

Spring Commencement 2020

To the Spring 2020 Graduating Class:

I first came to know APU five years ago when I came back to Alaska to finish my third year of law school and moved into Atwood North. Little did I know that I would be here today congratulating students who also came to know APU during the same time that I have been here.

I was very much looking forward to commencement this spring. Ceremonies celebrating important transitions and accomplishments are important. I hope some of you are able to take advantage of participating in a future in person commencement.

Aside from missing the chance to congratulate each of you in person, I will also miss the chance of speaking with you during your transition to APU Alumni.

In lieu of those opportunities, I leave you these three quotes.

“The more people’s standpoints I have present in my mind while I am pondering a given issue, and the better I can imagine how I would feel and think if I were in their place, the stronger will be my capacity for representative thinking.” Hannah Arendt

“Difficulties strengthen the mind, as labor does the body.” Seneca Philosopher

“Be like the fox who makes more tracks than necessary, some in the wrong direction” Wendall Berry

Congratulations and Stay Safe.

Maat’na tavra (That’s it, good job),

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R.P.d". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

Bob

Robert Onders MD, JD, MPA
President Alaska Pacific University

Associate of Arts

Business Administration

Ryan Charles Edwin Clayton

Chanel Enslow

Bernadene R. Henrie

Erica Marie Mejia

Tammy D. Philemonof

Stephanie Anne Rosario

Kada Lynn Silcott

Bachelor of Arts

Business Administration and Management

Erik Thomas Bjornsen

Senior Project Title - Bjorn to Adventure

Colleen M. Dushkin

Senior Project Title - Business is AAHA A&E Service

Spencer Cole Madden

Senior Project Title - A Study of First -Time Homebuyers and
Early Retirement Investors

Jacquoi Kathryn James Porter

Minor: Accounting/Finance

Senior Project Title – *Black Sands Fur, LLC* – A Provider of Legally Harvested Furs for Indigenous Fur Sewers, and Finished Fur Products

Marcus Michael Reed

Senior Project Title - *Top of the World Logistics* – A Quick Cargo Exchange Facility

Brooke Adelle Sandoval Banker

Senior Project Title - A Curated App Providing Information of Importance to Arctic Cultures

Joseph Alan Siebert

Senior Project Title - *Heimdallr, LLC* - A Mobile App Developer Providing Gamification Products for Retail Customer Engagement

Aaron Tooyak

Senior Project Title - An Amazon FBA Vendor of Tech-Related Accessories

Counseling Psychology

Zoë Kayla Flannery

Senior Project Title - Seasonal Affective Disorder: An Educational Journey for Students at Alaska Pacific University

Caroline M. Oakley

Senior Project Title - Promoting Wellness among Refugees in Anchorage

Bonnie Parker

Senior Project Title - Is it Billable? The Juxtaposition of Providing Quality Care and Producing Service Documentation that Captures the Extent of Behavioral Healthcare Services Provided

Gabrielle Pierce

Senior Project Title - INK: Motives behind People Getting Tattoos

Jessica Raymond

Senior Project Title - Free Alaska: Local Human Trafficking
Prevention and Intervention

Rosebud Scott

Senior Project Title - It's Not Just an Animal: Exploring Pet
Bereavement

Taylor A. Tuttle

Senior Project Title - Youth Emotional Safety

Joseph West

Minor: Outdoor Studies

Senior Project Title - Climbing for Mental Health

Liberal Studies

Quinn Thomas Berry

Minor: Counseling Psychology

Senior Project Title - A Brief History of Theater in Alaska

Taylor Breanna Matthews

Concentration: Pre-Med

Senior Project Title - Positive Youth Development

Kerry Lynne Quade

Minor: Business Administration

Senior Project Title - The Use of Active Programming and
Placemaking Strategies to Engage Civic Spaces and Create
Community

Robert Merrick Werner

Senior Project Title - Service Learning and Long-term
Volunteering Experiences

Bryce D. Zaro

Minor: Counseling Psychology
Concentration: Pre-Med

Senior Project Title - Randomized Trial of Isoflurane and
the Effects on Spatial Memory in Young Rats

Outdoor Studies

Jeffrey Caron

Minor: Counseling Psychology
Concentration: Snow Science

Senior Project Title - Designing and Integrating Stress Inoculation
Training for Avalanche Rescue Courses

