

ALASKA FELLOWS PROGRAM SPRING 2022 NEWSLETTER

As spring thaws the last of the snow, fellows across the four sites eagerly anticipate long days under the midnight sun. Although some will be leaving Alaska at the end of May, many more will be staying—roughly 80% of this year's cohort will remain in the 49th state through at least the summer.



At the AFP Closing Retreat in Juneau's Eagle River United Methodist Camp.

If you see us around, please say hello!



The view from Mt. Baldy.

This newsletter is brought to you by Editor-in-Chief Tiana Wang and Site Editors Kevin Huo, Lina Kapp, Megan Pittas, Patrick O'Connor, Shannon Miller, and Tommy Martin.

Anchorage

WHAT I DO AT WORK

I am organizing activities and coordinating mini-grants for National Child Abuse Prevention Month in April. I am in the process of becoming a HOPE (Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences) trainer and will lead webinars on HOPE and online safety. I have also been busy with fulfilling shipment orders from organizations over the state—we've already shipped out growing charts, coloring books, and handbooks to over 75 organizations!



AFTER WORK...

I went cross-country skiing at Kincaid Park every day over the winter and was not attacked by a moose once.



POST-FELLOWSHIP...

I will be working with the Institute through June.

WHAT I DO AT WORK

I work on three primary projects for the Institute of the North, each of which focuses on constitutional law in some capacity. The first project is writing a paper with a journalist evaluating the cultural, political, and economic impacts of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act over the 50 years since it has been enacted. The second project is evaluating how we can sustainably export Alaska's Owner State Model to the Global South. My last project is creating an online platform to make Alaskan legalese accessible to all Alaskans.

WHAT I DO AT WORK

I am the lead on the Land and Water protection campaign, running events with community experts on policy and communications training as well as organizing and compiling documents for community outreach team to share on issues that impact Native people across the state.



POST-FELLOWSHIP...

I'm staying in Alaska for the summer and beyond.

Anchorage

HALEIGH REED



POST-FELLOWSHIP...

I will be working remotely as the Environmental Impact and Communications Intern at Aquagga, a Tacoma-based technology company that destroys PFAS in the water.

A PROJECT I'VE BEEN WORKING ON

I've been helping collect and analyze data from the 28 climate tech startups in Launch Alaska's accelerator portfolio. Our annual report for the year will give an insight into the economic, environmental, social, and governance impact that these companies have had on Alaska and the world. One key insight from the data we gathered was that our portfolio companies will save 4,993 kWh of energy, generate 29,882 kWh of renewable energy, and avoid 674,501 metric tons CO₂e over the lifetime of products and services sold in 2021. This CO₂e reduction is equivalent to taking 150,000 cars off the road for a year. It's been incredible to work with the startup founders and the Launch Alaska team making these impacts possible!

A PROJECT I'VE BEEN WORKING ON

The Alaska Angel Conference takes place at the end of May, but preparations have been going on for a few months. We had a kick-off for the twenty-one companies that applied where they shared information about their businesses to angel investors. We heard from six companies in the first round of pitches and now have to select the winner that will receive \$100,000+ in funding.

MATT ROBINSON



OUTSIDE OF WORK...

I like to snowboard.

POST-FELLOWSHIP...

I will stay at my current position in Anchorage over the summer and start law school in the fall.

TIANA WANG



A PROJECT I'VE BEEN WORKING ON

I am creating resources for artist-entrepreneurs who want to explore new options for selling their pieces. I interviewed Alaskan artists and gallery owners based in Anchorage, Wasilla, Juneau, and other cities to learn about their experiences with the selling and buying process, along with their perspectives on how economic development organizations can better support local art.

ANDREW HINTON



A WORK HIGHLIGHT

I got to interview 20 people at my company to see what they want in a park in Spenard called Ch'bala Corners. Named for the Dena'ina word for "spruce," Ch'bala Corners is a mixed-use development with senior housing, family housing, and a commercial kitchen.

FUN DURING THE FELLOWSHIP

I loved visiting Nome, walking on the frozen ocean, and seeing the mushers finish the Iditarod!

