



The winning team and business plan. Team members were (left to right) Charles Allen, Derek Miller, Mickela Threlkeld, Allison LeBon, Buffy Kuiper, Jason Miller, and Michele Pope.

Student Business Plans Win Big

The first School of Management Business Plan Competition was held in April. Teams of students crafted business plans and presented them to a panel of judges, competing for more than \$4,000 in prize money. Allan Johnston, with the Entrepreneurs and Mentors Network, and Brad Feld provided funding for the prizes.

Business plan topics that won \$100 honorable mentions included a website design business, a non-profit which provides educators with art supplies, and a luxury wilderness lodge. The third place, \$500 winner was Anne Vance, who revealed her idea for Anne Kathrin Wedding Planning. Second place, and \$1,000, went to a team of three students who explained their FLK

Irrigation plan. The grand \$2,500 prize winner, taking first place at both the SOM and state-level business plan competitions, was a business plan for Alaska Glass Recycling, designed by a team of seven students.

The Alaska Glass Recycling business plan is for a diversified glass recycling company based out of Anchorage. The company would collect recycled glass and transform it into mixed color cullet. Glass cullet is crushed glass that ranges in size from a small pebble to a fine powder and can be used for a variety of applications: construction aggregate, abrasives, traction, and other niche markets such as landscaping, mulching, craft projects, and glass

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Students Mind Their Manners

Partnered with KPMG and Lavelle's Bistro, the School of Management (SOM) and its student organization, Great Alaskan Accounting People (GAAP), organized the first Spring Etiquette Seminar and Dinner.

Brainchild of GAAP president Amy Facklam, the Spring Etiquette Seminar and Dinner was begun to help students learn valuable lessons in the social graces. Once students graduate, they are expected to know how to act in formal situations, such as business dinners and social functions. Students were looking for the tools needed to conduct themselves as well-rounded professionals.

At the SOM and KPMG Spring Etiquette



Student Danel Mason smiles for the camera.

Seminar & Dinner, students from all of the SOM student organizations learned from top business professionals in Alaska. The seminar was held at Mt. McKinley Bank, where Daniel Mitchell from KPMG gave a business etiquette presentation. The

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From the Desk of the Dean

The School of Management (SOM) experience goes beyond excellence in the classroom. Working with the Fairbanks community we are able to host many SOM events and support our six student organizations. Our students' education is enriched emphasis on pragmatic skills and teamwork, along with leadership, creativity, and critical thinking. Let me share just a few examples with you.

This year the Students in Free Enterprise partnered with Northrim Bank as part of the National "teach kids to save day". SOM students taught elementary students about money, reasons to save, and even shared a few energy-saving tips.

SOM also partnered with KPMG to host a Spring Etiquette Seminar and Dinner. Students learned valuable lessons in the so-

cial graces, skills that will give them a leg up when they are expected to know how to act in formal, professional situations.

Finally, the Great Alaska Accounting People provided free income tax assistance, preparation and electronic filing to student and community members. This program gives students the opportunity to enhance their knowledge of accounting and taxation.

In the end, participation in these extra-curricular activities allows students to meet new people and explore ideas to which they might have never otherwise been exposed.

"As a SOM student aiming to be a future economist, I do have to note in economist jargon that the etiquette dinner was extremely high in social capital." - Camilla Kennedy, 2011 SOM graduate, current London School of Economics student



Mark Herrmann, Dean
School of Management



Photo courtesy of Mark Herrmann.

SOM Dean Mark Herrmann and his twin boys enjoy fishing together.