Rebecca Hodson

Senior Project Title - Dynamic and Adaptive Outdoor Teaching
Styles: Snowboarding Education and Observations

Rebecca J. Kemner

Concentration: Snow Science

Senior Project Title - In with the New: A look at the American
Avalanche Association's Pro Training Program

Samuel Ross Latta

Senior Project Title - Chronic Illnesses in the Outdoors

Bianca Trowbridge

Concentration: Outdoor Education
Senior Project Title - ANTHC on Skis

Bachelor of Science

Marine and Environmental Sciences

Corina Corona Cabrera

Concentration: Marine Biology

Senior Project Title - Assessing Ovarian Development of Pacific Halibut: Oocyte Size Frequency Distribution by Stage

Scout Bailey Cummings Donahue

Concentration: Marine Biology

Senior Project Title - Impacts of Climate Change in the Arctic: Vegetation, Caribou, and Native People of the Brooks Range, Alaska

Carrie Jene Hallinan

Concentration: Marine Biology

Concentration: Fisheries Ecology

Senior Project Title - Environmental Factors and Run Timing of Chinook Salmon on the Anchor River

Madison Rose Bogard Herron

Senior Project Title - Changes in Black-legged Kittiwake Productivity and Clutch Size in Kachemak Bay, Alaska from 2016-2019

Tori Leigh Horsley

Concentration: Marine Biology

Senior Project Title - Patterns of Pectoral Fin Contact Amongst Atlantic Spotted Dolphins Around Bimini, The Bahamas

Eliza Rose Kurth

Concentration: Ecology

Concentration: Environmental Policy

Senior Project Title - The Next Step to Sustainability: Composting
at APU

Richard Wayne Lister Jr.

Concentration: Earth and Climate Science

Senior Project Title - Identifying Recruitment Events in Mussel
Beds by Looking at a Size Distribution Analysis

Graduate Certificate

K-8 Teaching Certification

Clayton Edward Bronnée

Teaching Site –Turnagain Elementary, Anchorage

Jessica Ossenkop

Teaching Site –Aquarian Elementary, Anchorage AK

Adrienne Margaret West

Teaching Site –Williwaw Elementary, Anchorage AK

Alixandrea Lauren Williams

Teaching Site Kotlik Elementary, Kotlik, AK in Lower Yukon
School District

Master of Arts

Master of Arts

Jonathon Lee Singler

Thesis Title - Once-A-Pawn A Knight: A Call to Adventure of the Child's Mind and the Unrealized Journey to Growth from a Game of Chess

Master of Business Administration

Master of Business Administration

**Delores Jane Gregory
Cheryl Lee Rinehart
Germaine Salmine**

Master of Business Administration

*Concentration: Finance
Investment Certificate*

Lee Cruise

Executive Master of Business

Administration

Strategic Leadership

David Zachary Frost

Arthur R. Tovar

Master of Science

Counseling Psychology

Desiree Fisher

Professional Project Title - Utilization of Dynamic Seating for
Grade School Children with ADHD: An Intermediary Study

Shawnalea Fox

Professional Project Title - Adaptive Walk and Talk Therapy:
Increasing Accessibility to the Healing Benefits of Psychotherapy
and Movement in Nature for People with Differing Mobility
Levels

Bernice Marie Nisbett

Professional Project Title - Rogerian Aspects of Empathy in
Political Leaders: Criminal Justice Reform in Alaska

Loni Rae Quinn

Professional Project Title - Romantic Resiliency: Up-Regulating
Positive Emotions to Strengthen Relationships

Alyssa Randall

Professional Project Title - The Loneliness Project

Heather Skelton-Frye

Professional Project Title - Canine Comfort: How Man's Best Friend is Taking on the Therapy World

Environmental Science

Timothy James Blackmon

Thesis Title - Shell Growth of Pacific Razor Clams in Cook Inlet, Alaska

Brian Andrew Ritchie

Thesis Title - Exploring Spatial and Temporal Declines in Size-At-Age in Pacific halibut in the Gulf of Alaska

Kyle R. Smith

Thesis Title -Habitat Selection of Dall's Sheep in the Chugach Mountains Using Step-Selection Function Analysis

Outdoor and Environmental Education

Christopher Hobby Eversman

Thesis Title - Implementing and Assessing an Instructional Hunting Course at Alaska Pacific University

Lynda Jones

Thesis Title - Black People Don't Go Outside: Impact of Stereotypes on Black American's Relationship with Nature

Duc Minh Ngo

Thesis Title - Connectedness to Nature and Pro-Environmental Behavior: A Correlational Study in Vietnamese Context

Erin Morgan Pollock

K-8 Teaching Certification

Teaching Site - Fireweed Academy, Homer, AK in Kenai Borough School District

Words of Wisdom

People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel. - Maya Angelou

Gina Miller



Imagine me hollering your name at you and adding, "WAY TO GO! LOOK AT YOU! WELL DONE! HUZZAH!"