A DAY IN THE LIFE

I wake up at 8:30 a.m. I sprint upstairs and whip together a mixed-nut-butter-and-jelly sandwich in twenty seconds flat. I run to the car and safely drive to work, arriving at nine on the dot. I spend my first few hours doing budget and content creation for the website, leaving easier work like data entry for the afternoon because my morning is my most productive time. I attempt to make jokes to liven up the office. Today I eat lunch with Carrie and Emma, my coworkers, in the break room.

After lunch, I head over to our new residential building, Qevu Village, and give a tour to the other employees. I ask for feedback on future structures.

Five o'clock hits, and I drive to the Spenard Recreational Center with Matt to play basketball with other Anchorageites. I come home, take a shower, make some delicious Hamburger Helper. My housemate Eliza takes pity on me and allows me to take some of her food. She says that I can have as much as I want, but out of politeness, I only take a small portion.

I talk to my housemates about my day and watch half of a *Lord of the Rings* movie. I go to the kitchen for my final snack and then to bed.

A DAY IN THE LIFE

My day always starts out with coffee – typically shared with whoever else has early morning meetings in my house. We are big fans of St. Nickerdoodle, a coffee roasted in North Pole, AK! Today I sip my brew while tuning into some interesting meetings – a meeting about ranked-choice voting outreach and voter education, a planning committee meeting for the Just Transition Summit, and a legislative hearing on a clean energy bill.

At lunchtime, a few fellows and I go to see a panel of women entrepreneurs for Women's History Month. Afterward, we come home and the living room turns into a co-working space, as it often does. I make graphics for a few social media campaigns and updating my organization's legislative priority spreadsheet.

I sign off at five and spend some time doing embroidery while Haleigh sews. We run a small thrifting and upcycling business on the side together that occupies many of our non-work hours, which has been a blast! After eating some dinner, some fellows and I meet up with a group of Americorps Vistas for trivia and beers at Williwaw Social. I am remarkably bad at trivia, so I mostly go for the vibes. Our team loses trivia, but we win at friendship! Goodnight, Anchorage!

BRIDGET SHAUGHNESSY SMITH



POST-FELLOWSHIP...

I am continuing my fellowship role over the summer. I hope to stay in Alaska for the fall.

WHAT I DO AT WORK

I am the catch-all support person for the Good Government, Energy Justice, and Economic Justice teams at AKPIRG. I collaborate with the communications team to identify legislative priorities, create and share graphics, and communicate with complicated systems of power. I am also on the planning committee for the Just Transition Summit, which is happening at the end of May!

Fairbanks

POST-FELLOWSHIP...

I will be moving to Anchorage to continue to work at the Alaska Center for Energy and Power.



A PROJECT I'VE BEEN WORKING ON

This last month, I made several trips to Kotzebue to begin stakeholder conversations and student engagement for our Energy Innovation Network. I partnered with the NWAB Energy Steering committee to introduce energy design challenges for students to learn more about heat pumps, electric vehicles, and solar installations in their communities. These activities will be used to catalyze conversations with teachers, facilitators, and ACEP faculty about culturally responsive engagement on energy research in the borough.

A PROJECT I'VE BEEN WORKING ON

To help dog mushers deal with climate change, I've been working with Climate Scholar students to build and test new doghouse designs for climate resiliency.

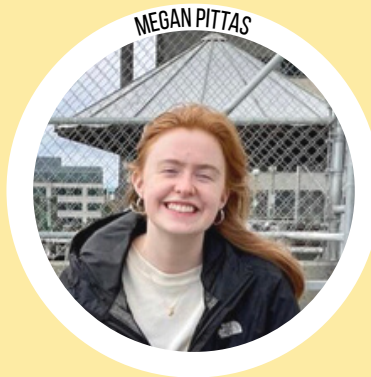


POST-FELLOWSHIP...

I will be leading backpacking tours around the state with Alaska Alpine Adventures.

POST-FELLOWSHIP...

I will be coordinating for Inspiring Girls Expeditions and backpacking in the Brooks Range this summer. I will be officially hired onto the Alaska Tribal Resilience Learning Network full-time.



A PROJECT I'VE BEEN WORKING ON

We are partnering with On the Land Media to develop a podcast series and publication on Indigenous perspectives on land planning and decision making in a time of climate change.

