on the society's scholarship committee, had showed him my resume.

I was energized by the offer and things began moving quickly. That internship led to a permanent position at the firm in the fall of 1990, and ten years later, I became a partner. I am grateful for the education I received at UAF's School of Management and feel very fortunate for the opportunities and successes I have enjoyed as a result.

I also feel privileged to have worked with Jean Schmitt prior to her retirement. She was a great role model and I am very proud that KSH is able to annually support the scholarship established in her honor.

My journey is far from over. I feel a connection to SOM and continue to stay involved in numerous ways - such as serving on the SOM Accounting Advisory Board, participating in the Spring Etiquette Dinner, helping Kohler, Schmitt & Hutchison to recruit accounting students, and making personal and business gifts to SOM.

I encourage you to join me in a journey to SOM. Chart your own course, find different ways to reach your destination, but find a way to get involved. Volunteer your time to speak to students, host a student organization at your work, participate in a SOM event, or give a gift to SOM to help students to succeed. Anything you do will help support future SOM students in their own journeys.

Emergency Management Programs Earn High Marks

The 2014 listings released by the **Emergency Management Degree Program Guide** rank UAF's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Program as fifth in the U.S. for program quality and second in the U.S. for affordability.

The HSEM program has flourished in the last five years, undergoing improvements and expansion to address the needs of the industry and a diverse student population. The updated program allows students to choose courses that are most relevant to

their employment needs - including new concentrations in emergency management and homeland security. An additional concentration in fire administration is currently under development.

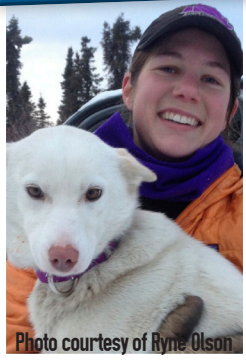
This recognition is significant for both UAF and the School of Management, as it demonstrates that students can obtain a high-quality education at an affordable price. The HSEM program is committed to ensuring that UAF students are engaged beyond the classroom in preparing for a management career within the homeland



Learning Outside the Classroom Internships

Internships offer a glimpse of life after graduation and allow students to 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.

Ryne Olson

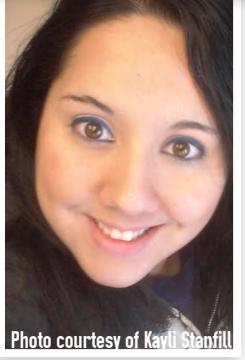


Ryne Olson graduated in December 2014 with a degree in accounting. She is the owner of Ryno Kennel and a 2012 Iditarod finisher. After graduation, she plans to continue working for Feniks & Company while studying for the CPA exam.

“Feniks & Company gave me the chance to dive right in and experience a variety of projects, from tax preparation to nonprofit returns and bookkeeping. I’ve learned that being an accountant isn’t just crunching numbers. A great accountant is also a financial adviser, professional developer, tax planner, therapist and life counselor. My advice to students looking for internships is to take advantage of every opportunity. Don’t be afraid to fail, instead, just jump in and internalize everything you can. The benefit of a good internship isn’t just the paycheck, but the experience, knowledge and connections that come with it.”

[Read more about internships here](#)

Kayli Stanfill



Kayli Stanfill is graduating in May 2015 with a degree in Business Administration and a concentration in Finance. She currently works as an accountant for S & S Accounting and Consulting, and plans on pursuing a master’s degree and eventually a doctorate.

“When I discovered an internship that would encompass the skills I had learned so far in college, I jumped at it. The UAF Fittest Winner Competition (FWC), as it came to be known, was amazing because I was given creative freedom to construct the ideal program for faculty and staff. The program was designed to motivate individuals and teams to get fit and exercise. I was responsible for maintaining budgets, running meetings, creating marketing materials, hosting and planning events, and giving professional presentations. My advice for students interested in internships is to take advantage of opportunities! Some positions also pay well, and all positions offer an array of necessary skills to advance as an individual and businessperson.”

New and Efficient Power After 50 Years

Masters of Resource and Applied Economics students Johanna Bocklet, Aly Englert, and Barbara Johnson recently toured the UAF Combined Heat and Power Plant. Ben Stacy, UAF Water Plant Supervisor, hosted the tour. The students learned about the new boiler technology that will be used for the upgraded power plant. The current coal boilers were put into service in 1964. The new power plant will continue to use coal as the primary fuel source. New boiler technology combined with new processing of the coal before burning increases the power plant’s efficiency of generating electricity and steam for heating campus facilities. The power plant upgrade will result in a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions of nitrogen oxide by 64%, sulfur dioxide by 60%, carbon dioxide by 3%, and total particulate matter by 65% from current emission levels. Construction on the new power plant is slated to begin in the spring of 2015. Tours such as these offer SOM students hands-on experience in addition to what they are learning in the classroom.



