



FEATURED STORY



Pomi Chafin

No Microscope Required

When you think of undergraduate research you tend to think of geoscience, chemistry or biology. At UAF, the resource for undergraduate students to engage in research is URSA (Undergraduate Research & Scholarly Activity). School of Management student Esul “Pomi” Chafin recently embarked on a research project all without a microscope, lasers or counting any animals.

Pomi is a business administration major who graduated in May 2017. She learned about the URSA opportunity through Professor Josh Lupinek’s Entertainment & Sports Event Management course. *“I competed against other students for the opportunity,”* Pomi said. *“But due to my data analysis and research experience from working at UA Statewide, I was chosen for the project.”*

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National Rankings for SOM Programs

The UAF School of Management is nationally recognized for its high-quality degree programs.



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Mike Cook's SOM Connection



Mike Cook

Mike Cook

Senior Consultant
Cook & Haugeberg, LLC



When I was a youngster, my mother, Pat Cook, took our family to the UA Museum of the North. That was the first time I stepped foot on campus, and my connection to UAF has strengthened ever since. Our accounting firm, Cook & Haugeberg, LLC, actively recruits students and all firms in the Interior would agree that there are never enough accountants in the state of Alaska.

I believe strongly in the mission of SOM and have great faith in the students and the education they receive. As Chair of the Business Advisory Council, I get to learn firsthand what is happening at the school. I appreciate that Dean Herrmann really listens to the council members. He explains the issues the school is facing and the opportunities that are available. We, in turn, let the dean know our ideas to improve the school and what we are looking for in business graduates.

SOM has transformed over the decades. As it continues to increase in size, I am impressed by how the school keeps up with industry demands; for example, SOM is now offering degrees in homeland security and emergency management. The array of majors, and thus the diversity of students, make for a stronger and more interesting school. With this increase in size and programs comes a more diverse student body in age, ethnicity and family makeup.

As a lifelong Alaskan, I believe that most of us want to do what we can to remain living and thriving in this state. SOM has a sterling reputation and I ask you to consider a new, renewed or additional gift to the school. Cook & Haugeberg sustains an annual accounting scholarship and supports the UAF Business Leader of the Year. My wife, Sharon, and I also choose to give personally to SOM. No matter the size of your gift, you can help SOM students obtain an ideal educational experience inside and outside the classroom. Your gift is also a shout out to our legislature that we are in this predicament together and we are not idly standing by for a handout. Your gift signifies the importance you – and I – place on SOM and the future leaders of our state.

Taking it to the Beach

For UAF students interested in finance, Fairbanks' remoteness can be difficult to overcome. Yet thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Certified Financial Analyst (CFA) Society Hawaii, five UAF SOM students – Amie Arney, Huck Hopper, Tracy Reeves, Jay Samuel, and Josiah Whelchel – had the unique chance to gain hands-on mentoring and intensive training in financial analysis.

These students participated in the CFA Research Challenge, an annual global competition in which university students complete an in-depth written and oral evaluation of a publicly traded company. The UAF team competed in Honolulu, Hawaii on Saturday, February 18, 2017.

"We were analyzing First Hawaiian Bank," said Amie Arney. "We had to learn the ins and outs of how banks operate. We spent lots of time on independent research, and at the end of the day, we learned a lot."

Students began working in November to prepare a written report and oral presentation supporting their investment recommendation on a company selected by the CFA Society Hawaii.

"The Research Challenge wasn't easy, but it taught me a lot about career paths in finance. We were expected to do what actual equity research professionals do," said Huck Hopper.



*Amie Arney, Jay Samuel,
Josiah Whelchel, Huck Hopper,
and Tracy Reeves*

Congratulations Graduates!



