



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Thank You	3
Campaign Overview	4
<i>Celebrating ConocoPhillips Alaska's Impact on STEM in Alaska</i>	7
<i>Urgent Need for a Construction Workforce Bridges Industry and the University</i>	8
<i>Pursuing Big Ideas with the Rasmuson Foundation</i>	10
<i>The UAF Climate Scholars Program: Where Creativity and Science Meet to Save the Planet</i>	11
<i>Remembering a Mentor who Encouraged Others</i>	12
<i>Investing in Success with UAA's College of Engineering</i>	13
<i>A Decade of Impact: How Generosity is Fueling Research and Industry in Alaska</i>	14
<i>Partnering with Inmet's Metal Mines to Advance Research and Upskill Career Readiness</i>	15
<i>Joining Together to Change the Lives of Nursing Students</i>	16
<i>Bringing a Vision to Life: the UA Museum of the North Bowhead Whale</i>	18
<i>Major Investment Advances Research/Economic/Fiscal Policy and Expands Business Education</i>	21
<i>First National Bank Alaska Finance Lab Equips Students to Excel in the Field of Finance</i>	22
<i>Preparing Students to Meet Increasing Global Demand for Aquaculture and Mariculture Careers</i>	24
<i>Honoring a Legacy by Supporting Students with a Concentration in Native Art</i>	27
<i>College Preparation Program Helps Transition Between Rural High Schools and Urban Colleges</i>	28
<i>Increasing Access to Education, Championing Student Success</i>	30
Stories of Impact	31
<i>For Alaska Campaign Financial Review</i>	32
<i>UA Foundation FY24 Financials</i>	33
<i>Board of Directors and Executive Staff</i>	34
<i>Let's Connect!</i>	35





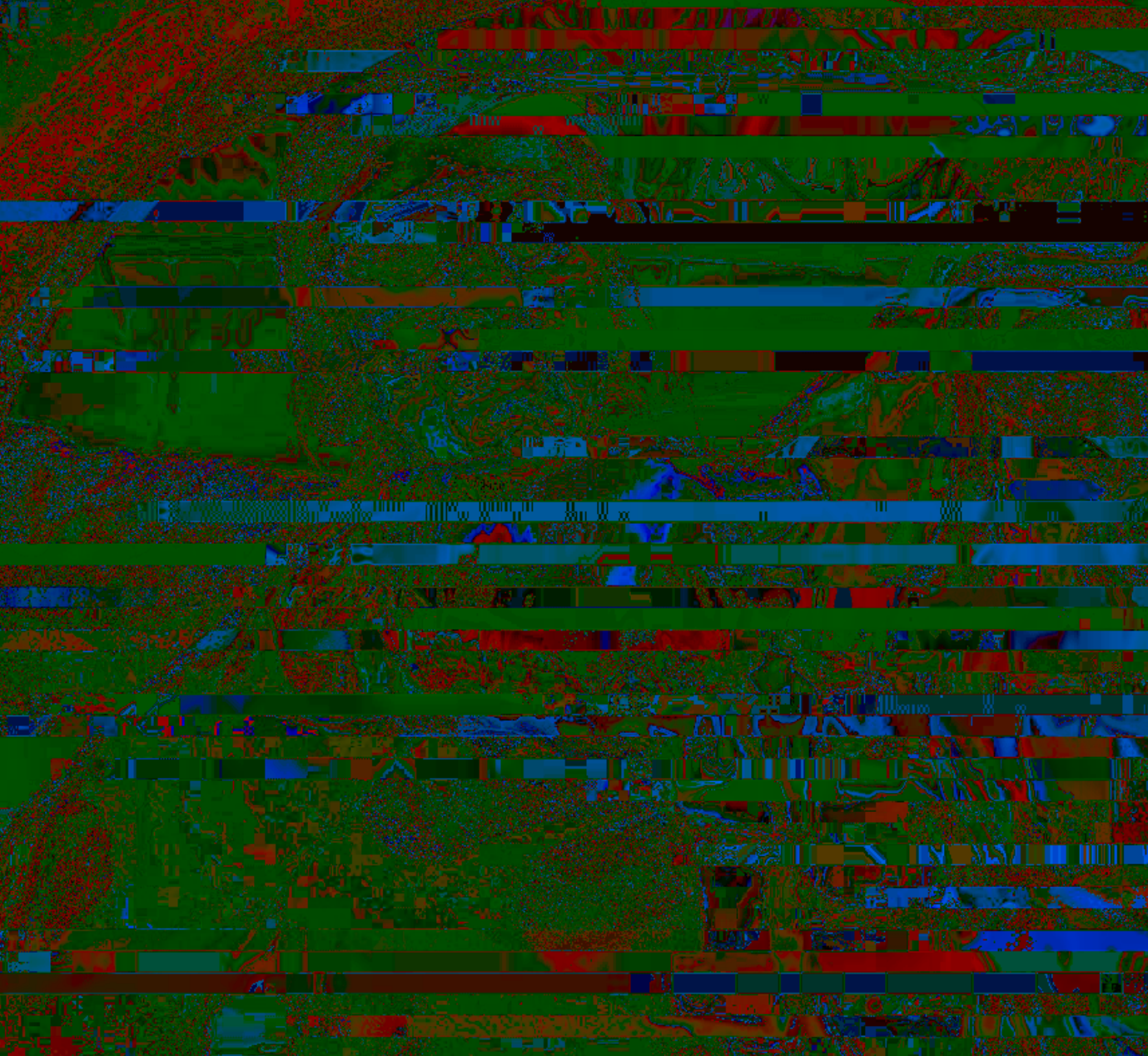
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# Research Workflow



Research Workflow

1. Research Question

2. Literature Review

3. Hypothesis Development

4. Study Design

5. Data Collection

6. Data Analysis

7. Interpretation of Results

8. Conclusion

9. Dissemination of Findings

10. Impact and Application





# URGENT NEED FOR A CONSTRUCTION WORKFORCE BRIDGES INDUSTRY AND THE UNIVERSITY

Skilled construction workers are critical to building and maintaining Alaska's infrastructure and there is a tremendous need for professionals in this area – both now and into the future. “As a long-time industry leader, donor, and University of Alaska Foundation board member, I'm concerned about the extreme shortage of workforce for construction management in Alaska,” wrote Meg Nordale, president of GHEMM Company, Inc. and current chair of the University of Alaska Foundation's Board of Directors. In 2022 when Nordale shared this concern, she envisioned further partnership with the university “to develop a plan to address Alaska's Construction Management workforce needs.”

University of Alaska President Pat Pitney also recognized the importance and necessity of training and growing Alaska's workforce. Together, Pitney and Nordale built a team to address the Construction Management Workforce Initiative. Nordale became the facilitator of the initiative's committee, composed of construction industry representatives, community members and UA employees— with representation from each of the construction programs at UAF, UAA and UAS.

Dedicated to addressing Alaska's extreme shortage of construction workforce, the committee focused on remedies to overcome the labor shortage: boosting awareness of related career pathways,

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# REMEMBERING A MENTOR WHO ENCOURAGED OTHERS

The Captain Michael A. Clinkscales Maritime Scholarship Endowment was established to provide funds for students to complete coursework needed for careers in the maritime industry.

