



AFP Winter Newsletter

Greetings from the Alaska Fellows! It has been a very cold but very beautiful winter here in Alaska. We have all been busy at work, getting involved in the community, and crafting during the cold, dark months. The Alaskan winter has been the perfect opportunity for our favorite outdoor activities: snowshoeing, skiing, skating, and even camping!

As a refresher, the Alaska Fellows Program (AFP) is a fall-to-spring residential fellowship that pairs young professionals with non-profit or public sector organizations in each of its three sites. Fellows live communally and work full-time for the duration of the program year for their host organization, working closely with professional mentors.

We have lots of updates we are excited to share, and even a crossword if you feel like a challenge!



Virginia Court- Anchorage (with the trusty program cars)



15th Ave- Anchorage



700 Etolin- Sitka



259 South Franklin St. - Juneau (note the excellent hammock set up)

The Winter Newsletter is brought to you by editor-in-chief Julie Gardella and site editors Emily Cornett, Franklin Eccher, and Isabella Haywood.

Life in Juneau

This winter, the Juneau fellows have hunkered down and embraced winter in the fullest. We trekked to the most remote cabin in Juneau, spending 14 hours snowshoeing and post-holing through the forest. We've also turned inwards, picking up a variety of hobbies and spending quality, cozy time indoors. Mandy, Disney, and I have created beaded earrings and bracelets. David has been helping JKT work on an education bill and campaigning for Alyse Galvin. Sarah has been perfecting her sourdough craft and has started making bagels with me. Austin remains forever loyal to the gym and to his piano (and has expanded his repertoire beyond "The Scientist" by Coldplay). We are thankful to have each other and are looking forward for the longer days to come!

-lizzy



5 hour hike (slog) through the snow, first time wearing snowshoes/many times having them fall off my feet, laughing while stumbling, a hectic, emotionally draining week cleared by snowfall, physical exertion, and the arrival of songbirds beckoning spring. A lot of things don't make sense but sometimes walking outside does.

-Mandy Nguyen



Adventures in Anchorage

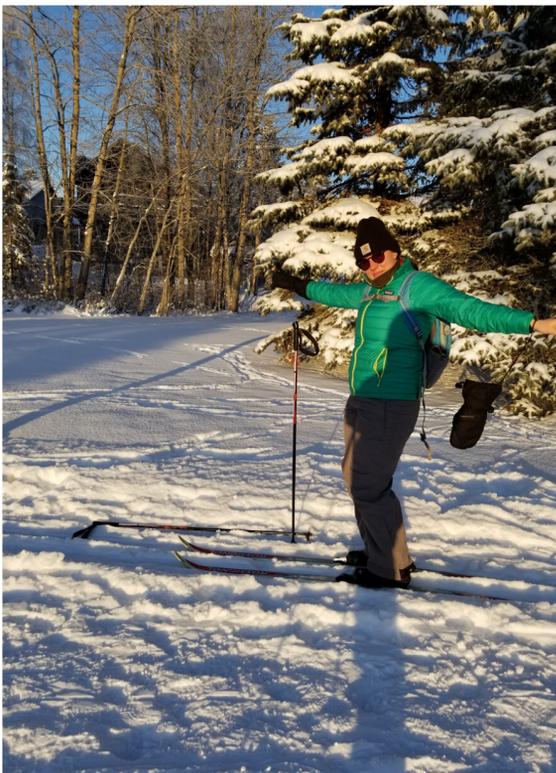


The Anchorage cohort has survived the winter! At the solstice, we were down to just about 5 hours of daylight, and we had a few cold snaps where the temperature hovered around -12 degrees. The good news about the low temperatures is that Westchester Lagoon completely froze, and every Saturday, at least a few of the fellows can be found ice skating and enjoying music and hot chocolate on the lake, provided by Anchorage Parks and Rec. We have managed to get out of the city here and there, with a cross-country ski adventure in Talkeetna, a snow-shoeing excursion in Seward, and occasional trips to the Lower 48 for some sun. The cold dark months also brought out the crafting and creativity! Rylin made a pair of earrings for all the fellows for holiday gifts; Louise knitted a hat for Julie for Secret Snowman and a sweater is in the works, and Sarah has been baking all sorts of delicious treats.

We have also been getting more involved in the local community and Alaska as a whole. Alice became a Junior Nordic Ski coach for six and seven-year-olds; Emily performed Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone in Concert with the Anchorage Symphony Orchestra; Julie traveled to Bethel to lead a workshop for local entrepreneurs; Rylin camped in -20 degrees with a mountaineering group; Sarah has been learning to play the banjo; Griffin drove up to Fairbanks for the Just Transition climate justice summit; China has been volunteering at the public library, and Louise is meeting some of Anchorage's coolest entrepreneurs. We've also embraced Anchorage nightlife—sampling breweries, singing our hearts out at karaoke, and serving our best Value Village looks at Spenard Prom.