Summer 2016, Fall 2016, and Spring 2017 Graduates

UNDERGRADUATE

ACCOUNTING

Victoria Adams
Travis Cortez
Joseph Donoghue III
Hannah Evans
Sarah Freese
Tiffany Kester
Logan Kunz
Skyler Loibl
Jeffrey Maring
Jaylee Mays
Kathryn Pound
Erin Rabon Ethridge
Ana Rodriguez Moreno
Maggie Smith
Claressa Ullmayer
Levi Vernon
Kenedie Wassmann

ECONOMICS

Keegan Bell
Noelle Graham
Emily Sawyer
Christopher Sherk
John Shirley

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Thomas Antal
Stephanie Baer
Sefiu Ballam
James Balog
Jason Baughman
Craig Briske
Erik Carlson
Tucker Cooper
Melvin Denning
Rachael Doniger
Jason Fegurur
Matthew Fellman
Jordan Ferland
Daniel Gallagher
James Gilcrest

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Tariq Aslam
Marcus Basara
Sharlene Bernaldo
Henry Bolanos
Esul Chafin
Lynn Church
Havilah Glesener
Connor Hajdukovich
Donna Hill
Heather Hinzman
Kelly Hoffman
Kenzie Holbrook
Huckleberry Hopper
Andrea Huffman
Michael James
Melissa Jenkins
Frances Johnson
Davis Jones
Brennan LaBuda
Patrick Lassell
Brian Laurencelle
Scott Lines
Sophie Marcinkowski
Paige Martin

Jordan Gustafson
Brian Hamerly
Matthew Heath
Taylar Holt
Katherine Janoski
Nathan Johnson
Samantha Kelley
Evan Kressly
Keith Mallard
Sabrina Martin
John McGee
Sean McMillan
Kathryne Mitchell
Jacob Mooty
Lauren Morton

Sara McBride
Victoria Milton
Colton Parayko
Gretchen Petrie
Mason Pfrimmer
Tracy Reeves
Melissa Refuerzo
John Renfro Jr
Holly Sacora
Jay Samuel
Kelley Scott
Sean Solie
Sabrina Stefanovich
Edward Tinajero
Neill Toelle
Haley Tuttle
Amber Vaska
Sarah Weeks
Mary Weinard
Josiah Whelchel
Gracelynn Wiseman
Justin Woods
Rylin Yaune
Casey Youngblood

Walter Murrell
Karin Newport
Jason Pace
Ryan Paskvan
Richard Rifley II
Sarah Saarloos
Brett Schimmack
Adam Schlegel
Kaillee Skjold
Kristin Taylor
Delmari Tyndale
James Wall
Kala Workman
Brooke Zellweger

GRADUATE

MBA

Sierra Begich Slade
Grainne Bonestroo
Jamie Boyle
Soren Butler
Shelby Carlson
Umut Chakan
Megan Colley
Amanda Dixon
Clayton Dunn
Agatha Erickson
Angelene Faulkner
Vladyslav Ferderer
Andrea Ferrante
Brandy Gloria
Jane Groseclose
John Gyaben
Charles Hayes
Charles Hill
Phillip Hokenson
Zachary Hurst
Scott Johnson

MS ECONOMICS & APPLIED RESOURCES

Nathaniel Burke
Garrett Evridge
Jordan Hume
Barbara Johnson
Mackenzie Wood

PH.D INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Cameron Carlson
Tobias Schwoerer

Davis Jones
John Keeney
Yulia Kholodova
James Martin
Tara McGrogan
David Merritt Jr.
Brandon Morley
Tameika Newsome
Omo Oisamoje
Fabian Philipp
Ruth Post
Kayla Rivers
Carrie Santoro
Michael Seper
Adrienne Schwartz
Ovidiu Sofron
Christina Tachick
Jamaal Tanner
Sheila Teal
Jacob Temple
Dwayne Wiley

MASTER OF SECURITY & DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Patrick Gargan
David Mattox

PH.D. NATURAL RESOURCES AND SUSTAINABILITY

Dominique Pride

Emergency Management graduate
John McGee at Commencement 2017



SOM Holds Steady with Your Support

This year, as we celebrate 100 years as a university, we must realize this is not the first time UAF has experienced serious budget challenges. The UA cornerstone was laid in 1915 with the hope of a university – but without funding. During WWII, enrollment dropped from 300 to 70. In 1947, Alaska had no money to fund UA and \$200,000 in loans were made from private citizens. Enrollment plummeted in 1975 with the building of the trans-Alaska pipeline. In 1987, oil prices crashed and budget cuts forced a reorganization of the UA system.

Despite the many challenges we have faced, we have reached a multitude of great achievements as an institution. UAF is America's northernmost Land, Sea and Space Grant institution and one of only a handful of universities in the nation with this triple-crown distinction. SOM became AACSB accredited in 1988, meaning we pass rigorous quality standards and are thus proven to provide the best in business education worldwide. Linking the community and university, we have honored community leaders for over four decades through the UAF Business Leader of the Year.

