



UNIA
LASKA
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ANCHORA

Contents

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FOUNDATION

A Message from Foundation Leadership	5
Dr. Jessica Black Receives 2023 Bullock Prize	6
UA Foundation Hosts Celebration of Alaska Native Partners	7
UA Giving Day 2023: 49 Hours for Alaska	8
<i>For Alaska</i> Campaign Update	9
UA Foundation Financials	10
New Endowments, Scholarships, and Endowed Chairs	12

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE

UAA Financial Snapshot	14
Pioneering AI for Alaska Industries	15
50 Years of Elevating Culinary Success	16
Technology Gift Powers First National Bank Alaska Finance Lab	17

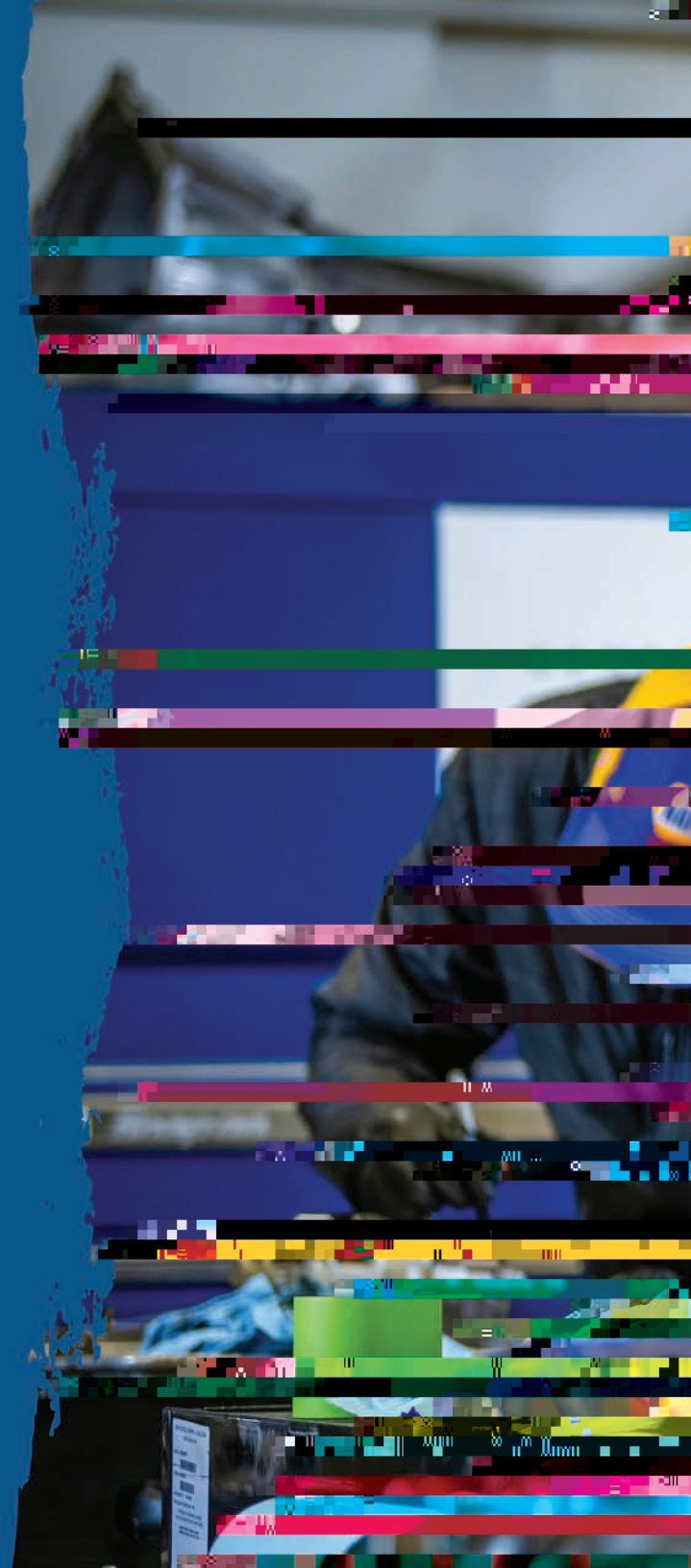
UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

UAF Financial Snapshot	18
Record-Breaking Blue and Gold Celebration	19
Invigorating Nanook Pride with a Gift from the Heart	20
Advancing Research and Innovation Critical to Alaska	21
We Work on Frozen Ground	21

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA SOUTHEAST

UAS Financial Snapshot	22
A New Home for Research and Education	23
Opening Doors for Teaching Alaska Native Language Speakers	24

UA Foundation Board of Directors	26
Executive Team / Contact Information	27









Dr. Jessica Black Receives 2023 Bullock Prize in Recognition of Her Service to the UA System

The University of Alaska Foundation Board of Directors awarded the 2023 Edith R. Bullock Prize for Excellence to Dr. Jessica Black, associate vice chancellor for rural, community and Native education at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and has been a faculty member since 2006.

