

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

Commencement 2023

Saturday, April 29th

ALASKA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

Commencement Program

April 29, 2023

**Academic Processional.....Crow Creek Pipes and Drums*

*Convocation Marshals.....Dr. Robert Lane, Mr. Paul Twardock,
Ms. Choron Ryan*

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

Land Acknowledgement.....Mike Harper, Member of Elders Council

Welcome.....Dr. Janelle Vanasse, University President

GreetingMr. Jim Roberts, Acting Chair of the Board of Trustees

Welcome.....Kingikmuit Dancers of Anchorage

*Undergraduate Speakers.....Ms. Elisa Burnett
Bachelor of Science, Environmental Public Health*

*Graduate Speaker.....Mr. Michael Craytor
Doctor of Counseling Psychology*

*Presentation of Degrees.....Dr. Janelle Vanasse
Assisted by Ms. Kristin English, Chair of Faculty Assembly
and Dr. Hilton Hallock*

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

**Benediction.....Pastor Brian Anderson*

**Academic Recessional*

**Please stand during invocation and benediction. Gentleman, please remove
your hats.*

For the duration of the ceremony, please turn off all cell phones.

Thank you to the following businesses:

Live Stream - Jonathan Butzke, Talking Circle Media

Flowers - P & M Garden

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, 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

2022- Dr. Janelle Vanasse becomes APU's 13th President

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: Business Administration
Scarlet: Theology ♦ Salmon Pink: Public Health ♦ Apricot: Nursing

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

Dr. Robert Lane

Professor Emerita, Professor of Psychology

Robert A. Lane, Ph.D., is a highly experienced faculty member at APU with over 20 years of service since 2000 alongside a decade of prior teaching experience. Throughout his career, Dr. Lane has demonstrated a commitment to excellence in teaching and student scholarship support.

Dr. Lane was honored with the Faculty Merit Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2003. He's developed and revised multiple APU courses at the undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral levels and consistently received positive evaluations from students at all stages of learning. He has maintained strong personal and professional relationships with alumni throughout Alaska.

As a Scholar-Practitioner, Dr. Lane is a Licensed Psychologist in the state of Alaska. He has developed and implemented a state and nationally-certified substance abuse treatment program in Anchorage, which also served as a training site for students. The program was awarded national certification by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities.

Dr. Lane has provided consultation services to McLaughlin Youth Correctional Center and achieved expert witness status related to substance abuse and clinical psychology.

Dr. Lane obtained certifications critical to mental health treatment in Alaska, including Positive Psychology, Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction, and Recognizing and Responding to Suicide Risk.

Dr. Lane has received numerous awards and honors from the professional community, including the Presidential Citation by Norine Johnson, Ph.D., President of the American Psychological Association, and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Alaska Psychological Association in 2021. He has also served in multiple elected leadership roles in the Alaska Psychological Association and as the Federal Advocacy Coordinator for over a decade.

Dr. Lane has served on faculty committees and held leadership roles such as Director of the Master of Science in Counseling Psychology program, Supervisor for APU Counseling and Wellness Center, Director of the

Dr. Robert Lane

Continued

Professor Emerita, Professor of Psychology

Doctor of Psychology Program, and Director of Clinical Training for graduate programs. He has written, received, and implemented multiple grants to develop and revise graduate programming in Counseling Psychology and served as the primary faculty for the accreditation review process.

Dr. Lane has been consistently described as affable, thoughtful, caring, and a delightful colleague.

The faculty and Trustees of Alaska Pacific University are proud to recognize Dr. Lane's outstanding contributions throughout his career by conferring the status of Professor Emeritus upon him.

Environmental Science

Johnse Sanford Ostman

Thesis Title – A synthesis of the long-term hydrometeorological data series for Eklutna Watershed, Alaska

Outdoor and Environmental Education

Patrick Higgins

Thesis Title- Creating an Instructor Handbook for an American Canoe Association Packrafting Instructor Certification Course

Ian Standard

Thesis Title- Uncovering Ecological Identity Through Narrative Construction on a Wilderness Expedition

Doctor of Psychology

Michael Joseph Craytor

Dissertation- Homicide and Perpetration-Induced Traumatic Stress

Yvette Curtis

Dissertation- Elite Mental Toughness (EMT) A Military Unit-Bases Group Suicide Ideation Risk Management Plan

