

Commencement 2020  
*Saturday, December 12th*

# ALASKA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

Commencement Program  
December 12, 2020

*Invocation.....Pastor Brian Anderson, University Chaplain*

*Welcome.....Valerie Nurr'araaluk Davidson, President*

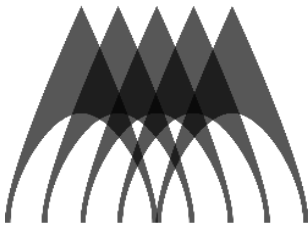
*Greeting .....Mr. Ethan Schutt, Chair of the Board of Trustees*

*Welcome.....Grace Shultz, ASAPU President*

*Presentation of Degrees.....Valerie Nurr'araaluk Davidson,  
Assisted by Dr. Amanda King, Chair of Faculty Assembly*

*Closing.....Dr. Hilton Hallock, Provost*

*Benediction.....Pastor Brian Anderson*



**ALASKA  
PACIFIC  
UNIVERSITY**

# Associate of Arts

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## Business Administration

**Destiny Chantel DeGroote**  
**Joleen J. Sheldon**

# Bachelor of Arts

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## Business Administration and Management

**Brian T. DeMarco\***

Thesis Title – Creating A Road Map for Future Managers: Best Practices for Promoting Employees at Cooperatives in Telecommunications

**Karen Ann Dillard**

Senior Project Title – Herbal Essentials – An E-Commerce Seller of Herbal Supplements

**Adam Michael Hays\***

Thesis Title – Best Practices for Conducting Qualitative Research in Rural Alaska

**Julie Grace Matson\***

Thesis Title – Onboarding Program for Wine Distributor Sales Personnel

**Lani Newlin**

Senior Project Title – Tundra Sun Espresso

**Dayna Rae Toohey**  
Senior Project Title – Pasta, Sauce & Salads

**Maslin Grace Wirum**  
Senior Project Title – Little Steps Daycare

## Counseling Psychology

**Kaylee Gifford**  
Senior Project Title – The Effects of a Laughter Yoga Workshop  
on Alaska Pacific University Students

**Marquia Renae Giles**  
Senior Project Title – Writing Through Your Trauma: The Path to  
Post-traumatic Growth

**Rachel A. Stanhope**  
Senior Project Title – Communication for Individuals with Autism

## Liberal Studies

**Kaylee Rochelle Bendixen**  
*Minor: Counseling Psychology*  
Senior Project Title – The Lessons that matter most: An  
Exploration of Ways that the Knowledge of Alaska Native Elders  
is Transmitted

## Outdoor Studies

**Allen Ayagina'ar Moses Dahl**  
*Minor: Marine & Environmental Science*  
*Concentration: Snow Science*  
Senior Project Title – Adapting Avalanche Education to Suit the  
needs of a Youth Experiential Education Program

**Dillon Raftery**

Senior Project Title – Assessing Anchorage Bicycle Planning Methods through a Comparative Analysis of Aspirational Cities

**Russell Everett Wong**

*Minor: Mathematics for Environmental Science*

Senior Project Title – Ground Truth Trekking: Methods, Techniques, and Equipment for Collection Ecological Data in a Wilderness Setting

# Bachelor of Science

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## Health Science

**Kati Miles**

*Concentration: Health Care Management*

Senior Project Title – Fundraising for Secondary Intervention

**Malia Leilani Lyn Pollock-Eldridge**

Senior Project Title – Why Dermatology is Important

## Marine and Environmental Science

**Arika I. Garcia**

*Minor: Mathematics for Environmental Science*

*Concentration: Marine Biology*

Senior Project Title – Shrimp in Frederick Sound, Alaska: Shrimp maximum count based on dredge dumping sites

**Neil Yukon Walsh**

Senior Project Title – Exploring Halibut Morphometrics for Predictive Modeling

## Nursing

**Joclyn Renee Reamey**

Senior Project Title – Nursing education for Alaska Native historical trauma and traditional healing

**Mary J. Viveiros**

Senior Project Title – Taking a Patient without Report? Promoters and Barriers for Participating in Nursing Handover Report

## Graduate Certificate

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### K-8 Teacher Certification

**Brady Alannah Neel**

Project Title – The Importance of the Morning Meeting  
Teaching Site – Inlet View Elementary, Anchorage

## Master of Arts

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**Jennifer K. Phillips**

Thesis Title – Using Current Brain Research to Guide Instructional Strategies

**Thomas O’Harra**

Thesis Title – Relating Functional Movement Screen (FMS) Scores to Cross-Country Ski Performance

**Robyn Elaine Williams**

Thesis Title – The Therapeutic Benefits of Scripture Journaling

# Master of Business Administration

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## Master of Business Administration

