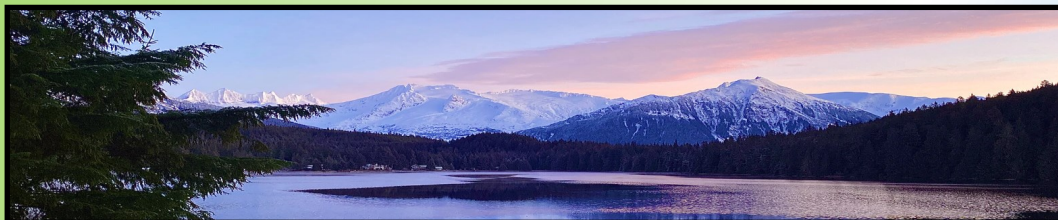


# SEMESTERS

NEWS AND SUPPORT FOR ALASKA'S EDUCATORS AND SCHOOLS

## GREETINGS FROM THE UAS SCHOOL OF EDUCATION



### IN THIS NEWSLETTER...

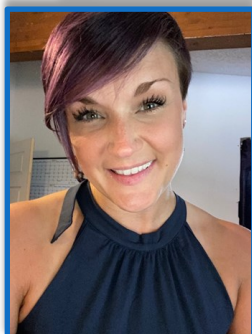
- ◇ [Message from the Director](#)
- ◇ [Semesters Features](#)
- ◇ [PITAAS Features](#)
- ◇ [UAS SOE Hosts Dual-Enrollment](#)
- ◇ [UAS SOE Supervision of Interns During COVID-19](#)
- ◇ [Course Spotlight: EDSE S486](#)
- ◇ [UA Keys to Reading](#)
- ◇ [BA ELED 2+2 Program](#)
- ◇ [UAS PITAAS Student Appointed Ketchikan Interim Superintendent](#)
- ◇ [UAS SOE Program Updates](#)

### MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR MADDEN



Hopes for a normal opening of the academic year at UAS were dashed with the virulent outbreak of the delta variant of COVID 19 throughout Southeast Alaska. Instead, many of the pandemic restrictions ...[see more](#)

## SOE SEMESTERS FEATURES



### UAS School of Education Celebrates Outstanding Graduate, Elementary MAT Program: 2020-21 Ariane Skaw

K/1 Looping Teacher For KISBD  
North Star Elementary Kodiak, Alaska  
MAT Elem Ed. Graduate  
BS ECE Birth-5y  
Mom of Three

Ariane Skaw was born in the state of Maine and raised as an Alaskan on the island of Kodiak. A middle sister in a trio of talented sisters, she danced her way through Kodiak's community and school system. In sixth grade, through her participation in a Reading Buddies program between the Kodiak Middle School and Main Elementary, she knew she wanted to become a teacher.

*"I was working with a little girl in first grade, and we'd been working on her favorite book for a few weeks, and suddenly – I SAW her light catch. She was READING. Her happiness simply SHONE through her little eyes and smile, and I had the return-joy of knowing I had helped. I wanted to live a life filled with 'Ahas!' and knowing I was able to be a small part of it. I knew I wanted to teach."*

After pursuing a Bachelor of Science from the University of Maine at Farmington in Early Childhood Education, specializing in Birth to 5 years, she dedicated 17 years to being an Early Educator in a variety of Early Education Settings across the coasts. This was her very first Lead Teaching position in RurAL CAP's Kodiak Head Start morning program and where she completed her 17-year Early Education career as a Lead Teacher for the USCG Base Kodiak's Child Development Center.

In 2018, Ms. Skaw made a career change and began to pursue certification in Elementary Education K-8, through UAS's MAT in Elementary Education program. She was hired on with the Kodiak Island Borough School District as a K/1 Looping Teacher, while tackling the courses required for Alaska Certification in Elementary Education, as well as those specific to the UAS MAT in Elementary Ed program.

She plans to continue her professional (and personal) education through UAS's Reading Specialist, M.Ed. program and someday, pursue her passion of becoming an Arts' Integration Specialist, as well as achieving her Ed.D.



