



UNIVERSITY  
*of* ALASKA  

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*Many Traditions One Alaska*

**STATEWIDE  
SERVICE  
AWARDS  
FOR  
2010**

**AUGUST 18. 2011**

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## 5 YEARS OF SERVICE

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### **Mark Anderson**

Oracle Database Administrator, OIT Systems Services

### **Roger Brunner**

Roger Brunner joined the University of Alaska as Vice President/General Counsel in March of 2005. He graduated from Michigan State University with a B.S. degree in Computer Science in 1972. Brunner received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Notre Dame, after studying at the South Bend campus, plus the London, England, campus and at Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan. Admitted to the Alaska Bar in 1976, Brunner was in private practice in Fairbanks in a large firm for ten years and then in solo practice until becoming General Counsel. Brunner is admitted to practice in the state courts, the Federal District Court of the State of Alaska, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court. He has served on the Alaska Bar Association Fee Arbitration Executive Committee for years. Readers of the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner voted Brunner the "Best Attorney in Fairbanks" in 2003. Brunner won the Alaska Bar Association's Professionalism Award in 1999.

### **Douglas Creek**

Systems and Reports Administrator, Development/UA Foundation

Crazy Saxophonist!

### **Aida de L'Isle**

Infrastructure Application Specialist/Analyst, OIT Core Applications Services

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## 5 YEARS OF SERVICE

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### **Sue Ann Denny**

Sue Ann Denny was born in Biloxi, Mississippi, and moved around quite a bit as a child, due to her father's job. Her family finally settled in Fairbanks in 1988, and except for a 3-year stint in Seattle, she has been a full-time Alaskan ever since. Sue Ann (aka 'The Crazy Box Lady'), is currently the Records Coordinator in the Statewide Records Office, where she oversees many of the University's important documents.

### **Amber Gichard**

Amber was born in Bremerton, Washington, and grew up all over the world as an Air Force brat. Her family settled in Alaska in 1997, and she has been an Alaskan every since. She started working in the UA System as a Data Specialist in UAA's University Advancement Office in 2004, and became a permanent employee in 2006. Two years later, she became the Fund Manager in the same office. In July 2009, when Advancement Services centralized, she became the Fund & Gift Services Manager for the Anchorage Service Center at the University of Alaska Foundation. Amber has an A.A.S. degree in General Programs from UAA, and is currently working on her Bachelors degree in Business Administration with UAS. Amber and her husband, Andrew, enjoy camping, traveling, and working on their house in Chugiak.

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## 5 YEARS OF SERVICE

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### **Timothy Jeter**

Tim started working at UAA in February of 2005 as a Multimedia Design Specialist with the eMedia group, assisting faculty and staff with learning technology. He stayed with the department as it transitioned into what is now known as the Faculty Technology Center. In late 2008, Tim moved to UA Corporate Programs where Tim has served as a Multimedia Developer and helped businesses utilize the university's e-learning expertise as a means of improving workforce training.

Tim has lived in Anchorage since 1995; is married to a very loving wife, Rebecca; has three children, ages 7, 4 and 1; and has attended the University of North Texas and the University of Alaska Anchorage. He is thankful for the opportunity and challenge that the university has provided, and feels blessed to be a part of the UA system, as it's been very good to him and his family.

### **Joseph Jordan**

Research Assistant/Publications Designer, Academic Affairs

### **Dianne Milke**

After 25 years working as a paralegal and in K-12 education, Dianne joined the UA General Counsel's Office in February 2005, moving on the next year to work as the UAF chancellor's assistant, and returning to UA one year ago to serve as President Gamble's executive assistant.

### **Christopher Nicolaus**

Telephone Technician, OIT Telephone Services

### **Kim Perkins**

Administrative Assistant to the Faculty Services Manager,  
Human Resources

### **Sacques Rainer**

HR & Event Coordinator, IT Business Office & Office of the CITO

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## **5 YEARS OF SERVICE**

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### **Wendy Rupe**

The US Air Force moved Wendy's family to Alaska in 1983 when she was 6. She went to school in North Pole and started working at UAF in 1994 as a student employee for the UAF Bookstore.

In 1997 Wendy became the A/P clerk at the Bookstore and eventually the Office Manager. During this time she received her Bachelor's of Business Administration in Accounting from UAF in 2001. In 2005 she started working for OIT Telephone Services as a Fiscal Technician and now works in the IT Business Office as the UAF Fiscal Officer.

### **May Saelee**

May Saelee, Fiscal Tech with UA Corporate Programs, has been with the University since 2005. Prior to joining UACP in October 2007, she worked in the UAA Chancellor's Office and School of Engineering.