A PROJECT I'VE BEEN WORKING ON

I have been coordinating the National Science Foundation-funded I-Corps program with Peter Webley, my mentor at Center ICE. In six weeks, students, researchers, and community members learn to conduct customer discovery through interviews, research, and meaningful conversations with industry manufacturers. As one of the twelve teams in this current cohort, I am developing a grey water bucket sensor.



POST-FELLOWSHIP...

After spending summer in California, I'll continue to pursue my interest in the Arctic by starting my M.A. in Arctic and Northern Studies at UAF in the fall.



A PROJECT I'VE BEEN WORKING ON

I am working to create a mapping tool that aids in forming food security-related working groups. I've really enjoyed having the opportunity to talk to people across Alaska and the university system about food security.

A DAY IN THE LIFE

I wake up at 6:45 a.m. and do yoga for an hour. At a little after 8 a.m., I shower and make French press coffee. Fellow Fairbanks Fellow Megan, who also works on campus, drives with me to the Center for One Health Research at UAF. My morning is filled with meetings, research, and chats with co-workers.

When mid-day hits, I meet up with a few friends to go cross-country skiing. A fun excursion later, I return to work for a couple more hours.

At five, I head for home. Tonight, I roast a lot of veggies for dinner. After I finish cooking and eating, I ice climb at the UAF outdoor ice wall. This is followed by tea, some light reading—a memoir, usually—and sleep.

POST-FELLOWSHIP...

I will be guiding with Exit Glacier Guides in Seward for the summer. I hope to stay in Alaska afterward.

A PROJECT I'VE BEEN WORKING ON

I was inspired by the work of Kes Woodward—my friend and a local artist—to start a large painting of a diseased leaf. The two paintings that he donated to my workplace symbolize birth, so I wanted to portray death with a birch leafminer. (Leafminers are insects that burrow labyrinths between the two layers of a leaf.) This painting will be for tapping season, which is happening soon!

A DAY IN THE LIFE

I wake up at a crisp 8 a.m. and have a nice, relaxing morning with painting and writing. I have eggs and toast with tea for breakfast.

At 10:30 a.m., I go to OneTree, where I work until four or five. At The Tilly [Lola Tilly Commons], my work changes from day to day. It's usually a multitude of different work projects: testing artists' charcoal, making and packaging caramels, and painting. Lunch is pretty much on the go, depending on what I'm doing at The Tilly. Today, I have leftovers from last night.

After work, I go for a run and finish up some errands. In the evening, I make some progress on a leaf pillow I'm sewing before I write for a few hours. Dinner is homemade fried rice. Kevin, Megan, and I watch a few episodes of a show. I shower, I read, and then go to bed.



POST-FELLOWSHIP...

I will be applying for MFA programs and working at the Visual Arts Academy in Fairbanks for the summer.

Juneau

A DAY IN THE LIFE

I wake up at 6 a.m. and start getting ready with my usual morning routine. By 8:00 a.m., I'm at work.

It's Monday, so I attend a scheduled meeting to plan my week. (Wrap-up meetings are on Fridays.) Between 9:00 a.m. to noon, I do some cataloging and go to more department meetings.

After lunch, I spend time on some miscellaneous tasks that my mentor assigns. By four, I begin my shut-down ritual—either I get ready to go home, or go to my second job at In Bocca Al Lupo, an Italian restaurant downtown. Tonight, I serve until 9 p.m. and am in bed by eleven.

A PROJECT I'VE BEEN WORKING ON

I am leading a grant project with two other consultants where we catalog educational resources. Because many of these resources cannot be efficiently searched for at the moment, my goal is to make curricula more widely available to the general public, especially to teachers.



POST-FELLOWSHIP...

I will continue my grant project at Sealaska Heritage Institute over the summer.

A DAY IN THE LIFE

I wake up at 8:15 a.m. and leave for work, where I eat a granola bar as a quick breakfast.

What I do at my job varies from day to day, but I normally check my emails for report requests and listen to legislative hearings. Today, I also research bills. For lunch, I have my favorite lunch at The Rookery—a delicious fried chicken sandwich.

After a meeting with a superintendent, I continue my research. At five, I head home to do a little reading. Later in the evening, I go out with some friends. I come back home to paint for an hour before bedtime.