# Message from the Director



## ***Welcome Doctor Mary Lou Madden to the UAS School of Education***

Dr. Mary Lou Madden has joined UAS School of Education as Interim Director. Dr. Madden has a long history with Alaska and Alaskan education. She began working with Alaska DEED in the early 70's holding several positions including Director of Finance. After completing her doctorate in economics, Dr. Madden served in a variety of higher education positions, including Director of the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, Provost at Sheldon Jackson College and Dean of Arts and Sciences at UAS. She will be with UAS SOE until December 2021.

Hopes for a normal opening of the academic year at UAS were dashed with the virulent outbreak of the delta variant of COVID 19 throughout Southeast Alaska. Instead, many of the pandemic restrictions of the past 16 months will remain in place: masking, social distancing and limited on-campus classes.

Fortunately for the UAS School of Education, all of our coursework has been distance delivered for years, although the restriction both at UAS and in pK-12 schools around Alaska will impact the practicum and internship experiences for our students. Nevertheless, we are looking forward to an exciting year with a great faculty, good enrollment and the possibility of better days ahead.

While the COVID situation remains virtually unchanged, the SOE this year is operating in a substantially changed organizational environment. At its June 4, 2021 meeting, the University of Alaska Board of Regents (BOR) directed the UA president to establish the Alaska College of Education Consortium (ACEC) in accordance with the plan entitled *Teacher Education at the University of Alaska: Alaska College of Education Consortium Pathways and Recommendations*. The Plan was developed by a broadly representative workgroup composed of education faculty, staff and leadership beginning in October 2020 and continuing throughout the remainder of the 2020/21 academic year.

The BOR action abolished the centralized Alaska College of Education and replaced it with the ACEC which consists of the independently-accredited Schools of Education at UAA, UAF and UAS. The Consortium is charged with providing a framework and mechanism for communication, collaboration and resource/information sharing among the three schools.

The Consortium is further directed to develop strategies to increase enrollment and graduates, communicate the breadth of existing programs, assess state needs and ensure that academic pathways and opportunities for students are maintained or expanded. ACEC will be assisted by an Education Liaison who will report directly to the UA President and will be the point of contact for internal and external stakeholders.

UAS is actively involved with the Consortium both through participation on the ACEC coordinating committee and by expanding education pathways. The UAS SOE recently completed 2+2 pathway agreements with UAA in Elementary Education and Special Education. These pathways allow students to transition seamlessly from an associate to a bachelor degree, making the route to teacher certification more doable for many students.

As the new system develops, UAS looks forward to identifying additional ways of partnering with our sister schools to provide more opportunities to Alaska's present and future educators. We appreciate your continued interest in and support of our efforts.



*Mary Lou Madden*

UAS School of Education  
Director Mary Lou Madden

## UAS SOE Hosts Dual-Enrollment Classes for Alaska's High School Students 2021

The UAS School of Education is partnering with Alaskan School Districts and Educators Rising Alaska to offer dual-enrollment courses for local high school students. The students will be enrolled in the UAS Introduction to Education course with some students taking the course virtually, and others being taught by their high school teacher. Educators Rising Alaska is paying for the tuition of the high school students.

SEALASKA HERITAGE INSTITUTE  
UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA SOUTHEAST

# PITAAS

## Fall 2021 Update

The Preparing Indigenous Teachers & Administrators for Alaska's Schools (PITAAS) program supports Alaska Native students pursuing education/teacher-preparation programs at UAS. Our students span from undergraduates pursuing an initial teaching license, to seasoned educators and administrators pursuing advanced certification. PITAAS scholarship support generally covers all tuition/fees for eligible students. We seek to address the shortage of Alaska Native educators. Alaska Natives make up an estimated 20% of the state population but remain underrepresented in the field of education.