### **Christopher Young**

Senior Analyst Programmer, OIT Enterprise Applications Services

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## 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

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### **Yvonne Boyce**

Claims Adjuster, Risk Services

### **Jennifer Dunn**

Lead Systems Coordinator, Financial Systems

### **James Elieff II**

Manager, OIT Desktop Support

### **Gwendolyn Gruenig**

Gwendolyn (Gwen) Gruenig has served as Associate Vice President of Planning and Institutional Research since 2008. She has held various positions with the university since 1993 and currently oversees a number of functional responsibilities for the UA system. Gwen is a life-long Alaskan and brings a broad range of experience to her current position. Her education includes an undergraduate degree in psychology and a graduate degree in statistics, as well as graduate work in higher education. In addition to her duties with the system office, Gwen is a former adjunct faculty member, teaching introductory statistics courses for the UAF mathematics department. She has also been employed as a statistical consultant to researchers and private businesses for a number of years, specializing in social science research and project management. Outside her work, Gwen enjoys spending time with her son, Cameron, and friends, as well as reading, gardening, and outdoor activities.

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## 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

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### **Eric Jensen**

Eric Jensen is a rather ordinary fellow who grew up in a rather ordinary little town in the heart of an extraordinary state - which is to say, Delta Junction, Alaska. He married his lovely (and quite extraordinary) wife Ariena during the early stages of his adult life while studying at UAF and working as a student assistant at the Alaska Satellite Facility (ASF). Shortly thereafter, in October of 2000, he was afforded the opportunity to move into a position as a Research Analyst in the Operations Center of ASF, where he worked for the next six years. While at ASF he continued his pursuit of a degree in mathematics, eventually graduating just in time to begin a prolific baby-producing spree, during which the Lord blessed the world with four more little, trundling Jensens over the course of six years. After his six years at ASF he packed up his satchel and followed in the footsteps of many men and women greater than he, crossing the street to work in the Office of Information Technology. He remains there, to this day, working as a Network Technician, available should any reader require such services. He is, in addition, thankful to this grand institution for providing an opportunity to speak in the third person and grace the world with some of his favorite words like “trundling” and “satchel.”

### **Ken Jernstrom, Jr.**

Video Support Specialist, OIT Video Conferencing Services

### **Ricky Johnson**

Desktop Technician, OIT Desktop Support

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## 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

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### **Brenda Levesque**

Brenda Levesque came to the university in February 1999. Since that time, she has worked in the School of Engineering, Human Resources, Family & Youth Services Training Academy and now serves as a Client Partner for UA Statewide Corporate Programs. Brenda graduated with a BA from Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington. Having had an array of various interests she studied Business Communication, Economic-Accounting, and Education. Brenda has one daughter, Summer, who was a member of the UAA Honors Program and graduated with a BA degree in Philosophy with a Certificate in Ethics. She also has a son, Luc – hockey player, all around sports guy and we hope a soon to be student at UAA. Brenda's favorite things include her co-workers, walks, yoga, sports, being by the water, traveling, and spending time with friends and family (especially her children). Favorite quote: Life is a challenge that we should embrace with enthusiasm and willingness to endure and grow as we are responsible for the journey we choose.



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## 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

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### **Jocelyn Martin**

Jocelyn began her career with the UA System in May of 2000 as an Accounts Clerk for the UAF Administrative Services department, where she processed invoices and payments for a large amount of vendors. In April of 2001, she switched to a Fiscal Technician position at the UA Museum, where her duties included the processing of: payroll time-sheets, travel documents, purchase orders, and petty cash. She also added several new 'ology' words to her vocabulary such as entomology (the study of insects) and ornithology (the study of birds) as she became acquainted with the various departments of the UA Museum. In July of 2003, Jocelyn transferred to her current position with the Statewide Fund Accounting department. This position has been the most challenging, yet the most rewarding as she has assisted in the preparation of financial statements and processed cash deposits, journal vouchers, account reconciliations, and audit preparations. During her years with the UA System, she has completed an Accounting degree, become a Master Gardener, learned a bit of photography, enjoyed several lunch-time walks around the campus, enjoyed the WIN programs (Climbing Mt. Everest, Zumba, Pilates, etc.), and collected several friends. The friends, she has determined, are the best part of the job.