All of us have stepped up our culinary game for Sunday family dinners, but the 15th Avenue folks (Alice, Louise, Sarah, and China) have set the bar at an all-time high with a family brunch: fresh baked cranberry muffins, an egg-polenta-spinach frittata, a veggie, sausage and egg scramble, an apple Dutch baby, and crispy fried potatoes. It has been weeks and we still reminisce about how tasty it was! We have also had some fun cross-site visits from Juneau and Sitka fellows! Xannie, Izzy, Frank and Johnny all visited Anchorage this winter, and Julie took a trip out to Juneau. All in all, it has been an exciting winter in Alaska! It's hard to believe how fast time seems to fly, but we are making the most of our experience here and looking forward for what is to come!

-Julie Gardella



Sitka Happenings



Starrigavan, or on a plane

Carolyn Rice

The soft plop of a dipper
echoes across the water, and the
powdered sugar mountains blush
in forever sunrise.

Blurry trees shimmer in the lake. One
teeters
on the edge of muskeg

and the clouds bare their blue gums



The Sitka fellows dream of spring ...

Franklin Eccher

The midpoint of the fellowship slunk by over the holidays, and the Sitka fellows returned to 700 Etolin to find our home ensconced in a blanket of snow. Sitka schools closed (the plows couldn't keep up) and the community lay immobile under the weight. In that dampened silence, the quiet clarity of our home in Sitka emerged, a hearth in the damp and the dark.

The work remains essential. Our respective roles have challenged us to invest fully in our responsibilities to others and in our commitment to the Sitka community. But the work-outside-the-work, too — the evenings of printmaking linoleum strewn across the table, chore-dancing around the kitchen, executing elaborate half-birthday premises — constitutes our continued investment in each other.

The days grow longer; the last of the Sitka slush washes away. Our friendship, conceived in the waning autumn, stretches in the sunlight.

35mm Film Photography : Grace Greenwald



The Fellows at Work



Carolyn dons some old fashioned Forest Service garb for an open house event



Missy takes a trip to DC with Sitka Counseling



Alice finds herself and her boss matching outfits at in the office at Solid Waste Services



Johnny, Frank, and Grace join the Outer Coast admissions office



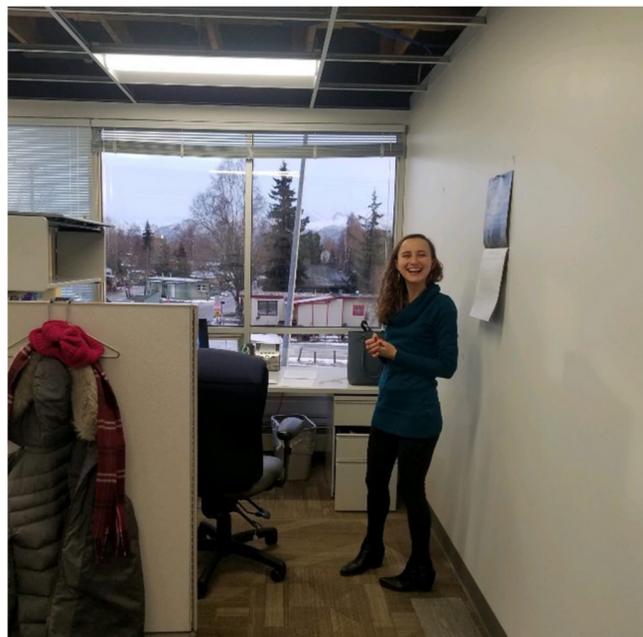
Izzy's office view overlooking the Gastineau channel



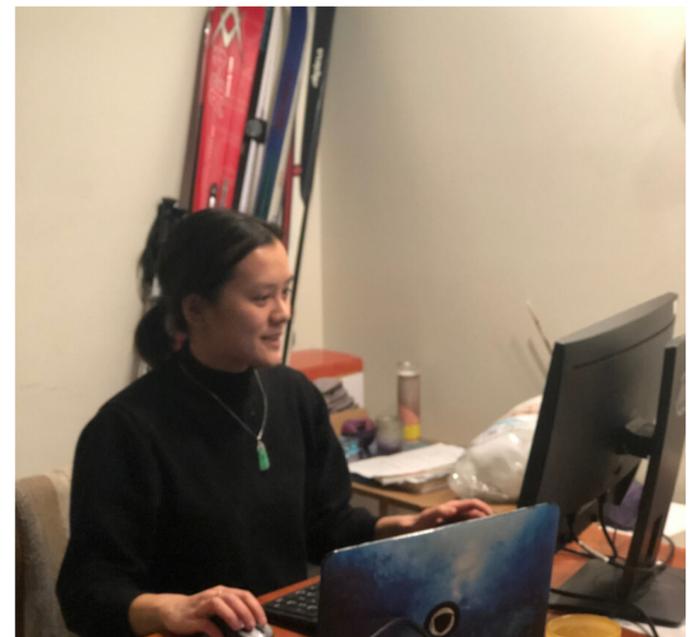
Julie leading a workshop for the UAA Upstart Alpha Accelerator



