
Joe Usibelli, ’59, ’96H*, and Peggy Shumaker, professor emeritus, were presented with the Eugene R. Wilson Award in November 2013 (on National Philanthropy Day) by the Association of Fundraising Professionals for their contributions and dedication to philanthropy and nonprofit groups.

1950s

Joe Tremarello, ’58, ’68, was inducted posthumously into the Alaska School Activities Association’s Hall of Fame in August 2013. His wife, Ann Tremarello, ’57, accepted the plaque and citation on his behalf.

1960s

Carol Johnson, ’68, earned a bronze medal in the women’s singles 65–69 age bracket in table tennis at the World Senior Games in St. George, Utah. Jane Parrish, ’97, and Carol teamed up to win the gold medal in the women’s 65–69 age mixed doubles. Carol also won bronze in the 65–69 mixed doubles with Bob Janes of Juneau.

1970s

Mary Hughes, ’71, was appointed to the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges, the country’s premier authority on higher-education governance. She is the first Alaskan to serve on this national board. She is also the longest-serving member on UA’s Board of Regents.

Toni Mallott, ’72, received the Citizen of the Year Award at the 2013 Alaska Federation of Natives Convention in Fairbanks.

*H = honorary degree
C.B. McNeil, ’59, president of the first graduating class from the state university (all previous classes were from the territorial university), retired in September 2013 after 29 years as a Montana state district judge. Read more at http://bit.ly/CBMcNeil.

Stephen Jewett, ’77, ’97, received the 2013 Conrad Limbaugh Award for Scientific Diving and Leadership from the American Academy of Underwater Sciences. He is a research professor in the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences at UAF.

Bill O’Leary, ’87, is the new president and CEO at the Alaska Railroad Corp. He was born and raised in Fairbanks, and began his new position at the railroad in November 2013.

Jeff Roach, ’87, was promoted to colonel in the Alaska Army National Guard in Fairbanks on Oct. 25, 2013. Jeff currently commands the 38th Troop Command, a brigade-size unit with more than 1,000 troops stationed around Alaska. During his 32-year career as an Army aviator he has flown the UH-1H/V, OH-58A/C and the UH-60A/L helicopters. His deployments include a tour in Europe in support of Operation Joint Guard, a tour in Afghanistan supporting Operation Enduring Freedom and a tour in Kosovo in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He is a recent graduate of the U.S. Air Force Air War College, where he earned a master of strategic studies degree. Jeff’s awards include the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal and the Combat Action Badge. He is married to Sherilyn and has three children, Amber, Daniel and Victoria. Jeff lives and works in Fairbanks, where he is the northern region planning manager for the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.

Douglas W. Huber, ’54, and Anne M. Huber, ’53, ’61, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in Denver on Aug. 23, 2013. They have lived in Austin, Texas, since 1991.

“We are 1953 and 1954 graduates of UAF. We were married in Fairbanks, and our three children were born there. Later, I taught music at Joy Elementary School, and after getting out of the Army, my husband also taught in the UAF mining engineering department for seven years under Earl Beistline and Don Cook. We enjoyed our years at UAF very much.”

1980s

Michael A. Abels, ’80, was inducted into the U.S. Martial Arts Hall of Fame July 20, 2013, as a silver life member for 30-plus years in martial arts training.

Carl F. Benson, ’86, was inducted into the Alaska Nanook Hall of Fame in 2013. Carl was named UAF’s Male Scholar Athlete honor in 1985 and 1986. He was named Alaska’s Most Valuable Swimmer in the 100-yard breaststroke and third in the 200 breaststroke. He received Alaska’s Most Valuable Swimmer honor in 1985 and 1986 and was named UAF’s Male Scholar Athlete in his senior year. Carl is now the principal scientist for a Fairbanks environmental consulting firm.

1990s

Pat Pitney, ’90, was one of 14,000 people to carry the Olympic torch on its journey to the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia. She traveled with several other torch bearers to the North Pole on a Russian icebreaker. Pat is the vice chancellor of administrative services at UAF.