School of Management's 2011 Graduating Class

ACCOUNTING

Marissa Anderson
Jennifer Bartolowits
Leah Billups
Nicole Bozek
Zhijin Chen
Amy Facklam
Jennifer Giles
Skye Greer
Melissa Pearson
Azlynn Reese
Katherine Ridenour
Aurora Suchland
Shaun Tacke
Patrick Tanner
Kayla Warnick
Lilia Wingerter

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Nadine Carroll
Sara Cunningham
Travis Duft
Max Frey
Isabelle Green
Sharon Gutierrez
Alicia Hamsley
Tonya Helmuth
Magen James
Felina Kelly
Derek Klassen
Cole McNabb
Joshua Norum
Kevin Petovello
Vencent Robancho
Marie Sorensen
Michele Stringham
Kristin Thompson
Sasha Vale
Anne Vance

ECONOMICS

Peter Burton
Nicole Heiter
Camilla Kennedy
Victor Kubanyi Jr.
Kinsey Laine
Benjamin Newman
Richard Raines

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Trever Ferrin
Timothy Hatfield
Matthew Mattson
Paul Miranda

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Nakeda Allen
Jenny Barrett
Cara Brunk
Melissa Croan
Tatiana Krupina
Buffy Kuiper
Allison LeBon
Tripti Macias
Derek Miller
Jason Miller
Michelle Pope
Henriot Previlor Jr.
Dona Rule

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ECONOMICS

Zachary Boyd
Dominique Pride



Project Ummid: Improving lives one cow at a time

By Sitara Chauhan, SIFE President



The award-winning SIFE team helps change the world while taking classes and passing finals.

Project UMMID was created in the spring of 2009, after Michael Schulte and I learned about microfinance—where small loans are awarded to some of the world's poorest people, allowing them to improve their lives and escape poverty. As members of the UAF School of Management student organization, Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE), we had the resources to put our idea into action.

That summer we traveled to Jamsuth, a village on the coast of India, with our goal to help impoverished women earn a living. The challenge was that most women in Jamsuth are illiterate, working on family farms and taking care of children. Their situation gave us the idea of cooperative

microfinance. Our model consists of lending money to a woman to buy a cow. She then rents her cow to a local agriculture-based business, Salvi Estates. This way, the woman has minimum financial investment and expenses, such as the care of the animals and milk production are covered by Salvi Estates.

In the last two years, SIFE has raised a total of \$7,600 and, by the end of this summer, we'll have changed the lives of 10 women. To date, Project UMMID has helped increase the women's income 75%, enabling them to afford better nutrition and provide an education for their children.

SWEET Speakers

Over the course of five years SWEET has hosted 28 speakers—from U.S. senators to economists—who have addressed economic issues facing Alaska and the nation. This year, SWEET hosted:

- Larry Persily, Federal Coordinator for the Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects
- Joe Miller, who recently ran for U.S. senator
- Dr. Alexandre Padilla, an economist
- UAF Chancellor Brian Rogers

The Koch Foundation is a generous supporter of the SWEET guest speaker series—Koch sponsored Larry Persily and Dr. Alexandre Padilla.

Through their speaker series, SWEET reached more than 850 people in this last academic year.



Speakers this past semester included (from left to right) Larry Persily, Joe Miller, Alex Padilla, and Chancellor Brian Rogers.

Award-Winning



SWEET president Camilla Kennedy won the prestigious 2011 Art Buswell Public Service Award—the highest possible recognition of public service for a UAF student.

UAF Leadership, Involvement & Volunteer Experience (LIVE) had this to say about the award: "In recognition of Dr. Arthur 'Art' Buswell's community contributions, this award is presented each spring to a graduating UAF student who epitomizes Art's spirit of service through commitment to improving the University of Alaska and/or the community."

Camilla graduated in May 2011 with a BA in Economics and will be attending the London School of Economics. Camilla is a great example of what our students achieve through involvement in our student organizations.

Featured Donor:

BIRCHWOOD HOMES
WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

Photo courtesy of Birchwood Homes.



NLC Director Nicole Cundiff and Renee Staley of Birchwood Homes.

Birchwood Homes provides rental housing adjacent to Ft. Wainwright for military and civilian families. The convenient location and family-friendly atmosphere provide a high-quality living environment for the families, while the philanthropic endeavors of the Birchwood Homes management create a community.

Birchwood Homes partners with the School of Management through support of our Northern Leadership Center (NLC). A central resource for leadership programs, the NLC focuses on developing leaders throughout Alaska.