Austin at his office all bundled up



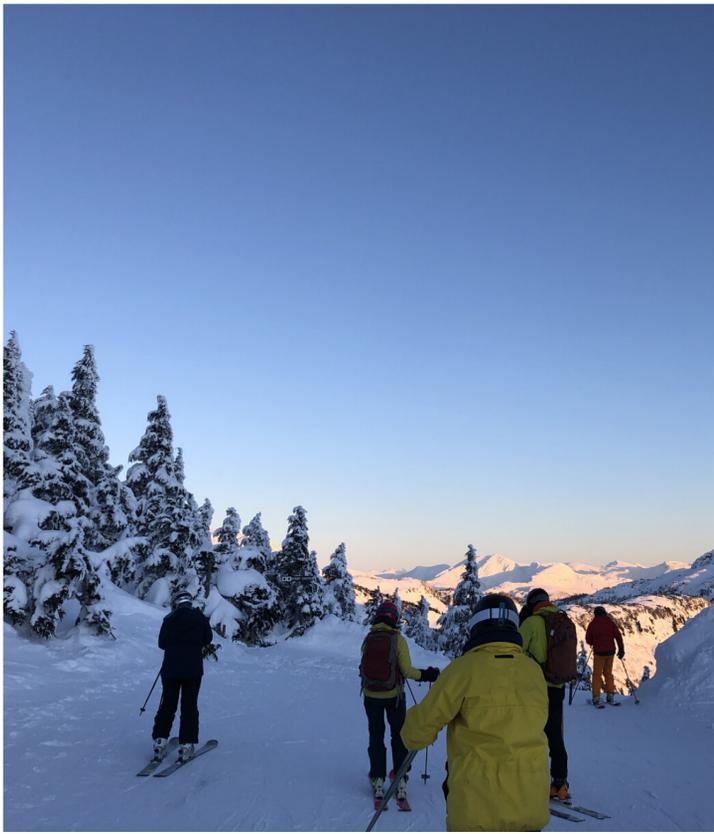
Emily enjoying her cubicle window



Mandy and her stellar video editing setup

Getting involved by...

Volunteering...



Juneau fellows and other volunteers at the top of Eaglecrest. Izzy, Mandy, and Sarah volunteer with ORCA's adaptive ski program.



Carolyn teaching a sourdough bread-making workshop at the Sitka Kitch! (Photo: Charles Bingham)



Louise, Emily, and Sarah serve cookies and hot chocolate while China helps out at the crafts table for Cook Inlet Housing Authority's Winterfest celebration.

Finding hobbies and side hustles...



Mandy has been creating videos for Raincheck, Juneau's online arts magazine (founded by AFP alum Lily Odekirk).



Emily with the ASO cello section at Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone in Concert



Alice with her fellow Junior Nordic Ski coaches

And attending community classes and events



Joelle and Missy at an aerial silks class



Sarah winning her second game of Catan at Juneau's famous and high-stakes Catan tournament.



Louise and Julie at Spenard Prom

Gettin' crafty



Izzy made a Jellyfish costume for halloween which was repurposed by Disney as a perfect New Years outfit



Sarah's sourdough is thriving in the Alaskan winter



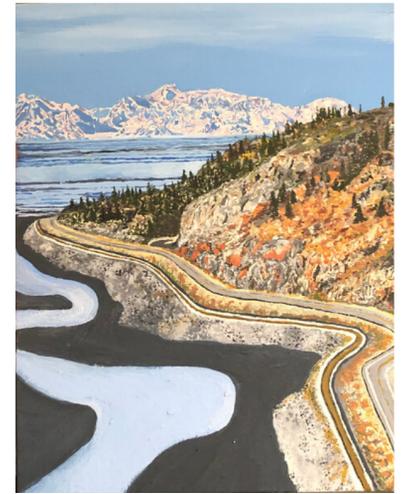
Disney took a beading class and Izzy and Mandy caught on and started beading as well!



Rylin made crystal earrings for all the fellows for a holiday gift



Louise knitted a hat for Julie for our Secret Snowman gift swap. It held up on a walk in -12 degrees



Rylin painted this scene of Turnagain Arm



Maike, Grace, and Xannie try their hand at printmaking



Maike's prints!