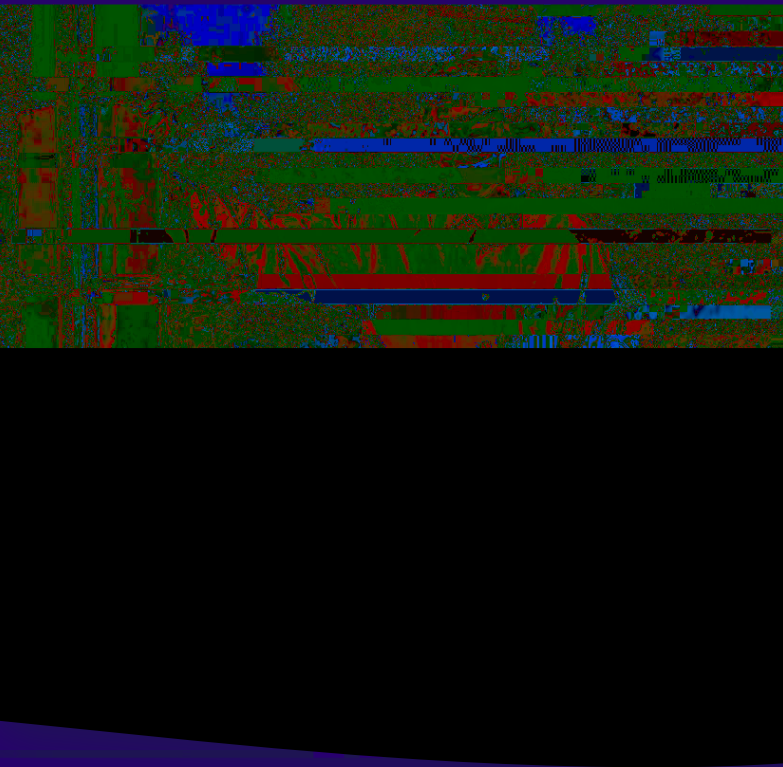
The Maritime Center, located in Ketchikan, offers a variety of programs and courses that equip students for careers in maritime trades. Marine Transportation is one such avenue in which students can choose to pursue an Associate of Applied Science two-year degree or an Occupational Endorsement track. The curriculum, approved by the U.S. Coast Guard, offers hands-on waterfront and sea time experience to improve vessel operation and navigation skills.

The memorial scholarship, which began awarding in 2022, honors former sea pilot Mike "Clink" Clinkscales. Fellow sea pilots championed fundraising efforts to create the endowment, raising more than \$38,000. "Clink" was known for his generosity and mentored other sea pilots and fishermen, several of whom noted that the scholarship was a perfect way to pay forward his encouragement to the next generation of marine transportation employees. His wife, Cynthia, shared with UAS that "he worked his way up from pot-washer to captain. It would be great for students to see that if they work hard and have the resources, they can get there, too."





# A DECADE OF IMPACT: HOW GENEROSITY IS FUELING RESEARCH AND INDUSTRY IN ALASKA



Richard W. Nyman Institute of Northern Engineer Endowment was created. His support also helped fund the UAF Engineering Innovation Grant – providing INE faculty, staff and students with funding to help develop an invention based on UAF technology.

Following Nyman's passing in 2019, UAF continued to benefit from his dedication to northern engineering through an additional gift from Blanchard, which supported equipment purchases and other needed resources. Among the numerous researchers at INE who understand the impact of this support is Dr. Margaret Darrow. Darrow, a professor of geological engineering, leads the work conducted in the Frozen Soil Testing Laboratory in INE's Arctic Infrastructure Development Center.

A proponent of research, Richard Nyman was known for his integrity, generosity and kindness. Originally from Michigan, Nyman was a long-time Alaskan. He knew the work being done at the University of Alaska Fairbanks' Institute of Northern Engineering was critical to Alaskan industries and often spoke fondly with his wife, UAA alumna Jan Blanchard '83, of his UAF memories.

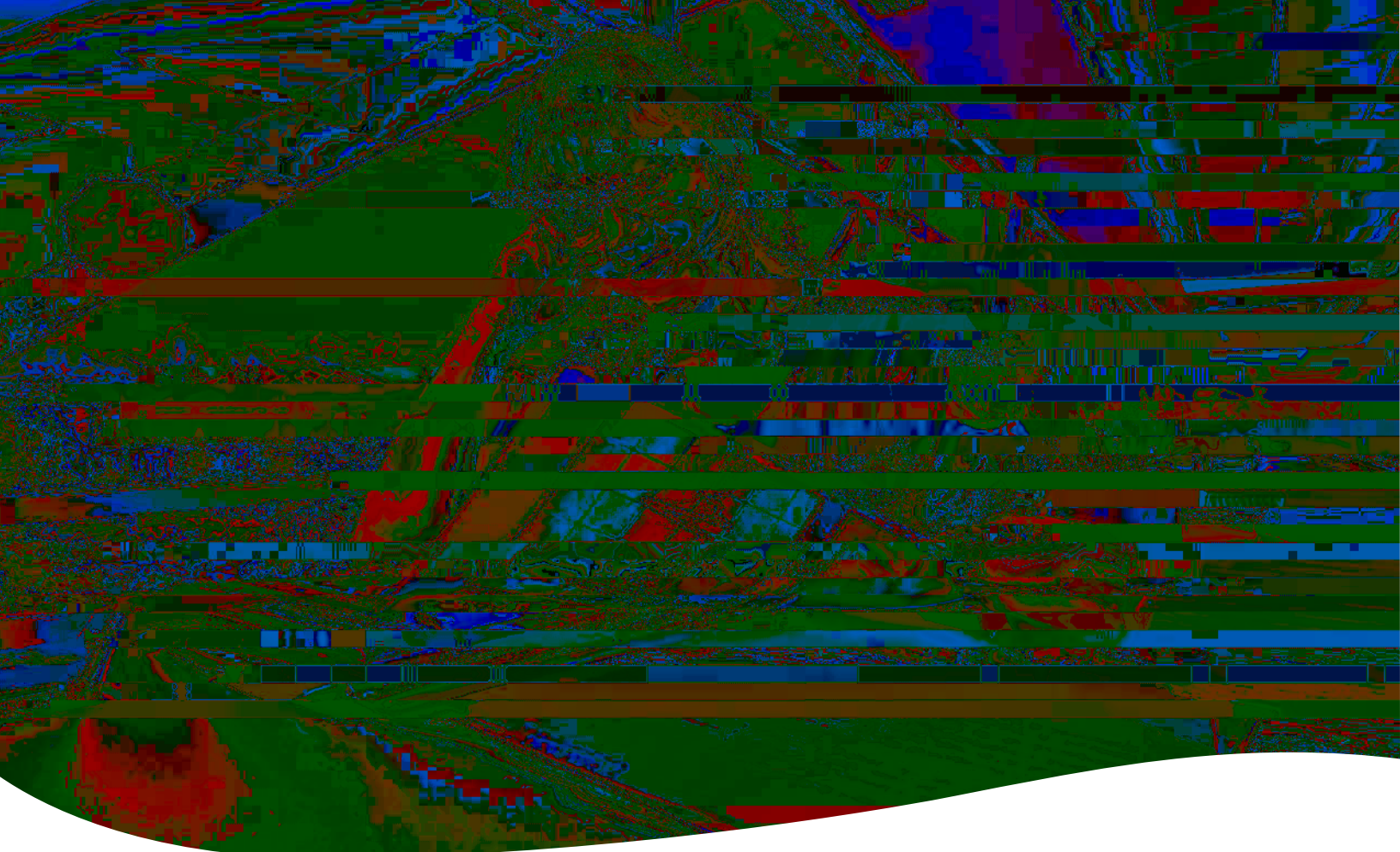
Nyman's remarkable journey included studying mining briefly at UAF in the 1950s. After working in heavy equipment and contributing to the construction of ice roads across the North Slope, he founded Nyman Equipment and was considered a leading contractor for the seismic oil exploration on the North Slope.

