

“Everything builds character”

By Nick Steyn

Before Jordan Hendry was a Stanley Cup-winning Chicago Blackhawk, he played defense for the Alaska Nanooks. Before the fame and riches, he did manual labor around the Fairbanks campus. He'd be the first to tell you that it's all a natural progression.

“I used to shovel snow and cut grass and all that other stuff they do that I really didn't like doing,” Hendry says. “Everything builds character. You work hard when you're younger to make you the man you want to be.”

That man is now a professional defender who signed a \$600,000 contract extension in September to play his fourth season with the Blackhawks. He earned the payday after moving from the team's seventh defender to a role in its starting line last season.

The Blackhawks went on to defeat the Philadelphia Flyers in six games, and Hendry got the chance to hoist the coveted cup high above his head.

“When you're growing up, you always want to win the Stanley Cup,” Hendry says. “Nothing changes this year. We don't want to disappoint anyone. We want to repeat and win the cup every year.”

Hendry appeared in a career-high 43 games and contributed eight points (two goals, six assists) on offense.

Hendry skated for the Nanooks from 2002 – 2006 and finished his collegiate career with 11 goals and 25 assists in



Photo courtesy of the Chicago Blackhawks.

Jordan Hendry became the second UAF hockey player to hoist the Stanley Cup when he was part of the winning 2010 Chicago Blackhawks team. Former Nanook Shawn Chambers skated for the New Jersey Devils when they won in 1995 and the Dallas Stars when they won in 1999.

112 total games, including a 14-point season as a senior.

“It's a great hockey program to be a part of, and it's where you learn to play like a professional hockey player,” Hendry says. “College hockey is a fast-paced game, and it made me ready to make the jump to pro.”

After UAF, he signed undrafted with the Norfolk Admirals, the Blackhawks' farm team, in March 2006, and made his professional debut at the end of the 2005 – 2006 season.

The summer that followed proved a busy but fruitful one for Hendry. In July 2006, he signed a two-year contract with the parent club; a month later he finished his bachelor's degree in business administration.

He made his NHL debut in January 2008, the sixth former UAF player to make it to North America's premier hockey league. After appearing in 40 games, Hendry signed another two-year contract.

Hendry has remained a presence at UAF and in the Fairbanks community throughout the past four years. He appears regularly on campus, at the rink and in the varsity weight room, and he recently bought a house in town.

"I think it's great doing events at UAF. I get to see all these kids come out here. I sign the autographs and they get big smiles on their faces. It means a lot. I think it's important for guys that used to play here to stay in touch with the team and the school they used to play at," Hendry says.

Still a Nanook fan

Hendry remains a fan of Nanook hockey.

"I like following these guys because they really are an exciting team," Hendry says. "I listen to the games on the Internet. When there's arguments between the former college hockey



UAF photo by Jamie Roland.

Hendry greets long-time friends and young fans at a meet-and-greet in Fairbanks. Nanook team physician Dr. Cary Keller (left, above) reconstructed Hendry's knee after he injured it in a game against UAA in 2004.

players and the junior hockey players in our locker room, I brag about UAF."

UAF and the Alaska hockey program have good reason to brag about Hendry, too. He's a prime example for current and future Nanooks of what hard work and dedication on and off the ice can lead to.

Beyond the glitz and glory of being a professional athlete and a newly crowned Stanley Cup champion, Hendry is an educated, humble and well-rounded person. In addition to earning his BBA, he participated in the Student Investment Fund.

"Jordan is a role model for all student-athletes," says Alaska's head coach Dallas Ferguson. "He has always conducted himself with such class and professionalism."

"His success comes as no surprise to me or anyone who knows him. Whether

it is in the classroom, on the ice or in the game of life, Jordan always did things the proper way. We are proud to call him a Nanook and wish him continued success in his career."



Nick Steyn, a student intern with the Athletics Department, grew up in New Jersey, where he developed his sense of style and dance. He has a tattoo of himself punching a grizzly bear in the face based on actual events. On quieter days, he drinks cheap beer and writes love poetry.



UAF photo by Jamie Roland.

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1940s



Bob Snider, '49, and Luz Infante were married in September 2010. Bob dropped out of Capital University in 1942 to join the Army Air Corps. After

World War II he completed his degree at UAF while working for the U.S. Weather Bureau in Fairbanks. He did graduate study at the University of Chicago and the University of Michigan, and retired in 1989 as Michigan-area manager for the National Weather Service. His bride is a retired chemical engineer holding degrees from la Universidad de San Marcos in Peru and from Rutgers University. The couple lives in Ann Arbor, Mich.

