

# THE ALEUTIAN CURRENT



Fall 2023 • vol. 58 • issue 3

📍 Cold Bay, Alaska

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### ANNUAL MEETING RECAP Page 4

Qāgaasakung to our shareholders for a wonderful turnout at the 51st Annual Meeting of Shareholders in WA!



### SHAREHOLDER OF THE YEAR Page 6

Congratulations, Agnes Thompson, our 2023 Shareholder of the Year and renowned basketweaver.



### GOV. DUNLEAVY AT TAC OFFICE Page 8

The Aleut Corporation hosted Governor Dunleavy at our offices for the signing of HB123.



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Shareholders & Descendants,

As the winter chill settles in and snow creeps down the mountains, I am proud of all that we have accomplished this year and grateful to our shareholders who were able to attend our Annual Meeting in October.

The 51st Annual Meeting of Shareholders in the Seattle area, our first-ever held outside of Alaska, was a tremendous success. Our shareholder numbers continue to grow within this region; 29% of our shareholders live there today. We are grateful to be able to host an annual meeting and connect with new shareholders and their families. A special “thank you” to The Aleut Corporation staff and Board, the Unangaġ Dancers, and our artists, and vendors, who helped make this special event a success.

Congratulations to our returning board members! Jenifer Nelson, Anthony Lekanof, and Tara Bourdukofsky were reelected to their seats. Full election and prize info on page 4. We appreciate their commitment and guidance for the Corporation. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the candidates who put their names forward and for their willingness to serve our people and to all our shareholders who voted.

We are thrilled to announce the addition of Mike Jenks to our team as the new General Manager of Aleut Real Estate. Mike, a TAC shareholder, brings a wealth of experience and a commitment to our Unangaġ community. Many of you may know him as the previous interim Executive Director of The Aleut Foundation. As the GM, he will be responsible for growing the ARE real estate investment portfolio. His background in real estate and management make him a valuable addition to our team.

We are equally excited to introduce Kyla Morris as the new Executive Director of The Aleut Foundation. Kyla’s passion for our community and her dedication to making a positive impact are inspiring. You can read more about Kyla and her vision for The Aleut Foundation on page 12.

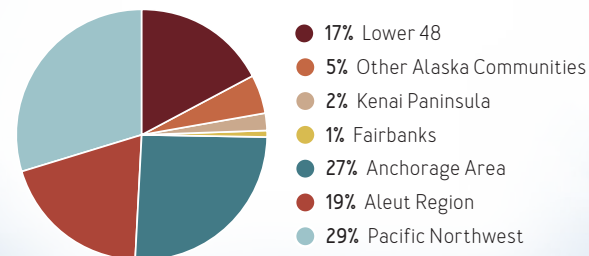
During the Annual Meeting, I reported good news on the Corporation’s performance year-to-date. TAC’s revenue is up 42% from this time last year, reporting \$146 million in revenue (an increase of \$43 million)! TAC’s operating income is \$9.5 million, an increase of \$8.9 million from this time last year! We are proud of our subsidiaries and all the hard work they’ve put in to produce these results.

I am thankful for your ongoing support of The Aleut Corporation as we continue to develop a strong and enduring organization for our Unangaġ shareholders and descendants. For our Alaska shareholders and descendants, I look forward to seeing you in Anchorage on Saturday, 12/9 for our Shareholder Meeting & Holiday Reception.

Qaġaasakung,

**Skoey Vergen**  
President & CEO

## SHAREHOLDER DEMOGRAPHICS WHERE DO OUR SHAREHOLDERS LIVE?



## BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Dear Shareholders & Descendants,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits.

It’s always a pleasure to address you, and on behalf of the entire Board of Directors, we’d like to extend our gratitude for your presence at our recent Annual Meeting of Shareholders. It was an honor to host our annual meeting in Seattle for the first time and not only celebrate our achievements but also the spirit of the Unangaġ culture thriving outside of Alaska.

While our shareholder numbers continue to increase in the Pacific Northwest, whether it be for education, medical services, or career opportunities, we remember the Unangaġ connection rooted in history. Many families that were forced to leave their homes and displaced during WWII resettled in this area. We recognize the challenges they faced and honor their resiliency. We are delighted to see our Unangaġ culture and community growing outside of Alaska. It is a testament to the strength of our shared heritage and the tenacity of our shareholders and descendants who continue to uphold these traditions.

As your Board Chair, I’m honored to continue serving you and your descendants on TAC’s Board. I remain committed to our shared vision of growth and prosperity, and I am dedicated to furthering the interests of our shareholders and descendants.

I am pleased to announce the well-deserved recognition of two exceptional individuals within our community. Agnes Thompson, our Shareholder of the Year, embodies the spirit of dedication and service that defines our corporation. Additionally, we extend our warmest congratulations to Danielle Mercurief, our Student of the Year, who represents the bright future of our community. Read more about both these incredible shareholders in this newsletter.

I am also pleased to share the recent success of our Stock Will Campaign. Since its launch a few months back, we have received 350 new or updated stock wills. This campaign is a vital component to ensuring and safeguarding your legacy. We extend our thanks to TAC Shareholder Relations, Communications, and Accounting teams for their exceptional work in bringing this campaign to life.

We are pleased to continue offering \$50 to every shareholder who files a valid stock will before the deadline of March 31st, 2024. Having a valid stock will on file is part of your responsibility as a shareholder and vital to protecting your shares and legacy. More information can be found on page 9.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude and honor to serve our shareholders on The Aleut Corporation Board. Your trust and support are both humbling and motivating. Our commitment to collaboration, innovation, and strategic thinking will continue to propel us forward. Here’s to looking ahead and continuing to build upon these achievements.