Herb Maschner, ’89, teaches at Idaho State University and is the director for the Idaho Museum of Natural History. He visited the UA Museum of the North last summer to complete a project creating an online database of bones from every known arctic bird, mammal and fish. The Virtual Zooarchaeology of the Arctic Project can be seen online through Idaho State University. Read more at http://bit.ly/Maschner.

John David Rausch Jr., ’89, was inducted into the Academic Hall of Fame of Tulpehocken High School in western Berks County, Penn., in 2013. He graduated from THS in 1985. Dave is the Teel Bivins Professor of Political Science at West Texas A&M University in Canyon, Texas.

Paul Krejci, ’89, ’90, ’93, ’10, traveled to the Canadian Arctic to find the remains of an arctic trader, Joe Bernard, who died 100 years ago. The trip was research for Paul’s book, In Search of a Stranger.

Jennifer Moss, ’92, displayed her work called “Edge of the Wild” for the Art in Heart Association.

John David Rausch Jr., ’89, was inducted into the Academic Hall of Fame of Tulpehocken High School in western Berks County, Penn., in 2013. He graduated from THS in 1985. Dave is the Teel Bivins Professor of Political Science at West Texas A&M University in Canyon, Texas.
Jeremy Vermilyea, ’92 — “Found out I have been named as one of U.S. News and World Report’s 2013 ‘Best Lawyers.’ Who’d a thunk it?”

Mark Lomax, ’97, ’06, is director of Substance Use Disorder Programs for Akeela.

Jane Parrish, ’97, earned a silver medal in the women’s singles 65–69 age bracket in table tennis at the World Senior Games in St. George, Utah. She teamed up with Carol Johnson, ’68, to win the gold in women’s doubles.

Carmen Randle, ’98, was awarded the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the city of Fairbanks from the Government Finance Officers Association.

James Soileau, ’98, was awarded the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the city of Fairbanks from the Government Finance Officers Association.

Jeff Kulawiak, ’99, is project manager of business continuity for Premera Blue Cross in Washington.

Michele Harmeling, ’06, is the membership development coordinator and board secretary for the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce. Prior to joining the chamber, she worked in nonprofit, outreach and volunteer management roles at the Alaska Center for Performing Arts and other organizations in Washington state.

Lacie Grosvold, ’08, joined the KTUU Channel 2 News team in November 2013 as a reporter and multimedia journalist with a focus on investigative news.

2000s

Meadow Bailey, ’00, is the development director for the American Heart Association in Fairbanks.

Teisha Simmons, ’00, ’03, received the Hannah Solomon Woman of Courage Award at the 2013 Alaska Federation of Natives Convention in Fairbanks.


Kristen Sullivan, ’01, ’08, is the owner of Ruby Snacks, which has evolved into a full-time business of natural dog treats. The company is named after her sweet dog, Ruby, who has since passed.

Joe Hardenbrook, ’02, and Anna Sorenson, ’06, are co-partners with Christopher Quist in a café on Driveway Street, near the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner offices. It is properly named the LUNCH Café and Eatery.

Joe Kemp, ’02, is the technical engineer in the State Pipeline Coordinator’s Office for the Alaska Department of Natural Resources in Anchorage.

Heather Gaines, ’03, married M. Scott Moon Sept. 21, 2013, in Nikiski, Alaska. She is a registered nurse at Central Peninsula Surgical Services in Soldotna and lives in Kenai.

Gail Dabaluz, ’10, is the director of business and economic development for the Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

Clarissisa (Dicke) Toupin, ’12, received a five-year teaching fellowship from the Knowles Science Teaching Foundation. The KSTF Teaching Fellowships aim to improve science, technology, engineering and mathematics education in the nation by building a stable, sustainable corps of STEM teacher leaders.
Jennifer (Caims) Johnson, ’04, won an election in November for the Ward 1 warden position in Waterville, Maine, over her husband, David. They have been married 10 years and have three children.

Grace Farstad Raisharma, ’04, and Chirag Raisharma, ’08, have a daughter, Eve, a toddler, and had their second child in February. Chirag is a petroleum engineer for the State of Alaska’s Division of Oil and Gas.


Lanien M. Livingston, ’04, was hired as the HR recruiter for the Tanana Chiefs Conference in August 2012 [not November as previously published].