None of this is possible without donor support. We want to thank the individuals listed on this page. Your gifts provide vital opportunities for students to further their education. We are in the perfect environment to teach our students how to solve a budget crisis. Together we will persevere and overcome this crisis. Our graduates represent this school's true legacy. They make the Interior a better place to live and work because they put their degrees to work right here in our community.

This list includes individual donor gifts to the School of Management from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy. For a complete list that includes gifts to UAF Business Leader of the Year and corporate gifts, visit our online [SOM Giving](#) page. If your name should be on this list, please contact Tammy Tragis-McCook at (907) 474-7042, or tammy.tragis@alaska.edu.

Marvin Andresen	Douglas Goering	Kristina Kushnir	David Ragins	Alexander Taylor
Mary Kaye Bailey	John Hajdukovich	Christopher Lane	Audrey Ranstead	Laura Therriault
Joy Barsetti	Jansy Hansen	Eleanor Laughlin	Lisa Richardson	Teri Thorpe
Barbara Beedle	Vincent Hansen	Lacey Libbey	Michelle Rizk	David Tiemessen
Cynthia Benford	Gerald Haugeberg	Margaret Matheson	Karen Rogers	Genevieve Turley
Bryan Bernaldo	Diane Herrmann	Cynthia Matson	Rachel Roy	Wilma Vinton
Billie Blanchard	David Hillyer	Verlean McCoy	Daniel Rufen-	Briana Walters
Diane Borgeson	Jacquelyn Hoflich	Patricia Meritt	Blanchette	Dilin Wang
Steven Calvo	Christa Hollerbach	David Nelson	C. Ryan	Tamera Weaver
Jeffrey Cook	Kyla Hovda	Christopher Norman	Helvi Sandvik	George Whyel
Michael Cook	Rodger Hughes	Karen O'Brien	David Schneider	Sally Wien
Patricia Davidson	Betty Huntington	Maureen O'Neill	David Scott	Julie Wilder
Myron Dosch	Gregory Hutcheson	John Owens	Glenn Seaman	Marian Yoder
Constantinos Dovolos	Karen Johnson	Francesco Paganini	George Sevier	Sharon Young
Erik Drygas	Pamela Johnson	Jordan Pernarowski	Lorna Shaw	Edward Zane
Travis Duft	Margie Karl	Nichole Pittman	Judith Slajer	Annette Ziegman
Virginia Farmier	Keith Kelley	Deborah Pohlman	Robert Smith	
Melody Feniks	Dong Kim	Sally Porter	Bradley Spees	
Daniel Flodin	Ann Kirk	Julie Queen	Trisha Sugita	
James Gibson	Lynn Koshiyama	Kristina Racina	Candace Taylor	

Driving to a Win

Three members of the Native Alaskan Business Leaders (NABL) student organization attended the annual American Indian Business Leader Conference on April 12-14 in Phoenix, AZ. NABL won 3rd place in the Business Plan Competition for their plan to create a program for rural Alaskans to obtain their driver's licenses.

Maynard Maglaya, Jillian Bjornstad, Terrell Jones, and NABL faculty advisor Sam Alexander pose with the team's award.



Top of Their Class

Beta Gamma Sigma is a national honor society recognizing the highest scholastic honor a student can achieve in Business Administration at an AACSB accredited institution.

To be eligible for membership in this distinguished organization, a student must rank in the top of their class.

- » Top 10% of the Junior class
- » Top 10% of the Senior class
- » Top 20% of MBA students

Juniors

Katie Damon
Tara Ann Ellis
Jillianne Fazakerley
Lutfi Lena
Marisa Martinez
Laura McCready
Christa Ogawa
Myzah Tuiletufuga

Seniors

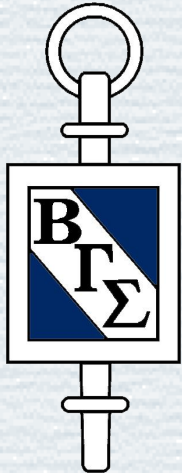
Mylissa Maclin
Jeffery Maring
Paige Martin
Kathryn Pound
Emily Sawyer
Haley Tuttle
Claressa Ullmayer
Josiah Whelchel
Gracelynn Wiseman

MBA

Jamie Boyle
Andrea Ferrante
Tara McGrogan
Omo Oisamoje
Carrie Santoro
Christina Tachick

Faculty

Amy Cooper



The Order of the Sword and Shield

On Friday, April 28th, the School of Management held its second annual induction for its Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) 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.



