

Pat Pitney

Interim President

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December 12, 2020

Dear UA Colleagues,

It is with great sadness that I write to recognize the passing of one of our own, Professor Emeritus Dr. Terrence Cole who passed away Saturday, Dec. 12. We offer our deepest condolences to his wife, Gay Salisbury, and the Cole family.

Terrence was professor of Northern Studies and History and director of the Office of Public History at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. While he retired from teaching several years ago, he never retired from life. Through books, lectures, articles, public appearances, and his passion for adventure, he helped us all understand our history as Alaskans and how we came to be this way. He mentored countless graduate students and was twice selected Teacher of the Year by them.

I was particularly pleased when the University of Alaska Press honored Terrence's life and legacy with the publication of *"The Big Wild Soul of Terrence Cole."* This collection of essays by twin brother, Dermot, along with friends, colleagues, and students documented how Terrence and his work impacted them. The essays capture the essence of his spirit and the human experience in Alaska.

Terrence was the author of five books, a scholar passionate about polar exploration and the recipient of a library full of honors, awards, student accolades and family remembrances. He received the Emil Usibelli Distinguished Teaching Award, the Edith R. Bullock Award for Excellence, and the governor's Distinguished Service to the Humanities Award among so many others. Even his marriage to Gay in August 2003 was a *cause célèbre* as documented in an article in the New York Times.

This short, four-minute [video about the Alaska Flag Song](#) features a philosophical Terrence Cole and says so much about his heart, his way with words, and his love for Alaska <https://vimeo.com/472785065>.

In reflecting on Terrence's prolific and amazing life, it is clear that he was beloved by many. To all who will miss his spirit and great humor, we send our deepest condolences.

Sincerely,

Pat Pitney

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