As the research arm of UAF's College of Engineering and Mines, INE is home to numerous centers at the forefront of cold weather and cold climate science and engineering. Following a visit to campus with Blanchard in 2014, Nyman was inspired and wanted to support the innovation and new technologies developed at INE, as well as the transfer and practical application of intellectual property into companies in the private sector. Soon after, the



# PARTNERING WITH JUNEAU'S METAL MINES TO ADVANCE RESEARCH AND UPSKILL CAREER READINESS

*the mineral endowment of Southeast Alaska supports Juneau's*



# JOINING TOGETHER TO CHANGE THE LIVES OF NURSING STUDENTS

Health care in Alaska is at a critical crossroads, with increasing demands and standing challenges for health providers. Prior to current-day circumstances, faculty members Tina DeLapp, Judy Petersen and Patti Hong knew firsthand that students often leave school due to financial constraints and the demands of balancing work, school and family. Recognizing the ongoing need for health care in Alaska, but also for scholarship support, they came together in 1997 to establish what is now called the Nursing Endowed Scholarship Fund.

The three women initiated a fundraising drive in 2018, and thanks to numerous donors, including a significant gift from the Alaska Kidney Foundation, the scholarship was permanently endowed. By 2020, the fund was providing one \$1,000 scholarship annually. Another fundraising drive was launched with the goal of being able to provide ten \$1,000 scholarships by 2025. They reached their goal in 2023.

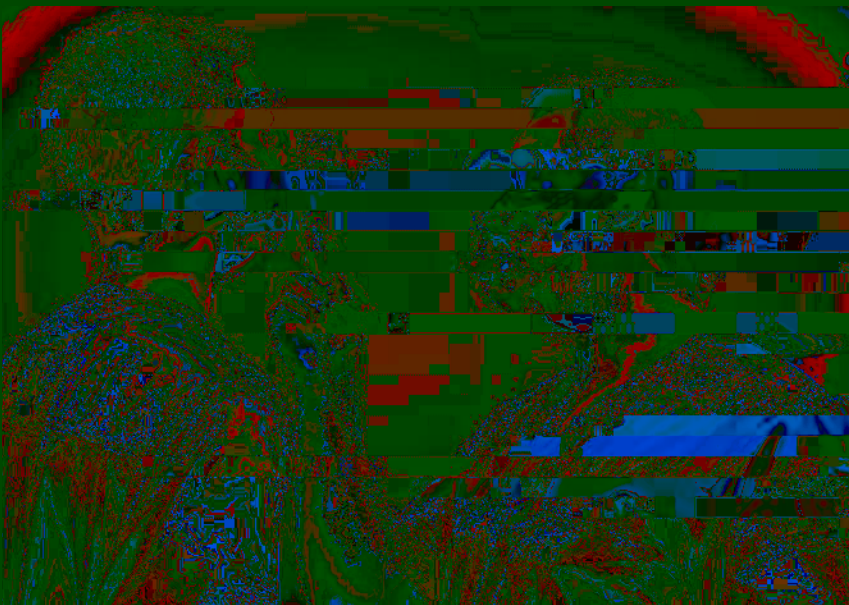
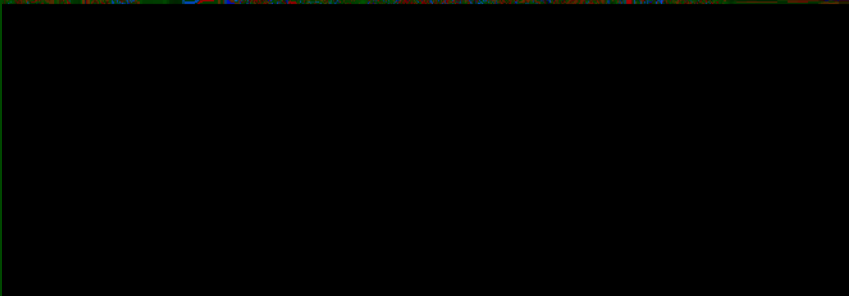
The scarcity of nurses often necessitates hiring travel nurses, a costly short-term solution that escalates health care expenses in the

long run. To help bridge the gap and meet the growing demand for skilled nurses, the University of Alaska Anchorage offers two undergraduate nursing programs (A.A.S., B.S.N.) and three graduate degrees (M.S., G.C., D.N.P.). The various UAA nursing degree programs are offered in 15 locations across the state.

For Ellie Smardo, the scholarship was a lifeline during a period of financial difficulty.

“I had a huge sense of gratitude for the opportunity to be in school and achieve my long-held goal of becoming a nurse,” Smardo said. Smardo was the first recipient of the UAA School of Nursing Endowed Scholarship in 2019-20. “When you invest in good nurses, you’re directly investing in the community.” Her statement underscores the heightened importance of health care and nursing that became more visible during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Raina Bjerke, a 2022-23 recipient of the scholarship and an Alaska Native, decided to pursue nursing during the pandemic when she was laid off from her work.



I enjoy patient care and am able to carry my compassion and empathy into rooms where people need it most," she said. "I love Alaska and plan to remain in the state. I was raised in a small village and know firsthand the need for rural care while maintaining cultural compassion and awareness."

Joseph Sadley received the scholarship in 2021-22 and is grateful for the support from donors. "The scholarship allowed him to continue supporting his family while working part-time and completing his coursework."

"The Endowed Nursing Scholarship provides someone the opportunity to have a little piece of mind, enabling focused study," Sadley said.

"Thank you so much for your generosity. It has made a difference for my family and me. I will aim to extend that generosity through service and contribution."

Established almost 30 years ago, DeLamp, Peterson and Hong paved the way for student support and retention of health care workers in Alaska. "These visionaries, with the help of other generous donors along the way, demonstrate what it looks like to make a life-changing difference, not only for students, but for health care provided to Alaskans."



# BRINGING A VISION TO LIFE: THE UAF MUSEUM OF THE NORTH BOWHEAD WHALE

The University of Alaska Museum of the North attracts more than 85,000 visitors annually. UAMN's mission combines research and teaching, and it boasts one of the largest marine mammal collections in the world, even larger than the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History.

This is a story of a long-standing vision, starting with a bowhead whale that was harvested in Utqiagvik in 1963. Its skeleton was subsequently donated to the museum and its skull put on display in the museum's Gallery of Alaska in 1984. Displaying the entire articulated skeleton had long been a museum goal. Ultimately, it was made possible thanks to a significant gift from the Bill Stroecker Foundation in 2018.

