Linford’s Loyalty Shines Celebrity Spotlight on UAA’s Culinary Arts

Linford owns Linford of Alaska Inc., a local wholesale food distribution company that has been serving Alaska since 1973. Each year, Linford sponsors a table for her employees to enjoy the Celebrity Chef Invitational while she volunteers in the kitchen, cooking and plating dishes for guests alongside celebrity and local chefs, culinary students and community volunteers. She even has a chef’s jacket embroidered with each year of her involvement to prove it.

Linford’s first gift to Culinary Arts was in 1992. Why? “Because I was asked,” she plainly stated. Linford explained why she continues dedicating her time to the event and investing in the state-of-the-art learning facilities.

“Loyalty, dedication and commitment are all marks of a life-long friend of UAA, Suzanne (Sue) Linford,” said UAA Chancellor chair Douglas Haynes.

Linford has served on UAA’s Board of Regents and has been involved with UAA’s development and advancement efforts. She currently serves on the board of the UAA Foundation.

In November 2016, Linford received the Alumni Association’s Distinguished Alumni Award, the highest honor bestowed by UAA.

Thank you to all of you who make possible the event to support culinary student scholarships and maintenance of signature, black-tie event to support culinary student scholarships and maintenance of state-of-the-art learning facilities.

On October 5, 2016, Linford received the Alumni Association’s Distinguished Alumni Award, the highest honor bestowed by UAA.

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### 2016

#### REPORT TO DONORS

**Kolene James**

UAS Coordinator of the Alaska Native & Rural Student Center

Kolene James has been a loyal donor since 2011.

For as long as I can remember, I’ve been a huge fan of UAS and all the work they do to enhance the educational opportunities for Alaska Native and Rural students. I am particularly proud of the Cyril George Alaska Native Knowledge Collection at the UAS library and establishing the W.G. Ruddy Glacier Valley Rotary Scholarship Endowment.

I invite you to check out the beautiful programs and events that are hosted on our campuses by coordinators like us. I also invite you to check out the beautiful programs and events that are hosted on our campuses by coordinators like us.

Speaking to the regular contributions that James has made to the UA Foundation, she says: “I know that because it made my time as an undergrad special. Once I graduated I knew it was my turn to contribute. My time here was just enriched by the donations of other alumni so I wanted to provide those programs to enrich our campus.

### Kathy Ruddy

Kathy Ruddy has been a devoted donor since 2003 championing support for the Cyril George Alaska Native Knowledge Collection at the UAS library and establishing the W.G. Ruddy Glacier Valley Rotary Scholarship Endowment.

Ruddy says: “I’m inspired to contribute to the university to ensure that Tlingit language and culture continue to thrive in the community for future generations.” She has contributed through donations and through her employment at UAS.

Ruddy’s contributions have been giving as a UAS employee through payroll deductions. James says, “It doesn’t have to be huge to make a difference. Help ensure that the collections are available for many students to come.”

Ruddy adds: “I get a lot of joy from it. Think about the future; how you would like to be remembered.”

Ruddy’s work has been recognized with naming the W.G. Ruddy Glacier Valley Rotary Scholarship Endowment. She helps meet that unmet need.

### Donald and Jan O’Dowd

Donna O’Dowd, past president of the University of Alaska (1984-1990) and his wife Jan O’Dowd have been loyal donors to the University ever since Jan O’Dowd graduated in 1986. How retired and living in California the O’Dowds continue to remain active supporters U of A.

Donald O’Dowd, past president of the University of Alaska (1984-1990) and his wife Jan O’Dowd have been loyal donors to the University ever since Jan O’Dowd graduated in 1986. How retired and living in California the O’Dowds continue to remain active supporters U of A.

“Every time we have the opportunity we try to support the University because we believe philanthropy makes a big difference to the future of the institution—and by extension, to the future of Fairbanks.”

O’Dowd’s work has been recognized with naming the Donald O’Dowd and Jan O’Dowd Endowed Scholarship. O’Dowd says: “We started giving to the University because we felt it was an obligation to support the institution that we worked for. We have done this in the active University we were affiliated with and we continue to do this in today.”

They still give to support UAA because we continue to believe in the University and its mission. The University will need even more private support in the future and we are pleased to make an annual contribution to insure the well-being of the University in the years ahead.

We are also gratified that our gifts are being used to support Alaska students, especially those for whom the scholarships can make a meaningful difference in their lives. We sincerely we even-receive thank you letters from the scholarship recipients. We remain involved in the University and its activities—just recently we attended a number of some of the Regents and principals reviewed in the UA Foundation Annual Report – and our ongoing gifts are another facet of that involvement.

### Jeff and Susan Cook

Jeff Cook, Past University of Alaska Regent and Past Member of the UA Foundation Board of Trustees Jeff Cook and his wife Susan have been loyal donors to the University since before there was a Foundation (1974).

We continue our support each year because we believe philanthropy makes a big difference to the future of the institution— and by extension, to the future of Fairbanks.

The Cooks’ work has been recognized with naming the Jeff and Susan Cook Alaska Endowed Scholarship. Cook says: “We started supporting the University because, as members of the Fairbanks community we saw how much the University strengthened and connected with, all the businesses in town. During my time on the Board of Fairbanks Memorial Hospital Foundation I saw first-hand what a great result out of the University is— allowing us to attract high-quality employees and to give people the opportunity to have rewarding careers. The University is deeply connected to the people of our community. We just felt that if you have that kind of valuable asset in your city, you better support it.

We continue our support each year because we believe philanthropy makes a big difference to the future of the institution—and by extension, to the future of Fairbanks.”

### Distribution of Student Aid

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