

**Fall Commencement 2021**



**ALASKA  
PACIFIC  
UNIVERSITY**

# Undergraduate Certificate

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Alaska Rural Management

**Danielle H. Mercurief**

## Associate of Arts

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Business Administration

**Elyzabeth Ann Justine Gimarc  
Leila Avitalria Jocelyn Johnson  
Nichole Dawn Pruitt  
Trista Topkok**

## Bachelor of Arts

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Alaska Native Governance

**Benjamin R. Baldwin**

Senior Project Title - Tribal Court Codes, Sovereign Expression

Business Administration

**Rabecca Irene Arnold**

*Health Care Management Emphasis*

Senior Project Title - Caswell Lakes Peony Farm

**Jennie R. Bostick**

*Minor: Health Care Management*  
*Non-Profit Management Emphasis*  
Senior Project Title - Denali Dent Repair

**James Michael Hurst**

Senior Project Title - Alaska Side Quest Tavern

**Yulianna Lopatin**

Senior Project Title - Wild Cups

**Kikkan Lewis Randall**

*Non-Profit Management Emphasis*  
Senior Project Title - IGL8

**Business Administration and Management**

**Trixie Victoria Kalkins-Bennett**

Senior Project Title - Alaska Wildlings

**Jens Syversen Bombeck**

*Non-Profit Management Emphasis*  
Senior Project Title - Backcountry Ski/Snowboard Tour Guiding  
Business Plan

**Michelle Christine Chasse**

*Minor: Accounting Finance*  
Senior Project Title - Auntie's Pet Ohana Services

**Lucy Ann Susan Goode**

Senior Project Title - Alaska Majestic Seafood

**Christopher A. Hines**

Senior Project Title - Neutron Retail Solutions

## **Jeffery William Walker**

Senior Project Title - JWW's Hood & Exhaust Cleaners of Alaska

## Counseling Psychology

### **Lily E. Kagan**

Senior Project Title - Finding a Love for Nourishment

### **Jacob D. Matson**

Senior Project Title - Mindfulness for Veterans with PTSD:  
An Introduction

### **Megan Marie Rossing**

Senior Project Title - Therapeutic Communities and Substance  
Abuse Treatment

### **Glenna Suzanne Tate**

Senior Project Title - Resilience and Mindfulness: Overcoming  
Trauma of the Past

### **Marissa Naanaaruaq Vinberg**

Senior Project Title - Sungca'iwigmi: A Decolonized Approach to  
Combatting Negative Health  
Outcomes in Indigenous Populations

## Creative and Professional Writing

### **Brennon D. Land**

Senior Project Title - 2021 Alaska Writer's Workshop: Writing for  
Performance

## Liberal Studies

### **Jennifer Lynne Miller**

Senior Project Title - Stigma of the Homeless: Giving Voice to the Voiceless

## Outdoor Studies

### **Megan E. Renz**

Senior Project Title - Lessons in Nature: An Argument for Outdoor Learning in Public School Education

### **Chase Tyler Rodriguez**

Senior Project Title - Respect the Land: Designing a Resourceful Greenhouse

### **Annika Leigh Schmatjen**

Senior Project Title - Do I Have What it Takes?: A Study on Expedition Planning for the Pacific Crest Trail

### **Aaron Charles Woelk**

*Self-Designed Concentration*

Senior Project Title - Frigid Dreams: A Tale of Gold and Greed

### **Duncan Wright**

*Concentration: Snow Science*

Senior Project Title - Decision-Making among Backcountry Skiers in Southcentral Alaska during COVID-19

## Sustainability Studies

### **Mikayla Marie Bell**

Senior Project Title - Shop W.I.S.E. Creating an App to Understand Food Labels

# Bachelor of Science

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## Environmental Public Health

**Henry James Clark**

Senior Project Title - Preparing an Executive Summary for 50 Years of Cancer Surveillance Data from Alaska Native People

## Health Sciences

**Cassandra Nicole Villa**

*Concentration: Behavioral Health*

Senior Project Title - Exploring Workforce Burnout and Resilience

## Marine and Environmental Sciences

**Rebecca Marie Barragan**

*Concentration: Marine Biology*

Senior Project Title - Investigating Behavioral Lateralization in *Octopus Rubescens*

**Sadie Lynn Marie Mills**

*Minor: Outdoor Studies*

*Concentration: Aquarium & Husbandry Science*

Senior Project Title - Using Stylet Rings to Age *Enterococcus doifleini*; Is it Necessary to Count Both Sides?