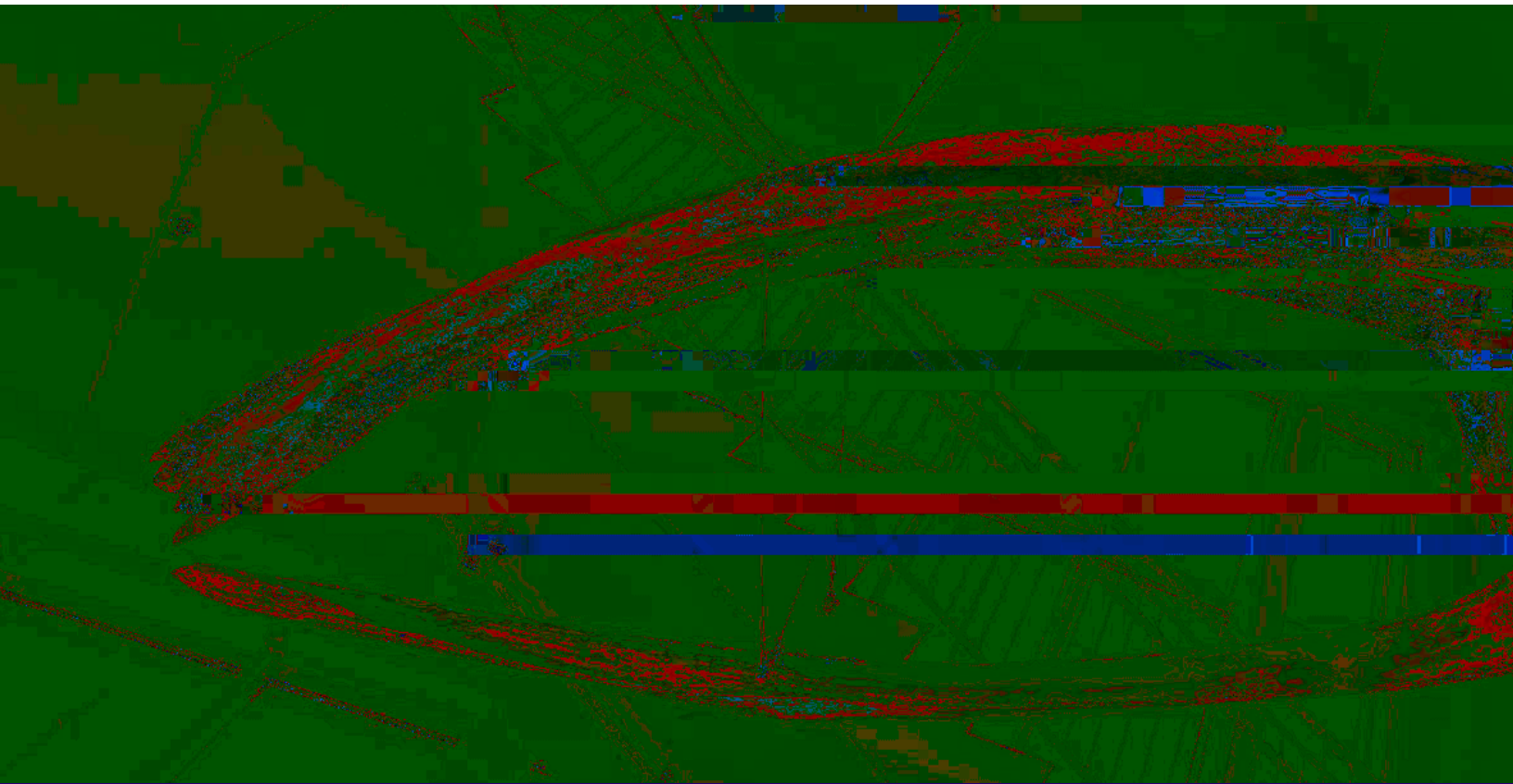
Bill Stroecker, a Fairbanks local who passed away in 2010, ardently supported the University of Alaska Fairbanks and UAMN.

The foundation he established through his estate gifted nearly \$1M to the museum, allowing the meticulous bone-by-bone cleaning and restoration of the skeleton to begin in 2020. The 42-foot skeleton, which is the length of a bowling lane and weighs close to one ton, also required structural modifications to the ceiling of the museum's lobby. Mounting the skeleton to the steel armature and suspending it from the lobby ceiling took months of work, culminating in the grand opening in June, 2021.

"Bill Stroecker cared passionately about Fairbanks and the things that brought our community together," said UAF Chancellor

Dan White. "The Stroecker Foundation made the bowhead whale display in the UAMN possible, and now the whale has become a centerpiece for the museum that meets Bill's vision for lifting up our community. I am so grateful for the Stroecker Foundation's continued support of UAF."

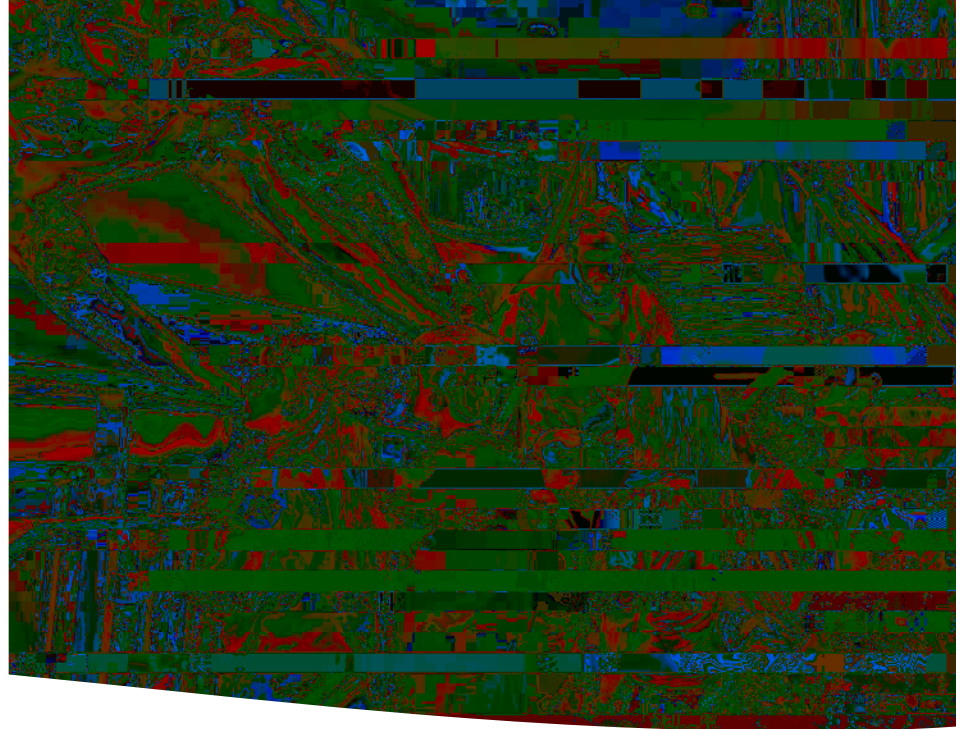
Museum Director Patrick Druckenmiller emphasized the uniqueness of the exhibit saying, "A single gift from the Bill Stroecker Foundation made possible the most jaw-dropping exhibit in the museum: a fully articulated bowhead whale skeleton suspended from the museum atrium, the only display of its kind in North America. When visitors first enter the museum, they are immediately greeted and awed by the size and beauty of this specimen."



anks to its placement in the multi-story lobby, visitors to the museum can view the skeleton from above, below, and from the right side. The skeleton is accompanied by interpretive panels that emphasize the important role bowhead whales play in both Alaska Native culture and marine ecosystems.