Renee Georg



Welcome to the profession of teaching. You have worked hard, learned a great deal about K-8 instruction, and APU is very proud to send you out into our Alaskan classrooms to work with our students. Congratulations.

Janice Littlebear



You are educated. Your certification is in your degree. You may think of it as the ticket to the good life. Let me ask you to think of an alternative. Think of it as your ticket to change the world. - Tom Brokaw

Michelle Wheeler



One of my favorite quotes from Barry Lopez, from his book *Arctic Dreams*, summarize my advice to you: "There are simply no answers to some of the great pressing questions. You continue to live them out, making your life a worthy expression of leaning into the light." You are never done learning, but hopefully you are leaving APU more equipped to tackle the world's problems and to

teach yourself how to learn new things. Congratulations on your graduation!

Erin Larson



Graduates, congratulations!! Go forth and represent APU proudly. Here's a quotation from an unknown author: The best kind of pride is that which compels a person to do their very best work, even if no one is watching. Cheers

Scott Graves – Financial Aid



“You are the greatest project you will ever get to work on. Take your time, Create Magic”- unknown

Rani E Malone



What you will notice first when you step out into life with a new degree in your hands are clouds as they gather here alongside the faithful sun.

I hope we have provided you with what you will need for all kinds of weather.

Pull your boots on, zip up and jump in.

Steve Rubinstein



When post-student life feels a bit overwhelming, I advise the students to remember that “Success is stumbling from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm” - Churchill

Nathan Wolf



Dear Business Graduates,
Congratulations! Your hard work and perseverance has paid off. May your post-graduation journey be rewarding and purposeful. These are extraordinary times because you are inheriting a world in distress as you walk out the door with a diploma in hand. You have a lot of work to do unlike any other graduate before you. This is the time to put your learning to work. Now more than ever, the world needs business leaders who can think on their feet, solve problems, and persist in the face of challenges. Business school taught you that. Know that you are not alone as you make this extraordinary journey. APU family will be with you. Stay in touch, and use this institution as a home base to connect with your alumni peers and teachers to work out solutions your world needs at this time. Our best of wishes to you and a brighter future you will make. May you stay well and do well.

Yaso Thiru



Find space to celebrate you each day in magnificent and marvelous ways, in calm and peaceful ways, in ways that rejuvenate your soul, ground your spirit and energizes you! The world needs you, being you. Peace,

| *Pastor Brian Anderson, APU Chaplain*



Words of wisdom for APU graduates? Turn that question around! Today we celebrate **your** realized knowledge, graduates. Don't look at me, or other faculty. Look at yourself, with your inner eye, and proclaim, '*yes, freakin' yes, I am educated! Diploma in hand, certified wise.*'

Pandemic 2020 Graduates you are already legendary. As if finishing your last semester of a higher education degree program was not stressful enough. You all deserve a special

addendum on your diploma, or a merit badge, with a medical stamp of approval. Perhaps you just need to highlight the date, April 2020. Simply stating **2020** as your graduation date will immediately communicate to one and all that you are a person of experience, an emerging expert of intense resiliency.

Finishing up your academic efforts in the midst of Covid19 is an accomplishment that deserves a very special place in your heart, mind, and soul. You have earned a roster spot in the global society of individuals that persevered in the teeth of this pandemic. Despite your bragging rights, I expect most of the class of 2020 will be modest about your life lessons of the past month(s), as the wisdom of resiliency roots itself in humility; more to do with the learned experience of deep, extreme coping skillz (yes that is skills with a z), flexible abilities to adjust and manage high levels of stress and anxiety.

Graduates, even if you're a quiet type, ignite some fireworks or blink the room lights. Attend or host a wild dance on Zoom. Conduct a special private, very exclusive, 'me party.' (Muppet Movie 2011 with Amy Adams)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WpE8CdH6fdE>

Yes, invite yourself to your own graduation 'me party.' Invite the Muppets, Miss Piggy, Kermit, Animal, and other non-murderous make-believe friends. You earned it.