The new inductees were welcomed into the society by previous inductees: Thomas Antal, Jason Fegurur and Wally Murrell. This stellar accomplishment by our students is yet another example of how SOM's nationally ranked HSEM program continues to grow and excel.

Bachelor of Emergency Management Students

Adam Biernat
Craig Briske
Daniel Gallagher
James Gilcrest
Nathan Johnson
Evan Kressly
Keith Person
Floyd Wright Jr.
Brooke Zellweger

Master of Security and Disaster Management Students

Henry Eshleman
David Mattox



No Microscope Required

Continued...

Pomi's summer 2016 research project applied the 80/20 rule to the National Hockey League (NHL) to determine whether the top 20% of players, in terms of salaries, actually produced the highest performance levels – equal to 80% of the scoring in games. Overall, she found that the top players only score about 50% of the goals. She also concluded that hockey is more of a team sport and goals are spread out among all the players.

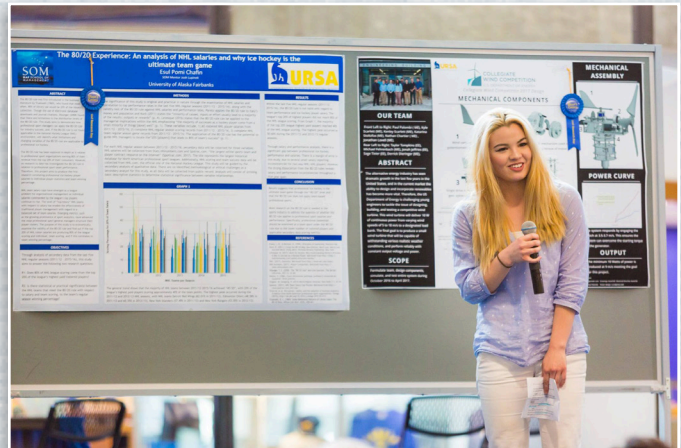
Taking her project to the next level, Pomi requested, and received, additional funding from URSA to present her completed project, "The 80/20 Experience: An analysis of NHL salaries and why ice hockey is the ultimate team game," at the 2017 Global Sport Business Association (GSBA) conference in Cozumel, Mexico.

"I did the research to get more data analysis experience but I got so much more," Pomi said. "I gained professional development, I learned about deadlines, which is a big part of data analysis, and I improved my public speaking skills."

Pomi also presented her research at the URSA Research Day in April 2017 (which is required for all students who receive URSA funding) and won the School of Management Dean's Choice award of \$500 for her poster.

"This experience took me out of my comfort zone. It really improved my speaking and communication skills, and helped me develop professionally," Pomi said. "I would tell current SOM students to try research because it's not just for science students. Research is a very important part of business and it's a great addition to your resume."

Pomi plans to publish her work through the GSBA journal in fall 2017. She will also be entering the School of Management MBA program in the fall.



Pomi presents her poster at URSA Research Day

HR Communications & Ethics for the Win

For the 2nd year in a row, members of the UAF Society of Human Resource Management (SHRM) student organization placed 4th in Division II at the annual SHRM Student Case Competition and Career Summit West. Team captain Sara McBride, Laken Bordner, Austin Bottasso, Frances Johnson, and Mason Pfrimmer traveled to the competition in Tigard, Oregon this spring.

The Case Competition and Career Summit is an annual event drawing schools from across the western region, many of which offer an accredited human resources degree. It is an educational and energizing opportunity for students to network with other professionals and showcase their problem-solving skills. This year's case involved some tough ethical issues, as well as diverse workforce issues - all timely management challenges in our current social and political climate.

"The main takeaway I had from this year's event was how to authentically network and how important it is to network," said Laken Bordner. "Whether you are an introvert or extrovert, making those connections in your field are important for success."

The Northwest Human Resources Management Association (NHRMA) Student Assistance Program awarded a travel stipend to the UAF team that covered a substantial portion of their travel expenses.