Qaġaasakung,

**Jenifer Nelson**  
Chairman of the Board

# 51ST ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS RECAP

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who joined us at our 51st Annual Meeting of Shareholders in Bellevue, WA! Thank you to our shareholders, all our dedicated vendors, our talented Unangaʔ artists, and The Anchorage Unangaʔ Dancers who closed out the event with a memorable performance.

We're delighted to congratulate our reelected board members, Jenifer Nelson, Tara Bourdukofsky, and Anthony Lekanof, as well as all the lucky winners of our proxy and stock will prizes!

## REELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

Jenifer Samuelson Nelson, Tara Bourdukofsky, and Anthony Lekanof

## ELECTION RESULTS

110,642.2516	Tara L. Bourdukofsky
103,427.5766	Anthony C. Lekanof
131,744.3950	Jenifer Samuelson Nelson
79,708.3290	Melvin A. Smith
85,551.1686	Mary Swetzof
37,245.7155	Michael Tutiakoff

## PROXY WINNERS

\$5,000	Margarita Misikin
\$2,500	Arnold M. Dushkin, Mercedes J. Kashatok
\$1,000	Audrey L. Parduhn, Raymond A. Meredith
\$500	Earl D. Mack, Katherine A. McGlashan, Blaine Shaishnikoff, Sandra L. Willhite, Michelle McGlashan
\$250	Don John Tcheripanoff, Mary A. Cobler, Nicole E. Honeycutt, Kenneth Moline, Dawn L. Murrell

## STOCK WILL PRIZE WINNER

\$5,000 Patricia Rosson



Scan the QR code for the full list of winners and pictures.



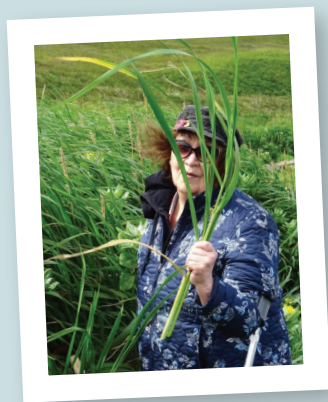
- A Anchorage Unangaʔ Dancer, Isabella Iparraguire
- B Shareholders Stephanie Lestenkof, Nina Berry, and Heather McCarthy pose for the photo booth!
- C Unangaʔ Veterans Vincent Tutiakoff Sr., Dennis Mack, Gary Flory, and Matthew Swetzof.
- D President & CEO Skoey Vergen presenting at the 51st Annual Meeting of Shareholders.
- E The Anchorage Unangaʔ Dancers.
- F A full house in Bellevue, Washington!
- G Shareholders and Descendants joining in on the invitational dance.



## ALEUT PLAZA LOBBY UPDATE

You'll notice something a bit different when you come to our TAC office - we have added a security desk and personnel. This security desk will provide an additional layer of safety and peace of mind for all shareholders, visitors, and employees entering the building. With the security desk in place, we can more effectively monitor who enters the building, as well as provide assistance to those who need it.

WE REQUEST THAT SHAREHOLDERS MAKE AN APPOINTMENT BY CALLING OUR FRONT DESK AT 907-561-4300 OR TOLL-FREE AT 1-800-232-4882.



## SHAREHOLDER OF THE YEAR **AGNES THOMPSON**

Agnes Thompson was born and raised in Atka, AK in 1947, right after the devastation from WWII had ripped through the Aleut community. Like

many, she attended boarding school and took college classes in Anchorage. Even for a village girl, she adapted well to the big city. She even got her pilots license and did over 100 skydiving jumps in her early twenties.

She soon met and married Harvey J. Thompson, and they raised their 6 children between Anchorage and their summer fish camp, where Agnes ran her own boat and setnet fishing permit for over 20 years. Agnes always reminisces about those being the best times of her life. She taught hard working values to her children. She has always been a devoted Russian Orthodox Christian, playing an integral part in the building of St. Innocent's Orthodox Cathedral in Anchorage, where she served as the Sisterhood Secretary for many years, working closely with Fr. Nicholas Harris and Mary Bourdukofsky. After her husband's passing in 1995, Agnes went back to college at age 53 to provide for her last two school age children.



Agnes learned basket weaving from her mother, Olean Prokopeuff, but also learned and mastered techniques under her Godmother, Jenny Golley, and her aunt, Pariscovia Wright. She always reserved time for her love of basket weaving, no matter how stressed

or crazy life got, you could often find her in her special chair, weaving peacefully among the chaos. Her passion for art, especially teaching it to anyone who shows interest, only grows over the years. She remains active in the Unangaġ community and teaches at several culture camps, especially trying to get to Atka every summer.

“ My preferred weaving material is the wild beach rye grass from my home village of Atka, when I can get it. It is a tall, dark, green, flexible grass which is strong and pliable. To have this particular style of grass maximizes the experience. To weave with the original, intended material is effortless and encourages your creativity.

Personally, I feel to weave is to be calm, creative, and reflective. There is nothing more satisfying than having beautiful, pliable, glossy, cured Aleutian grass and a nice selection of silk thread to encourage one to create. This is something all weavers should experience. There is something I take from weaving, both the spiritual and emotional connection to the weavers in my family before me and a physical connection when I create baskets using grass grown on the island my people have inhabited for thousands of years. It is imperative to preserve this old art tied to the Unangaġ people and culture.”

— Agnes Thompson; Atka, AK



H Agnes weaving a basket.

I Looking for wild beach rye grass in Atka, Alaska.

J Agnes receiving her plaque at the 51st Annual Meeting with her family.