Besides philanthropic support, Birchwood Home employees give time and lend their expertise to the university. Site Manager Renee Staley serves on the UAF School of Management Business Advisory Council, providing support and guidance to the Dean on issues pertaining to the school's academic excel-

lence. She additionally participates in experiential learning activities with students. President/CEO Dick Fischer has been invited to speak, along with several other business leaders, to students attending this year's NLC Summer Leadership Institute.

Renee and Dick believe strongly in nurturing community, military and university relationships. In addition to SOM, Birchwood Homes also supports:

- Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce as a Gold Investor
- Morale Welfare Recreation, Ft. Wainwright
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- HIPOW as Family Night Sponsor
- Fairbanks Light Opera Theatre
- Habitat for Humanity
- And many others

Thank you to Birchwood Homes!

Faculty Gold Stars

PUBLICATIONS

Jungho Baek

"Inflation and Intramarket Price Variability: Empirical Evidence from U.S. Food Products" *Journal of Rural Development*

"Demand Analysis for Coal on the United States Inland Waterway System: Fully-Modified Cointegration (FM-OLS) Approach" *Journal of the Transportation Research Forum* (with J. Chi)

"Trade Liberalization, Economic Growth, Energy Consumption and the Environment: Time Series Evidence from G-20" *Journal of East Asian Economic Integration* (with H.S. Kim)

Lily Dong

"Consumer-Citizens of China: The Role of Foreign Brands in the Imagined Future China Routledge" (with K. Tian)

Greg Goering

"Gun Buybacks and Firm Behavior: Do Buyback Programs Really Reduce the Number of Guns?" *Review of Economics & Finance*

Wayne Marr

"State Revenues: A Dependence on Black Gold and Government" *Alaska Politics and Public Policy* (with J. E. Turo)

Doug Reynolds

"A Probabilistic Economic Analysis of the Transportation of GTL Blends Through TAPS" *Energy Sources, Part B* (with A. Ibrionke, S. Patil, G. Chukwu, A. Dandekar, and S. Khataniar)

Doug Reynolds and Jungho Baek

"Much ado about Hotelling: Beware the Ides of Hubbert" *Energy Economics*

Liz Ross

"Physics of Failure Approach as a Foundation for the Reliability of Logistics Management" *Logistics Spectrum*

H. Charles Sparks

"Feasibility Study for the Proposed South Denali Visitor Center"

"Economic Impacts of the Implementation of the Proposed South Denali Visitor Center."

Craig Wisen and Thomas Zhou

"Investor Sentiment and Closed-End Country Funds" *International Business and Economics Research Journal* (with K. C. Chiang)

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to **Kate Gramatico** who received the Dean's Award for Outstanding Service to SOM. Kate has been instrumental in our record-setting enrollment increases and has recruited intensively for the Bachelor of Emergency Management & Homeland Security program.

Congratulations to Accounting faculty member **Charlie Sparks** who has been promoted to the rank of Professor. Provost Henrichs wrote in her letter supporting his promotion, "Dr. Sparks has a strong record of service. Both the Dean and the unit peers note his important effort to renew the AACSB accreditation of the accounting program. Dr. Sparks stepped up to lead and do much of the large amount of work required." Dr. Sparks joins a relatively small group of faculty at UAF who have achieved this highest rank.

Faculty Spotlight Liz Ross



Photo courtesy of Liz Ross.

SOM instructor Liz Ross practices her kata form.

An instructor of Business Administration at SOM, Liz received her BS at Granite State College, her MBA at Southern New Hampshire University, and her DBA from Nova Southeastern University. Liz recently moved to Alaska for her family, the Rural Alaska Honors Institute (RAHI), and SOM. What she enjoys about Alaska is the weather, the people, and her synagogue.

What is your favorite class to teach and why?

Operations Management is my favorite class to teach because there are a variety of topics covered—from accounting to finance to mathematical decision-making.

What research/project are you working on now?

Currently, I am working on a couple of areas of research. One study is on team effectiveness within a high-tech organization. Another project is compilation of data on how early engagement of rural Alaska native students leads to the pursuit of higher education.