Druckenmiller delved into the significance of the bowhead whale.

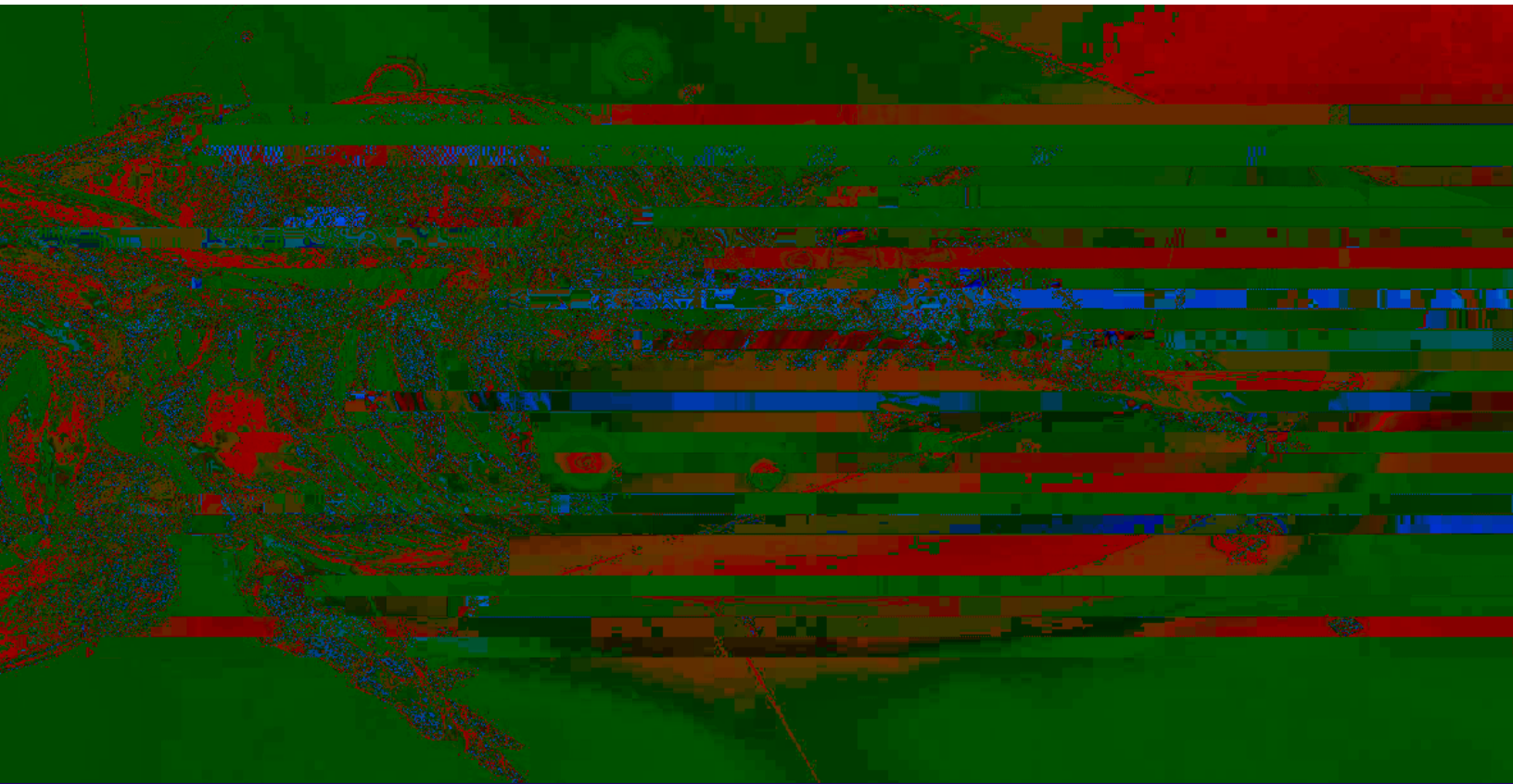
“Bowhead whales are denizens of the Arctic Ocean and are a keystone species of marine ecosystems. They are equally important to the spiritual and cultural health of Inupiat people, who rely on bowheads as a critical food resource. The goal of this exhibit is to highlight the connections between the natural and cultural significance of this remarkable species in a singular, captivating exhibit. It is highlighted in Family Day events, in docent-led school tours, and adult education offerings. It is also seen by visitors from all corners of the globe, most of whom



will never visit the Arctic to see the animal in its natural setting.”

Druckenmiller added, “Philanthropic giving is central to our museum’s success, and the Bill Stroecker Foundation gift highlights how generosity is converted into impact.

In many instances, private giving makes possible exhibits and programming that are otherwise very difficult to fund through conventional sources. This gift exemplifies alignment between a donor’s vision and the museum’s goals, creating a truly win-win relationship for all.”







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# MAJOR INVESTMENT ADVANCES RESEARCH ECONOMIC/FISCAL POLICY AND EXPANDS BUSINESS EDUCATION

Alumni, community partners and friends help make the University of Alaska the vibrant institution it is.

“Northrim Bank’s dedication to Alaska is evident in its extensive engagement with the university,” said Tlisa Northcutt, interim president of the University of Alaska Foundation. “In addition to their generous financial contributions, we have benefited greatly from the active involvement of the bank’s leaders and employees on advisory and alumni boards, as well as the foundation board.” Northrim Bank is among many businesses statewide that employ UA alumni.

A steadfast supporter of the University of Alaska system, Northrim Bank’s annual giving to UAA, UAF and UAS also includes funding for six community campuses where Northrim employees live and work: Sitka Campus (UAS), Ketchikan Campus (UAS), Kodiak College (UAA), Mat-Su College (UAA), Kenai Peninsula College

(UAA) and Northwest Campus in Nome (UAF). Northrim Bank has two endowed scholarships at UA: one in memory of Chris Knudson, a founding executive, and one in honor of Northrim’s founder, Marc Langland.

In addition, Northrim Bank chose to provide a special



## FIRST NATIONAL BANK ALASKA FINANCE LAB EQUIPS STUDENTS TO EXCEL IN THE FIELD OF FINANCE

The University of Alaska Anchorage's College of Business and Public Policy has become a finance education hub. What began as a vision has become a reality thanks to generous philanthropic support. As visitors enter the building, they are met by an impressive stock ticker in the lobby, and on the second floor, eyes are drawn to the frosted glass windows of the First National Bank Alaska Finance Lab. The state-of-the-art lab provides students with access to industry data sources and software and serves as a space for students involved with the Seawolf Investment Fund to make decisions.