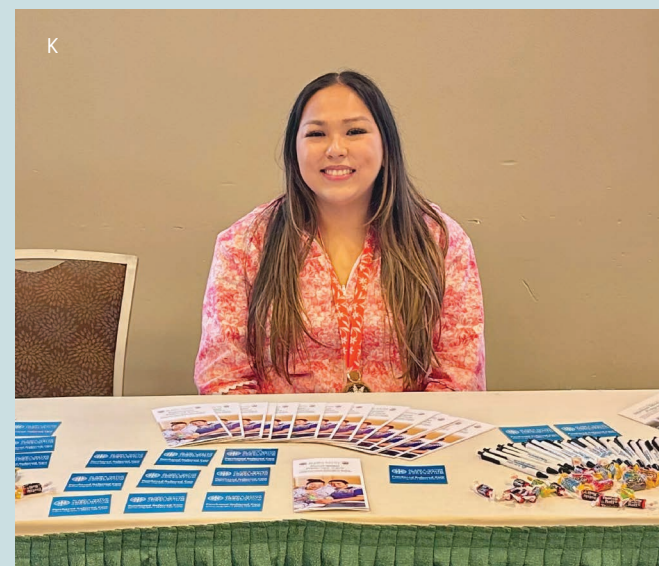
## STUDENT OF THE YEAR **DANIELLE MERCULIEF**

Our 2023 Student of the Year is Danielle Merculief, a senior at Alaska Pacific University and is expected to graduate in May of 2024!

Danielle Merculief was raised on St. George Island to Chris and Sally Merculief and her grandparents are Anthony & Gladys Merculief, who have guided her to where she is today.

Danielle graduated from Mt. Edgecumbe High School in May of 2015. She knew her main goal was to educate and advance her career in a tribally affiliated organization. In August of 2021 she obtained the Alaska Rural Management certificate followed by an associate degree in business administration a year later. Now, Danielle is on her way to graduating with a bachelor's degree in business management with an emphasis in Healthcare Management.

While working and attending the university, she has gained a new perspective on Indian Health Services and tribal affiliated organizations. This inspired her to get the leadership skills needed so that she may advocate for Alaska Native and American Indian people across the state.



Upon graduation, Danielle plans to pursue a master's in business administration. With her earned bachelor's degree, she wishes to further advance her career through tribal health organizations. She plans to make a difference for Alaska Native communities. Danielle is most interested in quality improvement and is excited to see what opportunities will arise with her new college degree.

In July of 2023, Danielle and her partner Chaylen Delgado welcomed their beautiful baby boy, Stefan, into the world, making them a family of three. Danielle keeps herself busy these days as she is a full-time student, a full-time student and now a full-time mother.

Awam iġamnaa Danielle!



K Danielle working a booth at AFN.

L Danielle with partner Chaylen Delgado, and son Stefan.

M Danielle receiving her plaque with her family at the 51st Annual Meeting.

## SENATOR SULLIVAN MEETING

President & CEO Skoey Vergen, along with COO, Mandy Hawes, and Aleut Enterprise General Manager, Chase Berenson met with Senator Sullivan to discuss the legacy and future of Adak, the Navy's response to Chinese and Russian warships near our border, and TAC's pollock allocation.

Shareholder Dave Nevzurhoff presented the Senator with a traditional bentwood visor to put on loan in his DC office.



## HOUSE BILL SIGNING GOVERNOR DUNLEAVY AT TAC OFFICE

TAC hosted Governor Dunleavy at our offices for the signing of HB123. HB123 allows Alaska Native corporations to change their Articles of Incorporation by a majority vote of the total number of voting shares. Thank you to Rep. Craig Johnson, Rep. Bryce Edgemon, and Senator Lyman Hoffman for their support and efforts in getting this bill passed.

Qağaasakung to TAC's Board Members, our ANC partners, and all staff that participated in the bill signing. And a special shoutout to Kim Reitmeier, President of the ANCSA Regional Association (ARA).



## CHARLOTTE RUTHERFORD A CHAMPION OF UNANGAĀ COMMUNITY & CULTURE



Charlotte Rutherford, a 17-year-old senior at Service High School, is on a noteworthy journey of Unangam Tunuu

revitalization and UnangaĀ cultural celebration – all while navigating the rhythms of her bustling teenage life.

"I first did APIA's culture camp in 2017 when I was 12 years old." Charlotte recalls. It was an opportunity that would change her life.

Aleutian Pribilof Island Association's (APIA) culture camp was supposed to be only a two-week experience, but Charlotte's enthusiasm carried her through every weekday, except for Friday, for the next several weeks.

Charlotte's first internship with APIA began immediately afterwards. Over the years, she grew from a volunteer to a dedicated team member, pushing her out of her comfort zone.

Her dedication soon extended to the Anchorage UnangaĀ Dancers, a group she joined in 2017. "My language work gave me the motivation to join the Anchorage UnangaĀ Dancers," she says, adding that, "dancing in general makes me feel good; I love the drums and listening to the UnangaĀ beats."

Charlotte's commitment to Unangam Tunuu and her cultural heritage doesn't end with her own journey. She's dedicated to sharing this passion with others, bridging generations, and preserving UnangaĀ culture.

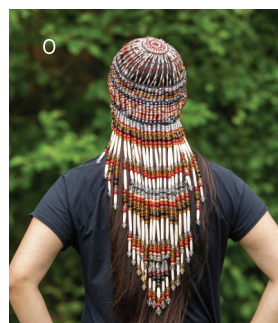
"It's amazing! I feel so very proud," Charlotte's mother Michelle adds, as she has watched her daughter's involvement in UnangaĀ dance and language revitalization grow over the years.