Kylie Gore-Hall

Dissertation - A Provider Perception Study Evaluating Mandates, Impacts, and Competence Outcomes in Continuing Education Across Practicing Psychologists: A Grounded Theory Study

Brittany Joy Pope

Dissertation - The Impact and Meaning of Perinatal Loss in Men

Stephanie I. Richardson

Dissertation - Effectiveness of Automated Virtual Reality Treatment for Aviophobia in Alaska

Nicole L. Graham

Thesis Title- Cultural Tourism Development and the Impact on Local
Communities: A Case Study on Economic Impact and Workforce Development
from Alaska

Kala M. Wilson

Kerry Anne Wilson

Master of Business Administration

Finance

John Palmer

Master of Business Administration

Health Services Administration

Marlene Violet Black

Sharon R. Carter

Louise Angela Chikigak

Executive Master of Business Administration

Strategic Leadership

Susan Anna Brown

Jennifer A. Caskey

Luke Macarius Stowe

Master of Science

Counseling Psychology

Sean P. Whalen

Paul Twardock

Professor Emeritus, Outdoor Studies

Paul Twardock's journey at Alaska Pacific University began in 1988 when he joined Student Activities, sharing his love for the outdoors with students. In 1992, he completed his APU MBA and worked as Director of Recreational Sports/Facilities. Starting the following year, he began serving as Director of Outdoor Studies. He was a founding member of the Outdoor Studies major with its first enrolled students in 1995; the major focused on experiential and place-based education.

Professor Twardock's list of achievements at APU is extensive, and his legacy will be felt by the entire community for many years to come. As an expert and guardian of Prince William Sound, he founded the Alaska Sea Kayak Symposium and authored the guidebook *Kayaking and Camping in Prince William Sound*. He was also a founder of the MSOEE Program, which he connected to the Kellogg Campus.

Over the years, Paul has served in various capacities at APU, including Chair of the Faculty, Chair of Outdoor Studies, and Director of the Institute of Culture and Environment. He has chaired the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Graduate Studies Committee, and Coordinating Council, in addition to serving on several other APU committees. Paul has carried out these duties with humility, skill, and kindness.

Paul played a vital role in bringing the larger Anchorage community together, forging connections with organizations such as the National Outdoor Leadership School-Alaska (NOLS), hosting Outdoor Explorer on KSKA, and serving as the founder of the Alaska Natural History Symposium.

Paul has remained committed to providing quality, student-centered, outdoor, and experiential education throughout his three decades at APU.

In recognition of his contributions to the university, the faculty and Board of Trustees are proud and honored to confer the status of Professor Emeritus upon Paul Twardock.

Undergraduate Certificates

Community Health Aide Program

Michaela Ann Okitkun
Shelia Lee Willis

Health Occupations

Emily Davis

Concentration: Clinical Medical Assistant

Danika Ingersoll

Concentration: Community Health Worker

Mikayla Melchert

Concentration: Clinical Medical Assistant

Practical Nursing (LPN)

Ashley Nicole Brand
Ashley Cora Dade
Steisy C. Carmona Feliz
Virginia Ann Howard
Elizabeth M. Wasonga

Associate of Arts

Business Administration

Mary Beth Adams
Josephine Marie Ambridge
Jacob Belleque
Mary Elisabeth Pingayak
Mary Anna Shay

Nursing

Katianna Juanita Carson

Senior Project Title – The Right Medication for the Right Population: A Study of Opioid Dependence Treatments and Efficacy.

Shelby Lynn Johnson

Senior Project Title – How do nursing competency variables contribute to Rapid Response Team (RRT)

Mackenzie Larson

Senior Project Title – Incorporating Mindfulness into Nursing Practice

Graduate Certificate

K-8 Teacher Certification

Madeline Ramuglia

Teaching Site – Sand Lake Elementary, Anchorage School District

Vainiaku Lovely Unutoa

Teaching Site – Fred Ipalook Elementary, North Slope Borough School District

Madison Taylor Williams

Teaching Site – Paul Banks Elementary, Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Master of Business Administration

Master of Business Administration

Zachery Robert Dunlap
Carmell Engebrestson

Marine and Environmental Science

Sarah Birchard

Senior Project Title – Producing Critical Data to Assess Methodological Considerations for Individual Brown Bear Photo Identification Software

