On the cover:
Li Bai Rides a Celestial Dolphin Home
by Tom Sexton (p. 9). Cover design
by Martyn Schmoll.

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What’s for dinner tonight? Is it something shaken from a bag or peeled from a plastic tray? Or is it flaky, fresh salmon paired with rhubarb-berry agua fresca? Alaska Native chef Rob Kinneen is out to revolutionize how Alaskans—and the world—see Alaska cuisine and with the *Fresh Alaska Cookbook*, he shows that it is possible for anyone to make this cuisine a hearty, healthy addition to our dinner rotations.

While Kinneen spent time cooking in the busy kitchens of New York and New Orleans, his heart always remained in Alaska. Kinneen made it his mission to bring the flavors of his home state to the lower 48, combining contemporary cooking with Alaska’s native plants and animals. Going beyond smoked salmon and clam chowder, Kinneen introduces us to Arctic Polenta and Razor Clam Fritters with Smoked Mustard Aioli. Salmon, crab, and moose do figure prominently in the book, of course, but so do updates of foods like agudak and bannock. Along with the recipes, Kinneen describes the culinary culture of the many regions and peoples of Alaska and argues for the importance of a local food movement. He also offers tips for non-Alaskan cooks who want to taste more of the flavors unique to the state. From coast to interior, Alaska never tasted so good!

Rob Kinneen is an Alaska Native chef who has been working in restaurants since he was fifteen years old. He has worked and staged in Louisiana, North Carolina, New York, and Illinois. He is a chef at The Boot in Durham, North Carolina, and also runs a catering company specializing in Alaska cuisine.
WILDCAT WOMEN
Narratives of Women Breaking Ground in Alaska’s Oil and Gas Industry
by Carla Williams
Subzero temperatures, whiteout blizzards, and even the lack of restrooms didn’t deter them. Nor did sneers, harassment, and threats. *Wildcat Women* is the first book to document the life and labor of pioneering women in the oil fields of Alaska’s North Slope. It profiles fourteen women who worked in the fields, telling a little-known history of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline.

These trailblazers conquered their fears to face hazardous working and living conditions, performing and excelling at “a man’s job in a man’s world.” They faced down challenges on and off the job: they drove buses over ice roads through snowstorms; wrestled with massive pipes; and operated dangerous valves that put their lives literally in their hands; they also fought union hall red tape, challenged discriminatory practices, and fought for equal pay—and sometimes won.

The women talk about the roads that brought them to this unusual career, where they often gave up comfort and convenience and felt isolated and alienated. They also tell of the lifelong friendships and sense of family that bonded these unlikely wildcats. The physical and emotional hardship detailed in these stories exemplifies their courage, tenacity, resilience, and leadership, and shows how their fight for recognition and respect benefited woman workers everywhere.

*Carla Williams* spent most of her career working in the Alaska oil and gas industry in Anchorage and on the North Slope.
The towns of Eagle, Circle, and Central are tucked away in the cold, rugged, and sparsely populated central-eastern interior of Alaska. These communities have fewer than three hundred residents in an area of more than 22,000 square miles. Yet they are closely linked by the Yukon River and by history itself.

Through their Eyes is a glimpse into the past and present of these communities, showing how their survival has depended on centuries of cooperation. The towns have roots in the gold rushes but they are also located within the traditional territories of the Hän Hwēch’īn, the Gwichyaa Gwich’īn, and Denduu Gwich’īn Dena (Athabascan) peoples. Over time, residents have woven together new heritages, adopting and practicing each other’s traditions. This book combines oral accounts with archival research to create a rich portrayal of life in rural Alaska villages. Many of the stories come directly from the residents of these communities, giving an inside perspective on the often colorful events that characterize life in Eagle, Circle, and Central.

Michael Koskey is assistant professor and chair of the Center for Cross-Cultural Studies at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He is the author of Cultural Activity and Market Enterprise: A Circumpolar Comparison of Reindeer Herding Communities at the End of the 20th Century.

Laurel Tyrrell is a resident of Central, Alaska, and lives a subsistence lifestyle with her family.

Varpu Lotvonen is a doctoral student at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.
Snowy Egret Rising

On the night Li Bai tried to embrace the moon in its fullness on the surface of the Yangtze River, blossoms scented the air, and beyond the moon pale stars powdered the sky. That faint shiver of white near the surface was a dolphin rising. I carry a book of his poems whenever I travel, poems that touch the heart like a gentle snow. Look, over there in that marsh, a snowy egret rising.

The day after their wedding, Tom and Sharyn Sexton set off on the more than 4,500-mile journey from Massachusetts to Alaska. Now, more than fifty years later, Tom Sexton is retracing those steps through his exceptional poetry. He describes the communities they passed through and ruminates on the changes, good and bad, that have taken place in the decades since. He still finds beauty in the country and draws transformative hope from the land that connects all of us. Appropriate for a journey that moves from east to west, the Sexton’s real-life voyage is embedded in the imaginary journey of the ancient Chinese poet, Li Bai, from Broad Pass to Polychrome Pass in the Alaska Range.