**Glen Wayne Buchta Jr.**  
**Brian T. DeMarco\***  
**Bobbyjo Edwardsen**  
**Adam Michael Hays\***  
**Paige L. Krichbaum**  
**Arianna M. Lawes-Wiseman**  
**Monica Ann Lee**  
**Julie Grace Matson\***  
**Clinton L. Nelson**  
**Sherry O. Roland**  
**Alberta Flora Unok**  
**Alexandra Maria Werba**  
**Shawn Williams**

*\*thesis is listed under Business Administration section*

## Master of Business Administration

*Finance*

**Darlene Neilani Su'esu'e**

## Master of Business Administration

*Health Services Administration*

**Amanda Keates**  
**Allison Knox**  
**Doreen A. Schenkenberger**  
**Ginamarie Arafles Struble**

**Christopher Michael Taylor**  
**Brigette Michalle Vargo**

Executive Master of Business Administration  
*Strategic Leadership*

**Katherine Renee Dawson**  
**Tonya Rae James**  
**Silvia Ann Senisch Leon Guerrero**  
**Desirae Dawn Mack**  
**Darlene Neilani Su'esu'e**

# Master of Science

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Counseling Psychology

**Stacie Elaine Baker**

Thesis Title – Wilderness and Adventure Therapy: Application for  
School Aged Youth

Environmental Science

**Kristina Ann Fillman**

Thesis Title – Estimating tall-shrub biomass in southcentral Alaska

Outdoor and Environmental Education

**Amethyst R. Harmston**

*K-8 Teaching Certification*

Project Title – Community & Placed-Based Learning  
Teaching Site – Wendler Middle School, Anchorage



**Rebecca Sue King**

*K-8 Teaching Certification*

Project Title – Engagement Strategies

Teaching Site – Ravenwood, Eagle River

# Doctor of Psychology

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## Counseling Psychology

**Dennis Gall**

Thesis Title – A Phenomenological Enquiry into Aging and the  
Speed of Time

# Academic Apparel

The academic apparel worn by faculty and degree candidates has been worn by scholastics since the first universities were established in the Middle Ages. The wearing of common garb places the concern of academic, the search for Truth, above individual personalities. Because only three groups of in our society wear robes – judges, who are dedicated to justice; clergy, who are dedicated to God and the Holy; and academics, who are dedicated to Truth – there is great pride in this noble tradition.

The color of silk lining in the academic hoods indicates the institution granting the degree. The color of the tassel on the cap and the velvet of the hood, carried forward around the throat, indicates the field of study.

White: Arts, Letters, Humanities ♦ Dark Blue: Philosophy  
Pink: Music ♦ Light Blue: Education ♦ Golden Yellow: Science  
Purple: Law ♦ Drab: Commerce  
Scarlet: Theology ♦ Green: Medicine

## History of AMU & APU - A Timeline

- 1948 - The Reverend Peter Gordon Gould urged Methodist Church to establish a college in Alaska, beginning planning and fundraising
- 1954 - The Division of National Missions of the Methodist Church authorized purchase of campus land in Anchorage, AK
- 1957 - Alaska Methodist University chartered
- 1958 - Dr. Donald P. Ebright selected as AMU's first President by the Board of Trustees
- 1959 - AMU campus dedicated and cornerstone laid
- 1960 - Grant and Gould Hall completed and dedicated
- 1964 - AMU achieved federal accreditation for the first time
- 1966 - First Master's degree offered

- 1971 - Ceremonial signing of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act on APU campus
- 1973 - UAA/APU Consortium Library opened; Kellogg Campus in Palmer, AK given in trust to AMU
- 1977 - AMU reopened after a brief closure for reorganization
- 1978 - AMU renamed to Alaska Pacific University
- 1983 - Atwood Center and Mlakar House dedicated
- 1984 - Grace Hall completed and dedicated
- 1986 - Moseley Sports Center completed and dedicated
- 1992 - Carr-Gottstein Academic Center completed and dedicated
- 1999 - APU Nordic Ski Center founded, building on longstanding competitive ski club
- 2001 - Environmental learning center at Spring Creek Farm and Kellogg Campus developed
- 2007 - Segelhorst Residence Hall opened
- 2011 - APU launched first doctoral program
- 2016 - APU formed strategic partnership with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
- 2020 - Valerie Nurr'araaluk Davidson, a Yup'ik and enrolled tribal member of the Orutsaramiut Traditional Native Council of Bethel was elected as President of the Alaska Pacific University, its first female president, on April 25, 2020

# ALASKA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

## Vision, Mission & Values Statement

### Vision

Honoring Alaska's Indigenous heritage, exemplifying excellence, and preparing paths.

### Mission

APU provides a world-class, hands-on, culturally responsive educational experience in collaboration with our students, communities, and Tribal partners

### Values

Wisdom

Respect

Reciprocity

Relevance

Responsibility