



***Fifty-Third Annual  
Commencement***



**Sunday, May 5, 2024  
2:00 PM**

**Charles Gamble Jr.–Donald Sperl  
Joint Use Facility**





## *To our extraordinary graduates*

As Chancellor of the University of Alaska Southeast, I want you to know how proud we are of you and thankful we are to you for choosing to learn at UAS. Reaching your goals takes strength, courage, and resilience. It also takes discipline and sacrifice. Because of all of these traits and your hard work, you have been successful! It's time to celebrate!

As you continue on your journey and realize many more of your dreams, remember that you will always have a home here. As one of our alumni, we look forward to hearing from you and learning about your future successes!  
Go Whales!

Congratulations!

*Aparna Dileep-Nageswaran Palmer*

Chancellor Aparna Dileep-Nageswaran Palmer, PhD



COMMENCEMENT 2024

*Order of the  
Ceremony*

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## **\*Academic Procession**

Led by the Mt. Juneau Tlingit and Woosh.Ji.Een Dancers

Grand Marshal: Professor Glenn Wright, PhD, President of Faculty Senate

## **Traditional Welcome**

Áak'w Kwáan Elder Ms. Frances Houston

## **\*The National Anthem & Alaska's Flag Song**

Anthem: Ms. Alyssa Fischer

Flag Song: Ms. Kristina Paulick

## **Introduction of Dignitaries and Commencement Remarks**

Chancellor Aparna Dileep-Nageswaran Palmer, PhD

## **Conferring of Degrees**

Vice President of Academics, Students, and Research Paul Layer, PhD

Chancellor Aparna Dileep-Nageswaran Palmer, PhD

Provost Maren Haavig, DBA

## **Recognizing of UAF Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts to**

### **Ms. Della Sdaahlk'awaás Cheney**

Chancellor Aparna Dileep-Nageswaran Palmer, PhD

## **Meritorious Service Award**

Mr. John Greely and Ms. Marla Berg

## **2024 Commencement Student Speaker**

Mr. Devyn Reece

## **Vice President's Remarks**

Vice President of Academics, Students, and Research Paul Layer, PhD

## **Charge to the Graduates**

Vice President of Academics, Students, and Research Paul Layer, PhD

## **Closing of 2024 Commencement**

Chancellor Aparna Dileep-Nageswaran Palmer, PhD

\*Audience stands

# *Degree Recipients 2024*

The University of Alaska Southeast is pleased to honor graduates from 2024 in this year's ceremony. UAS students pursue their studies from many different locations across Alaska. We offer congratulations to those graduates who could not be here today.



## **Honors**

**SCL** *Summa Cum Laude* - 4.0 G.P.A.

**MCL** *Magna Cum Laude* - 3.8 G.P.A.

**CL** *Cum Laude* - 3.5 G.P.A.

All college work attempted, including that attempted at other institutions, is considered in the calculation of honors. Honors at commencement are based on grades through the fall semester, and calculations may be revised after spring grades have been posted. Honors are not awarded to certificate and graduate degree students.

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# 2024 UAS DEGREE RECIPIENTS

## *Certificate*

### **Accounting Technician**

Janelle Rose Otton  
Kirsten Leanna Sanchez  
Andrea Michele Scharen  
Shannon C. Sexton

### **Drafting Technology**

Jarvis Pitka Evans  
Shauna L. Riddensdale

### **Outdoor Skills & Leadership**

Gage Lee Bowman  
Eli Kartik Kniazowski  
Trevor Layman  
Thatcher Demille Lowney  
Yarrow J. Platt  
Cassidy L. Somerville

### **Pre-Nursing Qualifications**

Carrie Anne Brockett  
Katlyn Anne Fergusson  
Haylee W. Hill

### **Small Business Management**

Faith Kristen Collins  
Jasmine M Hibbert  
Leslie D. McCarty  
Andrea Michele Scharen  
Meagan Spencer

## *Associate of Arts*

Jessica Linnea Arasmith  
Nicole Corral Bolanos  
Miles H. Caldwell  
Karmen Lyn Campbell **MCL**  
Erin C. Cole  
Andrew J. Dilley  
Serena N. Draskowski  
Amy Elizabeth Gilson  
Matthew G. J. Gore

