

INTRODUCING

OUR NEW STAFF & FACULTY AT UAS



NEW TO THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE



Elizabeth Cornejo

Executive Director for Community
Relations and Strategic Partnerships

Master's in Science, Carleton University
Coming from Haines



Elizabeth studied geochemistry of an undersea
ridge near the Juan de Fuca Ridge.
Elizabeth enjoys paddle-boarding and painting
in her free time.

Abi Spofford

Executive Assistant to the Chancellor

BA in Chinese Language and Cultural Studies from Western Washington University



Abi values her time outdoors with her family. She is excited to learn and grow here at UAS!

Claire Paterson

Administrative Coordinator for the Office of the Provost and Chancellor

BA in Visual Studies from The New School, NYC
Coming from The Juneau Arts and Humanities Council



With a background in event planning and the arts, Claire is eager to contribute to the campus and make a positive impact.

Mitzi Anderson

Director of Equity and Compliance &
Title IX Coordinator

B.A International Studies and Spanish, University of Miami; Law Degree (Juris Doctor), Florida International University; and L.L.M. in Animal Law from Lewis and Clark Law School

Coming from Des Moines, IA



Served in the Des Moines Civil Rights Commission & was an Americorps Vista for the First Alaskans Institute in Anchorage.

Stephanie Jedlicka

Associate Director of Equity and
Compliance / Deputy Title IX Coordinator

M.S., London School of Economics and Political Science; B.A., International Relations, University of Oregon
Coming from University of Alaska Human Resources, Labor and Employee Relations Specialist



Steffi has 10 years of experience in civil rights investigations, as well as HR experience coaching executive leadership on employee relations issues. She's called Alaska home for over a decade and loves the outdoors.

NEW TO THE OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT



Chris Natynski

Executive Director of Advancement

J.D. Drake University Law School
Coming from Aurora, Colorado



He loves to cook and try new recipes with family. He is looking forward to getting to know the Juneau Community.



NEW
TO THE
PROVOST'S
OFFICE

Alison Staudinger

Interim Dean of Arts and Sciences

B.A. English Literature, Political Science, Seattle University (2006)

M.A. Government & Politics, University of Maryland-College Park (2010)

M.A. Professional Creative Writing, University of Denver-University College (2023)

Ph.D. Government & Politics, University of Maryland-College Park (2013)

Coming from Denver University (Colorado Area)



Alison was the Director of Faculty Development and Career Advancement at the University of Denver. Alison was also an Associate Professor and Chair of Democracy and Justice Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay (UWGB). Her current book project explores the influence of Cold War apocalyptic metaphors on contemporary political thought.

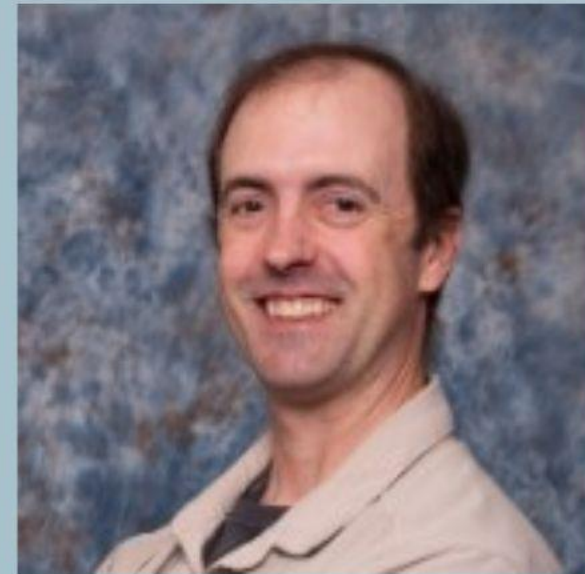
Bill Urquhart

Ketchikan Campus Director

Ph.D., MA, Tulane University

B.S., Oregon State University

Coming from being a sociology professor in Ketchikan



Dr. Bill Urquhart is our new Ketchikan Campus Director, but prior to that he was a Professor of Sociology in the Social Sciences Department. Dr. Urquhart was born and raised in Ketchikan, Alaska, from a family long involved in commercial fishing. As a sociologist, he had special focus areas in juvenile delinquency, domestic violence, and social problems relevant to Alaska.