After nearly half a century of giving to UA, First National Bank Alaska chose to make a special gift of just under \$500,000 during the For Alaska campaign to position CBPP as a finance education center. The gift established UAA's First National Bank Alaska Finance Lab, which opened in the fall of 2023 and will serve as a conduit for the state with the vision of interfacing UAA, UAF and UAS business students with access to classes as well as guest lectures.

"For the past century, our bank and the University of Alaska have shared a commitment to serving Alaskans," said

Betsy Lawer, board chair, president and CEO of First National Bank Alaska. "My father would take great delight in knowing that this Finance Lab will provide a learning space for students to experience hands-on opportunities before they enter our workforce. It's our honor to invest in the university's focus on producing skilled graduates who are well-prepared to meet Alaska's workforce demands and become tomorrow's leaders."

In addition to the capital support, this investment also included new technology equipment for the students and the digital



stock ticker located in the Rasmuson Hall lobby that is playing a significant role in preparing Alaska's next generation of investors. Accounting alumnus and entrepreneur Gary Klopfer, B.B.A. Accounting and Finance '81, UAA, and his wife Jane Cuddy Klopfer gave a \$1 million gift to establish the Seawolf Investment Fund, expanding the impact of the new lab facility. Klopfer considers it a privilege to help students, recalling that receiving a scholarship enabled him to complete his degree in the 1980s. He shared that their gift was "an opportunity for me and Jane to pay it forward and help UAA students and the future business leaders of our state."

Peak Trust Company also contributed to this vision through their support of the Bloomberg Terminals. Students enrolled

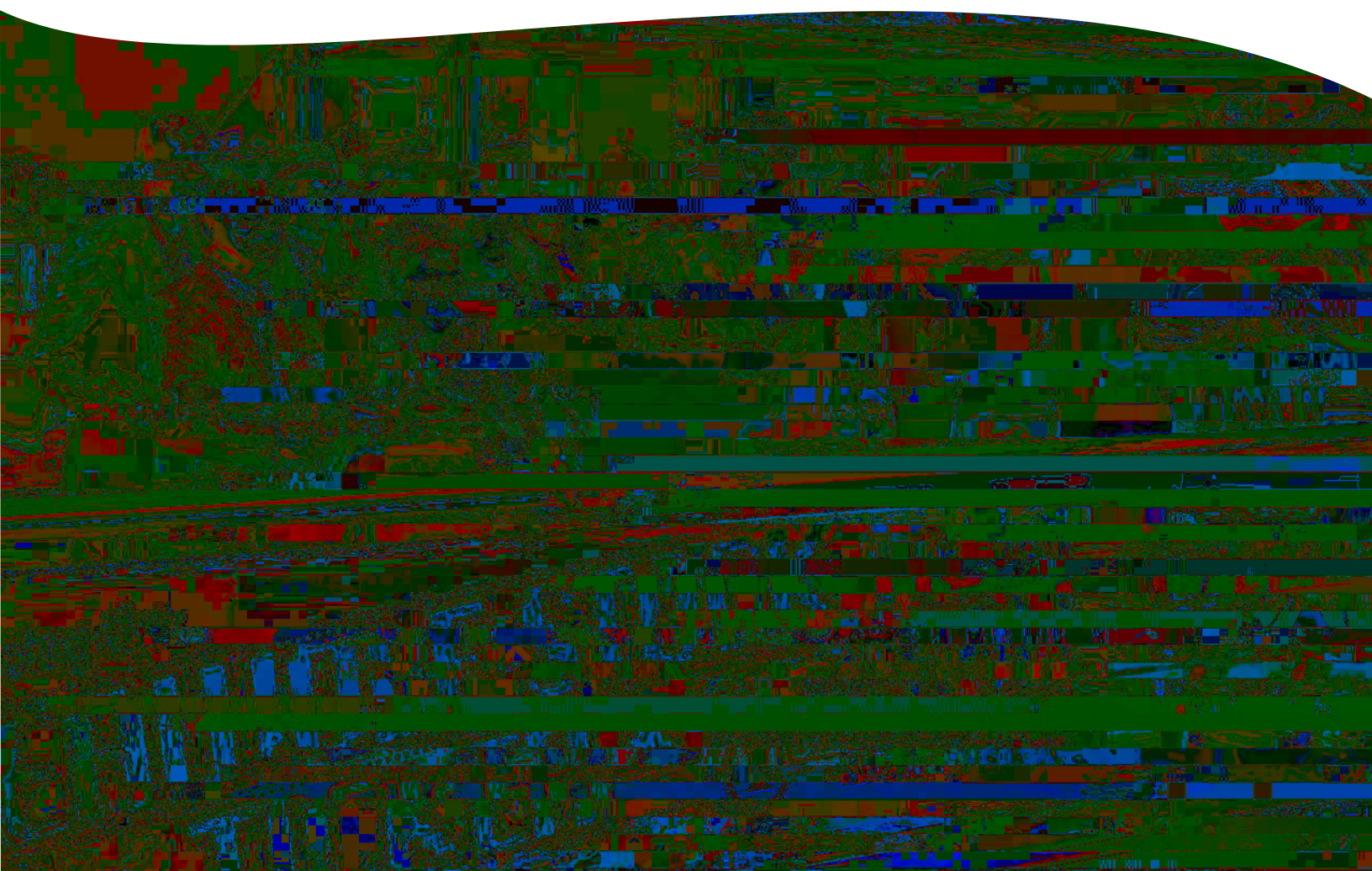
in CBPP's Student Managed Portfolio are able to gain invaluable hands-on experience through their management of the Seawolf Investment Fund. Students direct investment and portfolio analysis with real money and real stocks through this educational opportunity. Earnings are then used to support student scholarships, conferences and development.

Former CBPP Dean John Nofsinger, who was the champion and visionary of this effort, understood that a comprehensive financial education program must include two essential segments of understanding: a broad-based level of financial literacy and an advanced level of financial education. Nofsinger added, "This comprehensive approach ensures that our students are equipped with the knowledge and skills to

excel in the diverse and dynamic field of finance, including robust portions of the financial industry in Alaska."

"The First National Bank Alaska Finance Lab combined with the student Seawolf Investment Fund and other features demonstrate UAA's commitment to being a leader in finance education," said Chancellor Sean Parnell. "Supported by the generous contributions of our donors, this facility equips UAA students with cutting-edge resources to excel in the financial sector, driving economic and intellectual growth across Alaska, *For Alaska.*"

Together, the major philanthropic investments provide tangible milestones toward creating a leading finance education hub for the UA System.







program offers numerous fields of study designed to prepare students for careers in various industries. Students can choose between occupational endorsement, certification, and degree-track options in the program, which is located at the UAS Sitka campus.

All tracks are designed to address workforce needs, according to Joel Markis, program director and associate professor. Aquaculture and mariculture concentrations have been part of the program's offerings for years, but Markis noted that interest in the mariculture industry is rising. In 2022, UAS received a portion of a federal grant directed to Alaska for the mariculture industry, which is being used to grow the mariculture workforce development program. Beyond the grant, Markis emphasized that philanthropic support from industry partners, such as APA, is pivotal for the program and the hands-on training it provides.

Douglas Island Pink and Chum, Inc., better known as DIPAC, is another significant

partner to the Applied Fisheries program. DIPAC was formed in 1976 in response to legislation allowing the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to issue permits to private non-profit salmon hatcheries. The program, unique to Alaska, allows private non-profit corporations like DIPAC to own and operate hatcheries to improve salmon harvests.