The Bullock Prize is awarded annually to a member of the university community who understands that a truly great university grows due to personal commitments to excellence. The Prize includes an unrestricted \$20,000 award and is the most prestigious award presented by the UA Foundation each year.

“Dr. Black’s extraordinary contributions to UAF as a researcher, assistant professor, and project leader, and her commitment to transforming higher education to be more inclusive and equitable, have created a welcoming environment where Alaska Native knowledge is embraced, and where Alaska Native students, faculty, and staff are welcomed,” said Laura Bruce, UA Foundation board chair.

“While her expertise and knowledge around

49 Hours for Alaska

Over 49 hours in February 2023, UAA, UAF, and UAS alumni, friends, and businesses across the world donated, celebrated, and advocated the importance of investing in higher education. Our community unlocked nearly 100 new large donations, which were leveraged to increase the number of supporters for UA system programs.

M
RAISED
DONORS

GIFTS RECEIVED FROM

U.S. STATES,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

COUNTRIES

COLLEGES,
SCHOOLS,
& PROGRAMS

FUNDS



UA Foundation Financials

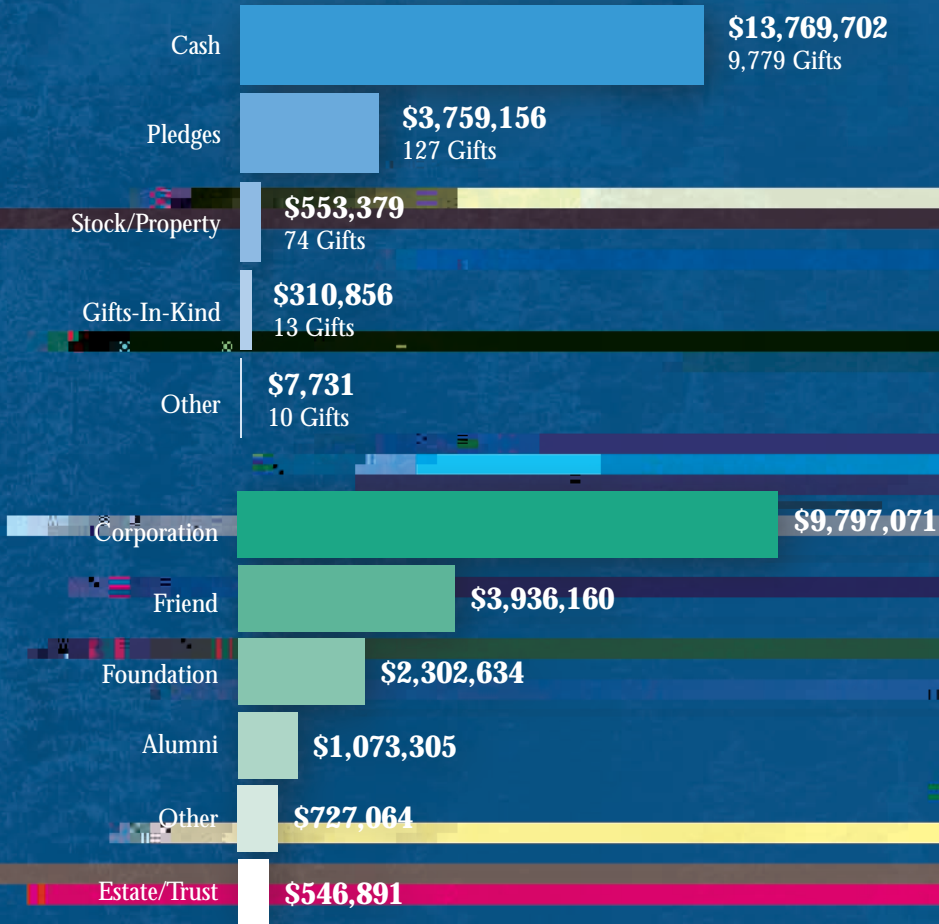
10,003

TOTAL GIFTS MADE

\$18.4M

TOTAL DOLLARS RAISED

GIFTS AND PLEDGES



GIFTS AND PLEDGES PER UNIVERSITY





SLB Alaska Native Endowed Scholarship

Supporting tuition and other related educational expenses for UA system students who are a member of, or eligible for membership in, a federally recognized Tribe in Alaska. Established by Schlumberger Oil Field Services.