1950s



Jack Townshend, '55, a long-time USGS geophysicist, was honored with the naming of a 46-acre research site on the Fairbanks campus. The Jack Townshend College International Geophysical Observatory is a network of eight state-of-the-art facilities that collect geomagnetic, seismic and geophysical data.

1960s

Jim McCaslin Brown, '60, '63, retired from Alaska Pacific University at the end of June 2010 after being conferred with the title of emeritus professor of environmental geology. He had a 50-year career as a geologist, was recently advanced to senior fellow of the Geological Society of America and was awarded the Legion of Honor with the Society of Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration.

1980s

John Burns, '82, was named Alaska's new attorney general in December 2010.

John Carter, '85, was promoted to major within the Alaska State Defense Force.

Mari Høe-Raitto, '86, and **Carol Kaynor, '10**, reprinted their book, *Skijor With Your Dog*, for the fourth time.



Charissa Niedzwiecki, '86, received a Faculty of the Month award in March 2010 from the National Residence Hall Honorary Association at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, where she has been teaching for the past 16 years.

Jeff Roach, '87, has accepted the position of northern region planning manager with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. His experience with DOT&PF planning includes serving as the northern area planner, the Fairbanks Metropolitan Area Transportation planner and most recently the aviation planner. As the northern region planning manager he is responsible for the northern region's capital improvement program for both highways and aviation, and for overseeing special planning studies and regional transportation plans.



John Smelcer, '86, '87, is an award-winning author of more than 40 books published in a wide range of interests. Besides his many novels and poetry collections, he has published books in history, mythology, anthropology, archaeology and linguistics, as well as anthologies, plays, screenplays and children's picture books. His short stories, poems, interviews and essays appear in more than 400 magazines and journals worldwide. Visit his website at www.johnsmelcer.com.

1990s

Wayne Don, '94, '04, was selected as a 2011 Marshall Memorial Fellow. The MMF program, part of the German Marshall Fund of the United States, educates emerging American and European leaders on the transatlantic relationship and encourages them to collaborate on a range of international and domestic policy challenges. American fellows spend 24 days traveling to five cities across Europe, learning about the institutions and people that drive Europe's cities, regions, countries, and multilateral systems through meetings with local counterparts.

Sanjay A. Naidu Kumar Sr., '91, '95, received his MD from the University of Sint Eustatius School of Medicine in New York City in 2010 after completing his hospital clerkships in Yakima, Wash. He has been married for eight years to Radha Naidu Kumar and they have a four-year-old son, Sanjay II. While at UAF, "I had a KSUA radio

President's column

By **Randy Pitney, '72**

Supporting UAF is part of our mission statement. It is my pleasure to report that UAFAA has continued our quest to support the university by remaining very active in advocating for UAF to the legislature. Finally, after 10 years, UAF will have a Life Sciences Facility on West Ridge. The funding is a reality for the facility after the general obligation bond passed resoundingly last fall. Groundbreaking will be this spring because of a very proactive administration. Spring 2014 will see researchers move in and students will start attending classes in the facility that fall.

The Life Sciences Facility will benefit not just UAF but the entire state of Alaska. It will greatly impact our ability to recruit and retain not only world-renowned professors, but also the most talented students. It most certainly will add to UAF's ability to obtain more grant monies too.

With another winter behind us and "in the books," I know most of you look forward to the changes spring brings. Commencement brings great changes for our graduates. We congratulate all of them for following through on their dreams and goals. Good job to our graduates for sticking to their plans and timelines, which at times must have seemed overwhelming with many sacrifices from you and family and friends.

Change also comes to your alumni board as some board members term out, and we welcome their replacements. I am terming out, so I thank all of you for a rewarding experience serving as your president this past year. Again, thanks to all of you for your support.



talk show in 2004, *The Sanjay Kumar Show*, which also aired via the Internet. Some memorable guests were then Chancellor Marshall Lind, the Fairbanks chief of police, nurse Erda Fuller of the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital telling of charitable work in Iraq/Afghanistan, and Mrs. Kowalik (wife of UAF's Zygmunt Kowalik) discussing her plight as a child in the train as a WWII Holocaust survivor."



Charles Russell, '92, returned from a 16-month voluntary deployment to Iraq as a USDA Provincial Reconstruction Team agriculture advisor last June. He lives in suburban Columbus, was raised in Cleveland, and graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Superior and UAF. While in Iraq, Charles worked to establish a nongovernmental organization that is providing farmers with access to new technologies, equipment and low-cost credit. In recognition of his efforts, the U.S. Department of State presented him with a meritorious honor award.