Many of the concentrations in Applied Fisheries require students to develop maritime skills, such as operating small vessels and essential maintenance for outboard motors, in addition to their in-class lectures and lab work. Funding from DIPAC allowed the purchase of an inflatable boat that students learn to operate, dive out of and use for towing.

In April, the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute provided the 2024 update of the Economic Value of Alaska's Seafood Industry report. According to the report, the seafood industry contributes \$6 billion to Alaska's economy and employs more than 48,000 workers. Markis noted significant growth potential in the industry, attributing

it to increasing global demand for aquaculture and mariculture. He is grateful for the ongoing support from industry partners and individuals, who contribute to the program's workforce development efforts and its commitment to teaching responsible and sustainable practices.

"We are so proud to have the continued support of industry for the UAS Applied Fisheries Program. It is essential we are providing the hands-on learning opportunities students want and industry needs," said UAS Chancellor Aparna Palmer.







OUR CHILDREN  
ARE THE FUTURE

# Education

PROVIDE OUR CHILDREN WITH THE BEST  
AND ENLIGHTEN THEM TO KNOWLEDGE





# HONORING A LEGACY BY SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH A CONCENTRATION IN NATIVE ART

Alaska Native artist Ronald Senungetuk was a sculptor, silversmith and woodcarver of international acclaim. Born in the village of Wales, Senungetuk began his career at the University of Alaska Fairbanks as an art professor in the early 1960s. In 1965, he established the Alaska Native Art Program and became the director of the Native Art Center. In 1977, he was promoted to chair of UAF's Department of Art, a position he would retain until retiring in 1986. The University of Alaska Fairbanks paid tribute to the impact of Senungetuk and his career by honoring him with emeritus status upon his retirement and with an honorary doctorate of fine arts in 2015. In 2020, he passed away at the age of 86.

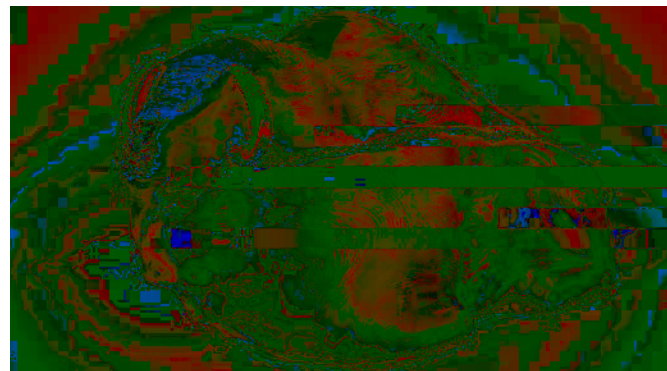
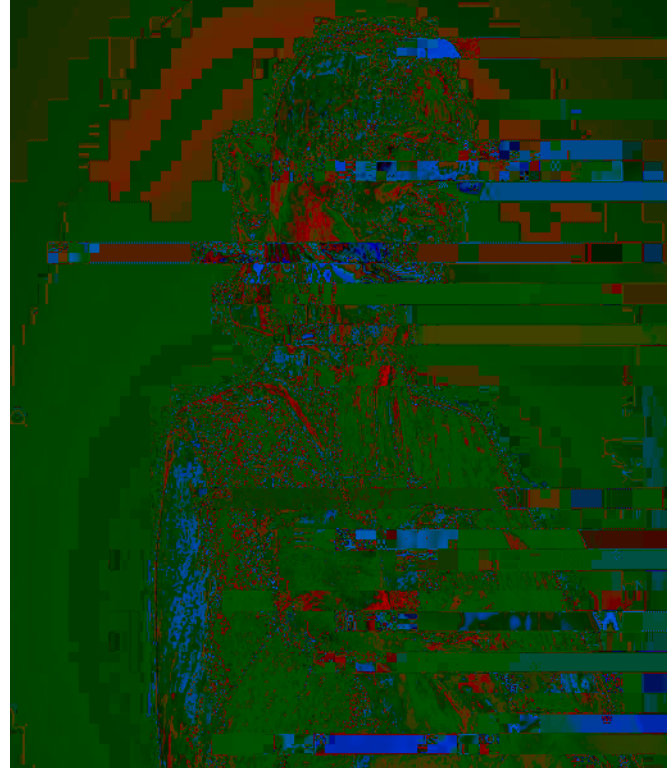
The Ron Senungetuk Art Endowed Scholarship was established by Turid Senungetuk and the family to honor her husband's legacy at UAF.

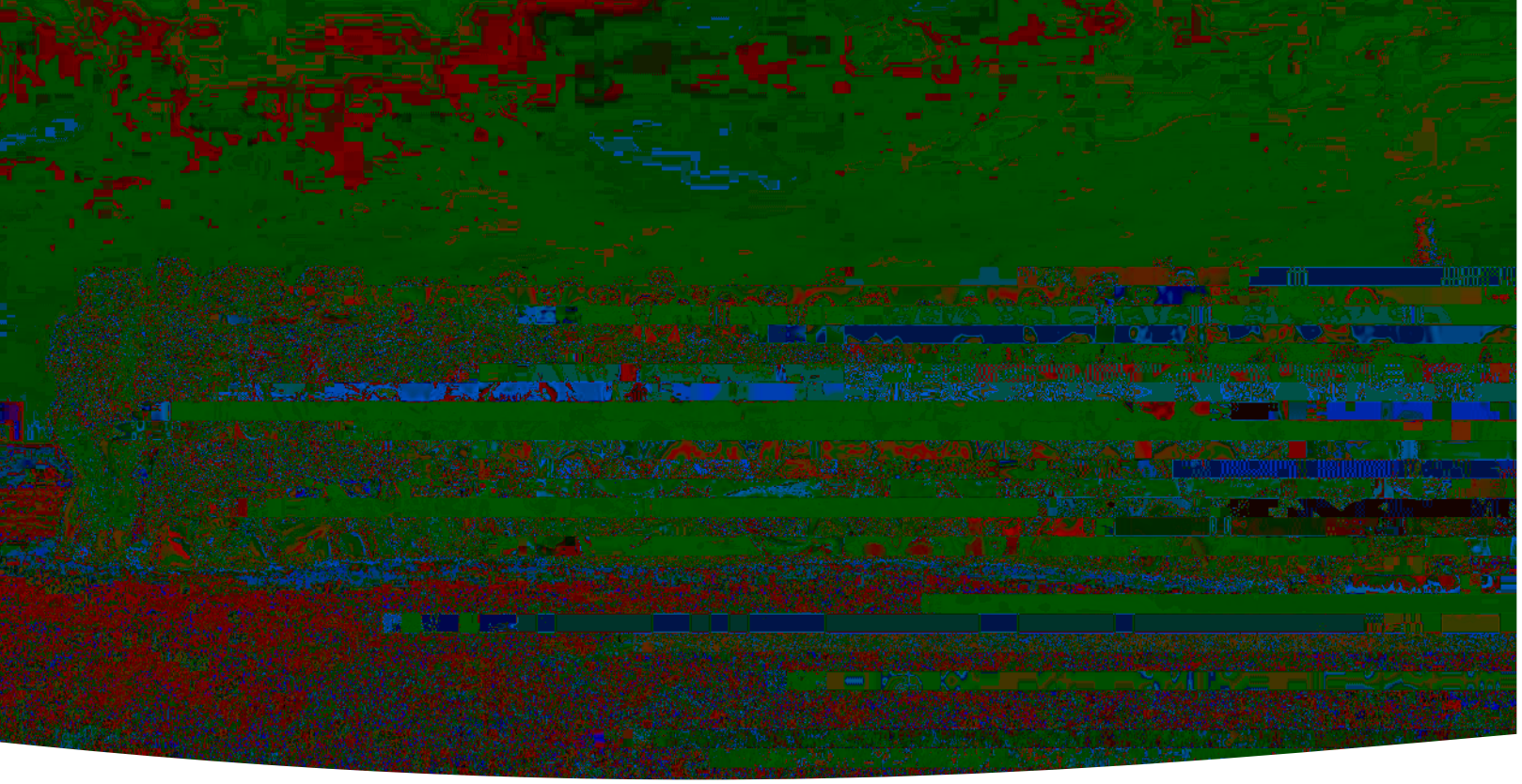
The scholarship supports undergraduate or graduate students with a concentration in Native Art. A pioneer in Native Art education, UAF offers a Master of Fine Arts degree in Native Arts, a distinction shared by only a few universities in the U.S. It is also the sole school in Alaska to offer a Bachelor of Fine Arts in this field.