Mason Pfrimmer, Frances Johnson, Austin Bottasso, Laken Bordner, and Sara McBride

Faculty Focus Cameron Carlson



Cameron Carlson receives his Ph.D.

Dr. Cameron Carlson is the Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. He earned a BS in biology from Monmouth University in 1986 and an MA in international relations from Webster University in 1995. He earned his Ph.D. in security and disaster management from UAF in 2017.

How did you first get involved with SOM?

I taught sports leadership for several years and then I heard SOM was considering a bachelor's of emergency management. By then I had retired from the military as a Lieutenant Colonel and was working as an emergency manager at UA Statewide. Mark Herrmann asked me to launch the program, expand it and enroll more students.

What's the best thing to happen since you started working at SOM?

I don't know if there has been one single thing. It sounds like such a cliché but I really do enjoy my job. I like getting up in the morning and coming in. I like teaching and the interaction with the students. I enjoyed the Ph.D. process.

How do you spend your summers in Alaska?

Working on articulation agreements with college programs out of state. Outside of work, I enjoy the weather by riding my mountain bike and spending time with my wife on our deck tasting wines. We are planning our next trip to Napa Valley to visit our family.

What advice do you have for current students?

Accept some risk, push the envelope a bit and learn something that makes you slightly uncomfortable. We're wired to seek out comfort, which is why it's hard to let go. If you challenge yourself, it will actually help you perform at your peak.

What would you like to tell us about your family?

Every member of our family has worked for UAF at one point or another. My wife currently works at UA Statewide. Our youngest daughter Shelby and I walked through 2017 Commencement together, she for her MBA and me for my Ph.D. Our daughter Courtney received her undergraduate and graduate degrees from SOM. Our first born daughter Dani also got her undergraduate degree from UAF. Fun fact? Dani was the Nanook bear mascot at one point.

Read the full story on the [SOM Blog](#)

NEXT TV BINGE WATCH IN QUEUE?

Wonder Woman

WHAT IS ONE THING YOU THINK EVERYONE SHOULD OWN NO MATTER THE COST? A good mountain bike

LATEST SONG GONE EARWORM?
Run by the Foo Fighters

In a next life, what would your career be? The exact same thing

If you were granted one wish to change the world what would it be? To do away with cancer

Alumni Spotlight Marisa Sharrah

Marisa is the president and CEO of the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce. She earned a bachelor's degree in business administration in 2001 with a concentration in marketing.

Why did you choose to attend UAF?

It was important for me to stay in Fairbanks and remain close to my family. I felt fortunate that UAF had a degree that fit with my long-term goals. The choice was easy and it felt right at the time, and I can say that over 15 years later, I still think it was the right choice.

Share with us an outstanding teacher or class.

I loved Claudia Clark! She demonstrated the right balance between being firm and flexible. She held students accountable and reminded us we live in an unforgiving world, but she was also fun to be around and kept us laughing while learning.

What is a favorite SOM memory?

Attending commencement in a sea of black caps and gowns, and having my then 3-year-old son spot me in the crowd and yell "MAMA!" from the mezzanine during the ceremony.

What does being a UAF alumna mean to you?

Being a UAF grad adds to my sense of community. I love Fairbanks and am always proud to share that I'm a UAF graduate. I find pride by supporting our teams, reading about innovations and ideas generated by students, faculty, and graduates, and seeing our community rally to support this institution that has such an important role in our community.

What advice do you have for current students?

Find people in your community who you admire and make them your mentors. You don't have to ask them or literally assign them that role. Just start asking questions and for advice, observe how they communicate, who they surround themselves with, what they do in their spare time, etc. They will be your mentors as soon as you decide they are.



Marisa Sharrah

FAVORITE BREAKFAST FOOD?

Peanut butter protein shake or waffles

DREAM VACATION DESTINATION?

Beach. Book. Beverage.

BOOK YOU ARE CURRENTLY READING? *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU SANG OUT LOUD? Odds are I'm singing out loud right now.

Read the full story on the [SOM Blog](#)



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Student committee members pose with Steve Lundgren at the 2017 Business Leader of the Year banquet



Naturally Inspiring.

SOM is one of only 186 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. UA is an AA/EO employer and educational institution and prohibits illegal discrimination against any individual: www.alaska.edu/titleIXcompliance/nondiscrimination.

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