PITAAS has operated since 2000 and is now in partnership with Sealaska Heritage Institute. We currently have students from Metlakatla to Utqiagvik, and Wrangell to Savoonga. As of this newsletter, PITAAS is supporting 26 students pursuing education-related degrees, including 11 undergraduates and 15 graduate students. PITAAS also supports individual scholarships for courses in Alaska Native language and culture. This Fall 2021, nearly 30 undergraduate students are slated to receive funds for individual classes, intended to inspire enrollment in an education program.

PITAAS recognized three graduates in Spring 2021: 1 B.A. Elementary Education student, 1 B.L.A. Alaska Native Language & Studies student, and 1 B.S. Biology student. These students are slated to either immediately enter a school district or go onto the M.A.T. Secondary Education program. Additionally, PITAAS recognized four graduates in Summer 2021: 2 M.Ed. Reading, Reading Specialist students, 1 M.Ed. Educational Leadership, and 1 Superintendent Endorsement recipient. These students had previous teaching certificates and degrees and secured advanced certification.

PITAAS supports the Sealaska Heritage "Teacher of Distinction" award this year. The award recognized the accomplishments and dedication of Alaska Native educators for Native students. The 2021 recipient, Seralee Kairaiuak, is an educator with the Alaska Native Cultural Charter School in Anchorage. Seralee's nominators wrote of her expertise in "formal education" and the teachings of her elders. She incorporates "Yuuyaraq" ("way of being" in Yugtun) into all of her instruction and teaches through love, humor, and honesty". A video of Seralee accepting this award can be found here: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/fjwtfzlnynvojvx/Teacher%20of%20Distinction%202021.mp4?dl=0>

PITAAS accepts students annually and through each semester. For questions about PITAAS eligibility and application process, please visit our website at <https://uas.alaska.edu/PITAAS>, or contact Ronalda Cadiante-Brown at [uas.pitaas@alaska.edu](mailto:uas.pitaas@alaska.edu), or 907-796-6058.

## UAS SOE: Supervision of Interns During COVID-19

For our initial licensure programs, our university supervisors and school district host mentor teachers combine to assess multiple lessons taught by our students throughout their student teaching experience. These observations take place through Zoom, Microsoft Teams, or another tool of choice or one in use by the school district. The student teaching team (host teacher, student teacher, and university supervisor) collaborate to determine the observation method and media.

Our School of Education supervisors use the Student Teaching Observation Tool (STOT) to reflect on the student teacher's practice through a formative and summative evaluation of lessons taught. The host mentor teacher completes the Professional Characteristics Assessment (PCA) and numerous assessments of lessons taught. Throughout the student teaching experience, the team uses phone calls, email, online courses, webinars, and virtual meetings to maintain ongoing and collaborative communication.



## SOE Course Spotlight: EDSE s486: Special Education in the Alaskan Context

The provision of special education is an undertaking that is rooted in western ideal related to student learning, the behavior of children, the role of the educator, and the entire concept of disabilities. In this course, we deconstruct many of the aspects of special education that are problematic and challenging for its delivery the Alaskan context. Alaskan educators work in truly unique environments where local culture, place-based knowledge, and indigenous ways of knowing might be counter to prevailing norms. This course asks students to critically analyze and reflect on the provision of special education in Alaskan communities, cultures, and historical contexts.

We are grateful to the Alaska Native Peoples and Cherokee Peoples who spoke to our class about the history of education in Alaska, the arts and healing, teaching using Indigenous ways of knowing/Intellectual Authority, the concept of disability from the Lingit perspective, and the perspective of an Indigenous student in a western classroom. Here are two student takeaways - and what they plan to do in their classrooms:

- *Cultural awareness is extremely important. Allow students opportunities to explore their cultural values in an educational context and show them that their values are important.*
- *Learn who each student is and discover how I can connect with them, Give students choices for assignments, incorporate lessons/units that align with the Alaska Cultural Standards.*
- *I learned the significance of bringing Alaska Native speakers into the classroom. I learned the importance of listening. I learned about the lasting impacts of historical trauma and methods for working with students who suffer from it.*
- *I'm excited to give traditional Native Alaska ways of learning an equal stage to Western methods of learning. I am excited to seek out more community resources, invite elders into the classroom, and offer more field trips.*