What advice do you have for current students?

The only advice I have is the advice my grandmother gave me: there are three things in life you can never take back: your spoken word, your actions, and time. Therefore, think before you speak and act, and always use your time wisely.

Snapshot

Book you are currently reading? *The Torah*

Your last music download? I have never downloaded music

One thing on your bucket list? To go to Israel

Favorite Inspirational Quote? “Learning is a treasure which will follow its owner everywhere.” -Chinese Proverb

Alumni Focus Jo Heckman

Jo Heckman is President & CEO of Denali State Bank. Jo is the recipient of the UAF Alumni Association’s William Cashen Service Award and the Distinguished Alumnus Award, the Farthest North Girl Scouts Council Woman of Distinction Award, and was selected as the 2008 Business Leader of the Year by the UAF School of Management. Recently Jo was appointed to the UA Board of Regents.

What is something you learned at SOM you found useful in your professional career? SOM teachers and staff were very accessible and allowed me to communicate with them frequently. They were always helpful and gave good advice. I suppose that was groundwork for working with people and dealing with issues which every organization faces.

What does being a UAF alumna mean to you?

I am very proud of UAF and the quality of education it provides. We are fortunate to have a fine university here with respected teachers and researchers. I am proud to be a product of this institution. UAF alumni should give back and support their alma mater in each and every way they can. In my opinion, a university loses a lot if the alums are not engaged. Alums have a duty to be good ambassadors for their universities.

What advice would you give to current students?

Work hard and take on every opportunity to learn in and out of your major. Engage with professionals outside of academics.



Photo courtesy of Jo Heckman.

SOM alumna Jo Heckman used her education to build a successful career.

Snapshot

Book you are currently reading? *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen and *Age of Greed* by Jeff Madrick

Your last music download? Stevie Nicks’ “In your Dreams”

Favorite place to vacation? Italy, been there once, would love to go again.

What inspires you? My father—his ongoing passion to give back to the community and to advocate for senior and elder issues is inspiring and sets a good role model for all.



Beta Gamma Sigma

Beta Gamma Sigma (BGS) is a national honor society recognizing the highest scholastic honor a student can achieve in Business Administration at an AACSB-International accredited institution. To be eligible for membership in this distinguished organization, a student must rank in the upper five percent of the Junior class, the upper ten percent of the Senior class, or the upper twenty percent of graduate students enrolled in the master degree program.

2011 BGS Inductees

JUNIOR

Esther Lily Fabrizio
Colleen O'Neill
Dina V. Stretiner

MASTER PROGRAM

Melissa Croan
Buffy Lynette-Yong Kuiper
Robert Wayne Weaver

SENIOR

Amy Sierra Facklam
Matthew J. Hurbi
Andrew J. Krysinski
Hans Phillip Odegard
Michele Stringham

FACULTY

Howard Charles Sparks
Craig Wisen

Alyeska Native MBA Fellowship Recipient



Photo courtesy of Abigail Riggs.

Abigail Scannell Riggs, pictured here with her husband, Rob, was awarded \$12,500 in a fellowship.

Abigail Scannell Riggs is the latest recipient of the Alyeska Pipeline Service Company's Native MBA Fellowship. Abigail received her BBA in Accounting at the UAF School of Management and plans to graduate with her MBA in December 2011. Abigail currently works at Richards, Johnson & Granberry (RJG) as a staff accountant. Once she has earned her MBA, she plans to stay at RJG and work toward her long-term goal of being a CFO at one of the Alaska Native corporations.

Abigail is proud of her Athabaskan heritage. As a child she spent her summers in the village of Tanana, spending quality time with her extended family. As an adult,

Abigail is an active participant in the Soaring Eagles drum group, where she sings and plays the drum.

Family has remained an important part of Abigail's life. The first person she told after receiving the fellowship was her husband, Rob, and she says she couldn't have succeeded without the support of her family. Together, Rob and Abigail have a son, Timothy, named after Abigail's father.