Michelle was inspired by her daughter's involvement and has since spent time practicing UnangaĀ traditions herself. "When Charlotte started in the dance group, there were a lot of adults there, and the dancers asked all of the parents to join. 'Why not?', I thought," Michelle says. She, too, began to participate in the UnangaĀ Dancers, volunteering to sing for the dance practices.

For Charlotte, every moment is an opportunity to learn, grow, and contribute to her community. Her achievements go beyond



cultural preservation; she won second place in a Nobel Peace Prize Poster Contest in the sixth grade, an honor she achieved while maintaining excellent grades.



Though both Charlotte and Michelle acknowledge that some of their family members from older generations still grapple with the changing cultural landscape, the impact of Charlotte's work on Unangam Tunuu revitalization is palpable within her family and community.

"It wasn't very cool or acceptable to be Native when we were growing up," Michelle reflects. "Now, some of my relatives are starting to see how special it is to get to speak and learn Unangam Tunuu and learn our culture."

For UnangaĀ youth who aspire to follow in her footsteps, Charlotte offers this advice: "Don't think about what everybody else will say or think. Teens sometimes view this as uncool, but you shouldn't think about that. Just stick with it, and eventually, you'll start to understand the meanings of words and will be able to recognize patterns, and you'll realize that you're actually learning Unangam Tunuu and you'll want to keep going!"

Charlotte's journey is a testament to the power of youth, dedication, and pride in oneself and heritage. Her commitment to preserving UnangaĀ culture and language is a source of inspiration for her community, bridging generations to ensure that Unangam Tunuu continues to thrive for years to come.

**Charlotte's story was submitted by her mother, Michelle Rutherford. If you would like to submit a story about an incredible shareholder or descendant in your life, please email [info@aleutcorp.com](mailto:info@aleutcorp.com).**

N Charlotte dancing for one of the Aleut Picnic performances.

O Charlotte's beaded headdress.

## GET \$50 FOR FILING YOUR STOCK WILL FORM

THE ALEUT CORPORATION IS OFFERING \$50 TO EVERY SHAREHOLDER THAT FILES A NEW OR UPDATED STOCK WILL. Stock wills must be valid to be eligible for \$50.

Make sure your shares are accounted for! Having a valid stock will on file is part of your responsibility as a shareholder.

To download a stock will form, scan this QR code.



Congrats to the \$5,000 Bonus Prize Winner  
**PATRICIA ROSSON**

*TAC will review each stock will for validity. All stock wills must be determined valid by TAC in order to be eligible for \$50. Stock wills can be returned to TAC in-person or by mail. Original signed copies required. Electronic copies will not be accepted.*

*TAC's stock will campaign ends March 31, 2024. Get your completed and notarized stock will submitted before March 31, 2024 to receive \$50. TAC reserves the right to end the drive prior to the stated date at its sole discretion.*

*\$50 will be paid out via direct deposit or check 5-10 business days after stock will is received and reviewed by TAC staff. Shareholders will only be allowed one (1) payout of \$50 during this promotion. Multiple submissions do not qualify for the award.*

## IMPORTANT DATES

Stay up to date with TAC's important dates, holidays, and events.



Scan the QR Code now to view and subscribe to Our Calendar

### NOVEMBER 10

Veteran's Day [Observed] TAC Offices Closed

### NOVEMBER 11

Veteran's Day

### NOVEMBER 23

Thanksgiving TAC Offices Closed 11/23-11/24

### NOVEMBER 30

TAF Spring Applications Due

### DECEMBER 9

Anchorage Shareholder Meeting & Holiday Reception 5PM-9PM at The Egan Center

### DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day TAC Offices Closed 12/25-1/1

### JANUARY 1

New Year's Day TAC Offices Closed

## SHAREHOLDER MEETING & Holiday Reception

# DECEMBER 9

### AT THE EGAN CENTER

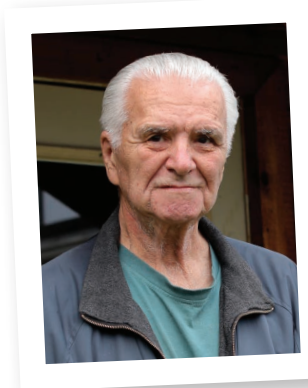
RSVP BY NOVEMBER 10

#### CALL FOR ARTISTS!

We will have ten spots open for our Unangaġ Artists at the Holiday Reception. Email [info@aleutcorp.com](mailto:info@aleutcorp.com) to RSVP.

\*This opportunity is exclusively for The Aleut Corporation Shareholders and Registered Descendants.

## OBITUARIES – MEMORY ETERNAL



**CHARLES HOFF**  
APRIL 13, 1942 – AUGUST 30, 2023

Memory Eternal to one of The Aleut Corporation's founding Board Members.

Charles Allen Hoff, a beloved son, father, and grandfather, passed away on August 30, 2023, at the age of 83 in Anchorage. He was born on

April 13, 1942, to Charles Allen Hoff Sr. and Annie Hoff of King Cove.

Charles' journey in life was marked by dedication and hard work. He graduated from Mt. Edgecumbe and attended a trade school in Texas to pursue his passion for mechanics. He returned to his Alaskan roots after graduating and for almost four decades, Charles dedicated himself to civil service, leaving a lasting impact on his community through his diligent work in the field of diesel mechanics.

In his later years, Charles followed another dream, owning and operating a successful Halibut Charter in Homer, Alaska. Beyond his professional pursuits, Charles cherished his hobbies and interests. He found solace in fishing, clam digging, hunting, and an occasional game of bingo where he enjoyed the camaraderie of friends.

