



***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*

***Academic Procession**

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

Grand Marshal: Professor Jennifer Ward, MLIS, Past President of Faculty Senate,
UA Faculty Alliance Chair

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.

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 Ferguson
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. Drazkowski
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 Shiryayev

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 McMahan
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 Schiffner

Social Science

Junnie Chup **CL**
Stephanie N. Cimmino
Christian Trenton Michael English
Anna N. Kahklen **CL**
Christopher Joseph Kolstad
Courtney E. MacArthur
Lisa-Marie Madrugá **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**

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
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
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**

Fisheries and Ocean Sciences

Michaela Nicole Mansholt

2024 UAS DEGREE RECIPIENTS

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 Schuenger
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
Sarah Colvin Osborne
Ivy S. Shelton

2024 UAS DEGREE RECIPIENTS

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

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

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

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

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

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



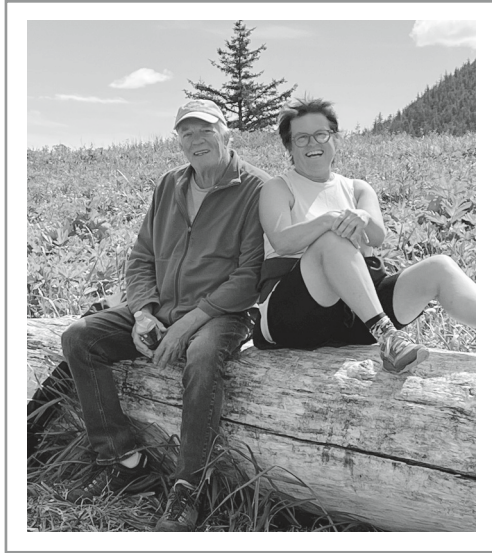
Joining us today in celebration is master weaver and Indigenous knowledge bearer Della Sdaahlk'awaás Cheney. Cheney has received an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

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.

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.

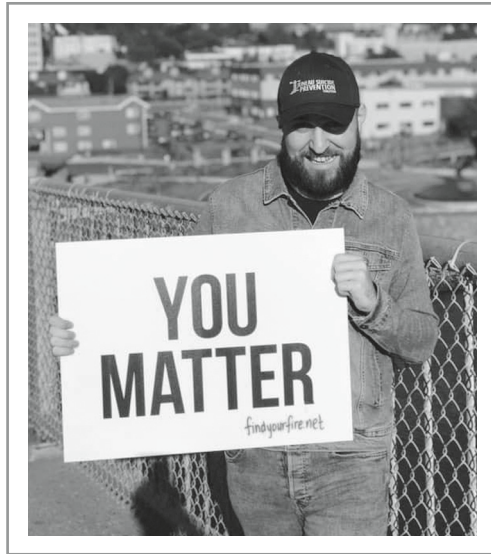
John and Marla were foundational members of Meals on Wheels in Juneau.

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 Reese

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.

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



**UNIVERSITY
of ALASKA
SOUTHEAST**

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