### **Martin Miller**

Senior IT Trainer, OIT Support Center

### **John Mitchell**

Tech Lead, OIT Identity & Access Management Services

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## 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

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### **Saichi Oba**

Saichi has worked for UA Statewide Administration since April 2000. However his work on behalf of the university began a decade earlier when he arrived in Alaska in fall 1990 to work at UAF for Registrar Ementus Ann Tremarello. Saichi has served at all levels of Student and Enrollment services starting at Eastern Oregon University as an Admissions Counselor in 1985. Tapped to head the Office of Admissions, Saichi was appointed the Interim Director of Admissions at UAF in 1996. Saichi left Alaska and landed in Klamath Falls, Oregon, as the Director of Admissions at the Oregon Institute of Technology in 1998. His experience building a new admissions team along with implementing a new CRM database at Oregon Tech enabled his return to Alaska as the Program Manager for Banner self-service (aka UAonline). Promoted to the Director of Enrollment Services in 2002 he returned to his passion: working on strategic enrollment management and helping students find success at UA. Since 2005 he has served as the Chief Student Services Officer at Statewide working with the Chief Student Affairs officers at the MAUs on systemic policies and initiatives that serve all UA students.

Saichi has served on professional executive committees including the National Student Exchange, the College Board, and National Association for College Admissions Counseling and the Pacific Northwest Association for College Admissions Counseling. His most recent appointment was that of Chair, Admissions and Guidance Committee for the College Board's Western Region. He holds an undergraduate degree in Psychology from Eastern Oregon and an MBA from UAF.

Saichi and Connie have three children – Elli, Kekuewa and Lupua; three horses – Beau, Taz' and Lady; two dogs – Blue and Shado and one neurotic cat: Emma. When not spending time with his family, Saichi's other favorite past-time is dip-netting for Copper River reds at Chitina.

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## 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

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### **Michael Scott**

Scotty is the Manager of OIT Campus Technology Services. He started at UAF in 2000 as the Blackboard server administrator. He's a member of the Technology Advisory Board (TAB) and oversees Campus Smart Classrooms, Mobile Applications, and Computing Labs. In his spare time, he enjoys riding motorcycles and traveling.

### **Yelena Selhay**

Yelena came to work at the university in 2000, two weeks after arriving in the United States. She had trained to be an English teacher and just graduated from law school in Russia. She was a bit skeptical about employment prospects in the US, since most people in this country already spoke English and probably cared little about Russian law, but she had experience working for a start-up, US-owned business in Russia and, later, for a Russian airline that was making its first steps in the international market. She applied for a job at the American Russian Center, which was a part of the School of Business at UAA. The American Russian Center was working passionately with various state, federal and non-profit entities building a network of Small Business Development centers in the Russian Far East to support growth of middle class and economic stability in the region. Its job was to promote that goal through training. Yelena truly thought that she would never enjoy a job that much ever again. But her job in client services at UACP has been anything but mundane or void of excitement. It's been three years of non-stop learning: about the university and the abundance of resources it has to offer; about various industries and their many needs when it comes to training; and about finding creative ways of connecting the two.

Yelena is happy to be working side by side with so many wonderful people at this university who consider education their life's work. She finds it hard to believe it's been ten years. But time flies when you are having fun!

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## 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

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### **Michael Simmons**

Desktop Support Specialist, OIT Desktop Support

### **Laurie Swartz**

Laurie began working for Land Management in October 2000 as an Administrative Assistant. She became a Real Estate Technician in 2002 and is currently working as a Property Manager, assisting in the management of the University's Educational and Investment lands located throughout the State of Alaska.

### **Jarkko Toivanen**

Born and raised in Finland, Jarkko moved to Fairbanks in the fall of 1997. He started work at the university as an operator for Alaska Teleconference Network in October 1999 and in June 2000 moved to a full-time position with SW Network Services as a network technician. He received a BA from Concordia College in 1993 and an MBA from Cleveland State University in 1996.

### **William Wakefield**

Manager, OIT Core Applications Services

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## 15 YEARS OF SERVICE

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### **Myron Dosch**

Myron started at the university in 1995 as the University of Alaska Foundation Accounting manager. He has been in his current position as Controller since March 2006.

### **David Hill**

Manager, OIT Telephone Services

### **Martha Mason**

Martha Mason was appointed Interim Executive Director of User Services for the Office of Information Technology in May 2011. Mason has been the Manager of the OIT Support Center since 2006. She came to the University in 1995 as a software engineer for the Alaska Satellite Facility and continues to enjoy the Fairbanks community.

While growing up in West Virginia, she developed a keen interest in music. Mason, aka Mace, produces and hosts "Listenin' with Mace" on KUAC and is a principal of Acoustic Adventures, Inc., a fun little concert-promoting business. Mason earned a B.S. in Computer Science from the University of North Carolina and has called Alaska her home since 1983. She and partner Mark Winans enjoy living the dream in interior Alaska.