WHAT I DO OUTSIDE OF WORK

Board game nights with the JVs, AmeriCorps, and other local friends bring us together and help us integrate into the Juneau community. Some of our favorites include *Sorry*, *Mafia*, and *Clue*. We also go to a lot of bonfires!



POST-FELLOWSHIP...

I will be going to Mexico City to study Spanish for a few months before returning to Juneau.

Sitka

POST-FELLOWSHIP...

I'm going to be sticking around in Sitka—I will be staying at Sitka Counseling in the same position that I have now.



ELLIE LORE

A PROJECT I'VE BEEN WORKING ON

I started Blatchley Adventure Club, which is a healthy risk-taking club. I do fun adventure-seeking activities with middle schoolers. Besides providing them with a way to get to know each other, I present information about risk-taking in a fun and safe way while discussing the differences between healthy and unhealthy risks. We're planning to go rock climbing soon—it'll be a great opportunity to talk about the fight-or-flight response!

A PROJECT I'VE BEEN WORKING ON

By using snacks as a bribe, I have been able to launch a youth peer mentorship program where older students support younger students. Right now, the students are brainstorming and drafting a value statement for the group, putting together a resource guide, and creating materials on self-advocacy.



LINA KAPP

POST-FELLOWSHIP...

I will be a park ranger at Sitka Historic National Park over the summer.

TOMMY MARTIN



POST-FELLOWSHIP...

I will be fishing commercially this summer, seining chum and pink salmon.

A PROJECT I'VE BEEN WORKING ON

I organized a Tribal Resource and Career Fair at Mt. Edgecumbe. This was a chance for students to mingle and connect with 25 native organizations, regional non-profits, tribal corporations, travel consortiums, and university departments serving rural and Native students. The invited representatives shared information about scholarships, the University of Alaska system, other Alaskan colleges, and the experiences of rural and native students in higher education.



LIZ LEONARD

A DAY IN THE LIFE

It's a weekday, so I wake up at 8 a.m. Tommy or Max has made coffee, which I enjoy with breakfast with Lina. Breakfast is toast with peanut butter, banana, and honey.

I walk to the office. My mentor, Christine, brings her Bethel dog to work. My morning consists of going to meetings, attending committees, and reviewing cases and files. I complete tasks for the day at my standing desk in the common space.

Sometimes Ellie and I get lunch together, but today I'm having leftovers at home with Lina and Ellie. I finish up my work from the morning and go for a walk. I also play pick-up volleyball. A while later, Ellie ropes me into one of her baking projects. The whole time, I'm thinking about what to post next to my Twitter account, @AKLegAsDogs, where I match legislators with dogs that look like them. I have a nice dinner made by my housemates, watch some Avatar, and crochet while chatting with the other fellows before bedtime.

POST-FELLOWSHIP...

I will be in Sitka for the summer and beyond, working full-time at my current organization.

A WORK HIGHLIGHT

I attended the ANDVSA Board Conference in Juneau, where I met with the 23 ANDVSA member programs from around the state. In addition to attending legislative sessions, I had a chance to hear about projects that the other groups are working on. We also offered a Continuing Legal Education (CLE) event on domestic family law for lawyers.

A DAY IN THE LIFE

I wake up at around 5:45 a.m. If I don't go for a run, then I start studying for the MCAT. Today, I do practice questions for an hour and a half, taking intermittent breaks to make breakfast and pack lunch. Every morning, I eat two to three sausages, three eggs, a glass of chocolate milk, a banana, and usually a tortilla or slice of bread. Lunch is always two Nature Valley granola bars, two Nature Valley peanut bars, three Mott's fruit-flavored snacks, and two salami and cheese sandwiches.

At 7:55 a.m., Tommy and I bike to work across the bridge together to Japonski Island. At 8:15 a.m., I teach a class called Senior Futures, which goes on until 9:45 a.m., when I go to the math wing to teach Algebra 1B. After that, I go to my office, which is typically full of students. I help them with whatever they're doing, work on ongoing projects, and respond to emails.

I eat lunch with Tommy. We watch a soccer game and hang out together. Since I'm not subbing for any classes this afternoon, I work in my office. Students come in to work on their applications and materials. I offer help as needed.