Berni H. Hein **SCL**  
J. Selmon Holland IV  
Alyson Huber  
Grace Madison Igel  
Brett Henniger Jack **CL**  
Valeria M. Jimmerson  
Vanessa DeAnna-Clayre Kelley  
Eli David Kesten-Brackett  
Hailey Luder  
Deborah A. Lyons  
Son'A A. Mulgrew-Truitt  
Lexie A. Phillips **CL**  
Danielle Elise Reese  
Jacob Joseph Brian Serka  
Tania Nicole N. Thomas **CL**  
Dior Grace Vaughan  
Andrew Jacob Weller  
Kiele C. Wise  
Dylan C. Wood **CL**

## *Associate of Applied Science*

### **Business Administration**

#### **Accounting**

Ann Marie Morris **MCL**  
Reuella T. Nierra  
Danicia Faith Shirayev

#### **General Business**

Jessica R. Albertsen  
Tina Marie Salar Canete  
Kaycie B. Carter **MCL**  
Faith Kristen Collins  
Riley K. Deal  
Andrew J. Dilley  
Evan D. Fabrello **CL**

### **Construction Technology**

Jarvis Pitka Evans

# 2024 UAS DEGREE RECIPIENTS

## **Health Sciences**

### **Medical Assisting**

Janna Nicole Geller  
McKenzie Dillian Sagoonick

### **Pre-Nursing Qualifications**

Arianna F. Marquardt  
MacKenzie R. Parker  
Kara Lynn Whitehead

## **Power Technology**

### **Diesel/ Heavy Duty**

Jimmy Fisher Baggen **CL**

### **Mine Mechanic**

Jacob John Bergquist  
Kristofer D. Ely **CL**  
Brayden Popovich  
Orion P. Swanson **CL**

## *Associate of Science*

Erin Jocelyn Abbott **CL**  
Alexis C. Grundmann  
Genevieve Nicole Ley  
Ashley I. Szoke **MCL**

## *Bachelor of Arts*

### **Biology**

Keefer Lee Garrison Brown  
Erin Kasey Johanson

### **Elementary Education**

Morgan Paige Abrams **CL**  
Sheridan L. Bacon **SCL**  
Jubilee N. Carroll **MCL**  
Genevieve A. Fayette  
Alyssa Marie Howard  
Jessica Lynn McGonigal **MCL**  
Emily Anne McMahon  
Laiken A. Monahan **MCL**  
Vandalyn Victoria Saetern-Hudson  
Payten Annette Stroud **CL**

Cheyenne Janae Ticket-Foote  
Alyssum Joy Hyunjoo Veldstra **CL**  
Jack M. Waters  
Alice Marie Williams  
Sarah Elizabeth Wright **CL**  
Nadire Zhuta Bytyqi **MCL**

## **English**

### **Creative Writing**

Sienna Disnee Chubak **CL**  
Deborah Elaine Karlik  
Brittany Elise McCarthy **MCL**  
Martin Lucas Reid

### **Literature and the Environment**

Autumn Grace Daigle **CL**

### **Environmental Studies**

Joshua Aaron Dietz  
Lydia Anna Hentzen **CL**

### **Outdoor Studies**

Matthew Steven Schiffrer

### **Social Science**

Junnie Chup **CL**  
Stephanie N. Cimmino  
Christian Trenton Michael English  
Anna N. Kahklen **CL**  
Christopher Joseph Kolstad  
Courtney E. MacArthur  
Lisa-Marie Madruga **CL**  
Michell Matta de Azevedo  
Quinn Emery Pearson  
Kristy Lee Peterson **CL**  
Wynn Ethel Tripp

### **Special Education**

Jamie Lee Fabricante Finley  
Jessica Lynn McGonigal **MCL**  
Christian Peter Victorious Moore  
Amy Peterson  
Anthony Devyn Reece **MCL**



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## 2024 UAS DEGREE RECIPIENTS

### *Bachelor of Business Administration*

#### **Accounting**

Mariah Arthur  
Billy J. Demmert  
Julia L. Haakenson **CL**  
Brittany M. Ivy  
Kitri Joi Michael **MCL**  
Jonathan M. Raymond **CL**  
JoyLynne Uddipa Ribao  
Lydia Rose Shumaker **CL**  
Krista Marie Stricklan