# Nursing

**Tracy Lynn Frost**

Senior Project Title - Using CAUTI Bundle Intervention for  
Reducing Infections in the Hospital Setting

## Graduate Certificate

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### K-8 Teaching Certification

**Lane Ellis Bottemiller**

Teaching Site - Romig Middle School, Anchorage

## Master of Arts

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### Master of Arts

**Kristina Montelauro Demain**

Thesis Title - Murals: Approach, Implementation, and Community  
Perception the Benefits of Community Art in Alaska

**Karissa L. Du Préé**

Thesis Title – The Use of Awe-Based Design in Advertising

**Aponi Joi Johnson**

*K-8 Teaching Certification*

Teaching Site - Begich Middle School, Anchorage  
Thesis Title – What Does Our Environment Reveal about the  
History of Alaska?

**Shannon Lee O’Laughlin**

Thesis Title - Developing Place-Based Programming for Youth at  
Kellogg Campus

**Alíxandrea Lauren Williams**

Thesis Title - Influencing the Reading Comprehension Skills of  
Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Grade Students Living in Rural Alaska

# Master of Business Administration

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## Master of Business Administration

**Andrea J. Croll**

**Jessica L. Denny**

**Brandon Autman Hall**

**Whitney Nicole Kellie**

**Radhika Krishna**

**Cordella S. Mendenhall-Smith**

**Georgianna Sielak**

**Nathan S. Yaskell**

## Master of Business Administration

*Finance*

**Rachel Grumblis**

*Investments Certificate*

**Cory Lee LePore Jr.**

**Eleanor Su’esu’e**



**Master of Business Administration**

*Health Services Administration*

**John Charles Davis**

**Bethany A. Jones**

**Executive Master of Business**

**Administration**

*Information Technology*

**Shane E. Derendoff**

**Ryan M. LeBlanc**

**Executive Master of Business**

**Administration**

*Strategic Leadership*

**Natasha Deshan Webster**

**Jeremy Aaron Weidman**

# Master of Science

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## Counseling Psychology

**Cassie Malia Acres**

Professional Project Title - Exploring Personal Avalanche Risk Assessment in Light of Partner Death

**Macrina Ann Dunaway**

Professional Project Title - Mutual Help Group Manual for Eating Disorders

## Environmental Science

**Teresa Fish**

Thesis Title - An Assessment of Female Pacific Halibut (*Hippoglossus stenolepis*) Reproductive Biology with Implications for Understanding and Characterizing Maturity

**Cory J. Lescher**

Thesis Title - Examination of Crab Catch Estimation and Discard Survival in the Bering Sea Demersal Trawl Fishery

## Outdoor and Environmental Education

**Jillianne McCarson**

*K-8 Teaching Certification*

Teaching Site – Harborview Elementary School, Juneau

**Joshua A. Schrader**

*K-8 Teaching Certification*

Teaching Site – Floyd Dryden Middle School, Juneau

## 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. Because only three groups of people 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: Commerce  
Scarlet: Theology ♦ Green: Medicine

## Founding of Alaska Methodist University/Alaska Pacific University



Alaska Pacific University was originally founded as Alaska Methodist University (AMU) through the efforts of Peter Gordon Gould. Gould, a Unangax from Unga, Alaska, left home as a child to attend the Jesse Lee Home for Children in Unalaska. He later attended Syracuse University and Auburn Seminary, becoming the first Alaska Native minister in the United Methodist Church. In 1948 he was appointed Superintendent for the Alaska Mission of the Methodist Church.

Gould identified the need “for indigenous leadership . . . educated and trained in Alaska for Alaska” and advocated for “a privately supported, fully accredited liberal arts college or university to educate Alaska’s youth in Alaska.” His commitment to this vision, planning of a 4-year liberal arts curriculum, and extensive fundraising resulted in the creation of Alaska Methodist University.

## 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
- 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

# 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