Etsuko Pederson, ’05, was awarded an individual artist award for music composition by the Rasmuson Foundation in May 2013 in Anchorage. Visit her on the web at www.etsukokimura.com/.

Maria Anastario, ’06, is the HeW Grant project manager for the Renton Technical College in Renton, Wash.

Ralph Elook, ’06, is the community counselor for Title VII Indian Education at Service High School in Anchorage.

Angelina Santa Ana, ’06, is a training specialist for the Southcentral Foundation in the Family Wellness Warriors Initiative.

Iris (Wood) Sutton, ’07, displayed her art “Gulls Perch” for the Art in Heart Project in downtown Fairbanks last fall. Her “Raven and Ermine” art was selected for the 2014 KUAC poster.

Jamie (Beyerle) Gray, ’09, was inducted into the Alaska Nanook Hall of Fame in October. A former NCAA Division I rifle All-American, she competed at UAF from 2002–2006 to help win the team championships in 2003, 2004 and 2006. She earned individual national titles in air rifle in 2003 and smallbore in 2006. She competed in the 2008 Beijing Olympics, taking fourth in air rifle and fifth in smallbore.

Rachel Roy, ’09, is the economic development director in Sitka.

Kristen Shake, ’09, ’12, participated in an arctic science expedition in July 2013 aboard the Canadian Coast Guard icebreaker Sir Wilfrid Laurier, cruising in the northern Bering and Chukchi seas. The work was part of the National Science Foundation-sponsored Distributed Biological Observatory that will comprise five field seasons. Shake is conducting research at Clark University on arctic marine policy. Read more at http://bit.ly/KristenShake.

Theresia Schnurr, ’12, earned a BS degree at UAF and was one of UAF’s top runners and skiers throughout her undergraduate career. She was awarded the Marion Frances Boswell Memorial Award in 2013. In October Theresia defended her master’s thesis, which examined glucose transporter-4 (or GLUT4), an insulin-responsive glucose transporter, in white blood cells of sled dogs. She began the research as an undergraduate and has been working with Assistant Professor Kriya Dunlap, ’03, on new, minimally invasive methods for detecting insulin sensitivity. Low levels of GLUT4 indicate insulin resistance, which is a precursor to type 2 diabetes. Their current study is looking at the effects of physical conditioning on GLUT4 expression in human subjects. Theresia left Fairbanks this winter to travel a bit before pursuing a PhD at the University of Copenhagen, in Denmark. Her research will be part of a larger research initiative called “Governing Obesity” (http://go.ku.dk/).

Hannah Foss, ’13, displayed her art “Kindan-No/The Forbidden Pool” for the Art in Heart Project in downtown Fairbanks last fall.

Charlie Hill, ’13, is the assistant athletic director for compliance at UAF. He is also a senior airman in the Alaska Air National Guard.

Ashish Kishore Fatnani, ’13 — “I started with Halliburton in January 2013 as a drilling consultant. My job is to train/mentor and consult on various drilling solutions offered by Landmark, Halliburton. In my short stint I was awarded with MVP (Maximizing Value-Added Performance) in July 2013 for a project in which I had to make an imaginary company which was called Nanooks. (Can you believe it?!) So that’s the reason I wanted to share it with UAF.”

Matriculates

Philip Glowa displayed his art “Marbled Assemblage” for the Art in Heart Project in downtown Fairbanks last fall.

Laurie Olin received a National Medal of Arts from President Obama at the White House. The honor, bestowed by the National Endowment for the Arts, is the highest national award for artists. Laurie was one of 24 people to receive medals for the arts and humanities at the ceremony in July. Read more at http://bit.ly/LaurieOlin.

Dana Wassmann is a human resources technician for the Tanana Chiefs Conference.

She was born March 12, 1964, in Tanana and raised in Nulato. Bernice earned a bachelor’s and a master’s degree from UAF, and was working on her PhD from the University of South Australia Adelaide. Bernice retired from her job as vice chancellor and executive dean for Rural, Native and Community Education in May 2013.