#### **Human Resource Management**

Isis Blu Bates **MCL**  
Austin Ronald Eastham **CL**  
Elizabeth Eilean Mears  
Anthony Morris Mikes  
Laura Alice Ryan **MCL**  
Rebecca Ann Scudder **CL**

#### **Management**

Kyler C. Alderfer **MCL**  
Courtney Allred  
Tessa Rae Cavanaugh  
Breanne Carol Erickson  
Julia Deanna Fonov  
Maria D. Gonzalez  
Alice Elizabeth Johnson  
Lindsay Jane Malone  
Cindy French McMorris  
Megan E. Muir **CL**  
Denali L. Ruhle  
Krishant Chandrukumar Samtani  
Margaret E. Shorey  
Lydia Rose Shumaker **CL**  
Jarald Adam G. Soriano  
Emma Sandra Twitchell

Jessica Kristine Whitaker **MCL**  
Elise Wright **MCL**

#### **Management Information Systems**

Lisa M. Digou  
Hannah L. Lager **CL**

### *Bachelor of Liberal Arts*

#### **Alaska Native Languages and Studies**

Justice Elizah Dominy **CL**

#### **Interdisciplinary Studies**

Milagro L. Darby **MCL**  
Megan Lea Lingle  
Catherine Alexandria McRoberts  
Stefanie Anne Murphy  
Elizabeth Doehne Tallmadge

### *Bachelor of Science*

#### **Biology**

Emilion Tahtinen Boyd-Tucker **MCL**  
Naomi Wynn Boyles-Muehleck  
Audrey Marie Giddings **CL**  
Ricardo Andres Medina Soler  
Ashley Marie Murphy  
Kiley Ann Stevens  
Zachary David Tozier

#### **Environmental Resources**

Rosalyn Maris Rudy  
John B. Seymour  
Ria Amber-Rose Smyke **MCL**

#### **Environmental Science**

Lindsay Louise Sparks  
Abigail Emery Watts **CL**

# 2024 UAS DEGREE RECIPIENTS

## **Fisheries and Ocean Sciences**

Michaela Nicole Mansholt

## **Marine Biology**

Devon Kyle Alcorn

Daniel Luke Brunet

Matthew Thomas Harl

Holly Kate Matea Hoffbauer

Julia G. Illar

Francesca Helena Johnson

Soren Kite

Breanna Rae Lovell

Taylor Nicole Ranney

Charlotte Brooke Springer

Natalie Katherine Starkey

Helena I. Wayne

## **Mathematics**

Cassandra Lynn Suryan

## *Master of Arts in Teaching*

### **Elementary Education**

Sierra Elizabeth Afoa

Courtney Beckham

Heather S. Caldwell

Andrea Kennedy Wilt Duncan

Yvonne Renee Gregg

Robin Joyce Kornfield

Erin Michelle Leighton

Kathy Renae Lien

Matthew Brandon Liston

Anne Frances Schuerger

Samantha J. Vonnahme

Holly Lela Michelle Wiley

### **Secondary and Middle Grades Education**

Elizabeth Faith Castillo

John D. Dandridge

Jackson Bourne Dickinson

Kevin J. Fleming

David Henry Francis

Emily E. Hatley

Conner Johnson

Michael William Justa

Kassidy Nicolle Kaiser

Lindsay M. Layland

Natalie Jade Lervaag

Robert Ostrom

Angela L. Oudean

Allen Mallari Santa Maria

McLain Dameron Sidmore

Josephine Thuya

Emily Brooke Worley

### **Special Education**

Jeannine C. Bryan

Edward Steven Irish Jr.

Sean Christopher Johnson

Jonathan Orion Povelite

Lisa Diane Sullivan

## *Master of Education*

### **Educational Leadership**

Michael Justin Bushey

Jennifer Christa Edwards-Fahl

Clayton M. Ellsworth

Kathleen Rose Fisher

Melissa Jo Fritsch

Sadira Hearse

Anastasia Diane Ishnook

Daniel R. Kullander

Robin L. Lockwood

Lillian Ann Mae Olson

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## 2024 UAS DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Sarah Colvin Osborne  
Ivy S. Shelton

### **Reading Specialist**

Marina Margaret Crow  
Josephine Alexandra Daniels  
Amanda Eileen Friendshuh  
Alexis Eden Gubatayao  
Harmony Elizabeth Rushton  
Mary Ruth Zink