Jodi L. Pfeiffer Memorial Student Support Endowment

Providing financial support for UAA students enrolled in the Physical Therapist Assistant program and are members of the Alaska Physical Therapy Association. Established by an anonymous donor.

Desorcie-Moria Hockey Alumni Association Excellence Endowment

Supporting the UAF athletics department and student-athlete recruitment for its hockey program. Established by an anonymous donor.

Sheri Buretta Family Endowed Scholarship

Supporting tuition and other educational expenses for UAA students who demonstrate financial need. Established by anonymous donor.

UAS Alaska GED Achiever Endowed Scholarship

Supporting tuition and other educational expenses for UAS students who have earned an alternative high school equivalent diploma. Established by Michael A. Ciri and Jeri P. Cary.

Lee Huskey Award

Supporting an award for a senior graduating from a UAA economics program. Established by an anonymous donor.

Bill Stroecker Petroleum Engineering Scholarship

Supporting financial assistance for Alaska residents majoring in petroleum engineering at UAF. Established by the Bill Stroecker Foundation.

Bill Stroecker MBA Scholarship

Supporting financial assistance for Alaska residents enrolled in the MBA program at UAF. Established by the Bill Stroecker Foundation.

Christine Chandler Memorial Scholarship

Supporting tuition and other related educational expenses for nursing students at UAA. Established by Randy H. Magen.

Kinross Alaska Future Leaders Endowed Scholarship

Supporting tuition and other related educational expenses for UAF students who are historically underrepresented in the resource development industry. Established by Kinross Alaska.





Pioneering AI for Alaska Industries

As artificial intelligence continues to permeate various industries, discussions emerge regarding job displacement, ethical concerns, accuracy, and trust. As a collaborative effort, the Alaska Data Science and AI Lab (ADSAIL) at UAA recognizes these open questions as opportunities for fostering dialogue, raising awareness, and promoting responsible AI use.

ADSAIL brings together UAA's College of Business and Public Policy, College

of Engineering, and the community. The lab's mission is to explore AI, machine learning, and data science, while nurturing the minds of future data scientists and AI researchers.

Now a hub for multidisciplinary learning, the lab is a space for hands-on learning, enabling experiential education, and collaborative projects.

Through cutting edge technology, including virtual, augmented, and mixed reality systems, the lab provides

students and community members with a playground for innovation and exploration. Students at UAA can work on practical projects and network with industry professionals. As the founding donor and partner, McKinley Management's partnership with the lab adds internships in the field for students.

"We're hoping that people can use it [AI] to make their work more efficient and solve problems they couldn't solve

before, whether that's for a research project or a business problem," shared Kendrick Mock, Dean of Engineering and Professor.

The lab's legacy lies in its endeavor to educate, inspire, and enable innovation. Providing these tools, knowledge, and ethical foundations empower Alaskans to make their work more efficient, solve previously insurmountable problems, and usher in a future where technology serves the state of Alaska.

50 Years of Elevating Culinary Success

Connections and celebrations happen over food. That's why the UAA culinary program, featuring Lucy's and the bakery cart, is such a strong pillar in the campus community. Its network extends beyond the campus as UAA alumni chefs partner with culinary programs from all around Anchorage, connections that have made for a successful 50 years. Notable this year, the program surpassed fundraising goals, made record sales, and secured reaccreditation – maintaining its status as the only culinary program in the state approved by the American Culinary Federation.

UAA alum, James Beard Award nominee, and Altura Bistro owner Nate Bentley showcased his culinary mastery at the 2023 Celebrity Chef Invitational, a fundraiser for the culinary program and scholarships. He was joined by chefs from South, Southside Bistro, Kenai Princess Lodge, and Hotel Captain Cook.

Chef Kellie Pu, an associate professor and chair of UAA's Department of Culinary Arts, emphasized the invaluable experiences students gain in the culinary arts program. "Our students get that real unique opportunity of working alongside these chefs, this talent, and getting to know them and interact with them in ways that they wouldn't normally get," Pu said. "Having that interaction and making that connection, that's always the difference."

Chef Pu credits her successes to her origins at UAA, including multiple television appearances and jobs that took her around the world. "Since being in this program, I have done so many different things in my life that I don't think I would have ever even dreamed of doing."