Jessica R. Byrd

Concentration: Marine Biology

Senior Project Title – Assessing the Accuracy of Biomorphometric Measurements for Estimating Pacific Sleeper Shark Size

Andrea P. Cintron-Felix

Concentration Marine Biology

Senior Project Title – Covering Behavior of Green Sea Urchins Under the Influence of UCA, UVB, and ‘Moonlight

Annika Friese

Senior Project Title – An Examination of the Effectiveness of Education of Alaskan Tourists Regarding Coral-Safe Behavior in Hawaii

Molly Jessie Legg

Minor: Outdoor Studies

Senior Project Title – Patterns of Aquatic Insect Emergence in Cold and Warm Streams in Anchorage

Zoe Munson

Concentration Marine Biology

Senior Project Title – Strange Reflections: Mirror exposure response in the Pacific red octopus

Shannon Pugsley

Senior Project Title – The Importance and Effectiveness of Civilian Scientists in Identifying *Octopus rubescens* and *Enteroctopus dofleini*

Chloe Steiner

Minor: Business Administration

Concentration: Earth and Climate Science

Senior Project Title – A Canoe Expedition: Testing Water Quality in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness

Bachelor of Arts

Business Administration

Nicole L. Graham

Thesis Title- Cultural Tourism Development and the Impact on Local Communities: A Case Study on Economic Impact and Workforce Development

William T. Kleweno

Senior Project Title – Llama Desserts

Nellie Irene Phillips

Senior Project Title – Falls of Nostalgia

Stephanie Rosario

Minor: Healthcare Management

Senior Project Title – Ooo La Lash

Jamie Lynne Wooding

Non-Profit Management Emphasis

Senior Project Title – The Juice Box

Counseling Psychology

Aidan Preciliano Duran

Senior Project Title – The Therapeutic Role of Music in Personal and Cultural Identities; My Journey of Self-Expression and Creativity Through Music

Riley Gove

Senior Project Title – The Social and Internal Impact of Social Media Us

Dalayon Faith Miles

Senior Project Title – Establishing a Bond Between a Child and Guardian

Creative & Professional Writing

Maria S. Capezio Crookes

Senior Project Title – Expressive Writing as a Tool to Deepen Young People’s Faith. A Journal to Liberate you Heart

Bachelor of Science

Savanah Evans

Senior Project Title – The Culture of Silence and its Effects on the Human Experience with an Emphasis on Alaska Native Culture

Conner Gene Nielsen

Senior Project Title – Ragnarok Red

Orion Matson Waters

Senior Project Title – All Kinds of Scary: Chilling Stories from the Beyond

Liberal Studies

Miles Jackson Dennis

*Minor: Marine and Environmental Science
Concentration: Philosophy*

Senior Project Title – Cook Inlet Setnet Fisher Perspectives on the Future of the Valuation of Fishing

Suann René Endicott

Senior Project Title – Spiritual Activism Community Healing from White Supremacy & Allyship

Outdoor Studies

Grant A. McClure

Senior Project Title – African Safari Photo Portfolio

Chloe Steiner

Minor: Business Administration

Senior Project Title – A Canoe Expedition: Testing Water Quality in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness

Sustainability Studies

Sierra Dawn Clayton

Senior Project Title – A Description and Assessment of Reclamation Mining in Alaska

Environmental Public Health

Lucille Berliant

Senior Practicum Project – Radon Awareness: Informing Communities and Promoting Mitigation

Elisa Burnett

Senior Practicum Project – Microplastics and Their Effect on Human Health

Jasmine Perea

Senior Practicum Project – Anaerobic Digestion; A Pathway for the Poop Pipeline

Chyna Jane Perez-Williams

Senior Practicum Project – One Health: Alaskan community collaboration for the Environment & Public

Sierra Wylde

Senior Practicum Project – Microplastics in Alaska Drinking Water: Environmental Public Health Impacts

Health Sciences

Karl Lars Danielson

Senior Project Title – Developing a Cost-Effective Rosavin Standard-Making Protocol for Rhodiola rosea Supplement Industries

Kamela Wright

Concentration Pre-Health

Senior Project Title – Experiences in Healthcare