After a long battle with Alzheimer's disease, a condition that he faced with courage and grace, Charles sadly passed away. Even in the face of this challenging illness, his spirit remained strong.

Charles is survived by his loving daughters Sylvia Berg and Tammy Groves, sister, Diane McRae, and brother, Clifford Hoff Sr. He was a proud grandfather to Troy Mack, Justin Mack, Kenny Bradley, and Mitchell Berg. He also leaves behind several great-grandchildren.

Charles Allen Hoff's legacy is one of hard work, determination, and a love of family and his Unangaġ heritage. He will be dearly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Charles, may you find eternal peace and a guiding light for those who will miss and love you.



**ILIODOR PHILEMONOF**  
APRIL 13, 1942 – JUNE 16, 2023

Iliodor "Ed" Philemonof, loving son, brother, father, uncle, grandfather, and friend passed away on June 16, 2023.

Iliodor was born April 13, 1942, to Isaac and Erena (Mercurief) Philemonof. He was the second oldest of six

siblings. On June 24, 1942, during World War II, when he was just two months old, he and his family were forced to leave their home and were interned at Funter Bay in southeast Alaska. It is believed Iliodor may have been one of if not the youngest individual(s) of over 800 Aleuts interned. He was two and half years old when he and his family returned to St. George.

He was raised on Saint George Island until he attended Mt. Edgecumbe Boarding School in 1957 for four years and graduated in 1961. After graduating high school, he returned home for two years to work and continue the commercial fur seal harvesting. In 1963, he moved to South Canaan, Pennsylvania to attend St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary, which he graduated from in 1967. During the summer breaks of high school and seminary, he went back home to work at the St. George Seal Plant with the "Fur Seal Gang".

Iliodor spent his lifetime leading, working, and advocating for the Aleut People, their culture, language, and community. His leadership involvement included positions with organizations such as the Aleut League, the Aleutian Planning Commission, the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN), St. George Tanaq Corporation, St. Innocent Cathedral, and the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association (APIA). Iliodor shared his extensive knowledge in the Aleut community by providing guidance, support, advocacy, and mentorship. He was a dedicated linguist known for his contributions in preserving and revitalizing Unangam Tunuu (Aleut language).

He is preceded in death by his brother Father Paul Mercurief and sisters, Edna Floyd, and Irene Melovidov. He is survived by siblings, Dimitri Philemonof and Maria Stowe. He leaves behind three children, Iliodor Philemonof II, Isaac Philemonof, and Alexis Philemonof. He will be missed by his six grandchildren, Iliodor III, Lindsey, Treyccen, Rhylynn, Gracelyn, and Ashlynn.

May he be remembered for his passion and dedication to preserving the Aleut Culture and enhancing the lives of the Aleut people.



**ILENE EVANS**  
July 28, 1942 – May 12, 2023

Ilene was born in Portland, OR after her Unangaġ (Aleut) family was removed from their home in the Aleutian Islands when Japan invaded during WWII. She was a member of the Qagan Tayagungin tribe, and shareholder of Shumagin and The Aleut Corporation.

Ilene was the daughter of James Leroy Evans and Lily Osterback and sister to Lea, Julie, and Connie. She lived in Oregon, California, and Walla Walla, WA before her family settled in Green Lake, WA. Ilene graduated from Lincoln High in 1960 and, later, from the University of Puget Sound (in 1978) with 2 bachelor's degrees, in Art and Sociology.

Ilene was a prolific artist and writer and kept daily notes and sketches and self-published several books. She was an activist and advocate for Indian fishing rights in the Pacific Northwest in the early 1970's. She ran in 5K's and won her first 1st Place finish at the age of 69. She was active in the Pacific Northwest Aleut Council for many years. Ilene enjoyed genealogy sleuthing and family history research trips. Ilene suffered 2 traumatic brain injuries, in 1985 and 1999. Those events left her physically and cognitively disabled, but she stayed active and busy and fiercely independent. She could be seen walking or bussing around her beloved downtown Seattle almost every day. Ilene was an animal lover, caring for many cats and birds, her bunny, Spot, and her beloved dog, Chena.

Ilene is survived by her daughter, Gina M. Gerking Spiller, son Allan L. Gerking (Cheryl), her grandchildren, Leslie Gerking (Anthony Lewis), Haley Gerking Mendoza (Sergio), Kallin Ann Spiller, Justin C. Spiller, Amanda Williams Carpenter (Cam), Ashley Williams Simpson (Charlie), and great grandchildren, Charlotte Mendoza, and Ezekiel Lewis.

# WELCOME NEW SHAREHOLDERS!

The following shareholders have received  
The Aleut Corporation stock through inheritance or gifting:

Nikki Sahlin	Adrian Dirks Jr	Lukas Kashevarof
Cheryl Shepherd	Brooke Nielsen	Tanya Kashevarof
Christopher Hambley	Wilder Nielsen	Aiden Vergen
Aaron Hambley	Scout Nielsen	Linnae Kozloff
Darron Hambley	Jennifer Palmer	Heather Kozloff
Nikita Somov	Raylin Lopez	Jaylynn Kozloff
Kelly Ludvick	Matthew Lopez	Joyce Alto
Christopher Holmberg	Shania Lopez	Roman Fratis Jr
Leonard Holmberg	Joanna Lopez	Jill Fratis
Behring Wilson Jr.	Kylie Lopez	Skyler Wade
Brian Wilson	Monica Yatchmeneff	Tatyana Porath
Tasheena Green	Marylee Yatchmeneff	Dedrick Porath
Vernon Campbell II	Marylee Yatchmeneff	Devlin Porath
Octavia Elliott-Jarrell	Rachael Yatchmeneff	Raylee Dushkin
Ann Garibaldi	Katie Yatchmeneff	Memphis Mack
Diana Holmberg	Jack Galaktionoff	Jersey Mack
Tabitha Johansen	David Galaktionoff	Berlin Mack
Rosalie Holmberg	Juan Cruzaley	Gary Gould
Susan Hinson	Reyes Cruz	Elaina Mack
Casey Hinson	Anthony Gundersen	Dora Roll
Matthew Hinson	Amber Karlson	Terrell Lee
Lavrenty Melovidov	Dezmin Yatchmeneff	Janell Braxton
Jaylene Philemonoff	Aurora Yatchmeneff	Andrew Alto
Kailey Johansen	Mariah McCallum	Carlie Mack
Axel Leonard	Mikayla McCallum	Greggory Waggoner
Robert Holmberg	Stephanie Lestenkof	Darlene Christiansen
Richard Holmberg	Wendi Hollister	Richard Jones
Adda Hebert	Maxim Lestenkof Jr.	Debra Jones
Leila Carpenter	Alfey Hanson III	David Jones
Theodore Beers	Justin Spiller	Claire Sieverts
Lily Foster	Joshua Burton	Roman Sieverts
Robert Nielsen	Jolan Rotter	Vada Sieverts
Sarah Earl	Amy Bippes	David Sieverts
Patricia Holmberg	Shellea Kudrin	Randy Sieverts
White Rabbit Garnick	Eric Galaktionoff	Brian Flanders
Morgan Gundersen	Michael Bismark-	Chenne Fratis
Konnor Gundersen Krauss	Nickanorka	John Fratis Jr.
Matthew Nielsen	Crystal Mercurief-Booth	Darius Fratis
Hailey Gundersen	Joshua Thorpe	Dustin Galaktionoff
Lydia Dirks	Amelia Thorpe	

# THE ALEUT FOUNDATION UPDATE



The Aleut Foundation is excited to announce Kyla Morris as our new Executive Director! Kyla officially joined TAF at the beginning October this year.

Kyla Morris was born and raised in Anchorage, AK. Her parents are Denise and William Morris. Her maternal grandparents are

Virginia Boies (Kochevkin) from St. Paul Island, AK, and Leroy Boies from Nebraska.

Kyla was a recipient of The Aleut Foundation and graduated from the University of Oregon with a bachelor's degree in journalism with an emphasis in public relations. She obtained her master's degree in communication and leadership from Gonzaga University.

Kyla has experience in the non-profit sector, private foundations, scholarship, and grant programs and grantmaking. She lives in Anchorage, Alaska with her husband Mike. While away from the office Kyla enjoys fishing, biking, and taking her dog, Iris, on long walks. Kyla has also been on a language-learning journey, along with her mother, studying Unangam Tunuu.

Please join us in welcoming Kyla to The Aleut Foundation's team!

## FALL 2023 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

### HONORS

Almeria Alcantra, Alaska Native Studies - *University of Alaska Southeast*

Julieanne Renee Berikoff, Nursing - *Northwest Nazarene University*

Dionisy Bourdukofsky, Computer Sciences - *Oregon State University*

Trevor Boyce, Elementary Teaching - *MiraCosta College*

Rishi Burt-Iyer, Mgmt. Info. Systems - *Western Washington University*

Janessa Caldenty, Psychology - *Fort Lewis College*

Max Crawford, Political Science - *University of Arkansas*

Rachel Denham, Speech Pathology - *University of Oregon*  
Logan Dushkin, Mechanical Engineering - *Colorado School of Mines*