Technology Gift Powers First National Bank of Alaska Finance Lab

The very nature of finance speaks of long-term legacies. It's the foundation for Peak Trust Company's \$50,000 donation to the UAA College of Business and Public Policy. The funds supported the technology needs of the new First National Bank Alaska Finance Lab. CEO Matt Blattmachr, a UAA alum, views this donation in honor of the company's 25th anniversary as an investment in its future employees and the future of Alaska by means of a strong finance program in the state.

"For our team members who have lived in Alaska and have gone to UAA, there's a good chance this is where they want to be for the long haul. I'm grateful to the opportunities UAA provided me, and I know my colleagues feel the same," Blattmachr said.

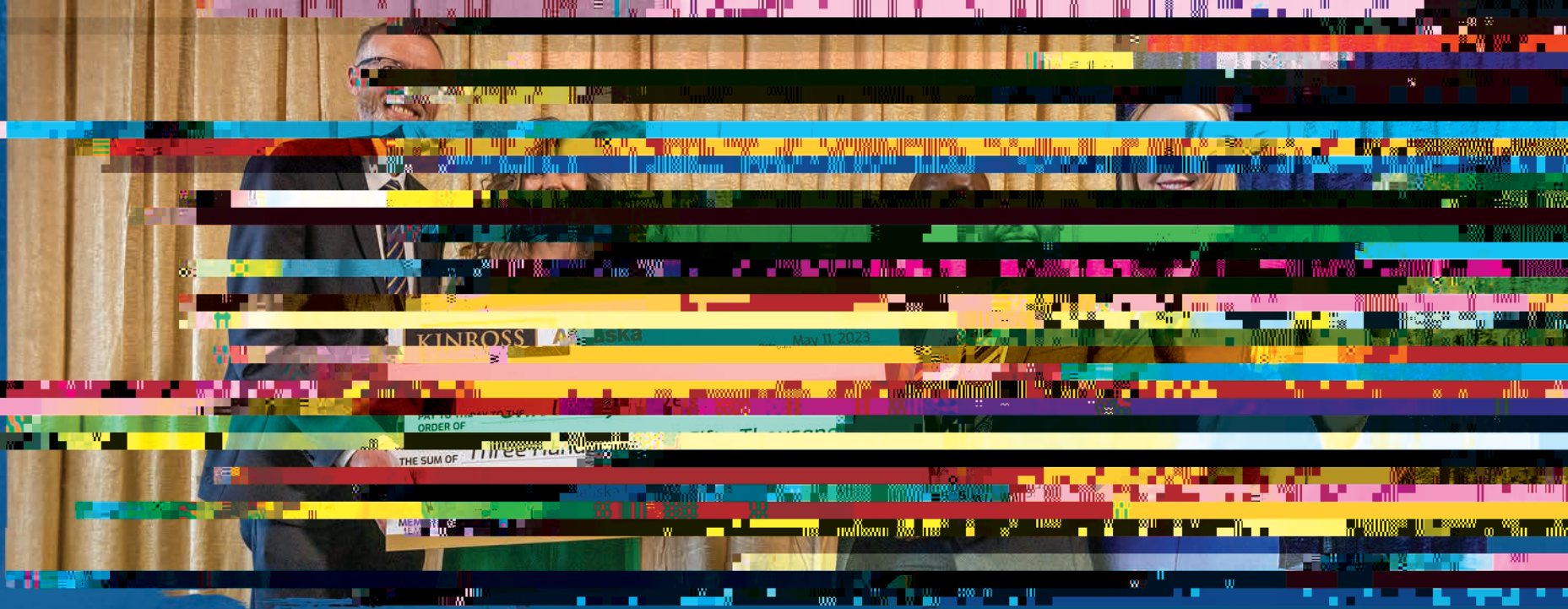
Investing in the future and building a meaningful story along the way has long been a focus of Blattmachr.

"What I love about trusts and estates is in many ways wealth is so much more than just money. It's the accumulation of a person's life's work, including their values and beliefs, and what they want to have done with it is a powerful thing," said Blattmachr. "We'd like to be part of the equation that helps people properly manage it for good, so others learn the stories behind them, doing full justice to their values and legacy."

Blattmachr's father, Doug, worked 50 years at Peak Trust Company before him. Much of his passion was sparked from this family connection, reinforcing the company's commitment to preserving the legacies of those it serves.