Bernice’s tireless dedication to the education of Alaska’s indigenous peoples was a passion of hers, one she was successful in accomplishing. Her cultural knowledge and heritage was the foundation for advancement of her Western education. Bernice always consulted respected community members in whichever region she was in before addressing the local community. She willingly shared her knowledge and wisdom with all who crossed her path.

She was a firm believer that you could achieve anything you put your mind to; any goal was attainable.

A tribute to Bernice was entered into the U.S. Congressional Record on Jan. 13. Her body was laid to rest in Nulato.

David Aspelund, ’75, Oct. 6, 2013, Naknek
Christine Attia, ’97, Sept. 20, 2013, Fairbanks
Jennie Baker, ’94, Jan. 7, Minto
Jane Behlke, matriculate, Oct. 1, 2013, Anchorage
Albert Belon, ’52, ’84H* and professor emeritus, Sept. 9, 2013, Ester
Annie Cungauyar Blue, ’09H*, Nov. 4, 2013, Togiak
Florence Bowen, ’69, Aug. 23, 2013, Big Lake
Sally Jean Burris, matriculate, Oct. 9, 2013, Fairbanks
Axel Robert Carlson, professor emeritus, Sept. 8, 2013, State College, Penn.
Patrick Cole, ’72, Nov. 21, 2013, Fairbanks
Gene Dinkel, ’60, Oct. 1, 2013, Wasilla
Maryanne Douglass, ’70, Aug. 28, 2013, Geneseo, N.Y.
Marianne Dudley, ’96, Aug. 12, 2013, Fairbanks
David Edmunds, ’96, Dec. 4, 2013, Anchorage
Tommy Evon, ’03, July 1, 2013, Manokotak
Euncha Fisher, ’02, ’04, Jan. 1, Anchorage
Denis Fox, matriculate, July 1, 2013, Fairbanks
Daniel Glass, ’08, ’12, Sept. 22, 2013, Fairbanks
Willis Greimann, matriculate, Jan. 4, Fairbanks
Florence Hage, ’70, Dec. 7, 2013, Fairbanks
Edith Hall, ’35, Dec. 7, 2013, Fairbanks
L. Evelyn Harvison, ’72, Aug. 13, 2013, Fairbanks
Melinda “Mindi” Hawman, matriculate, Nov. 25, 2013, Fairbanks
Dorothy Hildre, ’43, July 12, 2013, Juneau
Robert Hunsucker, professor emeritus, Jan. 9, Klamath Falls, Ore.
Constance Jones, ’74, Aug. 22, 2013, Anchorage

Vera Oovi-Kaneshiro, former staff member, Nov. 19, 2013, Anchorage
Niilo Koponen, ’57, Dec. 3, 2013, Fairbanks
Donald Lynch, professor emeritus, Jan. 30, Fairbanks
Lawrence Mayo, ’63, Sept. 30, 2013, Fairbanks
Edmund McMahon, ’70, Aug. 5, 2013, Anchorage
Evelyn Melville, matriculate, Oct. 26, 2013, Fairbanks
Samuel Moses, ’80, Aug. 8, 2013, Anchorage
Janice Neimeyer, ’90, Aug. 8, 2013, Auke Bay
Judith Kay Nelson, Bristol Bay staff member, Sept. 15, 2013, Dillingham
Naomi Ogden, ’12, Community and Technical College staff member, Aug. 6, 2013, North Pole
Rose Ringlesad, ’46, Jan. 15, Fairbanks
William Root, ’67, Jan. 18, Anchorage
Judith Shapiro, ’01, Oct. 27, 2013, Fairbanks
Michelle Simpson, ’04, Nov. 18, 2013, North Pole
Raymond Strength, ’09, Dec. 12, 2013, Santa Monica, Calif.
Donald Turner, professor emeritus, Jan. 21, Fairbanks
Jimmie Watford, ’87, Nov. 15, 2013, Canton, Miss.
Jane Williams, matriculate and former library staff member, Aug. 24, 2013, Fairbanks
Thomas “Sonny” Young, ’97, July 21, 2013, Sitka
Mary Jane Yerg, ’50, Nov. 21, 2013, Minneapolis, Minn.

*H = Honorary degree