NEW TO
EMSA

Kiwana Affatato

Associate Registrar

B.A., English- University of Louisiana, Monroe (ULM); M.A.-American Literature (ULM)

Formerly the Academic Scheduling and Curriculum Coordinator (UAS)



With UAS since spring 2016

Taught online Modern American Literature at ULM from 2105-2023

Kayla McLoughlin

Associate Director of Financial Aid

M.S. Student Affairs Administration, Binghamton University (2023);
B.A. English Literature and Rhetoric, Binghamton University (2022)



Previously worked as a TRIO Student Support Services Advisor in New York.

Peter Sommers

Student Systems Support Technician

BLA and MPA from UAS



Transitioned from the Associate Registrar and moved to Bloomington Indiana.

Natalie Wojtala

Guest Services Coordinator

Bachelor's of Arts from Clemson University
Coming from Orlando, Florida (Walt Disney World)



Served as a Military Police Officer in the Navy for four years. Has over 15 years of customer service experience

Lauren Proels

Associate Director of Residence Life

B.S. Psychology, Bemidji State University (2018)
Minnesota State Community and Technical
College - Fergus Falls, MN



Prior positions held include Assistant Director of Campus Life & Housing and Academic Advisor and Success Coach

Brenna Heintz

Director of Admissions

BA in Philosophy from Tufts University and MEd in Education, Culture & Society from University of Pennsylvania
Coming from Swarthmore College and MIT Admissions



Brenna was born and raised here in Juneau and graduated from JDHS before heading out east for college and a career in undergraduate admissions. She's thrilled to be back supporting Alaskan students through the college process.

Damian Medina

Dean of Students

M.S. Educational Administration, Texas A&M University (2005), B.A. History, Texas A&M University (2003)
Coming from being Vice-Provost for Student Affairs, University of Southern Maine



18+ years of higher education experience
Over a decade working internationally.

Devin Tatro
Disability Services Manager

B.A, Bates College. MAT, University of Alaska Southeast
Coming from Case Management, UAS Student Services



Former Teacher, Yaakoosgé Daakahídi High School,
and Nome-Beltz High School

Cj Mariano
Student Information Specialist

BA Social Science (UAS)
Coming from Minor Avenue Children's House (Seattle)



Lived in Seattle for 5 years working in Early Childhood before
moving to New Zealand in 2022 and returning to Juneau in
2024 and started working at UAS.

Previously worked as a Student Assistant for the Arts &
Sciences department here at UAS.

Ruby-Lynn Matiashowski

Student Information Specialist

B.S. Liberal Studies (Elementary Education)

Coming from Harborview as a Special Ed Para Educator



Moved to Juneau from California 2 years ago

Ggoadm 'Teebn Mckoy

Rural Admissions Counselor

BLA Alaska Native Languages (UAS), Master of Arts Linguistics (Simon Fraser University)

Coming from Ketchikan



First in the Nation to Graduate w/Tsimshian credentials

NEW
TO
ADMINISTRATIVE
SERVICES



Mary-Alice Henry

Administrative Assistant, IT Services

Coming from Sitka



Mary-Alice is providing administrative support for Admin and I.T. Services.

She is a wonderful cook and a great addition to office potlucks.

Louisa Cryan

Director of Business Services

MPA
Coming from UA HR



Louisa has served the UA System for over 20 years. Most recently she has worked for System Office HR. She is now returning home to UAS!

Shelly Smith

Accounts Payable and Travel
Auditor Lead

Shelly started at UAS on July 10th. She has a long history with the University. She graduated from UAS over 20 years ago with a degree in Liberal Arts and continued her education in business and accounting. She participated for two years in the UAS Green Gazelle research project with Dr Rick Wolk, and has been featured in the Alaska Business Monthly.



Shelly raised her family here and has two adult daughters who live in Juneau. She enjoys outdoor adventures of all sorts, travel, sailing, fishing, and cooking. She spent the past two years fishing and cooking her way around Alaska from the Nushagak River to Prince of Wales Island. Shelly has over 20 years experience in accounting and small business management and is excited to bring these experiences back to work at her alma mater.