GIFTS AND PLEDGES



Record-Breaking Blue and Gold Celebration

Nearly 200 donors contributed more than \$435,000 for student scholarships at the Blue and Gold Celebration, exceeding amounts raised at previous events. These generous donations enable students across UAF to achieve their educational goals.

“Scholarships give students the tools they need to succeed, and they benefit our entire society by creating a more educated and equitable population,” emphasized former UAF Executive Director of Advancement Samara Taber.

A new scholarship established at the event by Kinross Alaska, a gold mining company, accounted for a significant portion of the evening’s contributions. The Kinross Alaska Future Leaders Endowed

Scholarship supports underrepresented students, such as women and indigenous peoples, in the resource development industry pursuing a vocational or baccalaureate degree.

“We hope this scholarship fosters an inclusive culture in the mining industry where people who have been historically underrepresented feel included and welcomed to contribute their perspectives, their values, and cultures,” said Kinross Alaska Vice President and General Manager Terence Watungwa.

Another highlight of the night was the Emil Usibelli Distinguished Teaching, Research, and Service Awards. Recipients were:

Distinguished Teaching Award

Amy Cooper, D.B.A., assistant professor and accounting program director at the College of Business and Security Management

Distinguished Research Award



We Work on Frozen Ground

Jim Rooney has dedicated his career to designing infrastructure built to withstand the conditions in the North. From the Dalton Highway to the trans Alaska pipeline construction, the former president of R&M Consultants has always recognized the importance of studying and engineering in cold regions.

His donation of \$100,000 to assist with the development of the UAF Arctic Engineering Enrichment Fund, provides a scholarship that supports continued engineering research in cold regions.

The idea for the fund is to “hopefully enhance opportunities to become involved in civil engineering and dealing with frozen ground and issues related to permafrost.”

Director of the Alaska Infrastructure Development Center in the UAF College of Engineering and Mines, Billy Connor, expressed that he considered Rooney to be “one of the most respected geotechnical engineers in Alaska and is recognized internationally as an expert in cold-regions’ engineering.”

Rooney is committed to sharing his knowledge about engineering in the North and ensuring that UAF engineering students continue to expand upon that knowledge. His contribution to the UAF Arctic Enrichment Fund, along with his two grandsons who have obtained civil engineering bachelor’s degrees from UAF, form a legacy.

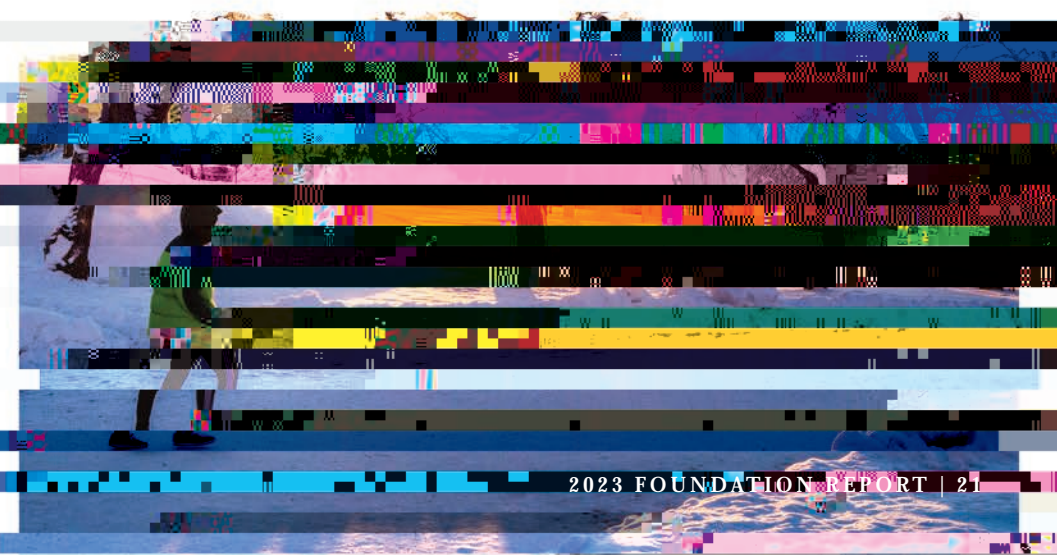
Advancing Research and Innovation Critical to Alaska