Abigail is thankful for the support she has received from the community. Being awarded this scholarship was the deciding factor in Abigail pursuing her MBA, and she looks forward to giving back to future students.



Photo courtesy of OIT.

A scholarship has been created in honor of Fred Smits, who passed away in April.

Fred Smits MBA Scholarship

Fred Smits, Executive Director of Infrastructure Technology Services at OIT, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, April 30th. Fred had been with the university since 1997, providing steady and sure leadership for the critical, but seldom seen, services that keep the university's online systems running every day. Fred was an alumnus of the School of Management, graduating in December 2010 with his MBA. He also participated in the very first Arctic Innovation Competition, winning a \$100 honorable mention.

In honor of his long and dedicated service to the University of Alaska Office of Information Technology, the Fred Smits MBA Scholarship has been created.

To contribute to this scholarship in honor of Fred Smits, visit www.uaf.edu/som, or contact Tammy Tragis-McCook at 907-474-7042 or tammy.tragis@alaska.edu.

Students

counter tops. The team predicted the recycling company would generate revenues of \$1.4 million in the fifth year of operation.

This business plan also won first place and an additional \$4,000 at the Alaska Business Plan Competition in the debt category. In its eighth year, this competition is jointly sponsored by local universities and businesses. This is the first year UAF has sent a team to compete in the statewide competition. This annual competition stimulates the real-world process of learning, continuous improvement, and raising private capital, all elements that are collectively needed for a business' growth.

Manners

students then had the chance to ask questions of the panel of business professionals. Scenarios varied from cell phone manners and what fork to use, to what to do when a colleague has had too much to drink at a business function.

Later that evening, the seminar moved to Lavelle's, giving the participants a chance to put into practice what they had learned. Students chatted and networked with the panel during a social hour, and then enjoyed a formal dinner together.

Energy was high throughout the event and response from both students and business professionals has been incredibly positive.



SOM Maintains Prestigious Accreditation

The UAF School of Management (SOM) is pleased to announce it has maintained its prestigious business and accounting accreditation through the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International. AACSB accreditation is the hallmark of excellence in business education and has been achieved by fewer than five percent of the world's business schools. Today, there are 607 business schools worldwide that maintain AACSB accreditation and just 175 institutions (1.5% of universities world-wide) that

have earned the additional specialized AACSB accreditation for their accounting programs. SOM was the first AACSB accredited business school in Alaska and remains the only business school in the state that has the dual business and accounting accreditation.

SOM Dean Mark Herrmann said, "For a relatively small business school to maintain this elite level of accreditation reflects well on its faculty, staff, students, alumni, advisory boards and its business partners."

Emeriti

Every year the university bestows emeritus status on exceptional retired faculty and staff members who have served with distinction for at least 10 years. Two SOM professors were honored at this year's commencement.



Dr. John Lehman *Years of service: 1987 - 2011*

Dr. John Lehman has used his extensive international background and knowledge of different cultures and languages to enrich his teaching. He addressed challenging subjects such as ethics, international business, and Eastern philosophy. Dr. Lehman also introduced innovative technologies to achieve academic goals.

His exemplary service manifested itself through roles in the university and statewide systems, and on boards of regional and international companies. As Director of the Office of International Programs, Dr. Lehman fostered a thriving international enrollment, overseeing a ten-fold increase in the number of students studying abroad.



Dr. David O. Porter *Years of service: 1993 - 2010*

Dr. David O. Porter applied real-world, business knowledge in his classroom. During his tenure as Dean of the School of Management, he didn't limit his responsibilities to administrative duties, but took an active interest in the quality of management education—an emphasis that endured throughout his career.

Dr. Porter was deeply involved in assisting countries from the former Soviet Union transition to democracy and a market economy. His highly-regarded work in this area supported a faculty exchange between the School of Management and the Institute of Economics at Yakutsk State University.



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SOM is one of only 175 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.

Photos on this page (top to bottom): Photo courtesy of Nicole Cundiff and UAF photos by Tammy Tragis-McCook.

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