Rosalyn Elgarico, Business - *Alaska Pacific University*

Anna Emanoff, Psychology - *Penn State University*

Avery Fouts, Law - *Lipscomb University*

Micah Fouts, Human Services - *John Brown University*

Aaron Frenzel, Marketing - *University of Alaska Anchorage*

Carson Harris, Mechanical Engineering - *University of Alaska Anchorage*

Julia Johannesen, Journalism and Public Comm. - *University of Oregon*

Megan Kashevarof, Social Work - *University of Alaska Anchorage*

Selah Kone, Psychology - *University of Hawaii at Manoa*

Hayden Kuzakin, Electrical Engineering - *University of Alaska Fairbanks*

Brittney Lestenkof, Education - *Fort Lewis College*

Alexandra Mangrum-Prokopiof, History - *Miami University*

Sierra McIntire, Psychology - *University of Hawaii at Manoa*

Mika McWilliams, Business - *University of Hawaii at Manoa*

Danielle Mercurief, Business - *Alaska Pacific University*

Gianna Pallotta, Accounting - *California State U. - East Bay*

Matalyn Perdew, Fine Arts - *University of Oregon*

Taylor Pierce, Nursing - *Grand Canyon University*

AnaKhadija Ramos Hayes, Psychology - *Springfield Tech. Community College*

Raythan Robbins, Exercise Science - *Bemidji State University*

Torin Schroeder, Environmental Science - *Fort Lewis College*

Justin Spiller, Psychology - *University of Washington*

Payten Stroud, Education - *University of Alaska Southeast*

Madison Sutherland, Biological Sciences - *University of California Irvine*

Rebecca Swinney, Kinesiology - *Oregon State University*

Carter Uttecht, Business - *Hawaii Pacific University*

Lula Wamberg, Professional Kinesiology - *Gordon College*

Adin Williams, Theatre and Dance - *University of Colorado Boulder*

Jazell Jenkins, Sociology - *University of Washington Seattle*

Serena Wohlwend, Architecture - *University of Alaska Anchorage*

### EXCEPTIONAL

Joshua Beers, Mechanical Engineering - *Tacoma Community College*

Vega Britt, Management - *University of Alaska Anchorage*

Thea Chesley, Business - *University of Alaska Anchorage*

Dick Cumberlandidge, Accounting - *Eastern Washington University*

Taylor Davis, Communication - *Washington State University*

Grace Dushkin, Nursing - *The College of St. Scholastica*

Aurora Duskin, Computer Sciences - *Montana State University*

Nichole Gordon, Business - *University of Washington*

Danielle Gould, Accounting - *Everett Community College*

Caleb Kelly, Education - *Loyola University of Maryland*

Asher Kone, Electrical Engineering - *University of Michigan*

Brayden Leggett, Computer Sciences - *Massachusetts Institute of Technology*

Elaina Mack, Kinesiology - *University of Alaska Anchorage*

Carly Mast, Undeclared - *Central Washington*

Tamara Odden, Biology - *Loyola University*

Hunter Pieropan, Computer Sciences - *Point Loma Nazarene University*

Darin Robinson, Business - *Oregon State U. - Cascades Campus*

Danelle Shellikoff, Social Work - *University of Alaska Fairbanks*

Russell Simmen, Civil Engineering - *Fort Lewis College*

Hardy Sperle, Parks and Recreation Mgmt. - *Southwestern Oklahoma State U.*

Paul Stewart, History - *The Evergreen State College*

Destiny Tetoff, Criminal Justice - *San Francisco State University*

Braden Waddill, Business - *Harding University*

Alexandria Weis, Graphic Design - *Fort Hays State University*

Douglas White, Undeclared - *Idaho State University*

Monica Yatchmeneff, Education - *University of Alaska Southeast*

### ACHIEVEMENT

Kasiana Anderson, Medical Laboratory Science - *University of Alaska Anchorage*

Angelena Lekanoff, History - *University of Alaska Anchorage*

Mariah McCallum, Marine Biology - *University of Alaska Southeast*

Domenic Pallotta, Business - *Arizona State University*

Kendra Robbins, Electrical Engineering - *University of Alaska Anchorage*

Briley Waddill, Business - *Harding University*

Heidi White, Occupational Therapy - *Boise State University*

Jonas Williams, Computer Sciences - *Boise State University*

### MERIT

Caleb Beers, Medicine - *New York Medical College*

Savanna Maxon, Biology - *Wilkes University*

Adam Mercurieff, Natural Resources and Enviro. - *University of Alaska Fairbanks*

Dylan Peat, Radiologic Technology - *Bellingham Technical College*

Lillie Yahtin, Criminal Justice - *Colorado Technical University*

### PART-TIME

Joelle Alger, Science - *Klamath Community College*

Rica Dawa, Child Development - *California State University, Chico*

Christina Galanin, Psychology - *University of Alaska Anchorage*  
 Nicole Gould, Undeclared - *University of Alaska Anchorage*  
 Natasha Harris, Operations and Tech. Mgmt. - *University of Portland*  
 Shaynese Havens, Veterinary Technology - *San Juan College*  
 Georgia Kashevarof, Business - *Alaska Pacific University*  
 Tayla Krueger, Art - *Arizona State University*  
 Colten Mack, Education - *Western Governors University*  
 Summer Mack, Nursing - *University of Alaska*  
 Kayla Marcoulier, Nursing - *Gonzaga University*  
 Laurence Merculief Jr, Mathematics - *University of Alaska Anchorage*  
 Oxcenia O'Domin, Business - *Alaska Pacific University*  
 Janelle Philemonoff, Culinary Arts - *University of Alaska Anchorage*  
 Joseph Spencer, Aviation Mechanics - *Texas State Technical College*  
 LaVonna Thomas, Social Work - *Walden University*  
 Joanne Wathen, Education - *Saint Mary's College of California*  
 Kameron Werner, Religion - *Multnomah University*  
 Elizabeth Zangenberg, Regenerative Studies - *California State Polytechnic U., Pomona*

## GRADUATE

Michael Alana, Anthropology - *University of Hawaii Manoa*  
 Erin Anderson, Computer Sciences - *Western Oregon University*  
 Johannes DeBakker, Business - *St. Martin's University*  
 Lisa Dirks, Information Science - *University of Washington*  
 Aimee Eagle, Education - *University of California, Berkeley*  
 Pearl Foster, Business - *University of Alaska Fairbanks*  
 Taylor Kauffman, Special Education - *Fort Lewis College*  
 Daniela Krukoff, Pharmacy - *D'Youville University*  
 Dustin Mack, Education - *Western Governor's University*  
 Sean Mack, Geography - *Pennsylvania State University*  
 Mia McWilliams, Accounting - *California State U. - East Bay*  
 Marche Meisler, Business - *Alaska Pacific University*  
 Concepcion Melovidov, Biological Sciences - *University of Alaska Fairbanks*  
 Zoe Merculieff, Indigenous Studies - *University of Alaska Fairbanks*  
 McKenna Merle, Veterinary Medicine - *Washington State University*  
 Kasie Murphy, Nursing - *Sierra College*  
 Stephanie Myer, Psychology - *Pacifica Graduate Institute*  
 Christina Newhall, Linguistics - *University of Arizona*  
 Erica Parker, Environment and Society - *University of California, Davis*  
 Valene Peratrovich, Film - *Salt Lake Community College*  
 Andrew Peters, Management - *University of California Davis*  
 Phillip Pletnikoff, Project Management - *University of*