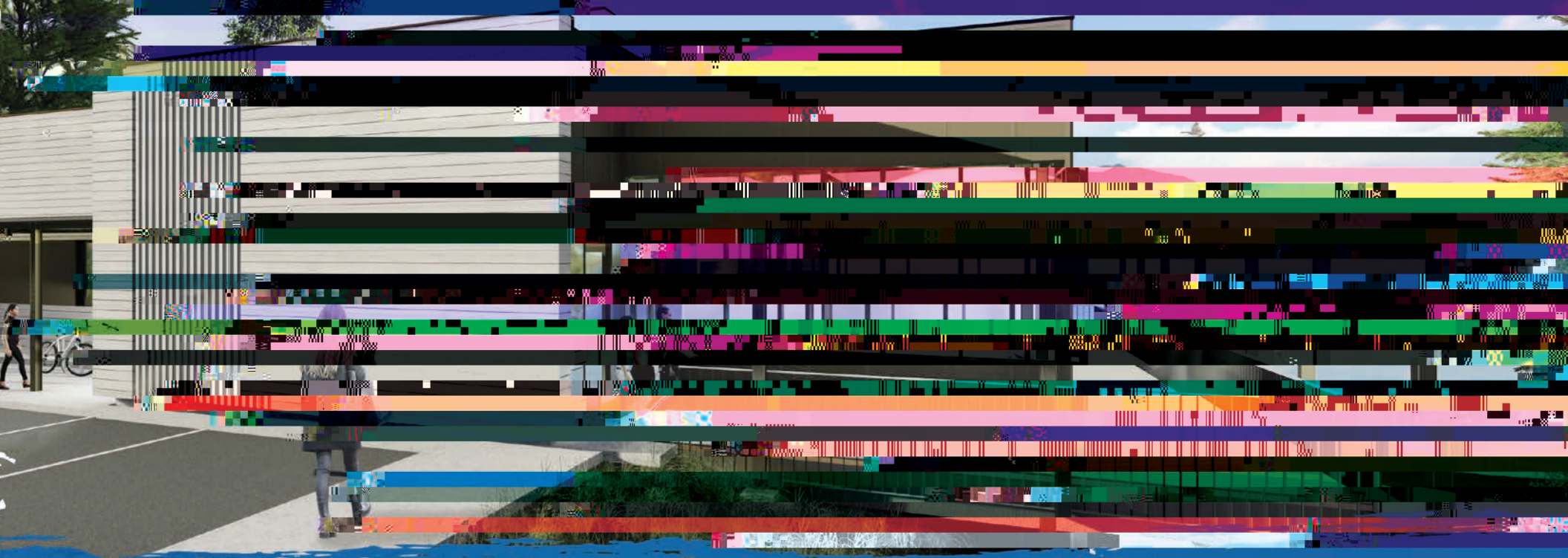
Drones delivering cargo like medical supplies, 3D models that assist in glacier monitoring, and projects in partnership with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) that improve flight safety. These are just a few innovations the Alaska Center for Unmanned Aerial Systems Integration has worked on this year.

The Alaska Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration (ACUASI) at UAF is a research center that ties actionable research, field work, and technology together to serve as a resource not only for other university departments, but also for government agencies and the private sector as well.

“Our real goal here is to help the people of Alaska,” said Cathy Cahill, Ph.D., director of UAF’s ACUASI.

ACUASI has provided valuable resources, including a 3D model of the Aialik Glacier, displayed at the Kenai Fjords National Park’s visitor center, that assists in glacier monitoring efforts. The center also partners with the FAA on projects that improve flight safety. Currently, efforts are being made by both ACUASI and the FAA to have drones deliver various cargo, such as medical supplies, to remote communities.





A New Home for Research and Education

A new 12,000-square-foot, two-level teaching and research laboratory building near the main UAS campus will be a home for teaching and research associated with the university's distinctive marine-oriented environmental and interdisciplinary science programs. The new Auke Bay Integrated Science Building should be finished for classes by late 2024.

Former UAS Chancellor Karen Carey noted, “The new building will allow our faculty to be housed together and allow them to collaborate on their research and teaching. We have waited a long time for this building to come to fruition, and we are very excited as it continues toward completion.”

The building will house several new and upgraded educational spaces and hands-on learning labs. Development has been underway since 2016, and construction formally began in early 2023.

The \$16.1 million project is funded through existing building capital funds, UAS building renewal and renovation reserves, proceeds from the sale of the Admin Services/Bookstore building, proceeds from the Board of Regents-mandated Juneau Campus Facility Fee, and internal reallocation of operating budget funds. Phase I of the project, consisting of demolition and site preparation, has been completed and Phase II construction is underway.