Ben Stacey gives a tour to MS Economics students.

FACING NEW CHALLENGES IN THE ARCTIC

BY ROYCE CONLON, PE – PRESIDENT AND PRINCIPAL ENGINEER



PDC INC. ENGINEERS



Photo courtesy of PDC Inc. Engineers

Elliot Wilson, one of PDC's Structural Engineers, applying innovation to a personal challenge – designing and constructing an arch shaped ice house.



Photo courtesy of PDC Inc. Engineers

Nick Ferree, one of PDC's Civil Engineers, and his wife Cass enjoying time in an ice cave.

Ask anyone to name an innovative engineering company in Alaska, and odds are they'll name PDC. With roots dating back more than half of a century, PDC has since steadily grown to become the comprehensive, full-service engineering, planning, and survey firm that practices today. With 84 professionals split between its Fairbanks and Anchorage offices, PDC can easily accommodate any project – large or small.

PDC's multi-discipline structure inherently fosters on-the-fly collaboration and out-of-the-box thinking. "We like to challenge the industry through logical yet non-traditional approaches," says President Royce Conlon.

Tell us how PDC's involvement with SOM began.

The UAF Arctic Innovation Competition (AIC) was created by Dr. Ping Lan in 2009. During PDC's 2009 strategic planning, we developed the firm's current "Arctic Initiative" which serves as a guiding force in aligning the firm with the future design needs of the Arctic and the state. At this session, PDC's leadership invited Dr. Lan as a speaker to share his thoughts about innovation. Conlon said "We were all in agreement that the Arctic is full of untapped opportunity where future growth is moving throughout the nation and the world."

Considering that PDC is on the leading edge of innovation, the AIC and the firm's Arctic Initiative were a perfect complement. "We did not hesitate to sponsor the AIC, and have plans for continued support well into the future," Conlon said.

What inspires you to support SOM through the Arctic Innovation Competition?

"Innovative ideas like the ones generated by the AIC are intrinsic to PDC's mission – Transforming Challenges into Solutions – so supporting the event seemed like a perfect match to our goals," Conlon added. A great example is Nick and Cass Ferree's 2012 entry into the AIC competition. Nick is a civil engineer in PDC's Fairbanks office (and also a UAF graduate). Their entry was for an innovative Hide-A-Hitch design. The Hide-A-Hitch operates the same as a standard ball receiver hitch, but folds up underneath the vehicle when not in use. Nick and Cass completed designs, constructed a prototype, and created a business plan earning them third place in the competition.

PDC has not only continued with monetary support, but Nick also serves as a judge for the competition and has helped educate the public regarding AIC through his interviews on local radio. For AIC 2014, PDC provided the \$2,000 "Arctic Kicker" prize incentive given to the best arctic-related idea.

What advice do you have for current SOM students?

"My advice would be that there are plenty of great job opportunities right here in Alaska that can use your skills," Conlon said. "With a staff of 84 professionals, PDC currently has 41 staff members who are graduates from the University of Alaska system – and 28 of those are UAF graduates."

Conlon added, "PDC is well-poised to continue our growth trend. PDC is always looking for bright, new talent who understand the challenges that face those who live and work in the cold-region environment of the Arctic."

What would you tell an organization considering giving a gift to SOM?

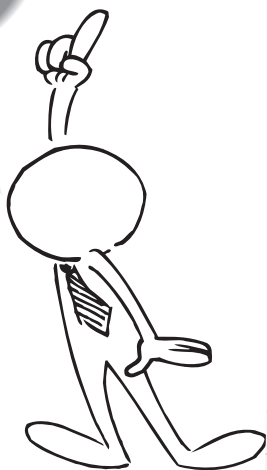
Giving a gift to SOM is smart business and a smart investment into Alaska's future. It helps strengthen Alaska's business community and Alaska's business opportunities. Your gift will go toward educating future business men and women – how can you go wrong?

Scholarship Recipients 2014-2015

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 29 students with over \$79,250 in private funding this academic year.