The Native Art Center provides a forum for visiting Alaska Native artists and offers studio space equipped with Indigenous and contemporary tools. Senungetuk was a world-renowned artist but considered the Center one of his most outstanding achievements. Since its inception, the Center has been instrumental in paving the way for higher education for rural Alaska Native artists.

Current Department Chair and Professor of Native Art, Da-ka-xeen Mehner, greatly appreciates the Senungetuk family's generosity in supporting students. Financial support makes a lasting impact, enabling students to further their education and craft. Mehner noted how forward-thinking it was for the family to not restrict the scholarship to Native Art majors, but to open it to students with a concentration in Native Art.

The Ron Senungetuk Art Endowed Scholarship was awarded for the first time in 2023-24. The inaugural recipient was Christopher Ehlers. Ehlers developed his passion for wood carving after taking Native Art classes at UAF. Ehlers' work is highlighted in these images.









prepared them for success in college and beyond, attendees were quick to answer,

“It prepared me to live in a college environment and to manage my time with classes, homework, and study time.”

“It gave me a headstart on completing college classes and a view of what campus living was like.”

According to the current program manager, Brianna Pauling, these sentiments mirror comments that many graduates have shared throughout the years. Established in 1983, RAHI measures success through graduation rates; the program now boasts 1,896 graduates through the 2023 cohort. Following RAHI graduation, 100% of participants graduate high school and 46% go on to obtain their college certificates or degrees.

While Pauling is the only year-round employee, about 30 people are involved with each cohort, including faculty, and 46% go on to obtain their college certificates or degrees.



Caroline "Carrie" E.B. Lewis had a deep connection to Alaska, having made it her home since the early 1980s after a single visit to the state. A graduate of Tufts University, she was trained as a medical tech. An avid alpine skier, she bragged that she was one of the first outsiders to ski at Alyeska, later joining the ski patrol. Despite her modest lifestyle, Lewis was a generous philanthropist, primarily supporting education and health care initiatives.



Lewis began contributing anonymously to the University of Alaska Anchorage through her donor-advised fund, with the only restriction on her giving being "no bricks or mortar." First-generation student scholarships were a priority of the chancellor at the time, and Carrie's annual contributions supported that effort. She enjoyed hearing the stories of impact through the thank-you letters she received from scholarship students and chose to endow the First-Generation Student Scholarship Fund in 2012. At the same time, she also created the Alaska Endowment for Excellence, a fund that's only restriction was, again, "no bricks or mortar." She wanted the chancellor to have the flexibility to respond to evolving high-priority and pressing needs within the university community.

Upon her passing in 2020 at the age of 90, Lewis left an incredible legacy gift in excess of \$16 million, devoted to ensuring access to education and supporting student success through two endowments she had previously established.

In honor of Lewis, UAA is utilizing the funds to support its aspiration of putting students "first" – the Learning Commons, a collaborative peer-to-peer learning initiative that provides tutoring and coaching at no cost to students, is one area benefiting from Lewis' generosity. The Learning Commons' outreach includes the Writing Center, Math Lab, Communication & Presentation Coaching, English Language Learning support and subject-specific tutoring. Both in-person and online support is available through the program.

The Recruitment and Retention of Alaska Natives into Nursing program is another area receiving Lewis' support. The RRANN program supports Alaska Natives and American Indians through their nursing education to increase the number of highly skilled and culturally competent nurses and promote positive change to improve the quality of health care within Alaska communities.

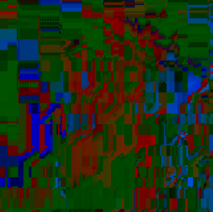
Lewis' transformative gifts illustrate her devotion to higher education in Alaska. Roberia "Bob" Riechart, UAA director of development, emphasized that Lewis "wanted to help more Alaskans pursue their academic dreams in their home state," and that is what she did. "We are humbled to have the opportunity to carry her vision forward," Riechart said.

As we look ahead, our vision is a vibrant, bold tomorrow for all Alaskans. To achieve this vision, our university system strives to:

- Support students and empower them through education
- Champion the unique qualities and strengths of each student
- Prepare our workforce through specialized training
- Serve as an incubator of ideas, support business and grow our economy
- Lead research and knowledge-sharing, relevant to Alaska and the Arctic region
- Provide the skills and scientific knowledge needed to address some of the world's biggest challenges
-



# ALUMNI AND FRIENDS SOCIETY (FY 2022-23)



2022

2023

## BY UNIVERSITY

UAA	\$89M
UAF	\$37M
UAS	\$14M

## BY GIFT TYPE

Cash	\$219,811
Planned	11
Other	1

Total donors	21,777
First-time donor	12,020
Alumni donors	8,054
UAA	9,695
UAF	11,690
UAS	976

New funds created to support students, faculty and programs across UA	405
New scholarship funds	231
New professorships/chairs to support faculty excellence	8
New endowed funds, creating support in perpetuity	191

As of Jan 30, 2020

Cash and Cash Equivalents	106,000,000
Interest and Dividends Receivable	675,000
Commissions Receivable	1,000,000
Other Receivables	1,000,000
Other Investments	1,000,000
Loans Following Funds	106,000,000
Remainder Trusts Receivable	675,000
Bequests Receivable	1,000,000
Other Assets	1,000,000

\$

Administrative

Athletics	1,000,000
Business and Management	1,000,000





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THANK YOU TO EVERYONE  
WHO SUPPORTS THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA.

TOGETHER, WE ARE SHAPING  
TOMORROW...

As we build a more diverse, equitable and inclusive future, we acknowledge the Indigenous People of the land on which we work and live. We honor our Alaska Native people.

*For Alaska* campaign art created by Amanda Rose Warren to represent the waters of Southeast, the mountains of South Central and the northern lights of the Interior and the North.