Jeremy Vermilyea, '92 — "After three years of running my own law office, I reluctantly decided to close my business, and I took a position with Bullivant Houser Bailey last year. It's a good fit, because I needed more support for my practice, and Bullivant needed an attorney with an established construction-law practice. Bullivant is a well-respected West Coast law firm with more than 150 attorneys in six cities in four states. My practice is still focused on representing commercial construction contractors, including

building contractors, road and bridge builders, rail contractors and heavy/civil contractors. I have an active construction practice in five states, including Alaska. I was just named one of Oregon's 2010 'Super Lawyers.' I am still based in Portland where I live with my wife, Kristin. Kristin is now working with me as a paralegal at Bullivant. I continue to be active and interested in UAF and recently attended the UAFAA's reception in Oregon, where a number of UAF grads reside. I'm a former board member and president of the association."



Andrew Nicholas, '93, a researcher in the Solar Physics Branch of the Space Sciences Division of the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D.C., received the 2009 Dr. Delores M. Etter Top Scientists and Engineers of the Year Award. Nicholas earned his master of science degree in space physics in 1993 at UAF under the guidance of John Craven, professor emeritus of physics at the Geophysical Institute. Andrew was given the award in July 2010 for overcoming engineering challenges encountered in space-flight sensor development. According to an NRL announcement, his creative and effective problem solving and leadership "allowed him to conceive and deploy state-of-the-art sensors with high scientific return."

Ken Southerland, '93, is a human resources manager for SEALASKA Native Corp.

Mark Myers, '94, has served as UAF's vice chancellor for research since January. Previously he worked as the Alaska Gasline Inducement Act coordinator for the state of Alaska and prior to that he was the director of the U.S. Geological Survey.

Stephen Rice, '95, '96 — "Not too many expect to see a university banner above an NCO's desk and even less expect to see Alaska."



Christy Terry, '95, was hired as the Seward dock operations manager for the Alaska Railroad Corp. in November 2010.

Gwen Blackburn, '96, was hired as a producer for News 8 Austin in November 2010. "I started as the station was going through a major transition (new look and name). News 8 Austin officially became YNN — Your News Now — Jan. 10. I am very

proud and excited to be a part of the only 24-hours news station in Central Texas. I actually started my career in Fairbanks at KTVF at the receptionist desk and worked my way up to morning anchor/reporter. It was at that time I was given the honor to interview Rosa Parks. It is the highlight of my career. I am truly blessed to still be doing what I love!" See excerpts from Gwen's Rosa Parks interview at www.youtube.com/user/GwendolynBlackburn/.



Cam Wohlford, '97 — "Not to toot my horn, but I had the honor of being nominated and being a finalist for Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year for the entire nation through the International Fire Chiefs Association in August. I would like to encourage UAF employees and alumni to volunteer whether in the fire service or other [organizations]."

Peter Dulgar, '98, received his PhD from the University of Otago in New Zealand in August 2010.

Ryan Tilbury, '99, '04, '10, was appointed to the Alaska Veterans Advisory Council in December 2010. He is a transportation operations officer in the U.S. Air Force Reserve and, since 2004, has worked as a school counselor for the Yukon-Koyukuk School District.



UAF photo by Todd Paris.

2000s

Adrienne Tveit, '01, graduated from Washington State University in 2007 with a doctor of pharmacy degree. After that she attended the pharmacy residency program with the Alaska Native Medical Center, and she currently works at the Southcentral Foundation in Anchorage.

Britt Arnesen, '02, toured for her debut CD, *Continental Divide*, through Washington and Montana last summer/fall.



Mary Kreta, '03, former Nanook women's basketball player, is an admissions counselor at UAF.

Grace Reed, '03, is an Oregon author of two books, with a third book coming out soon. She specializes in helping people "negotiate their shadows," such as conflict, stress, confusion and addiction.

Christopher Johnston, '04, is a design engineer for the State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.

Jonathan Huff, '05, owns Alaska Universal Productions, an audio/visual multimedia company in Interior Alaska.

Brad Oleson, '05, helped his Caja Laboral Vitoria basketball team win the title in Spain's ACB League in 2010.

Megan Damario, '06, received a CASE Rising Star Award for District VIII in February. The award honors individuals with 3 – 5 years' experience in the advancement profession of philanthropy.

Brian Jones, '07, is a lead software programmer in a newly formed application tech company near Osaka, Japan.