## UA Keys to Reading

The Schools of Education at the University of Alaska Anchorage, University of Alaska Fairbanks, and University of Alaska Southeast are committed to preparing candidates to teach reading to students of Alaska and beyond. Our approach and commitment includes many strategic systems used to accomplish this vitally important skill of preparing teachers to teach students to read. Our reading faculty have coordinated our literacy courses, reading methods, and programs to emphasize and focus on the most recent reading research and practice. This includes the essential elements of explicit phonemic awareness and phonics instruction, development of fluency and expansion of vocabulary in service of deepening comprehension. We acknowledge the complexity of the reading process, and draw on the multiple and varied frameworks for instruction that have consensus in the field of literacy and cognitive development, including the science of reading and the social and cultural contexts of students around the state. Reading success is grounded first in a love for literacy and language. Additionally, our candidates are prepared to be culturally responsive teachers and to embrace the cultures in the communities in which they teach. By working collaboratively, we are committed to preparing candidates and making a positive impact in the practice of teaching reading in Alaskan schools.

All the University of Alaska Schools of Education programs in Early Childhood and Elementary are using the Teaching Reading Sourcebook, in alignment with many districts across Alaska. "The National Council on Teacher Quality 2020 Teacher Prep Review listed the Teaching Reading Sourcebook as one of 10 textbooks that comprehensively and rigorously cover the scientific basis and instructional elements of the five essential components of effective reading instruction. Additionally, the report found that the Teaching Reading Sourcebook is used by more teacher prep programs than any other textbook in the top 10 ranking."

## UAS SOE: BA Elementary 2+2 Program

School of Education faculty and staff at UAS collaborated with our UAA colleagues to provide students with a clear progression from an Associate of Arts degree at UAA into a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary or Special Education at UAS. Working closely with their advisor, students will be able to complete their first 60 credits of General Education and Breadth requirements from UAA. Students can then seamlessly transfer to our UAS online bachelor's in education to finish their coursework and student teaching requirements from **any location** in Alaska. This articulation agreement is designed to maximally recognize a student's work, eliminate unnecessary duplication of coursework, and ensure timely graduation of qualified educators for Alaska's schools.

## UAS PITAAS Student Appointed Ketchikan Interim Superintendent

Interim Superintendent Melissa Brooks-Johnson earned her Superintendent Endorsement in 2017 from UAS and is a PITAAS scholarship recipient. Melissa is an excellent example



highlighting the value of higher education in one's career, as she was well-positioned to [step into her new role as Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District's Interim Superintendent](#) quickly when the need arose late last spring. Currently, 36% of the superintendents in Alaska are in the process of earning or have earned their Superintendent Endorsement from UAS. Congratulations to Melissa for setting a great example of the value of earning an advanced degree to increase the impact one makes on student learning!



Mischa Jackson  
Secondary Education  
Coordinator

## Secondary Education

### Mischa Jackson

This year's Secondary MAT cohort of students completed an 8-week summer intensive in August and demonstrated a fantastic ability to connect, support, and learn with each other... all online! Special thanks to Rhonda Larson, Gary Leiter, and Adam Mackie for their ability to implement an effective online curriculum that provides our teacher candidates with a solid foundation of coursework before they enter their year-long teaching internship.

This year our 27 students are currently placed with a dedicated group of host teachers in 10 districts: St. Paul, Unalaska, Kenai Peninsula, Mat-Su, Anchorage, all the way down to Juneau, Wrangell, Petersburg, and Ketchikan. If you see them, be sure to say hello and wish them well; they'll be busy completing a year of coursework designed to complement their full-time on-the-job internship experiences. Happy Fall Semester!