BUILDING FEATURES:

- Water/soils ecology lab with attached clean room
- Forest ecology/glaciology/geophysics lab with attached dry room
- Freezer room, chemical storage, and research storage room
- 40 student classroom
- Faculty offices
- Open workspaces
- Collaboration spaces

A portrait of X'unei Lance Twitchell, an Alaska Native man with dark hair and a goatee, wearing a blue jacket. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a neutral expression. The background is a blurred indoor setting.

Opening Doors for Teaching Alaska Native Language Speakers

The number of Alaska Native language speakers and preservation of language continues to decline. UAS, thanks to a partnership and funding with Sealaska Heritage Foundation, is prepared to reverse that trend. The university now offers free Alaska Native language classes as part of an effort to revitalize the Lingít, Haida, and Tsimshian languages.

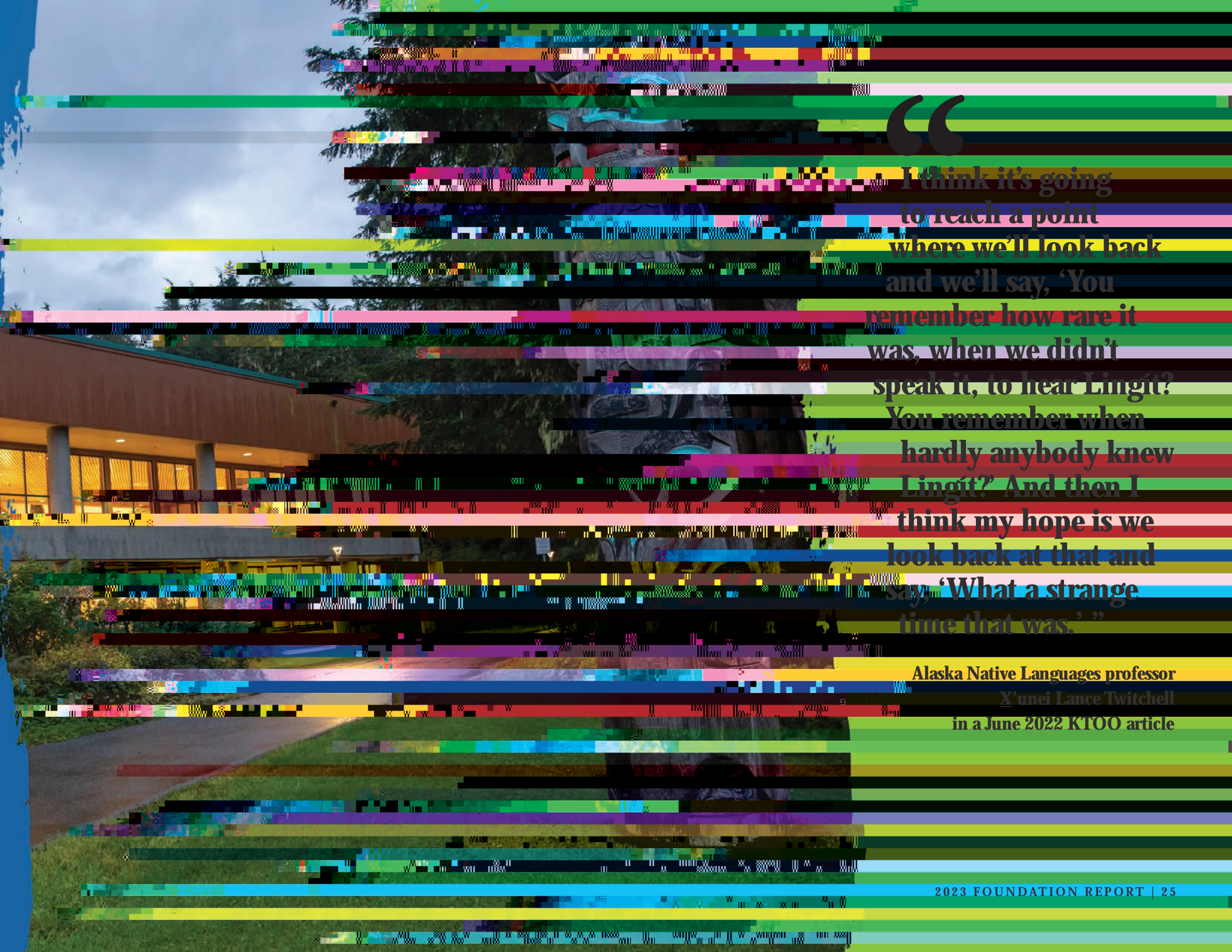
Alaska Native Languages professor X'unei Lance Twitchell shared his thoughts in a June 2022 KTOO article. Twitchell also serves on the Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council for the State.