Lucy Avinnaq Boyd, '08, is a strategy analyst for NANA Development Corp. in Lakewood, Colo.

Jamie Beyerle, '09, won gold and bronze medals in the World Cup Final in Germany in November 2010. Beyerle placed first in smallbore rifle and third in air rifle. She hopes to participate in the 2012 Olympics.

Nelson Carpluk, '09, received the Alyeska MBA fellowship grant for 2009 – 2010. The grant supports Alaska Native students who pursue their MBA degree. He then applied for and was accepted into the Alyeska Summer Intern Program, working in Anchorage as a business analyst intern in the summer of 2010. Read more at alyeska-pipeline.com/Inthenews/LatestNews/2010/October/Nelson/NelsonCarpluk.html.

Ashley Cowger, '09, won the Autumn House Press Fiction Prize for 2010. Her winning manuscript, the short story collection *Peter Never Came*, will be published in 2011.

James Harris, '09, in collaboration with Nate Liederbach, had *Of a Monster Child: An Anthology of Creative Writing Relationships*, published by Lost Horse Press in February.



UAF photo by Todd Paris.

Colin Matteson, '10, led his German Cottbus White Devils team to victory in the championship game in his rookie pro season. He now plays for the Ansett Basketball Club in Australia.

Matriculates

Helga Wilm was honored with the dedication of the park between the Geophysical Institute and the Arctic Health buildings on West Ridge of the UAF campus as "Helga's Park." She retired as executive officer emerita in 2009 after 40 years at UAF.

In memoriam

Carl Bradford Brooks, Matric., Nov. 27, 2010, Fairbanks

Melanie A. Burtis, former Northwest Campus faculty member, Dec. 15, 2010, Nome

Mary K. Carie, '93, '96, '99, Jan. 12, Fairbanks

Sylvia Mina Carlsson, '68, Jan. 23, Anchorage

Selwyn George Carrol, '70, Dec. 21, 2010, Hampton, S.C.

Paul William Caton, '60, Oct. 24, 2010, Newport, Wash.

Douglas B. Colp, '40, Dec. 24, 2010, Fairbanks

Pat Cook, Matric., Dec. 20, 2010, Fairbanks

Joe M. Doblar, '69, Oct. 15, 2010, Sioux Falls, S.D.

Kevin Reade Engle, '87, and GI staff member, Jan. 27, Fairbanks

Laura L. Fenton, former staff member, Feb. 5, Fairbanks

Dennis Leroy Goff, '73, Nov. 3, 2010, Waikoloa, Hawaii

Steve W. Hackett, '77, Feb. 26, Anchorage

John M. Haines, '83 honorary degree, March 2, Fairbanks

Bill G. Hand, Matric., Nov. 30, 2010, Homer

John M. Herring, '67, Jan. 30, Anchorage

Elaine M. Jacobson, '57, '62, Nov. 29, 2010, Fairbanks

Bernard H. Koebbe II, '79, Feb. 4, Uncasville, Conn.

Timothy Earl Krupa, '84, Nov. 29, 2010, Fairbanks

Ronald D. Newman, Matric., Dec. 5, 2010, Spokane, Wash.

Lenora Alene Pepin, Matric., Nov. 27, 2010, Soldotna

Andrea Simone Ruby, '09, Dec. 21, 2010, Dillingham

Navin K. Sharma, '79, '81, Dec. 24, 2010, Portland, Ore.

William G. Stroecker, '42, Nov. 8, 2010, Fairbanks

John H. Witter, '74, '78, Jan. 13, Fairbanks



Got job changes, family changes, awards to brag about, or do you want to become a member of your alumni association? Visit www.uaf.edu/alumni/ to stay connected. Tell us your good news and we will publish it in the next issue of *Aurora* or the *Alumnus* newsletter. Send photos, too!

Elaine Woodruff, '69, Nov. 22, 2010, Golden, Colo.

From Joe Hayes, executive director of the UAF Alumni Association:



We are sad to inform you we have lost a member of the alumni association board of directors and our alumni family, Kathryn Elaine Woodruff, of Golden, Colo.

Elaine was elected to the alumni board in 2006 and re-elected in 2009. She served half of her second three-year term as an at-large board member. She graduated from Our Lady of the Lake College in San Antonio, earned her MFA from UAF and then received her PhD from the University of Denver. She was a professor of English at Colorado Christian University.

She is survived by her husband, Thomas Woodruff, sons David and Robert, Robert's wife Karla, and grandson Carlos.

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UAF Alumnus newsletter

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