For more, check out the [Secondary and Middle Grades Program](#) Pages



Mary Wegner, M.Ed.  
Ed Leadership Coordinator

## Educational Leadership

### Mary Wegner, M.Ed.

This summer Cohorts 12 and 13 of the Educational Leadership program came to the UAS Juneau campus for a month of in-person learning. Cohort 12 members graduated with Master's degrees and Cohort 13 members started the 1-year program. Cohort "13" certainly lived up to its superstitious expectations. From water main breaks on campus forcing students to move to a different dorm to the COVID Delta variant, students in the program, who are learning how to be a school principal, got plenty of opportunity to practice their problem solving skills, as well as how to keep the focus on learning during times of unexpected challenges. Congratulations to Cohort 12 graduates, and kudos to instructors Kim Hanisch and Jerry Schoenberger and all of the members of Cohort 13 for their perseverance in the face of obstacles, as well as to the UAS staff and administration for their support during these unprecedented times.

For more, check out the [Educational Leadership](#) and [Superintendent Program](#) Pages



## Special Education Program

### Heather Batchelder, Ph.D.

Thanks to our amazing students who persist through adverse circumstances to continue and complete their journeys to become special educators. Our students have been creative and compassionate in finding ways to work with their students during internships that may change from face-to-face to virtual in an instant. The UAS SOE Special Education Department offered two new courses this summer. Both courses received positive feedback from our students.

For more, check out the [Special Education Program Page](#)



Heather Batchelder, Ph.D.  
Special Education  
Program Coordinator

## BA Elementary Education Program

### Jeffrey Lofthus, Ph.D.

We are excited to welcome and work with our host teachers serving as mentors for our student teachers in the following communities for the 2021-2022 school year: Ketchikan, Juneau, Kake, Hoonah, Skagway, Anchorage, Wasilla, Palmer, Sterling, Kenai, Akiachak, Sand Point, Fairbanks, and Tok. We have offered our degree online since 2005 so our students can become teachers from any community in Alaska. We will continue doing so in order to serve the needs of students, schools districts, and communities throughout Alaska. Despite the challenges faced by our host teachers, student teachers and our SOE staff and faculty due to the pandemic, we will continue to adjust as needed to meet the needs of education in Alaska.

For more, check out the [Elementary Education Program Page](#)



Jeffrey Lofthus, Ph.D.  
Elementary Education  
Program Coordinator



Lisa Richardson, Ph.D.  
Reading Specialist  
Program Coordinator

## Reading Specialist Program

### Lisa Richardson, Ph.D.

Candidates in the Reading Specialist M.Ed. program at UAS had a busy summer. Our summer practicum course had eight candidates who worked with 30 K-12 students in eight different communities across the state. These students received one-on-one tutoring and individually designed literacy experiences to support their proficiency in reading, writing, talking and listening. Candidates will apply what they learned related to tailoring reading instruction to each student's needs as they enter their respective classrooms this fall.

Additionally, our new cohort of candidates kicked off their experience with a course in Language, Reading and Culture which examines theory and effective practices for meeting the needs of students across the state of Alaska, with a focus on curricular design and instructional practices to meet the needs of diverse learners, including our Alaska Native students. Each candidate crafted an action plan to put into place as they begin their fall semesters.

For more, check out the [Reading Specialist Program Page](#)



Beth Hartley, Ph.D.  
MAT Elementary Program  
Coordinator

## MAT Elementary Education

### Beth Hartley, Ph.D.

The MAT Elementary program welcomes our new teacher candidates to the program! We're excited to have many of our student teachers begin their internships in person with students, even as UAS has implemented an important mask mandate and COVID mitigation measures for our students in university-based activities. Current research and the past year's experiences have shown us how important and influential the social and interactive nature of schooling is to effective learning.

We welcome two new adjunct professors to our MAT elementary program: Dr. Christine Ermold, from Kenai, who will be providing instruction for the K-8 Social Studies methods course, and Dr. Jennifer Witter, who will be providing instruction for the K-8 Science methods course. We welcome back our long-time faculty, Professor Susan Andrews, Dr. Kevin Spink, Dr. Virgil Fredenberg for another year of engaging learning. This past spring, we honored Ariane Skaw as our outstanding graduate of the Elementary MAT Program for 20-21. She continues to work in K/1 in Kodiak.

For more, check out the [Elementary Education Program Page](#)