### **Special Education**

Jodi Lynn Grewe  
Alexandra Taylor Hurley

## *Master of Public Administration*

Andrea L. Clark  
Tenor Abel Galambush  
Marcos Ynez Galindo  
Miles Jarvis Gibson  
Mary Elizabeth Graves  
Danielle G. Marcano  
Marina I. Ogai  
Katheryn E. Powers  
Michelle Denise Price  
Kathleen Elizabeth Sorensen  
Luke Wadey  
Margaret Kay Winston

### **Higher Education**

Alexis Caitlynn Bertram  
Jessica Leigh Driscoll

### **Natural Resource Policy**

Bernadette Aanavak Fischer

### **Rural Development**

Adeline Marie Kameroff  
Maurine Frances McGinty

Lang Van Dommelen

## *Graduate Certificates*

### **Elementary Education**

Amanda Lynn Aloysius  
Caleb Anderson  
Cora A. Bontrager  
Jana Marie Bryner  
Lorrene Faith Chiklak  
Hayley Jo Day  
Emelia Katherine Crawford Jackson  
Krista L. Jacoby  
Paxton Potter  
Jacob Michael Srijan Potts  
J. Reuel O. Prather  
Heather Y. F. Shelton  
Jessica Y. Shouse  
Alexandra Julia Waldschmidt

### **Secondary Education**

Leslie Anne Varys

### **Special Education**

James H. DiGennaro  
Jodi Lynn Grewe  
Dorrien M. Hendrickson  
Todd Michael Nemyo  
Elizabeth Fraya Routzahn

### **Superintendent**

Henry B. Burns  
Kari Lee Dendurent  
Jerry Richard Fisher  
Erin Elizabeth Haviland  
Andrea T. Nield  
Jessica Lynn Parker

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## 2024 UAS DEGREE RECIPIENTS

### *Occupational Endorsements*

#### **Accountant**

Andrea Michele Scharen

#### **Behavioral Health Assistant**

Miles H. Caldwell

John Winston Drips

MacKenzie A. Hemminger

Nicole G. Marcano

Lila Rose Murdoch

Alejandra Roman-Cruz

#### **Certified Nurse Aide Training**

Cayla M. Boshell

China R. Nelson

May Perez Ramirez

Kitara Kristine Sweet

#### **Residential/Light Construction**

##### **Exterior Finishes**

Cody Ellen Wilkes

#### **Power Technology Diesel/ Heavy Duty**

Keanen M. Jensen

#### **Welding**

Weston L. Andersen

Jimmy Fisher Baggen

Owen P. Berger

James V. Bouschor

Candace E. Calvin

Brian East

Cheyenne H. Herline

Leighton D. Lowe

James C. Miller

Dennis Aaron Stoner

### *University of Alaska Anchorage*

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### *Associate of Applied Science*

#### **Nursing**

Ance Kvasnikova **MCL**

Kristen Taylor Mowdy

Christianna Torgerson **MCL**

### *Bachelor of Arts*

#### **Anthropology**

Elizabeth Michael Kell

### *University of Alaska Fairbanks*

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### *Associate of Arts*

Eli Lydon Giudice **CL**

### *Bachelor of Arts*

#### **Social Work**

Shannon C. Bible

Patrice Lillian DeAsis

Margaret D. Haube

John Henry Hawkins Jr.

Eunice E. James

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## 2024 UAS DEGREE RECIPIENTS

### *Master of Science*

#### **Fisheries**

##### **Tristan Noble Glendenning Sebens**

B.S. Computer Science and Biology,  
University of British Columbia, 2014

Thesis Title: *Accuracy and Precision  
of Model-Based Abundance Indices  
Estimated by Intercalibrating Data from  
Multiple Surveys*

Major Professor: Dr. Curry  
Cunningham

### *Doctor of Philosophy*

#### **Fisheries**

##### **Lia Katherine Domke**

B.S. Marine Biology & International  
Development Studies, Dalhousie  
University Halifax, 2016

Thesis Title: *The Role of Apex Predators,  
Habitat, and Seascape Complexity on  
Nearshore Fish Assemblages in Southeast  
Alaska*

Abstract: Nearshore marine ecosystems contain dynamic and complex habitats that offer shelter and prey for juvenile, migratory, and residential fish species. These fish communities are structured by habitat type, presence of apex predators, and seascape context. Understanding ecological dynamics is vital for evaluating how the nearshore supports robust fisheries.