*Alaska Anchorage*  
 Taytum Robinson, Alaska Native Studies - *University of Alaska Anchorage*  
 Robin Stepetin, Education - *Western Governors University*  
 Emma Stewart, Speech Pathology - *NOVA Southeastern University*  
 Lily Stewart, One Health - *University of Alaska Fairbanks*  
 Samantha Torres-Taylor, Law - *Seattle University School of Law*  
 Zianna Weston, Cultural Studies - *Claremont Graduate University*  
 Nicole Whittern, Physical Therapy - *Seattle University*  
 Elexa Yee, Biochemistry - *University of California, Santa Barbara*

## WORKING FULL-TIME

Daniel Calugan, English - *University of Alaska Anchorage*  
 Alexander Eagle, Education - *National University*  
 Justin Lay, Architecture - *Oklahoma State University*  
 Rachel Lekanoff, Fisheries - *University of Alaska Fairbanks*  
 Ashley Nash, Business - *Louisiana State University*  
 Carter Price, Education - *Alaska Pacific University*

“ Congratulations to the students who graduated in the fall of 2023. We admire your achievement, and we are proud of you for working toward your goal!”

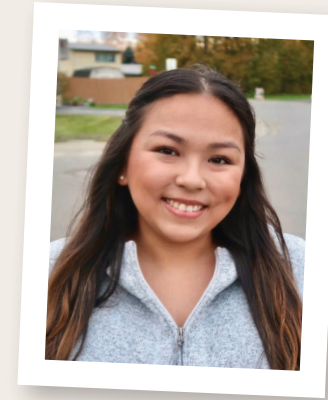
— The Aleut Foundation Staff

# TAF SPECIAL HONORS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Lillie Hope-McGarvey Health Scholarship  
**JULIEANNE RENEE BERIKOFF**

I am both honored and deeply appreciative to have been selected as a recipient of the Lillie Hope-McGarvey Health Scholarship from The Aleut Foundation. I have always held a deep appreciation for our cultural heritage and the values it instills. This scholarship would not only provide me with financial assistance for higher education but also allow me to further engage in initiatives that contribute to the betterment of our community. I am truly grateful for this support, which reinforces my determination to excel academically, contribute positively to society, and give back to my community. Thank you for your investment in my future.



Alice Petrivelli Business Leadership Scholarship  
**DANIELLE MERCULIEF**

First, I would like to thank you for considering my application for the Special Honors, Alice Petrivelli Business Leadership Scholarship! I am honored to be selected as this year's recipient. I appreciate the opportunity and support The

Aleut Foundation has given me throughout my educational career. I am a senior this upcoming school year, graduating with a Bachelor's in Business, with Emphasis in Healthcare in the Spring of 2024. I would not have been able to achieve this accomplishment without the support and encouragement from TAF.

I am most honored to be this year's Alice Petrivelli Business Leadership Scholarship recipient.



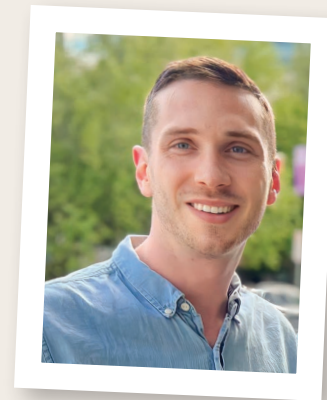
Elary Gromoff, Jr. Military Veteran Scholarship  
**MICHAEL ALANA**

I am sincerely honored to have been selected as the recipient of the Elary Gromoff, Jr. Military Veteran Scholarship. I want to thank you for your generosity in helping to make it possible for me to pursue an advanced degree.

In preparation for writing this statement I found it necessary to allow myself to reflect, analyze, and understand the deep set of emotions I am feeling at this moment. In part of understanding the gravitas of being awarded this opportunity, I needed to take some time to learn more about the person this scholarship bears the name of. In doing so, I learned that not only did Lt. Col Gromoff have an esteemed military career, he also had a deep sense of love for his family and community. Though an illustrious military career is truly honorable, it is his service to our community and the love of his family that I find most admirable. This is why being awarded a scholarship in his name is such a huge honor for me.

It is with this in mind, that I humbly express my gratitude respectively to the board of directors of The Aleut Foundation,

the family of Lt. Col Gromoff, the shareholders, and their descendants. I fear I lack the adequacy with words to fully explain to you all what this opportunity means to me. Please know being honored with this scholarship is greatly appreciated and will go a long way towards helping me to achieve my goals. I am truly grateful and hope to one day make both my ancestors and you all proud. With that being said, I sincerely offer you all my most heartfelt thanks for this honor.



Gabe Stepetin Business Scholarship  
**AARON FRENZEL**

I want to thank the entire board for selecting me as a recipient of the Gabe Stepetin Business Scholarship. Like Gabe Stepetin, it is serendipitous that my great-grandmother Sally Mandregan was also born on St. Paul Island. It is an immense

honor and a source of great pride to be recognized by The Aleut Foundation for my academic and work achievements. All the long nights and weekends I dedicated to my education have paid off, and I am grateful to you for recognizing me.


I am thrilled to be a part of the Special Honors Scholarship recipients' group, and I cannot express enough how much this scholarship means to me. This generous support from TAF will play a fundamental role in helping me achieve my educational aspirations and realize my dreams in the field of business.

Once again, I sincerely thank the entire TAF Board of Directors for investing in my education and supporting Aleut students like me. Your commitment to empowering the next generation is commendable, and I will make the most of this scholarship opportunity, striving to contribute positively to my community, shareholders, and descendants.

Thank you for this incredible honor, and I look forward to making you all proud as I progress in my academic journey and career.

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