A $3.4 million gift from the estate of alumnus James Pruitt has created an endowed chair at the University of Alaska Fairbanks School of Management. Pruitt, a 1973 graduate of the school, died in 2018. His bequest is one of the largest private donations in UAF’s history.

“Mr. Pruitt’s gift to UAF is incredibly humbling and will change lives far into the future,” said UAF Chancellor Dan White. Accounting instructor Amy Cooper was named the first James Pruitt Endowed Chair of Management.

Pruitt received a Bachelor of Business Administration from UAF as a student from Washington in the Western Undergraduate Exchange program. He started working for Amoco about six months after graduation and retired after a long career with BP, which acquired Amoco in 1998. He was 68 years old when he died.

Pruitt had a passion for supporting hard-working, nontraditional students. He started the School of Management Green Island Scholarship. It annually gave two freshmen $7,000 each for four years or until graduation, whichever came first. In addition to the endowed chair, more than $330,000 of Pruitt’s estate will go to the UAF Alumni Association. The association plans to fund projects that directly support students, to honor Pruitt’s interest in giving young people a hand up rather than a hand out.

The UA Foundation has named Emily Drygas as senior director of principal gifts for the University of Alaska Foundation. Emily previously served as UAF’s director of development and alumni relations. Former UAF Alumni Director Kate Ripley has stepped in as interim director of UAF Development and Alumni Relations.

“I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to witness the dreams that are achieved thanks to our donors’ philanthropic investments and through ties with our dedicated alumni and friends during my 16-year tenure at UAF,” Emily said. “I am grateful for my time here and excited that my new role only furthers the relationships that we have built.”

On April 23, UAF students, donors and campus representatives gathered for the 2019 Scholarship Breakfast at the Wood Center Carol Brown Ballroom to celebrate donor generosity and student success. Lisa Herbert of Usibelli Coal Mine emceed the event, introducing Chancellor Dan White, student speakers Bernadette Smith and Daniel Manley, and donor speaker Dr. Barb Cole of Aurora Animal Clinic.

To view the 2019 Scholarship Breakfast program and learn more about how donors help UAF students, visit uaf.edu/giving/events/.

Carter Crawford celebrated her gift to UAF athletics at a cider toast held Dec. 17, 2018, with student athletes, coaches, faculty and staff. Carter originally planned to include this gift in her estate but decided to make the gift during her lifetime, with the hope of inspiring others to follow her lead.

A long-time runner, Carter had a deep love for and connection to Nanook athletic programs. She died March 5, 2019, of natural causes in Fairbanks.
2019 UAF BLUE AND GOLD CELEBRATION

More than 300 guests gathered to celebrate our distinguished faculty, alumni and students at the 2019 Blue and Gold Celebration on Feb. 16, hosted at the Carlson Center. Honorees included professors Patty Martínez Meritt, Matthew Wooller and Charles N. Dexter, respective recipients of the Emil Usibelli Distinguished Teaching, Research and Service Awards; Neal Fried, the UAFAA’s Distinguished Alumnus; and Denise Wartes, the UAFAA’s William R. Cashen Service Award honoree.

First National Bank Alaska gave to the Blue and Gold Scholarship Endowment, the Best in the West Competition, and the UAF CTC Student Fees Assistance fund.

Georgeson Botanical Garden Society gave to the Charles C. Georgeson Botanical Garden.

Hilcorp Alaska gave to the Hilcorp Arctic Fisheries Support fund and Hilcorp Alaska Marine Methane Student Research Support Fund.

Ocean Peace gave to the Ocean Peace Research Partnership.

Peak Oilfield Service Co. gave to the Bristol Bay University Center.

The Pollock Conservation Cooperative, comprised of Trident Seafoods, Glacier Fish Company, American Seafoods Company, and Starbound, gave to the Pollock Conservation Cooperative Research Center Endowment.

Princess Cruises gave to the National Ocean Sciences Bowl, Marine Advisory Program Development, Citizen Science Excursions, and the Alaska Young Fishermen’s Summit Support fund.

Solaster Science gave to the Sea Otter Research fund.

UAF Hockey Alumni Association gave to the UAF Hockey Alumni Association Scholarship for Men’s Nanook Hockey.

An Anonymous Donor gave to the Pat and Ken Weaver Family Scholarship, the College of Liberal Arts, and the UAF Annual Fund.

Maureen A. Bradshaw ’63 gave to the Bradshaw Family Scholarship for UAF Students from Southeast Alaska.

E.R. Dolly Dieter gave to the Dieter Family Tsunami Bowl Endowment, the Ken Turner Memorial Fellowship, and The Dieter Family Marine Science Research Scholarship.

Brina Kessel-Roof* gave to Brina Kessel Fund for Northern Ornithology.

Ed Kuhn* gave to the Edward J. Kuhn Endowed Scholarship.

Bob ’90 ’98 and Heather ’96 Mitchell gave to the Peter MacKeith Endowment, the Rachael Patterson Memorial Scholarship, and the IMS Graduate Student Endowment.

Grace Berg Schaible* gave to the UA Museum of the North Art Acquisitions and Maintenance Fund and Schaible Geophysical Institute Fellowship.

Alan Straub ’57 gave to the Alan Straub Student Ice Arch Project and Alan Straub Student Competition Support fund.

Helga and Bill ’64 Watters gave to the Bill and Helga Watters Scholarship, Nanook Men’s Basketball and Nanook Women’s Basketball.

Jay ’88 and Carrie Weaver gave to the Pat and Ken Weaver Family Scholarship and the UAF Annual Fund.

The Bill Stroecker Foundation gave to the UA Museum of the North Whale Mount project and KUAC.

The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation gave to support the UAF Ikaagvik Sikukun Newsletter fund.

INDIVIDUAL

CORPORATE

Alyeska Pipeline Service Company gave to the Blue and Gold Scholarship Endowment, the Alyeska Pipeline Service Company RAHI Support fund, the Troth Yeddha’ Park Support fund, the College of Engineering and Mines, the CEM SWE Student Enhancement fund, the School of Management, and SOM Business Leader of the Year.

Arctic Slope Regional Corporation gave to the GeoFORCE Alaska Support fund.

BP gave to the GeoFORCE Alaska Support fund, Inspiring Girls Expeditions program, the College of Engineering and Mines, and the UAF CTC Process Technology Program.

ConocoPhillips Alaska gave to the GeoFORCE Alaska Support fund, the Blue and Gold Scholarship Endowment, the College of Engineering and Mines, and the Rural Alaska Honors Institute.

ExxonMobil Corporation gave to the GeoFORCE Alaska Support fund.

Achievements

This report reflects gifts and donations totalling $25,000 or more to the University of Alaska Fairbanks between October 26, 2018 to April 15, 2019. * Indicates Deceased.