Evan Price

Health and Safety Officer

Coming from Bartlett Regional Hospital, acted as the Safety Officer and Emergency Manager

Earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Theatre with an Emphasis in Technical Theatre from the University of California, Riverside in 2014.



Evan started at UAS on June 3rd of this year--he just celebrated his 1-month anniversary!!! While at Bartlett, he chaired multiple committees including Safety and Security, Workplace Violence Prevention, and Emergency Management. Prior to working in healthcare, Evan served as Technical Director for Perseverance Theatre, and Scene Shop Foreman at California State University, Dominguez Hills where he worked closely with Environmental Health and Safety and oversaw a major overhaul of the theatrical fly system. In his role at UAS, his responsibilities will include identifying and helping to mitigate potential hazards on our campuses, providing safety training, and helping with the development of emergency response procedures. He will also lead the campus Safety Committee on the Juneau campus and aid the safety committees on the Ketchikan and Sitka campuses. In his free time, Evan enjoys riding his motorcycle and hiking throughout Southeast Alaska.

Rhyan Nydam

Associate Bursar

The department welcomes this addition to the team. We are so happy she is here!

NEW TO FACILITIES



Dusty Rautiainen
Carpenter

Andrew Lawson
Carpenter MSW3

Jakob Kryman
Project Manager

NEW ON THE
SITKA
CAMPUS



Mageda Nader

Title III SUPPORT GRANT Specialist

Bachelor of Science in Anthropology from The Florida State University
Coming from Education & Tourism



What impressed me the most is that within hours of starting her job, she gave a presentation to the whole campus. She also brings positive energy to the campus.

Dakotah Weese

Title III SUPPORT GRANT Specialist

Bachelor of Science in Economics University of Kansas
Coming from being a math tutor at MEHS. Was an operations director at KCAW.



Outdoorsy & is an avid runner. Quickly learned the scope of his duties. He jumped right in and has made positive contributions

NEW TO KETCHIKAN CAMPUS



Taylor Rose

Assistant Professor of History

PhD completed at Yale University 2024
Coming from New Haven, CT



Taylor's research areas focus on environmental history, and his recent doctoral dissertation focused on Mining, Militarization, and Native Lands in the Nevada Desert from 1860-1990. He is an avid bicyclist!

Sharayah Taylor

Registration and Media Professional

Coming from Ketchikan, and was most recently employed by Taquaan Air



She is an artist, working mainly with digital media, but also knitting and crochet; and she has made roughly 3,000 origami cranes! She has a cat, Poet, and a dog, Gus, and she likes to spend her weekends baking.

Bill Poffarl

Facilities Lead

Coming from UAS Maritime Training Center Lab Tech (Ketchikan)



Has earned a really cool nickname (Deepwater).
Has a strong welding background.

Sophia Mullins

Workforce Development Director

MBA, University of Phoenix; BS, Grand Canyon University
Coming from Honeywell International in Glendale, AZ



Was a program manager for defense and space programs at Honeywell International. Involved in a secret society in Ketchikan :).

Tina McPherson

Accounts Receivable Technician



Outstanding musician, currently playing trombone with the Ketchikan Community Band. Ketchikan High School graduate.

NEW TO THE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



Dallas Cosculluela
Academic Advisor

B.A English, Boston University (2019), B.A Archaeology,
Boston University (2019), M.A Humanities, University of
Chicago (2020)

Coming from Houston, Texas



Outside of advising, Dallas is passionate about exploring the anthropological aspects of online culture, as well as the development of social hierarchies in video-game spaces. In his free time, he likes to bake and work on his embroidery.

Heather Skaggs

Administrative Operations Coordinator

Coming to UAS from the Juneau School District



Heather wears many hats in life. From household repairs and DIY home improvements to mom of 3 and successful REALTOR®, she's always up for learning a new skill or braving a new adventure.

Haley Reed

Administrative Assistant

BA from Loyola Marymount University
Haley came to UAS from Juneau Animal Rescue, before which she lived in LA, working a brief career in the entertainment industry



Outside of work, Haley enjoys taking courses at UAS to maintain a mode of learning, foraging with friends and family, and weaving

Karen Grosskreutz

Research Assistant with Alaska
Coastal Rainforest Center

MSc Sustainable Resource Management, Technical University of Munich (Germany); PhD Candidate in Fisheries, UAF

Karen recently completed an Alaska Sea Grant State Fellowship in Juneau. Prior to that, she worked as a Graduate Research Assistant with the EPSCoR Coastal Margins team conducting research with commercial salmon fishers in southeast and south central Alaska. She came to SE Alaska as a wilderness expedition guide in 2012.