Apply for scholarships by
Sunday, February 15
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

Erick Anez	Student Investment Fund
Chalisa Attla	Alyeska Pipeline Native Fellowship
Kayla Bishop	Alyeska Pipeline Native Fellowship and Dorothy Pattinson Accounting
Emily Blanchard	Dorothy Pattinson Accounting
Soren Butler	Green Island Scholarship
Joseph Cahill	Ron Nerland Memorial Scholarship
Amber Vaska Carpluk	Alyeska Pipeline Native Fellowship
Nadine Carroll	Alyeska Pipeline Native Fellowship
Lynn Church	Alyeska Pipeline Native Fellowship
Nancy Duron	Student Investment Fund
Emily Elterman	Goering Family Scholarship
Kenzie Holbrook	Hulda Huhttula Elieff Memorial Scholarship
Nolan Huysmans	KeyBank Scholarship
Amy Issacson	Lois E. Meier Accounting Scholarship
Chelsea Jones	Totem Ocean Trailer Express Scholarship
Jennifer Kemper	Ken and Olga Carson Memorial Scholarship
Micaiah Liebhaber	Student Investment Fund
Mckenzie Mitchell	Student Investment Fund
Ryne Olson	Lois E. Meier Accounting Scholarship
Satya Partyka	E. Thomas and Raye Ann Robinson
Haley Reutter	Green Island Scholarship
Sarah Sackett	Associated Students of Business
Selina Sam	Alyeska Pipeline Native Fellowship
Jessica Sutherland	Jean B. Schmitt
Christina Tachick	Associated Students of Business and KeyBank Scholarship
Sheila Teal	Associated Students of Business
Julita Tomasic	Cook & Haugeberg CPAs/Tom Bartlett
Mariah Ver Hoef	Alaska General Contractors
Walker Wheeler	Fred Smits MBA Business Scholarship

I have high hopes for my education and career. With hard work and support, I know that it's possible for me to achieve my dreams and I want to do so with as little debt as possible. By receiving this scholarship, it really takes a burden off of my shoulders and makes life easier so I can focus on my studies.

- *Haley Reutter*

ACCOUNTING SOPHOMORE, SOM STUDENT EMPLOYEE,
 AND GREEN ISLAND SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Business Leader of the Year Continued...

Fairbanks in 1915. Andy was born at St. Joseph's Hospital in 1943. During the 1940s, Andy's family mined gold at Livengood and made lifelong friendships with the Dodsons, Roberts, Hefflingers, Parkers, and Lindstroms who are still close to this day.

Andy's family enjoys a tradition rich with UAF history. His mother Emma (Miller) graduated from UAF in 1938 with a bachelor's degree in business and his daughter Sydney received her bachelor in business administration in 1999.

Andy's three children: Sydney, Zach, and Jesse continued the family tradition of being born and raised in Fairbanks. In 1994, Sydney married Yuri Morgan, from another multi-generation Fairbanks family. Together they have two daughters named Rory and Massie.

Andy is an avid Skijorer. The year he turned 70, he represented the United States in the International Federation of Sleddog Sports 2013 World Championships. The combination of working with dogs, a competitive spirit and the enjoyment of the outdoors combine to make this one of his passions in life.

A lover of animals, Andy and his lovely wife of 45 years, Judy, currently have seven dogs, the latest named Freddie, who like most of their four-legged family was rescued from the Fairbanks North Star Borough Animal Shelter. Andy and Judy are advocates for the Fairbanks Animal Shelter Fund, in fact their dog Freddie is the Shelter Fund's mascot.

Roast and Boast Continued...

The event was a fun experience for all, with music, food, plenty of hot beverages, and door prizes. In addition to the roasters boasting about their wares, SOM Dean Mark Herrmann highlighted the active engagement between SOM, Northrim, and the Fairbanks community, beyond the bank's monetary contributions to the school.

Although the Roast and Boast offers great publicity for both Northrim and the roasters, the real benefit is for the students, as it offers a unique opportunity not available in the classroom. In addition to learning the basic concepts of marketing, these students gain experience conducting weekly business meetings, staying within budget, making marketing decisions, and working with the roasters and vendors. Potential employers covet these types of skills.

In addition to being the "client" with real world requests and feedback, Northrim's Marketing and Communications Director Jay Blury also acted as a mentor, leading the students through the entire process. He encouraged them to capitalize on their creativity while still making sound business decisions.

"UAF School of Management is thankful to Northrim Bank for offering this unique opportunity to our students," said Tammy Tragis-McCook, SOM's Director of Development and Outreach. "Together we are preparing future leaders of Alaska."

Story courtesy of Northrim Bank.

Arctic Innovation Competition Gets Bigger and Better



Photo courtesy of SOM

Cub Division Honorable Mention winners Riga Grubis and Kayla Tyree show off their prizes

SOM hosted the 2014 Arctic Innovation Competition in October, awarding more than \$25,000 in cash prizes to creative inventors in multiple divisions. Entrants were asked to propose new, feasible, and potentially profitable ideas for solving real-life problems and challenges.

The competition, in its sixth year, launched a new Cub division for ages 12 and under. Also new this year were \$2,000 prize incentives for the best arctic-related idea and the best idea submitted by an Alaska university student.