### **Isabelle Tissier**

System Reporting Manager, Planning and Institutional Research

### **David Woodley**

David is a graduate of UAA, BA in History '92. He started working as a student employee in the UAA College of Arts and Sciences Dean's office in 1993. Since then he's worked for UAA Housing and Dining, UAA Enrollment Services, UAA Curriculum and UAA Advancement. In 2006 he joined the UA Foundation and has been there ever since. He has also been an adjunct instructor of History for UAA since 1996 and lives in Eagle River with his wife Aimee and two kids, Abigail and Connor.

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## 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

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### **Connie Hooper**

“If you can laugh with a person, you can work with a person.”

-- Source Unknown

“If you can smile when things go wrong, you have someone in mind to blame.”

-- Source Unknown

Thank you to the people I have laughed with. You help make my job fun, and you give me someone to blame. : )

### **Terresa Hartman**

Senior Analyst Programmer, OIT Enterprise Applications Services

### **Bruce Rowe**

UACP manager Bruce Rowe came to the University of Alaska Anchorage in 1990 as the registration coordinator. From 1993-1999, Bruce worked in UAA’s continuing education division developing corporate contract training. Since that time, Bruce was one of the initial hires into the University of Alaska Corporate Programs and has managed contracts between the university and employers since that time.

He achieved a Masters in Education with an emphasis in institutional research from Western Montana College and secondary teacher certification from Montana State University in Bozeman. His bachelor’s degree in Mathematics was from the Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology in Butte, MT. While in Butte and Great Falls he served in Admissions and as Registrar. He has served as a SOC representative for Elmendorf Air Force Base, an educational certification officer in Great Falls, and participated in several professional organizations including the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO), the Learning Resource Network (LERN), the National Certified Public Manager Consortium (NCPMC), and the National Association of Government Training and Development (NAGTAD) and the American Association of Training and Development (ASTD).

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## 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

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### **Joseph Trubacz**

Joe began working at the university in 1990 as the Executive Officer for the School of Engineering. Prior to accepting his current position as Vice President of Finance and Administration, he served as the system's Chief Financial Officer, was Interim Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services at UAF, Associate Vice Chancellor for Finance and Business Operations at UAF, and served as Executive Officer for UAF's School of Engineering. He also was Director of Planning, Analysis and Institutional Research; and was Associate Budget Director for Statewide. He originally came to Alaska in 1986 as a Medical Service Corps Officer in the Air Force.

### **Erika Van Flein**

Erika started at the University of Alaska Fairbanks as an administrative assistant in University Relations on October 1, 1990. She moved to Statewide Human Resources in August 1996 to become the benefits coordinator. She has worked directly with the director of benefits for the last fifteen years.

Erika manages the university's staff benefit plans. She has adapted to many changes over the years to ensure UA's employee benefits keep up with regulatory changes and fiscal realities. Her favorite part of the job is helping fellow employees with problems they might be having, whether it's a claims issue, retirement questions, or just needing help understanding their benefits.

When she's not working, Erika loves to run, garden and travel with her husband. To make her love of running marathons a family event, her husband finds races in beautiful places, where she runs and they have great adventures together. Erika has a son in his second year at UAF, and another who is a senior at Lathrop this year.

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## 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

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### **Lisa Sporleder**

After getting a B.S. in Scientific and Technical Communications from Michigan Tech in 1987 (and most of a degree in Mining Engineering), Lisa worked in Chicago for an international mining magazine. She'd been raised in the city but found her comfort level for city living totally gone, so Lisa moved to Alaska to start grad school in 1989. After a year as a student employee for Sea Grant, she got their full-time Desktop Publisher job. Next, she worked in IAB on a cyanide bioremediation project that was supposed to provide her masters thesis in Mining Engineering. When that fell through, Lisa got her first position at Statewide: Publications Specialist for Public Affairs. The position didn't survive the cuts of 1995's Program Assessment.

But by that time, UA had decided to switch to the Banner system. Lisa landed a term-funded job as Communications Coordinator for Banner HR implementation. Two years later, with two work days to go before automatic termination, she was hired by what is now Data Center Operations in OIT, and she moved from the second floor of Butrovich to the basement to be a Computer Operator from 6:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. (which she still says was the best shift she's ever worked!)

Three years later, she was promoted to Analyst/Technician in that department, a position she still enjoys. Her engineering and communications backgrounds come in handy, whether she's managing large hardware maintenance contracts or maintaining AutoCAD files of all the equipment in the Data Center.