Karen is interested in actionable science that supports community-driven priorities and research questions, and in improving relationships and university practices with tribal research partners.

Megan Behnke

Assistant Professor of Chemistry
(and an Arctic Leadership Initiative Early Career
Faculty member)

PhD Chemical Oceanography (Florida State University);
MS Oceanography (Florida State University); BA
Chemistry (St. Olaf College)

Born and raised in Lingít Aaní here in Juneau Alaska, previously working at the Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center here at UAS as an Alaska Climate Adaptation Science Center Postdoctoral Fellow



Megan got into dissolved organic matter biogeochemistry as an undergraduate research student in the Siberian tundra; got into science in no small part through watching Star Trek as a child.

Xiaofei Song

Assistant Professor of Communication

PhD (communication) from Washington State University

Coming from Ketchikan, where she worked for a year in our Ketchikan Campus. Before coming to UAS she was a faculty at Texas A&M University.

She is excited to be teaching in-person classes again. She is always open to ideas on collaboration with her colleagues, in both teaching and research, so please reach out to her.

Hekia Bodwitch

Assistant Professor of Marine Policy

PhD: UC Berkeley; BS: Cornell

Hekia was an Ocean Nexus postdoc in Marine Affairs at Dalhousie University, in Nova Scotia, and she was working remotely from the San Francisco Bay Area



Hekia grew up in the Fingerlakes Region of Upstate NY. Her mom is from New Zealand and gave her a Maori name, but her family is not Maori. Her background involves work with Indigenous fishers in New Zealand and Canada, and she is looking forward to learning from as much as she can about Indigenous fishery governance issues in SE Alaska.

Jason Kuhn

Term Assistant Professor of Chemistry

PhD in Chemistry from the University of Virginia in 2018

Previously, Jason was an Assistant Professor in Chemistry at Husson University in Bangor, Maine. Prior to that, he was a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia.



After graduating from UVA, Jason moved to Oxford, England in order to do post-doctoral research comparing cellular exosomes from healthy and cancer cells using electrochemistry for the purpose of early-cancer detection.

Brennen McCulloch

ACRC Science Communications Specialist

Bachelors of Science from US Coast Guard Academy

Brennan will be working part-time as he is still also working for the Coast Guard.



Brennan is excited to show off all the amazing research the university is doing!

NEW TO THE
SCHOOL OF
EDUCATION



Nona Dimond

Executive Assistant to the Dean of Education

Associate of Arts, Marketing Emphasis (A.A.) (2004) Art Institute of Seattle Currently seeking: Associate of Applied Science, Behavioral Health Emphasis (A.A.S.) University Alaska Southeast

Nona comes to UAS, School of Education with a diverse background of work experience, both professionally and through her volunteer work. Most recently working at Juneau-Douglas High School yadaa.at kalé during the previous school year.



Her experience serving at both the Alaska State Department of Education and working for the Alaska State Senate Education Committee Chair will serve her well at the School of Education, as she interacts with teaching professionals and those interested in entering the teaching profession.

On a side note, Nona has an incredible knack for organizing and can whip just about any clutter into shape.

Gúud Gíigangaa Lauryn Framke

Alaska Native Student Recruitment and Success Coordinator

Bachelors of Liberal Arts, Alaska Native Languages and Studies (UAS)

The School of Education is excited to welcome Lauryn into this SHI/EIA grant-funded position. Most recently, she worked as a Cultural Revitalization Coordinator at the Goldbelt Heritage Foundation. Lauryn remains active in her culture and studies through her internship at the Alaska State Archives and her role on the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida's Executive Council as their Emerging Leader.



She is obtaining a Masters of Library and Information Science (in progress, graduate Dec. 2024) from San Jose State University. Lauryn has been learning the Haida language for 8 years.