Professor Kaplan



Life after college, your future, is one of many unknowns. Like walking a new path you don't know exactly what is in front of you. However your education has provided you much to rely on, like a really good guide. Use it well!

Paul Twardock



Develop your grit, find the good and dare greatly

Book Recommendations (based on my advice; if there is room...)

Grit (Angela Duckworth)

Find the Good: Unexpected Life Lessons from a Small-Town
Obituary Writer (Heather Lende)

Daring Greatly: How the Courage to Be Vulnerable Transforms
the Way We Live, Love, Parent, and Lead (Brene' Brown)

Caitlin Poindexter



Be safe, stay healthy and conquer your dreams Spring 2020 APU
seniors you've worked hard to get here!

Becky Hannaman



At University, it is said a third of what you learn is from your
peers, a third of what you learn is about yourself and a third of
what you learn is from your professors. Go forth, do big things,
make the world better and occasionally think about that last third.

Lincoln Garrick



“Instructions for living a life.

Pay attention.

Be astonished.

Tell about it.” - Mary Oliver

Eeva Latosuo



Grades matter but learning matters more, don't lose the lesson in
the hunt for a perfect score. You will always be evaluated on some
metric, it's what you do with the learnings that help you grow and

succeed. Your focus on work will ebb and flow throughout your life and sometimes you have to run really hard to make things work. Just don't forget, in the end, "No one ever said on their deathbed 'I wish I'd spent more time at the office.'" - Harold Kushner.

Rachael Miller



Okay, here are my words of wisdom -- it is something my Dad always said to me when I was growing up to make me feel better when I was feeling down. Don't know its origin, but it's been around for over 60 years!

After I got my MBA back in 1995 I started using it on my signature lines – it reminds me daily that no matter how tough things are, life is merely a circle of time interconnected and it is important to make the most of what you have right now and not worry about all of the yesterdays, todays and tomorrows!

Today was tomorrow yesterday, and today will be yesterday tomorrow, so make the most of today

Deb Coddling



Nothing is easy to the unwilling. Thomas Fuller and Nikki Giovanni.

Farrah Greene – Palmer



It always seems impossible until it's done. - Nelson Mandela

Dee Barker



Nothing is absolute. Everything changes, everything moves,
everything revolves, everything flies and goes away. – Frida Kahlo

Paula Cerda



Take it Easy - The Eagles

When The Going Gets Tough, The Tough Get Going - Billy Ocean

Right Here, Right Now - Jesus Jones

Feel Good, Inc. - Gorillaz

Just The Way You Are - Bruno Mars

Blinding Lights - The Weeknd

Michelle Medeiros-Trent



APU Nordic is proud of our athletes who are graduating this spring. Being able to train and race on an elite level in cross-country skiing is an achievement. But, being able to simultaneously gain a collegiate degree while racing internationally is a life-long fulfillment. Congratulations. We are proud of you and the hard work you have put forth.

Erik Flora

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. 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

Founding of Alaska Methodist University/Alaska Pacific University



Alaska Pacific University was originally founded as Alaska Methodist University (AMU) through the efforts of Peter Gordon Gould. Gould, a Unangax from Unga, Alaska, left home as a child to attend the Jesse Lee Home for Children in Unalaska. He later attended Syracuse University and Auburn Seminary, becoming the first Alaska Native minister in the United Methodist Church. In 1948 he was appointed Superintendent for the Alaska Mission of the Methodist Church.

Gould identified the need “for indigenous leadership . . . educated and trained in Alaska for Alaska” and advocated for “a privately supported, fully accredited liberal arts college or university to educate Alaska’s youth in Alaska.” His commitment to this vision, planning of a 4-year liberal arts curriculum, and extensive fundraising resulted in the creation of Alaska Methodist University.

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
- 2019 - APU designated as an Alaska Native Serving Institution
- 2020 -- Valerie Nurr'araaluk Davidson named president

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

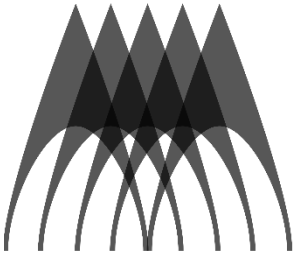
Wisdom

Respect

Reciprocity

Relevance

Responsibility



ALASKA
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