Major Professor: Dr. Ginny Eckert

##### **Courtney E. Hart**

B.A. Earth and Planetary Science,  
University of California, Berkeley,  
2006

Thesis Title: *Uncovering the Patterns  
and Mechanisms of Wintertime  
Occurrences of Paralytic Shellfish  
Toxicity in Alaska's Geoduck Clam  
Fishery*

Abstract: This research explores the patterns and mechanisms of paralytic shellfish toxicity in Southeast Alaska's commercially harvested geoduck clams. Alaska's commercial fishery for these giant clams is a small but lucrative fishery and the presence of these toxins can cause disruptive declines in fishery openings and harvest.

Major Professor: Dr. Ginny Eckert

# *Outstanding Student Academic Awards 2024*



**Adeline Marie Kameroff**

*Master of Public Administration, Ernest Gruening Award*

**Lisa M. Digou**

*Bachelor of Business Administration, Management Information Systems*

**Matthew Steven Schiffner**

*Bachelor of Arts, Environmental Studies*

**Milagro L. Darby**

*Bachelor of Liberal Arts*

**Berni H. Hein**

*Associate of Arts*

**Jessica Kristine Whitaker**

*Bachelor of Business Administration, Management, Bob Ellis Award*

**Abigail Emery Watts**

*Bachelor of Science, Environmental Science*

**Laura Alice Ryan**

*Bachelor of Business Administration, Human Resource Management*

**Faith Kristen Collins**

*Certificate, Small Business Management*

**Ria Amber-Rose Smyke**

*Bachelor of Science, Environmental Resources*

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# *Outstanding Student Academic Awards 2024*



**Kitri Joi Michael**

*Bachelor of Business Administration, Accounting*

**Ann Marie Morris**

*Associate of Applied Science, Accounting*

**Edward Steven Irish Jr.**

*Master of Arts in Teaching, Special Education*

**Kari Lee Dendurent**

*Graduate Certificate, Superintendent*

**Andrea Kennedy Wilt Duncan**

*Master of Arts in Teaching, Elementary Education*

**Sheridan L. Bacon**

*Bachelor of Arts, Elementary Education*

**Matthew Thomas Harl**

*Bachelor of Science, Marine Biology*

**Sienna Disnee Chubak**

*Bachelor of Arts, English*

**Emilion Tahtinen Boyd-Tucker**

*Bachelor of Science, Biology*

# *Ms. Della Sdaahlk'awaás Cheney*

*UAF Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts*



Joining us today in celebration is master weaver and Indigenous knowledge bearer Della Sdaahlk'awaás Cheney. Cheney has received an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Born and raised in Kake, Cheney learned the art of weaving and the importance of sharing traditional knowledge from her grandmother. She has practiced and taught weaving for decades, combining ancestral wisdom with contemporary concerns about environmental stewardship. She has documented her knowledge through photos and videos, and, in 2017 published her book, *Weaving Our World*.

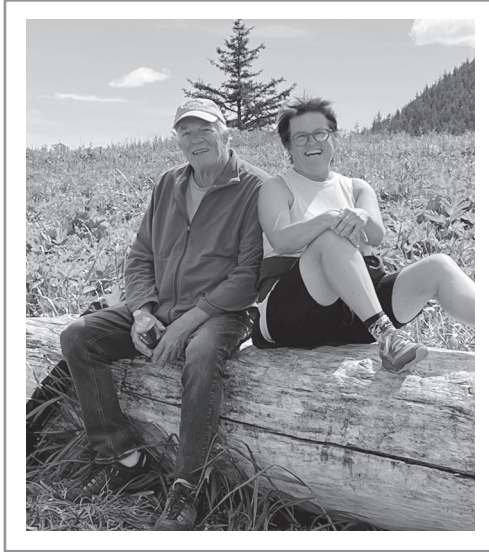
Cheney has received many awards, including the Alaska Federation of Natives' Culture Bearer Award, the Juneau Arts and Humanities Council's Mayor's Award and the President's Everyday Hero Award from the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. She was executive secretary in the Office of the Governor, tribal administrator for the Qutekcak Native Tribe, cultural educator at Floyd Dryden Middle School and external relations coordinator for Sheldon Jackson College. She completed the Community Fellows Program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



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# *Mr. John Greely & Ms. Marla Berg*

## *Meritorious Service Award*



John Greely and Marla Berg have served the community of Juneau in many ways for over 40 years. John and Marla strive to ensure Juneau is a great place to live for everyone, regardless of their socio-economic status. They have been instrumental in helping to secure funding of essential services by leading committees and organizations through a variety of crises affecting the Juneau population.