Local resident Charlie Parr won the \$10,000 first prize in the Main Division, for his idea called "Routinely," an integrated hardware and software ground control system that makes flying drones a simple routine. Dylan Storey, 13, and Cameron Hartman, 15, won top honors in the Junior Division for their idea to create a single product that combines two ways of treating injuries – a bandage and an ice pack. Lewis Enterkin, 9, won first place in the Cub Division for an idea that uses a bi-metallic spring to open and close a circuit, which activates an alarm when a woodstove gets too hot. [Click here for the complete list of winners.](#)



Photo courtesy of Cory Borgeson

The Borgeson family

FAVORITE PLACE TO VACATION?
Our home in Las Vegas.

BOOK YOU ARE CURRENTLY READING?
“Change the Culture, Change the Game” by Roger Connors and Tom Smith. Real exciting, right?

YOUR LAST MUSIC DOWNLOAD?
“Sing” by Ed Sheeran

IF I GRANTED YOU ONE WISH TO CHANGE THE WORLD WHAT WOULD IT BE?
I would swap out guns for books.

Cory earned a B.A. in psychology from Oakland University and a Juris Doctorate from Drake University. He is currently President/CEO of Golden Valley Electric Association (GVEA). He serves on the SOM Business Advisory Council and is a SOM instructor retiring from teaching after more than 30 years in the classroom.

What do you enjoy about Alaska?

I enjoy the people who call Alaska home. People in Alaska are adventurous, active (even when it is 20 below zero) and know how to work and play hard. Hunting and fishing are lost on me, but I do enjoy one or two trips each year to Valdez to catch rock fish, salmon, or halibut.

When and how did you start teaching at SOM?

A co-worker had promised to teach Financial Investment Strategies for Dr. Besoit and then took a different job. Dr. Besoit told my friend John Blackmon that he had to find his replacement and I agreed to do it. That was in September of 1983.

What classes have you taught over the years?

I started teaching the Intro to Business class (BA 151) for a few semesters until the business law class opened up. In 1998, I was given a half-time faculty position and began teaching two courses a semester while also practicing law with Borgeson and Burns.

Share an outstanding SOM memory after teaching for three decades?

Being a part of the initial accreditation with the AACSB was very exciting. I still remember Dean Mike Rice and Business Department head Peter Besoit having their picture taken on the top of Bunnell holding brooms - declaring it was a clean sweep because all three programs at the SOM were accredited.

What advice do you have for current students?

Students should be thinking five years or ten years ahead. It is important to set goals to be successful. As an assignment in my employment law class, I asked students to draft an employment agreement for their dream job. Although good writing is essential, I felt that asking students to articulate where they want to work, how much they want to make, and the types of responsibilities they want to take on was the most valuable part of the assignment.

Any stories you'd like to share?

In June 2012, I accepted the CEO position at GVEA. I find the job very challenging. I came to realize that as a lawyer, I did not have to make decisions; I gave advice. Making decisions is tougher work.

Alumni Spotlight

Kris Racina

Kris is the Associate Vice Chancellor of University and Student Advancement at UAF. She graduated from SOM with an MBA in 2009.

Why did you choose to attend UAF?

I grew up in Fairbanks and UAF has always been part of my life. My brothers and sisters attended school here, and my nieces and nephews are either enrolled or will soon be attending.

Share with us an outstanding teacher or class.

I was a “mathophobe,” fearful of math because of a bad experience with an elementary school teacher. Later at UAF, a developmental math teacher helped me crack the code by telling me “trust the formula, work the formula - the logic will eventually reveal itself.”

What is a favorite SOM memory?

Jim Collins’ take home final in MBA quantitative analysis. Don’t let him fool you; I spent 40 hours on it. That was the only time I ever had a meltdown when I visited a professor. Well, the only time I recall. Maybe Jim has a different memory of that day?!

What’s the number one skill or practice that has contributed to your success?

The ability to sift through information and extract the essential elements needed for decision-making. The many case studies I read as a SOM student taught me you have to make decisions based on the information you have in front of you. Avoid commitment to a poor choice if you get new information that indicates a change of course - in the business world it’s all about being adaptable.

What advice would you give to current students?

Math teaches you how to think logically and is worth every bit of effort you put into it. After my experience with the developmental math teacher, I went on to achieve ‘As’ in every math class I took; I even loved calculus. I engage in logical analysis every day and that has been valuable in so many professional endeavors.



Photo courtesy of Kris Racina

Kris skiing

FAVORITE BREAKFAST FOOD?

Eggs, any style but over easy, especially with cheese.

WHAT BOOK ARE YOU READING?

“Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Sciences.” Working on a Ph.D. - slowly but surely.

WHERE IS YOUR DREAM VACATION?

New Zealand hiking trip; hopefully in December 2016.



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Happy Holidays from the SOM Staff!

SOM is one of only 181 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.