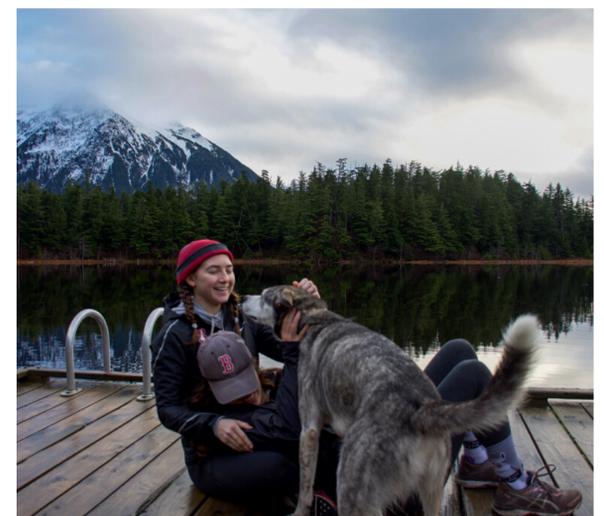


Sitka fellows take on every puzzle in the house

And making some puppy friends



Kodiak the corgi puppy visits the Anchorage house in December. He attended two holiday parties, went for some nice walks on the coastal trail, and slid around on the frozen lagoon. It was a lot of excitement for a little dog.



Missy and Keiko at Heart Lake

And, of course, our favorite things...

Outdoor Adventures...



Rylin along the Mat-Su river



Frank and Grace on Starrigavan



Xannie on Starrigavan



Sarah and Louise on a hike in Seward



Past fellows Lily and Caitlin walking a goat at Griffin's old house in Juneau

...And FOOD



Austin, Pat and JKT at a potluck we held for Juneau's legislative interns



Maike and Sitka house brunch!



Sarah, Alice, and Louise make pizza for family dinner



Juneau fellows tasting octopus and sipping tea



Johnny and Frank cook borscht



The Anchorage fellows about to dig into Julie's cabbage pancakes

Something fishy!

Franklin Eccher

Across

- 1 Workplace for Frankenstein or Jekyll
 4 Exhausting
 9 Loads, as a ship
 14 Greek H
 15 Talking points?
 16 Scrub, as a mission
 17 Fishing lure
 18 Taking to court
 19 Kind of bank or toe
 20 Ernestine Hayes' *The ___ of Raven*
 21 Put on display, with "out"
 22 Puts two and two together?
 23 Prominent skate shop and clothing brand
 25 Sandy's co-host on *The Great British Baking Show*
 26 Variety of wine or ale
 27 Thai-speaking ethnic group of Vietnam and China
 29 It may be inflated with hot air
 32 Greyhound passenger?
 34 Run in place?
 35 Amok
 36 Prominent feature of Pink Floyd's *Dark Side of the Moon* (and Johnny Elliott's upper thigh)
 37 Howard, producer and narrator of *Arrested Development*
 38 Foggy
 39 "All ___ are off!"
 40 *Star Wars* or *Harry Potter*
 41 First black tennis player selected to the United States Davis Cup team
 42 Popular pattern-recognition game involving diamonds, ovals, and squiggles
 43 Fox's partner on "The X Files"
 44 Id ___, i.e. "that is"
 45 Bolshevik leader Trotsky
 47 Toy pup with a glamorous white coat
 51 Nose (out)
 52 The summit of Mount Purgatory in *The Divine Comedy*
 53 Dines on
 55 Internet connector
 57 Better than
 58 In days gone by
 59 Olfactory essence
 60 Spots for hoops
 61 Government agency and frequent source of dramatic tension in *Breaking Bad*
 62 French artist famous for his depictions of ballerinas
 63 Film critic Jeffrey
 64 Stray

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Down

- 1 It's just not right!
 2 Mythical figure with a lot on his shoulders
 3 Louisiana locale for *True Detective*
 4 How a spawning salmon swims, or, a hint to the migration of a particular salmon species through this puzzle
 5 Grew disenchanted
 6 "Eat crow" or "talk turkey"
 7 Platform for Pokémon Red and Blue
 8 [How revolting!]
 9 Teacher's pet?
 10 Comply
 11 Anchorage-to-Nome transport, famously
 12 Unit of work
 13 A messy room, slangily
 22 Hathaway, wife of Shakespeare
 24 Frequent combatant of Donald Trump, with "The"
 28 Bone parallel to the radius
 30 It really holds things together
 31 Lofty lyrical tribute
 32 Unfettered
 33 47-Across, e.g.
 34 Geographic origin of the Baha'i faith
 35 Do away with
 36 TV home of *Antiques Road Show*
 38 Quality of outer space or the open ocean
 40 Having one's marbles
 43 Tenets of religious doctrine
 44 *Stranger Things* character with an epistaxis problem
 46 Tomato blight
 48 Chicken ___ (traditional Spanish dish)
 49 Sufjan Stevens "No ___ in the Shadow of the Cross"
 50 Gung ho
 54 Really take off
 55 Not having one's marbles
 56 Mined matter
 57 100%