Tom Sexton is the founder of the creative writing program at the University of Alaska, Anchorage, as well as a former poet laureate of Alaska. His books include For the Sake of Light and A Ladder of Cranes, both from the University of Alaska Press.
ROUGHLY FOR THE NORTH

CARRIE AYAGADUK OJANEN
Roughly For the North

CARRIE AYAĞADUK OJANEN

I wish I were a dancer to let lines fall like that.
But I am dressed like you, roughly for the North.

Roughly for the North is a tender and complex portrait of an Arctic and Subarctic world. Full of lush language and imagery, each poem is an act of devotion and love to one’s family and land. Carrie Ayağaduk Ojanen weaves a moving portrait of grief, of the rippling effects of historical trauma on succeeding generations, of resilience in the face of adversity, of respect for the Alaska Native traditions she grew up in. With vivid imagery, she draws the reader into Northern life, where the spiritual and industrial collide. She uses formalism and lyrical free verse to explore the natural world and to conjure a place of staggering beauty that hides death around every corner.

A member of the Ugiuvamiut tribe, Ojanen grounds her work in a web of familial relationships. Especially important is her connection with her grandparents, members of the last generation to make their home on Ugiuvak (King Island), Alaska. With heartfelt verse, her poems reflect the staggering cultural changes her grandparents faced and the way traditional art forms continue to unite her community and help them connect to the past.

Carrie Ayağaduk Ojanen is an Inupiat writer from the Ugiuvamiut tribe. Her work has appeared in Prairie Schooner, the Louisville Review, As/Us Journal, and Yellow Medicine Review.
Coming Out of Nowhere
Alaska Homestead Poems
LINDA SCHANDELMEIER

Homestead life is often romanticized as a valiant, resilient family persisting in the clean isolation of pristine wilderness, living off the land and depending only on each other. But there can be a darker side to this existence.

Linda Schandelmeier was raised on a family homestead six miles south of the fledgling town of Anchorage, Alaska in the 1950s and 1960s. But hers is not a typical homestead story. In this book, part poetic memoir and part historical document, a young girl comes of age in a family fractured by divorce and abuse. Schandelmeier does not shy away from these details of her family history, but she also recognizes her childhood as one that was unique and nurturing, and many of her poems celebrate homestead life. Her words hint at her way of surviving and even transcending the remoteness by suggesting a deeper level of human experience beyond the daily grind of homestead life; a place in which the trees and mountains are almost members of the family. These are poems grounded in the wilds that shimmer with a mythic quality. Schandelmeier's vivid descriptions of homesteading will draw in readers from all types of lives.

Linda Schandelmeier is the author of Listening Hard Among the Birches. Her poems have appeared in Alaska Quarterly Review, the Northern Review, Cirque, Ice–Floe, and Connecticut River Review, among others. She was Artist in Residence at Denali National Park in 2012.
Imagining Anchorage

THE MAKING OF AMERICA’S NORTHERNMOST METROPOLIS

JAMES K. BARNETT AND IAN C. HARTMAN
Anchorage has grown from a town site of tents to become the largest city in the state. It just celebrated its centenary in 2015, but it has seen inhabitants for millennia. Combining full-color images with insightful essays, *Imagining Anchorage* is the most expansive and comprehensive take on this exceptional city.

This book brings together twenty renowned contributors, from historians to long-time locals, to tell a piece of Anchorage’s story. The essays cover the major movements in Anchorage: the first people, the arrival of Europeans, the founding of Anchorage, and its transformation into a modern city. The chapters highlight topics such as indigenous history, exploration and early colonialism, the rise of the oil industry, the economic importance of Alaska Native Corporations, the civil rights movement in Alaska, and the role of the military through Anchorage’s past and present.

James K. Barnett is an Alaska attorney and author.

Ian C. Hartman is associate professor of history at the University of Alaska Anchorage.
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Tidal Echoes

Tidal Echoes is a literary and art journal that showcases the art and writing of Southeast Alaskans. The journal is published by the University of Alaska Southeast and edited by undergraduate students on the Juneau campus. It may be purchased for $5 from Emily Wall at edwall@alaska.edu.
Two polar explorers are out to solve a mystery: Where is their special seal, Patches?

Scientists Roxanne Beltran and Patrick Robinson set off on a polar adventure, traveling to Antarctica to study the lives of Weddell seals. By finding Patches, a wily seal they’ve been tracking since its birth, they’ll be able to learn a lot about how much the seals eat and how many pups they raise. *A Seal Named Patches* takes young readers into the world at the very bottom of the globe, where they meet the extraordinary animals that live in cold, icy conditions. Through breathtaking photos and real-life stories, young readers will learn about how scientists do fieldwork, the challenges of researching animals in harsh climates, and even what it’s like to fly a helicopter over Antarctica. This engaging story will especially entertain and educate children ages five to eight.

*Roxanne Beltran* studies the influences of ecology and physiology on animal behavior at the University of Alaska. *Patrick Robinson* is reserve director for the University of California Natural Reserve System.