Lisa has been in staff governance most of her UA career and has held all officer positions within SAA and Staff Alliance. She is an avid berry picker and award-winning jelly maker. She has been involved in activities all over town, sings cabaret and jazz, and spends quiet time with her dog, Peanut. She has decided it is time to practice saying "No!" to some of the many demands on her time, though she admits old habits die hard.



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## 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

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### **Debbie Kendrick**

Debbie moved to Alaska in 1974 to work as a legal and later a medical assistant in Fairbanks before becoming administrative assistant to the Manager of Construction for the Northern segment of the Alyeska Pipeline System. Next she became a pump station technician until 1980, when she accepted a position with the Mining and Petroleum Training Service. She was named Assistant Director for MAPTS in 1983.

Her work involves every aspect of oil, gas and mining in Alaska, from process operator training to entry-level underground miner certification. Since 1982 she has been the federally designated manager for all Mine Safety and Health Administration training under the state grants program and was the first woman with full teaching certification under MSHA. Debbie was the first woman chair of the NSC Mining Division and won the NSC Diamond Cameron Award, the first time the mining division had received that award. She holds the H. L. Boling award for international excellence in health and safety training as well as numerous other national and international awards for excellence. Debbie helped found the International Society of Certified Mine Safety Professionals and holds certificate #002 as a certified mine safety professional. She also managed spill response training for fishing fleet responder programs.

Debbie was vice president of the Sakhalin Alaska College in the Russian Far East for seven years and traveled many times to Sakhalin Island and other parts of Russia for training and consultation. She has consulted with and trained for both Puerto Rico and Aruba in spill response and emergency management.

She trained and mentored many new university employees and managed multiple offices across the state. Her decisions on everything from staffing to budget are based on what will provide the best experience for the student rather than for administrative convenience.

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## **30 YEARS OF SERVICE**

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### **James Lynch**

Associate Vice President for Treasury and Procurement  
Services, Controller's Office

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## 35 YEARS OF SERVICE

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### **Pat Ivey**

Pat Ivey joined the UA Cooperative Extension Service in 1975 and became the head of the UA governance system in 1984. The UA governance system was created by the Board of Regents Policy 03.01.01 and is designed to allow faculty, staff and students across the system an opportunity to participate in the decision-making process and advocate on behalf of the university. The system governance groups under Pat's direct purview include the Faculty Alliance, Staff Alliance, Coalition of Student Leaders and the System Governance Council. Members of these groups are leaders of governance groups at their respective MAUs.

Pat has served as Northern Regions vice president for Alaska chapter of the National Federation of Press Women; worked with National Geographic, received grants from Readers Digest and the Alaska Humanities Forum, received a university award in recognition of demonstrated leadership in promotion of minority employment, received multiple awards from governance groups for outstanding leadership and service over the years, and in 2003, received President Hamilton's Make Students Count Award.

Pat describes her primary mission for governance as one of "making UA governance leaders' stars shine." Pat is a firm believer in everyone coming away from the governance experience believing that his or her efforts made a difference.

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## 35 YEARS OF SERVICE

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### Calvin Mercer

During his senior year in high school, Cal started as a part-time student employee Sept 30, 1974, working for the Computer Center, which was being run/managed by the Math Dept. in the basement of the Duckering building and primarily consisted of an IBM 360 model 40 with 64K of ferrite core RAM. Yeah, "64K." Not megabytes, not gigabytes. It was the era of the IBM 80-column punch card.

He became a full-time computer operator the summer of 1975 and a couple years later, transitioned to working for Systems and Computer Technology Corp. when they were contracted by the University to run the computing facility, which ushered in the era of Time-Sharing Systems with a move to a Honeywell system that was installed in the west wing of the Bunnell building. Several years later, he transitioned back to the university when SCT's contract ended.

By then Cal was working as a Systems Programmer and survived yet another conversion, this time from the Honeywell to an IBM Mainframe, which had to be installed "down the hall" in Bunnell in another newly constructed, environmentally controlled "machine room."

Years later, the Butrovich building was built, and another fun move was made to a new home that was finally a properly designed facility to house the University of Alaska Computer Network. A VAX VMS system was installed and paved the way to later migrate the IBM mainframe to a UNIX-based set of systems from Digital Equipment Corp.

And then came Y2K. What fun! Well, not really. 1999 was full of many 50-60 hour work weeks, upgrading and preparing for the new century. On January 1st, the world didn't end, but sometimes he wished it had so that he'd get a break in the pace.

Each year he's seen more and more progress in the Information Technology field. Today's "on-line" world was barely a dream 35 years ago, and probably only in science fiction books. And it's not done yet.

Cal plans to retire next year and move to Minneapolis where his two grandkids live. He only hopes he can survive the winters there. :-)