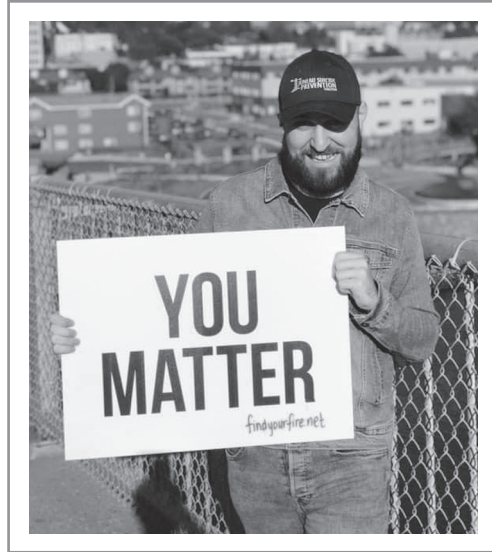
John and Marla were foundational members of Meals on Wheels in Juneau.

John's service to the community includes the Association of Alaska School Boards and Catholic Community Services.

Marla served on the board of the Glory Hall for more than seven years, during which time she was one of the key people in the creation of the Juneau Housing First Collaborative, serving vulnerable people by providing permanent supportive housing. She, working with state and local agencies, advocated tirelessly for this project to elected officials and other funders. She was an invaluable resource during the COVID pandemic, working to create a new emergency shelter facility. She was a founding member of the "100 Women Who Care" organization, now grown to over 3,000 members, contributing over \$30,000 to local nonprofits.

# *Mr. Devyn Reece*

## *Student Speaker*



Born and raised in Colorado, Devyn Reece moved to Juneau in 2011. Devyn has spent the majority of the past 13 years working for the Juneau School District (JSD) and today he graduates with a Bachelor of Arts in Special Education.

He began his career at JSD as a special education paraeducator. Currently, Devyn is the lead teacher of the Developmental Education Classroom (DEC) at Mendenhall River Community School.

In addition to teaching and attending school full time over the last year, Devyn

was also a nominee for the 2024 Inclusive Practice Award through the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, served on the Transforming Special Education task force, and was appointed to the Deaf Education Board for the State of Alaska.

Devyn is joined today in celebration by his husband, family, and friends. At the end of May, 2024, Devyn will begin his pursuit of a Master's in Applied Behavioral Analysis with an emphasis on Autism and a Deaf Education Certificate.

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# *Alaska's Flag Song*

Alaska's Flag  
Words by Marie Drake  
Music by Elinor Dusenberry

Eight stars of gold, on a field of blue  
Alaska's flag, may it mean to you  
the blue of the sea, the evening sky  
the mountain lakes, and the flowers near by  
The gold of the early sourdough's dreams  
the precious gold of the hills and streams  
the brilliant stars in the northern sky  
the bear, the dipper, and shining high  
the great north star with its steady light  
o'er land and sea, a beacon bright  
Alaska's flag to Alaskans dear,  
the simple flag of the last frontier

# *Best wishes to all our new alumni!*



*Congratulations on your graduation! I hope you continue to stay connected to UAS as you forge ahead into the future.*

—JASPER VIC SORIANO, ALUMNI RELATIONS MANAGER, UAS CLASS OF 2019

On behalf of the UAS Alumni Association, congratulations on achieving a milestone event in your life – earning your degree! As you embark on your new path, we hope you will remember the time you spent with the University with fondness. We'd love to keep in touch with you. As you are now an alumnus of UAS, please consider joining the UAS Alumni Association to stay connected with the University, be invited to special events, and show your support for UAS.

***Stay Connected!***

***Become a member of UAS Alumni & Friends Association.***

**[uas.alaska.edu/alumni](https://uas.alaska.edu/alumni)**



**UNIVERSITY  
of ALASKA  
SOUTHEAST**

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