I leave work at around 5 p.m. I go home, make a snack, and then study for the MCAT for another hour. I don't have firefighter training or a rugby game this evening, so I watch *Survivor* with the Jesuit volunteers. I wind down and am in bed at around 9:30 p.m.

POST-FELLOWSHIP...

I am moving to Durango, Colorado to do trail work for the summer before I start graduate school at the University of Cambridge.



MAX YATES

A WORK HIGHLIGHT

An ancillary part of our roles at Mt. Edgecumbe is to serve as substitute teachers as needed. In mid-March, Tommy and I were asked to fill as math teachers. I teach second-period Algebra 1B and grade Algebra 2 assignments, as well as provide one-on-one support to the students and host tutoring sessions in the evenings.

Fellows in the Community



Following a wonderful Saori workshop hosted by the Anchorage Museum last October, Tiana joined the Anchorage Weavers and Spinners Guild. She has enjoyed chatting with the other members on Zoom meetings and attending monthly classes. The April class featured Lily Hope, a Tlingit artist in Juneau who creates incredible Chilkat blankets.

Haleigh joined a coed adult indoor soccer league at The Dome in Anchorage and had a blast playing with Fifth Avenue FC team this winter! She writes: *It's been pretty awesome to play with a super supportive team consisting of people of all different ages and stages of life, from recent college grads to retired folks, and hearing about the various excuses for missing a game from "My kid is faking sick again" to "I had cataract surgery" to "I stayed out too late last night." With a "We have fun and get the job done" attitude, we somehow ended up being so competitive in the first winter session –winning all but 1 game–that we moved up a division for the second winter session. It's so cool to see how the team works together every week when we face a new opponent, having to adjust our strategy with the ragtag team that was able to make it that week.*

Shannon and Rebecca joined the UAF-affiliated Alaska Alpine Club, which includes both community members and UAF students. The club shows films and hosts nights at the UAF outdoor ice wall to promote skiing and climbing in Alaska. It also offered a ski-mountaineering class from January to March.



Annalise (left) completed CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) training and was part of the first cohort of CASAs to be sworn in in person since the pandemic! She writes: *I have wanted to be a CASA for several years now, and I finally have the time and long-term capacity to commit! It's been an eye-opening experience learning about the child welfare system in Alaska. I will be assigned a case once I relocate to Anchorage.*

Pat and Cat are very integrated with the Jesuit Volunteers and other friend groups in Juneau. Pat is also enjoying the creativity of the artists in Juneau. One of his poems will appear on the side of the Capital Transit buses. (Right: Cat and Pat eat hot pot with Cat's Gal Pals.)



Ellie is involved in basket weaving and crafting organized by the Herring Protectors, a local grassroots organization. The group has been collecting and weaving cedar bark into baskets to be given as gifts during the April koo.éex' in celebration of the herring (above and right).



Tommy and Lina participated in Sitka Community Theater's production of *Clue* (based on the film based on the board game)! Tommy is portraying Mr. Boddy and the Chief of Police, and Lina is Mrs. Peacock. They've had a lot of fun in rehearsals and helping out with props (left). The show ran from March 25 to 27 in the Sitka Performing Arts Center.

Arts & Crafts



Tiana's photo of a squirrel placed second in a photo competition (above). Eliza shows off her knitting talents with a handmade sweater and bunny (above and to right).



Annalise made a sampler quilt this winter (bottom left). Each block is a modern version of a traditional quilt pattern. The colors are inspired by Fairbanks fall. Jamie has been sewing large birch leaf pillows (below).





Since arriving in Juneau, Pat has painted many pieces inspired by the wildlife, scenery, and footwear of Alaska (left).



Kuiu, a dog that Tommy was dog-sitting, models a scarf made by Liz (below).



Winter Festivities



The Anchorage fellows have fun at Fur Rondy, Alaska's largest and oldest winter festival (above). Some Fairbanks fellows flew down for the ceremonial start of the 50th Iditarod (left). Anchorage fellows pose with the 2022 Iditarod champion at a musher meet-and-greet in Nome (bottom left). Gabe looks polar chic in her custom fur coat (bottom right).



Cross-Site Adventures



2022 Closing Retreat