Corrine Marks

Term Assistant Professor of Secondary Education

Masters of Arts, Teaching (MA) (1997) University Alaska Southeast
Bachelors of Arts, Psychology (B.A.) (1990) Warren Wilson College
Corrine brings to the UAS School of Education nearly 30 years of valuable classroom experience, having dedicated her career to the Juneau School District. Throughout her tenure, Corrine consistently demonstrated a commitment to fostering educational spaces where safety, respect, and inclusivity were paramount.



Corrine loves traveling, spending time at the cabin, and taking her dog for walks. She is an unabashed bookaholic whenever time permits.

Robyn Capp

Term Assistant Professor of Special Education

Masters of Arts, Reading Specialist (MA) (2024) University Alaska Southeast
Graduate Certificate, English Second Language (ESL) Project Literacy Equity for Alaskan Families (LEAF)(2024) University Alaska Anchorage Bachelors of Arts, Special Education (B.A.) (2018) University Alaska Southeast

Robyn joins the UAS School of Education from the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District, where she played a pivotal role in developing and implementing special education programs. Robyn's expertise in special education and her commitment to evidence-based methodologies make her a valuable addition to our team.



Robyn is a born and raised Alaskan and has dreams of someday going to Katmai National Park to celebrate Fat Bear Week!

NEW TO THE SCHOOL OF CAREER EDUCATION



Trevor Fritz
Power Technology Faculty

Associate of Applied Science in Diesel Power Technology - UAS,
Bachelor of Science in Biology, Cum Laude, UAS

Coming from Marine mechanic/business owner, Fritz
Marine, LLC.



Born and raised in Juneau, UAS Alumni, Avid
hunter and fisherman

Catherine Pusich

Administrative Manager

Bachelor of Business Administration University of Alaska Southeast

Coming from the Juneau School District



Catherine loves to travel!

Rocky Estrada

Outreach Coordinator

B.A. Interdisciplinary Studies, emphasis in Alaska
Native Studies, UAA

Coming from Tlingit & Haida



He is Teikweidí (eagle/brown bear) from Angoon.
He is a little obsessed with fly fishing and tries to
get out on the water any chance he gets.

Ashley Morehouse

Academic Advisor

M.Ed Education Administration, University of Hawaii
Manoa B.S. Organizational Sciences, University of Idaho
A.A. General, Pierce College
Coming from the Office of the Registrar



Ashley's favorite color is Goldenrod, and was born and raised in Wallowa County, Oregon.

David Ruf

CDL Training Director

Bachelors: Business Management from Brigham Young University
Masters: Career & Technical Education from Utah State University
Coming from Park City School District, Utah



Twenty-three years in education. Started as a high school teacher in 1997. Taught as an adjunct for Utah Valley University since 2000. Organized and facilitated computer science professional development in over 80 separate workshops ranging across the United States since 2017.

NEW TO THE EGAN LIBRARY



Kerry Neely

ILL and Outreach Library Assistant

BA in English Literature from UAA



Kerry moved to Alaska in the mid-90s and to Juneau in 2009. She graduated with a degree in English Literature from UAA in 2005. She previously worked at the Consortium library while at UAA and as a library technician at Purdue University. When she's not at the library, she enjoys reading, spending time with her awesome teenage daughter, foraging for berries and mushrooms, and making things with wool.

Kris Cheng

Learning Center Testing Coordinator

B.S. Biology, SUNY Stony Brook

Came to UAS from SUNY Stony Brook, as a National Exchange Student in 1995, and moved back after graduation



Kris fell deeply in love with the Juneau community and surroundings of the area from her time here as an exchange student. She and her husband have enjoyed hiking, fishing, and camping while raising their 4 boys and they hope to continue adventuring with their new grand daughter. She has spent the last 13 years working as a paraeducator for the Juneau School District. She truly loves helping students learn and grow and it has been a treat for her to see some of the children she knew as elementary students here at UAS, all grown-up! She is excited that after 29 years, UAS is a part of my daily life again!

Brenda Andrew

Administrative Specialist

Coming from Western Alaska



Brenda has dedicated the majority of her career to finance-related roles from both sides of the accounting spectrum, including Accounts Receivable to Accounts Payable and Payroll.

Outside of work, Brenda enjoys exploring nature with her kids, puzzles, picking berries, playing the piano, cooking and crocheting.