“We kept saying, indigenous peoples did not choose to be in this situation. Our language was banished, it was prohibited, it was made illegal. We were tortured and abused and all kinds of things to get us to stop speaking. So, why should we have to pay to learn our own language? Education was a vehicle of oppression, genocide, and assimilation. So, our goal is to transform it into a vehicle of opportunity, equity, and healing. I think it’s going to be medicinal. I think it’s going to alter the course of the way things are going. And it’s really exciting.”

There is a clear need for, and interest in, language revitalization. For Arts and Sciences Dean Carin Silkaitis, M.F.A., the job is about supporting faculty and finding ways to say yes.

Dean Silkaitis told KTOO, “You have to open doors; you have to bring seats to tables. And I think creating a free curriculum is a way to create more access for people.”

The free classes are supported by Sealaska Heritage Foundation and a Language Pathways grant.



“

I think it's going to reach a point where we'll look back and we'll say, 'You remember how rare it was, when we didn't speak it, to hear Lingít? You remember when hardly anybody knew Lingít? And then I think my hope is we look back at that and say, 'What a strange time that was.'”

Alaska Native Languages professor
X'unei Lance Twitchell
in a June 2022 KTOO article

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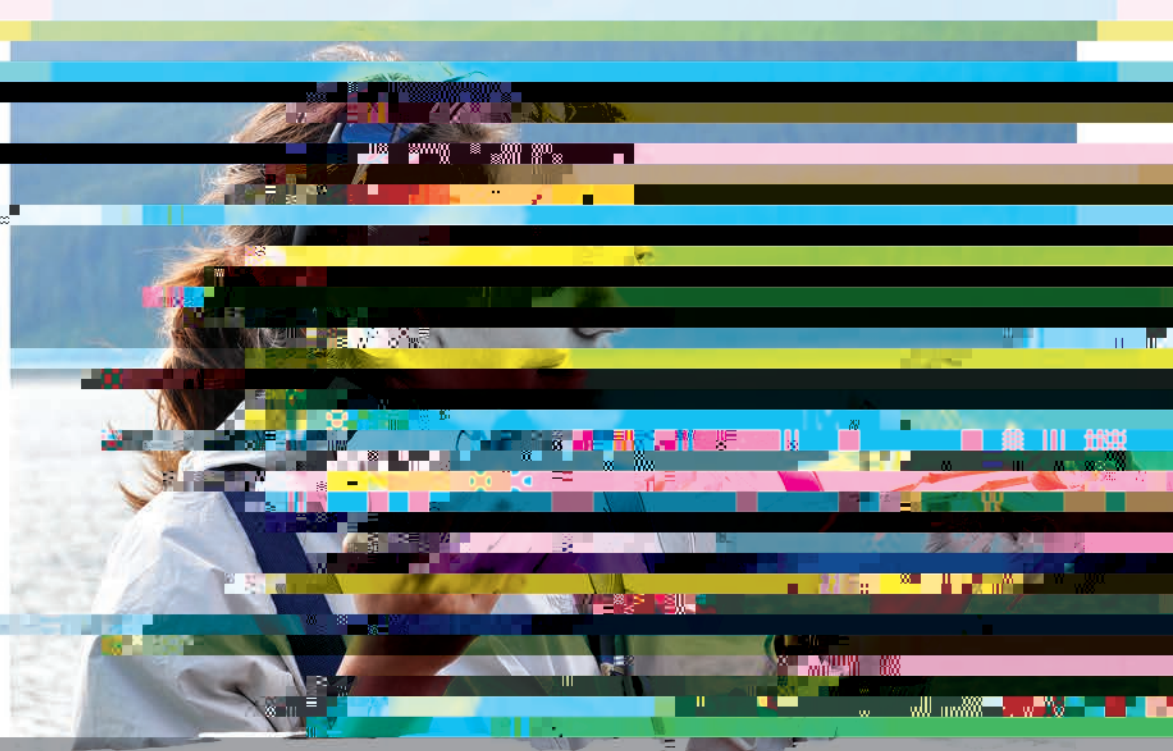
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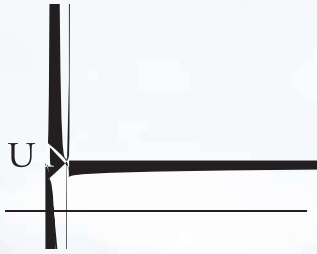
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